



Prevention and Response to Conflict Related Sexual Violence

Module III: Tactical Level

“Our military, police and civilian personnel in the field are playing critical roles in addressing conflict-related sexual violence. But, we can and we must do more-one incident of sexual violence is one incident too many.”

Ms Ameerah Haq

Former Under-Secretary-General for Field Support

Introduction.

UN peacekeeping operations are coordinated, monitored and controlled at the operational level. At the tactical level, the main focus of Military Commanders is in execution of Mission Essential Tasks (MET). The tactical level module is set to provide a broad understanding of the role and responsibilities of the units and sub-units, as well as the commanders in effectively responding to CRSV challenges through execution of MET. This module must be read in conjunction with the strategic and operational modules in the STM. A mission capable (resourced, trained, motivated and well-led) military unit/sub-unit can perform effectively in a UN peacekeeping environment.

Greater understanding of threats and vulnerabilities to women and girls in conflict and post-conflict contexts is essential to formulate appropriate plans/responses and execute tactics, techniques and procedures to ensure a safe and secure environment. UN orientation, adherence to UN principles, commitment to mandate implementation, clear understanding of CONOPS, ROE, Mission Concept, PoC Strategy, Force OPORD and other mission-specific guidance enhance ability and effectiveness of the military units and sub-units in dealing with CRSV challenges. Constructive engagement with perpetrators and the communities, as well as proactive approach and resolute leadership are crucial in preventing CRSV.

Aim.

To train and sensitise commanders, units and sub-units in executing UN-oriented and effective tactical responses to threats of CRSV.

Learning Outcomes.

The learning outcomes set for the tactical level module to combat CRSV encompass the following vignettes:

Understand:-

- a. The role of units and sub-units in prevention and response to CRSV;
- b. The role and responsibilities of commanders and military peacekeepers;
- c. The operational parameters for instituting effective response measures to combat CRSV;
- d. The tactics, techniques and procedures in application of the MET in the context of CRSV;
- e. The imperative of conforming to Mandate and ROE;
- f. The modalities of supporting mission efforts and assistance to UN agencies; and,
- g. The methodology and focus areas for unit/sub-unit training.

Scope.

The tactical level module is set in the following parts:

- Part I : Role and Responsibilities of UN Military Units, Sub-Units and Commanders.
Part II : Application of Mission Essential Tasks.
Part III : Procedural Aspects at the Tactical Level.
Part IV : Training at Unit and Sub-unit Level



Part I: Role and Responsibilities of UN Military Units, Sub-Units and Commanders in Prevention and Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

Overview.

UN military units are one of the most versatile tools for the Mission to undertake preventive operations and to administer calibrated and effective responses to CRSV challenges. Due to the weapons and equipment profile, mobility, skilled manpower, efficient leadership and ability to generate rapid responses with resilience, military units can be most effective to address threats and vulnerabilities to women and girls. The role and responsibilities of the Battalion, Company and Platoon in prevention and response to CRSV is enumerated in the following sections.

The Role and Responsibilities of UN Military Unit/Battalion HQ.

The Unit/Battalion HQ is responsible for planning, coordinating, directing and controlling all operational activities in the battalion area of responsibility (AOR). In the context of CRSV, UN military Unit/Battalion HQ will be responsible for:

- a. Ensure all military peacekeepers are trained and sensitised on CRSV challenges and are able to respond effectively.
- b. Tasking, training and sensitising the sub-units and commanders in administering proactive preventive measures and calibrated UN oriented responses to potential and impending threats.
- c. Establishing protective-grid through deployment of static (Company Operating Bases-COB, Observation Posts-OP, Checkpoints-CP, etc.) and mobile (patrols, Temporary Operating Bases-TOB, mechanised columns, etc.) elements to address most vulnerable areas for CRSV.
- d. Addressing less vulnerable areas/areas away from static bases through robust temporary /dynamic deployments and mobile/mechanised elements to be effective in time and space.
- e. Establishing a versatile and multifaceted (24/7, day and night) monitoring and surveillance framework (human, electronic, aerial assets) for early-warning, contributing to predictive analysis and conduct of information-led counter CRSV operations.
- f. Ensuring 24/7 monitoring of operational environment through Battalion Operation Centre (BOC), connected to Company Operations Centre (COC) and Early-Warning Centres (EWC).
- g. Advocacy and constructive engagement of communities under risk, host governmental authorities and alleged perpetrators on prevention and response to CRSV.
- h. Providing consolidated inputs on Mission's Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements (MARA).
- i. Projection of military detachments with proactive posture to dominate vulnerable areas; and deter, prevent and contain CRSV perpetrators.
- j. Maintain credible response assets (robust capabilities, adequate reserves, ability to respond in time and space and capable of delivering desired effect) to address emergencies/crises (earmark QRF Company at Battalion HQ and QRT Platoons at each COB).
- k. Proactive posture to dominate vulnerable areas; and to prevent, deter and contain perpetrators is key to prevention and response to CRSV. Foresight, military analysis, deliberate planning, initiative at all levels, dynamic presence and fine judgment are key to proactive posture.
- l. Execution of robust, decisive, highly mobile, versatile and timely military responses (including use of force multipliers) to address CRSV challenges effectively.
- m. Detain/Disarm/neutralise CRSV threats/perpetrators (additionally conduct targeted offensive operations in certain cases – e.g. 'Force Intervention Brigade in MONUSCO').
- n. Reduce arms flow, seize/confiscate, collect and dispose arms in the AOR as per Mission SOPs (including that of elements/persons that refuse to lay down arms). Weapon culture and armed men have been a major source of SV in conflict zone and hence must be addressed deliberately.
- o. Protection of vulnerable population and management of victims and survivors as per mission directives and SOPs.
- p. Integrating and synergising the efforts of all mission actors and the UN partners in the AOR in prevention and response framework.



- q. Develop SOPs at the Battalion level (in TCC's National language) to address PoC, including CRSV based on DPKO/DFS and Policies/Guidelines/SOPs as well as other Mission guidance and sensitise all ranks.
- r. Provide Battalion training instructions (including on prevention and response to CRSV) and organise realistic, Mission-specific, scenario-based PDT and in-Mission training.
- s. Provide pocket cards to all military peacekeepers as per Mission SOP in TCC's National Language.

The Role and Responsibilities of UN Military Sub-Unit/Company HQ.

The Sub-unit/Company HQ is responsible for planning, coordinating, directing and controlling all operational activities in the designated company AOR. COBs deploy in key locations and operate in the AOR to dominate vulnerable areas, prevent sexual violence, deter perpetrators and respond to threats based on OPORD and ROE. Beyond the applicable responsibilities mentioned at the level of the unit/Battalion HQ, the UN military sub-units/Company HQ will be responsible for:

- a. Deploying static and mobile operational elements and conducting operations to dominate vulnerable areas, prevent violations, deter perpetrators and respond to threats to CRSV based on OPORD and ROE.
- b. Establishment of surveillance, monitoring and early-warning systems (including designating early-warning centres and deploying/employing radars, area surveillance devices, mini-UAS, sensors, communication monitors, etc.) for accurate, real-time CRSV situational awareness.
- c. Activating community alert network (CAN) and deploying Community Liaison Assistants (CLA) to obtain information and sensitise local population.
- d. Outreach and engage with all mission components, UN and non-UN actors/partners, host Government authorities (civil/military/police) and local communities (including women and children), as well as the CRSV perpetrators (both state and non-state actors) in respective AOR. Gain confidence of the local population through reassurance and confidence building measures.
- e. Sensitising locals on community and individual protection measures, early-warning measures and on confidential reporting.
- f. Support increased reporting (confidential) of CRSV threats and incidents through public information campaigns to create general awareness (e.g. installation of display boards/hoardings in vernacular language, CAN/CLAs, etc.).
- g. Providing necessary inputs on MARA.
- h. Ensuring that commanders at all levels and static/mobile operational elements are easily accessible and approachable to the civilians, particularly the women and children.
- i. Establishing easily accessible women's help desk, women's meeting room, and separate medical examination centre operated by female peacekeepers/medics/interpreters to promote privacy and confidential communication.
- j. Ensuring enduring presence (with static and/or mobile elements) of military peacekeepers in CRSV vulnerable areas.
- k. Maintain credible QRTs with protected mobility for rapid response to potential/impending CRSV threats.
- l. Protecting civilians (particularly women and children) through robust (direct) military operations, including use of force.
- m. Neutralising threats and disarming perpetrators/armed groups if mandated as per ROE.
- n. Providing victim/survivor assistance (including by all military detachments operating away from the COB) through gender sensitive medical aid/patient retention facilities and evacuation support.
- o. Establishing detention facilities in the COB for perpetrators as per Interim SOP on Detention.
- p. Ensure all military peacekeepers are trained and sensitised on CRSV challenges and are able to respond effectively.

Role and Responsibilities of UN Military Commanders in Prevention and Response to CRSV.

