

# HabPost

Updates from  
UN-Habitat

UN HABITAT

www.unhabitat.org

unhabitat-info@un.org

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What We Talk About  
When We Talk About  
Sexual Exploitation  
and Abuse

# Editor's note

Dear Reader,

In a past issue of HabPost, we had shared with you resources and basic information about protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). Today, we delve a little more into the topic to help you gain a better understanding of SEA and the tools at your disposal for learning, reporting, and benefiting from support – including a soon redeveloped mobile app. And while COVID-19 is still with us and reinforces SEA, our colleagues in Lebanon and the Lebanese population at large are going through an additional hardship following the 4 August explosions in the port of Beirut. We use HabPost today to remind you of the ways you can help, and care for each other.

Thank you for reading us, and thank you for your support,

## The HabPost Team



### On the menu

[Alerts](#)

[Feature story and talking head](#)

[UN-Habitat in motion](#)

[Success Stories](#)

[Vacancies](#)

[Upcoming events and corporate calendar](#)

[Missions](#)

[Learning](#)

[Did you know?](#)

## Alerts

### Beirut explosions

- Over [200 people](#) have perished in the 4 August Beirut explosion, which also left over 5,000 injured and 300,000 homeless.
- A few of our [UN-Habitat colleagues](#) sustained minor injuries, a number of their houses were affected, and the main office in Beirut was severely damaged.
- The WFP has warned that food prices are expected to skyrocket as the effects of the explosion compound the impact of the country's worst-ever financial crisis. The WFP is working with the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs to allocate 5,000 food parcels to affected families and will also make available wheat flour in large quantities.
- Vital health facilities have been damaged. WHO reports that the blast has [rendered inoperable three hospitals](#), with two more sustaining substantial damage.
- On Sunday 9 August, leaders from [36 countries and international institutions](#) joined a virtual donor conference led by the office of French President Emmanuel Macron and held under the auspices of the United Nations to pledge [over USD 250 million in humanitarian assistance](#) to Lebanon.
- The [European Commission](#) pledged EUR 30 million on Sunday to help address the immediate needs of those affected by the disaster, on top of the EUR 33 million in aid already announced.
- The [UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for Lebanon](#) has released USD nine million from the Lebanon Humanitarian Fund to address immediate needs and help strengthen the capacity of existing hospitals.
- [UNICEF Child protection partners](#) are providing psychosocial support to affected children across the city.

- IOM is working to mitigate the [impact on vulnerable populations](#), including 400,000 labour migrants and approximately 1.5 million refugees.
- UNHCR is focusing [immediate humanitarian efforts](#) on three key areas: shelter, health and protection. The organization is also working for the identification and support of refugee victims.
- UN-Habitat is focusing on shelter, working alongside other agencies as part of the Disaster Risk Management Unit (DRM). Read the Executive Director's statement [here](#).
- OCHA has released USD six million from the Central [Emergency Response Fund \(CERF\)](#) to fund trauma care, support to hospitals, repair damaged homes and provide logistical support. The organization is also coordinating the [deployment of experts](#) from the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSRAG) and UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) to support first responders in Beirut. Additional emergency teams are arriving to help mount a coordinated humanitarian response.
- WHO has supplied [20 tons of health supplies](#) to Beirut so far. The WHO Director-General [released USD 2.2 million](#) from the Contingency Fund for Emergencies (CFE) to support the immediate response while ensuring the continuity of addressing the COVID-19 pandemic.



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© UNOCHA



© WFP / Ziad Rizkallah

## Want to help?

UN staff across the world have stood shoulder-to-shoulder in solidarity with their Lebanese colleagues, and the Lebanese population at large. To find out more about the work of UN agencies in response to the disaster, and to donate, visit <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/08/1069782>.

The UN Staff Union has also set up a [fundraiser](#) to aid in the immediate needs of our ESCWA colleagues. Please feel free to contribute any amount you deem appropriate during this difficult time.



# What We Talk About When We Talk About Sexual Exploitation and Abuse



HAB POST | August 13 2020

Over the course of a mere few months, the COVID-19 pandemic has turned into a global public health, social, and economic crisis. [Reports of sexual exploitation](#), human trafficking, and modern slavery are on the rise as a result of exacerbated poverty, confinement, and increased online activity. To make things worse, when the need and scale of humanitarian response to an event like COVID-19 increases, the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) also increases.

While women and children are particularly vulnerable to SEA, all people have a right to seek and obtain humanitarian, development, or any type of assistance without fear of abuse or exploitation. The UN system works together to develop, implement, and continuously improve measures to

prevent sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). [Earlier this year](#), the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) reminded us that “all people should remain safe from sexual exploitation and abuse while receiving humanitarian aid, including health services and treatment (...). If sexual exploitation and abuse does occur, they should have access to safe and confidential reporting channels and services.”

Truth be told, all of us as UN personnel have an obligation to speak up and act to uphold and enforce a policy of zero tolerance. In 2017, the Secretary-General stated that that “we will not tolerate anyone committing or condoning sexual exploitation and abuse. We will not let anyone cover up these crimes with the United Nations flag”. But what exactly is SEA?

**“We will not tolerate anyone committing or condoning sexual exploitation and abuse. We will not let anyone cover up these crimes with the United Nations flag”.**

António Guterres  
United Nations  
Secretary-General

2017



Sexual exploitation is defined as any actual or attempted abuse of a person in a position of relative vulnerability, power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially, or politically from the sexual exploitation of another. In contrast, abuse is any actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions. That's a mouthful, but remember that SEA occurs when a position of power is used for sexual purposes against a beneficiary or vulnerable member of the community. Sexual harassment, on the other hand, occurs when differences in power between staff members are abused (for instance verbally, through touch, or use of inappropriate images)

## Your duties, your rights



If you have concerns or suspicions about a possible SEA (the perpetrator can be a UN staff member or non-staff personnel, regardless of rank or position), you have a duty to report your concerns to the head of office/mission or another responsible official. You do not need proof before reporting, but reports must be made in good faith. Do not investigate, always maintain strict confidentiality, and always respect the dignity wishes and rights of those affected by SEA. When you report, make sure your statement answers the following questions:

1. Who committed the alleged wrongdoing?
2. Do you know if anyone else was involved? (including their names, titles, and organization)
3. What has happened?
4. Were there any witnesses?
5. When and where did the incident take place?
6. Finally, describe in detail what you know or suspect of the SEA incident.

UN-Habitat is committed to supporting its staff to speak out, to ensuring prompt and effective response to SEA reports, and to protecting staff who come forward. Depending on your concern, you should feel free to reach out to the PSEA Focal Point ([Amy Wood](#)), the Conduct and Discipline Focal Points ([Amy Wood](#) and [Jacqueline Macha](#)), the Sexual Harassment Focal Point ([Angela Mwai](#)), or the Gender Focal Point (also [Angela Mwai](#)). Remember that you are not alone: hundreds of colleagues across the UN system have spoken up – in fact the UN keeps track of [data on all allegations](#) (including cases at UN-Habitat) where you can see in an interactive manner, among others, the nature of allegations, the status of investigation, and the type of assistance provided. So whether you know of a case or are a victim, speak up.

## Speaking of speaking up...

Together with the UN Resident Coordinator office, UN-Habitat is updating its SpeakUP app to include information on the prevention of Gender-based Violence (GBV). An initiative of UN-Habitat, SpeakUP was first designed in 2018 to provide information on the prohibition of discrimination, harassment (including sexual harassment) and abuse of authority in the workplace. It also provided users with ways on reporting, resources, and a list of frequently asked questions on sexual harassment within the United Nations. The newly developed app will include an information pack on staff guidance on the prevention and response to gender-based violence as well as contact information on accessing help and support on GBV related incidences.

### SpeakUP

- Raise awareness on the prevention and prohibition of sexual harassment and abuse in the workplace.
- Provide a single platform, a central repository for users to easily access the necessary information about the rules and regulations that govern this type of misconduct in the United Nations, including steps taken within the UN system to promote gender parity.
- Provide a contact list and information on ways to report such behaviour, to whom and where.
- Access to call or email the 24-hour hotline resource being managed at UN Headquarters.
- Provide a list of frequently asked questions on sexual harassment and abuse.
- Interactive quizzes adapted from the mandatory training on Inspira.

To install SpeakUP on your Android device, search for "SpeakUP" in the [Google Play Store](#). The iOS version is being redeveloped and will be available soon on Apple's App Store. An advance version is available by searching "SpeakUP".



ANDROID APP ON  
Google play



Download on the  
App Store

Talking Head

**James Ohayo**, our sub-editor, shares with us this week his experience of COVID-19 – a personal story made of many other personal realities.



“ One thing the COVID-19 pandemic has brought into sharp relief for me, as I am sure it has for many other colleagues at the Nairobi duty station is this: our lives and our livelihoods can be fickle and tenuous at best. Many of my friends and relatives have been placed on half pay or been sent home without pay “until further notice”. They have little or no hope of ever returning to their jobs as the restaurants, barber shops, hair salons, wholesale and retail businesses, tailoring and taxi services, and many, many other small and medium sized businesses which have closed down are unlikely to ever reopen.

**Given our extended family social support systems, the widespread layoffs have resulted in a significant increase in the levels of poverty and impoverishment in rural parts of Kenya.**

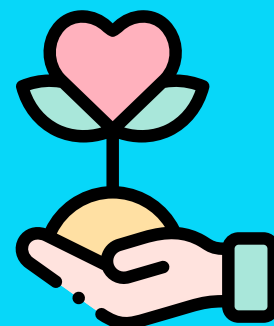
Reality has hit home even harder as I begin to put faces to the deaths wrought by this pandemic. An old schoolmate, a classmate from university, a former colleague, a doctor, a health worker, or a well-known public servant. The trauma of these tragic losses is worsened by the inability of the bereaved to give their loved ones a decent send off.

Given our extended family social support systems, the widespread layoffs have resulted in a significant increase in the levels of poverty and impoverishment in rural parts of Kenya. There has been an exponential increase in the number of relatives and friends ringing me from the village with humble and heart wrenching requests for “something small” to buy some maize flour for the children, fill a long standing prescription from the local health facility, or even replace a few corrugated iron sheets on roofs finally damaged beyond repair by the rains.

I endeavor to live my life with an attitude of gratitude. Because I have so much to be grateful for. But this unprecedented pandemic has brought home to me in a very graphic way just how much more blessed we who work for the United Nations are, compared to many of our brothers and sisters out there. And not necessarily for being any more deserving or better than they are. How I would hope that we might humbly remember this always. Oh, just how much we take for granted!

**James Ohayo,**  
Communication Officer, ERSKID

**This unprecedented pandemic has brought home to me in a very graphic way just how much more blessed we who work for the United Nations are, compared to many of our brothers and sisters out there.**



## Vacancies

**Role**  
Global Future Cities  
Programme Mid-  
Level Public Finance  
Expert  
**Duty Station**  
Nairobi, Kenya  
**Deadline**  
20 August 2020  
[Apply Here](#)

**Role**  
Special Assistant,  
Administration, D1  
**Duty Station**  
Nairobi, Kenya  
**Deadline**  
23 August 2020  
[Apply Here](#)

**Role**  
Intern - Urban  
Innovation for SDGs  
and the New Urban  
Agenda  
**Duty Station**  
Nairobi, Kenya  
**Deadline**  
20 August 2020  
[Apply Here](#)

**Role**  
Programme  
Management Officer,  
Human Settlements,  
P4  
**Duty Station**  
Damascus, Syria  
**Deadline**  
15 August 2020  
[Apply Here](#)

**Role**  
Chief of  
Communications  
(Project Post), P5  
**Duty Station**  
Nairobi, Kenya  
**Deadline**  
18 August 2020  
[Apply Here](#)

**Role**  
Programme  
Management Officer,  
Human Settlements,  
P4  
**Duty Station**  
Maputo, Mozambique  
**Deadline**  
4 September 2020  
[Apply Here](#)

**Role**  
Consultor economista  
de apoyo  
**Duty Station**  
Home based  
**Deadline**  
16 August 2020  
[Apply Here](#)

**Role**  
Consultor experto en  
desarrollo rural  
**Duty Station**  
Home based  
**Deadline**  
16 August 2020  
[Apply Here](#)

**Role**  
Associate Programme  
Management Officer,  
P2  
**Duty Station**  
Nairobi, Kenya  
**Deadline**  
19 September 2020  
[Apply Here](#)

**Role**  
Global Future Cities  
Programme Senior  
Resilience Expert  
**Duty Station**  
Home based  
**Deadline**  
13 August 2020  
[Apply Here](#)

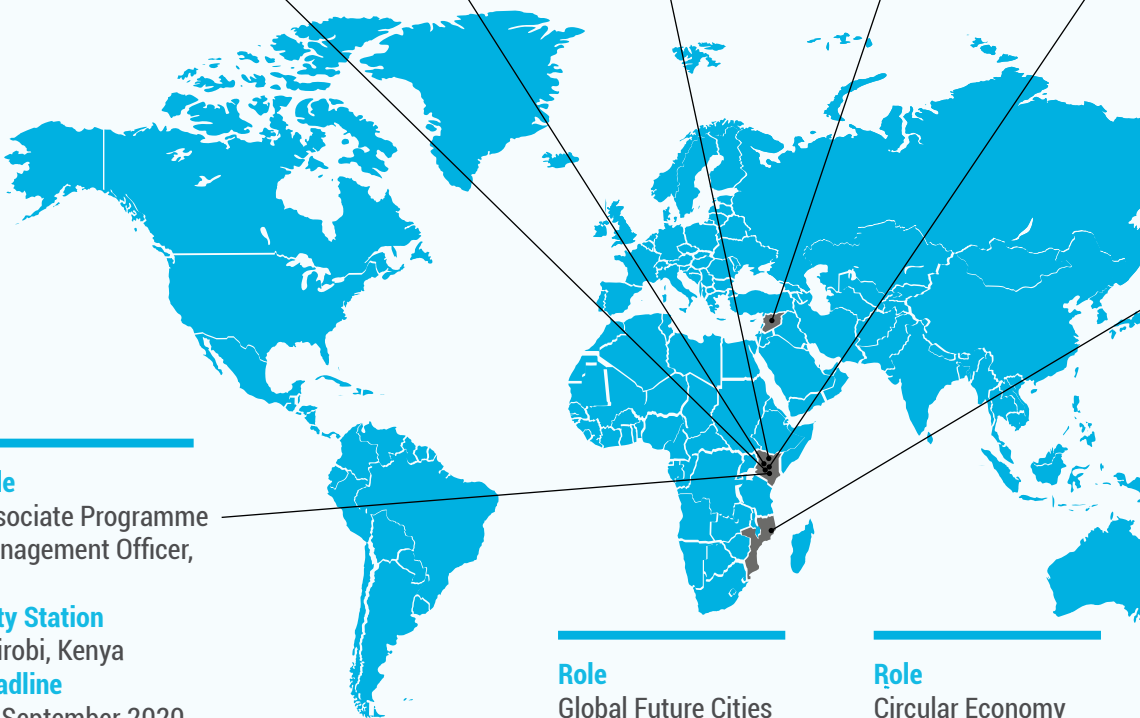
**Role**  
Circular Economy  
Consultant  
**Duty Station**  
Home based  
**Deadline**  
14 August 2020  
[Apply Here](#)

**Role**  
Urban Planner –  
National Economic  
Consultant  
**Duty Station**  
Home based  
**Deadline**  
13 August 2020  
[Apply Here](#)

**Role**  
Urban Planner –  
National expert  
**Duty Station**  
Home based  
**Deadline**  
14 August 2020  
[Apply Here](#)

**Role**  
Global Future Cities  
Programme Senior  
Public Finance Expert  
**Duty Station**  
Home based  
**Deadline**  
20 August 2020  
[Apply Here](#)

**Role**  
Analysis & Reporting  
Consultant  
Urban Planning - SDG  
Research Expert  
**Duty Station**  
Home based  
**Deadline**  
17 August 2020  
[Apply Here](#)



# Upcoming events and corporate calendar



## UN HABITAT



### Digital Photo Exhibition: Journey to Peace - 75 Years: Walking the Legacy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

On 6 August 1945, the world's first atomic bombing happened in Hiroshima. Three days later, a second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. To commemorate the anniversary of these harrowing events, staff members from various organizations (UNEP, UN-Habitat, IUCN Eastern & Southern Africa Regional Office, UNITAR, UNKLESA, UNIDO, CMS) and the Embassy of Japan in Kenya are organizing a series of events in August. A month-long digital exhibition to raise awareness on the impacts of nuclear weapons and associated radiation on human health and the environment will be presented. 20 posters donated by the city of Nagasaki, drawings by survivors donated by the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, and testimonials from the survivors will be made available to everyone. View the exhibition [here](#).



