

The background of the slide features a large, light blue, pixelated version of the United Nations logo, which consists of a world map surrounded by olive branches.

UNITED NATIONS OPERATION  
IN COTE D'IVOIRE - ONUCI

**Protection of Civilians**

**Abidjan, 16 July 2013**

# Video Presentation

## Excerpts from “Mandated To Protect”

*Protection of Civilians in peacekeeping operations*

### Foreword:

**Introductory remarks of the united  
nations secretary-general**

*“The Protection of Civilians is at the center of the United Nations peace and security agenda. Our peacekeepers and other personnel are increasingly been asked not only to keep armies at bay, but to protect people who are preys to militias and others combatants. We are saying “No” to impunity and saying “Yes” to accountability for those who commit crimes against humanity and other grave violations of Human Rights.*

*The documentary you are about to see explains the roles and responsibilities of the peacekeepers, humanitarian personnel, Human Rights Experts and others who bring Protection mandate to life in the world conflict zones. The Protection of Civilians is crucial to the credibility of the United Nations; the men, women and children who look to us for help must be able to have confidence in our ability to respond quickly and effectively. We have not always succeeded; the tragedies in Rwanda and Srebrenica are hatched forever on our minds.*

*Today, we are determined to use every available tool to protect vulnerable populations. That requires resources, training and new thinking; and it mends greater support from the Security Council which formulates protection mandates. I hope this documentary will inspire you to do your part. Making a difference is our collective responsibility.”*

# Overview

- ❑ Overview on protection of civilians (POC)
- ❑ Scope of the UNOCI POC Strategy
- ❑ The '*3 tiered approach*' of the Strategy
- ❑ Internal coordination and Information flow
- ❑ Planning for protection in the field (Video presentation)

## Protection of Civilians (POC) in UNOCI

- \* POC is part of the mission mandate since UNOCI's establishment in 2004. The mission is mandated to:  
*“to protect, without prejudice to the primary responsibility of the Ivorian authorities, the civilian population from imminent threat of physical violence, within its capabilities and areas of deployment,*
- \* SCR 2062 (2012): “protection of civilians shall remain the priority of UNOCI”
- \* The mission is authorized to intervene independently to protect civilians in situations where the government would be unable or unwilling to fulfill their responsibility to protect civilians
- \* UNOCI, in coordination with humanitarian actors, reviewed the draft POC strategy.

# UNOCI POC Strategy

UNOCI POC Strategy sets the framework for POC activities by:

- Identifying the risks
- Clarifying respective roles and responsibilities
- Strengthening UNOCI's coordination mechanisms
- Enhancing UNOCI's internal monitoring and evaluation mechanisms

The Strategy's matrix lists measures to be taken by the Mission and protection partners based on the level of threat.

## Three tiered approach

- ❑ Tier 1: Protection through political process
- ❑ Tier 2: Providing protection from physical violence
- ❑ Tier 3: Establishing a protective environment

## Protection through political process (examples of actions):

- ❑ Encouraging authorities and communities to protect civilians
- ❑ Promoting mechanisms for reconciliation, conflict prevention and resolution
- ❑ Facilitating dialogue amongst communities and between authorities and communities
- ❑ Promoting peace and social cohesion



## Protection from physical violence (examples of actions):

- Following up and analyzing trends and risks
- Promoting local early warning mechanisms
- Conducting joint patrols
- Ensuring the mission's presence, prevention, pre-emption (the 3 Ps)
- Using force if necessary

## Establishing a protective environment (examples)

- ❑ Restoration of state authority
- ❑ Building the capacity of authorities/security forces
- ❑ Supporting DDR and SSR processes
- ❑ Promoting human rights and the rule of law

## Internal coordination and Information flow (POC Strategy)

- ❖ **Senior Management Group on POC (SMG-P)**
- ❖ **POC Task Force – Headquarters**
- ❖ **POC Working Group – Sector and Field Levels**

# SMG -P

**Membership:** Chair: SRSG, SMG Members, Heads of PA, HR, CA, OLA, JMAC, UNHCR, UNFPA, OCHA

## **Function:**

- ❖ Ensures the overall implementation of the strategy, makes POC policy decisions, determines POC issues to be raised at the national level;
- ❖ Generates recommendations for advocacy by the Mission leadership, responses to threats that have been raised by the POC Task Force;
- ❖ Reviews progress towards the mission's implementation of the POC strategy;
- ❖ Makes decisions on conditionality against national commanders or units, as per the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.

# POC Task Force – Headquarters

**Membership:** Chair: DSRS-G-H, Heads of CA, OLA, PA, HR, JMAC, DDR, SSR, RoL, Force CoO, UNPOL and UNPOL/FPU Ops, Child Protection, Gender, HIV/AIDS Section, UNDSS, Mission Support, OCHA, Protection Cluster Coordinator, WPA, GVB Advisor

## **Functions:**

- ❖ Ensures implementation of decisions taken by the SMG-P, serves as advisory body to the SMG-P;
- ❖ provides guidance to POC Working Groups at the field level on POC implementation;
- ❖ considers recommendations provided by the field POC Working Groups, forwards to the SMG-P issues to be addressed by senior mission leadership, develops tools to assist mission components to perform POC tasks in a culturally sensitive manner, measures impact on POC implemented measures.

