Module 3, Lesson 4
FORCE HEADQUARTERS
CHILD PROTECTION
FOCAL POINT
Learning Objectives

• **Explain** the functions of the Force HQ Child Protection Focal Point within the military component and the mission;

• **Identify** and **discuss** the key guidance required for the military component at the tactical level

• **Demonstrate** the application of the Force Commander’s Child Protection Directive
Military Component
Child Protection Focal Point System

- Force HQ Child Protection Focal Point
- Mission HQ Child Protection Section/Adviser
- Force Troops Child Protection Focal Points
- Regional Office Child Protection Officer
- Sector HQ Child Protection Focal Point

- Battalion Child Protection Focal Point
- Company Child Protection Focal Points
- Temporary Operating Base Child Protection Focal Point
- UNMO Team Child Protection Focal Points
- Child Protection Focal Points

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Force HQ Child Protection Focal Point – Key Tasks

- Coordinate with the mission Child Protection Section
- Child protection advice and mainstreaming
  - Commander
  - All staff functions
- Operational guidance to sector and units
- Establish/Strengthen alert system
- Train sector and unit focal points on Child Protection Directives/SOPs
  - Handover of children associated with armed groups
  - Interactions with children
  - Child exploitation/labour
Force HQ Child Protection Focal Point – Within Force HQ (1/2)
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Force HQ Child Protection Focal Point – Within Force HQ (2/2)

**U2**
- Threat analysis
- Identify and track armed groups targeting children

**U9 CIMIC**
- Identify and mitigate risks to children in all activities, including Quick-impact projects

**U1**
- Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) cases

**U3 / U5**
- Kinetic ops: minimize risks to children
- Child protection-focused ops: protect children

**U4**
- Support for children held in United Nations bases/facilities

**U9**
- Induction and Continuous training

**Medical**
- Contingencies to treat children in emergencies
- Medical outreach for children

**Information Ops**
- Key leader engagement
- Sensitize local population
Force HQ Child Protection Focal Point – Sector HQ, Units, UNMO Team Sites

• Establish focal point network and ensure information flow so as to maintain situational awareness, including an alert system on the six grave violations

• Ensure that Force HQ child protection directions are understood and implemented

• Support Sector HQ, unit, UNMO team site focal points in operations and training
Child Protection Alert System

Joint action across the three Protection of Civilians tiers with priority on pre-emption

Child Protection Adviser
Crisis Action Team
Child Protection Protection of Civilians Officers

Civilian Child Protection Adviser
Force Child Protection Focal Point

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MONUSCO Illegal Armed Group Plan

Mission Child Protection Strategy - Strategic

Force Commander’s Child Protection Directive - Operational

SRSG

XX

UN Force

Sector Brigade

Sector POC or CP Plan - Tactical

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Force HQ Child Protection Focal Point – Must Dos

• Maintain a good relationship with civilian Child Protection Advisers
• Engage all Force HQ staff functions so as to influence assessment and planning of operations
• Support subordinate child protection focal points in military components
• Share information with civilian child protection partners
Directions to Sector HQ, Units and UNMO Team Sites (1/2)

Group Activity

- What essential directions should Force HQ issue, and in what format?
- What child protection guidance would sector HQ, units and UNMO team sites expect from Force HQ?
Directions to Sector HQ, Units and UNMO Team Sites (2/2)

Group Activity (contd.)

• Roles and responsibilities
• Coordination and reporting mechanisms
• Procedures
Force Commander’s Child Protection Directive

• Directions to subordinates on key issues
• Drafted by staff, in conjunction with Child Protection Adviser
• Signed by Force Commander (authority may be delegated, but not responsibility)
• Forwarded to SRSG and other mission components/sections
• Office of Military Affairs, DPO
• DPO Child Protection Team
Military Component Child Protection Directions – Information Flow

**Initiator**
Child Protection, Humanitarian, Civil Affairs, Protection of Civilians, DPO, SRSG, DSRSG, Legal, GENAD, Force Commander, Deputy Force Commander, agreements concluded with national Government, national security forces, etc.

**Operational – Strategic**

**Operational – Tactical**

Force HQ, Sectors, liaison with national security forces, United Nations staff at Sector, regional/field office levels, etc.

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Mainstreaming Child Protection into Military Operations

• Integrate a child protection focus into military ops:
  For example:
  
  • Assign task to a specific Brigade to:
    - Enable, strike, withdraw in order to neutralize ZZZ Armed Group
  
  • Support child protection actions by:
    - Designating NO FIRE areas/zones
    - Isolating locations for child soldiers

Support activities cannot be carried out in isolation; they must be part of integrated mission planning
Mainstreaming Child Protection

Learning Activity / Group Discussion
Discuss a recent/past mission experience and identify child protection mainstreaming activities undertaken:
• What type of operations?
• What type of activities?
• Were they successful?
• Why/Why not?
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MONUSCO Force Commander’s
Child Protection Directive (1/2)
Monitoring and evaluation

- Initial survey for one month (quantifiable)
- Quarterly surveys (qualifiable)
- Review of Sector implementation orders every six months
- Target SMART goals:
  - Specific
  - Measurable
  - Attainable
  - Relevant
  - Time-bound
Generic Force Commander's Child Protection Directive

- Use the generic directive/template as a guide
- Details will differ from mission to mission
- Preparation: identify all existing directions relating to child protection in the mission
- Coordinate closely with the civilian Child Protection Adviser when drafting the Directive
- Follow-up the Directive to ensure that it has been received and implemented
- Update/re-issue Directive, as necessary
Takeaways

• The Force HQ Child Protection Focal Point has a key role to play in mainstreaming child protection in the military component.

• Interaction with the mission Child Protection Adviser is essential.

• Timely information flow is vital to be pre-emptive in protecting children.

• The Force Commander’s Child Protection Directive is one way to provide comprehensive direction to the Force – **but it must be adjusted/followed up/evaluated** on a regular basis.
References

• United Nations, Terms of Reference – Military Child Protection Focal Points, 2020
Questions