

Lesson 3.5



Military Child Protection Focal Points in Sectors, Units and Team Sites

The Lesson



Starting Lesson 3.5



For an interactive start to lesson 3.5, ask learners:

How does the child protection action of battalions and UNMO teams differ from those of force and sector/brigade headquarters?

Does it mean that additional information and directions are required?

OVERVIEW

Lesson 3.5 covers the role of military Child Protection Focal Points at sector/brigade headquarters, military unit and team site levels. The discussion will help to identify how units and team sites are organized on the ground and how they interact with the population, including armed groups.

This is a different role from that of staff based at headquarters and requires additional information and directions.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Explain the functions of Child Protection Focal Points at sector/brigade, unit and team site levels
- Identify and discuss how best to implement Force Headquarters child protection directions at the tactical level
- Demonstrate the application of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for child protection at the battalion level

ACTIVITIES

1. United Nations Military Observer team sites
2. Implementing Force Headquarters child protection policies
3. Developing military activity
4. Child protection pocket card


HANDOUTS (FOR LEARNERS)

1. Child Protection Pocket Card example
2. Takeaways (Modules 1–3)

SLIDE 1: MODULE 3, LESSON 5: MILITARY CHILD PROTECTION FOCAL POINTS IN SECTORS, UNITS AND TEAM SITES



Module 3, Lesson 5 MILITARY CHILD PROTECTION FOCAL POINTS IN SECTORS, UNITS AND TEAM SITES

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NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

 *This lesson will examine the specific responsibilities of military Child Protection Focal Points at the tactical level.*

SLIDE 2: LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Learning Objectives

- **Explain** the functions of Child Protection Focal Points at sector/brigade, unit and team site levels
- **Identify** and **discuss** how best to implement Force HQ child protection directions at the tactical level
- **Demonstrate** the application of standard operating procedure (SOPs) for child protection at the battalion level

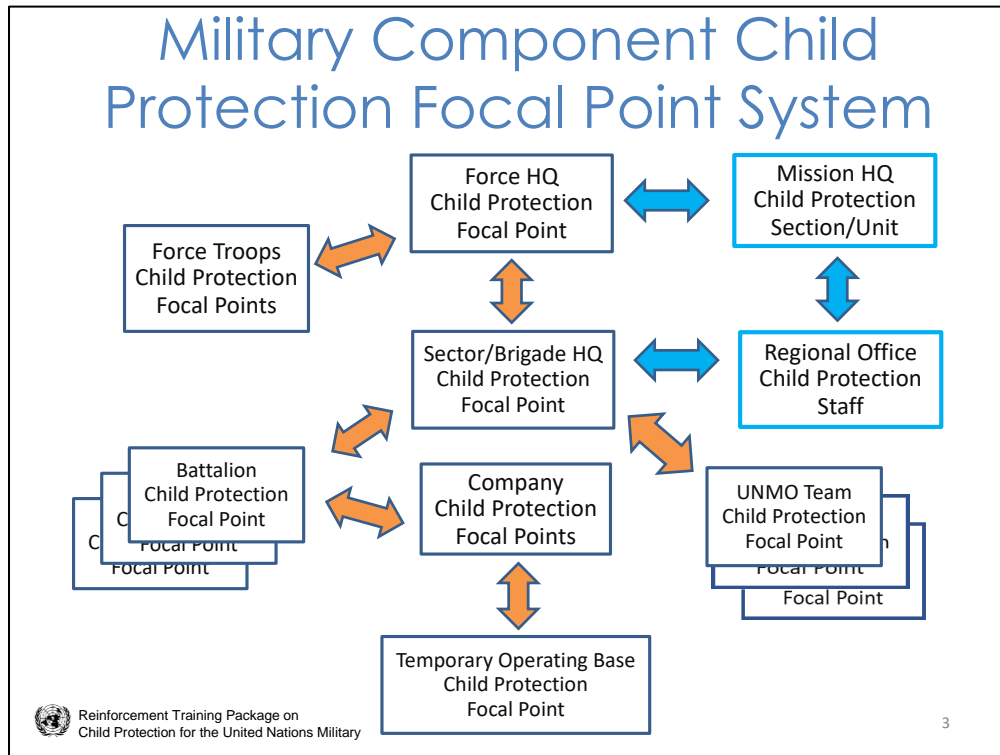
NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

- This lesson will focus on the roles and functions of military Child Protection Focal Points at the tactical level (sector/brigade, units, team sites), their interaction with the Child Protection staff in the mission, and other child protection actors at the field level.

We will discuss the implementation of child protection directions from Force Headquarters (e.g., contained in the Force Commander's Directive on Child Protection) and the importance of developing SOPs for specific child protection action and interaction at the tactical level.

- *The specific learning objectives for this lesson are on slide 2.*

SLIDE 3: MILITARY COMPONENT CHILD PROTECTION FOCAL POINT SYSTEM



NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

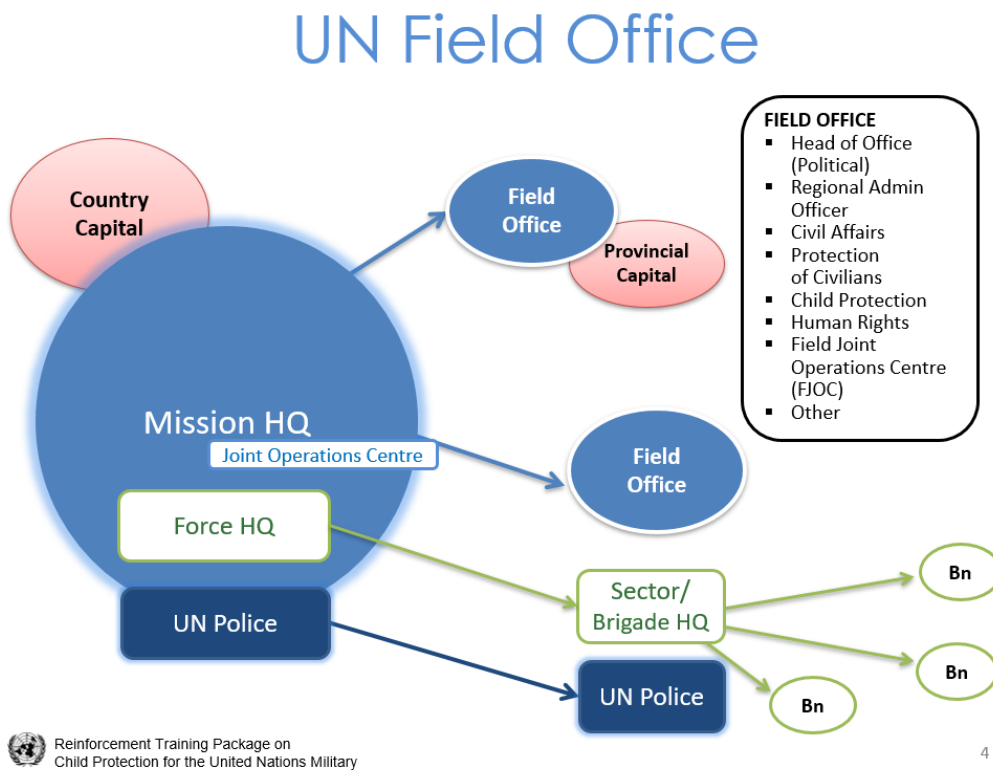
Key Message: The network of military Child Protection Focal Points is essential to the military component's child protection tasks and for effective coordination with mission and external partners.

This slide was presented earlier (lessons 1.2, 3.2 and 3.4). It shows the coordination and flow of child protection information within the military component and with the Child Protection Section/Unit in the mission.

It also shows the relationship between sector/brigade headquarters, battalions, force troops, units and UNMO team sites.

Mention to learners that force troops (which will be discussed briefly in this lesson) report directly to Force Headquarters.

SLIDE 4: UNITED NATIONS FIELD OFFICE



NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: Many of the offices in the mission headquarters are replicated in the field office.

This slide was presented earlier (lesson 1.2). This slide has builds.

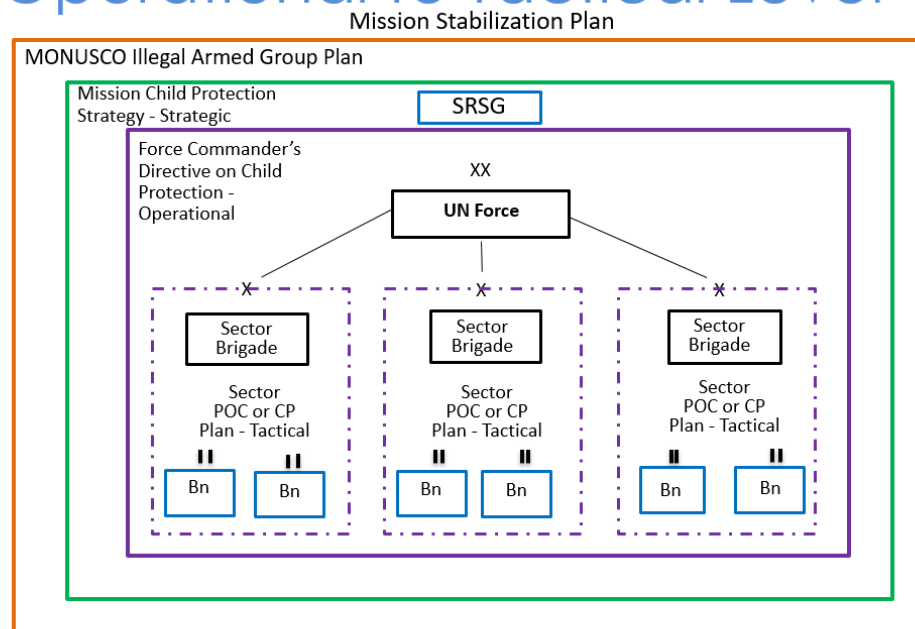
The mission headquarters is made up of several offices and is most often located in the capital city of the host country, which facilitates mission leadership engagement with the host country's leadership. The civilian component in the mission has offices in different areas of the host country, most often in regional/provincial capitals. The mission usually establishes a regional or field office, which is smaller than mission headquarters, but which contains branches of several mission offices (depending on the mandate and the situation in the country). The field offices usually have staff for civil affairs, human rights, a JMAC and an operations centre – often called a Field Joint Operations Centre (FJOC) – as well as a Civilian Protection Officer and a Child Protection staff.

The military sector/brigade headquarters is likely to be co-located with a field office and its staff work in liaison with the field office, similar to how Force Headquarters liaises with mission headquarters. For example, the sector/brigade Commander may meet

daily with the Head of Field Office, G2 staff liaise with JMAC, the sector/brigade Child Protection Focal Point liaises with the civilian Child Protection staff, if there is one, or the Human Rights Officer or the civilian Child Protection Focal Point in the field office. United Nations police will also be co-located with the field office and liaise with its personnel. The Field Joint Operations Centre will contain civilian, military and police representatives.

SLIDE 5: OPERATIONAL TO TACTICAL LEVEL

Operational to Tactical Level



NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: Tactical-level child protection plans are informed by the Force Commander's Directive on Child Protection. This slide shows where the tactical-level plans fall within the larger framework.

This slide was presented in lesson 3.4. It shows the relationship between the Force Commander's Directive on Child Protection and other mission and force plans and directions. The mission mandate and mandated tasks will drive this planning framework. For example, MONUSCO has a stabilization plan, including an illegal armed group (IAG) plan. All plans and orders disseminated from the operational level must be fully coordinated at the tactical level.


- The Force Commander's Directive on Child Protection is formulated at the operational level in consultation with other strategies and plans, such as the mandate implementation plan and the protection of civilians strategy.

It is imperative to implement the Force Commander's Directive on Child Protection in close coordination with other mission plans and directives. Operational level plans and orders are translated into tactical level plans and activities. Coordination at the sector/brigade and field office levels is essential for the effective implementation of the child protection mandate.

SLIDE 6: SECTOR/BRIGADE CHILD PROTECTION FOCAL POINT – KEY TASKS

Sector/Brigade Child Protection Focal Points – Key Tasks

- Coordinate with the Field Office child protection staff to advise Sector/Brigade Commander and staff
- Implement Force HQ directions
- Mainstream child protection in all operations
- Ensure alerts on child protection issues are received through the Alert System
- Be aware of the referral mechanisms in AoR, and ensure all Child Protection Focal Points are adequately informed about referrals
- Provide support for child protection to subordinate units and team sites, including threat-related CP training
- Sensitize all staff on zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and child labour

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NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: The sector/brigade Child Protection Focal Point works with the civilian child protection staff to mainstream child protection into the sector activities, and to ensure that all child protection concerns are addressed.

- One of the sector/brigade Child Protection Focal Point's key tasks is coordinating with the field office child protection staff – so as to provide the most appropriate advice to the sector/brigade Commander and staff –, and act as a liaison between sector/brigade headquarters and the child protection staff to facilitate two-way communication.


(We will look at how to implement Force Headquarters child protection directions at the sector/brigade level later in the lesson.)

As in Force Headquarters, mainstreaming child protection in all military activities is a key task for the sector/brigade Child Protection Focal Point. Mainstreaming is intended to ensure that child protection is always at the forefront of our minds, so that any time orders are drafted, or an activity is planned, their impact on children and their security is taken into account.

