

Lesson 1.2



Roles and Responsibilities of Mission Components and External Partners

The Lesson



Starting Lesson 1.2



For an interactive start to Lesson 1.2, ask learners:

Why is child protection considered a cross-cutting responsibility?

OVERVIEW

Lesson 1.2 covers the roles and responsibilities of different mission components working with external partners on child protection. The different components bring different capabilities in support of child protection; they must be aware of their responsibilities and must receive child protection training that would enable them to fulfil their role in the mission. External partners, host-country entities and the mission working together will ensure that impact on the ground is optimal. Everyone has a role to play. The discussion engages learners in the mandate from the outset.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Recognize that protecting children in armed conflict is a shared responsibility
- Describe the roles and responsibilities of the mission components with regard to protecting children
- Explain the coordination mechanisms in a mission


ACTIVITIES

1. Group discussion: Child Protection Coordination – Foreign Children

SLIDE 1: MODULE 1, LESSON 2: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MISSION COMPONENTS AND EXTERNAL PARTNERS



Module 1, Lesson 2
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
OF MISSION COMPONENTS
AND EXTERNAL PARTNERS

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NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

- As discussed in lesson 1.1, United Nations peacekeeping mandates have increasingly included child protection. Indeed, several peacekeeping missions have full-fledged human rights, protection of civilians, conflict-related sexual violence, as well as child protection mandates, which address “protection” in different ways.

Each component of a mission has responsibilities and a role to play and must consider child protection within its core activities. All United Nations peacekeeping personnel – military, police and civilian – must be aware of their responsibilities and must receive child protection training that would enable them to fulfil their role in the mission.

SLIDE 2: LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Learning Objectives

- **Recognize** that protecting children in armed conflict is a shared responsibility
- **Describe** the roles and responsibilities of the mission components with regard to protecting children
- **Explain** the coordination mechanisms in a mission



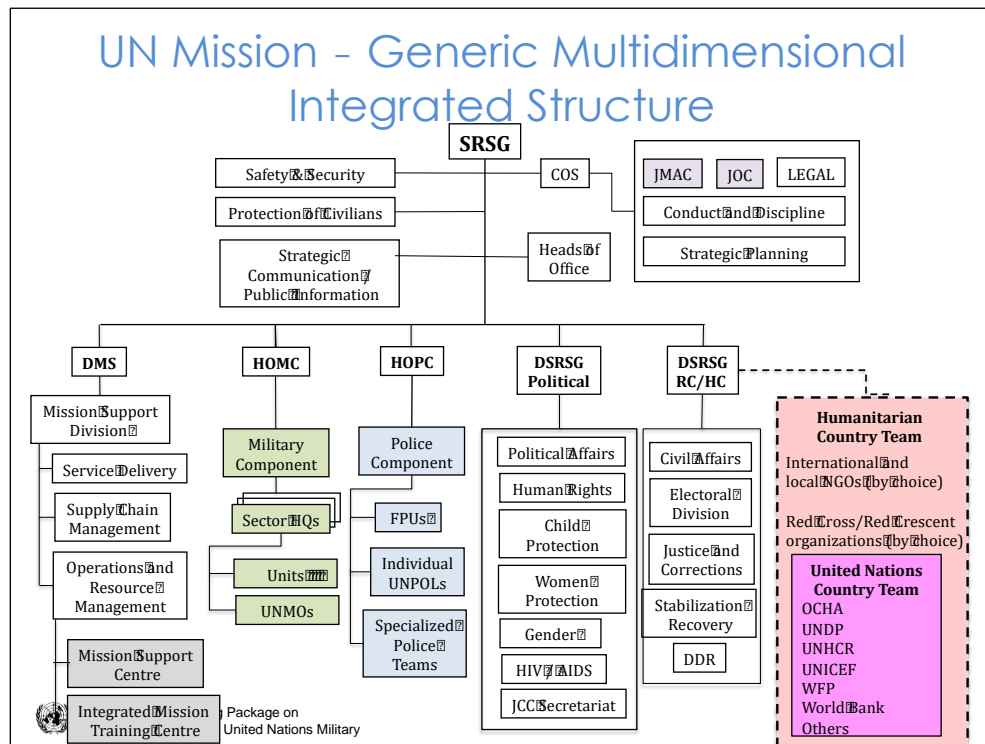
NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: All mission components have a role to play in child protection: some have a direct role, others an indirect one. Only by working together can the child protection mandate be achieved.

- Describe the general role of the various mission components in protecting children, and United Nations peacekeeping personnel's responsibilities with regard to child protection, including the roles played by key mission components and external actors.

Explain the coordination mechanisms in a mission and how United Nations military component can coordinate with those actors to ensure an appropriate response to child protection concerns.

SLIDE 3: UNITED NATIONS MISSION – GENERIC MULTIDIMENSIONAL INTEGRATED STRUCTURE



NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: Each mission has a different structure. The structure of a mission reflects the tasks mandated by the Security Council and the operational context in the host country.

Let us begin by looking at the general structure of a multidimensional integrated United Nations peacekeeping operation and the different components that you will encounter in the mission. Then we will discuss the key functions of some mission components and external actors, and the specific roles that they play in promoting child protection.

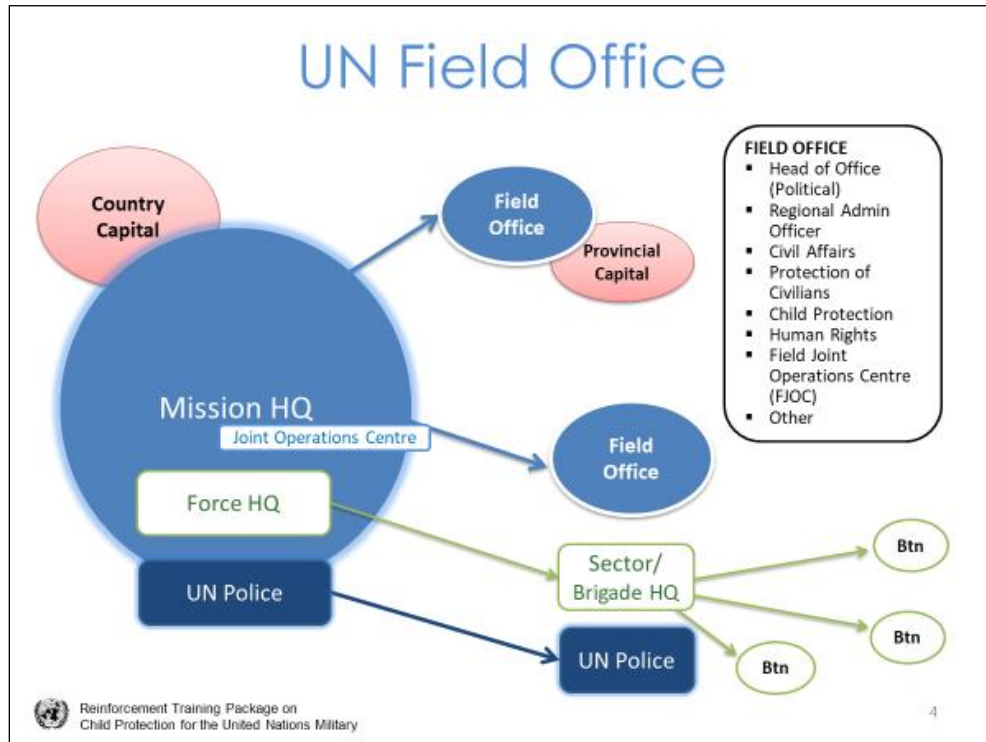
We will also discuss the collective responsibility of all actors towards a comprehensive mission response through child protection activities, and the importance of coordinating action on child protection.

The aim of this slide is to demonstrate the complexities of a multidimensional integrated mission that comprises a large number of actors, and requires substantial coordination, liaison and information-sharing. Emphasize that this is a sample structure; depending on different country-specific requirements and operational environments, mission structures will vary. The following slides focus on different mission components. The role of the military component will be discussed in more detail in module 3.

Point out the main components of a mission: civilian, military and police, as well as the United Nations country team.

Refer to the slide for the titles of officers and see the list of abbreviations that may be used in the field.

SLIDE 4: UNITED NATIONS FIELD OFFICE



NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: The Field Office reflects the mission headquarters in terms of structure and function.

☛ In addition to the mission headquarters, which is normally located in the capital city, the mission will establish field offices in other parts of the mission area, such as provincial capitals. The field office usually has representatives from the key functions within mission headquarters, such as the Head of Office (political), civil affairs and a Regional Administrative Officer representing the Director of Mission Support (DMS) and logistics.

A mission may have a number of field offices. The United Nations military component, whose Force Headquarters (FHQ) is located with the mission headquarters, will likely have its sector or brigade headquarters located with a field office, thereby enabling the mission components to work closely together.


In the same way, the United Nations police component will have representatives, not only at mission headquarters, but also at the regional level. It is essential that the field office and the military and police components work together to achieve the mission objectives. We will see how this works in relation to child protection later on.

SLIDE 5: CIVILIAN CHILD PROTECTION STAFF

Civilian Child Protection Staff

- **Points of contact** on child protection within peacekeeping mission
- **Advise** mission leadership on child protection
- **Mainstream** the child protection mandate across mission components/ sections
- **Liaise** with Protection of Civilian Advisers and uniformed components on prevention activities
- **Conduct training** on child protection for civilian and uniformed components
- **Monitor and report** on the six grave violations against children
- **Co-chair** the Country Task Forces on Monitoring and Reporting
- **Engage in dialogue** with parties to the conflict
- **High-level advocacy** for child protection needs
- **Coordinate** with UNICEF and other relevant actors

Note: a Child Protection Unit may be a stand-alone mission section or may be embedded within the Human Rights component


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Child Protection for the United Nations Military
5

NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: Civilian Child Protection staff provide guidance and advice to mission leadership and components on all matters pertaining to child protection.

☞ *Civilian Child Protection staff in United Nations peace operations includes national and international child protection advisers, officers, assistants and United Nations volunteers.*

☞ *It is very important that the trainer be familiar with the distinct roles of the civilian Child Protection staff and the military Child Protection Focal Points, and their lines of communication and coordination.*

☛ While all United Nations peacekeeping personnel have a responsibility to protect children, many peacekeeping missions have dedicated civilian Child Protection capacity. Child Protection staff— usually led by a Senior Child Protection Adviser – play

a crucial role in implementing the child protection mandate of United Nations peace operations. As subject-matter experts, they play a number of key functions, including advising all the mission components and mission leadership, particularly the Head of Mission (HOM), and working closely with the military component.

The Child Protection staff are your first point of contact; you will work with the Child Protection staff in your sector.

The Child Protection staff advises all mission components on matters pertaining to the protection of children in the mission area. They can ensure that all mission components play their role.

In addition to advising mission leadership on child protection concerns and mainstreaming the child protection mandate into mission activities, Child Protection staff co-chair the monitoring and reporting mechanism (MRM), monitor and report on the six grave violations against children, engage with parties to conflict on addressing grave violations against children – including negotiating the release of children–, train peacekeeping personnel, and internal/external mission actors on child protection, and advocate for child protection in the host country.

