

ANNUAL SECURITY INCIDENT REPORT FOR WARO & CARO PERIOD: AUGUST 2006- JULY 2007

SUMMARY

Number of security/safety incidents reported: 37 ¹

Number of injured: 21

Number of deaths: 3

Summary points August 2006–July 2007

20 traffic accidents

7 muggings or thefts with violence (victims harmed or threatened by a weapon)

6 theft/robberies (without violent confrontation with perpetrators)

2 carjackings (1 vehicle from partner's in Chad – 1 taxi used by CRS staff)

1 pick pocketing

1 snatching

Injuries

17 in traffic accidents

4 in muggings (Cameroon & DRC) - weapons used: knives & sticks

Deaths

1 boy hit by CRS vehicle

2 occupants of a mission vehicle (used by CRS staff on private trip)

LESSONS LEARNED & RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE SECURITY MANAGEMENT (all incidents reported to the region are concisely described in a table on next pages)

Road Safety

Some lessons from the incidents reported over the period:

1. Respect speed limits, above all adapt speed to the conditions (presence of other road users/obstacles ahead, presence of people on edge of the road, quality of road surface, visibility, etc)
2. Maintain safe distances at all times with vehicles and other road users (pedestrians, cyclist, animals, etc)
3. Show care and respect for vulnerable road users (i.e. pedestrians and cyclists)
4. Maintain visual vigilance (e.g. don't keep your eyes exclusively on the vehicle in front of you, but see the children playing on the edge of the road 50 meters ahead)
5. Address driver fatigue (Rest 10 minutes every 2 hours of continued driving, avoid long trips on more than 2 consecutive days)
6. Apply strict programme of regular maintenance plus preventive maintenance of vehicles (focus on safety: tires/wheels, brake system, steering, suspension, lighting).

¹ This covers only incidents that have involved CRS staff, staff seconded to CRS or dependents and partners. Diseases are not reported. Incidents affecting other NGOs are not reported.

REFERRED TO IN CHAPTER 9

Annual Security Incident Report for WARO and CARO (continued)

7. Apply professional process to recruit drivers. Drivers who overspeed or do not apply defensive driving or do not respect other road users during driving test should never be hired.
8. Avoid driving at night outside urban areas without street lighting. Forbidden to drive at night outside the locality.

Thefts in hotels

3 thefts were reported in hotels for this reporting period. This is a reminder to consider security when selecting hotels:

- Where possible, CRS admin should select hotels with safe in the room.
- Blacklist Savannah Hotel in Dakar for their deny of liability (see report 5 Sept 2006).
- Even for a private trip inform CP management of your presence in the country and give name of your hotel.
- Request contact numbers of key CRS staff.

Carjacking in Chad

It was reported that the risk remain high in Eastern Chad (45 carjackings between Nov 05 & Oct 06), even when traveling in convoy. Therefore, the recommendation is to travel by air. CRS Chad is in the process to develop detailed guidelines on carjacking.

Mugging

- Risk is higher at night.
- Avoid violence by immediately giving away the valuables that attackers demand.
- Cellphones are often stolen so keep backup of your phone contacts and personalize the PIN code.

Angry supporters

The incident in Lomé (Togo) where angry supporters smashed a CRS vehicle because it had plates from Benin reminds us to avoid crossing angry supporters or demonstrations in general. Note for residents in Ghana: The Africa Cup of Nations (20th Jan-10th Feb) will create enthusiasm but probably also some violence.

