

Towards a Humanitarian Approach to Irregular Migration in Algeria: Human Security as a Tool for Prevention and Response

نحو مقاربة إنسانية للهجرة غير الشرعية في الجزائر: الأمن الإنساني كأداة للوقاية والاستجابة.

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Abstract:

This study aims to analyze the phenomenon of irregular migration through a humanitarian lens, using the concept of human security as a comprehensive tool for both preventing the causes of the phenomenon and responding to its consequences. This approach goes beyond the traditional security dimension to encompass economic, food, health, social, and political aspects. It also focuses on the structural factors that fuel the spread of irregular migration — in particular, unemployment crises, poverty, marginalization, and the lack of developmental prospects, especially among young people. Recent data reveal an increase in the number of harragas (irregular migrants), particularly in coastal areas, in parallel with persistent imbalances in human security indicators such as unequal development, fragile public services, and ineffective integration policies. The study concludes that adopting the human security approach as a preventive and proactive mechanism against irregular migration could address the roots of the phenomenon, not just its outcomes — by integrating human security into public policies and empowering individuals within their environments.

Keywords: Irregular migration, human security, prevention, response.

ملخص:

تسعى هذه الدراسة إلى تحليل ظاهرة الهجرة غير الشرعية في ضوء المقاربة الإنسانية، بالاعتماد على مفهوم "الأمن الإنساني" كأداة شاملة للوقاية من أسباب الظاهرة والاستجابة لتداعياتها، ويتجاوز البعد الأمني التقليدي ليشمل الأبعاد الاقتصادية، الغذائية، الصحية والاجتماعية والسياسية، كذلك التركيز على العوامل البنيوية التي تغذي انتشار الهجرة غير النظامية، ونخص بالذكر أزمات البطالة، الفقر، التهميش، وانعدام الأفق التنموي، خصوصاً في أوساط الشباب، وكشف المعطيات الحديثة عن تزايد أعداد "الحراقة" خاصة في المناطق الساحلية، بالتوازي مع استمرار اختلالات في مؤشرات الأمن الإنساني كتفاوت التنمية، هشاشة الخدمات العمومية، وغياب الفعالية في سياسات الإدماج، لنصل في نهاية الدراسة إلى أن توظيف مقاربة الأمن الإنساني كآلية وقائية واستباقية للهجرة غير الشرعية من شأنه أن يعالج جذور الظاهرة لا نتائجها فقط، عبر إدراج مقاربة الأمن الإنساني داخل السياسات العمومية وتمكين الإنسان داخل بيئته.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الهجرة غير الشرعية، الأمن الإنساني، الوقاية، الاستجابة.

Introduction:

Irregular migration is one of the most serious social and political phenomena in the contemporary world. It reflects the failure of systems to provide decent living conditions for large segments of the population, especially youth. Despite the security efforts made to contain this phenomenon, its persistence and worsening underscore the insufficiency of traditional approaches that focus on surveillance and punishment. In fact, such approaches may exacerbate migrants' suffering and create opportunities for human trafficking networks.

In this context, the concept of human security emerges as an alternative and integrated framework that centers the human being as the core of public policy, focusing on the prevention of root causes of migration—such as poverty, unemployment, violence, and lack of hope.

This paper seeks to unpack the relationship between irregular migration and the disruption of human security, and to highlight how this concept can be employed to build an effective, humane, and comprehensive response to one of the most.

To what extent can a human security approach contribute to preventing irregular migration in Algeria?

First – Definition of Concepts:

1. The Concept of Irregular Migration:

The term irregular migration is closely tied to the notion of national borders and to other forms of population movements that have become characteristic features of human societies as a whole. At the same time, it is deeply linked to the legal systems and policies adopted by states, which makes it a central concern of legal studies. These studies often treat it as a problem that threatens the validity of existing international laws and agreements. It is also relevant to international relations, since its effects are not limited to a single country but impact multiple states, making it a key issue in their interactions. Moreover, irregular migration is studied across disciplines such as economics, sociology, geography, and the humanities.

