



Introduction

In 2018 the HSC team continued to implement projects on youth leadership and prevention of violent extremism, the nexus between development and security and safeguarding financial and operational space for civil society affected by anti-money laundering and countering terrorism measures.

We apply a human security and inclusive approach to these projects. All projects combine capacity building, engagement through dialogue and advocacy and networking/coalition building. We work with civil society organizations that are based in the countries or are active regionally or globally. In all the projects we develop together with our partners local practices that are being documented and analyzed with the aim to produce reference and training material, such as the Youth Leadership handbook, the Security and Development nexus toolkit, materials on the Financial Action Taskforce anti-money laundering and countering terrorism standards impact on civic space and the study on the impact of countering terrorism financing regulations on decisions by banks to 'derisk civil society organizations'.

We are fortunate that funding allows us to implement projects on youth leadership and engagement on the FATF In Tunisia where HSC already was involved in discussions on countering terrorism and human rights issues at the government level with UNCTED (UN Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate). Tunisia is developing into to a focus country for HSC. Our youth leadership coordinator Yasmin Haloui is working on the FATF related project too. Her in-country presence not only allows for a smooth implementation of the projects and maintenance of contacts with government, partners, donors (Dutch Embassy, UNDP) and other stakeholders, but also for visibility of HSC and our approach in the country. In addition, capacity building and networking events for Libyan civil society groups on the National Action Plan 1325 concerning Women, Peace and Security in Libya is taking place in Tunisia, and joint training and outreach events are organized under this and the youth leadership project.

In Mali and the Sahel, the regular presence of our colleague Theophile facilitates an effective implementation of the Addressing Root Causes of Violence project and exploration of regional activities on a human security approach to addressing violent extremism. The Dutch ministry of Foreign Affairs has indicated their interest in the HSC approach on ways development policy and programs can be made more effective by a prevention of violent extremism lens in fragile contexts. The absence of governance systems and service delivery and the exclusion of entire groups of the population from political decision-making coupled with the presence of criminal and terrorist groups in these contexts require an integrated development and security policy and methodology as presented in the toolkit. There is ample opportunity to implement the programs HSC has developed in the past year in a coherent way in the Tunisian and Malian/Sahel contexts pending support from interested donors.

In 2018 the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs funding for the youth leadership project came to an end. There was commitment by the funder to continue to support a follow up phase, however this was still uncertain towards the end of the year. In view of the ending of the NAP 1325 project in Libya at the end of 2019 and the finalization of the ARC project in Mali by the end of 2020 and the uncertainty of continued project funding, we had to decide to not renew Janita's contract. We were able to help her in transitioning to another job at 'Red een Kind'.

At the end of 2018 Open Society Foundations approved an HSC an institutional/unrestricted grant for 2 years with the possibility of a renewal in the coming years.

Overall it was a good year. The work of HSC and our partners is visible and appreciated by policy makers, funders and persons in the communities we work. HSC is in a relatively stable financial position in 2019 to acquire funding for securing the continuation of our programs. This will however remain a challenge that we need to address every two to three years as was discussed with the board.

1. Youth leadership in Prevention of Violent Extremism

Team: Siebrich, Thalia, Janita and Jeanne (team leader).

Youth Leadership in the Netherlands and Tunisia

Our program on youth leadership in Prevention of Violent Extremism (Tunisia – Netherlands) was finalized in December 2018. The program results were harvested through our online monitoring system Sprockler and through organizing outcome harvesting sessions. In a summary, the following results became visible.

1. Increased Capacity of Mentors (18-26) to analyze and reflect on push and pull factors of violent extremism (VE)
2. Change in perceptions of mentors on push and pull factors that lead to VE
3. Increased capacity of mentors to design and implement projects that strengthen cohesion in the community as a whole
4. Increased capacity of mentors (18 – 26) to discuss push and pull factors that lead to VE, with their mentees (12-16)
5. Increased capacity of mentors to engage with (inter)national and local representatives and (security) stakeholders on push and pull factors or radicalization that leads to VE.

