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# *Building Resilience*

Human Security Approaches to  
AIDS in Asia and Africa

Susan Hubbard and Tomoko Suzuki



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## Foreword

In the eight years that have passed since the Japanese government set up the Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS) within the United Nations, it has contributed a total of ¥33.5 billion (approximately US\$280 million) to the fund, which has supported more than 170 projects (as of March 2007), more than 100 of which had been completed by the end of 2007. The Commission on Human Security (CHS) explained in its final report that strategies for operationalizing human security on the ground require a variety of activities that respond to local needs and support both protection and empowerment. Yet there has been very little research on what a human security approach looks like on the ground. In 2003, the Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE) undertook a research project to develop case studies of five UNTFHS-supported projects in Southeast Asia to get a sense of how those implementing the projects understood the concept of human security and how they integrated that understanding into their project design and implementation processes. In 2004, JCIE released a report on the case studies with observations from the field on several essential elements of human security projects under the title *Human Security in the United Nations*.

JCIE followed up the 2003 study in 2005–2006 with a new study aimed at contributing to a deeper understanding of the human security approach by developing case studies of human security projects in a particular field, namely HIV/AIDS. The research team chose to focus on projects dealing with HIV/AIDS because it is a field that is widely acknowledged as a major human security threat and one for which it is relatively easy to recognize its interconnections with other human security challenges such as poverty, malnutrition, migration, and inequality. In addition, all sectors—government, business, and civil society—of many societies around the world are engaged in the fight against HIV/AIDS, offering ample examples of

multisectoral activities. Finally, many of the resource people with whom the team spoke acknowledged that the approaches that have been taken to deal with HIV/AIDS over the past two decades still have not contributed to a significant sustained improvement in the situation, so there is a dire need for new approaches. It is therefore hoped that lessons from human security projects might contribute to the development of more effective responses to the challenge of HIV/AIDS around the world.

In November 2005, the JCIE research team visited two UNTFHS-supported projects dealing with HIV/AIDS in Thailand, and in February and March 2006, it visited three more projects in South Africa, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. The research in Africa was supported by Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), and Prof. Naruo Uehara, from the Division of International Health, Department of Public Health, at the Tohoku University School of Medicine, served as an advisor to the research team on the Africa portion of the project. I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for MOFA and Professor Uehara's support. The three cases in Africa were discussed at a JCIE-organized workshop in Pretoria, South Africa, on March 10, 2006, with experts from UN agencies and other international organizations and from academia. JCIE organized another workshop in Tokyo on May 31, 2006, to discuss preliminary findings. Former Thai Foreign Minister Surin Pitsuwan commented on the team's presentation at the workshop, and his remarks are presented in the following section. These activities and the five projects visited in 2003 provide the basis for the analysis and recommendations in this report.

I would like to thank the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Open Society Institute, and the United Nations Foundation for their generous ongoing support of JCIE's activities related to communicable diseases, without which we could not have carried out these activities or produced this report. Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to Kimberly Gould Ashizawa of JCIE for copyediting this report and Patrick Ishiyama, also of JCIE, for the layout and design.

It is my sincere hope that the lessons we are learning from this research will not only help to promote deeper understanding of human security approaches but will also be reflected in more effective policies for dealing with AIDS.

Tadashi Yamamoto  
President, JCIE  
November 2007

## List of Abbreviations

ADRA	Adventist Development & Relief Agency International
AIDS	acquired immune deficiency syndrome
ANC	African National Congress (South Africa)
ARV	antiretroviral
CBO	community-based organization
CHS	Commission on Human Security
COBET	Complimentary Basic Education in Tanzania
CSW	commercial sex worker
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DFID	Department for International Development (UK)
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FAMWZ	Federation of African Media Women of Zimbabwe
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
G8	Group of Eight
GEZ	gender empowerment zone (Zimbabwe)
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
IDU	injecting drug user
ILO	International Labor Organization
IOM	International Organization of Migration
JCIE	Japan Center for International Exchange
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MOFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
MSM	men who have sex with men
NAC	National AIDS Council (Zimbabwe)
NACOSA	National AIDS Convention of South Africa
NACP	National AIDS Coordination Program (Zimbabwe)
NGO	nongovernmental organization
OTOP	one tambon [subdistrict], one product (Thailand)
PADARE	Men's Forum on Gender (Zimbabwe)
PAF	Programme Acceleration Fund
PHAMIT	Prevention of HIV/AIDS among Migrant Workers in Thailand
SHARE	Services for the Health in Asian & African Regions
STI	sexually transmitted infection
TAC	Treatment Action Campaign (South Africa)
TACAIDS	Tanzania Commission for AIDS

## BUILDING RESILIENCE

TIE	Tanzania Institute of Education
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDP-SEAHIV	UNDP Southeast Asia HIV and Development Programme
UNGASS	United Nations General Assembly Special Session
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNTFHS	United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization