ECPAT INTERNATIONAL

Annex 1

Global Standards on Safeguarding/(Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Sexual Harassment

1. Inter-Agency Standing Committee Minimum Operating Standards: *Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by Own Personnel (IASC)*

Created by United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/182 in 1991, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) is the longest-standing and highest-level humanitarian coordination forum of the United Nations system. It brings together the executive heads of 18 organisations and consortia to formulate policy, set strategic priorities and mobilise resources in response to humanitarian crises. The IASC is the mandated global forum that facilitates coordination among humanitarian actors, bringing together United Nations agencies, the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement and non-governmental organisations.

The IASC upholds a policy of zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment. The IASC supports a vision of a humanitarian environment in which people caught up in crises feel safe, respected, and can access needed protection and assistance without fear of sexual exploitation or abuse (SEA) by any aid worker and in which aid workers themselves feel supported, respected and empowered to deliver assistance free from sexual harassment. IASC developed **6 Core Principles Relating to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse** (June 2002).

To support organisations in monitoring measures to ensure the protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) by their own personnel, a set of **Minimum Operating Standards for PSEA (MOS-PSEA)** was developed and adopted in 2012.[1]

2. Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability *(CHS)*

The CHS sets out **Nine Commitments** that organisations can – and should – make to people affected by crises or situations of vulnerability to deliver quality, effective and accountable support and assistance. As a core standard, the CHS describes the essential elements of principled, accountable, and high-quality support and assistance.

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1   IASC. Our Commitment to Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

The CHS was developed through an extensive consultation process that involved people and communities affected by crisis, aid workers and experts, national and international aid organisations and networks, and governments.

Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH) is woven throughout the Nine Commitments of the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS).

In October 2020, the CHS Alliance published an updated PSEAH Index as part of its verification tools, to give organisations verifying their performance against the CHS the ability to determine whether they have the policies and practices in place to protect people in vulnerable situations.[2]

3. The International Child Safeguarding Standards by Keeping Children Safe (KCS)

Keeping Children Safe is an international not-for-profit registered in the UK, solely focused on child safeguarding. KCS has developed The International Child Safeguarding Standards (ICS Standards), which represents a commitment by organisations to 'do no harm' when they come into contact with children, and that they meet the responsibilities set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child to protect children from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence.

There are four, globally recognised ICS Standards, now used widely in all sectors, that ensure best practices in child safeguarding, as well as better accountability for those who are using or benefitting from the services of an organisation. Each standard outlines the key elements that should be implemented to help put child safeguarding at the heart of an organisation.[3]

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2   CHS Alliance. PSEAH.
3   Keeping Children Safe. The ICS Standards and resources.

4. Development Assistance Committee Recommendation on Ending Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance. *(DAC)*

The DAC Recommendation on Ending Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance: Key Pillars of Prevention and Response represents a consensus by all 30 DAC members on how to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment by setting and implementing international standards for current and future DAC members, donors, cross-government and international stakeholders. The primary audience for these Recommendations are donors.

The Recommendation was adopted on 12 July 2019. It sets out a first international standard in this area for governments to apply to national aid agencies, and the wider international community, when working with civil society, charities, and other bodies running development programmes or delivering humanitarian aid.

IASC and CHS are used most often for safeguarding or PSEAH in development and humanitarian assistance. The KCS standards focus exclusively on safeguarding children.

Comparison of good practices across four global standards[4]

Safeguarding good practices reflected in the standards	Sets of Standards and Recommendations			
	IASC	CHS	KCS	DAC
Policy and Code of Conduct				
Policy/policies in place to protect staff and any adult who interacts with the CSO from sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) by staff or the organisation	X	X		X
Policy/policies in place to protect staff from sexual harassment (can be integrated in the above policy)		X		X
Policy/policies in place that protect any adult who interacts with the CSO from sexual harassment (can be integrated in the above policies)		X		X
Policy in place which protects children from abuse, exploitation, harassment and other harms (can be integrated in the above policies)			X	X
Code of conduct in place which outlines expected behaviour for all staff, representatives and volunteers	X	X	X	X
Prevention				
Staff training on SEAH or safeguarding so they understand and can deliver	✓	✓	✓	✓
Staff training specifically on child safeguarding (for CSOs which work or interact with children)			✓	
System in place to track CSO safeguarding measures		✓	✓	✓
Safe recruitment procedures in place (child safeguards in HR for KCS)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Procedures in place to identify and address SEAH risks within CSOs and their programmes activities		✓	✓	✓
Communities informed of the CSO's work to prevent and respond to SEAH	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reporting				
Confidential and anonymous mechanism in place for staff to report or complain	✓	✓		✓
Confidential and anonymous mechanism in place for anyone who interacts with the CSO (adult, child) to report or complain (concerns involving children only for KCS)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Response				
Reporting and investigation processes respond to reports received and prioritise the safety, needs and interests of victims and survivors	X	X	X	X
Communities and individuals/groups the CSO is working with can assume that the CSO will manage resources appropriately and ethically		X		

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4   Safeguarding Resource and Support Hub (2021, Jun). How to Apply Global Standards on Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Sexual Harassment.