Assessing Community Safety in the Governorate of Hebron

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**Human Rights & Democracy
Media Center (SHAMS)**

Hebron Governorate

DCAF

a centre for security,
development and
the rule of law

About DCAF

The Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) is an international organisation dedicated to assisting states – both developed and emerging democracies – in advancing good security sector governance, within a democratic framework and in respect of the rule of law. DCAF provides in-country advisory support and practical assistance programs to states that seek to strengthen governance of their security sector. DCAF works directly with national and local governments, parliaments, civil society, international organisations and defence and security forces.

About SHAMS

The Human Rights and Democracy Media Centre (SHAMS) is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organisation. It was established in 2003 in Ramallah, Palestine, by a group of Palestinian academics, teachers, journalists, lawyers, and human rights activists. SHAMS believes that human rights are protected by, and disseminated through the interdependence between civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. SHAMS seeks to enhance the role of women and youth within the Palestinian society,, and to consolidate the culture of human rights and tolerance in the framework of the rule of law.

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Executive summary

This report presents findings from six focus group discussions conducted by the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) and the Ramallah-based Human Rights and Democracy Media Center – SHAMS with Palestinian community stakeholders in the governorate of Hebron between March and May 2013. The preliminary findings of the focus group sessions were presented during a forum discussion in Hebron (June 2013) and a national conference in Ramallah (November 2013). These sessions allowed DCAF and SHAMS to gather additional remarks and recommendations that have been integrated in the present report.

The objective of the focus group discussions was to draw out the perspectives of key stakeholders regarding security in the governorate of Hebron. Many of the participants in these focus group sessions are responsible for the implementation of a Strategic Plan developed by the Governor's Office in cooperation with DCAF and SHAMS in 2012.[1] These stakeholders include representatives of the Governor's Office and the security forces, tribal reconciliation committees and civil society.

With this report, DCAF and SHAMS do not intend to provide their specific recommendations concerning community safety in Hebron. The report should rather highlight the key community safety issues and concerns as identified by the stakeholders themselves. Hence, the opinions and recommendations formulated in this report are those of the participants in the focus group consultations, and not of DCAF and SHAMS.

DCAF and SHAMS hope that the report will encourage community safety stakeholders to integrate the report's findings into existing crime prevention and community safety initiatives, such as the Community Safety Plan for Hebron.

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[1]   See *Developing a Community Safety Plan for Hebron*, Geneva: DCAF, 2012.

Key findings

Safety deficit: Many people express concern about the lack of safety in the governorate of Hebron. They believe the main reason for this lack of safety is the unstable political and socio-economic situation in the governorate. The Israeli occupation divides the governorate and city of Hebron in several administrative zones (A, B, C and H1/H2). This allows criminals to escape controlled by the Palestinian law enforcement agencies. In zones C and H2, firearms and drugs are being traded. Tensions often arise between Palestinians and Israeli settlers.

Lack of economic security: Hebron remains the main economic hub in the Palestinian territories. Yet, those who are excluded from the business community suffer from unemployment and poverty. Child labour is amongst the worst consequences of degrading economic conditions. School dropouts and a general loss of perspectives among the youth are also sources of instability. Conflicts between rival families or clans have a potential to quickly grow out of control. Issues of landownership and property are the main causes for these conflicts.

Domestic insecurity and violence against women: Women are the victims of domestic violence in proportions that are extremely difficult to quantify given the taboos that reign over this issue. However, a lot of stakeholders believe that a shelter should be opened in Hebron. Women victims of violence in Hebron are currently left with no other choice but to find refuge in another governorate, accept their condition, or face reprisals.

Accountability challenges of tribal reconciliation mechanisms: Hebron is home to one of the most conservative communities in the Palestinian territories. The people in Hebron are wary of the values that are conveyed by foreign television

shows and social media platforms. They are also more likely to resort to tribal reconciliation mechanisms rather than going into lengthy judicial processes for solving their disputes. Traditional conflict resolution can help resolve issues between individuals, but can also be the source of many problems. Tribal reconciliation committees are the only entities that can intervene to handle and solve disputes between Palestinians living in zones B, C or H2, which are under partial or full Israeli security control.

However, the proceeding of these committees are kept secret, and tribal leaders and their associates can therefore not be held accountable.

Absence of proper information sharing channels: The lack of coordination and exchange of information between formal and informal security and justice institutions is a crucial shortcoming. The absence of well-managed data on crime and insecurity seriously hampers the development of results-oriented community safety measures.

Summary of the participants' recommendations

The participants in the DCAF-SHAMS focus group consultations made recommendations to improve community safety in the governorate of Hebron. These recommendations are addressed to Palestinian decision-makers, local security governance structures (the Governor's office and the security forces operating under his commandment) and other formal and informal security providers (civil society organisations, tribal reconciliation elders). The recommendations include:

1) **Strengthening the political system:**

   • Ending the occupation

   • Developing the Palestinian legal framework for community safety

2) **Fostering economic development:**

   • Improving the land registration and ownership system

   • Providing job opportunities for the youth

   • Activating social awareness campaigns to promote community safety

3) **Improving the new media's impact on the youth:**

   • Educating parents on how to handle new media

4) **Developing working partnerships to enhance community safety:**

   • Implementing the Governorate's Community Safety Plan

   • Promoting an active communication campaign concerning the Plan

   • Establishing coordination mechanisms between community safety actors

   • Improving civil society's involvement in community safety issues

5) **Identifying responses to violence against women:**

   • Fostering the reform of laws

   • Banning the mitigating circumstances from law and practice in cases of so-called "honour crimes"

   • Professionalising the response to violence against women

   • Changing the court proceedings for women seeking to obtain their inheritance rights

- Opening a shelter for women victims of violence

- Creating a database to document cases of violence against women

- Encouraging the employment of women in the Palestinian security forces

- Communicating on activities tackling violence against women

- Conducting awareness campaigns in schools

6) **Enhancing information sharing on crime and insecurity:**

- Establishing a community safety database at the Governor's office

- Promoting more transparency in the tribal committees' interventions

Acknowledgments and Disclaimer

Disclaimer

The opinions and recommendations formulated in this report are exclusively those of the participants in the DCAF-SHAMS focus group sessions and consultations in Hebron and may not necessarily reflect those of DCAF or SHAMS.

Introduction

Problem statement

In 2012, DCAF and SHAMS assisted community safety stakeholders in analysing community concerns with regards to security in Hebron. The stakeholders, who included representatives of the Governor's Office, the security forces, the tribal reconciliation committees and civil society institutions, identified key factors that contribute to insecurity and a lack of community safety in the governorate of Hebron:

What are the key community safety concerns in Hebron?

