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FOREWORD

Dear Reader.

In 2021 the Covid pandemic continued to determine to a large extent the way we implement our work. Despite travel and other restrictions project activities continued, workshops and meetings pushed through and new partnerships developed. These happened mostly online but fortunately, there have been offline activities as well. In this annual report, we showcase some notable developments in the past year, beginning with our work at the international level.

HSC and our partners continue to strengthen the agency of youth to become change-makers in their neighbourhoods and communities under the **Inclusive Leadership program**. Over sixty youth leaders from different denominations in the Far North of Cameroon and the Southern island of Mindanao in the Philippines have been trained on a human security approach to address conflicts in their community through non-violent dialogue and appreciative inquiry.

In Tunisia, we have, in the past two years, trained and provided on- and off-line coaching to youth leaders across the country, belonging largely to the CSID (Center for the Study for Islam and Democracy) network. They have since improved their understanding of and skills needed to address conflicts in their community through a human security approach and work for "a better tomorrow".

Inclusive leadership has been, for the past four years, an integral part of HSC's work in Mali in collaboration with Norwegian Church Aid, ICCO/CORDAID, and local peacebuilding organizations. The onus of this work was on addressing the root causes of violence and violent extremism through a human security approach.



In addition to our work in communities, we engage funders and policymakers on a human security approach to address vulnerabilities and threats to which people are exposed to. In our Security and Development toolkit, as well as in the Prevention of Violent Extremism workshops we have run for Dutch Embassies and their government and civil society partners in six countries, we discuss with participants ways to develop and implement development projects in contexts where extremist groups are active. These trainings have been well received and have initiated an integrated approach to implementing the sustainable development goals and the prevention of violent extremism. The work in Mali and with the embassies and their local partners is part of our **Development** and Security Nexus program.

Without an enabling space for civil society to assemble, associate, and mobilize financial resources, our work and that of our partners would not be feasible. An achievement of our work on the impact of the Financial Action Task Force Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism rules on civil society is that civil society, banks, policymakers and donors understand the connection between an enabled and enabling civil society space and these rules.



This past year we have, in our role as co-chair and coordinator of the Global Nonprofit Organization Coalition on the FATF, submitted input from civil society across the world to the Unintended Consequences project that the Taskforce had launched under the supervision of their vice-president. The scoping phase of the project concluded that the FATF needs to step up its efforts to prevent further misapplication and, in some cases, outright abuse of its standards against civil society by governments. Without urgent remedies, the exclusion of civil society from banking services and crowdfunding, the administrative overload and, in the worst cases, the dissolution of civil society organizations due to the baseless association with terrorism financing will continue to expand under the pretext of implementation of FATF rules. The Global NPO Coalition has submitted recommendations for these remedies to the Taskforce, which is currently assessing them.

In our own country, HSC raised awareness around the authoritative role of the Taskforce among civil society umbrella organizations and the CBF (Netherlands Fundraising Regulator) in a string of virtual sessions. The Round Table we coconvene with the Ministry of Finance and the Dutch Banking Association to facilitate access to banks and payment service providers was helpful for circulating the information about the FATF and strengthening the engagement of Dutch civil society around the FATF rules. This outreach was timely due to the upcoming on-site evaluation visit of the FATF to the Netherlands to assess whether the government complies with their standards. They include the obligation by the government to protect civil society vulnerable to the risk of terrorism financing misuse.

Other notable developments in the Netherlands are the collaboration between HSC and The Hague Applied Sciences and Initiatives for Change, offering students an opportunity to enrol in civic engagement. We provide workshops for young people to help prepare them to conduct action research, and analyze and design innovative ideas to tackle the issues they feel passionate about, in addition to providing policy advice based on their own research results. This collaboration adds value to the work we have conducted in the Time for Your Future Coalition which is designed to increase voluntary social service amongst youth in the Netherlands.

HSC is part of a consortium of universities and NGOs in Europe that is studying trends of polarization, extremism, and radicalization in various European countries including in the Netherlands.

