

Human Security in Action



West Asia-North Africa Institute, August 2019



This summary was produced from a series of videos filmed and produced by the West Asia and North Africa Institute (WANA) within the «Human Security in Action» project, funded by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) in Jordan. This publication reflects the views of the participants only, and not necessarily those of the FES or the WANA Institute. For more information on the publication you can email us at info@wana.jo

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE

The information in this publication may not be reproduced, in part or in whole and by any means, without charge or further permission from the WANA Institute. For permission to reproduce the information in this publication, please contact the WANA Institute Communications Department at info@wana.jo

Author: Lina Alhaj and Barik Mhadin

Design : Hadeel Qatamin

Cover image: © Engin Akyurt CC0

Published by the WANA Institute, 70 Ahmad Al-Tarawneh Street, Jubeiha, 11941, Amman, Jordan.
P.O. Box 1438

Printed in Amman, Jordan

© 2019 WANA Institute. All rights reserved.

Manufactured in Jordan

Synopsis

The concept of human security is considered pivotal for assuring the stability of societies and reinforcing them in the face of the various drivers of conflict. It addresses a wide spectrum of variables which could influence the wellbeing and stability of people. Those variables assume diverse forms in Jordan, including: reverberations of regional instability, the repercussions of the crises of economic and social refugee, the risks of violent extremism, influence of climatic change, in addition to the various areas of weakness in the systems of education and employment, and the absence of social justice in a wider context. It is worthy of mention here that Jordan - and the region in general - lacks a knowledge, practical, scientific, and objective base that could help the local population deal with those issues. And in view of the importance of human security in promoting steadfastness, it is a duty to endeavour to build a knowledge base concerning this concept, as well as its practical applications. This would permit those interested in the matter to be informed of the applications of human security at a domestic level.

This booklet emerges as a part of the “Human Security in Action” project. The project seeks to shed light on the various applications of human security in Jordan’s local communities through interviews with experts and local stakeholders active in the fields of political participation, youth development, women’s empowerment, employment, education, urban planning, water security, and food security, all as integral parts of Jordan’s social security. Each person presents a particular vision concerning the application of human security in their local community, as well as the extent of the connection of those visions - positively or negatively - to broader national concerns such as instability and extremism. They also discuss

existing opportunities that should be harnessed to promote resilience in resolving local conflicts. Numerous stakeholders - such as policymakers, experts, practitioners, donors, and youth activists - could benefit from this project by enriching local discussion on the mechanisms of promoting human security. The project presents ten audio-visual interviews, and this booklet presents the highlights of those interviews, in addition to an analytical conclusion.

What is Human Security?

There are several definitions of human security among academic specialists and those operating in the field in general. But there is concurrence on the general features of the concept: The first is that the main unit of human security analysis is the individual, rather than the state or nation. Second, human security includes security in the conventional sense of protection from physical violence, but is not exclusively restricted to that. That is because human security is broadly anchored in seven main pillars determined by the UN Development Report of 1994. They are as follows: economic, food, health, environmental, personal, political, and societal security. As for the third feature, it is that the human security approach is integrated and comprehensive given that any development or setback in one of its aspects is reflected on the rest, for they are mutually reinforcing. Hence, the agreement emerges that the concept of human security pertains to security at the individual level rather than the communal level, and focuses therefore on a diverse set of emerging security threats which impinge on the comfort and wellbeing of the individual.

The concept acquired considerable importance during the mid-nineties before interest in it declined. However, the concept resurfaced as a

conceptual and procedural framework capable of presenting long-term approaches to the challenges facing societies. Thus, the human security approach takes the view that the short-term and isolated initiatives for reinforcing flexibility or preventing violent extremism will remain short-sighted and of limited impact unless presented and developed within the framework of an official and long-term vision of human security.



Hassan Khazaleh

Director General of Afaq Jordan for Development and
Training in Mafrq

1. Social Cohesion and Hosting Refugees

We endeavour through Afaq Jordan for Development and Training in Mafraq to promote and strengthen the concept of human security through achieving a degree of social cohesion in Mafraq. Actually, Mafraq is characterised by cultural and ethnic diversity, as well as the presence of refugees of various Arab nationalities such as Syrians, Iraqis, and Palestinians, in numbers equivalent to the indigenous population of the city. This societal reality necessitates that our projects focus on cultural exchange, and accepting and knowing the other, given that it would be difficult for society to accept the other without knowing his/her culture, and hence there was a need for programmes principally anchored in the question: who is the other and how does he think?

The importance of these awareness raising programmes lies in the consequences associated with cultural diversity, where cultural diversity penetrates society either in a state of peace or a state of conflict, hence it being a necessity and human duty for us to contribute to the process of integration.

The Organisation began the integration process with our recruitment of equal numbers of male and female employees from among Jordanians, Syrians, Iraqis, and other nationalities. We were also keen for the target group in our projects to include both Jordanians and Syrians. Moreover, our programmes focus on the youth, given that they are more able to integrate, communicate and build relations, which leads to deconstructing the stereotypical image of the other while also entrenching the concept of human security.

Human security is a comprehensive concept that emanates from the principle of consecration of right. Actually, every person has a right to a dignified life, education, and health. Moreover, those rights should not be based on a location or attribute; thus, the attribute of “refugee” is closer to being a political characterisation, but humanitarian considerations necessitate conferring on them solely the human capacity. And it is known that the Syrian refugee crisis influenced the condition of societal peace in Jordan in its incipient stages, where the refugee and the Jordanian citizen began to feel aggrieved. However, what produces tensions is not injustice but rather the sense and the feeling of injustice. Also, the lack of justice generates from a feeling of injustice which leads to a reaction either in the form of violence or hatred or media tensions.

Hence, the strengthening of equity removes the feeling of injustice. And so, it is necessary to underline that the state of human security is a perpetual state rather than a transient one, and achieving it is the responsibility of all civil society organisations and state institutions. In reality, civil society is more capable of designing and implementing projects concerned with fulfilling the needs of society, because it is a sector that emanates from the society itself. And the onus is on state institutions such as the ministries of education, social development and youth to play a significant role in training and rehabilitating the community. And where the security bodies enjoy the confidence of society in general, there is a significant opportunity that may transport us from the state of traditional security to the state of human security with a view to strengthening social cohesion locally.



Lawyer Eva Abu Halawa

Mizan - Law Group for Human Rights

2. Attaining Justice

At Mizan - Law Group for Human Rights, we strive to provide legal protection to the victims of human rights violations through offering consultation and awareness-raising and training programmes to achieve justice. To achieve justice, we work with weak and vulnerable segments of society such as women who are the victims of violence and discrimination, and children who are without support, prisoners, and the victims of torture and mistreatment.

Achieving justice through legal and official means contributes to a person's sense of justice which would prevent his/her resorting to violence. Thus, the absence of justice leads to the spread of violence and the abuse by those vested with authority to abuse their powers and marginalise other segments. By contrast, the achievement of justice makes individuals more loyal to the State.

The requirement of achieving justice is represented in the rule of just laws which are compatible with international standards and those of society, the presence of an independent judiciary, and the possibility of resorting to the mechanisms of official justice. However, the presence of just laws does not necessarily mean that citizens can benefit from them if they do not have sufficient awareness of those laws. Accordingly, we initiated through Mizan Group in 2004 an awareness raising campaign that aimed to strengthen the concept of rights instead of the use of favouritism and nepotism or violence to achieve justice.

We began to witness the fruits of this work in 2011, where most of the citizens' demands were legal and rightful and grounded in rights guaranteed

by the Constitution. Hence, with enhanced legal awareness there was a call for the participation of the citizens in drafting laws, either through the House of Representatives elected with transparency, justice, and integrity, or through people expressing their ideas directly. In reality, legal participation produces fruitful results, where the more intense the participation of the citizens in the decision-making process, the more their respect for the decision. In effect, the participation of the citizens in this process distances them from extremism and a sense of marginalisation.

Therefore, the decision maker must provide the mechanisms for integration in society so that they become a part of decision making and the spreading of the values of the State as opposed to making them merely obedient to the law. The rule of law means for the authority to conform with the law whereby those in authority are not above the law. For example: The Act on Public Assembly was amended as a result of demands and sit-ins in 2011, and hence it included an important amendment represented in granting people the right to assemble and gather based solely on notifying the Administrative Governor without having to apply for a permit. However, in practical terms, the Administrative Governor could cancel the public gatherings based on his/her actual powers rather than on the basis of the legal powers. It may be observed then that those in authority could also disrespect the law in violation of human rights and the requisites of the law thereby causing a defect in the legal system.



Journalist Mohammad Alawneh

Broadcaster at Husna Radio – (An Area of Opinion)

3. Overcoming the Fear of Political Participation

Through the Radio programme “An Area of Opinion”, we attempt to open spaces for dialogue and discussion with youth of various orientations and ages. And because social media aims to create spaces and shed light on current youth and political issues in Jordan, we face many obstacles - all of which feed into the inability of the public to offer solutions to problems and to identify their roots, in addition to the youth’s fear of expressing their opinions despite the existence of a high threshold of freedom permitting the discussion of social, political, and economic issues.

Youth’s fear is attributable to the stereotypical image in society which reinforces the fear of speaking freely at the university or on the street or in public spaces. And notwithstanding the flourishing of student activity in universities, it does not reach as yet the stage of being political activity as such, and the state of fear and terror reaches the point of assuming that the student groups serve foreign political inclinations.

Accordingly, a large segment of the youth abstains from political and partisan participation due to fear of consequences in addition to a belief that they cannot change reality. Actually, the youth are in a condition of despair today as a result of the political and economic conditions witnessed by the country. Hence, instead of partaking in political life, the calls and desires for migration are on the rise, accompanied by a lack of confidence in the possibility of having political representatives who are capable of effectuating legislative and economic changes. This condition of frustration affects human security given that it hinders achieving its concept and

foundations and achieving economic and societal security through the channels of decision making. Moreover, most of the youth consider security policies as a source of fear. Hence, it is necessary to alter the security policies pertaining to dealing with political activists and containing them.

Notwithstanding these obstacles, the Arab Spring contributed to youth encouragement to seek change and tempted them to join dialogues and reform, based on comparing their country with the advanced and civilised states. And for change to be sustainable, it is necessary to build participatory efforts. It is incumbent on media institutions to create a condition of awareness-raising and education while encouraging spaces for dialogue between the youth. Moreover, the State must create an enabling environment for political participation that is far from the traditional security policies. And the youth themselves must recognise that the future of Jordan is their own future, and to bolster their awareness of their rights and their contribution to offering new solutions, and to create a condition of human security for themselves and their community.



Lawyer Esra'a Mahadin

Director of Al-Karak Centre for Consulting and
Training

4. Addressing the Gender Gap

My work at Al-Karak Centre focuses particularly on developing women politically due to the presence of considerable problems in women's political, economic, and social participation. For example, it has been observed that the gender gap in Jordan is worsening every year, despite the existence of a large number of projects that are implemented in the women's development sector. This necessitates reconsidering the mechanism of work on these projects in which financial and human resources are wasted without achieving the desired results.

Moreover, we cannot focus on the development of a particular sector and ignore another. And so, if we cannot achieve human security in the women's sector through promoting women's political and economic participation to reach decision making positions, the consequence is that a substantial part of society does not avail of its human security. And this drives us to inquire about the definition of human security and the reflection of its realisation on society, particularly since the concept of human security remains unclear until this day. Hence, I wish for there to be a particular mechanism for elucidating human security conceptually, and for each specialist within his/her specialisation to exert an effort until human security is achieved and its realisation measured.

Women face substantial challenges which limit their political participation, including societal challenges. Thus, despite the presence of Jordanian communities that promote women's political participation through free competition, still in many communities the tribe nominates women through the quota system due to reasons related to lack of confidence in her role. As to other challenges that were observed upon conducting interviews with

members of the governorate council, where it was palpable from the statements of the ladies that they are deprived of participating in trainings and meetings held on grounds of their familial obligations, in addition to not taking into consideration their opinions and suggestions within the council like the male members, and that the media does not assist them to explain and support their activities.

Here we can emphasise the role of the media in marginalising the role of women. The female council complains about the lack of media coverage of their role within the council which reinforces the societal culture that adopts the theory of the ineffectiveness of the political participation of women. The obstacles to women's political participation are not confined to the aforementioned challenges, for it became evident - during our implementation of a project related to the law of decentralisation - that some women need professional and legal support to help them perform their work and to communicate with the media.

The political participation of society in general, and women in specific, was resisted by the state for a long period of time owing to the influence of some traditional security procedures for achieving human security and activating political participation, which instilled a social culture that resists the political activism of men and women. Hence, it is necessary to present recommendations with a view to gradually activate women's political participation. Actually, raising the quota in the governorates' councils from 15% to 25%, and other positions of legislative decision making, reinforces the political presence of women. Moreover, policy-makers must create a favourable environment for implementing the policies related to women while giving due regard to gender.



Dr. Thoqan Obeidat
Education Specialist

5. Education Reform as a Long-term Priority

Education is considered the sole legitimate factor for addressing all the problems of Jordanian society. Hence, it is necessary to reconsider the educational process at two levels: curricula and teachers. In effect, it is necessary to declare (identify) the characteristics of the future Jordanian graduate prior to embarking on amending the curricula, so as to make him/her a citizen who is open to human thought, and a citizen capable of thinking, criticising, and analysing, and to devise new solutions to his/her problems rather than being stuck on old solutions, as well as being a citizen capable of respecting himself and the other.

In the course of my work, I analysed the curricula of the years 2015 and 2017 based on standards revolving around the extent of the interest of the curricula in human rights, teaching critical thinking, focusing on aesthetic values, and modernising the mentioned knowledge. However, it became evident that the curricula and school textbooks were characterised by randomness in presenting subjects that might otherwise advance society in its entirety. To illustrate this, for instance, it is noticeable that there is randomness in mentioning the concept of identity and human rights while not building integrated knowledge in the course of all the school grades. This may harm the process of building and developing the personality of the student, and in fact lead to extremist inclinations.

This becomes clear upon analysing school textbooks that were discovered to contain factors that encourage extremism. The absence of the concepts of national identity and citizenship have an impact on the students whereby

they are driven to extremism. In effect, the meaning of citizenship is for your homeland to love you and the meaning of nationalism is for you to love your homeland, and nationalism is an instinctive behaviour while citizenship is an obligation of the state. In the shadow of what is tempestuously afflicting society today, we may observe that there is an absence of a clear national, human or religious identity. This prompts us to ask: how can I be a real citizen without having citizenship, identity, or critical thinking?

And as a solution to advance the educational process, citizens are entitled to contribute to education through participation in the National Curriculum Council. Consequently, the diversity of the cultural backgrounds and categories of the citizens will result in school textbooks that represent all segments of society. The onus of this is upon the teachers, who must be trained and capable of imparting the values contained in the curricula to the students without implanting personal values that differ from official values.

Hence, the curricula would produce a balanced citizen who thinks critically and respects the other. This would bolster and promote human and societal security, contrary to the extremist person that the present curricula may produce.



Taghreed Jaber

Regional Director for Penal Reform International
(Middle East & North Africa)

6. Criminal Justice Reform

We strive through Penal Reform International to offer technical support to the governments that oversee and are responsible for the system of criminal justice. To achieve this, we primarily and essentially cooperate with the police sectors, the public prosecutors, judges and correctional and rehabilitation centres.

The importance of criminal justice lies in its connection to achieving human security despite the difference between the concepts of human rights and human security. Criminal justice is grounded in the standards of human rights and seeks to safeguard them, while human security is linked to a person's sense of security stemming from fulfilling his/her essential needs.

