



## Lesson 1.3 Other Key Actors in Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA)– Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate (OVRA) and Special Coordinator on SEA

# Lesson 1.3 Learning Outcomes

- List the roles and responsibilities of OIOS, OVRA and Special Coordinator on SEA
- Explain the core functions and governing principles (if any) related to the works on SEA of these organizations
- Explain how the functions of these organizations contribute to investigations of SEA and other misconduct allegations
- Explain what type of assistance National Investigating Officers (NIO) can obtain from these organizations

# Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS)

## Content

- Brief Introduction of OIOS
- Role of OIOS in SEA
- How OIOS carries out Investigation of misconduct and SEA?
- Guiding Principles of Conduct by Investigators
- Type of Assistance NIOs can obtain from OIOS

# 1. A brief introduction

- Internal oversight body of the UN
- Helps the UN become more efficient, effective and relevant
- Key Organs of OIOS
  - Inspection and Evaluation Division
  - Internal Audit Division
  - Investigations Division

## 2. Role of OIOS in Serious Misconduct including SEA

- Investigation Division collect facts pertaining to misconduct of UN staff under OIOS' authorities
- Investigates misconducts such as, misrepresentation, forgery, or false certification in connection with any official claim or benefit, theft, embezzlement, solicitation/acceptance of bribes, extortion, and/or smuggling
- Investigates allegations of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation
- Investigates allegations of sexual harassment
- Handles reports of unsatisfactory conduct received by OIOS in accordance with its internal procedure
- Collects and preserves evidence(s) of any offence

### 3. How OIOS carries out Investigation of misconduct and SEA?

- An administrative fact-finding activity
- Investigations conducted in a professional and impartial manner
- Does not initiate disciplinary proceedings or to institute corrective action
- Operates a reporting mechanism to facilitate receipt of reports

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### 3. How OIOS carries out Investigation of misconduct and SEA?

- OIOS also has the right to direct and prompt access to all persons engaged in activities
- Provides global investigative services

## 4. Guiding Principles of Conduct by Investigators

- Bound by a set of principles of conduct
- Principles of Conduct
  - ✓ Acknowledge and assess reports of possible violations
  - ✓ Conduct inquiries only when authorized
  - ✓ Act honestly without bias
  - ✓ Ensure all reasonable lines of enquiry are pursued
  - ✓ Disclose any possible conflict of interest
  - ✓ Obtaining and considering of both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence



# Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate (OVRA)

## Content

- Background
- Roles and responsibilities
- Guiding Principles and Rights
- Assistance and support to the victims
- How Field VRAs work?
- Obligations of Member States to VRA
- Areas of cooperation between NIOs and FVRAs

# 1. Background

- Appointment of VRA - 2017
- Supports an integrated, strategic response to victim assistance in coordination with United Nations system actors with responsibility for assisting victims.
- Current Field Missions supported by FVRAs/SVROs: Central African Republic (MINUSCA), Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), Haiti (BINUH) and South Sudan (UNMISS)

## 2. Roles and responsibilities

- VRA
- Field Victims' Rights Advocate/Senior Victims' Rights Officer (FVRA/SVRO)

### 3. What are the Guiding Principles and Rights of Victims?

- Support provided irrespective of whether the complainant's allegation is pending investigation.
- Access to support does not depend on whether, or how the victim cooperates with any investigation.
- Victim-centred and non-discriminatory approach: victims should always be treated with respect and not judged, blamed or held responsible for harm suffered.
- Do no harm: maintain privacy and confidentiality
- Victims have the right to seek information about the processes and procedures of investigations and accountability processes and to be kept updated.
- Victims are entitled to pursue applicable accountability measures as desired and have the right to be protected throughout any national proceedings.

## 4. Assistance and support to the victims

- Safety and protection
- Medical care
- Psychosocial support
- Education, livelihood support and basic material assistance
- Support for children born as a result of SEA
- Legal services

## 5. How Field VRAs work?

- Serves as the main contact person for complainants and victims.
- Supports a coherent victim-centered, gender- and child-sensitive and non-discriminatory United Nations approach to supporting victims.
- Works with entities across the UN system on the ground to follow up on individual cases where required in a supportive and advisory capacity.

