

The Swedish Mission Council's policy for a human rights perspective

Adopted by the board of the Swedish Mission Council on 13 March 2014.

Background

This policy builds partly on recommendations and insights from the Swedish Mission Council's evaluation of the human rights perspective, which was carried out 2009 – 2011. The policy has been elaborated by a project group at the secretariat of the Swedish Mission Council (SMC). Representatives from the member organisations have also participated in the process.

Aim and content

The policy is intended to guide SMC's assessment of development projects and will be used as a tool for member organisations and their partners in the application of a human rights perspective when planning and implementing development projects. This policy document consists of the following sections:

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1. SMC's understanding of the human rights perspective

The human rights perspective takes its starting point in *human rights* as a universal moral basis, protected by international legal frameworks. Human rights are based on human needs and the realisation of these rights is closely linked to poverty reduction and human development.

The human rights perspective permeates the policies and guidelines regulating Sweden's development cooperation. It is also integrated in SMC's core values.

Every person is created in the image of God. The intrinsic value as a human being derives from God and is inviolable. God's love is unconditional and includes all people without exception. God is the God of life, who is continuously at work in the world to provide *fullness of life for everybody*. Being created in the image of God, every individual has the capacity and the calling to take responsibility.

Living in God's calling means discerning and combating unrighteous power structures and systems hostile to life, such as discrimination, inequality and other forms of oppression. God is a God who gives power to the powerless and restores rights to the oppressed.

Power implies a special responsibility. We all have moral obligations towards our fellow human beings, and we are called to take responsibility for each other. SMC sees it as one of its duties to create opportunities for all human beings to be change agents in their own lives.

1.1 Human rights

Human rights focus upon the rights of the individual and the obligations of the state. The basis for the international system of human rights is the UN General Declaration of Human Rights and the conventions for the protection of human rights which have been elaborated within the UN system. These *declarations* and *conventions* are intended to regulate the relationship between the state and the individual. While a declaration can be seen as an expression of political will, a convention is legally binding for the state which has chosen to ratify it, thereby committing itself to implement it. SMC views global, regional and national regulations and systems aiming to protect human rights as important instruments for bringing about change.

Human rights are *universal* and apply to all people without distinction. Furthermore, they are mutually interdependent and cannot be ranked in order of importance. They are *indivisible*. Economic, social and cultural rights, as well as civil and political rights all have the same standing. Therefore, the starting point and the goal for SMC's human rights perspective in development work is: *all human rights for all human beings*. An important principle is that human rights must never be used by anybody to violate the rights and liberties of others.

1.2. Duty-bearers and rights-holders

The human rights perspective means that the state is ultimately responsible for respecting, protecting and implementing human rights. Therefore, an important aspect of a human rights-based approach is advocacy and holding governments and official agencies accountable – they are the *legal duty-bearers*.

When applying a rights-based approach, people who are involved in the development project are seen as participants in the project rather than beneficiaries. The individual is the rights-holder rather than a recipient of support. Vulnerable people have the right as well as the ability to participate in and shape their own development - they are the *rights-holders*.

1.3. Sustainable change without dependency

Human rights-based work aims at long term sustainable change in society by addressing the root causes of poverty, vulnerability and non-compliance with human rights. The analysis underpinning the work focuses on power relations and power structures and on how to change them when they are unequal and unjust.

In a rights-based development project, rights-holders as well as duty-bearers are identified. The rights-holders should be empowered through the project to change their own situation and take control of their own lives. They should be given knowledge about their human rights and be strengthened in their ability to use, defend and claim these human rights. The aim should be to support them without creating dependency.

1.4 Mobilisation and the organisation of rights-holders

When people come together and organise themselves they obtain a common voice and increase their ability to claim their human rights

together. Cooperation, networking and broad arenas for working together with other actors further strengthen these conditions. *Mobilisation* and the processes through which rights-holders *organise* themselves are thus key aspects of well-functioning rights-based development work. Consequently the projects supported by SMC should always have as a goal to develop and strengthen civil society organisations.

1.5 Moral duty-bearers

Discrimination and acts which violate or limit individuals' human rights occur at all levels of society; in the family, in church, in school, at the work place and in the business world. In a globalized world life styles and political decisions in one part of the world affect the opportunities for people in other parts of the world to have their human rights fulfilled.