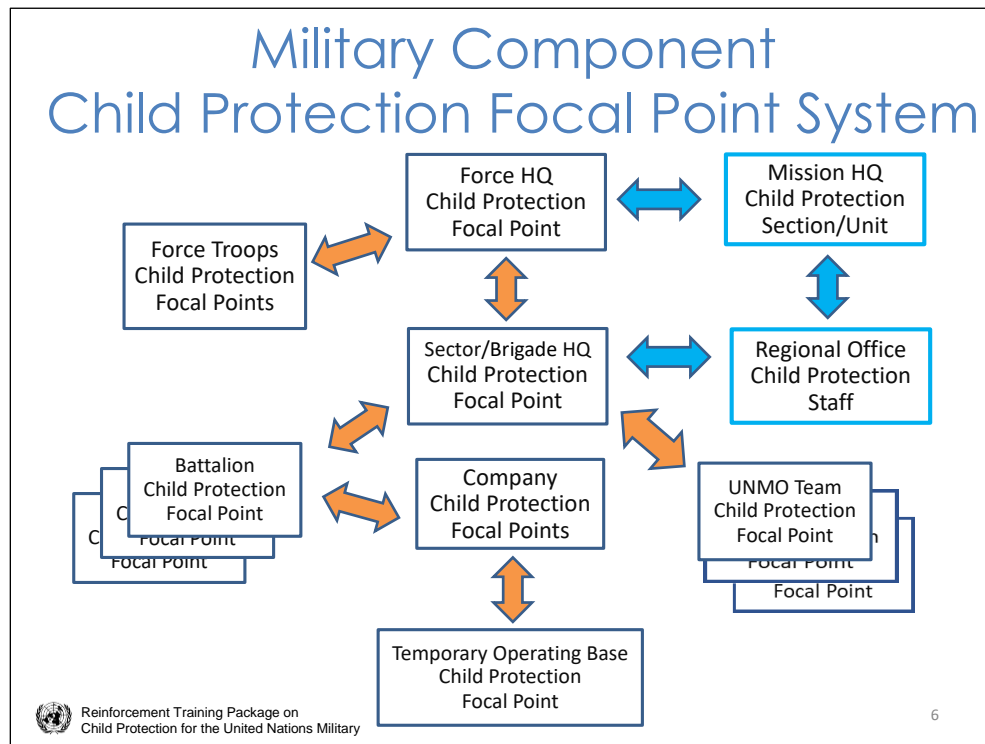
Child Protection staff work closely with UNICEF child protection specialists and other relevant United Nations agencies, NGOs and government authorities or organizations on these activities.

The DPKO/DFS/DPA Policy on Child Protection in United Nations Peace Operations (2017) specifically requires the Child Protection staff to be responsible for reporting on child protection issues and activities undertaken by the peacekeeping operation in the mission area. Also, the Child Protection staff collates information and reports on grave violations committed against children to the Security Council.

Missions that have a child protection mandate may have a Child Protection component (a Section or a Unit) headed by a Senior Child Protection Adviser, or the Senior Child Protection Adviser and child protection staff may be embedded ("consolidated") as a team within the human rights component.

☞ *Verify which peacekeeping missions have Child Protection staff. Share relevant information with learners (see <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/child-protection>)*

SLIDE 6: MILITARY COMPONENT CHILD PROTECTION FOCAL POINT SYSTEM



NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

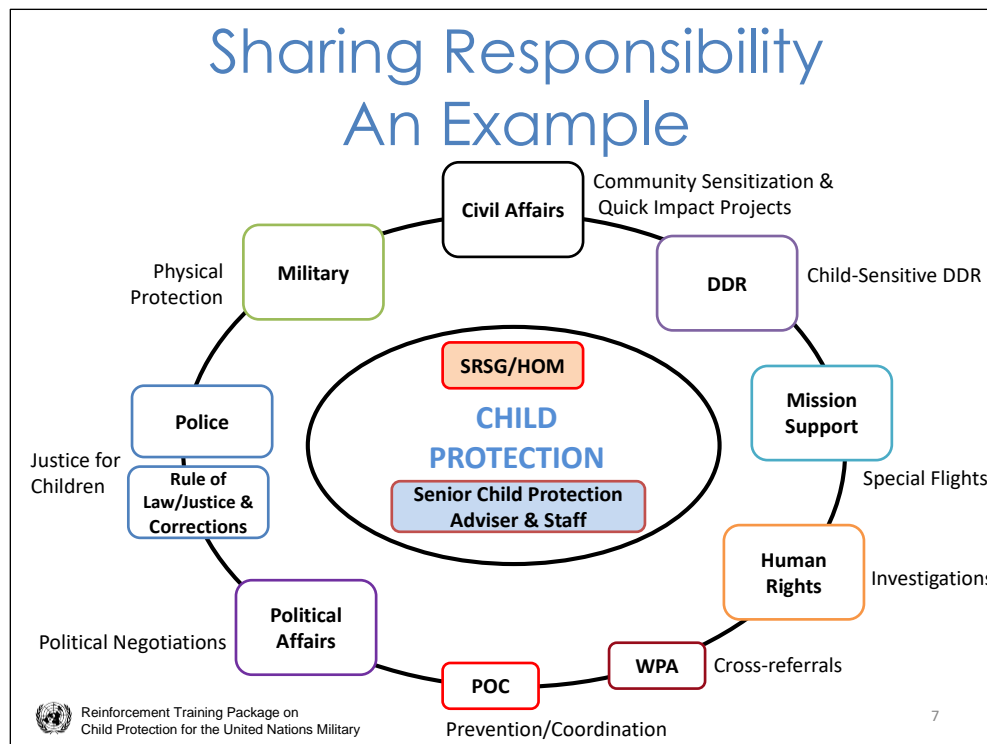
Key Message: The military component must establish military child protection duties at all levels (force and sector/brigade headquarters, battalion, military observer team sites).

- With increasing demand on the military component for child protection, and in order to ensure that all mission components – particularly the military component – integrate child protection into their activities, it is critical that a network of military Child Protection Focal Points be established to ensure that child protection is taken into account at all stages of planning and in operational activities at Force Headquarters, sector/brigade and contingent levels.

The Force Headquarters Child Protection Focal Point must interact almost daily with the mission Child Protection Section/Unit for advice and support, to maintain situational awareness and to keep the Section/Unit up to date on the activities of the military component. This key relationship must be nurtured. The Force Headquarters Child Protection Focal Point must also ensure that child protection is mainstreamed at Force Headquarters.

- The roles and responsibilities of the Force Headquarters Child Protection Focal Point and the Child Protection Focal Points at sector/brigade and battalion levels will be discussed in module 3.*

SLIDE 7: SHARING RESPONSIBILITY – AN EXAMPLE



NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: Child protection is a shared responsibility; each mission component has a role to play.

☞ The following are examples of activities that the various components of a United Nations peacekeeping operation may carry out to protect children and promote their rights in armed conflict. The list is not exhaustive. Define the various components listed on the slides, as necessary.

1. *Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) and/or Head of Mission (HOM):* Play a leadership role in political advocacy; responsible for placing child protection in the political and peace agenda of the country.
2. *Political Affairs:* Political issues are usually very difficult to resolve in post-conflict situations. No conflict is ever really resolved without effectively addressing the political/diplomatic dynamic. That is therefore an essential mission task. Key support for child protection is usually best demonstrated by adopting a child-conscious approach to all political processes – for example, by engaging in dialogue with parties to the conflict to end grave violations of child rights, or by integrating child protection considerations in peace negotiations and peace agreements.

