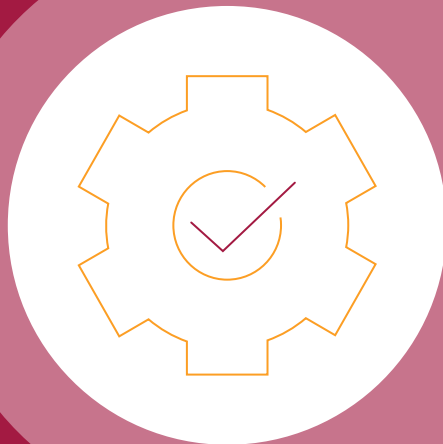


THE HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH
TO DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING

HRBA TOOLKIT



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Foreword

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed the inherent human rights and dignity of all people. Importantly it states that “*All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights*”.¹ Since its adoption, it has become a fundamental framework for the work of the United Nations, which, along with the United Nations Charter, allow for the freedoms and rights that people everywhere need to play their part in shaping a peaceful, inclusive and sustainable future.

Currently the world faces multiple and deepening crises, including the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss, the after-effects of COVID-19, and food, energy and financial crises. There is a reversal in progress and development gains, a shrinking of civic space, increasing inequalities and intersectional discrimination which is exposing deep vulnerabilities in economies and societies and limiting the progress needed for many countries to step out of a cycle of crisis.

At this critical time, we are reminded of the Secretary-General’s Our Common Agenda, which describes human rights as a “problem-solving” measure that can help us tackle contemporary development challenges and accelerate progress toward the 2030 Agenda. The 2024 Pact for the Future recognizes the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of human rights and reaffirms that the three pillars of the United Nations – sustainable development, peace and security, and human rights – are equally important, interlinked and mutually reinforcing. We cannot have one without the others.

UNDP has been integrating human rights into its programmes and policies since 1998. In 2023, as the world gathered to celebrate 75 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UNDP pledged to improve our rights-based programming for sustainable development, ensuring that no one is left behind in development progress. This Toolkit aims to improve the effectiveness of UNDP to bring HRBA to life in development programming by demonstrating its relevance as a problem solver of contemporary development challenges.

Utilizing HRBA in development programming can help UNDP improve how it delivers for populations and governments around the world. It can be an enabler of progress, engaging whole of societies, systems and unpacking development challenges whilst providing solutions pathways and helping us to anticipate, prevent and manage risks. At UNDP, we believe that human rights can be a preventive, protective and transformative force, guiding societies towards stability, prosperity and equality.

Most importantly, it will assist us in upholding human dignity, fundamental for all human progress.



Shoko Noda
**Assistant Secretary-General,
Assistant Administrator
and Director of the Crisis
Bureau**
United Nations Development
Programme



Marcos Neto
**Assistant Secretary General,
Assistant Administrator and
Director of the Bureau for
Policy and Programme Support**
United Nations Development
Programme

1 Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights [Illustrated Universal Declaration of Human Rights | OHCHR](#).

How to Use this Toolkit

This UNDP Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) Toolkit aims to introduce and highlight practical ways in which UNDP can mainstream human rights across our work. The primary audience is UNDP staff, and it may also benefit development practitioners and partners in technical cooperation more broadly.

The Toolkit is built on over twenty years of experience in mainstreaming human rights in UNDP and is informed by a listening and learning exchange involving 36 country offices on mainstreaming human rights and the use of HRBA in UNDP to inform the practical relevance of the contents. It also benefits from the reflections, knowledge and ongoing experiences shared by colleagues through a Reference Group established for its development and extensive consultation and peer review with partners and stakeholders.

In practical terms, the Toolkit aims to:

- Promote a better understanding of HRBA as a vital problem-solving tool for contemporary development challenges
- Improve the impact and effectiveness of UNDP programming through using practical HRBA tools to be applied and integrated at critical entry points in the programme development process
- Ensure coherence in UNDP's application of HRBA by aligning it with existing processes, such as UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards and Quality Assurance processes
- Strengthen UNDP's coordination and advisory capacities by advancing HRBA with development stakeholders through clear, concise and accessible HRBA tools and thought leadership

The Toolkit is structured into two sections:

Section 1 The Human Rights-Based Approach and Sustainable Development – the 'What'	Section 2 Applying HRBA in UNDP Programming – the 'How-To'
<p>This section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Demonstrates the interlinkages between human rights and sustainable development and peace→ Introduces HRBA, including how it can be an effective problem-solving mechanism for development programming→ Highlights the United Nations and UNDP history of mainstreaming human rights and applying HRBA to development programming→ Highlights key components of HRBA: the human rights standards, principles and tools	<p>This section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Outlines the methodology for a three-step human rights analysis and coherence with programming processes with relevant corporate requirements→ Unpacks how to apply HRBA through use of the PLANET framework, to instil international human rights principles and standards throughout the UNDP project cycle

Annexes break down how human rights standards are relevant for the six signature solutions outlined in the current UNDP Strategic Plan and other information.

The Toolkit is not prescriptive, and strategies will need to continue to be tailored to specific development challenges. As more lessons are learned from the application of HRBA in development programming, this toolkit can be updated to ensure it remains dynamic and applicable.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

CAT	Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
CCA	Common Country Analysis
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSO	Civil society organization
FPIC	Free, prior and informed consent
GA	United Nations General Assembly
GEWE	Gender equality and women's empowerment
HRBA	Human rights-based approach to development programming
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICPPED	International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
LNOB	Leave no one behind
OHCHR	United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
PLANET	Participation, Link, Accountability, Non-discrimination and equality, Empowerment and capacity-development, Transparency.
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SECU	Social and Environmental Compliance Unit
SES	Social and Environmental Standards
SESP	Social and Environmental Screening Procedure
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UPR	Universal Periodic Review

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SECTION 1

The Human Rights-Based Approach and Sustainable Development



SECTION 1

The Human Rights-Based Approach and Sustainable Development

1.1 Human Rights, Sustainable Development and Peace

The United Nations is founded on the principles of peace, justice, freedom, and human rights. The Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) adopted by the General Assembly in 1945, are foundational documents which outline the promotion and protection of human rights as a key purpose and guiding principle of the United Nations.² A series of additional human rights treaties and instruments have since been adopted by Member States to expand the body of international human rights law, ultimately allowing for the freedoms and rights that people everywhere need to play their part in shaping a peaceful, inclusive and sustainable future for all.



INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS FRAMEWORK

The instruments of the international human rights framework are the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and nine core human rights treaties:

- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- The International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- The Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
- The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CPRD)

- The International Convention the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW)
- The International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED)

All UN Member States have ratified at least one core international human rights treaty, and **80 percent have ratified four or more**. These instruments outline rights and duties of States and seek to ensure that all people including racial or ethnic groups, women, children, people with disabilities, sexual and gender minorities, and other historically marginalized and vulnerable groups are not left behind in their enjoyment of human dignity and rights.

² Protect Human Rights', United Nations. Available at: <https://www.un.org/en/our-work/protect-human-rights>.

The Sustainable Development Goals and leaving no one behind

The 2030 Agenda, agreed to by Member States, declares that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) “seek to realise the human rights of all” and to ensure that “all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment”.³ Human dignity is integral to sustainable development.

The SDGs are firmly grounded in international human rights law and the right to development.⁴ Over 90 percent of the corresponding 169 targets for the 17 SDGs are linked to international human rights instruments, including human rights or labor standards.⁵



Source: Danish Institute for Human Rights, Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The United Nations and our partners are supporting countries to fulfil their human rights obligations, not only because it is the right thing to do, but also because it is fundamental to achieving the Global Goals, from reducing poverty to advancing gender equality.

Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator, 10 December 2022

Statement by the UNDP Administrator on the occasion of Human Rights Day

3 Preamble of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

4 See A/RES/70/1 Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (un.org), para 10

5 See 'Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Lessons Learned and Next Steps', Danish Institute for Human Rights (2018). Available at: https://www.humanrights.dk/sites/humanrights.dk/files/media/dokumenter/sdg/hr_and_2030_agenda-web_2018.pdf
See 'Human Rights and SDG systems integration: Beyond linkages, data and efficiency to leave no one behind', UNDP (2024). Available at: <https://www.undp.org/publications/dfs-human-rights-and-sdg-systems-integration-beyond-linkages-data-and-efficiency-leave-no-one-behind>

A central pledge and guiding principle of the 2030 Agenda is to leave no one behind (LNOB) and to have a particular focus on those furthest left behind – to ensure they have a seat at the table and are empowered as active agents of sustainable development.⁶ The transformational concept of LNOB is grounded in the human rights principles of non-discrimination and equality.

The LNOB principle is critical to addressing inequalities and it is especially important to pay attention to unequal progress across populations and how barriers toward progress disproportionately impact the marginalized and left behind in our societies. Groups and populations that face structural or long-standing barriers to development can be overlooked, under-represented or the complexity and/or the intersectionality of the challenges and barriers they face can override progress.



The right to development

The United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development underscores the inalienable right of all individuals and peoples to actively participate in, contribute to, and benefit from economic, social, cultural, and political development.

It defines development as a comprehensive process aimed at the continuous improvement of the well-being of the entire population. The right to development emphasizes the importance of active, free, and meaningful participation in participatory development processes and the equitable distribution of the resulting benefits. It promotes policies that address structural barriers such as poverty, inequality, and discrimination.

Recognizing the interconnectedness between human rights and sustainable development will help ensure that development is sustainable, equitable, and inclusive, and that no one is left behind in the pursuit of progress.

... the three pillars of the United Nations – sustainable development, peace and security, and human rights – are equally important, interlinked and mutually reinforcing. We cannot have one without the others

The Pact for the Future, Sept 2024

6 For more information on applying LNOB to development programming please see 'What does it mean to leave no one behind? A UNDP discussion paper and framework for implementation', UNDP (2018): https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/publications/Discussion_Paper_LNOB_EN_lres.pdf
See also 'Operationalizing Leaving No One Behind: Good Practices Note for UN Country Teams', UNSDG (2022): <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/leaving-no-one-behind-unsdg-operational-guide-un-country-teams>



Protecting rights in crisis and conflict

Human rights abuses are heightened in war and conflict. Evidence shows that erosion of rights can be the root cause of violence and conflict, and violent conflict can be the product of a deficit in human rights and an under-investment in development. Countries whose governments disregard human rights are at a greater risk of violent conflict.⁷ By preventing human rights violations, the foundation can be laid to prevent violence and sustain peace.

The Secretary-General emphasized that human rights provide a critical foundation for prevention of violent conflict.⁸ Understanding the link between human rights violations and conflict, and the preventive effect of human rights, complements and reinforces conflict-sensitivity and peacebuilding approaches. It particularly highlights the impact of conflict on people, especially those most vulnerable or at risk of being left behind, which is especially needed in crisis contexts where civilians can become targets of indiscriminate killings, displacement and sexual violence. Support that is formulated on the basis of human rights principles and standards reinforces conflict sensitivity and the building of sustainable peace.⁹

The erosion of human rights is both a harbinger of conflict and its consequence. Protecting human rights is not only a moral obligation but a pragmatic strategy for global stability.

Shoko Noda,
Assistant Secretary General, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Crisis Bureau,
United Nations Development Programme
'How can we protect human rights while global conflict rages?' 2024

Member States have a responsibility to respect, protect and fulfil human rights and they have recognized and encouraged the United Nations to promote human rights for sustainable development. The 2024 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations system calls upon, “*all entities of the United Nations development system, in accordance with their respective mandates, to assist Governments, upon their request and in consultation with them, in their efforts to respect and fulfil their human rights obligations and commitments under international law, as a critical tool to operationalize the pledge to leave no one behind*”.¹⁰

Supporting Member States to operationalize their human rights commitments in line with international standards and using key principles to do so – essentially using HRBA to development programming – will assist Member States in their obligations to respect, protect and fulfil human rights. It will also help them address contemporary development problems and make progress towards the SDGs, leaving no one behind and sustaining peace.

7 *Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict*. World Bank and United Nations, 2018, p. xxii. https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/Pathways-for-peace_web.pdf, p. xxii.

8 *The Highest Aspiration. A Call to Action for Human Rights*, page 5.

9 UNSDG Good Practice Note: Conflict Sensitivity, Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace. United Nations, 2022. <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/good-practice-note-conflict-sensitivity-peacebuilding-and-sustaining-peace>, page 16.

10 *United Nations, Human Rights Council, A/HRC/WG.6/45/QAT/1*, 23 December 2024, Para 33. <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/td/n24/360/86/pdf/n2436086.pdf>.

1.2

The United Nations and Human Rights-Based Approaches to Development Programming

In 1993 the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action was unanimously adopted to set a common plan for the strengthening of human rights, recognizing that democracy, development, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. In the United Nations Programme for Reform that was launched in 1997, the Secretary-General called on all entities of the United Nations system to mainstream human rights into their various activities and programmes within the framework of their respective mandates, including in development and humanitarian areas.

Between 1997 and 2003, several United Nations agencies adopted HRBA to their development programming and gained varied experiences in its operationalization and interpretation including UNDP, which introduced its first policy to integrate human rights into human development programming in 1998.

In 2003, the United Nations system adopted a Common Understanding on HRBA,¹¹ which indicates that:

- All programmes of development cooperation, policies and technical assistance should further the realization of human rights as laid down in the UDHR and other international human rights instruments.
- Human rights standards contained in, and principles derived from, the UDHR and other international human rights instruments guide all development cooperation and programming in all sectors and in all phases of the programming process.

↳ DUTY BEARERS



States are the primary duty bearers with the obligation to “respect, protect and fulfil” the rights within the treaties ratified by them. This means that the State must:

- **respect** and not itself breach human rights
- **protect** people from breaches by non-State actors, such as the private sector
- **fulfil** to create conditions for the progressively realization the fulfilment of all human rights

The State duty to protect includes the duty of the State to protect people from their rights being abused by private actors, including businesses. Businesses, as non-State actors, are not duty bearers but instead have a responsibility to respect human rights under the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

↳ RIGHTS HOLDERS



Rights holders are all people everywhere who enjoy human rights inherent to us all regardless of nationality, sex, national or ethnic origin, color, religion,

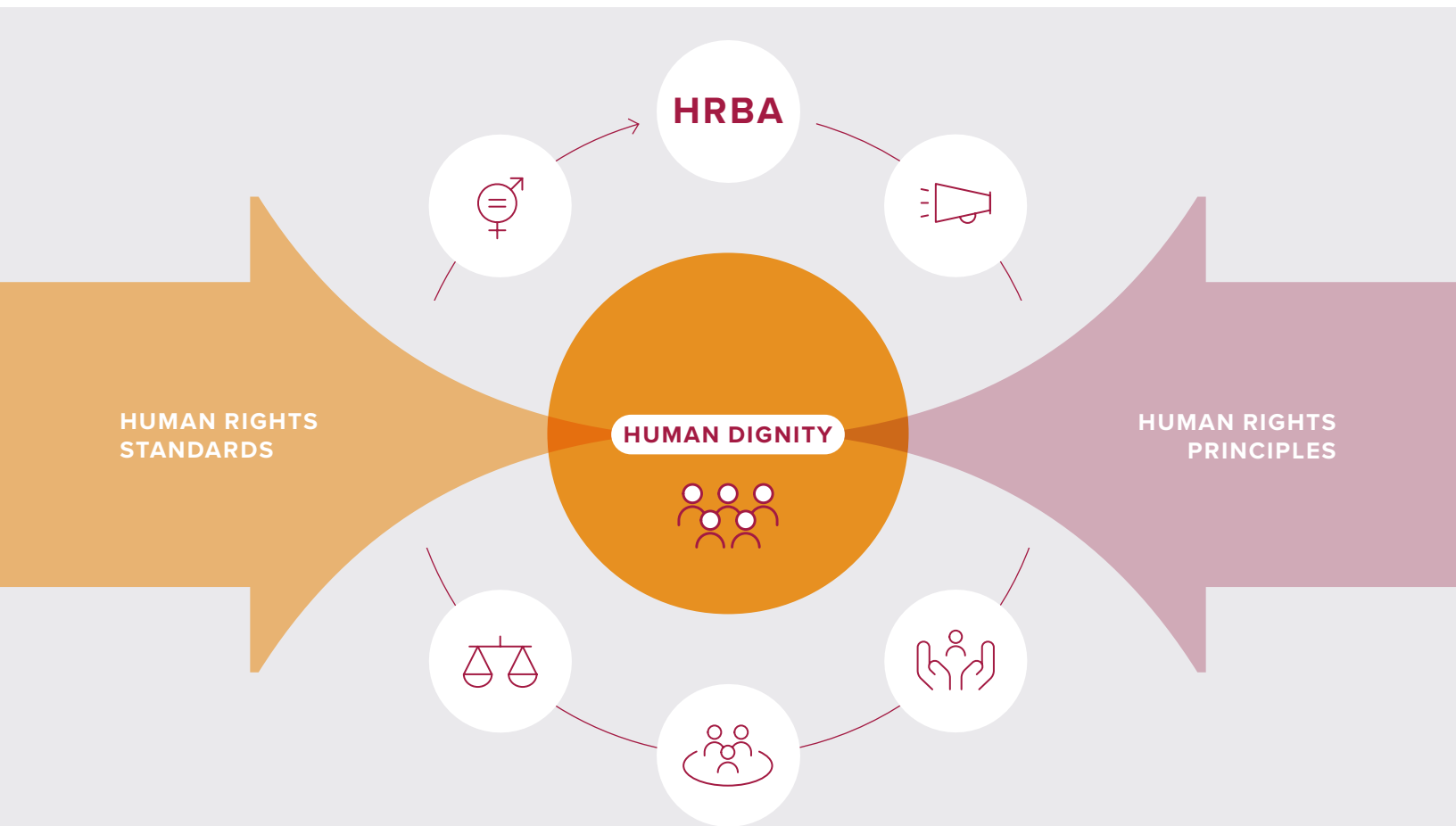
language, or any other status. These rights are **universal** and **inalienable**, and they are **indivisible** and **interdependent**.

¹¹ 'The Human Rights Based Approach to Development Cooperation Towards a Common Understanding Among UN Agencies', UN (2003). Available at: https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/6959-The_Human_Rights_Based_Approach_to_Development_Cooperation_Towards_a_Common_Understanding_among_UN.pdf.

- Development cooperation contributes to the development of the capacities of ‘duty bearers’ to meet their obligations and/or of ‘rights holders’ to claim their rights.
- HRBA is one of the six Guiding Principles of the [United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework](#), with additional companion pieces providing guidance to United Nations country teams being developed over time, including the most recently-updated [Common Learning Package on HRBA \(2022\)](#).

The United Nations Common Understanding on HRBA requires that human rights should inform the outcome and the process of policies and programmes. Human rights standards are particularly useful for guiding the formulation of desired outcomes, while human rights principles can especially guide the processes of policy and programme design and implementation.

- **Human rights standards** and analysis provide a tremendous wealth of guidance and information on how to protect and promote human rights and how to advance sustainable development without leaving anyone behind – essentially what needs to happen to promote human rights and sustainable development for all, grounded in international law and the legal obligations that Member States have voluntarily entered in to.



Human rights standards can influence development processes, and human rights principles can impact development outcomes. Utilizing HRBA therefore requires attention to both the process and the outcome of development, through the application of human rights standards and principles. It is both the principles and standards of HRBA that ensure that human dignity is integral to both the process as well as the outcomes of development programming.

- HRBA takes that further by positioning the **human rights principles** of equality and non-discrimination, the rule of law, and inclusive and meaningful participation as fundamental to progress towards all the SDGs.
- Therefore, adopting HRBA to development programming requires an understanding of how development projects either advance or undermine human rights standards and principles. Human rights standards and principles are contained in international and regional treaties and outline the obligations on Governments with respect to human rights. Human rights standards are further interpreted and shaped by the international human rights monitoring and reporting mechanisms, the Special Procedures and Investigative Bodies of the Human Rights Council, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Applying such interpretations and guidance of standards to development programming is critical in assisting States in meeting their obligations under international human rights law, drawing on the work of independent experts, the international community, and practical thematic or country specific experiences.

1.3 Human Rights-Based Approach as a Problem-Solving Tool

The Secretary-General's [Our Common Agenda](#) describes human rights as a “problem-solving measure” that can help us tackle contemporary development challenges and accelerate progress toward the 2030 Agenda.¹² Contemporary development challenges are multi-faceted and can be inter-related with many different issues, processes, stakeholders and be manifested by the interaction between them.

At the United Nations Development Programme, we are leveraging human rights as a ‘problem-solving’ tool in virtually every facet of our work and support.







Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator
Address to the Human Rights Council, 28 February 2022

¹² Page 6, [Our Common Agenda: Report of the Secretary General](#), 2021.

HRBA




PROGRAMMING



- 01 HRBA ENABLES PROGRESS ON THE SDGs 
- 02 HRBA COMPLEMENTS GEWE AND LNOB 
- 03 HRBA PROMOTES SYSTEMS THINKING 
- 04 HRBA ENABLES DATA AND EVIDENCE INFORMED ACTIONS 
- 05 HRBA HELPS PREVENTION AND EARLY WARNING 
- 06 HRBA REINFORCES CONFLICT-SENSITIVITY AND RISK MANAGEMENT 

POWER



- 07 HRBA ENABLES ACTION AGAINST THE ROOT CAUSES OF INEQUALITY IN SOCIETY 
- 08 HRBA ADDRESSES POWER IMBALANCES 
- 09 HRBA ENABLES A WHOLE OF SOCIETY APPROACH 

POLITICAL



- 10 HRBA HELPS PROGRESS ON POLITICALLY SENSITIVE ISSUES 
- 11 HRBA SHORES UP POLITICAL COMMITMENT AND SUPPORTS MEMBER STATES 

01 HRBA ENABLES PROGRESS ON THE SDGs



HRBA is critical in providing governments with increased accountability for the achievement of the SDGs by linking the SDGs with underlying human rights treaty obligations and Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations made to States. Human rights systems and the information and data they produce, can also be used to significant effect in SDG reporting and follow-up.¹³

02 HRBA COMPLEMENTS GEWE AND LNOB



Advancing GEWE requires a gender dimension based on human rights across all policies, underlined by the need to eradicate gender stereotypes, prejudices, practices and inequalities.

HRBA is based on legal obligations of States and LNOB is a political commitment and the central promise to address inequalities in the 2030 Agenda, which is itself grounded in international law, including human rights. As with HRBA, LNOB places those at heightened risk of marginalization and vulnerability at the centre of development as it aims to address multiple and often-compounding discriminations leading to challenges and obstacles to inclusion, focusing on those left furthest behind.¹⁴ HRBA can be a critical tool for the implementation of LNOB approaches in development.

HRBA, LNOB and GEWE are all interlinked and mutually reinforcing.

The key human rights principles of non-discrimination and equality are key elements of gender equality, HRBA and LNOB. All three are all common programming principles for United Nations Country Teams and the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (SES).

03 HRBA PROMOTES SYSTEMS THINKING



A systems-thinking approach means engaging all actors who systemically interact and have influence on each other. It focuses on understanding and addressing complex issues by examining the interconnectedness, root causes, dynamics and interactions of different elements to develop more effective solutions and drive long-term transformative change.

An important element to the systems-thinking approach facilitated by HRBA is the focus on bringing out both individual and collective lived experiences from rights holders and communities respectively. Often referred to as a 'people-centred approach', essentially prioritizing the understanding of the challenges faced by rights holders, which requires a deeper understanding of local contexts and lived experiences so that solutions to advance people's rights can be relevant to that local context. CSOs can play a critical role in bringing to the fore the voices of rights holders to both understand their experiences and address development challenges, in particular CSOs representing or acting in the interests of those at heightened risk of marginalization.

In assessing both development challenges and possible solutions, HRBA identifies a wide range of actors **critical to changing the power dynamics between rights holders and duty bearers through a systems-thinking approach.**

¹³ See, 'Human Rights and Voluntary National Reviews: An Operational Common Approach Guidance Note', UNDP and OHCHR (2022). Available at: <https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2022-07/UNDP-UNHCHR-Human-Rights-and-Voluntary-National-Review.pdf>

¹⁴ For more information on the complementary and distinctions between HRBA and LNOB see 'Operationalizing Leaving No One Behind', UNSDG (2022) page 10. Available at: <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/leaving-no-one-behind-unsdg-operational-guide-un-country-teams>.

04 HRBA ENABLES DATA AND EVIDENCE INFORMED ACTIONS



Utilizing the wealth of information and analysis from human rights mechanisms that are relevant to understanding contemporary development problems can form the basis of concrete actions to combat the human rights impacts of those problems. Disaggregated data and evidence can specifically show how populations most left behind are impacted, which is critical to address power imbalances. **This promotes strong data- and evidence-informed proposals and actions to addressing development challenges.**

05 HRBA HELPS PREVENTION AND EARLY WARNING



HRBA analysis supports foresight and early-warning capabilities by identifying civil, political, economic, social, cultural, environmental, and developmental inadequacies and inequalities. This analysis draws upon human rights standards and the SDGs, enabling a problem-solving approach relevant to all dimensions of crisis: anticipating crisis, in protracted crisis and post-crisis. **The protection, respect and fulfilment of human rights are foundational for preventing crisis.**¹⁵

06 HRBA REINFORCES CONFLICT-SENSITIVITY AND RISK MANAGEMENT



UNDP is committed to ‘do no harm’ principles in our programming. Utilizing HRBA goes beyond doing no harm to furthering and upholding human rights in our work. By conducting a human rights analysis of impacts of development programming, we can help identify risks to people and communities. **Having a heightened understanding of human rights risks enables effective risk management and mitigation measures.**

The joint United Nations-World Bank report *Pathways for Peace* suggests that violent conflict is driven by unaddressed grievances, inequalities and lack of participation, and “exclusion from access to power, opportunity, services, and security creates fertile ground for mobilizing group grievances to violence, especially in areas with weak State capacity or legitimacy or in the context of human rights abuses”.¹⁶

HRBA principles ensure that resources are devoted to addressing grievances (accountability) and reducing inequality (non-discrimination and equality) while empowering people to participate in seeking solutions to the problems that affect their lives (participation).¹⁷

¹⁵ UNDP's Crisis Risk Dashboard (CRD) is a data analytics and visualization platform developed by UNDP's Crisis Bureau that includes human rights focused early warning and prevention. For more please see: <https://data.undp.org/products/crisis-risk-dashboard>;

¹⁶ World Bank and United Nations. *Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict*. Washington, DC: World Bank, 2018, p. xviii. Available at: https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/Pathways-for-peace_web.pdf

¹⁷ UNSDG Good Practice Note: Conflict Sensitivity, Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace. United Nations, 2022. <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/good-practice-note-conflict-sensitivity-peacebuilding-and-sustaining-peace>

07 HRBA ENABLES ACTION AGAINST THE ROOT CAUSES OF INEQUALITY IN SOCIETY



Rights holders are not a homogenous group, and many individuals and groups often face multiple layers of discrimination in society, which undermines their rights. **HRBA prioritizes understanding intersectional discrimination and inequality – both formal and substantive - and its root causes.**

08 HRBA ADDRESSES POWER IMBALANCES



Central to HRBA is the framing of development challenges based on the **analysis of dynamics and relationships between rights holders on one hand, and duty bearers on the other**, between people and the State institutions that govern them. This framing helps to highlight the deep roots of development challenges that may seem technical or easily resolvable on the surface, but are actually rooted in **structural or power inequalities**, such as economic, cultural, familial, religious, or social dimensions. HRBA can orientate development programming and possible solutions toward these deep-rooted challenges considering **power dynamics** that are often missed through traditional development models. Conducting a political economy analysis as part of HRBA can help in understanding and addressing power imbalances in development programming.

09 HRBA ENABLES A WHOLE OF SOCIETY APPROACH



As HRBA fosters accountability between duty bearers and rights holders, this could range from public sector officials to community organizers, businesses, financial institutions, civil society organizations (CSOs), trade unions, and the informal sector. **Engaging the whole of society** is critical, involving not only governments, but also national legislatures, civil society, and human rights defenders, along with other associated stakeholders, recognizing their respective roles as duty bearers or rights holders.

The State is usually the main duty bearer, although there can be other stakeholders with different duties and responsibilities.¹⁸ Amongst duty bearers, there can be different levels, at the central or local levels, for example, that will act as duty bearers, but the role may differ considering their mandate or capacity to impact on rights holders. Rights holders play a critical role in realizing their own rights, in how they engage and advocate with duty bearers on fulfilling their obligations.

The engagement of rights holders is critical in advancing a whole of society approach, by challenging 'top-down' and overly centralized development processes. Engaging private sector actors, which have responsibilities to respect human rights, is also critical given the significant impact they have on people and communities. As HRBA involves all stakeholders, including duty bearers and rights holders, it can act as a convening force / mechanism to bring together and strengthen engagement across society.

¹⁸ For example, according to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the family can be a duty bearer. Businesses also are recognized to have a more limited scope as duty bearers.

10

HRBA HELPS PROGRESS ON POLITICALLY SENSITIVE ISSUES



Recommendations from the United Nations human rights mechanisms, such as treaty bodies or the Human Rights Councils' UPR process, have proven to be productive entry points to advocate and address politically sensitive development challenges. All Member States participate in the UPR process and are subject to the same process of review. This political willingness, together with governments accepting recommendations, creates political space for the United Nations to discuss human rights issues and support governments in addressing such issues – some of which can be considered politically or otherwise sensitive.¹⁹ Utilizing HRBA in politically sensitive environments can assist with **a greater understanding of the factors and constraints around a development issue** and in designing effective solutions despite such political sensitivities and complexities.

11

HRBA SHORES UP POLITICAL COMMITMENT AND SUPPORTS MEMBER STATES



Human rights obligations derive from customary international law and can also be the result of Member States voluntarily becoming State Parties to treaties and normative frameworks. This is a legal commitment made by the State but also a political commitment to deliver on their obligations. HRBA **raises awareness of authorities about the role of the State as a duty bearer** and of their responsibilities as public service providers while **providing technical support** to deliver on these commitments, including by providing interpretations of how human rights standards and principles are applied in different thematic or country specific contexts through the human rights treaty bodies and Special Procedures mechanism.

¹⁹ See 'UN Good Practices: How the Universal Periodic Review Process Supports Sustainable Development', UNDP (2022). Available at: <https://www.undp.org/publications/un-good-practices-how-universal-periodic-review-process-supports-sustainable-development>.



Human rights-based approaches, leaving no one behind, gender equality and women's empowerment and people-centredness

HRBA requires a comprehensive analysis of the different human rights impacts, including as experienced by different groups. HRBA is highly complementary to other core programming principles of UNDP and United Nations Country Teams.

HRBA advances the LNOB principle of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Central to LNOB is addressing the root causes of people being left furthest behind, including discrimination, exclusion, inequality, and reducing vulnerabilities and marginalization experienced by individuals, families and communities. The barriers many people face in accessing services and opportunities are often not due to lack of availability, but instead the result of decisions and practices that leave such groups further behind and governments unaccountable for their obligations to such groups. LNOB is grounded in international human rights, therefore HRBA is the key enabler for implementing LNOB in development programming by identifying who is being left behind and why; identifying effective measures to address root causes; monitoring and measuring progress; and ensuring accountability for LNOB.²⁰

In the context of GEWE, **HRBA will strengthen the impact of development programming for women and girls.** Through taking an approach that identifies women and girls as rights holders, HRBA ensures that it is the substantive rights of women and girls that frames development programming, and the assessment of impacts on their lives, and not just formal equality and the non-discrimination based on gender. HRBA also addresses intersectionality issues, whereby the risks facing different groups of women and girls can be identified and addressed through development programming, such as indigenous women, rural women, women from different ethnic groups, women with disabilities, women migrant workers and girls. Women and girls are often some of the most deprived and disadvantaged among those of heightened risk of marginalization.

HRBA can also support people-centred approaches (PCA) to development programming. PCA aims to take a more holistic approach to development that centres on the well-being of people, their dignity and the quality of their life overall as the ultimate goal of development. Given PCA's focus on responding to the needs of people, such approaches closely align with human rights principles and standards. HRBA is critical to ensure PCA can make this link to human rights frameworks effectively, throughout development programming design and implementation, to balance against the traditional tendency in development programming to focus more or solely on enhancing the role of the State in advancing development. HRBA goes further than PCA in making the important link between rights holders and duty bearers, namely the duty of the State to protect, respect and fulfil the rights of people, by including an additional focus on holding duty bearers accountable.

20 2030 Agenda, Universal Values, 'Principle Two: Leave No One Behind', United Nations Sustainable Development Group. Available at: <https://unsdg.un.org/2030-agenda/universal-values/leave-no-one-behind>.

1.4

Mainstreaming Human Rights in UNDP

UNDP’s human development approach is about expanding capabilities for people to live the lives they value and providing them the freedom to seize opportunities and make choices. Based on national ownership, the realization of human rights is critical to the achievement of human development. *“Human rights and human development share a common vision and a common purpose—to secure the freedom, well-being and dignity of all people everywhere.”*²¹

THE HUMAN RIGHT-BASED APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING IN UNDP



21 *‘Human Development Report 2000: Human Rights and Human Development’*, UNDP (2020). Available at: <https://hdr.undp.org/content/human-development-report-2000>.

UNDP upholds the values enshrined in the United Nations Charter and international law, including human rights law. UNDP is a values-based organization, and human rights is important both institutionally and instrumentally for UNDP.

Institutionally, UNDP recognizes human rights is at the heart of, and is one of the purposes of, the United Nations. Human rights are central to sustainable development, alleviating poverty and ensuring a fair distribution of development opportunities and benefits, and peace and security. UNDP's commitment to universal respect for, and observance of, human rights standards and principles is essential for fulfilling UNDP's institutional mandate.

Instrumentally, human rights are a powerful and effective problem-solving tool to further sustainable development.²² Utilizing the human rights 'toolbox' more strategically can help us unpack and address contemporary development challenges.

UNDP has demonstrated a strong commitment to mainstream human rights. UNDP introduced policy to integrate human rights into human development in 1998 and adopted the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) The Human Rights-Based Approach to Development Cooperation Towards a Common Understanding among UN Agencies (United Nations Common Understanding) in 2003.

Various Strategic Plans have highlighted human rights mainstreaming and, importantly, the current Strategic Plan commits the organization to a "*rights-based approach, promoting human agency and human development*" to ensure no one is left behind.²³

The 2024 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review has reaffirmed the centrality of human rights in development programming, highlighting, based on national ownership "the importance of the contribution of the United Nations development system in supporting government efforts to achieve the SDGs, leaving no one behind, based on full respect for human rights, including the right to development, and stresses that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent, and interrelated".⁸

In 2015, UNDP adopted Social and Environmental Standards, which apply to all UNDP programmes and projects and include an overarching principle in UNDP's work to apply HRBA to development programming. This means that development programmes and policies should further the realization of all human rights as laid down in the UDHR and other human rights instruments. In doing so, UNDP works to build the capacity of both States, as duty bearers of human rights, to meet their obligations and people, as rights holders, to claim their rights with programming that is informed by human rights analysis.

SES highlight that UNDP is committed to adhering to the human rights principles in our work: accountability and the rule of law; meaningful participation and inclusion; and equality and non-discrimination. UNDP does not have a monitoring or investigative role with respect to human rights.

The evidence demonstrates that rights and development are interdependent and reinforcing: we cannot really make progress on the Sustainable Development Goals without respect for and investment in human rights and vice versa.

Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator
Human Rights Council, February 2024

UNDP also refrains from providing support for activities that may contribute to violations of a State's human rights obligations and the core international human rights treaties, advancing the principle of 'do no harm'. UNDP programmes and projects are required to be informed by human rights analysis, including human rights gaps identified by the United Nations human rights mechanisms.²⁴

22 'Our Common Agenda – Report of the Secretary-General', United Nations (2021), p. 32. <https://www.un.org/en/common-agenda>

23 'UNDP Strategic Plan, 2022-2025', UNDP (2021) p. 1. <https://strategicplan.undp.org>

24 Social and Environmental Standards, UNDP (2021). Available at: <https://ses-toolkit.info.undp.org/>.

SES underpin UNDP's commitment to mainstream social and environmental sustainability in Programmes and Projects. SES are an integral component of UNDP's quality assurance and risk management approach to programming and include the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) which is a project level categorization system that assists with the identification of potential social and environmental risks and opportunities.

