REFERENCE E - CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT CHECKLIST

Assessing the Situation

- ☑ Is the engagement essential?
- ☑ Is there a Child Protection Unit available to conduct the engagement?
- ☑ Will the engagement cause the child/family unnecessary harm or risk?

Preparing the Engagement

- ☑ Have you obtained informed consent for the engagement?
- ☑ Have you considered the risks and **DO NO HARM** principle?
- ☑ What security precautions have you and others taken?
- ☑ Is the selected location safe and comfortable for the child, and does it respect confidentiality?
- ☑ Are you the best person to conduct the engagement? Or would other team members be preferable based on gender, cultural background, language skills, experience or other considerations?
- ☑ Do you need a language assistant? How will that, or the presence of other people, help/disturb the engagement? If a language assistant is needed, ensure you have adequately briefed the LA, for example, on confidentiality and security matters?

Conducting the Engagement

- ☑ Introduce yourself.
- ☑ Explain your mandate and the engagement's purpose in plain language so that a child can understand.
- ☑ Explain that the information will remain confidential and that only statistical data will be included in your report.
- ☑ Provide external contact information if it is available in that area to support the family/child, for example the Child Protection Advisor or an NGO working in this field?
- ☑ Are you explaining everything you are doing (e.g., taking notes)?

Asking Questions to a Child

- ☑ Only ask questions if absolute necessary. If waiting will not jeopardize the UN mission, then wait for appropriate personnel to speak to the child.
- ☑ Avoid asking anything that can re-traumatize the child; remember the **DO NO HARM** principle.

- ☑ Only ask questions about mission essential data?
- ☑ Are you allowing the child enough time to answer questions?
- ☑ Are you closely watching the child's body language for signs of distress, distraction or tiredness? What actions will you take if the child becomes distressed?

UN-EP Child Protection Do's

- ☑ Consider every person under the age of 18 a child. If their age is in question, consider them children and refer them to Child Protection or other child protection actors.
- ☑ Remind national military, police personnel, and other armed groups that using children, including as combatants, labour, and/or sex slaves, is a grave violation under national and international law.
- ☑ Intervene, seek the release of recruited children, and ensure their timely transfer to child protection actors, and deter child recruitment. Where possible, consulting with child protection mission partners.
- ☑ Consider the repercussions the intervention could have on other children who may still be with the group.
- ☑ Report all information immediately to the UNIBAT HQ so that they can inform Child Protection Advisors.
- ☑ Patrol in communities and locations (e.g., near schools and other children-centered facilities) that are vulnerable to threats against children.
- ☑ House children (or potential children) at mission military bases only as a temporary protection measure while awaiting Child Protection or DDR personnel to facilitate solutions.
- ☑ Remind all personnel of their obligation to observe the zero-tolerance policy for any form of sexual exploitation and abuse.

UN-EP child protection do not's

- ☒ DO NOT send children away.
- ☒ DO NOT underestimate your importance as a role model.
- ☒ DO NOT use schools as bases.
- ☒ DO NOT take photos of the children under any circumstances.
- ☒ DO NOT collect evidence.

- ☒ DO NOT attempt to verify the age of youth in the presence of other members of the armed group.
- ☒ DO NOT ask children about any violations they may have occurred or are experiencing in the presence of the armed groups with which they were found.
- ☒ DO NOT ask children directly whether they have been physically or sexually abused. This violates their privacy. Allow Child Protection Advisers/Officers to handle such queries and follow-up investigations.
- ☒ DO NOT engage with a child unless absolutely necessary.
- ☒ DO NOT deny access to the UN base for children who are under threat.
- ☒ DO NOT hand children associated with armed actors over to authorities outside of the mission. In accordance with child protection standards, children that were associated with armed actors must be handed over to Child Protection, DDR representatives or to UNICEF for family reunification and reintegration.
- ☒ DO NOT further stigmatize children associated with or perceived to be associated with armed forces or groups.