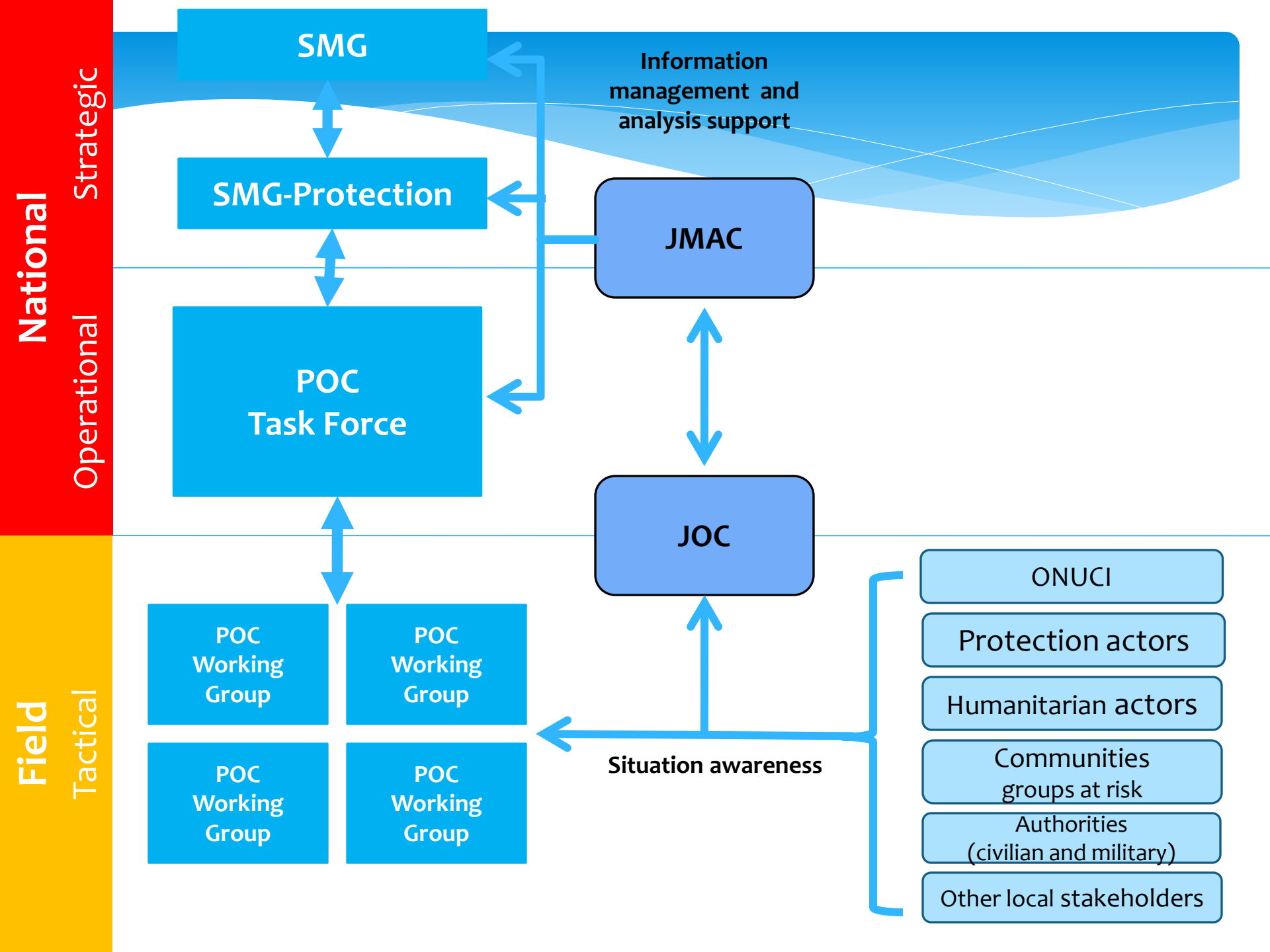
# POC Working Group – Sector and Field Levels

**Participation:** HoO or HoFO (Chair), Force Sector/Battalion/Company Commander, UNPOL Commander, CA, HR, DDR, RoL, RAO, UNDSS, OCHA, Protection Cluster Coordinator (or in their absence a designated member of the humanitarian community)

**Secretariat:** To be determined by HoO or HoFO

## **Function:**

- ❖ Makes decisions on operational responses to threats against civilians at the local level;
- ❖ Identifies, reviews, analyzes and prioritizes POC local threats to inform Task Force of (a) issues requiring national level attention and (b) actions taken at the local level to address them;
- ❖ Ensures that a community-based approach applies to POC activities, including through the establishment of a local early warning Hot line;
- ❖ Reports to and makes policy recommendations to the Task Force on POC for further SMG-P consideration;
- ❖ Ensures that the POC Strategy is operationalized through the plans of the military, police, and substantive components.



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### Chapter IV:

## Planning for protection in the field



## The Narrator:

To succeed, Peacekeepers must understand plan and manage relationships with multiple stakeholders in the field as well as making greatest use of the resources and capabilities at their disposal.

Understanding the challenges that missions face, United Nations has developed guidance on ways to better coordinate the energies of the mission and other UN actors in working with the host government, local communities and humanitarians.

It all starts with the thorough understanding the dangers faced by the civilian population and achieving better clarity of the role of others in the field...

## **Alisson Giffon: Future of Peace Operation Stimson Center:**

Best practices from the field have all indicated that the most effective way to protect civilians is to make sure that all actions within the Peacekeeping operation have been done under a political strategy; that is very important when you have to maintain the strategic concern of the host state government.

Without the strategic framework and without a mission wider comprehensive protection strategy, there is no way a Peacekeeping operation is going to leverage all those different strengths.

Peacekeeping operations have to understand which civilians are vulnerable and why, who is threatening civilians and why? How they are threatening civilians and what is their capabilities to carry out that threat...



**Thank you**

