

# SECURITY STRATEGIES

## Strategic mix



**Acceptance** Reduce risks by obtaining and maintaining the consent and goodwill of local actors regarding your presence and activities.

- **Relationships** Explain the interventions and keep local actors informed; they become an essential part of your safety.
- **Participation** Involving communities in designing and implementing a project positively influences NGO safety.
- **Communication** Consider the potential impact of what you say about the NGO and your actions during meetings, at checkpoints and, even during your off-duty activities.
- **Image and perception** In light of the preceding point, be conscious of implicit messages sent through your appearance and conduct.

**Protection** Reduce the NGO's vulnerability through rules and regulations. Use materials to protect yourself from danger.

- **Physical protection means.** Material and equipment needed to ensure safety: properly running vehicles, protective walls, safety kits, etc.
- **Rules and regulations.** Organisational mechanisms that reinforce safety: safety rules, SOPs and contingency plans, insurance, HR procedures, etc.
- **Coordinated activities.** Among NGOs: coordination meetings, evacuations, sharing safety information, and communication procedures.

**Deterrence** Use means of last resort to protect yourself. This must be approved by the organization headquarters and discussed with other NGOs in the area.

- **Suspension of operations and/or withdrawal** from area. When dealing with certain threats or after a major incident, NGOs often suspend programmes. Resuming operations requires effective problem-solving and updating the Security Risk Analysis of the area
- **Armed protection and armed escorts.** The last-resort solution. A significant change in the safety strategy that profoundly modifies the image of NGOs.

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- **Balance your strategic mix according to the context, your organisation's mandate and capacities.**
  - **Deterrence measures are applied as a last resort, with the approval of one's hierarchy, and informing (at least) other NGOs.**
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