



Module 1: ROLE OF CHILD PROTECTION STAFF IN UNITED NATIONS PEACE OPERATIONS



Learning objectives

By the end of this module, learners will be able to:

- Describe the added-value of having child protection staff in United Nations peace operations
- Explain the roles and responsibilities of child protection staff in United Nations peace operations
- Adapt these roles and responsibilities to the specific mission context



FILM: A CHILD'S FATE



Group discussion

- What are the benefits of having child protection staff in missions?
- What would happen if there were no child protection staff?



Key benefits of including child protection staff in United Nations peace operations

- Tangible outcomes for children
- Additional entry point for engaging with government and armed forces and groups
- Political leverage through Security Council



The Security Council Mandate

United Nations

S/RES/2225 (2015)



Security Council

Distr.: General
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15. *Recognizes* the role of United Nations peacekeeping operations and political missions in the protection of children, particularly **the crucial role of child protection advisers in mainstreaming child protection and leading monitoring, prevention and reporting efforts in missions**, and in this regard reiterates its decision to continue the inclusion of specific provisions for the protection of children in the mandates of all relevant United Nations peacekeeping operations and political missions...



Foundations of the child protection mandate

- Security Council resolutions on
 - children and armed conflict
 - mandate of United Nations peace operation
- 2017 Child Protection Policy



Child protection staff core functions

Mainstreaming

- Advising senior leadership
- Training
- Organizational reform

Monitoring and reporting

Advocacy

Engaging with parties to conflict

Coordination



Every mission is a different experience

“In a traditional mission, sometimes it can be a struggle to introduce new concepts of Peacekeeping such as child protection.”
- Svjetlana Jovic, Lebanon

“Because of the extreme security situation, a prison is the only setting I have to chat with children. These interactions ... remind me of what we are doing and why are doing it.”
- Dee Brillenburg Wurth, Afghanistan

“I met one former child soldier, while visiting a school... The student ... said, “this man helped me by removing me from the army when I was very young.”
- James Gatgong, Sudan

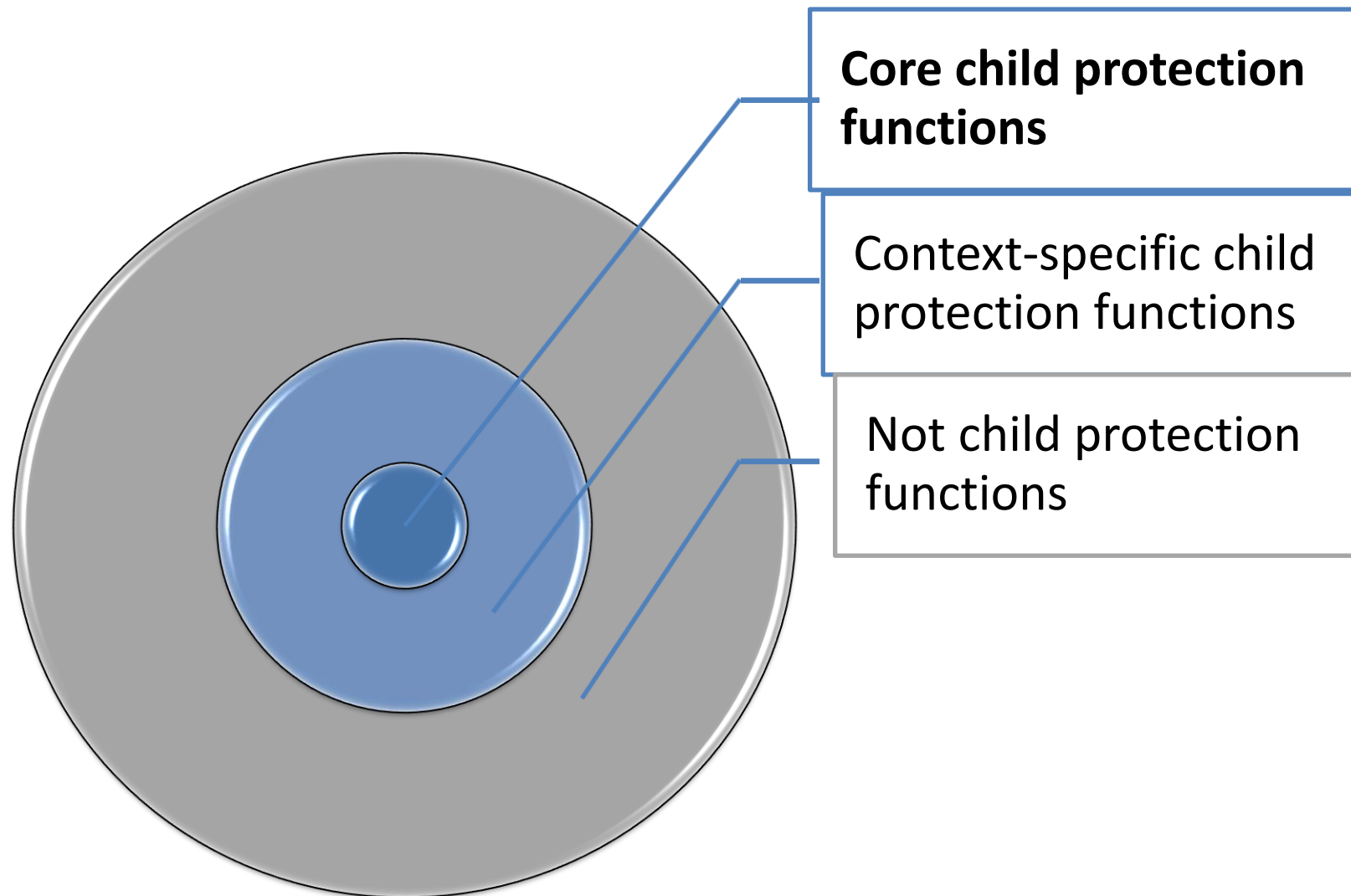


Key influencing factors

- Conflict context
- Operational setting
- Mission priorities and set-up
- Child protection mandate and capacities



Determining when to act



Takeaways

- Having child protection staff brings numerous benefits to the mission
- Child protection staff derive their mandate directly from the Security Council
- Child protection work may differ depending on the mission context
- It's important to focus on the five core child protection functions

