

Module 5



How to Collaborate on and Coordinate Child Protection in a United Nations Peace Operation

Learning Activity 5.2

How to work within the mission on child protection

Scenario 1

Two UNPOL officers return from a joint patrol with the host-State police. They met with social workers who reported that earlier that day they had witnessed an attack on the children's ward at the city's main hospital.

Upon returning to the base, the two UNPOL officers meet with the UNPOL Team Leader and the UNPOL Child Protection Focal Point.

Instructions:

- Four participants will simulate a meeting to determine the best strategy to respond to the situation:
 - One participant plays the role of UNPOL Team Leader
 - One participant plays the role of UNPOL Child Protection Focal Point
 - Two participants play the role of regular UNPOL officers
- Officers returning from the joint patrol need to provide a debriefing
- All four officers are required to suggest action points and a way forward
- All four participants should think about which other mission components could play a role in responding to this incident
- Participants have 10 minutes to conduct this role-play
- Other participants observing the role-play provide comments focusing on coordination with host-State actors

Scenario 2

The SRSG heard about the attack on the hospital in the media and is unhappy that the information did not reach him/her earlier.

The SRSG knows that an UNPOL patrol was in the sector earlier that day and is unclear as to why the information was not immediately relayed to him/her.

The SRSG will attend a press conference in 2 hours, and requests that the Police Commissioner briefs him/her on what actions the Mission can take to address the situation.

The Police Commissioner asks your group to formulate concrete recommendations on a plan of action for the Mission to act within the next 24 hours. The Police Commissioner wants to receive this plan in 90 minutes, so that he/she can consider it before the press conference.

Instructions:

- The same four participants will reprise their roles for the second part of the role-play
- Four other volunteers will take additional roles:
 - Liaison Officer in the military component of the Mission
 - Representative of the Human Rights component
 - Representative of the Gender component
 - Representative of the Political Affairs component
- Participants have 10 minutes to conduct this role-play, simulating a working-level meeting with representatives of other mission components

Learning Activity 5.3

How to work with other key United Nations actors on child protection

Case Studies

Case Study 1: A non-executive mandate

As a UNPOL officer deployed in the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), you are on patrol in a village in your area of responsibility in South Sudan with your colleagues in the host-State police. You meet the village chief and take time to discuss security issues with him. He informs you that there is a rumour that children in nearby villages have recently been abducted by paramilitaries. Children in his village often stay out alone late at night and travel unaccompanied over considerable distances to get to school every day.

The village chief has informed the local police chief about the rumours, but the latter dismissed his worries as unfounded. The village chief is still worried, and he asks you to help.

Questions:

1. As a UNPOL officer, what should you do after this encounter?
2. Who would you contact in the UN system for coordinated action?

Case Study 2: Harmful practices

As an UNPOL officer deployed in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), you learn that a young girl in a village in northern Mali has been raped. The perpetrator is reported to be the girl's neighbour and he has confessed to the crime. The case was brought to the community leaders, who decided that the man must pay 100,000 CFA to the girl's parents in compensation for the offence.

The parents are satisfied with the decision and agree not to take any further action against the perpetrator. This kind of arrangement is common in the communities in Mali.

Questions:

1. How would you advise the host-State police about this issue?
2. Who would you contact in the UN system for further action?

Case Study 3: Engaging in our work

A UNPOL officer deployed in the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) is at the police station in his area of responsibility to provide training on investigative techniques to officers of the host-State police. During the lunch break, the UNPOL officer was talking with the station commander, who told him that a 12-year-old girl was raped the day before. The rape was reported by the girl's mother, who accused their neighbour of committing the crime. The suspect is at the police station awaiting an interview, and the police will inform their child protection unit as soon as possible.

During the course of the conversation, the UNPOL officer develops a strong interest in the case; the girl who was raped is the same age as his own daughter and the rape was especially violent. The next day, the UNPOL officer pays a visit to the juvenile prosecutor responsible for that area to inform her about the case and urge her to take immediate action.

Two days later, the host-State police officer from the child protection unit who has been assigned to the case learns from the prosecutor that she has already been informed about the case and has issued an arrest warrant for the suspect. The officer from the child protection unit tells her that they are still investigating it and that the arrest would be premature.

The host-State police officer from the child protection unit is not pleased that someone has bypassed him/her and reported the case to the prosecutor.

Questions:

1. Is there anything that the UNPOL officer should have done differently in this case?
2. Who would you contact in the UN system for further action?

