



Proximity International | Executive Summary

Protection of Civilians Human Security Survey in Iraq and South Sudan
Prepared for PAX

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ACRONYMS

AMA	Assistance Mission for Africa
CES	Community Engagement Sessions
CSC	Community Security Committee
HSS	Human Security Survey
JMAC	Joint Mission Analysis Center
POC	Protection of Civilians
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SSANSA	South Sudan Action Network on Small Arms
UFE	Utilization-Focused Evaluation
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 About the Human Security Survey Project

The Human Security Survey (HSS) is a four-year project focused on collecting data and facilitating dialogue on civilian experiences, perceptions, and expectations of security dynamics in conflict-affected areas. Beginning in 2016, it is currently being implemented in three locations in Iraq (Basra, Kirkuk, and Salah al-Din Governorates) and four locations in South Sudan (Jonglei, Eastern Lakes, Southern Liech, and Jubek States).

The purpose of the HSS is threefold: (a) increasing understanding (by international and local security actors, civil society members, etc) of local security dynamics and trends; (b) enhancing the “claim-making capacity” of civilians to identify their priorities and hold decision makers accountable; and (c) informing evidence-based advocacy for international stakeholders. In addition to generating data and various reports, HSS implementors present information to local communities via Community Engagement Sessions (CES).

1.2 Evaluation Methodology

Proximity International employed a Utilization-Focused Evaluation (UFE) approach to this evaluation, which prioritizes the generation of actionable findings that can be used to improve programming. Evaluation Questions were selected by PAX, and focused on the *effectiveness* and *relevance* of the HSS project.

The Evaluation Team reviewed relevant project documentation and interviewed key PAX staff members, before traveling to conduct field research in Iraq and South Sudan. Evaluators interviewed more than 40 locally based stakeholders, including but not limited to: UN agencies, partner staff members, civil society stakeholders, donors, HSS enumerators, and participants in local community engagement activities.

1.3 Cross-Cutting Findings and Recommendations

The table below summarizes key top-line findings that the Evaluation Team found to be applicable across both the Iraq and South Sudan contexts. Further details on these findings can be found in the full report.

Cross-Cutting Findings	Cross-Cutting Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HSS is a well-thought out project with strong project management across both countries.• The HSS is primarily restricted by its limited financial and human resources.• In both countries, HSS findings have not been widely disseminated to international stakeholders.• Evaluation and Relevance findings vary significantly by country.• There is a lack of M&E mechanisms, but interest in and opportunities for the development of low-cost methods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PAX should target outreach to a few key international stakeholders in each context• Develop tools and provide trainings to partner staff to document community engagement.• Explore the developing a dashboard to increase the utility of the HSS findings.• Use internal training surveys as a starting point for developing more robust M&E for training sessions.• Consider organizing a lessons-learned session for key partner staff in both countries.

2. SOUTH SUDAN

2.1 HSS Overview: South Sudan

The HSS was initially piloted in South Sudan in 2015, and subsequently expanded to four geographic regions in 2016 (Jonglei, Eastern Lakes, Southern Liech, and Jubek States). The survey is executed by two local partner organizations, the Assistance Mission for Africa (AMA) and the South Sudan Action Network on Small Arms (SSANSA). In addition to local security actors and community stakeholders, the key target for findings from HSS-South Sudan is the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

In addition to conducting the survey and distributing its findings to international stakeholders, CES meetings are held in surveyed communities, where findings are presented by PAX staff, after which dialogue is facilitated by local partners. Small Community Security Committees (CSCs) consisting of local stakeholders are then formed, with CSC members being given a small amount of funding to pursue security initiatives in their communities.

2.2 Key Findings

Context-specific findings were organized based on evaluation questions. Some key takeaways include:

- The HSS and its methodology are carefully designed and fit within the South Sudan context.
- Enumerator training is well-paced and well-run at all levels.
- The role that CSCs will play in the broader HSS project over the next two years is unclear.
- In some communities, CES and CSC activities overlap somewhat with other community security initiatives conducted by international organizations.
- There are unexplored avenues for uptake of HSS findings within the UN, PAX, and other organizations.
- Donors are interested in community security in general, and the potential of HSS in particular.

2.3 Recommendations

- Conduct a mid-term stakeholder mapping exercise to identify potential new data users at the national and international level, as well as to identify potential areas of redundancy.
- Re-assess the role of CSCs in the overall project logic.
- Continue to build partner organization capacity to carry out trainings and other activities.
- Include a reference sheet with translations of key phrases into Juba Arabic, Dinka, Bari, and Nuer.
- Internally identify the level of CSC support desired in this project, as well as the personnel and resources needed to conduct this activity in a way that provides adequate support to CSC members.
- Pursue a relationship with the UN Joint Mission Analysis Centre (JMAC) as a key data user within the UN system, as it provides data to other key UN bodies.

3. IRAQ

3.1 HSS Overview: Iraq

The HSS in Iraq targets three governorates in the country: Basra, Kirkuk, and Salah al-Din. These governorates were selected based on information gaps and exposure to conflict-related violence, as well as the fact that they were areas of operation for PAX's two partner organizations: al-Amal and al-Firdaws. These partner organizations are primarily tasked with implementing data collection, and organizing and facilitating CES in target communities. There are no CSC initiatives in Iraq.

The HSS in Iraq began rollout at the end of 2016. However, conflict in Kirkuk forced PAX to pause data collection in this location. As of November 2018, it has been on hold for more than a year.

3.2 Key Findings

Context-specific findings were organized based on evaluation questions. Some key takeaways include:

- The project is well designed to the local context and effectively executed in Iraq.
- There is no formal referral pathway for enumerators when they encounter extremely vulnerable people or cases of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).
- Enumerators sometimes face challenges getting female interviewees alone.
- PAX project staff agree that one promising modality for presenting and disseminating findings is an online dashboard.
- Enumerators requested a number of additional trainings (CES facilitation, security) in order to be better prepared for their work.
- Attendees often attack the CES methodology in response to being presented with findings they don't like
- Only two women attended any of the CES monitored.

3.3 Recommendations

- Continue re-allocating Kirkuk-designated HSS funding to the other two governorates until the situation in Kirkuk improves to the point where the HSS can be conducted.
- Establish a referral pathway mechanism (for identified vulnerabilities) for survey respondents
- Workshop questions on security actors with partners, with focus on revising the survey for the specific security context in each governorate
- Rephrase SGBV questions so they ask about incidence in the broader community or remove them.
- Provide trainings to partner staff on personal security and discuss the viability and applicability of developing a more formal daily security assessment procedure.
- Provide partners with a better understanding of statistical methods and analysis.
- Further train partner staff in dialogue facilitation skills