Unstable socio-economic and political environment, characterised by: severe youth unemployment; absence of a strong culture of tolerance and respect among citizens; recurrent tensions between political factions.

Insecurity in the public and private spheres, characterized by: threats by Israeli soldiers and settlers; exposure to crime, bullying, harassment and victimization; conflicts between individuals or families on issues related to honour, land and property ownership and personal status issues.

Inadequacy of the response mechanisms, characterized by: a lack of knowledge-based strategies to prevent crime; absence of effective partnerships between law enforcement agencies and civil society; weakness of the legal framework for crime prevention; predominance of traditional (or 'tribal') reconciliation systems that are inconsistent with standards of the rule of law; lack of infrastructure and safe areas (such as shelters for female victims of abuse); lack of information strategies that are conducive to preventive behaviour.

Source: *Developing a Community Safety Plan for Hebron*, Geneva: DCAF, 2012, p. 9

The stakeholders' concerns served as a basis for developing the strategic Community Safety Plan for Hebron.[2] Stakeholders in Hebron agreed that a community safety assessment should be performed in the governorate.[3] They acknowledged that such an assessment would help consolidate their perceptions and devise the appropriate evidence-based responses to the lack of community safety in Hebron.

Response

In February 2013, in line with the recommendations formulated in the *Community Safety Plan for Hebron*, DCAF and SHAMS submitted a proposal to the Governor of Hebron to perform a community safety assessment in the governorate.

Representatives of the Governor's office, the security forces, tribal reconciliation committees and civil society in Hebron welcomed this initiative. They stated that the assessment would help consolidate their understanding of the root causes of insecurity. In their view, the assessment would allow identifying the appropriate evidence-based responses to community safety deficit in Hebron.

Methodology of the community safety assessment

For this community safety assessment, DCAF and SHAMS adopted a semi-structured focus group approach. This approach encouraged discussions among participants and allowed them to introduce issues that were not mentioned by the facilitator. The discussions thus covered a variety of community safety issues in the governorate of Hebron.

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[2]   *Op Cit.*
[3]   See *Op Cit*, Recommendation 4.2, p. 19

Focus group participants belonged to three different stakeholder groups:

1. The Governor's office and the security forces

2. Tribal reconciliation committees

3. Civil society

Each focus group comprised between 8 and 15 participants. The discussions lasted one and a half hour on average and were conducted in Arabic by a facilitator accompanied by a note-taker who tape-recorded the discussions for later transcription and translation into English.

The structure of the focus group discussions was based on two questionnaires. The two questionnaires were discussed separately with the three stakeholders groups. In most cases, participants in the general assessment discussions were different from the participants in the gender-specific assessment.

DCAF and SHAMS gathered the participants' answers and recommendations and drafted the present assessment report. The recommendations were discussed with the Governor's Office and senior community stakeholders before printing.

Process

In March 2013, in preparation of the community safety assessment process, DCAF and SHAMS developed two questionnaires (see Annex 1) validated by international experts and endorsed by the Governor's Office. The first questionnaire served to assess general community safety perceptions in Hebron. The second questionnaire more specifically aimed to assess gender-related community safety perceptions, with a particular focus on responses to violence against women.

Between March and May 2013, DCAF and SHAMS facilitated six semi-structured focus group sessions to assess perceptions of community safety in Hebron:[4] three general consultations, and three gender-specific sessions.

In May 2013, the key issues affecting community safety were discussed during a forum session, which brought together approximately 50 participants. In June 2013, DCAF and SHAMS informed the members of the Hebron

Community Safety Steering Committee[5] of the preliminary outcomes of the assessment. In September 2013, the Community Safety Steering Committee reviewed in details these outcomes and presented them to the Governor's Office. In November 2013, the assessment findings and lessons learnt were discussed at a national community safety conference in Ramallah. Finally, in May 2014, through a workshop organized by DCAF and SHAMS, various community safety stakeholders discussed with an international expert the recommendations proposed in the draft assessment reports.

The purpose and structure of this report

Based on the outcomes of the focus groups and the inputs provided by the Hebron Community Safety Steering Committee, DCAF and SHAMS drafted the present report. The report has three objectives:

1. To provide a set of detailed recommendations to the Palestinian authorities in charge of implementing crime prevention and community safety strategies at governorate and national level

2. To provide an informed input to stakeholders in Hebron who are involved in implementing the objectives outlined in the Hebron Community Safety Plan

3. To help Palestinian citizens and decision-makers understand the challenges related to crime prevention and community safety, with a focus on specific issues such as violence against women.

The report is structured in five parts:

Chapter 1 presents the concerns of the community[6] that resulted from the assessment process. They are mainly related to insecurity in the following four areas: political, socio-economic, public sphere and private sphere.

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[4] See Annex 3 for an overview of the activities conducted.

[5] For a description of the structure and purpose of the Hebron Community Safety Steering Committee, see: *Developing a Community Safety Plan for Hebron*, Op. Cit.

[6] For the assessment in chapters 1-3, DCAF and SHAMS recorded where possible the stakeholder affiliation, function and gender of the focus group participants and attributed this information to their statements. For some statements, not all elements of information could be retained.

Chapter 2 gathers the participants' observations related to the existing security and justice response mechanisms and their practice.

Chapter 3 highlights the role of information and data sharing in the development of efficient community safety responses.

In Chapter 4, DCAF and SHAMS present the participants' recommendations.

The Conclusion outlines next steps.

A vision for a safety and secure Hebron

In September 2013, DCAF and SHAMS presented the main findings of this assessment report to the Community Safety Steering Committee members in Hebron. The members were also asked to develop their vision for a safe and secure Hebron. They agreed on the following vision statement:

Community Safety Vision of Hebron

Through its competent councils and committees, the Governorate of Hebron aims to achieve and enhance community safety throughout the province. This must be attained within a framework that is based on the rule of law, the Islamic Sharia provisions, and the respect of the proper traditions and norms. The Governorate will do this in partnership with all the specialized institutions, bodies, and citizens who commit to the principles of transparency, integrity, neutrality, subjectivity and other required principles to have a peaceful and safe Hebron.

Chapter 1. Community Safety Perceptions and Key Concerns in Hebron

The participants in the DCAF-SHAMS focus group sessions discussed their main concerns related to security and the lack thereof in the governorate of Hebron *(answers to Question 1 and related follow-up questions of the general Assessment Questionnaire, see Annex 1)*. In the participants' view, in the governorate of Hebron suffers from four main security deficiencies:

- Political insecurity

- Economic insecurity

- Disputes among families and clans

- Negative influence of the media

The following is a summary of the participants' responses.

1.1. Political insecurity

Participants in the DCAF-SHAMS focus group sessions identified the Israeli occupation as the main source of political insecurity in the governorate of Hebron. They blamed the Israeli occupation and the Oslo agreements for dividing the governorate of Hebron in several administrative zones (A, B, C)[7] and the city of Hebron in two zones H1, which are under the control of the Palestinian authorities, and H2, which are under the control of the Israeli military. In the view of the participants, these divisions provide an opportunity for criminals and drug dealers to escape arrest and prosecution. In addition, conflicts are likely to arise and remain unsolved in the areas where Palestinian security forces have no access.

Zones like H2 have many problems with drugs. Everybody knows it. The security forces know it. But no one can do anything about it.

Security officer, male

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[7] The Oslo II Accord (otherwise known as the *Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip*) divided the West Bank and the Gaza Strip into three areas: A, B, and C. It defined for each of them a different level of control granted to the Palestinian Authority

The areas that are near Israeli settlements and other Israeli positions are the most exposed to insecurity. One example for this is the old city of Hebron (zone H2), where the Palestinian security forces have no access in case of the outbreak of a conflict. Criminals can also hide there.

Security officer, male

Due to the lack of Palestinian control in Areas C and H2, the majority of criminals and drug dealers can take refuge there and remain safe.

Security officer, male

Beyond the difference in safety between the administrative areas in the governorate of Hebron that are under Palestinian or Israeli control, the participants did not underline major differences in safety between urban or rural communities that are located in area A (Palestinian sovereignty).

One cannot identify specific areas where problems of insecurity are particularly predominant. There are no major differences between the city of Hebron, and communities like Yatta or Ain Sara. There are no areas like in Chicago, where groups sell drugs and shoot at each other.

Security officer, male

Furthermore, the participants agreed that the occupation could not be seen as the only source of political insecurity. They considered that the absence of Palestinian national unity and the struggles between political parties are another major cause of insecurity.

Even in mosques there is no safety. If representatives of Hizb al-Tahrir [an Islamic political faction] are found praying there, they can be expelled from the mosque. Political conflicts don't even stay out of the mosques.

Security officer, male

> *All of us are asking for community safety, which will safeguard our rights. Everyone knows that our weakest point in this regard is the failure to achieve national unity.*
>
> Civil society representative, female

1.2. Economic insecurity

Participants in the DCAF-SHAMS focus group sessions in Hebron underlined the importance of the link between economic stability and security. Hebron is a business-oriented community where economic disparities and exclusion may trigger envy. The disparities between those who are involved in local and international business and those who do not belong to the business elite is one of the major sources of conflict in the society.

> *The governorate needs security and a strong economy. Together with the lack of security, unemployment and poverty negatively affect the citizens.*
>
> Security officer, male

> *Unemployment and bad economic situations lead to insecurity inside and outside people's homes. The phenomena of begging, child labour and school dropouts are among the results of economic insecurity.*
>
> Civil society representative

Participants mentioned the risks taken by some people in need by accepting bank loans. They highlighted the social consequences that the failure of reimbursing loans can have on individuals and their families.

> *Some people take loans with an interest rate of 15% per month. This is out of proportion. If a person cannot pay back a loan and is imprisoned as a consequence of this, who is supposed to take care of his children? His children might be stigmatized, because their father is in prison.*
>
> Community Safety Steering Committee Member, male

Among the worst consequences of economic insecurity, participants identified the illegal exploitation of children from Hebron in both the Palestinian and Israeli labour markets.

> *Some businesses in Hebron city may employ children for simple tasks. They may give them a symbolic wage instead of employing a few qualified persons. There is child labour in the villages, too, but rather in the form of children assisting the family in farming tasks.*
>
> Civil society representative, Dura (Governorate of Hebron)

> *Palestinian children also work illegally in Israel. Some of them are just over ten years old.*
>
> Civil society representative, Dura (Governorate of Hebron)

1.3. Disputes among families and clans

According to many participants in the DCAF-SHAMS focus group consultations, most conflicts in the governorate of Hebron consist of disputes between and within families and clans. Given the spread of firearms in the governorate, these disputes can be very violent and sometimes lethal. In most cases, these conflicts concern the relations between spouses and family members and the management of the family's wealth and belongings. In many instances, women are victims of domestic violence, so-called 'honour killings' or other forms of physical and psychological violence.

The participants mentioned the following sources of conflict and insecurity:

- Tribal revenge

- Land ownership conflicts

- Inheritance disputes

- Domestic violence

- Violence and killings in the name of honour

The participants explained that because of the social configuration and the predominant power of clans in the governorate, family issues and conflicts related to inheritance and land ownership are likely to spread out of the nuclear family into the society and can seriously challenge or damage community safety.

Any conflict that occurs in the family – like between husband and wife – may lead to a bigger conflict between the extended families and involve violence. Many of the conflicts between extended families originate in disputes between two individuals only.

Security officer, male

Most of the time, violence inside the family is not frequent and remains contained. Yet, sometimes it spreads out and results in larger cases between two clans. Then the violence becomes visible. Problems between extended families are sometimes caused by small issues, such as a football game for instance.

Security officer, male

Concerning tribal revenge, the participants explained that individuals in the governorate of Hebron are often keen to seek justice by their own means. Depending on the nature of the offence they want to avenge, they may be led to kill or seriously injure people. This is also made possible by the spread of firearms in the governorate and among the tribes.

The most important problem related to violence in a town like Yatta is revenge. According to tribal law, a murderer is supposed to be killed. If the murderer is not killed, maybe his cousin or someone important in his family or clan will be killed.

Representative of the Governor's office, male

Disputes and cases of revenge are made particularly severe given the spread of weapons in the society. Conflicts between tribes or cases of revenge are likely to become lethal as perpetrators can have access to weapons easily, if they do not possess weapons already.

Tribal reconciliation leader, male

Concerning landownership, many participants explained that citizens in the Hebron governorate often resort to violent means in order to protect their rights over land and property. Land often remains unregistered and property contracts unregulated, which can provoke violent conflicts between two parties claiming their rights over a property.

The majority of conflicts we deal with are conflicts about property, in particular conflicts about land ownership. And one of the main reasons for violence is the practice of not registering land officially, and not concluding contracts.

Security officer, male

Most conflicts are the result of financial disputes that result in physical violence. Issues of land ownership and property heritage are the main sources of violence.

