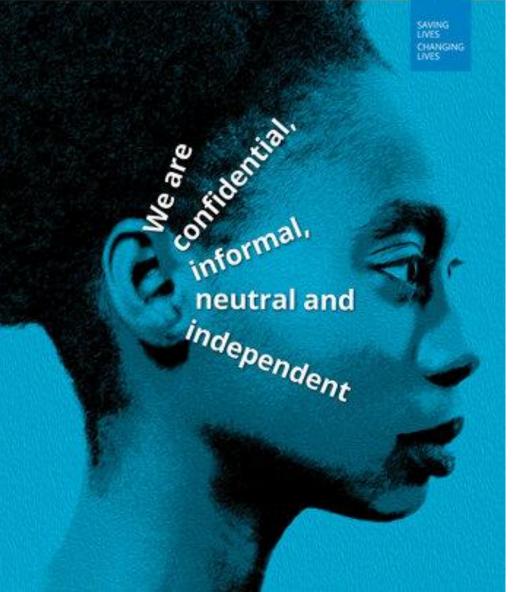


Office of Ombudsman and Mediation Services

Third Regular Briefing to the Executive Board

September 2021





Highlights on workplace culture

• Staffing Framework:

Pleased that OBD recommendation from 2017 has been partly implemented: some improved conditions, and stronger push towards fixed term contracts after four years, requires competition; legally still vulnerable.

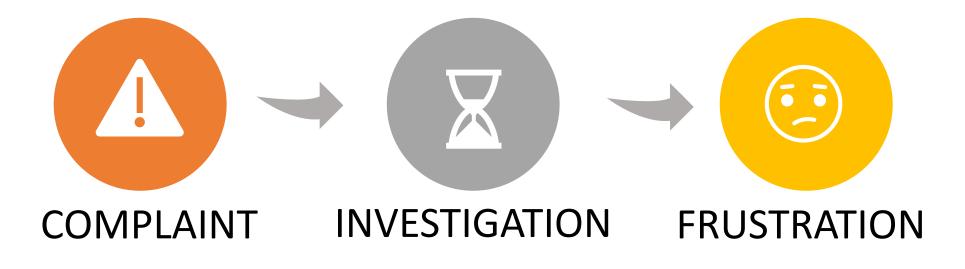
• HR strategy:

Pleased with professionalization of HR Officers. Looking forward to a stronger and more consistent input into important processes such as recruitment, promotion.

Anti-Racism Action Plan



WFP's Internal Justice System



Need for an internal justice strategy





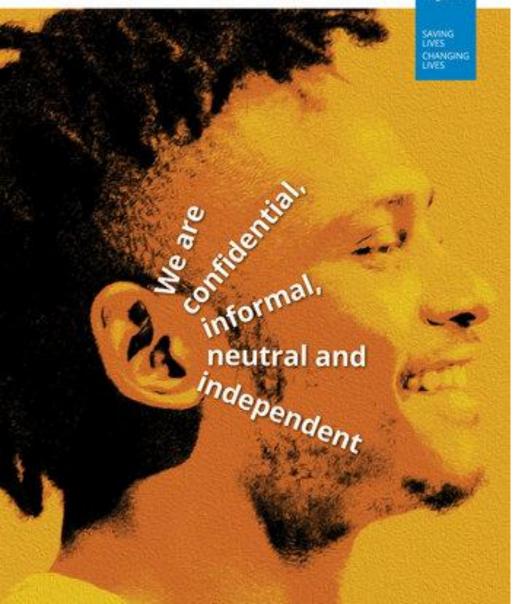
WFP's Internal Justice System

- No accountability mechanism -> Gap
- Formal process flawed:
 - In 2020: 20% HAAD cases substantiated, average of 15.4 months for completion of investigation
 - \circ $\,$ Time for intake and disciplinary measures to be added $\,$
 - No resolution, no resolve of a dispute
 - Investigators: 17 in Nov 2018 to 29 in June 2021;
 Asked for additional 17 → total 46
 - $\circ~$ 20 000 employees, between 12 and 26 disciplinary cases / year



• "Management by investigation is not the answer" (Kiko Harvey)





WFP's Internal Justice System

- Closing the Gap between complaints and investigations
- From reporting to resolution
- Design of Internal Justice System needs to add value to cultural change and reflect WFP's core values
- Create capacity to have effective dialogues with each other to create the envisioned diverse, inclusive and respectful workplace



WFP's Internal Justice System

Proposal by OBD: Establishment of a **WFP Anti-Abusive Conduct Coordinator** (AACC) role, based on the World Bank's Anti-Harassment Coordinator.

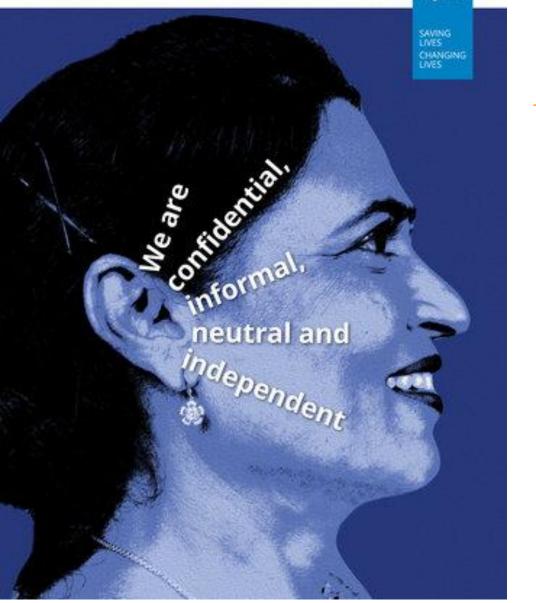
Primary entity mandated with the:

