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Security Unit Appeal 2012 - MAA00026

Mid-Year Report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

This report covers the period
01/January/2012 to
01/July/2012.



By John Dyer, IFRC, South Sudan

Overview

Over recent years, the IFRC has continued to respond to an increased number of emergencies while being faced with a rapidly deteriorating security environment. The net result is that aid workers are deploying more often and in many cases to increasingly dangerous locations. Over the course of the past 6 months, there has been an increase in the number of incidents where Humanitarian Aid personnel, carrying out programme related work, have been subjected to kidnapping, violence or harassment. Particularly we, the IFRC, have seen increased insecurity in the traditional high risk areas; in addition recent popular reactions to rising commodity prices, unemployment and the perceived authoritarianism of governments, elections and political turmoil have also created high levels of insecurity in new areas. The “Arab spring”, the war in Libya and the conflict in Syria, Ivory Coast, refugee camps in Kenya on the border to Somalia are some examples. This insecurity has resulted in an increasing level of attacks on aid workers and increased insecurity for Red Cross Red Crescent personnel. As a result of the global socio - economic crisis we are also witnessing an increasing number of incidents related to general crime – theft, burglary etc.

The IFRC had a permanent presence in around 63 countries globally and conducted or contributed to operations in a total of 150 countries. A number of these countries represent some of the most challenging security environments in terms of crime and insecurity while others can be defined as conflict areas. Sadly, during the first half year we have had one member of our staff (a national hired security guard in Afghanistan) killed. The total number of reported killed RC/RC staff and volunteers globally this year stands at minimum 9 with at least 12 sustaining serious injuries. However, those are solely those cases that have come to the attention of the IFRC Security Unit. In addition there have been a number of other targeted attacks against RC/RC personnel and premises in 2012. This trend is worrying and lack of clear data highlights the need for a more systematic approach to recording targeted attacks against RC/RC and deaths among personnel and volunteers within the movement.

Progress towards outcomes

The security programme contributes to reducing the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters and increases local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability by creating an effective culture of security within the IFRC and National Societies. This will further enable Red Cross Red Crescent personnel to operate safely and securely. In addition, it will support the IFRC in addressing more effectively the strategic imperatives identified in Strategy 2020.

The security unit has focused on promoting the development of a culture of security both within the IFRC and member National Societies. This has included focus on security training and education both for IFRC operations and National Societies, conducting security assessments and providing direction to field managers on actions required to comply with MSR. Particular focus has been placed on the issue of security for volunteers. As in 2011, we continued to work closely with National Societies and responded to their requests for advice and support.

We have also focused on enhancing the security management capability of the zone offices through advocating for the deployment of more security specialists in the field. These specialists would be better placed to respond to the needs of both the IFRC and National Society operations as well as in assisting with the training of IFRC and National Society personnel in the field.

In line with the secretariat's business model to realise Strategy 2020 and the objectives of the Secretary General, the security programme will contribute primarily to business lines 1, 2, 4 and 5:

Business Line 1: Raise humanitarian standards

We have started to disseminate the newly created security incident database to enable National Societies to record security incident occurrences. The aim is to enhance our ability to capture and improve our analysis of IFRC and National Society security incidents.

The Unit has provided support and advice to the Federation and National Societies from lessons learnt through incident analysis, constant reporting, debriefings and review of security aspects of Federation and National Societies operations.

OUTCOME: Improved planning capacity, more effective management and prevention of security incidents, and enhanced ability to be proactive through reports, analysis and lessons learned.

The work is enabling Federation operations and National Societies to have improved security awareness and in turn help to anticipate and react to changing situations and circumstances in a timely manner. This again leads to improved planning capacity, more effective management and prevention of security incidents, and enhanced ability to be proactive through reports, analysis and lessons learned.

We have collaborated with interested National Societies to develop and provide up to date and appropriate security training that enhance their ability to operate in an effective and secure manner. In addition the unit has conducted numerous training courses for delegates, staff and National Society members. This is ensuring an enhanced awareness of security, more effective security management within operations and personnel better able to respond to security related situations.

The current security management workshop has been modified to include greater emphasis on incident analysis and management as well as providing specific focus on issues related to hostage situations. We will promote this further and coordinate with National Societies on how their systems can be improved.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our “Stay safe” security manuals are now available in 3 language versions, English, French and Spanish. Since the publication of the IFRC Stay safe” security manuals in 2007 the manuals have been printed and distributed in 8,500 copies. • A new “Stay Safe- Volunteers” security booklet has been released under coordination by the IFRC Volunteer department and is available in 5 languages including Russian. • National Societies have current situational knowledge when planning operations. |
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Business Line 2: Grow Red Cross Red Crescent services for vulnerable people

The Security Unit has provided timely advice and information to Field, HQ and National Societies that has enabled operations to be conducted in a safe and secure manner within the current environment. We provided RC managers with appropriate tools to enable them to effectively develop appropriate security frameworks supporting both relief and recovery operations.

OUTCOME: IFRC operations and National Societies have improved security awareness and are able to anticipate and react to changing situations and circumstances in a timely manner.

The above is improving Federation and National Societies planning capacity, more effective management and prevention of security incidents, and enhances our ability to be proactive through reports, analysis and lessons learned.

The security team has participated in and provided advice during operational planning meetings and task forces prior to the deployment of personnel. The team has also provided advice 24/7 on support to IFRC and National Society operations. The team has enhanced security awareness by providing weekly global security analysis, annual security and ad-hoc reports on developing situations.

Security guidance documents and information have been delivered through the security programme’s page on FedNet.

The team has conducted several security trainings for IFRC and NSs. The on-line/CD-ROM security courses have been translated into French and Spanish which enables greater reach across our National Societies.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior personnel better able to manage security effectively and greater ability of all personnel to manage their personal security. Staff and volunteers have greater access to security tools and training support. • Over 13,000 Red Cross Red Crescent personnel and other humanitarian workers have been registered for the “Stay safe” online course, now available in English, Spanish and French. • IFRC and National Society operations have up-to-date knowledge of latest security environment. |
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- A number of National Societies have made the “Stay safe” e-learning course a mandatory requirement for their staff and volunteers and all IFRC staff are required to successfully complete the course.
- The security unit has assisted managers, delegates and staff in operations and field offices – some 150 locations around the world, as well as has advised on security for all emergency operations.
- The unit has also supported and advised a number of National Societies in security management matters and incident handling. So far in 2012 the Unit has dealt with around 90 security incidents.
- Our security report “HotSpots” reaches over 1,600 people within the Red Cross Red Crescent movement every week. To date close to 7,000 visits to our FedNet security website have been recorded.
- Some 250 requests for security advice and support from the secretariat and National Societies have been handled.

Business Line 4: Heighten Red Cross Red Crescent influence and support for our work

The Unit has ensured cooperation and information sharing with ICRC, ECHO and the interagency community. The effective working partnerships established with other agencies has provided an increased access to information and resources.

The Security Unit has also taken up the function as the IFRC secretariats focal point on CivMil matters.

OUTCOME: Effective working partnerships established with other agencies providing increased access to information and resources.

We continued our cooperation with the ICRC security unit and maintain established collaborative working relationships with security advisors from various National Societies. Additionally, we provided training and support to National Societies. We continued our support and engagement with ECHO security and the European Inter-Agency Security Forum.

We also provided input to the Inter-agency Standing Committee policy documents related to security management, as and when requested. Deployed security delegates and coordinators continued to liaise and participate in international organizations and non-governmental organizations security networks.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

- The team participated in regular meetings and workshops with related agencies at all levels. We continued to provide input into inter-agency task forces, working groups and committees.
- In the area of civil/military relations we have contribute to working groups to review and refine established protocols to ensure their relevancy.
- The programme continues to investigate opportunities for relevant joint training opportunities with other Red Cross Red Crescent partners and external agencies and organizations..

Business Line 5: Deepen our tradition of togetherness through joint working and accountability

The security program seeks to maintain an effective global security framework that will enable personnel to operate safely and securely.

The Security Unit has continued to monitor and assist in the implementation & compliance with the Security Framework and the Minimum Security Requirements (MSR), and we have conducted our first ever global MSR assessment.

We have advocated for the maintenance of the current four zone security coordinator positions – in Africa, Asia Pacific and MENA as well as the establishment of a further position in the Americas. We will also advocate for maintaining security personnel in Haiti (currently two) and in Pakistan (currently two) operations throughout 2012.

The Security Unit has provided support and advice to the Governance and Management services Division to ensure appropriate security measures are implemented for the, Governing Board, regional statutory conferences, and other external events as well as for the security preparation for the upcoming General Assembly 2013.

We have finalized and disseminated the Critical Incident Management Protocol and Hostage Incident Management protocol to enable the Secretariat, IFRC and National Societies to correctly handle any critical Incident. We have initiated additional support to the Federation and National Societies via training on CIM and HIM.

OUTCOME: Sound operational security management structures and procedures established and operating effectively

The global MSR assessment on our security situation will further strengthen the security of volunteers, delegates, staff and assets. The security assessment process has also been incorporated into the Secretariat's audit process and the aim is to include the outcome of any security audit as part of manager's performance evaluation process. A MSR compliance report with recommendations on how to improve was shared with the Secretary General, GVA SMT and the Directors on the Zone.

We seem to have managed to maintain 2 zone security positions in Africa and temporarily one in MENA. We currently have lost the Asia Pacific security position and struggling to open one for the Americas. We are also maintaining security personnel in Haiti (currently two) and in Pakistan (currently one) operations throughout 2012.

CIM - We have conducted security management workshops for two NS in first six months and have worked with three NS on the development of their CIM and HIM protocols. We have had discussions with others on how incidents would be jointly managed should an incident occur involving seconded staff, staff on loan, or for PNS under IFRC security framework, and also how the IFRC might assist PNS operating bi-laterally. Discussions with other NS are planned through the year for those who have requested it.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

- Implemented and enforced the approved security framework and MSR monitored through assessment missions and annual MSR self-assessment review.
- MSR continued to be disseminated to our member National Societies and we provided advice on implementation as requested.
- Requested support provided to National Societies in developing internal security policies, a security framework and implementation of MSR.
- Greater capability of National Societies to incorporate security into their respective contingency plans.
- Effective critical incident management protocols disseminated and personnel practised in incident management.
- Appropriate agreements/Memorandums of Understanding established with Participating National Societies.
- National Societies have access to regional security support.

Stakeholder participation and feedback

IFRC management: enabling managers to meet their obligations regarding staff security by providing advice and assistance in ensuring personnel operate within an effective security framework and regularly assessing the effectiveness of this framework. Providing security training to staff and managers, as well as providing support in cases of incident/crisis management.

IFRC staff: providing security advice and support, particularly for field-based staff involved in the planning of operations, to ensure that activities are conducted in as safe a manner as possible.

National Societies: providing security support and resources to National Societies during the planning and implementation of operational programmes.

Beneficiaries: enhancing the provision of more effective support through better planned and managed operations.

Key Risks or Positive Factors

Key Risks or Positive Factors	Priority High Medium Low	Recommended Action
1. Maintain current field security coordination and delegate positions. In 2012 funding has yet to be secured for the current security coordination positions for Asia/Pacific zone, Africa zone (based in Nairobi) and MENA (Lebanon). The result is that we risk being left with only one Zone Security Coordinator (Africa) globally as of end 2012. This will most likely reduce the security management quality in many of our operational areas, put	H	The challenge is to either secure funding for this approach from either National Societies or through these positions being programme funded.

<p>additional strain on the Security Unit and also severely hamper the possibility for the IFRC to sing IA and Support Service Agreements with PNSs.</p> <p>2. The low funding support from donor National Societies in the first half of 2012 somewhat hampered the unit's ability to fulfil its planned programme. Many donors have indicated that they see security as a core responsibility of the IFRC, and that it should be covered fully by the barem and the programme support recovery costs.</p> <p>The current funding of our security appeal is insufficient funding to cover staff commitments until year end.</p> <p>3. Security is still not factored into programme design and is yet to automatically be included in planning. Lack of time available by senior management to engage effectively in security is another risk factor we are observing.</p>	<p>H</p> <p>H</p>	<p>The donors and the senior leadership in the IFRC will have to agree on the funding responsibility of the activities carried out by the security unit.</p>
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Lessons learned and looking ahead

The IFRC and National Societies have a moral and ethical responsibility to ensure that steps are taken to provide as safe a working environment as possible. However, there remains a need to further improve the capability of field managers and operations to monitor and manage security effectively. Despite efforts over the past few years, security is still not viewed as an integral part of general management within the IFRC and many National Society operations. Many managers adopt a traditionalist view that security is a service function, one that inevitably incurs costs to the bottom line of the operation. The more modern view being adopted by many corporate entities defines security as a function that enhances the organization's capability and is therefore a contributor – rather than a cost to the bottom line; as such security is mainstreamed throughout the operation. We have still to reach this realization and therefore security management has not been mainstreamed or institutionalized. We are continuing to see preventable security incidents occurring adding to the costs of operations and impacting on our ability to deliver effectively and efficiently.

The current environment with an increasing number of emergencies and a deteriorating global security environment pose the greatest risk. We can never negate but can only take steps to mitigate identified risks in the current environment. However, both the IFRC and our member National Societies must recognize that we are deploying personnel into increasingly higher-risk situations. Failing to identify this and respond accordingly creates a risk for the IFRC and/or National Societies that we will be unable to fulfil our humanitarian mandate and our obligations to provide as safe a working environment as possible for our personnel.

The security team does not have an executive function but acts in advisory capacity both to senior management in the secretariat, NS and in the field. On occasion this has meant that security has been considered a technical function, which is dangerous. To be effective security must be considered as an integrated function that cuts horizontally across all departments and also vertically from the secretariat to the field.

Financial situation

Click [here](#) to go directly to the financial report.

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations](#) (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of nonviolence and peace.

Find out more on www.ifrc.org

Contact information

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