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# Keeping up with COVID-19: essential guidance for NGO security risk managers





# Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact not only the security risks that NGOs face, but also the way risk treatment measures are developed, implemented, and communicated to staff. As we get used to new ways of working with COVID-19, and the focus is rightly on the pandemic and its impacts, we must ensure that we do not lose sight of ongoing, as well as, new security situations and issues.

## About the series

This guidance document is for staff with security risk management responsibilities and is presented in a series of modules that look at how SRM is impacted by COVID-19. The guidance is divided into three parts (A) Policy and Planning, (B) Operational Security and (C) Staff Support. Modules will be developed and updated as the global context unfolds, and new operating practices are developed and implemented. Each module will be complete in itself and together they will build into a comprehensive series covering all aspects of security risk management.

## Global Interagency Security Forum (GISF)

GISF is a member-led NGO forum that drives positive change through our global network of over 100 member organisations. We are committed to achieving sustainable access to populations in need and keeping aid workers safe. Key to our work is original research and the development of guidance and tools which promote awareness, preparedness and good practice for security risk management in the aid sector.

GISF takes an inclusive approach to SRM, we don't believe in 'one-size-fits-all' security. We recognise that different staff face different risks, based on the diversity of their profiles, their context and their role and organisation.

We are a collaborative forum and believe that breaking down siloes and pooling expertise from a variety of sectors is crucial for improving humanitarian SRM.

In a rapidly changing humanitarian landscape, we value the importance of continuous innovation and adaptation.

## Acknowledgements

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Authors of the individual modules are acknowledged within the specific modules.

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# Guidance modules

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## A. Policy and Planning

Release date

A1. Returning to operations

May 2020\*

A2. Information management

September 2020

A3. Working with partners and the localisation agenda

A4. Digital security

A5. Cost implications and donor requirements

A6. Preparing for 'the new normal'

November 2020

## B. Operational Security

B7. Risk assessment for country operations

May 2020\*

B8. Acceptance and the changing security environment

B9. Gender-based violence and other diverse profile risks

B10. Travel management, including medevac and health considerations

May 2020\*

## C. Staff Support

C11. Resilience for (all) staff

May 2020\*

C12. Human resources

May 2020\*

C13. Staff benefits and insurances

May 2020\*

\*These modules are part of 'Recovery & Wellness, COVID-19: Operating Considerations for US Based International NGOs'