



SERVING WITH PRIDE



KEY INITIATIVES TO PREVENT
AND ADDRESS MISCONDUCT

UNITED NATIONS
PEACE OPERATIONS

MAY 2018



A WORD FROM OUR LEADERSHIP



Service in United Nations peace operations is a privilege and should always be a source of pride. Our personnel have a fundamental responsibility to carry out their duties with respect for the communities they serve and for the United Nations' standards of conduct. The Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support work together to implement a comprehensive approach to ensuring compliance with United Nations' standards of conduct by all personnel, whether uniformed or civilian.

We have put in place a number of complementary measures to support prevention of misconduct, ensure accountability, and strengthen assistance and support to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. In these pages, we wish to highlight some of the key initiatives that are being implemented in peacekeeping and special political missions across the world. The programmatic activities featured here are aimed at protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as at upholding our standards of conduct more broadly.

Our approach always remains guided by the Secretary-General's clear message that *"the men and women serving under the blue flag across the world have a duty to uphold the highest standards of integrity, professionalism and respect for the dignity of the human person."*

Atul Khare

Under-Secretary-General for Field Support

Jean-Pierre Lacroix

Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations

STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY

The Departments of Field Support (DFS) and Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) continue to implement **Security Council Resolution 2272 (2016)**, which calls for strengthened accountability for troop- and police-contributing countries in relation to sexual exploitation and abuse.

DFS and DPKO are implementing the Secretariat's revised provisions on **Unsatisfactory conduct, investigations and the disciplinary process** (ST/AI/2017/1) applying to staff members.

DFS and DPKO provide ongoing guidance to peace operations on the need to maintain a **harmonious workplace environment**, where personnel are not subjected to abuse of authority or harassment, including sexual harassment.

The Secretary-General and Member States continue a strong **partnership** in promoting United Nations values and standards of conduct. The Voluntary Compact for the Elimination of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse is a visible reminder of this joint commitment and continues to garner strong support.



"The men and women serving under the blue flag across the world have a duty to uphold the highest standards of integrity, professionalism and respect for the dignity of the human person."

As we serve the world's people and work for peace and the advancement of humanity, the United Nations must be a source of inspiration and a beacon of hope for all."

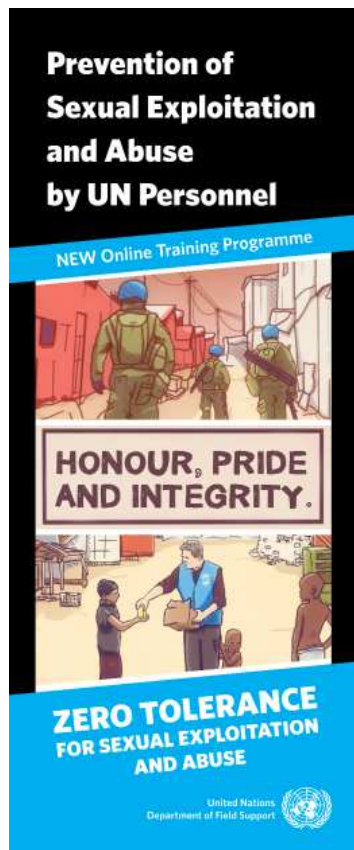
United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres

ELEARNING ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

An online training programme on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse was launched by the Department of Field Support (DFS) in September 2016. Developed with the support of the **Government of Japan**, the training programme has been mandatory for all field mission personnel since the end of 2016, and it became mandatory for all other Secretariat personnel, at headquarters and mission locations, in May 2017.

The training programme covers the UN Standards of Conduct concerning sexual exploitation and abuse, and consists of two mandatory courses: one for all personnel and a second, dedicated course for managers and commanders. The training programme complements the pre-deployment training that Member States are responsible for providing to their uniformed personnel, and the in situ training that uniformed and civilian personnel receive.

To enhance accessibility, the programme has been made available to all categories of personnel through a number of technological platforms, and it is being translated into all UN official languages, as well as



languages of top troop and police-contributing countries. The French language version of the programme will be launched by July 2018.

Completion rates in February 2018 show that over 14,500 Secretariat personnel had already completed the programme. DFS continues to engage with Member States to incorporate the elearning programme in predeployment training, including through blended learning initiatives in peacekeeping training centres and in Member State countries.



