



PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

JOINT KEY MESSAGES FOR COMMUNITIES

Key Considerations for Communication with Communities on PSEA

These joint and agreed PSEA key messages should be understood and shared with communities, by the PSEA Networks and wider humanitarian partners throughout Mozambique. Their aim is to ensure that affected communities, including refugees, migrants, internally displaced persons and host communities, are informed of their rights and the standards of behaviour expected of all actors providing services and assistance. Affected communities should be consulted on their preferred means of accessing information. This can include through existing hotline numbers, such as Linha Verde 1458, social media, SMS or WhatsApp, radio, posters/leaflets, as part of distributions, via community engagement and other means.

WHAT IS SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE (SEA)?

- **Sexual exploitation** happens when a humanitarian aid worker uses a position of power (financial, economic, social or other) for sexual purposes, including the exchange or promise of humanitarian aid for sex or hiring sex workers.
- **Sexual Abuse** is an actual or threatened forced sexual contact, including sexual assault, rape, any sexual activity without consent or sex with anyone under 18 years of age.
- SEA is a form of **Gender-Based Violence (GBV)**.

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) by aid workers directly contradicts the very principles of humanitarian action. SEA causes a lot of harm for the survivor and the community as it is harm committed by people who should be assisting the community.

A humanitarian aid worker is anyone who is involved in providing protection and assistance to affected communities on behalf of a humanitarian agency or organization, including UN, INGOs, NGOs, local organizations and partners, community workers, volunteers or contractors regardless of the type of contract and payment.

ALL HUMANITARIAN WORKERS HAVE STRICT RULES FOR BEHAVIOUR

- Humanitarian workers are **not allowed to have relations with children**, or anyone under 18 years of age.
- Humanitarian workers are **not allowed to have sexual relations with beneficiaries**, including displaced persons, members of the host communities, persons with disabilities or other vulnerable persons.
- Humanitarian workers are **not allowed to pay for sex** with money, jobs, goods or services, this includes the exchange of humanitarian aid for sexual favours.
- Humanitarian workers **must report any concerns** about SEA committed by anyone, even rumours and allegations must be reported.
- These rules apply during the day, after work at night and when the humanitarian workers are on holiday.

ALL AFFECTED PERSONS HAVE THE RIGHT TO PROTECTION AND SERVICES

- All assistance and services provided by humanitarian organizations are **free of charge for all affected persons**, women and men of all ages, girls, boys, and also people affected by COVID-19 and persons with disabilities.
- All affected persons have the **right to receive protection and services** without discrimination.
- No one has a right to demand money, favours, sex or anything else in exchange for humanitarian aid. This applies to all workers of humanitarian aid agencies, government officials, community leaders, local chiefs or anyone else.
- **No one can ask for money, sex or sexual favours** to include your name on a list of beneficiaries for humanitarian aid.
- If you have trouble to benefit from the services offered by humanitarian workers or receiving assistance, call Linha Verde at 1458 (the call is FREE) or **use any other ways of complaining and feedback** available where you live.
- Reporting SEA concern will **not** prevent you from receiving humanitarian aid.

YOU CAN REPORT ANY CONCERN OR SUSPICION OF SEA

- If you feel unsafe or wish to report concern, please call **Linha Verde 1458**, **Linha Fala Criança 116**, use the complaint box, report to the protection desk, site/neighbourhood administration, or a trusted organization in your area as soon as possible. You should feel safe to do so in any way that is most convenient and accessible to you.
- Anyone can **report a case of SEA committed by any humanitarian worker**. You can do so in secret and without revealing your name.
- **All information received will be treated confidentially.**
- No one can threaten you or stop you from reporting the abuse of humanitarian assistance.
- By reporting it, you're taking the first step to end SEA happening in your community, helping keep survivor safe and getting the help they need.
- The **UN and humanitarian partners have a duty to follow-up** on any situation brought to their attention.

IT IS NEVER THE VICTIM'S FAULT

- The victim is **not** to blame for what happened. Those who provide humanitarian aid can never discriminate, exploit, abuse, or otherwise cause harm to anyone in the community.
- The UN and humanitarian organizations **do not excuse sexual exploitation and abuse**. They will not be accepted and constitute misconduct. They can have grave consequences.



LINHA VERDE
DA RESPOSTA A EMERGÊNCIA

1458