Due to the intensity, recency, and rapid increase of this phenomenon in the era of globalization—along with its diverse consequences on states—it has acquired a range of complex and overlapping labels, often intermingled with other forms of population movement. For this reason, it is essential to clarify the concept.

Irregular migration is defined as a person's departure from the territory of their own state (or another state) in either a legal or illegal manner, with the intent of entering another country without obtaining that country's consent—or by gaining

consent for a limited time or purpose, then remaining beyond the permitted period, or by entering through unauthorized channels using false documents, thereby violating that country's internal regulations and internationally recognized norms (Qamini, 2016).

The term encompasses multiple expressions: clandestine migration, illegal migration, irregular migration, unauthorized migration. In general, irregular migration serves as a broad term for all such cases, referring to the movement of individuals or groups from one place to another through secret or unauthorized means, contrary to established migration laws and international agreements.

The common colloquial term used is "ḥarga" (haraga), which literally means "burning" one's documents and ties to their homeland, in the hope of finding a new identity in the host country (Khatou, 2011).

Irregular migration thus refers to migrants entering a country without visas or prior/post-entry authorization. Most countries, particularly industrialized ones where job opportunities are more abundant, suffer from the challenges posed by irregular migration.

Migration, in its broadest sense, refers to exile or the act of leaving one land for another, whether in search of livelihood, knowledge, medical treatment, or any other form of benefit. It implies a move to settle in a new location with the intention of staying for an extended period.

Etymologically, the word migration in Arabic derives from the verb *hajara* – *yahjuru* – *hijranan*, meaning to leave or abandon. Thus, to "migrate" is to depart from one land and leave one's country for another.

As for the compound term irregular migration, it is made up of two components: "migration" and "irregular," with the latter indicating a violation of the laws and regulations governing the entry of foreign nationals into a state's sovereign territory. In this sense, irregular migration encompasses all cross-border movements by individuals or groups that fall outside the bounds of legal permission. The phenomenon began to emerge in the early 20th century and reached its peak after European immigration policies began closing borders in the 1970s (Saad, 2012).

2. The Concept of Human Security:

Human security is a new approach that emerged after the end of the Cold War, as a reaction to the limitations of the traditional concept of security, which focused primarily on the state, armies, and military threats. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 1994) defined it as:

"The protection of individuals from chronic threats such as disease, hunger, and repression, and from sudden disruptions to their daily lives."

Human security comprises seven interrelated dimensions: food security, health security, environmental security, economic security, personal security, community security, and political security. The absence of any of these dimensions can be a

direct or indirect driver of migration, particularly in countries suffering from economic fragility or internal conflicts.

According to Arab scholar Mohamed Nabulsi (2017),

“Human security is centered on the individual as the focus of policies — not as a threat, but as a value to be protected and nurtured.”

The concept of human security arose in response to a series of transformations in the post–Cold War era. It is a new paradigm that calls for a rethinking of the scope of security studies, while also questioning the fate of traditional security frameworks.

This shift in the understanding of security is a logical consequence of the qualitative changes in the global landscape, prompting a reassessment of the core assumptions underpinning security equations in international relations.

On the one hand, action and influence in international affairs are no longer the exclusive domain of the nation-state. National security itself is evolving, especially with the restructuring of the international system following the collapse of the bipolar world order that prevailed during the Cold War.

On the other hand, new and non-traditional threats to peace and national security have emerged. In addition to the nation-state, other influential actors now shape the international scene — such as regional and international governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and multinational corporations. Moreover, the sources of threats to the nation-state have shifted: external military aggression is no longer seen as the sole threat to state security, as asserted by advocates of the Realist School (Guénola, 2002; Salem, 2008).

Second – Factors Behind the Spread of Irregular Migration:

From the perspective of irregular migration flows, countries can generally be classified into three categories:

1. Countries of origin, primarily in Africa and Sub-Saharan regions such as Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, as well as Algeria, Morocco, and Sudan. In Asia, this includes India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. These countries share a common pattern of political, social, and geographic challenges, prompting many of their citizens to seek safety, stability, and a better quality of life elsewhere.
2. Destination countries are those that are more attractive due to their higher levels of development and high-income standards, such as the European Union countries and the United States.
3. Transit countries are those through which migrants pass, often gathering in specific locations within each country before moving covertly toward the next destination.

