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**Environmental assessment of interventions financed through the Sida Civil Society Grant - *Support through Swedish organizations in civil society***

Background

SMC's member organizations support activities that are carried out in an environment where climate change is becoming increasingly apparent, while the utilization of natural resources takes place in an unsustainable and unequal way. In more and more parts of the world, farming is becoming increasingly difficult as the availability of water is threatened. In 50 years, the world around us has changed significantly through an explosive increase in global trade and consumption, increased population growth and rapid urbanization. These factors are also driving biodiversity reduction at a rate never seen before.

Many states have made global commitments according to the climate change, the environmental degradation and the decline in biodiversity, but they are not always respected. The world's decision-makers (and thus the duty-bearers) have not yet made sufficient contribution to a green and rights-based transition, necessary to achieve global goals within, among others, Agenda 2030, the Paris Agenda, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Sendai Framework.

SMC needs to pick up the pace and do the right things with the resources and skills available within the network - in a situation where the values ​​and rights we work for are strongly challenged.

An environmental assessment is a planning tool that can help member organizations and partners to plan interventions that, to a greater extent, contribute to green transition.

Purpose

An environmental assessment is a tool/method for analyzing an intervention’s (project, program or core support) impact on the environment but also the impact of the environment on the intervention.

Carrying out an environmental assessment is mandatory for all interventions that SMC/Sida supports. As a partner to Sida, SMC is responsible for ensuring that the member organization, together with its partner, makes this assessment.

The intention of the assessment is to lay the foundation for good integration of environment and climate in activities financed via SMC/Sida.

Environmental assessment is used to identify and analyze which environmental risks the intervention has, how vulnerable the intervention is to e.g. climate change and what opportunities it has to contribute positively to an improved environment, increased biological diversity and a more stable climate.

Implementation

The environmental assessment must ensure quality and actual integration of an environmental and climate perspective. Results from the assessment must be reflected in the intervention's context analysis, risk analysis, goals/results, activities, budget. Note that the environmental assessment needs to be context-specific and therefore individual projects within a program must also be assessed. However, the environmental assessment of interventions within a program is reported back to SMC on an aggregated level.

When carrying out the environmental assessment, the member organization (MO) in collaboration with the cooperation partner (CP) needs to start from the following questions:

1. Opportunities to contribute **positively** to a more environmentally sustainable development via the intervention.

How can **opportunities** be apprehended and strengthened?

1. Risks of negative environmental impact (direct and indirect) in the implementation of the intervention.

How can **risks** be avoided, reduced, and managed?

1. **Vulnerability** and **risks** linked to environmental and climate changes, which may affect the possibilities of reaching the goals of the intervention or affect the sustainability of the intervention.

How can risks and vulnerabilities affect the intervention, partners, and different target groups (women, men, boys, girls, etc.)? How can risks and vulnerabilities affect the results, relevance, and sustainability of the intervention? How can identified risks and vulnerabilities be avoided, reduced, and managed?

1. Suggestions for **measures** and **activities** to deal with the conclusions of the analysis.

The environmental assessment must therefore result in proposals/recommendations with a timetable for measures and follow-up.

1. Assessment of **competence** and **capacity** in the organization to integrate environment/climate perspectives.

What knowledge, skills and resources are needed in the organization? Is there a need to strengthen this? Does the organization's system or structure need to be reviewed (e.g., environmental management system, environmental policy, guidelines, tools)?

Examples of possible environmental gains that can be utilized and perhaps further strengthened.

Can the intervention:

* contribute to the preservation of the environment, biological diversity, manage natural resources effectively or minimize emissions etc.?
* increase awareness of the environment and human rights?
* consider green jobs by promoting sustainable agricultural methods, a more climate-adapted agriculture, sustainable fishing, sustainable energy production or other green businesses?
* work with implementation and application of environmental laws etc.
* participate in and run environmental campaigns or advocacy work regarding clean water, climate, air pollution, against deforestation, climate justice etc.?
* create platforms for cooperation between environmental organizations and rights organizations?

How can the interventions be designed to strengthen the actions based on the examples above?

Examples of risks for the environment and the climate linked to implementation of the intervention.

Direct impact (from office)

* Transport
* Use of electricity
* Material purchases
* Waste

Indirect impact (from the intervention)

* Emissions of pollutants
* Impact on land, water, air
* Impact on biodiversity
* Use of pesticides or other chemicals
* Use of large amounts of electricity, water, or other natural resources

How can the intervention be designed to avoid or reduce these risks?