

Module 2



How to Support Child-friendly Prevention and Diversion

Assessment



Distribute the assessment for Module 2 to participants and give them 15 minutes to answer the questions. Then distribute the answer sheet and ask participants to work in pairs and correct each other's answers.

Note that the questions relate not only to the content of the module, but also to the knowledge and skills that should have been part of previous training.

- 1) A boy is accused of physically assaulting another boy. Should diversion measures be considered for the boy who is suspected of having sexually exploited the other?
 - a. No, because the victim is another child.
 - b. Yes, as all crimes committed by children should be immediately dismissed in their best interests.
 - c. Yes, diversion measures should be considered within the parameters of national legislation, if the conditions to allow the boy and his parents to agree on such measures are met, if it can be demonstrated that diversion is appropriate to address the individual needs of the boy, in particular promoting his reintegration, and if diversion responds to the needs of society at large.
 - d. No, as agreeable conditions can never be met in cases of sexual violence.

- 2) To prevent recruitment and use of children by armed forces and armed groups, UNPOL can:
 - a. If its mandate allows, conduct additional joint patrols with the host-State police in areas where children could be recruited.
 - b. Visit schools to raise awareness among children about recruitment strategies and the protection mechanisms available to them.
 - c. Engage in dialogue with armed groups to encourage them not to recruit children.

- d. Investigate recent cases of alleged recruitment on site with witness accounts so as to document recruitment patterns that can inform prevention strategies.
- 3) Early warning encompasses monitoring factors that can expose children to conflict-related violence. Which action is inappropriate as part of the planning and early warning stages?
- a. Helping to integrate child protection in all relevant policies, strategies and plans of peace operations.
 - b. Collecting data to inform the decision-making process with evidence on child protection concerns.
 - c. Raising awareness about concrete actions that can improve child protection.
 - d. Reporting the six grave violations against children through the United Nations Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism.
- 4) The host-State police noticed that more girls had entered into conflict with the law in the past two months, while the armed conflict has put financial pressure on families. A prevention strategy would NOT include:
- a. Support to the host-State police in conducting gender-responsive engagement with girls in the community about the factors that may expose them to enter into conflict with the law, so as to inform prevention strategies.
 - b. Support to the host-State police to eliminate the influence of all religious, traditional and non-formal actors in the girls' lives. Since these actors are non-formal, they hinder official prevention strategies and compromise the rule of law in favour of children's rights.
 - c. Support to the host-State police in coordinating with social actors to identify and promote alternatives available to girls to address the causes that may lead them to enter into conflict with the law.
 - d. Support to the host-State police in outreach with the media to raise awareness about risks and discuss consequences and alternatives.

- 5) Your UNPOL colleague says that diversion measures cannot be applied in this peace operation because the legal system in the host country is based on civil law. Which one of these answers is adequate?
- a. Your colleague is right; in some countries, the police do not have decision-making powers with regard to diversion, therefore a case immediately enters judicial proceedings in the hands of the prosecutor.
 - b. Your colleague is wrong; it does not matter what type of legal system is in effect, all cases should be diverted by the police, as provided for in international norms and standards.
 - c. Your colleague is right; some legal systems do not give that power to the police. UNPOL does not have an executive mandate and should not waste time promoting measures that have no basis in the national justice system.
 - d. Your colleague is wrong; diversion measures may vary in their application according to legislation and the role of prosecutors and police in a particular country, but the police always play a central role in documenting the contexts and options for diversion, even if it is the prosecutor who makes the decision.
- 6) If a child has served his/her full sentence and is released from detention, is it still relevant to devise a prevention strategy?
- a. Yes, because the police should consider the risks of recidivism, as well as the risks posed to the child by his/her family, community, peers and society at large, which could cause harm, including discrimination, ostracization and exploitation.
 - b. Yes, because even if the sentence is completed, the child was guilty of a crime and should be monitored by the police as a possible suspect in any future crimes committed in the community.
 - c. No, since the crime has already been committed, it is too late to prevent it from happening.
 - d. No, the child has paid the price to society and should now be set free.

- 7) Can detention be used as a child protection measure?
- a. Yes, in cases where the police believe that the child is guilty, detention can protect the child against retaliation from his/her family and the community.
 - b. Yes, if the police believe that the child has nowhere to go, it may be best to keep him/her in detention to provide shelter.
 - c. Yes, according to international norms and standards, in cases where the police believe that the child may be a threat to others or to himself/herself, detention can be used as a last resort for 72 hours maximum, until an adequate solution is found with other child protection actors.
 - d. Yes, when the child has been involved in a crime, detention can be used so long as psychologists prove that the child is not a threat to the community.
- 8) The Child Protection Adviser in the United Nations peace operation tells you that he/she has heard from credible sources that children in your duty station could be abducted in the next few days. What should you do?
- a. Rapidly inform key people responsible for the protection of children, like village chiefs, teachers, women groups and the host-State police.
 - b. Coordinate with the UNPOL Child Protection Focal Point, so that he/she can inform the host-State police while you liaise directly with key people responsible for the protection of children, such as village chiefs, teachers and women groups.
 - c. Coordinate with UNPOL's internal chain of command and the UNPOL Child Protection Focal Point to inform the host-State police and support them in liaising with key people responsible for the protection of children, such as village chiefs, teachers and women's groups.
 - d. Investigate the source of the information and be prepared to monitor and report this grave violation against children through the United Nations Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism.