Module 5:
CHILD PROTECTION
MILITARY ROLES AND TASKS, Part I
Learning Outcomes

• Understand the basis for guidance on child protection at the operational and tactical levels
• Review military peacekeepers roles and tasks in relation to child protection
• Understand the need to develop situational awareness
• Understand Do’s and Don’ts of military peacekeepers for monitoring and reporting
Support Mandate
Implementation through Action

**Action:** Provide physical protection for children

Protect Civilians

**Action:** Gather and share information

Monitor and Report Six Grave Violations Against Children

**Support DDR**

Support Implementation of Action Plans to Release Child Soldiers

**Action:** Support CPA in e.g. accessing military barracks

**Action:** Support separation of children from armed forces/groups with the CPA

Action: Provide physical protection for children

Action: Gather and share information

Support DDR

Action: Support CPA in e.g. accessing military barracks

Action: Support separation of children from armed forces/groups with the CPA
Child Protection Guidance Flow Chart

**STRATEGIC**

**OPERATIONAL**
- Integrated Mission Plan
- Military CONOPS OP Order

**TACTICAL**
- Tactical Plans and Orders
- Tactical Execution of Military Tasks
Protection Mandate


11. Emphasizes that the protection of civilians must be given priority in decisions about the use of available capacity and resources and authorizes MONUSCO to use all necessary means, within the limits of its capacity and in the areas where its units are deployed, to carry out its protection mandate [...]

Protection of civilians

Ensure the effective protection of civilians, including humanitarian personnel and human rights defenders, under imminent threat of physical violence, in particular violence emanating from any of the parties engaged in the conflict;

Protection Mandate

Security Council Resolution 2100 (2013) on Mali

Condemning strongly all abuses and violations of human rights......as well as killing, maiming, recruitment and use of children, attacks against schools and hospitals....

(c) (ii) To provide specific protection for women and children affected by armed conflict, including through the deployment of Child Protection Advisors and Women Protection Advisors, and address the needs of victims of sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict;

Authority, Command and Control in UN Peacekeeping

UNSCR


Military Component Plans, Directives, SOPS
Force Headquarter CP Responsibilities

• Child protection mainstreaming
  – Planning
  – Information collection

• Operational guidance on child protection
  – Directives, Tactical Aide Memoire and SOPs
    • Responses, reporting, handover of children

• Training on child protection

• Enforce zero tolerance on SEA and child labour
Specialised Training Materials
on Child Protection for UN Peacekeepers

UNIBAM

United Nations Infantry Battalion Manual
Volume I

DEPARTMENT OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF FIELD SUPPORT
AUGUST 2012
Battalion Commander CP Responsibilities

• Establish and maintain links to CP actors
• Establish and maintain situational awareness on CP threats
• Implement CP policies
• Mainstream CP in own operations and contingency planning
• Threat-related CP training
• Zero tolerance on SEA and child labour
Tasks that may Involve Child Protection Activities

- Village Patrol
- Cordon & Search
- Patrol Base
- Training with Govt Forces
- CIMIC TASK
- Interaction With Armed Groups
- Vehicle/Foot Check Points
- DDR (Assembly Areas)
- IDP/Refugee Camps
- Market Patrol
- Outreach Activities

Monitoring and Reporting Throughout
Military Observer
CP Responsibilities

• Establish and maintain links to CP actors
• Establish and maintain Situational Awareness on CP threats
• Implement Force (and Sector/Bde) CP policies, particularly reporting on the six grave violations
• Mainstream child protection in own operations
• Zero tolerance on SEA and child labour
Protection

STM on Protection of Civilians
Risk = Vulnerability \times Threat
Reduce Vulnerability
Reduce Threat

Abductions, Rapes, Attacks on Schools
Understanding the Operational Environment/Situational Awareness


2. What are the government and community doing about it?

3. What are other parts of the mission, UN agencies, IOs/NGOs and local NGOs doing about it and how can we work together?
Monitoring and Reporting Mandate

If one of the six grave violations against children has taken place, report

- Type of violation
- Number of boy and girls affected
- Perpetrator
- Location
- Date and time of incident
- Nationality and other relevant factor of the child

NOTE: do not interrogate children. Not all information might be available.
## When Monitoring & Reporting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Do</strong></th>
<th><strong>Don’t</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consider best interests of child</td>
<td>Put child in danger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Know and coordinate with the CP actors in your AOR</td>
<td>Neglect to share information with the CP actors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analyse protection threats and risks for children</td>
<td>Forget the child specific threats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discretely take notes of details and keep information confidential</td>
<td>Interview, interrogate or take photos of the child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(location, armed group or unit, number of children, sex of child,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>violation)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be aware of your impact (as a uniformed person) on the child if they</td>
<td>Keep professional distance to child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have been violated by a soldier rebel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Information Collection Plan

⇒ Include specific questions related to child protection.

This serves to

• identify early warning indicators
  (Observe: Do you see boys/girls in the streets, are boys/girls going to school? ) and to

• report violations for the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism
Case Study: Situational Awareness

On a patrol in your Company Operations Base’s Area of Responsibility, you pass through a village that hasn’t been visited by the UN in a while. Everything seems calm and the villagers go about their daily business. You stop in the market place to chat with some villagers and get a grasp of the situation. A village elder complains about recent visits by an armed group that has been active in this area for a couple of months. You know that these visits are common and usually villagers are harassed and goods are extorted from them. According to the villager, the armed group asked for the local teacher. On their second encounter with the teacher, which ended in an argument, they shot him for unknown reasons. When you carry on with your patrol, you mention this incident to your driver and he jokingly remarks that he wonders who the teacher was teaching, because he didn’t see any children in the entire village.

Who will you report your observations to and what is your analysis?
Case Study: Situational Awareness


“[The Security Council] (...) requests the Secretary General to also include in the annexes to his reports on children and armed conflict those parties to armed conflict that engage (...) in recurrent attacks on schools and/or hospitals in recurrent attacks or threats of attacks against protected persons in relation to schools and/or hospitals in situations of armed conflict.”
Mission Procedures in Use

- Joint Protection Teams
- Must/Should/Could Matrix
- Community Liaison Assistant
- Community Alert Networks
Take Away

• Know your roles and how you can contribute to child protection:
  • Direct roles – prevention of violations
  • Support roles – gather information, support child protection section, provide security to CPAs
• Create orders and SOPs to address information requirements, hand-over of children, etc.
• In all your actions and orders, consider the best interest of the child
Keep in Mind

Actions to physically protect children

Military POC plans based on 4 phases of response and Rules of Engagement

Gather information on six grave violations.

Reporting and referring situations to CP actors
Take Away

• Military components have directives/SOPs on child protection – use them

• Child protection is part of almost every patrol activity

• Protection is a combination of actions to reduce vulnerability and reduce threat

• Make an assessment of the child-specific indicators in your operational environment
References


References


• http://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/


• Operational Guide to the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards (IDDRS), 2010. (See chapters 5.20 on “Youth and DDR” and 5.30 “Children and DDR.”)
Questions