> 14,500 Secretariat personnel have completed the programme

55 % of whom are working in peace operations

What does training for UN personnel cover?



OBLIGATIONS OF UN PERSONNEL

	What are the UN standards of conduct in relation to sexual exploitation and abuse? What is prohibited conduct?
	Why are sexual relationships with the communities we serve considered exploitative? How does sexual exploitation and abuse conflict with the duty to protect civilians?
	What are your personal obligations to uphold the UN standards of conduct? What are the specific responsibilities of managers and commanders in preventing sexual exploitation and abuse?
	How to report sexual exploitation and abuse? Who investigates allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by UN personnel? How can a victim find out about the outcome of an investigation?

CONSEQUENCES OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

	What are the possible consequences of breaching UN standards of conduct on sexual exploitation and abuse for the perpetrator?
	What is the impact of sexual exploitation and abuse on victims? What is the impact of sexual exploitation and abuse on the communities the UN is serving?
	How does sexual exploitation and abuse damage the work of the UN?

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

GENERAL NUMBERS



Personnel in UN Field Operations

80,406 military
11,008 police
14,924 civilian
125 troop- and police-contributing countries

* As of 31 December 2017



UN Field Operations

14 Peacekeeping operations
25 Special political missions



Conduct and Discipline

14 locations with Conduct and Discipline Teams



Voluntary Compact

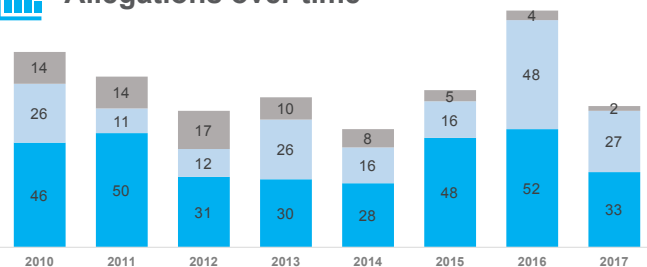
93 Member States signed
80 TCCs / PCCs representing
67% of uniformed personnel

* As of 31 May 2018

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE



Allegations over time



■ Incident date is unknown
 ■ Incident occurred before the year it was reported
 ■ Incident occurred in the same year as it was reported

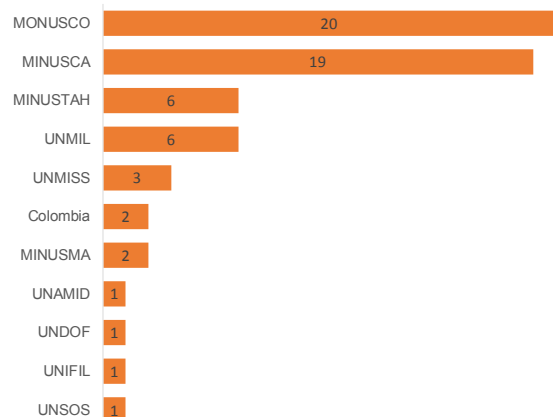


Allegations are recorded for the year in which they are reported to the United Nations, irrespective of when the incident may have occurred.

Of the allegations that were reported in 2017, **47%** related to incidents that had occurred before 2017.



Allegations in 2017 by mission

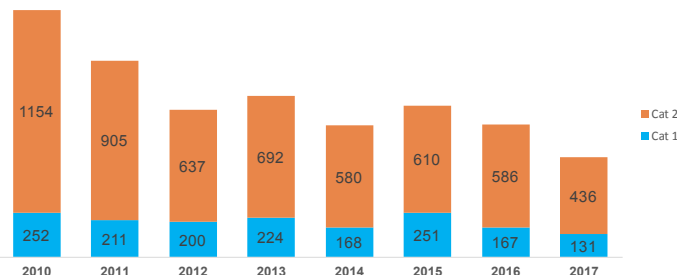


From 2016 to 2017, there was a **63% reduction** in the number of allegations reported in MINUSCA (19 in 2017 compared to 52 in 2016).

OTHER MISCONDUCT



Allegations over time



For investigation purposes, allegations are grouped into two categories, namely, **Category 1** and **Category 2**, depending on the risk such incidents would present.

