

# Module 5



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

### Assessment



*Distribute the assessment for Module 5 to participants and give them 15 minutes to answer the questions. Then distribute the answer sheet and ask participants to work in pairs and correct each other's answers.*

*Note that the questions relate not only to the content of this module, but also to the knowledge and skills that should have been part of previous training.*

- 1) As a UNPOL officer in a peace operation, with whom should you coordinate when you have information regarding child protection?
  - a. With the Child Protection Adviser, as she/he is the main person responsible for child protection in the whole mission.
  - b. With the Gender section, if the information relates to a girl.
  - c. With the supervisor, as officers must report up the hierarchy in police services.
  - d. With the UNPOL child protection focal point, ensuring that the Child Protection Adviser is also informed, either by you or by the UNPOL child protection focal point. The supervisor must also to be informed.

- 2) The court has to rule on the case of a child who has lost both his mother and his father. One of the child's relatives lives in the country where the peace operation is deployed, and another one lives in a neighbouring country. Both relatives are fighting for custody of the child. Taking into account the best interests of the child, what should the justice system do?
- a. Keep the child where he/she is now, because it is in the best interests of the child to stay close to his place of birth and culture.
  - b. Ask the child what he/she wants and apply that opinion as the final decision.
  - c. Take into account the child's opinion and that of the respective relatives, examine all evidence, seek the collaboration of social services, and analyse the impact of each option on the child, in order to make a decision that takes into account the best interests of the child.
  - d. The justice system should ignore the opinions of the relatives, because the best interests of the child shall always dictate the decision. Children are more important than adults.
- 3) You have been informed that a refugee family in your area of responsibility is experiencing severe discrimination, and that their children are most probably being sexually exploited. Who should you inform so that they can deal with the situation?
- a. You should directly inform the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) about the situation, and trust that they will handle it as this is their area of responsibility.
  - b. You should coordinate with the UNPOL child protection focal point and the Child Protection Adviser to determine who will approach the national authorities about the situation, in coordination with UNHCR.
  - c. You should report the situation to the host-State police and trust that they will handle it, as this is their responsibility; UNPOL officers have a non-executive mandate.
  - d. You should organize a meeting with the family so as to investigate the case and obtain detailed information that you can report to the UNPOL child protection focal point and the Child Protection Adviser.

- 4) A child victim of violence has been brought before a host-State police officer and a social worker has been called to the police station to help with the case. What are the roles of the host-State police officer and the social worker?
- The host-State police officer should automatically transfer the case to the social worker and lets them handle it because the victim is a child.
  - The host-State police officer is responsible for investigating the case and taking care of the child until the investigation is over, and then he/she should transfer the case to the social worker.
  - The host-State police officer and the social worker should work together and be fully involved in every single step of the process, from the first contact with the child throughout the criminal investigation, until the child can be returned to his/her family.
  - The host-State police officer should ask the social worker to, first of all, take care of the psychosocial, health and security needs of the child, then the police officer should coordinate with the social worker before proceeding with the interview and, finally, the police officer should allow the social worker to coordinate the follow-up. The host-State police should take action against the alleged perpetrator(s) of violence against the child.
- 5) After having spent some time observing the way in which national actors collaborate with regard to justice for children in your area of responsibility, which one of the following actions would you say is NOT appropriate?
- You suggest to the host-State police to stop collaborating with all non-formal actors (e.g., civil society organizations, religious and traditional leaders) because they have not signed a formal agreement, and their intervention is not provided for in the Code of Criminal Procedure.
  - You suggest to the host-State police to review their procedure for interviewing children, in order to better coordinate with the social workers and prosecutors prior to interviewing a child, in order to avoid multiple interviews.
  - You propose to organize a working session with prosecutors, social workers and the host-State police to examine how alternatives to detention could be better used.
  - You propose to facilitate working sessions to examine how the host-State police could better collaborate with social workers on prevention, as part of the community policing approach.

- 6) Should the host-State police contact and coordinate with other government bodies when working on cases involving children?
- a. Police officers require assistance from other professionals, such as colleagues in specialized police units and people specially trained in other areas of child protection, to help to analyse aspects of the case that are outside their main area of expertise.
  - b. Police officers are not required to contact other government bodies for assistance with cases involving children because once a child is a witness or a victim or has committed a crime, he/she remains under the jurisdiction of the police, who already know what steps to take.
  - c. Police officers may ask for assistance from other government bodies, but it is not necessary even if certain aspects of the case are outside of their main area of expertise, because police officers are not accountable to other government bodies.
  - d. It is the policy; the Police only need to demonstrate that contacts were made with other services but, in view of limited capacities, it should not expect any results from these measures.
- 7) Which statement is correct?
- a. The community should not interfere in matters related to justice for children because a professional police officer possesses all the necessary competencies to deal with such matters without community assistance or support.
  - b. UNPOL officers should only focus on child protection matters related to the recruitment and use of children, and let UNICEF and other agencies deal with all other child protection concerns.
  - c. UNPOL officers should build upon ongoing efforts by other United Nations entities in the area of security sector reform and rule of law so as to further advocate for the integration of norms and standards related to child protection.
  - d. In order to be effective, UNPOL has the exclusive mandate to work with the host-State police in the host country. No other United Nations entity can work with the police, because this is how mandates are divided for efficiency purposes.

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- 8) You are invited to a cluster meeting relating to child protection. Which action is adequate?
- a. You remain silent and don't share anything because police work is confidential.
  - b. You share information on action taken, but in such a way that the identity of individuals involved in the cases you are presenting remains confidential.
  - c. As there are too many such meetings taking place, you decide that child protection is not a priority, and only attend if an urgent matter is to be discussed.
  - d. You attend all cluster meetings relating to child protection with your entire team of 10 officers to show that child protection is central to the mandate of the peace operation.