Security officer, male

Concerning inheritance, some participants believe that financial disparity between male and female family members can lead to conflicts inside the families and the clans. The inheritance system, which is based on the precepts of the Islamic Sharia', is seen as encouraging families to keep their daughters within their clans and hence to impose husbands or early marriages on them. Some participants mentioned that families exert such pressure on their female relatives regarding issues of inheritance and marriage that very few women dare to contradict their families, even when they know the law is on their side.

If a girl is working, [her family] doesn't want her to marry, so they can use her income. [In cases of inheritance] the girl will likely inherit land that is barren or close to a bypass road, which risks to be confiscated by Israel [– and the sons will inherit the good land].

Civil society representative, male

Women tell me that they will never ask for their rights regarding inheritance. We have a taboo. And in marriage too, girls agree to whatever their families say.

Civil society representative, female

Tribes have to intervene in issues of inheritance that end up jeopardizing community safety. Our role is to protect women's rights in inheritance. We follow the Sharia' to this end. There are however some individual cases where people resort to violence.

Tribal reconciliation leader, male

Inheritance is often the reason for violence against women. There is a general lack of knowledge and education about how this issue is regulated in our religion and customs. In many cases, women should take more than men. The Quran confirms this. But because of their lack of education, women let men dominate them.

Representative of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, male

The families do not want their daughters to marry someone from another family by fear of losing the inheritance package. Hence, women are forced to marry within the family. This is a form of violence against women, which sometimes leads to broader conflicts between families.

Representative of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, male

Participants disagreed on the question of domestic violence, in particular regarding the extent of the problem. While some participants underlined that domestic violence against women is increasing, others believe the issue is limited to a few individual cases.

Some participants stated that violence affects women in Hebron in several ways, including psychologically and physically. Among the types of domestic violence against women, the participants mentioned psychological, verbal, and physical abuses, as well as sexual abuse. In cases where the husband is the perpetrator, some women seek divorce, which is likely to put a social stigma on them. However, many women whose husbands are abusing them prefer to keep silent rather than risk bringing shame to their family and being divorced.

We have many abandoned women who need to care for their children. Shari'a courts never give them documents to prove that they are abandoned. They should actually be blamed for their situation, because they don't want to go to court and ask for alimony out of fear that they might risk divorce, which they think is worse than being abandoned.

Civil society representative, male

Our life in Hebron is not so rosy. Women have become more and more victims of domestic violence. The level of violence in the homes is very high. It has become one of the fundamental problems that affect community safety.

Civil society representative, female

Women face violence mostly at home. They are the victims of their husbands and teenage sons. Brothers also often tell their sisters not to go out. Most of verbal and physical violence takes place at home.

Civil society representative, female

We have many cases of sexual violence involving minors. There are increasing numbers of kids traumatised by sexual abuse. Some girls under 18 get abused sexually throughout their childhood and we only find out about it after they leave their home and get exposed to the society.

Representative of the Ministry of Social Affairs, female

Divorce is often a legalised form of violence against women. God hates divorce but it happens. There are 25%-45% of early divorces among young people recently married. One of the main reasons for divorce is the mother-in-law's interference in her son's life.

Civil society representative, male

Concerning violence and killings in the name of honour, the participants disagreed about the extent of their occurrence in the governorate of Hebron. Here, the lack of accurate data and statistics, which is further discussed in this report, is a crucial obstacle to devising possible responses. A participant from the Palestinian civil police also noted that many of the so-called honour killings are in fact cover-ups for crimes that are motivated by reasons other than 'honour'.

Many cases of murder of women are in fact cover-ups for inheritance disputes or sexual abuses. This should lead us to reconsider what we call 'honour crimes'. If a brother abuses his sister sexually, he is likely to kill her to protect himself behind the argument of honour.

> *We should not even classify these crimes as 'honour killings'. They are crimes, full stop.*
>
> Police officer, male

1.4. Negative influence of the media

Many participants in the DCAF-SHAMS focus group consultations underlined the negative influence that media and social media reportedly have on the local social and family structure. According to them, foreign TV shows bring young people away from their culture and values.

> *Turkish TV series transport ideas about young people dealing with each other that do not match our habits and traditions.*
>
> Civil society representative

> *The media are playing a negative role. They broadcast programs that are not correct. We should be able to trust the media. Yet, even very small children of the age of five or six years watch these TV series.*
>
> Security officer, male

Perhaps intrigued by the role played by social media platforms in the so-called Arab Spring uprisings in neighbouring countries, many participants in Hebron saw in Facebook a threat against the social cohesion and the traditional family bounds in the society.

> *Facebook is one of the main reasons for family disintegration. Many of the new problems that our society encounters are due to the use of social media. People publish personal information about themselves on social media platforms and this information often ends up in the hands of the wrong people.*
>
> Civil society representative

For representatives of the traditional Hebron tribal committees, Facebook and social media are among the main causes of insecurity in the streets.

> *There are many problems related to social media, like Facebook. Sexual harassment is now becoming a global issue because of social media. It has become difficult to limit sexual harassment in the streets.*
>
> Tribal reconciliation leader, male

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Chapter 2. Security and Justice Response Mechanisms

The participants in the DCAF-SHAMS focus group sessions discussed the response mechanisms in place to tackle insecurity and to establish community safety in the governorate of Hebron (Questions 2.1. through 2.3, and related follow-up questions of the general Assessment Questionnaire, see Annex 1).

The participants identified the following key concerns:

- Lack of communication on working partnerships to enhance community safety

- Predominance of traditional reconciliation mechanisms

- Inefficient responses to violence against women

The following is a summary of the participants' responses.

2.1. Lack of communication on working partnerships to enhance community safety

During one of the focus group sessions, Kamel Hmeid, the Governor of Hebron, reiterated his and the Palestinian executive authorities' full support to the Community Safety Plan for Hebron, which had been developed by his team in cooperation with DCAF and SHAMS.

> *The Community Safety Plan for Hebron is a big achievement. It lays the foundation for the development of concepts that we have always been eager to implement. I have received positive comments from other governorates on the Plan. The Office of the President considers it a big achievement.*
>
> Governor of Hebron

Yet, most of the participants in the DCAF-SHAMS focus group consultations were not fully informed about the content of the Community Safety Plan

for Hebron. They complained about the absence of communication in this respect.

> *We have only heard about the Community Safety Plan for Hebron but have not read it. Since it has not been published or distributed, it cannot have the people's support. We agree that there needs to be a plan that is binding on every citizen. If there is a strategy, it needs to be communicated to the people.*
>
> Civil society representative

Many participants also mentioned that the level of effective cooperation between the different institutions in charge of community safety issues is rather limited. This seems to be particularly the case for partnerships between executive and security institutions on the one hand, and civil society organisations on the other.

