

# tool 55 Options for Local Advocacy in Eastern DRC

## Case study

Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict partner organizations in Eastern DRC document cases of grave violations and report them to the MRM. In a joint workshop, they listed local advocacy actions they typically take in follow-up to cases of violation, in their specific context of operation:

Situation	Action	Target	Allies
<b>Recruitment and use of children</b>	Sensitizing armed actors on the prohibition of child recruitment.  Advocacy for the release of children and reintegration, preferably in the family/community.	Local commander and higher chain of command.	Community leaders, MRM focal point, ICRC <sup>15</sup>  Coordination of releases: UENPDDR <sup>16</sup> , MRM focal point, organizations running transit centers.
<b>Voluntary association of children with armed groups</b>	Sensitizing children and communities on the prohibition of child recruitment and on the importance of keeping children in civilian life.	Families  Children (in particular children at risk, such as out-of-school children, street children).  Local commander and higher chain of command.	Teachers, community leaders.
<b>Arrest and detention of a child by the armed forces due to his/her former association with an armed group</b>	Advocacy for the release of the child.  If a criminal investigation is in progress, advocacy for respect of juvenile justice procedures and standards, for instance transfer the case to a 'Peace Tribunal' ('tribunal de paix').	Military jurisdiction  Peace Tribunal ('tribunal de paix').	Legal aid organizations, MRM focal point.
<b>Occupation, attack or destruction of a school by armed forces or armed group</b>	Advocate with the armed actor so that they vacate the premises.  Sensitize the armed actor on the importance of preserving the civilian nature of schools.	Local commander and higher chain of command.	Community leaders, MRM focal point, ICRC.

<sup>15</sup> International Committee of the Red Cross



<sup>16</sup> Government agency mandated to coordinate demobilizations in DRC

## TOOL 55

(cont'd)

Situation	Action	Target	Allies
<b>Threats against medical or educational personnel by an armed actor</b>	Mediate the conflict and end the threat. Identify practical measures to protect the individual, if imminent risk.	Individual making the threat (if known); local commander and/or higher chain of command. MONUSCO, <sup>17</sup> ICRC, other international agencies.	Community leaders, other medical and educational personnel.
<b>Denial of humanitarian access</b>	Advocacy to secure access.	Local commander and/or higher chain of command.	MONUSCO, OCHA <sup>18</sup> , ICRC, clusters.
<b>Rape and sexual violence by armed actors</b>	Advocacy for immediate arrest of perpetrators (if known). Sensitizing communities about the rights of sexual violence survivors in order to reduce stigmatization. Sensitizing communities to the assistance and care available for survivors of sexual violence in order to encourage survivors to seek assistance as soon as possible.	Military jurisdiction. Communities. Communities, in particular women's groups.	Legal aid organizations, MRM focal point. Women's organizations.
<b>Threats against individuals involved in monitoring grave violations</b>	Mediate the conflict and end the threat. Relocate the individual, if imminent risk.	Individual making the threat (if known); local commander and/or higher chain of command.	Community leaders.

## related tools:

-  **tool 54** – Guiding questions ‘Planning advocacy on the grave violations’
-  **tool 56** – Case study ‘Responding through advocacy: ad-hoc release of children in Eastern DRC’

<sup>17</sup> UN peacekeeping mission in DRC<sup>18</sup> UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs