



## Fact sheet on the Secretary-General’s initiatives to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse

**Background.** In March 2017, the Secretary-General outlined a comprehensive four-pronged strategy<sup>1</sup> to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse across the United Nations system.<sup>2</sup> The elements of the strategy are to: (a) prioritize the rights and dignity of victims; (b) end impunity through strengthened reporting and investigations, including clarifying limitations on the United Nations to achieve criminal accountability; (c) engage with civil society and external partners; and (d) improve strategic communication for education and transparency. In the implementation of this strategy, the Secretary-General focused on putting the United Nations’ “own house in order” by putting in place mechanisms under his authority. In March 2018, the Secretary-General provided an update<sup>3</sup> on the implementation of the strategy, which was further reviewed in March 2019.<sup>4</sup>

To enhance coordination and ensure sustained high-level attention on the issue, the Secretary-General extended the mandate of the Special Coordinator on Improving the United Nations Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse until 31 December 2019. Her role is to coordinate the implementation of the strategy throughout the United Nations system and to ensure a harmonized approach through the development of aligned mechanisms and procedures and standardized protocols and tools.

Below are some key initiatives undertaken or built upon in accordance with the Secretary-General’s commitment to combat sexual exploitation and abuse since 2016.

### I. Prioritizing the rights and dignity of victims

Initiative	Status
1. Secretary-General appointed first <b>Victims’ Rights Advocate</b> at the Assistant Secretary-General level to strengthen the support that the United Nations gives to victims and ensure that a victim-centred approach is integrated into prevention and response	Appointment August 2017; action plan December 2017; work ongoing
2. Field visits conducted by the <b>Victims’ Rights Advocate</b> to gain a <b>first-hand understanding of how United Nations actors operate on the ground</b> , in order to assist and support victims of sexual exploitation and abuse and make recommendations for further action	Central African Republic, October 2017 and February 2019; South Sudan, December 2017; Haiti, April 2018; Lebanon, August 2018; Jordan, September 2018; and Colombia, April 2019
3. Establishment of inter-agency working group to facilitate a more timely and effective resolution of <b>outstanding paternity/child support claims, including HIV-affected newborns</b> , arising from sexual exploitation and abuse	Working group established June 2018; ongoing

<sup>1</sup> See [A/71/818](#) and [A/71/818/Corr.1](#).

<sup>2</sup> In 2016, as part of the strategy to ensure high-level engagement in the relevant entities across the United Nations system, a high-level steering group was established. It includes the Chef de Cabinet as Chair; the Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support; the Under-Secretary-General for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance; the Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications; the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations; the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs; the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel; the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator; the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, on Sexual Violence in Conflict and on Violence against Children; the Administrator of UNDP; the Executive Director of UNICEF; the Executive Director of UNFPA; and the Executive Director of UN-Women. The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services participates as an observer.

<sup>3</sup> See [A/72/751](#) and [A/72/751/Corr.1](#).

<sup>4</sup> See [A/73/744](#).





