

Examining the Human Security Nature in Nairobi

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ABSTRACT

This paper assesses the nature of human security in Kenya. A human security perspective focuses on causes and effects that pose for human beings a survival dilemma: stay/die, migrate, and/or protest/fight. The paper interrogates the security gaps in Kenya that emanate from state retreat and fragility leading to human insecurity. The researcher strives to identify the interplay and causal relationship between flawed prohibitions, negligent authorities and insecurity arising from state retreat and fragility. This paper reveals that the link between terrorism and illegal refugee migration are not the only examples of the illegal migration-security correlation. Human smuggling and human trafficking are also correlated with corruption, poor state capacity, social cleavages, radicalization of youth into violent extremism, drug and weapon proliferation. The results establish that irregular migration of refugee situation in Kenya has little or reasonable influence on security; and becomes a threat only if heightened by the presence of Organised Criminal Groups both local and transnational. And these groups thrive in socially disorganized settlements. The main factor pushing refugees to Nairobi is socio-economic. Most citizens are afraid or not concerned to report on strangers in their environments. To enhance protection of both citizens and refugees, the government should elevate the ordinary people living in the midst of political violence who naturally want security. Hence forth the above paper showed that human security requirements of refugees as people in need of protection were not mistaken, but lacking. It did not speak to emerging security challenges of violence instigated by refugees in the host state. A consensus must be reached on how the terrorist nature of insecurity could be handled vis-à-vis meeting the humanitarian objectives. Social and structural gaps arising from state retreat and fragility are strategic to answering to human insecurity in Kenya. Internal security policy must seek to increase the capacity of citizen response, recovery and adaptability while reducing the current sense of powerlessness through increased knowledge acquisition.

Keywords: Human Security, Poor State Capacity, Corruption, Social Cleavages, International Refugee Protection Framework.

Introduction

Human security in this paper refers to the updated connotations of security to incorporate the absence of threats to individual and communities, socio-economic threats; political rights and interests. Differences in the provision of human security focused on freedom from “fear” on one hand and threats arising from underdevelopment which often refers to freedom from „want“ and other human freedom of socio-economic and political rights. The number of refugees entering Kenya between the years 2000-2010 stood at 350,000 with 250,000 of those living in camps while 100,000 live in Kenya’s Nairobi city (WFP, 2015). It is revealed that of those refugees, 64% are from Somalia (UNHCR, 2010). Few nations can be willing to grant *prima facie* status to refugees looking for safety and security while running away from armed conflicts. Some of the refugees have links to violent terrorist groups like Al shaabab in Somalia who claimed responsibility in the Westgate Mall attack in Nairobi (Daily Nation 21 September 2013). If refugee protection is poor with current scenarios of drought, violent conflicts and hunger in East and the Horn of Africa, it can only get better than it is through deliberate framework that protects Kenyans first. Refugee flows are anticipated in the next 20 years following the impact of climate change. A durable solution is required.

While much has been written about the refugee protection and rights, there is minimal focus on violence instigated by refugees. The nature of human security in Kenya raises important issues around the character of the state as a means to realise human security. According to the Deputy Director Security Compliance and Disaster Response Department of the Nairobi County Government (2016), refugees are off the County Government functions dealing with refugees because security is not a devolved function from the National Government according to the 2010 Kenya Constitution. The Nairobi City County security department supports the National Police Service. There’s need to increase the capacity of security personnel in Nairobi County. In Kenya, inadequate data exists on the status of refugee entry into Nairobi city, and its impact on human security of Kenyan citizens. The checkpoints to Nairobi city are limited owing to inadequate immigration personnel. Refugees can enter into Nairobi from any point. With prevalent socio-economic threats, which have continually persisted since early 1990’s, with unemployed youth force within the Horn of Africa, there is need to evaluate state presence at entry points into Kenya.

Material and Methods

The study involved a survey on a cross-section of the affected area, with one (Nairobi County), representing urban refugees as the main unit of analysis. Human security aspects provided by the Government of Kenya to its citizens in Langata and Pumwani Sub-Counties, Nairobi as well as refugees. This study was conducted through a descriptive survey focusing on the international refugee protection framework’s influence on human security in Nairobi, Kenya. The purpose of this design was to gather data at a particular point in time with the intention of describing the nature of existing conditions or determining the relationships that exist between specific events. This study was conducted between June 2016 to December 2017.

