SSCP Launches its new Advanced Security Course in Amman

New course prepares ACT staff for hostile environments

In December 2018, the SSCP ran its first Hostile Environment Awareness Training (HEAT), focused on those staff who need to work in complex and highly dangerous environments. HEAT courses have been an industry standard for over a decade and we felt it was important to offer this same level of training to ACT members.

The course was delivered in cooperation with the staff of the King Hussein Special Forces Training Center (KASOTC) located outside Amman, Jordan. KASOTC has been supporting training for UN organizations and international NGOs for many years and was keen to work with the ACT Alliance.

The course is aimed at those staff who need to work in very high risk contexts such as Syria, Somalia, CAR or other conflict areas. It differs from the normal ACT security courses in that it incorporates very realistic simulations including small arms fire, explosions and actors role-playing terrorists, casualties and armed combatants.

Participants are given training in a variety of skills and then tested in realistic scenarios. Broken into teams, the ACT staff must learn to navigate by GPS, communicate by radios, negotiate with hostile security forces and survive terror attacks and ambushes.

Next HEAT Course 24-27 June 2019

After a successful trial, the SSCP has scheduled the next HEAT course for June 2019. Any ACT member organizations wishing to send staff can contact Elizabeth Inocillas for registration information:

\[\text{einocillas@christian-aid.org}\]

New ACT Cyber Security Guidelines

By Pierre Beaurenault, LWF

Why?

With the digitalization of our lives, both private and work related, a vast range of new threats have emerged. We tend to leave all this in the hands of ‘experts’ forgetting that we are, as the end user, the first weak point. Therefore, it’s important that all users of hardware and software are aware of the risks and threats and be conscious of how to handle information.

For Whom?

As protection of the organizations assets and information is everyone’s responsibility and not solely of the security professionals, the SSCP has released the first Cyber Security Handbook to help staff understand how to use their equipment, email, social media and other software safely.

The handbook is a practical guide that will help you protect both your private life and your professional life working for an ACT Alliance member.

Download the ACT Digital Security Guidelines handbook from the SSCP website and assess your knowledge with the “Check list for a secure digital eco-system”
SSCP at the ACT Alliance General Assembly: Getting our message across...

The ACT Alliance assembly is a major event in the life of the alliance and one of the few opportunities for representatives from all the global members to meet and discuss our shared visions, strategic direction and improve cooperation. In addition to the member representatives, various advisory groups, communities of practice and other structures also take the opportunity to improve their visibility and get their message across to the membership. Certainly the SSCP was keen to be engaged in as many aspects of the assembly as possible.

Security planning: 1 Year Prior...

The SSCP first became involved with the assembly planning at least one year prior when the ACT Global Security Advisor was asked to do a risk assessment for hosting the assembly in Uppsala, Sweden.

Hosting a large ACT conference like the assembly, even in a safe location like Sweden, requires a significant amount of safety and security planning. The SSCP began work with the Church of Sweden hosts in late 2017 to develop a security risk management system to ensure everyone had a safe and productive event. We had to consider all the likely risks like vehicle accidents, weather, fire, medical emergencies, protests and other typical challenges. Because several high profile VIPs were attending like Archbishop of the Church of Sweden Antje Jackelen, Amina Mohammed the Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations, Carin Jamtin Director General of the Swedish International Development Agency and others, the security planning team had to coordinate with national police agencies and other security elements. The goal was to ensure a smooth running assembly where, if we did our jobs right, no one would ever know all of the work that went on behind the scenes.

SSCP Exhibition Display

The SSCP ran a display in the exhibition area of the assembly to promote our work on Duty of Care, security risk management and especially our gender security activities.

Our display stand was manned by two security focal points, Ahmednaji Bashir Mohamed who works in Somalia and Tamseela Amin from Pakistan. Both were able to engage with ACT members during the breaks and talk about the value of our contribution to the effectiveness of the organization.

Duty of Care Member Conversation

The SSCP also managed to engage in one of the ‘Member Conversations.’ These small workshops were intended to allow ACT members during the breaks and talk about the value of our contribution to the effectiveness of the organization.

Overall a Great Success

The ACT SSCP managed to influence at many levels and we consider our engagement at the assembly a great success. We were also pleased that the event went off with no security incidents. It is often said that ‘good security is invisible, but bad security is painful.’ So the fact that the security management team led by Church of Sweden’s Gun Linderman kept things running smoothly behind the scenes without any need to step into the limelight is proof of all our diligent planning.

The SSCP, along with Church of Sweden and Lutheran World Federation, are now developing a handbook on managing security for large events like the ACT assembly. Hopefully the lessons learned can be applied to future major gatherings of ACT Alliance or other organizations.

SSCP Gender Security Project 2019

The SSCP has been included in a recent funding application to help develop a better understanding of gender security challenges in our work. If granted, we hope to roll out a diverse program designed to gather data, raise awareness and develop best practice for keeping all our staff safe.
New Online Security Introduction Course Update

The long awaited new ACT online security introduction course is almost ready to go. Beta testing should begin in late February with the final version being ready in March 2019. Many ACT members have been patiently waiting for the replacement course as the old one had become unusable with modern web browsers.

The new course is intended for all staff of all ACT members, regardless of where you are based. Each organization has a duty of care to ensure their staff and volunteers are given the tools and knowledge to stay safe. This course is suitable for headquarters staff and new field staff. We generally advise all ACT members to make the course part of their new staff induction process.

Multi-languages to come

Initially, the online course will be offered in English but during 2019 and 2020 the SSCP hopes to add French, Spanish and Arabic versions.

