
Module 6:

COORDINATION WITH EXTERNAL ACTORS

OVERVIEW

This module helps child protection staff identify relevant external actors, including government entities, UN agencies, and non-governmental organizations, that child protection staff should liaise with as part of their coordination function. UN field missions rely on support from these actors to carry out the child protection mandate, particularly in terms of referring children to service providers for assistance.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this module, learners will be able to:

- Explain why it is essential for UN field missions to coordinate with external actors on child protection;
- Describe the role of child protection staff in coordinating with external actors;
- Identify relevant external actors for the mission's work on child protection.

ACTIVITIES

- Group exercise: Actor mapping (60 min)


HANDOUT

- Handout: Actor mapping


SESSION TIME

- 1.5 hours

SLIDE 1: INTRODUCTION



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COORDINATION WITH
EXTERNAL ACTORS

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TRAINER NOTES

- UN field missions often rely on support from external actors to carry out the child protection mandate, particularly when it comes to programmatic responses. To facilitate this, child protection staff should establish strong, reliable networks and functional referral pathways with relevant external actors, including government entities, UN agencies, NGOs, parties to conflict, etc.
- This module focuses on coordination with external actors. At the same time, child protection staff also coordinate on child protection within the mission as part of mainstreaming. In addition, they also coordinate closely with the OSRSG-CAAC, which leads efforts of mainstreaming concerns of children affected by armed

conflict across the UN system.


- Coordination is a cross-cutting issue and important for all your work as child protection staff, including monitoring and reporting, advocacy, engagement with parties to conflict and mainstreaming child protection within the mission.

SLIDE 2: LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Learning Objectives

By the end of this module, learners should be able to:

- Explain why it is essential for UN field missions to coordinate with external actors on child protection
- Describe the role of child protection staff in coordinating with external actors
- Identify relevant external actors for the mission's work on child protection

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TRAINER NOTES

- After this module, learners should be able to:
 - Explain why it is essential for UN field missions to coordinate with external actors on child protection;
 - Describe the role of child protection staff in coordinating with external actors;
 - Identify relevant external actors for the mission's work on child protection.
- Before going to the next slide, ask learners why they think coordination is essential for the mission to deliver on its child protection mandate.

SLIDE 3: WHY IS COORDINATION IMPORTANT?

Why is coordination important?

Coordination can help the mission:

- Benefit from different actors' access
- Avoid duplicating efforts
- Strengthen local capacities
- Ensure that child survivors can access services
- Bolster advocacy efforts

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TRAINER NOTES

- 🗨️ Coordination is essential for the mission to deliver on its child protection mandate. Some reasons for coordinating with partners are to:
- **Benefit from different actors' access** to certain geographical areas, sources of information and advocacy targets. For example, you may be able to partner with civil society organizations in a remote area to gather information on grave violations or conduct sensitization campaigns.
 - **Avoid duplicating efforts**, which is important given that the child protection contingent tends to be small. Also remember that lack of coordination can do harm, for example when actors re-interview survivors or witnesses of violence.
 - **Strengthen local capacities**, by working with external actors on child protection issues. For example, by asking the government entity responsible for children's services to join you for prison monitoring can be an important learning experience for them.

- **Ensure that child survivors can access support services.** The UN field mission does not offer any services for children. Liaising with relevant service providers is thus fundamental to ensure that affected children will receive the medical, psycho-social, legal and other support they need.
 - **Bolster advocacy efforts.** For example, some service providers may know about violations committed against children but are reluctant to engage in advocacy efforts themselves for fear of losing their humanitarian space. However, they may be willing to share this information with child protection staff to bolster advocacy efforts in the mission context.
- 🗨️ As these examples illustrate, coordination can benefit both the mission and its child protection partners!
- 👉 Before going to the next slide, ask learners why coordination can be challenging? What are some of the main obstacles for effective coordination?

SLIDE 4: WHY IS COORDINATION CHALLENGING?

Why is coordination challenging?

Coordination can be difficult due to:

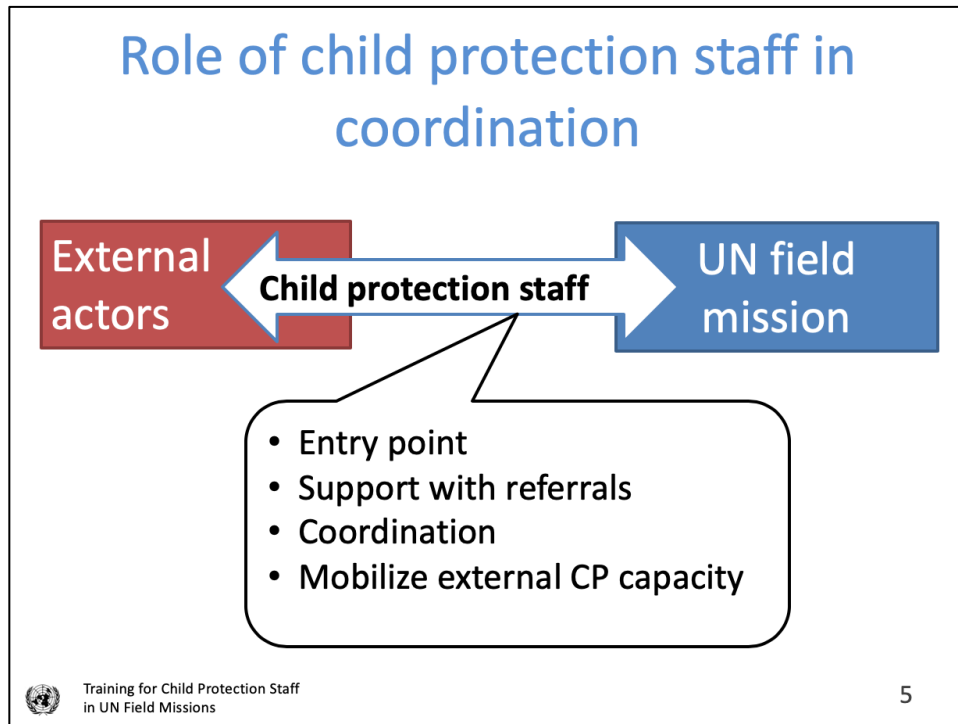
- Entities' different mandates and approaches
- Competition for attention and resources
- Limited incentives for coordination
- Costs of coordination (i.e. time, resources)



TRAINER NOTES

- 🗨️ Coordination also poses a number of challenges. It is important for you and your partners to be mindful of these challenges and to work together to address them. Among other reasons, challenges may be due to:
 - **Entities' different mandates and approaches:** For example, if other actors have lower security and confidentiality standards, child protection staff may not be able to share data, particularly sensitive data, with them due to potential harm to survivors and others.
 - **Competition for attention and resources:** For example, some entities may prefer to take action on their own to minimize logistical complications, to more directly profile their work and/or to avoid having to share resources.
 - **Limited incentives for coordination:** For example, there may be limited resources to support staff participation in coordination bodies.
 - **Cost of coordination:** For example, having to mobilize multiple actors quickly can be complicated and may lead to delayed responses.
- 👉 Discuss with learners how they can mitigate some of these challenges. For example, one option for limiting the cost of coordination is to make sure all partners add value to the effort and to assign clear roles and responsibilities of all those involved. Similarly, partners can develop standard operating procedures for information management based on relevant international child protection standards.

SLIDE 5: ROLE OF CHILD PROTECTION STAFF IN COORDINATION



TRAINER NOTES

Child protection staff take a lead role in coordinating efforts to protect children in armed conflict. Your roles and responsibility in coordinating with partners on child protection are laid out in the *2017 Child Protection Policy*. In summary, your role is to:

- Act as an **entry point** for relevant external actors to engage with UN field missions on relevant child protection concerns.
- **Educate mission staff** about medical, legal and other services that external actors provide for child victims/survivors of violations, and referral systems.
- **Engage on monitoring, reporting and advocacy activities** with relevant mission components and its partners, including co-managing the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR), where it exists.
- **Mobilize external technical capacity when needed** within the immediate

operating environment.


- The overarching goal of these efforts is for UN field missions to leverage the comparative advantages of the different actors in the field in order to advance the protection, rights and well-being of children.

SLIDE 6: GROUP EXERCISE: ACTOR MAPPING

Group exercise: Actor Mapping

Tasks:

1. Identify relevant actors
2. Analyze actors and relationships:
 - Are you coordinating with the right actors?
 - Who else should you be interacting with?
 - How can you improve coordination between external actors?

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TRAINER NOTES

 **ACTIVITY: GROUP EXERCISE: ACTOR MAPPING**

AIM: Learners will conduct an actor mapping to identify and analyse relevant external actors for the mission's work on child protection.

TIME: 60 Minutes

ACTIVITY GUIDELINES:

- 1) Split learners into groups of 4-5 people and distribute the handouts to them.


📄 Handout: Actor mapping

- 2) Go over the instructions on the handout. Groups should be prepared to report back to the plenary in 40 minutes. Ask them to spend no more than 20 minutes on the mapping so that they have enough time for the analysis part.
 - 3) After 40 minutes, invite each group to report back on their key outcomes and share with other the other groups what they have learned from this exercise (20 min).
- ☞ In the debrief, emphasize that coordination is essential for the mission to deliver on the child protection mandate. However, it is critical to carefully choose who to coordinate with and on what issues. Doing such a mapping can help child protection staff be more strategic in their coordination efforts.

SLIDE 7: TAKEAWAYS

Takeaways

- **Coordination is essential for the mission to deliver on its child protection mandate**
- **The role of child protection is to act as a bridge between the mission and child protection actors**
- **Don't underestimate the challenges of coordination and choose partners well!**

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TRAINER NOTES

- ☞ Review these key takeaways.