



Human Security Collective

Narrative Report 2016

Contents

- I. Introduction, three pillars of HSC's work
- II. Projects under the three pillars
- III. Research
- IV. Team
- V. Outreach
- VI. Final remarks

I Introduction

This (2016) was the first year HSC operated without institutional funding from Cordaid. The reserve that the foundation has been able to build since 2013 was used for acquisition and the preparation of project proposals. HSC was successful in securing project funds and a number of consultancy assignments. These assignments have enabled HSC to deepen its practice and knowledge around the **three pillars** of its work, namely:

- **Women and Youth Leadership for Human Security:** Strengthening youth and women leadership on human security in high risk areas, enabling them to play a role in conflict transformation, social cohesion and the prevention of violent extremism.
- **A Human Security Approach to Preventing Violent Extremism:** Developing a human security approach and strategy to counter or prevent violent extremism with different stakeholders.
- **Policy emendation and effective implementation of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Standards on Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) relating to nonprofits.** Amending the FATF Standards (Recommendation 8 and other Recommendations) as it relates to nonprofits/civil society to prevent its abuse and misinterpretation by authorities and other stakeholders such as banks, which leads to overregulation of and shrinking space for civil society as a consequence.

The common denominator of all HSC's programmes is the inclusion of civil society in policy and programme development. Team members help build capacities of partner organizations, civil society, government authorities and other stakeholders with the aim of better understanding each other's mindsets and institutional settings concerning the relationship between human security and preventing/countering violent extremism. HSC develops initiatives which enable better policies and programmes, and coordinates/conducts applied

research with civil society organizations and research organizations to provide evidence for the programmes it implements.

II PILLAR 1:

Project: Women and Youth against Violence, Palestine and the MENA region



Consortium: Cordaid, HSC

Timeline: 2013–2016 extended till March 2017

The **four central components** of the project were:

- To strengthen the capacity of young changemakers to bolster human security in communities
- To monitor the everyday safety in communities through the gathering and analyzing of stories from community members
- To provide young changemakers with the requisite skills and methodologies to bridge the gap between communities and local security stakeholders
- To strengthen the international network of young changemakers to influence security policy at the macro level

Activities and results: In the final year of the project both Cordaid and HSC thought it necessary to spend time with the youth participants to look back at the results of the project so far and to collectively spend time evaluating and looking at future scenarios and engagement strategies to continue with the valuable initiatives started by the youth leaders during the project. To this end, sessions were held in Ramallah and Gaza in January 2016. In April 2016, an engagement training module was organized in Gaza and in September 2016, a Human Security Leadership training session organized in Ramallah. During these sessions,

methods for **appreciative listening**, and **reflections on stories and future scenarios** were used to engage the young leaders in open and frank conversations on **looking back and looking ahead**. In November 2016, Cordaid and HSC organized a **regional exchange** for young community leaders from the MENA region (4 Palestinian, 12 Libyan and 8 Tunisian changemakers and and a team of Palestinian, Libyan, Moroccan, Tunisian and Dutch resource persons) in Tunis. This regional exchange aimed to highlight different experiences and lessons learnt as well as give the youth an opportunity to share best practice.



From the workshop in Ramallah a quote on Human Security Leadership:

"A leader should have a vision of the future and a comprehensive national program, be committed to democratic values (be inclusive and promote participation), and be diplomatic (listen to concerns of other people and have strong communication skills), count with strong popular support, put an emphasis on promoting women and children's rights, be strategic and a good planner".