Since 2010, there has been a **60% reduction** in the number of allegations relating to misconduct other than sexual exploitation and abuse.



Allegations reported in 2017

The three most frequently reported **category 1** allegations:

- Other serious criminal act or activity (bribery/corruption, life threat, theft/fraud...)
- Other (no specification)
- Prohibited conduct as per ST/SGB/2008/5 by P5 or above (abuse of authority, harassment...)

The three most frequently reported **category 2** allegations:

- Infractions of regulations, rules or administrative issuances (non-compliance with the non-fraternization policy, non-compliance with military, police or security instructions, orders or SOPs, absence from duty station without permission...)
- Other (breaking of curfew, paternity claim, conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline...)
- Theft/fraud (simple theft, minor fuel theft...)

TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR NATIONAL INVESTIGATION OFFICERS



A training programme was introduced in 2017 to strengthen the capacities of National Investigation Officers (NIOs), who investigate allegations of serious misconduct implicating their respective national contingent members. The training programme supports Member States to deploy military contingents with stronger skills relevant to the unique settings of UN missions in the area of investigations. The aim of the training programme is to develop sustainable Member State capacity to train NIOs in accordance with United Nations standards.

The first 8-day course was carried out in January 2018 at the UN Regional Service Centre (RSCE) in Entebbe, Uganda, and the second one took place in May 2018 at the Peace Operations Training Institute in Montevideo, Uruguay. The course was designed by the Office for Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) with expert support from the U.S. Defense Institute of International Legal Studies, organized by the Department of Field Support (DFS) and coordinated as a collaborative effort with the U.S. Department of Defense and Department of State, with the support from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO).

So far, 55 military officers from 17 troop-contributing countries have taken part in the course, which focuses on operational, legal and technical aspects of investigations, with practical exercises in interviewing, evidence collection and case management.

The programme contributes to strengthened national capacity, operational effectiveness, enhanced accountability and commonality and transparency of investigative processes. It also serves as one of many good examples of

the strengthened partnership between the UN and Member States in combatting sexual exploitation and abuse.

The **Government of the United States of America** has been a key partner in delivering the inaugural course. With further support from the U.S. Government, two additional courses are planned for 2018, with one in Africa and one in Asia. Four courses are planned for 2019. A formal communication was sent out to UN Member States, encouraging voluntary financial contributions and further support for the continued roll out of the programme in the form of funding or hosting in country or in a region.

What are National Investigation Officers?



When the UN receives information about possible serious misconduct involving one or more members of a military contingent, in most cases the UN will refer the matter to the Permanent Mission of the troop-contributing country in question, requesting the Government to appoint one or more national investigation officers to investigate the allegation(s), in line with the applicable Memorandum of Understanding with the UN.

Since July 2016, troop-contributing countries are required to include national investigation officers within their contingents to ensure that investigations start in a timely manner. In matters involving misconduct that does not amount to serious misconduct, the matter would normally be referred to the Contingent Commander for investigation.

COMMUNICATION: A TOOL TO PREVENT AND ADDRESS MISCONDUCT

A project on communicating with communities and the greater public on sexual exploitation and abuse within peacekeeping missions supports selected peacekeeping missions on strategic communications efforts on sexual exploitation and abuse. The aim is to strengthen awareness-raising among communities on the UN standards of conduct and how to report misconduct, and to help strengthen internal awareness-raising and training of mission personnel on the zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse.

A pilot project implemented over a period of six months in 2017 covered the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA). The project has helped to engage local media and foreign correspondents in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the Central African Republic (CAR) on sexual exploitation and abuse and UN's response through quarterly press briefings and dedicated media workshops in Kinshasa and Goma (DRC), and in Bangui (CAR).



Focus group discussions and workshops

have been conducted to broaden (MONUSCO) or kick-off (MINUSCA) CBCNs, who are being provided with a basic communication kit, a themed textile to produce uniforms, a cellphone with a SIM card to be able to call the CDT hotlines, themed notebooks, posters, a CBCN banner and flyers/information materials.



