



SAFER ACCESS

AN INTRODUCTION

PRACTICAL RESOURCE PACK



Produced in cooperation
with National Red Cross
and Red Crescent Societies



ICRC



ICRC

International Committee of the Red Cross
19, avenue de la Paix
1202 Geneva, Switzerland
T + 41 22 734 60 01 F + 41 22 733 20 57
E-mail: shop@icrc.org www.icrc.org
© ICRC, December 2014

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SAFER ACCESS FOR ALL NATIONAL SOCIETIES	2
OVERVIEW OF THE SAFER ACCESS FRAMEWORK	4
The eight elements	4
The Safer Access Cycle	5
Principled humanitarian action	6
APPLICATION THROUGH A STRUCTURED APPROACH	7
APPLICATION TOOLS	10
SAFER ACCESS APPLIED IN DIVERSE CONTEXTS	11
Canada	11
Mexico	11
Palestine	12
ANNEXES	13
Annex 1: Definitions and abbreviations	13
Annex 2: Safer Access quick reference chart	15
FIGURES	
Figure 1: The eight elements of the Safer Access Framework	4
Figure 2: The Safer Access Cycle and how the SAF elements link into it	5
Figure 3: Chain reaction	6
Figure 4: The Safer Access application process	7
Figure 5: The way to Safer Access	9

This publication aims to provide a brief introduction to the Safer Access Framework (SAF). A more detailed description and guidance can be found in *Safer Access: A Guide for All National Societies*, which is the core component of the Safer Access Practical Resource Pack containing further useful materials, and in the online "Toolbox" at www.icrc.org/saferaccess.

SAFER ACCESS FOR ALL NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The Safer Access Framework (SAF) was first developed by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in 2002–3, in consultation with National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation). Its aim is to help National Societies increase their capacities and preparedness to respond safely and effectively to humanitarian needs in sensitive and insecure contexts, including armed conflict and internal disturbances and tensions.¹ It has subsequently been revised and updated on the basis of input from a great many National Societies with experience of working in such contexts, ensuring its continued relevance in today's operational environments.

National Societies, while often uniquely placed to reach people to whom access is otherwise restricted, often face considerable risks. The SAF provides specific guidance on securing and maintaining safe humanitarian access in such circumstances.

Owing to their neutral and impartial character and their role as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field,² National Societies are often uniquely placed to reach people affected by armed conflict or violence and to deliver urgent aid. However, working in situations of heightened sensitivity and insecurity can place National Society staff and volunteers and their beneficiaries at considerable risk of harm. The SAF provides specific guidance on securing and maintaining safe humanitarian access to people and communities who would otherwise be out of reach.

While it is especially pertinent in situations involving violence, the SAF is relevant for all National Societies at all times; its application can help them enhance their readiness to deal with challenges to perception, acceptance, security and access whenever and wherever they may arise and to manage security risks in their day-to-day operations. In particular, the SAF can help National Societies:

- ▶ increase their ability to meet the humanitarian needs of more people;
- ▶ prevent, reduce and avoid security incidents that cause harm to their staff and volunteers;
- ▶ better meet the challenges of today's complicated and evolving humanitarian environments;
- ▶ fulfil their mandate and roles in sensitive and insecure contexts;
- ▶ adopt a more structured approach to increasing their security and access.

¹ Hereafter shortened to "sensitive and insecure contexts."

² "The National Societies support the public authorities in their humanitarian tasks, according to the needs of the people in their respective countries." Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, Article 3(1). See <http://www.icrc.org/eng/assets/files/other/statutes-en-a5.pdf>.

These considerations are particularly important in light of the National Society's auxiliary role. Each National Society is faced with the challenge of carrying out this role while ensuring compliance with the Fundamental Principles.

This challenge is heightened in situations of armed conflict or internal disturbances or tensions, when the State may be directly or indirectly involved in the violence and/or may no longer have access to some of the affected people and communities. Thus, it is essential that National Societies are able to act – and be perceived to be acting – in accordance with the Fundamental Principles, particularly independence, impartiality and neutrality, and that they continue to enjoy the trust and acceptance of all stakeholders.

While many of the actions and measures recommended in the SAF are designed to support National Societies when responding in sensitive and insecure contexts, some are most effective if taken well in advance of an operational response. These involve building and maintaining good relations with local communities, public authorities, armed actors and other stakeholders and obtaining their trust and consent for the National Society's presence and work. The proposed actions and measures have also been proven to be of benefit for National Societies in their day-to-day activities and in potentially volatile situations. All National Societies are therefore encouraged to integrate the SAF into their organizational development, capacity-building and preparedness processes.³

It is essential that, when undertaking their humanitarian activities, National Societies are able to act – and be perceived to be acting – in accordance with the Fundamental Principles and that they continue to enjoy the trust and acceptance of all stakeholders.

³ The International Federation's Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process, the Well-Prepared National Society checklist and self-assessment tool, other disaster management tools and products, along with those that provide guidance on the broader aspects of strengthening the National Society's organizational development and emergency preparedness, support the successful application of the SAF, while the SAF reinforces their effectiveness.