In annex 1, the final report of our youth leadership program provides in detail results captured at the individual, groups and systemic level.

In November 2018 we started the process of writing the handbook of our approach. This handbook has been published in January 2019 and is currently online available in English. A translation into Arabic, shall be online available in Spring 2019. The publication helps us to promote our work on youth leadership and disseminate the methodology to a wider audience. Currently the UN in Tunisia, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs department of Security Policy and the Leiden University of Applied Sciences are interested partners to collaborate with.

Women, Peace and Security in Libya

In April 2018 the 2nd human security workshop was organized in Hammamet and youth representatives of the 8 partners participated: The goals of the second Human Security workshop were to dive deeper into applying a Human Security approach to the design of the initiatives. In a facilitated dialogue session there was a lot of focus on intersectionality, power, and how different parts of one's identity and circumstances affect people differently. This was applied to the initiatives, asking participants to review how inclusive their initiative was, and how they could improve on that. Highlighted in the training were the five implications for designing and implementing a human security initiative (see figure 1). One of the exercises was to further sharpen initiative-designs by asking HOW the Human Security principles have been applied in the design of initiatives, making use of the five-fundamental principles of a human security approach.

During the workshop, participants were able to present their draft initiatives to their peers. After that in a carousel setting participants were able to have fruitful discussions with their peers to enrich their initiatives based on the constructive feedback given by others. Special attention was given to the introduction of the concept of gender. Through playful exercises, we encouraged participants to become more aware of one's position in society and what that means in terms of access to power. For instance, in one session participants were asked to present the ideal woman and man according to the Libyan society. What stood out from this session is that participants portrayed stereotypical roles of women and men in Libyan society. This gave rise to a fruitful (facilitated) dialogue about the difference between gender and sex. Participants reached a common understanding that women and men do not differ in their ambitions in society and yet, there is a lot of social pressure to force both men and women into stereotyped, rigid roles.

As part of the training we also focused on security planning, as working in Libya as an activist can be very dangerous. Firstly, a facilitated dialogue was conducted to discuss the need for security planning. After that, there was a breakout session to think about how to utilize their capacity as a group to avoid certain threats. As the situation in Libya is unpredictable, participants focused on issues that lie within their circle of influence. For instance, the risk of slander was discussed and specific strategies identified to ensure that one could not be falsely accused of conflict of interest or misrepresented in another way.

Two of the participants facilitated a session about the interlinkage between UNSCR 1325 and 2250 and had a fruitful dialogue with participants on how this applies to their own work locally. One of the main conclusions to this session was that participants understood well that culture is constructed, and that we can de-construct it and re-construct it again. It's also about bringing social change to communities in which gender and youth perspectives complement each other in creating more inclusive peace building processes.

Unfortunately we could not organize a follow up training in November 2018 as planned due to the security situation in Libya, which worsened in September with armed groups fighting in Tripoli, resulting in the shutdown of the Tripoli Airport. Instead of conducting a third human security workshop, it was decided that a consultant specialized in gender and 1325, who is also fluent in Arabic, would support each partner to finalize the design of the initiatives and ensure their implementation at the beginning of January 2019.

The projects in Tunisia and Libya were showcased at the HSC, UNESCO and UNOY held a joint side event, **"A Human Security and Youth Leadership Approach to Preventing Violent Extremism: Examples from Jordan, Libya, Mali, Morocco, The Netherlands and Tunisia"**, on the margins of the first High Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, on Friday 29 June at the UN in New York. The event was co-hosted by the Permanent Missions of Canada and the Netherlands. It was successful in providing youth from mentioned countries the opportunity to present their human security practice to policy makers and funders and exchange with peers.

