
Update on IFAD's approach to address the United Nations Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Sexual Harassment, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Addendum

Management response to Member States' comments

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Comments from Switzerland	Management response
<p>Switzerland considers IFAD's engagement on SH / SEA as very important. While the Update on IFAD's approach to address prevention and response to SH / SEA includes a code of conduct, we would like to engage IFAD to sharpen the code of conduct. Switzerland welcomes a clear code of conduct for project parties, including the engagement with third parties with contractual agreements. Regarding the code of conduct for project parties we would suggest to sharpen the values and the interest of IFAD. It helps to outline, that IFAD does not tolerate any behaviour that is punishable by law or an infringement of the rules, in particular those of good governance, whether on the part of its employees, or of third parties with which it has a contractual agreement. In addition the contractual partners of IFAD should always provide their full support for the success of the activities of IFAD, and for the effective implementation of the policies and strategies adopted by it. They should regularly reflect upon their actions and behaviour, and on those of their employees, colleagues and subcontractors. They should ensure that they act in conformity with the values of IFAD. The contractual partners of IFAD should be fully aware of the power inherent in their role. They have to make decisions in a responsible manner, giving due consideration to their cooperation with IFAD and to IFAD's interests. Their decisions must be</p>	<p>IFAD welcomes Switzerland's comments on the Update on IFAD's approach to address the United Nations Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Sexual Harassment, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SH/SEA) and concurs with the need to highlight and reinforce the responsibilities of third parties in IFAD activities and/or operations. For the purpose of this response, third parties are defined as individuals and entities other than IFAD personnel that receive, apply to receive, or are responsible for the implementation of an IFAD activity and/or operation, including, but not limited to, implementing partners, service providers, contractors, suppliers, subcontractors, sub-suppliers, bidders, their consultants and any of their agents or personnel.</p> <p>Whereas the Code of Conduct for Project Parties sets out the standards of conduct expected from each project party in charge of the implementation of the project, including third parties, its purpose is to bring to the project parties' attention, including by requesting their signature thereunder, a summary of all applicable obligations. The Code of Conduct for Project Parties includes a reference and link to the IFAD Policy on Preventing and Responding to Sexual Harassment and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SH/SEA policy); however, it does not serve as the document of reference on the obligations thereunder, which is the policy itself.</p> <p>The current version of the policy applies to all recipients of IFAD funding and third parties contracted using IFAD's funding, such as consultants, contractors and vendors. It contains dedicated sections on measures regarding the conduct of project staff and third parties in IFAD-funded operations and measures regarding the conduct of suppliers in commercial contracts with IFAD. Notwithstanding, the focus of the ongoing review of the policy is precisely to place a stronger emphasis on the obligations of third parties with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A clearer definition of the scope; - A dedicated section on the measures regarding the conduct of or handling of allegations by third parties, which aligns with the obligations subscribed under the general conditions of contract and the General Conditions for Agricultural Development Financing, including the termination of contracts and debarment; - Detailed indications on IFAD's role in the case of allegations against third parties and the referral of criminal matters to national authorities.

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<p>transparent and entirely unprejudiced. The contractual partners of IFAD will have to abstain from any actions that may place them and/or others in a dangerous situation, or that may compromise their relationship with IFAD and its interests.</p>	<p>In order to ensure that contractual partners are made fully aware of the content of the policy, SH/SEA courses are delivered to staff, non-staff and project personnel, either online or in videoconference classroom sessions at the beginning of each project. IFAD also supports the dissemination of SH/SEA information through the work of SH/SEA focal points. As part of their role, the focal points and alternates circulate SH/SEA awareness-raising materials and information on reporting mechanisms in their respective offices and during start-up events, liaise with local United Nations Country Teams and resident coordinators, and contribute to the local United Nations SH/SEA strategy.</p>