<p>4. Mapping of <b>victims’ rights approaches/services</b>: in line with the Secretary-General’s instruction in his 2018 report (A/72/751, para. 28), the Victims’ Rights Advocate is undertaking a pilot mapping of victims’ rights approaches and/or services (prevention, medical, psychosocial and legal assistance, livelihood support, accountability) available across the United Nations system and beyond, which will build on existing work and provide a clear <b>overview of gaps, overlaps, lessons learned and good practices</b> to inform the development of additional tools, policies and programmes</p>	<p>Project commenced October 2018; ongoing</p>
<p>5. <b>Field victims’ rights advocates</b> appointed in September 2017 to the four peacekeeping operations with the highest number of allegations; their role is to ensure that a victim-centred, gender- and child-sensitive and non-discriminatory approach is integrated into all activities to support and assist victims in those countries</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>6. The Secretary-General and the <b>Victims’ Rights Advocate met</b> confidentially and directly <b>with victims</b> of sexual exploitation and abuse</p>	<p>October 2017; ongoing</p>
<p>7. The <b>Conduct and Discipline Service</b> launched the <b>Victim Assistance Tracking System</b> in all peace operations, with a view to having a comprehensive information system on specific assistance and support provided to victims</p>	<p>Rolled out: fourth quarter of 2018; ongoing</p>
<p>8. <b>Uniform Protocol on the Provision of Assistance to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse</b>: developed and field-tested by the Conduct and Discipline Service and UNICEF, it describes the principles underpinning the role of the United Nations to provide assistance and support to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse and some guidance on the roles and responsibilities of United Nations actors in the field to ensure coordinated and immediate victim assistance</p>	<p>Field testing began January 2017; the Protocol will be updated based on the testing and will incorporate the roles of the Victims’ Rights Advocate and the field victims’ rights advocates, as well as final comments from members of the system-wide working group on sexual exploitation and abuse, with a view to finalizing the Protocol for endorsement by the High-level Steering Group on sexual exploitation and abuse by end of December 2019</p>
<p>9. <b>Trust fund</b> established in 2016 to provide resources to support victim assistance services and projects; a meeting with Member States took place on 21 June 2019 to showcase the 2017–2018 report on the trust fund (available on the website on conduct in United Nations field missions) and to encourage continued financial contributions  <a href="https://conduct.unmissions.org/remedial-trust-fund">https://conduct.unmissions.org/remedial-trust-fund</a></p>	<p>Of the approximately \$2 million available, projects have been disbursed or committed in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Liberia; projects are forthcoming for Haiti and South Sudan</p>





<p>10. OHCHR-led development of a <b>United Nations policy on a human rights-based approach</b> to sexual exploitation and abuse, which will complement the conduct and discipline and criminal accountability approaches, and which contains a comprehensive legal and policy framework for prevention and response, which places victims at the centre</p>	<p>Expected completion: fourth quarter of 2019</p>
<p>11. Statement on the rights of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse under development by the Victims' Rights Advocate, underlining the United Nations commitment and responsibilities for putting the rights of victims at the centre of efforts to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse and serve as common point of reference for all United Nation system personnel and others working under the United Nations flag</p>	<p>Consultations with the United Nations system in September 2018 and February 2019; workshop of regional and national experts on victims' rights held in May 2019; ongoing</p>

**II. Transparency, accountability and ending impunity**

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Status</b>
<p>1. <b>Secretary-General's circle of leadership on the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations operations</b>, composed of Heads of State and Government willing to make a visible personal commitment to end impunity for sexual exploitation and abuse <a href="http://www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/content/circle-leadership">www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/content/circle-leadership</a></p>	<p>Ongoing; members are 87 current or former Heads of State/ Government</p>
<p>2. Social media campaign of the <b>circle of leadership</b> on the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations operations carried out on Twitter during the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly</p>	<p>To occur from 24 September to 1 October 2019 with the launch of the "Twitter Moment"</p>
<p>3. Issuance of a <b>collective statement by the members of the circle of leadership</b> on the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations operations <a href="http://www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/content/collective-statement-members-secretary-general-circle-leadership">www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/content/collective-statement-members-secretary-general-circle-leadership</a></p>	<p>September 2018; endorsed by 49 Heads of State/Government and 25 United Nations entities</p>
<p>4. <b>Secretary-General's high-level meeting</b> on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, held <b>on the margins of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly</b>, with Heads of State and Government, regional organizations, civil society and United Nations leadership</p>	<p>18 September 2017</p>
<p>5. <b>Voluntary compact</b> on preventing and addressing sexual exploitation and abuse <a href="http://www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/content/voluntary-compact">www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/content/voluntary-compact</a></p>	<p>Ongoing; 103 Member State signatories</p>





