

Rotary Doctors Sweden

Security rules for doctors/dentist on mission for Rotary Doctors Sweden

Introduction

Rotary Doctors Sweden has established the following rules for security. As an organization we continuously analyze the security situation, consult and give advice and in some instances order the Swedish/European Volunteers to follow the decision of the organization.

There are always security risks connected with travelling and living in a low income country. Each person agreeing to go on a mission for Rotary Doctors should be aware of this and is in the end responsible for his/her own security.

Everybody's responsibility

To be secure is everybody's responsibility; the international staff therefore need to:

- Be attuned to the environment you are working in
- Respect the political, social, religious, cultural and security environment you are working in, try to understand its background and be sensitive to changes
- Understand your professional role and its limits
- Do always carry a mobile phone and a separate list of important telephones
- Report any security incident or changes in the security environment to the coordinators or staff
- Keep in contact with family and friends, in a tense situation it is often harder to be home in Sweden than in the country concerned
- Keep a photocopy of your passport
- Follow the security guidelines or measures that are explained here.

Insurance

In case of emergency, theft, illnesses etc. remember that Rotary Doctors has an insurance for you whilst you are on your assignment. For example, in the case you would need to be taken to a good hospital for treatment, the insurance company is there to give you advice on where to go. Keep all receipts on expenses you have had to claim the costs from the insurance company afterwards. Always keep your insurance number with you. Before deciding to leave the assignment, leave for another area in Kenya or leave the country contact the office in Sweden. If you are leaving for medical reason, or it is a medical evacuation the insurance company will only cover those costs if they are informed in advance. If it is an emergency, you or your colleagues can contact SOS International directly instead of contacting the office. You have information on your insurance card.

Car accidents

The biggest risk is traffic accidents, both the accident itself and any violence that might occur in connection with an accident. It is therefore essential to try to prevent accidents:

- Avoid driving yourself and use a driver if possible
- Do not drive in the dark
- Do never drink or use drugs and drive, and do not go with a driver that has been drinking or taken drugs, for example chewed khat, or mugoka/miraa as it is called in Kenya.
- Do always use seatbelts and make sure everybody in the car uses seatbelts
- Support the driver in his efforts to ensure that the car is safe
- Have your international driving license with you if you are driving
- Always follow local traffic rules

Rotary Doctors Sweden

If an accident happens:

- If you are going with a Kenyan driver, he/she will take the necessary measures
- Otherwise call the coordinator (Daniel 0722 46 06 00) and follow his instructions
- If the location is secure, give first aid if necessary and ask for the traffic police to come to record a statement
- Do not admit liability
- If the location is insecure and the vehicle can move, drive to the nearest police station and report
- If the location is insecure and the vehicle cannot move, stay inside the car and call the police or local staff that can come to your assistance
- The traffic police should visit the scene of the accident and to write a report

Crime and related violence

Small crime exists everywhere especially where there are a lot of people moving around. In a new environment you might feel insecure or confused and this can be used by thieves. Do not bring unnecessary valuables on the mission and be careful when carrying valuables, do not have them visible. Think about how you are using your mobile phone, showing your wallet when you are paying, using your card at an ATM machine. Do not leave valuables inside the car in the parking even if it is locked.

Take advice from local colleagues where it is safe to go and where you should not be after dark.

If robbed or threatened – give whatever they ask for directly. Do not try to hide anything, do not try to negotiate. Your life and health is worth more than any valuables that you have.

If applicable, do report the incident to the police to get a copy of the police report to use for claims from the insurance company. Do seek medical attention if needed.

Politically related violence

It is essential to avoid being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Follow closely what happens in your area, ask your local colleagues, read newspapers and update yourself in other ways.

If you come close to demonstrations, riots or similar activities do not stay to see what happens, do not take photographs, instead you should leave the area immediately.

Consult with the coordinators and staff if you feel that there are some activities that should be cancelled due to political violence.

If you are driving into a roadblock, stay calm, stop if you are asked to, be polite, take off any sun glasses and switch off the radio or any other music. Do calmly explain that you are working for a humanitarian organization that cooperate with the health authorities. Try as far as possible to stay in your car if you are not forced out.

Terror related situations

If there is any information regarding terror related threats in the area of operation you as a doctor/dentist will be informed. This will also include what measure to take.

