New Comprehensive Protection of Civilians training piloted

A pilot “training of trainers” course on the new Comprehensive Protection of Civilians package was held at the Regional Service Centre Entebbe (Photo: DPKO/DFS)

A pilot course aims to familiarize Member States with the new CPOC training materials and build the capacity of trainers to train others in their national peacekeeping centres.

The Integrated Training Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the Department of Field Support (DFS) conducted a pilot “training of trainers” course on the new Comprehensive Protection of Civilians package from 8-12 May 2017 at the Regional Service Centre Entebbe in Uganda.

This first edition of the Comprehensive Protection of Civilians materials was designed specifically for military peacekeepers at the tactical level and combines conceptual, legal, and operational guidance on protection of civilians with aspects of child protection and conflict-related sexual violence.
The pilot course aimed to familiarize Member States with the new training materials and build the capacity of the participating trainers to deliver the materials in their national peacekeeping centres.

The development of the course is part of a broader approach by DPKO and DFS to strengthen the understanding and implementation of tasks related to the protection of civilians. The training package was developed jointly by the two departments in collaboration with Member States, regional organizations, NGOs, as well as United Nations agencies, funds, and programmes.

The Government of Austria hosted and supported two consultation workshops to enable the development of the materials. The pilot course was conducted by a mixed team of instructors from the United Nations and Member States.

The twenty-four participants came from fourteen troop-contributing countries and the UN Mission in South Sudan.

“The materials help me to better understand the comprehensive approach to the protection of civilians in peacekeeping and will be very useful to train colleagues in my national training centre,” one participant remarked. “The course was interactive and the scenario-based exercise at the end was a perfect way to translate what we learned into action.”

Following the integration of feedback, the Comprehensive Protection of Civilians materials will be made available for use during pre-deployment as well as in-mission training. DPKO/DFS plans to develop similar Comprehensive Protection of Civilians packages for police and civilian peacekeeping personnel in the coming months.