Module 7: PREVENTION

Learning objectives

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

- Explain their specific roles and responsibilities in relation to prevention

- Identify threats and risks to children in a mission area

- Describe how to leverage and contribute to a mission's early warning systems

- Effectively communicate with parties to conflict and local communities on prevention

What is prevention in child protection?

Prevention aims to identify and address threats and risks of grave violations against children *before* they occur.

Threats and risks to children (examples)

- Unusual presence of a group of children at the market

- Lack of adequate educational opportunities

- Weak rule of law and impunity

- Planned occupation of a school by armed force/group

Short-and long-term prevention approaches

Threat is clearly identified & likely to occur → Short-term approach

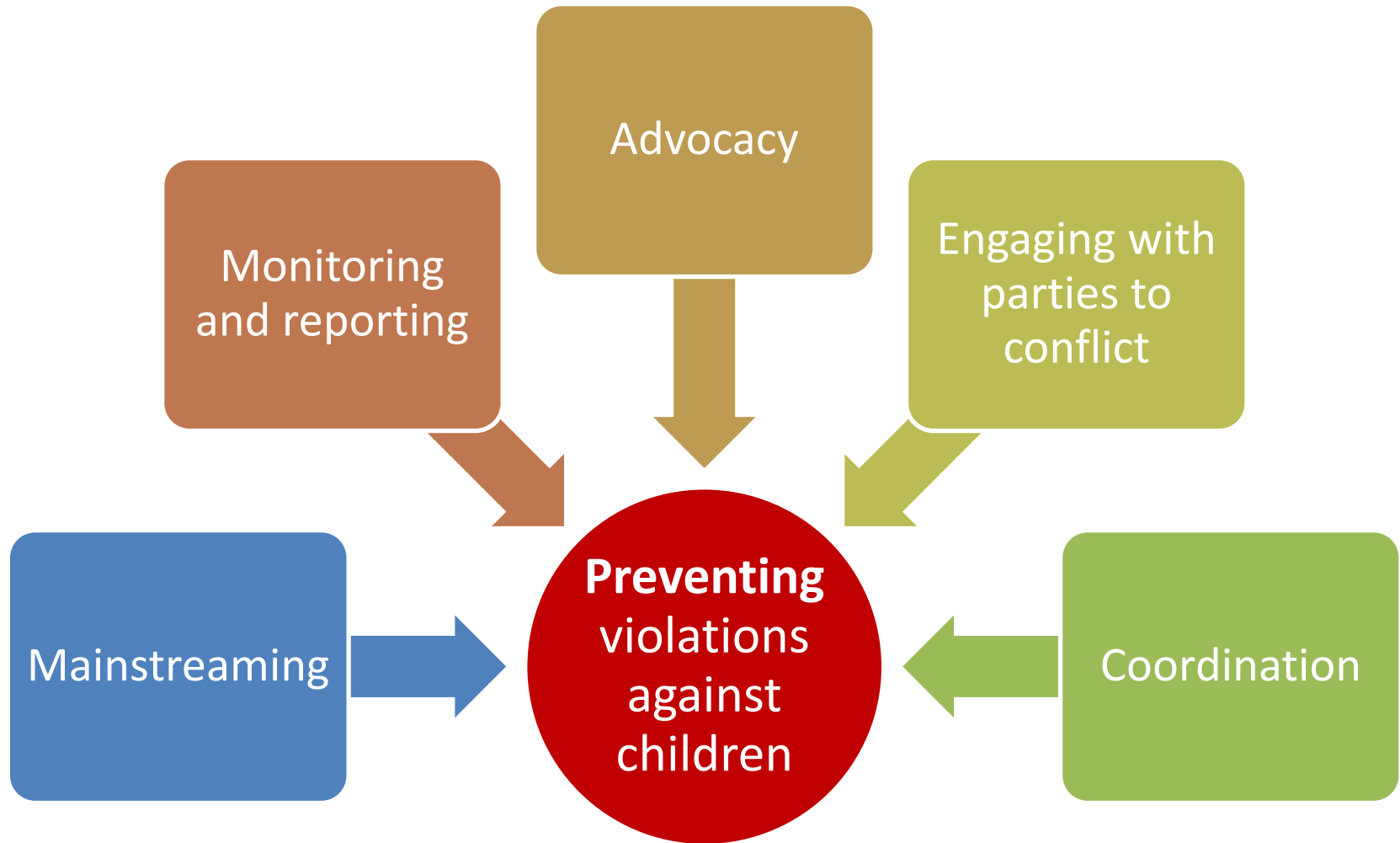**Threat is not clearly identified** → Long-term approach