> **2,200** community members were reached in the DRC during these activities, and seven new CBCNs were set up in North and South Kivu

> **400** community members were reached in CAR, and six new CBCNs set up in Bangui, Bambari, Bouar, Dekoa, Sibut and Kaga Bandoro



Awareness raising activities in communities, conducted by the Conduct and Discipline Teams (CDTs), focal points on sexual exploitation and abuse, and the Community-Based Complaint Networks (CBCNs), have made use of creative tools such as theatre, songs and quizzes.



> **15,000** people reached in the DRC (Beni, Bunia, Bukavu, Dungu, Goma, Kisangani)

> **3,500** people reached in CAR (Bangui, Bambari, Bouar, Dekoa, Kaga Bandoro, Sibut)



Social media and radio campaigns, as well as an SMS campaign with three key messages on reporting mechanisms in local languages, have targeted the general population in DRC and CAR. The use of text messages has allowed the mission to reach out to people in the most remote areas, and following the campaign, SMS recipients have been calling the missions' hotlines to know more about the zero-tolerance policy and efforts to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse.



Both missions' communication outlets have significantly boosted their coverage of the issue with stories, video testimonies and messages from the leadership that are also shared with contingents for their own training purposes. A graphic novel-style training manual for the CBCNs is being developed along with a video animation to raise awareness among the general public, but also among UN personnel.

Based on the positive outcomes of the pilot project, the project is being rolled out to peacekeeping missions in South Sudan (UNMISS) and Haiti (MINUJUSTH), with continuing

support to MONUSCO and MINUSCA, up until October 2018.

The project is being implemented by the Public Affairs Section of the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and of Field Support (DFS), in close coordination with the Conduct and Discipline Unit of DFS and with funding from the **Government of the United Kingdom**.



What are Community-Based Complaint Networks?



Since 2015, peacekeeping missions have engaged with a variety of actors within the mission and with United Nations partners, local and international organizations and representatives of communities to develop formal and informal structures and channels that are safe, confidential, and easily accessible for women, men, girls and boys to report misconduct and specifically sexual exploitation and abuse, and to follow up on the status of reported incidents and receive support. Such **Community-Based Complaint Networks (CBCNs)** support communications with complainants and victims while allegations are being investigated, and engage in the provision of assistance and support to victims as well as their reintegration into their communities.

Missions have identified community actors and organizations who form the channel of referral and communication between the missions and the community, and who can help connect victims with service providers for victim assistance. Missions conduct outreach and awareness-raising campaigns with the support of CBCNs to the communities in local languages and making use of local media.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the CDT in MONUSCO has partnered with local authorities and civil society organizations to set up CBCNs. Currently, up to 550 women and men make up these networks in 35 high-risk locations where the mission has a strong presence in the North and South Kivu, Katanga and Ituri provinces. A similar network is being set up in Central Kasai. In addition, local focal points for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse are present in remote locations. Existing social platforms in urban areas such as universities and high schools are used to sensitize local groups at risk on the available reporting mechanisms and the risks associated with sexual activities with MONUSCO personnel.



MONUSCO, in collaboration with partners from the UN Country Team, conducts regular public outreach campaigns through theatre, focus group discussions with community leaders and local organizations, as well as outreach to local media through press conferences and briefings, radio and TV productions, social media and SMS campaigns.



"The network is responsible for raising awareness and channeling complaints... We used to have children born from peacekeepers in the community, but since 2013, thanks to the establishment of the community network by MONUSCO, no case has been identified here."

Zawadi Basiliene, focal point of Kavumu CBCN

STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION WITH REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Security Council Resolutions 2320 (2016) and 2378 (2017) focused on stronger cooperation on peace and security. An important element of this cooperation is collaboration in relation to conduct and discipline, including preventing and addressing sexual exploitation and abuse by all non-United Nations forces authorized under a Security Council mandate, and achieving greater accountability, transparency, and compliance with international human rights law and international humanitarian law, as applicable, as well as with UN standards of conduct.

In 2017, the Department of Field Support (DFS), together with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), worked with African Union (AU) partners to support the finalization of the AU human rights and conduct and discipline compliance frameworks for AU peace support operations.



A joint workshop organized in Addis Ababa in August 2017 facilitated the exchange of information and sharing of best practices between the two Organizations in this area.

The wider efforts around joint AU-UN co-operation include several UN offices and departments, including the UN Office for the African Union. DFS continues working with AU partners to jointly develop a practical toolkit to support the implementation of the AU policies on conduct and discipline.

Key priority areas have been identified by both Organizations, including the screening personnel, risk management and case management. The partnership will entail the exchange of information and materials, provision of guidance on technical systems and tools, and both Organizations have much to gain in joining efforts in these areas.

INCREASING TRANSPARENCY ON CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

In March 2017, the Department of Field Support launched an upgraded website on Conduct and Discipline in UN Field Missions, conduct.unmissions.org.

The website aims to increase understanding of the conduct and discipline function and knowledge of activities in the areas of prevention, enforcement and remedial action. A section dedicated to data increases the transparency and clarity of data related to misconduct allegations, including allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse. A table of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse reported in UN field missions is updated in near real time, as new allegations are reported or additional information is received to previously reported allegations. The user is able to view the data in graphs from various perspectives and to apply filters to drill further down into the data. The user can also sign up to receive a notification when a new allegation has been added to the website.

The website also features:

- **news stories** from UN field missions on activities related to conduct and discipline;
- a secure **online form to report misconduct** in any UN field operations (it is possible to report anonymously);
- links to **reports of the Secretary-General**, other policy documents and resources

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE RISK MANAGEMENT TOOLKIT

A critical part of preventing misconduct is understanding and addressing risks. The Department of Field Support continues to strengthen its efforts to support peace operations in their management of the risks associated with possible sexual exploitation and abuse. With the support of the **Government of the United Kingdom**, the Department has developed a new risk management toolkit that provides peace operations with a systematic approach to identifying, assessing, treating and monitoring risks relating to sexual exploitation and abuse.

The DPKO-DFS toolkit provides missions with a series of practical tools containing formats and samples of a sexual exploitation and abuse workplan, risk register, assessment, tracking and management tools, and it is designed to be adaptable to the specific prevailing conditions in different types of peace operations.

Development of the toolkit began in 2016 and it is being introduced to be piloted in the field. The Conduct and Discipline Unit in DFS will support the piloting exercise with a range of roll-out activities aimed at enhancing operationalization of the toolkit. A full-scale launch of the toolkit will be done based on lessons learned from the piloting exercise.



“Effective risk management is integrated into mission planning and serves to provide mission leadership with data and targeted information to inform decision-making.”

Atul Khare, Under-Secretary-General for Field Support

How does risk management work for sexual exploitation and abuse?



Risk management enables missions to be proactive in addressing sexual exploitation and abuse

Anticipating future threats

Taking actions to reduce those threats

Risk management supports better decision-making

Good understanding of risks and why they happen

Improved ability to decide on effective preventive strategies

Risk management provides a concrete way to hold mission leadership, managers and commanders accountable and encouraging an integrated approach

Who is responsible for addressing specific risks

What actions need to be taken

ENSURING A HARMONIOUS WORKPLACE IN UN FIELD OPERATIONS

The Secretary-General has taken note of the current global discourse on the damaging issue of sexual harassment, which is a growing concern in a variety of institutions and workplaces around the world. Similarly, the Secretary-General has expressed his ongoing commitment to a United Nations workplace free from sexual harassment as well as other types of work place harassment or abuse, and to taking any preventive or corrective action that may be required to further strengthen efforts in this critical area. Robust initiatives are being developed and some have already been put in place, including a 24-hour helpline (include link to helpline) and an information note developed by the Office of Human Resources Management (OHRM) that summarizes what to do when faced with or witness to sexual harassment.

The need to create and maintain a respectful work environment is an ongoing priority also for peace operations, and a key element in effectively carrying out mandates. The Department of Field Support (DFS) has issued guidance to all peace operations to support their efforts in maintaining a productive, harmonious and inclusive workplace environment and ensuring that all UN personnel are aware of the strict prohibition against workplace harassment, including sexual harassment, discrimination, and abuse of authority.

These are key management and command responsibilities, and ones which can take on unique challenges in the



particularly dynamic workplaces in which peacekeeping and special political missions operate.

In 2014, DFS launched “Inside the Blue”, a strategic initiative developed with support from the Office of the Ombudsman and OHRM aimed at raising awareness of what it means in practice to contribute to a work environment where every individual is treated with dignity and respect for diversity. The programme, which includes a film and case studies for group discussion, forms part of larger awareness-raising initiatives in missions that include updating personnel on actions being taken by the Secretary-General and ensuring that staff members have participated in the mandatory training on the prevention of sexual harassment. DFS has advised all peace operations to re-launch the programme to ensure that it is being widely used.

#Respect campaign



The Inside the Blue (ITB) team was established in UNFICYP in May 2015 as an innovative alternative prevention measure to address workplace harassment, including sexual harassment, discrimination, and abuse of authority. Since 2015, the ITB has organized several events and made a positive impact on the mission’s staff wellbeing. ITB events are thematic and topics are selected to ensure they provide value in the areas of self-development and prevention of prohibited conduct. Examples of such events include theatrical performances on the theme “No Excuse for Sexual Exploitation and Abuse”, town halls meetings led by the Head of Mission, and facilitating a local NGO presentation on their work related to human trafficking on the island, and their fund raising for victims of human trafficking.

In November 2017, the ITB launched a #Respect campaign, which promotes greater mutual respect within the mission and the broader UN community in Cyprus, and highlights the positive influence respect has on work, relationships and productivity. The three-day campaign included banners, posters, videos from staff and senior leadership on the topic of respect, panel discussions, a Facebook campaign and articles on iSeek and in the Blue Beret Magazine.

Reporting misconduct



While the avenues of reporting misconduct, including sexual harassment, may vary between missions, reports can generally be made over a secure e-mail address, a telephone hotline, and in person to the Conduct and Discipline Team (CDT) or other mission entities who will refer the matter to the CDT.

Anyone can also report misconduct directly to the Office for Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) or to the Conduct and Discipline Unit in New York, including through a confidential online reporting form that can also be filled out anonymously (<https://conduct.unmissions.org/report-now>).



TRUST FUND IN SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

The Trust Fund in Support of Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse was established by the Secretary-General in March 2016 to provide greater support for victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations and related personnel. The Trust Fund, which is managed by the Department of Field Support, saw a threefold increase in contributions in 2017.

To date, the Trust Fund holds just over \$2 million dollars in commitments and/or contributions from Member States, including \$317,700 consisting of payments withheld in connection with substantiated allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse. To date, the Trust Fund is funding three projects in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, one in the Central African Republic and one in Liberia.



> **US \$ 2 million**
in the Trust Fund



\$330,000
from withheld payments

What are withheld payments?



The Secretary-General has been clear that there must also be financial accountability for individuals who commit sexual exploitation and abuse while in the service of the United Nations. In his reports on Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (A/69/729 and A/70/779), the Secretary-General outlined that payments with respect to the implicated military or police personnel would be suspended from the time the troop- or police-contributing country was notified of an incident until the end of the investigation or the earlier departure of the implicated individual from the mission. If the investigation substantiated the allegation, the previously suspended payments would be withheld. The moment from which payments could be withheld was established as the date of incident itself. Any payments already made would be charged against future payments to the Member State.

Trust Fund contributors



	Albania		Luxembourg
	Australia		Nigeria
	Bangladesh		Norway
	Bhutan		Pakistan
	Canada		Portugal
	Cyprus		Slovakia
	Finland		Sri Lanka
	India		Switzerland
	Italy		Uganda
	Japan		

* As of 1 May 2018

For **military and police personnel**, payments that can be suspended include personnel reimbursement, daily allowance, recreational leave allowance and/or any exceptional premium for risk which may have accrued to these individuals.

For **civilian personnel**, payments which may be withheld in the instance of a substantiated allegation of sexual exploitation and abuse can include payments not paid to staff members during a period of administrative leave without pay, with partial pay or suspension without pay, payments withheld as a result of fines imposed through the disciplinary process, accrued annual leave, payments in lieu of notice and termination indemnity.

HOW IS THE TRUST FUND SUPPORTING VICTIMS?

Democratic Republic of the Congo



A project in **Munigi** provides support to an orphanage that feeds and provides shelter to vulnerable children in the area. The local village and orphanage together will maintain a garden that will help sustain the efforts to feed the children. Skills training opportunities will be provided to youth and women at risk and local vendors and businesses in the area will be engaged in order to provide sustainable opportunities for income generation. In addition, sensitization and awareness-raising activities will be carried out in the community on prevention and reporting of sexual exploitation and abuse, and assistance to victims.