OVERVIEW OF THE SAFER ACCESS FRAMEWORK

The Safer Access Framework (SAF) is a set of actions and measures that can be taken by a National Society to prepare for and respond to context-specific challenges, to reduce and mitigate the risks that it may face in sensitive and insecure contexts, and to help it earn the trust and acceptance of people and communities with humanitarian needs, as well as of those who control or influence access to them.

The eight elements

The SAF comprises eight elements (see Figure 1), each grouping a number of actions and measures that, if taken, have been shown to help National Societies increase their acceptance, security and access to people and communities with humanitarian needs in sensitive and insecure contexts.

FIGURE 1: THE EIGHT ELEMENTS OF THE SAFER ACCESS FRAMEWORK⁴

I		Context and risk assessment	National Societies have a clear understanding of the interlinked political, social, cultural and economic aspects of the evolving operational environment and the inherent risks, which forms the basis for preventing and managing those risks.
II		Legal and policy base	National Societies have sound legal and statutory instruments and develop policies that provide a basis from which to carry out their humanitarian mandate and roles in conformity with Movement policies, international humanitarian law and domestic legislation.
III		Acceptance of the organization	National Societies have attained a high degree of acceptance among key stakeholders by providing relevant, context-sensitive humanitarian assistance and protection for people and communities in a manner consistent with the Fundamental Principles and other Movement policies.
IV		Acceptance of the individual	Staff and volunteers have attained a high degree of acceptance among key stakeholders by working in a manner consistent with the Fundamental Principles and other Movement policies.
V		Identification	National Societies take all necessary steps to protect and promote the organization's visual identity and that of its staff and volunteers.
VI		Internal communication and coordination	National Societies implement well-developed internal communication and coordination strategies and mechanisms, which enhance coordination with other Movement components.
VII		External communication and coordination	National Societies implement well-developed external communication and coordination strategies and mechanisms, which enhance coordination with external actors.
VIII		Operational security risk management	National Societies assume responsibility and accountability for the safety and security of staff and volunteers by developing and implementing an operational security risk management system and structure.

Together, the eight elements form a context-specific operational approach to National Society organizational development. This approach, when combined with technical capacity-building such as in first aid or the management of human remains, helps strengthen a National Society's emergency preparedness. Any

⁴ *Safer Access: A Guide for All National Societies* contains the full SAF chart listing all the recommended actions and measures. The chart is also available as a separate file on the Safer Access Practical Resource Pack DVD and online at www.icrc.org/saferaccess. A summarized version for quick reference can be found in Annex 2.

action taken or not taken in one SAF element may have an impact on the others. This means that although the elements are distinct they must be applied with the entire Framework in mind in order to achieve maximum effectiveness.

The Safer Access Cycle

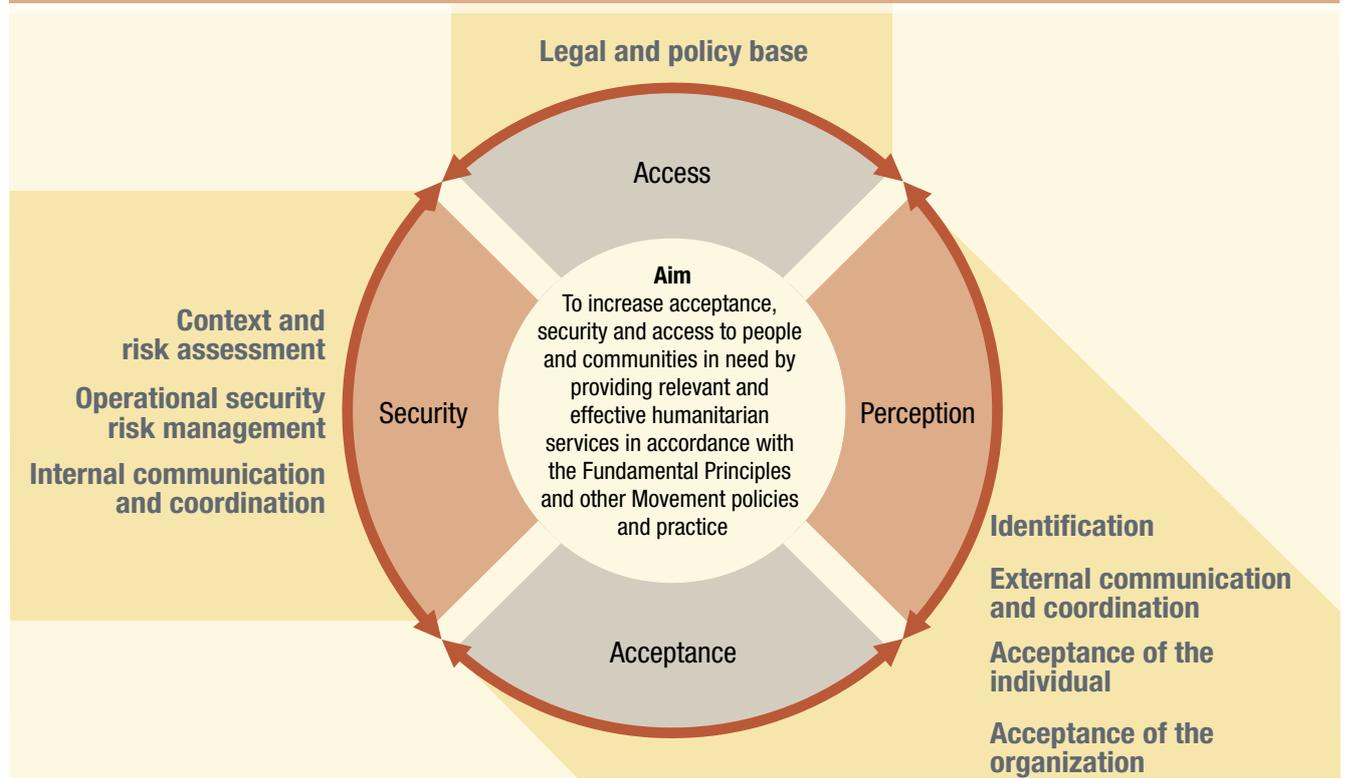
Gaining and maintaining safer access is a perpetual cycle, the overall aim of which is to increase the National Society’s acceptance, security and access to people and communities in need.

