

Human Security in the African Sahel: Climate Change and Terrorism



By/ Dina Ayman



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Introduction

Human security represents an important challenge in the context of terrorism and is crucial for achieving various development indicators such as human development, meeting basic needs, and living peacefully without fear and danger to the future. The threat to human security is linked to human rights, and the Human Rights Council has previously condemned terrorist acts as criminal and unjustifiable, and encouraged measures to ensure consistency between anti-terror laws and implementation procedures with international human rights law.

In addition, climate change is also one of the most widespread and threatening issues in our time and negatively affects all countries around the developing and developed world, as financial resources and technology have not and will not enable countries to overcome the climate change crisis, as joint cooperation is required at a global level to confront those the crisis. The global impacts of climate change are wide-ranging and unprecedented in scale, from changing weather patterns that threaten food production, to rising sea levels that increase the risk of catastrophic floods.

As a result of globalization, we find an overlap and sequence between the two phenomena of terrorism and climate change and their impact on the human security of individuals, both of which negatively affect indicators of human security in countries that suffer from armed conflicts and are directly affected by the severe climatic changes that our world is witnessing at the present time.

Where in developing and poor countries, and in Africa in particular, the humanitarian situation is deteriorating without improvement due to many factors, foremost of which is the spread of terrorist and rebel armed groups coinciding with the clear impact of global climate changes, so that peoples are suffering from food shortages, drought, desertification, killing, displacement and displacement.

The report discusses the concept of human security and its development and the relationship between the spread of terrorism globally and the spread of armed groups in the countries of the African Sahel and climatic changes and the



impact of both on the human security of individuals in the countries of the African Sahel.

First: The Concept of Human Security: Its Development and Indicators

The concept of human security is a recently used concept, but it has evolved throughout history and has emerged since the end of the Cold War, where human security is not related to the more traditional concepts of security derived from the military analysis of the international relations model. While the dominant traditional security paradigm relies on the anarchic relationship between states, the concept of human security shifts the focus to the individual as an important factor in the state rather than on the state as the primary actor only according to traditional notions of security. Thus, a security threat must not necessarily only threaten the integrity of the state, but also represent a threat to the security of the individual. This leads to a wider range of potential threats to the security of the individual and the state.

This concept was formally introduced into security discourse as a response to the post-Cold War 1989, to threats that were considered outside the capabilities of traditional security. The balance of power was effective in dealing with the nuclear threat, but was not able to provide security from intra-state conflict, environmental disasters, famine, disease, landmines, and domestic violence that threaten the security of individuals within the state.

The following table shows the difference between the concept of human security and traditional security:

security type	Responsibility to protect	Protective Agent	potential threats
traditional security	state safety	Country	Interstate war, nuclear proliferation
human security	individual safety	the individual	disease and poverty



Human security is a hierarchy of human rights according to priorities based on the circumstances of each society and in line with ideas of fear and need. Thus, it can be understood and clarified through issues related to human rights, such as the lack of food, medicine, care, education and security, as affirmed by all international agreements, including the 1945 United Nations Charter and the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Human rights are based on the principle of equality of people and are necessary to provide a decent life for the individual. While respect for these rights is important, particularly civil, economic and social rights, such as the provision of shelter, food, health care and employment, this is not sufficient for human security. Appropriate conditions are necessary to achieve human security, as individual, national and international security requires the protection of human rights, and any violation of them is considered a threat to human security.

Starting from this international human rights perspective, the openness to the concept of human security has increased in countries, governmental and non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations around the world. Committees concerned with human security were formed to protect human rights and address human security challenges, the most serious of which are terrorism and extremism.

The application of the concept of human security began with the agenda of the League of Arab States in 2001 and the Arabic version of the Human Security Report issued by the Human Security Committee in 2004. The Conference on Human Security in the Arab Region discussed this issue in light of the international challenges referred to in the 1999 Human Development Report: "Globalization In humanitarian terms." The threat that globalization poses to human security has been summarized in seven components: financial insecurity, job insecurity, health insecurity, cultural insecurity, personal insecurity, environmental insecurity, and political and social insecurity.

This was previously clarified in the Human Development Report, which considered human security as multi-element and multidimensional. According to the United Nations Development Program, the concept of human security consists of seven indicators:



- Economic security: (per capita income, standard of living, employment, employed/unemployed ratio, risk of unemployment).
- Food security: (Ensuring basic food supplies, such as: availability and supply of food, access to basic food, quality of nutrition, share of the family budget for food, access to food during natural and man-made disasters).
- Health security: (access to clean water, living in a healthy environment, access to affordable health care services, prevention of diseases and epidemics, and basic knowledge for living a healthy life).
- Environmental security: (preventing water and air pollution, and preventing natural disasters such as droughts, floods, hurricanes and earthquakes).
- Personal security: (exposure to the threat of different types of violence, accident prevention, crime level, security from illegal drugs, efficiency of institutions, prevention of domestic violence and child abuse, and access to public information).
- Community security: fear of multinational and regional conflicts, fear of internal conflicts, preservation of traditional/ethnic cultures, languages and values, abolition of ethnic discrimination, protection of indigenous peoples.
- Political security: (level of democracy, protection from state repression (freedom of the press, expression, voting, etc.), respect for basic human rights and freedoms, democratic expectations, abolition of political detention, imprisonment, systematic torture, ill-treatment, and indifference).

Human security expresses the existence of the most basic human needs and human dignity, including active participation in the life of society. It is heading towards an effective and necessary democratic idea, that is, material saturation is at the core of human security, as well as includes non-material dimensions to form a diverse group. It has become a standard for global security and there is a close relationship between human security and international peace, as the consequences of famine, pollution and ethnic violence cannot be ignored at the



desired level of peace. This concept also touched on the relationship between human security with both national security and human development.

The concept of human security is one of the most important concepts related to human rights, as former Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axorte pointed out in his analysis of human security that it "includes security against economic deprivation, an acceptable quality of life, and a guarantee of basic human rights."

Human security is achieved by maintaining and maintaining the basic components of human security, which are personal or individual security, food security, health security, economic security, environmental security, political security and the local community. Human security is under great threat in the African Sahel region due to the spread of terrorist groups and the harsh climatic conditions that prevent the maintenance of human security components.

Second: The Repercussions of the Climate Change Crisis

A- Global Climate Changes

In a report on the impact of climate change on humanity, some 166 million people in Africa and Central America needed assistance between 2015 and 2019 due to food emergencies linked to climate change.

Also, 80 million people are more at risk of starvation by 2050. With regard to malnutrition, about 1.4 million children will be severely stunted in Africa due to climate in 2050. Agricultural yields have declined by between 4% and 10% globally world over the past thirty years. Fish catches in the tropics have declined at a rate of between 40% and 70%, in light of rising emissions. An additional 2.25 billion people are at risk of contracting dengue fever in Asia, Africa and Europe under alarmingly high emissions scenarios.

As for the impact of climate change on internal migration, its rate will increase between 2020 and 2050 to 6 times the current rate. Global warming will also have terrifying effects on "water stress," affecting 122 million people in Central



America, 28 million in Brazil, and 31 million in the rest of South America. In a rare event, the floods that hit Europe and parts of Germany in July 2021 after instinctive rain have killed more than 150 people so far.

And the climatologist and former vice-president of the United Nations Climate Authority, Jan Guzel, explained that "the air masses loaded with a large proportion of water, remained in place in the atmosphere for four days due to low temperatures, and the result was heavy rain, between July 14 and 15, its level reached to between 100 and 150 millimeters, or the equivalent of two months of rain.

Climate change intensified in 2021, and we are seeing all that was warned of natural disasters and high temperatures becoming a reality, as hurricanes, tropical cyclones and storms increased, and they are among the phenomena that cost governments huge financial resources to try to fix the repercussions of those disasters. At the global climate talks at COP26 in Glasgow, the issue of financing for loss and damage from climate-related events has been the subject of great contention between countries. Developing countries wanted liquidity, while richer "developed" countries said they needed more talks on the issue. As the planet warms, water evaporates from oceans and rivers, causing more water to enter the atmosphere. This phenomenon can increase the chances of heavy and violent rains. The United Nations Climate Panel has warned of the possibility of an increase in the occurrence of "extreme" weather events due to climate change in the coming years.

