150 years of humanitarian action
Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
Sydney, Australia, November 2013

the **power** of humanity

OUTLINE OF WORKSHOP 4

SAFER ACCESS AND THE PROTECTION OF STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Co-sponsoring National Society: (PAT members? plus)

Chair : Ms Fatima Gailani

Rapporteur : tbc

Speakers/presenters : tbc (4) (5 minutes each)

Concept : Opening remarks: By the Chair (5 minutes)

Four (4) speakers are being proposed, all representatives of National Societies. They will represent diverse backgrounds and positions within the National Society. The selection of National Societies will reflect a range of conflict and insecure contexts.

1. A volunteer who has been in the front line when responding to an insecure context. Use will be made of either live feed and/or a recorded interview. The volunteer's statement will focus on the challenges that he or she faces/has faced in terms of safety and security when responding to emergencies.
2. A leader of a National Society whose National Society has responded to situations of internal armed conflict.
3. A volunteer leader of a National Society or Secretary General whose National Society has responded to urban violence.
4. A volunteer leader or Secretary General of a National Society whose National Society has responded to rioting, pickets or public rallies that eventually led to skirmishes.

The workshop will start with a three-minute teaser in the form of a video collage showing insecure contexts or a similar slideshow, the aim being to present the current context and realities. Questions posed at various points during the show are intended to get the National Society leaders thinking about how prepared the National Society actually is for such events and whether, in those events, their staff and volunteers can access people and communities safely. This will be followed by presentations from the selected National Societies.

Substance support staff

ICRC: Leslie Leach, Cathy Martin

Federation: Geri Lau, Shaun Hazeldine

Rationale/Objectives

An active exchange of experience and a discussion of existing resources will allow participants to gain an understanding of how they can help their National Society to provide safer access to people and communities with humanitarian needs, while at the same time focusing on the importance and means of protecting their staff and volunteers from harm when carrying out their work. National Society operational security risk management practices and the advantages of positioning the National Society for acceptance will be explored in greater depth; consideration will be given, in particular, to the measures that need to be taken with the government, our partners and the general public, and the internal practices that need to be implemented and prepared. The implications of coherent security management practices for a coordinated Movement response will also be examined.

The workshop will seek to demonstrate how these concepts and initiatives converge at the operational level. We will further explore the pivotal role that they play in the ability of National Societies to effectively carry out their mandates and roles in order to provide assistance and protection in sensitive and insecure contexts. Recommendations of relevance to the 32nd International Conference in 2015 will be made.

Guiding questions

1. Is our National Society prepared to respond rapidly and effectively in conflict and insecure contexts so that staff and volunteers are able to reach all people and communities in need safely? If not, what steps do we need to take to ensure that we are prepared?

2. What is meant by "operational security risk management" and what steps can I take to introduce such a system at my National Society?

3. How can the Movement components work together to enhance our overall access and safety?

Expected outcome

National Societies have learned from each other's experiences and have recommended a path that can be taken by the Movement components to enhance their operational security risk management approach, acceptance by key stakeholders and access to people and communities in need.

Social media

Perhaps one presentation/message or interview could be provided live through Skype or other web-based platform.

Workshop time: 120 minutes