Rotary Doctors Sweden

In Nairobi there is a higher security level due to terrorist activities that has happened in the past and might happen again, please read about that on the Rotary Doctors webpage:

<https://www.rotarydoctors.se/for-lakare/infor-uppdraget/information-om-uppdraget/>

Registration, communication and contacts

Keep inform and register – contact with the embassy

You should read the information on the RDS webpage for doctors/dentists and do also read the travel information regarding the host country on the Foreign Department's website:

<https://www.swedenabroad.se/sv/om-utlandet-for-svenska-medborgare>. Write the name of the host country and you will find a lot of valuable information.

You can also download the app called **UD Resklar** to your phone. You find almost the same info there.

You are also recommended to register on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs list of Swedish citizen abroad, or similar lists for other countries. You get information about this in the second mailing from the Rotary Doctors office. If you are on that list, the embassy will contact you in emergency situation.

Otherwise Rotary Doctors will have regular contact with the Swedish embassy in the country and with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Sweden if necessary. In a security situation it is therefore preferable that you do not contact the embassy directly but we can have a coordinated approach as an organization. The Swedish office will have contact with the embassy and keep everybody informed.

Contact with your relatives

You will of course have close contact with your family in Sweden or other countries if there would be a security situation. Rotary Doctors will contact the contact person that you have mentioned in the "In Case of Emergency form" if needed.

If you feel unsafe

If you feel unsafe at any time during the mission contact the Kenyan coordinator or the secretary general in Sweden to discuss the situation:

Daniel in Kenya: 0722 46 06 00

Karin in Sweden: +46 (0) 727 16 74 82

Situations of insecurity

In situations of insecurity there is always contacts and coordination between the Swedish and the Kenyan office. In these situations, the coordinator in Kenya of Rotary Doctors, Daniel Muruka is responsible for providing good information and staying in direct contact with the doctors/dentist on mission and his mandate includes giving directions to doctors and dentists.

It is always good that doctors and dentists stay attune to the situation, gather information from sources and contacts in the society. Opinions, suggestions from doctors/dentists are welcome and discussions will take place. However, own initiatives of security measures, cancelling activities, initiative of leaving the station, etc. should only be taken in full agreement with the coordinator and doctors/dentists should follow the direction given by the coordinator. If this is not followed Rotary Doctors Sweden cannot take responsibility for the situation and the insurance may not apply.

Rotary Doctors Sweden

Levels of insecurity

Normal level: During normal situations there might be smaller isolated security incidents, these might be demonstrations, road blocks, strikes, etc. The handling of these situations might include temporary cancelling activities, staying in the compound or in the house and joint decisions can be taken by those involved together with the Kenyan coordinator.

Alert level: During security threats with higher risks and/or more long term, for example terrorist threats, political violence, civil riots, the Swedish office and the Kenyan coordinator can together decide that a situation demands a higher security level with special rules. This will be called Alert level. The doctors/dentists will then be informed and should follow the instructions given. These security measures might include all of the below points as well as other measures that will be decided. If the instructions are not followed the Rotary Doctors Sweden cannot take responsibility for the situation and the insurance may not apply.

Security measures

1. Temporarily cancel activities: In some instances, it can be necessary to temporarily cancelling activities, to not go to work or cancel outreach clinics.

Temporarily cancelling activities might be done as a preventive measure for example when there is an election, or it might be done as a response after something has happened. When done as a preventive measure it is planned in advance and it might be better for the foreign medical staff to leave the duty station or even the country. When done as a response it might be best to just stay in the house or hotel at the duty station.

2. Change duty station or cancel mission: A decision regarding changing duty station or cancelling the mission for security reasons will be done by the Swedish coordinator in consultation with the medical volunteer concerned.

3. Evacuate: A decision regarding evacuation, including routes and means of transport will be taken by the coordinator in Sweden. If possible she will consult concerned persons, but in some occasions this might have to be done fast without time for consultation. Consultation will take place with the Swedish Embassy, in some instances they might be able to assist however in general they do not take responsibility for evacuation of Swedish citizens.

4. Stay in the compound or stay in-doors: In some instances, it might be more secure to stay in the compound or to stay in-doors in the location, either as a temporary measure or as an alternative to direct evacuation. The Kenyan office and Swedish office will then keep in contact with you and strive to arrange evacuation as soon as possible.

Updated June 2020