

tool 14 Why do NGOs Choose to Participate in the MRM?

Factsheet

NGOs are essential sources of information for the MRM and they also play a critical role in responding to the needs of children victims of grave violations. NGOs can therefore offer a lot to the MRM, but they can also gain from the mechanism.

Engagement in the MRM is typically linked to an overarching aim of **ensuring the protection and well-being of children in conflict areas**. Concretely, monitoring and reporting on grave violations contributes to this aim by offering or facilitating:

- **Knowledge and awareness:** without information about violations there can be neither response nor accountability. Monitoring grave violations allows actors on the ground to understand concretely the impact of a given conflict on children. Reporting them through the MRM helps further raise the profile of the situation of children.
- **Strengthened response, planning and coordination:** data collected through the MRM (whether by one organization or collectively) may at a certain scale provide important information on prevalence, patterns and trends in grave violations. This can in turn help NGOs plan or adjust relevant programs and also provides useful baselines for future project monitoring and evaluation. Moreover, an NGO that actively builds linkages between monitoring and response, is able to position itself within the local humanitarian/child protection community and build partnerships and alliances to strengthen the overall response to children in armed conflict.
- **Advocacy for accountability and stronger protection:** the MRM can amplify efforts made by NGOs at the national or local level to advocate for the protection of children in armed conflicts and hold perpetrators accountable, in particular by offering NGOs a space to build strategic alliances and collaboration with other actors, and to position local child protection issues at the international level. Furthermore, being a UN-led mechanism based on the principle of confidentiality, the MRM can in some situations offer NGOs an advocacy avenue, while shielding them from public exposure that could put them at risk.
- **Advocacy for funding:** analysis of MRM data (violations and follow-up) can highlight critical funding needs and serve as evidence to advocate with donors for more funding for the protection of children in armed conflict. This is particularly important in situations where response services are nonexistent or inadequate and need to be created, strengthened or prioritized.

relevant tools

- 🔗 **tool 13** – Factsheet ‘Why are NGOs called upon to participate in the MRM?’
- 🔗 **tool 15** – Matrix ‘Options for NGO participation in the MRM’