
National/Sub-regional platform R4V PSEA focal points
Terms of Reference¹
2023

Background

In April 2018 the UN Secretary-General provided direction for IOM and UNHCR to lead and coordinate the regional response to the situation of refugees and migrants from Venezuela seeking access to basic rights and services, protection, as well as self-reliance and socio-economic integration. Further to this direction, the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform (R4V) was established as a forum to coordinate the response efforts across 17 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a particular focus on achieving coherency and consistency throughout the response. The Regional Platform is complemented by local coordination mechanisms at national and sub-regional levels. Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) is an integral, cross-cutting component of the R4V response. SEA is recognized as a form of GBV and an egregious breach of accountability to affected people (AAP), requiring robust and coordinated organizational and collective prevention and response measures. PSEA is also a priority of the UN Secretary-General and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). To deliver on this commitment, the IASC has prioritized the acceleration of PSEA from the outset of a response, with a focus on key priority areas including safe and accessible reporting, victims/survivor-centered response, and enhanced accountability². Building on recommendations of the regional PSEA mapping (2020-2021)³, the R4V Regional Platform has further identified key areas of work for the prevention and mitigation of, and response to SEA in the 17 countries of the RMRP⁴.

Description of the role of PSEA focal points of R4V sub-regional and national platforms

Under the guidance of, and in direct collaboration with, the sub-regional/national platform co-leads, provide technical support to R4V partners on the prevention of and response to SEA, and promote PSEA interagency efforts. Where applicable, R4V PSEA Focal Points should collaborate with the in-country PSEA Network or Task Force.

The PSEA focal points will participate in the regional R4V PSEA Community of Practice (COP)⁵ co-lead by IOM, UNICEF and UNHCR and will receive technical guidance through this regional forum.

The R4V PSEA focal points at the sub-regional/national platforms, will promote collective prevention and response approaches to SEA at, both, the technical and strategic levels while strengthening partners' PSEA capacity more broadly within R4V partners.

¹ These TORs are based on and adapted from the generic TORs update the TORs produced by the ECHA/ECPS UN and NGO Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (November 2008) based on good practice, agreements in the IASC, existing Network TORs, and have been developed with the contributions of in-country and global practitioners.

² *IASC Strategy on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment* (2021), available [here](#); *IASC Plan for Accelerating PSEA in Humanitarian Response at Country-Level* (2018), available [here](#); *UN Secretary-General's Strategy on PSEA* (2017), available [here](#).

³ <https://www.r4v.info/es/document/r4v-protection-against-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-psea>

⁴ *RMRP 2021, RMRP 2022*

⁵ Under the auspices of the [UNHCR's Regional Director and IOM's Special Envoy for the Situation of Venezuela] and overseen by the [IOM and UNHCR R4V Coordinators] and the [ISCG], the R4V Regional Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Community of Practice (PSEA COP) is the R4V's primary body for technical-level cooperation and coordination on PSEA activities in line with the RMRP, R4V Regional PSEA COP Workplan and the R4V PSEA Strategy in the 17 countries of the RMRP. The PSEA COP supports national and sub-regional platforms and is a space for knowledge sharing, monitoring collective PSEA achievements, and strengthening collaboration between agencies to build capacity on PSEA within R4V partners.

R4V PSEA focal point activities should follow a survivor-centered approach and respect the principles of safety, confidentiality, respect, and non-discrimination.

The coordinated R4V PSEA efforts at the national level do not replace country-level mechanisms to address SEA, and PSEA FP shall collaborate with established country-level PSEA Networks under the UNCT, and other national PSEA initiatives.

*The PSEA focal points are **not** responsible for investigating or adjudicating complaints. These functions rest exclusively with the entity that employs the individual against whom a complaint has been alleged, in line with internal policy and procedure.*

Objectives

- Represent the national/sub-regional platform at COP meetings, actively participate in fulfilling the COP's workplan, and report back to the platform coordinators and partners on progress and lessons learned.
- Support the mapping of R4V partners PSEA efforts, as well as the identification of prevention and response systems in place.
- Promote the implementation of interagency SEA risk analysis for the strategic planning of collective interventions.
- Coordinate closely with R4V GBV and CP national sub-sectors, and/or Protection Sector (as applicable), with a view to ensuring effective inclusion of SEA victims in GBV and CP referral pathways, and inclusion of SEA in communication with communities' strategies and the development of community-based complaints and feedback mechanisms.
- Assess PSEA-related training needs of R4V partners and implement/support capacity-development initiatives based on learning needs identified.
- Promote and support interagency efforts to better prevent and respond to SEA.

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

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