

IDENTIFYING THREATS

Some examples of threats to consider

CIVILES

Ethnic conflicts
Social conflicts
Economic conflicts
War
Coup d'état
Civil unrest
Local religious norms
Cultural intolerance

LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND FORCES

Systemic corruption
Incompetent or nonchalant law enforcement officers
Extortion
"Taxing or paying rights of way
Links with criminal or terrorist groups

CRIMINALITY

Kidnapping and hostage-taking
Imprisonment
Harassment
Discrimination
Sexual assault
Physical aggression
Theft (money, important documents, objects, etc.)
Hijacking
Piracy
Fraud

HEALTH

Minor injuries
Cardiorespiratory arrest
Sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections
Serious illness (malaria, dengue fever, hepatitis, etc.)
Pandemic/Epidemic
Hospitalization/ Problems accessing care
Bite
Water contamination
Psychological disturbance
Deaths

ENVIRONMENT (natural, territorial, anthropogenic)

Mass movement (landslide, rockfall, collapse)
Drinking water shortage
Flooding
Earthquake
Tropical storm, hurricane, typhoon
Tornado
Volcanic eruption, Ash cloud
Tsunamis, Raz-de-Marée
Heavy rain, heavy snow
Drought

TERRORISM

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

TRANSPORT

Road accident
Air or sea disaster
Roadside robbery
Train derailment
Structural failure (bridges, roads)

ACCOMMODATION

Site security (presence of trusted guards, deterrent measures e.g. barbed wire)
Neighborhood safety
Safe travel routes (by car, on foot)
Lighting the premises
Safe sleeping areas (lockable doors)
Ability to withstand bad weather and natural disasters

OTHER THREATS

Party gone wrong (e.g. memory loss due to excessive alcohol consumption)
Loss of luggage
Accidents in the workplace (specify accidents likely to occur, depending on the context)
False accusation
Lost person
Family emergencies in Canada
Major industrial accident
Transport of hazardous materials
Gas leak

Telecommunications failure
Building fire
Explosive devices, anti-personnel mines
Prolonged power failure

Ideas for identifying threats

GENERAL CONTEXT

What is the safety history of the country or region more specific to the project?
What is the Canadian Embassy's security level for the country and/or region concerned?
What's your take on the security situation in the region?
In what language will you be able to communicate? What is the level of English and French in the country and/or area concerned?
Are there any international banks nearby, and 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 transport, etc.)?

INCIDENTS OCCURRING

Have there been any recent security incidents that have disrupted operations for foreign and/or Canadian organizations in the country/region?
Who were the perpetrators? Who were the victims?
Do these threats target specific individuals or groups, or are they more the result of timely crime?
Are there any threats or causes of insecurity that have had or could have had an impact on your organization's staff (or collaborators) in the past year?

TRENDS

Do similar situations recur?
Do you see any trends in the security situation in the country and/or region concerned?
Do you feel the situation is getting better, worse or unchanged?

VULNERABILITY

Are foreigners more at risk in certain situations?
Where would employees, volunteers or participants be most vulnerable (e.g. in the office, on the road, in the community, in the city)?
Are Canadians more insecure with any particular group of people?
Are there any specific safety issues in the area that the partner's staff are aware of, especially for foreigners?
Is there an increased risk for individuals with vulnerabilities related to gender, sexual identity or orientation, disability, ethnicity, religion, etc.?

SECURITY STRATEGIES

What special precautions should travelers take (personal safety, medical, transport, accommodation, communication, etc.)?
Are there any behaviors to avoid? Dress that is not culturally accepted, subjects to avoid, questions not to ask, etc.?

Are there places to avoid? Ex: going out at night, neighborhoods to avoid, transportation, etc.

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

What are the main health-related challenges in the country and/or area concerned?
 Which hospitals and clinics are recommended/should be avoided?
 Are quality hospitals and/or clinics accessible within a reasonable time?
 What means of transport are available to get to the hospital and/or clinic?
 Are first-aid kits available at all times in the workplace, on transport and at accommodation facilities?
 Do the staff in place (organization and partners) have up-to-date first-aid training?
 In projects where there is a risk of malaria or other insect-borne infections, are nets systematically installed in hotel rooms and houses?
 Are there any health instructions that apply specifically to the country or zone-region to which travellers will be going?
 What is the level of risk of various diseases in the region (malaria, dengue fever, Ebola, etc.). Are there adequate remedial measures or treatment options to reduce the risk?
 In recent years, have any viruses (epidemics, pandemics, etc.) been identified in the country and/or region from which special safety instructions for travellers have been issued (Ebola, Zika virus, etc.)?
 Is air and water quality good?
 Is the water safe to drink?
 Have there been any complaints about suspicious behaviour?
 What is the local availability of grocery stores and reliable foods?
 What is the level of knowledge about hygiene and sanitation in the region?

TRANSPORT

How safe and reliable are the various transport options in the region (cabs, buses, planes, trains, etc.)?
 Is in-country transport by public transport or provided by the partner's vehicles?
 How do you get around big cities (cabs, charter buses, on foot, motor cabs, a bit of all of the above)?
 Are there any preventive measures in place for journeys on foot?
 Can the routes used to transport groups or personnel represent a hazard (e.g. winding roads/mountainsides/cliffs, poor conditions, heavy traffic, fast driving, etc.)?
 Who drives the vehicles (experienced driver, partner staff member, group leader, etc.)?
 Will members of your organization be required to drive a motorized vehicle (car, motorcycle, scooter, off-road vehicle, etc.)?
 Are cabs used for transport between major cities?
 Is motorcycle transportation authorized? If so, are helmets compulsory and respected by everyone in your organization?
 Do you have a way of enforcing helmet use for motorcycle cab passengers?
 What is the distance between the workplace and the accommodation?

ACCOMMODATION

Does the accommodation (hotel, host family, etc.) meet the following standards?

- Easy-to-reach, well-marked emergency exits
- Presence of working smoke detectors and fire extinguishers

- Sufficient lighting around the building
- The building is secured (gates, security guards, access limited to residents, etc.).
- Locking bedroom doors
- Presence of safes
- Seismic-resistant
- Built to recognized construction standards

Is the hotel located near a potential source of danger (e.g. railroad, gas depot, etc.)?

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

For homestays, is some form of verification done to ensure that family life is safe (e.g. no problems with violence, alcoholism, sexual harassment, etc.)?

REPORT PRODUCTION

Do your partners, suppliers and employees have a clear, functional process in place for reporting incidents, even near-misses, to your organization?

TRAINING ON ARRIVAL

Does the partner provide adequate and comprehensive safety training on arrival? Have you seen the training content? The partner should complete Appendix A on places to avoid before the training.

CRIMINALITY

What types of theft are common (e.g. pickpocketing, prepared bus theft, street bag theft, etc.)?)?

Have any express abductions been recorded in the area where the group or project is located?

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

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

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

NATURAL RISKS

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

Is the area on the edge of a watercourse? Mid-slope? Coastal? 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 underlying risks (e.g. health problems, infrastructure damage, etc.)?

What are the vulnerabilities associated with natural hazards?

ANTHROPOGENIC RISKS

Is the area close to an industrial zone?

How are women and LGBTQ2 perceived locally?

Does the general population adhere to religious norms?

Are hazardous materials transported near the area?

Have there been any socio-political outbursts in recent years?

Are there any areas to avoid?

Are there any special safety instructions to follow (areas and behaviour to avoid)?
Is there a terrorism risk?
What are the vulnerabilities associated with man-made hazards?

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

How reliable is the Internet or cell phone coverage in the area?