

**Societal security and arms control in Darfur**  
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## **What is societal security:**

Community security or community security is a concept that seeks to work for human security and human development and to link this to the joint work between the government and societies at the grassroots level.

The idea of community security goes back entirely to the report of the United Nations Development Program in 1994, after a wide study and review that included fourteen countries in different parts of the world, some of which are still the ground for war, and others have said farewell to war recently, but live its projections and repercussions.

And societal security is considered one of the main pillars of human security, in answer to a question about security in a simple way that social security is not for systems, states, and borders, but for individuals and societies.

The community security program always gives absolute priority in the strategies of post-war societies, given the importance of taking more comprehensive and dynamic interventions in addressing these issues because these complex and interconnected challenges are no longer addressed separately from each other, so they need comprehensive and coordinated interventions.

So, community security programs aim to create an enabling environment that enables communities to face security challenges at the grassroots level and achieve development and community cohesion to live in peace and security.

## **What are community security interventions?**

### **1- Conflict Resolution and Peace building:**

By addressing conflicts resulting from diminishing natural resources such as water and pastures, or conflicts resulting from the possession of the land, and the groups returning after the end of the war may discover that their properties have been used by other people and this creates a confusing environment, as well as tribal and clan tendencies due to blood feuds and competition for Resources usually evolve into armed clashes and then into mass violence.

Often, we find that the familiar structures and systems that in the past dealt with conflicts and conflicts in areas where strong government structures are scarce

have deteriorated during the years of war. Militants and angry youth no longer respond to these leaders as before.

The success of community security programs depends greatly on the extent and ability of all components of society to become positive tools of change and that each seeks to support the other and benefit from what is available to them.

## **2- Providing basic services:**

Community security interventions are concerned with providing basic services such as water, health, education, care, and rehabilitation of facilities that have lost their pockets totally or partially during the war. The establishment of these facilities strengthens community cohesion and enhances opportunities for the exchange of benefits.

## **3- Reviving the local economy:**

One of the great concerns of post-war societies mainly lies in providing job opportunities from jobs and otherwise by means of earning a livelihood such as artisanal work, agriculture, trade, and pastoralism, it is necessary to strengthen the structure of the local economy, support the productive sectors, provide goods and markets, and revive the economy in general to respond to these challenges. .

## **4- Building the capacities of local institutions and making them effective:**

These include governmental institutions, especially those concerned with providing social services and providing security, in addition to community structures such as the civil administration, religious institutions, group formations of youth, women, students, employers, and voluntary civil society organizations, creating strong links between them through clear and specific work programs, and the commitment of these components to programs. Training, qualification and capacity building.

## **Reintegration of veterans into society**

The coming militants and combatants pose one of the main challenges of post-war societies and they need economic reintegration packages and the support of their host communities to achieve social acceptance, so it is necessary to work on strengthening the relationship between them and the societies because their return is often accompanied by environmental and social difficulties and harsh conditions.

### **5- Small Arms Control (Weapon Control).**

Weapons kill an average of more than half a million men, women, and children in the world every year, that is, the rate of death of one person every minute.

Thousands more are subjected to amputations, torture, and forcible force to flee their homes, and the proliferation and illegal use of weapons by individuals and groups lead to The armed forces and some unwanted government forces that cost immense human lives, destroy livelihoods and directly damage development programs.

The researchers point out that there are more than 600 million weapons spread around the world, meaning that there is one weapon for every 10 people on our planet - men, women, and children.

The excessive accumulation of small arms and their illicit trade threatens international peace and security, shatters hopes for social and economic development, threatens democracy and human rights, and it is known that the proliferation of weapons increases the intensity of wars, prolongs their duration, and increases crime rates in quantity and quality.

Without strict restrictions on arms exports and measures to protect people from their misuse, many others will suffer dire consequences.

The United Nations program was established in 2001 \_\_\_ and various regional groups in all countries of the world came up to address the phenomenon of spread, as 500,000 people annually die 6.00,000 pieces spread \_\_\_ an individual dies every minute \_\_\_ 100 countries whose economy depends on the

manufacture and export of weapons. The African continent was interested and the African groups working in This field in most of its parts, such as the Arab League Group, the Horn of Africa Group and East Africa, and the recently formed regional mechanism for controlling small arms and light weapons (**Sudan - Chad - Central Africa - Libya - Democratic Republic of Congo**).

It lasted for decades.

The spread of firearms began in Darfur with the colonial's entry in 1916 when advanced types of weapons were known at the time. The colonial's policy was aimed at strengthening the tribal leaders and providing them with weapons to carry out the tasks of controlling security and order on his behalf. This policy succeeded in maintaining security and stability and the power of the civil administration emerged in Providing peace. The situation continued like this even after the departure of the colonizer and the succession of national governments until the government of the late President Jaafar Namiri, "may God have mercy on him", when he dissolved the civil administration for political visions linked to clashing and hostile intellectual and ideological aspects of the civil administration. Which led to the emergence of the Hambata groups and other groups that carry weapons for sustenance.

### **The main reasons for the proliferation of weapons in Darfur:**

#### **1- Intersection of international interests and those of neighboring countries**

The collision of international interests made a clear contribution to the proliferation of weapons, as Sudan was in the rule of Nimiri in western orientation and Libya in an eastern orientation. Libya armed the armed opposition from the Unionist Umma Party and the Muslim Brotherhood with the latest types of weapons at that time to bring down the Nimeiri regime, and Western countries became supportive of regimes and groups across the borders to carry out proxy war In the context of the Cold War conflict, Africa was the scene of the supply of weapons, ammunition, and trained cadres that believed only in fighting to solve conflicts, and the continuous support of opposition forces by some neighboring countries had a major contribution to the leakage of weapons to the citizens.

## **2- Armed conflicts in neighboring countries:**

The start of the Chadian expedition from Sudan in 1991, with great support from Libya, against the background of the Libyan-Chadian conflict over the Ozu Triangle. Conflicts within the neighboring countries of Darfur \_\_\_ Chad Central Africa \_\_\_ Congo \_\_\_ their reflection on the states of Darfur,

How Gaddafi was removed from power in Libya also had a major impact on the spread of small arms and light weapons in the region.

## **3- The internal armed conflicts in the states of Darfur:**

Represented by the rise of rebellions and the emergence of armed robbery groups, ethnic and societal armed conflicts due to the lack of accurate demarcation of paths, the lack of natural resources, the increase in competition around them, and conflicts related to the land, these conflicts have greatly contributed to the impoverishment of citizens, low levels of development, and the increase in the flow of weapons in the region, along with the continuous support for the forces The opposition from some neighboring countries and its contribution to the leakage of weapons to the citizens.

## **4- Southern War:**

This war spanned for more than half a century and the south became the scene of the proliferation of weapons among the militias, tribal and regional formations, as well as the rebel movements, so the south became the largest market for arms promotion, and this war has become everybody in need of weapons with what he demands at the cheapest prices.

## **5- Government weapon leakage:**

The weapon leaked from the regular and semi-regular forces due to the flaw in administrative procedures and their application and weak control over stocks, warehouses, and remnants of military operations is a source of illicit weapons proliferation.

## **6- The political dimension:**

The Hidden and undercover conflicts of the political blocs in the country along with the political eras and the successive regimes over the rule of the country opened the door for the followers and supporters to arm them through illegal ratifications that do not fulfill the rules and conditions for carrying weapons in order to find political and military weight and obtain electoral support in addition to obtaining it with the help of parties External for the sake of changing the ruling regimes.

### **Factors helping to the proliferation of weapons: -**

- 1- The vast area of Sudan and the geographical topography facilitate arms smuggling operations and the revival of its illicit trade. This geographical extension, with its complications, weakens the ability of the public authority to tighten control and control.
- 2- Insufficient security arrangements and equipment: The weakness of the security forces entrusted with controlling the borders in their human capacity, equipment, and technical capabilities led to their weak deployment and complete absence from some areas, which resulted in the security and police measures not contributing to reducing arms smuggling and dealing in it.
- 3- The lack of development and services and the weak administrative government presence in the border regions.
- 4- The presence of large numbers of educational funds and widespread unemployment - clear ways to earn a living.
- 5- The weakness of positive public action and the delay in reaching a binding agreement with neighboring countries to control the flow of weapons across borders.
- 6- The spread of tribal conflicts in some areas created constant fear of anticipated battles, pushing people to own and bear arms and the intertwining of the ethnic relations of the tribes that inhabit the borders.
- 7- Absence of legal plans and strategy: The state has not developed long-term plans to contain this phenomenon. All the plans previously adopted by the

state through the Ministry of Interior and state governments were a reaction to events and not a detailed and long-term treatment of the problem.

- 8- The lack of harmonization of laws, regulations, and penalties regulating the possession of weapons in the border areas of Darfur and the neighboring countries.
- 9- Inadequate legal texts in the Weapons and Ammunition Law and activating them to address the problem in its various dimensions with weak penalties, so the law did not contribute effectively to deterring the possession and illegal trade of weapons.
- 10- Delay and slow implementation of the terms of the security arrangements for the signed agreements.

### **The motives of armament: -**

The motives for armament differ from one community to another and from one person to another according to the circumstances surrounding it and the basic objectives of the armament itself, but the result remains the same, which is the disintegration of security and the increase in the rate of crimes and a lot of other social repercussions. –

- Armed political conflicts.
- War, conflict, and violence.
- Loss of protection and security.
- Losing livelihood options and using them in operations of armed robbery, drug trafficking, smuggling, and human trafficking.
- Belonging to a group and showing strength, pride, and respect.
- Traditions (in men, gun ownership is often associated with courage, manliness, and honor).



## **The methods used internationally to control weapons: -**

### **1. Voluntary collection and dropping the penalty:**

A large number of voluntary collection programs have taken place in the past period in more than twenty countries, as these countries have implemented weapons collection programs under the provision of general amnesty to those who surrender their illegal weapons.

There are many donors, including the European Union and the United Nations Development Program, through bilateral relations with small arms and light weapons programs, they have become more convinced and have relative experience in supporting voluntary control programs, in addition to the fact that these programs, after being implemented in some countries for a number of years, have become more mature and well established in Building peace and achieving security and development (Cambodia - Japan - Sudan) as a model, and this option is based on the return of armed groups, individuals and gangs, handing over their weapons in exchange for punishment and dropping the sanctions, and the most peaceful and non-hostile method, in which the following must be observed:

1. Determine the terms and place of delivery.
2. Setting a specific time date for the amnesty and surrender.
3. The terms of the amnesty must be enforceable.
4. Providing protection and immunity for individuals and groups that surrender their weapons.
5. Addressing the security concerns and expected escapes, and managing them well according to the prevailing security situation.
6. Absorption in socio-economic programs to help them achieve stability.

## **Arms collection Forced**

1 - This method is used wherever there is no security. The need for a necessary military intervention by forcible collection to allow the opportunity for other options.

2- When other options fail and there is no way for that so that the weapons are not transferred to other places, and here it is necessary to set policies and precautions to ensure the success of the operation.

3- Where a small percentage remains after the implementation of the other methods, and it can be contained through limited forced collection operations. It is recommended not to use this method unless there is a compelling necessity to avoid the following negatives:

1. Loss of the citizen's confidence.
2. Acts of violence and confrontation between the militants and the authorities and their repercussions on civilians and the prestige of the state - displacement - asylum - loss of lives and property.
3. The use of excessive violence by the regular forces against suspects and innocent people.
4. It prepares for the establishment of a major armed opposition against the state and increases the demand for armaments, the state of Jonglei as an example, northern Uganda.
5. Block the way to implement other options.
6. Violating human rights.

## **Arms in exchange for development:**

Experience has shown that there are multiple potential successful approaches to encouraging societies to surrender their weapons, relying heavily on integrating them into a broad process of building the whole society, involving

women and other groups or having cultural roles for them, and providing development to fight crime and build peace.

Most experts have recently reached the importance of linking weapons control programs to major development and service projects, after the success, they have achieved in many parts of the world, such as Rwanda, Ethiopia, and Brazil.

Therefore, this option is based on a combination of voluntary handover and amnesty and the establishment of development projects in return for that, and it is a successful option if the following are followed:

1. The presence of strong popular and community leaders.
2. Agreement on the types of weapons - their number - etc. - and the projects.
3. Avoid clashes between targets, development partners, and donors.
4. Addressing security concerns and providing protection.

**This option has pitfalls that must be taken into account by the implementers:**

1. The target population believes that the project is a right and a commitment from the government that must be presented without conditions.
2. The belief that the government has failed to disarm armed groups by force, and thus resort to peaceful means because it is unable to do so.
3. The government may appear as a weak stakeholder - and a tired partner, which weakens society's confidence and tempts others to take up arms.

## **The Weapon with incentives:**

### **(Weapon in exchanging for an incentive)**

The direct link between the voluntary delivery of weapons in exchange for the provision of excellent aid through the governmental authority and international and local organizations of individuals.

This option is based on the direct benefits to individuals and in contrast to the direct benefits to societies, and it is preferable to know the number and type of weapons and the appropriate incentive for any type of weapon in order not to encourage and promote the arms trade, in pursuit of material gain. Disposing them to obtain new types and incentives must be equipment or materials whose value does not exceed the value of the Muslim weapon.

This method is considered one of the best methods recommended by experts, as they give it the highest priority because it comes by a comprehensive and comprehensive approach to peace building and disarmament and demobilization, and disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration programs are considered the best in this regard because of their relatively sustainable impact on achieving security and development through this program. I collected 5000 pieces. In Kordofan and Darfur.

Also, this method has caveats represented as follows: -

1. Reward for criminal acts, especially if the state's laws prevent from the outset the possession of weapons by individuals.
2. The difficulty of determining the basic price and value of weapons for the replacement to be fair.
3. The lack of accurate means to determine whether the weapon used has been entirely collected or not.
4. This option may encourage the entry of new weapons if it is rewarding.

### **Linking weapons to development: -**

This option comes within the link between the voluntary collection of weapons and the presentation of development projects for the entire community, not to armed groups alone, without presenting any preconditions from the government or donor bodies to the government's desire to increase the level of development and services and urging citizens to hand over more weapons to advance the development and build and sustain stability. Experts with this option provided that they build the capabilities of the forces responsible for maintaining security and law enforcement. It is mostly used in areas where citizens have armed themselves in self-defense after the reasons for armament has ceased.

### **Buy Back Direct Selling Method: -**

This method is a legitimate market for those who wish to surrender their weapons in exchange for monetary compensation, and this method must be carefully planned and controlled to prevent potential penetrations, and the value paid does not exceed the real price of the weapon in the market, and this option is used in the following circumstances:

1. A temporary option for a short period.
2. A strong government presence to close the targeted area from the entry of weapons from abroad and to ensure that government weapons do not leak so as not to encourage corruption.
3. Accurate recording and rapid destruction of collected weapons so as not to be used for the re-delivery of new ones.

In Nicaragua, 142,000 weapons were destroyed and in Haiti 33,000 were collected, but studies later showed the flow of weapons in large numbers due to the opening of new markets. To avoid these risks, the program was developed by giving goods and luggage in exchange for the weapons.

## **Programs accompanying weapons control operations: -**

1. Restructuring the security sector for effective regular forces.
2. Strengthening law enforcement institutions and passing legislation.
3. Reconciliation.
4. Infrastructure projects and sustainable development.
5. Projects to provide income and increase the contribution to the economy.

However, one of the benefits of this method is that it raises public awareness of the dangers of weapons proliferation, especially issues related to legislation and public opinions of illegal trade and its impact on societies.

The aforementioned methods are the most followed in the world's experiences in controlling small arms and mitigating their harmful effects. Perhaps some countries have followed methods that combine two or more methods, such as Uganda - Kenya - the Congo - Rwanda - Kosovo.

## **The most appropriate proposed method for controlling weapons in Darfur:**

Based on the above, we see that the best way to control small arms and light weapons in the states of Darfur is to combine all these options and follow a comprehensive method applicable to the complex political, social, and economic reality. Here we propose the following:

- 1- Giving the causes of security and providing protection as the highest priority, given the impossibility of full security in all parts of the region by means of the regular forces alone, it becomes necessary for the participation of societies, as this participation leads to successful control of weapons.
- 2- Developing a five-year plan based on scientific surveys using security maps and conflict resolution plans. The plan aims to eradicate the main causes and aid for armed conflict and arms proliferation. It addresses the political, security, economic, social, and cultural dimensions and variables of neighboring countries

and states for the borders of Darfur. We prefer that the plan focuses on development so that development projects are planned and Services are to deal with security problems. Development and security are two things that go hand in hand. There is neither development without security nor security without the development of post-war societies.

3- Establish effective controls to control the weapons of regular and semi-regular forces, prevent their dispersal, and control the movement of ammunition, stores, and warehouses.

4- Dependence on the native administration and community leaders in controlling weapons through weapons registration and marking programs, and generalizing the experience of the states of South and West Darfur to the rest of Darfur states and the neighboring states in Sudan and the neighboring countries.

5- Activating the role of institutions working in promoting a culture of peace and peaceful coexistence, with a focus on community reconciliation and fulfilling previous commitments towards them. Past experiences emphasized that the weapons control programs could not succeed if they did not come within the context of a comprehensive peace process between the target groups.