<p>6. <b>High-level Steering Group on sexual exploitation and abuse:</b> established in 2016 and chaired by the Chef de Cabinet of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and composed of the heads of the offices, departments, funds and programmes involved in strengthening the system-wide response to sexual exploitation and abuse</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>7. <b>System-wide working group on sexual exploitation and abuse,</b> convened every two weeks by the Office of the Special Coordinator, is crucial to strengthening collaboration and aligning policies, procedures and approaches across the United Nations system</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>8. Development and distribution, to all United Nations entities with a field presence, of the <b>“no excuse” card prototype</b>, which sets out the standards and obligations for prevention and reporting, in all official and some local languages, and which can be customized to meet the needs of individual organizations <a href="http://dag.un.org/handle/11176/400598">http://dag.un.org/handle/11176/400598</a></p>	<p>Completed November 2017; distribution ongoing</p>
<p>9. <b>Mandatory training and e-learning on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse</b> required of all peacekeeping, Secretariat, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOPS, UNRWA, UN-Women and WFP personnel</p>	<p>For peacekeeping personnel since 2016, for Secretariat and other entities since 2017 and for UNOPS since 2019; training ongoing</p>
<p>10. Development of a <b>web-based mobile application</b>, pro bono by Ericsson, featuring United Nations e-learning materials on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse</p>	<p>Expected: fourth quarter of 2019</p>
<p>11. <b>Instituted annual management letter for 2017 activities</b>, requiring heads of funds and programmes to certify to their governing bodies and the Secretary-General that they reported all credible allegations and the training offered<sup>5</sup></p>	<p>Completed January 2018</p>
<p>12. <b>Management letter for 2018 activities</b>, in which the Secretary-General urged members of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to submit 2018 certifications<sup>6</sup></p>	<p>Issued December 2018</p>
<p>13. <b>Action plans/risk mitigation strategies</b> submitted to the Secretary-General by all entities with field operations and programmes</p>	<p>April 2017: 35 submitted August 2018: 37 submitted August 2019: 50 submitted</p>
<p>14. Development of <b>guidelines on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2272 (2016)</b> addressing sexual exploitation and abuse in peace operations <a href="http://undocs.org/S/RES/2272(2016)">http://undocs.org/S/RES/2272(2016)</a></p>	<p>Operationally effective July 2016</p>

<sup>5</sup> 2017 certifications were provided by ITC, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOPS, UNRWA, UN-Women, UNU, and WFP.

<sup>6</sup> 2018 certifications have been provided to date by FAO, ICAO, IFAD, ILO, IMO, IOM, ITC, ITU, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Office at Vienna/UNODC, UNOPS, UNRWA, UNU, UN-Women, UPU, WFP, WHO, WMO and the World Bank.





<p>15. Since 2017, the <b>Conduct and Discipline Service</b> has been working in partnership with the <b>African Union</b> on the implementation of its compliance framework related to conduct and discipline, including its conduct and discipline policy framework, the screening of personnel, risk management and case management</p>	<p>Ongoing engagement on the compliance framework under the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance</p>
<p>16. The Office of Military Affairs of the Department of Peace Operations released the “<b>Military aide-memoire: United Nations measures against sexual exploitation and abuse – commanders’ guide on measures to combat sexual exploitation and abuse in the United Nations military</b>” <a href="http://dag.un.org/handle/11176/400745">http://dag.un.org/handle/11176/400745</a></p>	<p>September 2017; updated May 2018</p>
<p>17. The Conduct and Discipline Service developed a <b>sexual exploitation and abuse risk management toolkit</b>; support activities for missions are ongoing to implement the toolkit and related action plans <a href="https://conduct.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/dpko-dfs_sea_risk_toolkit_28_june_2018_modified.pdf">https://conduct.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/dpko-dfs_sea_risk_toolkit_28_june_2018_modified.pdf</a></p>	<p>Launched June 2018; ongoing</p>
<p>18. Development of “<b>Clear Check</b>”,<sup>7</sup> an electronic tool aimed at preventing United Nations personnel who were dismissed for substantiated allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, or who left the Organization while an investigation was pending, from being deployed or reemployed within the system</p>	<p>Launched 28 June 2018; a clinic for the Clear Check community will be held on 23 October 2019</p>
<p>19. <b>Incident reporting form</b> (and associated guidance) to ensure uniformity in the collection of information, as a first step in the initiation of a formal process to respond to an allegation or report of sexual exploitation and abuse</p>	<p>Finalized July 2017</p>
<p>20. Field testing of the <b>incident reporting form</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Democratic Republic of the Congo (January 2018)</li> <li>• Central African Republic and Jordan (January 2019)</li> <li>• South Sudan (September 2019)</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>21. Development of an <b>electronic version of the incident reporting form</b> that will centralize and streamline both the approach of data collection and coordination of information across the United Nations system</p>	<p>Expected: fourth quarter of 2019</p>
<p>22. Roll-out of an <b>electronic tool to report sexual exploitation and abuse allegations</b> internally (<i>iReport SEA Tracker</i>) to facilitate alignment of data and tracking of investigations (used for preparing the quarterly allegation report summaries)</p>	<p>May 2019</p>

<sup>7</sup> The following United Nations entities are participating in the screening tool: all Secretariat entities, as well as FAO, IAEA, IFAD, IMO, IOM, the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, ITC, ITU, UNAIDS, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNOPS, UNRWA, UN-Women, UPU, WFP, WHO, WIPO and WTO.





