

Assessment

Proper assessment of the circumstances in a given refugee camp is key to the overall success of any operation. It is possible that using policing standards as opposed to military standards of control will result in differing assessments of the number of personnel required to control a refugee camp. This is because the aims of, and the tools available to, the two organizations are different. The decision to use police and/or military forces depends on the nature of the camp environment and the needs and capacities of the host government, including considerations of the level of force necessary to control the camp.

Interdisciplinary "Security Assessment Teams" should be assembled as soon as possible and deployed in advance or as part of camp management structures. These teams must be composed of experts drawn from a number of fields, including the police, humanitarian agencies, the military, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, local authorities, and the UNHCR. It is the task of this multi-disciplinary team to reconnoiter and determine the necessary security requirements for specific refugee camps. Some of the questions to be addressed by the Security Assessment Teams include:

- What is the overall security situation in the host state and in the region?
- What are the current security threats, internal and/or external?
- What are the potential security threats, internal and/or external?
- What are the local resources, attitudes and capabilities of local authorities (including police)? What is the capacity of the security sector overall (justice system, correctional facilities, etc.)?
- What are the potential tasks for international police or military forces? What should be included in their mandate?
- What should be the command and reporting structure?
- How should responsibilities be allocated?
- What special skills are required?
- Will there be a requirement to undertake responsibility for law and order in the absence of local authorities?
- What is the costs break-down of the security response?

Once the assessment has been made, the Security Assessment Teams must move quickly to develop a security plan. The plan will need to be updated regularly as the security situation in a camp evolves over time.

IV. RESOURCE ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH REFUGEE CAMP SECURITY

General

A lack of human and financial resources is almost always cited as a major reason for delay in establishing a security regime within the context of a peace support or humanitarian relief operation. However, resources can be planned for in advance. Generic plans supported by a pool of expertise, basic equipment and immediately accessible funding can facilitate a