Lesson 3.4

Force Headquarters Child Protection Focal Point

The Lesson

Starting Lesson 3.4

For an interactive start to lesson 3.4, ask learners:

Why is there need for a Child Protection Focal Point in Force Headquarters?
Can it be a part-time task? Is training required for this function?

OVERVIEW
lesson 3.4 will examine the military Child Protection Focal Point System, focusing on the specific role and responsibilities of the Force Headquarters Child Protection Focal Point. It will also address the development and implementation of the Force Commander’s Child Protection Directive.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
• Explain the functions of the Force Headquarters 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.

ACTIVITIES
• United Nations Mission – generic multidimensional structure (slide 5)
• Directions to Sector Headquarters, Units, and Military Observer Team Sites (slides 12 and 13)
• Mainstreaming child protection (slide 17)
HANDOUTS (FOR LEARNERS)
1. Generic Mission Headquarters Structure
2. Force Headquarters Structure
4. DPKO/DFS Terms of Reference – United Nations Military Child Protection Focal Point
5. MONUSCO Force Commander’s Child Protection Directive

SLIDE 2: LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Lesson 3.4 will focus on the specific roles and responsibilities of the Child Protection Focal Points at Force Headquarters, and on the development and implementation of the Force Commander’s Child Protection Directive.
NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

This lesson (3.4) will focus on the roles and responsibilities of the military Child Protection Focal Point at Force Headquarters, including with regard to the interaction with the civilian Child Protection Adviser and other key components in the mission. The lesson will also cover his/her responsibility for providing guidance on child protection at the tactical level.

In this lesson, we will also discuss the purpose, development and content of the Force Commander’s Child Protection Directive. We will examine an actual child protection directive and the generic directive that serves as a template.

The specific learning objectives of this lesson are on slide 2.
Key Message: The network of military Child Protection Focal Points is essential to the military component’s child protection tasks and for effective coordination with mission and external partners.

This slide was shown in a previous lesson (3.2, slide 8). It will serve to remind learners of the coordination and information-sharing within the military component and with the mission’s Child Protection Section.

It highlights the position of the Force Headquarters Child Protection Focal Point (the subject of this lesson) and shows his/her interaction with other child protection actors at various levels.
NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

**Key Message:** Child protection is very important in United Nations peacekeeping owing to the horrendous consequences of armed conflict on children.

*In some missions, the Force Headquarters Child Protection Focal Point is also the military Gender Officers. The gender role is not covered in this specialized training package.*

The Force Headquarters Child Protection Focal Point is responsible for:

- Coordination with the Child Protection Section of the mission;
- Providing advice on and mainstreaming child protection:
  - Advise the Force Commander;
  - Advise and support all staff functions;
- Providing operational guidance to sectors and units;
- Establishing/Strengthening the Child protection Alert System;
- Ensuring and supporting the provision of training on child protection;
- Developing directives and standards of procedure (SOPs) on:
  - Handover of children associated with armed forces/groups;
  - Interactions with children;
  - Child exploitation/labour.
The Force Headquarters Child Protection Focal Point must interact almost daily with the (civilian) Child Protection Section of the mission to exchange information, provide support, maintain situational awareness, and update the Section on relevant military component activities. This is a key relationship that must be nurtured. A key to the successful implementation of the child protection mandate is recognizing that the civilian component operates in a more informal manner than the military component and that the Child Protection Section is the lead for the implementation of the child protection mandate in the mission.

The Force Headquarters Child Protection Focal Point ensures that child protection is mainstreamed at Force Headquarters; works closely with the Force Commander and other staff functions; and is the expert on tools such as the Force Commander’s Child Protection Directive. Mainstreaming means that child protection is always at the forefront of military personnel’s work. When drafting orders or planning an activity, the military officer must always consider their impact on children and their security. Special provisions on child protection and security should always be included.

The Force Headquarters Child Protection Focal Point provides operational guidance, including drafting documents such as the Force Commander’s Child Protection Directive, providing advice during the planning and execution of operations. This involves close liaison with the operations and other staff branches involved in the activities (such as CIMIC) to keep abreast of any planning and to provide timely advice (e.g., prior to completion of the document). Such guidance is also provided to sector headquarters, units and military observer team sites.

The Force Headquarters Child Protection Focal Point will establish/strengthen the Child Protection Alert System to share information on the six grave violations and other child protection concerns, as well as on threats which could cause displacement, human rights violations, etc., through the military chain of command and to the Child Protection Section. The emphasis of the Alert System is to enable proactive action.

Training is a continuous process in missions, including induction training led by the Integrated Mission Training Centre (IMTC) on arrival, policy-driven in-mission training led by the Child Protection Adviser, as set out in the 2017 Policy on Child Protection in United Nations Peace Operations. This is “refresher” training to ensure that the relevant child protection SOPs (on handover of children associated with armed groups, interactions with children and child exploitation/labour, etc.) are understood. The Force Headquarters Child Protection Focal Point should support that training and try to ensure that it is interesting, relevant and appropriate, and that all peacekeepers complete it. This will involve close liaison with the Child Protection Section and the personnel that deliver the training.
**Key Message:** The Force Headquarters Child Protection Focal Point primarily interacts with the civilian Child Protection Section of the mission. Other sections of the mission (e.g., JMAC, DDR) would also be of interest, but they may be best approached by the corresponding staff functions in Force Headquarters.

- Handout, if it was not provided earlier: Generic Mission Headquarters Structure.

Remind learners of the mission structure, then initiate a discussion by asking learners: *Who would the Force Headquarters Child Protection Focal Point interact with at mission headquarters?*

- Child protection is a whole-of-mission effort that involves everyone. However, the Force Headquarters Child Protection Focal Point will mainly interact with the Child Protection Section (CPS) of the mission, on an almost daily basis. Peacekeepers may be involved in some of their meetings and possibly in the Protection of Civilians Working Groups at mission headquarters.

While sections such as JMAC and DDR will be of interest to peacekeepers, those sections need to be carefully approached. Force level U2 personnel are the main link between Force Headquarters and JMAC, and know who best to approach. It would be best to ask U2 to introduce you to JMAC, then work out the best way to continue the dialogue. Interacting with the United Nations Police would also be key; they would...
have a Child Protection Focal Point and carry out police patrol duties in the mission area. The police Child Protection Focal Point frequently attends meetings with the Child Protection Section and would have much to share with you.

SLIDE 6: FORCE HEADQUARTERS CHILD PROTECTION FOCAL POINT – WITHIN FORCE HEADQUARTERS (1/2)

Force HQ Child Protection Focal Point – Within Force HQ (1/2)

**Key Message**: Everyone at Force Headquarters is involved in child protection activities. The Force Headquarters Child Protection Focal Point should be familiar with the activities of all staff functions and work with them to ensure that child protection is effectively mainstreamed.

- **Handout**: Force Headquarters Structure (in not already handed out)

**Group Activity**

Review the Force Headquarters structure with learners, explain the U-level, and initiate a group activity. Divide learners into groups (pairs, tables, other) and ask them to identify how each function (U1-U9) can contribute to child protection. Allow five minutes for discussion, then ask the groups to populate the boxes in slide 7.
SLIDE 7: FORCE HEADQUARTERS CHILD PROTECTION FOCAL POINT – WITHIN FORCE HEADQUARTERS (2/2)

**Notes (for trainer)**

**Key Message:** Everyone in Force Headquarters is involved in Child Protection activities. The Force Headquarters Child Protection Focal Point should be familiar with the activities of all staff functions and work with them to ensure that child protection is effectively mainstreamed.

The slide shows boxes for each U function. Ask each group to provide an example of how U functions can contribute to child protection, and fill in the boxes in the slide.

**Examples**

**U2:** Maintains an assessment of the threats to children in each part of the mission area, identifies trends and seeks to provide early warning to the Force. U2 should know which armed groups are recruiting and using children. Information comes from JMAC, United Nations Police, military patrol and Civil Affairs reports, etc.

**U3/U5:** U3 conduct operations and may plan operations to be executed over a short period of time (e.g., three days); U5 plans future operations.