Case Study 4: “Do no harm” principle

You have recently arrived in Kabul as a UNPOL officer deployed in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). The host-State police is undertaking an operation to remove unauthorized street vendors from several locations in the city.

A colleague in the host-State police asks for your advice on the strategy proposed by his commanding officer, because he thinks children's issues have not been taken into consideration. He explains to you that there are many children living on the street in the city, who are involved in begging or working as shoe shiners, fruit vendors, etc.

The host-State police officer is afraid that the operation will meet with resistance by street vendors, and that street children may be arrested and/or affected by violence that may result from the police operation.

Questions:

1. What advice will you give the host-State police officer regarding the treatment of street children in the operation?
2. Who would you contact in the UN system for further action?

Case Study 5: Gender dimension

You are a UNPOL officer deployed in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA). During a patrol around a camp for internally displaced persons near Batangafo, you and your colleague in the host-State police encounter a group of civilians who approach you and complain that some concerning activities go on in the camp at night. You ask them a few questions and understand that they are talking about young girls who engage in prostitution. As you discuss more with the group, you realize that some of the girls are probably children.

You and the host-State police officer return to the camp that evening and notice a group of girls standing together in a dark corner. You approach the girls and engage them in conversation. One of them tells you that she is 13 years old and is Muslim. She says that her village was attacked by anti-balaka militias last year and she had to run away with her family. The attack happened at night and, while they were running, the situation became very confusing and she lost her parents.

She continued walking with some people who she didn't know from her village. They reached the camp after 3 days and were admitted. She doesn't know anyone in the

camp and nobody is helping her. She wants to go back to her village to find her parents, but she doesn't have any money.

A few months ago, she met this group of girls who are all older than her. They introduced her to prostitution as a way to earn money and food from men living in the villages neighbouring the camp. She says that she has been doing it for two months now, but she doesn't like it. She hopes to leave the camp as soon as she raises some money.

Questions:

1. If the children were boys instead of girls, would the follow-up action have been the same? Why?
2. Who would you contact in the UN system for further action?

Learning Activity 5.4

How to work with local child protection actors

Case Studies

Case study 1: Focus on local social workers – Mali

You have recently arrived in Bamako as a UNPOL officer deployed in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).

You have been assigned to advise the host-State police on ways to strengthen collaboration with social workers with regard to child protection, in line with international norms and standards.

Questions:

1. What challenges do you anticipate witnessing in the collaboration between the host-State police and the social workforce with regard to child protection?
2. List five examples of actions that you, a UNPOL officer, would advise the host-State police to take in order to address these challenges.

Use the table provided to answer the questions.

Case study 2: Focus on the Prosecutor – Democratic Republic of the Congo

You have recently arrived in Goma as a UNPOL officer deployed in the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO).

You have been assigned to advise the host-State police on ways to strengthen collaboration with prosecutors with regard to child protection, in line with international norms and standards.

Questions:

1. What challenges do you anticipate witnessing in the collaboration between the host-State police and prosecutors with regard to child protection?
2. List five examples of actions that you, a UNPOL officer, would advise the host-State police to take in order to address these challenges.

Use the table provided to answer the questions.

Case study 3: Focus on religious and traditional leaders – South Sudan

You have recently arrived in Juba as a UNPOL officer deployed in the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

You have been assigned to advise the host-State police on ways to strengthen collaboration with traditional and religious leaders with regard to child protection, in line with international norms and standards.

Questions:

1. What challenges do you anticipate witnessing in the collaboration between the host-State police and religious and traditional leaders with regard to child protection?
2. List five examples of actions that you, as a UNPOL officer, would advise the host-State police to take in order to address these challenges.

Use the table provided to answer the questions.

Case study 4: Focus on civil society organizations – Colombia

You have recently arrived in Bogota as a UNPOL staff deployed in the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia.

You have been assigned to advise the host-State police on ways to strengthen collaboration with civil society organizations with regard to child protection, in line with international norms and standards.

Questions:

1. What challenges do you anticipate witnessing in the collaboration between the host-State police and civil society organizations with regard to child protection?
2. List five examples of actions that you, as a UNPOL officer, would advise the host-State police to take in order to address these challenges.

Use the table provided to answer the questions.

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in a United Nations Peace Operation



Note to instructors: Distribute the table below to the participants. They should use it to answer the questions relating to each case study.

Case Study

Responses to Questions 1 and 2

#	Challenges	Actions that the host-State police could take to address these challenges
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		