Measures to be followed by organisations in the context of the field to ensure safety of all members

General institutional support
- Institutions should assign for each field team, a person who can be contacted by the teams in case of any emergency.
- Institutions should share emergency numbers with their members relevant to their field sites including local police outposts, hospitals etc, they can contact in case of emergencies.
- Pamphlets and resources that have all the necessary contacts, instructions on what to do when faced with emergency situations etc should be handed to field teams or members.
- Travel protocols must take into account safety of staff, so not compromising safety for any reason.
- In places where infrastructure (e.g, toilets, washrooms) is being built and maintained, these should take into account needs of all genders, and safety and hygiene needs of all team members, including menstrual hygiene and sanitary waste disposal systems.

Medical safety
- Ensure that teams have emergency medical kit with basic medicines.
- Organisation can have tie-up with local medical centres or PHCs and provide this emergency contact information to the team members.
- Medical or accident insurance can be provided to field staff; group policies can be provided if possible.
- It is recommended that basic training in dealing with medical emergencies be provided (eg. EFR training, CPR etc) such that at least one person per site is equipped to handle such emergencies.
- Take necessary precautions and preventive measures in case of diseases like malaria etc and ensure that field teams have been vaccinated against prevalent diseases eg. KFD.
- Field station guidelines that take into consideration women's issues eg. safe and secure toilets, sanitary waste disposal systems for the field site should be clearly articulated.

Disaster safety
- Provide information about any disasters the team is likely to face (is it an earthquake prone area, or cyclone prone area etc).
- Provide information on local disaster relief mechanisms or disaster relief teams (if applicable).
- Basic training on what measures to take in the event of any disaster.
- Establish and familiarise the team with a disaster response plan for them to follow in such situations.

Cultural sensitisation

- Organise workshops or orientation sessions to introduce the cultural practices and norms in the region where they will work.
- Clearly describe food practices so members can make necessary preparations for their diet, and attitude towards drinking, smoking etc in field camps.
- Establish guidelines for behaviour that is appropriate to the field and community context that would help prevent incidents but also facilitate community relationships.

Other general suggestions
- Ensure that the team members have all the relevant documents, identity cards, permit letters, and letters from the institution (if required) when in the field.
- Team members can introduce themselves to the local police and take a working emergency number, if appropriate.
- Facilitate meet-and-greet with local village heads (when applicable), especially when members stay around villages or interact with villagers on a regular basis.

Useful references for field safety guidelines:

https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/2041-210X.13970

https://www.esa.org/events/the-esa-weekly-water-cooler/safe-and-inclusive-field-research/