

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) are unacceptable breaches of the fundamental rights of people served by the humanitarian sector. Protection from this abuse (PSEA) is a priority for the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), as outlined in the [IASC's Six Core Principles Relating to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse](#).

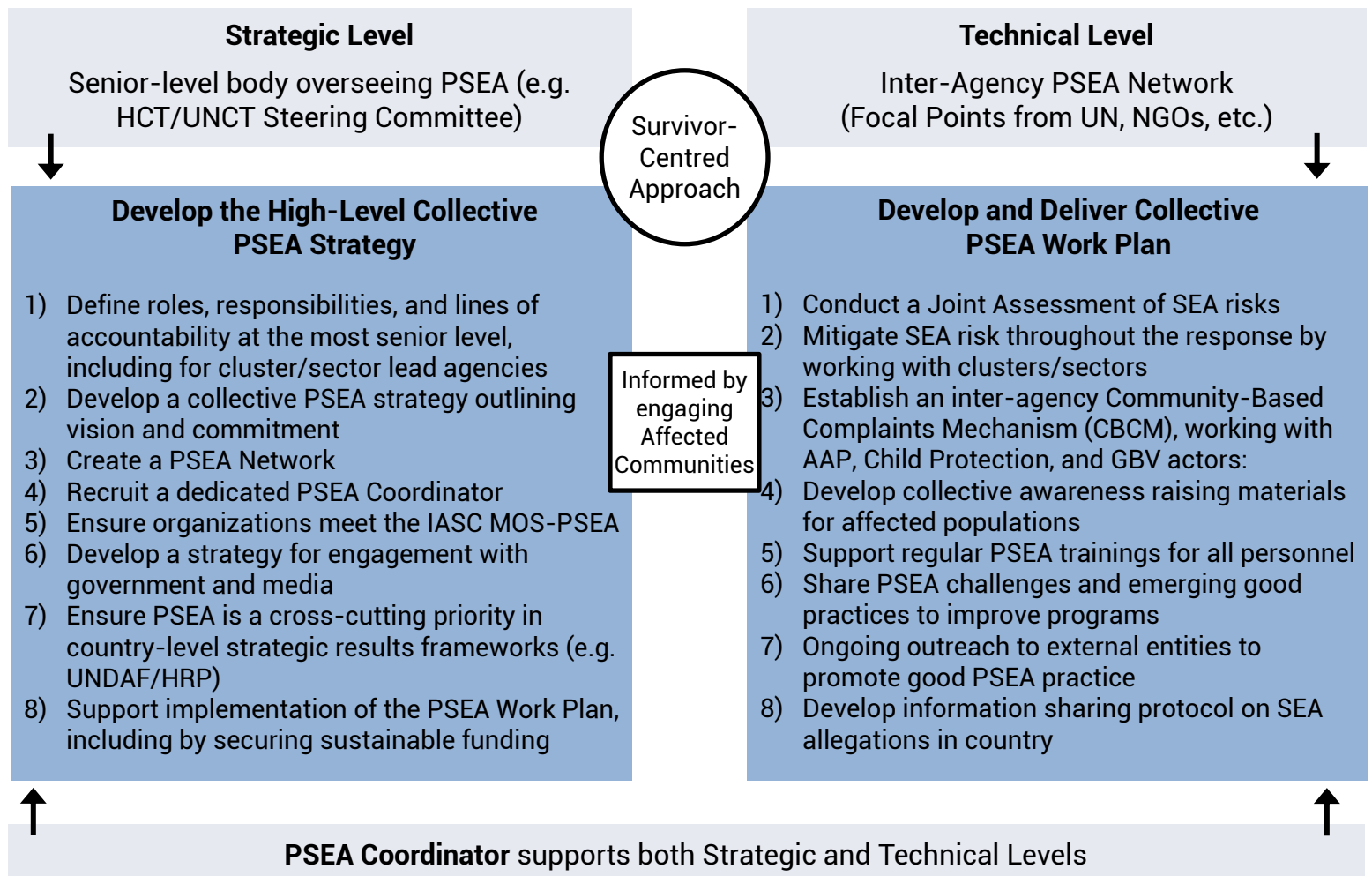
Strong leadership on PSEA is essential from the onset of an emergency. Resident Coordinators/Humanitarian Coordinators (RC/HCs) have the primary responsibility to ensure that PSEA is a top priority in all phases of humanitarian response.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- To scale-up protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, the IASC developed a plan in 2018 to [Accelerate Protection from SEA in Humanitarian Response at Country Level](#), based on the [IASC's Championship Strategy on PSEA and Sexual Harassment and its PSEA Commitments](#).
- The plan seeks to achieve three key outcomes for PSEA: 1) safe and accessible reporting, 2) quality assistance for the survivors of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), and 3) enhanced accountability, including investigations. To deliver these outcomes, the plan proposes an enhanced PSEA structure at country level that builds on existing good practice in the field

#### In-Country PSEA Program

Overall responsibility for collective PSEA: Senior-most UN leadership (RC/HC)



In practice, PSEA is either a standing agenda item for HCT meetings or a dedicated PSEA Steering Committee is instituted to ensure PSEA is addressed at the strategic level. It is a best practice to appoint a senior-level inter-agency PSEA Coordinator who reports directly to the RC/HC and leads in-country PSEA efforts.

## KEY ACTIONS FOR FIELD LEADERSHIP



**Create and maintain** an environment that prevents sexual exploitation and abuse in line with the IASC Six Core Principles.



**Ensure** that protection from sexual exploitation and abuse is integrated into Humanitarian Response Plans (and similar appeals) to contribute resources towards PSEA.



**Oversee**, with support of the HCT, the development of a country-level action plan and results framework on PSEA that prioritizes (a) capacity-building and awareness raising on PSEA, (b) safe and accessible reporting (c) quality and accessible survivor assistance and (d) accountability and investigations.



**Ensure** that PSEA coordination and implementation tools in-country are operationalized in order to realize the country-level action plan.



**Ensure** that quality, victim-centered assistance and referral mechanisms are operational.



**Lead** on PSEA advocacy efforts.



**Serve** as the authoritative source of information on PSEA efforts to inform the ERC.

## WHERE TO GO FOR SUPPORT

### Accountability & Inclusion Helpdesk

- **Virtual support:** Expert technical support or guidance for anyone working at the national, regional and global level.
- **Contact:** [RG2advice@un.org](mailto:RG2advice@un.org) (with copy to [iasccorrespondence@un.org](mailto:iasccorrespondence@un.org))

### PSEA Field support team

- **Virtual and in-country support:** In-country and remote technical support for scaling up PSEA.
- **Contact:** [RG2advice@un.org](mailto:RG2advice@un.org) (with copy to [iasccorrespondence@un.org](mailto:iasccorrespondence@un.org)); [Website](#)

### Additional resources

- [IASC PSEA microsite](#)
- [IASC Accountability & Inclusion Portal](#)
- [Interim Technical Note: Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse \(PSEA\) during COVID-19 Response](#), 2020
- [Frequently Asked questions on inter-agency PSEA](#), 2019
- [IASC Best Practice Guide on Community-Based Complaints Mechanisms](#), 2016