



Lesson 1. 6

Information Integrity, Misinformation, Disinformation and Hate Speech in UNPKO

Content



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- Information Integrity, Misinformation, Disinformation, and Hate Speech (MDH)
 - MDH tools and techniques
 - Psychological and Emotional effects of MDH on individuals and communities
 - MDH use against Peacekeepers and harm to information integrity
 - UNMO roles in Monitoring and Reporting MDH



Learning Outcomes

- Define Information Integrity and MDH
- Illustrate MDH techniques and tools
- Identify the psychological and emotional effects of MDH on individuals and communities
- Explain why MDH might be used against Peacekeepers
- Explain UNMO roles in supporting mission's approach to addressing MDH



What is Information Integrity?



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Policy

Information Integrity in Peacekeeping Settings

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Contact: DPO Information Integrity Unit
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An information ecosystem in which freedom of expression is fully enjoyed and information that is accurate, reliable, free from discrimination and hate is available to all in an open, inclusive, safe and security information environment

What is MDH?



MDH are three distinct but related concepts that involve the dissemination of false, misleading or harmful information

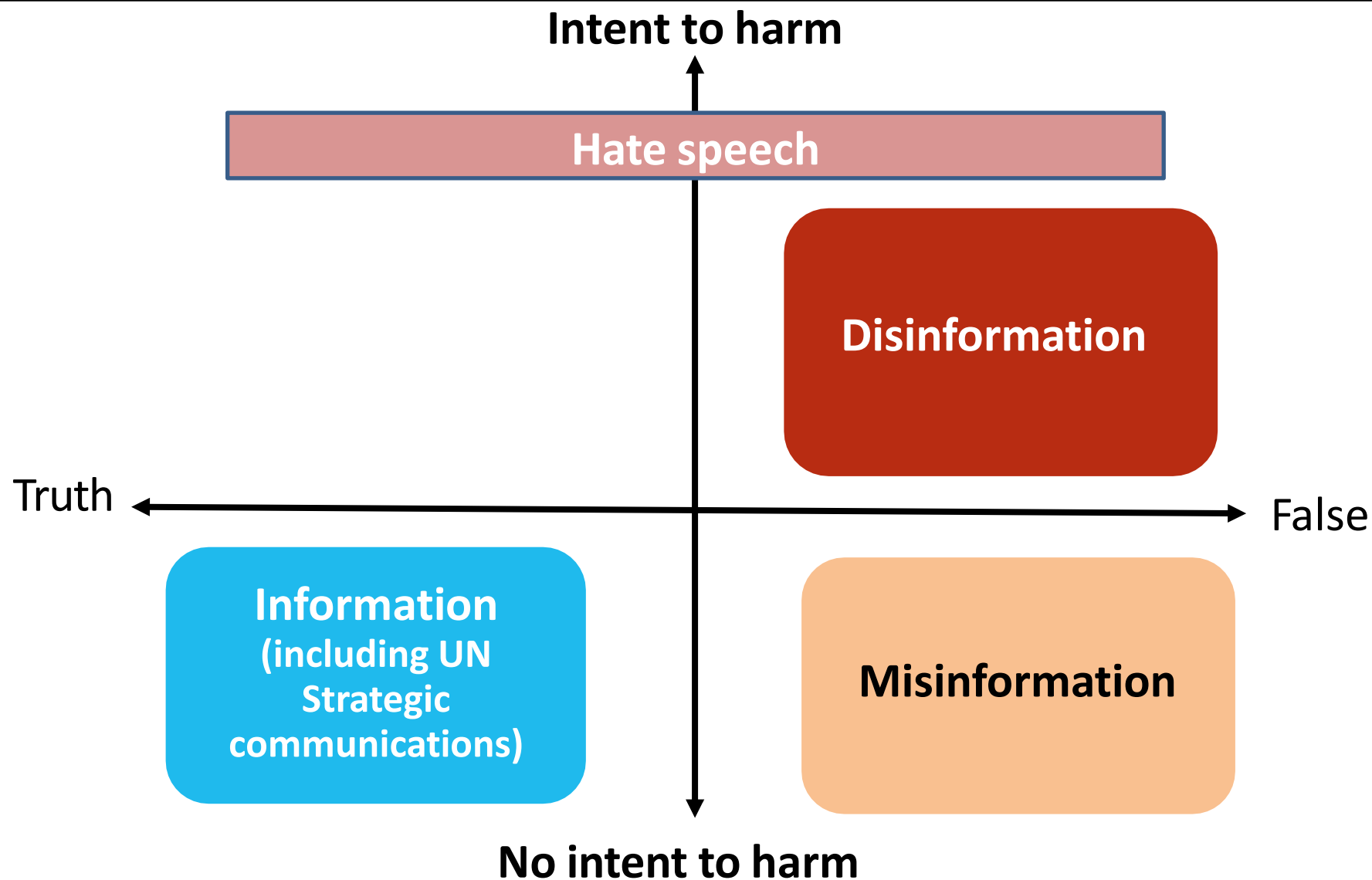


Definition of MDH

- **Misinformation.** Inaccurate information that is unintentionally shared in good faith by those unaware that they are passing on falsehoods
- **Disinformation.** Information that is inaccurate, intended to deceive and shared to do serious harm
- **Hate Speech.** Any kind of communication in speech, writing or behaviour that attacks or uses pejorative or discriminatory language with reference to a person or a group based on who they are, religion, ethnicity, nationality, race, colour, descent, gender or identity factor



Understanding MDH



MDH Tactics, Techniques and Procedures by Actors



- **Fabrication:** Making up stories or content that are not true
- **Manipulation:** Changing real information or pictures to make them misleading
- **Emotional Appeal:** Using strong feelings to spread false information or inflammatory words

MDH Tactics, Techniques and Procedures by Actors (cont.)