Furthermore, criminal justice is also linked to the person's sense of justice. Thus, when individuals resort to official and legal channels to achieve justice, this fosters the individual's confidence in the judicial and security bodies of the State instead of the continuance of the crisis of confidence vis-à-vis the State. And to resolve the confidence crisis between individuals and the security departments, it is necessary to work at several levels starting from the legislative framework, the judicial and security bodies by building capacities and raising awareness, and then to activate accountability and transparency towards members of the security services. This would result in bolstering confidence between the citizens and the security bodies.

At a parallel level, the reform of the penal system is connected to human security. The criminal justice system encompasses a segment of persons who ended up in correctional and rehabilitation centres or prisons. In effect, this segment needs special attention as some of its members were exposed

to recruitment that eventually led some of them to becoming leaders in the DAESH (ISIS) terrorist group.

Therefore, the Public Security Directorate works on subsequent rehabilitation and re-integration of the prisoners into society. At the regional level, Jordan's experience in dealing with extremist inmates is considered among the most successful in the region. In fact, Jordan was the first to initiate programmes of religious dialogue with extremists, aiming to guide them towards moderate religious dialogue or discourse. In this context, Jordan undertook preventive efforts represented in training the imams of mosques to present messages connected to preventing extremism and terrorism.

The efforts of the security departments are substantially appreciated and valued but they are not sufficient. The challenge that the state faces today is for it to perform the role of the patron of the individuals, to integrate them into society and to provide them with the necessary services. Admittedly, the cooperation with the private sector and civil society organisations will contribute to preventing and resisting extremism in prison, while also provide job opportunities for the inmates once released. Hence, the cooperation with the private sector on programmes specialised in preparing the inmates to become contributing members of society, will provide help achieve economic and societal security for society as a whole.



Dr. Faisal Abu El Sondos,
Executive Director at Al Bustan Foundation for
Community Development

7. Food Security and the Comparative Advantage of Agriculture

“I wish stopping and resting in Wadi Seir were compulsory

And I wish your neighbour, O Wadi Seir were my own neighbour”

Those verses particularly referred to the Wadi Seir area because of being distinguished by numerous features such as water, agriculture and tourism, and its preservation of tribal customs and traditions, and by being considered a rural area despite the presence of urban characteristics. Wadi Seir is distinguished by its agricultural and food products such as figs, pomegranates, and walnuts, and oak trees, in addition to modern interest in the plantation of chestnuts and pistachios, which could fulfil a substantial part of the needs of Jordanian society.

Wadi Seir is an area known for producing figs in Jordan. Annually, a figs market is held starting from June until November; the families inhabiting this area depend on the crop. And due to the abundance of the harvest, we encourage the women to make use of the extra produce by making dried figs, dry walnuts, and jams in order to ensure financial proceeds throughout the year.

For these aforementioned reasons, I started work as an executive director at Al Bustan Foundation for Community Development, where this institution aims to achieve economic empowerment, explaining the concept of food security through encouraging the residents of the area to revive the agricultural areas by establishing agricultural and tourist rest houses instead of selling the lands and establishing construction projects upon them,

entailing the loss of agricultural lands. Al-Kursi area, for example, was famous for its lentil, but is currently full with buildings.

We chose the Wadi Seir area as a preliminary model to depart from to the other areas of Jordan. In effect, each area is characterised by agricultural features relative to other areas, and it is for this reason that the state must encourage the farmers and landowners to invest them agriculturally so as to positively impact the state budget. Hence, instead of importing, the majority of areas in Jordan such as Wadi Seir, Madaba, Ajloun, the Houran Plains, the desert regions and others are able to produce the suitable quantities and varieties for domestic consumption.

Our activities also include holding bazars of popular traditional dishes, which the women of the area prepare. The bazars entail numerous results, including: achieving economic, social and nutritional empowerment for the women through generating income, enhancing social cohesion and the provision of agricultural and healthy products. In fact, the success of the bazars of Wadi Seir was a step to initiate the project in the other governorates of the Kingdom.

