Module 3, Lesson 5
MILITARY CHILD PROTECTION
FOCAL POINTS IN SECTORS,
UNITS AND TEAM SITES
Learning Objectives

• **Explain** the functions of Child Protection Focal Points at sector, unit and team site levels;

• **Identify** and **discuss** how best to implement Force HQ child protection directions at the tactical level;

• **Demonstrate** the application of standard operating procedure (SOPs) for child protection at the battalion level.
Military Component Child Protection Focal Point System

- Force HQ Child Protection Focal Point
- Mission HQ Child Protection Section/Adviser
- Sector HQ Child Protection Focal Point
- Regional Office Child Protection Officer
- Company Child Protection Focal Points
- UNMO Team Child Protection Focal Point
- Battalion Child Protection Focal Point
- Temporary Operating Base Child Protection Focal Point
- Force Troops Child Protection Focal Points
- Company Child Protection Focal Points
- Regional Office Child Protection Officer
- UNMO Team Child Protection Focal Point

Reinforcement Training Package on Child Protection for the United Nations Military
UN Field Office

FIELD OFFICE
- Head of Office (Political)
- Regional Admin Officer
- Civil Affairs
- Protection of Civilians
- Child Protection
- Human Rights
- Field Joint Operations Centre (FJOC)
- Other
MONUSCO Illegal Armed Group Plan

Mission Child Protection Strategy - Strategic

Force Commander’s Child Protection Directive - Operational

SRSG

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UN Force

Sector Brigade

Sector Brigade

Sector Brigade

Secondary to Tactical Level

MONUSCO Illegal Armed Group Plan

Mission Stabilization Plan
Sector Child Protection Focal Points – Key Tasks

• Coordinate with the Field Office child protection staff to advise Sector Commander and staff
• Implement Force HQ directions
• Mainstream child protection in all operations
• Establish and strengthen an alert system and a referral system at sector level
• Provide support for child protection to subordinate units and team sites, including threat-related CP training
• Sensitize all staff on zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and child labour
Battalion/Unit Child Protection Focal Point – Key Tasks

• Advise Commander on child protection-related issues
• Maintain links with local child protection actors
• Implement sector directions on child protection
• Mainstream child protection in all operations
• Establish and strengthen an alert system and a referral system at battalion/unit level
• Provide support to Child Protection Focal Points at Company locations and TOBs, including threat-related CP training
• Sensitize all staff on zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and child labour
Military Observer Team Site
Child Protection Focal Point

- Presence of Child Protection Focal Points at each team site
- Establish/maintain links with local child protection actors
- Mainstream child protection in all patrols and tasks
- Advocate child protection
- Use the Alert System and the Referral System
- Ensure threat-related child protection training
- Enforce zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and child labour
Implementing Force HQ Child Protection Policies (1)

Group Discussion

• Does Sector HQ need to produce its own Child Protection Directive?
• Is issuing a Directive sufficient?
• Should the Sector Directive be a cut-and-paste from the Force HQ Directive?
• What are the key contents of a Child Protection Directive?
Implementing Force HQ
Child Protection Policies (2)

• A Directive alone is not sufficient at the tactical level
• There should also be standard operating procedures (SOPs) and orders
• Guidance at the tactical level should be relevant to the specific context
• Policies should reflect the child protection threats in the particular mission area
Implementing Force HQ Child Protection Directions – Sector Orders

• Drafted by the sector Child Protection Focal Point and the civilian Child Protection Officer
• Jointly approved by the sector Commander and Chief of Staff
• Collated by the Force HQ Child Protection Focal Point
• Ensure that Child Protection Adviser is briefed on all sector plans
Developing Military Activities

FORCE COMMANDER’S CHILD PROTECTION DIRECTIVE

- **Protect** host-country’s infrastructure
- **Identify** infrastructure
- **Protect** infrastructure
- **Hand over** protection to host Government

What tactical-level activities can you recommend to your Sector Commander to better protect schools against attacks?
Implementing Force HQ Child Protection Policies (3)

- Refer to the Force Commander’s Child Protection Directive to ensure child protection is mainstreamed into all military functions and activities
- As a Child Protection Focal Point, you are responsible for linking child protection to military activities = a mandated task
- Conduct joint planning with civilian child protection colleagues
- If in doubt, ask the Child Protection Adviser
- Ensure back-briefs; share information
Battalion Child Protection – Standard Operating Procedures

• Role of the battalion Child Protection Focal Point
• Monitoring and reporting on the six grave violations
• Using the Alert System and appropriate report format
• Guidelines on interactions with children
  – Civilian-Military Cooperation Unit
  – Child Protection Unit
• Procedure relating to surrender of child soldiers
• Procedure relating to detention of children
• Procedure relating to handover of child soldiers
• Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and child labour
Rules on Detention

• Last resort measure and for as short a time as possible
• Immediately disarm child/children
• Inform the Child Protection Section
• Separate children from adults (unless same family), and boys from girls
• Respect the child (and his/her rights)
• Provide food, first aid, civilian clothing
• Do not question the child/children (other than basic facts)
• Bear in mind the best interest of the child
• Bear in mind the “Do No Harm” principle
Group Discussion

There is a lot of child protection information for a peacekeeper to remember on the ground.

• Do peacekeepers need a Child Protection Pocket Card as a quick reference? (a ROE Card already exists)

• What information should the Pocket Card contain?
Takeaways

• Each level (sector, battalion, company, temporary ops base, UNMO team site) should have its own specific tactical child protection documents.

• Child protection documents must be relevant to specific area of responsibility and the role of the unit.

• Documents are only the basis for effective child protection; peacekeepers must be trained, rehearse and implement procedures.

• Report all child protection concerns/observations and establish mechanisms to generate situational awareness.
References