Civil society organisations should not take on the responsibilities of governments. Instead they should put pressure on the legal duty-bearers to take the responsibility which is theirs. At the same time it is important to realise that there are also *moral duty-bearers*, who have a responsibility towards individuals' vulnerability and the fulfilment of human rights. It could be parents, church leaders, businesses or traditional local leaders who have a moral responsibility towards their children, church members or employees etc.

1.6 Influencing multiple levels

When applying a human rights-based approach it is important to identify both legal and moral duty-bearers at different levels of society (local, national and international level) and to advocate the fulfilment of human rights. The human rights perspective is about influencing the values, attitudes and behaviour of moral duty-bearers as well as influencing political decisions and demanding accountability from the state in its capacity as legal duty-bearer.

1.7. Four central principles

SMC's understanding of the human rights perspective can be summarised in four central principles:

1.7.1. Non-discrimination

All human beings have the same rights. In development projects there must not be discrimination against anyone for any reason (e.g. age,

ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation or health status). As many as possible should enjoy the improvements which are the result of the development project, and the most vulnerable and marginalised groups should be given priority.

1.7.2. Participation

Development projects should be designed based on the perspective of vulnerable people in order to achieve long-term change of their life conditions. They are the rights-holders and should be involved in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The goal is that they will be strengthened, get a stronger voice in the community and become key actors in their own development as well as that of their community. It is also important that organisations keep working on their own culture and structure in order to develop and promote broad and active participation within the organisation.

1.7.3. Accountability

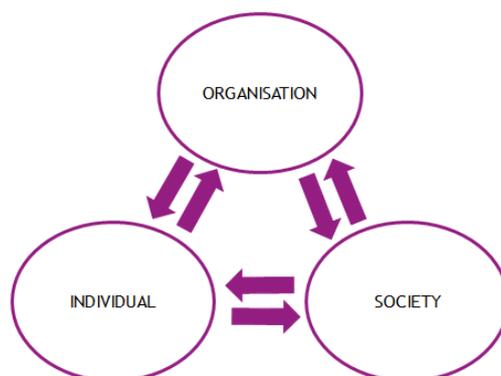
Accountability means that the duty-bearers take responsibility for the fulfilment of human rights. Development projects should aim to increase the extent to which legal and moral duty-bearers at all levels fulfil their responsibilities. Demanding accountability is therefore an important task for the civil society, as well as sensitising and strengthening the rights-holders so that they can claim their rights. Increased accountability can also be achieved by involving, cooperating with or conveying new knowledge to the duty-bearers.

1.7.4. Transparency

Transparency is a condition for active participation as well as for effective accountability. Openness from the government makes it easier to verify to what extent it takes its responsibility as legal duty-bearer. The civil society should work for increased transparency on the part of government agencies. At the same time, the organisations themselves must be transparent. Through open communication and access to information about decisions, finances, results and conclusions, donors as well as rights-holders are given opportunities to have insight into and assess the development projects.

2. SMC's theory of change from a human rights perspective

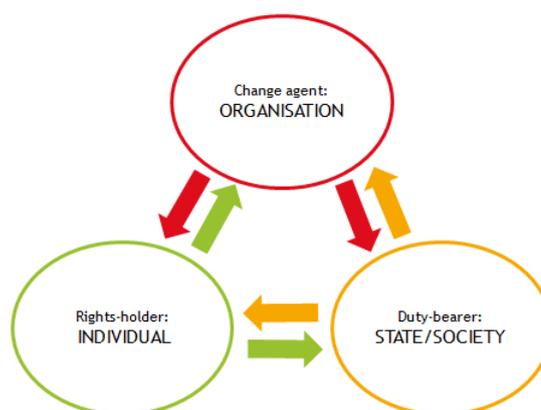
SMC's theory of change describes how development cooperation contributes to change. The starting point for the theory of change is that the *society*, *organisation* and *individual* are three entities affecting each other. To SMC the civil society organisations constitute the strategic entry point in development cooperation. The development projects which SMC supports contribute to rights-holders getting organised and to strengthening organisations as change agents.



2.1. Explanation of the theory of change

From a human rights perspective the theory of change can be understood as follows: Change takes place through interaction between *rights-holders*, *duty-bearers* and *change agents* in the civil society.

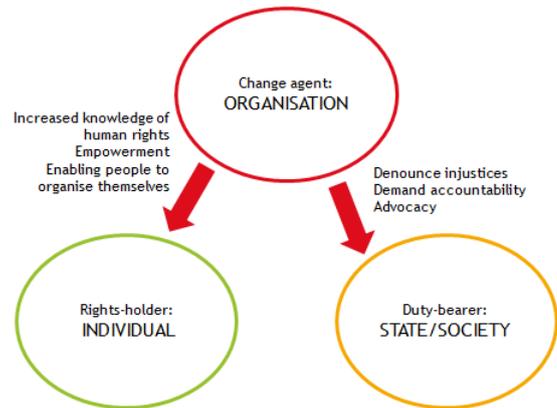
- The rights-holders are individuals whose life conditions the development project aims to change.
- The duty-bearers are the state and government bodies (legal duty-bearers), as well as individuals and organisations in the community (moral duty-bearers), which the development project aims at influencing.
- The change agents are the organisations in civil society which are supported and strengthened by SMC and SMC's member organisations through the development projects.



2.1.1. The impact of the change agents

Through their work with the rights-holders, the change agents contribute to increased knowledge of human rights. They assist in empowering, organising and mobilising the individuals who belong to the group.

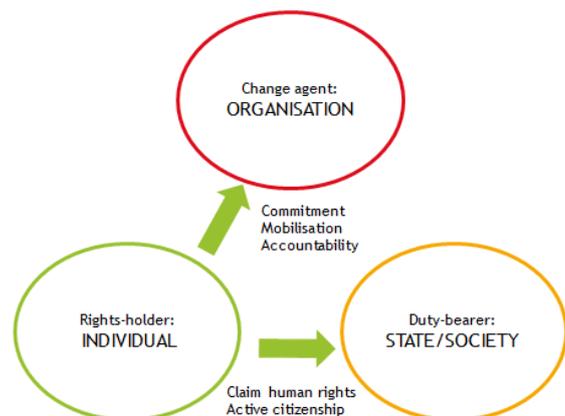
In their work towards the duty-bearers the change agents contribute to monitoring those in power, making proposals, participating in decision making processes, denouncing injustices, demanding accountability and functioning as a channel for advocacy. Organisations can also contribute to democratisation and to changing values, attitudes and behaviour in society.



2.1.2 The impact of the rights-holders

The rights-holders contribute to building, developing and strengthening civil society organisations in their role as change agents through their participation, commitment and mobilisation. When implementing a rights-based approach conditions are also created for the rights-holders to demand accountability from the organisations.

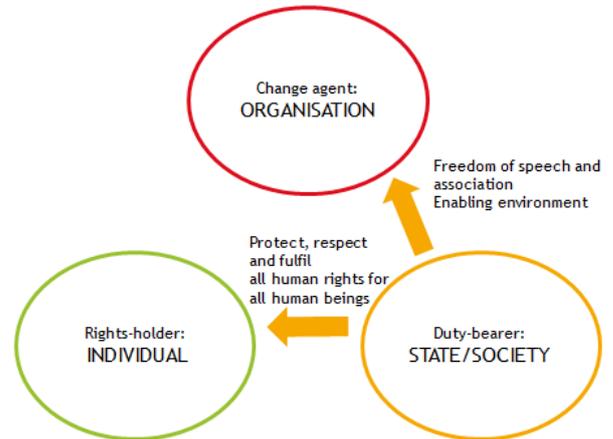
Through increased knowledge and capacity rights-holders are to a greater extent able to participate in society and fully enjoy and make use of their civil and political rights. As active citizens they defend and claim their human rights from the legal and moral duty-bearers and contribute to influencing the development of society.



2.1.3. The impact of the duty-bearers

The duty-bearers affect the possibility of carrying out human rights-based development projects. They also influence the results of the work. An enabling environment for the work of the organisations is crucial for the application of a human rights-based approach. One important factor affecting the organisations' possibilities to work and bring about change in the community is the government's compliance with freedom of speech and freedom of association.

Well-designed rights-based development work will result in changed behaviour of the duty-bearers, which means that they will respect, protect and fulfil all human rights for all human beings.



3. How SMC applies the human rights perspective

The human rights perspective should permeate all development projects supported by SMC, which means that the principles of participation, accountability, non-discrimination and transparency should characterise attitudes, analysis, goals and methods. This section concerns the practical application of these principles for projects funded by SMC.

3.1. Is there only one way to apply the human rights perspective?

To begin with, SMC emphasises that it has no predefined template on how the human rights perspective should be applied. Instead, SMC evaluates the projects based on their *development* towards a strengthened human rights-based approach.

3.2 How to develop a human rights-based approach?

A human rights-based approach is often developed gradually in a process starting with strengthening individuals, as well as mobilising and strengthening the civil society. This creates capacity for local advocacy work which in turn will provide experiences on which to build, so that there can also be advocacy on a national level. The understanding of how a human rights-based approach can be developed and deepened in this way is important for SMC's ability to support its members and partner organisations in their capacity development.

3.3 SMC's conditions

Rather than applying exactly the same conditions for including a human rights perspective in each project, SMC would like to challenge its members and partner organisations to constantly develop their working methods. SMC would like to encourage the organisations to continue their progress in applying a human rights-based approach. SMC's assessments will facilitate this development. SMC wants to support the organisations by strengthening their capacity to use a human rights-based approach and to find good forms for applying it in the contexts where they work. Each suggested project has to be assessed separately as to whether it is sufficiently human rights-based to be accepted.

3.4 SMC's assessment criteria

When SMC assesses development projects it takes into consideration the principles for a human rights perspective and the context of the project, as well as the identity of the partner organisation, its role and capacity. The principles include some basic requirements which all projects need to fulfil, but the specific context determines how the requirements are to be applied in each project. An attachment to this policy contains an instrument for assessing projects, describing both the basic requirements and a more in depth application of the principles.

SMC believes that it is important to make a realistic assessment of risks and conditions in each context, as well as it may sometimes be necessary to challenge the boundaries for what is possible. The development projects supported by SMC should always look for and take advantage of the opportunities to advocate and change the structures of society.

The question which SMC asks when assessing a project is:

→ Is this project sufficiently human rights-based, given the conditions of the context and the capacity of the partner organisation?

3.5 Assessing the context

The way in which the human rights perspective can and should be applied varies from context to context. Some important factors for designing the work are the ability of the government to take responsibility and the degree of democracy, peace and freedom.

A question which has to be asked is: "What are the *enabling and preventing factors* in the current context and how do they affect the design of the development project and the application of the human rights perspective? Depending on the answer to this question, the role of the organisations will to a greater or lesser extent involve:

- Making proposals and being a watch-dog
- Contribute towards the mobilisation and organisation of rights-holders and towards creating channels for advocacy
- Being a counterbalance and a force for democratic development
- Carrying out awareness raising and strengthening people's own capacity to change their situation
- Provide services

3.5.1. The government's ability to take responsibility

The ability of governments to take responsibility differs from country to country and thus the conditions for working with accountability. Income levels in the country and the available resources affect what in practice can be expected of the government. In countries where the government already takes major responsibility for services, social security, education and health, or where they are able to take such responsibility, the role as service provider becomes less relevant for the civil society. Monitoring how the government fulfils its obligations, how resources are distributed and that funds do not disappear through corruption then become important tasks for the organisations. In other contexts it may instead be necessary for the civil society to step in and compensate the government's lack of capacity.

Existing government development programmes for poverty reduction and support for vulnerable groups could in some countries be used by organisations to enhance their advocacy work. Where government transparency is high, and people are granted access to information about the government agencies' activities, budget and expenses, then conditions exist for the civil society to take up its role as a watch-dog to a greater extent.

3.5.2. Democracy, peace and freedom

The degree of democracy, the existence of well-functioning institutions and freedom for the civil society to work are three factors which influence the ability of the civil society to raise its voice and be a channel for advocacy. A repressive government or high levels of conflict in society can create risks for or hinder advocacy work. In some contexts, the civil society is hampered by rigorous demands for registration, different permits which one has to apply for, laws limiting the scope for which issues to work with or strict control and conditions for the work. The security situation in the area may also affect the possibility for the organisations to be transparent. In some cases it may be necessary to keep sensitive information secret.

3.5.3. Service delivery

In some situations it is hard to work with human rights without at the same time delivering social services. SMC supports projects where social services is one component if they are seen as well motivated and strategic and where there is an approach which clearly demonstrates willingness and an effort to develop the work in a human rights-based direction. The

human rights perspective does not exclude social services, if such components fulfil the basic requirements for human rights-based work and contribute to mobilising and organising the rights holders. Social services can even constitute an important prerequisite for strengthening the rights-holders.

