

# tool 18 **Assessing Security Risks before Engaging in the MRM**

## Guiding questions for self-assessment

When considering an engagement with the MRM, it is important to assess what **additional** security risks MRM activities could create in the specific context where you are operating. Below are some examples of guiding questions which can help steer a self-assessment exercise:



Factor	Potential additional risk brought by your participation in the MRM	Assess potential level of additional risk (low, medium, high) according to each option for MRM engagement	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Your NGO is the only one (or one of only a few) operating in a certain area where armed actors are present.</b>	NGO may be easily identified as the source of information on violations in that area, risk of retaliation against the organization.	Awareness-raising	
		Response only (no monitoring, no reporting)	
		Alert	
		Informal communication	
		Documentation	
		CTFMR membership	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>You have local staff or community volunteers permanently living in the area where armed actors are present.</b>	Vulnerability to personal retaliation.	Awareness-raising	
		Response only (no monitoring, no reporting)	
		Alert	
		Informal communication	
		Documentation	
		CTFMR membership	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Your NGO interacts with potential victims of grave violations on a regular basis.</b>	Victims may be exposed to personal retaliation because they are known to interact with your organization regularly.	Awareness-raising	
		Response only (no monitoring, no reporting)	
		Alert	
		Informal communication	
		Documentation	
		CTFMR membership	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Your NGO regularly interacts with local armed actors to secure humanitarian access.</b>	Possible loss of trust and breakdown of communication if public reports emerge about violations by that armed actor.	Awareness-raising	
		Response only (no monitoring, no reporting)	
		Alert	
		Informal communication	
		Documentation	
		CTFMR membership	

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Factor	Potential additional risk brought by your participation in the MRM	Assess potential level of additional risk (low, medium, high) according to each option for MRM engagement	
<input type="checkbox"/> Your NGO provides life-saving services to communities in areas where armed actors operate.	Potential negative humanitarian impact if access to the area is compromised due to security threats or breakdown of communication with local armed actors.	Awareness-raising Response only (no monitoring, no reporting) Alert Informal communication Documentation CTFMR membership	
<input type="checkbox"/> Your NGO has substantial human and financial engagement in areas where armed actors operate.	Potential negative programmatic impact if access to the area is compromised due to security threats or breakdown of communication with local armed actors.	Awareness-raising Response only (no monitoring, no reporting) Alert Informal communication Documentation CTFMR membership	
<input type="checkbox"/> Your NGO managed to establish a confidence-based relationship with communities that are otherwise reluctant to interact with 'outsiders' (e.g., international NGOs or UN). That confidence-based relationship is what ensures your security in those areas.	Potential breakdown of confidence (leading to insecurity) if your NGO is not able to provide response or feedback on cases of grave violations reported by the community.  Potential breakdown of confidence (leading to insecurity) if your NGO is seen to engage too closely with 'outsiders'.	Awareness-raising Response only (no monitoring, no reporting) Alert Informal communication Documentation CTFMR membership	
<input type="checkbox"/> Your NGO is not currently active in a conflict-affected area.	The MRM deals with sensitive matters so it may not be well received by communities. This may in turn affect your capacity to establish confidence with local communities and create a secure environment for your staff to work in.	Awareness-raising Response only (no monitoring, no reporting) Alert Informal communication Documentation CTFMR membership	

related tools

-  [tool 15](#) – Matrix 'Options for NGO participation in the MRM'
-  [tool 14](#) – Factsheet 'Why do NGOs choose to participate in the MRM?'

-  [tool 17](#) – Guiding questions 'Clarifying goals and expectations before engaging in the MRM'