Overview. Military commanders play a crucial role in executing the protection of civilian's obligation, particularly during crisis situations through firm resolve and decisive leadership at junior and senior levels. Some of the fundamental expectations from UN military commanders are:



- a. Clear understanding of the Mission mandate, obligations (including towards the host population and international community) and RoE.
- b. Commitment and determination (executing operations with firm resolve) to protect civilians, specifically the women and children; and to advance human rights through their functions.
- c. Provision of guidance, training and sensitising subordinate commanders/sub-units.
- d. Foresight, initiative and mental mobility in analysing and responding to CRSV threats.
- e. Judicious and calibrated military application (including use of force), based on ROE.
- f. Empathetic and people-centric in planning and execution to build confidence and generate faith in the peace process.
- g. Collaborative, participatory and inclusive approach in designing protection measures reconciliation efforts.
- h. Provide support to human rights mobile teams for their undertaking of monitoring and investigation of human rights violations, including allegations of conflict related sexual violence.
- i. Foster effective junior leadership (hallmark of prevention and response to CRSV).
- j. Establish moral ascendancy to dominate the space, through outreach and engagement activities and targeted military operations.
- k. Lead by example and be present in the place of action.
- l. Awareness/fully informed of gender specific needs of women and girls.

Battalion/Unit Commander.

Prevention of and effective response to CRSV is a command responsibility which must be addressed as a priority, in time and space, as per ROE in a UN oriented manner. Responsibilities of the Battalion Commander include, inter alia;

- a. Issue formal written orders and instructions through the Battalion OPORD, SOPs, Training Instructions, etc. reflecting all PoC related tasks, considerations and method of execution, including issues pertaining to CRSV.
- b. Define battalion PIR, coordinate information collection plan and maintain effective situational awareness.
- c. Develop and implement PoC oriented operational design based on the CONOPS and Force OPORD to address both routine issues and operational challenges.
- d. Provide operational clarity to subordinate commanders/sub-units and all ranks, in application of tactics techniques and procedures in consonance with Mandate, CONOPS, ROE, Mission PoC Strategy, Mission CRSV Action Plan, Mission CRSV SOP, Force OPORD, etc.
- e. Sensitise subordinate commanders and military peacekeepers on CRSV challenges, to respond timely and effectively and to mitigate threats to women and children.
- f. Provide clear and concise aid memoire pocket cards to all peacekeepers (on ROE, Mission Language, Referral Arrangements, Code of Conduct, Do's and Don'ts, etc.).
- g. Provide an area/group-specific list of early-warning indicators to all peacekeepers.
- h. Provide support to human rights mobile teams for their undertaking of monitoring and investigation of human rights violations, including allegations of conflict related sexual violence.
- i. Organise in-mission training and joint rehearsals and exercises to enhance operational cohesion with other mission components/external actors (UNFPA, UNHCR, host police/military, etc.).
- j. Monitor and maintain effective control of all operational activities including through BOC.
- k. Carryout military analysis/appreciation, establish planning and coordination mechanisms and systematise operational responses, including execution of contingency plans.
- l. Ensure redundancy in communication with subunits/detachments and provide communication support to CLAs and other civilians who are part of CAN.
- m. Ensure logistic sustenance of mobile elements (TOBs, patrols etc.) in terms of food, water, tents, etc. while operating away from COBs.
- n. Ensure availability and serviceability of observation, monitoring and early-warning equipment.
- o. Process additional support required from Force/Mission resources (Utility/Attack Helicopters, UAS support, satellite imageries, Force Reserves, communication systems, etc.).
- p. Retain ability to carry out casualty/medical evacuations of survivors.
- q. Periodically validate operational readiness of the forces in prevention and response to CRSV.



- r. Carry out periodic review of CONOPS, OPORD, ROE, SUR and recommend modifications to FHQ or to MCS team.
- s. Coordinate with mission substantive components to enhance coherence in execution of military tasks (PA/SWPA/Human Rights/Gender/Child Protection/Civil Affairs/Public Information/UN Police, etc.).
- t. Undertake gender sensitive and security oriented CIMIC/QUIPs programmes to enhance safety and security of women and girls individuals exposed to the risk of CRSV.
- u. Carry out outreach and engagement with local authorities, host security forces, rule of law agencies, local people including women; community service organisations (CSO); armed groups/actors; etc. Utilise CLAs to enhance outreach and engagement with communities.
- v. Designate a CRSV focal point to establish vertical/lateral link with SWPA/WPAs and other component/unit focal points.

Company/Sub-unit Commander.

In UN peacekeeping operations, companies are invariably deployed independently in Company Operating Bases (COB). The Company Commander, in addition to being responsible for a specific AOR, is also required to work in closed coordination with other UN entities, partners and host State authorities in the designated AOR. Responsibilities of the Company Commander in combating CRSV threats include, inter alia:

- a. Carry out risk/threat and vulnerability assessments for the Company AOR with specific focus on women and children, to feed into overall military assessments.
- b. Deploy static, temporary and mobile military elements in anticipated vulnerable/high incidence areas.
- c. Ensure static and mobile elements/detachments operating in consonance with each other and retain ability to mutually support or reinforce as required.
- d. When operating in isolation, heliborne reserves/quick reaction forces may be kept in high state of operational readiness to reinforce/support/deploy as per Battalion/Force/Mission SOPs.
- e. Ensure the platoons and sections are equipped, trained, tasked, briefed and motivated to conduct MET with a PoC/CRSV focus, based on ROE and OPORD.
- f. Provide support to human rights mobile teams for their undertaking of monitoring and investigation of human rights violations, including allegations of conflict related sexual violence.
- g. Sensitise subordinate commanders and military peacekeepers on the PoC/CRSV responsibilities with particular reference to women and children.
- h. Establish an effective early-warning network in the Company AOR (all static and mobile detachments will act as EWC reporting to Company Operations Centre/Battalion Operations Centre).
- i. Ensure constant monitoring, continuous communication and effective control of all operations in the AOR so as to respond to operational challenges in time and space.
- j. Carry out enduring, highly mobile and versatile operations to prevent/deter/respond to CRSV threats.
- k. Carry out detailed briefing and debriefing to ensure consistency in performance.
- l. On receipt of a report on CRSV incident/imminent threat, carry out the following actions:
 - i. Assess situation and give preliminary directions/warning order to subordinate commander as required.
 - ii. Inform Battalion Commander and ask for additional resources if required.
 - iii. Inform designated official (parallel to chain command) in the Mission HQ (PA/SWPA/HR-G WPA/HRO/GA/CPA).
 - iv. Follow directions on the Referral Arrangements issued by the Mission HQ.
 - v. Sidestep operational detachments to the site of incident/vulnerable area as required.
 - vi. Launch reserves to be effective in time and space if required.
 - vii. Be in personal control and visit the site as early as possible.
 - viii. Assist designated officials/investigating team (security, food, transportation, etc.).
 - ix. Coordinate with local administration, local police, or other actors (as per referral arrangements).



- x. Consult with UN police if required.
- xi. Ensure casualty/medical evacuation as per procedure, if required.
- xii. Ensure detainees are handled and treated as per SOP.

Platoon/Detachment Commander.

Most of the UN military operations are undertaken at the Platoon/Section/Detachment levels under the able leadership of junior leaders. Junior leaders must be briefed thoroughly and must have a clear understanding of their tasks, as well as UN oriented tactics, techniques and procedures. Responsibilities of the Platoon/Section/Detachment Commanders in combating CRSV threats (particularly when operating independently) include, inter alia:

- a. Engage with local population/communities for situational awareness on CRSV.
- b. Ensure that the Platoon/Section/detachment is trained and sensitised on CRSV related issues and be able to function as a cohesive tactical entity.
- c. Brief the detachment (Sections/Platoon) on tasks, with particular reference to CRSV (indicators, prevention and response).
- d. At the vulnerable area or incident site, always maintain operational balance. Understand the situation and existence of any further threat.
- e. Secure the area and ensure safety, security and privacy of survivor.
- f. Allegations received or observed by the military component in their work that may amount to human rights violations shall be promptly recorded and shared with the human rights component for verification, investigation and follow-up by the latter, as appropriate.
- g. Report through the chain of command. Provide information on situation and ask for any additional resources/assistance. Continue to inform the Company HQ on evolving situation.
- h. Ensure evidence is not tampered with by UN troops or any other persons.
- i. Engage alleged perpetrators (enquire, negotiate, warn) and carry out posturing.
- j. Confine or detain alleged perpetrator (s) (including suspected persons if deemed necessary).
- k. If challenged with force, use force as a last resort based on the Mission ROE.
- l. Disarm perpetrators if tasked or when operationally necessitated.
- m. Extricate victims if operationally necessitated.
- n. Interpose between perpetrators and threatened population if required as a preventive step.
- o. Provide survivor assistance (military level). Follow mission-specific referral arrangements and if required request for medical evacuation (ambulance/helicopter).
- p. Be ready to requisition/receive additional reinforcements as per gravity of situation.
- q. Assist designated officials and investigators as required.

UN Military Peacekeeper.

Ultimately it is the individual UN military peacekeeper who is a true bearer of the Blue Helmet and the cutting edge in executing METs. In addition to being sensitised and trained by the commanders at higher echelons, an individual peacekeeper must endeavour to meet UN standards and develop necessary skill-sets to function effectively in a peacekeeping environment. Responsibilities of a military peacekeeper in combating CRSV threats include, inter alia:

- a. Be a role model to all other actors by upholding respect for women and children, protecting their rights and promoting values through personal conduct.
- b. Understand and respect cultural sensitivities during interaction with local people while ensuring the protection of their safety, dignity and rights.
- c. Have basic conversational skills (task oriented) in the vernacular and/or national language.
- d. Do not engage in any act of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) as defined and explained in ST/SGB/2003/13. Take action to prevent and report cases of SEA.
- e. Understand tasks related to CRSV and implementing them based on applicable ROE.
- f. Understand and be able to identify early-warning indicators and reporting procedures.
- g. Respond to various situations as per SOP and established tactics, techniques and procedures.
- h. Follow correct procedure for use of force.
- i. Understand handling of survivors and alleged perpetrators/confirmed offenders.



- j. Understand the importance of preservation of evidence. Allegations received or observed by the military component in their work that may amount to human rights violations shall be promptly recorded and shared with the human rights component for verification, investigation and follow-up by the latter, as appropriate.
- k. Carry and regularly consult pocket cards (ROE, Referral, Code of Conduct, Do's and Don'ts, Language) on person.
- l. Be able to provide "First Aid" to the victims/survivors.
- m. All peacekeepers must ensure that they "do no harm" to the civilians.

Note:

For the role and responsibilities of Military Observers and Liaison Officers, refer to Operational Module para 00, page 00.

Do's and Don'ts in CRSV Context for UN Military Peacekeepers.

Do's:

- a. Be a 'Role Model' (good conduct and discipline, representation of female military peacekeepers and respecting local women) and be approachable;
- b. Respect the dignity, privacy and confidentiality of the survivor;
- c. Document/record the incident and preserve evidence;
- d. Obtain necessary information for reporting of the incident (if possible). Actionable information that can prevent further human rights violations/CRSV must be responded immediately;
- e. Report on chain of command and to the designated WPA/CPA. Allegations received or observed by the military component in their work that may amount to human rights violations shall be promptly recorded and shared with the human rights component for verification, investigation and follow-up by the latter, as appropriate;
- f. Assist and protect the survivor(s) and witnesses as required;
- g. Obtain informed consent from the survivor on possible follow up action that you or others may take (on whom to inform, which service provider to be approached, etc.);
- h. Follow 'Referral Arrangements' for transfer and handover of the survivor to the designated service provider;
- i. Follow detention procedures in handling perpetrators;
- j. In case of doubt, assume sexual violence has taken place;
- k. Follow ROE and principles of Use of Force. Ensure command and control, restraint, maturity and discretion; and,
- l. Do No Harm/Avoid collateral damages.

Don'ts:

- a. Do not interview the survivor(s) or investigate the incident (it will be done by the authorised officials; such as designated HROs, CPAs, WPAs etc.);
- b. Do not follow up (it is the responsibility of human rights officers and the WPAs);
- c. No action, such as informing local authorities, should be taken without confirming with WPAs/CPAs; and
- d. Do not reveal the particulars of the survivor (maintain confidentiality and anonymity - name, details of the family, village, personal identification, photos, not to be reflected in reports, etc.).

Note:

Lack of female peacekeepers should not discourage UN Military peacekeepers from engaging with local communities, including with women and children.

Part II: Application of Mission Essential Tasks in the Context of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

Overview.

Peacekeeping operations conducted by military contingents should remain within the framework of the mission mandate, Mission Concept, CONOPS, ROE, OPORD and relevant Mission



directives/SOPs, with adherence to the core principles of consent, impartiality, and non-use of force except in self-defence or in defence of the mandate and as otherwise authorized by the Security Council. The Statement of Force/Unit Requirements, Mandate, Force Commander's Directive, the CONOPS and Operational Orders will clearly outline the MET that are to be executed by a UN military unit in a designated AOR, subject to the applicable ROE. Military contingents should refer to the UN Infantry Battalion Manual in order to identify tasks applicable to combat CRSV.

CRSV Operational Model.

PoC/CRSV threats must be responded rapidly and effectively by all protection actors. At the tactical level, response to CRSV is founded on the following seven (07) interdependent and dynamic pillars:

- a. **Operational Readiness.** Effective responses to PoC/CRSV challenges demands high state of operational readiness, particularly in terms of capabilities (e.g. surveillance and monitoring assets); capacities (e.g. leadership, etc.) and training (language and communication skills).
- b. **Military Assessments.** Military assessments at all levels must include the potential/impending PoC/CRSV threats and ongoing SV; and analyse vulnerabilities, perpetrators profile, including their intent, objectives and courses of action; so as to institute appropriate responses.
- c. **Situational Awareness.** Early-warning and situational awareness is crucial for timely and effective response to PoC/CRSV challenges. This requirement must be reflected in the commanders PIR, information collection plans, tasking and deployment of monitoring and surveillance assets, establishing an early-warning framework, analysis of information and timely sharing/dissemination with relevant actors.
- d. **Planning.** Units and sub-units will have to be specifically tasked and resourced to undertake counter CRSV operations. Joint planning, including routine/contingency/special operational planning must take into account PoC/CRSV treats and mandated responses.
- e. **Coordination.** Being a mission-wide responsibility, coordination and synergy between all protection actors such as, various mission components, UNCT, UN partners, host authorities, etc. is essential.
- f. **Outreach and Engagement.** Constructive engagement/advocacy/dialogue with communities, including women and children; armed groups and actors; host State authorities (civil officials, and security forces – military/gendarmes/police); as well as CRSV victims/survivors is vital for addressing PoC/CRSV threats effectively.
- g. **Execution.** Military units and sub-units are required to undertake pre-emptive, proactive and effective operations to prevent CRSV, protect civilians from physical violence and neutralise threats.

These pillars collectively contribute to coherence in approach and synergy in execution of responses to CRSV. Shortfall/inadequacy in any one pillar will have a detrimental effect on the implementation of preventive measures and consequently on performance. Unit and sub-unit commanders must have a clear understanding of the tenets of each pillar and ensure a balanced and coordinated effort at all levels. The CRSV Response Model is attached at '[Annex M](#)' (p. 22).

Application of MET in Addressing CRSV Threats.

Overview. UN military units and sub-units address CRSV through METs¹ defined in the mission OPOD and can be categorised as:

- a. **Core Tasks.** Core tasks include patrolling; establishment of observation post and checkpoints; outreach and engagement with all actors in the AOR; generating situational awareness and conducting cordon and search operations.
- b. **Other Tasks.** Other tasks include disarmament and demobilisation of ex-combatants/armed groups/actors; civilian assets protection, such as religious sites, etc; detention of CRSV perpetrators/offenders; establishment of buffer zone between two warring factions; extraction of civilians who are abducted, taken hostage or kidnapped; conduct of joint operations with UNPOL/National police/host military forces; and evacuation of civilians under threat of CRSV.

¹ United Nations Infantry Battalion Manual, 2012.



In the following sub-sections, METs relevant to CRSV is amplified [refer ‘Annex N’ (p. 23) for the graphic description].

Patrolling.

Patrolling is a means and method to promote a visible presence of the UN in a mission area for the purposes of gathering information, outreach and engagement with communities, restoring and maintaining a safe and secure environment, establishing freedom of movement, establishing the credibility and legitimacy of the mission and act as deterrence to the armed groups/actors. Being the eyes and ears of the Mission, patrols are the most effective tool in recognising and reporting CRSV threats and vulnerabilities (based on early-warning indicators), as well as preventing/addressing CRSV. In peacekeeping missions, patrolling takes various forms and are named based on their basic purpose, such as reconnaissance patrols, information gathering patrols, long range patrols, protective patrols, escort patrols, night patrols, mobile patrols, standing patrols, community engagement patrols, joint patrols, etc.

Key Points to be Kept in Mind by Commanders. Patrols must be able to:

- a. Gather valuable information on PoC, including CRSV and deter possible acts of aggression through JPTs (accompanied by civilian experts and PoC advisors).
- b. Pass real-time information (including digital imageries) on potential, impending and ongoing SV to support better situational awareness, appropriate decision making and faster response.
- c. Monitor, investigate and report on human rights violations, CRSV, movement and activities of armed groups/criminals, etc.
- d. Reassure and protect isolated/threatened communities and displaced persons, especially women and children at risk and deter potential spoilers/perpetrators of human rights violations.
- e. Escort, protect and reassure women and girls in vulnerable areas while on subsistence activities (collection of water, food and firewood; and visit to markets, schools, religious institutions, etc.
- f. Escort representatives from UNCT/humanitarian actors under certain operational conditions.
- g. Establish temporary/mobile Observation Posts (OP), Checkpoints (CP) or Patrol Bases to prevent/respond to CRSV.
- h. Operate in unconventional space (fields, water points, adjacent to markets, etc.) during day and night (build night observation and response capabilities), in multiple modes (on foot/vehicles/APCs/boats/helicopters, etc.) and deploy for protracted periods to prevent CRSV.
- i. Act as deterrence through show of force or interposing in hostile/vulnerable areas.
- j. Retain tactical balance and respond to operational challenges, including the use of force as a last resort (particularly where the physical safety of civilians is concerned, including protection of women and girls from SV).
- k. Operate in mixed team comprising female military personnel/interpreters/CLA/medics when engaging with local communities, particularly with women and children.
- l. Engage communities through mixed team patrols/JPTs comprising local police/UN Police, Mission substantive entities (human rights, gender, child protection, civil affairs, political affairs, public information, etc.), host security forces, etc. as appropriate.
- m. Interact with local leaders and civil society groups (including female leaders and women groups) as part of outreach and engagement.
- n. Operate on foot also when conducting mounted patrols (APC or vehicle borne), particularly when engaging with local population.
- o. Provide initial survivor assistance (first aid, etc.) and process as per referral arrangements.
- p. Follow correct reporting procedures and information sharing protocols, particularly on CRSV.
- q. Carry out patrolling inside an IDP/Refugee Camp when requested by humanitarian actors or in exceptional circumstances/security situation warranting.
- r. Identify/recognise early-warning indicators pertaining to CRSV.



Observation Post.

The Observation Post (OP) is an independent peacekeeping position established to monitor, observe and report on a certain area, object or activity/event. In addition to serving as the eyes and ears of the mission (including for the PA/SWPA/HR-G WPAs, HRO, GA, CPA, etc.), OPs increase security in the AOR by demonstrating vigilant and visible presence to all parties and populations, especially women in the area. Reports from OPs, particularly on threats to civilians, provide timely, accurate, and relevant information to higher HQ, adjacent units and other mission components in the sector. Military analysis of the observations and reports of OPs facilitates identification of trends and pattern of activities and provides critical information required for appreciating the threats and vulnerabilities, as well as initiating proactive steps to prevent CRSV.

Key Points to be Kept in Mind by Commanders:

- a. Have a balance mix of female military officers/personnel and interpreters in the OP.
- b. Train all OP personnel to identify/recognise and report early-warning indicators for CRSV.
- c. Have adequate state of the art monitoring and surveillance equipment² to assist day and night identification of early-warning indicators and threat manifestations.
- d. Ensure day and night, 24/7 monitoring and surveillance of:
 - i. Vulnerable areas or areas of potential danger of CRSV;
 - ii. Infiltration routes of armed groups/actors;
 - iii. Activities (routine/abnormal) of parties to the conflict; and
 - iv. Threats to civilians (sensitive to women and girls).
- e. Carry out outreach and engagement with local communities, including women and girls to reassure, build confidence and gather information on threats and vulnerabilities related to CRSV.
- f. Liaise and engage with armed groups/actors as part of advocacy to prevent CRSV.
- g. Observe, record and report IHRL and IHL violations. Respond to these violations within capability and in areas of deployment, including with additional resources from contingents/HQ.
- h. Coordinate fire of ground and aerial force multipliers, and be capable of receiving additional reinforcement of troops and other mission civilian staff to respond to CRSV emergencies.
- i. Coordinate operational activities with host authorities as relevant (civil/military/police) and other actors, such as non-governmental organizations and agencies, etc. to address CRSV concerns.
- j. Be able to provide first aid and evacuate survivors (ambulance or helicopter based) of CRSV to service providers/civilian medical centres and in case of emergency to the nearest medical facility.
- k. Ensure that accommodation and sanitary arrangements in the OP are gender sensitive.
- l. Establish temporary OPs (static or mobile) to observe vulnerable areas and to act as a deterrent.

Checkpoint.

A Checkpoint (CP) is a static/mobile self-contained position with the task to observe/check, inspect/search personnel or vehicles and control movement into and out of a designated area. CPs display UN 'will' and 'capacity' to exercise control by projecting presence and operational reach in the AOR to reassure and build confidence. Movement control support the establishment of overall safety and security in the AOR and protect civilian population (movement of ethnic groups, refugees, IDPs, vulnerable population including women and children, etc.). CPs also act as an OP and early-warning centre by carrying out specific survey, monitoring and information-gathering activity and share observations with relevant stakeholders through information-management structures and processes. CP operations are centrally coordinated at the unit level and controlled at sub-unit level.

Key Points to be Kept in Mind by Commanders:

- a. Train and sensitise all CP personnel to respect local culture and sensitivities, particularly with regard to women and girls while ensuring the protection of their safety, dignity and rights.

²

Depending on the threat analysis, OPs may be equipped with hand held mini UAS, battle field surveillance radars, ground sensors (to cover blind spots), electronic early-warning and alarm systems, day and night area observation systems (spotter scope, self-activated IR cameras, etc.), communication monitoring equipment, high mobility vehicles, precision weapon systems, etc. which will qualitatively improve prevention and response at the tactical level.



- b. Deploy fair mix of female military and police officers, soldiers/police personnel, CLAs, interpreters, medics, etc. for engagement of local women and girls.
- c. Create a civil databank (personal particulars/identification, vehicle documents, government authorities' seal and signatures, data of local population, etc.) for each area.
- d. Task CPs to recognise early-warning indicators on CRSV, carry out informal interaction (including confidential exchanges), detain suspects, protect vulnerable civilians/victims, assist survivors, and to undertake limited military actions within capability to prevent or respond to PoC/CRSV challenges.
- e. Retain operational capability at CPs with viable strength, adequate protected mobility (APCs), troop carrying vehicles, appropriate weapon systems, monitoring and surveillance assets, EOD capability, sniffer dogs, communication systems, medical support, etc. to prevent or respond any threat to civilians, including women and girls.
- f. Have the ability to establish a temporary helipad, direct fire of ground based and aerial weapon systems and provide temporary protection and support to vulnerable population.
- g. Consult with the local population and in line with the PoC strategy and CRSV Action Plan to facilitate routine activities for livelihood and maintaining freedom of movement in the AOR.
- h. Ensure women and children friendly conduct by CP personnel, to build confidence, trust and faith, thereby opening windows for confidential communication.
- i. Display billboards with warning/cautionary notes to combat CRSV and guidance on confidential reporting in vernacular language/s.
- j. Incorporate representatives of the host military/police/civil authorities, including female personnel to augment the functioning of the CP.
- k. Utilise/take advantage of the special powers of local police to search, arrest and seize; and its ability to identify criminals, outsiders, sexual offenders, etc.
- l. Frisking or searching of women and girls must be carried out only by the nominated search personnel (including women). Obtain assistance of host civil police (including female police) if available. Covered/segregated frisking area for women and girls provides an opportunity for private conversation, enquiries and confidential reporting.
- m. Alleged/suspected SV offenders must be detained, segregated, carefully guarded and processed as per Interim SOP on Detention. In addition, control movement of crowds, enforce a curfew and/or detain criminals, wanted personnel and known offenders as part of public order management, if tasked.

Outreach and Engagement.

The aim of outreach and engagement is to reach out to all sections of the population, remote geographical locations of the AOR and the various power centres with a view to generate trust and faith in the peace process, create safe and secure environment, facilitate freedom of movement and restore normalcy. Military units must pay particular attention to prevention, mitigation and coherent response to sexual and gender based violence; SV used as a tactic of war; and prevent sexual exploitation and abuse in the AOR. Military units and sub-units conduct robust mobile operations, extensive patrolling and establishment of TOBs to increase operational reach to inaccessible or remote areas to dominate, deter and enhance security to the populace. Military elements also support mission public information campaign, particularly on protection/CRSV related issues through dissemination of information, sensitisation and obtaining feedback. Local media should be carefully nurtured to address women, peace and security issues.

Key Points to be Kept in Mind by Commanders:

Community Level.

- a. Coordinate with substantive civilian components of the Mission, such as PA/SWPA/HR-G WPA/HRO/GA/CPA/CIMIC officers, human rights officers, political officers, UNPOL officers, DDR/SSR staff, etc. to address joint concerns (e.g. joint patrols, JPTs, JIT, etc.).
- b. Engage local communities through welfare and security oriented civic action programmes, including implementation of QIPs to enhance prevention and response measures to combat



- CRSV. Projects related to water, sanitation, electricity, protective walls (around the schools), etc. minimise threats posed to the women and girls.
- c. Welfare activities should be socially productive, gender-sensitive and security-oriented to address immediate needs of women, girls, boys and men to foster normalcy in day to day life.
 - d. Establish CAN and deploy CLAs to obtain early-warning (provide cell phones or radios from the mission resources).
 - e. Engage the community (including traditional chiefs, religious heads, youth and women's group leaders and children) on protection and security related issues, identify threats and vulnerabilities and assist in the following:
 - i. To establish community level early-warning and alarm systems (church bells, public announcement system in Mosques, drum beats, mass yelling, fire/smoke generation, etc).
 - ii. To organise community defence committees/patrols/night watch etc. to infuse collective response to threats.
 - iii. To collect and pass information on threats to civilians, including women and girls.
 - a. Promote principles of good governance and assist restoration of law and order.
 - b. Assist the local authorities in promoting social justice and reconciliation. **(harmony and political)**
 - c. Coordinate with and integrate into the State information management systems and law and order machinery to obtain/share information pertaining to threats to women and children.
 - d. Involve local authorities in engagement with communities and key leaders (including women).
 - e. Analyse threats to civilians jointly in consultation with local communities and coordinate with all actors for integrated response.
 - f. Assist local authorities in apprehension and detention of CRSV offenders for further prosecution through national legal systems.
 - g. Coordinate support to local authorities with relevant civilian components and UN agencies.
 - h. Follow UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy for UN support to non-UN security forces as regards possible joint activities and operations.
 - q. Sensitise all parties on adherence to IHL, IHRL, other international laws/statutes and covenants and the peace agreements.
 - r. Engage alleged/suspected perpetrators proactively to prevent CRSV as part of advocacy.
 - s. Apprehend confirmed offenders in conjunction with host police/law enforcement agencies.
 - t. Address sanctuaries of perpetrators and engage with their leadership to conform to the peace process.
 - u. Carry out key leader engagement and convey UN's commitment and will on the following:
 - i. End impunity on CRSV through prosecution;
 - ii. Resolve to take all necessary actions to prevent such incidents;
 - iii. Respond with military force, including deadly use of force to ensure PoC.
 - a. Coordinate protection issues with various UN system entities and humanitarian actors (including through protection clusters, sub-clusters and working groups).
 - b. Establish information sharing protocols (early-warning, threats and vulnerabilities, CRSV incidents, details of known offenders, etc.).
 - c. Coordinate coherent responses to CRSV with relevant partners.

Situational Awareness.

Good situational awareness helps to generate a comprehensive picture of the operating environment, enhancing the quality of decision-making and initiating timely, credible and effective responses to prevent CRSV. The focus of information management at unit and sub-unit level is to corroborate the existing information, acquire and analyse changes in attitudes and perceptions, identify likely triggers and flash points, assess threats to civilians, and provide early-warning to the mission leadership. Local community is the prime source of information.



Key Points to be Kept in Mind by Commanders:

- a. Obtain accurate, timely and actionable information on CRSV to prevent or respond rather than react to situations.
- b. Establish unit and sub-unit level PIRs, prepare information collection plans and task relevant agencies/sources.
- c. Maintain information databanks, to include past CRSV incidents, assessed threats and vulnerabilities (areas, activities, segments, timings, etc.), and details of offenders, alleged perpetrators and suspects of CRSV (groups and individuals).
- d. Maximise human information with unit/mission surveillance and monitoring resources, such as UAS, reconnaissance flights, radars, imageries, communication monitors, etc.
- e. Record the information (digital photos, videos, documentary, etc.) for future reference.
- f. Establish informal information gathering mechanisms; such as CLA and CANs, etc.
- g. Establish liaison with community/tribal chieftains, religious heads, civil society groups, youth and women's groups, teachers, etc. to understand perspectives, concerns, threats and vulnerabilities to civilians, with special emphasis on safety and security of women and children. All of them may be able to provide information/early-warning on potential/impending/ongoing CRSV incidents.
- h. Interact with local women and girls through female military personnel, military police and medical personnel, CLAs and interpreters to establish confidential channels of communication.
- i. Generate trust and faith through genuine commitment, care for the community and constructive engagement to promote voluntary sharing of information.
- j. Ensure accessibility and confidentiality for the flow and the source of information from community.
- k. Establish rapport with the children (often, they are a good source of information; watch them and interact with them).
- l. Establish formal information sharing arrangements with local authorities (civil administration, police, health services, rule of law agencies, security forces deployed in the area, etc.)
- m. Carry out engagement with parties to the conflict and other armed groups/spoilers (if feasible) to assess capabilities, intentions and changes in attitudes to help take preventive actions.
- n. Monitor migration, internal displacement, refugee movements, etc.

Note: A suggested list of information required to enhance responses to CRSV is attached as '**Annex O**' (p. 24).

Cordon and Search.

Cordon and search operations are undertaken in a designated area (which include personnel, vehicles, houses, villages, etc.), suspected of hiding unauthorized personnel and equipment. Cordon and search may be carried out to:

- a. Protect potential targets (including women and girls under threat of physical violence).
- b. Locate and confiscate illegal weapons or warlike stores (explosives, equipment, materials and supplies, etc.) that can be used against civilians, primarily against women and children.
- c. Apprehend/arrest and detain SV offenders, alleged perpetrators, suspects, unauthorised personnel and wanted criminals, for further prosecution.
- d. Obtain evidence on criminal/illegal activities and human rights violations.
- e. Deny access to CRSV perpetrators to a designated area or population.
- f. Facilitate faster demobilization and check ethnic violence.

Key Points to be Kept in Mind by Commanders.

- a. Launch operations only on specific information to avoid inconveniences to the people and collateral damages.
- b. Coordinate/operate with civil administration authorities, host police and/or security forces.
- c. Incorporate representatives from Mission civilian components, as required.
- d. Co-opt UN Police (IPOs and FPU elements) as required.
- e. Incorporate female military and police personnel, interpreters, CLAs, medics, etc. to interact with women and girls (Female peacekeepers are less intimidating).



- f. Utilise the Military Gender/Child Protection focal points for outreaching to women officials.
- g. Ensure conduct of people-friendly cordon and search operations, without harassment to the local people and keep the community well informed about the purpose of the effort.
- h. Do not violate the local culture, customs and traditions. Treat the locals with respect and dignity.
- i. Ensure strict adherence to human rights standards.
- j. Handle women and girls cautiously (gender sensitive) and keep channels of communication open. Consult with local women on effective/best way of engagement with women in the community.
- k. Women should be searched in an enclosed area by female peacekeepers in the presence of other village women representatives.
- l. Due care should be taken to ensure that searches do not unduly infringe on fundamental rights such as freedom of movement, right to privacy, respect for human dignity, etc.
- m. Always search a suspect in public view, inform the reason and give opportunity to surrender voluntarily. Question the suspect if need be and handover to the local police further interrogation in compliance with the Interim SOP on Detention in UN Peace Operations.
- n. Conduct concurrent operations, such as, CPs, patrols, etc. also may be launched in conjunction for specific searches of personnel and vehicles, to prevent escape of offenders.
- o. Ensure video/digital camera coverage of the activities, assess damage if any, and take clearances or no-damage certificates once the search is terminated.
- p. Ensure welfare-oriented civic action programme, provision of medical aid, etc. supporting the overall CIMIC plan at the end of the operation, giving an opportunity for more interaction.

Disarmament and Demobilisation.

Depending on the Mission context and DDR planning parameters, the target groups can include a wide range of individuals and groups, including regular government forces, irregular and opposition forces, police forces, civil defence forces, militias, communities, Children Associated with Armed Forces and Groups (CAAFG), Women Associated with Armed Forces and Groups (WAAFG), youth, armed group abductees, dependents of ex-combatants, wounded and disabled personnel, etc. Military units also play a vital role in supporting Mission DDR activities.

Points to be Kept in Mind by Commanders:

- a. Provide support to civilian-led public information/sensitization campaigns.
- b. Disarm confirmed/listed SV offenders and armed groups, as per mandate.
- c. Assist a third party in active disarmament of armed groups.
- d. Locate, engage, detain and process alleged sexual offenders of armed groups in support of demobilization efforts.
- e. Monitor the ex-combatants during the DDR process, particularly during the reinsertion and reintegration phases, when they come in close contact with women and girls of the communities.
- f. Monitor vulnerabilities of women and girls during reintegration should and institute measures for their protection.
- g. Monitor foreign forces being repatriated with escort as part of a civilian-led activity.
- h. Coordinate with the Mission DDR component to seek out armed groups (which are not conforming to agreed modalities or those which are not yet part of the process) proactively to engage and bring them to negotiation and conform to the DDR process.
- i. Identify or confirm the presence of women, children or wounded/disabled people within an armed force or group, particularly if these groups are being underreported.
- j. Create incentives and disincentives for former combatants to join or remain outside a programme by constructive engagement.
- k. Support operations against armed groups while the DDR component is simultaneously conducting outreach for individual combatants to defect and enter a DDR process if mandated.
- l. Provide interface to promote and encourage participation from fence sitters, where accessibility to or for the DDR units/staff/programmes is limited, or when there is a trust deficit.
- m. Conduct collection of weapons from an armed civilian population separately, but not as a part of the DDR process.



Critical Infrastructure/Key Personnel and Assets Protection.

As part of the major responsibility of restoring, creating and preserving safety and security in the AOR, military units and sub-units may be involved in protection of key personnel, critical infrastructure and assets that are vital to the people/host State. Such responsibilities have high public visibility and impact on the attitude of local people towards the UN and mission entities. The task involves protection of the following:

- a. Vulnerable key leaders and their close relatives, including female leaders.
- b. Critical Government infrastructure/assets (including its officials, residents, visitors, etc.), such as Government HQ, civil authorities, power generation facilities, water works, communication centres, logistics dump, river/seaports, air fields and bases and other sensitive offices/installations, etc. which have a direct bearing in essential services and good governance.
- c. Law enforcing officials and entities (judicial, police, and correction institutions, etc.).
- d. Vital civilian assets/infrastructure, such as important religious sites, structures of cultural/historic value, important city centres, hospitals and schools.
- e. Habitation/areas that provide daily subsistence and livelihood to the local people.
- f. Protection of refugees/IDPs and their camps, as well as DDR camps/sites and processes.
- g. Civilian staff (including women and girls) of UN System entities outside the mission, other International Organizations (ICRC, etc.), Regional Organizations, NGOs working for the protection and benefit of the people, etc. who are under physical threat of violence.

Points to be Kept in Mind by Commanders:

- a. Analyse threats, establish priorities and allocate resources (separately for point and area security).
- b. Interact with women's groups/leaders to understand their protection perspectives, and vulnerabilities and identify threats.
- c. Coordinate with local administration/police/security forces and communities on relevant protection issues, including early-warning arrangements and response.
- d. Ensure 24/7 unobtrusive physical surveillance of the area, until the threat is neutralised.
- e. Formulate and coordinate day to day functional procedures and responses (movement of women and girls to fields, forest, market, water point, schools, etc.).
- f. Do not violate cultural/religious sentiments or infringe freedom of people.
- g. Prevent, deter and respond effectively to any threat as per RoE.

Detention.

