Final Report

Aid Worker Security: Research and analysis on trends in violence against aid workers and operational responses
(HOL AID – OFDA-G-10-00155-00 WW)

Introduction
This final report of the research project “Aid Worker Security: Research and analysis on trends in violence against aid workers and operational responses” recapitulates the project’s activities and achievements through the full grant period (30 September 2010 – 30 September 2012), as stipulated in the funding agreement: HOL AID – OFDA-G-10-00155-00 WW.

The project’s goal was to monitor, record, and make available to the public data on incidents of violence against civilian aid workers, via the Aid Worker Security Database (AWSD), and to use this data to provide evidence-based analysis on issues affecting the secure provision of international humanitarian assistance. The project also received funding support from the Government of Canada’s Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and the Government of Ireland (IrishAid).

Objectives of the project were as follows:

1) To provide a comprehensive and regularly updated database of major security incidents against aid personnel;

2) To provide policy briefing papers on trends in humanitarian operational security and access; and disseminate the findings in capital and field locations, as well as providing agency- or regional-specific analyses as requested; and,

3) To develop and maintain the AWSD website, as a publicly accessible interactive version of the dataset, as well as a means to disseminate policy briefs and analysis, to benefit the international humanitarian community.

The overall goal of the project has been to assist aid agencies and security networks in their security risk analysis, security management strategies, operations planning and policy and programming development.

Number of beneficiaries targeted/reached, by objective to date
Not applicable to this project, which is strictly research and without operational elements.
**Description of assessments and surveillance data used to measure results.**

See above.

**Successes achieved, constraints encountered, and adjustments made**

The project enabled the research team to continue to monitor and record major incidents of violence against civilian humanitarian workers on the global Aid Worker Security Database.

1. **AWSD website launched and maintained**

The online version of the database, [www.aidworkersecurity.org](http://www.aidworkersecurity.org), was launched on World Humanitarian Day, 19 August 2010, and publicized via press release and social media. The website enables users to perform customized searches of incident data, while retaining components of the information as private and confidential, such as names of organizations and victims and other details not reported publicly but useful for analytical background.

From the time it was launched through September 30, 2012 (end of the grant agreement period), the website attracted over 16,000 visits, including over 10,000 unique visitors from 169 countries/territories, and had an average monthly rate of 647 visits. (See Annex 2: Google Analytics report) The usage rate continued to climb after the grant period.

2. **Improvements to methodology and systematic data collection**

The data entry and verification process was refined and further systematized and several points during the funding period to ensure the widest possible capture of incidents. The process involves the following steps:

- Information about potential security incidents is collected from a wide variety of public sources (including reports and updates from humanitarian networks), through the use of web-based media filters and alerts.
- Reports, both public and nonpublic, are also provided directly from agencies and security consortia with which the project has established contacts.
- Incidents which meet the AWSD criteria are entered into the online database as "unverified."
- Each incident is crosschecked with the affected organisation (if known), or triangulation of information sources.
- At least twice per year, the team contacts security focal points at major aid agencies and consortia with requests to verify existing incident reports and/or provide information on any incidents not recorded in the AWSD.
- Once per year, organisations are contacted to provide their total numbers of field staff, which contributes to the "denominator" and allows analysis of the rate of violence against aid workers.

The incident verification and staff number data gathering are both time and labor intensive processes. The fact that they could only be taken 1-2 times per year due to project staff capacity has created an overly long lag time between data recording and verification. The AWSD Team has determined this to be a considerable constraint, and is seeing the capacity to undertake these processes on an ongoing basis to shorten the lag times.
In late 2011 the data classifications were refined to allow for more detailed and disaggregated information gathering. The Tactics category was divided into two separate categories: “Means of Attack,” with 12 classifications including shooting, kidnapping, different types of explosives, etc., and “Attack context,” describing the broader situational classification of the incident, such as ambush, armed incursion, mob violence/rioting, etc. (See Annex 1: Revisions to data classifications in AWSD).

In addition a new “Location” category was added to collect data points on where the attack took place (in office, home, project site in transit, etc.), as well as a category to record the sex of victims. The entire database was reviewed in 2012 year to reclassify and/or disaggregate all previous incidents according to the new categories, as well as to find and fix any coding errors or inconsistencies in spellings or geographic information.

3. Website upgrade
In mid-2011, the research team posted and disseminated a user survey on how the AWSD website could be made more functional and user-friendly. Responses were considered in the website rebuild, on which the research team worked with a new website developer, selected from among more than a dozen bids. The upgraded site, launched in October 2011, uses Drupal content management software and features additional graphs, summary tables, and a global heat map of incidents. It also allows for easier custom searches and downloads of the data.

4. Analysis and published reports
The research team established a series of ongoing analytical reports based on AWSD data that include an update on the latest statistical trends in humanitarian operational security as well as provide in-depth analysis on a particular theme. Entitled Aid Worker Security Reports, those published during the were

- Aid Worker Security Report 2012 - Host states and their impact on security for humanitarian operations

Reports were disseminated to key aid agencies, donor government officials, as well as the field based security mechanisms and regional security consortia. It is also available on the AWSD and other key humanitarian websites.

The following is a list of publications in 2010-2012 containing aid worker security analysis based on the quantitative evidence in the AWSD:

- The State of the Humanitarian System 2012 (ALNAP, 2012)
To Stay and Deliver: Good practice for humanitarians in complex security environments (UN OCHA, 2011)

Operational Security Management in Violent Environments, Good Practice Review 10, (Humanitarian Practice Network, Overseas Development Institute, 2010)

“Aiding education in conflict - The role of international education providers operating in Afghanistan and Pakistan,” UNESCO Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2011

Supporting Security for Humanitarian Action: A review of critical issues for the humanitarian community (Humanitarian Outcomes, 2010)

Once Removed: Lessons and challenges in remote management of humanitarian operations for insecure areas, (Humanitarian Outcomes, 2010)

The following lists some examples of the large number of media pieces that cited or relied upon AWSD figures in 2010-2012:

- ‘Understanding Why Delivering Aid Can Be a Dangerous Endeavor’ (PBS News Hour, airdate: 20 December 2012)
- ‘EISF: Understanding Aid Worker Safety Statistics’ ( Charity and Security Network, 2 April 2012)
- ‘Trauma and the Humanitarian Aid Worker’ (Adriana Wilson, The Trauma and Attachment Report, 4 February 2012)
- ‘Helpers in a hostile world: the risk of aid work grows’ (Scott Baldauf, Christian Science Monitor, 10 February 2012)
- ‘Aid workers are the common face of humanity’ (Davinder Kumar, Huffington Post, 11 August 2011)
- ‘Day for thanking selfless aid workers’ (Kristalina Georgieva, EU commissioner responsible for humanitarian aid and crisis response, 19 August, 2011)
- ‘Attacks and interference heighten humanitarian risk’ (Tim Witcher, AFP, 12 April 2011)
- ‘How can aid workers reduce risks of getting attacked (Katie Nguyen, Reuters AlertNet, 12 April 2011)
- ‘Humanitarian work most dangerous in last 10 years’ (Joe Vaccarello, CNN, 13 April 2011)
- ‘Aid policy: Staff security – ‘bunkerisation’ versus acceptance’ (IRIN, 13 April 2011)
- ‘Politics and religion problematising aid work’ (Matej Hruska, EU Observer, 20 August 2010)
- ‘Christian Aid Groups Tread Lightly In Muslim World’ (Scott Neuman, NPR, 12 August 2010)

AWSD statistics were also cited in statements by the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator on the occasion of World Humanitarian Day, the Reports of the Secretary-General on the Safety and Security of Humanitarian Personnel, and in various governmental and organizational statements.

The AWSD and its research products were also profiled in numerous blog pieces and on humanitarian websites such as People in Aid, European Interagency Security Forum, and the International NGO Safety and Security Association.
**Overall performance of the project**
The project has had a successful outcome in refining and maintaining the AWSD as the single most comprehensive source of global empirical data on major attacks against aid workers. As noted above, the considerable staff time required for verification and denominator (aid worker population) data gathering led to longer than expected lag times for verification of the latest year’s data, which led in turn to fewer editions of the Aid Worker Security Report than had initially been planned. It was not possible to produce more than one report per year with fully verified figures. In future the research team plans to increase the staffing capacity for the AWSD with a full time dedicated database administrator/analyst who will enable quicker verification and additional research products as a result.