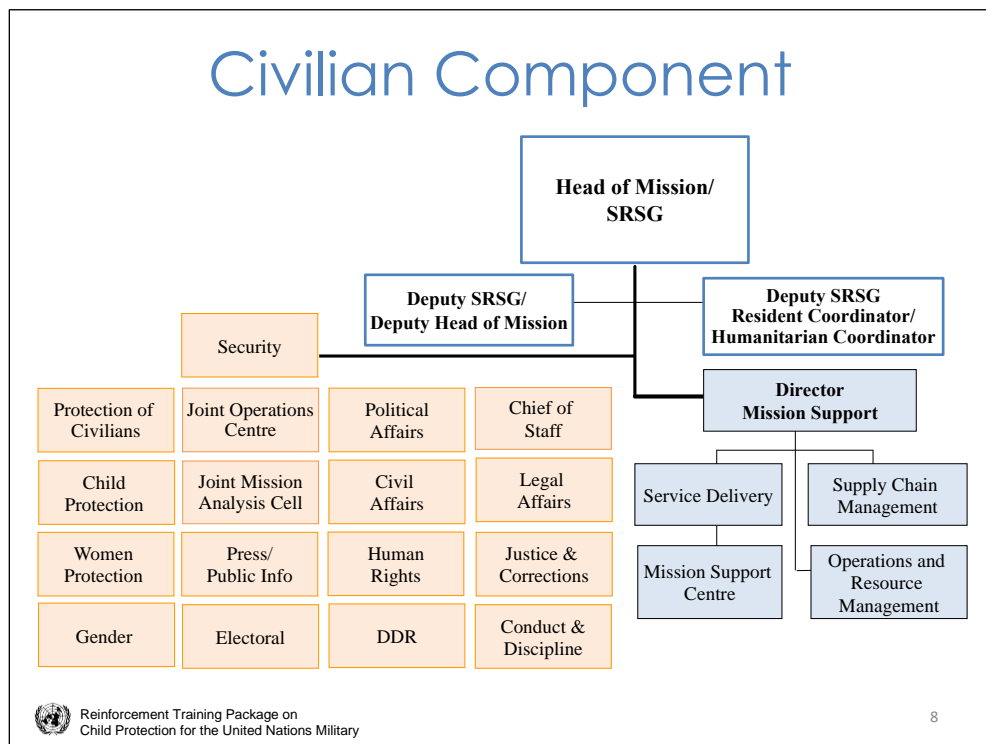
3. *Human Rights*: Some key roles of the human rights component in support of child protection include monitoring and reporting violations against children, and illegal arrest and detention of children as identified during routine visits to detention centres; contributing to investigations by Child Protection staff on crimes committed against children in the context of armed conflict.
4. *Women Protection Adviser (WPA)*: Informs and advises Heads of Mission on sexual violence against women, men, girls and boys in line with the conflict-related sexual violence mandate.
5. *Protection of Civilians Adviser*: Advises Heads of Mission on the development of protection of civilian strategies, and supports the missions on preparedness, planning and coordination of protection of civilians operations. The Protection of Civilians Adviser works closely with Child Protection staff and Women Protection Advisers.
6. *Civil Affairs*. Civil Affairs officers are the primary interface between the Mission and local authorities and communities. Among others, they support capacity-building of local authorities and civil society, establish conflict-management mechanisms to encourage community reconciliation; liaise with local communities and authorities on behalf of the Mission; coordinate with and facilitate the work of partners; gather information and monitor the situation on the ground; and conduct conflict analysis, and early warning, including on protection of civilians.
7. *Rule of Law/Justice support*. When present, this component contributes to the development of comprehensive strategies related to rule of law and reform of the justice system. Among other responsibilities, it provides advice and training to those working in the justice system; monitors developments in the justice sector and promotes the rule of law, which makes enjoyment of human rights possible, combats impunity, and prevents violations and discriminatory practices in relation to justice.
8. *Corrections*. This component deals with the operational aspects of the prison system. It provides advice on the development of policy and procedures, emphasizing the importance of alignment with international human rights standards relating to detention, and on rehabilitation of police cells and prisons; coaches and mentors national corrections officers, including on proper treatment of detainees. In recent missions, this component has been an integral part of the Rule of Law component.
9. *Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)*: Among other things, ensures that special attention is given to children and women during the demobilization of armed forces and armed groups, and that a dedicated programme is in place for their support and reintegration.
10. *Security Sector Reform (SSR)*: Helps to ensure protection of children and young people, for example, in the context of a weapons collection programme, or

reform of national security forces. Security Council resolution 2151 (2014) was the first stand-alone resolution on security sector reform; operational paragraph 6 of the resolution encourages Member States, when undertaking security sector reforms, to mainstream child protection in military training, operating procedures, and guidance.

11. *Mission Support*: Provides all types of field support to mission entities and components, including logistics support to ensure the safe transport of children.

☞ Since the implementation of the child protection mandate is a shared responsibility, the Child Protection staff usually coordinates with the human rights, political affairs, rule of law/justice components, as well as the United Nations Police, DDR, and SSR personnel.

SLIDE 8: CIVILIAN COMPONENT

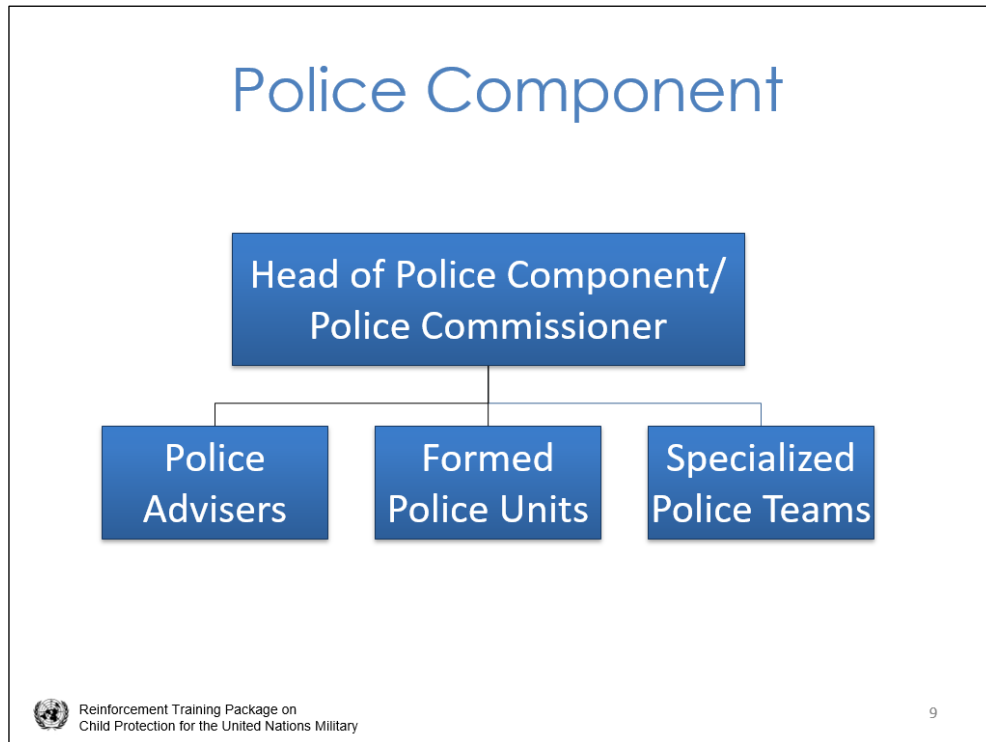


NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: The civilian component consists of two substantive pillars and a mission support structure.

☞ Define the various components showing on the slides, as necessary. Highlight the four sections on the left (protection of civilians, child protection, women protection and gender).

SLIDE 9 : POLICE COMPONENT



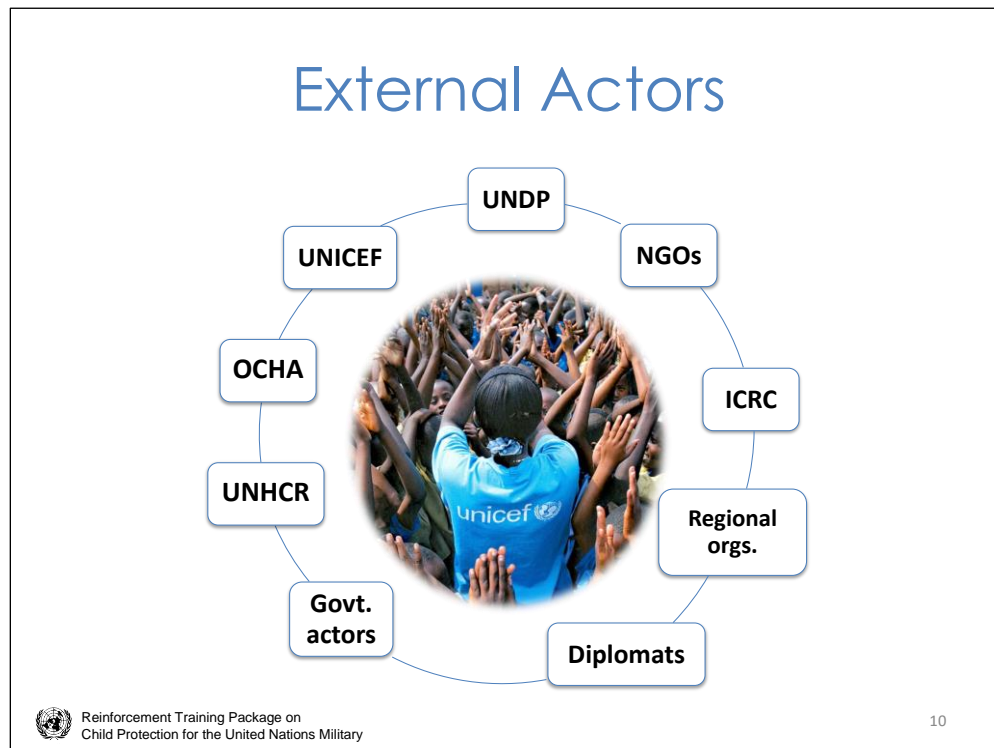
NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: The United Nations Police plays a key child protection role and works alongside host-State police structures.

● The core mandate of the United Nations Police is to build institutional capacity in post-conflict environments. The police can assist with child protection in the following ways:

1. Advocacy and awareness-raising vis-à-vis the host-State police
2. Advise, mentor, guide and train the host-State police on child protection issues, including how to deal with victims, witnesses and perpetrators
3. Report violations of children's rights

SLIDE 10: EXTERNAL ACTORS



NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: The peacekeeping mission works together with a number of actors on child protection, including the United Nations country team, host government actors, international and regional organizations, NGOs and the diplomatic community.

- Although you, as military personnel, have specific and very important roles to play in child protection (which will be discussed in more detail in module 3), it is important to understand that your role is limited. You will encounter children who have no access to schools or clean drinking water, and you will want to help them. But it is important to understand that you cannot do everything and that there are other actors who specialize in providing certain services.

Coordination is essential in order to share information on child protection needs and ensure an adequate response. For example, while peacekeeping missions may report a case of sexual violence against a girl, humanitarian child protection actors are equipped and able to provide the girl with timely and life-saving services, including medical, psychosocial and legal assistance.