Project: Youth Leadership Tunisia–Delft, Phase 1



Partners: HSC, with Free Sight Association in Tunisia and Participe in Delft

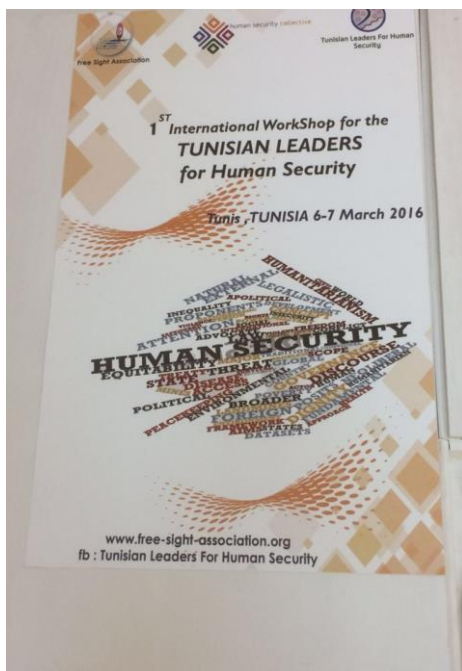
Timeline: 2015–2017

The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs is currently supporting a pilot project to strengthen youth leadership in addressing violent extremism. The geographic interest in Tunisia stems from the growing instability of Libya and its neighbouring countries, which gives terrorist networks like IS ample opportunity to flourish, recruit and attract youth from countries like Tunisia, e.g., to join their jihad and cross-over to mainland Europe. The interest in a parallel project in the Netherlands emanated from the relatively large number of foreign fighters from the city of Delft who have travelled to Syria, and from looking for ways to preventing teenagers, young girls and boys, from seeing these foreign fighters as role-models and glorifying or even following them to Syria. The project identifies teenagers as actors able to withstand the lure of violent-extremist ideas and behaviour and contribute to positive change in their own communities. Two sub-projects are being conducted in parallel in the municipalities of Tunis, le Kef, Siliana, Kasserine, Medenine and Nabeul in Tunisia, and in the Voorhof and Buitenhof neighbourhoods in Delft. The sub-projects are closely related and reinforce each other.

HSC is working closely with **Participe**, a social welfare organization, in Delft. Participe is a member of the umbrella organization “Delft voor elkaar” which brings together civil society and community organizations of professionals and volunteers aiming to improve social connection, cohesion and community organizing in the area. Together with professional youth workers from Participe and the Delft municipality, HSC organizes workshops and activities for young mentors who, in turn, work with teenagers from the community. The objective is to encourage the mentors and teenagers to contribute to positive change in their

communities and to withstand the attraction of criminal and extremist networks. HSC applies the training and monitoring methodologies developed in the aforementioned 'Women and Youth against Violence' project. Ten mentors have joined the initiative in Delft to date.

In Tunisia, a similar approach is used in collaboration with the local partner **Free Sight Association**. FSA is an independent nonprofit organizations active on a wide range of civil and political rights issues, including youth and women rights and the democratic transition of the country. Twelve mentors have been part of the initiative in Tunis so far.



Activities and results:

- **Feb 8, Delft:** Kickoff of the project in Delft with partner Participe
- **Mar 6-7, Tunis:** First international workshop of the Tunisian part of the project ('Tunisian Leaders for Human Security'). Topics included safety and security in communities, an initial analysis of push factors contributing to radicalization in their region (on which the mentors based their ideas for their proposed initiatives with mentees), and self-monitoring techniques throughout the project.
- **Apr 1-2, Delft:** First workshop with mentors, which focused on introducing the concept of human security and collectively analyzing local safety from a human security perspective, as well as to start thinking, on the basis of this analysis, about the first initiatives with the mentees.
- **May 14, Delft:** Kickoff of **weekly activities** with mentors and mentees in Delft with visit to Humanity House and Omniversum in the Hague.
- **May 26-29, Tunis:** Second workshop with mentors.
- **Aug 15-19, The Hague/Delft/Amsterdam:** This innovative part of the project saw a fruitful **weeklong exchange** between the 12 youth leaders/mentors from Tunisia and

their counterparts in Delft. Discussed were various issues around security in their communities, with the focus being on learning from each other's contexts and experiences of working on youth resilience in their respective communities. The programme including meetings with Dutch policymakers and practitioners at the local, regional and national levels. The Dutch Foreign Minister, Bert Koenders, spent a few hours listening to and talking with the young leaders.



The Ministry released [this statement](#) after the meeting. For a short movie encapsulating the highlights of the week, see [here](#).

- **Nov 24-27, Tunis:** A group of young changemakers from Palestine, Libya and Tunisia came together in Tunis for a programme of regional exchange. The group consisted of 4 Palestinian, 12 Libyan and 8 Tunisian youth leaders, and a team of Palestinian, Libyan, Moroccan, Tunisian and Dutch resource persons. The regional exchange provided a platform for these young changemakers to exchange ideas, experiences and approaches on designing and implementing activities on human security. This workshop was one of the final activities of the three-year '[Women and Youth Against Violence](#)' programme. For a full report of this exchange, see [here](#).

A visit by the Dutch mentors to Tunisia is on the cards for 2017. Additionally, as part of the project, **empirical qualitative research** on safety and radicalization, with a focus on the youth perspective, is being carried out in the neighbourhoods of Voorhof and Buitenhof in Delft. The research aims to contribute to policy discussions on security and radicalization. The initial research results are being discussed with the project mentors as well.

