PSEA

INTER-AGENCY RISK ASSESSMENT MOLDOVA

UNITED NATIONS
MOLDOVA

Regional Refugee Response
For the Ukraine Situation | Moldova

PURPOSE OF THE RISK ASSESSMENT

Establish a national baseline on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse to guide programming, risk management and monitoring

Evaluate the effectiveness of existing SEA prevention and mitigation efforts

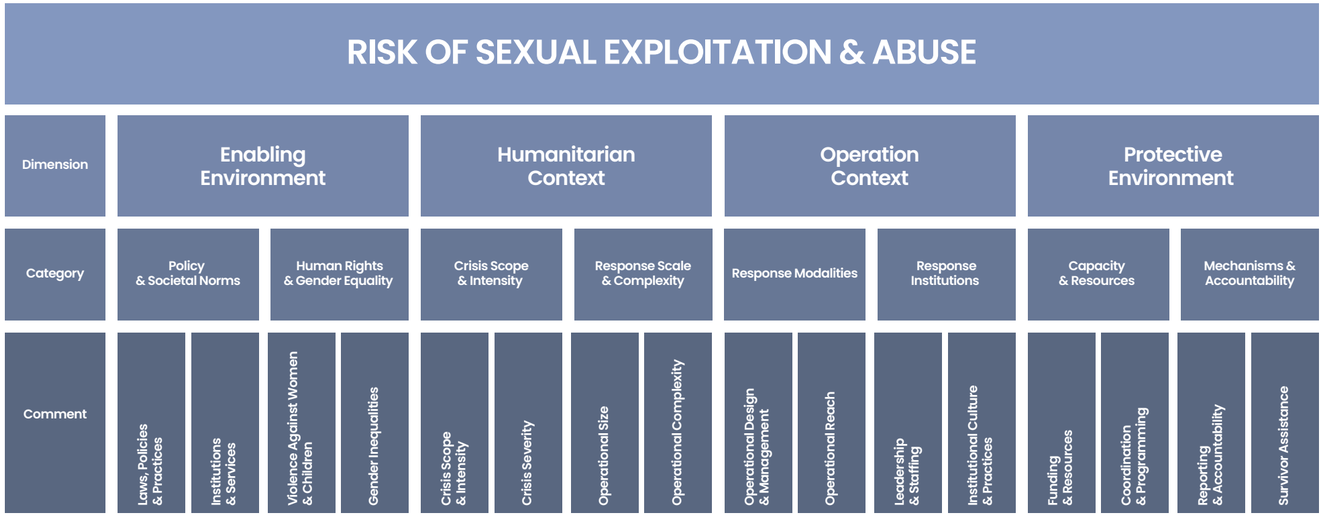
Provide evidence for the development of the 2024 PSEA Inter-Agency Action Plan for Moldova

Promoting collaboration and a unified response to addressing SEA within the humanitarian and development community.

FRAMEWORK

The Moldova SEA risk assessment, grounded in UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and OECD-DAC standards for PSEA, evaluates the local PSEA architecture against international recommendations and the Moldovan context. Utilizing the Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Risk Overview (SEARO) methodology, a composite index, it analyzes varied risk factors across four dimensions:

1. Enabling Environment: Examines socio-political and legal contexts, including laws, societal norms, human rights violations, and gender inequalities, that facilitate SEA.
2. Humanitarian and Aid Context: Assesses SEA risks in crises, factoring in crisis magnitude, affected populations, and severity of needs, acknowledging increased risks due to vulnerability in such situations.
3. Operational Context: Evaluates humanitarian operations for SEA risks, considering operational design, aid type, and worker awareness and commitment to SEA prevention, with an emphasis on reducing risk through informed and dedicated agencies.
4. Protective Environment: Reviews existing capacities and measures for SEA prevention and response, including PSEA policies, staff capacity, reporting mechanisms, support services, and organizational accountability.



ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

In-depth Training for Enumerators:
Covered PSEA principles, "Do No Harm," confidentiality, victim-centered approach, response protocols.

Code of Conduct & Confidentiality Agreement:
Signed by all enumerators to ensure privacy and ethical standards.

Anonymized Data Collection:
No personal identifiers collected; focus group discussions not recorded.

Informed Consent: Detailed explanation provided:
oral consent obtained for confidentiality.

Child Protection:
Conducted by specialized organizations; focus on sensitive child-centric research.

Information Provision:
Participants given multilingual cards with reporting procedures and support information.

Data Security:
Utilized UNHCR-hosted platforms, no physical data copies to prevent unauthorized access.

LIMITATIONS OF THE ASSESSMENT

Organizational Coverage:

Limited Participation engagement with Red Cross/Red Crescent, government, volunteers.

Leadership survey limited to UN Country Team members and Refugee Response Plan partners, excluding some civil society and faith-based organizations.

Data Collection Methods:

Focus group discussions captured through notes, not verbatim transcriptions or recordings, potentially leading to information loss or misinterpretation.

Timing of Assessment:

Conducted during peak response with maximum resources. Risks of SEA may increase as humanitarian capacity and assistance reduce post-peak period.

METHODOLOGY

Innovative approach, integrating institutional analysis with people-centered perspectives.
Focus on refugees, host community voices, and access to information and services.

Secondary Data Review

Utilizes reports from UN agencies, governments, multilaterals.

Face-to-Face Interviews
(6-12 June 2023)

113 interviews across Moldova, exploring barriers to aid and SEA risks.

Focus Group Discussions

14 FGDs, including with refugees, host communities, women-led organizations, disabled persons, Roma refugees. **Topics:** Access to aid, SEA risks, understanding of reporting mechanisms.

Leadership Survey

32 senior staff from UN agencies, INGOs, NNGOs, faith-based organization. Focus on PSEA operational standards.

Perception Survey with Aid Workers
(May 2023)

353 aid workers surveyed on PSEA awareness and practices.

Safety Assessment of RACs

39 centers assessed using
69 indicators across **9 areas**.

Perception Survey with Individuals Receiving Aid

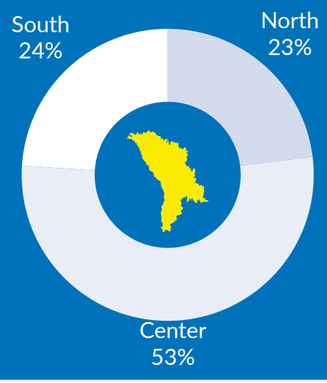
113
RESPONDENTS

76% FEMALE
24% MALE

74% 18 - 59 YEARS
26% 60+ YEARS

88%
WOULD REPORT MISBEHAVIOR

REGIONS



18%
WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

12%
WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

AWARENESS OF CODE OF CONDUCT
69% AWARE OF CoC
31% NOT AWARE

95%
FREE
INFORMED THAT ASSISTANCE IS FREE

64%
KNOW HOW TO REPORT

76%
SATISFIED WITH AID WORKERS BEHAVIOR

98%
RECEIVED AID F FROM UNITED NATIONS & INGOS

77%
RECEIVED AID FROM FAITH BASED ORGANIZATIONS

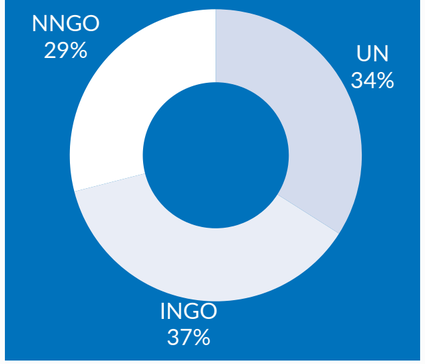
43% NOT AWARE OF SUPPORT SERVICES

ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP SURVEY

32
ORGANIZATIONS

56%
OPERATING IN MOLDOVA FOR 10+ YEARS

PROFILE



75%
ACCESS TO INVEST. BODY

39%
OF LOCAL CSOs HAVE PSEA POLICIES

62%
CONDUCT INTERNAL RISK ASSESSMENT

56%
HAVE REFERENCE CHECK PROCEDURES

69%
SAFE, CONFIDENTIAL AND CONTEXT-SPECIFIC REPORTING CHANNELS

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

14
FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

48
CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS CONSULTED

93
INDIVIDUALS CONSULTED IN TOTAL

Perception Survey with Aid Workers

353

RESPONDENTS

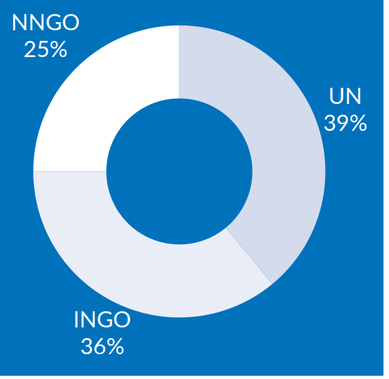
79% NATIONAL STAFF

21% INT.STAFF

79% < 6 YEARS IN AID SECTOR

31% 6+ YEARS

AFFILIATION



6%

NOT AWARE OF OBLIGATION TO REPORT COLLEAGUES FROM OTHER ORG.

99%

AWARE OF OBLIGATION TO REPORT COLLEAGUES FROM OWN ORG.

