

Research Project

Gender and Human Security in Post-Conflict Pakistan: Policy implications of local, gendered understandings of security and development (2011-2013)

A collaborative project between UMB/Noragric and COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT) in Abbottabad, Pakistan, was initiated this year focusing on the expanding nexus between security and development. The project will look into the local and gendered understandings and experiences with insecurity, vulnerability and development among women and men in the post-conflict Swat, NWFP region of Pakistan. Investigation of local experiences will be combined with analysis of policies and discourses on development and security. Based on a human security framework together with gender, livelihood and institutional approaches the aim is to build up an analytical understanding of how the people in Swat cope with the complex everyday situation they are living in. Through a focus on their relations to state and non-state institutions, the project will link essential micro-macro processes. The methods implemented are qualitative and participatory in nature, involving interviews and focus groups with men, women and communities from villages in the chosen area. In addition, perceptions among stakeholders at district, national and international level are seen in comparison with the local women and men in Swat. This project builds on a smaller pilot study of security, livelihoods and development in post-conflict Swat funded by Norad and the Planning Commission of Pakistan in 2010 – 2011.

Contact Persons:

Dr. Ingrid Nyborg – Project leader (Noragric, UMB, Norway)

Dr. Bahadar Nawab – Project leader (CIIT, Abbottabad, Pakistan)

Ingvild Jacobsen – PhD student

Kashif Saeed Khan – PhD student

Funding:

Norwegian Research Council

Research Project

Between Security and Development: Exploring Human Security in Afghanistan

In relation to the project presented above, a new project has been initiated with UMB/Noragric and the Norwegian Police University College (PHS) as preliminary project partners. The aim of this project is to contribute to knowledge and debate about the role of the Norwegian police in strengthening human security of the local population in Afghanistan, with a particular focus on understanding the move from military to civil security issues. Including a perspective which explores the experiences and needs of the local population is necessary and crucial in this regard. Through a bottom-up perspective engaging various actors the intention is to establish dialogue and knowledge about the topic development and security. As a result, the project will contribute to closer collaboration and understanding between local populations, local leaders, religious leaders, NGO's, police instructors, planners and researchers. The project will begin with qualitative interviews with Norwegian police and development actors who have been

working in Afghanistan, and will expand to include more extensive research on local perspectives of human security in Afghanistan.

Contact Persons:

Ingrid Nyborg, Noragric

Jaisankhar Ganapathy, Norwegian Police University College

Funding:

Norwegian Foreign Ministry/ Refleks Program