Last but not least we moved office to the building next door. There, together with Justice & Peace and the Netherlands Helsinki Committee, we have launched the Human Rights Space. It is a physical space in The Hague for everyone in the city and beyond to meet and engage on human rights and human security. We plan to develop the human rights space into a vibrant environment for dialogue, action, and reflection by offering easy accessible meetings and events. Partnerships with the University of Applied Sciences in the Hague and Leiden, think tanks and research institutes, the municipality, and community organizations are being developed to boost the space.

I would like to express the team's gratitude to the communities, partners, and associates we work with, to our very supportive board members, and to our donors. It is because of your ongoing support and trust in our collective that we can do this work. Thank you all.

Lia van Broekhoven

Executive Director Human Security Collective



WHO WE ARE

Human Security Collective (HSC) is a foundation based in The Hague working on issues of development, security and the involvement of citizens in their communities and societies. We believe that the idea of Human Security, with its focus on people, relationships and human rights, provides an organizing frame for action.

Based on the elements of trust-creation, local ownership, empowerment and collective action, we facilitate conversation between civil society, policy shapers and other actors to promote alternative approaches to current security practice.



Our role is to bridge the gap between people and security by involving citizens and communities in decision-making in the security domain, and protecting and expanding the operational and political space of civil society.

OUR WORKING THEMES

Our work is carried out in three themes. In our daily work, though, these themes intersect and cut across the work that we do, informing how we approach issues.

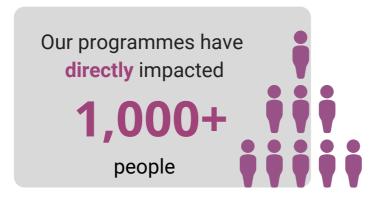
Inclusive Leadership

- Human security approach
- Include diverse voices in security decision making
- Work with local partner organizations
- Focus on conflict transformation
- Protect space for civil society

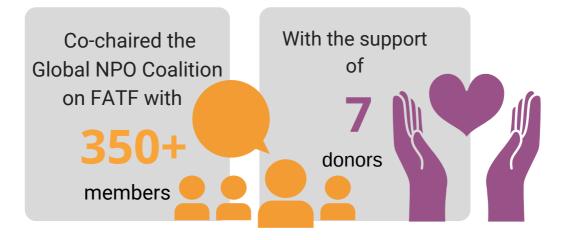
Development-Security Nexus

Impact of Countering Financing of Terrorism (CFT)Measures on Civil Society

2021 IN REVIEW







1. INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP

In our work on **Inclusive Leadership**, we envision a world in which all people are seen as valuable allies for building resilient communities. We are dedicated towards investing in providing opportunities for women, young people and marginalized groups to play an active role in identifying and addressing complex social issues in collaboration with others. For that, we a) create safe spaces for them to explore their talents to contribute towards safety in their communities; b) connect them with key stakeholders in society to create new ideas to tackle dynamic social issues.

In our approach, we recognize that complex social issues require citizens to become more actively engaged in decision-making that has a direct impact on their lives. Our Inclusive Leadership work particularly encourages young citizens from disadvantaged communities to collectively analyze the most pressing human security issues at stake and discuss possible solutions.



Group of 30 young leaders from across Mindanao during a workshop on communication mechanisms.

IN 2021

In 2021, we continued to work with young people from different backgrounds on capacity building on the core themes of human security and Freedom of Religion and Belief (FoRB). We worked closely with 32 young people from the Far North of Cameroon and 30 from Mindanao, Philippines. During the workshops, the young participants had the opportunity to strengthen their communication skills in order to engage with various stakeholders. The participants were also able to present their human security initiative proposal and develop strategies to get to their objectives.



In Cameroon, a total of 26 projects are underway

covering a variety of themes including improving sanitation facilities, reducing inter-group conflict, and combining peaceful sports tournaments with dialogue sessions, <u>read more here</u>.



In The Philippines, participants have teamed up to develop a total of 7 projects

ideas include contextualizing mental health resources for Indigenous youth and using art as an opportunity to engage young people on topics around FoRB and human security, <u>read more here</u>.



The coalition Time 4 Your Future (T4YF), (Maatschappelijke Dienst Tijd) is an HSC partnership with Participe, ROC Mondriaan and Plans & Pixels, designed to increase voluntary social service amongst youth in the Netherlands. In 2021, we initiated a collaboration between The Hague Applied Sciences and Initiatives for Change to offer students from the International Public Management, Law & Safety faculty an opportunity to enrol in civic engagement. HSC provides workshops for young people to prepare them to conduct action research, and analyze and design innovative ideas to tackle the issues they feel passionate about, in addition to providing policy advice based on their own research results.



As of 2021, we have reached a total of 200 youth through our campaigning.



Time 4 Your Future participants, together with some HSC team members



We have cooperated with more than 50 organizations

such as Delft voor Elkaar, Pieter van Foreest, Ipse de Bruggen and De Zonnebloem and 10 schools in The Hague, Delft and Rotterdam.

Under the 'Young Leaders for a Better Tomorrow' project, HSC partnered with the Centre for the Study for Islam and Democracy (CSID) to strengthen the leadership skills of 400 young Tunisians in 10 governorates. The main role of HSC in the implementation of the project was the training and coaching of the coaches. During the trainings, we were able to create impact at the level of Knowledge, of Attitude and of Practice.



At the level of Knowledge Increased understanding of the complexity of Violent Extremism and of Human Security.



At the level of Attitude

Increased appreciation for peer-to-peer learning and inclusive group work.



At the level of Practice
Increased capacity to practice inclusive leadership and non-violent communication



Participants from the Young Leaders for a Better Tomorrow project designing a mind map.

HSC is part of a three-year action research programme, **PARTICIPATION**, which kicked off in December 2020. The consortium funded by the EU (Horizon 2020) comprises 15 European universities and NGOs in Europe. We are studying future perspectives and trends of polarization, extremism, and radicalization in various European countries.



In <u>a blog</u>, our intern Eva looks back at her time working at HSC.



HSC contributed to a <u>comparative</u> analyses on P/CVE policies and strategies and to the handbook on <u>Social Labs:</u>
A Shared Participatory Methodology for Fieldwork



In 2021 we worked with students in Applied Psychology at the University of Applied Sciences in Leiden

who supported the interviews as well as the analyses of policy documents.



Our intern Nassim describes his experience interning at HSC in this blog.

2. DEVELOPMENT-SECURITY NEXUS

We seek to understand questions around security from a holistic human security perspective. In our work, we take a conflict transformation approach, which ensures that necessary attention is given to addressing the underlying conditions that give rise to conflict. This is a long-term effort, allowing us to understand the root causes and drivers of phenomena such as violent extremism, and address them through developmental interventions.

Development can enable communities to build against violent extremism, resilience governments to respond better to the needs of citizens. Ownership by local communities is key, as well as the strengthening of the social contract between the State and its citizens, creating inclusive governance and decision making and building leadership at both community and governance level. We see developing and implementing action plans for the prevention of violent extremism (PVE) itself as a process of conflict transformation, of shifting power relations, and leading to transitional justice and reconciliation. Building trust among stakeholders and being more inclusive are prerequisites for the breadth of our interventions towards an effective PVE.

This year we focused much of our efforts on the African continent, including working to address the root causes of armed conflict and violence in Mali, setting up a human rights observatory in Cameroon, and developing and disseminating a PVE Toolkit that serves as an instrument to help make development programmes conflict-sensitive.

IN 2021

In the first quarter of 2021, the 4-year ARC (Addressing Root Causes) programme in Mali was closed and activities came to an end. The program contributed to reducing the root causes of armed conflict, instability, and irregular migration. In Mali, the focus was on the issue of violence and conflict. HSC's role in this program was to ensure that the interests of the involved communities related to conflict and local security were represented and communicated to the national government and international security and development actors. Some of the lessons learned during the program include:

- In a context of vulnerability, the needs of local communities must be taken into account in their diversity and comprehensiveness, within the framework of a multisectoral approach
- The sharing of knowledge and practices of different actors through horizontal and vertical networking contributes to a better understanding of the dynamics of conflict and the mechanisms of their transformation



Inter-religion dialogue to design actions plan.



The Human Rights Observatory for monitoring human rights violations within the context of state responses to violent extremism in the Boko Haram affected areas of Far North Cameroon was renewed for an extension phase. Over the period of two sixmonth project phases, the Observatory has succeeded in engaging a diverse range of stakeholders around the issue of Human Rights violations, and in particular, those carried out by state actors. The initiative has opened new lines of dialogue between security forces and the communities they are supposed to protect, setting a pathway for greater trust and understanding.



388 incidents recorded

across the five monitoring sites. These include violations of property rights, gender-based violence, and physical violence.

In 2021, the focus was on providing training for the **PVE Toolkit** online, including follow-ups to the sessions conducted in 2020. There were in-person training modules in Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Benin, thanks to the presence of our colleague in the region. The training sessions for Kenya, Somalia and Mozambique were conducted online.



HSC coordinated the <u>Strong City Network exchange</u> <u>for Mayors from Jordan and Libanon</u> in November 2021, also facilitating the study visit. A group of 26 Mayors and their staff visited The Hague, Delft,

Amsterdam and Rotterdam and had fruitful exchanges with their Dutch colleagues in these cities.



PVE toolkit training module in Burkina Faso.



HSC with Netherlands ambassador to Nigeria and representative of the Chief Security Adviser to the President during a meeting on PVE in Abuja.



Jordanian and Lebanese policymakers during their exchange visit to

The Netherlands.



3.

IMPACT OF COUNTERING THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM (CFT) MEASURES ON CIVIL SOCIETY

The events of 9/11 twenty years ago determined, in large part, the counterterrorism architecture as we see it today. Under intense pressure from the US in the immediate aftermath of the events of that fateful day in 2001, multilateral bodies such as the United Nations (UN) and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) were mobilized to put in place sanctions as well as rules and regulations to counter terrorism and terrorism financing. This was then to be supplemented by laws and regulations enforced at the national level. And many regional organizations have further supplemented the UN and FATF's counterterrorism and terrorism financing frameworks, encouraging or mandating member implementation.

These rules and regulations have had enormous consequences on non-profit organizations (NPOs) and the space in which they operate. The discourse around NPOs being a conduit for terrorism financing, whether wittingly or unwittingly, has been pervasive and sticky, despite the paucity of empirical evidence over the years. Whether it is onerous registration, licensing and/or reporting requirements, restrictions on receiving foreign funding, financial access issues or restrictions on the freedoms of expression and association, the operational threshold for NPOs worldwide is inordinately high today.

HSC was instrumental, together with partner organizations, in the founding of a coalition of NPOs (the Global NPO Coalition on FATF) that has advocated over the years for mitigating the unintended (and, sometimes, intended) consequences of the countering the financing of terrorism agenda on the nonprofit sector.

Milestones include:

- Retraction of the claim (in 2016) that the NPO sector is 'particularly vulnerable' to terrorist abuse.
- Formalization of a risk-based approach (as opposed to a rule-based one), which means a more proportionate and context-specific implementation of the counterterrorism standards.

- Awareness-raising and coalition-building at the global, regional and national levels, to help mitigate the effects of the security agenda that constrain civil society operating space.
- Establishment of regular engagement between the FATF Secretariat and NPOs, which allows for more effective NPO participation.

IN 2021



FATF Unintended Consequences Workstream

The FATF <u>launched a new project</u> in February 2021 to systematically examine four broad unintended consequences resulting from an incorrect implementation of the FATF Standards, including de-risking and financial exclusion, suppression of the NPO sector through non-implementation of the risk-based approach under Recommendation 8, and misuse of the FATF Standards and mutual evaluations to justify laws, which violate wider fundamental human rights provisions.

The <u>Global NPO Coalition</u> (of which HSC is co-chair) submitted its input for Phase 1 (stocktake report) in May 2021: <u>this one</u> covering de-risking and financial exclusion, <u>and this</u>, the suppression of NPOs and human rights concerns. Coalition members also had a chance to present this input to the penholders of the four workstreams as well as the Unintended Consequences Project Team (which includes Member States).

In October 2021, the FATF published a high-level.synopsis of Phase 1 (the stocktake) of the workstream. The Global NPO Coalition also submitted input on mitigating measures for Phase II of the workstream on Unintended Consequences (potential changes to methodology, Standards and procedures to address the deficits identified). The submission included the following:

- <u>Mitigating measures for de-risking and financial</u> <u>exclusion</u>
- <u>Mitigating measures for NPO suppression and human rights conflicts</u>
- <u>Proposed changes to the Interpretive Note to Recommendation 8</u>

The Coalition is looking forward to engaging constructively with the FATF Secretariat and Member States on the workstream going forward.



The FATF is revising Recommendation 24, it's Standard on Beneficial Ownership

Members of the Global NPO Coalition on FATF have been in consultation with the FATF Secretariat on this issue, along with other representatives of the private sector. Concerns have been raised about how the concept of beneficial ownership, essentially designed for for-profit entities, will apply to the not-for-profit sector, and whether such a blanket application is warranted at all in light of the risk-based approach. Privacy concerns, as well as concerns around the duplication of effort, have been flagged. Given the sector's continued challenges with the unintended consequences of the AML/CFT framework in its daily work, it was emphasized that any new FATF Recommendation 24 policy proposals should take into consideration the rights and fundamental freedoms that are at stake and balance them against the public interest while conducting a thorough impact assessment. Read the full Coalition input here and this for the Global NPO Coalition's input to the public consultation on the white paper produced.





HSC is partnering with GIZ

on their Global Programme for 'Combating Illicit Financial Flows', working in the Western Balkans on raising awareness around the countering the financing of terrorism (CFT) frameworks and how they apply to civil society and, more importantly, what some of the unintended consequences of these frameworks and standards are for the operational environment in which civil society operates. This is so the sector can advocate for appropriate mitigating measures, and push for a risk-based implementation of the FATF Standards on NPOs, with the sustained engagement of the sector in the process.

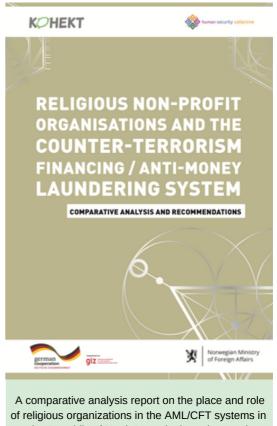
HSC partnered with Partners Albania, Albania and Association Konekt, North Macedonia in the first phase of this project. The work involved scaling up awareness raising and facilitating multistakeholder dialogue. In addition, Association Konekt did some pioneering work on the place and role of religious nonprofit organizations in the anti-moneylaundering/countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) systems in the Republic of North Macedonia and several European countries (read here).

The second phase of this project, expected to kick off by the middle of 2022, will see the project expanded to four more countries in the Western Balkans (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia) as well as including a regional component.



Multilateral advocacy

2021 marked the 20th anniversary of the attacks of 9/11, and a good time as any to assess the legacy of that fateful day. The subsequent 'War on Terror' that ensued changed the very idea and meaning of 'security', with counterterrorism now becoming the central organizing principle of safety and security.



the Republic of North Macedonia and several European countries.



HSC was involved in a number of advocacy initiatives to help enable the shift of this security discourse – one that is currently firmly juxtaposed with counterterrorism as opposed to being juxtaposed with development and rights (a more human security approach). HSC was part of the larger CSO Coalition involved in advocating for a structural shift during the UN's biannual **Global Counterterrorism Strategy Review**, including calling for independent oversight of the downstream harms caused by the pervasive counterterrorism architecture.

HSC organized a session titled '20 Years On: Asymmetry in Counter-Terrorism Practice' during the Knowledge Platform Security and Rule of Law annual conference in October 2021. The session interrogated the asymmetry that results from a universal security discourse and its implementation in the particular (at country level), and what this means for the operational space of civil society. The panel (with Teresa Dumasy from Conciliation Resources, UK; Victoria Ibezim-Ohaeri from Spaces for Change, Nigeria; and Frederik Okado from MUHURI, Kenya) discussed alternatives to this asymmetric securitised discourse and how to bring this about at both the universal and particular levels. For a recording, see here.