SES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Human Rights are one of five Programming Principles of SES, which include:

- Leave No One Behind
- Human Rights
- Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
- Sustainability and Resilience
- Accountability

UNDP adheres to the United Nations Common Understanding of HRBA in Development Cooperation, which outlines that development programmes and policies should further the realization of human rights as laid down in the UDHR and other human rights instruments. This is outlined in SES. In furthering the realization of rights, UNDP commits to refraining from providing support for activities that may contribute to violations of a State's human rights obligations and seeking to support the protection and fulfilment of human rights.

UNDP Projects, Portfolios and Programmes are further informed by Project-Level Standards under SES, with a strong emphasis on issues related to human rights.

HOW SES APPLIES HRBA

SES applies HRBA through a number of methods. The key Procedures and Accountability mechanisms that advance HRBA are:

- Quality Assurance and Risk Management
- Screening, Assessment and Management of SES Risks and Impacts
- Stakeholder Engagement and Response Mechanism
- Access to Information
- Monitoring, Reporting and Compliance

Under Screening, Assessment and Management of SES Risks and Impacts, UNDP utilizes its SESP to identify potential social and environmental risks and opportunities associated with the project. SESP screens projects for all environmental and social risks and impacts associated with SES Programming Principles, including human rights risks and impacts, and Project-level Standards. Based on the screening, UNDP categorizes projects according to

the degree of potential social and environmental risks and impacts, as Low, Moderate, Substantial or High Risk. Each category requires different treatment measures to mitigate or manage risks and clarify on responsibility and accountability for monitoring those risks and adjusting mitigation measures or programming as necessary.

Under Stakeholder Engagement and Response Mechanisms, all programmes and projects are expected to develop stakeholder engagement plans, and ensure such processes possess certain characteristics, including being culturally appropriate, free of external manipulation, and gender-inclusive. For projects that may affect indigenous peoples, free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) will be ensured. Stakeholders who may be adversely affected by a UNDP project can communicate their concerns about the social and environmental performance of the project through various entry points, including through the project team, dedicated project-level grievance redress mechanisms, or UNDP's Stakeholder Response Mechanism. UNDP seeks to identify, reduce and address

the risk of retaliation and reprisals against people, including human rights defenders, who may seek information on and participation in project activities, express concerns and/or access project-level grievance redress processes/mechanisms, UNDP's Stakeholder Response Mechanism or Social and Environmental Compliance Unit (SECU).

UNDP's Project and Portfolio Quality Assurance process is an integral part of ensuring that all development projects and portfolios adhere to high standards of effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability. Quality assurance is required at multiple stages of a project's lifecycle: during design, implementation, and closure, with assessments focusing on strategic relevance, principled approaches, management, and the alignment of programming with the SDGs and UNDP's Strategic Plan. This structured process ensures that projects are designed and delivered with measurable impacts, supported by evidence-based decision-making.

The Quality Assurance process supports HRBA by ensuring that human rights principles – such as participation, non-discrimination, and accountability – are systematically integrated throughout the project lifecycle. By embedding human rights into project design and implementation, Quality Assurance ensures that the LNOB principle is upheld, and human rights risks are actively assessed and mitigated. This complements SES, reinforcing social safeguards and promoting accountability.

HRBA is an operational effectiveness indicator for the application of the current UNDP Strategic Plan.

Quality Assurance supports the application of HRBA in the following:



→ **Strategic Relevance Assessment:** During the design phase, Quality Assurance includes a human rights-based causal analysis to identify root causes of inequality and discrimination, ensuring that the project addresses systemic issues impacting marginalized populations. Quality Assurance ensures that gender analysis and stakeholder engagement plans are in place.



→ **Monitoring and Risk Management:** Quality Assurance during implementation focuses on managing human rights risks and ensuring that mitigation measures are effectively carried out. Continuous stakeholder engagement and feedback mechanisms ensure that projects remain aligned with human rights objectives, enabling course corrections if necessary.



→ **Final Assessments and Lessons Learned:** At the closure stage, Quality Assurance ensures that human rights outcomes are evaluated and that lessons learned are documented for future projects. This step involves reviewing the effectiveness of risk mitigation strategies and stakeholder engagement throughout the project.

Under Monitoring, Reporting and Compliance, UNDP monitors and evaluates its overall performance against the objectives and requirements of the Social and Environmental Standards, and is integrated with UNDP's Quality Assurance reporting system and Risk Register. Monitoring activities involve direct participation of affected stakeholders, where possible, and in particular for projects with potentially significant adverse risks and impacts. UNDP's compliance review process is intended to investigate alleged or potential violations of UNDP's social and environmental commitments, including the SES, individuals or communities potentially affected by UNDP Programmes or Projects may submit complaints to the SECU, an independent review body located in UNDP's Office of Audit and Investigations.

Unpacking Human Rights Standards Principles and Tools

International Human Rights Framework

The human rights system of the United Nations consists of different mechanisms both United Nations Charter-based bodies and processes such as the UPR process, and human rights treaties supported by treaty-based bodies, including the nine international treaties which comprise the human rights normative framework.

Human Rights Standards

The human rights normative framework outlines the relevant human rights standards, including the provisions of the UDHR and the core human rights treaties ratified by States. These standards are further interpreted and articulated by certain human rights mechanisms. Instruments such as General Comments of treaty bodies, thematic or country reports by a Special Procedure Mandate Holder or the list of recommendations that a State notes or accepts through the UPR process provide information, guidance and recommendations to States on how to implement human rights standards and uphold their obligations to respect, protect and fulfil human rights.

The human rights mechanisms are critical for applying human rights standards in HRBA. All mechanisms can help to identify challenges in implementation and areas for strengthening through their monitoring of human rights and issuing recommendations, while OHCHR and the treaty monitoring bodies provide interpretation on how different standards apply in different thematic or country specific contexts.

Due to the close correlation between human rights standards and the SDGs, tools have been developed to easily summarise outcomes of UPR recommendations linked to SDG targets.

Tools that align human rights standards and obligations of States with the SDGs:

- The **Matrix of UPR recommendations**, developed by the OHCHR, organises into thematic clusters at country level the recommendations from the UPR process, aligns each with the relevant SDGs and supports the tracking by multiple stakeholders of the progress made in implementation.
- The **Universal Human Rights Index** is a tool which provides access to the country level observations and recommendations from the international human rights protection system, including treaty bodies, UPR and Special Procedures.
- The **SDG – Human Rights Data Explorer**, developed by the Danish Institute for Human Rights, takes information from international human rights monitoring system to develop HRBA to the SDGs.²⁵

25 See also 'Human Rights Guide to the SDGs', Danish Institute for Human Rights. Available at: <https://www.humanrights.dk/human-rights-guide-sdgs>

→ In relation to economic, social and cultural rights, included within the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), development practitioners can also utilize the Availability, Accessibility, Acceptability and Quality framework, or 'AAAQ'. The AAAQ includes a set of criteria used to assess the availability, accessibility, acceptability, and quality of services delivering economic, social, and cultural rights. The key dimensions of economic, social, and cultural rights can be summarized as follows:



AVAILABILITY

Facilities, goods and services need to be available in sufficient quantity and equipped with what they require to function.



ACCESSIBILITY (PHYSICAL AND ECONOMIC)

Facilities, goods and services need to be within safe reach for all sections of the population, especially marginalized groups, such as minorities and indigenous peoples, women, children including adolescents, older persons, or persons with disabilities. They must also be affordable, and poorer households must not be disproportionately burdened by expenses, therefore ensuring economic accessibility.²⁶ Information on facilities, goods and services must be accessible for everyone. This also requires the removal of administrative barriers that can prevent the poor from accessing facilities, goods, and services.



ACCEPTABILITY

Facilities, goods and services need to meet the subjective assessment of the rights holders' perceptions. Rights holders' perceptions can depend on several factors, including cultural or social considerations that can determine the acceptability of certain facilities, goods and services to rights holders. Given the highly subjective nature of acceptability, extensive dialogue should be conducted with rights holders to assess perceptions and acceptability.



QUALITY (INCLUDING CULTURAL ACCEPTABILITY)

Facilities, goods and services need to be relevant, culturally appropriate and of good quality. Human rights law recognizes that a lack of resources can make it more difficult to realize human rights, especially economic, social, and cultural rights.

26 General Comment No 14, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, (E/C.12/2000/4) para 12. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/general-comments-and-recommendations/ec1220004-general-comment-no-14-highest-attainable>.



Human Rights Principles

The United Nations Common Understanding outlines several human rights principles that serve as a guide for development cooperation efforts.



UNIVERSALITY AND INALIENABILITY

Human rights are universal and inalienable. All people everywhere in the world are entitled to them. The human person in whom they inhere cannot voluntarily give them up. Nor can others take them away from them. As stated in Article 1 of the UDHR, “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights”. They encompass civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights and are encapsulated in the UDHR and other customary law and the core human rights treaties.



INTERDEPENDENCE AND INTER-RELATEDNESS

The realization of one right often depends, wholly or in part, upon the realization of others. For instance, realization of the right to health may depend, in certain circumstances, on realization of the right to education or of the right to information.



PARTICIPATION AND INCLUSION

Every person and all peoples are entitled to active, free, safe and meaningful participation in, contribution to, and enjoyment of civil, economic, social, cultural and political development in which human rights and fundamental freedoms can be realized. This includes reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities.