Project: Youth Leadership Tunisia–Delft, Phase 2, including other Dutch municipalities

Partners: HSC with local partners

Timeline: 2017–2018

In October 2016, the Department of Security Policy, MoFA, invited HSC to submit a proposal for a second phase on the youth leadership programme running in the Netherlands–Tunisia. This was approved in November 2016 and runs through to June 2018. It includes an extension of the programme with Participe in Delft and Free Sight Association in Tunisia, and, in addition, includes a rolling out of a similar program in **Gouda**, the Netherlands and with a **new group in Tunisia**. The partner selection and vetting process took place towards the end of the year, including the process of identifying an HSC project coordinator in Tunis

Project: A Multi-stakeholder Human Security Approach to Community Security

Partners: HSC with Justice and Peace and STEK (a faith-based community based organization)

Timeline: 2016–2017



Loosduinen, a neighbourhood in The Hague, is the focus area of Human Security Collective's new project in the Netherlands. In collaboration with Justice and Peace Netherlands and STEK ('for City and Church'), the aim is to improve social cohesion in the neighbourhood by supporting the ideas of local citizens from a diversity of backgrounds to jointly improve the livability in the area.

As a first step in this process, we are carrying out a social mapping exercise in the area. The aim of this exercise is to analyze opportunities and garner/challenge local citizens' perceptions of the neighbourhood. To this end, in-depth interviews with a diverse group of citizens is being conducted. In addition to these interviews, existing research will be utilized to illuminate this picture further. The social map will form the basis for further discussions in the neighbourhood, where citizens, local organizations as well as (local) government representatives can share their opinions and ideas for improvement. Finally, the people in the neighbourhood will be encouraged to jointly develop their own initiatives and action plans to support social cohesion.



The project was a follow-through of an event ("[Welkom Hier](#)") welcoming refugees to the Hague, which HSC helped organize in February 2016 with Fonds 1818 and Justice and Peace. The event was successful as it connected many (semi) volunteer organizations and professional groups with refugees on a number of activities and projects.

Project: Women Peace and Security in Libya

Consortium: Cordaid, HSC, WPP and local partners (funded by MoFA as part of the National Action Plan program on the UN Security Council Resolution 1325)

Timeline: 2017–2019, Operational as of January 2017

The long-term goal of this project is to contribute to an enabling environment for women's participation and empowerment in Libya, allowing women to play a role as bridge builders to increase human security and contribute to a culture of peace.

The kick-off workshop of the programme is planned for April 2017. The members of the consortium together with their Libyan partners will meet up to arrive at a joint plan of action.

Consultancy: OSCE commissioned consultancy on **developing a training curriculum for youth leadership on preventing violent extremism.**

Timeline: 2016–2017

Human Security Collective is partnering with the OSCE on developing a youth leadership training programme, promoting 'context-specific efforts against preventing violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, developed and led by civil society actors at the local level across the OSCE area'. This is in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2178 (2014), which stresses the need for preventing violent extremism and underscores the need for working in partnership with civil society and local communities in order to do so. This is one of three programmes that the OSCE is developing under its LIVE (Leaders against Intolerance and Violent Extremism) initiative – the other two being on women leaders and religious and traditional leaders.

The objective of the youth training course is to 'empower trainees to voluntarily, effectively and safely speak out, mobilize others and take appropriate action against violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT). The course aims to increase the knowledge and influence the attitudes, intentions, and behaviours (KAIB) of youth leaders in civil society in order to contribute to the prevention of VERLT. The emphasis is on grassroots awareness-raising to build resilience and the promotion of healthy narratives and opportunities for positive change'.

The training programme is divided into two modules, with an interim period in between the two. The first module will ensure participants gain and strengthen their knowledge on issues around human security and VERLT, theories of complexity and how they apply to their context, the global CT/CVE architecture, the local manifestations of VERLT, human rights, social media and VERLT, issues of safety, and issues around monitoring and evaluation. They will then identify a relevant action idea they can work on, and plan out the steps required to

bring this action idea to fruition. During the interim period, they will work on their idea in some detail. Support will be provided in terms of seed funding and access to remote advice/consultations. In the second module, the focus will be on engagement strategies, and on fine-tuning the initiatives, including ways to overcome difficulties.

The first week-long module of the LIVE training course for youth leaders is scheduled for February 2017, and the second week-long module for May 2017.

Given the convergence in thinking on the subject of youth leadership between the OSCE and HSC, this is a useful exercise for HSC to venture into, as it gives HSC the opportunity to consolidate its working methods on youth leadership into a training module. HSC (Jeanne) is the lead consultant on this particular module, with input also being provided by ConnectFutures (UK), a media specialist and a safety/security specialist. The added advantage is that the module is being peer reviewed by a whole host of organizations/experts, and that it is being live piloted to check for what works best. HSC will be free to use this material as part of its trainings sessions and work going forward once it is published.

PILLAR 2

Project: Civil Society for a Human Security Strategy in Mali

Consortium: WANEP, GPPAC and HSC

Timeline: 2013–2016



With the overall goal of contributing to human security and sustainable peacebuilding efforts in Mali, the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding ([WANEP](#)), the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict ([GPPAC](#)) and Human Security Collective (HSC) have been working, since December 2013, on a three-year project towards the following objectives:

- Supporting a strong, vibrant Malian civil society network that mobilizes a critical mass around the issues of human security and peacebuilding;
- Enabling network members formulate and upscale a human security strategy for Mali that is gender-sensitive, feasible, and pays attention to the structural causes of the conflict;
- Strengthening good practices on countering violent extremism through human security approaches;
- Ensuring the international community, including regional bodies, engages with civil society for the development of security policies.

Within Mali, WANEP holds regular dialogue with civil society to identify and strategize on human security priorities. WANEP, as the regional network for peacebuilding, is well positioned and equipped to lead and facilitate this process. By incorporating an international advocacy component, GPPAC and Human Security Collective ensure that the initiative is connected to global policy processes affecting the West Africa region. This includes how the international involvement in Mali relates to the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and to decision-making in policy arenas at the UN, the EU and other key arenas.

Activities and results:



In 2016, WANEP, GPPAC and HSC consolidated the insights from their consultations with civil society on Human Security in Mali since 2014 in a **strategy document**. HSC contributed to this document by developing a chapter on “Addressing Violent Extremism within a Human Security Approach in Mali”. This chapter sheds light on the drivers of violent extremism in Mali; the links between policymaking on violent extremism and the Algiers Peace Process, as well as the importance of an inclusive process; and the diverse strategies that exist at the regional level to address violent extremism. Several policy recommendations on a Human Security approach to PVE in Mali are made in the chapter. In June 2016, a **consultative multi-stakeholder meeting** took place in Bamako to garner input on the strategy document – this input has since been integrated. There has, however, been some delay in the finalization of the strategy document. In November 2016, HSC took part in an **advocacy visit to New York** organized by GPPAC, along with a Malian civil society delegation including WANEP. During the visit, HSC facilitated meetings between the Malian CSOs and the UN departments working on CVE in New York. The Malian CSOs were able to share their analyses on and work related to the prevention of violent extremism, and learnt about the architecture of the UN and relevant



policies for Mali. The visit helped to connect us with the process in Mali towards building a comprehensive CVE/PVE strategy.

The project is in its final stages and no follow up is foreseen for the current consortium. However, HSC has just been granted the following funding and will continue working and reinforcing the Human Security approach in Mali :

Project: Addressing the Root Causes of Conflict, Migration and Instability in Mali

Consortium: Norwegian Church Aid, ICCO, HSC and local partners (funded by MoFA, department of Stability and Humanitarian Aid)

Timeline: 2017–2020. Operational from January 2017.

Project: Consultancies

Additionally, under this pillar of work, HSC was involved in a **number of consultancies** related to a Human Security approach to countering/preventing violent extremism.

CVE Masterclass in Nigeria:

HSC has been liaising with the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) in Nigeria, even after the post-election political and bureaucratic changes in the country. The Dutch MoFA requested that HSC organize a masterclass on CVE in Nigeria, bringing in experts from NCTV, Dutch Cities and think tanks as needed. The original idea was to conduct the training in November. However, this has been postponed to February 2017. Most of the logistical and content preparation for this has already taken place this year.

Similarly, in the pipeline is the development of a CVE strategy in Tunisia with CTED, ICCT and the Dutch Embassy in Tunis, likely to take-off in 2017.

EUTANS Nigeria

HSC conducted the last workshop within the EUTANS (EU support for the fight against terrorism in Nigeria) programme before it closed down in June 2016. It entailed a workshop with the PAVE (Partnership Against Violent Extremism) network and its NGO and government members to set up an institutional structure for PAVE, and draft an MoU between this new structure and the government. The meeting was successful in terms of planning and consensus. Unfortunately the PAVE structure has still not been established officially (due to a myriad of political, technical and personal reasons).

Rehab and Reintegration for Violent Extremists Offenders (VEOs)

ICCT together with the Global Center for Cooperative Security are conducting a mapping study for the State Department in SE Asia, West- and East Africa on the role of civil society in Rehab and Reintegration activities for VEOs. HSC was subcontracted to bring in expertise on CSOs in this area and carry out the mapping and regional workshop in SE Asia (Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia). The preparation took place in 2016, but the actual mapping and regional workshop is due for 2017.



Training sessions on CT/CVE and conflict transformation

HSC has conducted training sessions on CT/CVE and conflict for Clingendael, Asser Institute, ICCT, The Hague Academy, Amnesty Netherlands and the Haagse Hogeschool.

NCTV veiligheidshuis

The Dutch National Coordinator for Security and Counterterrorism (NCTV) requested HSC's input for the Danish Aarhus Model of mentorship which aims to reintegrate jihadi fighters. The effects of our input in terms of adjustments will be known in 2017.

Global Community and Resilience Fund (GCERF), a programme of the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum

In June and December, as board member of the Fund representing the civil society constituency, HSC took part in two board meetings in Brussels and Geneva. Topics discussed included: approving the first round of funding for Mali, Nigeria and Bangladesh and developing a strategic focus for the Fund. In July, a personal visit to the GCERF Secretariat took place to discuss the way forward on CS engagement in-depth and to further elaborate on the PVE focus within the Fund. This has resulted in a proposal for CS constituency management.

CT MORSE

HSC participated in a **CT MORSE** conference in Brussels (CT MORSE is the EU CT monitoring, reporting and support mechanism), which was about improved coordination between development organization consortia and CT MORSE relating to an effective implementation of CVE/PVE and development programmes in the Sahel, West Africa, the Horn of Africa, the MENA region and South Asia. As a follow through of the conference, HSC visited one of the CVE consortia groups, **Expertise France**, for discussions on a potential CT MORSE/DEVCO- (EU department for development cooperation)funded project on the prevention of Terrorism Financing in the MENA and SE Asia, which would also include close collaboration with nonprofits.

PILLAR 3

Project: Standing up Against Counter-terrorism Measures that Constrain Civic Space –NPO engagement with the FATF

Consortium: HSC, ECNL (European Center for Not for Profit Law) and EFC (European Foundation Centre).

Timeline: 2015–2017.

Advocacy highlights:

The major highlight of the year was the FATF's **update of its counter-terrorism recommendation on NPOs (June 2016)**. The removal of the long-standing characterization of non-profits as "particularly vulnerable" to terrorist abuse in Recommendation 8 (R8) of the FATF Standard was widely hailed by NPOs. The previous language led to overregulation and inappropriate restrictions on NPOs, hampering their legitimate and essential work around the

world. The new wording of Recommendation 8 clearly acknowledges that not all NPOs are at risk and directs countries to undertake a risk-based approach when considering counter-terrorism financing measures. We expect to see the revised standards implemented soon at national level.



The change in wording, with its attendant shift in discourse, is a **major victory** for the Global NPO Coalition which has been advocating for the past four years to mitigate the unintended consequences of the FATF Recommendations on NPOs . The impact of the revision of Recommendation 8 on the NPO sector cannot be underestimated. As an inter-governmental body that sets standards and promotes effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering and terrorist financing, FATF has far-reaching influence on national governments’ regulation of the charitable sector. More than 180 jurisdictions worldwide are committed to implementing its Recommendations. FATF has committed to strengthening its engagement with the NPO sector. While dialogue with the NPO sector has been formalized over the past year, the sector calls for further improvements in the consultation process, proposing the development of written guidance for engagement with NPOs to enable the same meaningful participatory practices adopted by other multilateral entities.

A day-long workshop was organized by the Global NPO Coalition on FATF in London on September 21, 2016. This was to facilitate a discussion on the experiences of NPOs in the FATF evaluation process, in order to identify good practice and challenges, and set out recommendations to improve the practical implementation of the process. This was done by engaging stakeholders involved in recent evaluations (FATF evaluators, governments and NPOs). The overall goal was to help the evaluation process evolve, and to discuss steps to improve the implementation of the FATF methodology and the training of evaluators with regards to Recommendation 8 and its Interpretative Note. For a report of the meeting, see [here](#).



Additionally, **in-country workshops** around the FATF Mutual Evaluation process and on conducting Risk Assessments of the NPO sector took place in **Denmark, Sweden, Ireland and Kyrgyzstan**. Given that Ireland had an upcoming Mutual Evaluation Review, the aim of the Sept 26, 2016 workshop at the Sutherland School of Law was to get a good understanding of how the FATF system works, what the current issues at stake are for Irish actors, both State (government, charity regulator, Garda Síochána, etc.) and NPOs; and to learn how NPOs can engage in the evaluation process. The Global NPO Coalition on FATF shared NPO experiences with recent FATF evaluations in other countries.

HSC was invited by the International Center for Not for Profit Law/USAID to lead a breakout session on NPOs and legal space at their regional Central Asian Conference in Kazakhstan. Out of this meeting, a pilot project to carry out a **joint risk assessment of terrorism financing within the NPO sector in Kyrgyzstan** was developed by the Kyrgyz NGO Civic Participation Fund, HSC and ECNL. This was approved and funded by OSF (Sept 2016–Jan 2017). Two workshops have been conducted in Kyrgyzstan this year, (with one more scheduled for 2017) which has resulted in a better understanding by the national Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) and NPOs on how to carry out a risk assessment and how to engage with the FATF/EurAsia Group Mutual Evaluation process.

