



## Scenario-Based Training for Senior Mission Leadership

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Participant Handout

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### SITUATION OVERVIEW

One of the largest peacekeeping battalions deployed in Carana (2-BATT) is stationed on a base near a camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs), which is administered by the international NGO Refugees International. 2-BATT is predominantly comprised of personnel from Country X, most of whom were “re-hatted” from a previous regional mission.

Small numbers of personnel from other countries have been deployed to the base since re-hatting. They include one platoon comprised entirely of women soldiers from another country on the eighth continent.

Peacekeepers regularly conduct protection patrols through the IDP camp and around its perimeter.

Recently, a patrol commander from the all-female platoon received an anonymous report alleging that a military peacekeeper sexually abused a child residing in the IDP camp, possibly in exchange for food. This is the first such report received since the previous regional mission was re-hatted.

As the mission leadership team (MLT) is preparing to meet, the force commander receives a memo from the 2-BATT commander:

**Memo: to Force Commander from Commander, 2-BATT (excerpt):**

“The patrol commander has now received at least two credible reports suggesting that more than one child may be involved, and that some of the alleged sexual abuse occurred on or not far outside of the UN base.

As a preliminary response, patrols in the section of the IDP camp where misconduct is alleged have been reassigned—as much as possible—to the platoon of women soldiers.

One of these women soldiers was approached during a patrol by a woman from the IDP camp who says that a certain peacekeeper has done ‘bad things’ to a child she knows, and that there are other ‘bad men’ from the UN.”

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### TASK

Meeting as the MLT, brainstorm your dynamic response plan. What immediate actions should be taken to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), investigate alleged misconduct, trigger remedial actions (including discipline and victim care), and ensure appropriate strategic communications?

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What immediate actions should be taken to prevent SEA, investigate alleged misconduct, trigger remedial actions (including discipline and victim care), and ensure appropriate strategic communications?
2. How should the MLT assess competences in care, conduct, command/leadership, communications, and conscience?

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## INJECTS

## Inject 1

**Memo to chief of staff from human rights officer** (excerpt): "Secondary reports have been received that some members of the Country X peacekeeping contingent have boasted of paying young women for sex."

**Correspondence to force commander from Country X commander** (excerpt): "Investigations conducted by the Country X battalion have confirmed that two lieutenants deployed with that battalion engaged in prostitution. Those lieutenants have been confined to base, pending disciplinary actions directed from my capital."

Task: UNHQ has requested a briefing from the MLT via VTC to explain the strategic response plan and detail the immediate next steps, including the directives to be given to all troop contingents, police units, and civilian personnel about the mission-wide prevention and risk management plan for SEA.

## Inject 2

*After two weeks, no information on disciplinary actions taken by Country X's capital has been transmitted to the MLT.*

**Correspondence to deputy SRSG from Refugees International** (excerpt):

"We have received reports from a local women's group that a large number of women and children have been raped and otherwise sexually abused by peacekeepers from Country X. The peacekeepers reportedly left payment for their victims, a tactic commonly employed to 'disguise' rape as consensual sex. Refugees International intends to issue a press release within 24 hours noting that we have credible evidence that at least seven children and six women are victims of abuse by UN peacekeepers from Country X."

**Twitter post: @rightsjusticenow (Rights and Justice International, an international human rights advocacy NGO active in Carana):**

“Rape, abuse and prostitution rampant in UN’s Carana: We have new reports of peacekeepers raping women and girls with impunity while the UN turns a blind eye. More soon.”

**Task:** UNHQ has requested a briefing from the MLT via VTC to discuss the strategic response plan in light of these new developments and outline immediate next steps.