Improving the Security and Safety of Staff - UNSECOORD

UNHCR is focusing its efforts to improve the safety of staff in field operations on two levels:

- Internally, since 2001, UNHCR has embarked on a number of initiatives to improve its capacity for and management of staff safety within the organisation. The budgetary requirements for these measures have been incorporated in the Annual Programme Budget.

- Externally, as part of the overall United Nations security system, UNHCR supports the enhancement package of the United Nations Security Co-ordinator (UNSECOORD), as contained in the Secretary General's report A/56/469 approved by the General Assembly in December 2001. Under this proposal, funds are to be made available to increase the number of security officers in the Field to 100 for the central security system, and increase the number of posts at the Professional level to 18 and in the General Service to 12 at the UNSECOORD Headquarters.

Following extensive consultations, it has been agreed that, with the exception of the management costs at Headquarters, the total costs of the expanded UN security system would be shared amongst all the UN agencies, programmes and funds. Each agency's share would be based on the number of staff in the field benefiting from the UN central security service, and would be established through a census to be conducted once every two years. Based on a census conducted in July 2001, UNHCR's contribution towards UNSECOORD's total budget of USD 53.32 million for the biennium 2002 and 2003 will be 7.53 per cent. In 2002, this will amount to USD 2,006,750.

This represents an amount which will be paid centrally to UNSECOORD at the end of 2002, based on actual expenditures. It is important to recall that UNHCR, along with the World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), proposed that since security is to be considered a core function, it should be covered by the UN regular budget. However, since this proposal was not retained, the amount of USD 2,006,750 million is needed to cover UNHCR's contribution to UNSECOORD's costs to enhance the UN security system in 2002.

BUDGET (USD)

Activities and Services	Supplementary Programme
Cost-sharing for UNSECOORD	2,006,750

Denmark: UNHCR Emergency Training Course / Simulation of hostage taking. *UNHCR/R. Wilkinson*