Group discussion

- What are you doing to prevent grave violations against children?

- What do you think you should you be doing?

- What keeps you from taking these actions?

What is your role in preventing violations against children?

- Advocacy
- Monitoring and reporting
- Engaging with parties to conflict
- Mainstreaming
- **Preventing** violations against children
- Coordination

Identifying risks for children that you should focus on

Example 1:
Is it a risk to children that you should focus on?

An NGO partners witnessed 5 boys accompanying members of armed groups in their pick-up truck, on the way to a mine company. According to the partner, the children perform small tasks for the company in exchange for food.

Example 2:
Is it a risk to children that you should focus on?

UNPOL reports an increased presence of street children in the city, some of whom have engaged in criminal behaviors. According to UNPOL, the State police routinely arrest these children when crimes are committed in areas where they are known to gather.

Example 3:
Is it a risk to children that you should focus on?

Community chiefs have shared concerns with the mission about disappearances of children, which they believe may be linked to the recruitment drive by armed groups. The Protection Working Group indicated that they will follow up on the concern.

Which risks to children should you focus on?

Risks resulting in:

- Any of the six grave violations;

- Other conflict-related child protection priorities

- Protection issues for children related to United Nations peace operations

Different types of risk factors

Armed forces/groups

UN Mission

Local context

The specific vulnerabilities of children

Which graph depicts which grave violations?

A

B

C

D

Global data on four grave violation
(disaggregated by sex)

| Abduction | Recruitment and use | Killing and maiming | Rape and sexual violence |

Chart 1 (Abduction): Boys 80%, Unknown 1%, Girls 19%
Chart 2 (Recruitment and use): Boys 84%, Unknown 5%, Girls 11%
Chart 3 (Killing and maiming): Boys 44%, Unknown 39%, Girls 17%
Chart 4 (Rape and sexual violence): Boys 1%, Unknown 12%, Girls 87%
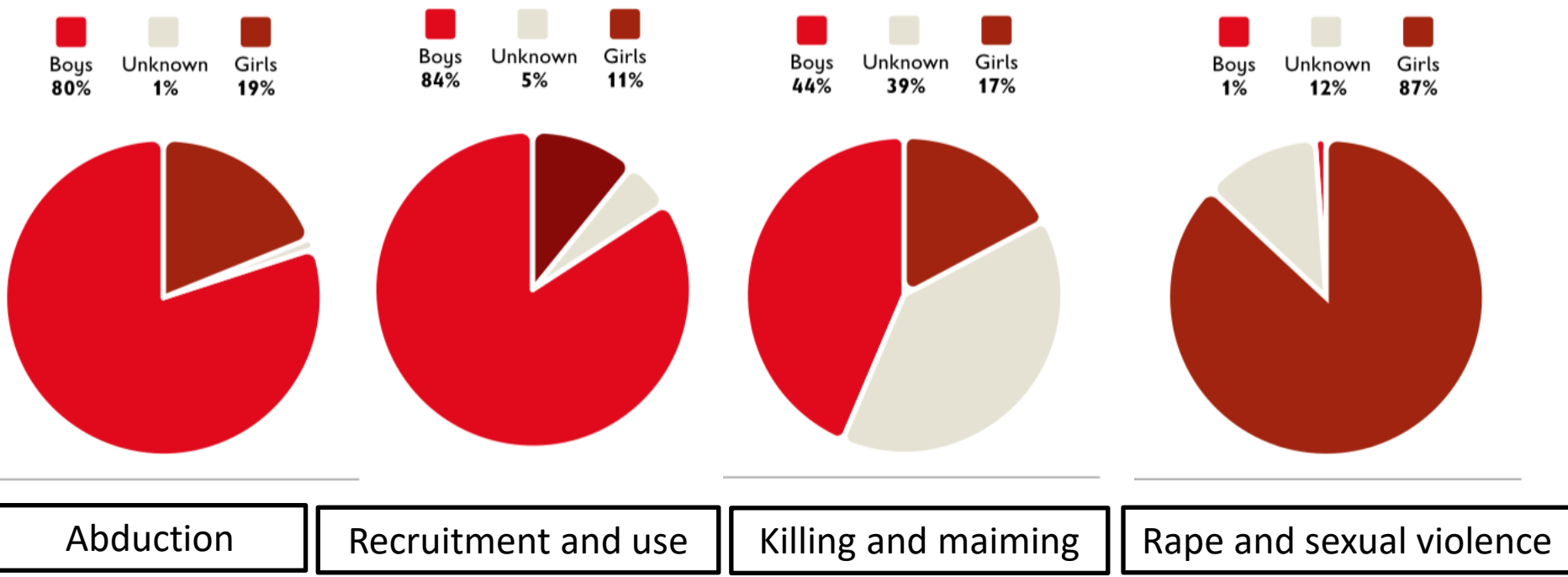
Prevention and mitigation measures