<https://www.hscollective.org/announcement/side-event-un-counter-terrorism-week/>

Curriculum piloting Kosovo OSCE

In 2018, the curriculum on youth leadership in PVE for the OSCE was piloted in Kosovo with three groups of young leaders. It took 6 trips to Kosovo to co-facilitate the trainings. This experience was highly beneficial for the further development of our own curriculum and training skills. By the end of 2018, we were asked to provide a train the trainers for the OSCE curriculum for participants from East Europe. This took place in Skopje. Also this training proved to be great in terms of gaining more

knowledge, curriculum and skills to conduct train the trainers. Something we foresee to build more into our current programs.

2. Developing a human security perspective to and approach to policies and programs in contexts where violent extremism is a threat to stability and development

Team: Sangeeta (The human security approach to prevent violent extremism research program in Egypt, North Iraq and Palestine), Theophile (program ARC), Fulco (team leader),

A pilot on developing a Toolkit for connecting development goals with prevention of violent extremism objectives (Development and Security Toolkit)

In 2018 the PVE Toolkit, which has started to be developed in 2017, was piloted in Tunisia. Together with the input from the ISS pilot in Mali, the Toolkit was finalized in draft during summer and training of Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) HQ staff has started in the last semester. Based on the feedback of the participants the Toolkit was adjusted in order to fit the requirements for training of Embassy staff in the Sahel, East Africa and Mena regions in the first semester of 2019. In 2019 the Toolkit will be made available online and outreach to other Official Development Assistance (ODA) funders will be made to promote the developed methodology.

CVE Masterclass in Nigeria and Sudan

HSC developed and organized together with the Dutch Embassy and in collaboration with the Nigerian ONSA (Office of the National Security Advisor) and the Nigerian Orientation Agency a Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) master class (MC) for 30 staff members of the ONSA and NOA in Maiduguri, Nigeria. This MC was a follow up of the previous one in 2017, solely for ONSA staff. This time the content included a clear focus on the Disarmament Demobilization and Integration (DDR) aspects in relation to ex Boko Haram fighters and their return into Nigerian communities. The International Organization for Migration (IOM), the main implementer of the Safe Corridor DDR process in North East Nigeria, was actively participating in the second MC. Based on the outcomes of the MC HSC is involved in the Lake Chad discussion at the MoFA where policy is developed towards integrating community security with livelihood, access to water and climate.

HSC also developed a MC in Khartoum, Sudan, in close collaboration with UNDP Sudan, The Sudanese National Center for Counter Terrorism and the NL Embassy. The participants were coming from both hard and soft security sectors of Sudanese Government as well as the mass unions from Youth, Students and Women's constituencies. The Head of the Security department of the Municipality of Gouda has participated in the training as resource person. The MC resulted in the agreement to organize a follow up visit in 2019, but this has turned out not to be feasible in view of the current political situation.

ARC Mali - Addressing Root Causes of Conflict and Violence in Mali

The project is implemented under a consortium project with Norwegian Church Aid (NCA, the project lead) and ICCO, the Dutch inter-church development organization and funded by the Dutch MoFA (Department for Stability and Humanitarian Aid). Together with local partners like Think Peace, Réseau de Jeune Femme Leaders (REJEFPO), Réseau des Jeunes des Pays du G5 Sahel (regional collaboration on security between Mauritania, Chad, Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso), WANEP and ARGA, HSC is addressing systemic problems underlying conflict and violence, and which are exploited by violent extremist groups in Timbuktu, Gao, Mopti and the district of Bamako, including some municipalities in Kidal and Menaka. Together with women, youth, community and religious leaders, we are developing and applying a human security approach to address security related problems faced by communities. We help these groups engage with relevant local and national government and international entities. Because the G5

context is becoming increasingly important in terms of the nexus security and development, HSC is reaching out together with Malian partners to the G5 on our approach to mitigate violent extremism through addressing root causes of violence and conflict. During 2018 Theophile has visited the G5 Focal Points and CellRad (Cells to prevent radicalization and violent extremism) in Niamey (Niger) and Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), as well the related youth and women platforms to start a process of future collaboration and capacity building.