Security Focal Points for ACT Forums

As part of ACT’s new strategy, strengthening the forums is seen as a key to our ability to engage with in-need communities. One area the SSCP feels strongly about is supporting the creation of shared security focal points (SFPs) that can provide advice and coordination to all the members within the forum.

This shared model for safety, security and duty of care has been successful in several ACT forums in the past including Haiti, South Sudan and Nepal. In each case, forum members pooled resources or included the cost within ACT Appeals or other funding streams. The SFP was hosted by one of the forum members but with a clear job description and TOR emphasizing the shared role and responsibilities.

The advantages of having a shared forum SFP becomes apparent quite quickly. Having someone to monitor the security situation, develop risk assessments for travel or programs and attend security coordination meetings on behalf of the alliance are all highly beneficial.

The SSCP has been supporting and building capacity for SFPs for several years. We developed the SFP guidelines document (available on our SSCP website www.act-security.org) to help organizations create these roles and to give SFPs information of how to be effective in their responsibilities.

SFPs do not need to be ex-military or police...

Most SFPs are program staff who have seen how important staff safety is first hand or admin people who have had the role part time in the past. Men and women serve as SFPs equally well; the only real requirement is a motivation to do the job well. For more information, feel free to contact the SSCP for support.

The ACT Global Security Advisors Report

I think it is going to be an interesting year. The recent ACT Assembly motivated many of us, me included, to find ways to make the ACT Alliance better, act courageously and be progressive as a faith-based network. The SSCP has always tried to be ahead of the curve on staff safety issues and we have rocked the boat a few times as well as developed best practice ahead of our contemporaries on key issues. So this year we hope to do more of the same.

Looking forward to getting our new, updated online course up and running and also to running another HEAT course. Having a training capacity that covers everything from a basic introduction up to surviving in high threat contexts means we can meet all the alliance’s needs. I look forward to seeing many of you in training’s this year and wherever else we may meet.
SSCP Members conduct training courses globally on a regular basis. Most courses are open to all ACT members, partner organizations and Non-ACT NGOs. Courses can include security, first aid, gender security, crisis management, driver training and other subjects. For more information, contact the ACT Global Security Advisor or the SSCP member identified as running each training.

### Upcoming Training Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Delivered By</th>
<th>Open to</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5-7 Mar 2019</td>
<td>Geneva Switzerland</td>
<td>ACT Security Course/ FA/Gender Security</td>
<td>SSCP</td>
<td>ACT Members</td>
<td><a href="mailto:einocillas@christian-aid.org">einocillas@christian-aid.org</a></td>
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<td>3-14 Mar 2019</td>
<td>Lima, Peru</td>
<td>First Aid, IMT Simulation, Medevac</td>
<td>DKH</td>
<td>DKH &amp; ACT members if space</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wolf-martin.koerk@diakoniekatastrophenhilfe.de">wolf-martin.koerk@diakoniekatastrophenhilfe.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-16 May 2019</td>
<td>Nairobi, Kenya</td>
<td>ACT Security Course/ FA/ Gender Security</td>
<td>SSCP</td>
<td>ACT Members &amp; Partners and Other NGOs</td>
<td><a href="mailto:einocillas@christian-aid.org">einocillas@christian-aid.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>21-24 May 2019</td>
<td>Kigali, Rwanda</td>
<td>Basic Safety &amp; Security Dealing with Aggression Digital security</td>
<td>ICCO Cooperation</td>
<td>ACT members &amp; Partners</td>
<td>sicko <a href="mailto:pijker@icco.nl">pijker@icco.nl</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>27-30 May 2019</td>
<td>Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</td>
<td>Basic Safety &amp; Security Dealing with Aggression Digital security</td>
<td>ICCO Cooperation</td>
<td>ACT Members &amp; Partners and Other NGOs</td>
<td>sicko <a href="mailto:pijker@icco.nl">pijker@icco.nl</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>24-27 Jun 2019</td>
<td>Amman, Jordan</td>
<td>ACT HEAT Course</td>
<td>SSCP/KASOTC</td>
<td>ACT Members &amp; Partners</td>
<td><a href="mailto:einocillas@christian-aid.org">einocillas@christian-aid.org</a></td>
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### SSCP Training Costs

To cover the costs involved in providing training, the SSCP needs to charge participants a training fee. These are as follows:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>3-Day</th>
<th>2 Day</th>
<th>HEAT</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>$450 pp</td>
<td>$350 pp</td>
<td>$1600</td>
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<tr>
<td>$300 pp</td>
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<td>$1500</td>
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<tr>
<td>$50 pp</td>
<td>$50 pp</td>
<td>$1500</td>
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</tbody>
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*All prices in US Dollars*

The ACT Security Course

The ACT Security Course was developed by the SSCP and has been delivered to ACT members, UN agencies, international NGO’s and many national organizations. The course is participant-driven and focuses only on the risks identified by the members attending. The programme is designed to provide participants with the skills to identify threats, analyse them and then develop simple, effective strategies to mitigate the risk.

1-2 day bespoke trainings are also available.

For more information check out our SSCP website at:

**www.act-security.org**

Security related news  | Links to safety & security research libraries  | Training dates  | Tools & Guidelines  |

This newsletter is produced bi-monthly by the ACT Safety & Security Community of Practice. Opinions expressed in the newsletter are those of the article author and may not reflect the policies of the SSCP or the ACT Alliance.

For more information, or to receive the SSCP newsletter, contact the ACT Global Security Advisor at: security@act-security.org