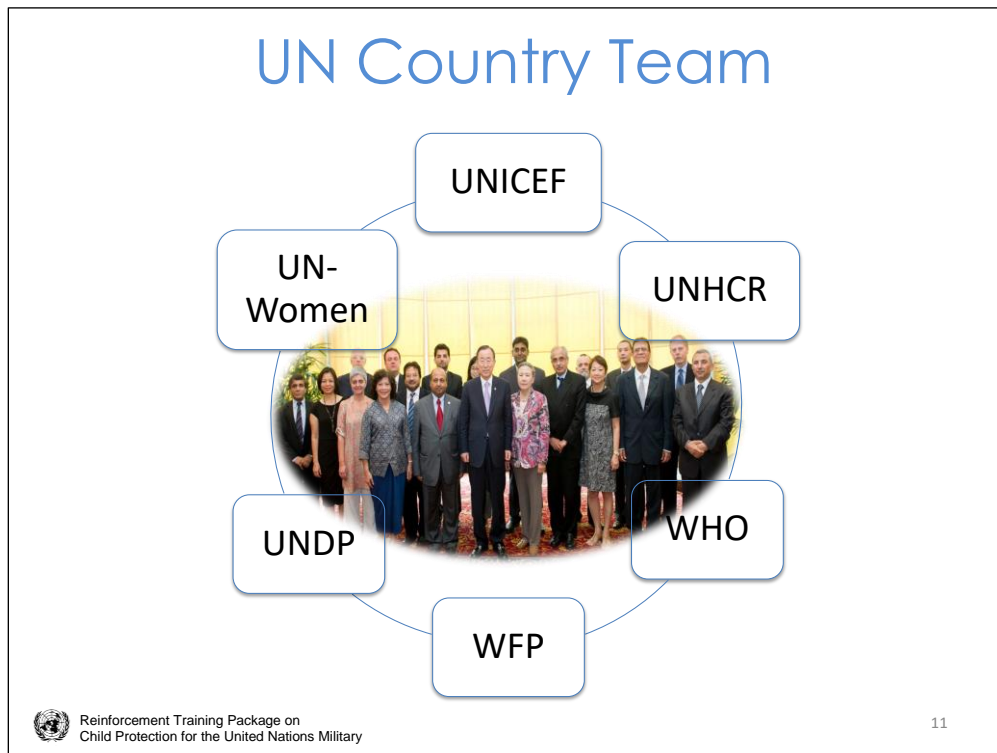
External actors include members of the United Nations country team, such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), government actors, as well as the diplomatic community.

Contact and follow-up with external actors on child protection should be handled by or done in close consultation with Child Protection staff whenever possible. The Child Protection Section/Unit or the child protection focal point within the human rights component can help to identify and facilitate contact with the most relevant actors.

It is essential that child protection specialists with this particular knowledge and expertise follow up on delicate cases and situations (e.g., risks of traumatization, witness protection, etc.), and refer cases to the relevant specialized actors, who are part of the specialized child protection network.

Let us now examine these external actors in more detail.

SLIDE 11: UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM



NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: Know your United Nations partners and their role in child protection.

☞ *It is important for United Nations peacekeeping personnel, including military personnel, to be familiar with UNICEF and other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes that are part of the United Nations country team with child protection mandates and roles. It is not necessary to mention in detail the roles and responsibilities of each entity, although a quick overview (if time permits) would be helpful. UNICEF is one particular organization with which peacekeeping personnel will coordinate.*

🗨️ **UNICEF** is mandated by the General Assembly to advocate for the protection of children's rights, help to ensure that their basic needs are met and expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. UNICEF leads child protection coordination on the ground through the child protection area of responsibility. UNICEF has a very different mandate from the peacekeeping mission. While the goal of protecting children is the same, the approach is very different. Complementarity is important in the mission area. Peacekeeping missions have the advantage when it comes to negotiating with armed groups, but UNICEF is better equipped to trace family and reunite children with their families. Therefore, it is essential that UNICEF receive relevant information from peacekeeping personnel in the field in a timely manner. In addition, the mission must make sure that it is represented at the coordination cluster meetings so as to be informed about what is happening.

It is important for you, as military personnel, to understand that each entity plays a unique role in child protection. Remember that many of these actors have been in the field long before you arrived and they will be there long after you leave. They are a good source of information about the local context.

SLIDE 12: NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs)

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

Who they are:

- International, regional, national or local organizations
- Not part of the United Nations or the host-country Government

What they do:

- Have special interests and capacities in child protection
- Are in contact or close consultation with Child Protection Advisers
- May participate in the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM)






 Reinforcement Training Package on
Child Protection for the United Nations Military

12

NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: Know the NGOs in your area of responsibility and their capabilities.

- You will encounter non-United Nations and non-governmental child protection actors in your area of deployment. Slide 12 shows a few of them.

Civil society groups, local charities and clinics are often an important asset in areas where national or local government institutions lack capacities. Military units are often deployed in areas where State authority is weak or non-existent and should work with these entities to ensure children affected by conflict are provided with medical care and assistance where local capabilities exist.

Non-governmental entities play significant roles in promoting child protection in the mission area. Save the Children and other NGOs have specific capacities to protect children and can sometimes respond to violations which have occurred. *(Provide other relevant examples.)*

Close coordination with these entities is important. As mentioned earlier, contact and follow-up with these actors on child protection matters should be handled by or done in close consultation with Child Protection staff whenever possible.

SLIDE 13: HOST STATE AUTHORITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Host State Authorities and Organizations

- Protecting civilians, including children, is the primary responsibility of the host Government



- Close coordination with government and local authorities
- Long-term sustainability and local ownership

NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: Working with and supporting the host country's authorities and entities is essential in order to build national child protection capacities.

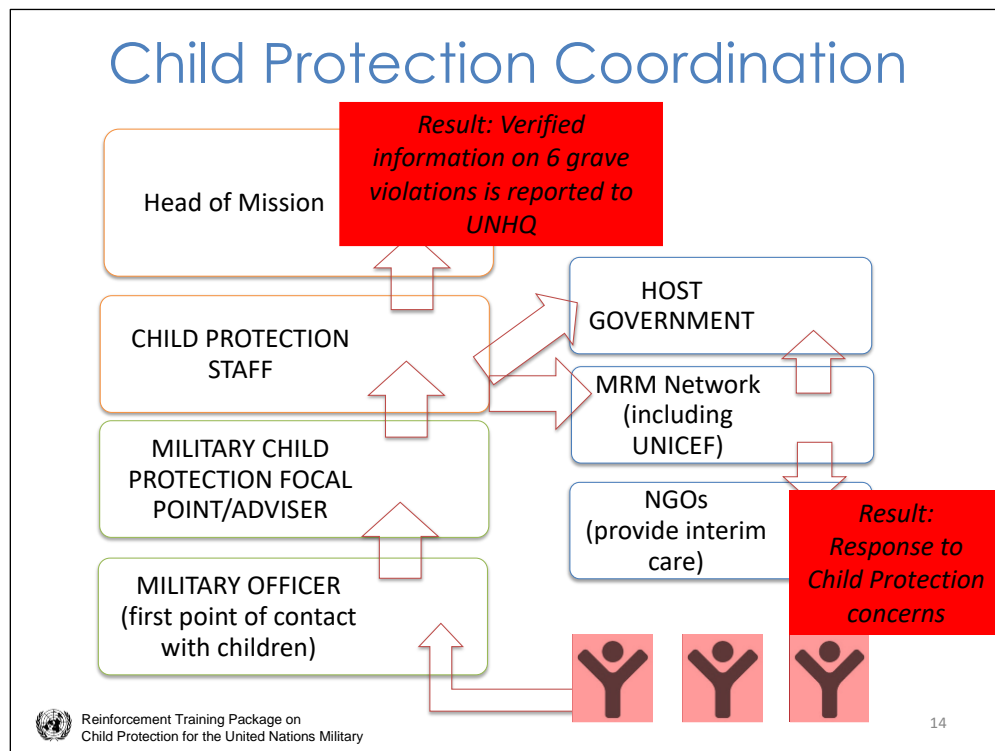
- The protection of civilians, including children, is primarily the responsibility of the host Government; however, in armed conflict or post-conflict areas, owing to weak or unwilling government authority, or – in worst-case scenarios – absence of any governance, it may not be so. In such cases (e.g., in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Mali), the United Nations and the international community, under the authority of the Security Council mandate, step in and assume the responsibilities of protection.