> *Working cooperation mechanisms exist between the police, the governorate, the tribal reconciliation committees and the security forces. There is a need for more coordination between these service providers and civil society organisations.*
>
> Police officer, male

> *Civil society organisations are absent from the authorities' cooperation scheme. They still are considered non-official partners. Their role is reduced to documenting cases and complaints. Human rights organisations, for instance, should have a much more active role.*
>
> Civil society representative, male

Many participants commended the Palestinian police and security forces for cooperating with informal entities, such as the tribal reconciliation committees, in order to address community safety issues. The participants noted, however, that these partnerships are sometimes negatively affected by power struggles.

The police and other security forces cooperate with the tribal reconciliation leaders in order to solve community problems. Sometimes this cooperation doesn't work. They try to influence each other and do not listen to each other.

Tribal reconciliation leader, male

Finally, many participants criticised civil society organisations for not cooperating neither between themselves nor with other formal and informal service providers and hence favouring duplication in programmes aiming at tackling community safety issues in general, and violence against women in particular.

There are no coordinated programmes between CSOs. All are competing with similar programmes. All want to talk about gender-based violence for instance, or family education. But often they don't conduct accurate programmes. Or they do, but refuse to communicate them, as they want to avoid duplication.

Civil society representative, male

2.2. Predominance of traditional reconciliation mechanisms

The participants in the DCAF-SHAMS focus group consultations discussed the mechanisms that deliver justice and reconciliation in the governorate of Hebron. All the participants agreed that tribal reconciliation committees play a crucial role in offering traditional reconciliation opportunities ('sulh') to conflicting parties.

The role of the tribal reconciliation leaders is the very important. There is no conflict solved in Hebron, be it something small or something big, without the involvement of the elders of the tribes. This is fundamental.

Tribal reconciliation leader, male

The participants agreed that two main reasons for the persisting relevance of these traditional reconciliation mechanisms are the weakness of the Palestinian legal framework and the poor performance of the law enforcement institutions.

If citizens continue to be exposed to injustice, there will be no community safety. The citizen needs to have the feeling that his rights will be granted. Yet, laws are misused or not implemented.

The fact that laws are not respected, not enforced by a competent judiciary, or implemented in a discriminatory way, increases the citizens' feeling of insecurity and distrust in the authorities.

Civil society representative, male

For tribal leaders, however, the main problem is how to establish a working cooperation between the traditional reconciliation committees, civil society and the judiciary. In particular cooperation with civil society on advancing community safety is, according to tribal leaders, at best very weak, if not inexistent.

We have accepted to work with SHAMS and DCAF, but apart from that, we do not have anything to do with the local NGOs. There is no role for civil society institutions on community safety issues. They are not even promoting discussion sessions about selected phenomena related to community safety in Hebron.

Tribal reconciliation leader, male

The participants from the tribal reconciliation committees also acknowledged that there is little common ground between them and the formal justice institutions such as the prosecution and the civil courts.

While there is complete harmony between the tribal reconciliation committees, the security forces and the government, there are differences between the tribal leaders and the representatives of the judiciary. The representatives of the judiciary want to stick to the law as their only guideline, even if it contradicts principles community safety. The judges and the general prosecution don't work harmoniously with the tribes. They may prefer to let a case sleep in the courts for 13 years without being solved, and in the end it is anyway transferred to the tribal leaders.

Tribal reconciliation leader, male

Finally, some participants designated the tribal reconciliation processes as being part of the problem rather than of the solution. On specific issues, in fact, official Palestinian authorities cannot count on the tribes' support.

> *The head of the tribes do not stand with us all the time on all things. For example, they are against the idea of a shelter in Hebron, although we think we need it.*
>
> Representative of the Governor's Office, female

Some participants even recommended promoting the due course of justice and the rule of law and banning the recourse to traditional reconciliation mechanisms.

> *We need to change the existing judiciary procedures. We need to keep the tribes away from the law. We don't need the tribal law. The tribes are the cause of the problems because they intercede in favour of the criminals and ask for their release. We want the law to take its course.*
>
> Security officer, female

2.3. Inefficient responses to violence against women

According to those tribal reconciliation leaders who participated in the discussions, violence against women is emerging in Hebron because of the changes in the women's role in society.

> *Women have started behaving as if they were men at home. They have neglected their duties at home. Now there is a new law allowing women to ask for divorce. Men have no opinion at home. Three years ago, there was a 17% rate of divorce in Hebron. Now it has reached 35% due to the lack of women's awareness of their duties. They just want more freedoms, disregarding traditions. Women have become too demanding. This creates financial pressure on men, and this is where violence starts.*
>
> Tribal reconciliation leader, male

Many participants stated that national strategic plans to address gender equality and violence against women, such as the Ministry of Women's Affairs' strategy to combat violence against women, did not trigger the development of appropriate responses at governorate level.

> *The national strategy to combat violence against women is only a tool for the media. There is no real plan for following up on this issue.*

> *The strategy merely allows civil society organisations to conduct some activities for the sake of implementing [the strategy].*
>
> Police officer, male

The participants also gave the example of the cooperation project "Takamol", run by the Ministry of Women Affairs and the Italian Cooperation, whose aim is to improve cooperation between institutions dealing with cases of violence against women. They identified the lack of resources and qualified staff as major challenges to the successful implemintation of the project.

> *"Takamol" brings a variety of institutions such as the police, ministries, courts and civil society under the same umbrella. It is a referral system for women victims of violence. Yet, there are gaps in this project. One of the gaps is the lack of resources at the Ministry of Social Affairs.*
>
> Community Safety Steering Committee Member, male

> *The problem is in the lack of resources. We do not have enough qualified staff to work with women and children. Until now we do not have a clear response system. We need a lot of follow-up. The system should be binding on all parties.*
>
> Representative of the Ministry of Social Affairs, female

Other participants stated that there was a lack of political support for the Takamol project.

> *I know there were disagreements about this project at the level of the Council of Ministers. I am still not sure who is in charge of it: the Ministry of Social Affairs or the Ministry of Women's Affairs? Which governorates? According to some of the non-governmental partners in the project, some people in Ramallah and Jericho are obstructing it.*
>
> Representative of the Governor's office, female

Along with the weaknesses of high-level strategies and institutional cooperation, the participants agreed that the Palestinian legal framework does not guarantee the minimum required standards of protection for women victims of violence.

The main challenge we face is the lack of legal protection for women who are victims of violence.

Representative of the Ministry of Social Affairs, female

There is no legal framework for prosecution or protection of sexual and physical violence against women. Even the articles of the existing laws are ambiguous and don't entail penalties against perpetrators. Instead, what applies here is tribal law.

Police officer, male

Many participants also indicated that the judiciary system is too slow and does not guarantee the necessary confidentiality in handling cases of violence against women.

In civil courts, women need to bring evidence for all their arguments. This leaves little room for reconciliation between the couple, especially once the case has been discussed publicly, with witnesses who testify.

Civil society representative, female

Proceedings in court take a long time, six or seven years. While a court is dealing with one single problem there may emerge three or four further problems. This is a fundamental problem.

Security officer, male

According to our experience, we need special family courts for the cases that involve gender-based violence. Sometimes we get cases of incest and inheritance where women feel ashamed to go to the police or to court to file a complaint. We also need to handle these cases quickly in such courts.

Security officer, female

Participants also noted that the absence of shelters in the governorate hinders the authorities ability to protect women and girls who are victims of violence. Currently, women in need of a shelter must either find their way to the nearest shelter in Bethlehem, or try to seek protection and refuge among clans or other family members.

There is no shelter to receive female victims of violence in Hebron. Women might be interrogated in the police, under bad circumstances. The Family Defence Unit at the police is not located in a separate building.

Representative of the Ministry of Social Affairs, female

Some participants also highlighted the lack of both human and financial resources to adequately respond to violence against women:

We have to work on women and children's issues on the social and psychological level. In the security institutions we don't offer any support for psychological health; we need these programmes, but we have none of this right now.

Representative of the security forces, male

Although participants recognised that tribal reconciliation committees could be helpful in solving a number of conflicts, some were also critical of their role in issues related to violence against women:

Our experience with tribes allowed us to achieve some results. But we need a lot of change in the way tribes deal with women. Some are open-minded, but others are not. Many areas in Hebron H2 cause problems: the women's only solution there is to use tribes because we [the PA] can't reach them.

Government representative, Female

Chapter 3. Data Collection and Information Sharing

The participants in the DCAF-SHAMS focus group sessions discussed the importance and usefulness of existing and potential future data collection systems concerning community safety (*answers to Question 2.4. and related follow-up questions of the general Assessment Questionnaire, see Annex 1*). They mapped the key sources of data and information available in the governorate (*for more details on the results of this mapping exercise, please refer to Annex 2*).

Many participants agreed that the exchange of information and data on crime, community safety and violence against women in Hebron is poor. There is currently no centralised institution in charge of aggregating the data, and coordination between those organizations that do gather data is almost inexistent.

> *There are no mechanisms for data collection. It is necessary that the governor gives instructions to all community safety partners to report to the governorate and to the Community Safety Steering Committee the cases they deal with.*
>
> Representative of the Governor's office, male

> *We have the police, religious affairs, CSOs all working on these issues [of violence], but there are no linkages between them. So I recommend having one party in charge of documentation. Even when things are documented now, it is superficial. We the concerned parties need in-depth documentation.*
>
> Civil society representative, male

In the view of many participants, the Palestinian Civil Police is the institution that best collects and aggregates data on crime and community safety. Representatives of the police confirmed this and encouraged other organisations to also gather and share data, including on violence against women.

> *The research department at the Palestinian police collects the statistics and data on crime in annually quarterly, monthly and weekly releases. They have done this since the beginning of the work of the police.*
>
> Security officer, male

> *If only each party communicated statistics of cases of violence against women to the others, including civil society, we would have more accurate statistics and would be able to act accordingly. There needs to be a unified way of documenting these cases.*
>
> Police officer, male

Concerning statistics on the occurrence and prevention of crime, the lack of accurate information held by the tribal reconciliation committees seems to be inversely proportional to the importance such committees have in resolving conflicts and preventing violence.

> *The tribal reconciliation leaders have no statistics. They deal with the immediate issues without planning and documentation. They keep their cases confidential. Planning and documentation is important, but must be carried out by other parties.*
>
> Community Safety Steering Committee Member, male

Many participants highlighted that they believe that the gathering of data and information on the occurrence of crime and community safety issues should be the responsibility of all relevant institutions and segments of the society.

> *Every civil society or security organisation dealing with information related to community safety should carry out a documentation process. However, everybody should cooperate in aggregating the data: the families, the teachers, the police, the industry, etc.*
>
> Civil society representative, Dura (Governorate of Hebron)

Finally, participants agreed that for certain topics, such as violence against women and girls, domestic violence or so-called 'honour' crimes, data and information collection is particularly difficult. This is not only due to the poor data collection systems, but also to the reluctance of the victims to submit complaints.

The civil society organisations do not document the cases they receive. In any case, there is a culture of silence. People do not want these cases to go outside the family because they might create a scandal.

Representative of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, male

Chapter 4. Participants' Recommendations

The participants in the DCAF-SHAMS focus group sessions were asked to formulate recommendations on how to improve community safety in the governorate of Hebron *(answers to Question 3 and related follow-up questions of the general Assessment Questionnaire, see Annex 1).*

The following is a summary of the recommendations which participants formulated during the DCAF-SHAMS focus group sessions. These recommendations are directed at Palestinian decision-makers, local security governance institutions (the Governor's Office and the security forces operating under the Governor's command) and other formal and informal security providers (civil society organisations, tribal reconciliation elders), in addition to local and international organisations which support community safety initiatives.

1) **Strengthening the political system:**

   • **End the occupation and the political split between factions**

   We as Palestinian, men and women, members of civil society or political parties, have the same goal: ending the occupation and the political split in our society.

   Civil society representative, female

   • **Develop the Palestinian legal framework for community safety**

   The Palestinian legal framework for conflict resolution should be developed. There must be a common sense that everybody is accountable in this society, and that the law is not applied in a discriminatory way.

   Civil society representative, male

2) **Fostering socio-economic development:**

   • **Improve the land registration and ownership system**

   The issue of land registration is a difficult problem. It would take months and cost a lot of money to address it. But given the high rate of violence surrounding the land ownership claims, I would support such an investment.

   Community Safety Steering Committee Member, male

   • **Provide job opportunities for the youth**

   Young people should be given more opportunities to be employed. For the time being, they see no future and lose perspectives for their own lives.

   Community Safety Steering Committee Member, male

   • **Conduct social awareness campaigns to promote community safety**

   Social awareness concerning community safety should begin inside the home and the family. In addition, school and educational organisations should activate programmes that promote community safety.

   Security officer, male

3) **Improving the new media's impact on the youth:**

   • **Educate parents on how to handle new media**

   When I give my daughter a mobile phone or let her use Facebook, she may be influenced in a negative way by her use of social media. The responsibility lies with the family and the education. I cannot blame the government or any other party if things go wrong. As a parent, I need to be involved in defining or limiting my children's access to and use of new media.

   Tribal reconciliation leader, male

4) Developing working partnerships to enhance community safety:

- **Implement the Governorate's Community Safety Plan**

There is no other plan for community safety but the one we have developed with DCAF and SHAMS. This plan has to be implemented. This is starting now, with this assessment and will continue with the training of the Community Safety Steering Committee Members.

Representative of the Governor's Office, male

- **Promote active communication concerning the Plan**

A bulletin should be created and distributed in order to disseminate the content of the governorate's community safety strategy.

Civil society representative, Dura (Hebron governorate)

- **Establish coordination mechanisms between community safety actors**

A coordination council should be established between the executive, civil society and the citizens. Together they should develop and implement the plans for local communities, even at the level of municipalities and local councils.

Civil society representative

The Palestinian authorities should take the lead [in addressing issues related to violence and community safety] because they are in charge of law and security. They should work in partnership with competent institutions and organisations, such as the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the police, the judicial system, CSOs and the public prosecution.

Civil Society Representative, male

- **Improve civil society's involvement in community safety issues**

Strengthening the partnership with civil society organisations should be an objective for the authorities, and the cooperation on educating the society and raising citizens' awareness on community safety issues should be developed.

Community Safety Steering Committee Member, male

5) Identify and develop new responses to violence against women:

- **Foster the reform of laws affecting the safety of women**

There needs to be a call for reforming the laws that affect women.

Community Safety Steering Committee Member, male

- **Ban the 'mitigating circumstances' clause from the law and practice in cases of so-called "honour crimes"**

The mitigating circumstances in the case of a so-called "honour crime" should be banned from the Jordanian Penal Code. Other articles that are unfair for women should be abolished from the Personal Status Law.

Civil society representative, female

- **Change the legal proceedings for women seeking to obtain their inheritance rights**

Why do women have to go through extensive legal and bureaucratic procedures to obtain their inheritance? A woman has to go to the prosecution, then to the judge and wait for years before she gets her rights. We need to change the existing procedures.

Security officer, female

- **Open a shelter for women victims of violence**

I support the opening of a shelter for women victims of violence in Hebron. The absence of a shelter in the governorate is a burden on the society. It costs us too much effort at the police, the ministries and other organisations.

Police officer, male

- **Professionalise the response to violence against women**

I recommend hiring professional staff for the existing shelters in other governorates. We need more training for more staff and we need people who have experience in gender issues. Our problem is also the lack of financial and human resources.

Representative of the Ministry of Social Affairs, female

- **Create a database to document cases of violence against women**

A database should be created in order to gather information and produce figures on the number of abused women. We cannot make informed decisions without this data. But it will also mean that women need to be brave enough to report their cases. We cannot go door to door to ask for information.

Civil society representative

I recommend that one institution centralises the documentation on violence against women. Those who document the cases nowadays do it in a superficial way. However, for devising responses to such cases, an in-depth documentation is needed.

Civil society representative, male

- **Encourage the employment of women in the Palestinian security forces**

We need to mobilise more women to work in the security forces. Sometimes the police do not know how to react to certain cases because they do not have enough female staff. But most men do not want their daughters to work in the security forces.

Tribal reconciliation leader, Male

- **Communicate on activities tackling violence against women**

Media plays a role in gender and prevention issues. Our colleagues in the police who deal with cases of violence against women should give more information to the media/public so that rumours end and the society develops a better understanding of such cases.

Security officer, Male

- **Conduct awareness campaigns in schools**

In order to combat violence against women, there should be awareness raising campaigns and education programmes in schools against violent behaviour.

Community Safety Steering Committee Member, male

6) **Enhancing information sharing on crime and insecurity:**

- **Establish a community safety database at the Governor's Office**

It is necessary that the Governor's Office gives instructions to all partners to report to the governorate and to the Community Safety Steering Committee all cases [of crime] submitted to them.

Security officer, male

Final remarks

Citizens in Hebron have a vision for establishing community safety in their governorate. According to this vision, safety and security will promote political stability and economic growth under the rule of law.

Participants in the DCAF-SHAMS focus group consultations, conducted between March and May 2013, highlighted what they believe are the main obstacles in achieving this vision. These key issues include political and economic insecurity, as well as the lack of safety for women and men in the private and public spheres.

In order to tackle these problems, the participants in the DCAF-SHAMS assessment process formulated a number of recommendations to the attention of formal and informal Palestinian security providers. Their recommendations, which are presented in this report, should provide a solid basis for the Hebron Community Safety Steering Committee members to devise medium- and long-term steps against insecurity. The steps and objectives should be consistent with the framework presented in the Community Safety Plan for Hebron, which the Governor's Office developed in cooperation with DCAF and SHAMS and adopted in 2012.

DCAF and SHAMS hope that the members of the Community Safety Steering Committee appointed by the Governor of Hebron will be able to draw practical conclusions from this report and devise informed actions.

DCAF and SHAMS reiterate their continued availability to support local and national efforts to promote community safety in line with democratic principles and standards of the rule of law.

Long-term objective (by 2020):

Community safety in Hebron is improved through community partners' initiatives aimed at solving key issues affecting citizens' safety under the rule of law, in a spirit of tolerance for everyone's beliefs and traditions and without resorting to violence

Medium-term objectives (by 2015)

1. Community safety partners' interventions are consistent with standards of the rule of law and principles of community safety

2. Community safety partners' interventions provide results-oriented responses to insecurity and victimisation according to identified priorities

3. Community safety partners' work is based on, and produces solid quantitative and qualitative evidence related to insecurity and victimisation

4. Community safety partners promote and report preventive behaviour among community members

Source: *Developing a Community Safety Plan for Hebron*, Geneva: DCAF, 2012

Annexes

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Annex 1: Two questionnaires used for the semi-structured focus group discussions of the Community Safety Assessment

Annex 2: Map of the Hebron community safety data and information providers

Annex 3: Overview of the DCAF-SHAMS focus group consultation process

Annexes

Annex 1. Two questionnaires used for the semi-structured focus group discussions of the Community Safety Assessment

A. General Community Safety Assessment Questionnaire

1. **What are the key safety issues affecting citizens in the governorate?**

    1.1. What are the main types of safety issues affecting citizens in the governorate? And how common are they?

    - Is insecurity / violence in domestic settings a major concern?

    - Is insecurity / violence in public spaces a major concern?

    1.2. What are the main vulnerable populations at greatest risk of becoming the subject of victimization?

    - Is insecurity / violence in detention and institutional care/shelters/health institutions a concern?

    - Is insecurity/violence in camps a concern?