At the European level, HSC, EFC and ECNL have participated in **consultations with EU DG Just (for Justice and Consumers) and provided critical and constructive input in the EU's development of a Supranational Risk Assessment (SNRA)**. The SNRA attempts to assess the risk to the internal EU market from terrorism financing and money laundering – nonprofits in Europe are seen by the EU as a macro risk category. Given that policy advice stemming from this perception may lead to over-stringent measures for NPOs, HSC and the coalition have been actively engaged in the process, including involving a number of Brussels-based nonprofits networks to engage in the process with DG Just. Preparatory meetings have been organized with Voice (umbrella of humanitarian assistance advocacy organizations), ICRC (Red Cross and Red Crescent), Transparency International, Civil Society Europe and others. The coalition's input has led to the inclusion of the revised FATF Recommendation 8 in the draft document of the SNRA.

III RESEARCH

Project: Preventing the Spill-over: Combatting Violent Extremism with a Human Security Approach in Egypt, Iraq and Palestine

Consortium: Clingendael, GPOT in Istanbul, HSC, Al Ahram Center in Cairo, Salahadeen University in Erbil, Center for Democracy and Community Development in Jerusalem (Funded by WOTRO/Security and Rule of Law programme)

Timeline: 2016–2019

HSC is part of a consortium that has been granted a three-year project by WOTRO under a call for 'Comprehensive Approaches to Human Security in Fragile and Conflict Affected Settings: Transnational Dimensions'. The project aims to demonstrate the impact of a human security approach in Palestine, Egypt and Iraq that addresses the root causes of violent extremism as a transnational threat. The consortium combines the expertise of two research partners (Clingendael Institute, the Netherlands and the Global Political Trends Center, Turkey), one learning exchange and capacity building partner (HSC) and 3 practitioner partner organizations (Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies, Egypt, The Center for Democracy and Community Development, Jerusalem and the Strategic and Political Research Centre of the Salahadeen University, Iraqi Kurdistan).

The overarching research question being addressed is: **'Can an Human Security (HS) approach effectively address the drivers of violent extremism (VE)?'**

The research will go on to address the following sub-questions:

1. How are the root causes of VE in the three contexts defined and understood at the local, national and international levels? How can trust and cooperation between government and civil society be described at the start of this project?(validation phase)
2. How and under what conditions can an HS-approach address these root causes effectively? To what extent is the current political setting conducive to establishing these conditions? How will the differences in political setting influence the impact of an HS-approach to countering violent extremism (CVE) on the three specified levels?
3. How can a gender focus be applied to security-related issues in the specific settings? How can women be empowered to contribute to CVE?

A project kick-off meeting took place in The Hague, the Netherlands over three days (6–8 September 2016) and included consortium-members, stakeholders from national/international policymaking, and representatives from academia. The objectives of the workshop were:



1. To develop a shared analysis of the transnational threat of violent extremism based on a local and community-level understanding of violent extremism and human security in Palestine, Egypt and Iraq, and a broader MENA-region/international perspective.
2. To agree on an appropriate methodology for research in communities, capacity building and knowledge sharing.
3. To work out in detail the plans for the three-year research project with the consortium members and training on CVE/HS.
4. To raise awareness of this research among the stakeholders and their networks.

Desk study: ‘Financial regulation drivers for current restrictions of civil society in Uganda’

HSC has been commissioned to conduct a desk study on the post-FATF-evaluation process for Uganda. The study has been commissioned by the Fund for Global Human Rights (FGHR). The study will aim to provide an overview of the post-evaluation or enhanced-follow-up process in the country and suggest recommendations for engaging with the regional FATF body, ESAAMLG, and the Financial Intelligence Authority.

The study, when finalized in May 2017, will also serve as a model for other desk studies on understanding post-evaluation processes and ways that civil society can engage nationally, regionally and at the global level. Dissemination of the study via the FATF Platform and through the Global NPO Coalition is expected to lead to more traction amongst nonprofits and grantmakers alike to become involved in the FATF-related work.