To attain food security, governmental policies must serve agriculture and reach a comprehensive understanding of food and economic security. Security has been confined to military security and state and border security, while the concept of food security is extremely deformed. This is the consequence of the ratification of the construction regulations and permission for urban expansion in agricultural areas that are rich in water. It is for this reason that we work to alter the held ideas, while focusing on the concept of economic, social and food security as it achieves stability and societal peace for the citizens and the state.



Engineer Ali Makahla
Director of 3DU Company

8. Entrepreneurship and Business

At 3DU services, we offer services targeting the educational sector, which seek to promote human security through developing the skills that students need to keep abreast of the fourth industrial revolution despite the fact that, currently, education is lagging in its development. This is what prompted us to reinforce the school and university content and to provide new technological content such as: virtual reality, digital manufacturing technology, coding and otherwise. However, what remains more important is the development of the infrastructure for this technology so that it becomes embedded in the educational system, in terms of procuring particular laboratory equipment and software.

The reason for the focus on education is due to the economic and employment situation in Jordan and the world. The future of employment will be taking a different route as many occupations will disappear or change form and description. For example, the job of a judge could disappear to be replaced by the artificial intelligence system (AI System). Accordingly, there is a growing need for modifying the curricula and introducing technology to the educational sector.

Despite what is offered by emerging technology companies, they face manifold challenges, represented in insufficient governmental and investment financing, the stringent traditional security policies, the lack of confidence of the Jordanian consumer in local companies, and the scarce technologically skilled human resource.

Start-up companies lack access to financing as investors do not trust the Jordanian and Arab markets, and entrepreneurship in general. There is a

need for genuine Jordanian assistance and support for the entrepreneurs, shedding light on them to increase their share in the local and regional market. The emerging companies face another problem represented in the absence of a clear definition of entrepreneurship, but we hope that the newly launched Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship will be able to provide a comprehensive and clear definition of entrepreneurship, and to offer assistance through legislation particular to customs and taxes, and to provide real financial services and platforms to the start-up companies. The presence of a governmental incubator for those companies would facilitate their access to foreign markets, which in turn augments investment and financing and the offering of new jobs.

Traditional security policies contribute to the delay of activity for start-up companies. For example, the three-dimensional printer underwent numerous stages in Jordan until it was permitted for use completely, beginning with prohibiting its entry into Jordan, and then operating it partially, until finally it is currently exempted from tax. The same security scrutiny accompanies drones today, where for example it was permitted to launch those drones in the presence of security. Actually, security monitoring is desirable, but we should expedite the entry of this technology into Jordan, and thus it is preferable to devise a clear public security plan for people to be well aware and prepared.



Dr. Deyala Tarawneh

Architecture and Urban Planning Department,
University of Jordan

9. Urban Planning

Initially, the aim of the application of urban planning theories was to provide for human needs in terms of housing, jobs, nutrition, and otherwise. In the wake of the development of theories and their introduction to current reality, thinking of the advocacy campaigns, human rights, and the role of the individual in the planning process became more important. Hence emerged the partnership between the individual and the urban planner, and accordingly the role of urban planning is no longer confined to the urban planner.

One of the foundations of achieving human security rests on the philosophical theory “spatial justice”, which is concerned with applying social justice within the urban space, which involves the individual in the process of designing and planning the urban space instead of being provided to citizens through urban planners.

In general, the concept of human security underwent numerous developments, where it evolved from covering basic needs in terms of housing, job opportunities, food security, and transportation - which are all related to the application of urban planning - to the problems related to pressure on scarce resources such as water and infrastructure; whereby the concept of human security encompassed a new stage including advocacy campaigns and the goals of sustainable development and emphasising and affirming the equality of people, and the orientation changed to include social and cultural levels. Accordingly, social justice and comprehensiveness in the application of urban planning became effective factors in achieving human security.

Urban planning consists of a set of layers such as transportation, housing, and economic development, and those various elements play a role in achieving human security. For example, if transportation is ready and available, then an individual can take advantage of a job opportunity.