3.5.4. Advocacy in difficult contexts

It may be possible to work with advocacy even in countries with very limited resources and/or in authoritarian regimes. Important human rights issues which are not politically controversial may be raised even in an authoritarian or repressive state. Furthermore, respecting human rights may not always incur huge expenses for the state. Scrutinizing the government's budget and finances, conducting talks on how the country's resources should be handled and distributed are just as important in a poor country as in a rich one.

3.6 Assessing the partner organisation

For SMC it is important to recognise that different organisations have different identities, roles and capacities. The requirements which SMC stipulates regarding how the human rights perspective should be applied may therefore differ, depending on the assessment of the partner organisation.

3.6.1. The identity of organisations

The organisations contribute to change in different areas and at different levels of society depending on their different roles. Some work in a very local context while others lift the issues at national level. Some have a specialised competence or a technical niche and others have a broader thematic starting point. For SMC it is important to strengthen organisations based on their own identity. SMC wants to see organisations develop within their roles based on their mandate and not change them into something which they are not.

The human rights perspective is relevant regardless of whether the focus is on local or national change, and no matter what issues an organisation works with. Therefore SMC wants to challenge organisations to strengthen the application of the human rights perspective within the framework of that organisation's specific role and focus. Sometimes it may be motivated to challenge organisations to broaden their activities or to focus on another

level, but the application of the rights perspective does not necessitate that all organisations develop in the same way.

As an umbrella organisation and a network, SMC plays a role in linking different types of organisations with each other. SMC would like to encourage this in the countries where the development projects are implemented. The starting point is that results will improve if different, complementary actors are connected and able to work together towards a common goal.

3.6.2 The capacity and legitimacy of organisations

Some organisations have good knowledge about human rights-based methods and strong capacity to implement a human rights-based approach. Other organisations are weaker in this area and have not acquired as much knowledge and experience of this approach.

Whether an organisation is a relevant actor or not is determined not only by the capacity of the organisation, but also by its *legitimacy*. Legitimacy is a requirement for being able to create participation and commitment among the target group and is also the basis for being a strong and credible voice for change.

An organisation with weak capacity of human rights-based work can at the same time be an important actor with a unique knowledge in its specific field, or a strong relationship to the target group. This gives it a high level of legitimacy. SMC wants to support relevant actors in development work and adapts the level of requirements in assessing how organisations apply the human rights perspective according to the capacity of the organisation. All organisations who receive funding need to be relevant actors with high legitimacy, but the higher the capacity, the higher the demands on how they apply a human rights-based perspective.

3.6.3 The representativeness of the organisations

Sometimes the partner organisations in the development work are run by the rights-holders. They then build their legitimacy on the fact that they are representative. However, the partner organisations are not always “owned” by the rights-holders. Their legitimacy is then based on other factors.

The legitimacy is primarily based on the rights holders’ participation and influence within the organisation, as well as in the development project. The rights-holders need to have confidence in the organisation and its

work. A project has to start from a stated need and an interest among the rights-holders. It has to be understood and accepted by them and they need to have an influence on the focus and the content of the project.

Many partner organisations work in their turn with the rights-holders' own organisations or carry out initiatives which aim at strengthening the rights-holders in getting mobilised. Others may have a strong legitimacy through a broad base in society such as churches, which not only represent a specific group of rights-holders, but can also have a high degree of representation of these groups within the organisation.

It should not be taken for granted that the rights-holders own organisations are always legitimate actors and representative of the group. It is important to examine the power structures within the group and the organisation supposed to represent the group. In order to assess the representativeness and the legitimacy of the organisation it is important to find out how the organisation is governed and how participation and internal democracy works within the organisation.

3.7 The importance of mobilisation and organisation of rights-holders

When developing a human rights-based approach, mobilisation and organisation of rights-holders are important components. SMC's experience shows that a high level of consciousness about human rights is not enough for people to actually start claiming these rights, unless they are able to formulate and develop their demands together with others who are in a similar situation.

When people get together and are encouraged to act together for concrete improvements of the group's life conditions, their participation in community life usually increases, as well as the mobilisation and advocacy concerning human rights issues. This tends to happen even when this is not a specified goal for the project. The ability to demand accountability is further strengthened if there is a conscious connection between getting organised and claiming human rights. SMC has an important role in encouraging its members and partner organisations to work consciously to support people getting organised. This may for example involve considering the added value for democratisation when starting a cooperative, an association or a network.