"Although it was good to see the issue of loss and damage becoming a major issue at COP26, it was disappointing to leave without a fund set up to help people who suffer permanent losses due to climate change." "Establishing this fund should be a global priority in 2022".

In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Member States express their commitment to protect the planet from degradation and to take urgent action on climate change. The plan also (in paragraph 14 of it) identifies climate change as "one of the greatest challenges of our time" and expresses concern that "its adverse effects undermine the ability of all countries to achieve sustainable development. Increases in global temperature, sea-level rise, ocean acidification



and other effects of climate change are having serious impacts on coastal areas and low-lying coastal countries, including many of the least developed countries and small island developing States. It threatens the very survival of many societies and the biological systems that support the planet”.

Goal 13 of the Sustainable Development Goals aims to “take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact”, while recognizing the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as the principal intergovernmental forum at the international level for negotiating the global response to climate change.

Specifically, the associated targets under SDG 13 focus on integrating climate change measures into national policies, improving education, raising awareness, institutional capacity for climate change mitigation, adaptation, mitigation and early warning. Alphabetical targets under SDG 13 also call for the implementation of the commitment made in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the strengthening of mechanisms capable of increasing capacity for effective climate change planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States.

The Rio+20 outcome document, “The Future We Want”, stresses climate change as an urgent and inescapable global challenge, with long-term implications for the sustainable development of all countries. In that document, the Member States express their concern about the continuing high emissions of greenhouse gases and the vulnerability of all countries, especially developing countries, to the adverse effects of climate change. Given these concerns, Member States called for the widest cooperation and participation of all countries in developing an effective and appropriate international response to climate change.

B- The Repercussions of Climate Change on the African Continent

Despite efforts made at the COP-26 Climate Summit, which took place in November 2021 to draw the world’s attention to the urgent need to tackle climate change and concluded with 197 countries agreeing to the Summit’s charter, opinions differed about its success as Africa faces faster rates of



warming than the rest of the world, although it is responsible for the lowest percentage of global greenhouse gas emissions, which is only 3.8%. Analysts predict that Africa will face catastrophic temperature increases of up to 3 degrees Celsius by 2050, if the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels is not achieved.

According to the latest data, 2020 was the third warmest year in Africa on record; The temperature rose by 0.86 degrees Celsius over the average temperature in the three decades leading up to 2010.

The threat of the climate change crisis in Africa is increasing to the GDP of African countries most vulnerable to the repercussions of the crisis and is reflected in development projects in Africa, which includes about 1.2 billion people, half of whom do not have access to electricity, a group equivalent to the total population of the European Union. Losses of economic activity are expected to rise from 660 billion pounds (\$899481 billion) in 2018 to more than 1 trillion pounds (\$136,285 trillion) in 2023, which is nearly half of Africa's projected GDP.

Parts of East Africa have not seen rain in years and are grappling with drought, while the Sahel region of West Africa has recorded a sharp rise in conflicts between farmers and herders over the loss of vegetation cover, and in southern Madagascar families boil aloe vera leaves for food in what the United Nations calls one of the first Famine in the world caused by climate change.

Although the African Union is set to increase reliance on renewable energy sources by 2050, it is noted that a few countries, such as South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia and Morocco, have high capacity in the field of renewable energy today.

Egyptian government reports and studies stated that Africa is the first victim of the repercussions of climate change, even though it is the continent that emits the least carbon dioxide, resulting from industrial and advanced activities. The reports indicated that the repercussions of climate change in Africa are represented in its exposure to the risks of affecting water resources, the exacerbation of the phenomenon of internal displacement, and the increasing



tension between herders and farmers on the savannah lines, leading to armed conflicts in Sudan, Nigeria and Mali.

Some studies on the repercussions of climate change indicate that countries such as Guinea, Gambia, Nigeria, Togo, Benin and Congo, as well as Tunisia, Tanzania, and Comoros are exposed to significant risks by 2050, due to coastal erosion and sea level rise. The reports warned that climate change threatens the human cultural heritage in African countries such as Sudan, which struggled in 2020 to save its effects in the Begrawiya region.

The studies also recommended the need to allocate the necessary funds to reduce the adverse effects of the climate in Africa, and to give it a fair share of these funds, estimated at \$100 billion, which is discussed at the Glasgow Summit.

