

Training and mentoring of a new police service would then be a major activity for the international police. Basic law enforcement and training of new police should be done in accordance with the principles of community-based policing.

Workshop participants also discussed the limited numbers of women in local or international police forces and the impact this could have on security for women refugees. Case studies reveal that in many situations women refugees have said that they feel threatened by the physical presence of police forces comprised solely of men, and have expressed a higher degree of comfort when women police are present. Past case studies also reveal that women refugees are more likely to report incidents of violence, including sexual violence, to female police officers than to their male counterparts. It was also noted that police who will be operating in a refugee camp environment should be provided with gender sensitivity training. In the absence of women police, local women leaders, including teachers, psychologists and language assistants, should be brought into the police teams dealing with women refugees.

Military Forces:

The role of military forces was felt to vary depending on a number of circumstances. Inter alia, the host state military has a specific role with respect to international border security. They could also support the local police by securing an area outside the camps to stop the flow of combatants and arms into the camps and across the border. In some cases, militaries contain elements that are trained in police skills but as most do not, it should not be assumed that they can undertake policing tasks. Internal security is appropriately the role of the local police and there would have to be a very volatile security situation beyond the capability of the police before the local military should become directly involved in internal camp security.

In some circumstances, international military forces (e.g. from the UN or a regional organization) may be present in a host state as part of a peace support operation. Their presence alone may assist in reinforcing overall security. Depending on their mandate, they may be called upon to undertake such activities as acting as a barrier between factions or maintaining border security. Some international military forces may have expertise and equipment which could contribute more directly to enhancing refugee security, if requested, but this option requires further analysis that was beyond the scope of this workshop. As with the international police, support could take the form of advice, training, logistical and technical assistance, and as with local military forces, a direct role in refugee camp security should be a matter of last resort.

International military forces operating in a failed state or transitional administration environment may be assigned the military duties that are usually the province of the host state. In such a situation, they will also be on call as back-up to any international police presence, or, in the absence of the latter, assume some limited policing duties as well. In cases where local or international military forces must undertake policing tasks, international police can play a useful role as advisors to the military.

Very often, international military forces will take on humanitarian tasks in support of refugee camp management, such as the provision of transportation and temporary medical facilities, or the construction of camps, all of which have an impact on the security of refugees. It