



*Figure 1: Photo of a small group of PSEA Network members with UNFPA Executive Director, Ms. Natalie Kanem, who was also the IASC PSEAH Champion for 2021 Feb 2021*

# PSEA REPORT PERIOD: 2019 to 2021

**Outcome 1: All development and humanitarian actors have increased knowledge on standards of conduct, PSEA/Safeguarding and of the systems in place on prevention, reporting and survivor-centric response**

**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:** Following the development and adaption of PSEA materials/content to the Sudanese context, Trainings and capacity building sessions were conducted. These ranged from 2-hour virtual workshops to three-day in person sessions focused on Introduction to key PSEA concepts and principles, integration of PSEA in COVID 19 and emergency response, SOPs for PSEA/Complaints Handling/Survivor Support and Role of PSEA focal points.

- ☑ OCHA conducted a training for 15 SHF Partners facilitated by the PSEA Coordinator. The one day in-person training increased their conceptual awareness of SEA, the commitments under the Joint Framework of action and their obligations to ensure compliance (Oct 2019)
- ☑ The RCO printed and disseminated 1,000 copies of UN “No excuses” cards to all Sudan PSEA Network members (Dec 2019): <https://trello.com/c/yViVZhyL/20-no-excuse-cards>
- ☑ The Sudan PSEA Network developed a training resource on “Integrating PSEA in COVID-19 and Emergency Response” and disseminated it to all UNCT and HCT members (Jun 2021)
- ☑ A virtual training led by CARE International in Sudan supported by the PSEA Coordinator which reached 35 staff in Gedaref (Nov 2020)
- ☑ One day in-person training organized by UNHCR’s Refugee Working Group in Blue Nile, Damazine, reaching 25 staff (10 M/15F) including government officials and implementing partners. The training was hosted by Save the Children Field Office in Damazine. (April 2021)
- ☑ One-day in-person training hosted by OCHA in West Darfur, Geneina which reached 18 staff (10 F /8 M) involved in the West Darfur humanitarian response. (June 2021)
- ☑ 2 cycles of three-day trainings hosted by the Sudan PSEA Network in Khartoum, which

reached 89 PSEA focal points nominated to establish/implement special measures for PSEA in their respective organizations (Dec 2021)



*Figure 2: Gender Advisor to the DSRSG/RC/HC Ms. Victoria Nwogu facilitating a session during the PSEA focal points training*



*Figure 3: RCO PSEA Officer facilitating a session on ToRs for PSEA focal points*

Various members of the Sudan PSEA Network's capacity building have extended their expertise and skills to support in developing training content and facilitating training sessions

including: UNHCR, CARE, PLAN, UNDP, UNAMID, RCO, UN OCHA, UNICEF and UNFPA.

**Outcome 2: All development and humanitarian interventions in Sudan reinforce compliance with PSEA safeguarding commitments and policies**

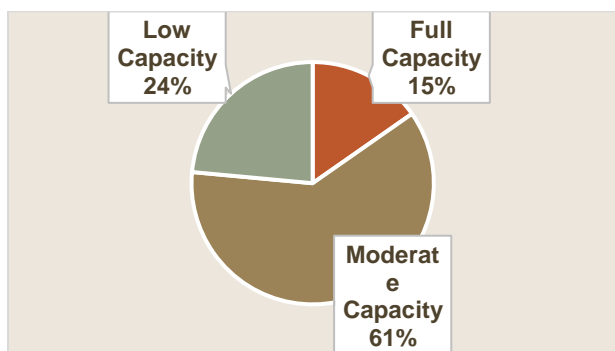
**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: To enhance compliance with PSEA and/or safeguarding commitments and policies within the operation, the period under review saw the establishment of a Sudan PSEA Network and the development of a Joint Framework of Action (action plan) with 6 key results and 8 outcome areas derived from available IASC guidelines for developing a country-level PSEA Action Plan (at the time). A total of 52 UN agencies and INGOs/NGOs endorsed the JFA. Since then, membership of the Sudan PSEA network continues to expand incorporating more UN/INGOs/NGOs. Specific activities implemented to contribute to this outcome include:**

