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DPKO and DFS Mobile Training Team teaches pre-deployment course in Cameroon

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As part of efforts to strengthen the capacity of Member States to deliver Pre-Deployment Training (PDT), the Integrated Training Service (ITS) of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the Department of Field Support (DFS) deployed a Mobile Training Team (MTT) to Yaounde, Cameroon in April. The team of four military and police trainers from ITS and one military trainer from France, conducted a 'training of trainers' course for military and police from Cameroon, aiming to provide trainers with the necessary knowledge and skills to be able to deliver pre-deployment training according to UN standards.

Cameroon currently contributes some 1,385 military and police personnel, most of whom are deployed in the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

The training team developed a complete training package targeting different audiences and needs, ranging from potential trainers to future peacekeepers. Over two weeks, the course explored five key components, including UN training concepts

and methodologies; core pre-deployment training materials; protection of civilians; child protection; and cross-cutting thematic areas and MINUSCA-specific guidance.

The programme ended with scenario-based exercises, where participants had the chance to address some complex real-life situations and receive feedback on their performance. One of the most challenging exercises was a protection of civilians scenario, in which UN military peacekeepers had to protect civilians who had sought refuge in a place of worship that was threatened by hundreds of assailants. The training was undertaken in both French and English.

Colonel Wambo, the commanding officer of the next rotation of troops to be deployed in the Central African Republic, expressed his appreciation for the course. "You have taught us many new things and you have really enlightened us on the challenging and complex UN Peacekeeping environment," he said.

Pre-deployment training is a national responsibility with ITS providing guidance, standards, and materials. ITS can also provide direct support to Member States, as it did in this case with the Mobile Training Team. Working together with Member States, DPKO and DFS can help to prepare peacekeepers for the challenges they face once they are deployed.

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