

## MODULE 3, LESSON 2 LEARNER’S HANDOUT Monitoring and Reporting

<b>Do</b>	<b>Don’t</b>
Consider the best interests of the child.	Put a child in danger.
Know and coordinate with the child protection actors in your area of responsibility.	Neglect to share information with the child protection actors.
Analyse threats to and risks for children to determine protection.	Forget about threats that target children specifically.
Discretely take note of details and keep information about observed violations confidential (e.g., location, armed group or unit, number of children, gender of child, violation).	Interview, interrogate or take photographs of children.
Be aware of the impact of your presence and/or actions (as a uniformed person) on the child.	Casually spend time or interact with children.

**A child is anyone under 18 years of age**



**SAMPLE**  
**DPKO/DFS TERMS OF REFERENCE**  
**United Nations**  
**Military Child Protection Focal Point\***

**A. Background**

1. Pursuant to DPKO/DFS/DPA Policy on Child Protection in United Nations Peace Operations (2017), and relevant Security Council resolutions on children and armed conflict, the [UN PEACE OPERATION] Child Protection Section (CPS) is mandated to carry out the following activities:
  - Ensure the integration, coordination and follow-up on issues related to children and armed conflict throughout the United Nations system and, in coordination with UNICEF and other stakeholders, engage in dialogue with the parties to conflict;
  - Monitor and report on grave violations against children committed by the parties to conflict and contribute to the fight against impunity;
  - Mainstream child protection throughout the work of mission components, and train uniformed components to prevent and respond appropriately to child rights violations;
  - Liaise with protection of civilians (POC) unit and uniformed components to support prevention activities, in order to strengthen the protection of children in armed conflict;
  - Advocate with national and local authorities, and raise awareness among governmental institutions, communities and civil society on child rights and child protection.
2. In order to ensure that all components of the mission, particularly the military component, integrate child protection concerns in their activities, it is critical that a network of [UN PEACE OPERATION] military Child Protection Focal Points be established to ensure that child protection concerns are considered at all stages of planning and processes, and in operational activities at Force Headquarters (FHQ) level, as well as at sector and contingent levels.
3. The role of the focal point is to:
  - Serve as an interface between the Child Protection Section and [UN PEACE OPERATION] military component;
  - Facilitate collaboration between the Child Protection Section and the [ARMED FORCES];
  - Represent child protection in areas where a Child protection Section is not deployed;
  - Mainstream child protection concerns through the work of the military component to better protect children.

**B. Summary of the role**

4. Assuming the function of Child Focal Point/Officer will be an additional role for the military Gender Officer at Force Headquarters. The Officer will be guided and supported by the mission's Senior Child Protection Adviser (CPA), who is mandated to provide substantive leadership and support to ensure that child protection concerns are integrated into military planning processes and activities.
5. The Senior Child Protection Adviser and Force Headquarters Child Protection Focal Point/Officer will coordinate and work together, as necessary, to develop relevant standard operating procedures (SOPs) and terms of reference (TORs) for the Force.

### **C. Key responsibilities of the Force Headquarters military Child Protection Focal Point**

6. The Force Headquarters military Child Protection Focal Point will:
  - Work with the Senior Child Protection Adviser to strengthen advice provided to the [UN PEACE OPERATION] Force Commander, senior military leadership, Force Headquarters staff and commanders on all issues related to the protection of children.
  - Liaise with and train military Child Protection Focal Points at the sector and unit levels to ensure implementation of child protection measures at the tactical level (battalion and company levels).
  - Establish/strengthen an alert system to transmit information on any of the six grave violations and other child protection concerns through the chain of command and to the Child Protection Section of the mission, as well as information on threats that could cause displacement, human rights violations, among others.
  - Oversee the implementation of specific directives, including standard operating procedures on the handover of children associated with armed groups of national forces captured in operations or those who have surrendered to the peacekeeping force.
  - Develop guidelines on children's issues, including appropriate conduct when interacting with children and prevention of all forms of child exploitation and child labour.

### **D. Key responsibilities of the sector headquarters military Child Protection Focal Point**

7. The sector headquarters military Child Protection Focal Point will:
  - In collaboration with the sector-level Child Protection Officer or team leader, advise the sector Commander on all issues related to the protection of children within the sector's area of responsibility.
  - Act as a liaison between the sector child protection team and sector headquarters, and facilitate two-way communication between the Force and the civilian child protection teams.
  - Follow up on the training of contingent Child Protection Focal Points/Officers to ensure implementation of child protection measures at the tactical level (battalion and company level);
  - Handle all issues related to child protection concerns within the Force at the sector level, in collaboration with the civilian child protection team.
  - Obtain referral mechanisms from the child protection team at the sector level for all military Child Protection Focal Points within the area of responsibility, to address sexual violence, children separated from armed groups, children accused of witchcraft, unaccompanied children, and others, and continuously consult the child protection team about response and protection activities. Ensure that all military Child Protection Focal Points are adequately informed about referrals.
  - Inform the civilian child protection team of all child protection concerns/activities at the sector level, including grave violations against children.

## **E. Key responsibilities of the battalion command group military Child Protection Focal Point**

8. The battalion command group military Child Protection Focal Point will:
  - Advise the battalion Commander on all issues related to the protection of children.
  - Act as a liaison between child protection actors and the battalion.
  - Handle all issues related to child protection violations, including the establishment of an alert system to transmit through the chain of command and to the Child Protection Unit/Section, information received on any of the six grave violations, especially the recruitment and use of children by armed forces or armed groups, the killing or maiming of children, sexual violence against children, attacks on schools and hospitals, abduction of children, and the denial of humanitarian access.
  - Coordinate with the military Child Protection Focal Point at Force or mission headquarters.
  - Develop and oversee the implementation of specific standards of procedure on the handover of child soldiers captured during operations or those who have surrendered to the peacekeeping force.
  - Develop guidelines for the battalion on children's issues, including detention, conduct during interaction with children and prevention of all forms of exploitation, including child labour and sexual exploitation.
9. Note that, at the United Nations infantry battalion level, the responsibility for "gender and child protection" will be performed by a single officer, under the supervision of the Executive Officer (XO) or Second-in-command (2IC).

## **F. Monitoring and Reporting**

10. The Child Protection Focal Point will work closely with the Child Protection Section within the area of responsibility and transmit information about violations to the section using established Information-sharing protocols and taking into account confidentiality and sensitivity in dealing with children's issues. All reports shall be monitored by the Force Headquarters Focal Point.

\* See United Nations, DPO-DPPA, *Manual for Child Protection Staff in United Nations Peace Operations* (2019), Annex 4a.