Dialogue with the host government (at mission headquarters level), local authorities (at provincial and Head of field office levels) and other governmental organizations is required, and the host-State police need to be involved. Local authorities have the most relevant information, especially with regard to local culture and customs, and their voice is most heard in such situations. For that reason, close coordination with local authorities is very important for raising awareness among the local population, advocacy, monitoring, ensuring adequate legislative amendments from a child protection perspective, and ensuring protection and promotion of child rights. Coordination with the host government is also an opportunity for the exchange of information on early warning about grave violations against children.

However, in circumstances where the host government is unwilling to protect its own civilians, and where security forces have become an active threat to civilians, including children, coordination with host authorities may become a sensitive issue and must be handled with care.

Long-term sustainability and local ownership are related and important. The United Nations and the international community cannot assume responsibility forever, and the host country must be empowered to assume its responsibilities. When the mission closes, the local authorities will have to assume those responsibilities. Therefore, close collaboration and coordination with local governmental agencies is important from the outset.


SLIDE 14: CHILD PROTECTION COORDINATION



NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: The military component is often the first point of contact with children in need of protection. By working effectively with the mission Child Protection staff, UNICEF and other actors, the impact on children's safety and well-being will be significant.

 *Review and familiarize yourself with the slide carefully before presenting it. The arrows indicate the flow of reporting.*


 As mentioned earlier, each mission component has a role to play in protecting children and promoting their rights. Civilian Child Protection staff, serving as experts, are responsible for collecting information on violations against children, referring cases to and securing a response from the mission, an NGO or the United Nations country team.

The flow of information between the military Child Protection Focal Point and the civilian Child Protection staff must be secure.

Therefore, if a violation against children is observed, the unit must report it through the chain of command utilizing the military Child Protection Focal Point network. The chain of command must then channel the information to the military Child Protection Focal Point, who then reports it to the nearest civilian Child Protection staff.

Once informed of a child-related incident, the Child Protection staff liaises with UNICEF, the relevant child specialist actor and possibly the Government (e.g., advocacy with the Government or armed forces for the release of a child held in detention). UNICEF will usually provide assistance to the child or the family.

 *See slide for an example of coordination with UNICEF.*

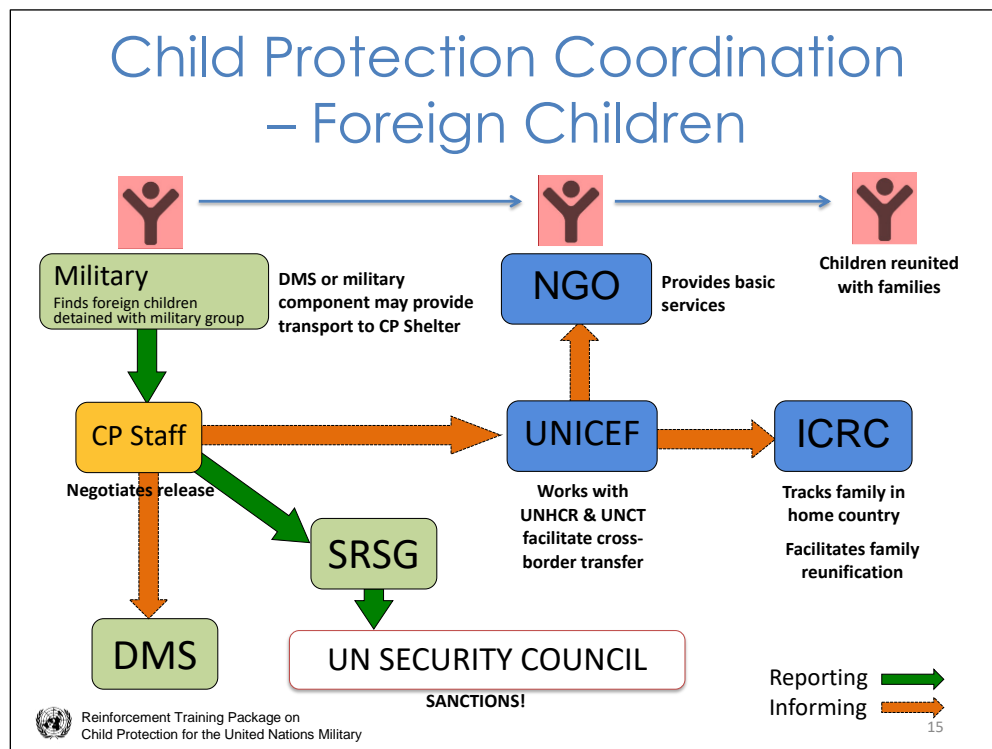
 UNICEF often traces the family and ensures that the child receives assistance (e.g., in an interim care centre).

Lastly, the Child Protection staff verifies the information, transmits it to the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM), and reports the violation to United Nations headquarters in New York through the Head of Mission. The Mission's report on the violation is sent to the Secretary-General through the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict. The Secretary-General includes MRM-verified information on violations in his report to the Security Council, which can take action through sanctions, referral to the International Criminal Court or other accountability measures.