Sea level rise and coastal erosion

There is great regional variation in sea level trends around Africa, with sea level increase reaching 5 mm per year in many oceanic regions surrounding the continent and exceeding 5 mm per year in the southwestern Indian Ocean from Madagascar eastward towards Mauritius and beyond. This is more than the average global sea level rise of 3-4 mm per year. Coastal degradation and erosion are also major challenges, especially in West Africa. About 56% of the coastlines in Benin, Ivory Coast, Senegal and Togo are eroding, and this is expected to worsen in the future. Sea level rise is not currently the dominant factor but is expected to combine with other factors in the future to exacerbate the negative consequences of environmental changes.

Glaciers

Currently, only three mountains in Africa are covered by glaciers: Mount Kenya, Mount Rwenzori in Uganda, and Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. Although the small size of these glaciers does not allow them to be used to store large amounts of water, they are of high tourist and scientific importance. Current



rates of glacier retreat exceed the global average. If this trend continues, it will lead to total glacial melting by the 1940s. Mount Kenya is expected to be defrosted 10 years earlier, making it one of the first mountain ranges to lose their glaciers as a result of anthropogenic climate change.

High Impact Phenomena

Many parts of East Africa experienced widespread flooding, and countries reporting significant loss of life or population displacement included Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Uganda, Chad and Nigeria (part of which also experienced a drought). South), Niger, Benin, Togo, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon and Burkina Faso. It has reached many lakes and rivers in September.

In the Sahel, recent floods have destroyed homes, damaged health centers, and inundated agricultural land, forcing more than 3.5 million people to flee within countries and across borders. Across the Sahel, infrastructure, including health facilities, has been severely damaged, affecting national responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to other diseases such as malaria and measles. With water sources contaminated and latrines overflowing, fears of cholera are growing. UNHCR reported that the destruction of agricultural crops due to the floods has led to increased food shortages and the vulnerability of farmers and their families whose livelihoods depend on the crops.

Niger was the most affected region; Nigerien authorities have reported 71 deaths and 90 injuries, with more than 350,000 people affected by the floods. In particular in the Moradi region, UNHCR has mobilized assistance for internally displaced persons in areas where they have to cross deep waters or kayaks. Six sites hosting the displaced were damaged by the floods, leaving more than nine thousand refugees and displaced people in dire need of shelter. UNHCR has distributed 1,900 shelter kits in addition to relief items such as clothes, blankets and hygiene kits.

As for Burkina Faso, the floods affected 13 regions, killing 41 people, injuring 112 and leaving 12,378 homeless. The torrential rains caused severe damage in a country where one in five people has already been displaced. Burkina Faso



currently hosts more than one million internally displaced people, half the number of internally displaced people in the Sahel region.

In Mali, thousands of internally displaced people and local communities have been affected by the floods. Hundreds of homes were destroyed in the hardest-hit areas of Gao, Mopti, Segou and Sikasso.

In Chad, more than 236,000 people have been affected by the floods, and UNHCR and partners are seeking shelter, food, basic relief and health care for them. In South Ghor Province, 1,735 refugees were affected, along with at least 283 families who witnessed the destruction of their crops after their land was inundated. In eastern Chad, most homes and shelters in six camps housing thousands of refugees near Iriba were damaged or destroyed, forcing refugees to sleep in schools or in the open.

Food insecurity

The cumulative effects of long years of conflict, political instability, climate variability, pest outbreaks and economic crises, exacerbated by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, were the main factors driving a significant increase in food insecurity. The unprecedented Desert Locust invasion that began in 2019, continued to severely affect East Africa and the Horn of Africa in 2020.

Food insecurity increases by 5-20 percentage points with each flood or drought in sub-Saharan Africa. And the resulting decline in the level of health and children's attendance at school, and the exacerbation of income inequality and gender inequalities in the long run. In 2020, there was an almost 40% increase in the number of people affected by food insecurity compared to the previous year.

Displacement

It is estimated that 12% of new population displacements in the world occurred in East Africa and the Horn of Africa, where there were more than 1.2 million new displacements due to disasters and about 500,000 new displacements due to conflict. Floods and storms, and then droughts, played a major role in internal displacement due to disasters.



A recent study of the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC), in cooperation with Oxfam, stated that the number of severe climatic disasters has led to the displacement of more than 20 million people, and that this number has multiplied five times during the last decade of the twentieth century, and this number represents about 87% of the total Number of people internally displaced by disasters during the same period.

In addition, millions of people have been displaced and forced to leave their homes due to slow climatic disasters, such as drought and rising sea levels. The poorest communities around the world are the most vulnerable to displacement and migration due to climate change, while the richest groups are least likely to leave their places of origin.

Investments

The cost of adaptation in sub-Saharan Africa is estimated at US\$30-50 billion annually (2-3% of regional GDP) over the next decade, to avoid an even higher cost of additional disaster relief. Achieving climate-resilient development in Africa requires investments in hydro meteorological infrastructure and early warning systems in order to prepare for the increase in hazardous and high-impact events.

C- United Nations efforts to Address Climate Change

The United Nations is constantly trying to work to adapt to climate changes and reduce the negative effects of the severe climate change that the world is witnessing now, as the United Nations has begun to present several agreements on climate and climate change and prepare frameworks for climate change. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was established; It is an international environmental treaty to combat "dangerous human interference with the climate system", in part by stabilizing concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Signed by 154 countries at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development informally known as the "Earth Summit", the treaty called for continued scientific research, regular meetings, negotiations and future policy agreements designed to allow



ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that no exposure Food production to threaten and to enable economic development to move forward in a sustainable manner.

The 1997 Kyoto Protocol came to be the executive step of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate, and the protocol entered into force in 2004 after Russia's adoption of it. Fulfill that partial only after the accession of Russia.

The protocol contained several obligations divided into two groups, where the first group included the obligations assumed by all contracting parties, while the second group was concerned with the group of obligations assumed by developed countries towards developing countries. The second group is more important, as it stipulates the obligations undertaken by developed countries alone, and is bound by them in the face of developing countries, to help developing countries abide by the provisions contained in the United Nations Framework Convention on the one hand, and to encourage developing countries to cooperate effectively within the framework of the international system for environmental protection. on the other side.

The commitments of the developed countries towards the developing countries come through supporting the efforts of developing and least developed countries in the areas of confronting and adapting to the negative effects of climate change, and achieving joint cooperation with developing or less developed countries in the “Clean Development Mechanism”, which is one of the most important mechanisms defined by the Kyoto Protocol. This mechanism stipulates a clear commitment on the part of developed countries to undertake projects in developing countries in order to help them meet the requirements of sustainable development, and at the same time contribute to achieving the main objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and assisting developed countries in committing to reducing emissions to the specified limit. This mechanism benefits both developed and developing countries alike. The benefit to the economies of developing countries is represented in the presence of investments coming from developed countries on their territories, while developed countries can use the emissions resulting



from the activities of these projects to contribute to the realization of part of their commitments to determine and quantitatively reduce emissions.

It can be concluded that the Kyoto Protocol places the responsibility for implementing the largest burden of the commitments contained therein on the shoulders of the developed countries, as the protocol obliges them to provide all forms of financial and technical support necessary to assist the developing and least developed countries in implementing the commitments arising from joint international policies to protect the environment from the manifestations of pollution that invade it. In addition, this protocol obligated developed countries without developing and least developed countries to pursue the necessary policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by specific percentages according to a specific timetable.

Next comes the most recent agreement on climate change, the Paris Climate Agreement, which was adopted in 2015 and signed in 2016. The main objective of the agreement is to achieve stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that allows the ecosystem to adapt naturally to climate change, thus Protecting human beings from danger up to food and water shortages, and allowing to move forward in creating avenues for sustainable economic development. 191 countries (190 plus the European Union) have joined the Paris Agreement. The agreement includes commitments from all countries to reduce their emissions and work together to adapt to the effects of climate change, and calls on countries to strengthen their commitments over time. The agreement provides a pathway for developed countries to assist developing countries in their climate mitigation and adaptation efforts while creating a framework for transparent monitoring and reporting on countries' climate goals.