There are two main lines of activity:
1. Ensuring that all kinetic operations consider the risk of harm to children (collateral damage) and identify measures to reduce the risk. For example, your unit is going to conduct a deliberate operation against an uncooperative armed group that is based in a village. How can you reduce the risk of harming children (and other civilians) living in the village? Mortaring the village risks injuring not only the armed group but also civilians.

2. Conducting deliberate operations to protect children, such as preventing an armed group from attacking a village.

**U4**: U4 does not actually have any resources but can request resources from Mission Support. One key area is supporting the establishment of holding facilities in battalion bases. If apprehended, children should not be held for more than 48 hours before being handed over to UNICEF, or as agreed with the mission Child Protection Adviser and UNICEF, to the most relevant child protection actor. Moreover, children should be separated from adults in all holding facilities.

**U9**: CIMIC liaises with civilian agencies and may be a valuable source of information about children at risk. It is the focus for quick-impact projects (QIPs) such as building wells, repairing schools, donating books and writing material, etc. Many of these projects either support children directly or have an indirect impact on children. They should be carefully assessed to ensure that they will not having a negative effect on children.

**Medical**: Very sick and/or injured children may be treated at a United Nations military base, as a last resort. Contingency plans need to be made for this eventuality and must be rehearsed. Children temporarily held at a United Nations military base will need preliminary medical examinations, which need to be formalized as a procedure (see SOPs).

Medical outreach refers to instances whereby a medical team (from a unit or level 2 hospital) visits a village or local hospital to provide medical support. Medical teams may also support NGOs carrying out inoculation programmes, which will likely prioritize aid to children (especially infants). Each event has to be planned, the risks to children identified, and action/measures taken to reduce the risk.

**Information operations**: The military component will likely carry out key leader engagement (KLE) activities with senior members of the host country’s military at the national and provincial levels, as well as with leaders of armed group. A component of this engagement will be to persuade them to stop the use of child soldiers. Other information operations, initiatives may include conducting awareness sessions to sensitize villagers to the risks that their children face and what actions they can take to reduce the risk (e.g., escorts to go to school).

**U1**: U1 deals with sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) cases, some of which may involve children.
U7: Child protection training will be conducted as part of induction training and as continuous (refresher) training with the rotation of units. One component of this training will be child protection training.

Notes (For Trainer)

**Key Message:** The Force Headquarters Child Protection Focal Point is responsible for ensuring that the information flow and the Alert System are functioning efficiently.

Show Slide 3 - Military Component Child Protection Focal Point System again. It is important that learners recognize the military chain of command in United Nations missions. Force Headquarters provides directions to sector headquarters, which in turn will direct battalions and team sites in the sector.

That means, the Force Headquarters Child Protection Focal Point will not normally communicate directly with an infantry battalion in a sector. The Focal Point may, however, communicate with force troops (e.g., engineers) who are not under the command of sector headquarters.

Maintaining situational awareness and issuing timely directions are always a challenge for Force Headquarters. The Force Headquarters Child Protection Focal
Point is key to maintaining situational awareness in relation to child protection issues and achieves this through the focal point network (see slide 3) with sector and force troops. Sectors can be linked to the units they command and to the UNMO team sites in their area of responsibility. The main reason for this network is to alert Force and sector headquarters when children are in danger, so that they may take action to pre-empt the threat. This alert system may also trigger an investigation into an action that has already taken place. Each mission has its own procedures for an alert system and communication with the Force, Child Protection, and other parts of the Mission to ensure a coordinated response.

Force Headquarters issue directions through the Force Commander’s Child Protection Directive (to be examined subsequently) and formal orders. It is the Force Headquarters Child Protection Focal Point’s responsibility to track the directions, support other headquarters and units in implementing them, and confirm that they have been implemented.

The Force Headquarters Child Protection Focal Point should establish good relations with the civilian Child Protection Adviser in the mission and the designated Child Protection Focal Point at sector headquarters in order to better support the sector, units and UNMO with their operations and training requirements.

SLIDE 9: CHILD PROTECTION ALERT SYSTEM
**Key Message:** The Child Protection Alert System triggers early/timely involvement of the Child Protection Section and other mission actors to pre-empt threats to children.

