Security Briefs 063 – Risk Assessment Part 8

Script

From Assessment to Action

Welcome back to Security Briefs and our series on Risk Assessment.

Today we move from analysis to action. Because assessment without action is incomplete — and may even be counterproductive if it produces anxiety without direction. So once you have assessed a risk, what do you do?

Five Responses to Risk

The first is to **accept the risk**. Every global worker accepts risk. The difference here is doing it consciously — with clear eyes and deliberate decision — rather than simply not thinking about it. Accepting risk intentionally is itself a form of stewardship.

The second is to **reduce the risk** — what we call **mitigation**. Change travel routes. Adjust routines. Improve communication. Strengthen relationships. Update documentation. Store supplies. We are not eliminating the threat, but we are reducing either the likelihood or the impact.

The third is to **avoid the risk**. Sometimes wisdom means not going, not posting, not entering a location. Avoidance is not cowardice. Jesus sometimes withdrew from hostile crowds. Paul sometimes escaped danger. Avoiding a specific unnecessary risk is not the same as avoiding all risk.

The fourth is to **transfer or share the risk**. Bring in leadership. Use trained advisors. Involve your organization's security support. Be careful not to transfer risk irresponsibly to local believers or partners. But sharing the burden appropriately — so one family does not carry everything alone — is wise.

The fifth is to **prepare contingency plans**. Some risks cannot be fully reduced or avoided. So we plan. What do we do if roads close? If someone is detained? If communication fails? If we must relocate? Contingency planning is where assessment becomes practical preparation.

Match the action to the assessment. Low likelihood, low impact: monitor. High likelihood, low impact: reduce and prepare. Low likelihood, high impact: develop a contingency plan. High likelihood, high impact: act now.

A word of caution in both directions. Sometimes we keep assessing because we are actually avoiding a decision. More information, another meeting, more prayer — when the time has come to act. But the opposite is also true: sometimes we act too quickly because action feels better than uncertainty. Wisdom lives between paralysis and panic.

To sum up: assessment that does not lead to action is incomplete. Accept, reduce, avoid, share, or prepare — and let the response match the risk.

Now you know.

Next time: tripwires and thresholds — how deciding in advance can help when emotions are high and time is short.

Episode Summary

This episode moves from analysis to decision-making. It explains five common responses to risk: accept, reduce, avoid, transfer or share, and prepare contingency plans. It emphasizes that assessment should produce clear and appropriate action.