

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

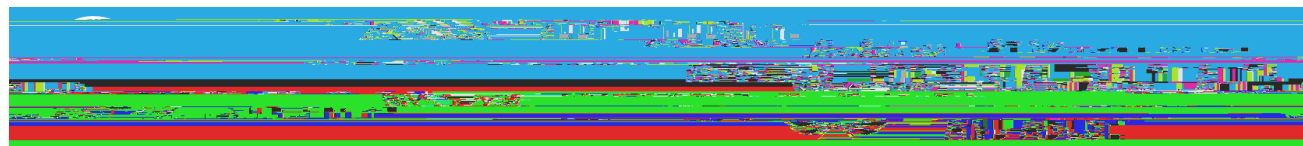
**Background.** In March 2017, the Secretary-General outlined a comprehensive four-pronged strategy<sup>1</sup> to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse across the United Nations system.<sup>2</sup>



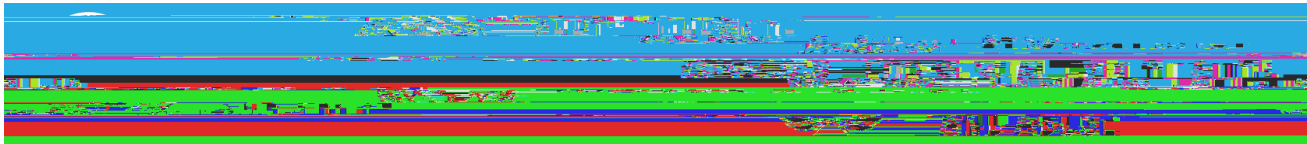






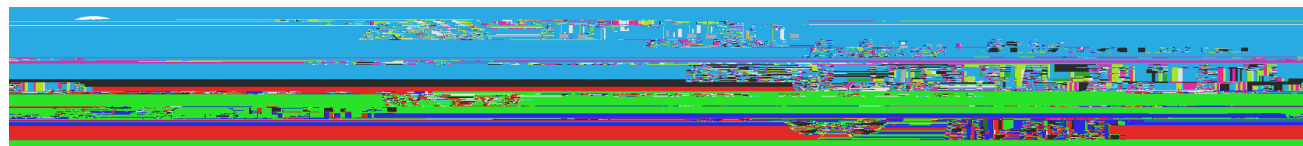


14. The United Nations Sustainable Development Group included sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment regulations in its <b>memorandums of understanding</b> and <b>standard administrative arrangements</b> : <a href="#">link</a>	Effective 4 December 2019
15. The Conduct and Discipline Service developed a <b>misconduct risk management tool</b> : <a href="#">link</a>	September 2019; ongoing capacity-building sessions
16. The Conduct and Discipline Service developed a <b>sexual exploitation and abuse risk management toolkit</b> : <a href="#">link</a>	June 2018
17. <b>ClearCheck</b> <sup>9</sup> database 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 at the United Nations: <a href="#">link</a>	Launched June 2018; ongoing
18. <b>United Nations contractual conditions</b> for consultants and individual contractors require compliance with the Secretary-measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (ST/SGB/2003/13)	Ongoing
19. <b>Staff members required to acknowledge in writing</b> , upon entry, reassignment and yearly, their knowledge and understanding of United Nations standards of conduct regarding sexual exploitation and abuse and the consequences for violating them	Ongoing
20. Issuance of <b>2019 note verbale</b> on the <b>repository of national police laws</b> on sexual exploitation and abuse: <a href="#">link</a>	Issued January 2019; 11 legal frameworks
21. <b>Reissuance of 2016 note verbale</b> on the <b>repository of national military laws</b> on sexual exploitation and abuse: <a href="#">link</a>	



<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>	
2. <b>Voluntary compact</b> on preventing and addressing sexual exploitation and abuse: <a href="#">link</a>	Ongoing; 105 Member State signatories
3. Technical-level meeting co-chaired by the Rights Advocate and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources to exchange good practices and lessons learned among Member States on paternity and child support claims	Expected: 2023
4. <b>Informal strategic dialogue with all Member States</b> , chaired jointly by the Special Coordinator on 00.76.8(m0 G(Ass)6(i)-10(s)3(.96 TJETQ57 698.02 346.8	





5. The Department of Global Communications and the Department of Peace Operations are developing an <b>online toolkit on strategic communications on sexual exploitation and abuse</b> for United Nations leaders	Expected: second quarter of 2023
6. The Department of Global Communications, in collaboration with agencies, funds and programmes, developed a <b>communications guidance to respond to allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations staff and related personnel</b>	February 2022
7. The Department of Global Communications and the Department of Peace Operations led <b>training sessions on communications</b> on sexual exploitation and abuse for senior leaders across United Nations duty stations	2019 (1); 2020 (2); 2021(3); 2022 (2) 2023: scheduled for March
8. <b>Knowledge gateway page</b> : an internal system-wide documentation repository on the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse	June 2020
9. Development and issuance of a <b>United Nations stamp</b> to raise awareness of the importance of speaking out to end sexual exploitation and abuse: <a href="#">link</a>	March 2019; ongoing
10. The Department of Peace Operations launched a bilingual (English/French) <b>social media campaign</b> (on Facebook and Twitter: <a href="#">#HonouringOurValues</a> ), including infographics, quote cards and videos from personnel, responders, Member States and community members, and created a repository of communication and awareness-raising tools: <a href="#">link</a>	Launched March 2018; ongoing

#### V. Additional initiatives by agencies, funds and programmes

Initiative	Status
1. <b>UNICEF</b> initiated a scoping exercise with regional and select country protection from sexual exploitation and abuse focal points on engagement with government, in order to inform the development of a global governmental framework, as set out in the report by the Standing Committee on its technical support mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo: <a href="#">link</a>	Expected: second quarter of 2023
2. <b>WFP</b> initiated the review and update of its administrative issuance that serves as a policy framework on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse	Expected: second quarter of 2023
3. <b>UNIDIR</b> is developing its policy on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse	Expected: second quarter of 2023
4. <b>UNIDO</b> is updating its code of ethical conduct to include core principles on sexual exploitation and abuse	Expected: second quarter of 2023
5. <b>UNIDO</b> initiated a review and update of its framework for individual service agreement, in compliance with the Secretary- and will promulgate a policy on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse	Expected: second quarter of 2023
6. <b>UNICEF</b> is developing a safeguarding accountability framework to prescribe core office and staff expectations for creating a protective environment	Expected: second quarter of 2023
7. <b>Joint regional training workshops for focal points and coordinators</b> to establish effective protection from sexual exploitation and abuse mechanisms	2019 (3); 2020 (1); 2021 (1); 2022 (2)
8. <b>UNFPA</b> developed a training module on gender-based violence case management responses to sexual exploitation and abuse to strengthen the capacity of gender-based violence case managers to address the needs of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse  Piloted in Pakistan, the Philippines, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	Expected: 2023
9. <b>UN-Women</b> developed a learning journey for senior managers, which-9(en )TJE	







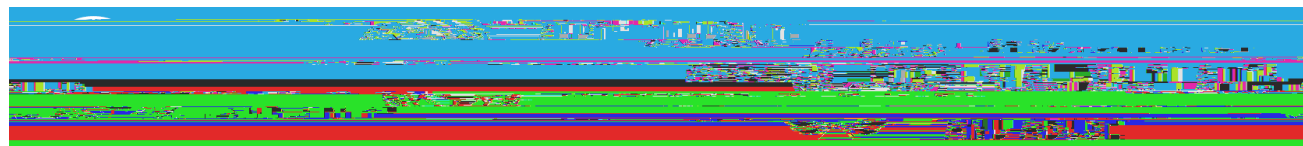


26. <b>IOM deployments to support or establish collective in-country initiatives</b> for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse <sup>13</sup>	Ongoing
27. <b>IOM</b> ( <a href="#">link</a> ), the <b>Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs</b> ( <a href="#">link</a> ), <b>UNDP</b> ( <a href="#">link</a> ), <b>UNFPA</b> ( <a href="#">link</a> ), <b>UNHCR</b> ( <a href="#">link</a> ), <b>UNOPS</b> ( <a href="#">link</a> ), <b>WFP</b> ( <a href="#">link</a> ) and <b>WHO</b> ( <a href="#">link</a> ) launched websites on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse	Updated regularly

