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Security Unit Appeal 2013 - MAA00026

Mid-Year Report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

This report covers the period
01/January/2013 to
01/July/2013.



Overview

The latest statistics show that the number of security incidents of major violence against aid workers has more than doubled since 2003 with Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia and Sudan accounting for close to 60 per cent of all killings, kidnappings and serious injuries. Reports indicate that 2013 will be the year with the highest number of major attacks against aid workers worldwide yet recorded.

We continue to witness changes in the global security environment resulting in a general deterioration, and IFRC personnel and humanitarian aid workers having to operate increasingly in insecure or potentially dangerous environments. So far in 2013 we continued to see increased insecurity in the traditional high risk areas such as Pakistan, Afghanistan, Yemen, Haiti, Korean Peninsula, Nigeria, Ivory Coast and Democratic Republic of Congo; 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 Syria and the conflict in CAR and Mali 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 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 70 countries globally and conducted or contributed to operations in a total of 100 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 the total number of reported killed RC/RC staff and volunteers globally stands at minimum 10, with many more sustaining serious injuries. The RC/RC staff were killed in Syria (6), Afghanistan (2), Democratic Republic of Congo (1) and Somalia (1).** 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 2013. 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

To enable Red Cross Red Crescent personnel to operate effectively and securely through a range of challenging security environments requires a multidimensional approach to security. 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 the IFRC Security Framework and the Minimum Security Requirements (MSR). Particular focus has been placed on the issue of security for volunteers. We continued to work closely with National Societies and responded to their requests for advice and support.

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 IFRC security unit has in recent years developed a number of security initiatives and tools under the “Stay safe” concept. These tools are available to all National Societies in a number of language versions. In early 2013 a new online security training course aimed at national staff society volunteers was initiated, the course will be completed midyear 2013. The unit dealt with several major crises during the period assisting Federation and National Society operations with contingency planning to meet developing situations, from travel/movement restrictions to plans to partial relocations in several countries.

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.

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 continue to promote the new 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. There has also been an increased request for security training support and **we have conducted 11 trainings in the first 6 months for NS and IFRC.**

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

73 security incidents were handled during the first 6 months. The security work has enabled 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 has led to improved planning capacity, more effective management and prevention of security incidents, and enhanced ability to be proactive through reports, analysis and lessons learned.

The security unit 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. **16,519 humanitarian personnel have signed up the two security e-learning since the release in 2009, and an impressive 5,036 have signed up during the first 6 months of 2013.** Mexican RC, Haitian RC, Pakistan RC, Ecuadorian RC, Zambia RC, Australian RC, Kenya RC, German RC, Canadian RC, Spanish RC, British RC and Ethiopian RC are the 12 NS's with the most staff completing the two security e-learning during this reporting period. In addition the Security Unit has conducted numerous training courses for delegates, staff and National Society members. **305 persons received face to face security training** in the first 6 months of 2013. This contributes to an enhanced awareness of security, more effective security management within operations and personnel better able to respond to security related situations. The work on the e-learning for volunteers has commenced and final product will be available in English by end July-2013.

We have been working on the Council of Delegates 2013 Workshop Concept "Safer Access and National Society Volunteers and Staff" with the aim to share with NS the need to take measures to protect their staff and volunteers. By doing so, the Movement's ability to meet today's complex humanitarian challenges in sensitive and insecure contexts will be increased and strengthened. Participants will also become more aware of what the Movement is already doing to work more closely together and contribute toward the identification of possible future actions in this regard.

The Unit is contributing to the production of a Movement Progress Tracking Report for 2012 – 2013 Council of Delegates 2011 Resolution 7: National Societies Preparing for and Responding to Armed Conflict and Other Situations of Violence. The report is intended to support and strengthening the planning progress and tracking of initiatives for reporting purposes in 2013. The report will be presented to the Council of Delegates in Sydney 2013 and also used as a guiding tool in the CoD Workshop "Safer Access and National Society Volunteers and Staff".

The Unit has contracted a temporary Security Advisor with a special focus on Security and Safety of NS volunteers and staff.

Comments on progress towards outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 16,500 Red Cross Red Crescent personnel and other humanitarian workers have been registered for the "Stay safe" online course, available in English, Spanish and French. • 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. • Our "Stay safe" security manuals are 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. • National Societies have current situational knowledge when planning operations.

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. RC managers were provided 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. Enhanced awareness of security, more effective security management within operations and personnel better able to respond to security related situations.

The security team 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.

The **“HotSpots” weekly security report continues to reach over 1,700** people within the Red Cross Red Crescent movement every week. In addition close to **50 Security Alerts** have been issued. Some **225 requests for security advice and support** from the secretariat and National Societies have been handled. In addition:

- Security guidance documents and information have been delivered through the security program’s page on FedNet.
- Our Security teams have conducted security assessments in Pakistan (elections), Yemen, Syria, Kenya (elections), Mali, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan (x2) as well as to Niger (x3) and CAR for the Global Found initiative. Reports and recommendations and action points provided to country and zone managers.
- The security booklet ‘Volunteers, Stay Safe’ is now translated into a sixth language - an Indonesian version. Hard copies of the guide in English, French, Arabic, Spanish and Russian have been sent to all zones for distribution to the NS. Soft copies were also distributed to many volunteering and youth heads in the last six months.

Comments on progress towards outcomes
<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. IFRC and National Society operations have up-to-date knowledge of latest security environment. • The “Stay Safe- Volunteers” security booklet is now available in 6 languages. • The security unit has assisted managers, delegates and staff in operations and field offices – some 100 + 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 2013 the Unit has dealt with 73 security incidents. • Our security report “HotSpots” reaches over 1,700 people within the Red Cross Red Crescent movement every week. To date over 7,500 visits to our FedNet security website have been recorded. • Some 225 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 security unit has ensured cooperation and information sharing with ICRC and the interagency community. The effective working partnerships established with other agencies has provided an increased access to information and resources. The unit is also maintaining 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 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 aims at maintaining an effective global security framework that will enable personnel to operate safely and securely.

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

Advocating for, and assisting National Societies to adopt the IFRC's MSR for their own operations. 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 initiated the 2nd global MSR assessment. A MSR compliance report with recommendations on how to improve was shared with the USG PSD, Secretary General, GVA SMT and the Directors on the Zone. Unfortunately the **overall compliance dropped from 76% in 2012 to 50% in 2013**. This is concerning as it presents a considerable risk to the IFRC in terms of the safety and security of personnel and also a potential liability risk to the organization in a case where an individual under the IFRC security umbrella was harmed in some way. The SG has sent out a directive to all Director of Zones that the issue of noncompliance is to be addressed by 31 July 2013, and that failure to meet this directive will result in this being reflected in performance appraisal of the manager concerned

Security has advocated for the maintenance of the current two zone security coordinator positions – in Africa and MENA as well as the Security Delegate position in Africa (Sahel) this was achieved with support from the Danish RC and the New Zealand RC. We also maintaining the security coordinator position in Haiti and in Pakistan. Unfortunately Zone Directors have not be persuaded to open a Zone Coordinator in A/P or the Americas.

The Security Unit also 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. After the two day visit to Sydney and the venue for the General Assembly to talk to the police and local authorities together with the ARC a security plan for the venue and a security briefing were produced and have been approved by the SMT, the JOC, and Australian RC.

The Critical Incident Management (CIM) Protocol and Hostage Incident Management protocol has been updated and disseminated 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 Hostage Incident Management (HIM). Training on this has been provided both in GVA, Field and for NS to enable the Secretariat. The Unit also attended a seminar in the UK with the organisation, Hostage UK, on management of a hostage situation from an organisation and family perspective.

Additional Cross divisional work /support with Shelter, Legal, Logistics, Health, Wat/San;

- A Global Fund Task Force has been created with security to better ensure that technical departments are involved in the process.
- A Syria Security Risk Assessment is being produced to address the current and future possible security risks facing IFRC and the SARC and to link this up to the operational plans.
- Security inputs were provided to Legal Department on various agreements including: the MoU between the IFRC and Australian RC concerning the implementation of Australian Volunteers for International Development programs (AVID); the Global HQ level Integration Agreement, Agreements for Shelter Cluster Deployments, Agreements for proposed Watsan Rapid Assessment Team deployments.
- Comments were provided to our New York office on adjustment to the text for the UNSG report entitled “Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the UN” to UN member states. The document included a text on Civil-military relations in disaster preparedness and response and included a reference to RC/RC Movement.
- Comments were provided to our New York office on adjustment to the text for the 1st draft of the UNSG report on Natural Disasters. The draft included a text on Civil-military relations in disaster preparedness and response and included a reference to RCRC Movement.

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.
- 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
<p>Maintain current field security coordination and delegate positions. In addition we are advocating for the establishment of Zone security coordinator positions in the Americas and Asia Pacific.</p> <p>The poor compliance with the Secretary General's directives on Minimum Security Requirement (MSR) and Security e-learning needs to be addressed.</p> <p>The low funding support from donor National Societies somewhat hamper 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>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>H</p> <p>H</p>	<p>The challenge is to either secure funding for this approach from either National Societies or through these positions being programme funded.</p> <p>Secretary General needs to reinforce the need for managers to ensure compliance with his directives.</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> <p>Senior Managers must reinforce the need for security to be included into planning and budgets.</p>

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.

Looking to the future, analysts have estimated that by 2030 5 billion or 2/3 of the world population - will be concentrated in urban areas with the largest cities emerging in Africa and Asia. Regrettably, we assess that this mass urbanization is likely to result in increased levels of violence and crime in densely populated slums and shantytowns. In many countries this emerging form of violence is considered one of the greatest threats to national security. Indeed, urban violence can be as deadly and devastating as traditional armed conflicts. At the same time these areas are also vulnerable to disasters, either natural – floods, earthquakes etc. or manmade – health, famine etc. The RC/RC movement will have to deploy personnel to these disasters, either local volunteers, or international personnel. Given the obligations we have to the safety of all our staff, we will have to ensure that our security management and disaster response tools incorporate considerations tailored to situations of urban violence in order that we can ensure that our staff can operate in as safe an environment as possible.

Financial situation

Appeal Budget is CHF 353,580

[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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