Based on this classification, the factors contributing to the spread of irregular migration can be divided into two main groups: those related to countries of origin, and those related to destination countries.

1. Factors Related to Countries of Origin:

These are a set of push factors that drive individuals to leave their home countries. Among the most significant are economic factors, as outlined by (Hajjaj 2012).

1.1 Economic Factors:

- Many migrant-sending countries rely heavily on agriculture and hydrocarbon resources as the backbone of their economies. These sectors are inherently unstable due to their dependence on natural conditions and volatile market dynamics, which undermines economic stability.
- There is a significant imbalance between urban and rural areas, compounded by policies in newly independent states that neglected economic development, especially in the rural sector.
- In the early 1990s, Algeria's shift to a liberal economic system created complex challenges for public institutions—particularly in trying to balance economic gains with social sacrifices.
- National industries in many of these countries struggle to compete with high-quality, low-cost European goods and products, resulting in economic marginalization.
- Economic transformations and the accompanying opening to global markets have generated new social behaviors, particularly among the emerging social classes, whose attitudes and expectations have shifted as a result of both economic and political changes.

1.2 Social Factors (Hajjaj, 2012):

A normal person does not typically resort to deviant behavior unless social problems act as a direct or indirect driving force, leading them to violate laws and social norms. Among the most prominent of these problems are:

- Unemployment, defined as the situation in which a person is capable of working, willing to work, and actively seeking employment, yet unable to find a job.
- The failure of educational policies, which exhausted their optimistic discourse, became apparent with the rise in graduate unemployment, as increasing numbers of diploma holders and university graduates found themselves jobless.
- Education at all levels across the Arab world — including Algeria — has not achieved its intended goals. As a result, many children leave school early, influenced by the bleak and disheartening image left by unemployed university graduates.

This, in turn, leads many young people to leave their country, driven by the absence of opportunities that could offer them stability or help them achieve their aspirations — even if it costs them their lives.

2. Factors Related to Destination Countries:

Numerous factors have led large numbers of migrants to leave their home countries in favor of destination countries. European countries are among the most prominent destinations, experiencing a constant influx of migrants due to

the economic and social opportunities they offer—opportunities that are often far more attractive than those available in countries of origin.

2.1 Policies Adopted by Destination Country Governments:

These policies can generally be summarized in two main points:

- Tightening visa regulations: Since the 1990s, in an effort to curb irregular migration flows, European countries have adopted stricter policies regarding visa issuance. This includes the enactment of harsh laws and procedures aimed at reducing the number of incoming migrants and controlling border movements, as part of broader security strategies to combat irregular, (migration Simpson, Nicole B, 2021, p 134).

- Strengthened border surveillance: Many European countries have taken on the role of "border guards," sparing no effort to repel migrants and prevent them from reaching their territories. These efforts are supported by advanced technologies, such as surveillance cameras and high-precision information systems, turning the "European policeman" into a nearly automated barrier that tracks anyone approaching its borders.

As thousands of legal migration requests are denied, many individuals seeking to cross find themselves with only one option: to resort to irregular means—in pursuit of a glimmer of hope on the other side, even if it means violating the law and risking their lives.

2.2 Economic Factors in Destination Countries:

One of the strongest pull factors is the demand for foreign labor in destination countries, especially in sectors that are typically avoided by local citizens. These include:

- Seasonal work, such as harvesting agricultural products.
- Labor-intensive and hazardous jobs, such as cleaning facilities, car washing, and factory work.

This labor market gap becomes an opportunity for irregular migrants, who are willing to accept such jobs despite the harsh conditions, due to their urgent need for income, even at the expense of safety and dignity (Zimmermann, Klaus F, 1994, p 67).

2.3 Social Factors:

One of the key social characteristics of many European countries is:

- Low population density and a decline in the youth population, coupled with a rise in the elderly population.

For example, Spain faces a concerning demographic trend:

Its population is estimated at around 40 million, and projections indicate it could shrink by 5 million by 2050, with a significant increase in the proportion of people over the age of 60. This indicates a societal shift toward aging, and increases the need for young labor to offset demographic decline and address future economic challenges.

2.4 External Appearances and Perceptions:

These can be broken down into two main aspects:

► Role of the Media:

Media in all its forms contributes to reinforcing a stereotypical contrast between countries of origin and destination. It often presents life in countries of origin as bleak, marked by poverty and deprivation, while portraying life in host countries as a symbol of prosperity and social/economic well-being.

This stark contrast projected by media discourse fuels the aspirations of migrants, encouraging many to leave by any means necessary, even if illegally (Zimmermann, Klaus F, 1994, p 67).

► Behavior of Returnees:

When migrants return to their home countries, displaying signs of material success—luxury cars, modern electronic devices, upscale housing, and designer clothing—and when they engage in private investments and business ventures, they leave a deep psychological impact on those who stayed behind.

These scenes intensify feelings of exclusion and highlight class disparities, pushing many to see migration—even irregular—as the only escape from a harsh reality of frustration, unemployment, and hopeless waiting.

Third – Characteristics and Foundations of Human Security:

The concept of human security is characterized by several features that distinguish it from traditional security notions—such as state security or community security. Unlike those, human security applies to smaller units, namely individuals. Providing internal security for individuals reflects the removal of fear related to threats to life, property, and human freedom, which may stem from internal or external threats. The right to live in dignity and to enjoy a decent standard of living is a core component of human security (Arafa, 2009).

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) identified four key characteristics of human security (Saadallah, 2002):

1. Human Security is Comprehensive and Global:

It is a universal human right, applicable everywhere. This means it encompasses the security of people in all countries, whether rich or poor.

2. Its Components Are Interdependent:

The various dimensions of human security are interconnected, and each relies on the others for effectiveness.

3. It Is Achievable Through Early Prevention:

It is more effective to confront human security threats at their early stages; as late interventions tend to be far costlier. For example, spending \$2 billion on soldiers in Somalia yields less security than if that amount had been invested a decade earlier in development and support for the Somali people. Thus, early preventive action within the framework of human security is far more effective than later reactive interventions.

4. The Human Being is the Central Focus:

Human security concerns how individuals live within a society, including their freedom to make choices, their ability to access market opportunities, social inclusion, and whether they live in conditions of peace or conflict.

Thus, human security, through these characteristics, expresses its strong connection to the needs of individuals and communities for existence and continuity. Accordingly, it is linked to the achievement of economic and social sufficiency, respect for individual rights, basic freedoms, and protection from all threats to human life. It is based on two strategic concepts: protection and empowerment (Ghinwala, 2002):

a. Protection:

This involves shielding people from all risks, requiring coordinated efforts to both develop existing standards and create new ones that can methodically address these concerns.

b. Empowerment:

This means helping people develop their capacities so they can become full participants in decision-making processes.

Key Foundations and Pillars of Human Security:

- The effective tool for achieving human security is what is known as “soft power,” alongside human development and the realization of democracy. Therefore, human security can be achieved through structural change rather than relying solely on military force.
- If force is to be used to achieve human security in conflict zones or under brutal authoritarian regimes, it must be employed legally and collectively, under the umbrella of international organizations. States, regional, and international organizations (both governmental and non-governmental) must work together to establish operational frameworks in the field of human security, as no single country can confront all threats to human security alone.
- While the concept of human security goes beyond the traditional view of state security, this does not mean marginalizing the role of the state. Ultimately, the state remains responsible for providing security to its citizens—particularly given the complex sources of threats to individual security in the era of globalization.
- Any economic or security policy developed by decision-makers must include a social dimension.

The concept of human security emphasizes that public policies should aim to combat all forms of oppression and exclusion.

- While traditional security, from a zero-sum perspective, is seen as a game where one party wins and another loses, human security is a win-win framework, as it leads to balanced human development and long-term collective security (Madhet, 2003).

Fourth – The Reality of Irregular Migration in Algeria:

Algeria is one of the Maghreb countries most affected by the phenomenon of irregular migration, whether as a country of origin, transit, or destination. This phenomenon reflects deep social and economic imbalances experienced by youth, particularly in inland and marginalized regions.

