ain

Association of International NGOs in Nepal

http://www.ain.org.np

Guiding Principles on Safety and Security

Safety and security of staff, partners, properties and information are important pre-requisites for establishing and operating an organisation. AIN Safety and Security Group have prepared the following Guiding Principles for the members of AIN so that members have the similar opinion and reaction towards the particular situation and/or incident and take necessary safety and security measures. These principles have been developed for guiding purpose only and are not mandatory for any member of the association.

Principles:

A. Threats[i]

1. All staff/members (expatriate and national) are most important to organisations; therefore, any kinds of harassment and/or physical damage caused to them are taken as a threat. First and foremost, the safety and security and well being of staff and their eligible dependents will always have the highest priority.

2. Property, Logistics, documents and information are important and any kinds of damage, theft or distortion to them are taken as safety and security threat.

3. Free movement of people and logistics are important for running development activities, any obstacles caused to the free movement is considered to be a threat.

4. All programmes and project activities are pre-budgeted and approved by relevant government; donor and implementing agencies, therefore, donation demands or alteration or disposition made to the programmes are considered to be a threat.

5. Timely approval and sanction of the necessary agreements/permits by the relevant agencies (such as governmental agencies, donor agencies and partner agencies) is important for running activities, unnecessary delay in such permits is also considered to be a threat.

B. Remedies:

6. Each organisation will have their own safety and security policy and contingency plan. AIN will have a common contingency plan as a guiding document for its member organisations. Efforts will be made to develop a series of contingency plans for the AIN which assists to response during specific crisis. Such contingency plans do not pre-scribe courses of action, but list out issues to look at from the perspective of best practices.

7. Each member organisation will share the information, about threats they received, with AIN's SSG or SC as per their conveniences. This will help another organisation to help them as well as be prepared for such threats in the future.

8. AIN members agree with the "saving lives together" initiative developed by UNDSS and are ready to collaborate amongst themselves as well as with external agencies such as UN, bilateral, multi-lateral and governmental agencies.

9. Basic Operating Guidelines is considered to be a tool for safety and security in the field. AIN believes that a proper understanding of the BOGs will reduce risk and facilitate the presence of I/NGOs in the field, therefore, each member organisation will take part in understanding and disseminating the BOGs.

10. Communication and Networking amongst member organisation is crucial, therefore, Safety and Security Group of AIN will function and meet regularly each month to be abreast of the safety & security situations and advice members. Emergency Communication Tree for AIN will be prepared and updated timely.

11. To minimise and/or to be prepared for the natural disasters caused safety and security threats, Disaster Preparedness Network will be functional in collaboration with all stakeholders. Such networks or the AIN safety and security group may be able to provide crisis response procedures which can be practised in simulations within AIN members. These simulations should be seen as learning experiences and reviewed to ensure that critical issues are not forgotten during real crisis events.

12. AIN will collectively effort towards mitigating any misunderstanding of stakeholders and reduce unnecessary delay for agreements/permits.

Endorsed on 19 April 2011