Module 2: Mandated Tasks of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations

Lesson 2.7

Child Protection
Relevance

Peacekeeping personnel:

- Protect children’s human rights
- Protect children from violence
Learning Outcomes

Learners will:

- Define a “child”
- Explain why children need special protection, especially in armed conflict
- Describe duties of peacekeeping personnel as reflected in UN policies
- List actions to take to protect children
Lesson Overview

1. Definitions
2. Importance of Attention to Children & Armed Conflict (CAAC)
3. UN Partners Leading in Addressing CAAC
4. Legal Framework
5. DPKO-DFS Policies on Child Protection
6. Child Protection in UN Peacekeeping
7. Roles & Responsibilities
8. What Individual Peacekeeping Personnel Can Do

UN Core Pre-Deployment Training Materials 2017
Learning Activity

Film: A Child’s Fate – Child Protection and Peacekeeping

Instructions:
▪ How does armed conflict impact children?
▪ Why is it important to protect children?

Time: 15 minutes
▪ Film: 12:22 minutes
▪ Wrap-up: 2 minutes

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gNFnRIGPzSM
1. Definitions

- A **child** is every boy or girl under the age of 18
- The aim of **Child Protection** is to protect children from violence, abuse and neglect, and promote their rights
Learning Activity 2.7.2

Age and Vulnerability

Instructions:

- Think about your childhood or your children’s
- Identify needs and milestones in development at 0-3 years, 4-6 years, 7-12 years, 13-18 years
- Reflect on the vulnerability of children in armed conflict at these different ages

Time: 5 minutes

- Brainstorming: 3 minutes
- Discussion: 2 minutes
2. Importance of Attention to Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC)

Special Protection for Children

- Easily influenced
- Depend on structures for protection care
- Process of growing up
Six Grave Violations against Children’s Rights in Situations of Armed Conflict

1. Killing and maiming
2. Recruitment and use of children
3. Abduction
4. Sexual violence
5. Attacks against schools and hospitals
6. Denial of humanitarian access
Learning Activity 2.7.3

Risks to Children during Armed Conflict

Instructions:
- Consider the testimonies of children
- Why are they at risk?
- How does being a child increase their vulnerability?
- Does gender play a part?

Time: 5 minutes
- Brainstorming: 3 minutes
- Discussion: 2 minutes
3. UN Partners Leading in CAAC

- Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (OSRSG-CAAC)
- The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
4. Legal Framework

- International Law
- The International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 182 (1999)
4. Legal Framework

- Security Council resolutions on *Children and Armed Conflict – 1612 (2005)* on *Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM)*
5. DPKO-DFS Policies on Child Protection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“DPKO shall ensure that the concerns of protection, rights and well-being of children affected by armed conflict are specifically integrated into all aspects of UN peacekeeping”.</td>
<td>“The use of children under the age of 18 for the purpose of labour or rendering of services by UN peacekeeping operations is strictly prohibited”.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Learning Activity 2.7.4

Obligations when Interacting with Children

Instructions:
- Consider the scenarios
- What should you do?

Time: 5 minutes
- Brainstorming: 3 minutes
- Discussion: 2 minutes
6. Child Protection in UN Peacekeeping

- Alert for six grave violations
- Alert to other violations:
  - Illegal arrest, detention
  - Forced displacement
  - Trafficking for sexual exploitation, domestic labour
- Record and refer to child protection, human rights experts
Coordination with Child Protection Partners

- UNICEF
- Other UN agencies – UNHCR, ILO, UNESCO, UNFPA
- International and national NGOs
- National ministries – social, health, education, youth and inter-agency groups
7. Roles & Responsibilities

Child Protection Adviser (CPA)

- Placing the concerns of children onto peace and political agenda
- Mainstreaming, advising, training, advocating child protection
- Monitoring and reporting grave violations against children
- Liaising with UNICEF and other child protection partners for follow-up and response

Goal

Child Protection
## Other Units

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DDR</th>
<th>Civil Affairs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human Rights</td>
<td>Rule of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Affairs</td>
<td>Judicial Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Adviser</td>
<td>Corrections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women Protection Adviser</td>
<td>SSR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Electoral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mission Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SRS G’s Office</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Special Roles of Police

- Mentoring and advising
- Vetting, training and advising
- Investigating
- Reporting

Goal

Child Protection
Special Roles of Military

- Protection
- Contributing to alerts and information related to child rights violations
- Identify and release children from armed groups

Goal

Child Protection
8. What Individual Peacekeeping Personnel Can Do

- Identify and be alert – Six Grave Violations
- Record essential information
- Do not interview
- Report to CPA or other experts
8. What Individual Peacekeeping Personnel Can Do

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Do...</th>
<th>Do not...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Report misconduct</td>
<td>Use children for any services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keep information confidential</td>
<td>Interview children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refer child survivors of violations</td>
<td>Take pictures of child survivors of violations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ask CPA or CDU for guidance, if needed</td>
<td>Give money, food or other products to children</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary of Key Messages

- A “child” is an individual under 18 years
- Children need special protection, especially in conflict
- Duties of peacekeeping personnel – protect children, do not use children for labour or services
- Take action – be alert to violations, record essential information, coordinate, intervene
Questions
Learning Activity

Learning Evaluation