Official statistics show that the number of thwarted “harraga” (illegal migrants) attempts by the Algerian coast guard exceeded 13,500 in the year 2022. Meanwhile, unofficial reports indicate that thousands succeeded in reaching Spanish or Italian shores, despite the associated risks (Algerian News, 2023).

This phenomenon is widely understood as a collective response by groups suffering from social stagnation and the absence of economic empowerment opportunities. This is confirmed by the youth unemployment rate, which has exceeded 30% among those aged 18 to 30 (National Statistics Office, 2023).

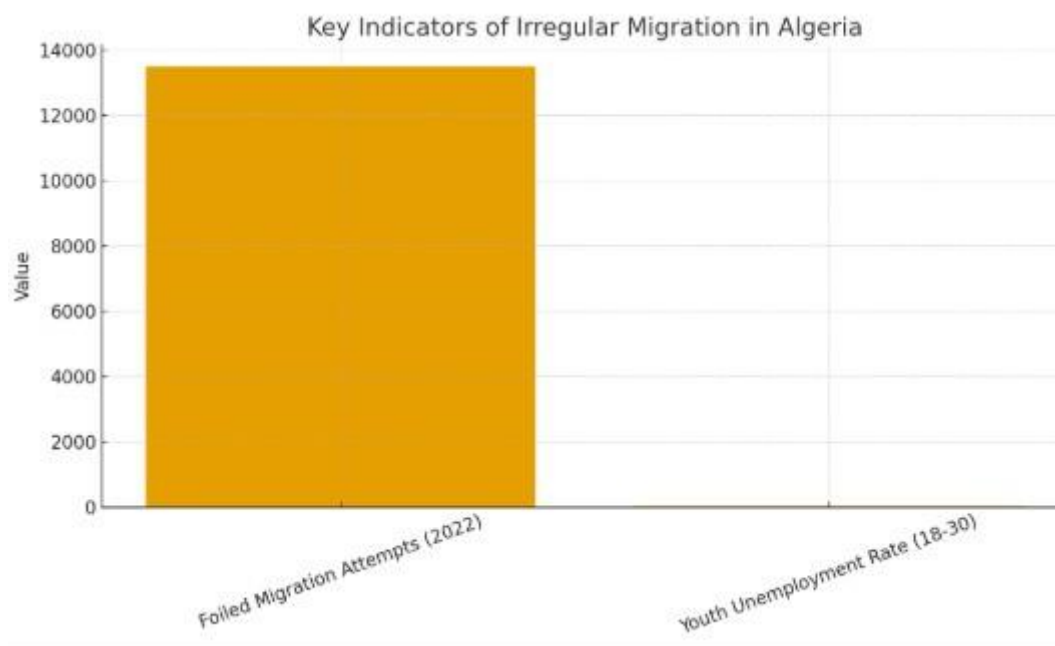
According to a field study by researcher Mustapha Zawi, irregular migration in Algeria stems not only from economic need, but also from a growing sense of social meaninglessness and non-belonging, where the state and its institutions no longer represent a source of hope or future aspiration (Zawi, 2020).

The media, social networks, and stories of returnees from “successful journeys” also play a major role in shaping collective awareness around “migration as salvation”, especially when the outside world is depicted as a material paradise, in contrast to a local reality marred by bureaucracy, corruption, and spatial inequality. These factors create a kind of symbolic and social pressure that pushes youth to view migration—even through “death boats”—as an existential and unavoidable project (Ben Toumi, 2019).

This highlights the failure of public policies to contain the phenomenon. Programs aimed at youth, such as ANSEJ and CNAC, have failed to attract marginalized groups due to their complex procedures and lack of genuine support, reinforcing a double sense of marginalization: economic and institutional (Achour, 2021).

Addressing irregular migration in Algeria cannot be separated from an understanding of the sociological reality of youth, who are victims of structural accumulations spanning education, the labor market, spatial justice, and political participation. Thus, this is not merely a passing phenomenon, but rather an expression of a deep crisis in the relationship between the individual and the state and society—a crisis that calls for comprehensive intervention to restore trust and ensure the pillars of human security and social justice.

