

Clear Check

The United Nations' efforts to combat Sexual Exploitation and Abuse / Sexual Harassment

Background

Clear Check is a highly secure online platform of a centralized database. It permits to share information amongst UN entities, system-wide, on individuals (former UN staff and UN related personnel) who have established allegations related to sexual harassment (SH), sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (SEA) with the aim to prevent re-employing them within the UN system.

Clear Check contains records of:

- a) former UN staff or UN personnel against whom allegations of SEA were substantiated following an investigation and/or disciplinary process;
- b) former UN staff or UN personnel who resigned or separated while the subject of a pending investigation and/or disciplinary process for SEA;
- c) Individuals against whom allegations of SH, while in service of an entity, were substantiated by a final determination of SH and whose working relationship was terminated by that entity as a result (i.e. final determination of SH);

“Opt-in” Option

- d) Individuals against whom allegations of SH, while in service of an entity and pending at separation from that same entity, and for which it has been decided to initiate or continue an investigation against a subject -- and in considering whether the allegations of SH, if confirmed, would have warranted the termination of the working relationship with the individual.

The use of Clear Check follows two sets of guidelines:

1. **SH component:** The ‘Expanded’ Guidelines was endorsed by the Working Group (WG) of the CEB Task Force on SH on **18 December 2018**;
2. **SEA component:** The second Guidelines edition was endorsed by the Secretary-General’s High-Level Steering Group (HLSG) on **27 July 2018**. This version, from the first edition, broadens the scope to include all uniformed personnel.

Status

- Clear Check is operational (since 28 June 2018);
- **25** UN Entities that have committed participation with Clear Check:
 - a) 1 UN Secretariat:
 - UNHQ [23 Departments & Offices]
 - OAH (*Offices-away-from HQ*) [7 Offices]
 - Economic Commissions [5 Offices]
 - b) 12 UN Funds and Programmes (*including Research & Training Offices/ Other Bodies*)
 - c) 12 UN Specialised and Related Agencies (12 out of 16)
- **14** UN Entities/Offices have entered subjects in Clear Check;
- **20** UN Entities have conducted screening via Clear Check;
- **327** subjects in Clear Check: **107** related to SH and **220** related to SEA;
- The total count of screening requests is **91,051**
- The total count of verification requests is **897**
- The total count of matches found to be a “real” match (a “hit”/ same individual) is **1**

Un Entities	SH	SEA	Total	Screening
FAO	5	0	5	Yes
IAEA	0	0	0	Yes
IFAD	3	0	3	Yes
IOM	5	5	10	Yes
UN Women	3	1	4	Yes
UNAIDS	0	0	0	Yes
UNCTAD	0	0	0	Yes
UNDP	7	4	11	Yes
UNESCO	1	0	1	Yes
UNFCCC	0	0	0	Yes
UNFPA	5	2	7	Yes
UNHCR	19	16	35	Yes
UNICEF	10	2	12	Yes
UNOPS	2	1	3	Yes
UNRWA	1	14	15	Yes
UN Secretariat	29	36	65	Yes
UN Secretariat PKOs & SPMs	3	124	127	Yes
UNU	0	0	0	Yes
UNV-Bonn	0	11	11	Yes
WFP	14	4	17	Yes
WIPO	0	0	0	Yes
Total	107	220	327	

DMSPC/OHR has been exploring the feasibility of further developments and expansion of ClearCheck to include other types of misconduct. However, as we are still at the early stage of the system's usage, it is critical that we have first have a good understanding of its performance on SEA/SH over a period of time before committing to expansions.

DMSPC/OHR has also explored opportunities for expansion to include external partners. Discussions are ongoing for example with DFID/UK about similar / complementary systems and mechanisms they are working on with a variety of aid agencies and Interpol. However, there are some key legal challenges around confidentiality and unanswered questions about how agencies can appropriately share information outside their organisation that will need to be resolved.