**Overall cost effectiveness**
The project stayed within budget with no cost overruns, and other significant cost impacts.
Annex 1: Revisions to data classifications in AWSD

Previous tactic classifications (Same category list below is in both “Tactic 1” and “Tactic 2” fields)

Key for tactic categories:
- **AB**: Aerial bombardment/missile/mortar
- **Am**: Ambush/attack on road
- **B**: Bombing
- **C**: Combat (or police) operations/crossfire
- **DB**: Detention and beating/torture/summary execution by authorities
- **IA**: Individual attack or assassination
- **IED**: Improvised explosive device
- **K**: Kidnapping (by non-state perpetrators)
- **KK**: Kidnapping and killing
- **LM**: Landmine
- **MV**: Mob violence, rioting
- **R**: Raid (armed incursion by group on home, compound, office)
- **RSA**: Rape or serious sexual assault
- **S**: Suicide bomber

Changes:

1. Gender classifications - Add three fields for numbers of: Male, Female, Unknown
2. Revised, separate category lists and headings for Tactic 1 and Tactic 2 fields (see table below)
3. New field added: “Location”
4. New list for “Motive” field

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tactic 1</th>
<th>Tactic 2</th>
<th>Location [new field]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AB</strong>: Aerial bombardment/missile/mortar/RPG/lobbed grenade</td>
<td><strong>Am</strong>: Ambush/attack on road</td>
<td><strong>H</strong>: Home (private home, not compound)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BA</strong>: Bodily assault/beating with no weapons or non-fire weapons other than firearms, such as a knife or club</td>
<td><strong>C</strong>: Combat (or police operations) / Crossfire</td>
<td><strong>OC</strong>: Office, org compound or project site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B</strong>: Bombing (set explosives with a stationary target: building, facility, home)*</td>
<td><strong>IA</strong>: Individual attack or assassination</td>
<td><strong>PS</strong>: Project site (village, camp, distribution point, hospital, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BBIED</strong>: Body-borne IED*</td>
<td><strong>MV</strong>: Mob violence, rioting</td>
<td><strong>P</strong>: Other public location (street, market, restaurant, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RIED</strong>: Roadside IED*</td>
<td><strong>R</strong>: Raid (armed incursion by group on home, office, or project site)</td>
<td><strong>R</strong>: Road (in transit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VBIED</strong>: Vehicle-born IED (unknown whether remote control or suicide)</td>
<td><strong>D</strong>: Detention (by official government forces or police, where abuse takes place)</td>
<td><strong>C</strong>: Custody (official forces/police)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VBIED-RC</strong>: Vehicle-born IED (remote control detonation)*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VBIED-S</strong>: Vehicle-born IED (suicide)*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>K:</strong> Kidnapping (released or escaped)</td>
<td><strong>KK:</strong> Kidnap-killing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RSA:</strong> Rape or serious sexual assault</td>
<td><strong>LM:</strong> Landmine or UXO detonation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>S:</strong> Shooting (small arms /light weapons, e.g. pistols, rifles, machine guns)</td>
<td><strong>U:</strong> Unknown</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Also coded as “E” for explosives*

**Outcome (no change)**
- Killed
- Kidnapped and released
- Wounded

**Motive (new category for ethnic-based incident)**
- **U** - Unknown
- **E** - Economic (including employment grievance)
- **P** - Political (related in whole or part to aid org’s presence / activities/perceived associations)
- **I** - Incidental (not related to status as aid worker, e.g. personal grievance, crossfire, some landmines)
- **Eth** - Ethnic / clan-based
Audience Overview

% of visits: 100.00%

Overview

10,222 people visited this site

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visits</th>
<th>Unique Visitors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16,285</td>
<td>10,222</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pageviews</th>
<th>Pages / Visit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>51,470</td>
<td>3.16</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Avg. Visit Duration</th>
<th>Bounce Rate</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>00:03:37</td>
<td>43.14%</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% New Visits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>62.54%</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country / Territory</th>
<th>Visits</th>
<th>% Visits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. United States</td>
<td>4,466</td>
<td>27.42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. United Kingdom</td>
<td>1,867</td>
<td>11.46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. France</td>
<td>667</td>
<td>4.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Australia</td>
<td>612</td>
<td>3.76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Canada</td>
<td>609</td>
<td>3.74%</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Germany</td>
<td>599</td>
<td>3.68%</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Switzerland</td>
<td>598</td>
<td>3.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Kenya</td>
<td>426</td>
<td>2.62%</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Netherlands</td>
<td>418</td>
<td>2.57%</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Belgium</td>
<td>407</td>
<td>2.50%</td>
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