

UNITED NATIONS FIELD MISSIONS: Preventing and Responding to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

POLICY CHEAT SHEET

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Do No Harm

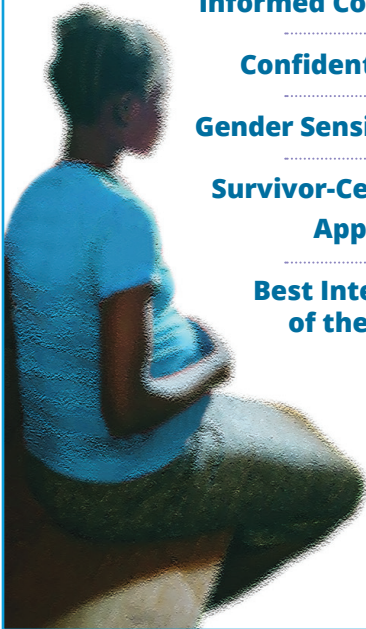
Informed Consent

Confidentiality

Gender Sensitivity

**Survivor-Centred
Approach**

**Best Interests
of the Child**



WHAT

Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) refers to acts of sexual violence with a direct or indirect link to a conflict.

- Common forms include rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, enforced sterilization and forced marriage.
- Frequently used as a tactic of war and terror by conflict parties and other perpetrators profiting from the breakdown of law and order.
- Often motivated by political, military or economic objectives.
- Victims are attacked on roads, in the fields, during home or village raids, during flight or in displacement sites, in detention, etc.
- Perpetrators include state security and police forces, armed groups, community-based militias, among others.

WHO

Women and girls are disproportionately affected but men and boys are too.

WHY

The Security Council has recognized CRSV as a peace and security issue. UN Field Missions are mandated by the Security Council to take action to prevent and respond to CRSV with a victim/survivor-centred approach.

CRSV IS A SERIOUS VIOLATION THAT IS PREVENTABLE AND PUNISHABLE UNDER:

- International Human Rights Law International Humanitarian Law International Criminal Law

FIVE PRIORITY OBJECTIVES FOR FIELD MISSIONS IN ADDRESSING CRSV

- 1 Prevention and protection of persons facing the risk of CRSV
- 2 Ending impunity for CRSV
- 3 Awareness and condemnation of CRSV
- 4 Building capacity of national actors to address CRSV
- 5 Empowerment of victims/survivors

WITH A MISSION-WIDE AND INTEGRATED APPROACH



RESPONSIBILITIES

Heads of Mission have the overall responsibility to prevent and respond to CRSV and must prioritize this mandate.

DSRSGs, Force Commanders and Police Commissioners must ensure their pillars/components contribute to prevention and response to CRSV and collaborate effectively with others.

Senior/Women's Protection Advisers (S/WPAs) are dedicated experts deployed to provide advice, support and training to Field Missions in implementing mandates to prevent and respond to CRSV.

Civilian, military and police components must mainstream CRSV concerns into their work, including into analysis, planning and operations, and appoint focal points to work closely with S/WPAs.

ALL COMPONENTS SHOULD

- ☑ Engage with host population to identify risks of CRSV against women, men, girls, boys.
- ☑ Gather and share information on sexual violence for early warning/situational awareness.
- ☑ Participate in the MARA Working Group to support information sharing, analysis, reporting.
- ☑ Refer communities and victims/survivors to appropriate assistance service providers.

SPECIFIC ROLES TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO CRSV

HUMAN RIGHTS COMPONENTS:

- Lead investigation, monitoring and reporting of CRSV
- Undertake advocacy and capacity building of national stakeholders on accountability for CRSV
- Support the protection of victims and witnesses of sexual violence.

JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONS COMPONENTS:

- Promote, support and facilitate criminal accountability for CRSV including through technical and operational assistance and facilitating coordination
- Support the enactment of laws and policies to prevent and address CRSV.

WOMEN'S PROTECTION ADVISERS (WPAs), PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS ADVISERS AND CHILD PROTECTION ADVISERS share information and collaborate fully to ensure efforts to implement protection mandates are mutually reinforcing.

GENDER UNITS strengthen women's rights, participation, representation and empowerment to improve gender equality as an enabler of CRSV prevention and response.

POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTIONS:

- Undertake advocacy to raise CRSV concerns with key stakeholders at the local, national and regional levels
- Integrate CRSV in prevention, mediation, peace agreement implementation, reconciliation, conflict management efforts and in relevant protection, conflict prevention and restoration of state authority efforts
- Include CRSV in gender-sensitive conflict and political analysis and reporting
- Facilitate WPAs' political engagement efforts.

JOINT OPERATION CENTRES (JOCs):

- Reflect information about sexual violence in reporting
- Contribute to contextual analyses on CRSV trends
- Report information on perpetrators/parties suspected of committing CRSV
- Share information with WPAs and CRSV focal points to ensure early warning and timely follow-up to cases.

JOINT MISSION ANALYSIS CENTRES (JMACs):

- Gather and share information on CRSV and related activities/movements of conflict parties
- Integrate early warning indicators of CRSV into situational analyses and threat assessments
- Report on perpetrators/parties suspected of CRSV
- Inform action by all mission components to prevent and respond to CRSV.

DDR COMPONENTS:

- Support the design/implementation of programmes that prevent sexual violence and protect DDR beneficiaries, considering the special needs of victims/survivors associated with armed groups
- Establish effective mechanisms for receiving and transmitting information on CRSV incidents that occur in the DDR process
- Integrate CRSV as part of Community Violence Reduction projects.

SSR COMPONENTS:

- Ensure that CRSV perpetrators are not integrated into reformed state security forces
- Incorporate CRSV concerns into national security dialogues, mappings, policies, legislation and management oversight, to support the development of inclusive and effective national defence and security institutions.

PUBLIC INFORMATION COMPONENTS produce and disseminate messages/programmes on the CRSV mandate, targeting communities, religious and traditional leaders, youth and women's groups, etc.

POLICE COMPONENTS:

- Prioritize the integration of CRSV in national capacity building and mentoring (e.g policy development, training, investigations)
- Prevent and address CRSV in community-oriented policing and intelligence-led policing
- Support the establishment of specialised SGBV units and victim referral pathways in high-risk areas
- Include CRSV issues in national police oversight and accountability mechanisms.

MILITARY COMPONENTS:

- Establish a protective security environment: targeted patrols, capacity building to national forces, etc.
- Provide physical protection and take direct military action when civilians are at risk of CRSV
- Support WPAs' activities: escorts, road clearance, etc.
- Advocate with state and non-state actors on CRSV, including facilitating access for WPAs
- Provide emergency medical assistance to victims/survivors.

Need help? Send question to pbps-crsv-unhq@un.org