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What is Human Security?

Human security has been defined as „freedom from fear and freedom from want”. It is a prerequisite for human development, which is the goal of development cooperation. The aim of development is to ensure that people have the opportunity to live a long and healthy life (health), continually acquire knowledge (education) and have access to resources so that they can have a decent standard of living (material well-being). If human development works toward expansion of opportunities – then human security looks at ways of dealing with avoiding, mitigating and coping with threats.

Human security addresses two types of threats:

- chronic embedded threats to security – like hunger, disease, violence against women;
- sudden and painful changes - such as consequences of conflict, natural disasters, sudden economic downturn.

It is underpinned by the belief in basic rights for all.

Why Human Security and Development?

- **It is the Basis of inclusive human rights.**
- **Tool for prioritizing action.** In times of scarce financial resources, identifying priority actions is key to making development cooperation more effective. HS benefits those who are most exposed to threats.
- **Prerequisite for development.** Since there can be no development without human security, it is a priority.
- **Value for money.** Tackling human security is not always expensive, moreover, it is effective.

Why does Strengthening Human Security Work?

- **Participatory.** Solutions are based on people’s identified needs, so they effectively reach people.
- **Securability factors.** HS strengthens local communities, individuals’ ability to effect change and other factors that promote resilience.

- **Spells out the role of government.**
- **Customised solutions.** It respects cultural diversity in achieving solutions.
- **Security constellations.** It emphasizes a cross-sectoral cooperation.
- **Objective and subjective.** HS works both with *objective* security and *felt* subjective security. Both affect behaviour and a population's or individual's ability to participate in development. Both have to be taken seriously.

Examples of Human Security Projects:

- Protection and Empowerment of Victims of Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence in Moldova
- Human Security for Individuals and Communities in Chernobyl-Affected Areas through Local Information Provision - Ukraine
- Social and economic empowerment of mine-affected communities: Removing the threat of cluster bombs and UXOs and promoting post-demining rehabilitation – Lebanon
- Reintegration of ex-combatants through capacity building and self-employment - Sierra Leone

The Japanese Government supports these projects through its Human Security Trust Fund. Human Security is a main focus of Japan's official development assistance, and is a priority for Canada, Norway and 11 other countries that have united in the Human Security Network. The UN convenes the Advisory Board on Human Security to promote the understanding of human security worldwide.

How to Use Human Security in Development?

1. Identify the population's objective and perceived security threats that have created barriers to development.
2. Identify securitability factors that normally would help maintain security and a sense of security, and find ways that these factors can be strengthened.
3. Work with the population to strengthen its securitability (resilience to the threats) – by enhancing securitability factors.
4. Create opportunities for the population to develop security strategies.
5. Enable governments to be accountable for human security.
6. Form security constellations so that human security is improved and people can go about their efforts in development.

For more information on how to instrumentalise the Human Security concept, see *The Latvian Human Development Report on Human Security (UNDP, 2003)*.

<http://www.lu.lv/eng/research/projects/other-projects/human-development-report-project/security/>

Human Security Terminology

Human security – the state of being free from fear and free from want.

Securability – the ability to avoid insecure situation and to retain a sense of security when such situations do occur, as well as the ability to re-establish one's security and sense of security when these have been compromised.

Security providers – individual initiative, family, communities, national, international governmental and non-governmental institutions that offer people security and a sense of security.

Security constellations – configurations of security providers at different levels of security with coordinated strategies to deal with commonly defined human security strategies.

Security threshold – the crossing into an undesirable state of being in which one loses one's ability to take action as a result of a set of negative factors. Without an improvement in the situation or an increase in securability factors, an individual beyond the security threshold is unable to regain a sense of security necessary for development.

Human Security Highlights:

- 1863. Human security is first mentioned by the Red Cross.
- 1993. The Human Development Report 1993 (UNDP) „security must change – from an exclusive stress on national security to a much greater stress on peoples' security, from security through armaments to security through human development, from territorial security to food, employment and environmental security". <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr1993/>
- 1994. The Human Development Report 1994: *New Dimensions of Human Security* (UNDP) was the first comprehensive analysis of the issue. <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr1994/>
- 1998. The Human Security Network was established as an informal group of countries at the initiative of Canada and Norway. 13 countries, including Slovenia, are presently members. <http://www.emb-norway.ca/Embassy-and-Consulates/norwaycanada/Initiatives1/humansecurity/>
- 1999. The UN Trust Fund for Human Security launched. <http://ochaonline.un.org/humansecurity/>
- 2000. At the UN Millennium Summit UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan called upon the world community to advance the twin goals of "freedom from want" and "freedom from fear".
- 2001-2003 UN Commission on Human Security Headed by former High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata was established. <http://www.humansecurity-chs.org/>
- 2003. The Commission for Human Security published *Human Security Now* http://www.policyinnovations.org/ideas/policy_library/data/01077
- The Advisory Board on Human Security (ABHS) was established to advise the UN Secretary-General on ways to promote and disseminate the human security concept and deepen its understanding and acceptance worldwide.

- Japan specifies Human Security as one of its basic policies for official development assistance
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/sector/security/action.html>
- The Human Security Report Project in Canada tracks global and regional trends in organized violence, their causes and consequences. Research findings and analyses are published in the Human Security Report, Human Security Briefseries, and the miniAtlas of Human Security
<http://www.hsrgroup.org/about-hsrp/about-us.aspx>
- The African Human Security Initiative is a Project to promote Human Security in Africa promoted by the United Kingdom (DIFD).
<http://www.africanreview.org/>
- The Caux Forum for Human Security - is an annual event sponsored by the NGO Initiatives of Change International which has special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, and Participatory Status at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.
<http://www.cauxforum.net/organization>
- Deliberations on the MDGs at the 2010 Special Session of the UN General Assembly refer to Human Security.

LAPAS Recommended Reading List:

Gasper, Des. *The Idea of Human Security*. Working Paper no 28/08. Garnet Research Program, The Hague, January 2008.

Koehler, Gabriele. *Moving Towards a Human Development Policy*. March, 2010. Forthcoming in Flavio Comim, Editor, Human Development Concepts and Policies.

Tadjbakhsh, Shahrbanou and Odette Tomescu-Hatto (editors). *Promoting Human Security: Ethical, Normative and Educational Frameworks in Eastern Europe*. UNESCO. 2007.

Thomas, Caroline. *Global Governance, Security and Development: exploring the links*. Third World Quarterly, Vol 22, No 2 pages 159-175, 2001.

United Nations Development Programme Latvia. 2002. *Human Development Report. Latvia 2002 -2003. Human Security*. Riga, 2003.



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