

# HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TRAINING INVENTORY

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## United Nations Institute for Training and Research Training Activity

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**Title**                    **Training for Civilian Personnel in Peacekeeping Operations on the Special Needs of Women and Children in Conflict**

**Description**        **Aim of the training:**  
In close consultations with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), UNITAR has developed this programme on "Training for civilian personnel in Peacekeeping Operations on the Special Needs of Women and Children in Conflict", which targets civilian personnel working in peace and security operations.

Initially developed as a three-year initiative by UNITAR in 2001 and successfully launched with two seminars for UNMIBH (Bosnia and Herzegovina) in December 2001, the training programme has now become open-ended and has grown into a well-known and well-respected feature of United Nations peacekeeping training. By the end of 2005, twenty-five seminars had been implemented in eight peacekeeping operations on four continents. Each year, UNITAR organizes training courses for civilian personnel of two or three peacekeeping operations, tailored to the specific needs and circumstances of the targeted peacekeeping operation. They are designed to provide civilian personnel of peacekeeping operations with tailor-made training on the special needs of women and children in order to enhance the professional preparedness of civilian peacekeeping staff who deal with societies in and after conflict. The training familiarizes the participants with the specific needs, human rights, potentials and situations of women and children during armed conflict, post-conflict reconstruction and peace-building. It also provides guidance on how peacekeepers should conduct themselves in a mission area in order to respect women's and children's rights.

**Cooperation with other organizations:**

UNITAR works closely with other international, regional and national organizations that are key players in the area. Through the involvement of all stakeholders in a pluralistic and

transparent process, not only in designing, but also in receiving the training programme, UNITAR secures a common platform for the project. UNITAR has built a network of expert partners in the fields of peacekeeping, gender and child protection. Nearly all peacekeeping missions have Gender Units headed by Gender Advisors, who are playing an active and enthusiastic role in the design and delivery of the training events. The Gender Advisor in DPKO in New York has become another key partner for UNITAR.

**Training goals:**

The objectives of this training initiative are to:

- Familiarize civilian peacekeeping staff with the specific needs of women and children during and after armed conflicts;
- Refresh the participants' knowledge in selected areas of international law that provide protection for women and children;
- Raise their awareness for the demographic structure of war torn-societies and for the consequences of conflict on women and children, including their political and economic marginalization;
- Enable them to understand the important role that women (and even children) can play as partners in assistance operations, during reconstruction, reconciliation and peace-building, and why their contributions to peace-building should be encouraged;
- Expose them to, and let them critically examine, culture, history and social norms with a focus on gender relations;
- Provide training on the social behaviour required to deal with local counterparts in daily encounters in the field, including contacts with the local governmental and administrative structures;
- Increase their understanding for the challenges, but also advantages of operating in a cross-cultural environment and, thus, help them to become reliable and responsible members of multi-dimensional peacekeeping operations;
- Publicize and support the United Nations' "zero tolerance" policy in preventing and addressing cases of peacekeeping staff committing acts of sexual exploitation and abuse;
- Look at reconstruction efforts with a focus on women and children;

- Inspire peacekeeping staff to address women's and children's concerns in their daily work;
- Provide a forum for sharing experiences and exchanging views on gender mainstreaming and child protection in the mission's area of operation.

<b>Intended Audience</b>	This training programme addresses civilian personnel of peacekeeping operations. Practical hands-on courses are conducted in the mission area of various peacekeeping operations, and for staff ranging from the senior decision-making level and seconded agency staff to locally recruited personnel.
<b>Keyword(s)</b>	Children and Families, Gender, Peace-Building, Peace-Keeping
<b>Format</b>	Seminar
<b>Availability</b>	Starting date: December 2001. Courses held so far: UNMIBH (Bosnia and Herzegovina) December 2001, UNMEE (Ethiopia and Eritrea) June 2002, MONUC (Democratic Republic of Congo) February/March 2003, UNMIK (Kosovo) June 2003, UNMISSET (East Timor) October 2003, UNAMA (Afghanistan) May/June 2004, MINUSTAH (Haiti) June/July 2005 and ONUB (Burundi) November/December 2005, further dates and locations to be determined.
<b>Languages</b>	English, French
<b>Comments</b>	The first year of the development and implementation of this training initiative was made possible through funding received from the United Nations Foundation. The training programme is now being funded by the Swiss government through the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (an international foundation created under the framework of Swiss participation in the Partnership for Peace) and by the United Nations Foundation (UNF), through the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP). For more information, please visit <a href="http://www.unitar.org/wcc">www.unitar.org/wcc</a> .
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