











Session 6	Security Strategies & Approaches		 Duration: 45 mins
<p>Session Summary</p> <p>This session examines the different security strategies and approaches used to reduce risks, and outlines the key role that an acceptance-based approach has in reducing risks to staff, programmes and the organisation.</p>			
<p>Session Objectives</p> <p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the main security strategies and approaches used by humanitarian organisations. Consider the advantages and disadvantages of each approach. Explain why acceptance forms the core risk-reducing approach. Identify the challenges in gaining and maintaining acceptance in different contexts. </p>			
<p>Learning Outcomes</p> <p>By the end of this session, participants should be able to:</p> <p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss pros and cons of different security strategies and identify an appropriate approach for the operating context and the organisation. </p>			
<p>Supporting Material</p> <p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GISF Security to go: a risk management toolkit for humanitarian aid agencies – Module 5. Disaster Ready/GISF Mobile Guides: Security Risk Management Toolkit. </p>			
Time	Suggested Activities		Resources
2 mins	<p>Introduction</p> <p>Introduce the session and provide an overview of what this session will cover.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S.6 Security Strategies & Approaches Presentation - Slide 1
8 mins	<p>Strategic Approach</p> <p> Ask participants: <i>What are the main strategies or approaches used by humanitarian aid agencies to reduce risk?</i></p> <p>Explain that there are three principal strategies - protection, deterrence and acceptance. Give a quick summary of each of the three strategies and highlight the main differences.</p> <p>It is often useful to provide a practical demonstration of the strategies. For example, threaten to throw a glass of water over a participant and ask them to try and prevent it using the different strategies. If they use an umbrella or shield this is protection, if they grab their own glass of water this is deterrence, and if they introduce themselves and try to persuade you not to throw the water this is acceptance.</p> <p> A protection approach is often the most commonly recognised security strategy as it involves many 'traditional' security mechanisms. A deterrence approach is often the most challenging to implement and requires very careful consideration. Although an acceptance strategy is the preferred approach, it takes time to develop, and levels of</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slides 2-5

	<p>acceptance can vary significantly between different actors in the operating context.</p> <p>Use the slides to highlight examples of how the different strategies may be utilised in the field. Adapt the slide to include relevant examples for the context.</p>	
30 mins	<p>ACTIVITY: The Debate</p> <p>Split the participants into three groups, with one participant acting as the judge. Allocate each group a specific security strategy (protection, deterrence or acceptance). Each group will be arguing that their security strategy is the best approach to adopt within that location.</p> <p>Allocate 10 minutes for the groups to identify a speaker and prepare their main argument.</p> <p>Each side should have two minutes (strictly timed) to present a summary of their position and main arguments. After all groups have presented, each should have a further one minute (strictly timed) 'right of reply' to points made by other groups. To conclude, ask the judge to decide on the most convincing argument.</p> <p>In plenary at the end of the debate, draw attention to additional advantages and disadvantages of each approach and the challenges in trying to implement them in that location. Finally, explain that often a mix of strategies are used.</p> <p> No single strategy will address all the security threats that exist. Often the most pragmatic approach is one that balances elements of all three security strategies, although more emphasis may be placed on certain aspects as the level of insecurity evolves.</p>	
5 mins	<p>Acceptance-Based Approach</p> <p>Explain why building acceptance and maintaining consent for an organisation's presence and activities is the core risk-reducing approach adopted by humanitarian agencies. If an internal training, explain how your organisation adopts an acceptance-based approach. Draw attention to the difficulties in gaining acceptance from certain groups in the operating context.</p> <p> Acceptance is not just about gaining the consent and support of the local community; instead, it is as much about gaining consent and access from those who may want to obstruct the organisation or harm its staff.</p> <p>Briefly introduce the Acceptance Continuum and explain how levels of acceptance can fluctuate with different groups and stakeholders.</p> <p>Finally emphasise that acceptance cannot be taken for granted, it must be actively assessed, monitored, and continually cultivated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slides 6-7