As part of its role of enhancing the skills of field mission trainers, the DPKO/DFS Integrated Training Service organized a “training of trainers” course on how to conduct tabletop exercises.

Sometimes referred to as TTX, tabletop exercises are defined as: “A simulation exercise to study scenarios, actions and responses, communications and decision-making without any actual movements on the ground.”

The course focused on strengthening mission contingency planning and response to emerging Protection of Civilians situations. Its aim was to equip trainers with the skills to guide mission personnel and help them coordinate the planning, organization, and conduct of tabletop exercises.

These skills will allow them to work with other mission components in rehearsing and building the capacity to promptly address Protection of Civilians and other crisis management situations.
“The TTX training of trainers is one of the best training of trainers that the DPKO/DFS Integrated Training Services has organized, not only because of its relevance to all the UN missions but because it taught us how to do it and how to do it well. Once practiced and actually implemented, the procedures, processes, guidance and useful comments we received from this training of trainers will surely be effective in assessing preparation and readiness of each mission’s Protection of Civilians plans and strategies,” said Maria Cecilia Icaro, MONUSCO.

Participants from Integrated Mission Training Centres (IMTC) as well as mission units such as Protection of Civilians (POC), Joint Operations Centre (JOC), and Joint Mission Analysis Centre (JMAC) attended the course held at the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe from 13-17 March 2017.

Attendees said the training gave them an understanding of how to organize a tabletop exercise and described the experience with words like “educational” and “extremely helpful.”