    1.3. Which different types of safety issues affect the city and rural areas?

2. **What initiatives are underway to address these issues?**

    2.1. Who are the main stakeholders in charge of preventing and responding to safety issues?

    2.2. What exists already in terms of components of a strategic approach, e.g. policies, departmental responsibility, funding, programmes, training and monitoring systems?

    - [For governorate only] What are the governorate's priorities for preventing insecurity? Does the governorate apply a national strategy to prevent crime and insecurity? If the governorate has a strategy for preventing insecurity, how is it funded and supported?

    - [For civil society and tribes] Are you aware of the governorate's community safety plan? If yes, what do you think about it?

    2.3. Are there partnerships between government/security forces and civil society to address community safety issues?

    2.4. Do you have/use data about the numbers of crimes reported to the police?

    - Do you have/use data about the numbers of crimes reported to the police?

    - Do you have data about the incidence of domestic violence in the governorate?

    - Is the information analysed, communicated and used? How?

    - What are the roles of the police/other security forces/the governorate/civil society organisations/tribes in responding to safety issues?

    2.5. Are there any gaps in the prevention and response to insecurity in the governorate? Which ones?

3.   What further actions are required?

3.1.   What actions should be taken to solve the key safety problems you have identified? And how would you prioritize them?

3.2.   What would you recommend to strengthen partnerships between civil society, tribes and the governorate on these issues?

3.3.   How can data collection on these issues be strengthened?

4.   Where should the leadership in addressing such issues come from?

4.1.   Who should take the lead in solving these issues?

4.2.   Who are the other actors who should be involved in the process?

4.3.   What should this process look like?

B. Community Safety and Gender Assessment Questionnaire

1. **What are the key safety issues affecting women and girls in the governorate?**

    1.1. What are the main types of insecurity/violence against women in the governorate? And how common are they?

    - Is violence against women and children in domestic settings a major concern?

    - Is violence against women and children in public spaces a major concern?

    1.2. Among women and girls, what are the main vulnerable populations at greatest risk of becoming the subject of victimization?

    - Is violence against women and children in detention and institutional care/shelters/health institutions a concern?

    - Is violence against women and children in camps a concern?

    1.3. Which different types of insecurity/violence against women and girls affect the city and rural areas?

2. **What initiatives are underway to address these issues?**

    2.1. Who are the main stakeholders in charge of preventing and responding to violence against women?

    2.2. What exists already in terms of components of a strategic approach, e.g. policies, departmental responsibility, funding, programmes, training and monitoring systems?

    - [For governorate only] What are the governorate's priorities for preventing violence against women? How does the governorate apply the National Strategy to Prevent Violence Against Women? If the governorate has a strategy for preventing violence against women, how is it funded and supported?

    - [For civil society and tribes] Are you aware of the governorate's community safety plan? If yes, what do you think about it?

    2.3. Are there partnerships between government/security forces and civil society to address community safety and gender issues?

    2.4. Do you have/use data about the numbers of crimes reported to the police?

    - Do you have/use sex-disaggregated data about the numbers of crimes reported to the police?

    - Do you have data about the incidence of domestic violence in the governorate?

    - Is the information analysed, communicated and used? How?

    - What are the roles of the police/other security forces/the governorate/civil society organisations/tribes in responding to insecurity/violence against women?

    2.5. Are there any gaps in the prevention and response to insecurity/violence against women in the governorate? Which ones?

3. **What further actions are required?**

    3.1. What actions should be taken to solve the key safety problems you have identified? And how would you prioritize them?

3.2. What would you recommend to strengthen partnerships between civil society, tribes and the governorate on these issues?

3.3. How can data collection on these issues be strengthened?

4. **Where should the leadership in addressing such issues come from?**

4.1. Who should take the lead in solving these issues?

4.2. Who are the other actors who should be involved in the process?

4.3. What should this process look like?

Annex 2. Map of the Hebron community safety data and information providers

Core Security Providers	Executive Oversight Bodies	Legislative Bodies	Judicial Bodies	Civil Society and the Media
• Palestinian Civil Police	• The Governor's Office	• PLC	• Civil Courts	• Political parties
• Preventive Security Organisation	• Municipalities and local councils		• Sharia canonical courts	• Tribes and reconciliation committees
• General Intelligence Agency	• The Ministries, including:		• High Judicial Council	• Universities
• Military Intelligence	- Ministry of the Interior		• Public Prosecution	• Civil society organisations and social service providers, including:
• National Security Forces	- Ministry of Education		• Military courts	- The Palestinian Red Crescent Society
• Customs Police	- Ministry of Social Affairs			- Women's rights organisations
• Civil Defence	- Ministry of Health			• Healthcare Centres:
	• The Anti-Corruption Commission			- Medical Relief
	• The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics			• Hospitals
	• PICHR			

Annex 3. Overview of the DCAF-SHAMS focus group consultation process

	Date	Place	Session
1	26.02.2013	Hebron	Initial meeting with Major General Talal Dweikat, Governor of Hebron
2	11.03.2013	Hebron	DCAF-SHAMS Focus Group session: Community Safety and Gender Assessment: The View of Tribal Reconciliation Committees in Hebron
3	11.03.2013	Hebron	DCAF-SHAMS Focus Group session: Community Safety and Gender Assessment: The View of Civil Society in Hebron
4	19.03.2013	Hebron	DCAF-SHAMS Focus Group session: Community Safety Assessment: The View of Tribal Reconciliation Committees in Hebron
5	19.03.2013	Dura	DCAF-SHAMS Focus Group session: Community Safety Assessment: The View of Civil Society in Hebron
6	27.03.2012	Hebron	DCAF-SHAMS Focus Group session: Community Safety Assessment: The View of the Security Forces and the Governor's Office in Hebron
7	27.03.2013	Hebron	DCAF-SHAMS Focus Group session: Community Safety and Gender Assessment: The View of the Security Forces and the Governor's Office in Hebron
8	07.05.2013	Hebron	DCAF-SHAMS Forum Session: Community safety and Gender in the Governorate of Hebron
9	16-18.06.2013	Hebron	DCAF-SHAMS Training Course: Training the Community Safety Steering Committee on Principles of Community Safety and Crime Prevention
10	07.09.2013	Hebron	DCAF-SHAMS-Community Safety Steering Committee Workshop to review the Community Safety Assessment Report
11	26.11.2013	Ramallah	National Community Safety Conference, during which the outcomes of the assessment process were presented
12	19.05.2014	Hebron	DCAF-SHAMS Workshop to discuss the recommendations of the Community Safety Assessment Report with the participation of an international expert