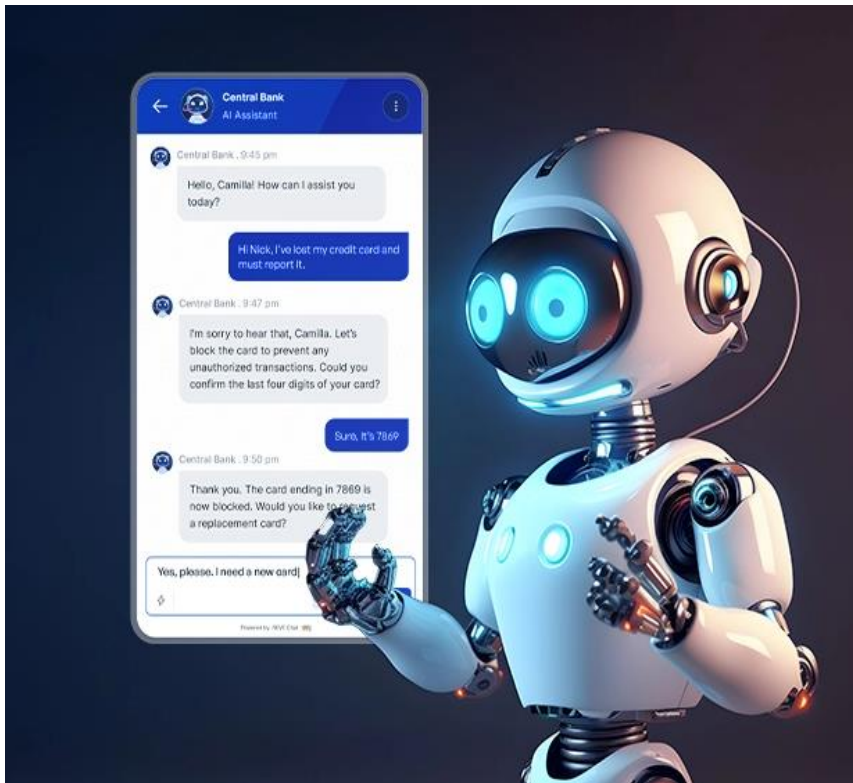
- **Amplification:** Increasing the spread of harmful content, often using automated programmes (bots) or organised groups
- **Contextual misrepresentation:** Sharing true information in a way that is confusing or misleading
- **Impersonation:** Acting like someone else to spread false information

Tools Used to Produce or Disseminate MDH



- Social media platforms
- Messaging apps
- Photo and video editing software
- Traditional media
- Word of mouth

Tools Used to Produce or Disseminate MDH (cont.)



- Deepfake generators
- Websites and blogs
- Anonymous posting
- Automated bots



MDH Targeting Peacekeeping: Reasons

- **Undermining/Discrediting UNPKO**
 - Tarnish reputation of peacekeepers in the mindset of the local population
 - Claim bias or ineffectiveness
- **Destabilising the peace process**
 - Disrupt peace negotiations and undermine diplomatic efforts
- **Generating fear and insecurity**
 - Create an environment of fear and insecurity
 - Deter local populations from cooperating with peacekeepers

MDH Targeting Peacekeeping: Reasons (cont.)