| Type of risks	Risk factors	Prevention/mitigation measures
Risks related to **ARMED FORCES/GROUPS**	• •	• •
Risks related to the **MISSION**	• •	• •
Risks related to **CHILDREN**	• •	• •
Risks related to **LOCAL CONTEXT**	• •	• •

Early warning mechanisms

- Gather, share and trigger responses to information on any **serious and credible threat** from non-State armed groups and/or State authorities that may put at risk the **physical integrity of civilians**, including children.

How EW systems work
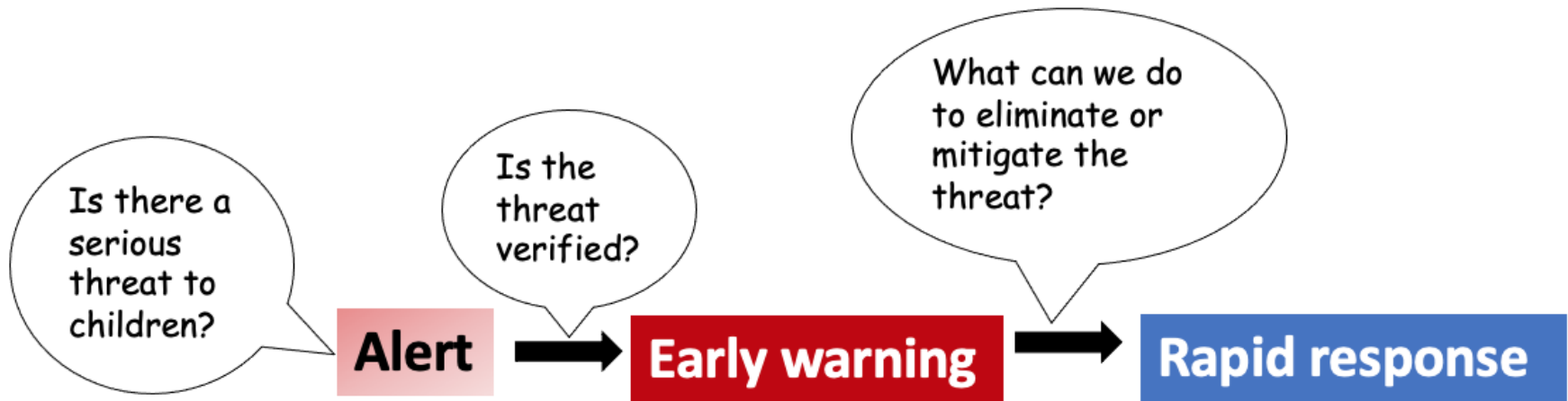
What is your role in EW systems?

Contribute

Leverage

EW systems

Prevent grave violations against children
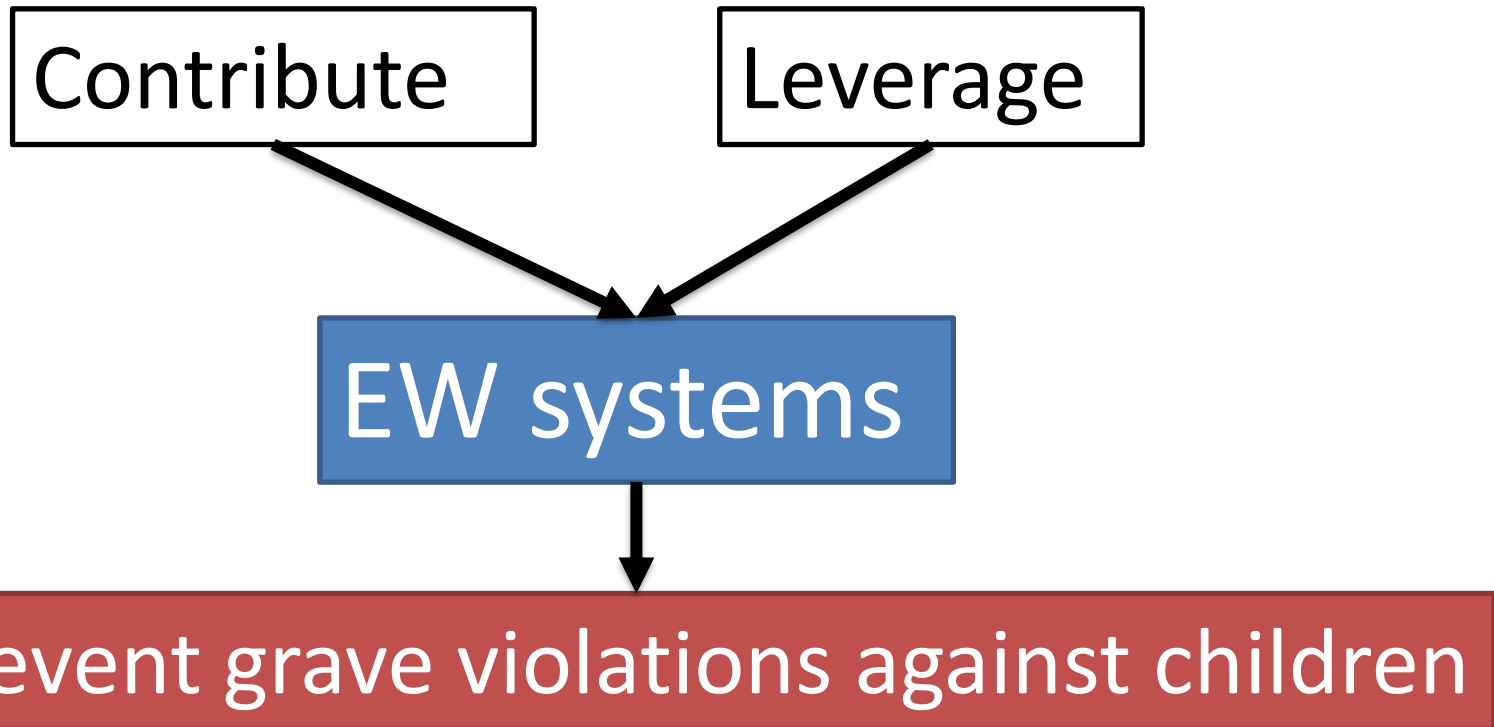
Takeaways

- Child protection staff have a critical role in preventing grave violations.

- Threats and risks for children may vary in terms of their specificity, causes, likelihood, impact, and other factors; different children may face different types of threats and risks.

- Child protection staff should leverage and contribute to the mission's early warning system.

- Effective communication on prevention requires building trusting relations with parties to conflict and local actors.

- All prevention efforts require coordination within the mission and with other external actors, including United entities and local actors.