### Global Virtual Workshop: Building Urban Economic Resilience During and After COVID-19

UN-Habitat's Urban Resilience Hub, together with its partners UNCDF and the UN Regional Commissions, is organizing workshops focused on urban economic recovery and resilience aimed at ensuring that local economic recovery is sustainable and inclusive. The second part of the workshop will take place on 17 August for participants from Latin America, Africa and Arab regions. The three-hour session will include a keynote speech, an introduction to urban economic resilience and its conceptual framework, an overview of global practices for local economic recovery and resilience, regional case studies, and a panel dialogue. Find out more and register [here](#).

## Other organizers



### 2020 Smart City Mayors' Summit Online

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly affected people's daily lives, governmental operations, and most cities' economies. How can technology help cities recover? The first three sessions of a series of four organized by the Smart City Summit and Expo (SCSE) in cooperation with the Taipei City Government will take place on [13](#), [18](#) and [19 August](#) and will gather city leaders from around the world. Registration, details and the schedule for these sessions are available at the above links.



### The 4th International Conference on Smart Grid and Smart Cities (ICSGC 2020)

For the past few years, smart grids have been a major topic of research and development at both industrial and academic levels. The smart grid is envisaged to be the next generation electric grid for Smart Cities. Yet the prospect of this transformation presents numerous challenges. Find out more about the conference, its programme and registration details [here](#) and [here](#) respectively.



### World Humanitarian Day

World Humanitarian Day (WHD) is held every year on 19 August to pay tribute to aid workers who risk their lives in humanitarian service and to rally support for people affected by crises around the world. This year, aid workers are overcoming unprecedented hurdles in the fight against COVID-19. The United Nations will be paying special tribute to the real-life heroes who have committed their lives to helping others in the most extreme circumstances throughout the world, presenting their inspiring personal stories of perseverance despite the odds. You can learn more [here](#) and follow the global conversation through [#RealLifeHeroes](#).





## Learning

### **The Psychosocial Effects of a Pandemic**

The current pandemic is influencing the psychological lives of millions around the world, inducing anxiety, paranoia, social isolation, stress and more. To better understand and manage these effects, the UN offices in New York and Geneva are hosting a series of training workshops on topics including understanding personal resilience, managing difficult emotions, coping with change, tips for isolated individuals, and getting better sleep. Courses will take place between 11-26 August; the full schedule and registration links are available on Iseek.

### **Performance Management for Managers and Supervisors**

This facilitated workshop on performance management will cover Inspira's Electronic Performance Management system (ePAS) and is specifically focused on the roles of managers and supervisors in promoting a culture of high performance and personal development, as well as understanding the accountability of managers for their staff.

It will cover the ePAS process, cycle and deadlines as well as required documentation. The two-part training will take place from on 25-26 August. All eligible staff can enroll through Inspira using code LMS-1090.

### **The Blue Line Toolbox**

In April, UNSSC launched The Blue Line, a global online learning hub open to all UN staff interested in personalized, self-directed learning on management, leadership, and innovation. The latest feature of The Blue Line is the Toolbox – a platform which offers a selection of free management-related tools developed with contributions from UN colleagues across the system. Each tool is offered in a bite-sized format, focused on applicability and flexibility. Topics covered include building trust as a leader, motivation and engagement, relationship building, and leadership expectations. You can find out more and access these tools [here](#).



## Participate!

Want your story featured? Submit your ideas or reach out to us at [unhabitat-habpost@un.org](mailto:unhabitat-habpost@un.org).

### Editorial Team

#### **Advisors:**

Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director  
Victor Kisob, Deputy Executive Director

**Leads:** Neil Khor, Amy Wood

**Coordinator and editor:** Rachad Nassar

**Sub-Editor:** James Ohayo

**Design & Layout:** Michael Lusaba

**Contributors:** Cynthia Mbutia

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