

NTS Bulletin November 2014

This year is the 20th anniversary of the release of the 1994 United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Human Development Report, which defined the concept of human security and brought it to international attention. It is thus timely to ask: where is human security today? The following is the third part of a series exploring new and complex issues which have gone beyond the seven original components of human security.

Protection of Civilians (POC): A Human Security Perspective

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Armed conflicts always have disproportionate consequences on civilian populations. Civilians accounted for 74 per cent of the fatalities in Israel's bombing of Gaza in the summer of 2014. The high civilian casualties in armed conflicts highlight the persistent need for POC. In addition, threats to civilians also emerge from political instability, communal violence, massive human rights violations and natural disasters. The clashes between Muslims and Buddhists in Myanmar since 2012 have caused hundreds of deaths and displaced thousands of people. Hence, POC needs broader settings rather than armed conflicts only.

Progress and challenge

While the national government concerned should assume the primary responsibility to safeguard the security and basic rights of its people, international assistance is also crucial. The UN has developed extensive practices to improve the implementation of POC, including the biannual Security Council debate, regular thematic and country-specific reports by the Secretary-General, an informal expert group on POC and inclusion of POC into peacekeeping operations (PKOs). Other equally important agencies for POC include international organisations like the International Committee of the Red Cross, regional organisations and arrangements and NGOs.

However, civilians, particularly vulnerable groups, are still subject to abuse. Sexual violence in conflict and recruitment of child soldiers has been a grave concern. Humanitarian personnel and even peacekeepers have also become the target of violence. According to a report by The Guardian in 2014, 155 humanitarian workers were killed and 171 seriously wounded in 2013, the highest number in history. 44 UN peacekeepers in Golan Heights were held hostage by Syrian rebels in August 2014.

Despite the international commitment, POC efforts still face many difficulties, such as lack of equipment and personnel for PKOs and denial of access for humanitarian workers to people in need. Many UN peace operations face the problem of personnel not being deployed in its full strength on time. The under-staffed operations are often overwhelmed by the precarious situation. Lack of access is a major challenge in international efforts to help civilians in desperate situations as in Syria and South Sudan now.

POC and Human Security: A Holistic Approach

POC shares the ethos of human security that values people's security and well-being. It relates to human security through its three components – personal security, political security and community security which focuses on people's physical security, political rights and collective identity respectively. The realisation of these three securities is crucial to POC.

POC efforts should be inclusive and comprehensive, providing not only protection per se but also solutions to deep-rooted problems that create conflicts and social tensions. Protection mechanisms should integrate external assistance with local experience to improve effectiveness. Structural measures such as security sector reform and the rule of law are essential to prevent future abuse and atrocities. Poverty eradication, economic development, social justice and national reconciliation are key for realising both POC and the afore-mentioned three components of human security.

Core Readings:

- Jim Rolfe, 2011, Partnering to protect: Conceptualizing civil-military partnerships for the protection of civilians, *International Peacekeeping*, Vol.18, No.5, pp. 561 – 576.
- Lisa Hultman, 2013, UN peace operations and protection of civilians: Cheap talk or norm implementation?, *Journal of Peace Research*, Vol.50, No.1, pp. 59 – 73.
- Mely Caballero-Anthony, 2011, Developing a "Protection of Civilians" agenda for Southeast Asia, *NTS Perspectives*, Issue.5, Singapore: Nanyang Technological University.
- United Nations, 2012, Protection of civilians: Coordination mechanisms in UN peacekeeping mission, New York.

CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND NATURAL DISASTERS

News & Commentaries

- Saleem H Ali and Malini Mehra, Floods in India and Pakistan offer a chance for peace-building, *The Guardian*, 19 September 2014.
- Shannon Tiezzi, How disaster relief can save China-ASEAN relations, *The Diplomat*, 7 October 2014.
- Jan Piotrowski, Lyon declaration pushes for data access to permeate SDGs, *Science and Development Network*, 10 October 2014
- Megan Rowling, Aid workers must heed local culture to save lives – Red Cross, Thomson Reuters Foundation, 16 October 2014.
- Workers plan strike at US miner Freeport's Indonesia site, *Channel NewsAsia*, 27 October 2014.
- Sujadi Siswo, Private sector can help in disaster relief: ASEAN report, *Channel NewsAsia*, 31 October 2014.
- Peter Hartcher, Climate change to be discussed at G20 summit, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 31 October 2014.
- Bill McKibben, The IPCC is stern on climate change – but it still underestimates the situation, *The Guardian*, 2 November 2014.

Selected Publications

- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2014, *Climate change 2014: Synthesis report – approved summary for policymakers*, World Meteorological Organization, Geneva.
- Jan-Willem van Bochove, Emma Sullivan, Takehiro Nakamura, (Eds), *The importance of mangroves to people: A call to action*, Cambridge: United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre.
- Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, UNEP & CBD, 2014, *Global biodiversity outlook: A mid-term assessment of progress towards the implementation of the strategic plan for biodiversity 2011 – 2020*, Montreal.

Events & Announcements

- Third Annual Conference of the Green Growth Knowledge Platform, 29 – 30 January 2015, Venice, Italy.
- Call for Papers: Fifth Congress of the East Asian Association of Environmental and Resource Economics, Taipei, Taiwan, Deadline: 7 April 2015.

ENERGY SECURITY

News & Commentaries

- Retno Ayuningtyas, Pertamina to build 150 compressed natural gas stations in Rp 1.5t project, The Jakarta Globe, 25 September 2014.
- Pavilion Gas, BP in 20-year LNG supply deal, Channel NewsAsia, 25 September 2014.
- Iris C. Gonzales, Gov't hikes share of natural gas in energy mix, The Philippine Star, 8 October 2014.
- Kevin Book, Sarah O. Ladislaw, The gas sector implications of a crude oil price trough, CSIS, 17 October 2014.
- Clint Richards, The future of Japanese energy, The Diplomat, 22 October 2014.
- Pertamina to import LNG from Mozambique, The Jakarta Post, 22 October 2014.
- Panu Wongcha-um, Laos' hydropower dams draw criticisms from neighbours, Channel NewsAsia, 24 October 2014.
- Public, private sectors to collaborate on developing cybersecurity, energy capabilities, Today, 24 October 2014.

Selected Publications

- International Energy Agency, 2014, Key world energy statistics, Paris.
- Kim Talus, 2014, United States natural gas markets, contracts and risks: What lessons for the European Union and Asia-Pacific natural gas markets?, Energy Policy, Vol. 74, pp. 28 – 34.

Events & Announcements

- Gas Fired Power Plants Conference 2014, 2 – 5 December 2014, Singapore.
- 5th Energy and Sustainability 2014, 16 – 18 December 2014, Putrajaya, Malaysia.

FOOD SECURITY

News & Commentaries

- PH rice self-sufficiency goal pushed back 3 years, Inquirer.net, 8 October 2014.
- Vandana Shiva, Of food, farmers and WTO's doublespeak, The Asian Age, 8 October 2014.
- Jigger J. Jerusalem, Farmers group slams gov't for food shortage, SunStar, 15 October 2014.
- Evan Fraser and Elizabeth Fraser, A manifesto for solving the global food crisis, The Guardian, 16 October 2014.
- Casper van Vark, 10 drivers for sustainability in global food production and consumption, The Guardian, 17 October 2014.
- Tom Murphy, United States wastes billions of dollars to ship food aid, Humansphere, 23 October 2014.
- Hilary Pollack, Ebola has created a full-fledged food crisis in Liberia, Munchies, 24 October 2014.
- Pedro A. Sanchez, Africa will help feed 9 billion by 2050, Thomson Reuters Foundation, 31 October 2014.

Selected Publications

- IFPRI, 2014, Global hunger index: The challenge of hidden hunger, Washington D.C.
- Nature, 2014, Specials – Nature Outlook: Rice, Vol. 514, No. 7524, pp. S49 – S74.

Events & Announcements

- Food Security: Mapping Risks, Building Resilience, 1 – 2 December 2014, London, UK.
- 3rd Asia Pacific Symposium on Postharvest Research, Education and Extension, 8 – 11 December 2014, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

HEALTH SECURITY

News & Commentaries

- Anthony Flint, As Asian cities grow, so do public health concerns, Citylab, 21 October 2014.
- Shaimaa Khalil, Security for polio health workers in Pakistan, BBC News Asia, 24 October 2014.
- Jason Gale, World Bank funds Ebola hub that may spur security corps, Bloomberg Businessweek, 30 October 2014.
- Adam Taylor, Map: The Africa without Ebola, The Washington Post, 3 November 2014.
- Yemen: HIV patients denied health care, Human Rights Watch, 3 November 2014.
- Shadia Nasralla and Fredrik Dahl, U.N.'s Ban warns against quarantining Ebola health workers, Reuters (U.S. Edition), 3 November 2014.
- Rick Gladstone, Ebola cure delayed by drug industry's drive for profit, WHO leader says, The Boston Globe, 4 November 2014.
- James Regan, Sanofi says first dengue vaccine may be available in H2 2015, Livemint, 4 November 2014.

Selected Publications

- World Health Organization (WHO), 2014, Government of Senegal boosts Ebola awareness through SMS campaign.
- Chatham House, 2014, Shared responsibilities for health: A coherent global framework for health financing, London.

Events & Announcements

- Amref Health Africa's 1st International Conference, 24 – 26 November 2014, Nairobi, Kenya.
- Sustainable Healthcare Transformation: International Conference on Health System Innovation, 18 – 20 March, 2015, Tasmania, Australia.

PEACE, HUMAN SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT

News & Commentaries

- Ranga Sirilal and Shihar Aneez, Hardline Buddhists in Myanmar, Sri Lanka strike anti-Islamist pact, Reuters, 30 September.
- Ben Doherty, Asylum seeker bill allows Australia to ignore risk of persecution, The Guardian, 15 October 2014.
- Cambodia: UN-backed report reveals scope of violence against children, UN News Centre, 22 October 2014.
- Joshua Kurlantzick, Malaysia's growing climate of repression gets ignored, The Diplomat, 25 October 2014.
- Saw Yan Naing and Lawi Weng, Karen leadership puts problems on hold, The Irrawaddy, 29 October 2014.
- Shamim Chowdhury, The politics at play in Bangladesh war trials, Aljazeera, 29 October 2014.
- Htet Naing Zaw, Meeting of Burma's big political players yields little, The Irrawaddy, 31 October 2014.
- UNHCR launches 10-year global campaign to end statelessness, UNHCR, 4 November 2014.

Selected Publications

- United Nations, 2014, The Millennium Development Goals Report 2014, New York.
- Sandra Pogodda and Daniela Huber, 2014, India's peacebuilding between rights and needs: Transformation of local conflict spheres in Bihar, Northeast India and Jammu and Kashmir, International Peacekeeping, Vol. 21, No. 4, pp. 443 – 463.

Events & Announcements

- The Aftermath of Aid: Sciences, effectiveness, and sustainability of post-disaster and post-conflict reconstruction and recovery, 17 – 18 November 2014, Banda Aceh, Indonesia.
- Call for application: Youth for peace, 16 – 20 December 2014, Bangkok, Thailand, Deadline: 25 November 2014.

TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

News & Commentaries

- Smuggling of migrants tops agenda at opening of conference on organized crime, UN News Centre, 6 October 2014.
- Steve Herman, Integration versus security poses dilemma for SE Asia, Voice of America, 30 October 2014.
- Organized transnational crime likely to expand unless prevented, The Jakarta Post, 2 November 2014.
- Collaboration needed to build crime-fighting tools of the future: DPM Teo, Channel NewsAsia, 4 November 2014.
- Imelda Saad, New bill against human trafficking aims to restore dignity, show compassion to victims, Channel NewsAsia, 4 November 2014.
- Jill Treanor, Call for global cooperation over money laundering rules, The Guardian, 4 November 2014.

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- White House, U.S. Government, 2014, National strategy for combatting wildlife trafficking, Washington, D.C.
- Kevin Mickelberg, Neal Pollard and Laurie Schive, 2014, US cybercrime: Rising risks, reduced readiness, New York: PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.

Events & Announcements

- ICHT 2015: XIII International Conference on Human Trafficking, 26 – 27 February 2015, Dubai, UAE.
- Follow Up Conference to the 2nd International London Conference on the Illegal Trade in Wildlife, 3 March 2015, Kasane, Botswana.

WATER SECURITY

News & Commentaries

- Monish Gulati, Water security at SCO: The omnipresent Chinese factor, South Asia Monitor, 4 October 2014.
- Rhett B. Larson, War and Water, The Huffington Post Politics, 7 October 2014.
- Pia Ranada, Water issues, lack of toilets plague Mayon evacuation centers, Rappler, 7 October 2014.
- Stian Reklef, Beijing to tap water from thousands of kilometres away, Reuters, 12 October 2014.
- Jeremy Wagstaff, Drip, drip: Water startups slowly tap a glacial industry, Reuters, 13 October 2014.
- China Water Risk, Why water is more important than energy for China, Eco-Business, 21 October 2014.
- Molly Nance, Five data tools used to improve water and food security, Triple Pundit, 24 October 2014.
- Torgny Holmgren, Better water management needed to eradicate poverty, Inter Press Service, 30 October 2014.
- Major water networks partner to address water sanitation, manage water resources worldwide, Water World, 3 November 2014.
- Pilita Clark, Threat to world's water security greater than thought, The Financial Times, 3 November 2014.

Selected Publications

- Thomas Bernauer and Tobias Böhmelt, 2014, Basins at risk: Predicting international river basin conflict and cooperation, Global Environmental Politics, Vol. 14, No. 4, pp. 116 – 138.
- UNU Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH), 2014, UNU-INWEH strategic plan (2015 – 2019) envisioning a world free of water problems, Ontario.

Events & Announcements

- World Toilet Day, 19 November 2014.
- Water-Energy-Food Nexus Forum, 25 – 27 November 2014, Melbourne/Sydney, Brisbane, Australia.