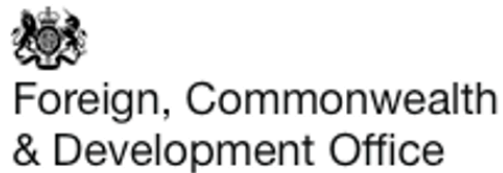


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# Integrating Security Risk Management Across Humanitarian Action

19<sup>th</sup> April – 7<sup>th</sup> May

#HNPW #HumanitarianWeek

## **Integrating Security Risk Management across humanitarian action**

**HNPW 2021: 19 April – 7 May 2021**

**Feedback and Follow-up**

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### ***General outcomes and follow up for whole priority stream***

#### **Expected outcomes**

- a) Broader engagement with Security risk management design, planning and implementation across the humanitarian sector to improve effectiveness for sustaining safe access.
- b) Increased understanding of the professionalization of security risk management in the humanitarian sector and the people centered approach.
- c) Strategies developed to improve ongoing coordination and collaboration with Security Risk Management across the humanitarian sector.
- d) Strengthen the evidence base for the ongoing campaign(s) for aid worker safety.

#### **Main follow up activities:**

1. GISF to facilitate creation of resources for further information dissemination using outputs from the HNPW sessions, for example sessions reports, video clips and interviews.
2. Create training resources for improving a person-centred approach to Security risk management.
3. Expand engagement in the discussion on security in the digital age, including the private sector, emerging economies and local partners, and the consequent impact on acceptance and access.

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**Name of session: Security Risk Management in the current global context for humanitarian response**

**Name(s) of session lead(s):** Lisa Reilly

**Link to session recordings:**

Session 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mf8lac1Q7G0>

Session 2: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=65e72Q\\_e0e8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=65e72Q_e0e8)

**Summary of Session outcomes:**

This session started with a keynote presentation by Hugo Slim who highlighted how much the global context for humanitarian response is changing and will change over the next 10 years. In particular he spoke about how different the humanitarian space will look as different actors, including host governments and donor countries drive changes to the approach. Based on this foundation the session looked at the perceptions of the audience to security risk management and explored how SRM has evolved within the sector over the last 10 -15 years.

The panel discussion brought the perspective of an INGO, LNGO and Government to the discussion of security risk management and discussed topics such as inclusion and diversity, the integration of cyber and digital risks into security planning, the impact of counter-terrorism legislation and the importance of risk sharing within partnerships.

**Key achievements of this session:**

1. More than 60% of participants over the 2 sessions were not primarily in security roles and included staff from programmes, HR and fund raising, as well as from academia, donors and the private sector.
2. The discussions covered a broad range of ideas and highlighted the complexity and importance of integrating security risk management
3. Action points identified for improving security risk management in the humanitarian sector

**Main follow up activities:**

1. Identify ongoing opportunities to reach out to non-security humanitarians to build on ideas developed during this session, including GISF awareness raising opportunities such as blogs, research, podcasts, webinars, etc.
2. Produce summary report of session to showcase the findings of common understandings survey and identified action points to assist security risk managers to review their perceptions and approaches.
3. Develop 'simple message' materials to help raise awareness of security risk managers for non-security professionals.

## **Name of session: Sharing risks: building stronger partnerships**

**Name(s) of session lead(s):** Robert Whelan & Léa Moutard

### **Link to session recordings:**

Session 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PbhAA9yguUQ>

Session 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmwcNswDY9g>

### **Summary of Session outcomes:**

The effects of the pandemic highlighted the importance of having strong partnerships with local actors to deliver aid effectively. It also reminded us that local actors are often those most exposed to security risks but don't often have sufficient resources to manage them. Much progress still needs to be made to ensure that partners *share* rather than simply transfer security risks onto the shoulders of local aid organisations.

This session highlighted the importance of sharing risks in partnerships and explored ways to achieve this objective. The first part of the event explained why the joint management of security risks is essential to effective humanitarian action. Representatives of local and international NGOs then shared their experience of what worked and what didn't when it came to managing security risks in partnerships. Break out rooms allowed participants to identify what they need to better share risks in their partnerships and what resources were already in place to help them.