Sample size: 285 refugees.

Sample Size Calculation: The sample size was estimated on the basis of a single proportion design. The target population from which the sample was randomly selected was considered to be 46,000 urban refugees.

Procedure Methodology

After written informed consent was obtained, a well-designed questionnaire was used to collect the data of the recruited patients retrospectively. The questionnaire included socio-demographic characteristics such as age, gender, nationality, level of education and occupation.

Study Design

This study has been conducted through a descriptive survey focusing on the international refugee protection framework's influence on human security in Nairobi, Kenya. The purpose of this design is to gather data at a particular point in time with the intention of describing the nature of existing conditions or determining the relationships that exist between specific events (Jackson, 2007). The study involves a survey on a cross-section of the affected area, with one (Nairobi County), representing urban refugees affected with the Government directive on terrorist attacks; and human security aspects provided by the Government of Kenya to its citizens in Langata and Pumwani Sub-Counties, Nairobi.

Study Area

This study is carried out in Nairobi County, neighbouring Central Kenya. Nairobi is both the political and commercial capital of Kenya and serves as a major transit route for air traffic in Africa and a tourist destination. Administratively, Nairobi County is divided into 8 sub-counties namely: Central, Langata, Makadara, Kasarani, Embakasi, Pumwani, Westlands and Dagoretti. This study focuses on Pumwani and Langata sub-counties only. It is densely populated with a total population of about 4 million people according to the national census of 2009 (KNPC, 2009). The population of this study includes all urban refugees above eighteen years from: Eritrea, Somalia, Congo, Rwanda, Ethiopia and South Sudan; organizations dealing with refugees, state departments dealing with refugees and human security issues, host community households and households. Households are important social units of a nation and included clan elders, youths, women leaders, religious leaders, business personnel and household heads. Secondly, state officials are also interviewed and included: intelligence/anti-terrorism operatives, chiefs, ward administrators, County Commissioner's office, Refugee Consortium of Kenya officials, immigration officers, teachers, police, military and District Peace Committees. Relevant organizations: International Organization of Migration, United Nations High Commission on Refugees and civil society representatives. The unit of analysis is the refugee in Nairobi County. Total number of refugees in selected sub-counties is 285.

Sources of Primary Data

Primary data collection is done in three stages. In the first stage, data is collected from refugees in Langata and Pumwani Sub-Counties. Structured interviews are conducted using pre-tested questionnaires administered to state officials dealing with refugees, civil society organizations and focus group discussions. Information is collected on the demographic characteristics of refugees, state officials and household of residents of Nairobi factors. Unstructured interviews are used to obtain qualitative information from household/residents about human security aspects in Nairobi. Direct observation is an important tool in collecting data from refugees. In the second stage, quantitative data is collected from military (KDF), security officers (police/intelligence), immigration officers, judiciary, ministry of foreign Affairs officers, teachers, local residents, UNHCR official, local residents and administrators using pre-tested questionnaires.

Sources of Secondary Data

The study embarked on wide-ranging and ample desk review of pertinent documents, reports and publications relating to the international refugee protection framework's influence on human security in Nairobi, Kenya.

Data Analysis

Data is analysed using statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) Version 21 to get frequency and influence ranking. The analysis is carried out to establish the relationship between the international refugee protection framework's influence on human security and variables such as poor state capacity, social cleavages, corruption, state fragility in general of Kenya and human insecurity.

Result and Discussion

Conditions leading to irregular refugee migration into Nairobi, Kenya

The difference in managing both the refugee's needs and citizen's needs are done by the state. This paper reveals that irregular influx of refugees in Kenya is due to the porous borders with many routes as depicted in as shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1: Main Routes for Irregular Migrants in the East & Horn of Africa

Source: Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology Disaster Management Department, 2016.

In Kenya, a similar study was conducted by the IOM in 2010. The study established the main routes for irregular refugee influx as illustrated in the table 2.5 below:

Table 1: Main Transit Routes for Irregular Migrants in Kenya (IOM, 2010).

