UNDERSTANDING THE MANDATE IN UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS

CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Understanding Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) refers to sexual violence with direct/indirect links to conflict. CRSV can take various forms including:

- Rape
- Sexual Slavery
- Forced Prostitution
- Forced Pregnancy
- Forced Abortion
- Forced Marriage
- Enforced Sterilization

Often motivated by political, military or economic goals, CRSV is frequently used as a tactic of war and terror by conflict parties and perpetrators who profit from a breakdown of law and order.

CRSV is a serious violation under International Human Rights Law, International Humanitarian Law and International Criminal Law.

Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Within Mission Context

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) recognizes CRSV as a peace and security issue.

All UN peacekeeping missions must take action to prevent and respond to CRSV in line with key guiding principles including the “survivor-centred approach”.

Currently, four peacekeeping missions have specific UNSC mandates to prevent & respond to CRSV:

- MONUSCO
- UNMISS
- MINUSMA
- MINUSCA

Priority Objectives for Field Missions

- Prevention and Protection of Persons Facing Risks of CRSV
- Awareness and Condemnation of CRSV
- Ending Impunity for CRSV
- Empowerment of Survivors and Victims
- Building Capacity of National Actors to Address CRSV

Whole-Mission Approach to Addressing CRSV

Implementation of the CRSV mandate is a whole-of-mission responsibility. Missions also partner and coordinate with multiple external actors.

- Victims/Survivors
- UN Country Team
- Humanitarian Country Team
- International NGOs
- Regional Organizations
- Host Authorities
- Local NGOs
- Women’s Networks
- Religious Organizations
- Host Population

MONUSCO’s support has led to emblematic convictions for sexual violence crimes. In 2020, former armed group commanders Sheka and Lionceau were sentenced to life imprisonment for war crimes, including sexual slavery and rape.
Facilitating Multisectoral Care for Survivors

Since early 2021, UNMISS has facilitated the release, family tracing and reunification of 120 victims abducted during intercommunal violence. It aims to reduce cycles of violence by preventing abduction and supporting community reintegration.

Engagement With Conflict Parties

In 2021, UNMISS assisted in launching the “Action Plan for the Armed Forces on Addressing CRSV”, which consolidates previous commitments by the People’s Defense Forces and People’s Liberation Army to prevent CRSV and ensure accountability.

MINUSMA

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali

In October 2021, MINUSMA collaborated with the Malian Government to validate a historic Action Plan focusing on addressing CRSV using prevention and community mobilization, fighting impunity and increasing multisectoral care for survivors.

Capacity Building for Host State

In 2021, with MINUSMA’s technical support, the Malian Police Academy developed a specialized training module on CRSV and organized trainings to strengthen police officers’ capacity to prevent and respond to CRSV according to good practices.

MINUSCA

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

WPAs lead the monitoring, analysis and reporting on CRSV in the Central African Republic and ensure monthly coordination between mission components, UN Agencies and NGOs on CRSV prevention and response.

Empowering National Networks of Survivors

MINUSCA provides continuous financial support and capacity building to the National Protection Network for Victims and Witnesses of Sexual Violence, a group of civil society members trained on protection issues and assisting survivors of CRSV.