THREAT IDENTIFICATION

Some examples of threats to consider

CIVIL

Ethnic conflicts
Social conflicts
Economical conflicts
War
Coup
Civil unrest
Local religious norms
Cultural intolerance

AUTHORITIES AND LOCAL FORCES

Systemic corruption
Law enforcement's incompetence and nonchalance
Extortion
"Taxing" or payment of a right of way
Links with criminal or terrorist groups

CRIMINALITY

Abduction and hostage taking
Imprisonment
Harassment
Discrimination
Sexual assault
Physical assault
Theft (money,important documents, objects, etc.)
Plane hijacking
Piracy
Fraud

TERRORISM

Presence of terrorist groups
Terrorism activities in the country, region
Biological attack
Chemical attack

TRANSPORTATION

Road accident
Air or see disaster
Road robbery/hold-up

Train derailment
Structural defects (bridges, roads)

SANITARY

Minor injuries
Cardio-respiratory arrest
Sexually transmissible and blood-borne infections (STBBI)
Critical illness (malaria, dengue fever, hepatitis, etc.)
Pandemic
Epidemic
Bites
Access to care issue
Psychological disorder
Death
Hospitalization
Water contamination

ENVIRONMENT (natural, territory, anthropogenic)

Mass movement (landslide, rockfall, collapse)
Drinking water shortage
Flood
Earthquake
Tropical storm-hurricane-typhoon
Tornado
 Volcanic eruption-Cloud of ash
Tsunamis or tidal wave
Heavy rains, important snowfalls
Drought

LODGING

Safety of premises (trustworthy guards, dissuasive measures such as barbwires, etc.)
Safety of neighbourhood
Safety of roads to get there (using car or walking)
Lighting of premises
The sleeping spaces are safe (doors lock)
Structure will resist to natural disasters or bad weather

OTHER THREATS

Party gone wrong (ex. memory loss due to alcohol abuse)
Loss of luggage
Workplace accidents (specify accidents that may occur depending on the context)
False accusation
Lost person
Family emergency in Canada

Major industrial accident
Dangerous material transportation
Gas leak
Telecommunication outage
Building fire
Explosive devices, anti-personnel landmines
Extended power outage

Reflection Avenues to Identify Threats

GENERAL CONTEXT

What is the safety history in the country or in the project's specific region?

What is the safety level of the Canadian Embassy for the country and/or region?

What is your perspective on the safety situation in the region?

In which language will it be possible to communicate? What is the level of English in the country and/or area?

Are there any international banks nearby? How safe or reliable is it to withdraw money?

What are the options for leaving the city/region in case of emergency or risk (roads, flights, boats, trains, buses, private transportation, etc.)?

INCIDENTS

Are there safety incidents that have disrupted recent activities for foreign and/or Canadian organizations in the country/region?

Who were the perpetrators of these acts? Who were the victims?

Do these threats target specific individuals or groups or is it rather the result of a timely crime?

Have there been any threats or causes of insecurity that have had or may have affected your organization's personnel (or collaborators) in the past year?

TRENDS

Is there a recurrence of similar situations?

Do you see trends emerging from the safety context in the country and/or region?

Do you feel that the situation is improving, getting worse or staying the same?

VULNERABILITY

Are foreigners at greater risk in certain situations?

What are the locations where employees, volunteers or participants would be more vulnerable (ex. at the office, on the road, in communities, in the city)?

Are Canadians more vulnerable with a group of people in particular?

Are there any specific safety issues in the area that partner's personnel is aware of? Especially for foreigners?

Is there an increased risk for individuals with vulnerabilities related to gender, sexual identity/orientation, disability, ethnicity, religion, etc.?

SAFETY STRATEGIES

What special precautions should travellers take (personal, medical, transportation, accommodation,

communication, etc.)?

Are there any behaviours to avoid? Culturally unacceptable clothing, topics to avoid, questions not to ask, etc.?

Are there places to avoid? Ex: evening outings, neighbourhoods to avoid, transportation, etc.

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

What are the main health challenges in the country and/or area?

Which hospitals and clinics are recommended/to avoid?

Are hospitals and/or quality clinics accessible within a reasonable time?

What means of transportation are available to get to the hospital and/or clinic?

Are first aid kits available at all times at work, while travelling and at the accommodation site?

Does the personnel in place (organization and partner) have up-to-date first aid training?

For projects where malaria and other insect-related infections are present, are nets systematically installed in hotel rooms and homes?

Are there any health guidelines that apply specifically to the country or area to which the travellers will be travelling?

What is the level of risk of various diseases in the region? (Malaria, Dengue fever, Ebola, etc.). Are there adequate corrective measures or treatment options to reduce the risk?

In recent years, are there any viruses (epidemic, pandemic, etc.) listed in the country and/or region from which special safety guidelines for travellers (Ebola, Zika virus, etc.) are issued?

Is air and water quality good?

Is the water drinkable?

Have there been any complaints about suspicious behaviour?

What is the local availability of groceries and reliable foods?

What is the level of hygiene and sanitation knowledge in the region?

TRANSPORTATION

To what extent are the various transportation options in the region safe and reliable (taxis, buses, planes, trains, etc.)?

Is transportation in the country by public transportation or provided by partner vehicles?

How do you get around the big cities (taxis, chartered buses, walking, motorcycles, a bit of all these transportation options)?

When travelling on foot, are there any preventive measures in place?

Can the routes used for groups or personnel transportation pose a danger (e.g., winding/cliff-side roads, poor conditions, heavy traffic, fast driving, etc.)?

Who drives the vehicles (experienced driver, partner's personnel, group guide, etc.)?

Will members of your organization be required to drive a motor vehicle (car, motorcycle, scooter, all-terrain vehicle, etc.)?

Are taxis used for transportation between major cities?

Is motorcab transportation allowed? If so, is wearing a helmet mandatory and respected by individuals in your organization?

Do you have a way to control helmet use if people are travelling on a motorcab?

What is the distance between the workplace and the accommodation site?

ACCOMMODATION

Does the accommodation (hotel, host families, etc.) meet the following standards:
- Easily accessible and well indicated emergency exits
- Presence of smoke detectors and functional fire extinguishers
- Sufficient lighting around the building
- The building is secure (gates, security guards, restricted access to residents, etc.)
- Bedroom doors that lock
- Presence of safes
- Resistant to earthquakes
- Built according to recognized construction standards

Is the hotel located near a potential source of danger (ex. railway, gas depot, etc.)?

When groups or individuals stay at the hotel are they housed higher than on the 1st floor?

For host family accommodation, is any form of verification done to ensure that family life is safe (ex. no problems with violence, alcoholism, sexual harassment, etc.)?

When in a host family, do the bedroom doors lock with a key?

REPORT PRODUCTION

Do partners, vendors, and collaborators have a clear and functional process in place to report incidents, even near misses, to your organization?

TRAINING ON ARRIVAL

Does the partner provide adequate and comprehensive safety training upon arrival? Have you seen the training content? The partner should complete Annex A for the locations to be avoided prior to training.

CRIMINALITY

Theft hazards (e.g., pickpocket, planned bus thefts, street bag thefts, etc.)?

Have there been any reported express kidnappings in the area where the group, the project, is located?

Are there places to avoid that have been clearly identified by the various partners and that should be indicated in the list?

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

Is the community where the project is located in a geographic area known to be at risk for earthquakes, hurricanes, landslides, etc.?

NATURAL RISKS

Has there ever been a natural disaster in the host area (flood, earthquake, landslide or other)?

Is the area bordering a river or stream? In the middle of the slope? In a coastal area? Near a volcano (active or inactive)?

Is the time of year conducive to climatic hazards such as drought, flooding, tropical storms or others?

What are the risks underlying these hazards (ex. health problems, infrastructure failures, etc.)?

What are the vulnerabilities associated with natural hazards?

ANTHROPOGENIC RISKS

Is the area close to an industrial zone?

How do locals view women and LGBTQ2 people?

Does the local population generally adhere to religious norms?

Is there hazardous material transportation near the area?

Have there been socio-political outbursts in recent years?

Are there areas to avoid?

Are there any specific safety guidelines to be followed (areas and behaviours to avoid)?

Is there a risk related to terrorism?

What are the vulnerabilities associated with anthropogenic risks?

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

How reliable is internet or mobile phone coverage in the area?