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Additional United Nations-mandated security measures for UNICEF personnel and premises

Summary

This report presents the additional costs for UNICEF to address security enhancement measures for 2008 and 2009. It is recommended that the Executive Board adopt the draft decision contained in section II.

* E/ICEF/2008/16.

I. Background

1. As part of the biennial support budget of UNICEF for 2008-2009, the Executive Board approved an amount of \$26.2 million from regular resources as a separate appropriation to cover the United Nations-mandated, centrally shared security costs. That amount represents the UNICEF share of the overall United Nations security costs.

2. This document takes note of the findings and recommendations of the Independent Panel on Safety and Security of United Nations Personnel and Premises Worldwide, and presents additional UNICEF-specific costs that urgently require funding to address further security enhancement during 2008 and 2009.

3. Since the 2008-2009 biennial support budget was approved, the threats posed to the United Nations by various terrorist groups around the world have been steadily increasing. The tragic attack against the United Nations in Algiers on 11 December 2007, which killed 17 United Nations staff members and injured many more, proved such threats to be a reality. Unfortunately, there is continuing danger of further attacks of this nature against the United Nations, including UNICEF.

4. Following the tragedy in Algiers, UNICEF, in conjunction with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security and all its partners within the United Nations Security Management System, undertook a review of the vulnerability of staff and assets worldwide. This led to the identification of more than 30 higher-risk country offices and locations that require additional security risk management measures to lower the increased risks to an acceptable level so that operations can be maintained and UNICEF can continue to deliver on its mandate.

5. While many UNICEF offices have already taken action within existing resources, additional UNICEF-specific costs are urgently required to address further security enhancements. These enhancements include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) the creation of stand-off distance between perimeters and buildings, improving parking, perimeter and access controls; (b) the provision of X-ray machines and metal detectors; (c) the provision of video cameras and intruder alarms; (d) the fitting of blast-resistant film and window frame catchers; (e) the provision of armoured vehicles and ballistic protective equipment; (f) the hiring of blast engineering expertise; (g) the reinforcement or construction of walls capable of withstanding the effects of bomb blast; (h) the construction of safe areas within offices or compounds; (e) the provision of specific training in any of the above; and (j) undertaking security missions to the field and the recruitment of Field Security Advisors in some high-risk locations to provide technical guidance, especially as it relates to threat assessment and risk management.

6. Furthermore, while one of the most effective measures to combat the impact of explosive devices is the creation of stand-off distances around offices, this may not be feasible in some locations and is subject to ongoing assessment. In the event that identified risks cannot be sufficiently mitigated by the implementation of other measures outlined above, then relocation to new premises might be the only alternative to provide the right level of protection. The costs associated with such security-mandated relocation for at least six countries have thus been included.

7. In view of the above and as reflected in the annex, a total of \$21.4 million is now required to implement and ensure compliance with the enhanced requirements

of United Nations-mandated Minimum Operating Security Standards (MOSS) and related levels of investments pertaining to on-site support, office relocation and security equipment during the 2008-2009 biennium.

8. It is important to note that all action taken will involve close liaison with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security and all agencies, funds and programmes, and will be undertaken in strict compliance with all security policies and the accountability framework of the United Nations Security Management System. Furthermore, when the findings and recommendations of the Independent Panel on Safety and Security of United Nations Personnel and Premises Worldwide have undergone adequate discussion and decision-making by the Secretary-General, UNICEF will make sure that all its safety and security measures are implemented in a way that is consistent with this outcome and the agreed approach of the United Nations system.

9. Accordingly, and as presented in the annex, UNICEF proposes a supplementary funding package for security activities of \$21.4 million in regular resources during the 2008-2009 biennium.

II. Draft decision

10. It is recommended that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the additional funding requirements of UNICEF for security activities described in this document and presented in the annex to the present report, amounting to \$21.4 million;

2. *Approves* the net amount of \$21.4 million as an additional requirement from regular resources to cover security measures mandated by the United Nations.

Annex

Supplemental table for global security costs

(In thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Category</i>	<i>Total</i>
Security communications (e.g., radios, satphones, etc.)	325
Staff protection equipment (e.g., body armour, armoured vehicles, etc.)	2 685
Building explosion protection (e.g., blast walls, blast film, bunkers, etc.)	8 022
Access control (e.g., metal detectors, security cameras, X-ray machines, etc.)	2 934
Additional MOSS requirements (e.g., generators, lights, trauma/first aid, etc.)	345
Personnel and training (e.g., Security Advisors, specialist training programmes, etc.)	1 089
Relocation costs (i.e., one-time cost of six security-mandated office relocations)	6 000
Total	21 400