

Module 2: Mandated Tasks of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations

Lesson 2.5



Protection of Civilians



Relevance

Protection of Civilians (POC) is:

- A priority for the Security Council
- A responsibility for all peacekeeping personnel



Learning Outcomes

Learners will:

- Explain the POC mandate
- List examples of threats civilians face in armed conflict
- Describe the range of protection partners that operate alongside UN peacekeeping operations
- Explain the DPKO-DFS Operational Concept
- List actions to implement the POC mandate



Learning Overview

1. Definitions
2. Importance of POC
3. Legal Framework
4. Protection Partners
5. DPKO-DFS Policy on POC
6. DPKO-DFS Operational Concept on POC
7. Implementing the POC Mandate
8. Roles & Responsibilities
9. What Individual Peacekeeping Personnel Can Do



Critical Incidents: Bystander or First-Responder?

Instructions:

- Consider the images of critical incidents
- What would you do?
- Compare with threats to civilians in armed conflict

Time: 5 minutes

- Brainstorming: 3 minutes
- Discussion: 2 minutes



1. Definitions

POC Mandate

- “All necessary means, up to and including the **use of deadly force**, aimed at preventing or responding to **threats of physical violence** against civilians, within capabilities and areas of operations, and without prejudice to the responsibility of the host government”.



Standard Mandate Language

Instructions:

- Explain “threats of physical violence”
- Explain “all necessary means”
- Explain “use of deadly force (as a last resort)”
- Explain “responsibility of the host government”

Time: 5 minutes

- Brainstorming: 3 minutes
- Discussion: 2 minutes



Civilian

- Any person who is not or is no longer directly participating in hostilities or other acts of violence





Threats

To life	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Arbitrary, summary or extrajudicial executions▪ Murder (from individual killings, to systematic violence and genocide)
To physical integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment▪ Rape and other forms of sexual violence (from opportunistic, to widespread and systematic use)▪ Abduction▪ Deliberate deprivation (of food, water, other goods or services necessary for survival)
To freedom	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Forced disappearance▪ Arbitrary/illegal arrest and detention▪ Restrictions on freedom of movement (including forced displacement)▪ Forced labour or recruitment
To property	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Theft, extortion (e.g. illegal taxation)▪ Looting



Vulnerability Factors

- Individual, community factors
- Environmental factors
- Access to assistance
- Self-sufficiency



Vulnerability and Threats

Instructions:

- Consider the case study
- Identify the threats
- Identify vulnerabilities of the civilian population
- Which civilians are most vulnerable?

Time: 10 minutes

- Group work: 5-7 minutes
- Discussion: 3 minutes



2. Importance of Protecting Civilians

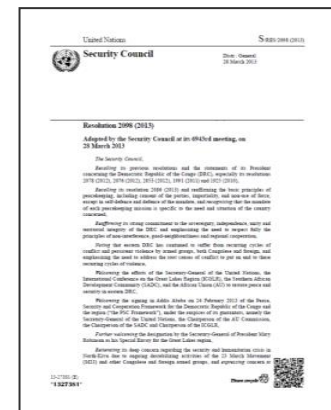
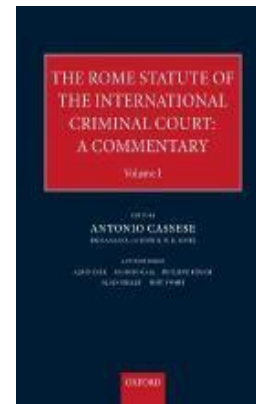
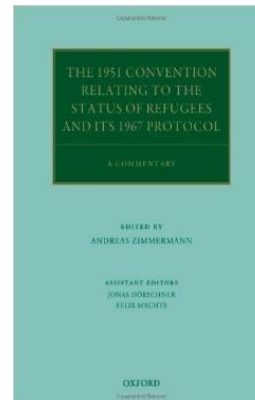
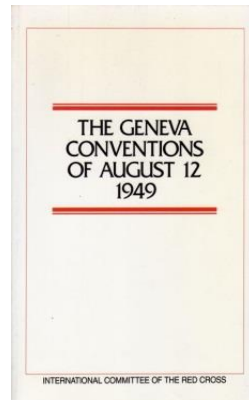
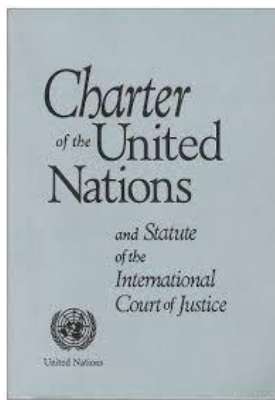
- Harmed unintentionally
- Deliberate targets
- Women and children suffer disproportionately





