



DPKO-DFS Specialised Training Materials

Prevention & Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

UN Military Component Role and Responsibilities



“Sexual violence in conflict is a hugely traumatic and destructive violation of people's lives. It damages the very fabric of society and hinders the preservation of a peaceful future for women and girls and all members of the community.

We must work to ensure that victims are protected and assisted, that there is no impunity, and the perpetrators of these heinous acts are brought to justice.”



Mr. Atul Khare
Under-Secretary-General for Field Support



*“Our military, police and civilian personnel in the field
are playing critical roles in addressing conflict-related sexual violence.
But, we can and we must do more—one incident of sexual violence is one incident too many.”*



Ms Ameerah Haq
Former Under-Secretary-General for Field Support



Introduction



Comprehensive approach to addressing CRSV includes:

- Prevention of incidents of SV
- Constructive engagement with all parties
- Assistance to survivors
- Prosecution of perpetrators

Whole of mission effort but Military is often the 1st responder



Aim & Scope



Aim

To provide an overview of the UN Military Component role and responsibilities in prevention and response to CRSV.

Scope

Part I : Military's Approaches to address CRSV.

Part II : Preventive Measures.

Part III : Response Measures.

Part IV : Do's and Don'ts in addressing CRSV.



Learning Outcomes



- Understand UN Military Component's role and responsibilities;
- Understand the nuances of designing preventive and response measures to address CRSV;
- Implement preventive measures in a proactive/pre-emptive manner;



Learning Outcomes (cont'd)



- Be able to respond timely and effectively to address CRSV threats;
- Be prepared to respond to all forms of SV (SGBV and CRSV) as part of the mandated activities; and,
- Be able to train the contingent/military peacekeepers on CRSV responses.



UN Military's Approaches to Address CRSV



- Mainstreaming
- Accountability
- Analysis
- Coordination
- Prevention
- Response
- Female Military Peacekeepers
- Focal Points



Cardinal Points on PoC



- PoC includes all forms of sexual violence;
- Take all necessary actions to prevent CRSV within capability;
- May operate independently when host Government is unwilling or ineffective;
- Uphold and adhere to IHL, IHRL and code of conduct for UN peacekeepers;



Cardinal Points on PoC (cont'd)



- Show or use force to prevent, deter and respond to threats as per ROE;
- When and where possible, permission to use force should be sought from immediate superior commander; and,
- Adhere to UN HRDDP when operating with host State security and law enforcement forces.



Preventive Measures



- Protective-Grid
- Constructive Engagement and Advocacy
- Conflict Mitigation
- Engagement of Local Women
- Community Support
- QIPs



Preventive Measures (cont'd)



- Monitoring & Reporting
- Presence and Proactive Posturing
- Preemptive Interventions
- Escorts
- Safe Areas
- DSR/DDR
- Physical Security



Response Measures



- Active Patrolling
- Direct Military Action
- Cordon and Search
- Extraction
- Disarming
- Detention
- Survivor Assistance
- Consolidation



Do's and Don'ts in Addressing CRSV



Do's:

- Be a 'Role Model';
- Respect the dignity and confidentiality of the survivor;
- Document/record the incident and preserve evidence;
- Obtain necessary information for reporting of the incident (if possible). Actionable information that can prevent further HR violations/CRSV must be responded to immediately;



Do's and Don'ts in Addressing CRSV



Do's (continued):

- Report on chain of command **AND** to the designated WPA/CPA;
- **Assist and protect** the survivor(s) and witnesses as required;
- Obtain **informed consent** from the survivor (on whom to inform, which service provider to be approached, etc.);
- Follow '**Referral Arrangements**' for transfer and handover of the survivor to the designated service provider;



Do's and Don'ts in Addressing CRSV



Do's (continued):

- Follow detention procedures in handling perpetrators;
- In case of doubt, **assume SV has taken place**;
- **Follow ROE** and principles of Use of Force. Ensure command and control, restraint, maturity and discretion; and,
- **Do No Harm**/Avoid collateral damages.



Do's and Don'ts in Addressing CRSV



Don'ts:

- Do **NOT** interview the survivor(s) or investigate the incident (it will be done by the authorised officials);
- Do **NOT** follow up (it is the responsibility of HR officers and the WPAs);
- No action, such as informing local authorities, should be taken without confirming with WPAs/CPAs; and
- Do **NOT** reveal the particulars of the survivor (maintain confidentiality and anonymity - name, details of the family, village, personal identification, photos, not to be reflected in reports, etc.).



Takeaways



UN military peacekeepers addressing CRSV are:

a. Authorised to:

- i. **Prevent and respond to all forms of SV**, remembering that women and girls are particularly at risk of CRSV;
- ii. **Search, disarm and detain** CRSV perpetrators; and
- iii. **Use force**, including deadly force in combating CRSV.

b. To be conversant with:

- i. The guidelines on advocacy with the parties to the conflict to end/prevent CRSV;
- ii. Gender-specific CRSV **early-warning indicators**; and,
- iii. **Referral pathways** to assist survivors.



Takeaways (continued)



UN military peacekeepers addressing CRSV are to:

- c. **Carry out proactive** and targeted community engagement with the local populace, including with local women and girls, women leaders and women's organisations.
- d. **Support WPAs** in MARA.
- e. Maintain a **parallel reporting channel** with designated WPA.
- f. Support other Mission components in addressing CRSV.



Conclusion



- Military peacekeepers play a **vital role** in the protection of women and children as part of its mandated task of protecting civilians.
- They must be **sensitive to CRSV threats** and respond with the seriousness it deserves.
- Since combating SV is a unique obligation of the military peacekeepers, it is imperative that the **tactics, techniques and procedures** be oriented and systematized to also **address CRSV threats** and challenges optimally.
- Military peacekeepers must always be **approachable, accessible and responsive** to the vulnerable population and help women to protect their lives and livelihoods.



Thank You