IV HSC Team

HSC ended 2016 with a team of 6. At the start of 2017, HSC has 10 team members who operate in three sub-teams:



Youth and Women Leadership and Human Security team, led by Jeanne Abdulla with Siebrich Visser (Tunisia/Delft), Fulco van Deventer, Janita Visser (Loosduinen, Libya) and Yasmin Haloui (coordinator for the Tunisia Youth project and based in Tunis)

A Human Security Approach to Counter Violent Extremism team, led by Fulco van Deventer with Siebrich Visser (Mali – WANEP, GPPAC), Theophile Djedjebi (ARC Mali) and Sangeeta Goswami (WOTRO/Security and Rule of Law research)

A team working on FATF and its Impact on Nonprofits and Civil Society, led by Lia van Broekhoven with Sangeeta Goswami and Fulco van Deventer

Overarching assignments: Sangeeta Goswami is responsible for communication and outreach for HSC and for the FATF Global Nonprofit Coalition (www.hscollective.org / www.fatfplatform.org). The HSC website (<http://www.hscollective.org>) was completely overhauled during this past year. It is now more visual than it was earlier, with the aim of rendering it more user-friendly. Social media platforms (Facebook and Twitter @hscollective) are used to publicize and highlight events, to communicate achievements and to flag research, news and developments in the field. The FATF Platform (<http://www.fatfplatform.org>) is the outreach tool for the Global NPO Coalition on FATF and managed by HSC. The platform has evolved into a widely-used and acknowledged information and knowledge hub on FATF and nonprofits. Tweets are sent out from the @fatfplatform handle, recognized now by multiple stakeholders, including the FATF, who often tag the handle when nonprofit matters are discussed. The outreach effort is complemented by frequent webinars and emails to the Global Coalition, the list for which HSC also manages.

Lia van Broekhoven is responsible for the overall management of the foundation, including personnel related items. Financial administration support is provided on a part-time basis by Wim Ruijgrok of Justice and Peace. In addition, HSC and Justice and Peace have contracted Esther Rutten as a shared management assistant on a part-time basis.

Team members took part in trainings to improve skills and capabilities. Jeanne and Siebrich participated in a Deep Democracy training module. Several team members are taking language lessons to improve their practical language skills in order to operate in the different contexts where projects are being implemented.

V Outreach

HSC was privileged to receive numerous invitations to present its work on youth leadership for Human Security, both at the local level and also at the international policymaking level. Some examples:

Presentation at NATO Advanced Research Workshop on “Response to Female Migration to ISIS”, Venice April 2016: HSC presented a paper (“Community-based preventive and remedial measures to preventing violent extremism: A human security approach to help transform



conflicts, improve social cohesion and improve local security”) on its approach and insights from working with communities, building on our work with youth in Palestine. The meeting brought together a diverse group of academics and practitioners, and HSC’s input greatly appreciated as it was one of the few presentations from a practitioner perspective.

Breakfast event at Dutch Permanent Mission to the UN, NYC, June 2016: HSC presented its programme ‘Building Resilience with Tunisian and Dutch Youth in High Risk Areas’, together with partners Free Sight Association (Tunis) and Participe (Delft), during a working breakfast at the UN Permanent Mission of The Kingdom of the Netherlands in New York, USA. The Mayor of Rotterdam, H.E. Mr. Ahmed Aboutaleb, and the UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth were among the participants. Discussions included the positive role of youth in preventing violent extremism.

OSCE Counter-terrorism Conference on “Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that lead to Terrorism (VERLT), Berlin, May 2016: HSC presented its approach and the work being carried out with youth in Palestine, Tunisia and The Netherlands during a side event at the OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference on “Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism (VERLT)” at the Federal Foreign Office of the Republic of Germany in Berlin. The presentation was well received and there were questions about evaluation, funding, engaging with policymakers and more.

Hollings Center Conference on “Workable Solutions to Radicalization”, Amman, October 2016: HSC participated in and contributed to the discussion organized by the Hollings Center and co-hosted by the Al-Hayat Center in Amman, Jordan (October 19-23) on finding workable solutions to radicalization. The purpose of the meeting was to exchange best practices on work at the community level, and on local solutions to radicalization that can inform future efforts and policy. To this end, the Center invited HSC to discuss methods, projects, and approaches that have worked, and those that have not been as effective.

UNOY Young Peacebuilders Forum, The Hague, September 2016: During the Young Peacebuilders Forum, organized by the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY), Fred de Pater (Participe) and Ugur Tosun (mentor in Delft) presented insights from their work in Voorhof and Buitenhof (Delft) for a group of young peacebuilders from all over the world. An interesting discussion on the backgrounds of radicalization in different contexts took place as a result.

Geneva Conference on UN PVE Plan of Action, Geneva, April 2016: HSC, together with UNOY, participated in this conference which was organized by the Swiss government and the UN (CTITF) on the [UN Plan on the Prevention of Violent Extremism](#) launched in December 2015. It was an important forum in which HSC learnt more about the status of the Plan of Action and the perception of diverse UN member states, as well as of regional organizations and CSOs to the Plan. UNOY took part in the panel on youth, sharing their insights on the need for youth to be part of the solution.

International Society for Third Sector Research Conference in Stockholm, June 2016: HSC was invited to take part in a panel on the challenges civil society and nonprofits worldwide



face relating to the consequences of countering the financing of terrorism measures on civic space. The conference provided an opportunity to seek leverage for HSC's FATF-related work amongst participating philanthropists and researchers.

