Annual report on the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights – January to December 2022

This report describes bp's implementation of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (the ‘Voluntary Principles’ or ‘VPs’) during 2022. The structure and the reporting points that follow correspond with the Voluntary Principles Reporting Guidelines.

Introduction

2022 was another challenging year, with the world recovering from the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, higher geopolitical risks and their social and economic impacts. In 2022 bp continued efforts to ensure that our business is conducted in a manner that respects the rights and dignity of all people in and around our operating environments, as set out in our human rights policy.b

As part of our aim to support a just energy transition, we worked closely with relevant stakeholders, both internally and externally, to progress actions related to the delivery of our responsible security targets set for 2025 and our 2030 aims. We monitor our performance against our objectives and provide updates on our progress in our sustainability reportc.

Consistent with the ‘priorities for 2022’ section of our 2021 annual report on the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VPSHR), we updated our security risk management process by introducing a new risk assessment tool (the tool is part of wider security risk management process and was deployed in 2022). It includes further verification of our private security contractors’ commitment to conduct security activities in line with our code and human rights policy.

As of January 2023, our teams have begun using this tool to regularly evaluate and, where necessary, escalate concerns or risks to relevant stakeholders, including senior leadership, and to strengthen security responses that show respect for local communities.

We provided our procurement teams with updated security and human rights clauses to incorporate into new contract templates where private security services are included and we expect these to be in place by the end of 2023. This will help us to systematize and strengthen our expectations of private security services providers and evaluate contractors’ performance to progress necessary security reforms, and improve the consistency of their performance on our behalf. We also strengthened our security and human rights risk assessment process by introducing components of the Voluntary Principles Initiative Conflict Analysis Tool for Companies. As of January 2023, our teams have begun to assess conflict risks using this new process which will inform security responses and could help to reduce these risks while taking local conditions into account.

Throughout 2022 bp continued to deliver VPSHR training and supported VPSHR risk assessments and in-country implementation processes in several countries including Azerbaijan, Georgia, Indonesia and Oman.

Country implementation

Azerbaijan

bp’s private security contractor currently employs one training supervisor to provide VPSHR training. During 2022 they delivered VPSHR training for 263 employees in total. 18 of these employees were new hires and 245 were going through the annual refresher training.

The Export Pipelines Protection Department, which is a public security force assigned to provide security for bp-operated terminal and pipelines, currently employs 76 training officers, trained and certified by Equity International to conduct training, including on security and human rights. In 2022 newly recruited officers completed introductory VPSHR training, and all current officers completed refresher courses containing a separate module on VPSHR.

Also in 2022, 67 community awareness meetings were conducted with the communities and landowners around bp operated facilities and pipelines, where communities raised their questions and concerns, including on topics related to security. During these meetings, communities were made aware of all policies and procedures, means of communication and raising concerns, including a ‘hot line’ available to communities along the export pipelines. In addition, posters in the relevant local languages describing the grievance processes available are placed in various locations along the pipelines and at other facilities.

bp continues to maintain the ‘hot line’ along the export pipelines for grievances raised by the local communities. In 2022 no reports were recorded regarding violations of human rights connected with security activities.

In 2022 jointly with the public security forces, we conducted a security exercise which included the prevention of unauthorized entry into the operational premises with the emphasis on compliance with the Voluntary Principles.

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Georgia
bp Georgia continues to have an assigned employee responsible for the implementation of the VPs locally. The formal VPs implementation plan is updated, and bi-annual audits of private security contractors are conducted to check their conformance with the implementation guidelines. As per schedule, two audits were carried out in 2022, with appropriate recommendations and actions captured and addressed. In 2022 all newly hired private security staff assigned to bp-operated facilities completed training courses, which includes the VPSHR module. An annual refresher course for current staff has also been carried out.

bp Georgia employs community liaison officers who are in constant contact with the local communities around the bp operated facilities. They conduct regular meetings with the local communities and communicate the means to escalate concerns. Posters in the local language with the relevant contact details are placed along the right of way of pipelines and at other facilities. In 2022 five different complaints were registered by the community liaison officers; none of them were related to violations of human rights connected with security activities.

As part of the agreement with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, bp conducts monitoring of the grant expenditure of the public security, assigned to the protection of bp operated pipelines, to ensure that the funds are spent for the intended purpose. In 2022 bp reviewed the spend for 2021 and verified that all expenses were used by the Strategic Pipeline Protection Department according to the terms of the agreement and in line with bp’s VPSHR implementation guideline.

Indonesia
bp assigned a dedicated employee responsible for continuous implementation of the VPs. Their role is to provide awareness and training to private security guards and the Police Quick Response Force (QRF). The QRF consisting of Papua Barat Regional Police (Polair Papua Barat) personnel, is assigned to protect the Tangguh Liquefied natural gas (LNG) project. There have been no human rights incidents connected with security activities related to Tangguh site or projects.

An awareness session on the Voluntary Principles and International Humanitarian Law was delivered to Teluk Bintuni Military personnel and representatives from Papua Barat Military Command in November 2022. Papua Barat Regional Police and Teluk Bintuni Police, as well as the National Human Rights Commission Papua Chapter, also attended the awareness session.

In December 2022 an awareness campaign was conducted to address freedom of expression in the context of the security threats as part of the Tangguh Expansion Project demobilization risk process. Teluk Bintuni Police were also involved in the awareness campaign.

Tangguh’s field guidelines, annual reports and independent reports from the advisory panel are all available online. Furthermore, Tangguh LNG has a defined process for managing routine requests for assistance from the police or military, all of which are documented and auditable.

Oman
In 2022 bp Oman continued its efforts in implementing the VPs. Another round of training has been delivered by bp to private security contractors involved in provision of security services at bp operated facilities. The training program is well embedded into the workflow and all newly hired security personnel, as well as current security personnel, participated in the VPSHR training sessions during 2022. To enable the effective delivery of the program it was delivered in Arabic. As per the 2022 exercise schedule, bp Oman conducted two tabletop exercises involving the security team in human rights abuse scenarios. The bp emergency response team facilitated the exercise conducted at the operational facilities and observed it to completion.

The bp Oman team conducts regular meetings with the communities in and around bp facilities. During 2022 no incidents related to the violation of human rights connected with security activities were recorded.

Priorities for 2023

- In 2023 bp will continue conducting annual security and human rights risk assessments across all our operated assets. Using the data produced by the businesses, we plan to retrieve insights and proactively engage public and private security partners.
- In line with bp’s sustainability frame, we plan to continue to work with our private security partners to promote and achieve full conformance with our contractual requirements based on the VPSHR.
- bp will continue collaboration within and outside of the Voluntary Principles Initiative (VPI) framework to develop best practices and strive to implement those practices wherever applicable.
- bp will continue collaboration efforts with its public security partners to further define and deploy activities supporting its VPSHR framework.
- As part of our commitment to the VPs, bp will be represented in the VPI Steering Committee during 2023 and will continue to contribute to the successful delivery of the VPI activities.