3. Legal Framework

- International Law
- Security Council resolutions
- National laws





4. Protection Partners

- Host state government
- Local communities
- UN partners – UNHCR, OHCHR, OCHA, UNICEF
- ICRC
- Non-UN military forces
- NGOs, civil society organizations – national, international



5. DPKO-DFS Policy on POC

Guiding Principles

- Primary responsibility of host government
- Grounded in international law
- Whole of mission approach
- Priority mandate
- Cooperation with humanitarian actors
- Obligation of peacekeeping personnel
- Community-based approach
- Impartiality
- Gender perspective and child protection concerns



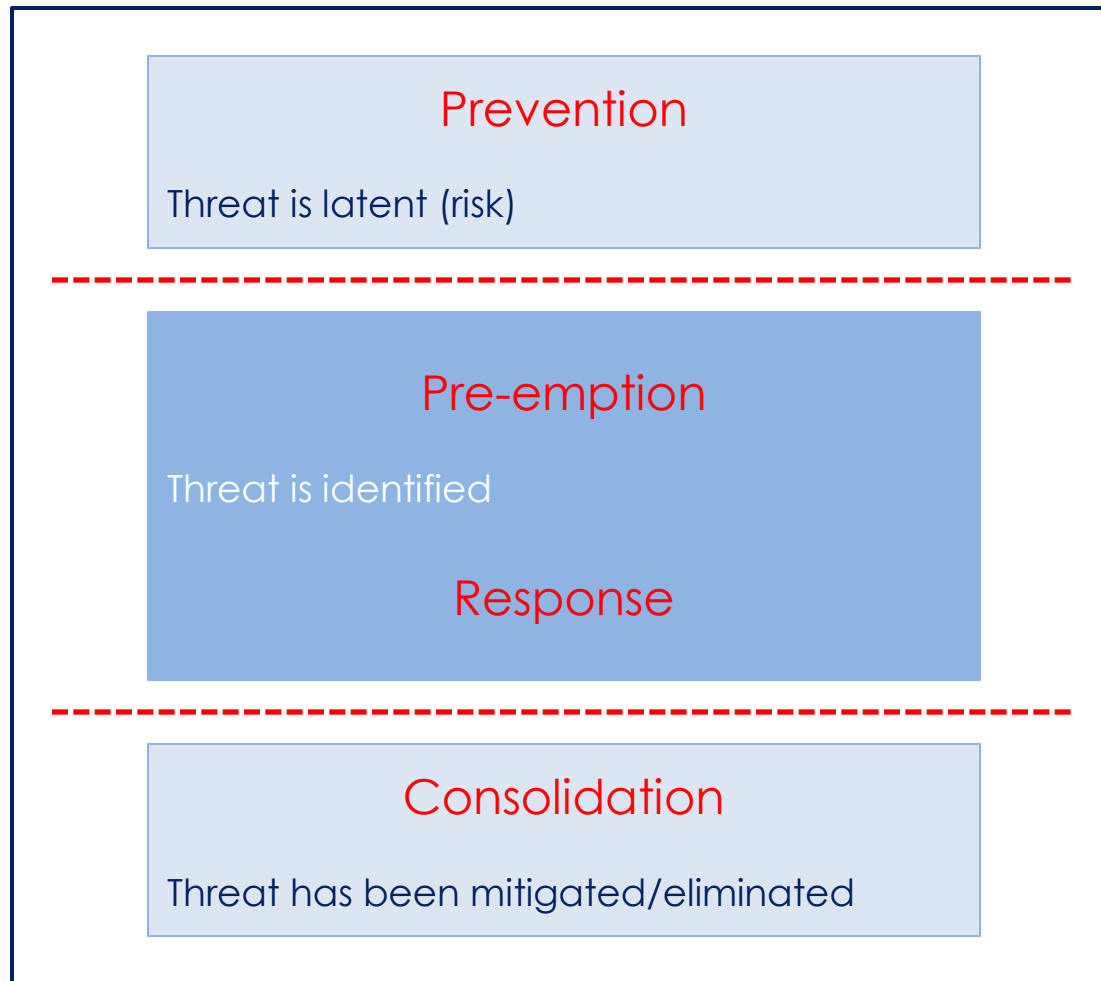
6. DPKO-DFS Operational Concept on POC

Three Tiers

- **Tier I:** Protection through dialogue and engagement
- **Tier II:** Provision of physical protection
- **Tier III:** Establishment of a protective environment



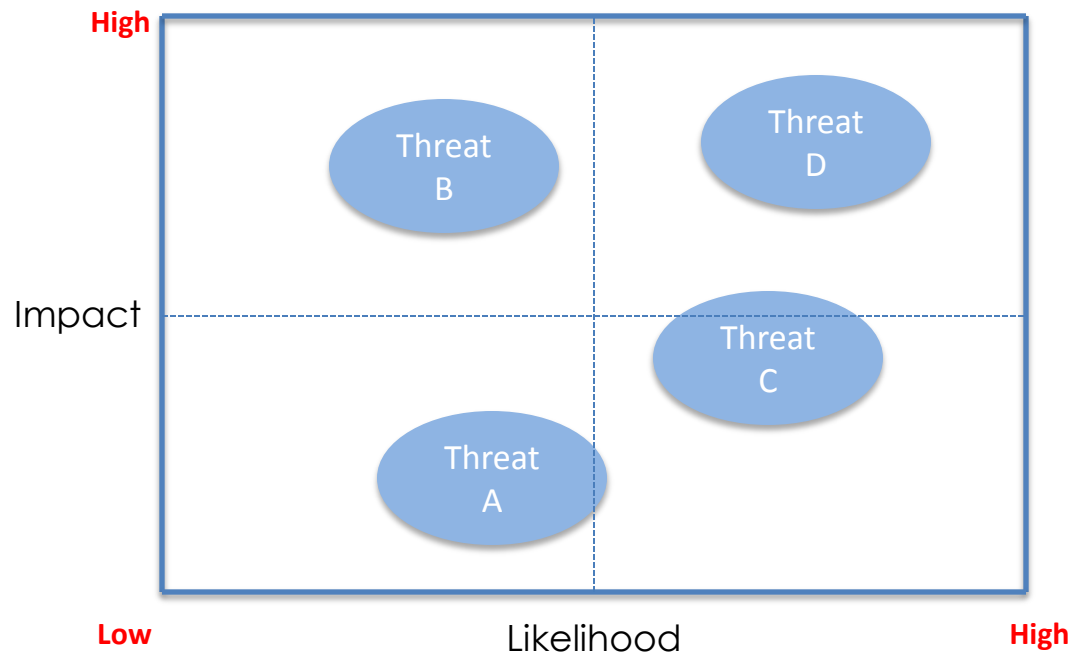
Four Phases of Response





7. Implementing the POC Mandate

Threat Assessment & Risk Analysis





POC Response Planning

- **POC Strategy:** Primary tool at mission level to implement POC mandate and plan responses to POC threats
- Operational level guidance, joint action, coordination for all mission components



Coordination with Protection Partners

National Authorities:	Political engagements; security sector reform programmes; targeted advocacy; joint operations or joint patrolling
Local Communities:	Dialogue with local population; mission-wide community engagement cooperation mechanisms such as Joint Protection Teams, Community Liaison Assistants, Community Alert Networks, localized protection strategies
Humanitarian Community:	Protection Cluster led by UNHCR
Parallel Forces:	Information sharing and operational planning on a case-by-case basis, including HOM exchanges and working-level cooperation



Four Phases of Response

Instructions:

- Consider the case study
- Assess the threat in more detail
- Identify actions for the mission at each phase
- Identify roles of military, police and civilians

Time: 10 minutes

- Group work: 5-7 minutes
- Discussion: 3 minutes



8. Roles & Responsibilities

Protection Adviser

- Supports and advises mission leadership
- Development and regular review of mission-wide POC strategy
- Advisory, coordination, monitoring & reporting role
- Integrates POC concerns across the mission

Goal

Protection of
Civilians



Other Units

Women Protection Adviser

Child Protection

Human Rights

Gender Adviser

Civil Affairs

Political Affairs

Rule of Law/Judicial Affairs

SSR

DDR

JOC/JMAC

Public Information

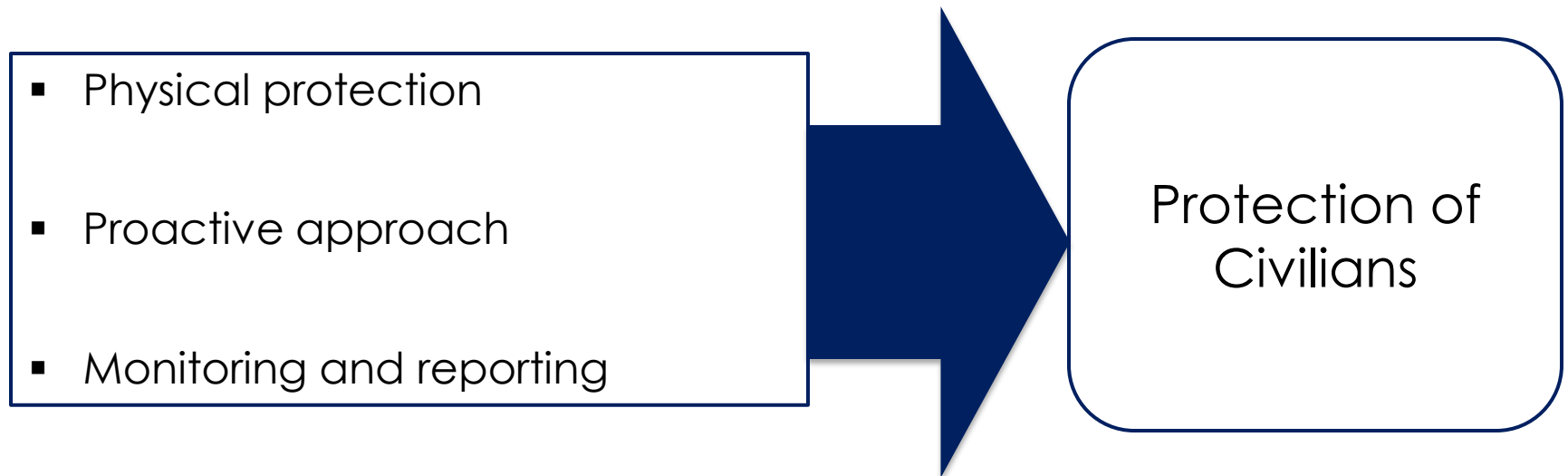
Mission Support

DSRSG/RC/HC

SRSO's Office



Special Roles of Military & Police





Joint Protection Teams

- Coordinated by POC Adviser
- Composed of military, police, civilians
- Gathers information on protection situations



9. What Individual Peacekeeping Personnel Can Do

- Engage local communities
- Understand POC mandate, environment, threats
- Cooperate with mission components and partners
- Interpret the POC mandate pro-actively, try to prevent threats
- Respond, intervene



Summary of Key Messages

- POC mandate – all necessary means to prevent and respond to threats of physical violence against civilians
- Threats to civilians – life, physical integrity, freedom, property from state/non-state actors
- Protection partners – host state government, local communities, UNHCR, OHCHR, OCHA, UNICEF, ICRC, parallel forces, NGOs, CSOs
- Take action – engage local communities, follow POC strategy, coordinate, intervene



Questions



Learning Activity

Learning Evaluation