The sector/brigade Child Protection Focal Point must maintain close liaison with the operations and other branches (such as CIMIC) that are involved in activities to keep up to date on any planning that may be in progress and to provide timely advice (not after the document has been signed).

Another important task at sector/brigade level is to ensure alerts, including information on grave violations against children, from battalions and sub-units are received through the Child Protection Alert System so as to trigger appropriate action by sector/brigade headquarters and the field office. The sector/brigade Child Protection Focal Point should also know about the referral mechanisms, and follow up on referrals if needed, within the area of responsibility to address child protection concerns, such as sexual violence, children separated from armed forces and armed groups, unaccompanied children, and other issues.

The sector/brigade Child Protection Focal Point also supports the Child Protection Focal Points at the battalion and sub-unit levels on all child protection matters, including ensuring they are informed about the referral mechanisms, as well as following-up on child protection training to ensure the implementation of measures at the tactical level. The sector/brigade Child Protection Focal Point should be familiar with the child protection challenges in each battalion's and sub-units' area of responsibility.

 *The military Child Protection Focal Points should be aware of/adequately informed about existing referral mechanism in their area of responsibility. A referral mechanism safely links victims to multi-sectoral services, such as medical, psychosocial support, case management, safety/security, justice and legal aid. If military personnel come into contact with victims of sexual violence, children separated from armed forces and armed groups, unaccompanied children, and other issues:*

- *Provide immediate assistance (first aid, food, water, clothing, security)*
- *Report through the chain of command and immediately share information with the nearest civilian Child Protection staff*
- *In consultation with the Child Protection staff, follow the referral arrangements for transfer, escort and handover of the victim(s) to the designated service provider*
- *Remember: respect the privacy, confidentiality & wishes of victim(s)*

☞ *Military responsibility ends with handing over of the victim(s) to a designated service provider).*

SLIDE 7: BATTALION/UNIT CHILD PROTECTION FOCAL POINT – KEY TASKS

Battalion/Unit Child Protection Focal Point – Key Tasks

- Advise Commander on child protection-related issues
- Maintain links with local child protection actors
- Implement sector/brigade directions on child protection
- Mainstream child protection in all operations
- Ensure troops know how to use the Alert System to report child protection threats, and activate the referral mechanisms, if needed
- Provide support to Child Protection Focal Points at Company locations and TOBs, including threat-related CP training
- Sensitize all staff on zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and child labour

NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: Battalion child protection personnel also engage at the company and Temporary Operating Base levels.

☞ *If necessary, remind learners about the difference between Child Protection Focal Points in infantry battalions under sector/brigade headquarters and force troop Child Protection Focal Points who report to Force Headquarters.*

Force troop units working within a sector's/brigade's area or responsibility may also be directed to link into the sector/brigade headquarters.

The United Nations Infantry Battalion Manual (UNIBAM) (2020) contains additional information on how a battalion functions. Force units (i.e., engineers, aviation, logistics, medical, etc.) have their own United Nations peacekeeping manuals.

☛ The battalion Child Protection Focal Point provides advice to the battalion Commander – and in the case of force troops, the unit Commander – on all child protection issues that may require force action. The Focal Point should have received

child protection training prior to deployment and may communicate with the sector/brigade Child Protection Focal Point and, through him/her, with the civilian child protection staff for advice and support.

Normally, there are no civilian Child Protection staff in a battalion's area of responsibility as the civilian staff are mostly found in mission headquarters and field offices. However, there may be other (non-Mission) child protection actors in the area of responsibility, who are also part of the referral mechanism, including United Nations agencies, such as UNICEF, international NGOs, such as Save the Children, local NGOs and clinics. Military personnel should be familiar with all these partners, know their capabilities and limitations, and have their contact numbers.

The battalion headquarters also engages with the local authorities, military and police. Although these interactions are not led by a civilian Child Protection staff, there may be child protection elements in the dialogue.

The battalion Child Protection Focal Point, works with other battalion staff to develop and oversee the implementation of specific standard operating procedures (SOPs) relating to the capture or surrender of children and temporary detention of children. The focal point also ensures that no children are employed on the bases and no troops use children for labour, for example, to clean cars (including outside of the base). There is zero tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse of children.

As in Force and sector/brigade headquarters, mainstreaming child protection is an essential and continuous task, in order to ensure that each patrol is well prepared to encounter children in different situations and take appropriate actions.

The Child Protection Alert System is especially important at the battalion level because the initial reports of threats to children usually come from battalions, and present the opportunity for pre-emptive action by the battalion, supported by sector/brigade headquarters and the field office. The Child Protection Focal Point should ensure that troops are familiar with and know how to use the Alert System to report threats to children so as to ensure timely and appropriate action, including activating referral mechanisms, as needed.

Each battalion has a Child Protection Focal Point at company bases, and companies should have focal points at their deployed Temporary Operating Bases (TOBs). The battalion Child Protection Focal Point should ensure that the battalion child protection policies are implemented and support the Child Protection Focal Points at company bases and TOBs.

It is imperative that child protection training for battalions focus on the main threats to children in the battalion's area of responsibility – for example, are there any illegal vehicle checkpoints manned by children in the area? How can troops be trained to take appropriate action? Do the country's military forces use children or affiliates? What action should be taken by United Nations military? All child protection training should utilize the rules of engagement of the mission.


SLIDE 8: MILITARY OBSERVER TEAM SITE CHILD PROTECTION FOCAL POINT

Military Observer Team Site Child Protection Focal Point

- Presence of Child Protection Focal Points at each team site
- Establish/maintain links with local child protection actors
- Mainstream child protection in all patrols and tasks
- Advocate child protection
- Use the Alert System and the Referral System
- Ensure threat-related child protection training
- Enforce zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and child labour


NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: Military observers play an important role in child protection as they patrol areas that are not covered by battalions and may be the only United Nations personnel coming into contact with certain civilians.

 *This slide has builds. Explain the role of United Nations military observers (UNMO) as some learners may not be familiar with that function. Some UNMO team sites are located within military bases for force protection, while others may be located in individual houses in the community.*



Quick activity

 *Before showing the text of the bullets, ask learners if they are familiar with the role of military observers (someone may have been an UNMO).*

Also ask learners what they think the role of the Child Protection Focal Point at a team site entail.

- Each UNMO team site should have a Child Protection Focal Point, who must have sufficient training and knowledge of child protection threats in the area to be effective. The Child Protection Focal Point at sector/brigade level should be monitoring this.

United Nations military observer teams may operate in different areas from the infantry battalion and therefore have different contacts, and communicate with different local child protection actors. There may be duplication/overlap with the battalion, so the team site Focal Point and the battalion Child Protection Focal Point must liaise with each other.

Child protection must be taken into account in all patrols, as military observer teams will see children while on patrol and should be on the lookout for early warning indicators of the six grave violations and other threats to children. They should also note any positive impacts on children in the patrol area, such as resumption of classes in schools or vaccination programmes.

Child protection advocacy means raising awareness on and promoting children's rights and best practices for the protection of children. Such advocacy may include disseminating public information products, such as posters, developed by the Child Protection Section/Unit of the mission, advising villagers about escorting their children to school, or warning villagers about mines.

The team site Child Protection Focal Point should ensure that the military observers are familiar with the Child Protection Alert System and know what to look out for, how to transmit messages, what happens when messages are transmitted through the system, and how to activate the referral mechanisms, if needed.

Child protection training is important for military observers also, as they come from different military forces and often from various branches (e.g., army, navy, air force) and units (e.g., logistics, medical, engineering). The team site Child Protection Focal Point is responsible for child protection training and should ensure that the training is relevant to the child protection challenges in the area (e.g., know what action to take if the host State armed force is using a local school for accommodation).

Zero tolerance on sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) of children and child labour must be enforced on military observer team sites. Team sites are often situated in communities; therefore, Child Protection Focal Points must continuously sensitize and remind the teams about SEA and child labour.

SLIDE 9: IMPLEMENTING FORCE HEADQUARTERS CHILD PROTECTION POLICIES (1)

Implementing Force HQ Child Protection Policies (1)

Group Discussion

- Does Sector/Brigade HQ need to produce its own Child Protection Directive?
- Is issuing a Directive sufficient?
- Should the Sector/Brigade Directive be a cut-and-paste from the Force HQ Directive?
- What are the key contents of a Child Protection Directive?

NOTES (FOR TRAINER)



Group Discussion

Divide learners into groups and make sure each group has a recent mission-specific Force Commander's Directive on Child Protection.

Allow 5 minutes to discuss the questions on the slide. Note some of the responses on a flip chart/whiteboard before moving on to the next slide (which contains suggested answers).

SLIDE 10: IMPLEMENTING FORCE HEADQUARTERS CHILD PROTECTION POLICIES (2)

Implementing Force HQ Child Protection Policies (2)

- A Directive alone is not sufficient at the tactical level
- There should also be standard operating procedures (SOPs) and orders
- Guidance at the tactical level should be relevant to the specific context
- Policies should reflect the child protection threats in the particular mission area

NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: Sector/brigade headquarters cannot simply issue the Force Commander's Directive on Child Protection and expect it to be implemented. The Directive has to be adapted into procedures and orders at the tactical level to be implemented as action on the ground.

- The directions issued by sector/brigade headquarters should not be a simple cut-and-paste of the Force Commander's Directive. They must be specific to the particular sector.

At the tactical level, procedures and orders based on the Directives enable direct communication of the action that is required on the ground. Therefore, the Force Commander's Directive on Child Protection must be translated into a SOP or an order (e.g., a FRAGO) in order to be implemented. SOPs indicate what actions to take on the ground and what administrative action (e.g., forms/reports to be submitted) is required.

Sector/Brigade Headquarters provide directions to battalions and the UNMO teams that carry out operations on the ground; such directions must therefore be relevant to their missions and tasks, and must also be mainstreamed in the sector's/brigade's overall concept of operations and not be seen as separate activities.

The sector's/brigade's directions must also reflect the child protection threats in the sector's/brigade's area of responsibility and the sector's/brigade's plans for addressing those threats.


No matter the format of the directions, once issued, their implementation must be monitored and the outcomes assessed. Are the orders being implemented? Do they have the desired effect? If not, what should be done?

Lastly, battalions and UNMO teams must be trained on and rehearse the SOPs and orders so that they can effectively implement them on the ground. The Child Protection Focal Points at sector/brigade headquarters, battalion and team site levels should contribute to this training.

SLIDE 11: IMPLEMENTING FORCE HEADQUARTERS CHILD PROTECTION DIRECTIONS
– SECTOR/BRIGADE ORDERS

Implementing Force HQ Child Protection Directions – Sector/Brigade Orders

- Drafted by the sector/brigade Child Protection Focal Point and the civilian Child Protection staff
- Jointly approved by the sector/brigade Commander and Chief of Staff
- Collated by the Force HQ Child Protection Focal Point
- Ensure that Child Protection staff (Mission HQ) is briefed on all sector plans

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NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

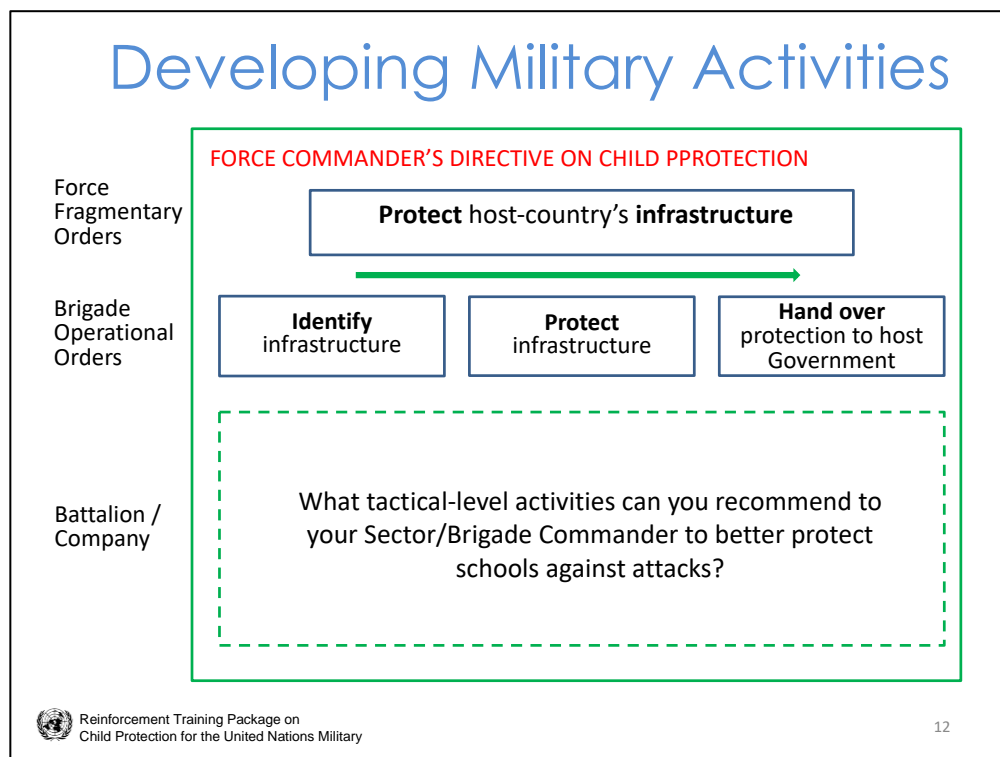
Key Message: The Force Commander's Directive on Child Protection and other child protection directions for the military authorize child protection activities at the tactical level. The activities themselves require separate military planning.

