



NTS BULLETIN

ISSUES

PAGE 1

ARAB HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2009

MIGRATION

PAGE 3

INTERNAL & CROSS-BORDER CONFLICT

PAGE 4

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

PAGE 6

WATER SECURITY

PAGE 7

TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

Note:

Please click on the respective titles or headers for the full report.

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MAIN HIGHLIGHT

Arab Human Development Report 2009: Challenges to Human Security in the Arab Countries, 21 July 2009.

Inspired by United Nations Development Programme's 1994 Human Development Report on human security, the present study takes up that subject as it concerns the Arab countries. Its starting point is that, seven years after the publication of the first Arab Human Development Report, the region's fault lines as traced in that analysis may have deepened. The question thus arises: Why have obstacles to human development in the region proved so stubborn?

This new report proposes that the answers lie in the fragility of the region's political, social, economic and environmental structures, in its lack of people centred development policies and in its vulnerability to outside intervention. Together, these characteristics undermine human security—the kind of material and moral foundation that secures lives, livelihoods and an acceptable quality of life for the majority. Human security is a prerequisite for human development, and its widespread absence in Arab countries has held back their progress.

This is the fifth volume in the series of Arab Human Development Reports sponsored by the UNDP and independently authored by intellectuals and scholars from Arab countries. It is not a conventional report produced by the UN. Rather, it is an independent publication that gives a voice to a representative group of Arab intellectuals whose sober and self-critical appraisals might not otherwise be heard in the particular circumstances of the region. The views of the authors are supplemented by an opinion poll conducted in four Arab countries—Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco and the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Additional Info:

Arab development undermined by lack of human security (UN News Centre).

'Human Security' offers new ways to understand development challenges in the Arab region (UNDP).

More efforts urged to make Arab world a better place (Arab News).

Arab world lacking in 'human security' (Al Jazeera).

Green shoots in Palestine (The New York Times).

MIGRATION

News & Commentaries

- 'IOM Haiti hosts first regional cross-border consultation on migration management', 24 July 2009, International Organization for Migration.
- 'ILO welcomes new support for the Global Jobs Pact from the UN Economic and Social Council', 27 July 2009, International Labour Organization.
- 'International hedge fund rules may trigger migration', 27 July 2009, *Forbes.com*.
- 'MP links immigration to terrorism', 7 August 2009, *News.com.au*.
- 'Facing the global jobs crisis: Migrant workers, a population at risk', 13 August 2009, International Labour Organization.
- 'OFWs "extremely vulnerable" to HIV', 16 August 2009, *Inquirer.net*.
- Cam Simpson, 'More immigration detainee deaths disclosed', 18 August 2009, *The Wall Street Journal*.

Papers & Reports

- Kerry Richter, 'The Threat Posed by the Economic Crisis to Universal Access to HIV Services for Migrants', Joint United Nations Initiative on Mobility and HIV/AIDS in South East Asia and Southern Provinces of China (JUNIMA), 12 August 2009.

The objective of this paper is to give an overview of the potential impact of the current crisis on migrant and mobile populations in Southeast Asia, and assess how the likely increase in unsafe mobility with its accompanying risks and vulnerabilities for HIV transmission will affect the health of people on the move. The economic crisis will have severe consequences for employment and poverty in the region as it often pushes out of the labour market the most vulnerable, such as migrants. Migrant workers vulnerabilities to HIV will likely be exacerbated with increasing deterioration of their economic opportunities.

- Peter B. Dixon and Maureen T. Rimmer, 'Restriction or Legalization? Measuring the Economic Benefits of Immigration Reform', Trade Policy Analysis no. 40, Center for Trade Policy Studies, 13 August 2009.

This study uses the US Applied General Equilibrium model that has been developed for the US International Trade Commission and other US government agencies to estimate the welfare impact of seven different scenarios, which include increased enforcement at the border and in the workplace, and several different legalization options, including a visa program that allows more low-skilled workers to enter the US workforce legally.

- Nick Maddock and Lovita Ramguttee, 'Responding to Falling Remittances and Returning Migrants', Development and Transition 13, July 2009.

In addition to examining some of the recent data on migration and remittances in Europe, this report proposes some possible responses to the socio-economic problems that could result from falling remittance incomes and large numbers of returning migrants.

Events & Announcements

- Green Jobs: Linking environment, climate change and the world of work, 19-23 October 2009, Turin, Italy.
- South American Conference on Migration, 21 September 2009, Quito, Ecuador
- Towards the common EU Resettlement Scheme – the road ahead – Conference, 25-28 August 2009, Stockholm, Sweden.

Latest Publication

- *The Economic Contribution of Migrant Workers to Thailand: Towards Policy Development*, Bangkok: ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, 2008.

By Philip Martin.

In 2007, migrant workers in Thailand totalled 1.8 million, comprising 5 per cent of the Thai labour force. They are mainly from Myanmar, Cambodia and Lao PDR, and are employed mostly in agriculture and fisheries, construction, manufacturing, and services such as domestic workers. They are primarily young workers, in the age group that typically pays taxes rather than receives tax-supported services.

This report estimates that, in recent years, migrants have made a net contribution of about US\$53 million annually to the Thai economy. The report proposes changing migration policy to make it more flexible, with separate registration procedures for different economic sectors, and placing recruitment and deployment under Memoranda of Understanding with migrant sending countries.

Labour migration is a process to be managed and not a problem to be solved, argues the report. By recognizing the contributions of migrant workers to the economy and following the proposed adjustments to migration policy, the Thai government could better manage labour migration while protecting migrants.

INTERNAL AND CROSS-BORDER CONFLICT

News & Commentaries

- 'Many approve of ICC Indictment of Bashir: Poll of 7 Muslim and African nations', 17 July 2009, WorldPublicOpinion.org.
- Robert Templer, 'War without end', 21 July 2009, *The New York Times*.
- 'Kenya to form poll violence court', 30 July 2009, *Al Jazeera*.
- 'US envoy for easing Sudan sanctions', 31 July 2009, *Al Jazeera*.
- 'Attack on a Vietnam monastery', 4 August 2009, *BBC News*.
- Shirong Chen, 'Tibet "Chinese issue" says Dalai', 10 August 2009, *BBC News*.
- 'Red Shirts deliver Thaksin petition', 17 August 2009, *Al Jazeera*.

Papers & Reports

- Alistair Millar with David Cortright, Linda Gerber-Stellingwerf and George A. Lopez, 'Oversight or Overlooked? Civil Society's Role in Monitoring and Reforming Security Systems and the Practice of Counterterrorism', Fourth Freedom Forum and Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame, March/August 2009.

This report considers civil society's role in monitoring Security System Reform (SSR) and counterterrorism both in policy and in practice. The report argues that civil society engagement, particularly with local actors, is central to ensuring proper civilian oversight and the overall effectiveness of both SSR and counterterrorism efforts and examines how efforts to engage civil society may be improved.

- 'Greater Expectations: UN Peacekeeping & Civilian Protection', Refugees International, July 2009.

This report is based on two four-week missions in eastern Chad undertaken by RI Peacekeeping Advocate Erin A. Weir, and Advocates Camilla Olson and Mpako Foaleng, as well as numerous assessment missions between 2007 and 2009 to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia and southern Sudan to assess the mandates and activities of UN, EU and AU peacekeeping operations.

The brutal reality of modern day conflict and the recognition of an international responsibility to protect civilians in times of crisis has made peacekeeping more important — and more controversial — than ever. As the nature of peacekeeping has evolved, the recent European Union and United Nations peacekeeping forces in Chad and the Central African Republic illustrate key lessons on how to meet this challenge of peacekeeping and civilian protection.

- Barbara Stocking, 'The Geneva Conventions: Safeguarding Civilians', Chatham House, *The World Today*, vol. 65, no. 8/9, August 2009.

The rights of civilians are regularly abused in conflicts. Safety, and the supply of essentials like food, are often bound-up together. Attacks on supplies and aid workers are on the increase, the argument for protection needs to be loud and clear.

Events & Announcements

- Piracy and Legal Issues: Reconciling Public and Private Interests, 1 – 2 October 2009, Chatham House, London, UK.

Latest Publications

- *Tearing Apart the Land: Islam and Legitimacy in Southern Thailand*, Singapore: National University of Singapore Press, 2009.

By Duncan McCargo.

Since January 2004, a violent separatist insurgency has raged in southern Thailand, resulting in more than three thousand deaths. Though largely unnoticed outside Southeast Asia, the rebellion in Pattani and neighbouring provinces and the Thai's government's harsh crackdown have resulted in a full-scale crisis. *Tearing Apart the Land* by Duncan McCargo, one of the world's leading scholars of contemporary Thai politics, is the first fieldwork-based book about this conflict. Drawing on his extensive knowledge of the region, hundreds of interviews conducted during a year's research in the troubled area, and unpublished Thai-language sources that range from anonymous leaflets to confessions extracted by Thai security forces, McCargo locates the roots of the conflict in the context of the troubled power relations between Bangkok and the Muslim majority 'deep South'.

- *Ethno-Diplomacy: The Uyghur Hitch in Sino-Turkish Relations*, Policy Studies No. 53, Honolulu: East-West Center, 2009.

By Yitzhak Shichor.

Beginning in 1949, China responded to so-called Uyghur separatism and the quest for Eastern Turkestan (Xinjiang) independence as a domestic problem. Since the mid-1990s, however, when it became aware of the international aspects of this problem, Beijing has begun to pressure Turkey to limit its support for Uyghur activism. Aimed not only at cultural preservation but also at Eastern Turkestan independence,

Uyghur activism remained unnoticed until the 1990s, despite the establishment in 1971 of Sino-Turkish diplomatic relations. It has gathered momentum as a result of China's post-Mao opening, the Soviet disintegration, increased Uyghur migration, the growing Western concern for human rights, and the widespread use of the Internet. Possibly less concerned about the Uyghur 'threat' than it suggests, Beijing may simply be using the Uyghurs to intimidate and manipulate Turkey and other governments, primarily those in Central Asia.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

News & Commentaries

- 'Ghana sentences human traffickers', 23 July 2009, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.
- David Porter and Carla K. Johnson, 'First case of organ trafficking in US?' 24 July 2009, *Associated Press*.
- Pavol Stracansky, 'Focus shifts to trafficking of men in Europe', 31 July 2009, *IPS*.
- 'Human trafficking plagues UAE', 31 July 2009, *Al Jazeera*.
- Richard Owen, 'Pope calls for end to human trafficking', 6 August 2009, *TIMESONLINE*.
- 'Bali (Indonesia): Unprecedented Court of Women hears testimonies from the trafficked and sexually exploited', 7 August 2009, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

- 'Sex-trafficked girls have a higher risk to contract STIs and HIV', 12 August 2009, United Nations Development Programme.

Events & Announcements

Global Campaign 'Decent Work for All', 1 January-31 December 2009, International Labour Organization.

Papers & Reports

- 'Mitigating Effects of the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) on Trafficking and Exploitation in Cambodia', 24 July 2009, UNIAP Alliance Activity Summary.

The current dire situation of unemployment, underemployment, and increasing poverty as a result of the global economic crisis is creating situations ripe for exploitation and human trafficking. This report assesses the intervention measures of the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking (UNIAP) in Cambodia as a result of the global financial crisis. These interventions are based on in-depth investigations and analysis of the impact of the global economic crisis on employment, exploitative working conditions and job brokering, unsafe migration, remittances, family welfare, school drop-out, and child labour. The lessons learned from this work will inform a national multi-stakeholder strategy to reduce the negative impacts of the current global financial crisis on migrants, rural families, and others vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking.

- Andrew Dillon, 'Measuring Child Labor: Comparisons between Hours Data and Subjective Measures', July 2009, IFPRI Discussion Paper 879.

This paper examines a subjective measure of child labor as an alternative to hours data for eliciting the distribution of children's time between work, school, and leisure. The subjective child labor questions that were developed have two primary advantages. First, the subjective measures avoid proxy respondent bias in child labor reports made by parents in a standard hours module. Second, the subjective child labor module scales responses to elicit the relative distribution of the shares of children's time without relying on hours data which are prone to severe outlier problems.

Adult, proxy respondents are found to produce uniformly lower reports of children's time allocated to work and school than the child's own subjective responses. Conditional labor supply functions are also estimated to examine the marginal effects of child, parent, household and school characteristics between the two types of data. Children's subjective responses are found to increase the magnitude of the marginal effects for child's age, parental education, and school availability with limited differences between household composition and asset variables.

Latest Publication

- *Building Decent Societies. Rethinking the Role of Social Security in State Building*, International Labour Organization & Palgrave Macmillan, 2009.

Edited by Peter Townsend.

The downturn of the global economy has made the scope of the problems of poverty and unemployment worse across the whole world. This book makes the case for a comprehensive social security system to be developed in all countries, including the poorest ones, in order to eliminate desperate conditions of poverty, to reverse growing inequality and to sustain economic growth.

WATER SECURITY

News & Commentaries

- 'Buried for Decades, Urban Waterways Are Natural Cure for Concrete World', 22 July 2009, *WaterNews*.
- Sameral-Atrush, 'Nile countries delay water sharing pact for six months', 28 July 2009, *AFP*.
- Peter Gleick, 'Whose water is it? Water rights in the age of scarcity', 4 August 2009, *WaterNews*.
- Christopher W. Tatlock, 'Water stress in Sub-Saharan Africa', 7 August 2009, Council on Foreign Relations.
- 'Iraq blasts Turkey for holding back on water', 11 August 2009, *AFP*.
- Eilene Zimmerman, 'Could we all be drinking sea water soon?' 11 August 2009, International Water Management Institute.
- Ong Dai Lin, 'New thinking needed for bottled water', 13 August 2009, *Channel News Asia*.

Papers & Reports

- 'Adapting Water Management to Climate Change', Swedish Water House Policy Brief Number 7, Stockholm International Water Institute, 16 August 2009.

Climate and water resources are closely interlinked. This new report produced by the Swedish Water House Cluster Group on Water, Vulnerability and Climate Change, warns that addressing climate warming without giving water a central role is to fail to recognise its multi-dimensional role in ecosystem sustainability and livelihood security. It asserts that the central role of water in climate adaptation should be moved to the forefront at future conferences, including the upcoming COP 15 in Copenhagen, 2009 and provides a series of recommendation on how to improve climate adaptation measures.

Latest Publication

- *Getting Transboundary Water Right: Theory and Practice for Effective Cooperation*, Report No. 25, Stockholm: Stockholm International Water Institute, 2009.

By Anders Jägerskog & Mark Zeitoun.

Water energises all sectors of society. Nearly half of the global available surface water is found in 263 international river basins, and groundwater resources, which account for more than one hundred times the amount of surface water, cross under at least 273 international borders. National boundaries make water issues political and so much more complex. This report challenges those in the international water community to grapple with some of the latest conceptual thinking and most recent lessons learned from around the world. The four chapters in the volume present real-world experience of cooperation at the international and community levels and innovative approaches to overcome political obstacle to cooperation.

TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

News & Commentaries

- Lynne Peeples, 'Counterfeit drugs continue to threaten lives in developing countries', 23 July 2009, *Scientific American*.
- Ben Whitford, 'Mexico on the brink: Felipe Calderón says drug cartels threaten Mexico's democracy. But his effort to crush them are damaging its society', 28 July 2009, *The Guardian*.
- 'Losing Afghanistan's drug war: UN drug czar says that efforts to eradicate opium have failed', 31 July 2009, *Newsweek.com*.
- 'China owns up Nigerian fake drugs cargo', 4 August 2009, *The Economic Times*.
- 'Evidence of drug lab activity in West Africa', 7 August 2009, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Papers & Reports

- 'Extending Our Reach: A Comprehensive Approach to Tackling Serious Organised Crime', UK Cabinet Office, The Strategy Unit, Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for the Home Department by Command of Her Majesty, July 2009.

This paper outlines the action that the UK government took to improve its response to serious organised crime and the harm it causes to the UK. The report acknowledges the government's achievements in the fight against serious organised crime such as the creation of three new national agencies – SOCA in 2006, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs in 2005, and the new UK Border Agency in 2008.

Together with the Police, they have significantly strengthened the UK's response to organised crime. However, the threat of organised crime have evolved over the years and this report calls for a review of existing approaches while highlighting the need to establish a new approach which will be best suited to tackle the threat.

Latest Publication

- *The Politics of Organised Crime: Theory and Practice*, London: Routledge, 2009.

By Sappho Xenakis.

Organised crime has become one of most prominent international security concerns of our age. Nevertheless, international efforts to combat it have often been criticised as inadequate, ineffective and illiberal. Repeated calls have been made for greater international collaboration, better data collection, fairer international systems of economic exchange, more accurate and relevant threat assessments, and more humane anti-organised crime policies.

This book argues that such outlooks miss the essential political functions of the international agenda against organised crime. Combining insights from International Relations and Criminology, policy against organised crime is explained as a potent means by which state cohesiveness and the authority of state elites are strengthened, a means valid as much for stronger as for weaker states, internationally and domestically. Assessing the wider political impact of the agenda, the study includes an unprecedented account of resistance to it. In an age of intensifying international co-operation, an awareness of both should be indispensable.

About Us

The Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies is a research centre of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

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