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# International Organization for Migration

the migration agency

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IOM is an intergovernmental organization established in 1951.

IOM is:

- 125 Members and 94 observers including 18 States and 76 global and regional IGOs and NGOs;
- More than 440 field locations;
- Over 6,600 staff working on more than 2,000 projects;
- US\$ 1 billion expenditures in 2008.

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society.

As an intergovernmental body, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to:

- Assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration;
- Advance understanding of migration issues;
- Encourage social and economic development through migration;
- Uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.



Picture from a field exercise © IOM 2006.

## Security Awareness Induction Training (SAIT)

Acts of violence and terrorism, both planned and random against humanitarian aid workers and its programmes have become increasingly common. The change in the global security paradigm directly impacts the humanitarian community and its operations.

Unprecedented acts of violence against UN staff, humanitarian organizations and their operations in a number of countries that include Iraq, Somalia, Sudan and Afghanistan, result in the tragic loss of lives. Since 1992, UN agencies have lost 184 civilian staff to various acts of violence and accidents. Fifty-nine incidents of kidnapping and hostage taking affecting 228 staff members have occurred in the past ten years. In 1999 alone, there were 292 incidents of violent robberies, assaults, rapes and vehicle hijackings and objective analysis indicates that these worrying upward trends and patterns of targeting United Nations staff and its programmes will continue.

In facing new challenges of operating in extremely hazardous environments and the institutional obligations to mitigate risks faced by staff, it is imperative to prepare, train, equip and support each staff member assigned to high-risk operations.

**The Security Awareness Induction Training aims to enhance the safety and security skills of staff members working in treacherous environments.**

SAIT provides staff with the necessary skills, mission specific security-training, comprehensive understanding of the security environment and the criteria to assess their abilities and limitations to react in situations where their safety and/or the safety of their colleagues may be at risk. This will instill a greater degree of confidence in managing serious and potentially life threatening situations.

The four-day training consists of two parts – two days of theory and two days of practical application and exercises under conditions close to reality in the target country. Subjects covered in the first two days consists of, inter alia, an introduction to security awareness, a country update, modules on personal, travel and convoy security, communication modules, a module dealing with mines, UXO and IED's, hostage survival and a medical module.



Picture from a field exercise © IOM 2006.

The training ends with the last two days of field exercises and a debriefing. The IOM Mission to Iraq has trained more than 1,000 staff (National and International from various UN agencies, IOs and NGOs), of which to date none has suffered from death or injury during subsequent duty travel to the country.

In 2005 the SAIT course was attended by UNDSS Director, Under-Secretary General, Sir David Veness, who supported IOM Director General, Mr. B. McKinley to develop a Global Training Course to be implemented in all high-risk missions. Sudan was identified by the UN as the next country in which the SAIT project could be initiated due to the expanding UN mission and the resulting complex operational needs in the country, which is experiencing escalating acts of violence and crime.

SAIT has been supported by:  
UNAMI



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