- The child protection directions issued by Force Headquarters must prompt the sector/brigade to assess the child protection needs and challenges in their area of responsibility/operations, and to draft and implement a child protection plan

accordingly. The sector/brigade Child Protection Focal Point should be responsible for drafting the plan, while the sector/brigade Commander or Chief of Staff should review and approve it. The Force Headquarters Child Protection Focal Point is responsible for collating and reviewing the sector's/brigade's plans and providing direction and support as necessary.

This process is key to enabling child protection activities at the tactical level to ensure compliance with operational guidance and directives and the achievement of the child protection objectives.

SLIDE 12: DEVELOPING MILITARY ACTIVITIES



NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: Protection of host country infrastructure by United Nations military includes protecting schools.



Small-group Discussion

Divide learners into groups. Have each group appoint a spokesperson to report in plenary. Allow 10 minutes for the discussion.

SCENARIO: Attacks on Schools

You are the sector/brigade Child Protection Focal Point. You have received reports of attacks against a school. The sector/brigade headquarters has the mandate to “protect the host country’s infrastructure”.

Your Chief of Staff has developed three strands of military activity: *identify, protect* and *hand over*.

Instructions

- Discuss possible tactical-level activities to recommend to your sector/brigade Commander to better protect schools against attacks.

Examples of activities:

- Establish a list of schools and their status (e.g., used, disused, vulnerable to attacks/use by armed forces or armed groups) [find];
- Use the alert system to enable proactive action [protect];
- Support villages in protecting their schools [protect];
- Identify and influence/neutralize the armed forces or armed groups likely to attack schools [find and protect].

Note: The activities should also include protection of teachers.

SLIDE 13: IMPLEMENTING FORCE HEADQUARTERS CHILD PROTECTION POLICIES (3)

Implementing Force HQ Child Protection Policies (3)

- Refer to the Force Commander’s Directive on Child Protection to ensure child protection is mainstreamed into all military functions and activities
- As a Child Protection Focal Point, you are responsible for linking child protection to military activities = a mandated task
- Conduct joint planning with civilian child protection colleagues
- If in doubt, ask the civilian Child Protection staff
- Ensure back-briefs; share information

NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: The Force Commander's Directive on Child Protection is only as good as its implementation at the tactical level.

- The sector/brigade and tactical-level military Child Protection Focal Points are responsible for implementing the Directive in order to link child protection and military activity. The military Child Protection Focal Point must be able to explain child protection concerns to the military personnel and units. The military Child Protection Focal Point is also the interlocutor for the sector/brigade Child Protection Focal Point and must ensure that he/she is briefed on any significant child protection issues and developments in the area.

Remember to involve the civilian Child Protection staff in planning military activities, in particular when planning robust security operations. If in doubt, reach out to the Child Protection staff with knowledge of the local context.

Finally, try to include back briefs to child protection colleagues into your daily work routine. When there is a military plan to be implemented and when the security situation permits, try to get the Force/sector planning team to back brief the civilian components of the mission. This will facilitate information-sharing and build trust between military and civilian partners.

SLIDE 14: BATTALION CHILD PROTECTION – STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

Battalion Child Protection - Standard Operating Procedures

- Role of the battalion Child Protection Focal Point
- Monitoring and reporting on the six grave violations
- Using the Alert System and appropriate report format
- Guidelines on interactions with children
 - Civilian-Military Cooperation Unit
 - Child Protection Unit
- Procedure relating to surrender of children
- Procedure relating to detention of children
- Procedure relating to handover of children
- Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and child labour

NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: The child protection mandate impacts most military tasks. There is a specific SOP for child protection, and other SOPs also contain procedures that are relevant to child protection.