Finally, a panel including a representative from the Grand Bargain, Philippe Besson, a local NGO, Josephine Habba, and an international NGO, Caterina Becorpi, explored some of the obstacles and solutions to sharing risks in partnerships. The conversation looked at both the operational and structural challenges and allowed for inputs from participants. It ended with a collective reflection on the next actions that organisations can take to carry the burden of security risks as partners.

### **Key achievements of this session:**

1. Participants gained more awareness of the importance of better sharing risks in partnerships and identified 1) what they need to better share risks and 2) what resources they have access to that can help them.
2. Participants identified one action they can take this month to start better sharing of risks.
3. Participants had an opportunity to hear the refreshing perspectives of a local NGO, an international NGO and a Grand Bargain representative. They also entered in frank, open and honest conversations with the panellists and discussed risk sharing in partnerships.

### **Main follow up activities:**

1. GISF is organising a series of online workshops on **Partnerships and Security Risk Management** targeted at international and local NGOs. The workshops aim at creating a space for partners to discuss risk sharing, HNPW participants were invited to join these events.
2. A campaign on '**Sharing security risks in partnerships**' which aims at influencing international partners (NGOs and donors) to include a security section for their partnership agreements with local organisations will be undertaken. Led by GISF and supporting by other members of the SRM Leading Edge Programme group.
3. Security risk management in partnerships will also be discussed at the upcoming **Grand Bargain annual meeting**. GISF will work with other parties identified through HNPW to **raise awareness** on security risks and partnerships with local organisations. GISF will publish blogs and articles on the topic as well as organising follow up activities and events.

## **Name of your session: Acceptance and Access**

**Name(s) of session lead(s):** Larissa Fast

### **Link to session recordings:**

Session 1: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MdiFpR\\_1cwk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MdiFpR_1cwk)

Session 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5zyQbmk1IOE>

### **Summary of Session outcomes:**

In the context of security risk management, effective 'acceptance' is built upon consent and relationships with a range of key stakeholders in humanitarian contexts in order to ensure safe and continued access to conflict- or disaster-affected populations. This session defined and described acceptance for those working within and outside security risk management roles, underlined its importance for safe and continued access to affected populations, and noted the diversity and similarities of approaches to acceptance across different types of organisations.

In this session, panellists and participants highlighted actions they take to implement an acceptance strategy as well as challenges in doing so. For example, reviews of acceptance strategies noted the shades of grey, where humanitarian organisations may be simultaneously accepted, tolerated, and targeted by different actors. Panellists highlighted the importance of language, granular and detailed context analysis, quality programming, as well as communications and engagement with military actors, non-state actors as well as community members and leaders. Audience questions noted specific challenges of acceptance related to the external conflict environments (e.g., corruption, the role of perceptions and dialogue, humanitarian principles), relationships among humanitarian organisations (distinction from political actors or from other organisations, reputational issues), and internal dynamics (e.g., safeguarding, duty of care, national staff).

### **Key achievements of this session:**

Through the discussions, participants

1. Learned more about acceptance, and the connections between acceptance and access.
2. Gained a better understanding of how different types of organisations (UN, Red Cross, local and international NGOs) implement acceptance
3. Heard concrete examples of the challenges of implementing

### **Main follow up activities:**

Key areas that participants identified as important in moving forward:

1. Research paper on Acceptance and Access developed by GISF, in conjunction with Larissa Fast.
2. The SRM Leading Edge Programme group will consider how to better integrate the issues of inclusion and diversity (a person-centred approach to SRM) with Acceptance and Access
3. Continued engagement across the sector targeting different actors, in particular organisation leadership.