Key Indicators Reflecting the Reality of Irregular Migration in Algeria



Algeria constitutes both a point of origin and a transit hub for irregular migration to Europe, due to a complex combination of economic, social, and political factors. Economically, Algerian youth, particularly in interior and remote regions, face high unemployment and poverty, which pushes them to seek better opportunities abroad, even through illegal channels. There is a significant gap between the local labor market and opportunities available in destination countries, such as seasonal or strenuous work in Europe, making migration an attractive option despite its risks. Politically, European countries aim to curb irregular migration flows by tightening visa regulations and border controls. This situation forces migrants to rely on illegal routes and smuggling networks, exposing themselves to life-threatening risks to reach the other shore. Social factors include differing demographic dynamics between Algeria and Europe, such as low population density and aging societies in certain European countries, which increase demand for young labor and make migration an opportunity to fill this gap. Furthermore, media portrayal and the image of returning expatriates reinforce the desire to migrate, as life in Europe is depicted as more prosperous and comfortable compared to the home country, fueling expectations and pressuring youth to pursue irregular pathways. Overall, irregular migration in

Algeria is not merely an individual phenomenon but reflects broader economic, social, and political imbalances. The intersection of poverty, unemployment, limited educational opportunities, and media influence contributes to a complex phenomenon that requires comprehensive

Fifth – The Reality of Human Security in Algeria:

Human security in Algeria represents a multidimensional challenge, reflected in social tensions, territorial disparities, and the inconsistency of public policies in effectively responding to citizens' basic needs. According to the 2023 Human Development Report issued by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Algeria ranked 91st globally—a position that does not necessarily reflect the country's economic potential, but rather reveals imbalances in resource distribution and a lack of social justice (UNDP, 2023).

Many sociologists argue that human security in the Algerian context remains reduced to traditional security, neglecting essential dimensions such as economic, health, food, social, and political security. This leads to a long-term sense of instability among citizens (Bouhafs, 2022).

Human security is a mirror of the degree to which individuals are integrated into their society, and their sense of dignity, empowerment, and equal opportunity. However, field data reveal a different reality, notably in the form of high youth unemployment, which exceeded 31.9% among those aged 16 to 24 (National Statistics Office, 2023).

Additionally, more than 15,000 areas classified as “shadow zones” still suffer from severe shortages in basic services such as electricity, water, healthcare, and education—exacerbating territorial imbalances that negatively affect human security indicators (Ministry of the Interior, 2021).

The COVID-19 pandemic worsened this fragility, exposing the limitations of the healthcare system, particularly in rural areas, and the inability of medical institutions to effectively manage health crises (Alioui, 2020).

In terms of political security, there has been a marked decline in freedom of expression and political participation, which has widened the trust gap between citizens and the state, and produced a form of civic alienation that undermines one of the pillars of human security: the feeling of representation and fairness (Ben Hammouda, 2019).

In the global context—shaped by intertwined environmental, economic, and geopolitical pressures—there is growing awareness of the importance of human security as a holistic system influenced by good governance indicators. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD, 2021), countries with centralized governance and weak community participation, such as Algeria, often face chronic difficulties in achieving comprehensive security.

The Global Human Security Index classifies Algeria among countries with "average performance", due to low social spending, poverty rates reaching around 14.6% in some regions, and inconsistent performance in food, health, and education sectors (Hastings, 2022; World Bank, 2023).

Reports by Amnesty International (2023) reinforce this image, pointing to the persistence of practices that violate fundamental freedoms, such as arbitrary detention and restrictions on press freedom—creating a politically unsafe environment that deepens citizens' legal and institutional vulnerability.

Japanese scholar Tadashi Yamamoto states that human security is “the state's actual capacity to protect human dignity under all circumstances—not only in times of peace but also during crises” (Yamamoto, 2014, p. 92).

In light of these indicators, it becomes clear that addressing Algeria's human security crisis cannot be achieved through sectoral or temporary approaches. Instead, it requires deep reform in the logic of social governance, one that respects transparency, participation, equal opportunity, and balanced development. Strengthening trust between citizens and state institutions, learning from successful international experiences, and activating mechanisms for evaluation and social oversight are essential steps toward establishing a comprehensive and sustainable approach to human security.