INDIVISIBILITY

Human rights are indivisible. Whether of a civil, cultural, economic, political or social nature, they are all inherent to the dignity of every human person. Consequently, they all have equal status as rights, and cannot be ranked, a priori, in a hierarchical order. Simply put, you cannot have one right without another. There are some rights, however, that are derogable in certain specific circumstances. Non-derogable rights include the right to life and to be free from torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.



EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

All individuals are equal as human beings and by virtue of the inherent dignity of each human person. All human beings are entitled to their human rights without discrimination of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, ethnicity, age, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, disability, property, birth or other status as explained by the human rights treaty bodies. Equality must be understood to mean formal – de jure equality in law, and substantive – de facto in practice. Cultural factors including stigma can be key obstacles to de facto equality.



ACCOUNTABILITY AND RULE OF LAW

States and other duty bearers are answerable for the observance of human rights. In this regard, they have to comply with the legal norms and standards enshrined in human rights instruments. Where they fail to do so, aggrieved rights holders are entitled to institute proceedings for appropriate redress before a competent court or other adjudicator in accordance with the rules and procedures provided by law. Accountability ultimately supports States to respect, protect and fulfil human rights and improve transparency.



EMPOWERMENT AND AGENCY

Human rights empower individuals to exercise agency and claim their rights. They provide individuals with the tools and resources to challenge discrimination, injustice, and violations of their rights. UNDP's 2006 [Applying a Human Rights-Based Approach to Development Cooperation and Programming: A UNDP Capacity Development Resource](#) defines empowerment as “[*Enabling people*] to exercise their human rights through the use of tools such as legal and political action.”



NON- RETROGRESSION

States must not take actions that would result in the regression or deterioration of human rights enjoyment. They have an obligation to protect and promote human rights, including by refraining from regressive measures.

It is critical for HRBA that both human rights standards and principles be advanced through development programming by being included in the project design, implementation, and be monitored throughout the project cycle.

SECTION 2

Applying a Human Rights-Based Approach in UNDP Programming

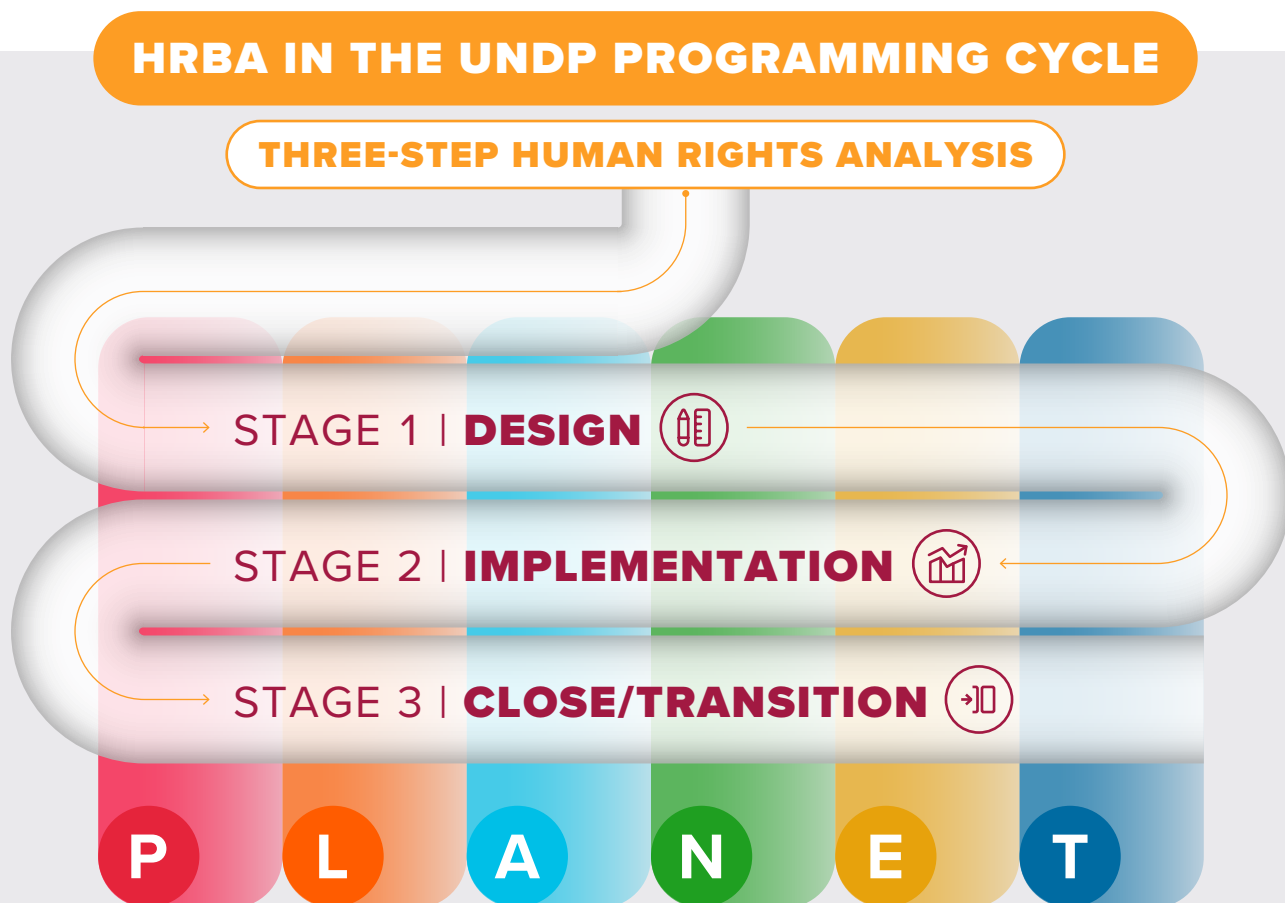


SECTION 2

Applying a Human Rights-Based Approach in UNDP Programming

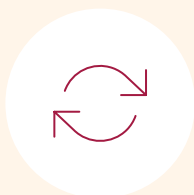
HRBA requires the application of both human rights principles and standards in development programming to ensure human rights are translated from international and national instruments into effective laws, policies and concrete actions.

The following section offers practical guidance in applying HRBA in UNDP programming by combining the three-step human rights analysis with the application of the PLANET Framework to the UNDP development project cycle. This approach builds on existing UNDP requirements for project design, implementation and monitoring, and closing / transition with steps and an easy-to-use checklist of questions at each of the project cycle stages. This will assist with applying HRBA. These tools and approaches are coherent with UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards.



2.1 PLANET Framework

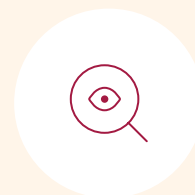
The PLANET framework is a user-friendly way of organising and applying HRBA in UNDP programming. Guidance on the application of the framework to the development project cycle is included in this section, which outlines how the PLANET framework, used with the three-step human rights analysis, can help unpack the causes of human rights challenges, as well as connecting project and portfolio design, implementation, and transitioning/closing to specific human rights principles and standards.



PLANET can be applied to all projects and portfolios, including across UNDP's Six Signature solutions, in crisis contexts, and in diverse contexts encompassing all stages of the project cycle.²⁷



PLANET is developed as a checklist of questions to guide and inspire users in applying human rights principles and standards in development programming.



PLANET is a tool that can be used by anyone responsible for the design, oversight and implementation of programming. It is not just applicable to human rights specialists or on specific areas of human rights programming.

²⁷ UNDP's Six Signature Solutions are integrated responses to development against which UNDP aligns resources and expertise, to make real impact. For more see: <https://www.undp.org/development-challenges-and-solutions>

PLANET IS AN ACRONYM FOR THE FOLLOWING COMPONENTS OF HRBA:

P **PARTICIPATION** which ensures the meaningful participation of rights holders identified as most affected, along with key stakeholders, to enhance programming outcomes taking into account power dynamics and inequalities.

L **LINK** to human rights standards and principles, and related SDGs, supported by the [Universal Periodic Review Recommendations Matrix](#) and the [Universal Human Rights Index](#) tools.

A **ACCOUNTABILITY** which helps identify the relevant duty bearers, increase their accountability by outlining their duty to the affected rights holders, and mechanisms to hold duty bearers accountable, thus empowering rights holders, to enhance programming outcomes.

N **NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUALITY** which help identify the most affected rights holders and ensure appropriate emphasis given to LNOB, GEWE, and particular groups at heightened risk of marginalization and vulnerability.

E **EMPOWERMENT AND CAPACITY-DEVELOPMENT** which help identify ways in which programming best serves the needs of rights holders and improve the ability of duty bearers to protect, respect and fulfil rights through enhanced capacity and empowerment.

T **TRANSPARENCY** which identifies ways to increase accessibility of information to enable meaningful participation and evaluation of programming outcomes.

PLANET is operationalised by applying it to each stage of UNDP's project/portfolio cycle:



The PLANET tool is informed by the findings from a three-step human rights analysis, conducted at the pre-design stage, together with information and data taken from international human rights mechanisms.

The UNDP Portfolio Approach provides a flexible, systems-based method to tackle complex development challenges in volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous environments. It allows for the design, testing, and scaling of complementary interventions, addressing multiple points of a problem simultaneously, thereby seeking to create coherent and meaningful impact across a wide range of development challenges.