*Use the slide builds and explain to learners:*

- The Child Protection Alert System feeds into the Civilian Protection Alert System. It has an instruction that the mission Child Protection Adviser/Child Protection Section should be notified as a priority, so that the appropriate child protection network can be activated as required.

Each mission has its own alert system, but all follow the same generic outline through the chain of command.

In this slide, a temporary operating base (TOB) has information that will trigger pre-emptive action to protect children at risk. The TOB may be able to take action itself and report through the chain of command, or it may only be able to report on the situation so that others can take action and other mission partners can be involved.

The report goes through the military chain of command to the operations centres (which may contain early-warning cells), where each level analyzes the information, provides direction and reports upwards. As this is a “flash report”, the information should flow almost immediately.

The sector operations centre is most likely the first level where the military component can interact with other mission components. Sector headquarters is likely to be co-located with the United Nations field office and the sector Commander will most likely co-chair the civilian protection working group with the Head of Field Office. There will be a crisis-action mechanism involving United Nations civilian staff, and the police and military components. The crisis-action mechanism (Crisis Action Team on the slide) will be well documented in SOPs, and rehearsed.

Sector headquarters shares the information from the “flash report” with the field office. A crisis-action group will analyse the situation and issue directions for joint action across the three civilian protection tiers, prioritizing pre-emptive action. They may also involve agencies outside the mission, such as UNICEF.

Reports would also be sent to Force Headquarters by the sector, and to mission headquarters by the United Nations field office (through the Joint Operations Centre (JOC)).

Military Child Protection Focal Points are usually involved at each level and the civilian Child Protection Officer in the United Nations field office would be involved in crisis-action planning.

In the standard operating procedures of MINUSCA, the aim is for a coordinated response to be issued within one hour of the incident.
NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: The Force Child Protection Plan is part of a larger picture, so it must be integrated/mainstreamed.

This slide outlines the framework of plans in MONUSCO. Other missions may use different terminology. The Force Commander’s Child Protection Directive is mission specific and issued at the strategic level, in accordance with DPKO/DFS/DPA Policy on Child Protection in United Nations Peace Operations (2017). The peacekeeping force deployed at each mission should have developed mission-specific child protection directions based on the particular Force Commander’s Child Protection Directive, in consultation with the civilian Child Protection Adviser. Usually, the mission framework is articulated in a Mission Stabilization Plan.

MONUSCO’s mandate in the Democratic Republic of the Congo also drove the development of an Illegal Armed Group Plan.
It is imperative to implement the Force Commander’s Child Protection Directive in close coordination with other mission plans and directives. Operational level plans and orders are translated into tactical level plans and activities. Coordination at the sector and field office levels is essential for the effective implementation of the child protection mandate.

SLIDE 11: FORCE HEADQUARTERS CHILD PROTECTION FOCAL POINT – MUST DOS

**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

NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

**Key Message:** Force Headquarters Child Protection Focal Point’s primary responsibilities:
- Maintain good relations with the Child Protection Section/Advisers, so that military and civilian components work effectively together;
- Engage all Force Headquarters staff functions to inform the assessment and planning of child protection operations (mainstreaming);
- Support the Child Protection Focal Points in the military component of the mission;
- Share Information (upwards, downwards, sideways) with relevant child protection partners.
This part of the lesson will focus on directions relating to child protection issued by Force Headquarters to sector headquarters, units and UNMO team sites. Divide learners into groups and ask them to discuss the following question: What essential directions should Force Headquarters issue, and in what format? Allow five minutes for discussion.
NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: Directions from Force Headquarters must be comprehensive with regard to the responsibilities of the Child Protection Focal Points at each level.

First of all, directions from Force Headquarters must be very clear about the child protection roles and responsibilities for each level. They should spell out what the sectors are required to do.

Secondly, the roles of the reporting and coordination mechanisms must be defined so that everyone understands how the alert system works, to whom reports should be submitted, and from whom to seek advice and support.

Thirdly, procedures to cover all eventualities must be in place: what action should be taken when a child soldier surrenders; what are the procedures for detaining a child; how to secure an incident area for subsequent investigation, etc.

Directions from Force Headquarters should be issued in written format and regularly reviewed. Some directions may be in the form of operational orders (OPORDs) and further broken down into fragmentary orders (FRAGOs). Although force SOPs will contain detailed procedures, the main document is the Force Commander’s Child Protection Directive.

SLIDE 14: FORCE COMMANDER’S CHILD PROTECTION DIRECTIVE
NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

**Key Message:** The Force Commander should be actively involved in the preparation of the Force Commander’s Child Protection Directive so that it reflects his/her views.

This slide contains some preliminary notes on the Force Commander’s Child Protection Directive (an actual directive and the generic directive (that serves as a template) will be examined later).

Force Headquarters will issue directives covering key concerns (e.g., sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), civilian protection, child protection, detention, operational pace during unit rotations, etc.). It is important that the directives be comprehensive and cover all the aspects of a subject area so that they may be valid for a long time.

One of the first things you should do upon arrival at the mission is to locate the Force Commander’s directives and make sure that you are up to date on them. There should be a stand-alone Force Commander’s Child Protection Directive, so that peacekeepers have a specific go-to document on what needs to be done with regard to implementing the Child Protection mandate.
The Force Headquarters Child Protection Focal Point is responsible for drafting the Force Commander’s Directive in close coordination and consultation with the civilian Child Protection Adviser and other functions in the mission, as necessary. Although it is the Focal Point who drafts the Directive, the Force Commander should provide initial directions, review the drafts, and sign the final product. The Force Commander is also responsible for the implementation of the Directive. The key recipients and users of the Directive are staff at Force and sector headquarters, units and UNMO team sites.

Directives are normally copied to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) in charge of the mission, the appropriate civilian sections at mission headquarters, and the Office of Military Affairs (OMA) in DPO, where they may be reviewed to ensure that they are compliant with the relevant DPO policies, in consultation with the DPO child protection team.

SLIDE 15: MILITARY COMPONENT CHILD PROTECTION DIRECTIONS – INFORMATION FLOW

NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

**Key Message:** The military child protection directions are informed by strategic and tactical operational guidance, as set out above, and must reflect the situation.
The different sections in a mission issue directions (see top text box) as they are familiar with the realities, concerns and issues on the ground, at the operational level (see bottom text box). The military component’s Child Protection Focal Point is at the centre/middle and has to issue guidance to the peacekeepers. His/her role is to balance directions from above and the realities on the ground and produce a practical document in consultation with the civilian Child Protection Adviser, who is the lead for the implementation of the mission’s child protection mandate.

The Force Commander’s Child Protection Directive cannot provide directions on how to resolve every single situation at the tactical level. Therefore, the military Child Protection Focal Point is a key resource person to provide additional guidance, if necessary.

SLIDE 16: MAINSTREAMING CHILD PROTECTION INTO MILITARY OPERATIONS

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

NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

**Key Message:** Child protection must be mainstreamed into military operations and specific activities aimed at protecting children must be included when planning and conducting military operations.

- Practically every military operation has child protection consequences. Mainstreaming child protection is crucial to ensure that the “do no harm” principle is taken into account and the mission’s child protection goals are achieved.
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?

Learning Activity/Group Discussion
Divide learners into small groups (at a table or around a flip chart/whiteboard).

Ask learners the questions on the slide and initiate a discussion based on their responses.

Emphasize the distinction between outreach activities and child protection mainstreaming activities.
NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

**Key Message:** Every mission that has a child protection mandate will have a Force Commander’s Child Protection Directive. The context and content of the directive will vary from mission to mission.

Handout: MONUSCO Force Commander’s Child Protection Directive

Go over the directive with learners; point out the supporting roles of each staff function (see para. 5) and the examples in Annex D, which illustrate child protection responses.

Note that paragraph 4 covers the mission-specific SOPs – plan, act, alert, protect –, which are not covered in this specialized training package.

Suggest that learners read the directive more carefully in their own time. Each directive has to be adapted to the specific child protection needs of the respective mission.
NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

**Key Message:** Simply issuing a Force Commander’s Child Protection Directive is not enough; monitoring and evaluating its implementation are critical.