Sixth. Human Security as a Preventive and Proactive Mechanism Against Irregular Migration:

The human security approach is among the most effective theoretical and practical frameworks for addressing the root causes of irregular migration. It offers an alternative to traditional security-based solutions by focusing on the structural factors that compel individuals—especially youth—to take life-threatening risks to leave their homelands. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2023), over 80% of irregular migrants come from environments plagued by food insecurity, high unemployment rates, and weak healthcare and education services—all fundamental components of human security.

In Algeria, national statistics reveal that more than 13,000 attempts of irregular migration were thwarted in 2022 alone, while unreported cases are estimated to number in the hundreds monthly, particularly in the eastern and western coastal regions (Algerian News, 2023).

Irregular migration thus emerges as an individual or collective response to a deeper institutional crisis, characterized by a loss of hope, absence of social protection, and economic marginalization. In such conditions, individuals begin to feel worthless and see no meaningful reason to remain in their homeland.

Scholar Amartya Sen argues that human security is not only about protection from violence but also freedom from poverty, deprivation, and discrimination, implying that combating irregular migration must begin with empowering individuals within their own environments (Sen, 1999).

A comparative study by the Mediterranean Studies Center (MedThink, 2022) confirmed that countries adopting programs that promote human security—by improving education, expanding employment opportunities, and enhancing healthcare and social protection—experienced a significant decline in irregular migration rates, compared to those that relied solely on deterrence and border control.

This applies directly to Algeria. Researcher Zawi (2020) notes that the ineffectiveness of employment programs such as ANSEJ and CNAC, and the lack of real support for youth-led projects, has deepened feelings of alienation and detachment from the state. As a result, many perceive “harga” (irregular sea migration) not just as an economic decision, but as an existential escape.

On another front, the role of international policies in either aggravating or alleviating irregular migration cannot be ignored. In recent years, European countries have increasingly focused on tightening border control and funding “preventive deterrence” projects in Global South countries, rather than investing in sustainable development initiatives that would strengthen communities from within (Fargues & Rango, 2021). This approach is inadequate according to the UNDP, which calls for a participatory human security approach that actively involves youth, women, and marginalized groups in public policy-making (UNDP, 2023).

Therefore, irregular migration should not be reduced to a narrow security issue. It must be understood as a complex phenomenon driven by poverty, unemployment, and a lack of social empowerment. In this regard, the human security framework offers a proactive tool capable of building an environment that repels vulnerability and fosters trust and belonging. To achieve this, Algeria must invest genuinely in human capital and orient its social policies toward prevention, not repression, and empowerment, not marginalization.

Conclusion:

The issue of human security and irregular migration reveals that the relationship between the two is deeply structural and cannot be addressed through conventional security-based approaches alone. Irregular migration is not merely a personal reaction driven by short-term economic aspirations; rather, it is a profound indicator of dysfunctions in protection systems, social care structures, and the territorial distribution of opportunities. It reflects a crisis of trust, representation, and citizenship.

Both international experiences and field studies have demonstrated that approaches grounded in the promotion of human security—particularly in its economic, social, and political dimensions—are far more effective in preventing irregular migration than punitive security responses.

Despite Algeria’s considerable economic and human potential, it still faces significant challenges in this domain. These include weak local governance,

ineffective public social policies, widening regional disparities, and declining levels of institutional trust. These factors are driving thousands of young people to risk their lives in search of alternative spaces that offer them a sense of dignity and purpose.

Recommendations:

- Enhance human security in marginalized regions by improving access to basic services and decent living conditions.
- Develop employment policies that support youth initiatives and simplify financing and support mechanisms.
- Strengthen rights and freedoms by encouraging political participation and rebuilding trust between citizens and the state.
- Raise media awareness about the dangers of irregular migration and correct prevailing stereotypes.
- Promote international development cooperation instead of relying solely on security-based solutions.
- Involve civil society and universities in monitoring human security and migration indicators.
- Integrate the human security approach into public policies and local development programs.

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