Third: The Impact of Armed Organizations and Climate Change on Indicators of Human Security in Africa

The exacerbation of the climate crisis and the impact of climate change has led to the deterioration of the security situation in the African Sahel region due to



the spread of armed and terrorist groups to plunder its wealth, as this region is rich in many mineral wealth such as gold, uranium and phosphates. Oil wealth has also become a major attraction for the countries of the world, as Chad exports oil about 200,000 barrels per day, and Mali is the third African producer of gold after South Africa and Ghana, in addition to Nigeria, which is the largest oil exporter with a daily production volume of 27 million barrels and reserves. It is 36 billion barrels.

Niger ranks fourth in the world in uranium production, accounting for 8.7% of global production and covering 12% of the needs of the European Union. Studies also indicate that Chad, Mauritania and Niger constitute important petroleum wealth.

The African Sahel region is considered a strategic transit area for the Trans-Saharan gas pipeline project, extending over a distance of 4,128 km, with an annual capacity of 30 billion cubic meters, starting from Warri in Nigeria and reaching Hassi R'Mel in Algeria via Niger.

The presence of terrorist groups in the Sahel region is due to the desire to exploit these resources, but what makes the situation worse is climate change and environmental degradation from which the region suffers. Due to the fragility of the situation in the countries of the African Sahel, the presence of armed terrorist groups is increasing there, as stated by Dr. Sally Ishaq, Professor of Economics at the Graduate School of African Studies at Cairo University, "The Sahel region is an example of the extent to which terrorists are able to exploit all forms of vulnerability, in order to find themselves at its expense. The foundations of existence and reproduction, as if it is like parasites that multiply on everybody that has succumbed to the factors of disease and weakness".

In light of this, UN Secretary-General António Guterres warned that climate change could be "one of the factors that exacerbate" the potential for terrorist acts, adding that the world's environmental degradation exposes any unstable or conflict-ridden region to significant security risks and threats. He spoke about the fact that the countries' most vulnerable to the climate crisis are the same ones who suffer from insecurity, poverty, weak governance and the scourge of terrorism.



The President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, after his visit to the African Sahel region, stressed that the violence and challenges facing the region do not only lead to conflict, but are related to the reduction of exploitable lands and the unpredictability of the availability of water resources, and that the tensions that exist since antiquity between agricultural and pastoral communities are increasing due to shrinking Exploitable land and unsustainable water resources. He also stressed that climate change leads to an increasing complexity of the situation in a region that suffers from underdevelopment, chronic poverty, rampant criminal activity and violence, which actually leads to the fragility of life conditions. And that the combination of climate change and conflicts predicts an imminent eruption, which leads to the need to bring about a fundamental shift in the approach taken in dealing with the African Sahel region, which would enhance the ability of individuals to withstand climate shocks more.

Certainly, the spread of terrorist groups in the African Sahel region is due to the fragility of the situation in the African Sahel countries, as these countries suffer from the fragility of their economic systems and the inability of the rulers to control the situation in the country. The harsh climate change also weakens the ability of these countries to confront armed terrorist organizations that take advantage of these countries' weakness and harsh climate and interfere to plunder their wealth or struggle with each other due to the lack of resources. There are two hotbeds of violent extremism and instability in the region. The first includes Mali and its immediate neighbourhood. Burkina Faso and Niger, in the western coast, where many groups linked to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb are active, some of which in recent years have pledged allegiance to ISIS. As for the second focus: it includes the Lake Chad Basin, which includes Nigeria, Niger, Chad and Cameroon, which has suffered from the beginning - especially Nigeria - from the terrorism of the Boko Haram group, and since 2016 a splinter group from Boko Haram has announced its pledge of allegiance to ISIS.

Looking at the countries of the African Sahel, we will focus on personal (individual) security, food security and displacement, as they are the concepts



most vulnerable to threats from climate change and the spread of armed terrorist groups.

Personal/individual security

Individual security is considered one of the most important elements of human security due to the importance of this concept on human life, and it revolves around how to secure protection for individuals in the presence of armed conflicts and the increase of organized crime and trafficking in drugs, people, weapons and money laundering to reach the hands of groups that use them in violence and terrorism. Armed conflicts (international, regional and local) are considered an important factor that threatens individual security due to the dangers they pose to human life and cause severe damage to human beings. Applying to the case of the African Sahel countries, we find that the human security of individuals there is exposed to many threats that would undermine the security situation for humans in Africa as a result of the spread of various armed terrorist groups.

