

## Critical issue module 7

Children associated with armed forces or armed groups

### Topic 4 Planning and implementation

#### Handout 7



#### Reintegration Case studies

##### Susan's story

Susan is 15 years old. She was a refugee living in a camp with her family for two years. While living as a refugee she began school for the first time. During studies one night, a group of armed rebels came to the camp and abducted her and five other boys and girls. The rebels made them walk for six days carrying heavy loads of looted supplies. One child collapsed and was killed by the rebels on Day 3. On Day 4 another child, Susan's cousin, collapsed. The children were told to kill the boy or die. They killed him. On arriving at the camp, Susan was raped by three rebels and given to one as a wife. She became pregnant, but still worked hard cooking and carrying weapons to battle. A big battle took place with the military. There was much confusion, so Susan ran away with her baby. She was found by the military and demobilised. She wants to go home.

- 1 Develop a **plan of action** for the reintegration of this child.
- 2 What do you suspect might be the problems or pitfalls of this **plan**?
- 3 How might you alleviate these problems or pitfalls?

Be prepared to give a short presentation of the case study and your key points.







### **Kenneth's story**

Kenneth is 16 years old. His father died as a soldier. His mother remarried and had three new children, and the stepfather didn't want Kenneth or his brother. At the age of 10 years, Kenneth was recruited from his home village. He decided to go with his older brother to join the military. They knew the soldiers had guns, food and clothes, and they wanted to support the cause their father believed in. Kenneth's brother died after one year.

Kenneth was a strong, courageous soldier. He was never afraid. Everyone respected and feared him. He trained many new young recruits. He was responsible for the death of cowardly recruits. He led many battles and was particularly proud of a massacre in which an entire village of people was killed because it had betrayed the forces. A few months ago, in battle, Kenneth stepped on a land mine. He lost one leg. He is now ready to leave the hospital.

He is ashamed that he is no longer able to be a soldier as a result of his injury and fears returning home.

- 1** Develop a **plan of action** for the reintegration of this child.
- 2** What do you suspect might be the problems or pitfalls of this **plan**?
- 3** How might you alleviate these problems or pitfalls?

Be prepared to give a short presentation of the case study and your key points.







### **Sunita's story**

Prior to joining the LTTE, Sunita lived at home with her father and siblings. As the oldest girl she had to do most of the household chores (her mother was working overseas as a maid). Her father drank and was abusive and she was unhappy at home and pleased to find a way to leave.

After serving with the LTTE for 18 months she has been demobilised and will soon be sent home. She is upset and angry and doesn't want to go. She knows that she will stand out as her shaved head looks different from the other girls' long hair. She also doesn't want to return to the situation she was in before; she did well and was respected with the LTTE, rising up the ranks and does not want to return home to be a '*domestic slave*'.

- 1** Develop a **plan of action** for the reintegration of this child.
- 2** What do you suspect might be the problems or pitfalls of this **plan**?
- 3** How might you alleviate these problems or pitfalls?

Be prepared to give a short presentation of the case study and your key points.

