

ZERO TOLERANCE ON SEA

Strengthening accountability on sexual exploitation and abuse by UN personnel

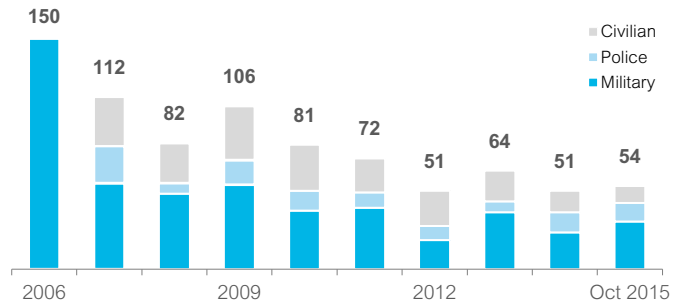
WE HAVE MADE PROGRESS

The United Nations Secretary-General has a strict 'zero tolerance' policy on sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) by United Nations personnel.

Working in partnership with Member States, there has been a marked reduction in the number of reported SEA allegations over the last decade: From a high of 357 reported SEA allegations in 2006, to a low of 51 in 2014. As of 31 October, 54 allegations have been reported in 2015.

NUMBER OF REPORTED ALLEGATIONS IS DECLINING

Reported SEA allegations by category of personnel up to 31 October 2015



WHAT WE ARE DOING

One case of SEA is one too many. The UN has already taken steps to address the issue, including:

- Adopted an **accountability policy and framework** for conduct and discipline.
- Strengthened SEA **rules and regulations**, enhanced **monitoring and reporting**, and introduced an SEA **risk assessment** framework.
- Developed a **DNA protocol** to enhance resolution of paternity claims with engagement from Member States.
- Mapped medical, psychosocial and legal services in mission areas for **victims' assistance**.
- Strengthened **Member State follow-up**, increasing the response rate from 39% in 2010 to 98.5% in 2015¹.
- The Secretary-General has **lifted the immunity** of UN personnel to facilitate criminal accountability.

WHAT'S NEW

Together with UN Member States, more can and will be done. In 2015, the UN Secretary-General outlined ambitious proposals to strengthen the response to SEA, which are at varying stages of implementation:

ACCOUNTABILITY

- Providing **country-specific information** on credible allegations being investigated by Member States in future reports to the General Assembly.
- Providing a **section on conduct and discipline**, including issues of SEA, in all the Secretary-General's reports on country-specific situations to the Security Council.

PREVENTION

- **Strengthened vetting** of candidates.
- **Enhanced training** on SEA targeting all personnel, including managers and commanders.
- **Increased efforts to raise awareness** of zero tolerance for SEA among UN personnel and local populations, including community-based reporting mechanisms.

REMEDIATION

- **The creation of a trust fund for victims**, to be funded in part by financial penalties imposed on personnel in cases of substantiated allegations.

ENFORCEMENT

- **Repatriating contingent or unit commanders** where there is a documented pattern of SEA, banning them from future service in peacekeeping.
- **Terminating the deployment of uniformed personnel** of a Member State where there is a documented pattern of non-compliance with UN standards of conduct.
- **Creating SEA immediate response teams** in peacekeeping to preserve and gather evidence.
- **Adopting six-month timelines** for completion of investigations of SEA and calling on Member States to do the same.