UN military units, sub-units and detachments may be required to detain suspected or alleged or confirmed perpetrators of CRSV. Coordination with Mission's Detention Focal Point (DFP), as well as with UN Police, local police and the human rights component is vital to follow laid down legal procedures. All commanders and troops should be sensitised to apply the detention procedures³ in order to prevent any potential embarrassing situations (e.g., escape, suicide attempt, assault on guard, etc.) or social, political and legal implications from detention-related incidents. It is essential that military peacekeepers handle detained persons humanely and in compliance with ROE, Directives on the Use of Force, and applicable international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law, norms and standards. Detainees must be released or handed over by UN military peacekeepers⁴ to national law enforcement officials of host State or other national authorities as soon as possible. Detained persons are entitled to rights provided in international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law, norms and standards.

Circumstances for Detention. Detention by military peacekeepers may be effected in the following circumstances:

- a. While conducting Cordon and Search Operations.
- b. At the Checkpoint.

³ Provided in "Detention in United Nations Peace Operations Interim Standard Operating Procedures", dated 25 January 2010 and UN Infantry Battalion Manual, Volume II, Chapter 2, Section 2.12, page 137.

⁴ The fundamental principles and rules of international humanitarian law are applicable to UN forces when actively engaged as combatants in situations of armed conflict to the extent and for the duration of that engagement.



- c. When an offence is committed in the presence of a patrol against any vulnerable section of the society (women, children, elderly, etc.).
- d. When grave danger or reasonable threat to life is imminent or exists.
- e. As part of support to law and public order management.
- f. Whilst carrying out proactive disarmament.
- g. In protection of UN personnel and property where danger is imminent.
- h. When an intrusion/trespass or attempt to commit an infraction or violation in UN premises takes place.

Key Points to be Kept in Mind by Commanders:

- m. UN personnel are authorized to search⁵ detained persons.
 - n. A child may only be detained as a last resort and for the shortest possible time and separate from other detainees unless with members of family.
 - o. Report through chain of command and to the Mission DFP. It will be followed-up through daily and weekly situation reports, and half-yearly reports.
 - p. Notify the detainee orally on the reason for detention and his/her rights. Provide a written statement on the same at the earliest practical time.
 - q. Notify a designated family member/other person on detention at the earliest.
 - r. Photograph the detainee (for identification, record any injury or show wellbeing).
 - s. Physical restraints shall only be used as a precaution during transfer/handover, on medical grounds, and by order of the CO.
 - t. Questioning is governed by mission-specific ROE and responses will be recorded.
 - u. Ensure safety and well-being of the detainee until release or handover to national authority.
 - v. Do not discriminate and subject detainees to torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
 - w. Endorse initial details of detention on battalion “Detained Persons Register”.
 - x. Account for the confiscated items in the Detained Persons Property Register.
 - y. Complaints of the detainee regarding treatment or the conditions of detention will be recorded in the Detained Persons Complaint Register and will be reported to DFP and HR Component.
 - z. Deliver UN Detention, Release, Transfer and/or Handover Form to the DFP, HR Component and
- aa. Provide a written notification to ICRC within 36 hours.
 - bb. Release or hand over the detainee to the national authorities within 48 hours. On specific instances, it could be further extended to 72 hours.
 - cc. Conduct medical screening prior to release and when force has been used.
 - dd. Transfer of a detainee from one Commanding Officer to another Commanding Officer based on operational requirements is allowed.
 - ee. Ensure unconditional access to human rights component and ICRC to the detainees and documents.
 - ff. Ensure gender sensitive detention cells in each COB and the Battalion HQ as per mission SOPs (sleeping arrangements, good ventilation, adequate lighting, food, water, clothing, recreation and sanitary facilities, religious scriptures, etc.).
 - gg. Ensure protection from public curiosity and privacy of accommodation based on age, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion or any other criteria.

Buffer Zone.

A Buffer Zone (BZ) is a demilitarized area primarily established to separate the warring factions by interposing UN peacekeeping forces. BZ remains under the control of the UN forces. PoC, including women and children, assets (population centres, infrastructure, etc.), movement control and maintenance of law and order in the BZ is always a challenge. Static and mobile tactical sub-units and detachments (COBs, TOBs, OPs, CPs, patrols, Control Points, etc.) are deployed to preserve the sanctity of the BZ by preventing any violation of ceasefire/peace agreement clauses. Freedom of

⁵ UN male personnel may search female detainees in exceptional circumstances at the commencement of detention, for imperative security reasons (e.g., reasonable belief that the female is carrying a weapon) or when no female UN personnel are available to conduct the search.



movement, high mobility, enhanced day and night surveillance and proactive operations are important factors for success.

Key Points to be kept in Mind by Commanders:

- a. Ensure no presence of military personnel of warring factions/armed groups in the BZ who could endanger the safety and security of the population, including women and girls.
- b. Carry out day and night monitoring and surveillance (human, electronic and aerial platforms) of the area to protect vulnerable people.
- c. Monitor and control civilian activities/movement through Crossing/Control Points across BZ.
- d. Facilitate good governance and contribute to maintenance of law and order.
- e. Facilitate resumption of daily subsistence and routine civilian activity (farming, grazing, water collection, medical aid, market transactions, etc.) for establishing normalcy.
- f. Facilitate safe humanitarian access to civilian populations, provision of medical aid and facilitate voluntary and safe return of displaced personnel.
- g. Undertake CIMIC, QIPs and other welfare oriented programmes that enhance security and safety of women and children.
- h. Establish effective interface with the local inhabitants to understand threats and vulnerabilities.
- i. Prevent/contain any violations/cross border attacks/isolated incidents against the population, including women and children taking place.
- j. Investigate any violations and complaints, including threats and incidents related to CRSV in conjunction with designated Mission HQ Officials.
- k. Facilitate mediation and negotiation for release of abducted/kidnapped women and girls by opposing forces.
- l. Facilitate exchange of prisoners (including women and girls), refugees, dead bodies and livestock.
- m. Assist/support UN Police (IPOs and FPU), UN agencies and partners in the BZ as required.

Joint Operations.

UN Military Units may be required to carry out joint operations with UN police and/or host police and/or host military forces in the context of prevention and response to CRSV. Joint operations have to be carried out within an integrated framework with well-defined roles and responsibilities for each constituent. Legal authority is vested in national law and order machinery for prosecution and conviction. For operations conducted by UN military units and sub-units, particularly involving civilians (in the context of CRSV), it is imperative to have host State police and/or UN police to be co-opted to ensure laws are followed in letter and spirit. In certain cases, while operating against armed elements, joint operations with host security forces, including local police would be essential.

Key Points to be kept in Mind by Commanders:

- a. Establish joint early-warning and early-response (EWER) mechanisms and strengthen the local protection mechanisms.
- b. Be sensitive to the needs of vulnerable groups, such as women and girls (e.g. including female police or military officers in the patrols).
- c. Coordinate/establish joint information sharing protocols.
- d. Conduct joint foot patrols with PoC/CRSV focus at night in high risk areas/sites (often at the request of local women and organizations).
- e. Conduct joint patrols for interaction with local population, monitor activities, and carryout threat/risk assessments, etc. during outreach and engagement.
- f. Incorporate host State police (men and women) in executing MET to display legitimacy, extension of government authority and establishment of rapport with the population.
- g. Incorporate UN police and local police (including female police) for conduct of cordon and search, since it is a highly sensitive operation in which civilians are involved (Arrest, detention, confiscation, management of public order, etc. requires police support).
- h. Incorporate UN police and or local police for conduct of stabilization operations against aggressors or spoilers aimed at restoring safety and security as well as freedom of movement.
- i. Support human rights monitoring and reporting.



- j. Check violations and launch joint operations against perpetrators together with the local police and in close coordination with human rights officers.
- k. Provide additional security cover to the isolated police patrols and posts to outreach in remote/inaccessible areas where police deployment is non-existent.
- l. Assist local police and UN police in maintaining law and order. Public law and order management, including crowd control operations is the primary responsibility of the local police and in some cases by the UN Police. In the event of military entities faced with handling of crowd, support of the local/UN police would be needed to diffuse and control the situation. When the situation is beyond the control of the police, military units are expected to undertake crowd control operations on its own.
- m. Assist all actors to counter transnational organised crime, including trafficking of women and girls.
- n. Obtain assistance from host State and/or UN police on specific investigations in the mission area where appropriate.
- o. Address natural disasters in conjunction with the host State and UNCT by providing emergency support to civilians with particular focus on safety and security of women and children.

Extraction.

Units, sub-units and operational detachments under PoC mandate are authorised to conduct military operations to extract the victims of CRSV to safety within the conditions specified in the ROE. Civilians, particularly women and girls are taken hostage, detained/kidnapped, forcibly married, used as sex-slaves or tortured in armed group camps, in the bush, or in temporary hutments, villages or even in IDP camps. Military units are required to ensure rapid and spontaneous action to safeguard and extricate the threatened civilians, including women and children.

Being a sensitive and high-risk operation, as well as the possibility of collateral damages and danger to the victim(s), extraction operation requires direct involvement of the Commanding Officer in planning, preparation and execution. It is essential that necessary clearance from the Force HQ/Mission HQ be obtained prior to launching extrication operation. Depending on the gravity of the situation and analysis of opposition from armed groups, additional mission resources in terms of force reserves, Special Forces, attack/utility helicopter support, surveillance and monitoring assets, such as UAS, UN Police personnel (IPs and FPU), etc. may be sought. Coordination with and support of host government authorities, including local police is crucial for the execution of operation.

Key Points to be Kept in Mind by Commanders:

- a. Collect actionable information.
- b. Keep higher HQ and designated officials (SPOCA/SWPA/HR-G WPA/HRO/GA/CPA) informed of the situation.
- c. Carry out military appreciation and obtain approval for launching operation.
- d. Mobilise appropriate force level to the place of incident/action.
- e. Negotiate for the release (involve mediators and interpreters where required).
- f. Isolate, contain and dominate the location (to obtain a release without using force).
- g. Carry out physical extraction of women and girls (if required), by military means as per ROE and guidelines on the use of force.
- h. Detain alleged perpetrators and handover to the local police for further investigation and prosecution.
- i. Preserve evidence.
- j. Provide survivor assistance and invoke referral arrangements.
- k. Conduct organized move out from the location.

Evacuation of Threatened Civilians.

At times, civilians under the threat of CRSV may have to be evacuated to safety under the overall coordination and arrangements of the host State and supported by UN Mission, UN entities and other



international actors. UN military units and sub-units can institute the following actions to protect the vulnerable population, including women and girls:

- a. Establish military dominance to ensure protection in vulnerable areas/the site of evacuation.
- b. Interpose military units/sub-units between the vulnerable population and likely perpetrators.
- c. Enhance operational surveillance, monitoring and domination activities to obtain early-warning, prevent an attack or respond effectively once manifested.

Assistance. UN military units/sub-units may be required to provide the following assistance to support local population and other actors:

- a. Establish staging areas (near COBs).
- b. Assist in terms of transportation (utility trucks, utility helicopters and boats, etc.), food, water, medical aid, tents, sanitation support, communication support, engineering assistance (for construction purposes), etc. within capability in emergency situations.
- c. Provide safe corridors (including road clearance) for sequential extrication of evacuees to safe areas.
- d. Provide enhanced security to the vulnerable population in the safe areas.
- e. Assist humanitarian agencies in evacuation, setting up of camps, provision of basic amenities, etc.
- f. Assist local police/UN Police in coordinating and controlling evacuation.
- g. Activate helipads and airstrips.

Part III: Procedural Aspects at Tactical Level.

Actions on the Scene of an Incident of CRSV.

a. Action to be carried out:

- i. Provide first aid, safety and comfort (food, water, etc.).
- ii. Carry out preliminary enquiries (relevant information for reporting only), document the incident and report immediately through chain of command and parallel to designated focal points (SWPA/HR-G WPA/GA/CPA).
- iii. Ensure confidentiality of the survivors identity and particulars.
- iv. Transfer victims/survivors to the nearest medical/psycho-social facility specified in the referral arrangements (to be provided by WPAs/SV Focal Points). All victims should have access to referral arrangements and receive priority medical assistance.
- v. Secure the area and preserve evidence.
- vi. Protect witness and family members as applicable.
- vii. Detain and disarm alleged perpetrator(s) and hand them over to the National Police/UNPOL.

b. Action not to be carried out:

- i. Victims/survivors of SV should not be photographed/video graphed or interviewed;
- ii. No follow up should be carried out (this is the responsibility of the referral system and the WPAs); and
- iii. No action should be taken at the local level such as informing the local authorities without first informing the WPA/SV Focal Point.

Preservation of Evidence.

- a. Do not tamper with likely evidence on the site.
- b. Secure the area and keep people segregated until arrival of local/UN police.
- c. Keep digital photos/video recordings of the crime scene and evidence, as appropriate.
- d. Ensure safe keep of any item that may aid investigation by authorised persons.

Assistance to Witnesses.

Primary responsibility of security of witnesses is that of host Police. However in exceptional circumstances UN military units may be tasked to provide:

- a. Security;
- b. First aid, if required;
- c. Transportation; and



- d. Escort facilities.

Part IV: Training on CRSV

Predeployment training and preparation of troops, as well as junior and senior commanders, is vital for effective performance in the field. Enhanced training and readiness standards are required to prepare the force to confront CRSV challenges perpetrated by armed groups/actors in contemporary conflicts. Training on prevention and response to CRSV should be mission-specific, scenario-based, integrated, practice-oriented, ROE based and realistic, as applicable to respective areas of deployment. Prevention and response to CRSV at sub-unit and unit levels should be introduced for commanders and troops in the step 2 (introduction to peacekeeping capabilities) step 3 (scenario-based mission-specific training) and step 4 (field exercises) of predeployment training, as a sequel to the PoC training. Standards achieved during predeployment need to be further reinforced through in-mission induction and on-going training. Unit Commanders need to carry out self-evaluations of standards achieved by subordinate commanders and sub-units and detachments.

Continuous validation of capabilities is essential to maintain required levels of operational readiness to proactively respond to protection challenges in general and CRSV in particular. In Missions where addressing sexual violence is mandated, predeployment training, inter alia must also emphasise on the following aspects:

- w. Application of ROE (including use of force).
- x. Coordination with all stakeholders & conduct of joint operations with other partners, such as UN Police, host State military and police forces, joint activities with civilian substantive entities, etc.
- y. Vernacular and mission language training is essential to communicate with the local population and also for real-time situational awareness.
- z. Night operations in UN peacekeeping environment (use of night vision devices, night observation and surveillance systems, precision weapons, immediate response measures, execution of drills and procedures etc.).
- aa. UN-oriented tactics, techniques and procedures, in prevention and response to CRSV.
- bb. Gender-specific and sexual violence related early-warning indicators.
- cc. Monitoring, reporting procedures, survivor assistance and referral arrangements.
- dd. Search and detention.
- ee. Do's and Don'ts.

Conclusion

UN Military units/peacekeepers are the visible presence of international community, on whom the local communities (more so women and girls) pin their hope and aspirations for enhanced security and sustainable peace. In Mission's with PoC mandates, UN military peacekeepers have a priority obligation to protect civilians, even to the extent of using deadly force. Allegations received or observed by the military component in their work that may amount to human rights violations shall be promptly recorded and shared with the human rights component for verification, investigation and follow-up by the latter, as appropriate. In contexts where women and girls are targeted for SV as part of a 'tactics of war', UN military units must take all necessary measures to deter/defeat such threats. Threats to women and girls must be taken with utmost seriousness and sensitivity, and must be acted upon effectively. Prioritisation of activities, integrated responses and optimisation of available resources are important considerations for implementing protection obligations.

For UN military units and sub-units to perform effectively in CRSV context, following cardinal issues must be carefully addressed:

- a. Force Generation. Adequate representation of female military personnel to enhance outreach to local women and girls.
- b. Capability. Adequate observation, surveillance and monitoring capabilities are essential for early-warning and effective response.