In the ARC project HSC is mainly responsible for the third outcome -*The interests of the involved communities related to conflict, peace and local security are represented and scaled up towards the national government and international security and development actors through a networking approach, to effectively address the root causes of conflict.* Also in 2018, the activities that are being implemented by HSC are on schedule and has reached out to more leaders and networks than expected (between 100 and 150%)

Due to the increasing insecurity in Mali and the region, the implementation of the project outside of the capital Bamako has become a major concern. HSC is mainly implementing its activities in Bamako and invites stakeholders to the capital if necessary and feasible.

Theophile has facilitated the connection and participation of two Youth Leaders from HSC's partners Think and REJEFPO into the international Youth Leaders Advocacy at the UN . He has also reached out to FECONG, The Malian Federation of NGO Collectives and to CENTIF, Cellule Nationale de Traitement des Informations Financières, the Financial Intelligence Unit to start a process on outreach and capacity building with both entities on developing a national risk assessment on terrorism financing and nonprofit organizations. This has led to a proposal which is expected to be funded in 2019 after which implementation can start.

Research on a human security approach to countering violent extremism

HSC is one of the five consortium members of a research project sponsored by the NWO/WOTRO (Netherlands scientific research in tropical countries) and the Knowledge Platform on Security and Rule of Law. The lead agency is Clingendael and implementing partners are HSC, universities and think tanks in Egypt, North Iraq and Palestine. We are tasked to develop communication and outreach tools for the study that provides and analysis of practices and perceptions of communities and people on a human security approach to prevent violent extremism. In the summer of 2018 Clingendael and HSC organized the project's Midterm Review and jointly composed the midterm report which was approved by NWO-WOTRO at the end of 2018.

Short term assignments: training/capacity building and board member of GCERF

During the year HSC has given training on Countering Terrorism/CVE strategies in the Sahel, Afghanistan and South Asian contexts at Clingendael, for foreign diplomats, as well as on security and countering terrorism for Dutch policy makers. For The Hague Academy a training has been conducted on countering terrorism/countering violent extremism and conflict transformation.

Global Community Resilience Fund – GCERF

In 2018 two board meetings have taken place, both in Geneva. HSC has participated on behalf of civil society in the first meeting. Mercy Corps has attended the second meeting as alternate board member for civil society. In 2018 GCERF has expanded its activities into Tunisia and The Philippines. The secretariat has expressed the necessity for strong political and financial commitments from its members, as their support has not met the expected standards. If structural and un-earmarked

funding will not be met shortly, GCERF will have to reconsider its Global Strategy and operational model.

3. Solutions for regulatory and financial restrictions of civil society that stem from the FATF Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism Rules

In 2018, HSC placed the problem of restrictions of civil society organizations to access financial institutions: banks and money transfer agencies that stem from the FATF AML/CFT rules and UN and US sanctions on the agenda of the Dutch and UK governments and the G20 summit in Buenos Aires. This financial access restriction is known as “derisking”. Engagement and advocacy work is conducted with civil society partners from the Global NPO Coalition on the FATF, especially the European Center for Not for Profit Law:

In the Netherlands HSC co-hosts with the Ministry of Finance stakeholder (civil society organizations, banks, and ministry of foreign affairs) round tables with the aim to identify solutions for problems of civil society with access to banks. The initiative has resulted in the ABNAMRO recognizing the problem and including ways to address it in their 2018 Human Rights Report.

https://www.abnamro.com/nl/images/Documents/035_Social_Newsroom/Press_Releases/2019/ABN_AMRO_Human_Rights_Report_2018.pdf (page 21, 22)

In the UK, HSC has been invited to a number of round tables organized by the UK Department for International Development and the Home Office tripartite working group to provide an analysis of derisking and civil society and ongoing initiatives to resolve it, including the World Bank led project on financial access where we are involved with too.

Together with the World Bank and the Dutch Ministry of Finance, HSC organized an international stakeholder meeting on derisking and identifying solutions which supported the Dutch and UK round tables on the issue.