The effects of bank derisking on civil society, a closed workshop at Amnesty International UK, June 2016: HSC was invited to a workshop hosted by AI UK and organized by a network of concerned clients of the UK Cooperative Bank about the decision by their bank to terminate bank services to a number of small nonprofit organization active on causes concerning solidarity with Palestine, small farmer co-operatives in Central America and twinning-cities projects in Latin America. The reason for the termination was not conveyed to the client but after some pressure the bank admitted that extended AML/CFT due diligence requirements imposed on them was behind the decisions taken. One of the outcomes of the meetings was the request to HSC by the OSF London office (one of the participants at the workshop) to develop a de-risking study to help understand the problem in countries in Latin America.

Outreach on the impact of FATF on NPOS in the Netherlands: HSC provided **guidance** and advice on FATF to Women Peacemakers Program and the Women Equals Men (Wo=Men) network for a position paper they drafted on the **issues of de-risking of and overregulation of civil society organizations as a consequence of AML/CFT regulations**. This was shared with the foreign affairs specialists of a number of political parties, leading to questions to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. It was the Minister of Development Cooperation and International Trade who responded to the position paper and the questions from the parliamentarians by commissioning civil servants at her ministry to organize an Ambassadors meeting on the subject of Terrorism Financing and shrinking civil society space in January 2017. HSC was involved in the preparation, moderation and report writing of the meeting. Currently we are following through with a number of the policymakers and trying to connect the outcome of the Ambassadors' meeting with a World Bank–ACAMS (Association of Certified Money Laundering Specialists) multi-stakeholder initiative on identifying common solutions to the problem of **de-risking of NPOs**.

HSC is a member of **the international advisory group** of a five-year EU-sponsored research programme conducted by the University of Amsterdam looking into the chain of money transfers and the AML/CFT-related decision-making of each of the stakeholders involved in these transfers. The research is called "Follow" and focuses on transactions within Europe and a number of member states. At the kick-off of the research, HSC took part in a panel at a public event "Turning Banks into Cops", where the case was made for a sharing of the responsibility and the burden when it comes to the prevention of terrorism financing related to the nonprofit sector. Currently banks and NPOs are made responsible for the prevention of nonprofit money being used for terrorism financing by having to interpret and apply international and national counter terrorism financing measures developed by international bodies like the FATF, national governments, regulators and supervisors.

Human Rights Lab in San Francisco, January 2016: HSC was invited to share its expertise and knowledge on the impact of counter terrorism measures, including financial, on civil society in



this workshop organized by the International Human Rights Funders' Group. The workshop invited participants to think out of the box by using a number of concrete case studies.

Presentation at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) event in NYC on Women Peace and Security, March 2016: At the invitation of UNFPA, HSC took part in a panel on new challenges concerning Women, Peace and Security. HSC highlighted the opportunities and obstacles provided by the incipient UN PVE Action Plan and by the international counter terrorism financing standard of the FATF.

The Human Security Challenge: In the course of 2016, the HSC team played the Human Securing Challenge board game (a game that facilitate discussions on the nexus between hard and soft/human security) at Amnesty International NL, at the Human Rights Defenders Training Course organized by Justice and Peace, with members of the UNOY Peacebuilders Network, and at the Haagse Hogeschool for students on community organizing and social work. The challenge was also used for facilitating discussions on human and hard security in the Women and Youth Leadership training events in Gaza and within the Tunisia-Delft Youth leadership project in Tunisia with mentors.

VI Final remarks:

All in all we may conclude that 2016 was a labour-intensive, demanding and exciting year for the entire team. Our investment in staff time from the HSC reserve was rewarded by a 100% approval rate of project proposals submitted and by successfully clearing a funding-eligibility trajectory with Open Society Foundations, pending a decision on further project or institutional funding.

The intention at HSC is to keep bureaucratic procedures and protocols to a minimum and to facilitate an enabling environment for the team to implement their assignments. One of the decisions for the coming year is whether HSC would benefit from obtaining an ISO certification which would enable it to take on the role of lead partner on calls for proposals from bilateral and multilateral government donors. The investment in obtaining the certification (in terms of time and money) will have to be balanced out against the potential benefits it would generate.

At the beginning of 2017, the main challenge for HSC lies in finding the right balance between project implementation and building a sustained portfolio of programmes which form the foundation of its work. The process of implementation and the identifying of opportunities for follow-through continue to go hand in hand. There is a balance now between project-related work and consultancy assignments. However, given that funders offering institutional funding are now a rare breed, HSC will have to rely on project funding for the foreseeable future.