Food security

Food security is achieved when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their nutritional needs and food preferences in order to lead an active and healthy life. But the reality of food security for many peoples is tragic, as nearly 11 million children die every year before they reach their fifth birthday. All of these deaths occur in developing countries, three-quarters of them in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, the two regions that also have the highest rates of hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

Considering the countries of the African Sahel, as they are the most affected by the harsh climate change that threatens the food security of humans there, as the estimates of the United Nations agencies went, even before the outbreak of the Corona Virus (Covid-19) pandemic, but the region had more than 55 million



people suffering from undernourishment. Among its population of 456.7 million. This pandemic, and with it the conflict situations in the countries of the region, in addition to other factors, make hunger one of the most common problems. In 2020, the region's share of the world's total acutely food insecure was 20%, which is very high when considering that the region comprises only 6% of the world's population.

Access to basic foods has been complicated, especially for families at risk, and malnutrition among children has spread, as reports indicate that one third of children in Kidal Region, Mali, under the age of three suffer from acute malnutrition.

In Niger, it is estimated that 2.5 million people in nearly 3,000 villages are at risk of food shortages, and the government has started selling grain at subsidized prices in affected communities with little impact on the overall nutritional situation. It is worth noting that the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has appealed to the international community to raise enough funds to feed 750,000 children in Niger, 150,000 of whom showed signs of severe malnutrition.

In Burkina Faso, the government distributed grain to affected communities, Mali supported the sale of 150,000 tons of animal feed, while in Chad, grain sales are expected to be boosted soon. In Mauritania, where the situation of malnutrition has worsened, the World Food Program has launched what is known as a food-for-work campaign.

As a result of the spread of terrorist groups in the African Sahel and their constant keenness to strengthen their positions in the countries of the African Sahel, many people were forced to leave their homes and flee from areas threatened and exposed to violence by terrorist groups, which threatens the human security of these individuals, as they do not have a stable housing in which they can practice a normal daily life. .

The terrorists are consolidating their positions in that region, especially after the fall of the so-called "ISIS" state in the Middle East, where reports indicate that



these extremists have reorganized their ranks in the Sahel region, in cooperation with organizations such as "Al-Qaeda."

These organizations committed atrocities against civilians with the aim of terrorizing the population in the area on the one hand, and extending their influence and seizing more lands on the other. The figures come according to the UNHCR, where 4,800 people were killed in fighting and violence in the Sahel region last year, which is a 6-fold increase compared to 2016, while this number reached 3,900 in 2020.

In addition to terrorist organizations, the magazine attributed the growing number of deaths in the region to the brutal acts of violence carried out by ethno-sectarian militias, which are responsible for 17 percent of the deaths. The violence in the African Sahel forced 1.7 million people to flee. Thousands of people a day this year alone.

The countries of the region are striving alongside international parties to eliminate terrorist organizations in the Sahel, where the United Nations has 15,000 troops in Mali, while the French force has 5,100 soldiers, and America has 1,200 personnel working mainly in the intelligence and logistics fields.

Conclusion

The rapid and severe climate change and the spread of armed groups in the countries of the African Sahel affect the quality of life in that region. These factors represent a major threat to the concept of human security, especially the personal and food dimensions. Climate change intensified in the year 2021, and we see every warning of natural disasters and a rise in temperatures becoming a reality, as hurricanes, tropical cyclones and storms increased, and they are among the phenomena that cost governments huge financial resources to try to fix the repercussions of those disasters.

The exacerbation of the climate crisis and the impact of climate change leads to a deterioration in the security situation in the African Sahel region due to the spread of armed and terrorist groups to plunder its wealth, as this region is rich



in many mineral wealth such as gold, uranium and phosphates, and oil wealth has become a major attraction for the countries of the world.

Human security is a hierarchy of human rights according to priorities based on the circumstances of each society and in line with ideas of fear and need. Thus, it can be understood and clarified through issues related to human rights, such as the lack of food, medicine, care, education and security, as affirmed by all international agreements, including the 1945 United Nations Charter and the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.