

Women and Youth against Violence

Summary report on strengthening the capacity of young change makers in Palestine
to increase human security in their communities
September 2013 – August 2015



By
Human Security Collective



Background

This project is being implemented by Cordaid together with Human Security Collective and local civil society partners in Palestine and Libya between 2013 and 2016. The programme is funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NAP 1325) and managed by Cordaid.

The overall objective of the programme is defined as follows:

Ensure young leaders in Libya and occupied Palestinian territories are equipped with enhanced skills and methodologies to monitor their daily safety, implement alternative community approaches to increase the daily safety of women and influence security policy at the macro level.

This report includes an overview of the international training conducted by Human Security Collective in partnership with Cordaid from September 2013 to August 2015.

Socio-economic, political and conflict background for the MENA region

Even though there are many context specific dynamics in Libya and the occupied Palestinian Territories (oPT), the areas in which this project is currently being implemented have similar challenges with regard to human security, besides being perceived by the international community as potential regional and global security threats. Post-Arab Spring developments have not helped change human security conditions. Polarization within society and spreading violence in the region have further jeopardized human security in the MENA region. Communities in both these countries live with the daily reality of violent conflict, gross human rights violations, and the absence of rule of law and good governance. For decades the ruling political systems have created fragmented communities with a pervasive culture of polarization and distrust. Because of the presence of political violent conflict, local authorities and security stakeholders are often not receptive to the daily safety needs of their people. Where state authorities fail to provide safety for all its citizens we see essential work being carried out by local civil society in meeting the daily safety concerns of citizens. The human security approach recognizes that long term solutions to increase safety in communities requires engagement strategies between civil society and the whole of government to come up with joint analyses and plans of action. This approach is failing to be implemented due to the existing trust deficit between the security sector and the communities involved. It is our belief, therefore, that the need to provide support to a new generation of leaders on human security approaches towards safety is crucial, in particular to those young leaders who strive for the promotion of equality between men and women, for the empowerment of women both in the public and private sphere, towards ensuring respect for human rights and improving (human) security in their communities.

Results Achieved: September 2013 – August 2015

During the first phase of the project a joint action plan was formulated. Both in Gaza and the West Bank, local partners organized the selection criteria, and the application and selection processes to identify young changemakers. This led to the creation of 12 youth platforms both in the West Bank and Gaza.

The objective of the first international training/facilitation resulted in:

- a) **Increased knowledge of the concept of Human Security.** A specific module was provided by Human Security Collective to generate insight on a people-centred security. The emphasis was on a comprehensive and multidimensional framework which recognizes that threats to security are multiple and intertwined and therefore that responses and solutions need to be holistic and centred on the individual.
- b) **Increased knowledge of UNSCR 1325 and the (NL) NAP 1325** – This module was designed and implemented by the Cordaid Women Leadership Unit to increase awareness of the importance of UNSCR 1325 (UN Security Council resolution on women and peace and security). Besides that, an explanation on

NL NAP 1325 (the Dutch National Action Plan on resolution 1325) was provided to fill in the background of the overall objective of the programme funded by the Dutch Government.

c) **Increased capacity to collectively analyse and prioritize human security needs** – This module was designed by Human Security Collective. The exercise captured all the security trends identified by the young change makers, putting human security theory – “taking locally identified needs, concerns and issues” – into practice. The purpose of this exercise was to get young community leaders talking about safety in their communities by including their perceptions. Building on the exercise of reading each other’s personal narratives, participants started to appreciate that there was common ground on certain trends and at the same time different opinions in terms of what people perceive as trends that affect safety in their communities. The next step was to discover which trends were of the greatest concern to each youth platform. This way one could immediately see whether there was enough common ground to work on certain trends. At this phase in the workshop, the group of young community leaders started to make a collective choice on which trend/s they wanted to start focusing on. During the two days of facilitation, we kept going back to what motivates people to tackle an issue of concern in society and also learning to appreciate other people’s concerns in society. Both were considered vital processes before taking a definite decision on what issue of concern the group would eventually decided to work on. As a follow up of the workshop, the youth platforms selected the concerns that they would like to tackle in their community projects. The following themes were identified, among others: family violence and early marriage, honour killing and other social traditions that deprive women of their rights, increased drugs abuse, and the violations of occupation and how to address them in a legal international manner.



The second international training/facilitation by Human Security Collective and Cordaid resulted in:

- d) **Increased knowledge of Theory of Change** – This module provided background information on the advantages of developing and using theories of change to design programmes that tackle complex social issues.
- e) **Designing a Theory of Change** – This module was designed by Human Security Collective. It trained young leaders to think through their long-term goals and then, going backwards, to map the preconditions to these. It is meant to encourage participants to think more of long-term goals and outcomes rather than the traditional project design. The identified changes were mapped graphically in causal pathways of outcomes, showing each outcome in logical relationship to all the others. The youth leaders were equipped to follow through on this process with their respective groups.
- f) **Conducting a stakeholder analysis** – This module was designed by Human Security Collective and provided the participants with a framework in which to conduct a stakeholder analysis to increase the effectiveness of their strategy.



Further training and accompaniment was provided by local civil society organizations on project design and project management, as each youth platform is provided with the financial means to implement their innovative projects on increasing safety in their communities.

The third and international training is to be implemented in November 2015. This training is to facilitate meaningful engagement between these young change makers and authorities at the local level to ensure that their ideas are integrated into local policies.

The final international training within the scope of this project is due in January 2016. This training is to equip participants with skills and a methodology to monitor safety in their communities through the collection and analyzing of their stories.