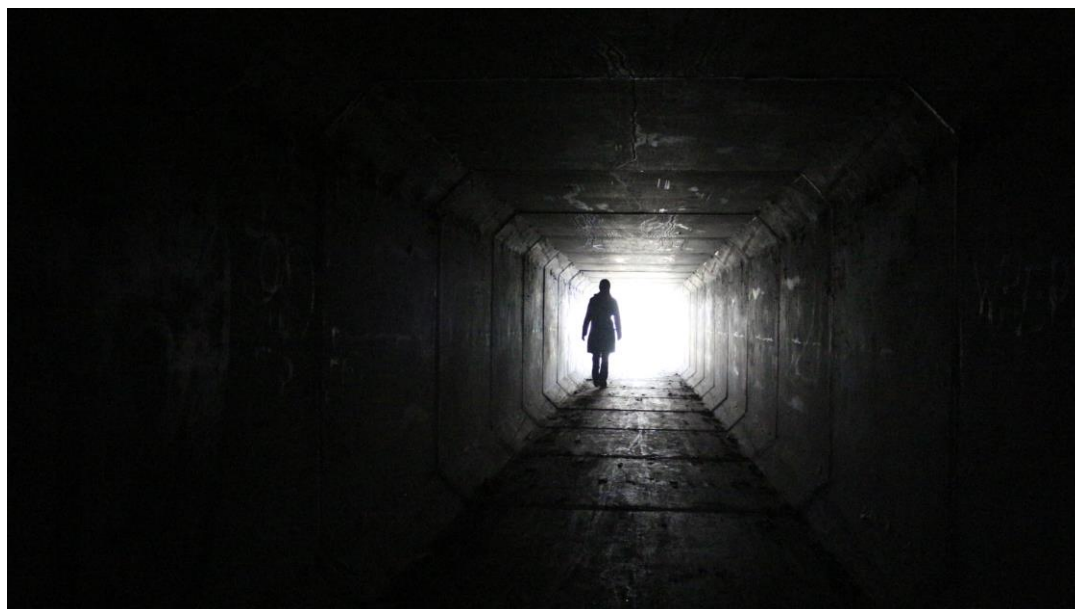




Wilton Park



Summary of Outcomes

A new Global Framework on protection from sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment

Wednesday 14 – Friday 16 June 2023 | WP3166



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In association with the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Context

The 2018 London Safeguarding Summit brought together a wide range of groups to agree actions to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation, abuse and sexual harassment (SEAH) in the aid sector. The outcomes from the Summit have been invaluable. But five years on there is a clear need for all groups involved in the delivery of humanitarian, development and peacekeeping to agree and work towards a refreshed collective vision on protection from SEAH.

A new Global Framework on protection from SEAH aims for the first time to capture in one place key actions for all stakeholders at the international, national, organisational, programme and individual levels, drawing on existing policies and commitments. It would help create a strengthened and coordinated long-term international approach to PSEAH and so aim to improve practices at all levels.

Having an easy to understand vision, aim and approach that is relevant to all and that embeds a victim-survivor centred approach will consolidate a zero-tolerance to inaction on SEAH, increase protection and reduce harm, and support a safer and more effective system to report and respond to SEAH when it does occur.

This invitation-only Wilton Park conference was developed in partnership with the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office.

Drawing on the experience and expertise of technical experts across the humanitarian, development and peacekeeping sectors the dialogue aimed to:

- Convene stakeholders from the humanitarian, development and peacekeeping sectors to agree how a Global Framework would drive coherence, long-term change and raise the profile of work on PSEAH.
- Create a greater understanding of the resources needed for PSEAH, to make it easier to provide that resourcing.
- Consult on a draft of the Global Framework, with focused discussions on specific aspects of it.
- Discuss the promotion, implementation and monitoring of the framework.
- Strengthen links amongst expert agencies and actors working on preventing and responding to SEAH.

The conference was not designed to agree the framework itself but will help inform the first full draft which will be made available for global consultation later in 2023 with a view to being launched in 2024.

Participation and purpose of meeting

Forty five stakeholders from the humanitarian, development, and peacekeeping sectors discussed a proposed new Global Framework to improve protection from SEAH (PSEAH) in those sectors. Participants included the United Nations, national governments, International Financial Institutions, non-governmental organisations, private sector, foundations, academia, victim/survivor representatives and independent experts. We discussed the potential value and form of the Framework and process for the work. This paper outlines the outcomes of the discussions and proposed next steps.

A short political commitment document

There was strong appetite for creating a short document (maximum 3-pages) which includes core principles and key actions that all actors contributing to humanitarian, development and peacekeeping work can use to build commitment, accountability and cohesion in tackling SEAH. We discussed the terminology of 'Global Framework' and whether a 'Common Framework' or 'Approach' could be better alternatives.

The emerging consensus for the short document was that it should aim to:

- Act as a non-binding, high-level, political commitment for all involved in the delivery of humanitarian, development and peacekeeping work.
- Be based on existing, internationally-agreed SEAH safeguarding standards, without duplicating or superseding them.
- Set out the purpose of the Framework, the common principles that underpin it and the suggested key actions needed to deliver it.
- Serve as a starting point on PSEAH for all involved directly or indirectly in humanitarian, development and peacekeeping work, including people and groups who may not necessarily see themselves as central to that work.
- Outline minimum key actions in simple terms which PSEAH experts can recognise, and non-experts can understand and use.
- Act as an anchor to help build or consolidate partnerships and facilitate resourcing of PSEAH.
- Use simple terms, to aid translation into multiple languages.

A longer document with further guidance

Alongside a short political commitment to generate momentum on PSEAH which would serve as a clear guide for minimum actions, a longer document (maximum 20 pages), was discussed at Wilton Park. The emerging consensus was that it should:

- Not be something that organisations will be asked to commit or sign up to.
- Provide guidance on how to operationalise the short document.
- Signpost to additional external guidance and support and highlight how suggested actions link to existing technical safeguarding documents and commitments.
- Serve as an interactive tool for those new to PSEAH by presenting information relevant to their needs in an easy to find and understandable way, e.g. by including clickable links to further guidance for specific sections.

Resourcing for PSEAH

Adequate resourcing of safeguarding against SEAH at global, country, institutional, and programme level is critical. There is however no clear picture of needs and funding sources. Current funding and funding requests are often ad hoc and reflect short-term planning. There was broad support at Wilton Park for mapping current resourcing mechanisms and needs to facilitate improved understanding and funding. Early thinking was shared on how to take this forward and there was strong interest from a good number of participants in contributing to this work.

Next steps

- (i) Work on the Global Framework will continue to be guided by the Global Framework Steering Committee (a small group of key representatives from organisations across the humanitarian, development and peacekeeping sectors with secretariat support from the FCDO's Safeguarding Unit).
- (ii) The Global Framework secretariat will work on the next draft of a **short document**, based on discussions at Wilton Park and share it by mid-August with the Steering Committee, a consultative network of wider stakeholders with an interest in the work, and any other interested stakeholders.
- (iii) The secretariat will refresh **communications materials** in parallel to help all stakeholders understand the rationale for the work on the Framework.
- (iv) The secretariat will set up a working group **on resourcing** of PSEAH work.
- (v) The secretariat will continue developing the **longer document** with further guidance, factoring in all comments from Wilton Park. We will aim to share the next draft of this with the Steering Committee, the consultative network and any other interested stakeholders in early September.
- (vi) **A formal consultation** on the draft Framework will be launched in the autumn and is planned to be via the [Safeguarding Resource and Support Hub website](#). The secretariat will also explore the possibility of publicising this, alongside other recent safeguarding initiatives, through multiple launch events around the world. The secretariat will coordinate with all stakeholders and include a strong focus on national-level dialogues.
- (vii) We will aim to produce a **final version** of the short and long documents in first quarter of 2024 and invite all who would like to endorse/commit to it to do so.
- (viii) Alongside developing the framework, the steering committee will discuss a plan to **monitor** in a light touch way the framework's use, value and impact.

For any comments or questions please contact Peter Taylor (peter.taylor1@fcdo.gov.uk) and Jennifer Smith (Jennifer.smith@fcdo.gov.uk).

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