

Module 4 – UNAMID



Scenarios

and

Snap Situations

Part IV: UNAMID CRSV Operational Scenarios

Scenario 1: Gang Rape of an IDP Woman

Scene 1:

IDPs are most vulnerable to sexual violence, particularly when they are fleeing or when isolated from their group or communities. IDPs in the Kass locality in South Darfur have been going out of the camp primarily for engaging in livelihood activities, such as farming, grass/water/firewood collection, etc. Cases have been reported that armed men (in uniform and in civilian clothes) have been targeting IDPs leading to physical assaults and rape of women and girls.

One day at about noon, you get information from an IDP informer that a 22 year-old woman is captured and forcibly taken to a nearby bush by two armed men, one in green khaki uniform belonging to border Guard Forces and another in civilian clothing. Informer provides you the following additional information:

- a. A group of four IDPs (three female and one male) was collecting firewood in a nearby wooded area approximately 2 km from the IDP camp.
- b. The captured woman was approximately 60 to 70 meters from the rest of the group.
- c. The two armed men who intercepted the woman are suspected to be Arabs.
- d. Other IDPs ran back from the area yelling for help.
- e. It is feared that the woman is being raped by the armed men.

Your COB is deployed in the area, approximately a kilometre from the IDP camp. A mobile patrol, a foot patrol, two detachments deployed in checkpoints are operating outside the COB; but not in the close vicinity of the area of incident.

Points for Deliberation:

- a. What is your analysis of the situation?
- b. What are your options and course of action?
- c. Do you require any additional assistance from Battalion HQ or any other sources?

Scene 2:

One of your patrols reaches the area. They hear painful moaning of the captured woman. On searching the area, the woman who is injured and bleeding profusely is located. In a feeble voice she informs the patrol commander that the armed men physically assaulted, and took turns to rape her; and when they became suspicious of someone approaching the area, they decided to leave her, threatening that she would be killed if she reported about the rape.

She points to the North and says that the armed men ran in that direction approximately five minutes back. In the meantime, a checkpoint reported that they saw a glimpse of two armed men running through the woods. The battalion commander informs you that a team from Mission HQ (WPA and human rights monitors) are on their way to the COB.

Points for Deliberation:

- a. What actions will you take to:
 - i. Assist the survivor?
 - ii. Apprehend perpetrators?
- b. What proactive measures could have prevented the incident from taking place?

Scenario 2: Attempted Rape and Injury of a Minor

Scene 1:

In West Darfur, IDP communities have been engaged in farming for livelihood. As usual, many IDP groups in small numbers are out for farming in their respective areas. At about dusk, two armed Arab men stealthily approach a farm adjacent to a bush and lie in wait. An IDP family comprising a mother, son (14 year-old) and a daughter (12 years-old) was busy farming in the area. As the girl comes near the periphery of the farm, the armed men seize her, accosting and inappropriately touching, one of them drags her to the bush as the other man stands on guard. The terrified girl cries for help and tries to release herself from the clutches of the armed man. As the mother and brother of the girl charge to rescue the girl and plead her release, the man on guard kicks the boy with the butt of the rifle (injuring the boy in turn) and shoves the mother, threatening to shoot and cautiously disappears into the bush.

In an utter state of fear and distress, the duo yells for help, alerting the people from the neighbouring farm who also rush to the rescue of the girl. In the meantime, the brave girl tries to escape by furiously fighting with the rapists, and in the process is physically assaulted.

Seeing many IDPs rushing to the incident site shouting and yelling, the unnerved perpetrators decide to scoot. In the meantime, a community leader from the IDP camp informs you about the incident and seeks your help. A fusillade of fire from the bush reverberate the area, amidst the wailing of the girl and cries of the IDP persons. A sloganeering crowd of 100 IDPs (including women and children) are approaching your COB.

Additional Information:

- a. There are two patrols operating outside the COB, approximately 3 km (foot patrol) and 6 km (mobile patrol) away from the site of the incident respectively.
- b. The incident area is approximately 4 km from the COB.
- c. Some IDP civilians are chasing the alleged perpetrators.

Points for Deliberation:

- a. What is your analysis of the situation?
- b. What are your options and what course of action you intend to take?
- c. What actions will you take to attend to the survivor (minor), injured brother, and any other injured IDP persons?
- d. What actions will you take against the perpetrators?

Scene 2:

One of your patrols quickly reaches the area and attends to the survivor. The girl is seriously injured, half naked, bleeding from the injuries on the face and a fractured leg from an axe used by the perpetrators. The brother of the girl has minor injuries; one IDP man and woman are injured in the firing. Due to rising of alarm and instantaneous reaction by other IDPs in the area, the perpetrators could not rape the girl and had to escape. After a hot chase, the two armed men surrender to the patrol. The crowd is swelling up in front of the COB and is turning volatile, while accusing UN of inaction.

Points for Deliberation:

- a. What actions will you take to attend to the injured persons?
- b. What actions will you take to deal with the surrendered perpetrators?
- c. What proactive actions could have prevented the incident from taking place?

Scenario 3: Sexual Violence in IDP Camps

Scene 1:

Insecurity, hatred and continued violence have impacted IDP communities severely. Some of the IDP camps are infested with armed persons and criminals. Proliferation of small arms in IDP camps is also reported.

Xxx IDP camp is located close to your CoB. Day and night roving, escort and static patrols of your COB have been active in protecting the IDP communities in and around the camps from attacks by armed militias or criminals. CLAs have been interacting with various segments of the community, and the company commander has been carrying out key leader engagement, including with women and youth leaders/organisations.

One day, two IDP women accompanied by one IDP man report to the medical clinic purportedly for obtaining some medicines. During the examination of the patients, one of them informs the female medic that she has been repeatedly raped by some identifiable armed men in the IDP camp and further informs that many women and girls who do not have male members to protect also undergo this ordeal on a regular basis. Even some of the orphaned destitute girls are being used as sex slaves and are occasionally gang raped. Due to fear of life, no one wants to report the matter to anyone. However, the patient had to come to medical aid because she is pregnant and has developed some severe complications.

Points for Deliberation:

- a. What is your analysis of the situation?
- b. What assistance you would like to provide to the rape survivor?
- c. What are your options to handle perpetrators and what course of action would you like to take?
- d. What assistance would you like to obtain from the Mission/Force HQ?
- e. What recommendations would you like to make to the Headquarters?

Scene 2:

Following information on activities within IDP camp is obtained through discreet preliminary enquiry:

- a. Sexual violence is ongoing in the IDP camp, but is invisible and un-reported until now.
- b. Approximately 50 to 60 persons have fire arms and most of them can be identified.
- c. Approximately 15 to 17 persons are involved in sexual violence and racketeering.
- d. The armed persons have established a crime syndicate and have gained control over the IDPs, through intimidation, severe punishments and even ostracization.
- e. A core group of 4 middle aged men are reportedly providing leadership to the syndicate.
- f. Complicity of many other key figures in the sexual violence is suspected.
- g. The armed persons have been also occasionally involved in carrying out attacks on other militias or military forces.
- h. They do not go out of IDP camp for any livelihood activities.
- i. Weapons are usually kept hidden in various places in the camp to prevent recovery by any law enforcement or security agencies.
- j. Reportedly there are 6 orphan girls who are being used as sex slaves, and often gang raped.

While discussing with the Sector/Force Commander on the magnitude of ongoing sexual violence in the IDP camp, the commander asked you to analyse options and courses of action and recommend a suitable response to address the issue.

Points for Deliberation:

- a. What is your analysis of the situation?
- b. What is your plan of action?
- c. What actions will you take to:
 - i. Extricate the rape victims and survivor assistance?
 - ii. Apprehend/detain the perpetrators and handle accomplices?
- d. What measures will you institute or recommend to the HQ for improved security in IDP Camps?
- e. What proactive measures could have prevented the incident from taking place?

Scenario 4: Abduction, Rape and Killing of IDP Women

Scene 1:

Selective targeted attacks on civilians/villages suspected of being sympathisers or supporters of the rebel non-Arab armed movements are reportedly being systematically launched by the government forces and unidentified armed men in South Darfur, killing or displacing the population. In many cases, attacks on villages followed a predictable pattern; aerial bombardment, attack by helicopter gunships, followed by raid by unidentified armed men, who raped women and girls, killed inhabitants, burned food stuff and destroyed houses.

Early one morning, two limping men with multiple injuries report to your CoB. While providing first aid to the injured men, they inform you the following:

- a. In the previous day's attack directed at civilian population of Um Gunya (/Hijer) and surrounding villages in South Darfur, the inhabitants had to flee to safety from the bombardment, firing and follow up attack.
- b. In the process of fleeing, five women, including a minor (17 years-old girl) and these two (injured) men were intercepted and captured by the suspected RSF and Central Reserve Police Force elements (in green khaki uniform) in the outskirts of the village.
- c. The captives were abducted and forcibly made to walk 4 hours with the armed men to a temporary camp.
- d. In the camp, the women and the girl were subjected to sexual violence and the men were tortured.
- e. Two women who resisted rape were brutally beaten and after a failed attempted rape, the enraged commander of the group ordered a green uniformed person to shoot both of them.
- f. After killing the two women, gang rape of the other females (including the girl) continued overnight in the presence of the captured men and various armed men.
- g. There are approximately 18 to 20 armed persons in the temporary camp.
- h. In the early hours of the morning, the injured men managed to escape.

The injured men plead you to save the two captive women and the girl and are willing to guide you to the place.

Points for Deliberation:

- a. What is your assessment of the situation?
- b. What are your options and courses of actions?
- c. What actions will you take to attend to the injured men?
- d. What additional support do you require from the Mission HQ, Host State or any other entities in the area of operations?
- e. What actions will you take to extricate the victims?
- f. What actions will you take against the perpetrators?
- g. Explain survivor assistance, particularly with reference to the minor?

Scene 2:

Your operational columns were able to respond immediately and have reached the area of the temporary camp with four huts. As you advanced closer, two armed men challenge and warn you to stop. As the operational columns deploy tactically, you ask the armed men to call the commander of the group so that you could engage with him. The armed men ask you to leave the area and retort that you have no business to be there. In the meantime three more armed men join the two on guard. Apparently, two armed men occupying tactical position are training their weapons on you. As you again demand the release of the abducted women and the girl, they seem unrelenting and growing impatient. One of them blatantly denies presence of any women in the camp and suggests that you leave the area immediately or else be prepared to face trouble. At that instant, you hear a brief and muffled scream of a woman from the third hut; as the three armed men jumps for cover and take an aggressive posture.

Points for Deliberation:

- a. How will you handle the armed men on guard?
- b. What are your options and what course of action you wish to take?
- c. Do you require any assistance/support from the higher HQ or from any other source?
- d. What assistance will you provide to the survivors?
- e. Elucidate on reporting, handling of perpetrators, management of evidence, etc.

Scenario 5: Rape of Minors During Attack on Commercial Vehicles

On a rainy day, a civilian contact who was passing by a road to Zam Zam gives you a call at about 3 PM and informs you of the following:

- a. A white commercial pickup van moving from Dobo to Zam Zam IDP camp is probably ambushed at about 2 PM in area xxx, approximately 10 km from your COB.
- b. Presumably the ambush is sprung by a group of five unknown armed men in military uniform with masked faces.
- c. There are seven passengers (three men, two women and two girls) in the vehicle, all belonging to the Fur tribe.
- d. The armed men forced all the passengers to dismount; men, women and girls were segregated, and beaten and robbed of all their belongings.
- e. The two girls were sexually harassed, inappropriately touched, and one of the armed men told the other passengers that soon the girls will have babies.
- f. The girls were accosted and pushed into the vehicle and the armed men drive off towards Dobo.
- g. The stranded passengers were rescued by a vehicle coming from Zam Zam and were dropped in the nearest village for medical aid.

The informer requested if you could rescue the abducted girls, or else they would be gang raped and subsequently killed. He also informs you that the stranded group is reporting the matter to the Government Police.

Points for Deliberation:

- a. What is your analysis of the situation?
- b. What are your options and course of action?
- c. What measures will you institute to save the abducted girls?
- d. What actions would you suggest to engage the armed group/forces?
- e. What recommendations would you like to make to the Headquarters?
- f. What proactive measures could have prevented the incident from taking place?

UNAMID CRSV Snap Situations and Instructor Notes

Snap Situation 1: Looming Threat of Sexual Violence

Sporadic incidents of sexual violence are an ongoing feature in your AoR which has impacted on the credibility of the Mission. Hotspot mapping and risk analysis of sexual violence threats indicate vulnerabilities to certain segments of the population. Historic precedents also indicate that most incidents of sexual violence are opportunistic in nature, perpetrated by armed persons individually or in pairs or in small groups. However, since the perpetrators operated in small numbers, they could easily mingle with crowds without being noticed or suspected, and commit the crime unobtrusively. Security forces, law enforcement agencies, Arab-militias, criminals/bandits etc. are aggressively poised in the AoR with propensity to commit human rights violations, including CRSV.

As a Battalion/Company/Platoon Commander, what would you like to do to combat CRSV?

Snap Situation 2: Sexual Assault/Humiliation of Females by RSF Armed Men

You get the following information from a civilian informer:

In a pre-dawn attack on Um Gunya and surrounding villages in South Darfur, RSF kills many civilians and destroys houses and rations. Elements of RSF in small groups are also deployed to capture and kill fleeing civilians. A group of seven RSF men deployed to cover the link road capture five fleeing women including a 15 year-old girl. At the moment, the captured women and girl are being accosted, inappropriately touched and strip-searched publicly in the presence of captured men and RSF men in order to sexually humiliate the victims, family and community. It is expected that women and girls will eventually be taken to the camp of the perpetrators. Your CoB is approximately 5 km from the site of the incident.

What is your response?

Snap Situation 3: Forcible Impregnation

A member of the SAF rapes a 14 year-old IDP girl in West Darfur while collecting firewood. The minor is pregnant and the family and community became aware of this only at an advanced stage. On investigating, UNAMID could not categorically conclude that the case is of forced impregnation as an intentional policy/strategy of the perpetrators. However the investigation led to the identification of the perpetrator. Report on the incident is made to the Government Family and Child Protection Unit (FCPU). Although a request is sent to the SAF Headquarters to lift immunity and commence legal action against the alleged perpetrator, no feedback is received at the moment. A case is registered with the local police for further prosecution. Some efforts to resolve the issue through traditional justice is being explored at the official and community level.

What is your response?

Snap Situation 4: Mass Rape

One local radio reports about an alleged mass rape of hundreds of women, including girls in a village in North Darfur. Due to access restrictions, UN monitors/troops are unable to visit the area. The issue also drew strong reaction of the authorities, which denied the occurrence of the incident and rebutted the report. One informer confirmed presence of the State security forces (approximately a company) and some intelligence personnel in the village. On discrete enquiry, it is reported that tense environment is prevailing in the village and while some local community leaders state that no such incident has taken place, most others apparently are unwilling to speak up.

What is your response?

Snap Situation 5: Follow up of Investigation

Documented cases of sexual violence are being promptly reported to the host law enforcement authorities. However, it appears that the police are not investigating all the cases and are reluctant to provide either feedback on prosecution or about their information on reported cases of sexual violence. Victims also do not get to know the progress in the registered cases and there is general feeling that the authorities are unresponsive and indifferent towards the survivors. In some cases, (which are exceptions), the authorities took action to prosecute the perpetrators and in few cases UNAMID personnel were also allowed as observers in judicial processes. Notwithstanding such meagre steps, most sexual violence cases are still awaiting prosecution. One reason cited is the fact that the prosecution of alleged perpetrators belonging to law enforcement and security forces requires approval of the executive authorities, particularly when the incidents have happened (purportedly) during the course of official duty. All these have impacted on the delivery of justice and contributed to impunity.

What actions are proposed to be taken at various levels and by components of the Mission?

Snap Situation 6: Non-Reporting of Cases Due to Stigma

Seven IDP women working on a farm in the vicinity of an IDP camp in South Darfur were accosted by a group of 10 armed men. Four of the women (including two minors – 16 and 17 year-old) were captured and raped while the other three managed to escape. The survivors were released after three hours. However, the incident was not reported to GoS Police and survivors did not seek medical care due to fear of stigma. One of the minor survivors developed further complications (probably pregnancy/infection/health hazard) and informed her mother about the incident, who in turn asked one of the female peacekeepers for help.

What measures would you take/propose to improve reporting of CRSV?