

## **End-of-Year Management Letter on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Reporting of SEA Allegations**

In accordance with Section 4.6 of the Secretary-General's Bulletin on "Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse" (ST/SGB/2003/13) and with and in accordance with CF/EXD/2004-002, I, Henrietta H. Fore, hereby certify that UNICEF has reported to the Secretary-General all allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse that have been brought to its attention and has taken all appropriate measures to address such allegations, in accordance with established rules and procedures for dealing with cases of staff misconduct.

Furthermore, UNICEF has made available to all staff members and affiliated personnel training focused on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. UNICEF has also raised awareness of its staff members, affiliated personnel and beneficiaries of assistance, insofar as applicable, through appropriate means, regarding the prohibition of sexual exploitation and abuse and ways of reporting such acts. UNICEF has also submitted the annual action plan on measures undertaken to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse.

In February 2020, UNICEF launched its Procedure for Managing Risks of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in its partnerships. The procedure establishes requirements for UNICEF offices to operationalize the screening of civil society organizations (CSOs) partnering with UNICEF, as mandated by the United Nations Protocol on Allegations of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse involving Implementing partners. All UNICEF CSO partners must be assessed on their capacity to tackle SEA. A high-risk rating of partners triggers assurance activities and requires the implementation of an action plan within 12 months to avoid partnership suspension (except where lives would be threatened). The procedure comes with a toolkit to assist UNICEF's implementing partners in improving their PSEA efforts. All current UNICEF civil society partners have now been risk assessed.

From 2022, UNICEF will be sharing partner risk assessments across the system, using the UN common assessment methodology and the UN Partner Portal.

UNICEF maintains and promotes a victim-centred approach in all matters related to SEA. UNICEF's PSEA Toolkit for implementing partners, described above, explicitly endorses the key elements of a victim-centered approach. More broadly, during my tenure as IASC Champion on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, I set three priorities, all grounded in a victim-centered approach: (i) safe and accessible reporting mechanisms, (ii) quality assistance for survivors, and (iii) prompt, confidential, and respectful investigations. UNICEF investment in these priorities has seen the reach of our safe reporting channels quadruple through 2020, our GBV programme reach increase to 3.3 million in 2019-2020, and our investigative throughput has increased even as timelines shortened. In 2021, UNICEF contributed to the IASC PSEA Field Support Team to help Humanitarian Coordinators, Humanitarian Country Teams and PSEA Networks accelerate and strengthen their PSEA work.

UNICEF revised its Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action (CCCs), explicitly mentioning the need for a survivor-centred approach. They inform the content and application of our procedures for action at the onset of humanitarian emergencies. The benchmarks for UNICEF's commitments on PSEA, as described in the CCCs, are aligned with my three IASC Championship priorities on PSEA, above.

UNICEF collaborated with the UN Victims' Rights Advocate (OVRA) and OHCHR to strengthen access to legal aid for victims of SEA.

UNICEF led the development of a technical note to inform implementation of the UN Victim Assistance Protocol, with strong support from DMSPC, IOM, OVRA, UNFPA and UNHCR. The technical note, protocol and associated training will be used by all country and field offices when providing victim assistance.

Recognizing the importance of transparency and accountability in the United Nations system with respect to fighting sexual exploitation and abuse, this has been done in good faith.



Henrietta H. Fore  
Executive Director  
20 January 2022