The European Interagency Security forum (EISF) is an independent network of humanitarian Security Focal Points who represent NGOs operating internationally and is committed to strengthening humanitarian security risk management to allow greater access to and impact for crisis-affected populations.

What is EISF?

EISF is an independent, member-led network of NGOs, which exists to share best practice, provide peer support, and produce practical research to improve good practice for security risk management in the humanitarian sector.

EISF provides a center of excellence that is committed to improving the safety and security of relief operations and staff, by strengthening security risk management (SRM) in the sector in a way that allows greater access to and impact for crisis-affected populations.

How does EISF operate?

EISF currently has over 100 Members and Associate Members. The strategic direction of EISF is led by the EISF Steering Group (SG), which is composed of 9 member organisations that are selected to represent the diversity of the Membership in terms of nationality and organisational size. The delivery of EISF aims is facilitated by the EISF Secretariat. The strategic objectives of EISF are to:

1. Act as peer to peer support network to facilitate and encourage information sharing and networking
2. Be a global centre of excellence on humanitarian security risk management
3. Be the voice for SRM practitioners within the aid sector and more broadly
4. Build security risk management capacity across the global international aid sector

EISF Members (full and associate) recognise that the success of EISF is dependent on the willingness of its Members to co-operate with one another on security risk management. Members are encouraged to **participate on EISF_Chat, share information**, **attend workshops** and the **bi-annual Forums**, **participate in EISF research** and **respond to questions** surrounding best practice in humanitarian security and risk management.

Through its broad network of experts, on-line materials and website, EISF provides a resource for members, academia, donors and the broader international humanitarian, development and human rights sectors to have more sustainable access through better security risk management.

EISF also supports and works with other bodies to improve sustainable access through security risk management. For example:
- NGO coordination networks such as security coordination groups in several countries including the Netherlands, Spain and the UK as well as at Regional level,
- Non-security specific NGO coordination groups such as InterAction in the US and ONGD in Portugal.
- Broader sector coordination and collaborative bodies such as the UN and NGO Saving Lives Together Oversight Committee, and the IASC Task Force for principled humanitarian action,
- Academic projects such as ATHA based at Harvard,
- Working groups on issues of concern to our members, such as the British Red Cross-led NGO Military Contact Group.

EISF is available to give presentations, co-organise workshops and provide ideas for speakers and topics to explore.

EISF is a member-led organisation without separate legal status under UK law, and is hosted by one SG Member. Currently, the host is Christian Aid. EISF is currently funded by OFDA, DFID, FDFA and Member contributions and has 5 full-time staff: Executive Director, Research Advisor, Projects & Membership Officer, Operations Support Coordinator, Research Trainee; and one part-time staff: the Admin Support Officer.

EISF has also launched a Business Partnership Programme to encourage investment from interested for-profit organisations.

EISF Membership Services

The following is a non-exhaustive list of the services which EISF offers to Members:

Bi-annual Forums

Each year, EISF organises two Forums for Members, generally in the Spring and Autumn, where the EISF Membership is invited to meet and discuss current issues in security risk management with each other as well as invited external experts.

EISF_Chat

An on-line chat facility is provided to all members to allow for direct communication across the membership and with the Secretariat. The chat facility is used for:
- Asking and answering security risk management questions
- Providing feedback and updates on specific contexts or content areas, for example:
  o Yemen
  o Ethiopia
  o Consortia and Security Risk Management
  o Digital Security
- Sharing useful documents and other resources
- Providing updates on EISF events

To sign up please go to: https://chat.eisf.eu/signup_user_complete/?id=9hmehrkqz3gpxj1f71bbfxd1hc

Questions, updates and documents can be channelled through the EISF Secretariat when anonymity is preferred.

Ad-hoc questions, information sharing and support

The Secretariat acts as a resource for Members on any issue relating to security risk management.
- Members can raise any questions related to security risk management, which the Secretariat will endeavour to answer either directly, through contacts or through other EISF Members.
- Relevant documents, answers to Member questions, links to articles and information on sector initiatives are shared by the EISF Secretariat, along with useful documents from members (sanitised if appropriate).
- Input to organisation forums and discussions to support the organisational Security Focal Point.
- Advertisement of security-related vacancies and consultancies.
- The EISF Secretariat is active in a number of external forums to ensure the concerns and interests of Members are reflected.

Workshops

EISF organises a number of workshops each year. Previous workshop topics include *Crisis Management* and *Family Support during a Crisis* and *Security and Inclusion of LGBTI Aid Workers*. The workshops are targeted at various organisational staff involved in security risk management, not exclusively at the organisation's Security Focal Point.

Research

EISF's centre of excellence provides leadership and best practices on humanitarian security risk management through the development of original research and publications. EISF produces practical guides, papers, articles and blog posts on topics identified by Members as valuable for their organisational security risk management. EISF's centre of excellence also aims to be a thought leader within the aid sector by undertaking research that challenges existing thinking and practice in humanitarian security risk management. Examples of recent publications include *Managing the Security of Aid Workers with Diverse Profiles*, *Security Risk Management: a basic guide for smaller NGOs*, the *Abduction and Kidnap Risk Management Guide* (available upon request and on the Members portal of the website for EISF Members) and an article on *Managing Security-related Information*. Upcoming projects include a guide on *Managing Sexual Violence Against Aid Workers* and a research paper on *Security Risk Management from the Partners' Perspective*. See the EISF website for the complete catalogue of EISF research.

EISF Website

The EISF website has an open area and a member-only area that can be accessed by members through the log-in facility. The Members Page includes details of EISF events, member contact details and consultant register as well as additional documents within the library which are not available open-source.

If you have forgotten your log-in details, contact Helene on eisf-info@eisf.eu

The EISF website hosts an online library (https://www.eisf.eu/resources-library/), which consists of guidelines, briefing papers, policies and tools related to security risk management. All documents in the library, including EISF publications are free to download. More sensitive documents can be accessed by members only and, if required, EISF can sanitise documents to remove all organisational affiliation and thus allow organisations to share documents safely that maybe useful to others.

The EISF themes page (https://www.eisf.eu/themes/) is an alternative way to access some of the most useful resources in our library. Themes include 'Communications Technology and Humanitarian Delivery', 'Managing Sexual Violence' and 'Training' as well as information on and contact details for 'Strategic Coordination Mechanisms' globally such as the MENA Regional Safety & Security Forum and the Saving Lives Together (SLT) initiative.

Relevant security training courses and conferences are advertised on https://www.eisf.eu/training-and-events/. All training courses on the website are run by providers endorsed by at least 2 EISF Members for quality and relevance to the NGO sector. The name of the endorsing organisations are not published on the website; however, this information can be provided to Members upon request to the Secretariat.

Organisations can advertise security-related vacancies and consultancies free of charge on the EISF website and are published at https://www.eisf.eu/vacancies/.

Useful links to organisations, analysis and news providers relevant to the needs of the humanitarian community are available at https://www.eisf.eu/resources-library/links/.

EISF Membership Criteria

Full EISF Membership is open to organisations meeting the following criteria:

1. Registered not-for-profit NGOs which:
2. Directly manage, and are responsible for, staff and significant humanitarian programme activities in several countries;
3. Are committed to the Code of Conduct of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief;
4. Have a security focal point who can represent them within EISF;
5. Are sponsored by two existing members of EISF;
6. Agree to comply with the EISF information-sharing policy.

Associate Membership is extended to those organisations which meet criteria 3-6 above and have similar interests regarding staff safety and security in multiple countries. For example:

1. Red Cross movement agencies with a presence or activities in the field;
2. Relevant donor security focal points;
3. Humanitarian non-for-profit representational or lobby groups;
4. Not-for profit NGOs implementing Human Rights-based programmes.

All applications for full and associate membership are reviewed and approved by the EISF Steering Group.

EISF Affiliates are not-for-profit service providers, these may be organisations or individuals that provide services to EISF members or have direct overlap of interest with them. Affiliates have limited access to EISF member services.

The *EISF Business Partnership* is for for-profit organisations that provide financial or in-kind support for the ongoing operation of EISF.

All applications for affiliates and Business Partners are reviewed and approved by the EISF Steering Group.

EISF Membership Fees

EISF Member organisations are asked to pay an annual subscription fee to ensure EISF's sustainability. The fee structure has five tiers based on the average annual income of Member organisations. EISF aims to remain inclusive and will consider options for organisations unable to pay the required fee.

NGOs with 4 or more 'sister organisations' as EISF Members may apply for a 15% discount on their Membership fee. Any organisation joining after the first bi-annual Forum will be charged 50% of the total fee.

Annual Income	Membership Fee
< EUR 5 million	EUR 330
EUR 5 million – EUR 15 million	EUR 660
EUR 15 million – EUR 40 million	EUR 1,330
EUR 40 million – EUR 100	EUR 2,090
> EUR 100 million	EUR 2,780

EISF Affiliates will be required to pay fees according to the same criteria.

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