- IASC Interim Guidance on PSEA during Covid-19 response disseminated to all Sudan PSEA Network members (April 2020)
- The Country Covid 19 Response Plan successfully integrated PSEA prevention and response into the risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) component of the plan. This was disseminated through the humanitarian coordination mechanism. (April 2020)
- The PSEA network has consolidated a list of 127 primary and alternative PSEA focal points representing 53 network members: [SUDAN PSEA FOCAL POINTS DIRECTORY - Google Sheets](#). Of the 127 focal points, 89 have been trained (Ref: Outcome 1, bullet point 7). Subject to funding, the Sudan PSEA Network aims to train 38 focal points that were not reached in the 2021 cycles of training. It is important to underpin the importance of this structure of focal points as they will contribute to developing and/or adopting country specific guidance on PSEA such as: codes of conducts, PSEA/Safeguarding policies, recruitment/vetting procedures, reporting mechanisms, investigations procedures and others. Focal points also play a key role in advancing prevention and response activities
- based on guidance provided, the IASC Minimum Operating Standards on PSEA and the CHS PSEAH Index within their own organizations.
- The specific roles and responsibilities of PSEA focal points are well captured in the [Generic-PSEA-Focal-Point-TORs-2021-FINAL](#), rolled out by the IASC in October 2021.
- UN entities initiated the process of assessing implementing partners PSEA capacities using the UN IP Common Assessment Tool rolled out by the IASC. In 2021, UNHCR, UNFPA and UNICEF adopted the tool and successfully assessed a total of 85 implementing partners.
- Out of the 85 partners assessed 13 have full capacity (meet all 8 PSEA standards), 52 have moderate capacity risk (meet 6 – 7 standards), and 20 have low capacity (do not meet at least 5 of the minimum standards). Immediate action is required to strengthen PSEA capacity for partners with moderate to low capacity. As per the guidance provided in the IASC capacity assessment tool, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNFPA have developed capacity strengthening/improvement plans for partners with low and medium capacity to address specific areas of weakness.

☑ The findings indicate that 76% of partners assessed have moderate to full PSEA capacities. This demonstrates an average level of compliance in putting adequate PSEA measures in place as per the IASC Minimum Operating Standards for PSEA. As per the guidance provided in the IASC capacity assessment tool, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNFPA have developed capacity strengthening/ improvement plans for partners with low and medium capacity to address specific areas of weakness.

☑ Additionally, OCHA assessed 54 partners on their PSEA policies. Following the assessment, 28 partners were found to have PSEA policies, 20 had Codes of Conducts with aspects of PSEA which required further elaboration while 6 partners had no PSEA policies

☑ WFP and OCHA are yet to adopt the common assessment tool but are using internal tools to review their partners' PSEA measures as part of contractual arrangements. In 2022, all UN agencies will be encouraged to adopt the IASC common assessment tool, to have a clear picture of partners' areas of weakness by standard, and strategies to build these capacities.



*Left: UNFPA workshop for Implementing Partners following the PSEA Capacity Assessment of 17 partners, Al Salam Rotana Hotel.*

*Below: The Sudan UNFPA team championing PSEA within the organization and amongst partners. L-R: Mr. Francis, Ms. Sama Fageer, Ms. Tebian, Mr. Mateen Shaheen and Ms. Abeer Salam*



**Outcome 3: The Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and the UN/HCT are supported at senior management and technical levels to lead, oversee, and deliver on the PSEA commitments vis-a vis the Sudan Joint Framework for Action.**

**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: The Sudan PSEA Network has remained active since inception in 2018 with the active participation of members that includes UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs and the Donor Community. The network’s momentum was sustained due to the commitment, support and contributions of all actors both at the management level (under the DSRSG/RC/HC’s lead) and the technical level with fully resourced PSEA Network Coordinator and Officer positions.**

- ☑ The Sudan PSEA Network was revived in October 2018, bringing together over 60 UN agencies, INGOs, NGOs and Donors. It was initially chaired by the RC/HC and attended by technical focal points and/or heads of agencies.
- ☑ This was followed by the development of a costed Joint Framework for Action on PSEA (JFA-PSEA), which was anchored in the findings of a mapping survey conducted in 2019. The JFA-PSEA outlined priority results for the Network in Sudan from 2019 to 2020 around 6 core areas for action: policy operationalization, coordination and cooperation, prevention and internal mainstreaming, advocacy, complaints and investigations, and survivor support. The JFA was launched in July 2019 and signed by 52 member organizations from the UN, INGOs and donors. (The JFA was later extended to 2021).
- ☑ At the point of launching the JFA, agencies and donor partners committed financial resources of \$870,500 (which was \$20,000 over the costed budget). As of December 2021, total funding credited directly or indirectly was \$ 486,000 with a 44% budget deficit.

<b>\$870,500 - Commitments</b>	
<b>\$ 486,000 (Credited)</b>	<b>\$ 384,500 (N/A)</b>

- ☑ 67% of agencies and partners who committed financial resources to implement the JFA delivered on their respective commitments, while

33% of prospective funding agencies provided technical contributions.

- ☑ The network continues to receive management support and commitment through the former RC/HC - Ms. Gwi Yeop Son, RC/HC ai -Mr. Babacar Cisse, the DSRSG/RC/HC - Ms. Khardiata Lo Ndiaye, and the UNCT to perform its functions, including implementation of the JFA. The network is now chaired by the DSRSG/RC/HC who has systemwide responsibility for implementing special measures for PSEA in country. The network is also receiving technical support from the Gender Advisor to the DSRSG/RC/HC, a full-time PSEA Coordinator and a National PSEA Officer.
- ☑ The PSEA Network has held 11 meetings since October 2018 to end 2021, including a meeting with the UNFPA Executive Director (Ms. Natalie Kanem), after her formal appointment as the IASC PSEAH Champion for 2021. At these meetings, task team leads, the PSEA Coordinator and other organizational leads (based on topics of choice) provide updates and share best practices derived from implementation of the JFA-PSEA.
- ☑ Additionally, PSEA Network meetings are complemented by regular task team meetings (mainly the Survivor Support and Communications and Advocacy Task Teams involved in developing a Victim Assistance Mechanism and Strategy, and communication and advocacy materials for dissemination amongst various stakeholders) for the more operational activities under the JFA.

- ☑ It is also important to highlight key strides made in the Eastern Sudan Refugee Response, where UNHCR and UNICEF have taken a lead in the establishment and co-chairing of a PSEA Taskforce, under the auspices of the Refugee

Working Group. In West Darfur, OCHA is supporting with the establishment of a technical PSEA forum which will be tasked with advising the AHCT, on implementing key PSEA integration activities amidst an ongoing humanitarian response.

**Outcome 4: Every child and adult within communities receiving humanitarian and development services are aware of their rights, expected standards of behaviours by development/humanitarian actors and know how/where/how to report SEA incidents.**

**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: Under the stewardship of the Communications and Advocacy Task Team, the network rolled out its first PSEA awareness raising and sensitization campaign across 6 out of 7 targeted states in 2021, targeting 5,000 community members.**

- ☑ While this is an activity pegged for individual agencies to conduct, it is gradually emerging through community discussions that as various crises requiring humanitarian intervention unfold within Sudan, or with ongoing political resolutions/gains allowing humanitarian access in previously under-served parts of Sudan (Blue Nile State, the Kordofan States, and Jebel Marra areas), there is little awareness amongst communities receiving assistance and protection about their rights, expected standards of behaviors by humanitarian/development workers and how to report SEA incidents. This was clearly evidenced in an SEA risk assessment conducted in West Darfur – Geneina in which FGD respondents proposed measures outlined in Figure 3 to better protect affected populations from SEA and other forms of misconduct.
- ☑ An SEA Risk Assessment was conducted in West Darfur - El Geneina (June 2021)) to guide PSEA integration in an active humanitarian response. The PSEA Network also provided technical support to the Gedaref PSEA taskforce (chaired by UNHCR and UNICEF) to implement an SEA Risk Assessment (Oct 2021), to inform PSEA integration within the Tigray Refugee response in Eastern Sudan.
- ☑ Between June and September 2021, the Communications and Advocacy Task Team designed a strong and coherent PSEA awareness raising campaign targeting both staff and communities across Sudan in 7 priority states: West Darfur, North Darfur, South Kordofan, Blue Nile, Gedaref, White Nile and Khartoum. The campaign was rolled out in November 2021 and incorporated a variety of activities including:
  - [Ongoing] Commitment Statements from the SRSG, DSRSG/RC/HC and UN country representatives [WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR, OCHA, UNDP] on the core PSEA Principles. These are being shared through various mailing list with the aim to reach all UN/INGO/NGO staff working in Sudan.
  - Community discussions led by different network members in different states [UNHCR, UNICEF, ALIGHT, PLAN International, JASMAR Human Security Organization, Save the Children International, World Vision].
  - Distribution of 10,000 brochures (printed in Arabic, English, Amharic and Tigiringa languages) and 5,000 posters in offices and communities.