🗨️ The battalion may incorporate child protection procedures into one or several SOPs, for example:

- On the role of battalion Child Protection Focal Points, so that they and the personnel and troops of the battalion know what the Child Protection Focal Point does
- On the six grave violations against children, identifying the violations, action(s) to take, and how and to whom to report on them
- On how to report immediate threats to children using the Child Protection Alert System, including the format of the report
- On civilian-military cooperation (CIMIC) for organizing events for children, such as medical outreach, and quick-impact projects (QIPs) that impact children
- On dealing with children associated with armed forces and armed groups : e.g., what to do if you encounter a child , voluntary surrender of a child detention of children (this may be covered in the battalion SOP on detention), handing over a child to civilian child protection actors or a host government child protection agency
- On sexual exploitation and abuse and child labour


👉 *This list is not exhaustive; other SOPs may include child protection-related procedures (e.g., cordon and search SOPs).*

Handling of Detention: Special Considerations for Children

- Last resort measure and for as short a time as possible
- Immediately disarm child/children
- Inform the Child Protection Section
- Separate children from adults (unless same family), and boys from girls
- Respect the child (and his/her rights)
- Provide food, first aid, civilian clothing
- Do not question the child/children (other than basic facts)
- Bear in mind the best interest of the child
- Bear in mind the “Do No Harm” principle

NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: If you must detain a child, always keep in mind “the best interest of the child” and the “do no harm” principle.

 *DPPA/DPO/DSS Standard Operating Procedures on the Handling of Detention in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and Special Political Missions (2021): Special Considerations for Children, is the key reference on this matter. Military personnel should familiarize themselves with it. The mission and Force Headquarters will also have their own directive on detention (see also module 3.3. on arrest and detention of children)*

 Detention or “temporary holding” of children is a measure of last resort and must be for as short a time as possible.

Note that there is likely to be a delay between the surrender of a child and the battalion’s ability to hand over the child to the civilian Child Protection staff. Therefore, battalion and company bases should plan for this eventuality and ensure that procedures are in place and that a designated holding area is available.

Voluntary surrender: When a child surrenders, he/she must be disarmed and searched for munitions and explosives immediately or as soon as it is safe to do so. That is to ensure that the child does not pose a risk to himself/herself or others.

The Child Protection staff should be informed in a timely manner, through the operations room and the Alert System, so that action can be taken to arrange for the transfer of the child to a civilian environment.

Children must NOT be detained with adults, unless they are members of the same family, as this may cause them to be harmed. In addition, girls must be separated from boys, and it is advisable to separate young children from teenagers.

Respect the rights of the child; keep the child informed of what is going on and respond to his/her questions; provide food, water, first aid and civilian clothing; indicate washing/sanitation facilities.

Do not question the child beyond the basic facts (name and age); if they do not want to provide this information, do not press them further.

Do not ask questions of a tactical nature. The child will be interviewed at a later stage by civilian Child Protection staff who are familiar with the appropriate methodology.

Always bear in mind the “best interest of the child” and the Do No Harm principle.

SLIDE 16: CHILD PROTECTION POCKET CARD – GROUP DISCUSSION

Child Protection Pocket Card

Group Discussion

There is a lot of child protection information for a military personnel to remember on the ground.

- Do military personnel need a Child Protection Pocket Card as a quick reference?
(a ROE Card already exists)
- What information should the Pocket Card contain?

NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

**Group Discussion**

Divide learners into groups and ask them to discuss the following:

There is a lot of child protection information for military personnel to remember on the ground. Do you think a Child Protection Pocket Card would be useful? If yes, what information should be on the card?

(Note that a Rules of Engagement Card already exists)

Note the groups' responses on a flip chart/whiteboard and explain that only a limited amount of information can fit onto a card. Too much information would defeat the purpose of a quick-reference card.

☞ Share the Child Protection Pocket Card (as an example) after the initial discussion.

SLIDE 17: TAKEAWAYS

Takeaways

- Each level (sector/brigade, battalion, company, temporary ops base, UNMO team site) should have its own specific tactical child protection documents
- Child protection documents must be relevant to specific area of responsibility and the role of the unit
- Documents are only the basis for effective child protection; military personnel must be trained, rehearse and implement procedures
- Report all child protection concerns/observations and establish mechanisms to generate situational awareness



Summary

Takeaways from Lesson 3.5:

- Each level (sector/brigade, battalion, unit, temporary operations base, UNMO team site) should have its own specific tactical child protection documents
- Child protection documents must be relevant to the specific area of responsibility and the role of the unit
- Documents are only the basis for effective child protection; military personnel must be trained, rehearse and implement procedures
- Report all child protection concerns/observations and establish mechanisms to generate situational awareness

SLIDE 18: REFERENCES

References

- United Nations, DPKO/DFS/DPA Policy on Child Protection in United Nations Peace Operations, 2017
- United Nations, Infantry Battalion Manual (UNIBAM), Second Edition, January 2020
- United Nations, DPO-DPPA-DSS, Standard Operating Procedure: The Handling of Detention in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and Special Political Missions, 2021

SLIDE 19: QUESTIONS

Questions



NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

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