AWARE OF STEPS TO TAKE IF HEARS RUMOURS

95% AWARE

98%

AWARE THAT HIRING SEX WORKERS IS UNACCEPTABLE

94%

AWARE THAT ASSISTANCE IS UNCONDITIONAL

99%

AWARE THAT SEX W/ CHILDREN IS PROHIBITED

98%

ASSESSED TRAININGS AS EFECTIVE IN RAISING AWARENESS

10%

BELIEVE THEIR ORG. DO NOT RAISE AWARENESS ON PSEA AMONG COMMUNITIES

11% REPORTED NOT RECEIVING INFORMATION ON HOW TO REPORT

Refugee Accomodation Center Safety Assessment

Region	Access	Information	Accessib.	Disclos.	Child Prot.	Staffing	Lighting	Privacy	Services	Safety Index
South	94%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%
North	100%	88%	75%	92%	78%	92%	100%	84%	100%	90%
North	76%	100%	38%	50%	100%	100%	79%	84%	100%	81%
South	82%	88%	13%	75%	78%	100%	100%	68%	100%	78%
South	71%	88%	50%	75%	61%	100%	100%	76%	80%	78%
North	94%	92%	38%	42%	67%	100%	100%	64%	100%	77%
North	76%	88%	25%	67%	78%	77%	100%	84%	100%	77%
Chișinău	100%	92%	0%	42%	67%	100%	100%	88%	100%	77%
South	94%	88%	13%	92%	44%	100%	79%	56%	100%	74%
Chișinău	88%	88%	0%	42%	67%	100%	100%	76%	100%	73%
Chișinău	65%	80%	63%	67%	72%	54%	100%	80%	70%	72%
Chișinău	88%	100%	25%	42%	50%	77%	86%	88%	80%	71%
Center	47%	92%	63%	67%	78%	8%	86%	88%	100%	70%
Center	65%	80%	38%	75%	33%	77%	100%	60%	100%	70%
Chișinău	76%	28%	38%	50%	33%	100%	79%	68%	100%	64%
Chișinău	41%	60%	38%	75%	33%	77%	93%	68%	70%	62%
South	24%	32%	75%	50%	67%	77%	79%	88%	50%	60%
North	94%	88%	13%	42%	33%	92%	79%	64%	20%	58%
South	65%	40%	25%	25%	67%	92%	43%	60%	100%	57%
North	59%	28%	0%	67%	67%	54%	100%	72%	70%	57%
South	53%	80%	0%	42%	61%	77%	79%	52%	70%	57%
Chișinău	41%	80%	50%	67%	0%	31%	100%	68%	70%	56%
Chișinău	47%	28%	25%	42%	33%	100%	86%	72%	70%	56%
Chișinău	65%	56%	25%	17%	17%	100%	36%	72%	100%	54%
Center	59%	8%	0%	42%	33%	54%	100%	56%	100%	50%
North	82%	8%	63%	67%	0%	23%	93%	44%	50%	48%
North	24%	56%	0%	67%	50%	23%	43%	40%	70%	41%
Center	41%	60%	25%	75%	0%	23%	79%	20%	40%	40%

39 RACs Assessed

55% Average Safety Index

Key Challenges:

- Disability Inclusion
- CoC and HR Procedures
- Child Protection

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Risk Overview in Moldova

3.9

SEARO scores and ranks the overall risk of SEA for countries with humanitarian response operations. It also individually scores each dimension, category and component in the analytical framework. Because the underlying data have huge variations and different formats, the score for each component is "normalized" to a common scale between 1.0 and 9.9, with a higher number denoting higher risk. This provides a consistent way to understand each component and also enables comparisons among components and countries (SEARO, 2022). For more information, please visit: https://psea.interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-sea-risk-overview-index

COMPOSITE SEA RISK FOR MOLDOVA		3.9					
ENABLING	**3.7**	**OPERATIONAL**	**5.2**	**HUMANITARIAN**	**1.8**	**PROTECTIVE**	**5**
Policy & Societal Norms	**4.4**	Response Institutions	**5.6**	Crisis Scope & Intensity	**1.7**	Capacity & Resources	**5**
Laws, Policies & Practices	**3.7**	Leadership & Staffing	**4.7**	Scope & Intensity	**2**	Coordination & Leadership	**4.4**
Institutions & Services	**5.1**	Organizational Culture	**6.5**	Crisis Severity	**1.3**	Funding & Resources	**5.5**
Human Rights & Inequality	**3.1**	Response Modalities	**4.9**	Needs Scale & Complexity	**2**	Mechanisms & Accountability	**5**
Violence v Women & Children	**4.1**	Operational Design	**5.1**	Operation Size	**3.6**	Survivor Assistance	**5**
Gender Inequality	**2.1**	Operational Reach	**4.7**	Operation Complexity	**0.4**	Reporting & Accountability	**4.9**

KEY SEA RISKS IN THE MOLDOVAN CONTEXT

- Mandatory Reporting Regulations
- Increased Vulnerability of Groups at Higher Risk of Marginalization
- Limited Capacity for SEA Investigation, especially among local CSOs
- Sustainability of PSEA Mechanisms
- Legal treatment of Sex Work
- Limited Disability Inclusion
- Insufficient implementation of Reference Checks and Vetting
- Limited Integration of Faith-Based Organizations
- Cultural Norms and Normalization of Violence
- Reliance on Unsustainable Sources of Income
- Accesibility of Reporting Mechanisms
- Barriers on assistance to survivors

PSEA IS A SHARED RESPONSABILITY AND REQUIRES COLLECTIVE EFFORTS