

CHS Alliance Protection from Sexual Exploitation & Abuse Conference 2016

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Investigating SEA in UN peacekeeping missions
and the United Nations Population Fund - challenges

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United Nations Population Fund

United Nations Peacekeeping and PSEA

Basics of peacekeeping

- United Nations Resolution
- A peace to keep
- Chapters 6 and 7 of UN Charter
- Memorandum of Understanding
- Status of Forces Agreement

Democratic Republic of the Congo 2002

- SEA allegations in international media => UN uniformed personnel

Challenges investigating SEA

- Complainants mechanism – who to complain to?
- Complaints – insufficient detail (identification)
- Geography
- Timeliness of complaint and migration
- Most vulnerable – survival sex, no comprehension SEA prohibited
- Under reporting/non-reporting: Fear + intimidation + retaliation + stigmatism => young boys
- UN – no dedicated full-time investigative unit with skills to investigate SEA
- Pre-deployment training of military personnel + equipment
- Cultural beliefs
- Status of Forces Agreement
 - ✓ Repatriation only
 - ✓ Justice not seen to be done
 - ✓ Unwilling or unable to take action
 - ✓ Response and degree of sanction

UNFPA

- Mandate: Sexual and Reproductive Health + Population and Development + Youth + GBV
- Health clusters in countries -> Government, INGOs, NGOs, UN
 - ✓ GBV + SEA awareness
 - ✓ Not only conflict/post-conflict
- Humanitarian and Fragile Contexts Branch – training for surge/emergency rosters
- Challenges investigating SEA – essentially same as peacekeeping
- Strengths
 - ✓ Dedicated, professionalised investigations unit
 - ✓ Joint investigations
 - ✓ Monitoring by UNFPA staff in field
 - ✓ Referral to national authorities for criminal prosecution
 - ✓ UN + partners = consolidated approach -> Community Based Complaints Mechanism (CBCM)

Recent updates

- CBCM
- Central African Republic
- South Sudan