

Module 2



How to Support Child-friendly Prevention and Diversion

Learning Activity 2.2

How to act when contributing to the prevention of violations and other practices affecting children

Case Studies

Case Study 1 – Democratic Republic of the Congo

You and your colleague from the Congolese National Police attend a meeting on community-oriented policing in a small village. After the meeting, the village elder requests to speak privately with you and your colleague from the host-State police. The elder expresses concern that a well-known Congolese businessman had been in the village, offering young girls, aged between 15 and 18, jobs in Kinshasa as cleaning ladies and waitresses in restaurants he owns, and promising them good salaries. The elder tells you that the villagers are very poor and the offer was attractive. Five girls decided to go, hoping to make money to support themselves and help their families in the village.

The girls left three months ago and have never returned to the village. Moreover, their families have not heard from them. Recently, the villagers heard rumours that the girls have been sent abroad to work as sex workers. Their parents are reluctant to inform the police because they are afraid of being accused of neglecting their daughters. They are concerned about the safety of their girls as well as the reputation of the family.

Task:

The host-State police ask you to help them to develop a prevention strategy to address child trafficking.

Use the table provided to complete the task.

Case Study 2 – South Sudan

You visit a camp for internally displaced persons near Malakal as part of your duties in the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). During the visit, you are approached by some women who say that they are group leaders in the camp. They tell you that two girls, aged 14 and 17, were raped recently while collecting firewood outside the camp. The girls were attacked by two unknown armed men, who then fled with the victims' donkeys. The women explain that there is no firewood in the camp and families must collect wood outside the camp in order to cook. The girls' families reported the crime to the camp management, but no action has been taken. The girls have received medical attention but are understandably distressed and traumatized.

Task:

The host-State police ask you to help them to develop a prevention strategy to address sexual violence against girls and boys.

Use the table provided to complete the task.

Case Study 3 – Mali

You are deployed in Mopti in central Mali, as part of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). Repeated attacks in the Northern part of the region have raised several concerns among the population living in the Southern part of the region. Communities fear that adolescents may be recruited and used by all parties to the conflict, because of the intensification of the violence, the closure of secondary schools, and the presence of numerous idle adolescents in the surroundings.

Task:

The host-State police ask you to help them to develop a prevention strategy to address recruitment and use of children by armed forces and armed groups.

Use the table provided to complete the task.

Case Study 4 – Afghanistan

You recently joined your UNPOL colleagues in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). Over the past three weeks, the host-State police conducted several raids and operations, in which many adolescent boys were arrested for allegedly stealing and smuggling opium. The adolescents allegedly steal from illegal warehouses during the night, then sell the opium to smugglers. The boys' families have asked for assistance as they have not heard from their sons in weeks. During a visit to the detention centre in the main police station, you learn that the boys have been deprived of liberty for several weeks now, and in deplorable conditions.

Task:

The host-State police ask you to help them to develop a prevention strategy to address the use of children in criminal activities.

Use the table provided to complete the task.



Note to instructors: Distribute the table below to the participants. They should use it to complete the task relating to each case study. Inform participants that the text in italics is only a guide. Remind participants that the exercise is about UNPOL supporting the host-State police in developing such a plan. Encourage participants to be specific in their answers in order to allow for richer discussion and learning.

Problem analysis	<i>What problem needs to be addressed? What goal is the strategy trying to achieve?</i>
Target groups	<i>What groups will be targeted by the prevention strategy?</i>
Actors involved	<i>Which actors need to be involved? How will they be coordinated?</i>
Prevention activities	<i>What are the main activities to be implemented?</i>
Resources	<i>What are the available resources (budget, personnel)?</i>
Time frame	<i>How long will it take to implement the strategy?</i>
Evaluation	<i>How will the strategy be monitored and evaluated? How will success be measured?</i>

Case Studies – Suggested responses

Case study 1 – Democratic Republic of the Congo

Elements of a prevention strategy

Problem analysis:

Actions will aim to reduce the risk of trafficking and sexual exploitation of girls (taking into account that boys can also be victims of those crimes). Focus on this village but also other villages in the area. Understanding the push-pull factors is important, as well as provisions in national laws about such crimes. The fact that the elder approached you about this issue is a positive sign that the community takes care of its children.

Target groups:

Girls (and boys) in this village and in other villages in the area.

Actors involved:

Boys and girls, via children's groups and schools

Parents, caregivers

Formal authorities: host-State police, teachers, social workers, media, private sector

Non-formal authorities: community leaders, religious leaders, women's groups, NGOs in the area, etc.

International actors: UNPOL Child Protection Focal Point and Child Protection Adviser, UN agencies and international NGOs.

The analysis would require expertise of **social actors** to ensure that the preventive action is based on a solid analysis of the root causes.

Prevention activities:

Possible prevention actions led by host-State police include:

- Child participation is very important; adolescent girls and boys play a critical role in the prevention of child trafficking. Build their capacity to identify risks and adopt coping strategies to mitigate them. It is important to adopt an approach whereby children are not objects of prevention, but rather subjects of prevention, as critical agents in the prevention strategy.
- Support host-State police in community-oriented policing, patrols, community engagement and sensitization, gathering of information relevant for early warning.
- Support host-State police in identifying criminal networks and preventing child trafficking, and sexual and gender-based violence against children.

- Community meetings to discuss the issue, identify useful indicators and potential steps to take.
- Visits to schools to raise awareness of students and teachers about child trafficking and other similar issues, and highlighting which actions to take when in doubt.
- Meet with village chiefs and other community leaders to sensitize them to the issue and ensure that they will be vigilant in the future.
- Collaboration with civil society organizations and the social work system will be key to sustaining efforts and ensuring that the police can play its specialized role.
- Engagement with the media in the region (particularly radio and Internet cafés) to raise awareness and suggest actions to be taken in case of doubt.
- Similar engagement with those who work in transport, such as bus drivers, taxi drivers and those transporting merchandise, to raise awareness about the risks, signs to look for, and action to take when in doubt.
- Include all other relevant actors in the area.

UNPOL can provide support by training, advising and mentoring the host-State police in relation to their approach and strategy for following up this issue.

Resources:

Much can be done with limited resources. It requires investment of time, human resources, and building connections. The host-State police must have a community-oriented policing strategy to engage with a multidisciplinary team, collaborate with social and justice actors, as well as formal and non-formal stakeholders. If resources are available, producing posters, brochures and other awareness-raising material would be useful, as well as social media engagement.

Implementation (including time frame):

Regular meetings with different community groups; awareness-raising sessions for students; and visits to schools in the area. Building the capacity of different actors in the community involved should be part of the programmes, so that the community can carry out the activities and pursue them throughout the year on a regular basis, until the phenomenon appears to be under control.

Evaluation:

Monitor the number of girls (and boys) accepting job offers from the businessman and other people. If the number decreases steadily during the implementation period of the strategy, then it may be assumed that the strategy is effective.

Case study 2 – South Sudan

Elements of a prevention strategy

Problem analysis:

Actions will aim at preventing other children in the area from becoming victims of similar crimes. Focus on this camp, but also consider other camps and villages in the area, since children there may be incurring similar risks. Understanding the push-pull factors is important, as well as the provisions in national laws about such crimes. The fact that women leaders approached you about this issue is a positive sign that the camp community takes care of its children.

Target groups:

Women and girls in this camp and in other camps and villages in the area.

Actors involved:

Boys and girls, via children's groups and schools

Parents, caregivers

Formal authorities: host-State police, camp management

Non-formal authorities: community leaders, religious leaders, women's groups, NGOs present in the area, etc.

International actors: UNPOL Child Protection Focal Point, Child Protection Adviser and relevant UN agencies and international NGOs.

The analysis would require expertise of **social actors** to ensure that the preventive action is based on a solid analysis of the root causes.

Prevention activities:

Possible prevention actions led by host-State police include:

- Child participation is very important; adolescent girls and boys play a critical role in the prevention of sexual violence: build their capacity to identify risks and adopt coping strategies to mitigate them. It is important to adopt an approach whereby children are not objects of prevention, but rather subjects of prevention, as critical agents in the prevention strategy.
- Recommend (joint) patrols by host-State police or UN Police/Military around the camp in order to secure the area. In case patrols are already taking place, recommend assessing whether more frequent patrols might be required.
- Advise camp management to consider installing solar-powered cookers or making firewood or other types of fuel available to camp residents for cooking, so they do not have to collect it outside the camp.

- Recommend that awareness-raising activities be implemented in the camp to help camp residents better understand the risks to children. Parents should not send their girls to collect firewood on their own; they should always be accompanied to discourage attacks. Camp residents should organize themselves.
- The Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action require all clusters of humanitarian assistance to play their full role in child protection. The Child Protection Adviser should connect with relevant stakeholders to advocate for child protection in camp management. Reporting the information to the CPAs can trigger this type of follow-up.
- There is a positive dimension to collecting firewood outside the camp: it provides an opportunity for women and girls to socialize away from men and boys. Therefore, solutions should be carefully considered and developed with the participation of women and girls; the solutions should be informed and owned by them, and they must not lose important advantages in the way their life is organized. Safeguards and training are needed with regard to interactions between the host-State police and girls.
- Meetings with men who are formal and non-formal leaders should be organized to sensitize them to the issue and ensure that they will be vigilant in the future. Education plays a critical role in the prevention of crimes against children; it is essential not only to raise awareness about risks (in this case, the risks girls face if they leave the camp), but also to prevent the occurrence of the risk.
- Promote accountability as a preventive measure, including by ensuring that cases are not settled informally through payment, but actually prosecuted by the justice system. Recommend engaging with the perpetrators' communities in order to address the context that may have facilitated the commission of such crimes.
- Collaboration with civil society organizations and social workforces will be key to sustaining efforts and ensuring that the police can play its specialized role.

UNPOL can provide support by training, advising and mentoring the host-State police in relation to their approach and strategy for following up this issue. Furthermore, the involvement of security forces or paramilitary should be considered, given the presence of armed individuals.

Resources:

Much can be done with limited resources. It requires investment of time, human resources, and building connections. The host-State police must have a community-oriented policing strategy to engage with a multidisciplinary team, collaborate with social and justice actors, as well as formal and non-formal stakeholders. If resources are available, producing posters, brochures and other awareness-raising material would

be useful. Also, a partnership may be established with camp residents, camp management and civil society to make available firewood and other types of fuel available to the camp.

Implementation (including time frame):

Daily meetings with different community groups; awareness-raising activities on a regular basis to sensitize camp residents to the risks involved. Coordination among camp residents to set up group collections outside the camp. Coordination with host-State police and camp security to patrol the area more frequently for a set period of time.

Evaluation:

Monitor the perception of safety among women and children in the target area. Success should not be measured by a decrease in the number of incidents because additional reporting by camp residents may mean more trust in the system rather than an increase in security.

Case study 3 – Mali

Elements of a prevention strategy

Problem analysis:

Actions will aim to prevent the recruitment and use of children by armed forces and armed groups. Focus on this community, but also other villages in the area, and take into account that both boys and girls are at risk. Understanding the push-pull factors is important, as well as the provisions in national laws about such crimes. The fact that communities have expressed their fears about this issue is a positive sign that the community takes care of its children.

Target groups:

Girls and boys living in the villages in the area.

Actors involved:

Boys and girls, via children’s groups and schools

Parents, caregivers

Formal authorities: host-State police, social workers, media

Non-formal authorities: community leaders, religious leaders, women’s groups, NGOs present in the area, etc.

International actors: UNPOL (and the Force) Child Protection Focal Point, Child Protection Adviser, relevant UN agencies and international NGOs in the area.

The analysis would require expertise of **social actors** to ensure that the preventive action is based on a solid analysis of the root causes.

Prevention activities:

Possible prevention actions led by host-State police include:

- Child participation is very important; adolescent girls and boys play a critical role in the prevention of recruitment and use of children by armed forces or armed groups. Build their capacity to identify risks and adopt coping strategies to mitigate them. It is important to adopt an approach whereby children are not objects of prevention, but rather subjects of prevention, as critical agents in the prevention strategy.
- Various actions relating to planning and early warning (see learning activity 4.1) are valid in terms of preparedness, capacity-building and outreach.
- Recommend (joint) patrols by host-State police or UN Police/Military around the region in order to secure the area. In case patrols are already taking place, recommend assessing whether more frequent patrols might be required.

- Recommend that awareness-raising activities be carried out in the villages to help residents better understand the risks to children and alternatives.
- Meet with chiefs and other community leaders to sensitize them to the issue and ensure that they will be vigilant in the future.
- Engage with the media in the region (possibly social media, radio and Internet cafés) to raise awareness and suggest actions to be taken in case of doubt about possible signs of recruitment or use of children by armed groups, and about criminal accountability for recruiters.
- Collaboration with civil society organizations and the social work system will be key to sustaining efforts and ensuring that the police can play its specialized role.
- Although it is rare for girls to be used as combatants in Mali, they may be recruited for other purposes, including sexual slavery and cooking. In the awareness-raising activities, it is important to pay attention to the risks incurred by both boys and girls, and not to limit the prevention strategy to boys only.
- The Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action require all clusters of humanitarian assistance to play their full role in child protection. The Child Protection Adviser should be tasked with connecting with relevant stakeholders to advocate for child protection in displacement settings. Reporting the information to the CPAs can trigger this type of follow-up.
- Employment and schooling alternatives should be favoured.

UNPOL can provide support by training, advising and mentoring the host-State police in relation to their approach and strategy for following up this issue.

Resources:

Much can be done with limited resources. It requires investment of time, human resources, and building connections. The host-State police must have a community-oriented policing strategy to engage with a multidisciplinary team, collaborate with social and justice actors, as well as formal and non-formal stakeholders. If resources are available, producing posters, brochures and other awareness-raising material would be useful.

Implementation (including time frame):

Daily meetings with different community groups; regular awareness-raising activities in the villages and surrounding areas to sensitize residents to the risks involved. Coordination between host-State police and community leaders to patrol the area for a set period of time.

Evaluation:

Monitor the perception of safety among residents in the target region. Success should not be measured by a decrease in the number of cases because additional reporting by residents may mean more trust in the system rather than an increase in safety.

Case study 4 – Afghanistan

Elements of a prevention strategy

Problem analysis:

Actions will aim to prevent children from entering into conflict with the law and being used by criminal groups. Focus on this community, but also consider villages in the area, since children there may be incurring similar risks. Understanding the push-pull factors is important, as well as the provisions in national laws about these crimes. The fact that the boys' families have expressed their fears about their sons' situation is a positive sign that the community takes care of its children. The way in which the arrest was handled by the host-State police should also be examined in relation to procedures for interacting with children in contact with the law.

Target groups:

Children living in villages in the area. Consider girls may also be used in these schemes, although early indicators suggest that the target group is made up of boys only.

Actors involved:

Children (particularly boys), via children's groups and schools

Parents, caregivers

Formal authorities: host-State police, social workers, media (in particular social media sites that adolescent children, particularly boys, use regularly, and Internet cafés)

Non-formal authorities: community leaders, religious leaders, women's groups, NGOs in the area, etc.

International actors: UNPOL Child Protection Focal Point, Child Protection Adviser, relevant UN agencies and international NGOs

The analysis would require expertise of **social actors** to ensure that the preventive action is based on a solid analysis of the root causes.

Prevention activities:

Possible prevention actions led by host-State police include:

- Child participation is very important; adolescent girls and boys play a critical role in the prevention of criminality: build their capacity to identify the risks of entering into conflict with the law and adopt alternative strategies for their well-being. It is important to adopt an approach whereby children are not objects of prevention, but rather subjects of prevention, as critical agents in the prevention strategy.
- Recommend (joint) patrols by host-State police or UN Police/Military around the region where smuggling is taking place in order to secure the area. In case

patrols are already taking place, recommend assessing whether more frequent patrols might be required.

- Recommend that awareness-raising activities be carried out in the villages where these children come from, to help residents better understand the risks and alternatives.
- Meet with chiefs and other community leaders to sensitize them to the issue and encourage them to engage in preventive and rehabilitative approaches, including understanding how these children became the target of exploitation by unscrupulous smugglers, rather than in repressive approaches.
- Engage with the media in the region (possibly radio and Internet cafés, as well as social media) to raise awareness and suggest alternative ways for adolescent boys to earn money so as to prevent children from entering into conflict with the law.
- Collaboration with civil society organizations and social work systems will be key to sustaining efforts and ensuring that the police can play its specialized role.
- Mobilizing the private sector is also important. Employment and schooling alternatives should also be favoured.

UNPOL can provide support by training, advising and mentoring the host-State police in relation to their approach and strategy for following up this issue.

Resources:

Much can be done with limited resources. It requires investment of time, human resources, and building connections. The host-State police must have a community-oriented policing strategy to engage with a multidisciplinary team, collaborate with social and justice actors, as well as formal and non-formal stakeholders. If resources are available, producing posters, brochures, and other awareness-raising material would be useful. Offering alternative activities to idle teenagers, such as revenue-generation, vocational training and schooling is also important, and can be promoted through existing programmes run by the host-State, the United Nations and other international agencies.

Implementation (including time frame):

Regular meetings with different community groups; awareness-raising activities in the villages and surrounding areas to sensitize residents (including children) to the risks of be coerced into criminal activity. Coordination with the host-State police and community leaders to patrol in the area for a set period of time.

Evaluation:

Monitor the perception of safety among residents in the target region. Success should not be measured by only a decrease in the number of cases because additional

reporting by residents may mean more trust in the system rather than an increase in safety.