tool 15 Options for NGO Participation in the MRM

Matrix

	What is it?	Potential additional level of visibility/risk?	What do I need?	Where do I start?
Raising awareness (prevention and response)	Sensitizing communities, authorities and/or armed actors on the importance of protecting children in conflict, as well as on available mechanisms for protection and response. This is often done in the framework of wider child rights or human rights awareness-raising activities and may or may not be done in conjunction with reporting for the MRM.	Low	• General knowledge of the legal foundation and response mechanisms on the grave violations. • Existing rights-related awareness-raising activities.	Contact UN child protection actors (like the peacekeeping mission or UNICEF) or the MRM focal point in your area to discuss how your activities can reinforce existing awareness-raising efforts made in the framework of the MRM.
Responding to grave violations	Provision of services to victims of grave violations without engaging in monitoring and reporting. Types of services: medical assistance, counseling, legal assistance, vocational or educational support, recreation activities.	Low	• Relevant response program adequately staffed and funded. • Integration in referral pathways linked to the MRM.	Contact UN child protection actors (like the peacekeeping mission or UNICEF) or the MRM focal point in your area, at any stage, to discuss how your services can be integrated into referral pathways for MRM violations.
Observing and alerting	Notifying MRM focal points about incidents of grave violations or threats and risks that may lead to grave violations. Basic information about the type of violation, location, and number of victims may already suffice for an alert. It does not require details about the case, nor interviewing victims or communities.	Low	• Presence in conflict areas and contact with conflict-affected communities. • General knowledge of the grave violations.	Get in touch with UN child protection actors (like the peacekeeping mission or UNICEF) at any time, to be put in contact with the MRM focal point in your area for future alerts.
Informal communication	Reporting information on grave violations identified in the framework of existing pro-grams and activities of the organization in a conflict area. Information would be gathered on one or several of the grave violations, depending on the type of activity being conducted. The organization may or may not also conduct awareness-raising activities.	Low/medium	• Existing activities or programs involving contact with conflict-affected communities and through which information on grave violations emerges. • Some knowledge of the grave violations among relevant staff. • Confidentiality protocols (new or existing).	Contact the MRM focal point in your area at any time to discuss and agree on: • Confidentiality rules. • Process for reporting information (who, when, how, what format). • Process for case verification (incl. risk mitigation measures).

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	What is it?	Potential additional level of visibility/risk?	What do I need?	Where do I start?
Documenting	Proactively documenting abuses as part of a project or initiative built for that purpose (specific field-based project or punctual field research). The organization may also conduct awareness-raising activities.	Medium/high (specific risk mitigating measures must be in place)	• Presence in conflict areas and contact with conflict-affected communities. • Dedicated staff and financial resources (communications and local transportation). • In-depth knowledge of the grave violations. • Staff trained in fact-finding. • Strict security and confidentiality and information management protocols. • Ability to facilitate referral and/or response. • Ability to handle visibility at local level.	Contact the MRM focal point in your area prior to starting the project to: • Coordinate on areas to be covered by the project to avoid overlaps with other information gathering activities within the MRM. • Discuss and agree on confidentiality rules. • Discuss and agree on process for reporting information (who, when, how, what format). • Discuss and agree on process for UN verifications (incl. risk mitigation measures). • Discuss possible technical capacity building support by MRM focal point.
Being member of a Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR)	Documenting + all aspects of the mandate of a CTFMR.	High (specific risk mitigating measures must be in place)	• Presence in conflict areas and contact with conflict-affected communities. • In-depth knowledge of the grave violations. • Staff trained in documenting violations. • Security and confidentiality protocols. • Information management system. • Referral system. • Dedicated technical staff and financial resources. • Ability to handle high visibility and conduct sustained advocacy or dialogue in country, including at high-level (i.e. engagement of country director).	Contact UN child protection actors (like the peacekeeping mission or UNICEF) as soon an armed actor from your country of operation is listed to discuss the possibility of participating in the future CTFMR.

related tools

🔗 tool 7 – Factsheet 'Key actors in the MRM'

🔗 tool 1 – Glossary of terms on the MRM

🔗 tool 16 – Factsheet 'NGO participation in the MRM: potential challenges and limitations'

🔗 tool 26 – Checklist 'Before you engage in the MRM'

🔗 tool 17 – Guiding questions 'Clarifying goals and expectations before engaging in the MRM'

🔗 tool 19 – Guiding questions 'Participation in a MRM Country Task Force?'

🔗 tool 21 – Factsheet 'Building on existing activities to monitor, report and respond to grave violations'

WATCHLIST ON CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT