



SAFER ACCESS

“ It has become dangerously apparent that working in a conflict environment is very different from dealing with a disaster. We therefore made drastic changes in our approaches so as to be acceptable in all kinds of hostile situations. ”

Dev Ratna Dhakhwa, Secretary General,
Nepal Red Cross Society

“ In preparing to extend our reach safely, we have found the Safer Access Framework an extremely useful lens through which to examine ourselves, the external environment and the work we need to undertake to overcome the barriers faced by vulnerable people in accessing humanitarian services. ”

Sharon Sinclair, Operations Director Northern Ireland,
British Red Cross Society

A CHALLENGING WORLD FOR NATIONAL SOCIETIES

National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies around the globe find themselves facing growing challenges when carrying out their humanitarian mission in sensitive and insecure contexts. Many courageous and dedicated National Society staff and volunteers have even lost their lives while performing their duties.

►► The Safer Access Framework



Produced in cooperation
with National Red Cross
and Red Crescent Societies



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RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

Some National Societies are encountering difficulties for the first time as previously stable or peaceful countries experience unexpected turmoil or armed conflict. Others find their working environments becoming increasingly complicated and dangerous, with new threats to the security of their personnel and thus to their ability to provide assistance and protection for the people and communities who need them most.

The **Safer Access Framework** proposes a structured approach to meeting the challenges of operating in sensitive and insecure contexts, drawing on the extensive experience and good practice of many National Societies. It presents a number of specific actions and measures that, allied with strict adherence to the Fundamental Principles, a National Society can take to reduce risks and earn the trust and acceptance of those who control access to people and communities with humanitarian needs and, crucially, of the people and communities themselves.

Some of the actions and measures are ideally taken during peacetime in order to facilitate safer access in more turbulent times. The Framework is therefore relevant to all National Societies regardless of their immediate circumstances.

PRACTICAL RESOURCES

The **Safer Access Practical Resource Pack** is a set of print, audiovisual and electronic resources to help National Societies apply the Safer Access Framework in their everyday work – either in preparation for or in the midst of a humanitarian response.

The Resource Pack includes the following components:

- ▶ **Safer Access: A guide for all National Societies.** Developed in consultation with National Societies, the core component of the Resource Pack is presented in an accessible format, complete with diagrams, tables and application methods.
- ▶ **Safer Access Framework in action: case studies.** Detailed examples of how some National Societies have put the Safer Access Framework into practice.
- ▶ **Safer Access Framework in action: selected experiences.** National Societies describe their experiences in a range of settings.
- ▶ A **video** containing interviews and footage of National Societies at work shows the practical application of the Safer Access Framework.

The guide and the case studies are available in print and as downloadable documents. The full contents of the Resource Pack are also available on DVD and can be accessed online at www.icrc.org/saferaccess.

Other resources are currently being developed or are planned and will be made available online and in other formats in due course.