23. Development and endorsement of a <b>system-wide uniform policy on balancing the disclosure of information to national authorities with principles of confidentiality</b> when receiving and handling allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by persons acting under a United Nations mandate	Finalized 2017; to be promulgated as a Secretary-General's bulletin in 2019
24. Development of harmonized <b>guidelines for investigations of sexual exploitation and abuse</b> for United Nations investigative bodies	Fourth quarter of 2019
25. Training for military national investigation officers provided by OIOS, the Conduct and Discipline Service and the Integrated Training Services of the Department of Peace Operations and funded by the United States of America	Ongoing
26. System-wide roll-out of focal points on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, with designated, trained focal points in regional and country offices to strengthen capacities at the field level and to interact and share good practices	Ongoing
27. <b>WFP</b> launched the first online training and accompanying toolkit for focal points on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse	June 2019
28. Entities are working together on joint regional workshops for focal points on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, with training sessions planned in Europe and Africa	Expected: fourth quarter of 2019
29. Adoption of formal and informal <b>community-based complaint mechanisms in all humanitarian and peace operations</b> for the receipt of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse <a href="https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/accountability-affected-populations-including-protection-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/documents-50">https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/accountability-affected-populations-including-protection-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/documents-50</a>	Endorsed in 2016; rolled out by the Standing Committee to all United Nations entities in March 2018; translations into Arabic, French and Spanish completed
30. <b>IOM</b> conducted in-country training sessions and regional sessions for the training of trainers on the <b>community-based complaint mechanisms</b> , aimed at capacitating co-chairs and coordinators of networks for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse <sup>8</sup>	2017-2018
31. <b>UNHCR</b> concluded a survey across 41 operations to collect information on the most-used communication systems and the challenges that exist in collecting, using and responding to feedback from persons of concern, with a view to strengthening <b>community-based complaint mechanisms</b>	September 2018
32. The United Nations finalized, and circulated to all agencies, funds and programmes, its <b>Protocol on Allegations of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Involving Implementing Partners</b> (led by UNICEF and UNFPA) <a href="http://www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/content/policies">www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/content/policies</a>	March 2018; translations into Arabic and French completed

<sup>8</sup> In-country training sessions were provided in Chad, Iraq, Lebanon, Malawi, Nigeria, Turkey (refugee response and cross-border Syrian Arab Republic response) and Yemen. Regional sessions for the training of trainers were provided in Eastern Africa (June 2018), the Middle East and Northern Africa (July 2018) and Western and Central Africa (September 2018).





33. Entities are developing training modules on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse for implementing partners, to strengthen compliance with the Protocol on Allegations of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Involving Implementing Partners so as to synergize efforts and deliver a common message	Since January 2019; ongoing and available in English and French; multi-agency package expected in first quarter of 2020; new interactive package to be launched in September 2019, available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic
34. Entities are developing and issuing <b>assessment guidance to assess implementing partners' capacity</b> with regard to protection from sexual exploitation and abuse during the selection process and to the project partnership agreement, to ensure compliance with the United Nations Protocol on Allegations of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Involving Implementing Partners	February 2019
35. All <b>United Nations staff job openings, letters of offer and letters of appointment</b> now have a <b>special notice</b> for detailing the values and standards of conduct required of members and the consequences of failing to meet those standards	Completed 2017; ongoing
36. <b>Staff members required to acknowledge in writing</b> , upon entry, reassignment and yearly, their knowledge and understanding of United Nations standards of conduct, in particular regarding sexual exploitation and abuse, and the consequences for violating them	Completed 2017; ongoing
37. All <b>United Nations contracts for contractors</b> (consultants, day workers, individual contractors) come with <b>general conditions</b> that the contractor must comply with the standards of conduct set forth in the Secretary-General's bulletin on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse ( <a href="#">ST/SGB/2003/13</a> )	Completed 2017; ongoing
38. <b>Reissuance of 2016 note verbale</b> on the <b>repository of national military laws</b> on sexual exploitation and abuse <a href="https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/standards-of-conduct">https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/standards-of-conduct</a>	Reissued in August 2018; 59 legal frameworks
39. Issuance of <b>2019 note verbale</b> on the <b>repository of national police laws</b> on sexual exploitation and abuse	Issued in January 2019; 9 legal frameworks
40. Review of options for <b>harmonization of standards and procedures</b> for non-United Nations international forces authorized under a Security Council mandate	Ongoing
41. The members of the United Nations Development Group will review and include sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment regulations in their Standard Administrative Arrangements	Expected: fourth quarter of 2019
<b>III. Engaging civil society, external experts and organizations</b>	
<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Status</b>
1. <b>Formal and informal meetings</b> with civil society stakeholders	2017: 3 formal meetings; 2018: 10 meetings





2. Establishment of a <b>Civil Society Advisory Board</b> , composed of leading civil society figures and experts, to provide the Secretary-General with advice on measures to strengthen prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse	19 February 2019 Meetings: 29–31 May 2019
3. <b>UNAIDS, UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP</b> engaged in discussions on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse with civil society to strengthen prevention and response by raising awareness and trust with regard to reporting sexual exploitation and abuse in communities and by enhancing accountability and care to people affected	Ongoing
<b>IV. Improving strategic communications for education and transparency</b>	
<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Status</b>
1. To improve transparency, each quarter, the Special Coordinator <b>reports on allegations</b> received by all United Nations entities mandated to report to the General Assembly <a href="http://www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/content/quarterly-updates">www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/content/quarterly-updates</a>	Recurrent every quarter; ongoing
2. <b>Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse website</b> launched and enhanced to include agencies, funds and programmes <a href="http://www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/">www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/</a>	Created July 2017; updated regularly
3. <b>UNDP, UNHCR and UNFPA launched websites</b> containing information and resources on protection of sexual exploitation and abuse <a href="http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/accountability/combating-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse.html">www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/accountability/combating-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse.html</a> <a href="http://www.unhcr.org/our-fight-against-sexual-exploitation-abuse-and-harassment.html">www.unhcr.org/our-fight-against-sexual-exploitation-abuse-and-harassment.html</a> <a href="http://www.unfpa.org/protection-sexual-exploitation-sexual-abuse-and-sexual-harassment">www.unfpa.org/protection-sexual-exploitation-sexual-abuse-and-sexual-harassment</a>	Updated regularly
4. <b>Meetings</b> convened by the Special Coordinator and jointly sponsored by representatives of the Heads of State and Government who are members of the circle of leadership, to share good practices and initiatives	2018: five meetings 2019: April, July and September
5. Development of a <b>glossary (second edition)</b> on sexual exploitation and abuse in the context of the United Nations English: <a href="https://hr.un.org/materials/un-glossary-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-english">https://hr.un.org/materials/un-glossary-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-english</a> French: <a href="https://hr.un.org/materials/glossaire-sur-1%E2%80%99exploitation-et-les-atteintes-sexuelles-glossary-sea-french">https://hr.un.org/materials/glossaire-sur-1%E2%80%99exploitation-et-les-atteintes-sexuelles-glossary-sea-french</a>	Initiated: 5 October 2016; updated: 24 July 2017
6. The <b>Conduct and Discipline Service</b> launched a new website with a live database of allegations, an <b>online reporting</b> form and a subscription service for database updates English: <a href="https://conduct.unmissions.org/sea-data-introduction">https://conduct.unmissions.org/sea-data-introduction</a>	January 2017; translated December 2018







