

HUMAN SECURITY IN NORTHERN KENYA

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HUMAN SECURITY

- as a prerequisite to human development, has recently acquired a prominent position among development scholars and policymakers

THE CONCEPT

- Refers to policy interventions that put people in centre of development and provide them with **physical, economic, social and environmental security** in their homes, at their jobs and in their communities.

It is anchored on two important pillars of development

- “freedom from fear” (human rights); and
- “freedom from want” (basic human needs).

Although the Concept has been used by scholars in the past

- it was UNDP's Human Development Report of 1994 that articulated the new dimension of the concept and popularized it



According to UNDP

- ensuring “freedom from want” and “freedom from fear” for all people is the best path to tackle the insecurity that has emerged due to:
 - » political repression and persecution;
 - » economic deprivation;
 - » environmental degradation;
 - » social and economic inequality; and
 - » marginalization due to globalization.

In the past, the concept of security has been

- associated with the idea of protecting the territorial integrity and political sovereignty of nations.
- In this regard, the concept was very much concerned with protecting the state from external as well as internal threats.

However, recently the concept has been modified and scholars and policymakers

- began to use the term in relations to protecting individuals and communities from economic, political and environmental threats.
- The argument is that unless the citizens of a nation are secured from internal and external threats, the security of the state will be jeopardized as in the case of the failed states of Somalia, Sudan, Chad, DRC and others.

From the outset, it is important to differentiate between the following three terms:

- *State Security;*
- *National Security; and*
- *Human Security.*

State and National Security

- *State Security* refers to the security of the regime in power. In this case, the state is concerned in protecting itself from both external and internal threats
- *National Security* means the state is concerned with protecting itself as well as its citizens from internal and external threats.

Human Security

- goes beyond protecting the interest of the state and covers a wide range of political, economic, social and environmental issues; and
- Deals with how individuals and communities could be protected from violence, crime, cultural domination, human rights violation, economic crisis and environmental degradation.
- Human security covers both conflict and the development aspects of peace and sustainable development.

It is within this context that the Project

- **“Human Security in Northern Kenya:**

Assessment, Capacity-Building and Operational Tools to Promote Sustainable Livelihoods and Conflict Management”

addresses the problem of conflict and human security in North Rift and North Eastern Regions of Kenya

The main objective of the project is to

- reduce vulnerability and increase human security of communities affected by conflict in Northern Kenya.
- The project aims at building the community's capacity and empowering them by creating sustainable livelihood and identifying effective conflict management strategies.

THROUGH RESEARCH & CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES

- the project attempts to address the two aspects of human security:
 - » **freedom from fear** (conflict); and
 - » **freedom from want** (creation of sustainable livelihoods).

THE PROJECT COVERS THE FOLLOWING DISTRICTS

- Garissa
- Marabit; and
- Lakipia

These Districts are mainly within

- Arid- and Semi-Arid regions of Kenya
- The majority of the people are:
 - » Nomads
 - » Their main economy is based on pastoralism

THIS REGION IS THE

- MOST
MARGINALIZED
AND POVERTY
STRICKEN
REGION OF THE
COUNTRY

SOCIOECONOMIC INDICES

- There are high levels of food insecurity, low levels of education, high levels of conflicts and low levels of gender development in these districts

Main Causes of Poverty

- Harsh climatic conditions
- Lack of infrastructure
- Marginalization of the region
- Conflict
- Some cultural values

MAIN CAUSES OF CONFLICT

- CONFLICT OVER AND ACCESS TO PASTURE AND WATER
- CERTAIN CULTURAL VALUES SUCH AS “MORANISM”
- POVERTY
- CONFLICT BETWEEN REFUGEES AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

THERE ARE TWO MAIN REFUGEE CAMPS

■ KAKUMA

- Located in Turkana
- ESTABLISHED: 1992
- HOST: UNHCR
- NO. REFUGEES
 - » 60,000 (2008)
- ORIGIN:
 - » BURUNDI,
ETHIOPA,
RWANDA,
SOMALIA, SUDAN,
& UGANDA

■ DADAAB

- Located in Garissa
- ESTABLISHED: 1991
- HOST: UNHCR
- NO. REFUGEES
 - » 190,000 (2008)
- ORIGIN
 - » MAINLY FROM
SOMALIA

Through this project we are trying

- To identify the cause and effect of human insecurity in North Rift and North Eastern Kenya
- To reduce vulnerability and increase human security of communities affected by conflict in these areas.
- Through identification and promotion of sustainable livelihood and conflict management strategies.

MAIN PROJECT OUTPUTS

- RESEARCH REPORT
- EFFECTIVE CONFLICT MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES;
- TOOLKITS FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD CREATION;
- CAPACITY OF THE COMMUNITY ON CONFLICT MANAGEMENT ENHANCED;
- POLICYMAKERS OF NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES SENSITIZED ON CONFLICT AND HUMAN SECURITY ISSUES

MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE PROJECT

■ PHASE I

- » DESK & FIELD RESEARCH
- » IDENTIFICATION OF CONFLICT MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES & TOOLKITS FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD CREATION

■ PHASE II

- » CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES

■ PHASE III

- » REGIONAL WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

PARTNERS

- GSSW, DU
- UNCRD
- UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

THANK YOU