



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE
HUMANITARIAN ACTION



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Interagency PSEA Community Outreach and Communication Fund

2025 Call for Applications & Guidance for Applicants

About the Fund

Established in 2020 as a joint initiative between the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Interagency Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Community Outreach and Communication Fund (the PSEA Outreach Fund for short) provides rapid, targeted financial support to local and national Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). The PSEA Outreach Fund enables these organisations to carry out PSEA awareness-raising and capacity-strengthening activities.

Since its launch in 2020, the Fund has generated tremendous interest from local and national NGOs and Civil-Society Organisations (CSOs), with over 7,700 applications received and 65 grants allocated across 39 countries.

For more information, visit the PSEA Outreach Fund website. All materials created by previous Fund recipients are available in the Fund's Deliverables Database.

Purpose and approach

The 2025 call for applications aims to support local and national NGOs and CSOs by financing PSEA outreach and communication activities for at risk communities in humanitarian settings. The Fund specifically seeks to prevent Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) perpetrated by aid workers or other people associated with aid organisations against the people they are supposed to assist.

The Fund offers selected organisations a USD 20,000 grant to implement PSEA outreach and communication projects over a period of four to six months. The Fund, through its Steering Committee and network of experts, supports selected organisations in the implementation of their projects.

Geographic Focus

Projects implemented in humanitarian or displacement contexts in the following countries will be considered:

Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Madagascar, Mali, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Pakistan, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Türkiye, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

Project focus

The Fund finances PSEA outreach and communication projects that deliver the following activities, typically prioritising projects with integrated PSEA activities:

- Develop or adapt PSEA awareness-raising materials to at risk communities, such as print, digital, video or audio resources. These materials should aim to explain in contextually appropriate language and formats:
 - Core SEA concepts,
 - The rights of communities to be safe from SEA,
 - The obligations of all actors to prevent and address SEA, and
 - Prevention strategies that help combat SEA.
 - Complaints and Feedback Mechanisms (CFM) and
 - Referral pathways to sensitise communities on safe reporting and support mechanisms.
- Design and implement PSEA community engagement events (such as mass gatherings, focus group discussions, theatre plays, radio broadcasts) to further sensitise on PSEA and contribute to behaviour change.
- Design and implement capacity strengthening activities with aid workers, community volunteers, leaders, service providers and other stakeholders of influence to raise awareness on SEA, increase capacities on PSEA awareness-raising in communities, and/or reinforce SEA prevention, reporting and support services.
- Design and implement other appropriate PSEA Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities to contribute to increased understanding, knowledge and capacities on PSEA at the community level. These can include:
 - Mapping of services available to SEA survivors,
 - PSEA risk assessments as part of emergency response.
 - Establishment of local PSEA or protection committees.
 - The development of manuals or codes of conduct related to SEA.
 - The establishment or strengthening of SEA CFMs or protocols.
- Engage with in-country PSEA networks, humanitarian coordination mechanisms, and other relevant actors to promote the dissemination and uptake of project materials and good practices.

Eligibility criteria:

Applicants should note that the Fund's grants are highly competitive. Due to the volume of applications, only shortlisted organisations will be contacted.

- Applicants must be registered with the relevant national authorities.
- Applicants must be local or national NGOs or CSOs or local or national NGO forum/network. Proof of registration will be requested if short-listed.
- Applicants must be able to receive funds and report on funds from international sources.
- Applicant organisations must have **PSEA or safeguarding policies in place**.
- Applicant organisations must be able to demonstrate **PSEA or other protection outreach and communication experience at community level**.

Application Selection Criteria:

The PSEA Outreach Fund's Steering Committee will manage the application screening and selection process. In addition to the minimum eligibility criteria listed above, the following criteria will be used to further screen and select applications:

- Maximum funding request: **USD 20,000**. Higher requests will be rejected.
- Project duration: **4-6 months**.
- Activities must have a **clear PSEA focus**, as outlined in the Project Focus above.
- PSEA outreach and communication projects **must clearly articulate the SEA risks** and issues encountered at community level **and how the project objectives and activities will contribute to addressing them**.
- PSEA outreach and communication projects must **include at risk populations in their targeting** notably based on Age, Gender and Diversity considerations. Projects that target and engage community members of diverse age, nationality, language, ethnic background, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI), abilities and/or social and economic status will be prioritised.
- PSEA outreach and communication projects must ensure **community involvement and consultation in project design, implementation and oversight**.
- The materials developed and activities conducted must be **contextually appropriate** with regards to languages, messaging and communication approaches.
- Applicant organisations must commit to developing project materials in open-source, editable formats and to make those available to the PSEA Outreach Fund for inclusion in the [Deliverables Database](#).
- The **do no harm principle** should apply to all projects' approaches and activities.
- A detailed **budget, logframe and timeline** for project implementation will be required for short-listed applicants.

Application Process

- **English applications open:** 18 June 2025
- **English application closes:** 11 July 2025, 17.00 CET
- Only one application per organisation will be accepted.
- Only applications via the online application form will be accepted. The online application form is available in English, and will be made available in French and Spanish
- If you have any questions on the PSEA Outreach Fund or application process, technical issues with the form, please contact pseafund@icvanetwork.org

Selection Process

- Only short-listed applicants will be contacted.
- The application screening and selection process will be conducted by the PSEA Outreach Fund's Steering Committee, made up of PSEA experts from the humanitarian community.
- The screening and short-listing process will be concluded by late August 2025.
- By submitting your application, you agree for ICVA to contact your organisation in relation to this application. You also confirm your understanding of how the information contained in the application will be utilised in alignment with ICVA's [Privacy Policy](#).