

tool 13 Why are NGOs called upon to Participate in the MRM?

Factsheet

Security Council Resolution 1612 (2005) underlines that the MRM “must operate with the participation of and in cooperation with national governments and relevant United Nations and civil society actors, including at the country level” (S/RES/1612 (2005), para. 2(b)). The MRM Guidelines further state that¹⁰:

*International and local NGOs play a central role in the MRM at all levels. In-country, they are often the front line of contact with affected communities and hence an **important source of information** in the MRM and especially critical to provide appropriate response programming for children. The participation of NGOs in the MRM is an issue of high sensitivity given the risks that it poses for NGO personnel and programmes. The level of engagement of NGOs, included in the MRM Task Force, is a determination that should be made by NGOs themselves in each country context. In some situations, NGOs participate as full members of the MRM Task Force, while in others they may interact with the MRM informally, providing information and alerts without a visible role. [emphasis added].*

NGOs also play a crucial role **before and after the MRM**:

- **Knowledge and awareness of the context:** NGOs are often present on the ground before or at the very onset of a conflict and information they may have on grave violations is an important basis for identifying perpetrators and establishing a monitoring and reporting mechanism. NGOs can also provide valuable analysis including causes and typologies of violations which can translate into more targeted prevention and response.
- **Greater capacity to build trust with communities:** NGOs adopting community-based programmatic approaches develop a close relationship with local leaders and community members who are more likely to share sensitive information based on the trust developed over time.
- **Can access locations where the UN and international actors may not reach easily:** NGOs often work in regions where the UN cannot reach so easily for security or

logistical reasons. While NGOs face logistical challenges and their mobility can be limited they tend to have greater capacity to monitor the conflict in more remote areas.

- **Sustainability:** Once the MRM in a given country phases out, NGOs may be able to ensure long-term follow-up to response programs that were set up to address grave violations, which is a critical prevention strategy in unstable environments. In the event of a re-ignition of the conflict after the MRM has ended, NGOs are in a unique position to alert the UN to any new instances of grave violations.

relevant tools

- 🔗 **tool 14** – Factsheet ‘Why do NGOs choose to participate in the MRM?’
- 🔗 **tool 15** – Matrix ‘Options for NGO participation in the MRM’

other resources

- *Getting It Done and Doing It Right – A Global Study on the Implementation of the UN-led Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism, Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict (2008).*
- *The Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on Grave Violations against Children in Armed Conflict in Nepal: A Civil Society Perspective, Partnerships for Protecting Children in Armed Conflict (2012).*

¹⁰ Guidelines on the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on Grave Violations against Children in Situations of Armed Conflict, OSRSG-CAAC/UNICEF/DPKO, March 2012 p. 8