

Supplies at risks of looting

General Guidance Note

What is this paper about?

This paper is to give guidance to field teams:

- How to examine local security dynamics linking **PPE¹ and ABHR² supplies and threat of looting in light of current Cov19 crisis.**
- What mitigation measures can be put in place to lower potential risks?
- What is to be done/ how to react once the threat materializes and becomes reality?

Threat definition

The underlying tensions related to the current CoVid-19 pandemic exist in many areas where MSF operates and can result (among others) in **looting** of our warehouses. While MSF may not be the focus of the unrest, MSF projects may become a substitute target due to **PPE and ABHR supplies** stored in warehouses and pharmacies. Resentment and frustration over lack of access to essential PPE and ABHR supplies may result in MSF being attacked and its property looted. The link is obvious: MSF being perceived as an organization keeping precious PPE/ABHR supplies in their stocks vs. population in 'perceived' need of same PPE.

Simple example: there is a mounting fear within local population catching a fast spreading virus that is raging globally. Social media is fueling the 'panic' thru accelerating 'fake' news leading to more anxiety. Project staff asking why MSF cannot provide PPE to all staff working, although no confirmed cases have been diagnosed yet in the wider project region. On the other side, our field warehouses are full with facemasks and disinfection liquids. Does the bell ring?

Most common threats *potentially affecting* our field warehouses, pharmacies, transports and any other health care facility storing medical supplies in light of current CoVid19 pandemics are:

- **Looting:** large-scale theft that takes advantage of certain conditions such as war, natural disaster or civil disorder.
- **Robbery:** The unlawfully taking the property by the use of violence or intimidation.

The threat of **confiscation, unrest, violent mob and rioting** will not be examined here, though relevant and related! The focus of this paper is narrowed on the threat of looting warehouses.

Risk Analysis

The present tools we have are our risk analysis and your gut feeling. Let us start with the former one: LSP Risk Analysis.

¹ Personal Protection Equipment

² Alcohol Based Hand Rub

1. Scan your existing LSP Risk Analysis for above threats.
 - If not included, then you will need to start from scratch analyzing above threats. It is important that you view the threat in light of current CoVid-19. See below general example of risk analysis. The exercise should not be done isolated, include different stakeholders, often national staff can help quickly to identify vulnerabilities and mitigation measures. Include your CMT colleagues. Ask HoM to seek support from HQ field security advisory capacity or the applied security referent.
 - If your Risk Analysis already includes above threats and analyzes them, you will have to 'update' your LSP Risk Analysis by seeing it through the 'CoVid-19 security lenses'. Also for you, see below example of a general RA related to mentioned threats.

2. Your gut feeling!
 - If being long and good enough with MSF in the field, you will quickly develop a sense for what is going on but let's 'institutionalize' it and return to the desk: review/draft a risk analysis as mentioned above!

Implementation of measures

Once the Risk analysis is finished, it is logistics responsibility to implement the defined mitigation and contingency measures. As shown in the below risk analysis example, there are few preventive and contingency measures that can be quickly be adopted, such as training and briefing staff how to react. However, it is the LogCo's responsibility to start implementing these measures.

Other measures might take more time or require sophisticated support from outside. Feel free to contact your FO, who in return shall seek further support with the Applied Security referent.

Threat	Indicators of Change	Vulnerability (Who, What, When, Whom)	Likelihood before mitigation	Impact	Mitigation & Contingency	Residual Risk Acceptable?
Warehouses being looted (due to CoVid-19 crisis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Media spreading news about how to protect from CoVid-19 • Increasing numbers of +cases in country • Increasing numbers of + cases in region • Individuals asking MSF staff for PPE/ABHR • Economy dive noising • Scarcity of PPE/ABHR in capital markets • Local purchase prices for PPE/ABHR go up • Tension/anger among local population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guards and warehouse staff on duty • MSF supply staff, logisticians, PC's • Guards and warehouse staff not briefed on how to react • MSF staff not being informed regarding potential risks • Drivers and suppliers bringing cargo not aware of risks • MSF trying to 'hide' ABHR/PPE supplies • Stocks of personal protective equipment (PPE) and alcohol based hand rub (ABHR) positioned in MSF's WH • Purchasing PPE and ABHR locally in bigger quantities • Lack of proactive community approach • General lack of community acceptance • Weak networking with local powers • Not monitoring local social media • Not informing staff proactively • Increasing numbers of +cases and CoVid19 deaths in country • Increasing numbers of + cases and CoVid19 deaths in region • Closure of borders • Receiving supplies at project location 	<i>To be decided by mission</i>	<i>To be decided by mission</i>	<p>Mitigation measures:</p> <p>Briefings/trainings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brief all staff on potential risks and how to react - Brief guards, warehouse, supply and other relevant staff how to react in case of looting or group robbery: - Don't resist - Don't fight - If possible alert/ inform others <p>Networking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure clear information is provided to the community in advance regarding MSF's plans in light of CoVid-19. Be transparent. • Reassure networking in light of CoVid-19→ get to know what's going among your local peers • Get in close touch with authorities, get to understand underlying dynamics→ mitigating chances that government is looting our WH's • Be aware of your environment, observe and try to feel the situation. Ask people what they think and what's happening • Talk to staff, inform them in advance of actions taken by MSF in regards to CoVid-19 • Regular and systemic monitoring of the local and social media will help to understand the potential conflicts in your host society • Monitor all demonstrations, strikes and public rallies→ they can turn wild! • If tensions are increasing, consider withdrawing staff, which might be at risk due to nationality (White Man disease) <p>Warehouses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not try to hide PPE or ABHR in your WH or project→ potential to create more harm • If possible, preposition stocks of PPE/ABHR to more secure areas w/o hampering your operations due to this • Think if spreading stocks of PPE/masks and ABHR over several premises in each location • Make stocks of PPE/ABHR well visible in your WH to avoid unnecessary search & damage by perpetrators in case of looting <p>Site security:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve site security measures around warehouses: • Increase number of guards on duty • Lightning at night is working. • Proper fencing is installed and barbed wires where appropriate. • Think if installation of CCTV is appropriate in your context 	

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					<p>Contingency measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know how to react in case you are being looted, train your guards and relevant staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - do not resist or challenge looters - Do not resist to any demands - Don't fight - If confronted by an angry crowd, act passive but calm - If possible, try to leave the area in case the situation escalates - If possible alert/ inform others • At times of looting, limit all staff movements, remain in residences and maintain regular communication with other organizations • Quickly move away from the area of looting and seek shelter • If confronted by an angry crowd, act passive but calm • If possible contact other staff and organizations that might be at risk • If in different location (e.g. base) than where the looting happens, instruct guards not to open the gates • If the building is under siege by an angry crowd, think carefully before attempting to diffuse the situation. If the crowd appears violent, consider evacuating the building from another exit. If this is not possible, move to a safe room or shelter. 	