



Inter-Agency
Coordination
Türkiye

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network Türkiye Terms of References

Background

The Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Network (hereinafter PSEA Network or Network), was established by the United Nations Türkiye Country Team to facilitate the implementation of the United Nations Country Team PSEA Work Plan developed and endorsed by the UNCT in 2019. PSEA Network membership was initially made up of focal points designated by UN agencies and a PSEA Task Team was established to steer the technical work of the Network and to advance against the deliverables in the PSEA Work Plan.

Capacity-building initiatives, such as the training conducted in February 2020, contributed to the strengthening of focal point and agency capabilities, and in the ensuing years the Network undertook a series of strategic activities. These included trainings and comprehensive organizational assessments to strengthen the PSEA capacities of UN agencies and implementing partners who were largely engaged in the UN-led strategic framework and response plan (3RP¹) addressing the needs of Syrian refugees and those from other nationalities. The Network also consulted and shared best practices with the cross border PSEA Network serving North West Syria. The PSEA Work Plan was revised in 2022 to reflect the outcomes and indicators outlined in the Global Model PSEA Work Plan Template, contextualized for Türkiye and the activities under the 3RP and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF).

The February 2023 earthquakes in Southeast of Türkiye and their impact on more than 2.5 million affected persons created the need and opportunity to expand the scope of the Network's activities and to extend its membership beyond the UN to involve the numerous international and national NGOs and other aid providers contributing to the humanitarian, recovery and development response.

These Terms of Reference (TORs) are prepared to reflect the goal of providing coherent and collaborative approaches to PSEA across the UN System and within the wider humanitarian/development community in Türkiye.

Network Responsibilities

The PSEA Network is the primary body for technical-level coordination and oversight of PSEA activities in Türkiye. It operates under the auspices of the RC and reports to the UNCT. The Network supports the UNCT, UN agencies and their implementing partners, as well as other operational organizations and entities supporting the response (including through the 3RP, UNSDCF and other ad hoc responses such as natural disasters and sudden emergencies), in preventing, mitigating and responding to PSEA risks. It also works to ensure compliance with the Secretary General's PSEA directives, UN reporting requirements, and to deliver against the objectives and goals of the PSEA Network Work Plan².

¹ https://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/3RP-2023-2025-Turkiye-Country-Chapter_EN.pdf

² See updated Guidance Note: Requirements and procedures for all United Nations entities on information on allegations of sexual exploitation and/or abuse related to United Nations staff and related personnel and implementing partner personnel with the most senior United Nations official in country, 8 June 2023; See also Inter-Agency Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Referral Procedures (IA SEARP) Guidance Note, September 2023



The network is responsible for implementing a coordinated approach among member organizations to minimize the risk of SEA by international and national aid workers (staff of agencies and partners), ensure timely and effective response when incidents do arise, and develop and disseminate effective communication materials to raise awareness of PSEA in Türkiye. The PSEA Network follows a survivor-centered approach in line with the UN Victim Assistance Protocol, and activities are guided by the principles of informed consent, confidentiality, do no harm, non-discrimination and the best interests of survivors.

The presence of the PSEA Network does **not** lessen the responsibility of individual network members (as agencies) to develop, implement, and strengthen internal PSEA programs. Senior management within each member organization is accountable for PSEA within their organizations.

The PSEA Network is **not** responsible for investigating or adjudicating complaints. These functions rest primarily with the entity that employs the individual against whom a complaint has been alleged, following internal policy and procedure. However, if and when needed, the Network may provide assistance to organizations to ensure survivor-centered, protection-sensitive investigation processes are followed, including through capacity building support.

Network Roles

The PSEA Network is working to appoint a dedicated PSEA Coordinator in 2023 to work closely with an expanded PSEA Network Task Team. The PSEA Task Team is a long-term function intended to provide sustainable support and leadership to the PSEA Network. Task team membership will include UN as well as international and national NGO focal points serving one-year rotational terms. Task Team membership is open to all Network members on a voluntary basis, however, endorsement by the Network will be required.

The PSEA Coordinator supports and represents the PSEA Network in coordination with the Network Task Team in the fulfillment of its responsibilities under these TORs and the network Action Plan. The PSEA Coordinator is responsible for reporting at agreed intervals on 1) network activities, 2) progress against PSEA Network Action Plan indicators, and 3) anonymized SEA trends to the Resident Coordinator and UNCT. The PSEA Coordinator also represents the network in relevant coordination bodies and advises actors in country on good practice to support effective PSEA implementation.

The Network will engage in outreach with non-member organizations and other coordination bodies under various frameworks including but not limited to the 3RP (i.e. through the Protection Working Group, Gender-Based Violence Sub-Working Group), the UNSDCF (i.e. Gender Results Group), the WEHA (Women Empowerment in Humanitarian Action Working Group) and other coordination for a operating under the Area Based Coordination (ABC) for the earthquake response. At a minimum, all organizations in Türkiye should be aware of the inter-agency SEA complaint referrals and be able to receive complaints against their own staff, regardless of their relationship to the network.

The Network may form smaller, time-bound task teams of regular members to carry out specific deliverables as needed.

Network Membership and Requirements

Network members will include all UN agencies operating in Türkiye and is open to international and national NGOs and other organizations upon request and confirmation by senior management of basic organizational



PSEA capacities and commitments. These include 1) designation of focal points; 2) delivery of induction and annual training of all staff; 3) organizational adherence to a code of conduct explicitly including PSEA provisions, 4) maintenance of survivor-centered SEA referral and investigation mechanisms and safeguards; and 5) compliance with UN and Network reporting obligations regarding the provision of anonymized information on alleged incidents and trends.

Membership to the network is also open to Sector Coordinators, who are strongly encouraged to attend PSEA Network meetings in order to improve two-way coordination between sectors and the network. The PSEA Coordinator and the GBV sub-sector Coordinator should participate in each other's meetings and events, and actively engage to ensure close linkages between PSEA and GBV interventions.

Each member organization will be represented in the network by designated PSEA Focal Points, consistent with the inter-agency [focal point Terms of References](#). All Focal Points will actively participate in meetings, information sharing on internal PSEA initiatives, and coordination of activities under the Action Plan and are responsible for technical support and coordination on PSEA within their organization under the leadership of their senior management. In case a Focal Point cannot attend a regularly scheduled network meeting, the member organization will be represented by a dedicated and sufficiently briefed Alternate Focal Point to ensure continuity within the network activities.

Meetings

The PSEA Network will convene online/hybrid meetings bi-weekly, while ad-hoc meetings may be requested on an as needed basis by any member. The agenda, objectives and notes of each meeting will be distributed among all members and filed in the records of the network.

As network meetings should provide a supporting environment to discuss potentially sensitive challenges in PSEA, any information shared during meetings will be kept confidential following a victim-centered approach. As a general matter, Network meetings should refrain from discussing individual cases; any reference to SEA allegations or cases during meetings will be anonymized.

Tasks

The Network's activities will be guided by the 4 pillars of the IASC Minimum Operating Standards on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. The [PSEA Network Work Plan](#) will focus on management and coordination, community, prevention and response, community engagement, sustainability, and will be updated regularly based on progress achieved and needs, in consultation with the Network and the Network Task Team.

These Terms of Reference shall be reviewed on an annual basis and revised as appropriate.
