

Module 3 – MONUSCO



Scenarios and Snap Situations

Part III: MONUSCO CRSV Operational Scenarios

Scenario 1: Rape of a Child (Girl) at a Checkpoint

The area of Wula in South Kivu is hilly, with bush and open agricultural land and small villages, most of them secluded. Legal and illegal mining is carried out in several places, much of it highly disputed.

Local teachers, village elders, female groups, and priests play an important role in the communities.

Infrastructure is very poor and the area is easily infiltrated. Negative forces (henceforth referred to as “rebel groups”), such as FDLR, Interahamwe, Rasta, Mai Mai, dissident splinter groups and nonaligned bandits, are harassing the local population. The general situation is volatile, with frequent incidents of looting, extortion, abduction and sexual violence committed by rebel groups as well as members of the FARDC.

A UN patrol (30 soldiers) on foot, at last light, encounters a young girl (13 years) who has been raped by four uniformed and armed persons at a nearby checkpoint. She is in a bad state, but is able to accurately describe the perpetrators. The checkpoint is only a five minute walk away.

Points to deliberate.

- a. What should the patrol commander decide?
- b. Indicate in detail on what documents they base this decision.
- c. In case the perpetrators are FARDC soldiers, what should the patrol commander do?
- d. In case the perpetrators are members of a rebel group, what should the patrol commander do?
- e. What should the patrol do with the girl?
- f. What should the company commander (Coy Commander) decide after learning about the incident?
- g. What actions should the battalion/sector commander take after the latest incident?

Scenario 2: Sexual Violence in and Around Market Place

Twice a week, there is market in the Village of Muta in North Kivu. The market is regularly threatened by armed groups, who are looting, killing, abducting women and girls and raping women on their way from their homes in the hills to the market. Police are scared and incapable of taking action. The local FARDC commander is openly doing business with FDLR. In the past he has refused to take action when called upon by MONUSCO.

Two young girls were raped in the village, abducted and taken to the forest. On the same day, a group of four women were raped on their way to the market, while another managed to escape. She knows where the perpetrators live and reports the incident to the village elder, who passes the information on to UN forces deployed in the area and asks the company commander to help rescue the two girls from their kidnappers.

Points to deliberate.

- a. How should the company commander react to the request to rescue the girls from their abductors and what action should he take?
- b. How can the victims be assisted?
- c. What action should be taken by the UN at the sector and mission level to prevent similar situations in the future?

Scenario 3: Mass Rape in a Village

The Forces Démocratiques de Libération du Rwanda (FDLR) is the primary remnant Rwandan rebel group in eastern DRC. It has been involved in fighting in DRC since its formation in 2000, and is composed almost entirely of ethnic Hutus opposed to Tutsi rule and influence in the region. Since December 2008, when DRC and Rwanda agreed to dismantle the FDLR, the FARDC has been pursuing FDLR fighters in eastern DRC, with assistance at various times from the Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA/RDF Rwandan Defence Forces). FDLR continues to be responsible for atrocities committed against the civilian population, including larger-scale attacks against villages in the Kivus.

A group of approximately 50 FDLR fighters enter a village in the evening. While most of the men manage to flee, 47 women and girls are held and brutally raped. Following the mass rape, the FDLR fighters lock the women/girls inside their huts and burn them alive. The rebels leave and disappear into the bush. When the men return to the burned-down village, they alert the local police and the closest MONUSCO company location. They claim to know where the FDLR camp is located. FARDC units in the area are not unified, still in the process of reorganizing, and poorly equipped.

Points to deliberate.

- a. What should the MONUSCO company commander decide and what are the subsequent actions the mission should undertake?
- b. Why must MONUSCO take decisive action in cases such as this one?
- c. What should be done with perpetrators if captured?
- d. Which mission components might be involved in this situation?
- e. What can be done to prevent similar atrocities from occurring in the future?
- f. How can remote villages alert the UN Mission in case of attacks?

Scenario 4: Alleged Mass Rape

The area of Sisai and Kalu is considered particularly volatile, with regular reports of roaming FDLR elements. In response to information that FDLR is building up its strength in the region, UN security officers have advised World Food Programme (WFP) and other agencies to suspend movement in the area. Given the insecurity, MONUSCO is carrying out regular escorts for women from the village of Hisha who attend the market day in the nearby town of Kobu.

The company commander of the UN operational base learns from a local health centre supported by the International Medical Corps that a mass rape has occurred in the village of Hisha a few days ago.