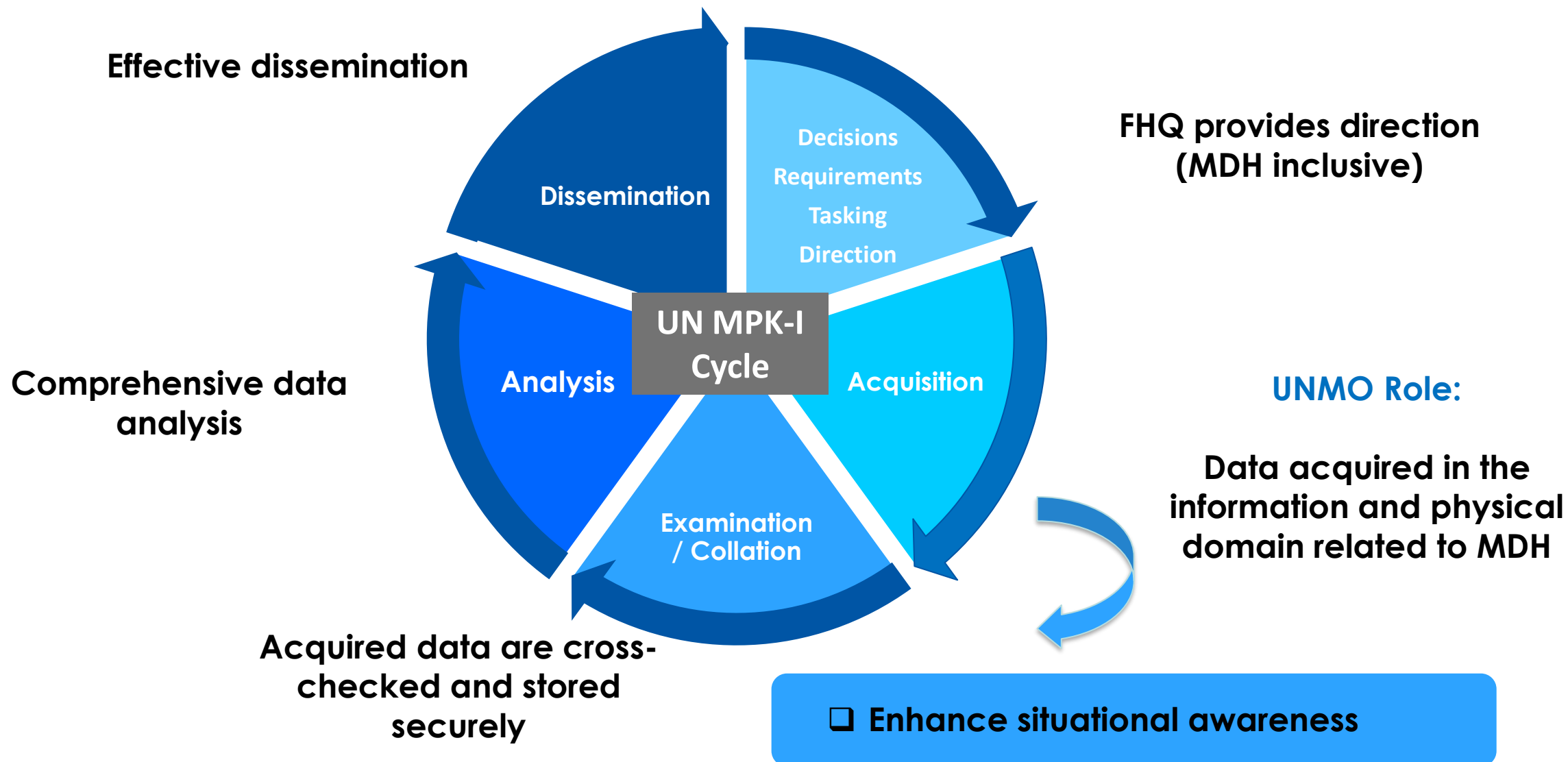
- **Dividing local population**
 - Create divisions and disaffection among communities
- **Recruitment and mobilisation**
 - Recruit local population
 - Strengthen support for armed group's cause (political, social, others)
- **Resource control**
 - Control valuable resource regions for financial gain
- **Incitement of violence through Hate speech**
 - Incite violence against peacekeepers
 - Leads also to conflict and human rights violations

Psychological and Emotional Impact of MDH



- **Fear:** False narratives can evoke a sense of fear
- **Anger:** Misdirected anger can escalate conflicts
- **Mistrust:** Mistrust can affect civilian collaboration with UN
- **Confusion:** Leaves communities vulnerable to manipulation

MDH in Relation with UN MPK-I for UNMO



UNMO Roles in Supporting Mission's Approach to Addressing MDH



- Contributes to mission situational awareness
- Inform communities about Mission's roles and responsibilities
- Build the confidence of local population
- Working with other components as an integrated approach
- Monitor and report MDH threatening civilians and violating human rights



Summary of Key Messages

- MDH involves the dissemination of false, misleading, or harmful information
- MDH threatens the UN Information Integrity and tarnish the reputation of peacekeepers and the mission
- UNMO understanding of the concept of MDH helps to explore ways to address such threats
- UNMO remain a key resource in supporting the mission's approach to addressing MDH



Learning Activity 1

Plenary Quiz (True or False)

1. **Information integrity** refers to an information ecosystem where freedom of expression is fully upheld, and information that is accurate, reliable, and free from discrimination and hate is accessible to all within an open, inclusive, safe, and secure information environment.

☐ True

☐ False

Learning Activity 1



2. **Disinformation** involves harmful communication that specifically targets individuals or groups based on identity.

☐ True

☐ False

Learning Activity 1



3. MDH can be used to tarnish the reputation of peacekeepers and missions, portraying them as biased or ineffective, thereby reducing local support for their presence.

() True

() False

Learning Activity 1



4. UNMO support the mission's approach to addressing MDH through community engagement and a credible presence, helping to build trust, prevent escalation, and support mission objectives by monitoring and reporting MDH in their AOR.

☐ True

☐ False



Learning Activity 2

Group discussion

Total Time: 15 mins

Preparation: 7 min

Discussion : 8 min

- Explain with examples
 - Misinformation
 - Disinformation
 - Hate Speech
- How UNMO can support the mission's approach to addressing MDH?