

CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE



MANDATE IN
UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS

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.



Women's Protection Advisers (WPAs) play a leading role in advising senior leadership and mission components on implementing the CRSV mandate and mainstreaming it across activities.

In 2021, only 17 professional-level WPAs were deployed to assist the nearly 53,000 personnel in CRSV-mandated peacekeeping missions.

Key Resources That Guide Field Work

Policy

&

Handbook

For United Nations Field Missions on Preventing and Responding to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

MONUSCO

United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo



Resolution 2612 (2021)

Mandated to implement joint prevention and response plans to protect civilians from sexual and gender-based violence

Mandated to work with the Government to initiate disciplinary and judicial procedures against individuals responsible for crimes of sexual violence

Mainstreaming CRSV Across Components



Military Engagement Platoons from MONUSCO support the identification and reporting of early warning indicators of CRSV, build trust with communities, and raise awareness on CRSV, amongst other tasks.

Ending Impunity



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.

UNMISS

United Nations Mission
in South Sudan

Mandated to deter,
prevent, and respond to sexual
and gender-based violence

Requested to include risks of
sexual and gender-based violence
in data collection, threat
analysis and early warning
systems



Resolution 2567 (2021)

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



Resolution 2584 (2021)

Mandated to provide specific
protection for women and children
affected by armed conflict
and address the needs of
victims and survivors of CRSV

Requested to support efforts
by conflict parties to implement
commitments to prevent
and respond to sexual violence

Engagement With the Government



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

Mandated to monitor,
help investigate and report on
rape and other forms of sexual
violence in armed conflict

Mandated to promote the
full and equal participation of
women, including survivors, in
all spheres



Resolution 2605 (2021)

Monitoring, Analysis, and Reporting



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.