



Interactive Simulation on Negotiations for Access Global Protection Forum

Centre of Competence on Humanitarian
Negotiation

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FRONTLINE
NEGOTIATIONS

CENTRE OF COMPETENCE ON
HUMANITARIAN NEGOTIATION

Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation

Enhancing professional exchanges and peer learning among frontline humanitarian negotiators

A Strategic Partnership between



What is humanitarian negotiation?

Set of interactions between a humanitarian organization and - state or non-state – actors, both civilian and military, to an armed conflict aimed at

- Establishing organization in conflict setting
- Ensuring access to vulnerable groups
- Providing assistance and protection to affected populations

Relational component => trust building

Transactional component => agreeing on terms and logistics of humanitarian operations

A negotiation is long term process!

CCHN Field Manual p. 19

The dilemma

Advocating for our own humanitarian organization's objectives and principles;

vs.

Building a trusted relationship with the counterpart while exploring areas of consensus or compromises on values, methods and positions.





A global community of practice

- The CCHN develops a global community of humanitarian professionals engaged in frontline negotiations.
- More than 4000 field practitioners involved in CCHN activities since 2016.

What we do





Negotiating Humanitarian Access for Protection in Belgrade

Interactive Simulation on Negotiations for Access

Democratic
Republic of
Muniv
(DRM)

Belgicistan

Werlsand

Belvillestone

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Scenario

Landlocked country with natural resources in the Southwest which is currently controlled by an opposition group called the Liberation Front

History & Politics

- Civil War between 1958-1975, flaring up of the war again in 2010
- Government controls the north and most of the larger cities
- Liberation Front controls the Southwest where most oil wells are located

Humanitarian situation

- Since January 2021 intensified airraids on the southwest of the country, hitting military and civilian targets
- Most of the urban centers have been destroyed and people take refuge in improvised shelters and camps
- Humanitarian situation in the shelters difficult
- Reports of forced recruitment of children into the army by the Liberation Front in the camps
 - Boys aged 12 and over are sent to the frontline
 - Girls used for domestic work at the barracks, exposed to sexual violence
- Increased domestic violence in the shelters due to the deterioration of the economic situation



Your organisation

- You work for a humanitarian organisation called We Are All People (WAAP)
- You provide:
 - primary health care
 - maternal health
 - medical and mental health support to rape victims.
- You also run community centres that aim at offering safe spaces to women and children.
- You have been operating in Belgicistan since long before the conflict supporting primary health care and community centers

Your goal

- After an assessment in one of biggest IDP camps in the Southwest, you decided to build a primary health care unit and community centre inside the camp
- It took you a long time to obtain the green light from the camp management (closely affiliated to the Liberation Front)
- You are now confronted with a very influential conservative community leader, Mr. Amun, who opposes your plans and refuses to give you access
- He is in favour of the primary health care unit, as long as it does not administer contraceptive and abortion drugs
- He is against the idea of opening a community centre

Your suppositions

- You think that Mr. Amun:
 - does not really understand what such a centre is good for
 - is highly suspicious of Western indoctrination of women and children
 - is concerned that negative reports about the Liberation Front will become public – because the international community condemns the recruitment of teenagers into the army – and that this would hamper the struggle for independence
 - is facing pressure from the male IDPs who don't want anyone to meddle in how they treat their wives and children

Your counterpart: Influential community leader, Mr. Julius Amun

- His son is a Brigadier General in the Liberation Front.
- He is generally concerned about the wellbeing of what he considers to be his people
- He believes that sticking to traditional values and ways of living are the only way for a community to function
- He sees children as a mean to an end in the struggle of independence
- While he values the opinions of his wife, he is definitely not of the opinion that women should have the same rights than men and that a woman's duty is to bare children and support the struggle

=> It maybe that you meet Mr. Julius wife instead

Objectives of the negotiaton

This is the second time you plan to meet Mr. Julius and you want to:

- Obtain his greenlight and support to open a primary health care unit and community centre to provide:
 - Public health services
 - Clinical mental health management of rape cases
 - Mental health support to women and children exposed to violence
 - Recreational spaces and education for boys and girls
- You also want to discuss with Mr. Julius the problem of recruitment of boys and girls into the army, and obtain his support to start a protection dialogue with Liberation Front

Timing

- **20 minutes** to prepare for the negotiation in groups
 - You decide who will take which role (be creative)
- **20 minutes** round of negotiation
- **15 minutes** debrief and reflections in your groups



Good luck!

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