



# FACT SHEET: PREVENTION OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

## ACTIONS REQUIRED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA AND CANADIAN RED CROSS FOR ALL PARTNERSHIPS INCLUDING WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES

### ► What is PSEA?

PSEA is an acronym for the concept of Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by humanitarian personnel against the people they are supposed to serve. Specifically, in our context, PSEA refers to policies, rules and actions intended to prevent personnel engaging in any form of sexual exploitation and abuse and to respond where it has occurred.<sup>1</sup>

### ► Why is PSEA a requirement?

Ensuring PSEA systems are in place is a minimum standard for all humanitarian agencies. When these are not in place it is a serious risk to the people we serve. It can also lead to financial, legal, reputational and ethical risks to National Societies. Allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse continue to occur in humanitarian organizations around the world.

### ► What are the requirements for the Canadian Red Cross?

The Canadian Red Cross is required to have a publicly available code of conduct, or collection of policies, to prevent, investigate and respond to sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. The code of conduct and policies must be integrated across operations. The Canadian Red Cross will provide a written copy of its code of conduct and policies to all National Societies and shall promote PSEA.

### ► What are the requirements for National Society partners?

National Societies shall either: a) sign an attestation stating they shall respect the Canadian Red Cross code of conduct and related policies, or b) adopt their own policies and procedures to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse that shall be in keeping with the goals and objectives of the Canadian Red Cross code of conduct and policies.

### ► What practical actions can be taken?

Practical actions to support the code of conduct and policies, based on the Inter-Agency standards and expected by the Government of Canada, include:

Personnel will be trained on PSEA.	Senior leadership will communicate that PSEA is important and share action being taken.	PSEA focal point will be designated.	Community-based and internal complaints mechanisms will be established and PSEA information will be shared in locally relevant, appropriate and user-friendly ways.
Mapping of local community referral services for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence will be conducted.	Recruitment procedures check the background of prospective employees and volunteers.	Investigation procedures and capacity will be in place.	Assistance will be provided to survivors.



**Including PSEA is not an option. It is a requirement for all Canadian Red Cross proposals and projects. Proposals that do not include PSEA will not be accepted. Projects that do not meet PSEA requirements can be ended.**

1. IFRC (2018). IFRC Secretariat Policy on Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.