

Security is more

What came first, poverty or conflict? World-wide, 1.2 billion people live in unstable or conflictive regions, almost one fifth of the world population.

War and violence are not the only threats, though. Poverty, social injustice and the violation of human rights are also existential dangers and hamper sustainable development. Fragile, unstable situations pose a regional and global security risk.

Human security must be understood in a broad and inclusive sense as a prerequisite for sustainable development. Human security means peace, poverty reduction, social equity and welfare – that is, individual and social security.

Security, peace and development go hand in hand.

Development needs ...

Rule of law, human rights, democracy and peace are essential for development and security. Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) is committed to enabling people in developing countries to live free from want and fear and in dignity. This is the only way they can take their lives into their own hands and overcome poverty. Austria thus makes an important contribution to promoting human security and political participation – something that we all benefit from.

... more rights

People have a right to a life in dignity. Of fundamental importance are sufficient food, health care, education, access to resources such as land or water, rule of law and protection against violence. Equally important, are gender equality and the empowerment of women. Special consideration must be given to children, the poor and underprivileged sections of the population, such as minorities, internally displaced persons or persons with disabilities.



... more participation

All states must exercise good governance as a matter of principle. It is essential for the participation of the population in political decision-making processes and transparency. An effective legal system and stable democratic relations provide security. A vibrant civil society also performs important functions.

More than a third of all ADC's programmes and projects contribute to promoting democracy and human rights and enabling people to take an active role in policymaking.

■ Developing democracy can entail many things: joint planning of local infrastructure, such as water supply, training journalists, promoting independent media, monitoring elections or raising awareness among parliamentarians.

■ People benefit from local/regional institutions: public services are also available in remote areas, local authorities exercise greater powers and are included together with non-governmental actors in policy negotiations.

... more security

In its programmes and projects, ADC takes account of possible impacts on human security.

- Education and networking contribute to raising awareness and preventing conflict. Strategic regional partnerships help pre-empt potential hostilities early on.
- The careful use of natural resources, such as arable land, water and mineral resources, and equitable access to these contribute to conflict prevention.
- The role of women in managing and resolving conflict is often underestimated. Women need to be involved more closely in peace processes, preventive measures and policymaking. Austria is committed to this through its National Action Plan on Implementing United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325.

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000)

- Protection of and respect for the human rights of women and girls
- Equal participation of women in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security
- Full participation of women in conflict resolution and peace processes
- Mainstreaming the gender perspective in all areas of peacekeeping operations
- Special concern for the needs of women and girls in camps for internally displaced persons and refugees
- Consideration of the needs of female ex-combatants
- Support for local women's peace initiatives
- Training and raising awareness of peacekeeping personnel

Contact and information

ADC policy documents can be found at www.entwicklung.at/services/publications/en/

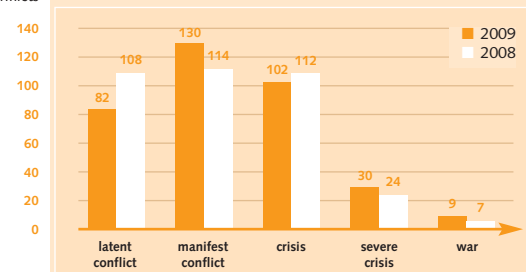
- Good Governance
- Human rights
- Peacebuilding and conflict prevention

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number of conflicts

Global Conflict Intensities in 2009 compared to 2008



Source: Conflict Barometer 2009: Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research

Freedom

... from want

In Burkina Faso, support for skilled crafts and sustainable rural development help farmers and artisans to raise their income. In training courses, they learn to raise productivity and improve product quality and marketing. Environmentally friendly cropping and energy-efficient production methods ensure the sustainable use of natural resources.

A savings and credit bank enables small investments to be made in seeds, tools or training and provides particular support for women via a local development fund.



... from fear

In Albania protection of children and youth is at the top of the political agenda. However, current laws, political strategies and action plans are not yet fully implemented.

With Austrian support, child protection units have been established in social welfare offices and trainings in modern social work have been carried out. Public services, such as schools, police and courts, have been made aware of the issue. This way, children and youth at risk can be taken off the streets and enrolled in schools. They and their parents are also trained in identifying and preventing the various facets of abuse, exploitation and human trafficking at an early stage.

... to live in dignity

In Guatemala, indigenous and landless people are still deprived of participation in public life. Promoting their rights imparts a new sense of identity and enables them to take an active part in public affairs. This way, underprivileged groups learn about the constructive settlement of conflicts, over land issues, for example.

Support is also given to women's organisations and networks fighting against discrimination, marginalisation and suppression. Equal and respectful relations between the sexes in the family and village community foster the necessary climate for the active participation of indigenous women in social life.



Together for security

Achieving human security calls for joint efforts by everyone involved – donors and partner countries.

This mutual responsibility is emphasised in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005): The donor countries commit themselves to raising the effectiveness of their contributions through closer harmonisation and alignment with the capacities and institutions in partner countries, who in turn pledge to apply the principles of good governance.

To cope better and more efficiently in a sustainable way with fragile situations and conflicts, we need a coordinated, complementary and coherent procedure. This is why ADC promotes this approach at international level (Vienna 3C Appeal).

Furthermore, Austria supports the implementation of the OECD Development Assistance Committee's Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situations as well as of the UN Security Council Resolution 1894 on the protection of civilians in armed conflict.

At United Nations and European Union level and in OECD, Austria has been successfully engaged for many years in ensuring compliance with and upgrading international human rights standards.



Security and development