**Name of session: Managing Security Risks in a Digital World**

**Name(s) of session lead(s):** James Davis, Lisa Short

**Link to session recordings:**

Session 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2mFcCEZxnQQ>

Session 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4zqZEA5o2Ug>

**Summary of Session outcomes:**

The topic of digital security in the humanitarian sector is a relatively new one and not particularly well understood by most professionals working in the sector. References to digital issues are typically referred to IT departments. While technical security is important it does not address the massive risk posed by an online world. Participants were presented with a wide range of concerns and challenges highlighting how integral the digital environment has become to our sector and the legal, moral, reputational and criminal risks we face.

**Key achievements of this session:**

1. Raised awareness of the scope of the challenge facing the sector related to the digital 'environment.'
2. Generated conversation about where the responsibility for managing digital security risk lies within humanitarian organizations.
3. Promoted the concept that digital risk needs to become an integral element in any humanitarian security risk management system.

**Main follow up activities:**

1. Discussion amongst security leads to continue through GISF
2. Professor Short will continue her advocacy work around promoting digital security awareness, linking with the humanitarian sector through the Leading Edge Programme
3. Further webinars and/or trainings on managing digital security risks

**Name of session: A Person Centred Approach to Security Risk Management in Humanitarian Response**

**Name(s) of session lead(s):** Julie Spooner, Catherine Plumridge

**Link to session recordings:**

Session 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mbkD6TI8uPA>

Session 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UIH5dexw7-E>

**Summary of Session outcomes:**

The initial part of the session looked at how a 'one size fits all' approach to security risk management is not effective, and using the voices of a variety of different aid workers demonstrated how individual concerns may be different from how others may perceive them. A discussion on the difference between equity and equality underscored the importance of ensuring the person-centred approach was also context specific and took into account available resources, local perceptions as well as conscious and unconscious biases. The discussions highlighted that diversity in staff is an asset not a liability.

Case Study exercises were undertaken for South Sudan, Iraq and Yemen and practical approaches for identifying and managing security risks for different individuals in these contexts were developed.

**Key achievements of this session:**

1. Defined and outlined the concept of person-centred approach to security risk management and demonstrated that all personnel have a personal risk profile which, in particular contexts, interacts to expose that person to increased risk
2. Encouraged and led discussion on the consideration of personal profiles in security risk management processes and the alignment between security risk management and programmatic needs
3. Gave examples of implementation of a person-centred approach in the sector

**Main follow up activities:**

1. Continued interagency collaboration and discussion on person-centred approach through GISF
2. Exploration of implementation strategies in individual agencies/organisations
3. Establishment of an interagency community of practice on person-centred approach to security risk management

**Name of session: Donor Discussion on Security Risk Management**

**Name(s) of session lead(s):** Fergus Thomas, Anneli Vares

**This was a closed meeting, so no recording is available.**

**Summary of Session outcomes:**

This session provided an opportunity for donors to gain a more in-depth understanding of why funding security risk management is crucial for effective humanitarian action. Following a summary of the current approach to SRM in the humanitarian sector, 3 NGOs presented examples of how they implement security risk management, the impact that has on programme delivery and how appropriate funding can make a difference. Two donors then presented how they ensure proposal and projects include appropriate and effective security risk management measures, without incurring any additional duty of care obligations.

The following discussion included the importance of open communication channels on security between implementing organisations and donors to ensure donors do not penalise NGOs for highlighting security risks and that NGOs who properly identify appropriate risk mitigation measures can incorporate these as direct costs as essential for programme implementation. Other discussion points included the need for including the 'soft' costs incurred for gaining and maintaining an Acceptance approach to security as well as costs for local partner organizations to develop and implement their own SRM policies and practices.

**Key achievements of this session:**

1. Mutual understanding of the challenges and opportunities for funding SRM
2. Established links between donors interested in leading on these discussions
3. Created awareness on possible platforms to continue to engage on this topic.

**Main follow up activities:**

1. Approach the Good Humanitarian Donorship group to include SRM in their discussions
2. Actively engage in ongoing activities on raising awareness in the broader humanitarian community on the importance of SRM, e.g. French Government advocacy efforts, EU Delegation led discussion series
3. GISF to act as a resource for ongoing donor discussions on how to keep aid workers safe, international and local.