

PSEA Theory of Change Narrative

INTRODUCTION

UNICEF is committed to creating environments where populations are safe and respected by humanitarian and development personnel and can access the protection and assistance they need without fear of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA). This commitment is grounded in the UN Secretary-General's Bulletin on Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse¹ and related IASC Commitments, including the Inter Agency Standing Committee IASC Six Principles on the Protection of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)².

UNICEF's approach to PSEA stems from the work of UNICEF's Executive Director as IASC Champion on PSEA and Sexual Harassment in 2018-2019. Under the ED's leadership, the IASC developed and endorsed the IASC Acceleration Plan³; a common country-level PSEA Framework⁴; and the IASC Strategy⁵ to effectively deliver on its commitment to prevent and respond to SEA, and to advance a victim or survivor-centred approach.⁶

Key UNICEF documents that demonstrate the agency's commitment and leadership in this area include:

- Core Commitments to Children in Humanitarian Settings (CCCs), which reflect PSEA as both a programmatic and operational concern;
- UNICEF's Strategy on Preventing and Responding to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment;

- UNICEF's PSEA Results Monitoring Framework;
- UNICEF Policy on Conduct Promoting the Protection and Safeguarding of Children.

In recent years UNICEF has accelerated the scale up of PSEA. By the end of 2020, 91 countries had safe and accessible reporting channels for SEA, country action plans, PSEA training for partners, and strengthened referral pathways for survivors. **In 2020, 44.3 million children and adults could access safe and accessible UNICEF-supported SEA reporting channels, a nearly fivefold increase from the 8.9 million children and adults with access in 2019⁷.**

1 See: <https://oios.un.org/resources/2015/01/ST-SGB-2003-13.pdf>, last accessed on 11/10/21

2 See: <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/focal-points/documents-public/iasc-plan-action-and-core-principles-codes-conduct-protection-sexual>, last accessed on 11/10/21

3 IASC Plan for Accelerating PSEA in Humanitarian Response at Country Level, see: <https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/IASC%20Plan%20for%20Accelerating%20PSEA%20in%20Humanitarian%20Response.pdf>, last accessed on 11/10/21

4 See: https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/hnpw_iasc_unicef_psea_presentation.pdf, last accessed on 11/10/21

5 IASC Strategy on PSEA and Sexual Harassment, <https://www.unicef.org/sites/default/files/2019-05/UNICEF-Strategy-Prevent-Respond-Sexual-Exploitation-Abuse-Sexual-Harassment-January-2019.pdf>, last accessed on 10/11/21

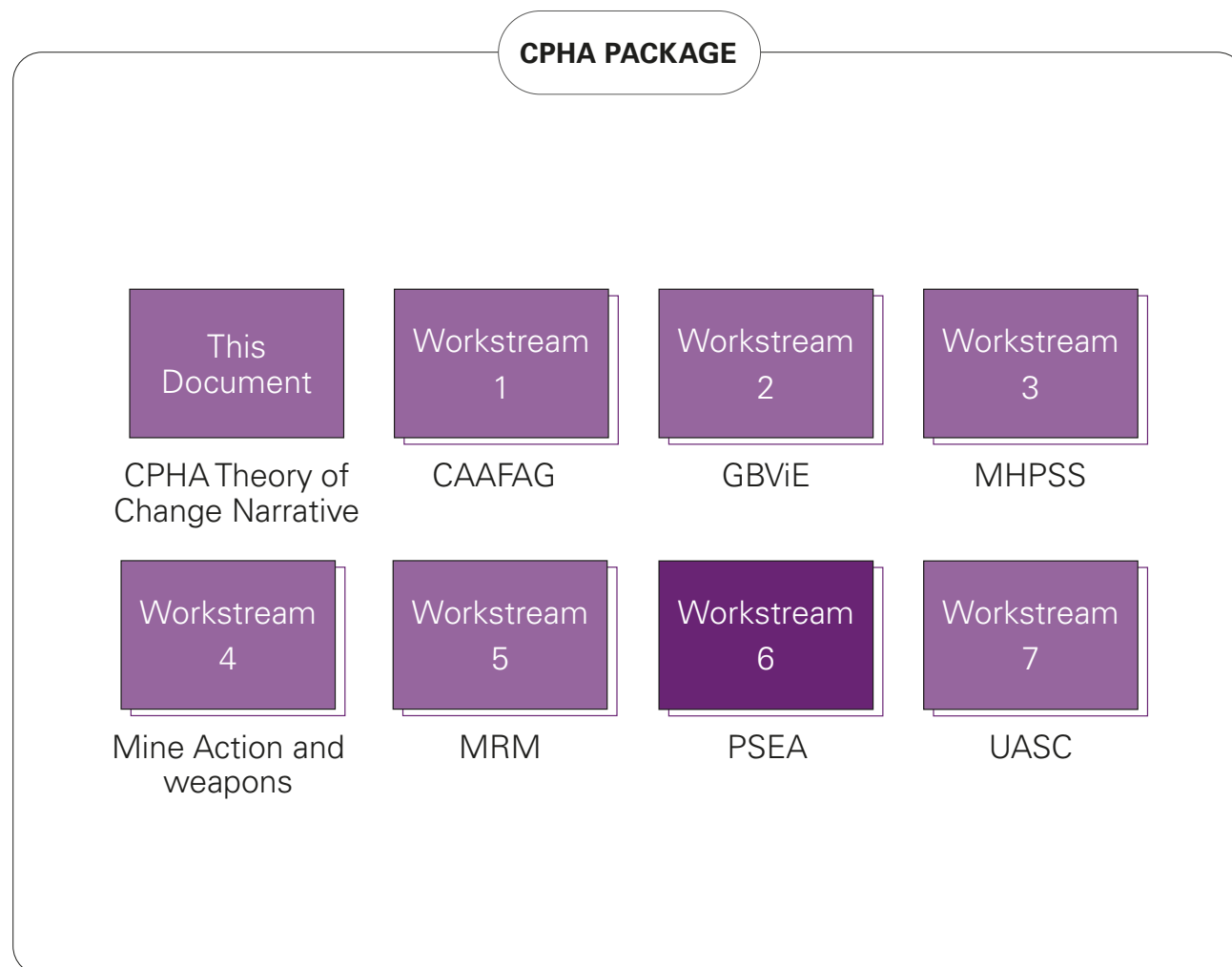
6 UNICEF (2019), Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse: IASC Championship 2018-2019, Draft, October

7 UNICEF (2021), Global Annual Results Report 2020: Goal Area 3, <https://www.unicef.org/reports/global-annual-results-2020-goal-area-3>, last accessed on 11/10/21.

CPHA AND PSEA

The Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (CPHA) section is one of five sections of the UNICEF Child Protection Programme Division. The mandate of CPHA encompasses interventions aimed at saving lives, alleviating suffering, preventing violations, maintaining human dignity, and protecting the rights of affected populations wherever there are acute humanitarian needs. This is regardless of the type of crisis⁸ and irrespective of the gross national income level of a country, or the legal status of the affected populations.

PSEA is one of seven CPHA workstreams, the other six are:



⁸ Sudden-onset or protracted emergency, natural disaster, public health emergency, complex emergency, international or internal armed conflict, among others.

	Introduction	CPHA and PSEA	Background	Intended audiences	Timeframe	Desired change	Key bottlenecks	Outcome logic	Toc diagram	Key strategies	Assumptions
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The key populations for which these workstreams work is not limited to children.

The CPHA Theory of Change (ToC) explains that the term Protection is used, rather than Child Protection, as a way of encompass all aspects of child protection, and also protection issues for women, for families, including caregivers, and communities. Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE), Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) all provide services to children and to women.


PSEA is an important component of the work done by CPHA which is strongly guided by the CCCs. PSEA is both a global standard for the commitments and one of seven overarching commitments. It is also a guiding requirement for any partnerships between UNICEF and Civil Society Organisations for programme implementation. Any partnership requires the recipient organisation to commit to PSEA principles and practices. PSEA is one of ten Child Protection commitments under the CCCs:

Commitment: **Children and affected populations are protected from SEA by humanitarian workers**

Benchmarks:



All children have access to safe, accessible, child and gender-sensitive reporting channels;



Child survivors of SEA are promptly referred to and access quality, integrated GBV/child protection response services and assistance based on their needs and wishes.

BACKGROUND OF TOC DEVELOPMENT/REVISION

In 2019 the UNICEF Evaluation Offices conducted an Evaluability Assessment (EA) of CPHA which identified strengths and challenges in the current system and provided recommendations intended to improve programme design and implementation of CPHA-related programmes and ultimately strengthen CPHA evaluability in the future. The primary recommendation of the EA was:

UNICEF should develop a comprehensive CPHA programme impact pathway and associated results framework with indicators at different levels. All CPHA work streams should fall within its scope, with particular attention to children and the armed conflict agenda.

Two overarching objectives were defined:

A

Develop holistic, multi-sectoral ToC and package of interventions and indicators for all CPHA workstreams. For each of these, include required contributions from different sectors.

B

Co-create one overarching conceptual framework that brings together all ToCs for all workstreams and will contribute to meaningful inclusion in a new Strategy for Child Protection, as well as guidance, to CPHA practitioners in different humanitarian situations.

This document was created by the PSEA team, with support from the wider CPHA team, in response to the first overarching objective defined in the management response to the EA.

INTENDED AUDIENCES

The primary purpose of this ToC, is to encourage collective responsibility of all UNICEF offices and its partners for PSEA outcomes, programming logic, and to introduce shared indicators that can help measure whether the sector is collectively achieving these.

Four key audiences for the ToC have been identified:



UNICEF teams at all levels (headquarters, Regional Offices (ROs), Country Offices (COs) and Field Offices (FOs), as a programme design and management tool, because it helps to:

- Understand and explain the UASC system in emergencies and its interdependencies;
- Inform policy making;
- Plan, design and monitor programming;
- Co-ordinate national and international support and identify gaps;
- Identify and leverage wider developmental and humanitarian efforts, including work Allied Sectors, to maximise results.



Governments being CRC State Parties with accountabilities under the CCCs, as a programme design and management tool, because it helps to:

- Understand and explain the CPHA system in emergencies and its interdependencies;
- Inform policy making;
- Plan, design and monitor programming;
- Co-ordinate national and international support and identify gaps;
- Identify and leverage wider developmental and humanitarian efforts to maximise results.



Donors, because it helps to:

- Align international support for UASC with country-level objectives;
- Recognise where specific objectives have interdependencies with other stakeholders;
- Identify the most strategic use of resources and partners to achieve objectives;
- Identify and leverage wider developmental and humanitarian efforts, including work in Allied Sectors, to maximise results.



Partners, UN sister organisations and civil society organisations, because it helps to:

- Understand how specific PSEA activities contribute to the sector overall;
- Inform design of programmes that understand interdependencies with other stakeholders, including work in Allied Sectors, to maximise results;
- Be accountable to governments in terms of our preventive and responsive actions in humanitarian situations under their jurisdiction;
- Distinguish between implementation failure and theory failure and inform adaptation and advocacy as needed

This ToC was created and revised as part of a wider effort to create ToCs for each of the seven CPHA workstreams. While each of the individual workstream ToCs can be used as a stand-alone ToC for specific workstream programming, for example to strengthen PSEA programming, multiple ToCs can be used at the same time to develop a monitor a wider CPHA programmes that include activities across workstreams. **The overarching CPHA ToC largely follows the logic of the individual workstream ToCs which generally have pillars around prevention, response and mechanisms and systems.** The programming approaches across the workstreams are similar and in line with the overall UNICEF Child Protection Strategy 2021 - 2030.

TIMEFRAME

Setting a time-frame for a ToC is not essential since it is best practice to use a ToC as a living document that is constantly updated. However, given changes in UNICEF and in the contexts where it works, it is important to review the underlying logics and assumptions after a number of years of programming. For this ToC, and indeed the overarching ToC for CPHA, it was decided to follow the same timelines as the period set for the recently released UNICEF Strategic Plan. **This means that this ToC will be relevant for the period 2022 to 2025 when it should be reviewed.** Especially the strategic shift that is underway towards more prevention programming in Child Protection warrants a review by **2025**.

2020

2021

2022

2023

2024

2025

2026

DESIRED CHANGE

The desired change for PSEA is formulated as: All children, women and communities are protected against sexual exploitation and abuse.

The impact statement, or overall outcome for the ToC is:

Children, women, communities, and personnel in target humanitarian settings are safe from sexual exploitation and abuse, and are respected and empowered.

KEY BOTTLENECKS

- Limited or no access to safe & child-friendly reporting mechanisms at the community level
- Limited or no internal [UNICEF personnel] knowledge on SEA or reporting mechanisms
- Limited or no office-wide approach to programming on PSEA
- HCT PSEA Framework that does not include a child-rights perspective
- Limited or lack of evidence and data collection and monitoring mechanisms
- Health, police, education and social welfare government and CSO providers with no or limited capacity and resources to provide prevention and response services to SEA victims/survivors
- WASH, Shelter, Food Security and other sectors/clusters with limited or no capacity to undertake SEA risk mitigation/prevention actions
- Women & children with no or limited knowledge on SEA and where to report and outside of decision-making or socio-economic processes
- Legal and justice sector with limited capacity to investigate and prosecute following child-friendly procedures and to provide support to child victims/witnesses in the system.
- Weak capacity of legal aid CSOs to provide assistance to survivors

OUTCOME LOGIC

The outcomes logic of this ToC is based on three pillars. The rationale behind the ToC is that if all women, children, communities, and humanitarian personnel have access to high quality reporting mechanisms, and they receive high-quality prevention and response services, and they are engaged in the development of strategies and decision-making processes, and if cases of SEA are investigated and processed in accordance to international standards and through the delivery of quality support, then it will be possible to increasingly guarantee that they are safe from SEA, and that they are respected and empowered.

To achieve the first outcome on access to reporting systems three changes need to happen:

1

First UNICEF and its IPs need to have internal mechanisms to receive, record and process allegations, and provide assistance to survivors of SEA. Secondly, there needs to be a functional Humanitarian Country Team in place. Thirdly, there need to mechanisms in place to collect evidence and data to monitor SEA.

2

The second outcome on access to quality PSEA prevention and response services and engagement of children, women, and communities in PSEA requires the alignment, support, and strengthened capacity of the Aligned Sectors and other relevant actors. It is also essential that women and children are capacitated on PSEA and participate in decision making processes at the community-level.

3

The third outcomes, which focusses on how cases are handles including their investigation and the standards of the support that is available, requires two changes: Firstly, the capacities of Implementing Partners on child-friendly principles to SEA investigations needs to be increased and, secondly, child survivors of SEA need to be supported to access justice and/or redress in line with the care they want.

This envisioned results will happen if

i

the government and other partners, and UNICEF have the capacity to address SEA and establish reporting mechanisms;

iii

if children, women and communities, have increased knowledge on PSEA and resources to participate in decision-making processes around PSEA at the community level;

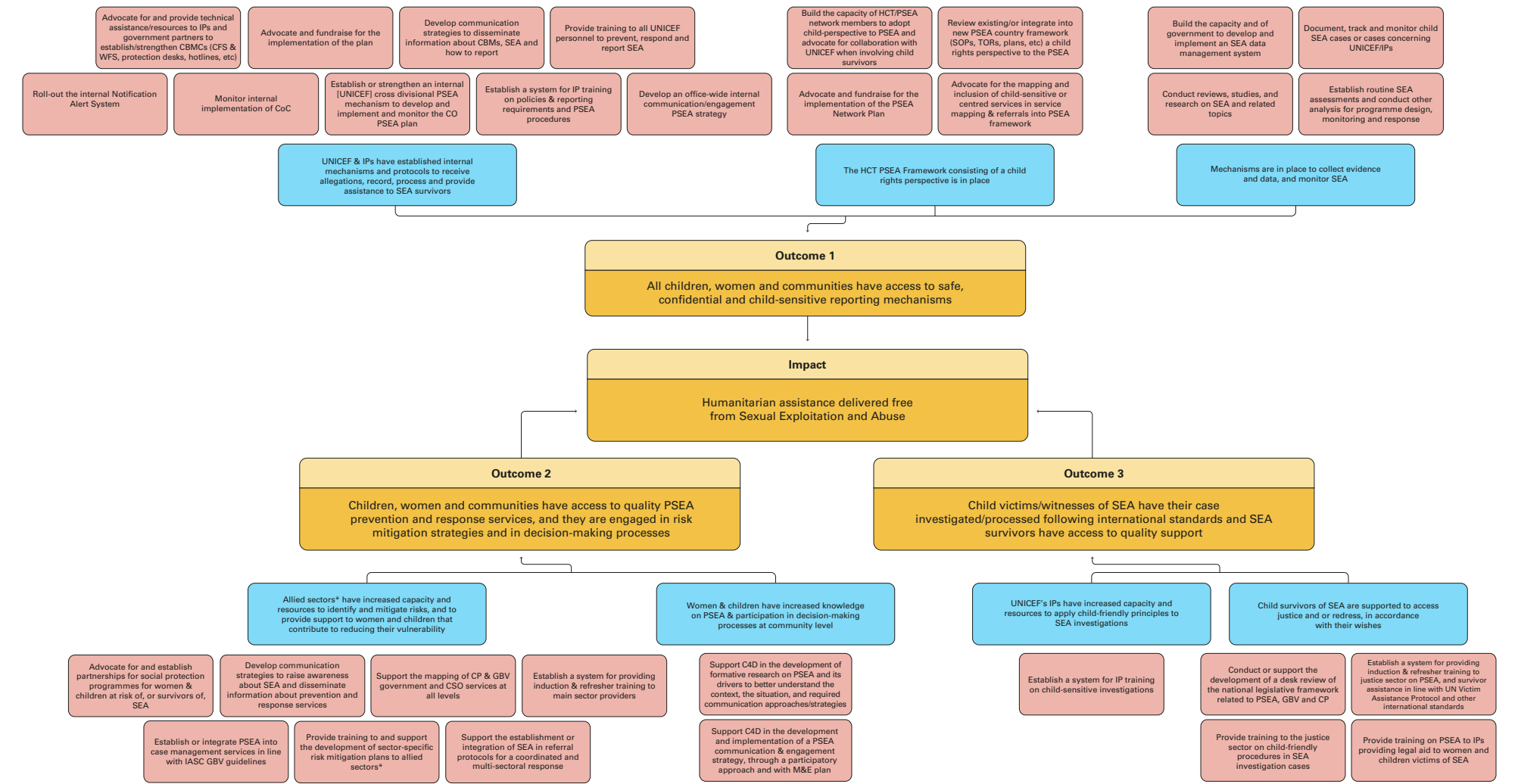
ii

if Aligned Sectors have increased capacity and resources to risk mitigate, prevent and to provide immediate quality assistance to SEA survivors;

iv

and if the justice sector and UNICEF's Implementing Partners (IPs) have the increased capacity and resources to apply child-friendly principles and standards to SEA investigations and SEA survivors have increased access to legal aid support services.

Figure 1: Theory of Change diagram



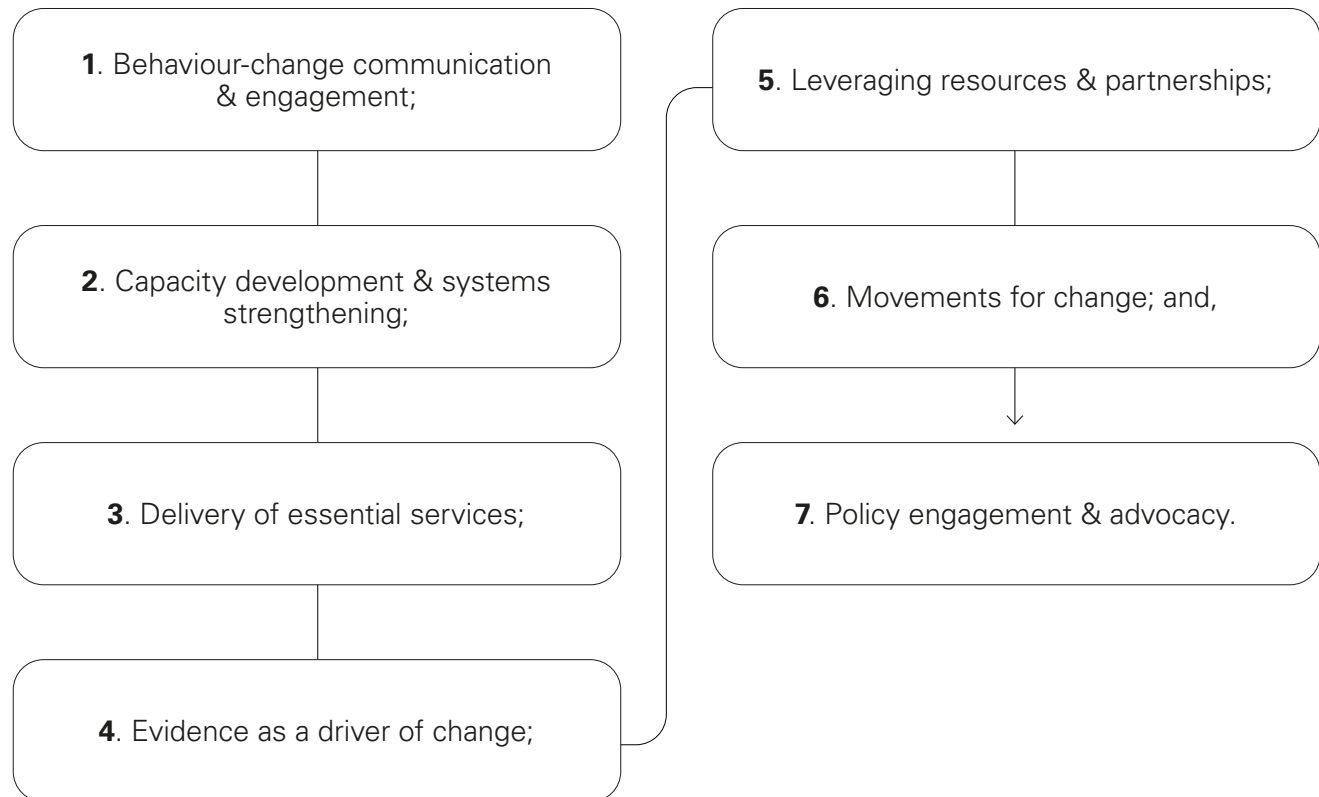
LEGEND:

- Outputs
- Key Activities

* Aligned sectors and partners have mainstreamed CP in their response and mitigation and include Education, Health, Nutrition, Social Protection, Livelihoods, WASH, Shelter and Settlement, Camp Management and others. They can be part of UNICEF, the wider UN family, and civil society.