When a National Society (a) is widely known for providing relevant humanitarian aid in a neutral, impartial and independent way; (b) is perceived positively by key stakeholders, including those controlling/influencing access to affected people/communities; (c) has established relationships of trust, transparency and mutual respect with the community and all other stakeholders, and (d) has a thorough and professional operational security risk management system in place, it can more easily reach all people and communities in need, particularly those in sensitive and insecure contexts. Thus, access is both the starting point and the end result of the actions and measures proposed in the SAF.

Each of the eight elements of the SAF has a particular relationship with one or more of the four aspects of the Safer Access Cycle. For instance, an ongoing **context and risk assessment** and appropriate **internal communication** systems and technology are crucial to developing an effective **operational security risk management** system. An **external communication** plan to increase **acceptance of the organization** depends on a prior understanding of how the National Society is already perceived and its existing level of acceptance. Preparing personnel to respond in a sensitive or insecure context requires, among other things, their knowing how to conduct a thorough **context and risk assessment**, their familiarity with the National Society’s **legal and policy base** to guide their actions, their training in the code of conduct

Gaining and maintaining safer access is a perpetual cycle, the overall aim of which is to increase the National Society’s acceptance, security and access to people and communities in need. Each of the eight elements of the SAF has a particular relationship with one or more of the four aspects of the Safer Access Cycle.