HSC is collaborating with the <u>EU AML/CFT</u> Global Facility

on delivering training on the risk-based implementation of the FATF Standards pertaining to NPOs, and highlighting the consequences for the sector and for society at large of not doing so.

In that regard, HSC represented the Global NPO Coalition on FATF in a 3-day regional conference in November 2021 on FATF Recommendation 8 for regulators and Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) from the Mascareignes region. Representatives from Mauritius, Madagascar and Seychelles participated, along with FIU representation from Bangladesh, Jordan, Panama and Zambia. Both best practices and challenges in implementing the NPO-focussed recommendation were discussed in detail. The conference also benefitted from input from Tunisian civil society Coalition partner, KADEM. The regional workshop was organised by the EU AML/CFT Global Facility in conjunction with the Mauritian Ministry of Financial Services and Good Governance.

HSC also helped facilitate a day-long national-level workshop with Mauritian NPOs, together with the Registrar of Associations and the Registrar of Companies. Discussions included a roadmap for the way forward following the sectoral Risk Assessment, and in terms of the implementation of a risk-based approach while avoiding any unintended consequences for the sector.



HSC took part in the Knowledge Platform Security and Rule of Law annual conference.

Bank De-Risking of Non-Profit Clients

A Business and Human Rights Perspective

NYU Paris EU Public Interest Clinic 06/01/2021

HSC and Dutch bank ABN AMRO launched a report "Bank De-Risking of Non-Profit Clients: A Business and Human Rights Perspective", exploring decisions made by banks that lead to de-risking.



HSC representing the Global NPO Coalition on FATF during the conference in Mauritius.



MOVING TOGETHER FOR CHANGE THERE IS A NEW HUMAN RIGHTS SPACE IN TOWN!

As of April 2021, the **three The Hague based NGOs**, Netherlands Helsinki Committee, Justice & Peace, and Human Security Collective have moved into Riviervismarkt 4 – just next door from the current Nutshuis location. Watch the **short video!**

The three organizations, each with a unique focus in the human rights arena, look forward to working together more closely, to continue raising awareness and defending human rights, with a diverse group of organizations and citizens in The Hague, The Netherlands, and internationally.

Together we aim to create a flourishing and inspiring Human Rights Space for human defenders, human rights advocates and supporters in The Hague, the city of Peace, Justice and Security.

We look forward to welcoming you to our shared Human Rights Space. Do join us for more engagement and actions to push back on polarization and to create a just and secure world.







OUR PEOPLE

STAFF





BOARD









OUR DONORS

We are grateful for the continuing support of our donors:





SIGRID RAUSING TRUST









FINANCIAL RESULT AND OPERATING STATEMENT

<u>Income</u>	Actual <u>2021</u>	Actual <u>2020</u>	Budgeted <u>2021</u>
Contribution to HSC Mutation advanced project payment Interest Other Income	813,461 217,450 0 74,287 1,105,197	1,463,582 -401,629 19 50,078 1,112,050	1,199,976 15,830 0 32,100 1,247,906
<u>Expenditures</u>			
Staff Costs Organization Expenses General Expenses Housing Costs Services ICT Project Charges	646,409 -2,292 10,520 11,535 36 14,464 410,858 1,091,529	545,449 38,504 16,364 10,603 173 11,763 297,752 920,608	645,600 38,504 16,200 15,046 500 16,600 657,171 1,383,188
Results Financial Year	13,668	191,442	-135,282



BALANCE AS PER 31 DECEMBER 2021

	31-12-2021	31-12-2020
Current Assets		
Accounts receivable	43,946	13,204
Current account	1,228,804	1,483,153
	1,272,750	1,496,357
<u>Liabilities</u>		
<u>Equity</u>		
General reserve	713,328	705,063
Reserve professional development	42,640	37,237
	755,968	742,300
Current liabilities / accounts payable	88,946	108,772
Advanced project payments	427,836	645,285
	1,272,750	1,496,357





