CHILD PROTECTION POCKET CARD

CHILD PROTECTION

- A child is anyone under the age of 18 years.

**ACT** if a child is at risk of death or serious harm;
**ALERT** your Headquarters and child protection partners to all threats to children;
**PROTECT** children from further harm.

- **Six Grave Violations (SHARKS)** to look out for:
  - Sexual violence against children
  - Humanitarian access denied
  - Abduction of children
  - Recruitment and use of children
  - Killing and maiming of children
  - Schools and hospitals attacked

Always bear in mind

**THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD**
and

**DO NO HARM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DO</th>
<th>DON’T</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Report all grave violations and misconduct</td>
<td>- Turn anyone away</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Take note of details to inform your chain of command</td>
<td>- Interview children (other than asking for basic information)</td>
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<td>- Provide protection when asked</td>
<td>- Take photographs of children / survivors of violations</td>
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<td>- Provide medical care when asked / needed</td>
<td>- Separate children from their parents</td>
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<td>- Respect the confidentiality of the child</td>
<td>- Place children at risk</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Take advice from the battalion Child Protection Focal Point</td>
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- **Your own behaviour:**
  - Don’t employ children to provide any services
  - Don’t give money, food or products to children
  - Don’t casually spend time or interact with local children
  - DO report violations and misconduct
MODULE 1 – LESSON 1

• A child is anyone under the age of 18 years.
• Children face specific risks during armed conflict.
• The nature of conflict has changed and severely affects children.
• There are six (categories of) grave violations against children.
• Protection needs of boys and girls may differ.

MODULE 1 – LESSON 2

• Child protection is a team effort and everyone has a role to play.
• Component responsibilities differ, but are complimentary.
• Coordination is essential.
• Reporting is crucial to triggering action.
• The military should establish Child Protection Focal Points at Force Headquarters, sector, battalion and company levels.
• Child protection information requirements and mechanisms for sharing information with the Child Protection Advisers should be established.

MODULE 2 – LESSON 1

• All mission work must respect, promote and protect international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law.
• The Security Council has issued several mutually reinforcing mandates that protect children and establish priorities for missions.
• DPO and other United Nations policies establish binding rules by which all staff must abide, including rules to protect children.

MODULE 2 – LESSON 2

• Peacekeepers must know the legal instruments on child protection and the mission’s mandate.
• Military peacekeepers have a legal obligation to protect children.
• Officers and troops must be trained on child protection, the child protection mandate, the mission context, and the six grave violations against children in the mission area.
• All military operations are in full compliance with international humanitarian law and the rules of engagement of the mission.
MODULE 3 – LESSON 1

• Peacekeepers should be aware of how their own cultural background can influence their dealings with children and local communities, in order to avoid disrespectful or harmful behaviour.
• Peacekeepers must abide by the relevant codes of conduct and other ethical standards when dealing with children in their mission areas.
• Bear in mind the United Nation’s zero tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse, and the prohibition of child labour.
• Always keep the following guiding principles in mind when interacting with children, and coordinate and work with the experts:
  Do No Harm and the “best interest of the child”

MODULE 3 – LESSON 2

• Know your roles and how you can contribute to child protection:
  - Direct role: prevent violations and mitigate threats;
  - Support role: gather information, support the Child Protection Section, provide security to Child Protection Advisers.
• Military components have directives and SOPs on child protection – apply them.
• Create orders and SOPs to address information requirements, handover of children, etc.
• Child protection is an integral part of practically every patrol activity.
• Protection involves a combination of actions to reduce vulnerability and risk.
• Assess the child-specific indicators in your operational environment.
• In all your actions and orders, consider the best interest of the child.

MODULE 3 – LESSON 3

• Protection of children is an integral part of the overall mission mandate.
• Rules of engagement provide the authority to use force, if deemed necessary, to protect children.
• The handling of child soldiers is complex and requires training.
• Bear in mind two key considerations:
  - Take action to address child protection threats;
  - Inform child protection actors of violations.
• Hand over child soldiers to child protection actors as soon as possible.
MODULE 3 – LESSON 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.

MODULE 3 – LESSON 5
- Each level (sector, battalion, company, temporary operations base, UNMO team site) should have its own specific tactical child protection documents.
- Child protection documents must be relevant to the 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.