

Annex 6

Visit Risk Assessment to Support a Go and See Visit or Freedom of Movement Visit

1. **Introduction.** The Visit Risk Assessment (VRA) is short, written report prepared for a Municipal Working Group (WMG) by KFOR with support from CIVPOL and other organisations as necessary. The VRA is limited to the specific date or dates on which the IDPs will visit their former homes-this is the most significant difference between the VRA and the more comprehensive Village Security Assessment. The time required to conduct necessary research and prepare a Visit Risk Assessment is generally 1-3 days. KFOR has the lead for preparing the VRA.
2. **Report Format:** Using the format outlined below, the completed VRA consists of seven parts. It is prepared as a narrative, or in "question-and-answer" form.
 - a. Header Information
 - Date(s) of the visit and name(s) of location(s) to be visited.
 - Designation and phone number of the KFOR unit preparing the VRA.
 - Name of the NGO sponsoring the visit. Provide a name and phone of the principal person from the NGO that is involved in the visit.
 - Names, ethnicity, and ages of persons participating in the visit.
 - Level of risk after all mitigating factors are applied-high, medium, low
 - b. Location(s) to be Visited
 - What are the specific locations to be visited (name of town, checkpoint number, center of mass UTM grid coordinate)?
 - How far away (in kilometers) does the IDP population live from the place being visited?
 - Did anything significant occur in or near the village/mahala during the conflict?
 - What specifically occurred (mass grave, church burned, people missing)?
 - Are there any known mine or UXO hazards (cleared or uncleared) within 500 meters of the places being visited? Request this information from the KFOR Mine Action Center.
 - If yes, where were/are they located?
 - If no, state "no known mine or UXO threat"
 - c. Travel Arrangements for the IDPs
 - Starting from (town name), departing at (date/time), traveling by (mode of travel), arriving at about (time). Staying on site for (number of hours or days).
 - Who is escorting the IDPs to the site (name of organisation).
 - d. Communications during the Visit
 - What will be the primary and backup means of communication between all vehicles participating in the visit (radio, cell phone, etc.)? Tip: If radios are used, all vehicles should be able to communicate with one another.
 - e. Events (for each event, provide a description as well as a start and finish time)
 - Is there a market day in the village/mahala?
 - Is there a sporting event in the village/mahala?
 - Is there a political/cultural event occurring in the village/mahala that day?
 - Any other known events?

f. **Attitude of the Local Population.** Before people who are helping prepare or gather information for the Risk Assessment directly engage the population of the receiving community (e.g. through interviews), please check with the Municipal Working Group or the NGO sponsoring the visit to determine any particular sensitivities or restrictions that may exist. Restrictions, if any, should be kept to a minimum as they may directly impact the validity of the information being gathered to support the risk assessment process.

- Does UNHCR or the NGO know whether the local population had any contact with any former residents of the ethnic group participating in the visit?
 - What has been the method and nature of the contact (e.g. friendly phone calls, or hostile GSV)?
 - When was the last contact and what organisation "sponsored" it?
- Has any of the local or municipal leadership been in direct contact with the people scheduled to be on this visit (yes or no)?
 - What has been the nature of the contact (e.g. friendly or hostile)?
 - How was contact made (e.g. phone, Go-and-inform visit)?
 - When was the last contact made and who "sponsored" it?
- What is the attitude of the local people toward returns of the visiting ethnic group (for, against, improving, degrading, neutral, split along party lines, etc.)
- Is the town significantly divided along party lines (e.g. PDK & LDK)? If yes, does the division have the potential to result in violence or intimidation during the IDP visit?
- Do the local people indicate any specific person or persons who should not return? If yes, who and for what reasons.
- What are the nearest villages/mahalas to the visit site and their ethnicity? (Note: If the distance is less than 1 km, then these villages/mahalas should be included in the assessment).
- What is the attitude of people living in nearby villages/mahalas to returns?

g. **Other Issues or Concerns.** List and discuss any additional issues or concerns not covered elsewhere in the Visit Risk Assessment. For each item, provide recommendations on how it can be resolved entirely or the risks mitigated.

3. Risk Assessment: After gathering and assessing all necessary information, and after applying solutions or mitigating measures to problem areas, the preparer provides an overall assessment of the level of residual risk.¹¹

Prepared By MNB(E)

¹¹ If GSVs are occurring on a regular basis, KFOR and CivPol/KPS should be notified only, new VRA should be expected only if the situation is thought to have changed.