



FOOD SECURITY CLUSTER
Strengthening Humanitarian Response



Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA)



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Strategic objective 2:

Ensure that all assistance promotes the protection, safety and dignity of affected people, and is provided equitably to women, girls, men and boys.

Do you know the difference?

PSEA

Gender
mainstreaming



Sexual
harassment



domestic-violence
female-genital-mutilation
forced-marriage
rape
honour-killing
physical-abuse
human-trafficking
sexual
marital-rape
crime
incest
date-rape
murder
control
war-rape
domination
violation
human-rights
economic-abuse
threaten

SGBV





Sexual Exploitation - definition

“Sexual exploitation”
means any actual or
attempted **abuse of**
position of vulnerability,
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Sexual abuse - definition

“Sexual abuse”

means the actual or threatened **physical intrusion of a sexual nature**, whether **by force** or **under unequal or coercive conditions**.



GBV vs SEA

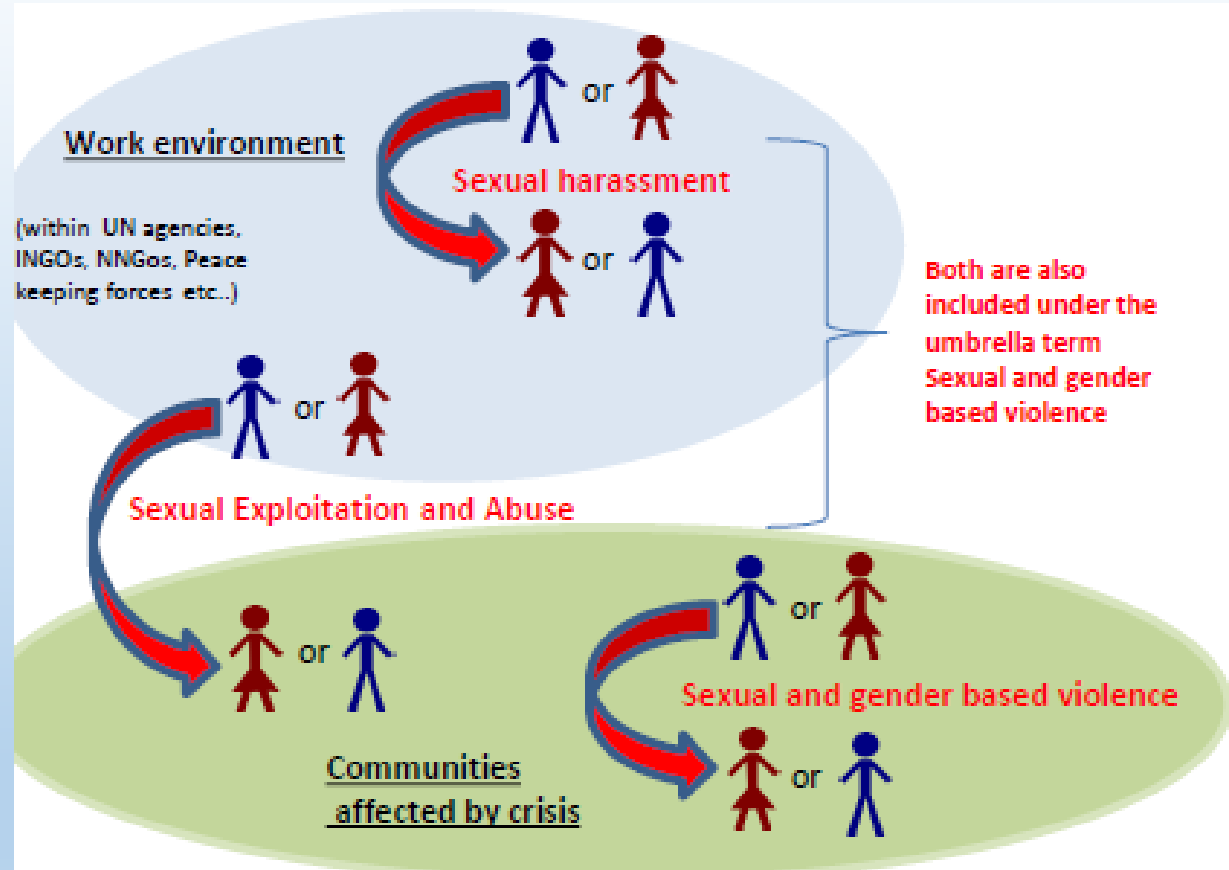
GBV is an umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will and that is based on socially-ascribed differences between males and females (i.e. gender).

SEA is a form of GBV, as victims of SEA are often abused because of their vulnerable status as women, girls, boys, or even men (in some circumstances).

Sexual Harassment Vs SEA

- SEA occurs against a beneficiary or member of the community. Sexual harassment occurs between personnel/staff, and involves any unwelcome sexual advance or unwanted verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.
- SEA focuses primarily on humanitarian workers and beneficiaries.
- Sexual harassment is not covered by this presentation although agencies' internal procedures for reporting sexual harassment allegations may be the same as for reporting SEA complaints.
- The distinction between the two is important so that agency policies and staff trainings can include specific instruction on the procedures to report each.

You need to be able to distinguish in order to mitigate and respond –
Do no harm!



1. In recognition of the global concern over SEA, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) adopted six core principles intended to set forth standards to prevent SEA.
1. These principles were incorporated into the UN Secretary General's Bulletin on SEA in 2003. The bulletin outlines a zero-tolerance policy toward SEA, obliges UN staff to report incidents of abuse, and is binding on all UN staff, including all agencies and individuals who have cooperative agreements with the UN

6 Core Principles on SEA

1. Sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian workers constitute acts of serious misconduct and are therefore grounds for termination of employment.
2. Sexual activity with children (persons under the age of 18) is prohibited regardless of the age of majority or age of consent locally. Mistaken belief regarding the age of a child is not a defense
3. Exchange of money, employment, goods, or services for sex, including sexual favours or other forms of humiliating, degrading or exploitative behaviour is prohibited. This includes exchange of assistance that is due to beneficiaries.

The six core principles (cont.)

4. Sexual relationships between humanitarian workers and beneficiaries are strongly discouraged since they are based on inherently unequal power dynamics. Such relationships undermine the credibility and integrity of humanitarian aid work.

- 5. Where a humanitarian worker develops concerns or suspicions regarding sexual abuse or exploitation by a fellow worker, whether in the same agency or not, he or she must report such concerns via established agency reporting mechanisms or through the inter agency Community Based Complaints Mechanism (CBCM) email nga.gbv@humanitarianresponse.info

6. Humanitarian workers are obliged to create and maintain an environment which prevents sexual exploitation and abuse and promotes the implementation of their code of conduct.

To what extent is this happening here?



Life is terrible here in this camp. For the past three days we have not eaten because there is no firewood to cook the food. To make it worse, they will not even allow us to go out to fend for ourselves. Most times you have to beg the camp officials to intervene with the guards before they will give you the pass to go out. Why will you refuse if any of those people ask you for marriage? You have to survive. One of the NGO workers who lives in the camp has been giving me 100 Naira per day for sex. I have to do it because I need the money to buy condiments to cook tasty food for my children. It's the only means I have. There is no hope.

He allowed me to go outside the camp when necessary. When he asked me to visit his newly allocated room in the camp, I didn't see any reason not to go because I felt safe with him. He gave me a bottle of Zobo [locally brewed non-alcoholic drink] and I immediately felt dizzy and slept off. I don't know what happened thereafter but when I woke up he was gone and I was in pain. For three days I could not walk properly.

Some weeks later I fell very ill, and was told at the hospital that I was pregnant. Then everyone turned away from me: [He] refused to help me, and my step-mother who I lived with in camp pushed me out, saying I was a disgrace. I reported [him] to the police in camp several times but they have not done anything to him because they work together. Whenever I see him, I wish something terrible will happen to him. It is because of him that I have lost everything. I don't even think the baby will last because she is always crying and I can't cope, I eat once a day so [am] not producing enough milk to breast feed him well. I pray that God will forgive me for neglecting the baby but I am helpless.

He knew my parents were dead, because he is also from Baga. He would bring me food items like rice and spaghetti so I believed he really wanted to marry me. But he was also asking me for sex. I always told him I was too young. The day he raped me, he offered me a drink in a cup. As soon as I drank it, I slept off. It was in his camp room. I knew something was wrong when I woke up. I was in pain. I felt weak and could not walk well. I did not tell anyone because I was afraid. When my menstrual period did not come, I knew I was pregnant and just wanted to die to join my dead mother. I was too ashamed to even go to the clinic for pregnancy care. I am so young! The man ran away from the camp when he heard I delivered a baby six months ago. I just feel sorry for the baby because I have no food or love to give him. I think he might die.

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Gender Based Violence



The harm caused by SEA



Physical harm



Psychological harm



Economic harm of SEA



Social and cultural harm from SEA



Statements to discuss

- The woman wants it, because she agreed to it.
- A sexual relationship is a private matter - no one has the right to make rules about this.
- Drugs and alcohol causes abuse, and this is what should be combatted, not our behaviour.
- Women seek out these sexual interactions, because they enjoy then.
- Poverty is the main cause of abuse.
- In entering into these relationships we are helping victims because they are in need of food and money.
- Most SEA is not done by force or violence, so its not a big deal.

Statements to discuss

- SEA doesn't't happen in NE Nigeria
- Women allow abuse to happen to them – they can leave if they really want to.
- The women are the ones abusing humanitarian workers– they dress provocatively, they come really close to them.
- A sexual relationship is an act of love, not a crime.
- A prostitute cant suffer rape or abuse.

IN SUMMARY

What conduct is prohibited?

- Any sexual activity with a child (any person under age 18)
- Any exchange of money, food, employment, goods, assistance or services for sex or sexual favours, including with sex workers
- Any sexual activity that is forced upon another individual
- Any use of a child or adult to procure sex for others



Discouraged, but not prohibited

Non-exploitive sexual relationships between personnel and beneficiaries of assistance

Why is it discouraged?

Because the imbalance of power between personnel and beneficiaries could:

- lead to exploitation of the individual
- lead to perception of exploitation



When do the Standards apply?

- 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Whether or not you are on duty
- Wherever you are in the world



Obligations around SEA

Four obligations for all humanitarian personnel:

- We must **know** the standards of conduct on sexual exploitation and abuse
- We must **comply** with the standards
- We must **report** sexual exploitation and abuse
- We must **cooperate with investigations** into sexual exploitation and abuse



The men and women serving under the blue flag across the world have a duty to uphold the highest standards of integrity, professionalism and respect for the dignity of the human person.



As we serve the world's people and work for peace and the advancement of humanity, the United Nations must be a source of inspiration and a beacon of hope for all. Together, let us solemnly pledge that we will not tolerate anyone committing or condoning a crime, and in particular, crimes of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Let us make zero tolerance a reality. 

Questions and comments

*Thank
you*

