

SAMPLE

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:
 - **S**exual violence against children
 - **H**umanitarian access denied
 - **A**bduction of children
 - **R**ecruitment and use of children
 - **K**illing and maiming of children
 - **S**chools and hospitals attacked

Always bear in mind

THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD

and

DO NO HARM

DO	DON'T
- Report all grave violations and misconduct	- Turn anyone away
- Take note of details to inform your chain of command	- Interview children (other than asking for basic information)
- Provide protection when asked	- Take photographs of children / survivors of violations
- Provide medical care when asked / needed	- Separate children from their parents
- Respect the confidentiality of the child	- Place children at risk
- Take advice from the battalion Child Protection Focal Point	

- **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

MODULES 1–3

Takeaways

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.