The Amman comprehensive plan is considered one of the most important plans designed by the Amman Municipality. However, it did not foretell some political crises such as the one in Syria, or economic crises such as the economic collapse, which led to the advent of unexpected circumstances such as population increase. Accordingly, those circumstances were not reflected in urban planning. Actually, it was anticipated in the urban plan for the population of Amman to amount to 4 million people during the coming decade, but today it amounts to 5.4 million people. Hence, the ability of the urban plan to anticipate could help in solving those problems.

In light of the political fomentation which was manifested in the urban scene - not just in Jordan but also in the neighbouring countries - numerous challenges emerged in the field of urban planning, foremost of which were: the refugee crisis and the hosting society. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the urban planner to adopt sustainable and comprehensive thought. And to realise this sustainable vision it is necessary for the urban planner to be informed about all types of economic, political, civic, and technological sustainability, which contribute to building the modern state.

The world today lives in the era of Big Data, and hence the urban planner should be aware of the challenges to the region and the world, and should be interactive and involved with people, whilst activating the role of societal participation and the role of civil society in building communities and developing the public spaces in a manner that achieves human security.



Eng. Adnan Zawahreh

Director of Zarqa Federation for Environmental
NGOs

10. Environmental Security

Human security is considered an integrated system, realised on the basis of a set of aspects, including: environmental, water, health, and social security. The environment in particular has a direct connection to human life, for all that affects the environment affects the security of the individual. For example, climate change is considered one of the foremost challenges facing the world and Jordan today, and this phenomenon engenders damages associated with change in the features of weather, such as varying temperature levels, the rates of rainfall, and extreme weather conditions.

Jordan has lately witnessed successive waves of cold, heat, and rainfall, which have had reverberations insofar as human security. The rainfall which exceeds the ordinary levels leads to causing damage to the infrastructure, such as: bridges, roads, communications, and electric power, all of which affects human life and people's financial income. And if those extreme climatic conditions continue, then we will witness a new type of "environmental migration", and hence people's forced abandonment of their area of habitation will impinge on human security.

To achieve the concept of human security, an integrated legislative system is necessary. In Jordan, we have a legislative system that is considered to be among the best in the Arab World. However, despite its presence, environmental legislation is not applied in actual fact. Thus, it would be necessary to activate the legislative system, to provide training programmes, and to enhance the efficacy of those working in this domain so that they could fulfil the requirements of the legislative system, and apply legal accountability.

Legal accountability is lacking causing many environmental violations. For example, the Al-Shomar valley area - considered to be among the most beautiful areas in the Zarqa Governorate - has become a dumping ground for various kinds of waste, not to mention the incineration of the waste of the valley in the summertime, which leads to polluting the atmosphere and negatively affecting the life of the residents in the area. This violation is a result of not enforcing the laws despite their being a tool for achieving an individual's human security.

The environmental matter is not confined to one stakeholder and to the exclusion of the other, given that it impinges on human life primarily. Thus, it is a collective responsibility shared by the Ministry of Environment, administrative governors, environment police, and civil society organisations. However, the shortcoming materialises when the municipalities embark on waste disposal in Wadi Al-Shomar, for example, and refraining from applying the laws. Civil society organisations are considered to be the sector that is most keen to safeguard the environment. Official bodies should avoid preferential treatment of some civil society organisations and deal with all of them equally.

There are more than one hundred licensed civil society organisations which operate in the field of the environment, which implies that the concerned official bodies should activate their role and form partnerships, and to grant them powers and resources in order to achieve tangible results to contain the current environmental condition, while providing the necessary protection for the individual.

Human Security in Jordan

Upon delving deeply and reflecting on the manifold domestic facets pertaining to strengthening and fostering human security in Jordan as stated in this booklet, it is possible to derive three main outputs enabling local actors and policymaker to achieve tangible progress in this domain.

First, most of the experts and those working in the fields of human security depart from the points of shortcomings and weakness, which are without doubt important. However, departing from them upon discussing the concept limits the ability of the policy makers to practically crystallise the concept with a futuristic view. In order for specialists to determine the future domains of activity, we need to provide the knowledge base for the field of human security in order to apply it domestically. Given that the practitioners in this field tend to suffer from a lack of basic information on how to organise, document, and detail their work, governmental organisations should provide to those operating in this field the needed information constituting a knowledge-base.

