



22 January 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to congratulate Mr. Filippo Grandi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees as the IASC Champion for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment (PSEAH). I would like to commend Mr. Grandi and the previous Champions for their leadership and dedication; I will seek to build on their achievements in further advancing PSEAH in the humanitarian sector.

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund will focus on three priorities to place the rights and dignity of victims at the centre of our collective efforts:

- (1) Bolstering PSEA Country Mechanisms;
- (2) Improving Victim Access to Quality Information and Assistance; and
- (3) Strengthening Coordination and Cooperation.

To take these priorities forward, UNFPA, in partnership with the IASC community, will implement four key initiatives:

- Development of an interagency PSEA Expert Roster: There is a critical need for investment in sustainable interagency PSEA mechanisms, specifically appointment of full-time interagency PSEA coordinators to manage country-level networks under the overall responsibility of the HC/RC. Ensuring improved country level capacity and rapid deployment of qualified human resources is critical for the leadership, accountability and effective functioning of country PSEA coordination mechanisms. Several existing IASC initiatives, including a project of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), aim at building capacities of PSEA personnel. To this end, UNFPA will, jointly with IASC members, develop and launch an Interagency PSEA expert roster to serve the humanitarian system. We, the IASC, will have to ensure that such mechanisms are established at the outset of all humanitarian responses, including the funds necessary to expeditiously deploy trained Coordinators.
- Development of a PSEAH Training Package for GBV Practitioners: Insufficient access to quality information and assistance for victims of SEA remains a persistent area of concern. UNFPA will develop training modules to strengthen the capacity of GBV practitioners to meet the particular needs of victims of SEA. The training modules will

To IASC Principals

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be available for members of the IASC community and will be initially piloted remotely as an online training. The purpose of this capacity building initiative will be to develop national pools of expert case management trainers with a strong understanding and commitment to linking survivors of SEA to case management support, ensuring additional procedures and safeguards are integrated to meet the particular needs of victims of SEA.

- PSEAH consultations: I will convene dedicated sessions with UN and non-UN actors to cross-fertilize and share knowledge and experience to strengthen cohesion and coordination in our response to PSEAH.

Lastly, UNFPA will support the IASC Secretariat to commission an External Review of the IASC's Approach to PSEAH to assess the impact and effectiveness of measures implemented over the past years. As the last such review was conducted in 2010, seeing the range of actions implemented system-wide over the past years, a follow-up review seems timely and necessary.

We, the IASC, need to invest the resources necessary to follow up on our joint PSEA commitments to establish sustainable, and structured prevention and response systems. As we launch the PSEA expert roster, we will depend on our joint commitment to contribute to and support this platform.

I look forward to working with you in our collective efforts and determination to ending SEAH.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N Kanem', is positioned above the typed name.

Dr. Natalia Kanem
Executive Director