

# Module 5



## How to Collaborate on and Coordinate Child Protection in a United Nations Peace Operation

### Assessment – Answers

- 1) As a UNPOL officer in a peace operation, with whom should you coordinate when you have information regarding child protection?
  - d. With the UNPOL child protection focal point, ensuring that the Child Protection Adviser is also informed, either by you or by the UNPOL child protection focal point. The supervisor must also be informed.



*Internal communication is equally important as intra-mission communication. UNPOL must clarify communication procedures to ensure that all relevant persons in the duty station are informed in a proper way.*

- 2) The court has to rule on the case of a child who has lost both his mother and his father. One of the child's relatives lives in the country where the peace operation is deployed, and another one lives in a neighbouring country. Both relatives are fighting for custody of the child. Taking into account the best interests of the child, what should the justice system do?
  - c. Take into account the child's opinion and that of the respective relatives, examine all evidence, seek the collaboration of social services, and analyse the impact of each option on the child, in order to make a decision that takes into account the best interests of the child.



*The best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration in making decisions concerning the child. Hearing the child's views is essential, but it is the sum of all considerations that will inform how the interests of the child are assessed to ensure informed decisions are made.*

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- 3) You have been informed that a refugee family in your area of responsibility is experiencing severe discrimination, and that their children are most probably being sexually exploited. Who should you inform so that they can deal with the situation?
- b. You should coordinate with the UNPOL child protection focal point and the Child Protection Adviser to determine who will approach the national authorities about the situation, in coordination with UNHCR.



*Sharing information is not an executive task. Coordinating how to act based on such an information is essential to ensure appropriate concerted action.*

- 4) A child victim of violence has been brought before a host-State police officer and a social worker has been called to the police station to help with the case. What are the role of the host-State police officer and the social worker?
- d. The host-State police officer should ask the social worker to, first of all, take care of the first psychosocial, health and security needs of the child, then the police officer should coordinate with the social worker before proceeding with the interview and, finally, the police officer should allow the social worker to coordinate the follow-up. The host-State police should take action against the alleged perpetrator(s) of violence against the child.



*Collaboration means that each actor fulfils their mandate with their own skills and in such a way as to facilitate coordinated action when there are common steps.*

- 5) After having spent some time observing the way in which national actors collaborate with regard to justice for children in your area of responsibility, which one of the following actions would you say is NOT appropriate?
- a. You suggest to the host-State police to stop collaborating with all non-formal actors (e.g., civil society organizations, religious and traditional leaders) because they have not signed a formal agreement, and their intervention is not provided for in the Code of Criminal Procedure.



*While informal procedures and collaboration are not necessarily bad, it is important to consider whether those involved have the required skills in order to uphold the norms and standards applicable to the cases they are dealing with.*

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- 6) Should the host-State police contact and coordinate with other government bodies when working on cases involving children?
- a. Police officers require assistance from other professionals, such as colleagues in specialized police units and people specially trained in other areas of child protection, to help to analyse aspects of the case that are outside their main area of expertise.



*Recognizing and valuing the expertise of other actors in the child protection system is even more important in the context of peace operations, when resources are limited and access to services is compromised.*

- 7) Which statement is correct?
- c. UNPOL officers should build upon ongoing efforts by other United Nations entities in the area of security sector reform and rule of law so as to further advocate for the integration of norms and standards related to child protection.



*UNPOL should seek to find out what programmes other United Nations agencies run in the country in order to build connections as part of the capacity-building mandate in support of the host-State police.*

- 8) You are invited to a cluster meeting relating to child protection. Which action is adequate?
- b. You share information on action taken, but in such a way that the identity of individuals involved in the cases you are presenting remains confidential.



*Children have the right to privacy. While this does not impede coordination, it must be done in a way that does not compromise the safety and privacy of children.*