Introduction to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Introduction to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Introduction to the Course: Background to the Issue

The joint Save the Children UK / UNHCR assessment report on sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) in West Africa (2002)

Is SEA relevant to ___on?

Do you work with people?

(click anywhere to indicate "yes")

Upholding Standards and Protection of Those We Serve

Food for Sex

Survival Sex

Trafficking and Prostitution

Exploitation of Children

Introduction

The UN has developed a training video to educate its staff and partners on its SEA policy, called "To Serve with Pride". Please click on the tabs on the left to see clips from the video to learn more about the context, examples, and responsibilities in regard to SEA for the entire international aid community.

The entire UN "To Serve with Pride" video is available at:
http://www.un.org/en/pseataskforce/video_english.shtml

PROPERTIES
Allow user to leave interaction: Anytime
Show 'Next Slide' Button: Don't show
Completion Button Label: Next Slide

Properties...

Edit in Engage

By the end of this unit, you will:

a) know how to **define SEA**.

b) be aware of the **international standards** related to SEA.

c) understand that these international standards are **endorsed by all** US NGOs.

d) learn the **steps that agencies take** to address SEA.

DEFINING SEA

Sexual abuse is actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature by force or under unequal or coercive conditions.

Sexual exploitation is any abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust for sexual purposes; this includes profiting monetarily, socially, or politically from the sexual exploitation of another.

What is the Difference Between SEA and Sexual Harassment?

- SEA occurs when a position of power (such as being a staff member of an NGO) is used for sexual purposes against a ***beneficiary or vulnerable member of the community***.

- Sexual harassment occurs when differences in power are abused ***between staff members*** (verbally, through touch, use of inappropriate images, etc.).

INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK

Inter-Agency Standing Committee Six Core Principles on the Prevention & Response to SEA

- The IASC is the primary mechanism for inter-agency coordination of humanitarian assistance

- Task Force on Protection from SEA in Humanitarian Crises was set up in 2002

The IASC Six Core Principles

Introduction

Donor agencies increasingly require that implementing partners demonstrate their adherence to the six core principles. Click on the sections to view each principle.

PROPERTIES
Allow user to leave interaction: Anytime
Show 'Next Slide' Button: Don't show
Completion Button Label: Next Slide

Properties...

Edit in Engage

InterAction's PVO Standards

- InterAction's Private Voluntary Organization (PVO) Standards

  - Section 7.8: Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Humanitarian Crises

UN Secretary General's Bulletin

The UN Secretary General's Bulletin on Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (October 2003)

ORGANIZATIONAL PROCESSES

Introduction

The following section suggests a linear process for setting up procedures to address SEA within your agency. The reality is that, often, agencies may be forced to deal with situations that necessitate addressing SEA in a less than ideal order, such as having to investigate a complaint of SEA without having proper procedures in place. The key message is that you can start anywhere in the continuum depending on your agency's needs. The important point is to take SEA seriously and respond in a responsible manner.

Click on the buttons for more information.

Start the prevention & response to SEA anywhere...

Code of Conduct

Agency Policies & Procedures

Investigation of Allegations

PROPERTIES

Allow user to leave interaction:	Anytime
Show 'Next Slide' Button:	Don't show
Completion Button Label:	Next Slide

Properties...

Edit in Engage

Code of Conduct

- A code of conduct is a set of standards about behavior that staff of an organization are obliged to adhere to. A code of conduct outlines the expected conduct of staff members and further defines the organization's determination to prevent acts of SEA by its staff.

Code of Conduct

- Many NGOs created or adapted their codes of conduct using language from the IASC (Inter-Agency Standing Committee) principles.

Agency Policies & Procedures

- Code of conduct
- Staff recruitment guidelines
- Complaints procedures
- Investigation procedures
- Victim assistance policy

Beneficiary Awareness-Raising

- A complaints procedure is of no use to beneficiaries if they don't know that it exists. Beneficiaries need to be made aware:
  - what SEA is
  - what their rights are in regard to SEA
  - what they can do if SEA occurs

Complaints Mechanism
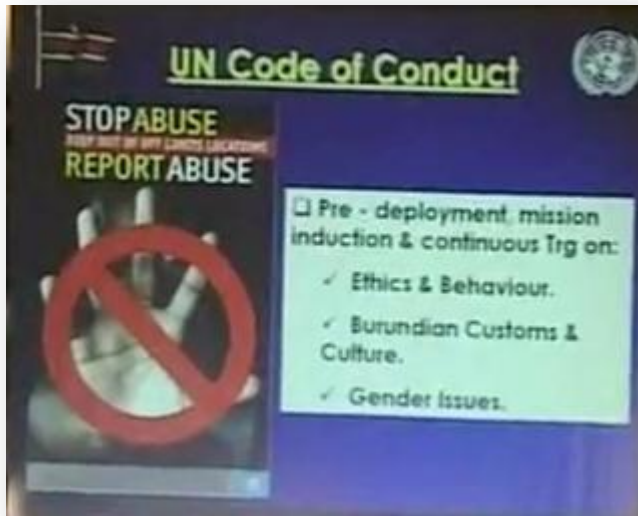
Processes that allow individuals to report concerns such as breaches of organizational policies or codes of conduct.

Investigation of Allegation

- An investigation policy provides a clear framework that assists organizations to conduct quality, confidential, safe, and transparent investigations into allegations of staff misconduct.

Response to Investigation Findings

- Dismissal of complaint
- Non-disciplinary procedures
- Disciplinary procedures

Responsibility to Report

- Many agencies have instituted a responsibility to report for their staff, i.e., all staff members are required to report any incidences of SEA that they become aware of.

- Once staff are aware of and understand SEA, mandatory reporting requirements may help overcome their fears of sharing concerns about a colleague.

Next Steps & Resources: Where Do We Go From Here?

- Internet
  - InterAction
  - [PSEA Task Force/UN website](PSEA%20Task%20Force/UN%20website)

- Groups
  - IASC PSEA Task Force
  - InterAction SEA sub-working group
    - Step By Step Guide to Addressing SEA

Remember

Humanitarian workers are obliged to create and maintain an environment that prevents sexual exploitation and abuse and promotes the implementation of their codes of conduct. Managers at all levels have particular responsibility to support and develop systems that maintain this environment.

Instructions

Please take this short quiz by selecting an answer and clicking submit.