

Tool 4

Overview of a Policy Development Process Concerning Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse for National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement applies a survivor-centered approach when preventing and responding to SGBV, which includes sexual exploitation and abuse. The principles of a survivor-centered approach include:

- a) Do no harm: no action should be taken that would worsen the situation of a survivor of sexual exploitation or abuse.
- b) Inclusion: consulting victims/survivors (or organizations that represent them) about their needs when designing programs/complaints mechanisms.
- c) Respect: all actions taken are guided by respect for the choices, wishes, rights and dignity of the survivor.
- d) Safety: the safety and security of the survivor is the number one priority for all actors.
- e) Confidentiality: strict adherence to confidentiality in relation to the survivor's identity and other identifying information in every aspect of case handling. All actions will be taken to ensure that any matter is handled in full confidentiality.
- f) Non-discrimination: provide equal and fair treatment to anyone in need of help owing to a SEA incident involving (IFRC/NS) Personnel.
- g) Child protection: a clear distinction must be made between which medical, psychosocial, legal etc. services children and adults are referred to. Child protection specialists are consulted to identify safe, confidential and appropriate systems of care for children. A survivor-centered approach also includes ensuring that affected persons have access to appropriate collection and storage of medical and legal forensic evidence, such as rape kits, as well as health and psychosocial care and economic and legal redress.

Considerations

A preliminary list of considerations (in a summary form) is provided below, as well as a checklist borrowed from the UN: "At a Glance: 8 Actions Each Agency Should Take at Country Level on PSEA".

Preliminary list of considerations for National Societies in developing policies on prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)

OVERVIEW	SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS (Additional information in this presentation)
Setting the stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are you defining SEA (note existing international definitions)? • What existing National Society rules should be cross-referenced? (For example, your staff regulations, code of conduct, rules on whistleblowing, anti-retaliation, power abuse, harassment, respectful workplace environment, child protection). • Who is responsible and accountable for policy implementation? • Who are your focal points?
Procedures for reporting, responding to and tracking sexual exploitation and abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you have community-based complaint mechanisms in place that are equipped to receive SEA allegations and apply a survivor-centered approach? • Are you receiving reports? If not, why could this be? • What are the reporting responsibilities of staff or volunteers who are aware of a situation of SEA? • Who should be receiving complaints and how can they be made in a manner that makes complainants feel safe? Will you use a “hotline”? • What special procedures will you apply to complainants who are minors? • What is the investigation process and composition of investigative teams? • How will you ensure confidentiality, data protection, protection against retaliation? • How will you ensure that relevant cases are reported to the police? • What internal disciplinary procedures are available and how can they be decided? • What procedures will be put in place for data tracking, reporting, monitoring and evaluation?
Ensuring that affected persons have access to appropriate assistance and, as appropriate, compensation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will you ensure (through direct provision or referrals) that complainants have effective access to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timely collection of medical and legal forensic evidence, including rape and PEP kits? • Legal representation? • Support for medical, psychological or social needs related to the exploitation or abuse? • Support for emergency shelter if needed? • How do you handle cases of children born because of sexual exploitation and abuse, keeping the best interest of the child in mind? • What economic compensation can be made available for complaints confirmed by investigation (or imposed by court proceeding)?
Training and awareness raising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will you ensure that all staff and volunteers are appropriately trained on gender, child protection, diversity and power abuse issues as they relate to sexual exploitation and abuse? • Has your National Society held “Seven Moves” training sessions and the follow-up course Sexual and gender-based violence in Emergencies? Both have PSEA components. • How will manager and staff responsibility in performance reviews reflect their obligations related to sexual exploitation and abuse complaints?
Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will sexual exploitation and abuse issues be addressed in partnership and procurement agreements? • Is your National Society part of an inter-agency PSEA network?
Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will resources be allocated to ensure adequate training, a PSEA focal point, procuring Minimum Initial Service Package (including rape and PEP kits), if appropriate, assistance to victims, and other relevant activities?

Challenges and opportunities

- How do you wish to organize the preparation of a PSEA policy?
- Which units would be involved?
- Are there NGOs in your area that could share best practices?
- How would you involve local women's organizations in preparing the policy?
- How could you link RC expertise in for instance health to the policy development?
- Do you collect annual data on sexual exploitation and abuse cases?
- How many cases have been reported?
- What are the most typical sexual exploitation and abuse cases and risks?
- How would you engage with youth and volunteers to make sure a policy takes their perspectives into account and that they share it widely?
- A review of responses to IFRC Organizational Capacity Assessment & Certification (OCAC) indicators 29 (violence prevention) and 71 (accountability to affected people) would be very useful. Now these are called # 17 and # 63.
- How can IFRC support you in preparing a policy?
(IFRC committed to supporting 15 National Society each year in 2018, 2019 and 2020)
- Which National Societies would be ready to develop and adopt a policy?

