Module 2: Mandated Tasks of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations

Lesson 2.5

Protection of Civilians
Protection of Civilians (POC) is:

- A priority for the Security Council
- A responsibility for all peacekeeping personnel
Learning Outcomes

Learners will:

- Explain the POC mandate
- List examples of threats civilians face in armed conflict
- Describe the range of protection partners that operate alongside UN peacekeeping operations
- Explain the DPKO-DFS Operational Concept
- List actions to implement the POC mandate
Learning Overview

1. Definitions
2. Importance of POC
3. Legal Framework
4. Protection Partners
5. DPKO-DFS Policy on POC
6. DPKO-DFS Operational Concept on POC
7. Implementing the POC Mandate
8. Roles & Responsibilities
9. What Individual Peacekeeping Personnel Can Do

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Learning Activity

2.5.1

Critical Incidents: Bystander or First-Responder?

Instructions:

- Consider the images of critical incidents
- What would you do?
- Compare with threats to civilians in armed conflict

Time: 5 minutes

- Brainstorming: 3 minutes
- Discussion: 2 minutes
1. Definitions

POC Mandate

- “All necessary means, up to and including the use of deadly force, aimed at preventing or responding to threats of physical violence against civilians, within capabilities and areas of operations, and without prejudice to the responsibility of the host government“.
Learning Activity

Standard Mandate Language

Instructions:
- Explain “threats of physical violence”
- Explain “all necessary means”
- Explain “use of deadly force (as a last resort)”
- Explain “responsibility of the host government”

Time: 5 minutes
- Brainstorming: 3 minutes
- Discussion: 2 minutes
Civilian

- Any person who is not or is no longer directly participating in hostilities or other acts of violence
## Threats

| To life | Arbitrary, summary or extrajudicial executions  
|         | Murder (from individual killings, to systematic violence and genocide) |
| To physical integrity | Torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment  
|                      | Rape and other forms of sexual violence (from opportunistic, to widespread and systematic use)  
|                      | Abduction  
|                      | Deliberate deprivation (of food, water, other goods or services necessary for survival) |
| To freedom | Forced disappearance  
|            | Arbitrary/illegal arrest and detention  
|            | Restrictions on freedom of movement (including forced displacement)  
|            | Forced labour or recruitment |
| To property | Theft, extortion (e.g. illegal taxation)  
|             | Looting |
Vulnerability Factors

- Individual, community factors
- Environmental factors
- Access to assistance
- Self-sufficiency
Learning Activity

Vulnerability and Threats

Instructions:
- Consider the case study
- Identify the threats
- Identify vulnerabilities of the civilian population
- Which civilians are most vulnerable?

Time: 10 minutes
- Group work: 5-7 minutes
- Discussion: 3 minutes
2. Importance of Protecting Civilians

- Harmed unintentionally
- Deliberate targets
- Women and children suffer disproportionately
3. Legal Framework

- International Law
- Security Council resolutions
- National laws
4. Protection Partners

- Host state government
- Local communities
- UN partners – UNHCR, OHCHR, OCHA, UNICEF
- ICRC
- Non-UN military forces
- NGOs, civil society organizations – national, international
Guiding Principles

- Primary responsibility of host government
- Grounded in international law
- Whole of mission approach
- Priority mandate
- Cooperation with humanitarian actors
- Obligation of peacekeeping personnel
- Community-based approach
- Impartiality
- Gender perspective and child protection concerns

5. DPKO-DFS Policy on POC
6. DPKO-DFS Operational Concept on POC

Three Tiers

- **Tier I**: Protection through dialogue and engagement
- **Tier II**: Provision of physical protection
- **Tier III**: Establishment of a protective environment
Four Phases of Response

- **Prevention**
  Threat is latent (risk)

- **Pre-emption**
  Threat is identified

- **Response**

- **Consolidation**
  Threat has been mitigated/eliminated
7. Implementing the POC Mandate

Threat Assessment & Risk Analysis

![Threat assessment matrix with threats B, C, D, and A, categorized by impact and likelihood.]

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POC Response Planning

- **POC Strategy**: Primary tool at mission level to implement POC mandate and plan responses to POC threats
- Operational level guidance, joint action, coordination for all mission components
## Coordination with Protection Partners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Authorities:</th>
<th>Political engagements; security sector reform programmes; targeted advocacy; joint operations or joint patrolling</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Communities:</td>
<td>Dialogue with local population; mission-wide community engagement cooperation mechanisms such as Joint Protection Teams, Community Liaison Assistants, Community Alert Networks, localized protection strategies</td>
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<td>Humanitarian Community:</td>
<td>Protection Cluster led by UNHCR</td>
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<td>Parallel Forces:</td>
<td>Information sharing and operational planning on a case-by-case basis, including HOM exchanges and working-level cooperation</td>
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Learning Activity 2.5.4

Four Phases of Response

Instructions:
- Consider the case study
- Assess the threat in more detail
- Identify actions for the mission at each phase
- Identify roles of military, police and civilians

Time: 10 minutes
- Group work: 5-7 minutes
- Discussion: 3 minutes
8. Roles & Responsibilities

Protection Adviser

- Supports and advises mission leadership
- Development and regular review of mission-wide POC strategy
- Advisory, coordination, monitoring & reporting role
- Integrates POC concerns across the mission

Goal

Protection of Civilians
## Other Units

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women Protection Adviser</th>
<th>Gender Adviser</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>Civil Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Rights</td>
<td>Political Affairs</td>
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<td>Rule of Law/Judicial Affairs</td>
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<td>SSR</td>
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<td>Mission Support</td>
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<td>DSRSG/RC/HC</td>
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<td>SRSG’s Office</td>
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Special Roles of Military & Police

- Physical protection
- Proactive approach
- Monitoring and reporting

Protection of Civilians
Joint Protection Teams

- Coordinated by POC Adviser
- Composed of military, police, civilians
- Gathers information on protection situations
9. What Individual Peacekeeping Personnel Can Do

- Engage local communities
- Understand POC mandate, environment, threats
- Cooperate with mission components and partners
- Interpret the POC mandate pro-actively, try to prevent threats
- Respond, intervene
Summary of Key Messages

- POC mandate – all necessary means to prevent and respond to threats of physical violence against civilians
- Threats to civilians – life, physical integrity, freedom, property from state/non-state actors
- Protection partners – host state government, local communities, UNHCR, OHCHR, OCHA, UNICEF, ICRC, parallel forces, NGOs, CSOs
- Take action – engage local communities, follow POC strategy, coordinate, intervene
Questions
Learning Activity

Learning Evaluation