

## Handout: Scenario-based exercise

### Tasks:

1. Carefully read through each scenario.
2. Discuss how you as a child protection staff should respond in this scenario. What are key points you should make to the people you are speaking to, and why?
3. Be prepared to report key responses to this scenario to the plenary in 30 minutes (approx. 10 min/scenario). You will have 3-5 minutes for your presentation.

**Scenario 1:** During a field mission to a remote location, you meet with members of the local Community Alert Network (CAN). The Community Liaison Assistant (CLA), who has set up the meeting and is translating told you earlier that the members are eager to talk to you as they have some important information to share. However, your schedule for this mission is extremely tight, and you only have 10 minutes available to talk to them.

After brief introductions, one community member starts talking in his native language, while directly looking you in the eyes. The CLA translates: “He says: We’ve been telling your military colleagues about our concerns many times... Our young people are roaming around on the street – they have no education, no jobs, no hope. Some parents are coming to us with questions, ‘Why can’t our kids join armed groups? It’s better than the life we can offer them.’ All of this has been really hard on us and our community. What should we do? Is there anything the UN can do to help?”

**Scenario 2:** At a training session with members of a non-State armed group, one participant comes up to you afterwards and asks you if it is ok for young girls to be doing chores around headquarters. He has seen a few girls working there recently. You let him know that this would indeed be a child protection concern and decide to follow up on this.

The local village leaders confirm the information about the girls later on. They did not realize that this would be a problem. All of you agree that it would be best to raise the issue directly with the commander. Even though he is still new to the position, his predecessor was very supportive of the child protection work and you expect him to be receptive to your concern.

The meeting starts off well. When you introduce yourself and explain your role, you see the commander nodding in agreement. He's also visibly pleased hearing about the good collaboration with his predecessor. However, when you share your concerns about the alleged incident, the commander's demeanour changes; he starts fidgeting with his cell phone and looking out the window. When you give him a chance to respond, his voice is low and threatening: "Why are you talking to me about this?! Are you accusing me of something? I am a father myself and would never do anything to harm children. I don't know where you get this information from, but trust me, none of this is true."

**Scenario 3:** A couple of months ago, you and your child protection colleagues supported the identification and release of 19 children formerly associated with the State armed forces, mostly between the ages of 15 and 17. You had immediately shared detailed information with child protection partners to facilitate the reintegration process of the children.

However, when you and your civil society partners visit the brigade for a follow-up monitoring visit, you are surprised to learn from the commander that some of the formerly associated children have come back to the barracks and want to re-join to army. The commander shakes his head in disbelief, as he speaks: "And we are the ones they complain to. They say that they have not received *any* support from the UN, and that their families don't want them back either. I called your NGO friend the other day and they told us just to be patient. They don't have any reintegration programs in this area right now.... But what are we supposed to do? We can't send the children away. They have nowhere else to go!"