CP	Date	Type of incident	Circumstances	# injured	# death
Burkina Faso	1 May 2007	Traffic accident	Around 7:00 am CRS staff driving with 3 passengers from Ouaga to Bamako. CRS staff attempted to pass a broken down car stationed on the edge of the road. While overtaking he lost control and found himself on the left side of the road and finally hit frontally a truck that was coming in the opposite direction. Shock was violent. CRS staff got broken bones in his right leg (2 places on the leg) and one of his two employees got his collarbone broken. Another one was bruised. They were immediately taken to the nearest medical center (14km) for immediate and urgent treatment and then were evacuated to Bobo Dioulasso at 117km from the accident site for better evaluation and treatment. Unlikely that CRS vehicle can be recuperated. In the truck, there were 3 people who also got minor injuries.	6	
Burundi	27 Dec 2006	Theft	Bumjumbura, 4 am. Thief jumped the wall and came into the outside kitchen patio of a CRS staff residence and stole 15 pairs of shoes.		
	27 Dec 2006	pick-pocketing	Bumjumbura, 2 PM. Two street kids approached CRS staff as she was entering her car. One distracted her while the other took a cell phone out of her pocket. She realized next day while retracing her steps.		
Cameroon	25 Aug 2006	Traffic accident	CRS vehicle hits a pedestrian who was recklessly crossing the road. CRS staff took the injured to the hospital. The injured left the hospital the same day.	1	
	10 Nov 2006	mugging	In Yaoundé at the Terminus Mimboman neighborhood, around 11pm. A CRS staff was assaulted at 100 m from his residence. Dropped by a taxi, on his way to his residence at 100 m, he saw two young men approaching him with knife. He run away, fell down, got up and took refuge in a store. The store-owner came out with a cutlass and the attackers ran away. While the victim was running away, he lost his purse, ID card and banking credentials. He had his right hand fractured through a hard fall.	1	
	30 Nov 2006	mugging	In Bamenda, a CRS staff was assaulted by armed bandits around 9:30 pm as he came out of a cyber café. He was threatened with knives and guns by three young men. They took a laptop computer, two cell phones, a wrist watch and money.		
	1 Dec 2006	mugging	In Yaoundé, around 10pm, CRS staff & spouse were assaulted with knives in the Cité Verte neighborhood by two young armed men. One bandit came from behind and slipped his hand into the victim's pocket. In turning to brush him off, thinking it was a friend or joker, the victim hit the bandit and a fight broke out, with the bandit producing a knife and asking for all valuables. Another bandit appeared and stabbed the victim on his arm. His wife shouted and the criminals ran away with their cell phones and money.	1	
	28 Dec 2006	Traffic accident	In Pouma, 5 PM. CRS vehicle suddenly stopped in the middle of the road: the entire dashboard went out. While trying to park the car properly, a bus coming from behind, which was at very high speed, tried to avoid CRS vehicle hit the side.		

REFERRED TO IN CHAPTER 9
Annual Security Incident Report for WARO and CARO (continued)

CP	Date	Type of incident	Circumstances	# injured	# death
Chad	12 Oct 2006	Carjacking	Vehicle of partner SECADEV ambushed. The car was on the road Abeche-Guereda. Armed people stopped the vehicle and stole it. Nobody was injured. Hopefully a passenger had a Thuraya and could contact Abeche. This was the 45 th carjacking in Eastern Chad since November 2005.		
	11 Feb 2007	Traffic accident	Tema-Akosombo highway at 5:45 pm. CRS staff driving back to Accra. Vehicle suddenly skidded off the road as a result of tyre burst. Driver lost control and vehicle fell on its side. A vehicle stopped and took the victims to Tema hospital.	2	
Guinea					
Liberia					
Mali					
Niger	24 Dec 2006	Traffic accident	At 2:00 am, in Nyamey. A spouse of CRS staff was driving on a dirt road, he entered in a large pothole, lost control and hit a wall.		
	5 June 2007	Traffic accident	At 17:45, while giving space to a truck coming at high speed from opposite side a CRS vehicle entered a pothole, the back right tyre bursted and the vehicle somersaulted.		
Nigeria	13 Nov 2006	Traffic accident	CRS Land Cruiser traveling Abuja to Jos. While crossing a village the vehicle hit a boy who was recklessly crossing the road. CRS team took the boy to hospital where he was treated for bruises.	1	
	10 May 2007	Carjacking	A CRS staff coming back from the field at 10:30 am was in a taxi carjacked by fake policemen. Robbers ordered the victims to strip off all clothes and start to run. A gun shot was fired in the air and they drove off with the car and all their belongings.		
	11 June 2007	Gunpoint robbery	In Abuja around 20h00, CRS Kenya staff on TDY in Nigeria entered a taxi (not painted in regular city taxi colours) to return to his hotel after dinner at restaurant. The taxi driver drove for about 15 minutes and then suddenly stopped the car by the roadside and pointed a gun at him. The taxi driver ordered the victim to give his phone, money and leave the car.		
Rwanda	26 Oct 2006	Traffic accident	CRS vehicle coming from Gisenyi, arriving at Shyorongi (15 km) north of Kigali. The driver saw a woman with a baby strapped to her back cross the main road after exiting a bus. When the woman arrived on the other side of the road, she immediately turned into the road to return to the bus. The driver, who was going over the speed limit could not avoid her. He struck the woman. The baby was thrown from her. Both were taken to a nearby health center, from which they were immediately dispatched to Kigali City Hospital, where they were admitted. Woman suffered 2 broken arms and a leg, and scrapes. Baby suffered broken right arm and scrapes. Woman to stay in bed for a few months (right leg in traction).	2	
	28 Jan 2007	Traffic accident	5:40 pm, Gakenke (91 km of Kigali). Driver of CRS vehicle saw a sedan vehicle coming front at high speed on wrong side of road. The Sedan lost control and hit CRS vehicle. The CRS driver managed to avoid complete head collision.		

CP	Date	Type of incident	Circumstances	# injured	# death
Senegal	5 Sept 2006	Theft in hotel	Savannah Hotel, Dakar. Staff on R&R left her bags in the hotel's luggage storage room as she had checked out but her flight was late in the evening. When she recuperated the bags before going to the airport, she discovered the lock and zipper of suitcase were broken and the vast majority of items missing. She approached the hotel's management staff who was very belligerent and refused to even discuss the issue.		
Sierra Leone	29 Aug 2006	Brake failure	While going down a slippery hill, there was a brake failure. Driver eventually succeeded in getting the vehicle to stop near the edge of a ditch		
	01 Sept 2006	Traffic accident	In town, reckless passenger van passing a truck while CRS vehicle was coming front. CRS vehicle pulled over to the right to make room but the van hit the mirror of CRS vehicle and smashed it.		
	07 Sept 2006	Traffic accident	In town. Truck with trailer coming towards CRS vehicle at high speed. As the road is narrow, CRS vehicle moved as far over to the right of the road as possible and stopped. As the trailer passed, it hit lightly the left rear side of CRS vehicle. No damage on vehicle.		
	30 Sept 2006	Traffic accident	The brakes in the vehicle failed while driver entered the compound (on a steep decline). The vehicle crashed in to the compound gate forcing the gate in about a foot. Left indicator light broken.		
	30 March 2007	Traffic accident	Masiaka to Bo at 9:30 pm. CRS staff on private trip was on board of a mission vehicle with other 5 people. The driver was driving at high speed and was cautioned, but he ignored warning made by passengers. A vehicle ahead was causing dust on the dirt road thus resulting in poor visibility. A road block was suddenly spotted, the driver swerved to avoid it but lost control because of speed. The vehicle ran over the edge of the road and plunged down into a deep gully on the side of the road. The vehicle somersaulted many times before coming to a stop. Victims were evacuated to Bo hospital.	4	2
	02 April 2007	Traffic accident	14 miles from Makeni at 4:30 pm. CRS staff driving private vehicle lost control fell into a ditch where the vehicle somersaulted once.		
Togo	18 June 2007	Street mugging	In Lomé, 2 staff in a CRS vehicle from Benin were attacked around the Lomé port area. Angry people came to the vehicle and smashed the windshield, rear window, side windows, lights and threatened to set the car on fire without any visible reason. Police came to stop the attack. Understanding is that CRS vehicle was targeted because of the Benin plates. Some violence against Togolese football supporters occurred a few days before in Cotonou and the attack on CRS vehicle was perceived as a sort of retaliation against anything with Beninois identity.		
Other locations					
Heathrow airport	16 Jan 2007	Snatch	Heathrow airport. A CRS staff transiting was robbed of his laptop, wallet and other items in the luggage collection zone.		