This slide shows how MONUSCO monitored and evaluated the implementation of the Force Commander’s Child Protection Directive:

1. It conducted an online survey after one month to identify the level of understanding of the Directive at the tactical level.

2. It conducted a field survey in areas with endemic child protection concerns to check if procedures were being applied correctly and if additional directions or training were required. If additional operational directions were needed, the Force Headquarters Child Protection Focal Point would provide additional guidance and support.

3. The surveys led sector headquarters to articulate SMART goals related to child protection concerns so as to generate child protection activities to implement the Directive. The implementation of the activities were then evaluated to determine their effect on the ground.

Even if the situation is not dire, children are always vulnerable and at risk in conflict situations. The information collected through the surveys was key to improving the
guidance on the implementation of the mission’s child protection mandate and the Directive.

SLIDE 20: GENERIC FORCE COMMANDER’S CHILD PROTECTION DIRECTIVE

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

NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: The generic Force Commander’s Child Protection Directive must be adapted to the specific child protection context of each mission.

☐ Handout/circulate: Generic Force Commander’s Child Protection Directive

* This is a generic Force Commander’s Child Protection Directive that serves as a template. It can be found in annex 5a of DPO/DPPA Manual for Child Protection Staff in United Nations Peace Operations (2019):

- Go over the slide, then circulate the generic Force Commander’s Child Protection Directive
- Explain that it serves as a template and must be adapted to the specific mission context, in close consultation with the civilian Child Protection Adviser. See the other annexes in the Manual.

The generic directive is a guide to what might be included in a Force Commander’s directive. Every Mission will have its own format for its Force Commander’s Child Protection Directive and every Force Commander will have his/her own ideas as to
what it should include. The content will also vary depending on the mission’s mandate, its child protection challenges, the Child Protection Adviser’s advice on mandate implementation in that particular mission context, and how the mission is organized.

When planning the Force Commander’s Child Protection Directive, one of the first tasks is to identify all existing directives relating to child protection, including those at Force Headquarters, DPO and the mission. The Force Commander’s directive should reflect the mission’s child protection directions and relevant DPO policies and guidance.

The drafting lead (usually the Force Headquarters Child Protection Focal Point) should liaise with the other staff functions at Force Headquarters, as well as coordinate with the Child Protection Adviser in the mission and obtain his/her buy-in. It would not be desirable to issue the directive only to have the Child Protection Adviser disagree with parts of it, or to realize that it is not aligned with DPKO/DFS/DPA child protection policy.

Once issued, the Force Commander’s directive must be followed up, ideally by a visit to/communication with sector headquarters and tactical level units to confirm that it has been received and understood, and to identify how the Force Headquarters Child Protection Focal Point can assist the other focal points with its implementation. The Force Headquarters Child Protection Focal Point should conduct such visits with the Child Protection Adviser or Officer, whenever there is personnel rotation.

Lastly, the Force Commander’s directive must be regularly updated and re-issued as the situation changes, as DPO or the SRSG issues fresh directions, or when there is a new Force Commander. Provision should therefore be made for regular joint reviews of the Force Commander’s Child Protection Directive, in line with the evaluation review of the directive by the Force Headquarters Child Protection Focal Point and the civilian Child Protection Adviser in the mission. This may be done on a quarterly basis through an evaluation report on activities carried out to implement the directive. Amendments may be proposed to the directive based on the quarterly evaluation reports and it should be revised annually. Guidance should be sought from the Child Protection Adviser and DPO’s child protection team as to whether the annual evaluation of the implementation of the directive should be conducted by United Nations Headquarters.

Regarding the generic directive: while references are normally listed under the title of the document, in cases where the references are substantial, they can be placed in a separate annex. References from Force Headquarters, the mission, DPO and other sources should be clearly indicated.
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.

**Summary**

**Takeaways from Lesson 3.4:**

- The Force Headquarters 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
SLIDE 23: QUESTIONS

Photo on slide: UNMISS MONBATT patrol in Leer County, January 2016 (UN Photo 658938, Zenebe Teklewold)

NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

-Allow sufficient time for questions to be asked/answered. Actively encourage questions from learners.