3.7.1 Speaking up for yourself or on behalf of others

It is important that the rights-holders, as far as possible, are empowered to speak up for themselves. This applies also to children and people with intellectual disabilities. At the same time, organisations, parents and family members can have important voices to defend the interests of the rights-holders in different situations. Assessing whether another person can be a legitimate representative of the rights-holder has to be done from case to case. The starting point for such an assessment has to be whether the representative is safeguarding the rights-holders' interests in a proper way. The perspective of the child or the person with a disability should be normative, not that of the parent or the representative.

The human rights perspective means that the most vulnerable and excluded people should be empowered and given a stronger voice. SMC's experience is that these groups may be reached more effectively if other groups are also involved and participate in the project. A strategy to be used can be focusing on role models. The role models may not always be found among those who live in the deepest poverty or among the most marginalised. By supporting such change agents, the results can sometimes be greater for the group as a whole. In addition, an organisation's transition from service deliverer to other roles could be enabled if the organisation broadens its scope to include not only the most vulnerable people.

Getting people organised is an important key to create broad participation and influence, including the most marginalised, and at the same time supporting role models who can serve as locomotives for the development of the group as a whole. When people get organised a legitimate representation is facilitated, where many can participate in formulating needs and demands, while not everybody needs to stand in the frontline when they are articulated.

In some cases it may be necessary to take a stand for the rights of a vulnerable group and against violations of these rights, even if the group does not see the situation as a problem. It is nevertheless important to always aim to make people conscious of their rights and support the empowerment of people to speak up for themselves.

3.8 The importance of power analysis

An important aspect of the application of the human rights-based approach is ensuring that member and partner organisations focus on the

analysis of power and the effects of unequal power relations as they plan and implement their projects. It is important that the organisations are active in making organisational and context analyses, in order to create awareness and disclose power structures and discrimination, both in the surrounding community and in their own organisations. In this way the work can be carried out in a way that makes it possible for all to participate and benefit from the work on equal terms.

3.8.1 Power and gender

SMC wants to stress the need for a deeper power and gender analysis. Instead of just strengthening women in the framework of existing structures, the activities need to focus more on challenging the power relationships as such. Projects often focus on supporting women and increasing their awareness of their rights, without addressing attitudes, behaviour and norms in society leading to the discrimination of women. For example, a project may include activities aiming at making women's work easier, but where nothing is done to address the root causes of the inequality in the division of labour between men and women.

Sometimes, strengthening women in development projects is just seen as a means to reach other goals, and not as a goal in itself. This represents an instrumental view of women's rights. For SMC it goes without saying that equality and the participation and influence of women are important goals in themselves, which should not be reduced to a means to reach other development goals. This is actually the very essence of the human rights perspective – each individual's right to have his/her human rights respected, regardless of gender or background.

3.8.2 An intersectional approach

SMC believes that it is also important to analyse power relationships within an identified group of rights-holders. A group in society, which for various reasons is vulnerable, discriminated against and lacks full access to human rights, usually also has its own social hierarchies and status levels. A deeper analysis is needed in order to plan projects assuring that nobody is discriminated against and that everybody can participate and benefit from the development created. Which groups within the group are the most vulnerable and powerless? Which groups within the group are those who (relatively speaking) are the most privileged and have most influence?

In order not to overlook the needs and rights of different sub-groups when doing the power analysis, it is necessary to shift between different

viewpoints. How do different factors such as age, gender, educational level, disability, health and sexual orientation affect the access to power and the social status of people? When different aspects are considered simultaneously the approach used is called an intersectional approach.

4. Further reading

Read more about methods and tools on the human rights perspective, religion and development, etc at our [Learning Center on our website](#).

Appendix 1. SMC’s tool for assessing the human rights perspective in development projects

The principles

How are the four principles of the human rights perspective applied in the development project? Are basic requirements not met, met or exceeded? Tick the boxes.

	Does not meet requirements	Meets requirements	Exceeds requirements	Exceeds the requirements considerably
Non-discrimination		<p>A description of measures ensuring that no discrimination takes place within the project.</p> <p>An analysis of power relationships and power structures, including power relationships within the group of rights-holders.</p> <p>The needs of different groups are made visible and especially needs of vulnerable groups are taken into account.</p> <p>Equal opportunities for all to participate. Selection criteria are known, transparent and fair.</p> <p>Selection processes do not lead to discrimination or favouritism.</p>		<p>Awareness of discriminating structures in society and a description of how the project will avoid reproducing these.</p> <p>Well elaborated strategies to actively combat discrimination in society.</p> <p>An intersectional approach is used in the power analysis.</p> <p>Power structures as such are challenged and the project has a focus on creating more equal power relationships.</p>