- \circ $\,$ Intake and triage $\,$
- Coordination of the response to, and
- Follow-up of abusive *and* inappropriate conduct concerns
- Function to be part of the Interdisciplinary Committee
- Under consideration of the AED Workplace Culture and the IC
- Distinction abusive conduct and inappropriate behavior







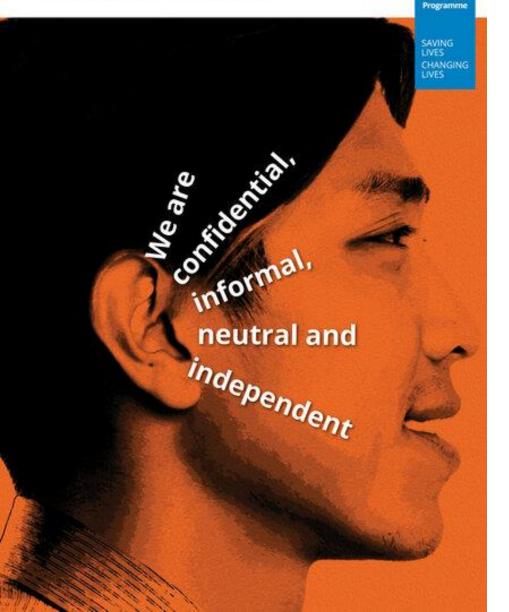


Update OBD 2021

- New demand: Team interventions
 - Increases our case numbers this year by about 20%
- Virtual Missions:
- 10 virtual missions completed by end of 2021
 - \odot 3 virtual and 4 in person missions in 2020

Capacity Building:

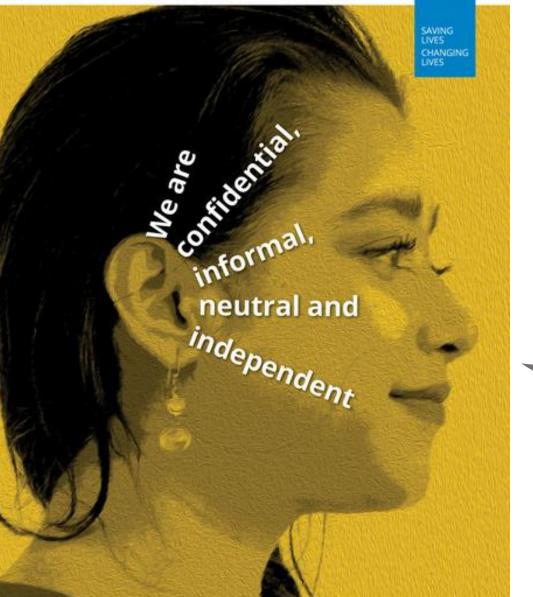
- 70 trainings to approx. 2000 employees in 2020/2021; in four languages
- Tailor-made sessions on request



Update OBD 2021

- **Mediation:** Incumbent arrives early next year. Interim Senior Ombuds Officer and Mediator
- Services in the field: First Regional Ombuds Officer recruited, based in Nairobi, Kenya
- Respectful Workplace Advisors:
 - Enhanced access to RWA services: 180
 RWAs (94 RWAs end of 2015)
 - $\,\circ\,$ Increased demand from RDs CDs



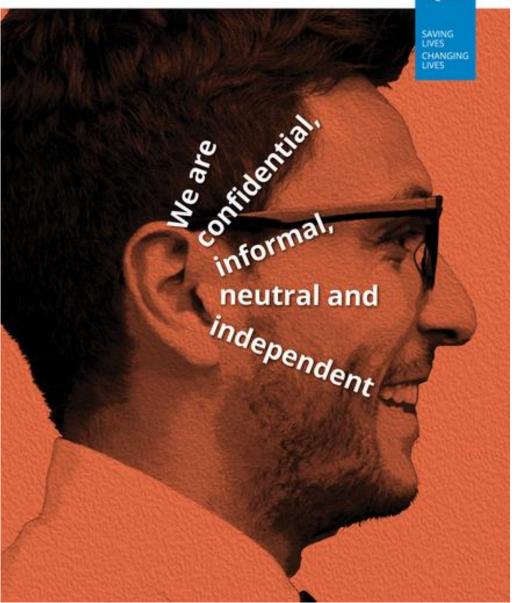


Critical points to consider

 Observing more managers being aware of the need to acquire people skills; and to prevent, de-escalate and resolve workplace issues.

 Coordinated leadership/senior management protocol in place to 'caution' and support managers who have a negative impact on employees: first steps made.





Impact Assessment Ombuds Office

Two-part Assessment:

- Part I *Ex-post* (retroactive assessment of OBD's discharge of its mandate)
- Part II *Ex-ante* (assessment of potential future impact of current or new proposals)
- Current Emphasis: Ex-post Assessment aligned with parallel developments at WFP and current focus of OBD (e.g. Joint Inspection Unit and FAO reviews; Mediation and AACC initiatives)
- Input from Member States and stakeholders greatly appreciated



Thank You! Ombudsman@wfp.org



Contacting the Ombudsman is always a safe first step – Everybody is welcome with any work-related issue