

Co-operation with voluntary organizations in the area of well-being and security

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Different actors look at the security from different angles:



- In Finland the work of voluntary organizations have often the same elements that lay the foundation for the Internal Security Programme
 - smoothly functioning basic services,
 - prevention of poverty and social exclusion,
 - education services that support well-being,
 - taking care of young people and the elderly, and
 - the security and safety of our environment.

Benefits of voluntary organizations:

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- Voluntary organizations are representing the community members.
- Volunteer organizations respond quickly and meet the needs of the community.
- Actions are taken before, during and after disasters or accidents occur.
- Cost-benefit is excellent:
 - Annual work of 500 000 volunteers is equal with 21 000 employed persons (Research on the impact of NGO ´s, 2012; Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health)

- Voluntary organizations have a community based approach. This can be used:
 - to activate existing programmes,
 - to advocate for safety and well-being,
 - to promote own actions from the community,
 - to increase co-operation between organizations.
- Contribution to sustainable development is through strengthening community resilience

How is the Finnish Red Cross involved in the Internal Security Programme?

- FRC participates in the planning and implementing process at all levels (national, regional and local).
- Finnish Red Cross districts take part of the security plan of Regional State Administrative Agencies.

Finnish Red Cross existing programmes support the Internal Security Programme



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Special projects 2011-2014

- Safety and security in sparsely populated areas; Lapland, Satakunta and Savo-Karjala



Aim of the projects:

- Increase people´s own coping mechanisms and abilities to help each other, especially in sparsely populated areas.
 - Create operating models to support the authorities in various kind of emergency situations.
 - Increase the cooperation between local voluntary organizations, and especially with village associations.
- >Locally led actions that build the resilience of the community.

Actions taken:

- Risk assessments
- Analysis of local needs in co-operation with the authorities, community members and civil society organizations.
- Creation of operating models for communities and schools to provide help in emergencies
- Monitoring the safety and security as well as well-being in the communities

- Village safety and security events
 - How to act in emergencies
 - Develop a volunteer alert system for the village
 - Refine the safety plans in the villages
- Exercise and training events
 - first aid
 - psychosocial support
 - fire drills
 - use of GPS





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- Training day about safety at home; “ *Is everything all right?*” Target group elderly people.
- Development of a safety card for homes and communities



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Joint activities!



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Co-operation needs:

- Good relationships and trust
- Respecting each other, and not to forget the well-being of volunteers.
- Agreements on roles and responsibilities between actors
- Sharing of knowledge
- Joint trainings, activities and exercises.

Impact comes into existence only through joint efforts!

Thank you!

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