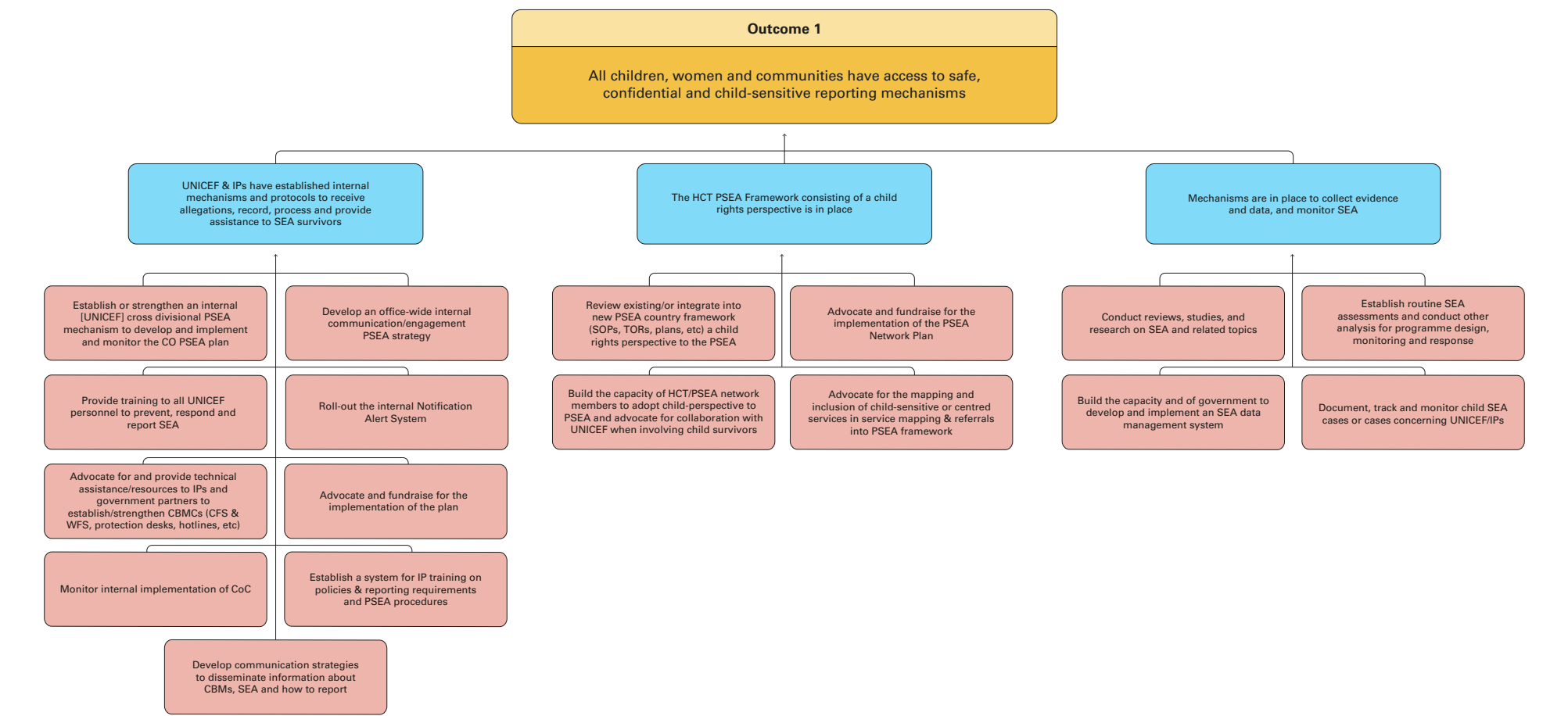
KEY STRATEGIES

Seven key strategies have been identified for the delivery of prevention and response services, delivery of reporting mechanisms, and strengthening of investigation and processing systems:



Outcome 1

Figure 2: Outcome pillar 1

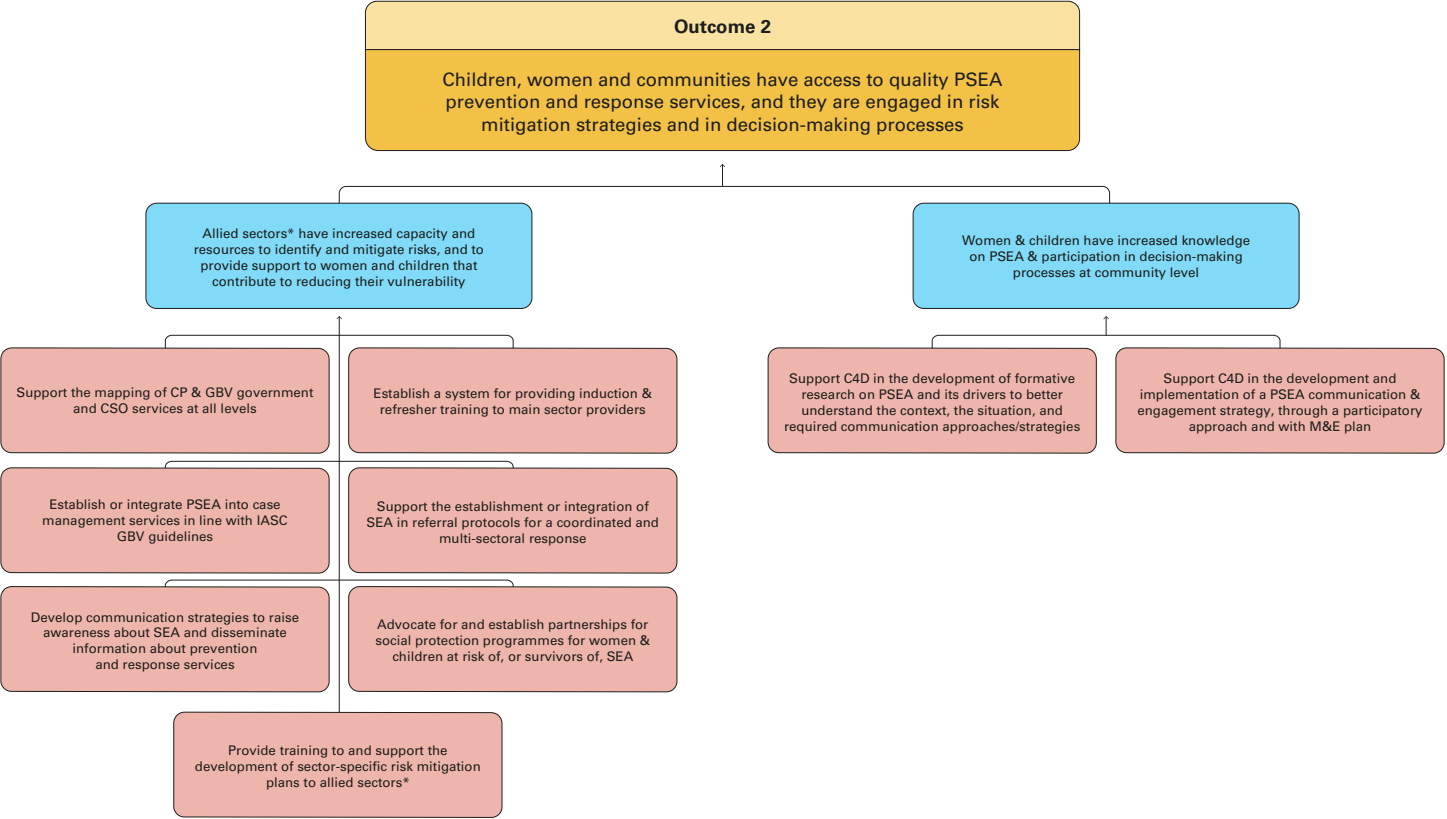


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Outcome 1	All children, women and communities have access to safe, confidential and child-sensitive reporting mechanisms.											
Outputs	UNICEF & IPs have established internal mechanisms and protocols to receive allegations, record, process and provide assistance to SEA survivors			The HCT PSEA Framework consisting of a child rights perspective is in place				Mechanisms are in place to collect evidence and data, and monitor SEA				
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity development & systems strengthening Policy engagement & advocacy Behaviour change communication & engagement Leveraging resources & partnerships 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy engagement & advocacy Capacity development & systems strengthening Leveraging resources & partnerships 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence as a driver of change Capacity development & systems strengthening Policy engagement & advocacy Leveraging resources & partnerships 				
Interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish or strengthen an internal [UNICEF] cross divisional PSEA mechanism/structure/committee to develop and implement and monitor the CO PSEA plan Develop an office-wide internal communication/engagement PSEA strategy Advocate for and fundraise for the implementation of the plan Provide training to all UNICEF personnel to prevent, respond and report SEA Monitor internal implementation of CoC Roll-out the internal Notification Alert System Establish a system for IP training on policies & reporting requirements and PSEA procedures Advocate for and provide technical assistance/resources to IPs and government partners to establish/strengthen CBMCs (CFS & WFS, protection desks, hotlines, etc) Develop communication strategies to disseminate information about CBMs, SEA and how to report 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review existing/or integrate into new PSEA country framework (SOPs, TORs, plans, etc) a child rights perspective to the PSEA Advocate and fundraise for the implementation of the PSEA Network Plan Advocate for the mapping and inclusion of child-sensitive or centred services in service mapping & referrals into PSEA framework Build the capacity of HCT/PSEA network members to adopt child-perspective to PSEA and advocate for collaboration with UNICEF when involving child survivors 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct reviews, studies, and research on SEA and related topics Establish routine SEA assessments and conduct other analysis for programme design, monitoring and response Build the capacity and of government to develop and implement an SEA data management system Document, track and monitor child SEA cases or cases concerning UNICEF/IPs 				

Outcome 2

Figure 3: Outcome pillar 2



LEGEND:

Outputs

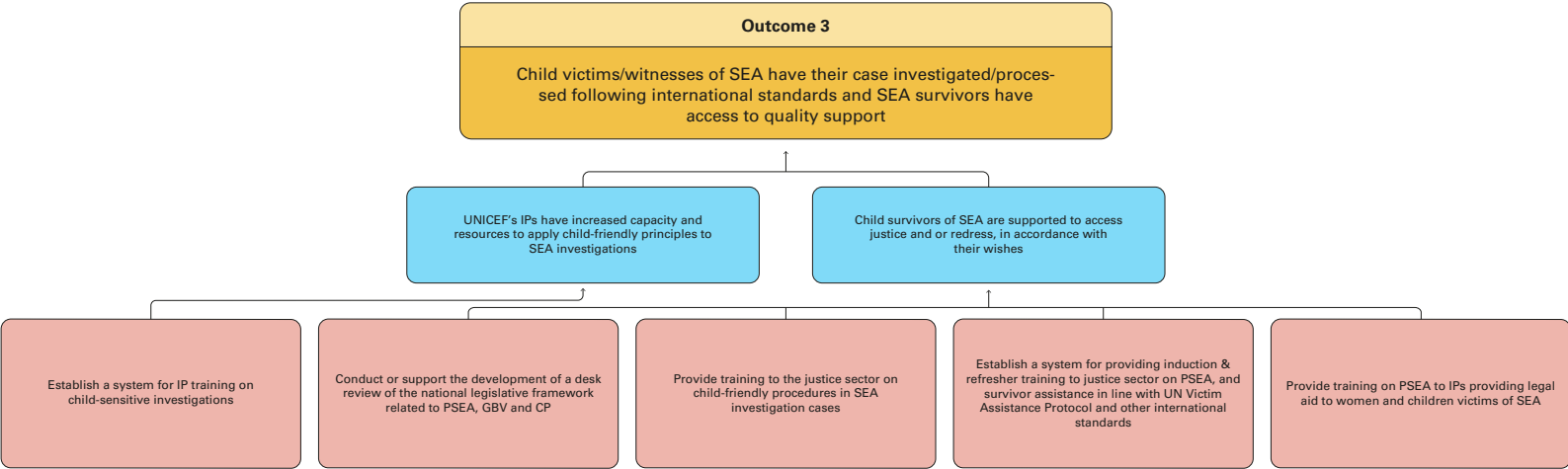
Key Activities

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Outcome 2	Children, women and communities have access to quality PSEA prevention and response services, and they are engaged in risk mitigation strategies and in decision-making processes											
Outputs	Health, Social Welfare, Police, Education and other relevant sectors have increased capacity and resources to identify and mitigate risks, and to provide support to women and children that contribute to reducing their vulnerability						Women & children have increased knowledge on PSEA & participation in decision-making processes at community level					
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity development & systems strengthening • Policy engagement & advocacy • Behaviour change communication & engagement • Leveraging resources & partnerships 						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy engagement & advocacy • Capacity development & systems strengthening • Leveraging resources & partnerships • Movements for change • Evidence as a driver of change 					
Interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the mapping of CP & GBV government and CSO services at all levels • Establish a system for providing induction & refresher training to main sector providers on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » SEA risk mitigation and prevention strategies in line with IASC SEA and GBV standards » Survivor assistance in line with UN Victim Assistance Protocol and other international standards • Provide training to and support the development of sector-specific risk mitigation plans (WASH, shelter, food security, etc) • Support the establishment or integration of SEA in referral protocols for a coordinated and multi-sectoral response • Establish or integrate PSEA into case management services in line with IASC GBV guidelines • Advocate for and establish partnerships for social protection programmes for women & children at risk of, or survivors of, SEA • Develop communication strategies to raise awareness about SEA and disseminate information about prevention and response services 						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support C4D in the development of formative research on PSEA and its drivers to better understand the context, the situation, and required communication approaches/strategies • Support C4D in the development and implementation of a PSEA communication & engagement strategy, through a participatory approach and with M&E plan [this strategy should include the messaging part at the awareness and knowledge levels but should also include the community-based engagement, especially when it relates to social norms; here is where I believe C4D could help us work more on the empowerment piece, making children and women part of the decision-making processes and governance structures related to food distribution and other humanitarian aid] 					

Outcome 3

Figure 4: Outcome pillar 3



LEGEND:
Outputs
Key Activities

Outcome 3	Child victims/witnesses of SEA have their case investigated/processed following international standards and SEA survivors have access to quality support.											
Outputs	UNICEF’s IPs have increased capacity and resources to apply child-friendly principles to SEA investigations						Child survivors of SEA are supported to access justice and/or redress, in accordance with their wishes					
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity development & systems strengthening Policy engagement & advocacy Leveraging resources & partnerships Delivery of essential services 						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity development & systems strengthening Policy engagement & advocacy Behaviour change communication & engagement Leveraging resources & partnerships Delivery of essential services (ex. grants/social protection) 					
Interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a system for IP training on child-sensitive investigations 						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct or support the development of a desk review of the national legislative framework related to PSEA, GBV and CP Establish a system for providing induction & refresher training to justice sector on PSEA, and survivor assistance in line with UN Victim Assistance Protocol and other international standards Provide training to the justice sector on child-friendly procedures in SEA investigation cases Provide training on PSEA to IPs providing legal aid to women and children victims of SEA 					

ASSUMPTIONS

Any theory of change is rooted in assumptions. Assumptions are the conditions that need to be in place to make the theory work; they explain the logic behind the overall programme and behind the causal links in the theory. For this ToC assumptions have been identified for each of the three outcomes.

For outcome 1 – All children, women and communities have access to safe, confidential and child-sensitive reporting mechanisms – these are the assumptions:

- There is political and economic stability to implement PSEA programme in the country;
- Government and other partners are committed to PSEA;
- There is a Humanitarian Country Team or inter-agency PSEA framework in place, that is functional and agile;
- UNICEF has the internal capacities to roll-out an office-wide approach to implementing a PSEA Action Plan;
- All sections/teams in UNICEF take ownership of PSEA and their roles/obligations;
- Implementing Partners are receptive to being assessed and trained according to UNICEF procedures; and,

- The HCT and PSEA Network are welcoming of the integration of child rights perspective in the HCT PSEA documents and frameworks.

For outcome 2 – Children, women and communities have access to quality PSEA prevention and response services, and they are engaged in risk mitigation strategies and in decision-making processes – these are the assumptions:

- There are minimum CP & GBV services available to SEA survivors;
- Sectors are committed to preventing and responding to SEA and to increasing their capacity;
- Resources are available to strengthen the system;
- All Aligned Sectors, including WASH, Shelter, and Food Security, are receptive and have the resources to implement risk mitigation strategies;
- There is access to children, women & communities to allow for proper engagement;
- Traditional and community leaders are receptive to new governance structures at the community level and to gender equality.

Finally For outcome 3 – Child victims/ witnesses of SEA have their case investigated/ processed following international standards and SEA survivors have access to quality support – these are the assumptions:

- The legal and justice sector is committed to addressing SEA and providing survivor/ witness support;
- Resources are available to increasingly strengthen the system;
- SEA survivors will seek the national justice system;
- Resources are available to strengthen the system;
- The government and IPs are receptive to receiving training and applying the principles learned.



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