Example (UNMISS): In Jonglei State, South Sudan, the different tribes had abducted many children during the inter-communal conflict. United Nations military liaison officers found children living with the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) away from their villages/towns, because the soldiers and the children were from the same tribe. Although the soldiers were taking care of the children, it was not a good situation for the children – they needed to be at home with their families. The United

Nations military liaison officers informed the mission child protection team of the situation; the child protection team then informed UNICEF, which initiated the family tracing process. Together, the child protection team and UNICEF drew the Government's attention to the need for the children to be returned to their families. The Government willingly cooperated as family reunification was part of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. UNMISS child protection team arranged for helicopters to take a child protection specialist and a UNICEF expert to the village to identify the children and bring them back to Bor, where UNICEF arranged for them to be placed in an interim care centre, as their families had not yet been identified. It was better for the children to be in the care centre, than to live with SPLA soldiers in their barracks. After one week, the children were reunited with their families.

SLIDE 15: CHILD PROTECTION COORDINATION – FOREIGN CHILDREN



NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: Although you may not always see the end result of your child protection action, remember that the military component's child protection action on the ground really matters. Working with your civilian partners is essential.



Group Discussion

This is an interactive build-up scenario to help learners understand child protection coordination.

ASK the question, solicit responses, then **EXPLAIN** and **INFORM** learners of the possible action. Present the scenarios in dialogue with the learners.

The most important lessons to be learned are:

1. *Child protection is a team effort*
2. *Child protection responsibilities differ but are complementary*
3. *Coordination is essential for optimal child protection*
4. *Reporting incidents through the chain of command is crucial to triggering an appropriate response*

QUESTION 1

Ask: You are with the United Nations Military in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and find out that the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (known by their French acronym FARDC) have captured and detained two children associated with the March 23 Movement (M23), who the FARDC claim are from Rwanda. What would you do?

Explain: As soon as possible, report the information. The military Child Protection Focal Point will then inform the civilian Child Protection staff. Depending on the mission's relationship with the FARDC, you, the military officer, can request that the children be handed over to a Child Protection staff.

Inform: In some countries, (e.g., the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo), handover protocols have been signed by state actors or armed groups, often supported by or in collaboration with the United Nations, to swiftly transfer children associated with armed forces or groups, to civilian authorities for appropriate support services, including reintegration. Additionally, some peacekeeping missions such as MONUSCO have developed guidelines on what to do with armed children released to United Nations military personnel, rescued, or who seek spontaneous demobilization. This will be dealt with in lesson 3.3.

QUESTION 2

Ask: Assume that the children remain with the FARDC. What happens next?

Explain: The Child Protection staff will inform UNICEF, which will find an interim care centre for the children, as well as the Director of Mission Support (DMS) and the military component. The Child Protection staff will arrange for the handover of the children to social workers, and their transportation to the interim care centre. You, the military officer, might be asked to assist in the process with the FARDC.

QUESTION 3


Ask: The children are now in the interim care centre. What happens next?

Explain: The children need to be reunited with their families. UNICEF will inform the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which will set about tracing the children's family in their country of origin (in this case, Rwanda). Once the families have been identified, the mission might be requested to transport the children to Rwanda: the civilian Child Protection staff would be responsible for facilitating the process for the mission, but the military personnel might be asked to provide protection and security along the way. Lastly, the mission is responsible for reporting grave violations against children to United Nations headquarters. If the children were indeed initially recruited by the M23, the mission would have to report it. Together with UNICEF, the Child Protection staff will draft a report for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Head of Mission to send to headquarters in New York to be included as MRM-verified information in the annual report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict. The information will eventually be reported to the Security Council, which may take action against the perpetrator (e.g., sanctions against a government, referral of the case to the International Criminal Court, among others). Refer to lesson 2.2 for the monitoring and reporting mechanism flowchart.

SLIDE 16: TAKEAWAYS

Takeaways

- Child protection is a team effort and everyone has a role to play
- Component responsibilities differ but are complementary
- Coordination is essential
- Reporting is crucial to triggering action
- The military component should establish Child Protection Focal Points at Force HQ, sector/brigade, battalion and company levels
- Child protection information requirements and mechanisms for sharing information with the civilian Child Protection staff should be established



Reinforcement Training Package on
Child Protection for the United Nations Military

16

NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: The implementation of the child protection mandate is a shared responsibility, and everyone has a role to play.

- Each mission component has a role to play in protecting children and promoting their rights. While usually UN peacekeeping operations with a child protection mandate have dedicated civilian Child Protection staff serving as experts, the implementation of the child protection mandate is a shared responsibility.

The roles of military personnel and civilian mission staff differ; UNICEF's role is complementary to the role of the mission.

If all actors are coordinated, the appropriate response can be implemented.

It all starts with your report of a situation that is inappropriate for children.

The military component should establish Child Protection Focal Points at all levels (headquarters to at least company level). This would facilitate coordination and information-sharing between the military component and civilian child protection actors. With the support of the civilian Child Protection staff, the military component should establish child protection information requirements. This would enable military

units, at the tactical level, to collect and share information with internal (mission) and external (non-mission) child protection actors and facilitate a cohesive approach within the force to collect information for child protection purposes.

External child protection actors include UNICEF, other United Nations agencies, such as UNHCR, relevant international and national NGOs, host government ministries (e.g., social affairs, health, education and youth), and other institutions.

Summary

Takeaways from Lesson 1.2:

- Child protection is a team effort, and everyone has a role to play
- Component responsibilities differ, but are complementary
- Coordination is essential
- Reporting is crucial to triggering action
- The military component should establish Child Protection Focal Points at Force Headquarters, sector/brigade, battalion and company levels
- Child protection information requirements and mechanisms for sharing information with the civilian Child Protection staff should be established


SLIDE 17: REFERENCES

References

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- United Nations, Integrated Mission Planning Process (IMPP): Guidelines Endorsed by the Secretary-General on 13 June 2006
- United Nations, DPKO/DFS, United Nations Peacekeeping Operations Principles and Guidelines, 2008

SLIDE 18: QUESTIONS

Questions



Reinforcement Training Package on
Child Protection for the United Nations Military

18

NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

- ☞ Allow sufficient time for questions to be asked/answered. Actively encourage questions from learners.