

People-focused security and justice provision: connecting the local to the national

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Overview

1. About Saferworld
2. Trends in Security
3. Community Security Approach and Handbook
4. Challenges and points for discussion



About Saferworld

Saferworld is an independent international organisation working to prevent violent conflict and build safer lives.

We work with local people affected by conflict to improve their safety and sense of security, and conduct wider research and analysis. We use this evidence and learning to improve local, national and international policies and practices that can help build lasting peace.

We work in over 20 countries and territories in Africa, South Asia, Europe and Central Asia, and the Middle East.



How we work

We believe efforts to prevent violent conflict should always be based on local needs and realities.

In our work we use the evidence and experience from our in-country programmes – and the expertise of our staff, partners and networks – to make recommendations to local, national and international policy-makers, which lead to real changes on the ground.





SAFERWORLD
PREVENTING VIOLENT CONFLICT. BUILDING SAFER LIVES



“For too long, the concept of ‘security’ has been shaped by the potential for conflict between states... But for most people today, a feeling of insecurity arises more from worries about daily life than from the dread of a cataclysmic world event. Job security, income security, healthy security, environmental security and security from crime – these are the emerging concerns of human security all over the world.”

1994 UNDP Human Development Report



What does security mean to people?

“Lack of jobs makes me feel insecure. Regardless of how hard I tried I just could not get a job. So I went through Ivory Coast to become part of any group looking for a potential fighter.”

Former combatant, Sierra Leone

“In earlier days even small earnings were sufficient for a living, but now, the price for everything has escalated and it’s difficult to save anything. I feel that I may die of hunger. This makes me feel insecure.”

Kewat woman, Morang district, Nepal

“Competition over water and grazing land is one of the causes of persistent insecurity.”

Participant, Warrup state, South Sudan

“Personally, the safety of my children while I’m at work is what worries me most.”

Participant, Kamrangirchar, Bangladesh



Policy shift – but slow

Increasing acknowledgement that:

- Security goes beyond military/hard security;
- Security is context-specific;
- Insecurity undermines development (post-2015 discussions);
- People need to be in the centre of security and justice provision

BUT: putting this into practice is challenging, and change remains slow



Typical SSR approaches

- Defence sector reform
- Intelligence and security service reform
- Integrated border management
- Police reform
- Criminal justice reform
- Private security and military companies
- Train and equip



Example Nepal: SGBV/DV

- Institutional mechanisms and provisions in place (NWC, Nepal Police's WCSC, quota for women police officers, Initiative of the OPM, ...)
- Key policies, legislation etc. in place (NAP 1325&1820, DV Act, ...)

BUT implementation of policies and legislation is insufficient; lack of trust in security providers and poor access to WCSCs, female police officers; social prejudice against women police officers; stigmatisation against survivors of SGBV



National security institutions often characterised by:

- Prioritisation of national-level security challenges
- Limited analysis of local context at national level
- Top-down, and often centre-periphery approach
- Focus on protection of the state/government rather than the people
- Well-equipped and high levels of expertise at central level, but insufficient budget, equipment and capacity at local level
- Perception that security should be dealt with by security providers/government only; no role for civil society



National security institutions often characterised by (cont'd):

- No/limited cooperation and coordination across sectors
- Political role and interests of key ministries, security agencies
- Institutional pride and traditions
- Legislation and policies not in place, or
- While legislation and policies might be in place, implementation is often insufficient



Consequences at local level

- Local safety and security concerns are often different from national ones – and often neglected
- Limited access to security and justice, esp. for people from marginalised groups
- Limited trust in security providers as often seen as partial and/or not inclusive
- People are disempowered; risk that they disengage from political processes and civil responsibilities; or try to find other ways to get security needs met



- While support to security and justice providers at the state and institutional level is important, it is not sufficient
- To understand and address the concerns of the people, to improve relationships and to share responsibilities, engaging at the local level, and with local communities and stakeholders is crucial



What is community security/safety?

- A people-centred approach to addressing insecurity that integrates human security, development and statebuilding paradigms.
- works by bringing together a wide range of state and civil society actors from the security demand and supply sides to identify root causes of insecurity collectively and develop coordinated responses to them.



What is community security/safety? (cont'd)

- builds the capacity and willingness of communities, local authorities and security providers to address their own sources of insecurity.
- creates an enabling environment for wider reforms and more people focused policies at the sub-national and national levels.



Policy implications of the Handbook

- Bridging between interconnected areas of work
- A potential delivery mechanism for the SDGs and existing policies
- Incorporating security as part of development and taking a developmental approach to security
- Moving beyond technical approaches
- Working more politically
- Balancing immediate impact with a long-term view
- Improving state-society relations



Community security contributes to:

- Improved relationships and trust within the community and between the community and state authorities/security providers;
- Increased level of agency of community members, but also awareness of responsibilities;
- Improved implementation of legislation and policies
- More effective outreach by security providers
- Improved safety and security perceptions



Community security programme cycle



1. Preparation and conflict analysis

- Initial conflict/context analysis
- Capacity building of local partner organisations
- Trustbuilding
- Identifying local mechanisms to work with



How can we make it inclusive and ensure participation and ownership?

Local mechanisms ideally include:

- Mixed gender
- Mixed age groups
- Ethnic, religious, caste, etc. composition reflecting demographic situation

Local authorities and security providers can be part of the group or otherwise connected.



Gender balance

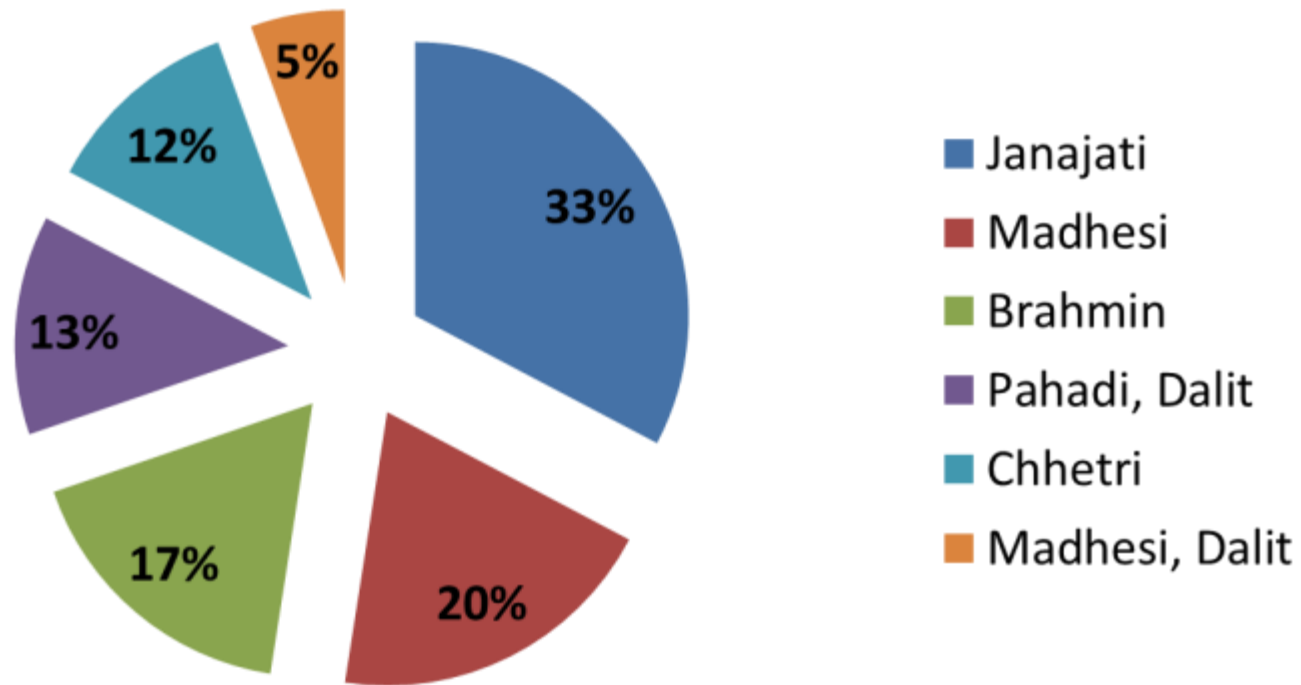
For example, in Nepal, local mechanisms include 41% women and 59% men

Age group	Female	Male	Total
14-24	13	7	20
25-40	35	51	86
41 and over	18	38	56
Total	66	96	162



Ethnic/caste diversity

Diversity of 12 local mechanisms in Nepal



2. Identification and prioritisation of community's security problems and needs

- Smaller scale joint analysis of local problems and security concerns, using simple tools
- Consultative and inclusive
- Joint identification and prioritisation of community security priorities that can realistically be addressed



3./4. Action planning and implementation

- Plans clearly outlining roles and responsibilities
- Small initial funds that enable community members, local authorities and security providers to act
- Community contribution important



5. Evaluating, learning, improving

- Understanding and evaluating changes
- Encouraging participation of local stakeholders
- Feed learning into future programming
- Share lessons learnt and best practices with other stakeholders to link up to the national level and beyond



Linking the local with the national

- Sharing analysis
- Sharing best practices and lessons learnt
- Providing feedback into policy discussions
- Building capacity of civil society to engage on people-centered security
- Improving police-public relationships
- Complement existing initiatives



Challenges and questions for discussion

- Changing attitudes and behavior takes time
- Working to the right scale
- Linking community security with justice, and governance
- Measuring success
- Differing/competing local and national security concerns and the huge variety of potential 'security' issues
- Being realistic



Thank you

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Handbook link:

<http://www.saferworld.org.uk/resources/view-resource/806-community-security-handbook>