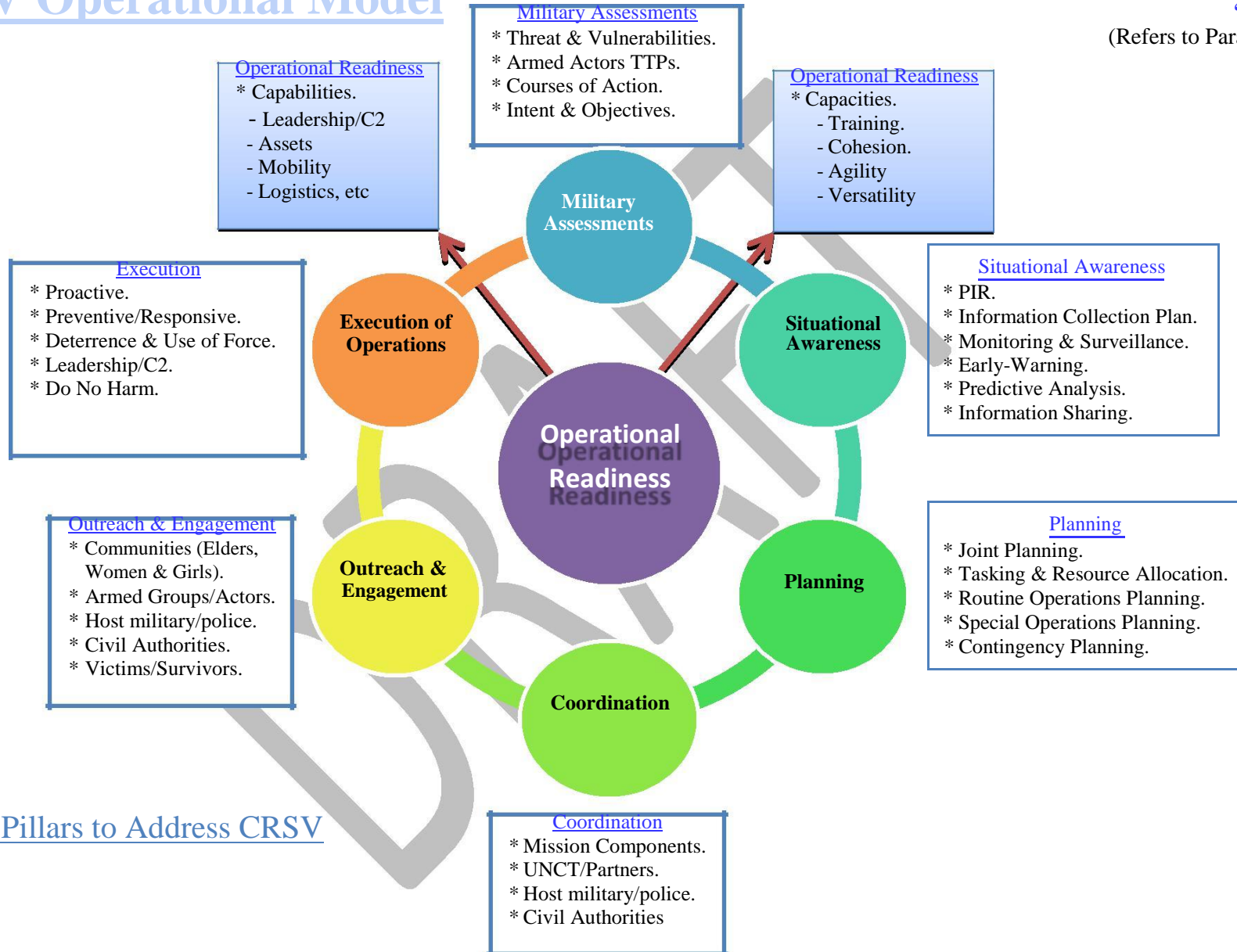
- c. Commitment. Commanders and peacekeepers must be motivated and infused with commitment and determination to perform protection responsibilities.
- d. Use of Force. Use of force is the last resort. In the case of protection of civilians from physical violence once the hostile intent has been established or a hostile act is underway, force must be judiciously (calibrated) used as per ROE (graduated response depending on the gravity of the situation).
- e. Accountability. UN peacekeepers when mandated for protection of civilians specifically women and girls, are liable to be held accountable either individually or collectively for the omissions (failing to act) or violations of the provisions of mandate and ROE.
- f. Sensitivity to CRSV. Prevention and response to CRSV is a priority obligation and hence all ranks must be sensitive to the threats to women and girls, and address it with the seriousness it deserves.
- g. Coordination. Due to the gender and social sensitivities involved, challenges of legal implications and community dynamics; integration and coordination with relevant substantive components and partners is crucial to the success of counter CRSV operations.
- h. Cultural Sensitisation. All commanders and peacekeepers must be sensitised to respect the local culture, traditions and customs to contribute positively in effective community engagements.
- i. Linguistic Skills. All commanders and peacekeepers should have basic conversational skills in mission/vernacular languages in order to engage with local population.
- j. Training and Education. Prevention and response to CRSV being outside the preview of conventional military training, sufficient emphasis on training and education is important.
- k. Operational Readiness. Junior leaders and sub-units must maintain high state of operational readiness to respond rapidly and on time to prevent/neutralise threats.



CRSV Operational Model

‘Annex M’

(Refers to Para 00, p. 08)



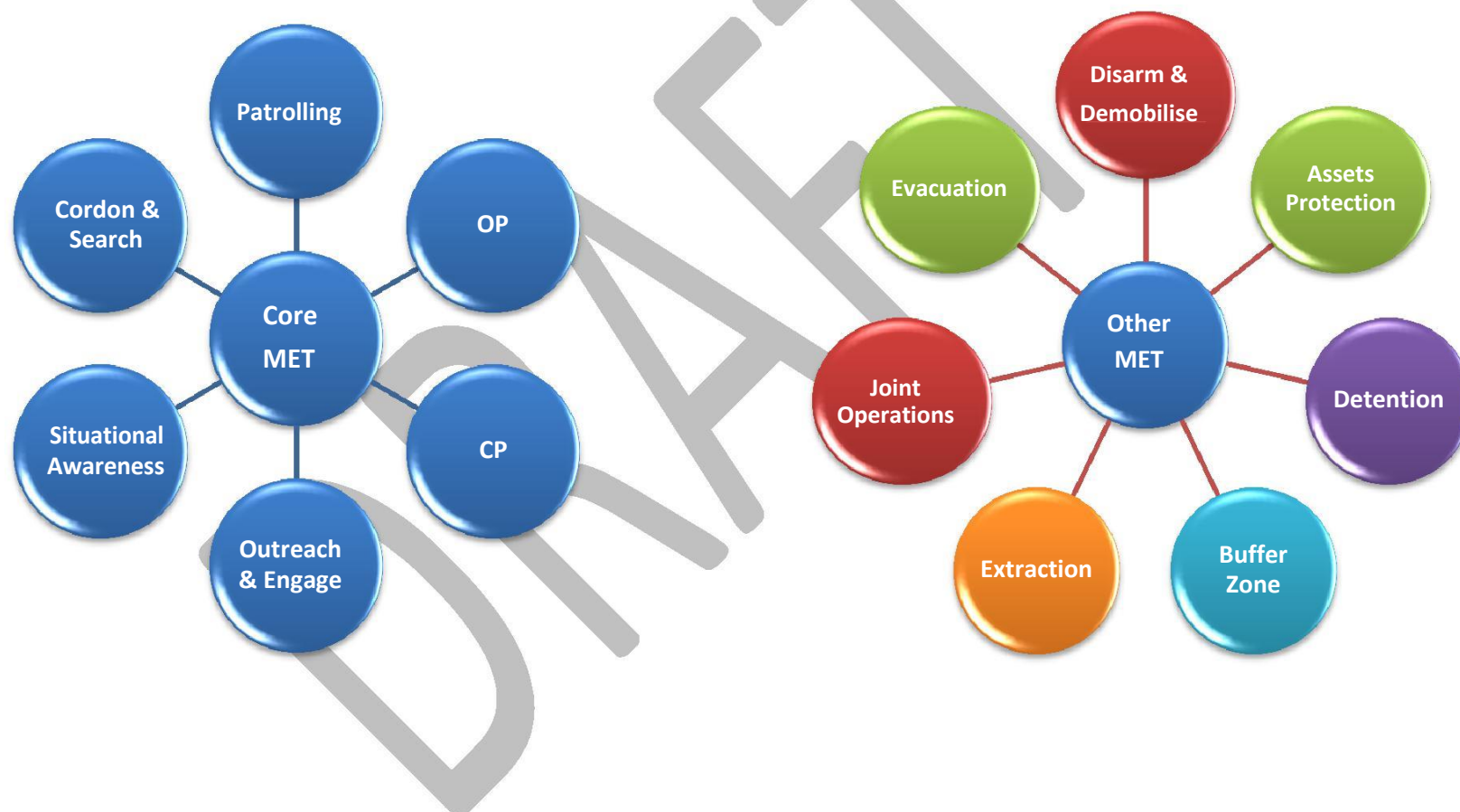
Seven Pillars to Address CRSV





‘Annex N’
(Refers to Para 00, p. 09)

Mission Essential Tasks (MET) Relevant to CRSV





Situational Awareness in Response to CRSV

Information on CRSV Perpetrators/Armed Groups/Actors

- a. Aims/Objectives.
 - i. Political, military and socio-cultural and economic objectives.
 - ii. Intentions and Perceptions.
- b. Attitudes towards the UN Mission.
- c. Political Profile.
- d. Affiliations, Allies and Associations.
- e. Antagonists/Rivals/Opponents.
- f. Organisation. Structure, grouping, command and control, etc.
- g. Leadership. Profile of senior leaders, capacities of junior leaders, attitudes, perceptions, capacities, etc.
- h. Composition. Ethnicity, religious disposition, foreign mercenaries, local support, etc.
- i. Personnel. Number of personnel (sex-disaggregated, children/women associated with armed groups/child soldiers).
- j. Area of operations. Areas of deployment, areas of interest and influence (geographic).
- k. Capabilities. Weapons and equipment profile, mobility, tactical cohesion, communication, etc.
- l. Tactics. Modus operandi, routine activities, routes frequented, attitudes, etc.
- m. History. Past violations, precedents, etc.
- n. External support/funding. Who is supporting the force to sustain militarily and logistically?
- o. Logistics Support. Internal support bases, support entities, dependencies, needs, etc.
- p. Strength and Weaknesses.

Information on Communities

- a. Demographic profile (sex-disaggregated).
- b. Community dynamics. Hostilities, equations, past incidents.
- c. Influential People (Village/community chiefs, religious heads, ethnic group leadership, political leaders, government officials – [civil/military/police]).
- d. Socio-cultural traditions/practices which tantamount to SV.
- e. Past CRSV/human rights violations.
- f. Community cohesion. Security perceptions, weapon culture, threshold of retaliation.
- g. Layout of each village.
- h. Attitudes and perceptions of men and women (about armed groups, host Government, host security forces and police, peacekeepers, security, etc.).
- i. Routine subsistence activities.
- j. Mobility patterns.
- k. Vulnerabilities.
- l. Traditional conflict resolution mechanisms.
- m. Community defence/security arrangements.

Information Related to CRSV Areas and Incidence

- a. Information regarding parties to armed conflict that are credibly suspected of committing patterns of rape or other forms of SV.
- b. Information on ongoing, potential and impending CRSV.
- c. Mapping of CRSV ‘hot-spots’ and high-incidence area.
- d. CRSV ‘flash points’.
- e. CRSV vulnerable areas
- f. Vulnerable ethnic/sectarian groups.
- g. Political orientation – Rhetoric/propaganda/hate speeches, etc.
- h. Pattern of activities and violations by perpetrators (armed groups/actors and government forces).