The deployment of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) at Sake and Munigi has attracted many women and youth around the bases, fueling prostitution in the area and leading to a destruction of cultural norms and values. Some children in the area have possibly been fathered by UN personnel.



The Community-Based Complaint Network (CBCN) in **Kavumu** is actively involved in the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. To empower the community through development of local infrastructures providing alternative livelihoods to prostitution, the CBCN is being supported in its efforts to identify skills training opportunities for youth and women at risk in the area, to support scholarships for women and children, to support the local police to combat prostitution activities, and to support the reintegration of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse into their communities.

The continuous active conflict in South Kivu has negatively impacted the security situation around Kavumu. This situation has led to the displacement of population fleeing their villages, looking for protection in more secure locations around MONUSCO base camps and locations. Individuals at risk for sexual exploitation and abuse are commonly among the displaced populations fleeing the areas under the control of active armed groups. Some children in the area have possibly been fathered by UN personnel, and it can be difficult for them to be part of the community due to stigma of their possible parentage.



A project in **Sake** supports the CBCN in identifying skill training opportunities for youth and women at risk in the area, including a mushroom growing project and the establishment of a baking center that will generate both food and income from sales. The network will facilitate the return and reintegration of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse in the community, and support the local police to combat prostitution activities involving populations at risk around the MONUSCO base camps in the area.



"I chair a committee of 21 people... [T]hrough the sensitization and the work of our community-based complaint network, our community is more stable today. I'm proud to say that we've made much progress."

*Charlotte Kurusumu Muongo
President of the CBCN of Sake*



All three projects will directly benefit complainants, victims and those at risk of sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as their larger communities, by providing opportunities for livelihoods and supporting and engaging the communities in the prevention and reporting of sexual exploitation and abuse, access to assistance for victims, and their reintegration into their communities.

Central African Republic



A country-wide protection programme led by the International Rescue Committee (IRC), in close coordination with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), aims to provide support and assistance to survivors of sexual exploitation and abuse and gender-based violence. The programme includes a holistic response to victims with pragmatic activities targeting children (girls and boys) and women survivors. The programme includes the provision of psychosocial and medical support for individual survivors, training on caring for child survivors for IRC social workers, and training on clinical care for victims of sexual assault for health providers. In addition, the programme aims to provide support to victims on access to judicial services through a safe and informed referral system.



Since 2013, the Central African Republic has faced major political crises, intensified hostilities and a breakdown of law and order, leading to widespread violence, human rights violations and sexual violence against women, men and children. Since its establishment in 2014, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) has provided protection to civilians, including specific protection for women and children affected by armed conflict. However, sexual exploitation and abuse and gender-based violence have been major challenges in the country.

“We are putting victims first. In the Central African Republic, for example, we conduct outreach campaigns on how victims can safely report allegations through a toll-free hotline, focal points within our personnel and the community. Victim’s assistance protocols are in place, including counseling and medical assistance. But we also need victims and witnesses to come forward. If they do not, we cannot follow-up, request investigations, or provide them with the assistance they deserve.”

Atul Khare, Under-Secretary-General for Field Support

Liberia



The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) considers literacy and the critical use of knowledge as the stepping stone for opportunities and self-sufficiency, especially for vulnerable groups including victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. In Liberia, formal and informal learning has been negatively impacted by protracted civil war and conflict, fueling illiteracy among groups at risk, instilling poverty, obstructing development and exacerbating the exposure of such groups to prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation and abuse as a means of survival.



A one-year adult literacy project funded by the Trust Fund seeks to empower adult female groups and the members of the larger community by providing them with the opportunity to acquire literacy training and coaching, the improvement of numerical skills and a range of relevant life skills. This will enable participants to start their own businesses and provide an opportunity for the UN to raise awareness about its zero tolerance on sexual exploitation and abuse within the communities.

The project is coordinated by UNMIL in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), together with the National Adult Education Association of Liberia (NAEAL) as a local implementing partner.

For more information contact:

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