Origin	Transit Points	Destination
Southern Somalia	Liboi, Fafi	Garissa
Garissa	Wajir	Kismayu
Dadaab	Ijara	Mombasa
Ijara	Ijarairobi, Dar es Salaam, Maputo	South Africa
Mogadishu	Liboi, Garissa, Nairobi	South Africa
Garissa	Nairobi, Sudan, Libya	Malta and Italy
Liboi	Dadaab, Garissa	Nairobi, North America
Liboi	Dadaab, Modogashe, Isiolo	Nairobi, Britain
Mandera	Dadaab, Modogashe, Isiolo	Nairobi, Europe
Fafi	Ijara, Garsen, Mombasa	Nairobi, Botswana
Moyale	Marsabit, Isiolo, Nanyuki	Nairobi, Botswana

Source: IOM (2010)

This paper reveals that the link between terrorism and illegal refugee migration are not the only examples of the illegal migration-security correlation. Human smuggling and human trafficking are also correlated with corruption, poor state capacity, social cleavages, and drug and weapon proliferation. Subsequently, the paper reveals that there is a correlation between irregular refugee migration and criminal group activities and consequently, organized crime, small arms, and human smuggling and trafficking hence human insecurity. Under the international refugee protection framework, Kenya as a state does not have the power to institute and undertake criminal proceedings against any refugee person before any court (other than a court-martial) in respect of “any offence.” (Olando and Another: 2010). This poses a human security dilemma.

Table 2: Human security contests encountered in refugee management

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Corruption	4	40.0	10.0	10.0
porous border	1	10.0	20.0	30.0
collusion with organised criminal groups	3	30.0	50.0	80.0
data management	1	10.0	10.0	90.0
Coordination	1	10.0	10.0	100.0
Total	10	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data, 2016

When results are tabulated, majority 4 (40%) said that they are directly involved in corruption while 10 (10%) said that the managers of refugees are not involved in corruption. On the other hand, 3, (30%) said that the managers colluded with organized criminal groups while 50 (80%) said there is no collusion, 1(10%) blamed the long porous borders with poor capacity to patrol while 1 (10%) said there is inadequate data management and 1 (10%) said there is poor coordination between the refugee management agencies. Allen (2010), argues that the instability in Somalia has made it a gateway for illicit arms to enter the East African region. The UN monitoring group on Somalia notes that significant arm shipments has been transported to Somalia through the Gulf of Aden.

Conditions Leading to Irregular Refugee Migration

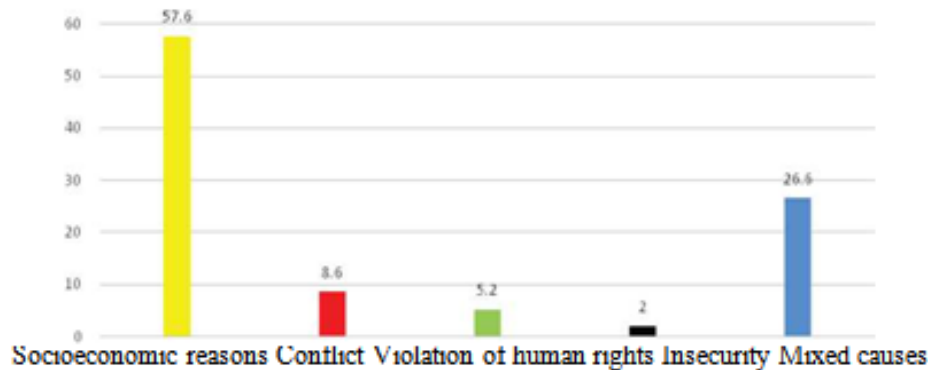


Figure 2: Push factors of refugees to Nairobi County. (Source: Field Data, 2016)

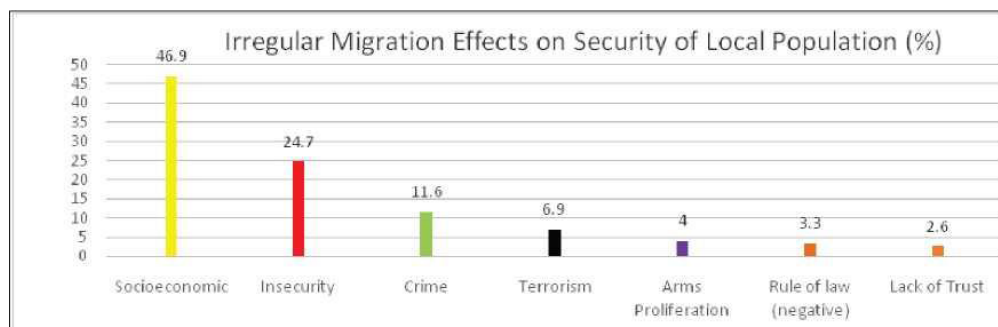


Figure 3: Push Factors in Irregular Migration (Source: Field Data, 2016)

Majority, (60; 57.6%) of the respondents said that it is the socio-economic reasons, 10 (8.6%) said that they migrate to Nairobi because of conflict, 7 (5.2%) said that they migrate because of violations of human rights, 2 (2.0%) said that they migrate to Nairobi because of insecurity and 26 (26.6%) said that they migrate because of mixed causes. Socioeconomic reasons appeared to be the key push factor. Respondents mention poverty and lack of economic opportunities as the main reason for migration to Nairobi County.

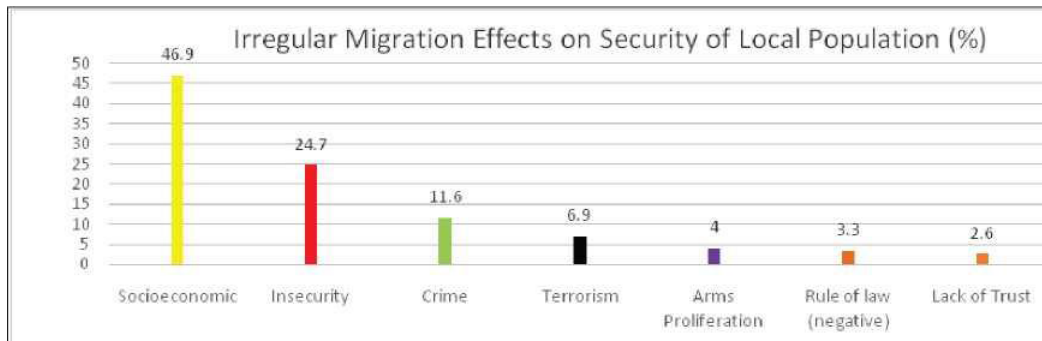


Figure 4: The relationship between irregular refugee migration and security in Nairobi County.

Source: Field Data, 2016

Respondents are asked whether there is any relationship between irregular migrations of refugees on security of the local population. Out of 46 (46.9%) attribute to pressure on socio-economic activities, 25 (24.7%) said that they are affected with insecurity, 11 (11.6%) said that there is increases crime rate, 7 (6.9%) said that there were increases incidents of terrorism, 9 (4%) said that there are increases arms proliferation, 6 (3.3%) said negatively on the status of the rule of law offices and 4 (2.6%) said of the respondents lacks trust. The socioeconomic reasons top the list of negative effects of refugees on security. Respondents attribute refugees for taking economic opportunities, increasing of house rents, crowding limited social amenities, making the job market most competitive. Such grievances are not distinctive to Kenya as immigrants around the world are similarly attributing to xenophobic attacks in South Africa in 2015. The next reason is insecurity. Refugees are suspect of creating fear, which then fuels insecurity. This can be associated with suspicions and misapprehensions. Slightly above 10% point out that refugee involved in crime and less than 7% associated refugees with terrorism.

As for the criminal activities, refugees are associated with the local types of crime. During the focus group discussion, one respondent in Eastleigh confirms that: “some of the female refugees are more susceptible to this form of manipulation as they are lured into sex trade and crime.” First, human security is needed in response to the complexity and the interrelatedness of both old and new security threats – from chronic and persistent poverty to ethnic violence, human trafficking, climate change, health pandemics, international terrorism, and sudden economic and financial downturns. Such threats tended to acquire transnational dimensions and move beyond traditional notions of security that focus on external military aggressions alone. Secondly, human security is required as a comprehensive approach that utilizes the wide range of new opportunities to tackle such threats in an integrated manner. Human security threats of political violence and underdevelopment could not be tackled through conventional mechanisms alone. Instead, it acquired new consensus that acknowledges the linkages and the interdependencies between development, human rights and national security.

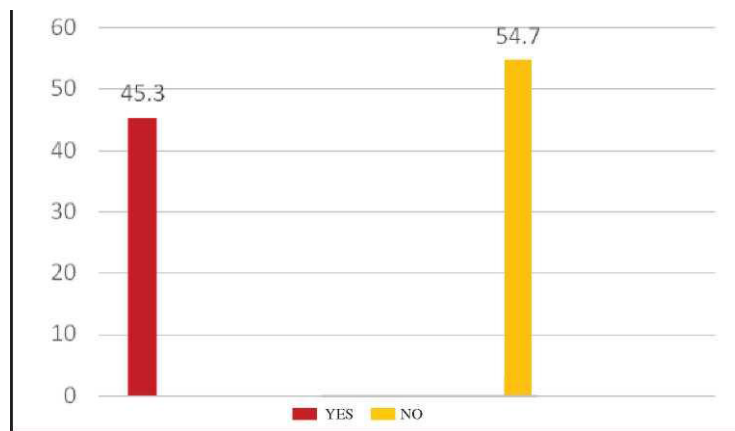


Figure 5: The link between refugees and terrorism (Source: Field Data, 2016)

Respondents are asked about the link between irregular refugee migration and terrorism. Respondents are asked if according to their knowledge the refugees are associating with terrorism. On associations with terrorism, 45 (45.3 %) said that refugees associated with terrorism whereas 54 (54.7%) said refugees does not associate with terrorism. There is a generalization or perception that Somali refugees are associated with terrorism. The findings also may mean that most refugees in Nairobi are not engaged in terrorism. On the other side, when the respondents are asked

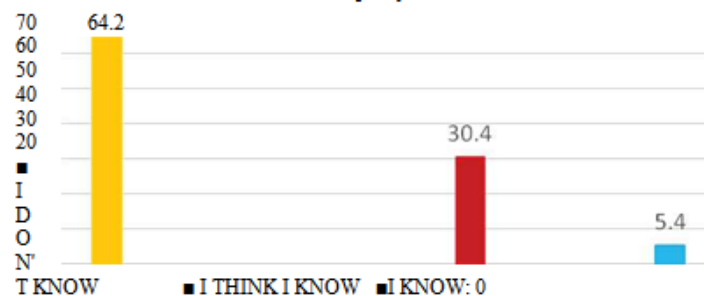


Figure 6: Number of Refugees Joining Terrorist Organisations (Source: Field Data, 2016)

When the results are cross-tabulated on who has joined terrorist groups in figure 6.7 above, majority 64 (64.2%) are unable to provide any statistics, 30 (30.4%) thought they know and 5 (5.4%) said that none of the refugees they knew was associated with a terrorist organization pointing out that perpetration of terrorism play a marginal role in refugee influx. The probable justification for the remaining 30% of the respondents who appeared to associate refugees with terrorism is that some of the terrorists, who enter into Nairobi, Kenya poses as refugees. Most respondents linked Somali refugees with terror groups like Al-Shaabab. In addition, incidents where Al Shabaab engaged in human trafficking and human smuggling may have given the impression that migrants are linked to terrorism. However, there are several respondents who, while lacking any substantial evidence, link the immigrants with terror groups like AlShabaab.

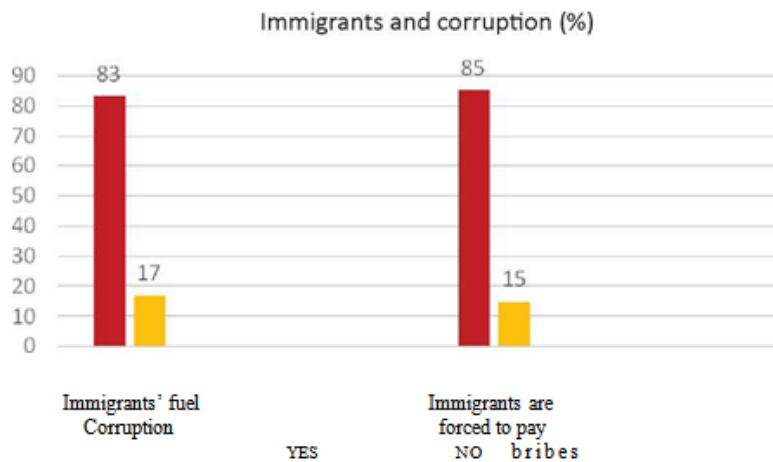


Figure 7: Refugees and Corruption (Source: Field Data, 2016)

Respondents are asked whether refugees fuel corruption. On fueling corruption, majority 90 (83%) said that refugees fuel corruption while 15 (17%) said refugees does not fuel corruption. In terms of whether refugees are forced to pay bribes, most 12 (15%) said that refugees are not forced to pay bribes for their entry or stay in Nairobi.