For example, the lack of a map in Jordan showing the agricultural advantages of the various areas of the kingdom encouraging the activation of these advantages causes the owners of the land in the agricultural areas to sell them or to build construction projects on them without their necessarily being aware of the agricultural and economic advantages of those lands. In another field, there is deficient knowledge insofar as recognising the future trends and needs of the job market in light of the accelerating technological development as a part of the concerns of the unemployed youth or those that suffer from disguised unemployment. This results in widening the gap between the requirements of the job market

(present and future) and the outputs of education as opposed to overcoming it. And in the two examples, it is evident that the absence of information does not lead to effective efforts to foster human security.

Second, upon addressing the points of agreement and divergence between the local application of human security in Jordan on the one hand, and its general theoretical framework on the other, it becomes clear that the local applications accord with two general features of the theoretical concept. Thus, firstly it accords with adopting the individual, rather than the state, as the main unit of analysis and operation. That is to say that the local human security programmes are grounded in the individual's security, stability, and wellbeing primarily, and after that the security and stability of society. This is a paradigm or approach that accords with the theoretical concept and invests in fostering and strengthening human security starting with the individual and after that with the society and state, and it is preferable to continue with it and build upon it.

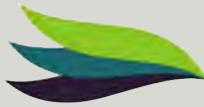
As to the second feature which accords with the human security applications presented in this booklet alongside the theoretical concept of human security, it is the feature of mutual reinforcement between the varied pillars of human security. And it is obvious that the comprehensiveness of human security derives from being a preventive concept to a great extent. This is what affords it the capacity to bolster flexibility and endurance to prevent the outbreak of conflicts and the achievement of stability. However, the abovementioned applications of human security in Jordan reveal two additional facets of this approach in its Jordanian version: a procedural facet and a remedial facet. The procedural facet bolsters resilience during periods of weakness and error, while the remedial aspect offers solutions and recommendations which anticipate the future condition. Therefore, the

applications of human security in Jordan present the concept in three dimensions: the preventive, procedural, and remedial, wherein lie the significance of this interconnection. This feature would be among the foremost points that should be harnessed to gain and strengthen flexibility for the sake of addressing the local human security concerns.

Third, the various applications stated in this booklet cover the various stages of the spectrum of achieving human security, and hence they provide a number of points of intervention to the active organisations to address the facets of defects and varied points of weakness; starting with the educational dimension and its role in upbringing and the instilling of the values of effective citizenship and diversity among the children, passing by political participation of youth and women upon reaching the age of maturity, and culminating with advancing the system of criminal justice which is applied to those that violate the law and persons vulnerable to the risk of recruitment as terrorists, in correctional facilities.

In general, the defects in the present human security applications spur the quest of individuals for alternatives. Hence, it is incumbent on the stakeholders, from among policy makers, experts, practitioners and activists, to look for means to guarantee providing constructive alternatives capable of facing the existing problems, intellectually and behaviourally. One of those means is connected to addressing the stereotypical image of security and the role of security policies in incentivising or discouraging certain alternatives, and to likewise address the question of diversity and accepting the other which Jordan had to directly deal with since the eruption of the Syrian crisis and the related repercussions of the refugee crisis, and investment in the needs of the educational system in terms of professional resources and teaching methods.

In conclusion, there is no alternative to continuing to read the human security scene locally, from the bottom of the pyramid to its pinnacle. And local coordination of this concept necessitates addressing the three abovementioned outputs in order to build a comprehensive approach for security that is grounded in a solid knowledge base, which does not impose a demarcation line between the preventive and the remedial, while giving due regard to the areas of shortcomings and strengths equally.



WANA
INSTITUTE

The WANA Institute, 70 Ahmad Al-Tarawneh St, Jubeiha, 11941, Amman, Jordan | Tel: +962 6 534 4701

P.O. Box 1438 | info@wanainstitute.org | www.wanainstitute.org