## 6. What are Troop and Police Contributing Countries' obligations to VRA?

- Full cooperation with the United Nations
- Focal points in capitals
- Measures for the protection of victims and witnesses as required.
- Establish protocols to ensure child- and victim-sensitive investigations
- Appropriate judicial decisions and remedies be enforced

## 7. Areas of cooperation between NIOs and FVRAs

- Facilitate contact with victims.
- Advise on victim centred approach to investigations.
- Facilitate transportation of victims to sites of DNA testing and serve as liaison with the Victims' Rights Advocate at UN Headquarters.
- Facilitate provision of legal advice and support to victims in the context of investigations.



# Office of the Special Coordinator on improving United Nations response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

## Content

- Brief Introduction
- Key Responsibilities and Role
- Cooperation with other UN entities
- Cooperation with field duty stations
- Cooperation with Member States

# 1. A brief Introduction

- Appointment following the review of the High-level Panel on CAR in 2016
- To coordinate amongst all pillars in peace operations, humanitarian and development settings – ONE-UN approach
- To coordinate the systemic issues, fragmentation and other weaknesses
- To ensure sustained and high-level attention to PSEA

## 2. Key Responsibilities and Role

- Follow-up to the recommendations outlined in the SG's report on Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse: (A/71/818)
- Coordinate the implementation of the strategy across the United Nations system and ensure a harmonized approach through the development of aligned mechanisms and procedures, standardized protocols and tools.

## 2. Key Responsibilities and Role (continued)

- Work with senior leadership to prevent and respond to SEA
- Encourages leadership accountability, which translates into sustained engagement at senior levels, in the field and with all AFPs.
- Work with Member States, regional bodies, and other Heads of UN entities to provide continued guidance in the implementation of the S-G's initiatives.

# 3. Cooperation with other UN Entities

- Cooperate with each AFP in order to promote and implement initiatives on PSEA
- Hold meetings of the High-Level Steering Group and bimonthly meeting with SEA working group
- Collaborate with CDS, OMA and PD on specific uniformed personnel regulations
- Make available standardized collection (eIRF) and reporting (public reporting) tools and processes, training, action plans
- Collaborate with entities on the 'Clear Check' screening tool to prevent the rehire of staff with substantiated allegations of SEA

## 4. Cooperation with field duty stations

- Collaborate with Resident Coordinators, UNCTs, other stakeholders on PSEA approaches
- Engage with SRSGs on mission specific contexts
- Work with IASC on operationalizing procedures and streamlining policies related to implementing partners
- Liaise as needed with FVRAs, CDTs and PSEA coordinators and focal points

## 5. Cooperation with Member States

- Engage with donor groups, regional organisations and Permanent Missions to end impunity, strengthen PSEA, and respond rapidly and decisively to credible reports
- Hold meetings of the S-G's Circle of Leadership (Heads of State or Government)
- Collect and share TCC and PCC legal frameworks (dedicated website)
- Engage with Permanent Missions MILAD and POLAD as required

# Summary of Key Messages

## OIOS

- OIOS assists the SG in fulfilling his oversight responsibilities by conducting fact finding investigations into reported cases of serious misconduct, including SEA.
- Investigations are conducted by OIOS in a professional and impartial manner
- OIOS Acts honestly without bias and communicate in a courteous and open manner and ensures all reasonable lines of enquiry are pursued



# Summary of Key Messages (continued)

## OVRA

- The VRA's activities are designed to ensure that reliable, gender-sensitive pathways exist for every victim or witness
- FVRAs/SVROs are the main contact for all victims of SEA by UN staff and related personnel on the ground
- The rights and best interests of victims guide how assistance and support are designed and provided

# Summary of Key Messages (continued)

## OSC

- OSC coordinates the implementation of the strategy on PSEA throughout the UN system
- Encourages leadership accountability and engagement
- Engages with donor groups, regional organisations and Permanent Missions to strengthen PSEA



Questions?