Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Factsheet

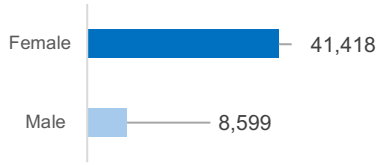
January-December 2025

50,017
Persons included in Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) activities

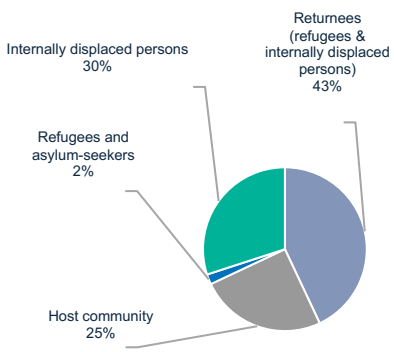
83% Female
17% Male
19% Children

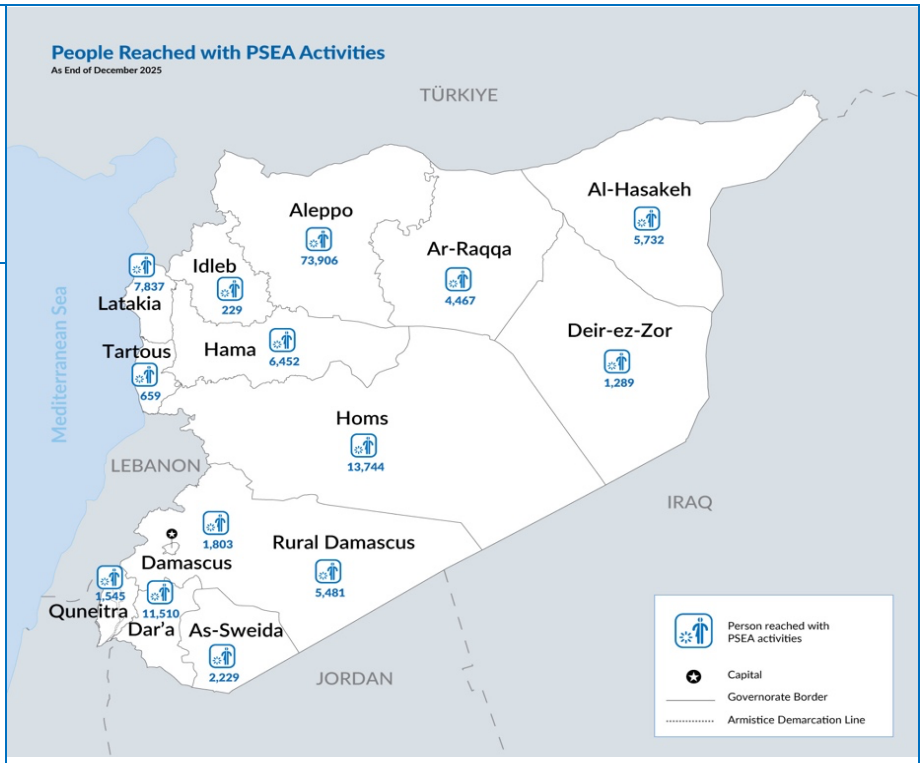
3,671
PSEA sessions

Age, Gender & Diversity composition

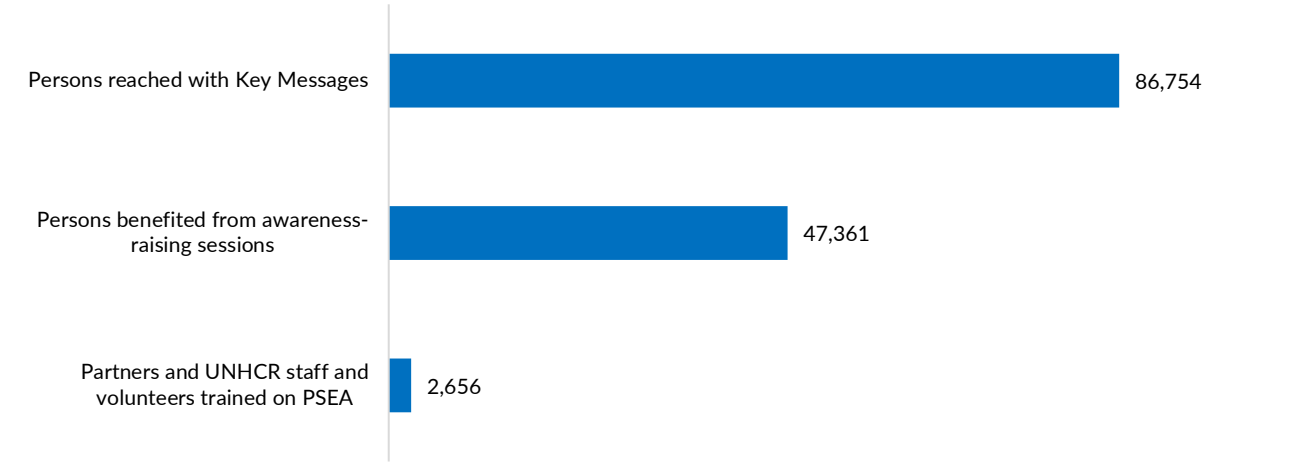


Population groups





PSEA Main Activities



January -December 2025

Introduction

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) by aid workers is a violation of core humanitarian principles and is strictly prohibited. SEA not only inflicts serious harm on those we are mandated to protect but also jeopardizes the credibility of all humanitarian organizations. Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policies and practices aim to reduce the risk of, prevent and respond to SEA by UN personnel, NGO partners, and other entities and persons involved in providing humanitarian assistance, including contractors, community volunteers and workers. UNHCR continuously works to ensure that allegations of SEA are reported and responded to in a timely and appropriate manner, and that victims of SEA are referred to support and assistance needed in line with a victim-centred approach.

Awareness-raising

UNHCR and its partners uphold a ZERO TOLERANCE policy towards all forms of sexual misconduct, including Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of individuals affected by crises. In 2025, UNHCR Syria implemented the following activities to strengthen awareness and prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse:

- **PSEA Awareness Sessions**: Continuous sessions were conducted in all UNHCR-supported community centres, engaging people with and for whom UNHCR works. These sessions focused on explaining what constitutes sexual misconduct, key protection principles, and available reporting mechanisms.
- **PSEA Flash Messages**: The UNHCR Syria Representative issued periodic flash messages to all staff, reinforcing the importance of PSEA and emphasizing collective responsibility in preventing SEA
- **PSEA Key Messages:** Core SEA messages were developed in both Arabic and English and disseminated widely to people with and for whom UNHCR works, ensuring accessibility and understanding.

Capacity Building

UNHCR Syria undertook the following initiatives to train and equip staff, partners, and other stakeholders on PSEA, and to implement concrete measures to prevent Sexual Exploitation and Abuse:

- **PSEA Partner Capacity Assessment**: UNHCR continues to closely monitor and support partners requiring improvements in their PSEA capacity. Regular PSEA capacity assessments are conducted to ensure that all partners maintain strong standards and practices for preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.
- **Refresher Sessions and Trainings:** Regular refresher sessions for all UNHCR staff, along with PSEA training for partner staff, volunteers, and community structures, were conducted to ensure that all personnel remain well-informed and equipped with PSEA principles and practices.
- **PSEA-specific field missions:** Specialist staff are regularly deployed to all field locations—including camps, collective shelters, and urban sites—to collect first-hand information on PSEA risks and conduct intensive awareness-raising sessions with UNHCR staff and partners.