

PSEA Video – Guidance Note

Humanitarian workers are obliged to create and maintain an environment that prevents sexual exploitation and abuse and promotes the implementation of their code of conduct. However, few easily-accessed resources exist to explain the principles of preventing sexual exploitation to humanitarian actors.

To help meet this need, InterAction and Translators Without Borders (TWB) have teamed up to create a video highlighting the six core principles of preventing sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). Through this collaboration InterAction and TWB produced a six-minute video that illustrates the Inter-Agency Standing Committee ([IASC Six Core Principles Relating to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse](#)). The goal of this project was to create a free, informative, and broadly accessible resource that can be used in a range of multi-cultural and multi-lingual settings.

Who is this video for?

This video was designed to be a useful tool for humanitarian organizations to educate their staff, including contractors and short-term staff, on the six core principles of PSEA. Although this video shouldn't replace a comprehensive PSEA training, it can be used in instances of sudden-onset emergency, when organizations don't have the time or capacity to immediately carry out a comprehensive PSEA training.

Additionally, this video is a great resource to complement comprehensive PSEA trainings and can be used as an introduction or plain language background on the IASC six core principles that is easy to digest for frontline staff who have not been exposed to these messages previously.

Through thoughtful and comprehensive work done by TWB, this video has been translated into several languages spoken in risk affected areas. If you or your organization would like to have this video translated, please contact Anna Jaffe (AJaffe@InterAction.org) for more information¹.

A special thank you to members of the PSEA Reference Group for their input and expertise throughout this process: Catholic Relief Services, Medical Teams International, Mercy Corps, International Rescue Committee (IRC), Mobility International USA, Save the Children, HelpAge, International Medical Corps (IMC), U.N., International Organization for Migration PSEA Support Team (IOM), and the World Food Program (WFP).

Below is an additional resource for persons using this video as an instructional tool in the field. Each of the 6 core principles are listed with an accompanying screenshot and timestamp from the video, giving facilitators the opportunity to expand on each principle as it is presented in the video.

¹ InterAction cannot be held responsible for versions of this video translated by outside parties.

IASC Six Core Principles Relating to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

1. Sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian workers constitute acts of gross misconduct and are therefore grounds for termination of employment (3:30).



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 (3:44).



3. Exchange of money, employment, goods, or services for sex, including sexual favors or other forms of humiliating, degrading, or exploitive behaviour is prohibited. This includes exchange of assistance that is due to beneficiaries (3:56).



4. Any sexual relationship between those providing humanitarian assistance and protection and a person benefitting from such humanitarian assistance and protection that involves improper use of rank or position is prohibited. Such relationships undermine the credibility and integrity of humanitarian aid work (4:09).



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 (4:31).



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. Managers at all levels have particular responsibilities to support and develop systems which maintain this environment (5:20).

