



Strengthening Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) through Collaborative Action

**A Panel Discussion on Embedding
and Advancing PSEA in
Partnerships**

EVENT CONCEPT NOTE

2025

Background:

Strengthening genuine collaboration on PSEA with partners such as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Financial Service providers (FSPs) is a key priority for WFP and is also an integral part of ED McCain IASC PSEAH championship agenda. Investing in these partnerships represent a significant step toward promoting greater understanding and ownership of the PSEA agenda among partners and working with them to co-create solutions is another way to promote culture change within the sector and foster more genuine partnerships towards the common objective of a culture of zero tolerance for inaction. In order to encourage and promote effective public, private and civil society partnerships, building on experience sharing, resourcing and expertise exchange are key elements. This includes knowledge sharing on key and vital issues such as Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).

The importance of PSEA is paramount in partnership collaborations to safeguard vulnerable populations and uphold ethical standards. PSEA prevention and response mechanisms clearly define prohibited behaviors, outline reporting mechanisms of allegations, and establish consequences for violations, fostering a safe and accountable environment. By integrating PSEA, organizations demonstrate their commitment to protecting the people they assist from harm, building trust with communities, and mitigating reputational and legal risks. This commitment is further strengthened by applying a Victim-Centered Approach, which prioritizes the needs, rights, and dignity of survivors in every aspect of response, ensuring that their voices are heard, respected, and supported. Through shared responsibility and aligned values and obligations, these partnerships can more effectively address the complex needs of the populations we assist, supporting their journey towards safety and dignity.

Overview of the event:

The panel discussions, co-hosted by WFP, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, aim to convene key stakeholders, including WFP Executive Board members and government representatives, civil society members and WFP specialists from various countries, to unpack the practical application of this work. The discussions will be centered around concrete field examples of what is working well and what remains challenging, best practices, and lessons learned. Special attention will be given to the diverse nature of partnerships (being with NGOs and the private sector partners) and how each type presents its own set of challenges in implementing PSEA effectively. Strategies for strengthening PSEA across these varied partnership collaborations will also be discussed with a focus on key areas to invest in including Victim Centered Approach (VCA). Moreover, the event will provide an opportunity to discuss PSEA resourcing, which remains a major challenge across the sector.

Objectives:

By convening a wide range of leaders and practitioners from the aid sector, the discussions aim to spark an open dialogue for protecting people from sexual exploitation and abuse through effective collaborations. The specific objectives are:

1. To share best practices and lessons learned from existing PSEA frameworks in partnerships such as the UN Protocol on Allegations of SEA Involving Implementing Partners (IPs)¹ (also called the UN IP Protocol).
2. To identify gaps and challenges in implementing PSEA measures across diverse partnerships.
3. To develop actionable recommendations for fostering a culture of zero tolerance towards inaction on SEA in partnerships.

¹The [UN IP Protocol](#) is a set of guidelines that outlines how the UN addresses allegations of SEA involving its implementing partners. It includes measures for investigation, reporting, and collaboration between UN agencies and their partners to prevent and respond to SEA incidents. The protocol applies to all entities that have an agreement with the UN to implement programs or projects on its behalf. This includes NGOs, civil society organizations, contractors, governments and other external partners.

Format:

The event will be a hybrid event (with translation) with a duration of 90 minutes. This will consist of two 45min panel sessions and will feature:

The overall panel discussions will aim at highlighting how integrating PSEA into various partnership arrangements contributes to ensuring protection throughout the entire journey of those we assist.

Panel Part 1: Together Against SEA: Due Diligence in Action Throughout the Entire Partnership Journey – 45 minutes:

- 1- Opening Notes and Panel Introduction (5 min)
- 2- A panel discussion (20 min)
- 3- Questions & Answers (20 min)

Part 2: PSEA Accountability: A Collaborative Approach with Private Sector, FSPs, and Regulators – 45 minutes:

- 1- Opening Notes and Panel Introduction (5 min)
- 2- A panel discussion (20 min)
- 3- Questions & Answers (20 min)

Expected Outcomes:

1. A summary report on key discussion points, key takeaways and recommendations.
2. Strengthened relationships and commitment among stakeholders to prioritize PSEA within their partnerships.
3. Identified opportunity areas for future initiatives and collective actions aimed at enhancing PSEA practices in partnerships.

Participants:

The event will host several WFP Cooperating Partners and experts from various field locations which may include **Lebanon, South Sudan, Afghanistan, Venezuela, Malaysia, Sudan and Mozambique**. Headquarters level participation will include amongst others, the Operational Partners Unit (OPU) and the Digital and Financial Inclusion Unit.

Speakers within the panel discussions will include NGOs (contracted at local level), Financial Regulator partner of WFP and WFP PSEA and partnerships experts will share examples from their experiences of implementing PSEA at the field level, highlighting the importance of streamlining PSEA in organizational structure and programmes to protect the communities assisted.

Additional participants from the WFP's PSEAH Championship Advisory Group may be joining to discuss gaps and challenges in partnerships and to provide one or two actionable recommendations to address those challenges.