Table 3: Irregular Refugee Influx and Organized Criminal Groups (OCG)

Place	Irregular Refugee (migrants) are facilitated by Organized Criminal Groups (OCG)				
	No. OCG	Low	Moderate	High	Total
Ethiopian Border	14.2% (51)	4.7% (17)	4.7% (17)	5.6% (20)	29.2% (105)
Somalia Border	4.7% (17)	8.9% (32)	3.9% (18)	2.8% (10)	18.7% (67)
Coast	2.8% (10)	2.2%	6.4% (8)	7.2% (26)	18.7% (67)
Nairobi and Namanga	7.8% (28)	4.2% (15)	8.6% (31)	11.1% (40)	31.8% (114)
Total	29.5% (106)	20.1% (72)	23.7% (85)	26.7% (96)	100% (371)

Source: Field data, 2016

From the above results, it appears that the distribution of percentages compare favorably especially along the Ethiopian Border and Nairobi and Namanga (row-wise). While along the Ethiopian Border the highest score is at No. OCG (14.2%) in the case of Nairobi as shown in table 3.

Unemployment of Youths

The lack of employment among the youths in Kenya has driven youths and the refugees to engage in terrorist activities leading to security concerns in Nairobi County. Under the same token of insecurity, Al -shaabab was accused of recruiting youths in the camps. The Kenyan government was also accused of recruiting youths on behalf of the then Transitional Federal Government of Somalia (HRW, 2009a). The second major factor is lack of adequate income and high level of unemployment. Men had to leave

camps and travel to Nairobi to seek employment. The findings of a World Refugee survey indicated that refugees in camps received between Kshs1000 to 5000per month. There are limited livelihood opportunities in camps and the food provided is inadequate. The situation is demanding and therefore most youths and men escaped the camps to Nairobi.

Table 4: Number of youths who have joined terrorist organizations

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	over 100	2	20.0	20.0	20.0
	50-100	5	50.0	50.0	70.0
	30-50	2	20.0	20.0	90.0
	Less than 30	1	10.0	10.0	100.0
Total		10	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data, 2016

Respondents are asked whether youths had joined terrorist groups. On joining terrorist groups respondents said that 2 (20%) has joined terrorist groups, while 5 (50%), said that they has joined 2 (20%) and 1 (10%) consequently. This is a major concern for the unemployed youths as they are enticed to join terrorist organizations which in turn results in insecurity.

Conclusion

There has been too much diplomacy in managing political relations on refugees in Kenya, while on the other there is not enough mediation to resolve those human insecurity situations that can be addressed on the ground. The state should consider Kenya for Kenyans first. New threats presented by digital communication and hazy regulation with respect to cybercrime in an increasingly integrated world means organizations have to come up with more innovative ways to deal with these threats rather than focusing on refugees alone. The paper reveals that irregular refugee migration has socioeconomic, conflict and abuse of human rights as the main push factors that fuel refugee influx. Refugee hosting has low influence on security, and becomes a threat only if catalyzed by the presence of Organised Criminal Groups. Kenyan citizens cannot provide any statistics of the number of refugees joining terrorist organizations. On the other hand, inadequate employment of the youth has driven some youths and refugees to engage in terrorist activities. The state has a role of developing socio-economic opportunities of its residents as a crime reduction strategy. Other crimes comprising human trafficking is correlated with corruption, poor state capacity, social cleavages, and drug and weapon proliferation. Both police and immigration official's scored highest on strengths of involvement in assisting irregular influx of refugees. This is because some of the police were said to be doing all they could to secure bribes from refugees. Refugees fueled corruption too.

Ethnic leaders always play a role in securing identification documents for some refugees. Human security is threatened by underdevelopment, violent conflict, and social disintegration. A consensus must be reached on how the terrorist nature of some of the refugees can be handled. The concerns of ordinary people who seek security in their daily lives are forgotten. For many of them, security symbolizes protection from the threat of disease, hunger, unemployment, crime or terrorism, social conflict, political power and environmental hazards. The government should elevate the living standards of ordinary people who naturally want security. Internal security policy must seek to increase the capacity of citizen response, recovery and adaptability while reducing the current sense of powerlessness through increased knowledge acquisition. New threats presented by digital communication and hazy regulation with respect to cybercrime in an increasingly integrated world means organizations have to come up with more innovative ways to deal with these threats of violent extremism rather than focusing on refugees alone. Policy strategies should address simultaneously violence, poverty, human rights and hazard impacts.

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