

Lesson 3.2



Military Component Child Protection Roles and Tasks

The Lesson



Starting Lesson 3.2



For an interactive start to Lesson 3.2, ask learners:

How can the military component contribute to effective child protection?

OVERVIEW

Lesson 3.2 provides an overview of the child protection roles and tasks of the military component. The discussion engages learners from the outset.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Describe the guidance framework on child protection at the operational and tactical levels
- Explain the child protection roles and tasks of United Nations military personnel
- Explain why military personnel need to develop situational awareness
- Apply the guidelines for monitoring and reporting by military personnel

ACTIVITIES

1. Group discussion: Situational awareness

HANDOUTS (FOR LEARNERS)

1. Early Warning Indicators
2. Monitoring and Reporting Checklist
3. Monitoring and Reporting – Dos and Don'ts



Module 3, Lesson 2 MILITARY COMPONENT CHILD PROTECTION ROLES AND TASKS



Reinforcement Training Package on
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- The main guiding frameworks that outline the legal obligations of peacekeepers with regard to protecting children were discussed in module 2. In this module, you will see how these frameworks are operationalized into standard operating procedures (SOPs) and actions of the military component in the field.

SLIDE 2: LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Learning Objectives

- **Describe** the guidance framework on child protection at the operational and tactical levels
- **Explain** the child protection roles and tasks of United Nations military personnel
- **Explain** why military personnel need to develop situational awareness
- **Apply** the guidelines for monitoring and reporting by military personnel

NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

- This lesson (3.2) will cover operational guidance, roles and tasks of United Nations military personnel, situational awareness, early warning indicators, and monitoring and reporting, in more detail.

The next lesson (3.3) will focus on children associated with armed forces and groups and rules of engagement.

The final two lessons (3.4 and 3.5) will focus on the responsibilities of military Child Protection Focal Points at the operational and tactical levels, and the Force Commander's Directive on Child Protection.

SLIDE 3: CHILD PROTECTION MANDATE (1)

Child Protection Mandate (1)

**Security Council resolution 2666 (2022)
Democratic Republic of the Congo**

Child protection
Requests MONUSCO to take fully into account **child protection as a cross-cutting issue throughout its mandate**, inter alia, in DDR processes and in SSR as well as during interventions leading to the separation of children from armed groups in order to end and prevent violations and abuses against children, and to continue to ensure the effectiveness of **the monitoring and reporting mechanisms on children and armed conflict**, and *acknowledges* the crucial role of United Nations **Child Protection Advisers** in MONUSCO (para. 28).

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Key Message: Protection of children is a specific and explicit task mandated by the Security Council.

SLIDE 4: CHILD PROTECTION MANDATE (2)

Child Protection Mandate (2)

Security Council resolution 2640 (2022)

Mali

Strongly condemning all violations and abuses of international human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law, ... as well as killing, maiming, recruitment and use of children, attacks against schools, humanitarian actors and services, and medical personnel and infrastructure...; (preambular paragraph)

To provide specific protection and assistance for women and children affected by armed conflict, including through Protection Advisors, **Child Protection Advisors**, Women Protection Advisors and **civilian and uniformed Gender Advisors and focal points**, as well as consultations with women's organizations, and address the needs of victims and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict; (para. 26(c)(iii))

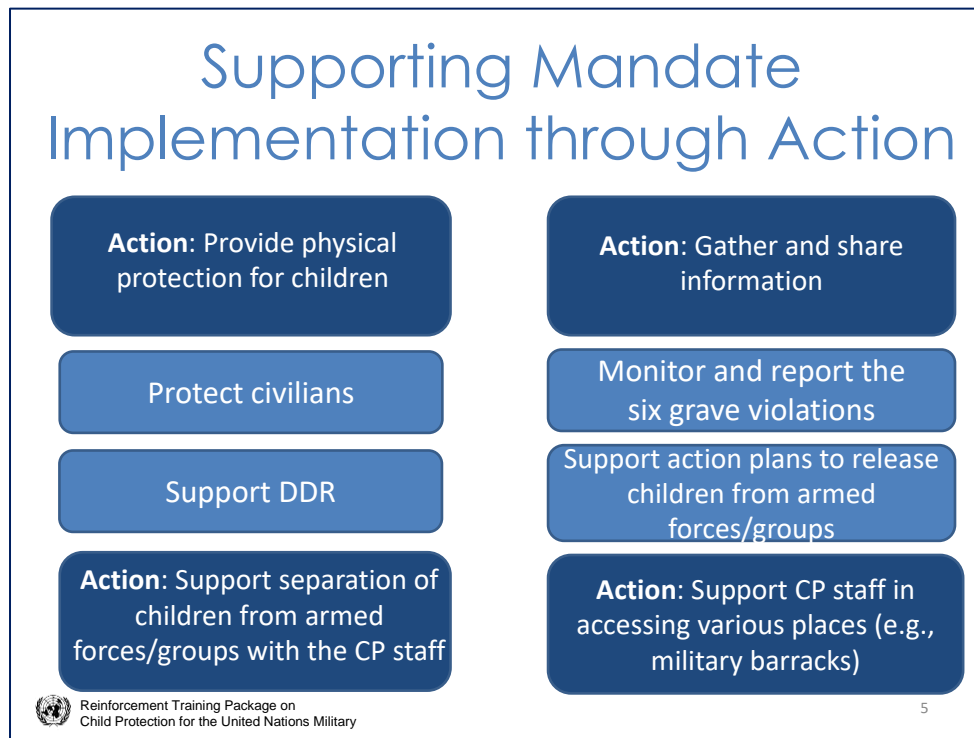
NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: The deployment of Child Protection Advisers is mandated by the Security Council.

☞ In Module 2, we looked at the child protection mandate issued by the Security Council with a view to understanding it. Slides 3 and 4 provide examples of the language used in mandates on child protection, and children and armed conflict.

In resolution 2666 (2022) relating to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Security Council emphasizes that the protection mandate is to be implemented without prejudice to the responsibilities of the host country, and may include actions against bodies or authorities of the host State if they are the perpetrators of violations.

In resolution 2640 (2022) on Mali, the Security Council specifically requests the mission to provide specific protection for women and children affected by armed conflict. The language in this and other mandate resolutions indicates a clear requirement by the Security Council for the peacekeeping mission to use resources for protection purposes, including protection of children. The implications of this language will be discussed in lesson 3.3 on the application of the rules of engagement.



NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: The military component supports the child protection mandate through specific and implied tasks. Based on a mission analysis, the military component will identify a number of implied child protection tasks at the operational level, such as providing security for civilian Child Protection staff.

- 🗨️ Slide 5 outlines the child protection tasks that may be stated in mission mandates. The Security Council mandated the tasks shown on this slide to MONUSCO.

Children and Armed Conflict/Child Protection: While the protection of civilians mandate may be used to encompass all types of protection issues (including conflict-related sexual violence, child protection, and human rights), all military Child Protection Focal Points in missions have a specific child protection/children and armed conflict mandate. (Note that individual civilian teams/units/sections/components lead each individual protection mandate.)

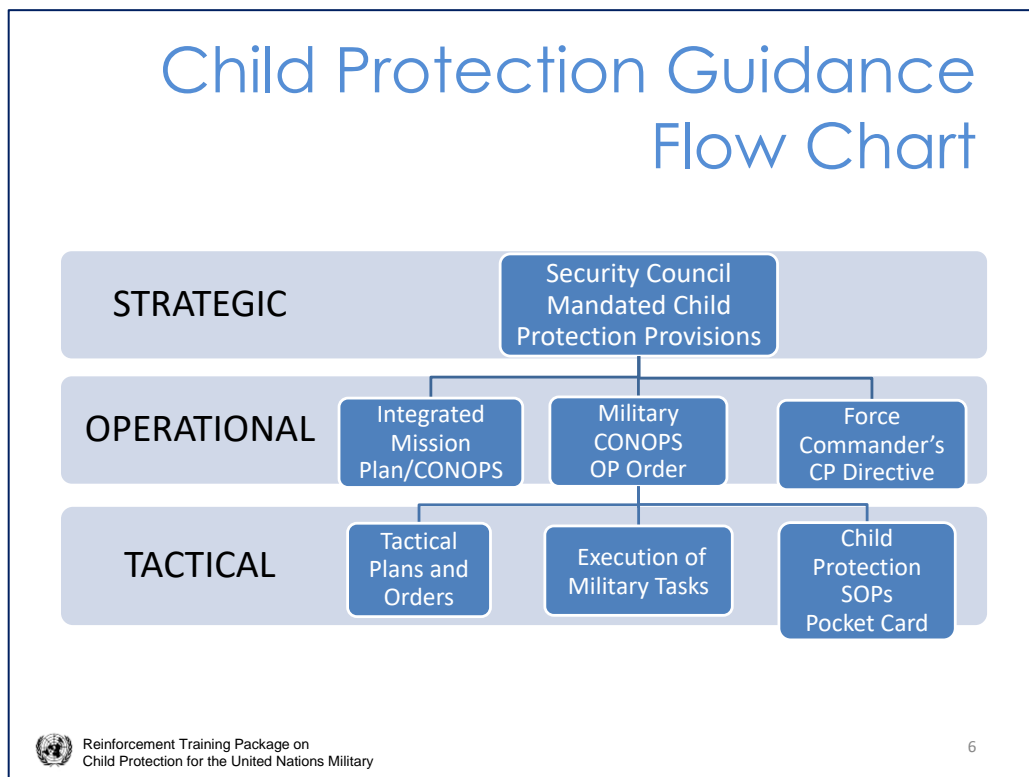
The child protection mandates for MINUSCA, MINUSMA, MONUSCO, UNMISS, and others, include the requirement to monitor and report on the six grave violations against children (explained in Module 2).

Where missions are mandated to support the ddisarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, the specific concerns of girls and boys are also included.

Some Governments or armed groups have signed Action Plans with the United Nations to end violations such as the recruitment and use of children, or sexual violence against children. In these contexts, it is the role of the mission to work closely with the Government or armed group to ensure the implementation of the Action Plan.

What does this mean for military components? The military supports the implementation of the child protection mandate. Action by the military include, but is not limited to, providing physical protection for children; gathering and sharing information on the six grave violations; supporting the separation of children from armed groups and armed forces; and providing security for civilian Child Protection staff when they visit the military barracks of armed forces/armed groups to screen troops, engage in dialogue and negotiations, and so on.

SLIDE 6: CHILD PROTECTION GUIDANCE – FLOW CHART



NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: Military Child Protection Focal Points contribute to this framework. At the operational level, military personnel are expected to support the development and implementation of the Force Commander's Directive on Child Protection.

- The Security Council mandates peacekeeping policies and guidelines for the military component, and plans and orders for the mission. All provide directions to military

formations on how to implement the child protection mandates in peacekeeping missions at three levels: strategic, operational and tactical.

1. **Strategic level** – the Security Council authorizes the child protection/children and armed conflict mandate for the peacekeeping mission.

 *Guiding documents:*

- DPKO/DFS/DPA Policy on Child Protection in United Nations Peace Operations (2017) and DPO/DFS Policy on the Protection of Civilians in United Nations Peacekeeping (2019) provide guidance to military components on how to implement protection mandates, including child protection
 - Rules of engagement are developed by DPO and tailored specifically to each mission. They provide detailed directions and rules on the use of force in implementing the protection mandates
 - The United Nations Infantry Battalion Manual (UNIBAM) is a comprehensive tactical guide for military components on how to employ infantry battalions at the tactical level. It includes guidance on child protection
 - General Force Headquarters standard operating procedures
2. **Operational level** – The mandate is translated into an operational framework, which includes an integrated mission plan and a concept of operations for the mission as a whole and a concept of operations for the military component; these are implemented through plans and operational orders. These documents usually contain specific provisions on child protection. To support the implementation of the child protection mandate and to facilitate coordination among the military and the mission's internal and external child protection partners, the Force Commander issues specific guidance, usually in the form of a Force Commander's Directive on Child Protection. The Force Headquarters SOP also provides guidance on child protection.
 3. **Tactical level** – Commanders at the sector and unit levels will provide orders and guidance to subordinate units to ensure the Force Commander's Directive on Child Protection is implemented at this level, and that the protection of children is given priority and attention when planning and conducting protection-related operations. Other key guidance documents for the military component include the rules of engagement, the Handbook on the Protection of Civilians, unit level SOPs, directives on conduct and discipline, among others.

- The mission's mandates only become effective when they are translated into the mission plan, the concept of operations, orders and directives of the military component, for the tactical execution of the task.

This is what is meant by mainstreaming child protection into the work of the military: applying a child protection lens and incorporating child protection concerns at all levels of military engagement – strategic, operational and tactical levels. This is how the military contributes to the protection of children on the ground.

It also means understanding the other mandated tasks, such as protection of civilians, protection from conflict-related sexual violence, support to DDR, and all other enabling tasks relating to child protection. For example, in protecting civilians from conflict-related sexual violence, the military must consider the protection concerns of the boys and girls that they may encounter.

If the military is providing support to DDR, it must take into account the separation of children from armed groups, and also consider the gender-specific needs of both girls and boys in this process. Also, when the military is conducting situational awareness, it must report on specific violations committed against children.

SLIDE 7: MILITARY COMPONENT AND CHILD PROTECTION

Military Component and Child Protection

- Ensure child protection is mainstreamed into planning and conduct of protection activities
- Ensure that threats to children and children's vulnerabilities are identified and plans are developed with these in mind
- Identify and establish a military child protection network within the military component
- Issue specific child protection directive(s) and guidance for military personnel



NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: Child protection, in particular physical protection against threats to children, is a key role of the military component.

- The military component deployed in missions that have a protection of civilians mandate has the primary task of ensuring a safe and secure environment. This includes protecting mission staff, other United Nations personnel, humanitarian partners, and NGOs.

This security role specifically includes the mandated task of protecting all civilians under imminent threat of physical violence.

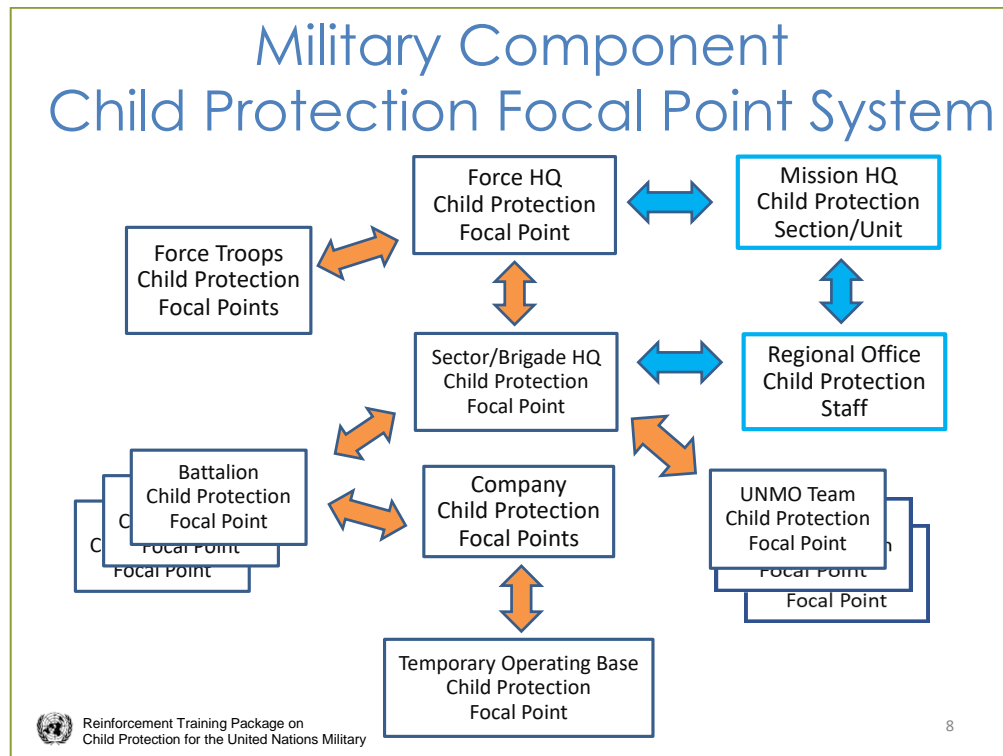
If a mission has a specific child protection mandate, civilian Child Protection staff and military Child Protection Focal Points will be deployed to it. In such missions, child protection is a mandated task for the military component, therefore, child protection must be understood by all members of the force, and mainstreamed daily into its operations, in particular child protection activities.

Furthermore, commanders and staff at all levels should ensure that threats to children and their vulnerabilities are identified, and plans and orders are developed to provide effective protection on the ground, working in concert with other protection partners.

One of the mechanisms employed in missions today is a military Child Protection Focal Point network at the operational and tactical levels.

Force Commanders and tactical commanders must issue specific guidance on child protection, in the form of a Force Commander's Directive on Child Protection Directive and a tactical-level SOP.

SLIDE 8: MILITARY COMPONENT CHILD PROTECTION FOCAL POINT SYSTEM



NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: It is a command responsibility at all levels to ensure the establishment and utilization of the military Child Protection Focal Point network.

- With the increase in child protection demands on the military component, and in order to ensure that all mission components, in particular the military component, integrate child protection into their activities, it is critical that a network of military Child Protection Focal Points be established. The focal points should ensure that child protection is considered at all stages of the planning process and in operational activities at Force Headquarters, as well as at sector/brigade and contingent levels.

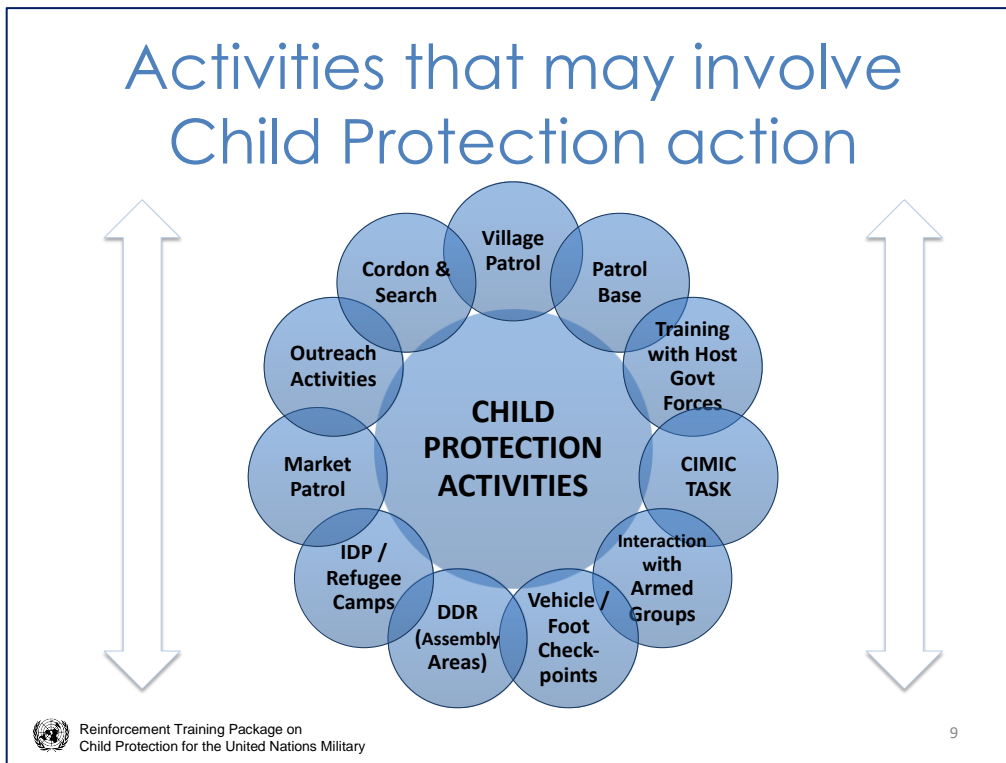
The Force Headquarters Child Protection Focal Point must maintain almost daily communication with the Child Protection Section/Unit at the mission to obtain advice and support, maintain situational awareness, and to update the Section/Unit on the military component's activities. This is a key relationship that needs to be nurtured. The Force Headquarters Child Protection Focal Point must also ensure that child protection is mainstreamed in Force Headquarters.

- It is a command responsibility to ensure that military Child Protection Focal Points are nominated at every level – force, sector/brigade, battalion, team sites, mobile

operating bases, etc. – and that the military Child Protection Focal Point network is established and utilized.

The roles and responsibilities of the Child Protection Focal Points at Force Headquarters, sector/brigade and battalion levels and the function of the military Child Protection Focal Point network will be covered in lessons 3.4 and 3.5.

SLIDE 9: ACTIVITIES THAT MAY INVOLVE CHILD PROTECTION ACTION



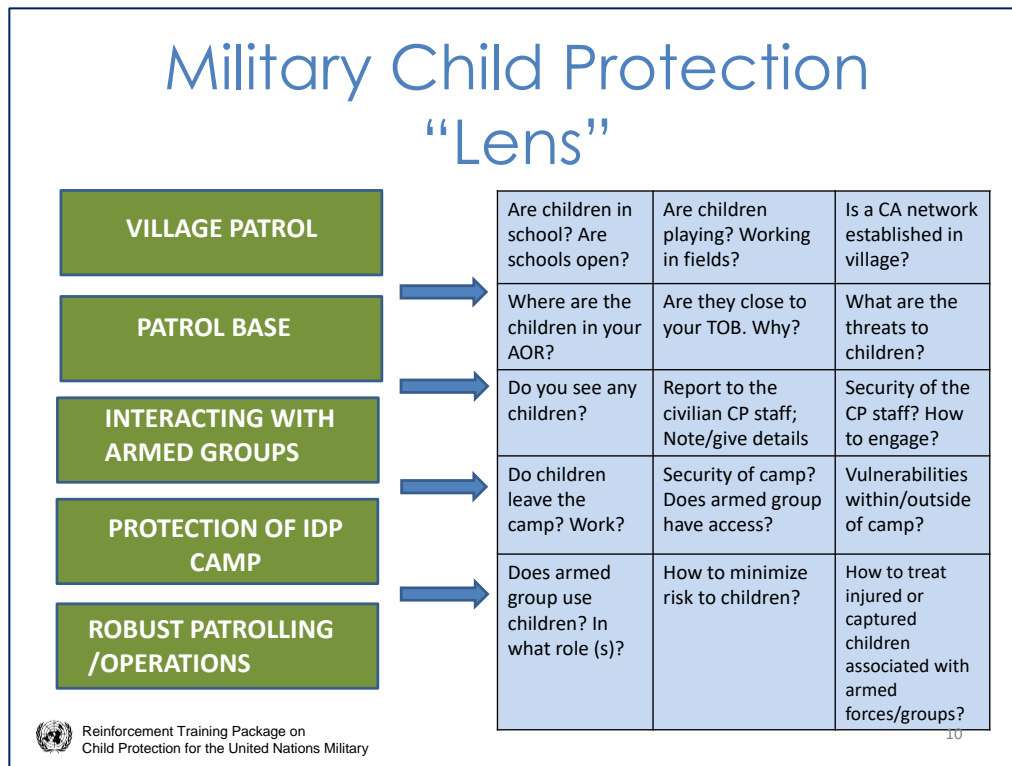
NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: It is good practice to identify child protection concerns when carrying out usual military tasks.

- Ask learners: With regard to mainstreaming child protection, give examples of child protection activities to be considered when planning and executing your peacekeeping tasks.

Slide 10 shows some peacekeeping tasks that are likely to involve aspects of child protection. When carrying out these tasks, military personnel should look out for and report any grave violations.

SLIDE 10: MILITARY CHILD PROTECTION “LENS”



NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: All United Nations military personnel should understand the threats to and the vulnerabilities of children. They must always “wear their child protection lenses” when in the field.

With regard to mainstreaming child protection: In slide 10, usual military tasks are in green; and in blue are some relevant issues that military personnel on the ground may have to consider, provide responses to, and report on through the military Child Protection Focal Point network.

These tasks are likely to involve aspects of child protection, therefore military personnel must look out for and report any grave violations or indications that such violations are being committed. Military personnel must also look out for early warning signs of impending incidents of grave violations and think of how to prevent or pre-empt the violations from occurring.


Suggest some other relevant issues that the military formation conducting protection activities should consider.

SLIDE 11: PROTECTION TOOLS/RESOURCES

Protection Tools/Resources



- Joint Protection Teams
- Must/Should/Could Matrix
- Community Liaison Assistants
- Community Alert Networks

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NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: Use of the protection resources/tools shown in slide 12 is considered best practice. They are implemented and utilized by missions in order to better understand threats and vulnerabilities and to prioritize resources.

Note: Learners may have experienced utilizing the protection resources/tools used in other missions. Ask them to share their experiences.

Missions are being innovative in their efforts to understand the operational environment and prioritizing their tasks. Here are some examples of resources/tools that missions have employed.

1. **Joint Protection Teams** may be composed of several elements of the mission, for example, Civil Affairs Officer, Human Rights Officer, Child Protection staff, police and military personnel. The joint protection team would visit an area and interact with locals to assess and analyse threats, and determine the protection needs so as to provide adequate responses. Battalions may not only be part of the team, but may also provide physical protection to the team.
2. **Must-Should-Could Matrix** may be one output of such visits, along with other sources of information, including local authorities. The matrix is a priority list indicating which villages, and therefore, which children **must, should, could be protected**. This should inform the allocation of resources.

3. **Community Liaison Assistants (CLA):** When patrolling, military personnel must be able to communicate with the local community and the people they are expected to protect. The Community Liaison Assistant, who acts as an interpreter, is a national of the host country and understands the customs, but is not from the immediate local area (and is thus “impartial”). The CLA can assist in communicating with the villagers in a culturally sensitive way, and in listening to and understanding their views regarding threats to children. The CLA establishes and rolls-out Community Alert Networks and provides early-warning to the peacekeepers on protection related threats. MONUSCO has at least one CLA for each patrol base.
4. **Community Alert Network (CAN):** The CAN is a network established in a community for wider engagement, exchange of information, early warning and to alert the peacekeeping operations of imminent threats to civilians. This key innovation is a system whereby a village is provided with a mobile phone and United Nations mission phone numbers to call in the event of an emergency. MONUSCO has built cell phone masts specifically to extend coverage to villages at risk; that enables the mission to respond more rapidly. During the mission-specific pre-deployment training, military personnel will most likely be informed of the measures used in the assigned mission. Further details would be in the mission SOPs and the technical advisory mission (TAM) reports


☞ *A Technical Advisory Mission (TAM) serves to explore a Member State's capacity to fully take advantage of space-based information. As an inter-institutional fact-finding mission, it is officially requested by the respective host government and is carried out by a team of experts. Typically, TAMs are one-week-long missions. The expert team meets with key disaster management and development authorities in the Government, United Nations organizations, regional and international organizations or initiatives and private entrepreneurs to discuss the use of space-based information for risk and disaster management in depth and to subsequently make recommendations on improvements.*


Situational Awareness - Understanding the Operational Environment

1. What are the threats to children in my area of responsibility? (who, what, why, when, where)
2. What are the host Government and the community doing about it?
3. What are other parts of the mission, UN agencies, other international organizations and NGOs doing about it and how can we work together?

NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: Good situational awareness helps generate a comprehensive picture of the operational environment. Situational awareness involves not only who/what poses a threat to children, but also understanding why children are vulnerable and what protection actors, in concert with communities, are doing to reduce risk.

 To kick start the discussion and stimulate learner participation (e.g., for question 1 on slide 12), ask learners what they think they should know about threats by an armed group.

 Determining who is vulnerable and what threats exist requires understanding the operational environment. *Situational awareness* is key to child protection. The planning process for understanding the operational environment is set out in the specialized training materials for military Staff Officers, but let us briefly go over a few important things to consider:

1. **What are the threats against children in your area of responsibility?**

Each area of responsibility is different, and you need to identify the threats that are specific to your area. More specifically, *Who* is a threat to children? *What* are their tactics? *Why* are they doing it? *When* they are doing it (day, night, market days, etc.)? *Where* are their bases? *Where* are they most likely to strike?

2. **What are the host Government and the community doing about it?**

Some action may have already been taken and you need to know about it, in particular since the host Government has the primary responsibility for protection. In addition, the villagers may have already developed a protection plan.

3. **What are other actors – mission partners, such as United Nations agencies, international organizations, NGOs and local community groups – doing about it, and how can you all work together?**

Other child protection actors are likely to be aware of the situation and are already providing or preparing to provide support to the children.

It is only when you have answers to these questions that you can identify and plan the actions to take to reduce vulnerability and risks. Then, you need to update and adjust your situational awareness accordingly and progressively.


SLIDE 13: CASE STUDY: SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

Case Study: Situational Awareness

On a patrol in your Company Operations Base area of responsibility, you pass through a village that hasn't been visited by the United Nations in a while. Everything seems calm and the villagers are going about their daily business. You stop in the marketplace to chat with some villagers and get a grasp of the situation. A village elder complains about recent visits by an armed group that has been active in the area for a couple of months. You know that such visits are common, villagers are usually harassed, and goods are taken from them. According to the villager, the armed group asked to see the local teacher. On their second meeting with the teacher, which ended in an argument, they shot him for unknown reasons. As you carry on with your patrol, you mention the incident to your driver, who half-jokingly remarks:

"I wonder who the teacher was teaching, because there are not any children to be seen in the entire village".

To whom will you report your observations, and what is your analysis of the situation?




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NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: This scenario portrays a situation in which a teacher was killed by an armed group. The situation needs further investigation. The killing of a teacher should be reported to the civilian Child Protection staff as a possible grave violation against children.

 Give learners time to read the scenario then, depending on time, discuss the question as a large group or divide learners into small groups.



Optional Reporting Activity

If there is sufficient time, ask learners to note in writing the information they would need to draft a report: name of village, GPS location, name of armed group(s), where is group from/moved to, number of perpetrators, date of killing, time of the killing, weapons carried, number of visits, number and sex of child victims, ethnic/religious affiliation of armed group, ethnic/religious composition of the village, village focal point for further contact, etc.


 Key takeaways:

1. Report violations or concerns through the chain of command (military Child Protection Focal Point and civilian Child Protection staff)
2. Killing a teacher may be considered a grave violation and must be reported to a child protection staff/actor
3. Targeted killing of teachers (several incidents) could be an early warning of child recruitment
4. Child recruitment, especially on a large scale, may be an early warning indicator of security threats and/ or military activity by this group
5. Children not going to school/schools closed/children kept at home are strong early warning indicators of perceived insecurity in a community; crucial to note this for situational awareness analysis
6. The civilian Child Protection staff can elaborate on context-specific child protection concerns that would help with your military situational awareness analysis
7. When assessing the situation, consider if only boys or only girls are missing. If one gender in particular is missing, that could be an indication of gender-specific targetting

Security Council resolution 1998 (2011)

Security Council resolution 1998 (2011)

The Security Council,
...requests the Secretary-General to also include in the annexes to his reports on children and armed conflict those parties to armed conflict that engage ...in recurrent attacks on schools and/or hospitals; in recurrent attacks or threats of attacks against **protected persons in relation to schools and/or hospitals** in situations of armed conflict... (para. 3).

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NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: The killing of a teacher in the scenario in slide 13 should be reported to the civilian Child Protection staff as a possible grave violation against children. Security Council resolution 1998 (2011) explicitly mandates this.

- Recurrent attacks on teachers, on the basis of their profession, is a grave violation, as spelled out in Security Council in resolution 1998 (2011). Teachers are “protected persons in relation to schools”. This will be covered in more detail during the scenario discussions.

In addition to including the killing of the teacher in the patrol report to your own hierarchy, make sure to inform the civilian Child Protection staff and the child protection actors in your area of responsibility, through the chain of command. Ideally, the military Child Protection Focal Point at Force Headquarters and either the Intelligence or Operations directorates (G2 or G3) will also alert their respective civilian colleagues in the Child Protection Section/Unit upon reading the patrol report.


The information obtained from that scenario will also be crucial in your military analysis of the situation.

SLIDE 15: SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT – CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT

SG's Report – Children and Armed Conflict

Central African Republic

A total of 18 attacks against schools (7) and hospitals (11) including protected personnel were attributed to government/pro-government forces; and armed groups: CPC, UPC, 3R/FPRC, anti-balaka and other unidentified perpetrators. Incidents of 14 schools used for military purposes were attributed to government forces and other security personnel, CPC, MPC, UPC, and unidentified perpetrators. (A/77/895-S/2023/363, para. 31 and 32)

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NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: The specific information in the Secretary-General's report (A/77/895-S/2023/363) illustrates the importance of military reports of grave violations.

- This information, in the Secretary-General's report on children and armed conflict, could not have been compiled without the joint effort of various mission entities and external child protection partners. The role of the military is imperative in the monitoring and reporting mechanism.

SLIDE 16: INFORMATION COLLECTION PLAN

Information Collection Plan

⇒ Include specific questions relating to child protection

This will help to:

- Identify early-warning indicators (e.g., are there boys/girls in the streets? Are boys/girls going to school?)
- Determine whether the situation is changing
- Report violations through the monitoring and reporting mechanism



NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: Information collection templates, reporting procedures and formats vary from mission to mission. Slide 18 shows the minimum information required in a report.

☞ Ask learners if they are familiar with information collection plans. Also ask if they have ever had to identify early warning signs/indicators of violations against children or to report violations against children.

🗨 Situational awareness and early-warning is crucial for timely and effective response to child protection challenges. This requirement should be reflected in information-gathering, analysis of information and information-sharing with relevant actors.


Information collection plans vary from one mission to another, depending on the Force Commander's critical information request. Force Commanders usually include civilian protection as one of the components to monitor in their requests. It is important that priority information requirements regarding threats to children, and early warning be included in the requests. Local community and host authorities are the prime sources of information. E.g., CLAs and other civilian sources (CAN) from the local communities can provide timely and accurate information.

For example, in Chad, peacekeepers were required to report on children associated with armed forces or groups ; this information was considered as priority information.

SLIDE 17: EARLY WARNING INDICATORS OF THE SIX GRAVE VIOLATIONS

Early Warning Indicators of the Six Grave Violations

Killing and maiming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Illicit flows/import of weapons, especially light/small weapons</i> • <i>Deliberate targeting and indiscriminate attacks in populated areas</i>
Recruitment and use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Closure of schools for prolonged periods</i> • <i>Communities' grievances/loss of livelihoods, intercommunal disputes</i>
Abduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>History of systematic abduction of children from specific segments of the population</i> • <i>Girls and boys engaging unsafe routes to fetch water, firewood, to go to school/work in fields/markets</i>
Rape and other forms of sexual violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Arrest and detention of children</i> • <i>Corruption and unethical military practices and behavior</i>
Attacks on schools or hospitals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cases of intimidation against medical or school personnel</i> • <i>Increased presence of members of armed forces and/or armed groups in the vicinity of schools and hospitals</i>
Denial of humanitarian access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Presence of roadblocks and checkpoints</i> • <i>Humanitarians turned back, threats, intimidations, harassment, extortions, corruption, and criminal activities</i>

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NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: Early warning signs of child protection threats is a vital operational requirement to effect timely and rapid response to mitigate the risks of grave violations against children.

- Identifying early warning signs of potential, impending or ongoing threats of grave violations against boys and girls helps military personnel to detect, and also to anticipate spikes in grave violations. The indicators help to analyse changes in the operational environment.

Some early warning indicators of threats to children:

- Parents are afraid to send their children to school: could be a sign that children are at risk of or are being recruited in or around the school
- There are no children in the streets: could be a sign that the local population considers that their children are at risk of recruitment/abduction
- Incursions by armed groups in or around IDP and refugee camps: could be a sign that children may become a target for recruitment and use, or at risk of sexual violence
- Political or violent gatherings and inflamed speeches against civilian population for actual or perceived support to and collaboration with opponent groups: could be a sign of potential insecurity that leads to the killing and maiming, or sexual violence against children

It is important to consider threats to boys and girls separately because they are sometimes targetted differently at an early age.

- Some of the early warning indicators of the six grave violations are listed in slide 17. Depending on the tactics, modus operandi and assessed course of action of the parties to conflict, military commanders must review and stipulate mission/area of responsibility-specific early warning indicators to be used by tactical units. Identifying risks that may lead to grave violations against children and prioritising them is important, based on, for example, the gravity, scale and likelihood of the violations.

☐ Handout: Early Warning Indicators of the Six Grave Violations Against Children


SLIDE 18: MONITORING AND REPORTING MANDATE

Monitoring and Reporting Mandate

If any of the six grave violations against children has taken place, report the following:

- **Who** (alleged perpetrator/s)
- **Where**
- **What**
- **When**
- **Information about the child(ren)**
 - Age
 - Sex (how many boys/girls)
 - Nationality/other relevant information

NOTE: Even if you do not know all the relevant information, DO NOT interrogate children


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NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: Monitoring and reporting the six grave violations is a mandated task for military personnel.

- The child protection mandate includes providing information to the MRM. The six grave violations committed by armed forces/groups against children must be reported to the Security Council for action.

It is important to report the six grave violations through the chain of command. In gathering information, military personnel must not interrogate children. They should take

note of information obtained through observation and talking to adults. Civilian Child Protection staff can investigate further to acquire more details.

If violations have already been committed, note as much as possible in writing:

- Type of violation
- Date and time
- Location
- Alleged perpetrator
- Circumstances of the violation
- Details of the violation
- Number of children involved
- Age, sex, nationality, religion of victims (children)
- Other important information

Handout: Monitoring and Reporting checklist

🗨️ When obtaining information about the security situation (e.g, through patrolling, or community engagement), and from where military personnel might also receive information on violations, it is helpful to ask questions that may shed a light on the gender aspects:


Examples:

- When after an attack on school: ask, among other questions, if girls have come back to school since the incident
- When children were injured during an attack: ask, could being maimed have compounded existing vulnerabilities for girls
- When in a village that has been denied humanitarian access: ask, could lack of access to water due to a siege disproportionately affect girls

Remember: Do not interrogate children. Do not take photographs of children. Do not collect names of children or reflect them in reports.

Monitoring and Reporting Dos and Don'ts

Do	Don't
Analyse protection threats and risks for children	Forget about child-specific threats/risks
Discretely and accurately take note of details (location, armed group/unit, number of children, sex, violation)	Interview or interrogate the child(ren)
Transfer the information as quickly as possible to civilian Child Protection staff	Collect information on names, addresses or any data that may be linked back to an individual/group of individuals (witnesses and/or family members)
Protect the victim(s), his/her identity and keep information confidential	Take photographs of the child(ren), or put names of children and sources of information in any report
Know and coordinate with the child protection actors in your area of responsibility	Neglect to share information with the child protection actors

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NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: The military Child Protection Focal Point is responsible for promulgating these Dos and Don'ts to all members of the force.

- When conducting military operations, personnel should always consider the impact of their actions on children. They must make children's safety and well-being the priority. The best interest of the child should guide all interactions with children.

This slide shows some Dos and Don'ts when monitoring and reporting child protection issues. They may help you to act correctly in different situations.

- Handout: Dos and Don'ts of monitoring and reporting

Takeaways (1/2)

- Know your roles and how you can contribute to child protection:
 - Direct role: prevent violations and mitigate threats
 - Support role: gather information, support the Child Protection Section/Unit, provide security to civilian Child Protection staff
- Military components have directives/SOPs on child protection – **apply them**
- Create orders and SOPs to address information requirements, handover of children, etc.



SLIDE 21: TAKEAWAYS (2/2)

Takeaways (2/2)

- Child protection is an integral part of practically every patrol activity
- Protection involves a combination of actions to reduce vulnerability and risk
- Assess the child-specific indicators in your operational environment
- In all your actions and orders, **consider the best interest of the child**



Summary

Takeaways from Lesson 3.2:

- Know your roles and how you can contribute to child protection:
 - Direct role: prevent violations and mitigate threats
 - Support role: gather information, support the Child Protection Section/Unit, provide security to civilian Child Protection staff
- Military components have directives/SOPs on child protection – apply them
- Create orders and SOPs to address information requirements, handover of children, etc.
- Child protection is an integral part of practically every patrol activity
- Protection involves a combination of actions to reduce vulnerability and risk
- Assess the child-specific indicators in your operational environment
- In all your actions and orders, consider the best interest of the child

SLIDE 22: REFERENCES (1/2)

References (1/2)

- United Nations, DPO-DPPA Handbook for Child Protection Staff in UN Peace Operations, 2023
- Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict (A/77/895–S/2023/363), June 2023
- United Nations, DPKO/DFS/DPA, Policy on Child Protection in United Nations Peace Operations, 2017
- United Nations, DPO, Integrated Training Service, Child Protection in Peacekeeping Training Modules, Core Pre-deployment Training Materials, September 2017
- United Nations, Infantry Battalion Manual (UNIBAM) Second Edition, January 2020

SLIDE 23: REFERENCES (2/2)

References (2/2)

- United Nations, DPO, Handbook - The Protection of Civilians in United Nations Peacekeeping, 2020
- United Nations, DPKO/DFS, Protection of Civilians: Implementing Guidelines for Military Components of United Nations Peacekeeping Missions, February 2015
- Child Soldier Initiative, Child Soldiers: A Handbook for Security Sector Actors, 2017 (Third Edition)
- United Nations, UNDDR, Operational Guide to the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards (IDDRS), 2014 (see chaps. 5.20, “Youth and DDR”, and 5.30, “Children and DDR”)
- OSRSG-Children and Armed Conflict website (<http://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/>)

SLIDE 24: QUESTIONS

Questions



NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

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