<p>French: <a href="https://conduct.unmissions.org/fr/exploitation-et-atteintes-sexuelles">https://conduct.unmissions.org/fr/exploitation-et-atteintes-sexuelles</a></p>	
<p>7. The United Nations produced and aired a film showing the work of the <b>community-based complaint mechanisms</b></p>	<p>September 2017</p>
<p>8. All peacekeeping missions, as part of their <b>communications strategy on sexual exploitation and abuse</b>, conduct outreach activities to inform communities of the risks of sexual exploitation and abuse and about the reporting mechanisms, using direct outreach, theatre, radio, television programming and text-based and social media campaigns, as well as specific outreach to local media</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>9. Bilingual (English/French) <b>social media campaign, “Honouring our values”</b>, on efforts in the field and at Headquarters to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, including quote cards and videos of personnel, responders, Member States and community members on the United Nations Peacekeeping social media platform and on the platforms of the Under-Secretaries-General for Peace Operations and for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance and of the various peacekeeping missions (Facebook and Twitter; <a href="#">#HonouringOurValues</a>) <a href="https://trello.com/b/8dsqvTYY/sexual-exploitation-and-abuse">https://trello.com/b/8dsqvTYY/sexual-exploitation-and-abuse</a></p>	<p>Launched March 2018; ongoing</p>
<p>10. Public information <b>video messaging campaign</b> on United Nations efforts to combat sexual exploitation and abuse, featuring the system-wide approach to the Secretary-General’s strategy to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse (commitments from the Secretary-General, the Special Coordinator, the Victims’ Rights Advocate, the Department of Operational Support, the Department of Peace Operations, IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, UN-Women and WFP, as well as from MONUSCO and MINUSCA) <a href="http://webtv.un.org/watch/player/5846468853001">http://webtv.un.org/watch/player/5846468853001</a></p>	<p>September 2018; presented during the seventy-third session of the General Assembly in 2018</p>
<p>11. <b>UNHCR</b> established a <b>confidential independent helpline</b> to provide all colleagues with an additional channel to report misconduct, including witnessed or suspected sexual exploitation and abuse, and to seek advice on related issues, available 24/7 and offering the ability to report allegations anonymously</p>	<p>Launched September 2018</p>
<p>12. Public information campaign on combating sexual exploitation and abuse, including the development and issuance of a <b>United Nations stamp</b> to raise awareness on the importance of speaking out to end sexual exploitation and abuse</p>	<p>Launched March 2019</p>
<p>13. The Departments of Global Communications, Peace Operations and Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance conducted a pilot training programme on communications on sexual exploitation and abuse for senior leaders, subject matter experts and communicators</p>	<p>June 2019</p>





<p>serving in the Central African Republic, Haiti and New York; subsequent training to be delivered</p>	
<p>14. <b>UNICEF</b> developed a mobile app on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, for all personnel, with information on how to report and respond to allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse</p>	<p>Expected: fourth quarter of 2019</p>
<p><b>V. Other</b></p>	
<p><b>Initiative</b></p>	<p><b>Status</b></p>
<p>1. <b>System-wide survey</b> for United Nations personnel at field duty stations with humanitarian and peace operations; results <b>disaggregated and shared</b> with heads of participating entities</p>	<p>Baseline survey: 2016; subsequent surveys: 2017, 2018; current survey: May–July 2019</p>
<p>2. <b>System-wide mapping of resources</b> on sexual exploitation and abuse designed to assess the human and financial resources currently dedicated to activities related to the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse</p>	<p>Commenced January 2019; ongoing</p>
<p>3. <b>Gender study</b> on the causes and consequences of sexual exploitation and abuse to inform the development of strategies and responses</p>	<p>Concept finalized in February 2018; engaged in outreach for funding</p>
<p>4. <b>UNAIDS</b> follow-up on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1983 (2011) and capacity-building programme for peacekeepers and security forces on sexual abuse and exploitation</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>5. <b>UNDP</b> established a task force on the prevention of sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse operating under the auspices of the Administrator of UNDP and chaired by the Deputy Chief of Staff</p>	<p>March 2018; ongoing</p>
<p>6. <b>UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS</b> jointly retained an external independent review of their sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment policies and procedures</p>	<p>Expected: first quarter of 2020</p>
<p>7. <b>UNFPA</b> appointed a <b>Senior Focal Point for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse at the Assistant Secretary-General level</b>, who is assisted by a full-time Coordinator and an ad hoc, director-level interdivisional working group</p>	<p>September 2018</p>
<p>8. <b>UNHCR</b> reinforced its safeguarding structure, which includes investigative, legal, ethics and staff welfare functions, through additional resources and training, and appointed a <b>Senior Coordinator (at the Director level)</b> to lead its work on sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment; the Senior Coordinator reports to the Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees, who chairs an emergency task force on sexual exploitation and abuse with director-level membership, and is supported by a cross-functional working group</p>	<p>March 2018</p>
<p>9. <b>UNHCR</b> released its <b>sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment strategy</b> and action plan taken forward by cross-divisional</p>	<p>May 2018; a revised strategy and action plan for 2019–2020 is being finalized</p>





# ZERO TOLERANCE FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

teams at Headquarters and in the field <a href="http://www.unhcr.org/5b2cb6284">www.unhcr.org/5b2cb6284</a>	
10. UNHCR published a new <b>administrative instruction on protection against retaliation</b> , in line with the 2017 Secretary General’s bulletin on protection against retaliation ( <a href="http://ST/SGB/2017/2/Rev1">ST/SGB/2017/2/Rev1</a> )	August 2019
11. The Executive Director of UNICEF issued a public statement on her commitment to preventing sexual exploitation and abuse and launched an independent review of the Fund’s response <a href="http://www.unicef.org/press-releases/unicefs-position-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-and-sexual-harassment">www.unicef.org/press-releases/unicefs-position-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-and-sexual-harassment</a>	February 2018
12. UNICEF completed two internal independent reviews on sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment as part of its work to strengthen a zero-tolerance environment; through a management response, UNICEF endorsed all the recommendations stemming from the independent panel reviews.  The findings from both reviews have been made public, as has the UNICEF management response <a href="http://www.unicef.org/evaluation/index_102739.html">www.unicef.org/evaluation/index_102739.html</a>	September 2018; management response released in December 2018; update to the Executive Board on progress in January 2019
13. UNRWA established a <b>task force on sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment</b> (the UNRWA Sexual Misconduct Task Force), which, since its inception, has conducted a series of diagnostic exercises, including a gap analysis and a detailed due diligence exercise in three focus areas (reporting, survivor support and prevention through programmes), to identify good practices and priorities for improvement; a detailed walk-through of the survivor experience from the moment of complaint onwards, assessed against best practices, is under way	February 2018; ongoing
14. UN-Women developed and issued a <b>handbook on sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment</b> , providing a comprehensive overview of the applicable policies and procedures	June 2018
15. WFP established an <b>ad hoc joint Management and Executive Board working group</b> on sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment and whistle-blower protection	Ongoing
16. WFP established an advisory group on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, with key stakeholders from each operational region, to provide a learning and knowledge-sharing platform and to strengthen the capacity of relevant WFP focal points to fulfil their role	First consultation held September 2018; ongoing





## VI. Inter-Agency Standing Committee

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee is the primary coordination mechanism for facilitating coherent and timely international responses to emergencies and formulating policy for strengthened humanitarian action. Established in 1991 by General Assembly resolution 46/182, the Standing Committee includes United Nations agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, non-governmental organizations and the World Bank. Standing Committee members have individual mandates but are united by the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. The Standing Committee produces system-wide policies, guidance and tools to harmonize and improve the collective response.

