

POLICY

Travel Safety and Security

Established:	May 2018	Review frequency:	Every three years
Prepared by:	P Simmons	Approved by:	Board

Purpose

To provide information, advice and guidelines for all personnel engaged with GWM to effectively manage the risks associated with travel in Myanmar, and to travel and operate responsibly and respectfully in Myanmar's context and culture, aware of the consequences of not doing so

Introduction

GraceWorks Myanmar (GWM) operates in very remote, under-developed communities in areas affected by ethnic/religious conflicts and military-civilian clashes, with limited infrastructure. Collectively, these can pose high risks to travellers. There will always be a certain level of risk associated with travel within poor, under-developed countries. Travel with GWM will only be undertaken when those risks are deemed acceptable by our risk assessment procedures and guidelines.

We are committed to ensuring the protection and security of all people engaged with GWM on a program/project-specific, short-term or permanent basis, including staff, board members, volunteers, consultants and partners. This includes all international staff, volunteers and other personnel travelling with GWM on official business. We prioritise the health and safety of our people, and recognise our duty of care to advise and protect all stakeholders operating through our organisation.

Definitions

n/a

Shared responsibility

GWM is responsible for:

- ◆ Identifying and monitoring travel and working conditions, and security and health risks (eg political unrest/ethnic conflict, disease outbreaks)
- ◆ Assessing potential risks and establishing procedures to mitigate those risks
- ◆ Informing, educating and preparing travellers before and during travel
- ◆ Developing a crisis communication/reporting plan to address incidents, including evacuation procedures.

We source regular updates on travel safety and security risks from Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the International SOS and Control Risk Map, and monthly updates from our Country Director (Myanmar) and partners' staff working on the ground in areas posing potential risks.

While GWM is responsible for taking all possible safety and security precautions to ensure the protection of personnel, we also have certain expectations of personnel to plan and prepare themselves prior to travelling. This includes:

- ◆ Participating fully in risk assessment and mitigation planning training
- ◆ Developing a thorough travel plan
- ◆ Receiving approvals consistent with the risk assessment procedure.



Context-sensitive travel

We consider intercultural encounters and knowledge-sharing to be sources of inspiration and mobilisation. That is why we encourage people from other countries to work with GWM in Myanmar. We are committed to educating all people engaged with GWM about key rules, regulations and conditions when travelling to, and working in, Myanmar. This includes in-field briefings on how to act responsibly and respectfully in Myanmar's context/culture and how to identify, assess and mitigate potential risks.

We also believe everyone involved in GWM's work is responsible for acting respectfully in any given cultural context – and for being actively involved in researching and analysing potential risks associated with travel in Myanmar, alongside appropriate safety and security precautions to address and mitigate those risks.

To support this shared commitment to context-sensitive travel, we provide tailored pre, during and/or post-travel resources and support to those visiting Myanmar on behalf of GWM to suit their familiarity with Myanmar's context/culture and the nature of the work they are doing.

References and related documents

References

- ◆ DFAT Smart Traveller – <http://smartraveller.gov.au/Countries/asia/south-east/Pages/myanmar.aspx>
- ◆ International SOS and Control Risk Map – <https://www.travelriskmap.com/#/planner/map/>

Related documents

- ◆ Code of Conduct
- ◆ Risk Management Policy
- ◆ Risk Assessment Procedures and Guidelines
- ◆ Personal Information For Travel Form

Review

Previous reviews: June 2021
Next review: June 2024