



DPKO-DFS Specialised Training Materials

# Prevention & Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

## UN Military Component Role and Responsibilities



*“Sexual violence in conflict is a hugely traumatic and destructive violation of people's lives. It damages the very fabric of society and hinders the preservation of a peaceful future for women and girls and all members of the community.*

*We must work to ensure that victims are protected and assisted, that there is no impunity, and the perpetrators of these heinous acts are brought to justice.”*



**Mr. Atul Khare**  
**Under-Secretary-General for Field Support**



*“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



## **Comprehensive approach to addressing CRSV includes:**

- Prevention of incidents of SV
- Constructive engagement with all parties
- Assistance to survivors
- Prosecution of perpetrators

**Whole of mission effort but Military is often the 1st responder**



# Aim & Scope



## Aim

To provide an overview of the UN Military Component role and responsibilities in prevention and response to CRSV.

## Scope

Part I : Military's Approaches to address CRSV.

Part II : Preventive Measures.

Part III : Response Measures.

Part IV : Do's and Don'ts in addressing CRSV.



# Learning Outcomes



- Understand UN Military Component's role and responsibilities;
- Understand the nuances of designing preventive and response measures to address CRSV;
- Implement preventive measures in a proactive/pre-emptive manner;



## Learning Outcomes (cont'd)



- Be able to respond timely and effectively to address CRSV threats;
- Be prepared to respond to all forms of SV (SGBV and CRSV) as part of the mandated activities; and,
- Be able to train the contingent/military peacekeepers on CRSV responses.



# UN Military's Approaches to Address CRSV



- Mainstreaming
- Accountability
- Analysis
- Coordination
- Prevention
- Response
- Female Military Peacekeepers
- Focal Points





# Cardinal Points on PoC



- PoC includes all forms of sexual violence;
- Take all necessary actions to prevent CRSV within capability;
- May operate independently when host Government is unwilling or ineffective;
- Uphold and adhere to IHL, IHRL and code of conduct for UN peacekeepers;



## Cardinal Points on PoC (cont'd)



- Show or use force to prevent, deter and respond to threats as per ROE;
- When and where possible, permission to use force should be sought from immediate superior commander; and,
- Adhere to UN HRDDP when operating with host State security and law enforcement forces.



# Preventive Measures



- Protective-Grid
- Constructive Engagement and Advocacy
- Conflict Mitigation
- Engagement of Local Women
- Community Support
- QIPs



# Preventive Measures (cont'd)



- Monitoring & Reporting
- Presence and Proactive Posturing
- Preemptive Interventions
- Escorts
- Safe Areas
- DSR/DDR
- Physical Security



# Response Measures



- Active Patrolling
- Direct Military Action
- Cordon and Search
- Extraction
- Disarming
- Detention
- Survivor Assistance
- Consolidation



# Do's and Don'ts in Addressing CRSV



## Do's:

- Be a 'Role Model';
- Respect the dignity and confidentiality of the survivor;
- Document/record the incident and preserve evidence;
- Obtain necessary information for reporting of the incident (if possible). Actionable information that can prevent further HR violations/CRSV must be responded to immediately;



# Do's and Don'ts in Addressing CRSV



## Do's (continued):

- Report on chain of command **AND** to the designated WPA/CPA;
- **Assist and protect** the survivor(s) and witnesses as required;
- Obtain **informed consent** from the survivor (on whom to inform, which service provider to be approached, etc.);
- Follow '**Referral Arrangements**' for transfer and handover of the survivor to the designated service provider;



# Do's and Don'ts in Addressing CRSV



## Do's (continued):

- Follow detention procedures in handling perpetrators;
- In case of doubt, **assume SV has taken place**;
- **Follow ROE** and principles of Use of Force. Ensure command and control, restraint, maturity and discretion; and,
- **Do No Harm**/Avoid collateral damages.





# Do's and Don'ts in Addressing CRSV



## Don'ts:

- Do **NOT** interview the survivor(s) or investigate the incident (it will be done by the authorised officials);
- Do **NOT** follow up (it is the responsibility of HR officers and the WPAs);
- No action, such as informing local authorities, should be taken without confirming with WPAs/CPAs; and
- 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.).



# Takeaways



UN military peacekeepers addressing CRSV are:

a. Authorised to:

- i. **Prevent and respond to all forms of SV**, remembering that women and girls are particularly at risk of CRSV;
- ii. **Search, disarm and detain** CRSV perpetrators; and
- iii. **Use force**, including deadly force in combating CRSV.

b. To be conversant with:

- i. The guidelines on advocacy with the parties to the conflict to end/prevent CRSV;
- ii. Gender-specific CRSV **early-warning indicators**; and,
- iii. **Referral pathways** to assist survivors.



## Takeaways (continued)



UN military peacekeepers addressing CRSV are to:

- c. **Carry out proactive** and targeted community engagement with the local populace, including with local women and girls, women leaders and women's organisations.
- d. **Support WPAs** in MARA.
- e. Maintain a **parallel reporting channel** with designated WPA.
- f. Support other Mission components in addressing CRSV.



# Conclusion



- Military peacekeepers play a **vital role** in the protection of women and children as part of its mandated task of protecting civilians.
- They must be **sensitive to CRSV threats** and respond with the seriousness it deserves.
- Since combating SV is a unique obligation of the military peacekeepers, it is imperative that the **tactics, techniques and procedures** be oriented and systematized to also **address CRSV threats** and challenges optimally.
- Military peacekeepers must always be **approachable, accessible and responsive** to the vulnerable population and help women to protect their lives and livelihoods.



Thank You