FIGURE 2: THE SAFER ACCESS CYCLE AND HOW THE SAF ELEMENTS LINK INTO IT

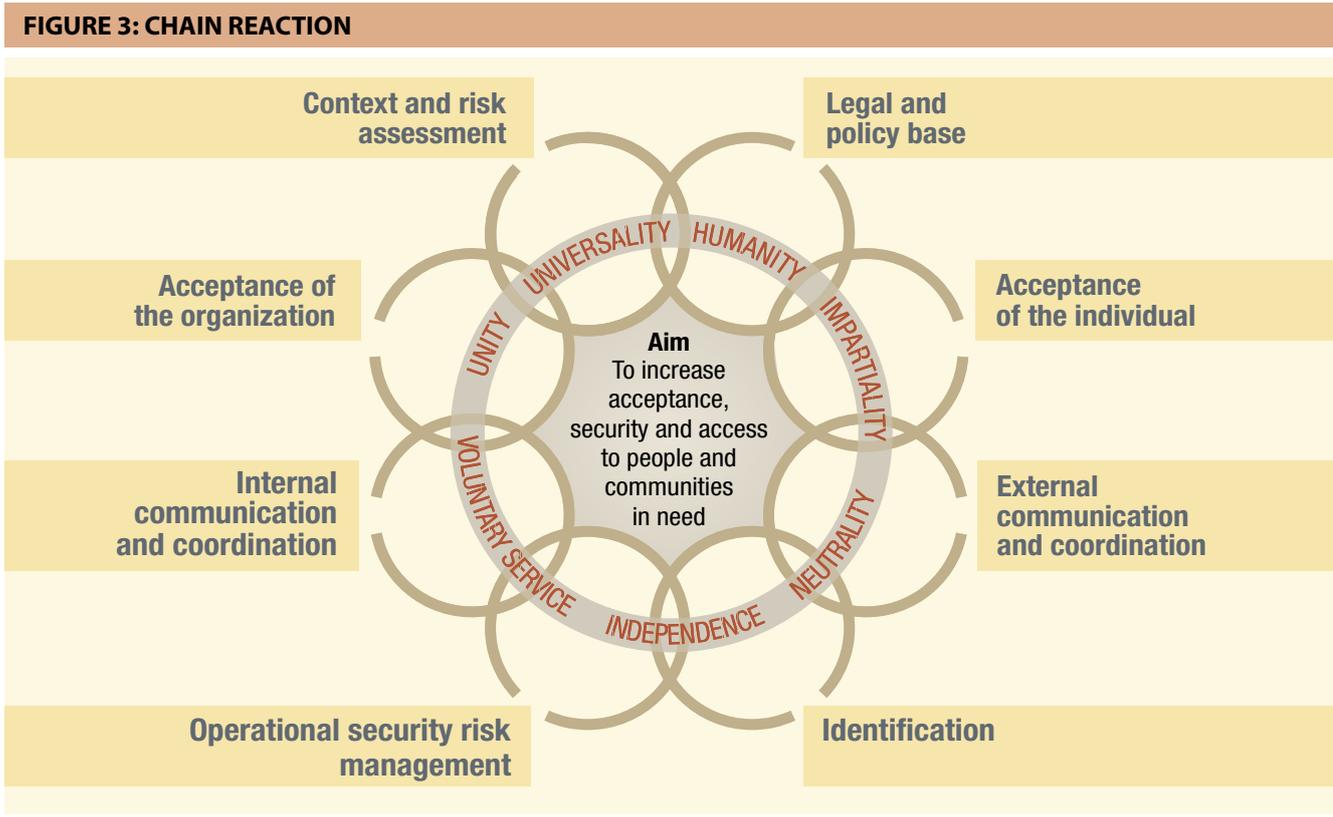


and security guidelines, and their awareness of effective protective and other measures, all of which will enhance the **acceptance of the individual**. (See Figure 2.)

Principled humanitarian action

The work of the Movement is underpinned by the seven Fundamental Principles – humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality – which inspire and influence its activities. They are an indispensable operational tool to be applied at all times, and are particularly helpful in securing access and in enhancing the delivery of assistance to people and communities in need in sensitive and insecure contexts.

The Fundamental Principles and the SAF have an interdependent or symbiotic relationship. While the SAF can only be implemented by applying the Fundamental Principles, which embody the Movement’s permanent value system, actions and measures undertaken to implement the SAF greatly reinforce and reflect the value of the Principles and, with this, the effectiveness of the National Society’s and the Movement’s humanitarian action (see Figure 3).



In all situations, the Fundamental Principles must permeate and guide the National Society’s thought processes, communication, decisions and actions. The Movement’s adherence to the Fundamental Principles anchors its local action and is at the core of its strong sense of global solidarity.

In all situations, the Fundamental Principles must permeate and guide the National Society’s thought processes, communication, decisions and actions.

Adherence to the Fundamental Principles combined with proximity to those in need through their day-to-day service delivery and the reputation of the whole Movement are primary factors governing a National Society’s ability to gain wider acceptance and thus greater access to people and communities in sensitive and insecure contexts. It allows its personnel to reach those that others cannot and is therefore fundamentally lifesaving. The Movement’s adherence to these principles anchors its local action and is at the core of its strong sense of global solidarity.

APPLICATION THROUGH A STRUCTURED APPROACH

There are various ways for National Societies to introduce the application of the Safer Access Framework (SAF) into the workings of their organizations or, if already integrated, speed up its implementation.

Applying the SAF is most effective using a structured process, which can begin in advance of, during or following an operational response, or as part of a broader effort to develop the National Society's capacities to respond, particularly in sensitive or insecure contexts. Figure 4 illustrates the steps in the SAF application process.

FIGURE 4: THE SAFER ACCESS APPLICATION PROCESS



It is recommended that the National Society establish a SAF steering group or use a similar existing structure to **manage** the process. The National Society should then **assess** the gaps, barriers, risks and challenges to its acceptance, security and access based on an operational "lessons learnt" approach. On this basis, it can develop a prioritized action **plan** to address the main factors affecting its acceptance, compromising its access or increasing its risks. This plan is then **implemented** according to the priorities defined, and its outcomes/products **integrated** into the National Society's policies, structures, programmes, systems and practice. The National Society also regularly **monitors** the progress made and determines the next steps to be taken. As National Societies become more familiar with the SAF and its application, it can be used as an on-going operational management tool and approach. Additionally, a full review is recommended once a year or as operational needs dictate.

When a National Society undertakes the structured SAF application process, it can either do so on its own or request the ICRC to support the process in the following ways:

► **Facilitation support for the SAF assessment and planning exercise**

The ICRC can help conduct a two- or three-day workshop focusing on the assessment and planning stages of the SAF application process, ideally to be co-facilitated with a National Society focal point. The workshop would cover the following steps: assessment of the challenges and barriers to acceptance, security and access through a “lessons learnt” exercise; benchmarking; planning; and prioritization.

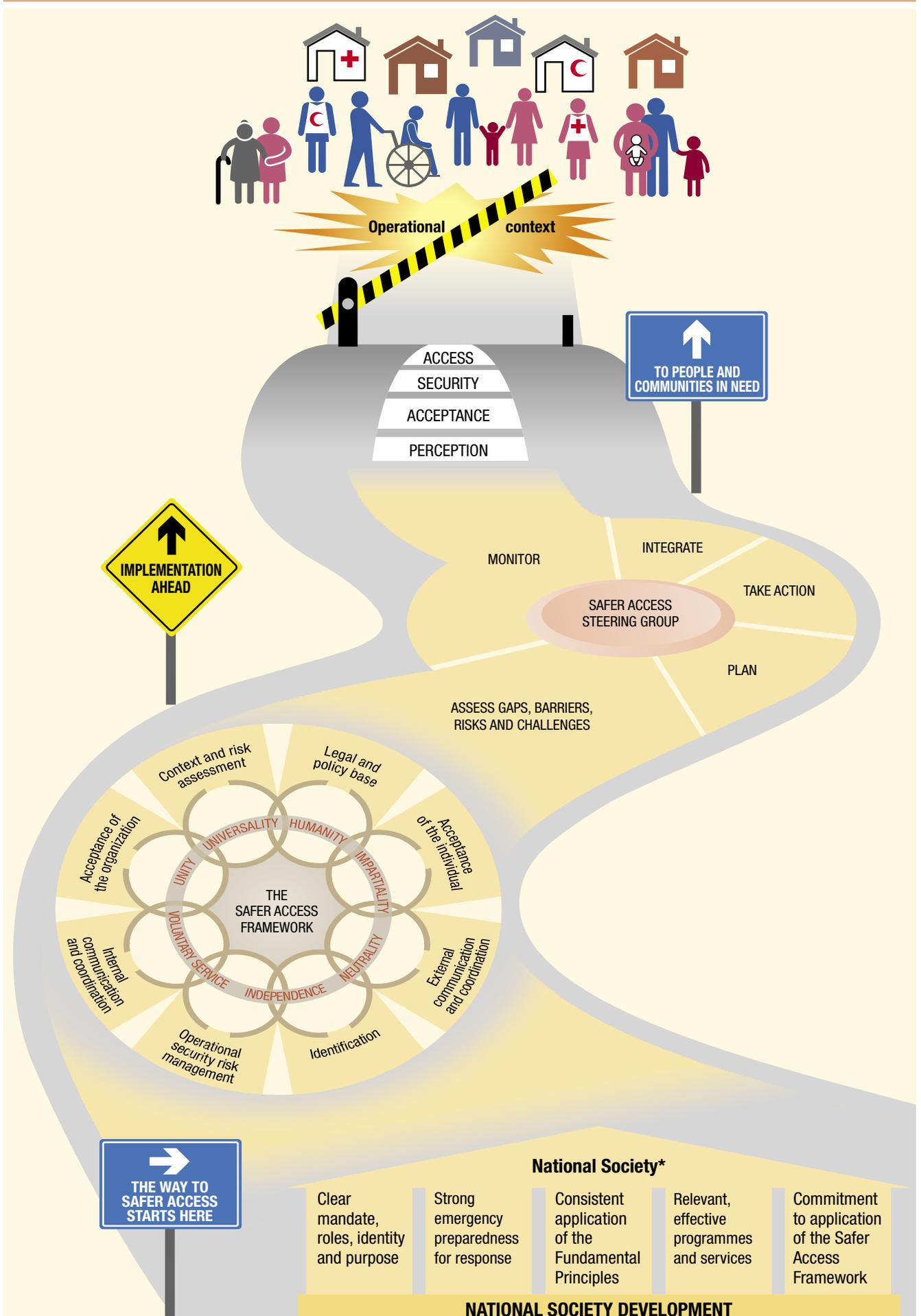
► **Technical, programme-development or capacity-building support for implementation of a SAF action plan**

In accordance with an action plan resulting from the assessment and planning exercise, the ICRC can support the National Society in taking the identified actions and measures by helping it strengthen its capacities in specific areas and mobilizing or assisting in mobilizing such support from within or outside the Movement.

Undertaking to apply the SAF and to integrate it into its overall organizational development requires a firm, long-term commitment from the National Society.

Undertaking to apply the SAF and to integrate it into its overall organizational development requires a firm, long-term commitment from the National Society. Likewise, other Movement partners are invited to explore ways to complement/support the work being done in this area, particularly through peer support.

FIGURE 5: THE WAY TO SAFER ACCESS



*Note: The characteristics of a National Society shown here are those most relevant to application of the Safer Access Framework and do not preclude others required of a National Society more generally.

APPLICATION TOOLS

In order to guide National Societies through the process of implementing the Safer Access Framework (SAF), the ICRC has developed the Safer Access Practical Resource Pack. Its core component is *Safer Access: A Guide for All National Societies*. Separately, National Society experiences of implementing the SAF are showcased in three in-depth “case studies” from Afghanistan, Lebanon and South Africa and in numerous briefer “selected experiences” from contexts as diverse as Argentina, Israel and Sudan. The Resource Pack also includes the following reference and application tools:

- ▶ SAF chart
- ▶ SAF quick reference chart (see Annex 2)
- ▶ SAF assessment and planning tool
- ▶ SAF Application Guide
- ▶ SAF PowerPoint presentation
- ▶ Safer Access in Action video (available to Movement components only)
- ▶ *Staying Alive*, an ICRC publication covering the core concepts of operational security risk management⁵

Most of these products are available at www.icrc.org/saferaccess, along with a “Toolbox” providing further practical information and advice on how to implement the recommended actions and measures under each of the SAF elements, with sample tools, reference documents and related links. A DVD containing all the materials in the Safer Access Practical Resource Pack and more is also available.

The Resource Pack has also been translated into Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish, available in print or on the respective language versions of the ICRC’s website. More languages will follow.

The DVD and all printed materials in all languages can be ordered from <https://shop.icrc.org>.

⁵ Also available in print or can be downloaded at <http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/publication/p0717.htm>.

