UNICEF is committed to preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). UNICEF is actively engaged in policy and operational efforts to improve the reporting of sexual exploitation and abuse, offering support to survivors and promoting accountability – both within UNICEF, in our engagement with our partners, and in our overall accountability to local populations. UNICEF also promotes internal and external change to end tolerance for all forms of exploitation and abuse.

UNICEF works closely with the United Nations Special Coordinator mandated by the Secretary-General to facilitate implementation of his Special Measures report. In mid-2018, UNICEF’s Executive Director took on the role of IASC Champion for PSEA and Sexual Harassment, charting out an agenda for accelerated implementation in humanitarian settings. This work entails collaborating closely with the IASC membership for conceptualization, endorsement and operationalization. The IASC Champion works closely with the Emergency Relief Coordinator, UN agencies, and NGOs to support humanitarian coordination at country level in advancing the PSEA agenda.

Child safeguarding, including protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, is at the core of UNICEF’s mandate. As a humanitarian agency dedicated to child rights, we take all steps necessary to safeguard children within our operations.