Initiative	Status
<p>1. Executive Director of <b>UNICEF</b> appointed an <b>Inter-Agency Standing Committee Champion</b> on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment for the humanitarian sector until September 2019, to be succeeded by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees until September 2020.</p> <p>A gap analysis across humanitarian countries is now under way, together with the development of a country-level framework, to inform the implementation of the country-level package, including the allocation of resources by Standing Committee members</p>	<p>June 2018 IOM: June 2011 to June 2018 March 2019: UNICEF Executive Director issued a call for action to senior Standing Committee focal points to scale up protection from sexual exploitation and abuse across all humanitarian and refugee-response countries</p>
<p>2. <b>Six Core Principles</b> Relating to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse for humanitarian workers published by the Standing Committee in 98 languages <a href="https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/principals/documents-public/iasc-six-core-principles-relating-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-2002">https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/principals/documents-public/iasc-six-core-principles-relating-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-2002</a></p>	<p>2002, under revision; additional translations ongoing</p>
<p>3. The <b>Standing Committee</b> endorsed a set of <b>minimum operating standards for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse</b> and guidelines to implement them <a href="https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/3_minimum_operating_standards_mos-psea.pdf">https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/3_minimum_operating_standards_mos-psea.pdf</a> <a href="https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/protection-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/documents-public/guidelines-implement-minimum-operating">https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/protection-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/documents-public/guidelines-implement-minimum-operating</a></p>	<p>2013, under revision</p>
<p>4. The <b>Strategy</b> on Protection from and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment of the <b>Standing Committee Champions</b> outlines the vision, strategy and priorities until June 2020, as agreed between the Emergency Relief Coordinator, UNICEF and UNHCR and endorsed by the Standing Committee principals <a href="https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-senior-focal-points-sexual-exploitation-abuse-and-harassment/content/strategy-protection-and">https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-senior-focal-points-sexual-exploitation-abuse-and-harassment/content/strategy-protection-and</a></p>	<p>November 2018</p>





<p>5. The <b>Standing Committee</b> and the <b>CEB Task Force</b> on addressing sexual harassment jointly organized a <b>meeting of investigatory bodies</b> on protection from sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment, in order to harmonize approaches to investigation and strengthen system-wide capacity</p> <p><a href="http://www.pseataskforce.org/">www.pseataskforce.org/</a></p>	<p>November 2018</p>
<p>6. <b>Fund established to provide rapid grants to Standing Committee</b> organizations and partners to quickly and competently investigate reported incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse or sexual harassment, managed by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs</p> <p><a href="https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-champion-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-and-sexual-harassment/content/ocha-fund-investigations">https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-champion-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-and-sexual-harassment/content/ocha-fund-investigations</a></p>	<p>November 2018</p>
<p>7. The <b>Standing Committee's</b> Results Group 2 on Accountability and Inclusion manages a website of resources, training and guidance (building on the work of the former Task Team on Accountability to Affected Populations and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse)</p> <p><a href="https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/results-group-2">https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/results-group-2</a></p>	<p>Updated regularly</p>
<p>8. As lead agency for gender-based violence, <b>UNFPA</b> is conducting a multi-agency mapping exercise of services (referral pathway) available to victims of gender-based violence and for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse</p>	<p>Initiated late 2018; to be completed: fourth quarter of 2019</p>
<p>9. <b>IOM</b> developed generic terms of reference for coordinators on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse to harmonize the role of the coordinator throughout the humanitarian system and to support recruitment by humanitarian and resident coordinators, in line with the Standing Committee's commitment to place dedicated protection from sexual exploitation and abuse coordinators in every humanitarian response agency; appointment of coordinators is ongoing, with funding shared between agencies (UNICEF, WFP, UNDP and others)</p>	<p>Circulated by the Emergency Relief Coordinator, August 2019</p>
<p>10. <b>IOM</b> launched a <b>project to strengthen the humanitarian community's collective ability</b> to reduce and effectively respond to sexual abuse and exploitation by aid workers and to strengthen inter-agency leadership and coordination on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse; having developed and rolled out the 2016 Standing Committee toolkit,<sup>9</sup> IOM is providing technical assistance to humanitarian country teams and to coordinators and networks for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse</p>	<p>Established 2016; ongoing</p>

<sup>9</sup> The 2016 Inter-Agency Standing Committee toolkit includes the Best Practice Guide on Inter-Agency Community-based Complaint Mechanisms and the Global Standard Operating Procedures on Inter-Agency Cooperation in Community-based Complaint Mechanisms for Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.





<p>11. <b>IOM deployments upon request to support or establish collective in-country initiatives</b> for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse</p>	<p>2017: Bangladesh; 2018: Syrian Arab Republic, Somalia; 2019: Turkey, Thailand (jointly with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs)</p>
<p>12. <b>IOM</b> informs the global dialogue on inter-agency implementation of protection from sexual exploitation and abuse based on the lessons learned from rolling out the 2016 Standing Committee toolkit, at the request of the Standing Committee principals, and will bundle its experiences to share among field and global colleagues</p>	<p>Fourth quarter of 2019</p>