Non-discrimination	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Methods are designed to lead to broad impact, enabling as many as possible to benefit from the improvements created by the project.
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Participation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <p>Rights-holders are involved and active in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project.</p> <p>Rights-holders describe their situation and formulate their problems and needs.</p> <p>If the rights-holders do not speak for themselves those who represent them are legitimate (e.g. in cases concerning children or persons with intellectual disabilities).</p> <p>Rights-holders are not passive recipients of support, but strengthened to transform the situation themselves.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <p>Rights-holders own their agenda and the initiative, and are proactive in all phases of the project.</p> <p>Cooperation takes place with rights-holders' own organisations, or the rights-holders have a considerable amount of influence over the partner organisation.</p> <p>Especially vulnerable groups of rights-holders (e.g. children or people with intellectual disabilities) are strengthened, to the greatest extent possible, to participate and to speak for themselves.</p> <p>The project contributes to increased participation in society in general by the rights-holders. Increased participation is an objective in itself.</p>
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Accountability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <p>Analysis and identification of underlying causes of the problems to be dealt with in the project.</p> <p>Analysis and identification of the duty- bearers.</p> <p>The organisation has a deliberate approach on how to relate to duty-bearers, other actors and their roles, when designing the project.</p> <p>The project creates awareness among the rights-holders about their rights and about who the duty-bearers are.</p> <p>Any elements of service delivery are organised in a sustainable way which does not create dependency among the target group, but rather strengthens the rights of the group and/or facilitates mobilisation and organisation of the rights-holders.</p> <p>The project includes specific components for the mobilisation and organisation of the rights-holders.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <p>Strategies are formulated to address the causes of the problems and lead to structural change in society.</p> <p>There is involvement of or advocacy towards duty-bearers at different levels of society.</p> <p>Advocacy is coordinated with other actors.</p> <p>The project builds capacity among the rights-holder to demand accountability and to defend their rights.</p> <p>The project is, to a large extent, focused on mobilising and organising the rights-holders in order to strengthen their voice and ability to advocate for their rights.</p>
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Transparency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <p>The rights-holders have access to documentation concerning the project.</p> <p>The rights-holders are kept informed about decisions taken by the implementing organisation.</p> <p>The rights-holders are continuously kept informed of the results of the project, of lessons learnt and of important changes in the project. The information is easy to understand.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <p>Policies, systems and routines have been developed for communication and feedback to the rights-holders.</p> <p>The rights-holders have the opportunity to give feedback on the reports given by the organisation on implementation and results.</p> <p>A formalised process for handling complaints from the rights-holders is set up (“Complaints and response mechanism”).</p>
Overall assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Context

What are the possibilities for applying a human rights-based approach in the current context?

<input type="checkbox"/> Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Weak	<input type="checkbox"/> Very weak
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In the assessment, the following aspects should be considered:

- ✓ Degree of democracy and respect for civil and political rights
- ✓ Presence of functioning social institutions
- ✓ Level of corruption at different levels in society
- ✓ Freedom for the civil society to operate
- ✓ Degree of development of the civil society
- ✓ Existence of violence and armed conflict
- ✓ Level of economic development
- ✓ Existence of government programmes for development and poverty reduction
- ✓ Level of transparency in state institutions
- ✓ Other facilitating or impeding factors

The organisation

What is the capacity (experience, knowledge and ability) to use a human rights-based approach in the partner organisation?

<input type="checkbox"/> Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Weak	<input type="checkbox"/> Very weak
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To what extent does the partner organisation seem to be a relevant and important actor regarding the issue, the geographical area and group of rights-holders that the project addresses?

<input type="checkbox"/> Very relevant	<input type="checkbox"/> Relevant	<input type="checkbox"/> Less relevant	<input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
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To what extent does the partner organisation seem to have legitimacy in relation to the rights-holders?

<input type="checkbox"/> Very high	<input type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Very low
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To what extent is there commitment and potential of the partner organisation to develop its capacity to apply a human rights-based approach?

<input type="checkbox"/> Very high	<input type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Very low
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Overall assessment

Is the project sufficiently human rights-based, given the conditions of the context and the capacity of the partner organisation?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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Explain!

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What does the partner organisation need to work on in order for the project to become more human rights-based? SMC's recommendations:

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