**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,<sup>14</sup> 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





<p>revision of the <b>2016 Inter-Agency Standing Committee best practice guide on inter-agency community-based complaint mechanisms</b>: <a href="#">link</a></p>	
<p>5. The <b>Standing Committee</b> developed and launched common indicators on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse to measure country-level collective progress. All humanitarian coordinators are to report against the indicators. The results will be published on the global dashboard in 2023: <a href="#">link</a></p>	<p>December 2022; results in March 2023</p>
<p>6. The <b>Standing Committee</b> launched the sexual exploitation and abuse risk overview (SEARO) composite index, in which it brings together different factors that can influence the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse. The index categorizes countries with humanitarian response operations according to their <a href="#">link</a></p>	<p>October 2022</p>
<p>7. <b>UNFPA</b>, as then-Champion, led the establishment of a roster of trained and vetted inter-agency coordinators for rapid deployment; an advocacy campaign in 35 Standing Committee priority countries, reaching more than 1.3 million people with information on their rights, on reporting channels and on assistance available; and commissioned an external review to provide an independent collective progress over the past decade External review on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, 2021: <a href="#">link</a></p>	<p>January 2021 January 2022</p>
<p>8. The <b>Standing Committee</b> website on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse provides resources and features a global dashboard to track progress against agreed action plans and to provide country-level information: <a href="#">link</a></p>	<p>Updated: January 2022; ongoing</p>
<p>9. <b>UNHCR</b>, as then-Champion, led a reflection session for the Standing Committee principals on values, attitudes and organizational culture as it relates to sexual misconduct, with similar sessions held for humanitarian support leaders in starting important discussions within their organizations by holding similar sessions: <a href="#">link</a></p>	<p>2021</p>
<p>10. <b>UNHCR</b> launched a <b>case conference</b> training tool to facilitate peer-to-peer exchange on practices among small groups of protection from sexual exploitation and abuse focal points. The tool has been shared with Standing Committee members, with the intention of being used by others</p>	<p>UNHCR pilot: August 2021; Standing Committee roll-out: December 2021</p>
<p>11. The <b>Standing Committee</b> endorsed <b>generic terms of reference for coordinators (updated 2019), networks and agency focal points</b> on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, to harmonize and systematize the role of these actors: <a href="#">link</a></p>	<p>October 2021; translations into Arabic, French and Spanish</p>
<p>12. <b>UNHCR</b> <b>A selection of promising practices on organizational culture change</b> High Commissioner showcased the innovative work done by different humanitarian and development organizations to curb the power imbalances in the workplace that give rise to sexual misconduct and other forms of abuse: <a href="#">link</a></p>	<p>May 2021</p>
<p>13. <b>UNHCR</b>, as then-Champion, had the following overarching priorities: (a) bolstering prevention; (b) expanding safe spaces to speak out and report sexual misconduct; and (c) promoting the respectful use of authority. Details are provided in the report of the High Commissioner: <a href="#">link</a></p>	<p>September 2019 January 2021</p>
<p>14. <b>UNHCR</b> released a communications package for leaders, intended to guide Standing Committee principals in facilitating meaningful dialogue with staff on culture: <a href="#">link</a></p>	<p>September 2020</p>
<p>15. The <b>Standing Committee field support team</b> on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse includes specialists from eight Standing Committee entities and agencies and provides ongoing support to more than 50 inter-</p>	<p>May 2020; ongoing</p>





agency coordinators and networks. In-person missions were carried out to support the humanitarian coordinators and humanitarian country teams in the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo	
16. UNHCR partnered with the International Council of Voluntary Agencies to launch a <b>community outreach and communications fund on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse</b> to support smaller NGOs. Grants were awarded to NGOs working in all regions 15 additional grants were awarded to NGOs in 2022: <a href="#">link</a> .	Fund launched February 2019; ongoing Grants awarded: 2020 (19); 2021 (15)
17. <b>Inter-Agency Standing Committee training package on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment for United Nations partners</b> , a collaborative project by IOM, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and involving the International Council of Voluntary Agencies, the Norwegian Refugee Council and the Core <b>Saying no to sexual misconduct</b>  <a href="#">link</a>	May 2020; available in Arabic, English, French, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Ukrainian

18. IOM

