

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

*Preventing and Responding to
Sexual Exploitation and Abuse*

SEA in Humanitarian Community

- Save the Children report - May 2008
“No one to turn to”
- HAP report – June 2008
“To complain or not to complain”

Session Objectives

- Understanding SEA by UN/NGO/IGO personnel, its widespread occurrence and its consequences
- Discovering what we can do to prevent and respond to SEA

Sexual Harassment vs. Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

- ***Sexual harassment:*** any unwanted sexual advance, request for sexual favour, verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature
- Takes place in the workplace between UN personnel

Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse

- **Sexual Exploitation:** actual or attempted abuse of a position of:
 - vulnerability
 - differential power; or
 - trustfor sexual purposes,

including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another.
- **Sexual Abuse:** actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether:
 - by force
 - under unequal conditions or
 - under coercive conditions.

Film

What are the consequences?

- **For Victim**
- **For Children Born As Result**
- **For Community**
- **For the Organisation**

POWER!

- SEA is almost always linked to Power and differential power relationships.

What if they consent?

The SGB

- Defines our obligations to prevent SEA
- SEA constitutes serious misconduct and grounds for disciplinary measures
- Aims to protect the most vulnerable - not to prevent sexual relationships.
- Covers all personnel (humanitarian, peacekeeping, development, staff, consultants).

Scenario 1

A father approaches John, an NGO worker, and offers his 16 year daughter to him. John replies that she is too young. The father tells him that in that country, the age of consent is 16, so it is legal. John asks you if he is allowed to engage in sexual relations with people under the age of 18 if the local age of consent is younger. How would you reply?

Scenario 2

You are serving in an OCHA field office as an HAO. You meet an attractive man who lives in a refugee camp nearby. You meet with him a few times, giving him rides to and from a local market, buying him food and drinks while you are out walking together. As you are not directly involved in assisting him as a beneficiary and you genuinely like him, you think that it is permissible to have a sexual relationship with him. Is this correct?

Scenario 3

You are in HQ and speaking to Agnes, a colleague in the field, who mentions in passing that Charlie, another colleague in the field office, frequents a local bar which is rumored to be a brothel. Agnes once saw Charlie leave with a young woman who could have been a prostitute. What would you do?

Reporting: Obligation

- **What?**

Required to report any complaints, concerns, suspicions or rumours regarding SEA.

- **By whom?**

Whether by personnel of BEIRUT FILM SOCIETY or BEIRUT FILM SOCIETY partner or anyone else in the humanitarian community.

Reporting: Procedures

To whom?

- There are multiple channels.
- Not necessary to follow the normal chain of command or go through your supervisor.
- Some reporting options:
 - Human Resources Chief
 - Head of Office
 - Board Members

Reporting: Procedures

How to report?

- Can report through email, phone, in person, on paper, etc.
- Can report anonymously.
- Include all known information (ex: a car with A license plate was parked outside B brothel during C hours on D date) ***but do not investigate.***

Reporting: You are Protected

- Confidentiality
- Retaliation against a staff member because he/she made a good faith report of SEA is prohibited by another SGB, referred to as the “whistle blower SGB.”
- Fraudulent allegations that you *know* are false are misconduct and not protected.

Summary

- SEA has serious consequences for victims, their communities and us as humanitarian workers!!
- Think “Is this SEA?” before entering into a relationship.
- Report: “If you see something, say something.”

Fill in evaluation

Sign acknowledgement

and

Thank you!