- [Pending] Audio recordings with simple PSEA messages developed by UNFPA in six local languages, to be disseminated through radio broadcasts.
- ☑ Despite some delays, the campaign has been rolled out to varying extents in all 7 states. The communications and advocacy task team is documenting lessons learnt from this first campaign, to build into similar activities envisioned in the future.

**Community respondents highlighted the following actions for the humanitarian community/response to take in order to better protect persons of concern from SEA and other forms of misconduct perpetrated by UN/INGO/NGO and affiliated staff, volunteers and contractors:**



- Raise community awareness about SEA and other forms of misconduct of inappropriate behavior - in one discussion, respondents indicated that without knowledge or information, a victim/witness may think that such incidents or occurrences
- Sensitize staff, especially new staff and other service providers involved in the humanitarian response about PSEA.
- Ensure adequate oversight to agency staff and monitor all staff during activity implementation.
- Train community level committees about SEA and other forms of misconduct.
- Hire staff from the beneficiary community itself as they would not abuse or exploit their own community members.
- Lift poverty with income generation projects for women to become independent and so that no one can take advantage of them.

*Figure 4: Recommendations from Community Discussions in El Geneina on how to better protect affected populations from SEA*

**PHOTOS CATALOGUE:**



Figure 5: DSRSG/RC/HC Commitment Statement Thumbnail



Figure 6: A PSEA discussion organized by PLAN International in N. Darfur



Figure 7: PSEA Brochures printed in 4 languages



Figure 8: A PSEA discussion organized by JASMAR Organization in Blue Nile



**Outcome 5: All member organizations of the PSEA Network create and maintain an environment for prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.**

- ☑ As part of SEA risk assessments conducted over the past year, we have identified key gaps in knowledge and awareness of existing SEA Policy, codes of conducts and the core PSEA Principles amongst staff of network members. For instance, one of the factors contributing or likely to contribute to SEA incidents as cited by humanitarian workers in the West Darfur risk assessment was the lack of awareness about standards of conduct (both amongst humanitarian actors and affected populations).
- ☑ To corroborate this, it was noted that only 53% (8 out of 15) of staff interviewed could identify at least 2 measures in place within their organization or in the wider humanitarian response to prevent and respond to SEA—these included measures such as code of conducts, mandatory trainings, internal reporting channels, recruitment procedures, and others.
- ☑ In another instance, it was noted that 67% (10) of staff interviewed demonstrated low understanding of the core PSEA principles, while 33% (5) demonstrated an average knowledge and understanding of the principles. None of the respondents demonstrated a high level of knowledge and understanding of the PSEA principles.
- ☑ If we are to use this information as representative of operations across the Sudan humanitarian/development/peace landscape, it is clear that much more needs to be done in terms of awareness, advocacy and enforcing compliance amongst network members so that they better understand their role to create and maintain an environment for SEA prevention and response.
- ☑ It is encouraging, however, that we have more network members recruiting dedicated PSEA/Safeguarding staff to engage in various internal aspects of prevention, response and compliance. This include UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, Save the Children, GOAL, World Vision, and Mercy Corps, to mention but a few.
- ☑ All network members are also encouraged to roll out the IASC Training ‘Say no To Sexual Misconduct’ amongst staff members and develop/disseminate organizational PSEA policies.

**Outcome 6: Increased commitment and cooperation by government, civil society, donors and other key actors in response to PSEA in Sudan.**

**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: The network membership has gradually expanded to include more civil society and national organizations who have been eager to increase their engagement in PSEA prevention and response activities – with some taking an active lead in the PSEA campaign at state level.**

- ☑ The PSEA Network has continued to foster engagement of all actors in the Sudan PSEA agenda. It has expanded to engage more civil society and national organizations and is available to support them with enhancing their PSEA capacities.
- ☑ While some progress has been made with the participation of Ministry of Social Development in launching an interagency call center named ‘Salaam Sudan’, it has become increasingly necessary to find a more direct and impactful engagement with the government on PSEA matters. This engagement will target government stakeholders as policy makers, as

implementing/operational partners of UN/donor agencies involved in humanitarian interventions across various states and localities or along the

borders (and therefore potential perpetrators), and as law enforcement. This will be included in the 2022 PSEA Action Plan.



*A community discussion on PSEA in Blue Nile led by JASMAR Human Security Organization*

**Outcome 7: Every child and adult recipient of development support and/or humanitarian assistance has access to a safe, gender and child-sensitive pathways to report to report SEA (through community-based complaints mechanisms that reach where aid reaches, are appropriate to the context and are accessible to the most vulnerable)**

**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: In 2019 and 2020, UNOPS successfully engaged with the Ministry of Labor and Social Development to gain approval for the roll out of an interagency call center named ‘Salaam Sudan’. Salaam Sudan was conceptualized as a call center to receive and address operational complaints/concerns on the humanitarian/development assistance being provided in Sudan, including SEA allegations/concerns/suspicions/reports.**

- ☑ In August 2019, the inter-agency action learning group (IAALG) and Community based Complaints Mechanism (CBCM) task team organized an informal learning exchange event to share and discuss key learning experiences from existing reporting mechanisms in Sudan, agree to develop a common framework and SOP for a CBCM for the wider humanitarian and development community in Sudan and discuss the feasibility of establishing a common hotline number in Sudan. The training was attended by 25 participants (16 UN, 9 INGOs).
- ☑ In 2020, UNOPS developed a concept note and proposal for the establishment of the common hotline ‘Salaam Sudan’ with a budget of \$3.6 million over a 3-year period. Both the concept note, and proposal were endorsed/approved by the UNCT and the Ministry of Labor and Social Development, and UNOPS was greenlighted to start fundraising for the project. As at end of December 2021, UNOPS is yet to secure funding for the ‘Salaam Sudan’ hotline which remains a gap in our interagency CBCMs.

- ☑ The PSEA Network is now fully represented in the Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) Working Group constituted under the humanitarian coordination structure and reporting directly to the Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG). As part of its main pillars, the Complaints and Response Mechanism Task Team will have the full representation of the PSEA Network (Coordination team) and will work on providing technical guidance to all agencies on safe, accessible, gender sensitive and child friendly complaints mechanisms through which SEA reports can be channeled.
- ☑ During the PSEA Awareness Campaign, victims/witnesses/complainants with any information on SEA were encouraged to contact the CVAW GBV and CP helplines (in the absence on an interagency call center). In September 2021, a capacity building team from the PSEA Network conducted two sets of two-day trainings for all the CVAW phone operators working in these helplines, on how to receive, document, respond to and refer SEA allegations as might be reported through them. A total of 49 helpline operators (22 M / 27 F) were trained.

**Outcome 8: All child and adult SEA survivors receive effective context relevant healthcare, psychosocial, material, safety and security services**

**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: Victim Assistance Protocols and procedures [integrating GBV referral pathways] for Sudan have been adopted and rolled out to PSEA focal points. However, challenges remain in availability of services across all locations in the operation. Additionally, the PSEA Network requires more diligence amongst members on victim tracking and logging in cases with the PSEA Network Coordinator for reporting through the DSRSG/RC/HC office.**

- ☑ The Survivor Support Task Team (chaired by UNFPA in their unique role as the GBV AoR lead) under the PSEA network finalized establishing a Victim Assistance Mechanism with SOPs, in line with the UN Protocols for Victim Assistance. GBV referral pathways and services were fully integrated within this mechanism and though it is noted that service gaps exist in 80% of the locations in Sudan, the network will continue to work closely with the GBV and CP Subsectors to advocate for additional resources through the HRP to address these gaps. All PSEA focal points were trained on the Survivor Support Protocols to ensure that they are well equipped to provide immediate and long-term assistance to SEA victims.