Although a UN patrol escorted villagers to the market since the rape occurred, it was not told about the incident.

Points to deliberate.

- a. What action should the company commander take in response to the report about the mass rape?
- b. What would be the Mission's response to the information received from the health center?
- c. What may be the reason that the villagers did not inform the UN patrol about the mass rape?
- d. What can the company commander and the UN patrols do to instil trust and confidence in MONUSCO among the local population?
- e. What can MONUSCO do to prevent similar mass rapes within its area of operations?

Scenario 5: Attempted Rape

The area of Wula in South Kivu is hilly, with bush and open agricultural land and small villages, most of them secluded. Legal and illegal mining is carried out in several places, much of it highly disputed. Local teachers, village elders, female groups, and priests play an important role in the communities. Infrastructure is very poor and the area is easily infiltrated. Rebel groups are harassing the local population. The general situation is volatile, with frequent incidents of looting, extortion, abduction and sexual violence committed by rebel groups as well as members of the FARDC.

A UN Engineer Company is deployed to the mission. The Troop Contributing Country in question has only deployed engineers and no infantry. An Engineer platoon of this unit is working on the road just outside Wula. They have a section of 10 engineers providing security for the working engineers and the crews in the bulldozers, rollers and dip trucks. They suddenly hear screaming and see at a distance of 100 meters a woman with her young daughter being harassed by four men; three have an AK 47 rifle and one a machete. They are ripping off the clothes of the two women and dragging them into the vegetation on the side of the road.

Points to deliberate.

- a. What should the on-scene engineer commander decide?
- b. What should the Company Commander decide after learning about the incident?
- c. What actions should the battalion/sector commander in whose area the engineers are working, take after the latest incident?

MONUSCO CRSV Snap Situations

Snap Situation 1: Sexual Violence by Armed Group Elements

An armed group called FFFI has retreated in a remote area after clashing with the national defence forces (NDF). They have split up in small groups and are attacking small villages during the night in order to loot. Attack and looting is mostly accompanied by human rights violations, including CRSV. In most of the incidents, women and sometimes young girls have been reported to have been raped. Rich businessmen, local chiefs and politicians as well as people with the same ethnic background as the combatants of the FFFI are reported to have sympathy and alliances with the FFFI. The area where the combatants hide is also vast with limited road infrastructure.

What is your response?

Points for Deliberation:

- a. Can the Force take on such a situation on its own?
- b. Why would the Force interact with civilian sections and partners on this issue?
- c. Which civilian MONUSCO partners have a mandate on such an issue?
- d. In which provincial forum can collaboration between the Force and the MONUSCO civilians be established?
- e. With which other UN partners should MONUSCO collaborate and why?
- f. What are the PoC mechanisms that can contribute to better PoC in the field?

Snap Situation 2: Prevailing Insecurity

A local woman comes to the CoB in the evening. She says that she is feeling insecure and terrified after hearing that a few militiamen are waylaid women and girls on the road back to her home. She says that a neighbour was already reported to have been raped.

What is your response?

Points for Deliberation.

- a. What can the CoB commander do?
- b. Can he allow the woman to spend the night in the CoB?
- c. Can he bring the woman home with a patrol?
- d. Should he call for medical help for the possible victim (neighbour)?
- e. What can the CLA do?
- f. What can local NGO's do?

Snap Situation 3: Report of Sexual Violence

A local NGO comes to the CoB and requests to talk with the CoB commander. According to their information, a local armed group will be present in the area that night and the number of individual rapes by members of this group has been on the rise. The NGO explains that, although the national army is present in the area and knows about the activities of this armed group, they do not want to arrest the perpetrators, since they are doing business with the armed group.

What is your response?

Points for Deliberation.

- a. Will the CoB commander receive the local NGO in the CoB for discussion?
- b. What can the CoB commander do immediately?
- c. What can the CoB commander do in the following days?

- d. What role can the CLA play?

Snap Situation 4: Assistance to an NGO

A local NGO says that they are organizing medical support for villages following reports of rapes in the past days. They request the CoB commander to protect them when they go to this area. However, they do not want that the Force is present around their field hospital because they do not want to be identified as being associated with the UN Force and the conflict.

What is your response?

Points for Deliberation.

- a. Can the CoB commander agree to protect the NGO?
- b. Can the CoB commander agree with the condition not to be around the field hospital?