SAFER ACCESS APPLIED IN DIVERSE CONTEXTS

National Societies working in a wide range of contexts have found the actions and measures proposed in the Safer Access Framework (SAF) to be helpful in preparing for and addressing acceptance, security and access challenges, including those stemming from direct attacks on and threats to their personnel's safety, instances of misuse of the emblems, or misperceptions of the National Society or the Movement's mandates and working procedures. The SAF has also served as a guide in reinforcing their own emergency response capacities and in enhancing contacts and coordination with all relevant stakeholders, including public authorities or, where applicable, actors involved in the violence. The lessons drawn from their varied experiences reaffirm the relevance of the SAF for all National Societies and the ways that it can be applied to support their organizational development.

Below are just a few examples of how National Societies have applied the SAF in practice.

Canada

Since it was founded, the Canadian Red Cross Society has mostly been involved in domestic disaster response and has had limited experience in dealing with the humanitarian consequences of internal disturbances or tensions. When tensions mounted owing to grassroots/indigenous protests, it activated its National Disaster Coordination Team to increase its monitoring activities across the country and reviewed its response procedures.

Internal and external communication initiatives – including through social media and other public channels – were among the most significant aspects of the Canadian Red Cross's emergency preparedness efforts. The main goal was to foster acceptance of the National Society and its personnel by highlighting its neutrality. Notably, it was found that:

- ▶ staff and volunteers' awareness and understanding of the Fundamental Principles had to be reinforced on an ongoing and systematic basis;
- ▶ clear mechanisms and guidance enabled personnel to verify messages passed, ask questions and express concerns;
- ▶ personnel needed guidance in understanding the differences between responding in disasters and responding in sensitive and insecure contexts.

Mexico

The Mexican Red Cross runs over 500 treatment centres countrywide, providing round-the-clock pre-hospital emergency care free of charge. High levels of armed violence have led to a growing demand for its emergency services and a greater need to reinforce the safety of its personnel.

To address these concerns, the Mexican Red Cross began implementing the SAF in 2008; by 2012, over 18,000 of its volunteers had attended SAF workshops. Training of trainers is ongoing to scale up the conduct of these courses across all 31 Mexican states. Previously targeting volunteers in the ambulance service,

the SAF is now being applied and promoted across all staff levels. Initiatives that have been taken in relation to the SAF include:

- ▶ reinforcing the National Society's visual identity, including through the uniforms of its personnel;
- ▶ strengthening national legislation to protect the red cross emblem;
- ▶ making contingency plans for high-risk situations and improving monitoring systems;
- ▶ incorporating the SAF into training manuals for emergency medical staff;
- ▶ producing multimedia training/communication materials on the SAF.

Palestine

The Palestine Red Crescent Society provides pre-hospital emergency medical services (EMS) and national ambulance services in the occupied Palestinian territory. It is regularly called upon to respond to situations of violence and other emergencies. Recently, it stepped up its emergency response activities in view of urgent medical and other humanitarian needs arising from the situation in the Gaza Strip.

The Palestine Red Crescent's capacities have been greatly stretched owing to the overall insecurity in this context. Attacks against medical personnel, facilities and vehicles, as well as movement restrictions that impeded wounded victims' access to urgent health care, have been reported. The SAF actions and measures taken by the National Society are particularly relevant in light of the escalation of the situation in the Gaza Strip and the consequent increase in humanitarian needs:

- ▶ **Acceptance of the organization** – to be able to respond to the humanitarian consequences of violence in an efficient and timely manner, the Palestine Red Crescent works on building the trust of authorities and communities.
- ▶ **Identification** – the premises of the EMS stations in the main cities and towns, their ambulances and other vehicles, and the uniforms of their first-aid teams are all marked clearly with the protective emblem.
- ▶ **Operational security risk management** – close coordination with the ICRC helps ensure the security of both organizations' personnel.
- ▶ **Internal communication and coordination** – coordination mechanisms are in place between the Palestine Red Crescent and the ICRC, helping reduce risks and threats affecting access and security.
- ▶ **External communication and coordination** – standard operating and communication procedures have been established to facilitate the safe passage of ambulances; in addition, the National Society and the ICRC organize joint dissemination sessions for internal and external audiences to foster understanding and acceptance of the National Society's role and support for its neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action.

Several other in-depth "case studies" and "selected experiences" describing National Societies' experiences in implementing the SAF are available at www.icrc.org/saferaccess. Click on the link on the interactive map to see specific examples of how the SAF has helped National Societies overcome the challenges to the efficient, timely and safe performance of their humanitarian work.

ANNEX 1

DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Armed conflict

An armed conflict exists whenever recourse is made to armed force between States (international armed conflict) or protracted armed confrontation between government armed forces and organized armed groups or between such groups (non-international armed conflict) arising on the territory of a State.

Council of Delegates

The Council of Delegates, held once every two years, provides a forum for all the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to meet and discuss Movement strategy and debate on global humanitarian issues facing the international community.

Internal disturbances

Internal disturbances, as defined in the ICRC commentary on the 1977 Additional Protocol II, involve situations which are characterized by a certain seriousness or duration and which involve acts of violence. These can assume various forms, all the way from the spontaneous generation of acts of revolt to the struggle between more or less organized groups and the authorities in power. In these situations, which do not necessarily degenerate into open struggle, the authorities in power call upon extensive police forces, or even armed forces, to restore internal order. The high number of victims has made necessary the application of a minimum of humanitarian rules. Over the years, it has become clear that the above definition does not refer exclusively to situations involving State authorities, but includes also those confrontations between different groups of individuals, none of which are in power.

Internal tensions

Internal tensions, as defined in the ICRC commentary on the 1977 Additional Protocol II, could be said to include in particular situations of serious tension (political, religious, racial, social, economic, etc.), but also the sequels of armed conflict or of internal disturbances. Such situations have one or more of the following characteristics, if not all at the same time: large-scale arrests; a large number of “political” prisoners; the probable existence of ill-treatment or inhumane conditions of detention; the suspension of fundamental judicial guarantees, either as part of the promulgation of a state of emergency or simply as a matter of fact; and allegations of disappearances.

International Federation

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is the world’s largest volunteer-based humanitarian network, reaching 150 million people each year through its 189 member National Societies. Working on the basis of the Fundamental Principles, it acts before, during and after disasters

and health emergencies to meet the needs and improve the lives of vulnerable people.

Movement

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement comprises the ICRC, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the National Societies. These are all independent organizations, each having its own status and exercising no authority over the others.

National Society

The National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies embody the Movement's work and Fundamental Principles in 189 countries. They act as auxiliaries to the public authorities of their own countries in the humanitarian field and provide a range of services, including disaster relief and health and social programmes. In times of armed conflict, National Societies assist the affected civilian population and, where appropriate, support the army medical services.

Operational security risk management

Operational security risk management consists of: assessing an operational context; identifying and analysing risks to personnel, assets and operations; and implementing mitigating strategies and measures to reduce the likelihood and impact of an undesirable event.

Risk assessment

Risk assessment is the overall process of risk identification, risk analysis and risk evaluation.

Security

Security refers to freedom from risk or harm from such intentional acts that can occur in sensitive and insecure contexts, including armed conflict and internal disturbances and tensions.

Sensitive and insecure contexts

The term sensitive and insecure contexts covers a broad range of situations, from those involving no violence but which nonetheless present perception and acceptance issues to internal disturbances, internal tensions and armed conflicts, as well as those combining the characteristics of different types of situations. Security and access issues can also arise following a natural disaster or in contexts where gang violence or other forms of criminality are present.

ANNEX 2

SAFER ACCESS FRAMEWORK QUICK REFERENCE CHART

Safer Access elements	Actions and measures
<p><i>The underlying purpose of each element is to increase acceptance and security in order to increase access to those in need in sensitive and insecure contexts, including armed conflict and internal disturbances and tensions.</i></p>	<p>For each Safer Access element, areas have been identified where action may be required to address the gaps, barriers, risks and challenges to acceptance, security and access.</p> <p>If other Movement components are present in a given context, the National Society closely coordinates its preparedness and response activities with them in accordance with Movement coordination policies and other mechanisms in order to maximize the humanitarian impact and to ensure complementarity.</p>
<p>I. Context and risk assessment</p>  <p><i>National Societies have a clear understanding of the interlinked political, social, cultural and economic aspects of the evolving operational environment and the inherent risks, which forms the basis for preventing and managing those risks.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Understand the similarities and differences between preparing for and responding in sensitive and insecure contexts and in disasters 1.2 Explore and analyse emerging political, social, cultural and economic trends that could influence humanitarian action and use knowledge to guide preparedness and response 1.3 Develop and maintain a continually evolving context assessment to better understand the context and needs 1.4 Conduct an ongoing risk assessment 1.5 Assess and develop the National Society's capacity and ability to manage identified risks 1.6 Develop and refine a contingency plan which builds on community preparedness and takes account of specific anticipated scenarios
<p>II. Legal and policy base</p>  <p><i>National Societies have sound legal and statutory instruments and develop policies that provide a basis from which to carry out their humanitarian mandate and roles in conformity with Movement policies, international humanitarian law (IHL) and domestic legislation.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Know the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law and domestic legislation in order to determine how best to carry out the National Society mandate 2.2 Develop and strengthen domestic legislation, statutes, policies, agreements and plans to reinforce the National Society mandate to respond in sensitive and insecure contexts 2.3 Promote a common understanding among internal and external stakeholders of the National Society mandate, its status within the Movement, its auxiliary role and its commitment to act in accordance with the Fundamental Principles 2.4 Know and respect the legal base and mandates of other Movement components and establish a strong Movement coordination framework 2.5 Ensure that domestic legislation regulating the use of the emblem, National Society logo and name exists, is known, respected and enforced 2.6 Know and incorporate relevant Movement policies into National Society policies, strategies, programmes, operations and security risk management systems, tools, training and practice
<p>III. Acceptance of the organization</p>  <p><i>National Societies have attained a high degree of acceptance among key stakeholders by providing relevant, context-sensitive humanitarian assistance and protection for people and communities in a manner consistent with the Fundamental Principles and other Movement policies.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1 Develop and provide relevant humanitarian programmes and activities, working closely with communities, throughout the country. 3.2 Establish and implement strong human resource management practices to reinforce acceptance, security and access 3.3 Engage in ongoing dialogue with State bodies to ensure that they understand the importance and value of the National Society as a neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian organization 3.4 Develop and use appropriate context-sensitive response approaches (i.e. do no harm), grounded in the context and risk assessment 3.5 Know and apply the Fundamental Principles to guide thought processes, communication, decision-making and practice 3.6 Identify and map all stakeholders and develop engagement strategies to increase acceptance by them 3.7 Foster trust, respect and accountability with all stakeholders through active acceptance and positioning strategies 3.8 Establish mechanisms to guide the formation of partnerships and ensure they are consistent with Movement policy thus preserving neutrality, impartiality and independence 3.9 Establish and implement a reputation risk management system 3.10 Establish and implement an integrity management system 3.11 Establish and implement a distinct and recognized visual identity system

Safer access elements	Actions and measures
<p>IV. Acceptance of the individual</p>  <p><i>Staff and volunteers have attained a high degree of acceptance among key stakeholders by working in a manner consistent with the Fundamental Principles and other Movement policies.</i></p>	<p>4.1 Screen and select personnel to increase acceptance and security for them and the National Society</p> <p>4.2 Staff and volunteers act in a conformity with the code of conduct and Fundamental Principles, thus preserving their own and the National Society's positive reputation</p> <p>4.3 Provide adequate preparatory training, mentoring, guidance and protection</p> <p>4.4 Staff and volunteers understand their personal responsibility towards their own security and access and take or suggest appropriate actions</p> <p>4.5 Establish working terms and conditions, systems and procedures to ensure adequate support</p> <p>4.6 Establish compliance systems related to policies, guidelines, standard operating procedures and practice</p> <p>4.7 Establish a stress management (psychosocial) support system for staff and volunteers</p> <p>4.8 Staff and volunteers know how to monitor their stress levels apply this knowledge in practice; they know how to access the Society's stress management support system</p>
<p>V. Identification</p>  <p><i>National Societies take all necessary steps to protect and promote the organization's visual identity and that of its staff and volunteers.</i></p>	<p>5.1 Know the extent of and support the authorities in addressing emblem misuse</p> <p>5.2 Promote knowledge of the functions of the emblems with key stakeholders</p> <p>5.3 Take measures to ensure the National Society's visual identity is distinct from that of armed actors and of their medical services</p> <p>5.4 Establish and implement internal guidelines and systems to support the correct use of the emblems/logos and to protect visual identity</p> <p>5.5 Ensure that any joint display of identification with select partners remains exceptional and discreet and does not create confusion</p>
<p>VI. Internal communication and coordination</p>  <p><i>National Societies implement well-developed internal communication and coordination strategies and mechanisms, which enhance coordination with other Movement components.</i></p>	<p>6.1 Establish and implement an internal communication strategy and action plan supported by templates, tools, equipment and training</p> <p>6.2 Establish internal communication systems, equipment and technology to reinforce the security of field teams</p> <p>6.3 Establish and implement an information management system that captures key information on the context and its inherent risks</p> <p>6.4 Develop and implement an internal operational management and coordination structure, system and processes (crisis management unit)</p> <p>6.5 Establish a strong Movement strategic and operational communication framework</p>
<p>VII. External communication and coordination</p>  <p><i>National Societies implement well-developed external communication and coordination strategies and mechanisms, which enhance coordination with external actors.</i></p>	<p>7.1 Establish and implement an external communication strategy and action plan, supported by templates, tools, equipment and training</p> <p>7.2 Promote knowledge and acceptance of domestic legislation, statutes, policies, agreements and plans to key stakeholders</p> <p>7.3 Promote the national implementation of international humanitarian law and support the public authorities in its dissemination to key stakeholders</p> <p>7.4 Promote compliance with international humanitarian law with key stakeholders and advocate for the respect and protection of affected people and communities</p> <p>7.5 Establish, communicate and enforce a social networking policy and guidelines for staff and volunteers</p> <p>7.6 Conduct regular, targeted operational communication among key stakeholders</p> <p>7.7 Use online and electronic media to preserve the dignity of and to protect people and communities; harmonize with Movement partners</p> <p>7.8 Participate in external operational coordination mechanisms in a way that preserves independence and confidentiality of information as required</p> <p>7.9 Establish two-way communication mechanisms with affected people and communities</p>
<p>VIII. Operational security risk management</p>  <p><i>National Societies assume responsibility and accountability for the safety and security of staff and volunteers by developing and implementing an operational security risk management system and structure.</i></p>	<p>8.1 Establish and implement a safety and security policy</p> <p>8.2 Build on community self-protection practices that contribute to safer response teams and communities</p> <p>8.3 Establish an integrated operational security risk management system and structure in accordance with duty of care provisions, the application of the Fundamental Principles and other Movement policies</p> <p>8.4 Provide regular training in operational security risk management</p> <p>8.5 Foster a security culture among all staff and volunteers at all levels</p> <p>8.6 Provide adequate insurance coverage for staff and volunteers</p>

Note: For the extended version of the Safer Access Framework chart, see Safer Access: A Guide for All National Societies or online at : www.icrc.org/saferaccess.

MISSION

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance. The ICRC also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It directs and coordinates the international activities conducted by the Movement in armed conflicts and other situations of violence.



ICRC