# 2022 – 2023 STRATEGIC OUTLOOK:

## Excerpt of Speech from DSRSG/RC/HC, Ms Khardiata Lo N’diaye on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021

- “I emphasize my unequivocal commitment to strengthening and implementing special measures for protecting affected populations from SEA perpetrated by UN/INGO/NGO staff, volunteers, interns or contractors, especially in a context such as Sudan where communities are faced with various risks/threats and hardships that may increase their vulnerability.
- I also acknowledge that in the recent past, there have been ongoing and concerted efforts by the PSEA Network and its members to roll out different approaches and strategies to better integrate PSEA in our responses – particularly in West Darfur and Gedaref, but in other states identified as being high risk.
- While this is in step with our obligations and responsibilities as part of accountability to affected populations, there is always need for more. We need more energy and vigor, greater engagement and creativity to pool and stretch resources, and we need rigor to implement strategies that are evidence-based, uphold the safety and dignity of affected populations and protect those most-at-risk including victims/survivors of SEA. This is especially so in a country such as Sudan, where the number of people in need (PiN) and targeted for assistance has risen to 10.9million in 2022. This includes refugees, IDPs, resident communities and returnees.”

The Sudan PSEA Network will continue to adopt and incorporate special measures for PSEA in-country following guidance and support provided by the Thematic Expert Group on PSEA under the Inter Agency Standing Committee. Across all our activities and outcome areas, common approaches to adopt include:

- Ongoing **community consultation** to ensure that all measures put in place address specific needs and/or risks identified by affected populations in specific contexts
- **Collaboration and Collaboration** (at the ISCG level, with specific sectors/thematic groups, vertically with state coordination mechanisms)
- **Victim/Survivor centered approaches** to providing assistance
- Continuous **capacity building** to support INGOs, NGOs and civil societies who are on the frontlines in humanitarian/peace/development assistance with PSEA awareness/education/compliance.

As per the guidance provided on action planning, the network will prioritize prevention, safe and accessible reporting, victim’s right to assistance, accountability & investigations, and interagency PSEA country level structure outcomes in the 2022 – 2023 action plan (as outlined below):

## Prevention Activities

- Scale up PSEA awareness raising activities across different states in Sudan, including the 2 Areas: Sexual misconduct, rights of affected populations to be protected from SEA
- Enhance completion of mandatory trainings / Support network members to access PSEA trainings available online or in person
- Support network members (especially NGOs and civil societies) with PSEA compliance requirements as per the Minimum Operating Standards (reviewing CoCs, Policies, Vetting procedures, cooperative arrangements, etc.)

## Safe and Accessible Reporting

- Expand CBCMs and update Sudan's Interagency CBCMs Standard Operating Procedures (community consultations to inform CBCMs adopted)
- Develop and roll out guidance on establishing safe, confidential, and accessible complaints and feedback mechanisms (CFMs) – in collaboration with the AAP Working Group
- Develop a community engagement strategy (informed by risk/needs assessments) that facilitates identification of SEA allegations at the community level, addresses barriers to reporting and encourages reporting SEA allegations

## Victim's Rights to Assistance

- In collaboration with the GBV/CP subsector, map existing GBV service providers and identify/address gaps in coverage
- Put referral pathways for SEA victims'/survivors' assistance in place, as part of an integrated approach with GBV services.
- Strengthen victim tracking: Ensure that all SEA victims/survivors are referred for assistance and receive support, by well-trained case workers. Follow up on long-term assistance for SEA victims with concerned organizations.



## Accountability and Investigations

- UN Implementing Partner PSEA Capacity Assessment tool rolled out (by all UN Agencies), and improvement plans for with partners with low – medium PSEA capacities are implemented. UN Portal imported to Sudan Country Office
- Support organizations to increase their investigative capacities by identifying training opportunities for NGOs and Civil Societies.

## In-country PSEA Coordination Structures

- Update PSEA Network ToRs, chairing (DSRSG/RC/HC), & co-chairing arrangements, staffing (with full time PSEA Coordinator and National PSEA Officer) and members appointing PSEA focal points
- Pursue options for and sustainable effective government engagement
- PSEA Action Plan is presented to and endorsed by all UNCT/HCT members and rolled out both at federal and state level.