HRBA and the Portfolio Approach both ensure that development programming focuses on both systemic change and the promotion of human dignity. While the Portfolio Approach centres on addressing the root causes of complex challenges through a broad lens, HRBA ensures that these efforts align with human rights principles such as equality, non-discrimination, and accountability. Together, they offer a powerful methodology that addresses development challenges through both a systemic and rights-focused lens. This alignment reinforces inclusive development, ensuring no one is left behind in achieving the SDGs.

USEFUL LINKS:

[UNDP System Change Guidebook for Adopting Portfolio Approaches](#)

[Portfolio Policy](#)

[Portfolio and Project Risk Register](#)

[Portfolio Document Guidance](#)

[Portfolio Document Template](#)

The Portfolio Approach applies HRBA through a number of methods, including:

- **In-depth stakeholder engagement:** Requiring analysis of diverse stakeholders and incorporating their voices during the design phase, ensuring inclusivity and adherence to human rights principles and consideration of a wider systems approach.
- **Dynamic management:** Adaptation based on continuous learning, which mirrors HRBA's emphasis on monitoring and safeguarding human rights at all stages of development interventions.
- **Systems thinking:** By integrating human rights into every stage of the portfolio, the approach ensures that human rights concerns are addressed in a comprehensive, systems-oriented manner.

Key features that further align the Portfolio Approach with HRBA include:

- **Reframing the problem space:** Both approaches seek to understand and address the root causes of inequality and exclusion by analysing how systems create and sustain barriers to development.
- **Collaboration for coherence:** The portfolio logic emphasizes coherence and collaboration across interventions, ensuring that human rights are integrated into all aspects of policy making and development work.

2.2

Three-Step Human Rights Analysis



START PROGRAMMING

As a required step in project and portfolio design, pursuant to SES, a human rights analysis should be carried out.²⁸ This requirement can be met by conducting a three-step human rights analysis. The results of the three-step human rights analysis will describe the root causes of the development challenge, institutional and structural drivers, system dynamics, the specific human rights in question and human rights challenges, reflect on the relevant rights at stake for rights holders, identify and outline the role of duty bearers and speak to the human rights capacity gaps of duty bearers and rights holders that need to be addressed to take action. A gender perspective should also be applied throughout all steps. These conclusions will directly feed into the PLANET checklist questions in each of the three phases of the project development cycle. **The PLANET framework will deepen the understanding of the actions needed for transformative change.**

The three-step human rights analysis is a step-by-step guided analysis to determine:

1

CAUSAL ANALYSIS

Who has been left behind, which rights are at stake and why?

2

ROLE AND OBLIGATION ANALYSIS

What are they entitled to (rights holders)?
Who has to do something about it?
What are their obligations (duty bearers)?

3

CAPACITY GAP ANALYSIS

What capacities do duty bearers and rights holders need to take action?

THREE-STEP HUMAN RIGHTS ANALYSIS

STEP 1 | CAUSAL ANALYSIS



STEP 2 | ROLE ANALYSIS



STEP 3 | CAPACITY GAP ANALYSIS



28 UNDP Social and Environmental Standards', UNDP (updated in 2021) para 13. <https://www.undp.org/publications/undp-social-and-environmental-standards>.



NOTE

The three-step human rights analysis is an important foundation for outlining the development challenge, which is required in the project document template and can form the basis of the causal analysis for developing the theory of change as required under UNDP's 'Formulate Programmes and Projects' policy. This step also aligns with the Design phase of the Portfolio Approach, during which the root causes of an issue are identified by mapping out stakeholder positions and system dynamics.

Ideally, the three-step human rights analysis should be conducted before the development of the project or portfolio document, but if that has already been drafted then any existing analysis conducted for outlining the development challenge in the project or portfolio document can provide a good foundation to inform the three-step human rights analysis at a later stage. The description of the development challenge taken from the Project Document Template provides good guidance for conducting the problem analysis:

The development challenge that the project seeks to address should be relevant to national/regional/global development priorities and backed by evidence as supported by analysis, such as data demonstrating the magnitude of the problem and how it affects different population groups (esp. women and men, and minority and other excluded groups) and why it is important, for example in poverty reduction and addressing inequality and exclusion. The immediate, underlying and root causes of the challenge identified will inform the theory of change for the project.

Formal equality: includes the procedural rights that protect equality, including the right to equality before the law, the right to participate in decision-making, the principle of free, prior and informed consent.

Substantive equality: aims to address the horizontal inequalities between population groups that can persist even after formal equality is achieved, given structural disadvantages or different needs. It also requires achieving substantive equality of both opportunities and outcomes for all social groups²⁹.



NOTE

For additional technical expertise in human rights mechanisms and priorities, you can reach out to your UNDP human rights regional and global focal points, OHCHR in-country and regional focal points and Human

Rights Advisers assigned to Resident Coordinator offices, when conducting the three-step human rights analysis.

29 "Leaving No One Behind: Equality and Non-Discrimination at the Heart of Sustainable Development", United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, 2016, Page 34, 35. http://unsceb.org/sites/default/files/imported_files/CEB%20equality%20framework-A4-web-rev3_0.pdf

Develop a problem statement



NOTE

Human rights and development issues can be found at the following sources:

- [Matrix of UPR recommendations](#) for recommendations made under UPR Process per country
- [Universal Human Rights Index](#) for recommendations and observations made under human rights treaty body reviews, reports of Special Rapporteurs, Human Rights Council resolutions
- [SDG Voluntary National Reviews](#)
- [Common Country Analysis](#)

FIRST, select the main problems to focus on before beginning the analysis.

These should be problems facing the region, country, or community, not problems confronting UNDP. Once the critical issues have been identified, they need to be distilled into a problem statement. The problem statement should be concrete and focus on people and communities, stating who is presumed to be affected, and take into account the broader development and human rights landscape. By conducting deep listening exercises and reviewing existing information or reporting on human rights and development challenges, the problem statement can be based framed in human rights or sustainable development which can help in both the three-step human rights analysis and applying the PLANET checklist. The problem statement will be subject to discussions with rights holders and other stakeholders later in the three-step human rights analysis.

Carry out the three-step human rights analysis for HRBA

SECOND, using the identified problem statement, carry out the three-step human rights analysis with the participation of rights holders.



STEP 1 CAUSAL ANALYSIS

What is Causal Analysis? Causal analysis is a technique for identifying the root causes of problems. It is a critical first step in trying to understand development challenges more deeply, by unpacking root causes of such challenges which can then be built on with development solutions³⁰.

It is helpful to use a problem tree, with the selected problem manifestation written at the top of the 'tree'. Then brainstorm freely about immediate, underlying and root causes of the problem and decide how to order these causes by asking 'why?' from the problem statement down through the root causes to establish a causal link.

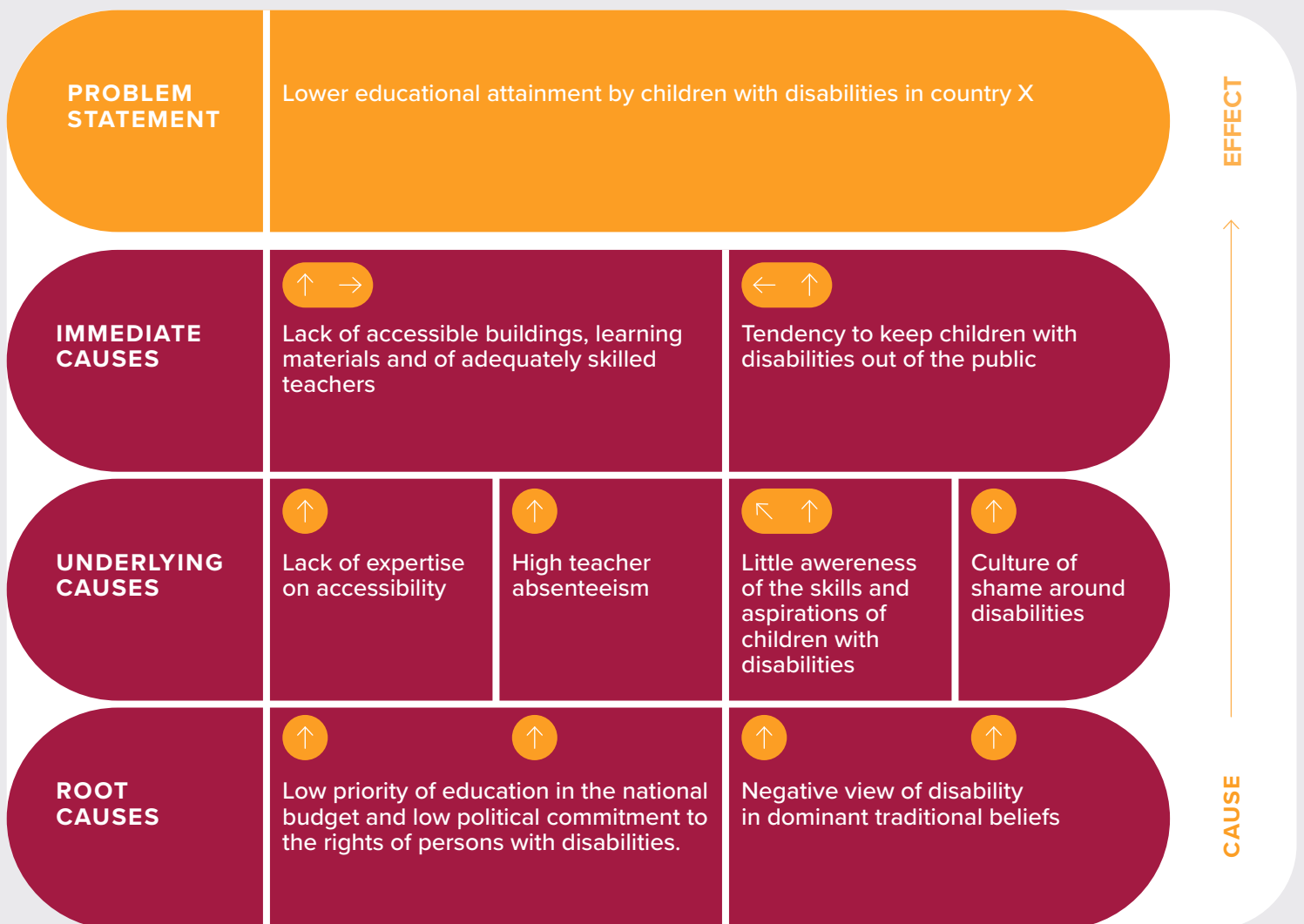
30 UNDG/UNDP tool for analysis that includes guidance and tools <https://www.undp.org/publications/conducting-conflict-and-development-analysis>

To guide the discussion in arranging the causes below the problem it is important, where possible, to:

- Use verified and available data, including human rights and sustainable development related data and reporting
- Use disaggregated data, e.g. sex, age, disability, religion, language, etc.
- Be as specific as possible about the problem and the contributing causes below
- Outline the specific rights relevant to the identified problem

It is important to distinguish between different levels of causes and use this as a frame for the analysis:

- **Immediate causes** determine the current status of the problem and usually describe how the individual experiences the problem.
- **Underlying causes** are often consequences of policies, laws, and availability of resources.
- **Root/structural causes** reveal conditions that require long-term interventions to change societal attitudes, power dynamics and behaviour at different levels, including those at family, community and higher decision-making levels.





CHECKLIST OF QUESTIONS FOR CAUSAL ANALYSIS STEP

Critical in responding to all questions in the causal analysis step is to consider the impacts on and rights of groups at heightened risk of marginalization and vulnerability, and most subject to discrimination and being left behind:

01 Are you identifying how human rights standards and principles, as outlined in the international framework of human rights, relate to the root causes of the non-realization of such rights?

02 Are you ensuring that rights holders and the root causes of the non-realization of their human rights are identified and acted upon?

03 Are you assessing the process for any root causes of the non-realization of human rights?

04 Are you assessing the structure for any root causes of the non-realization of human rights?

05 Are you assessing the **political** context and power imbalances for any root causes of the non-realization of human rights?



NOTE

For the three-step human rights analysis it is not necessary to expand in detail on the relevant standards and principles of human rights as this can be done later when applying the PLANET checklist to the project cycle using the 'Link' set of questions.

This should include an assessment of intersectionality – i.e., multiple forms of discrimination which, for example, can impact women not only through their gender but also their ethnicity, disability, life cycle, family carer role, rural location, etc.

This includes an assessment of the adequacy of the efforts made by the State to implement its human rights commitments through national strategies, action plans, policies, budgetary decisions, etc.

This includes an assessment of the adequacy of the legal and governance framework of the country and its human rights commitments.

This includes the possibility of conducting a political economy analysis and assessment of power dynamics and imbalances between groups as needed.



STEP 2 ROLE ANALYSIS

This step helps identify those affected by the development challenge, what they are entitled to (as rights holders) and who has to do something about it (as duty bearers). For this, as well as the third step, it is helpful to use a simple matrix to map the claims and obligations of different actors.

It is recommended to focus on the one causal chain of the problem tree that is seen as most critical to address a root cause of the problem.

Based on the causal analysis:

1. **Identify as rights holders** those individuals or groups most affected and describe their right or claim as precisely as possible and based on international human rights standards.
2. **Identify as duty bearers** those who have obligations to respect, protect or fulfil the right or claim, including based on international human rights law, conventions that the country has signed and ratified and/or on the national constitution and more detailed national laws, regulations and policies, which are in compliance with their international human rights obligations.

RIGHTS HOLDERS AND DUTY BEARERS

- An individual can be a rights holder or a duty bearer, depending on the role in which he/she acts (e.g., a government official will be a duty bearer in his/her role as an official toward the public, but a rights holder in his/her role as an individual employee within the ministry).
- When identifying rights holders, it is important to consider intersectionality. Intersectionality refers to the way in which multiple forms of discrimination, such as gender, race, sexual orientation, disability and class – may overlap and interact with one another to shape how different individuals both experience and can be exposed to multiple aspects of discrimination. This can create a burden of different layers of discrimination or marginalization. In identifying rights holders, it is imperative to consider any intersectional discrimination.
- For each claim, there may be several duty bearers at different levels of the State, e.g., central and local parts of the administration, therefore it is important to consider the appropriate level of duty bearers with regards to their influence or capacity to positively impact on rights holders.
- Duty bearers are primarily State actors, but other actors, such as private companies or communities, also have responsibilities to respect human rights.
- Duty bearers can be recognized through previous efforts, statements, or positions taken with regards to their duties and accountability to rights holders.
- The State duty to protect includes the duty of the State to protect people from their rights being breached by private actors, including businesses, which have a responsibility to respect human rights under the [United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#). (See additional guidance on human rights principles and standards in Section 1 of the toolkit).



NOTE

- States have the duty to “**respect, protect and fulfil**” the rights within the treaties ratified by them. This means that the State:
 - Must respect and not itself breach human rights
 - Must protect people from breaches by non-State actors, such as the private sector
 - Must create conditions for the fulfilment of all human rights



STEP 3 CAPACITY GAP ANALYSIS

This step helps understand what capacities rights holders need to claim their rights and what capacities duty bearers need to fulfil their obligations.

The capacity gap analysis should start with three important questions:

- **Capacity for why?** (Answered by identifying the causal chain in Step 1, capacities related to addressing the root cause of the development challenge identified in the problem statement at the top of the problem tree).
- **Capacity for whom?** (Answered by identifying the rights holders and duty bearers in Step 2, capacities of these groups).
- **Capacities for what?** (Requires a basic assessment of the relevant functional and technical capacities of rights holders and duty bearers to identify and implement development solutions and to further the realization of human rights).



Conducting a capacity assessment of rights holders and duty bearers

1

FUNCTIONAL CAPACITY

WHAT IS THE CAPACITY TO ENGAGE AND BUILD CONSENSUS AMONG ALL STAKEHOLDERS?

Rights holders: Do the partners representing rights holders have the capacity to engage a wider group of rights holders to effectively represent the interests or views of such a group? Do they have the capacity to build networks of groups of rights holders?

Duty bearers: Do duty bearers have the capacity to convene and engage the relevant stakeholders? Can they identify the rights holders and other stakeholders for engagement? Can they convene other relevant duty bearers, including other State agencies, and can they convene the relevant levels of duty bearers, including provincial and local authorities?

WHAT IS THE CAPACITY TO DEFINE CHALLENGES AND FORMULATE STRATEGIES AND POLICIES?

Rights holders: Can they effectively collect data, information and lived experiences on the challenges being experienced by individual and groups of rights holders? Can they identify the relevant solutions to such challenges? Can they develop objectives and approaches to implement such solutions?

Duty bearers: Can they identify the impacts on rights holders through relevant data and lived experiences? Can they develop coherent policy solutions to address such impacts and articulate what capacities they need to achieve such policy goals?

2

HUMAN RIGHTS CAPACITY

WHAT IS THE CAPACITY IN KNOWING, UPHOLDING AND CLAIMING OBLIGATIONS AND RIGHTS?

Rights holders: Do rights holders have the capacity to know their rights and how to claim them, including to identify any gaps in such capacities?

Duty bearers: Do duty bearers have the capacity to know their human rights obligations, including how to identify any gaps in upholding such obligations?

3

TECHNICAL CAPACITY

WHAT IS THE TECHNICAL CAPACITY TO BOTH IDENTIFY DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES AND IMPLEMENT SOLUTIONS FOR SUCH CHALLENGES?

Rights holders: Do they need capacities to ensure they understand the technical nature or severity of the challenges they face and to participate in the development of solutions?

Duty bearers: Do they need technical capacities to understand the risks and challenges faced by rights holders, and in co-designing and implementing effective solutions with and for rights holders?

Technical capacities are those associated with particular areas of expertise and practice in specific sectors or themes, such as climate change, HIV/AIDS, legal empowerment or elections. UNDP has developed a wide range of assessment materials for technical areas, as have United Nations partners and others. These can be drawn on to tailor assessment questions that are focused on technical aspects.

4

OPERATIONAL CAPACITY

WHAT IS THE OPERATIONAL CAPACITY OF RIGHTS HOLDERS AND DUTY BEARERS TO CONTRIBUTE MEANINGFULLY TO THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS?

Rights holders: Do they need additional resources or means of engagement to be able to contribute to the proposed development solution?

Duty bearers: Are they prepared to allocate sufficient human and financial resources to make the solutions meaningful and sustainable?

5

POLITICAL CAPACITY

IS THERE SUFFICIENT POLITICAL WILL TO IMPLEMENT SOLUTIONS TO IDENTIFIED DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS CHALLENGES?

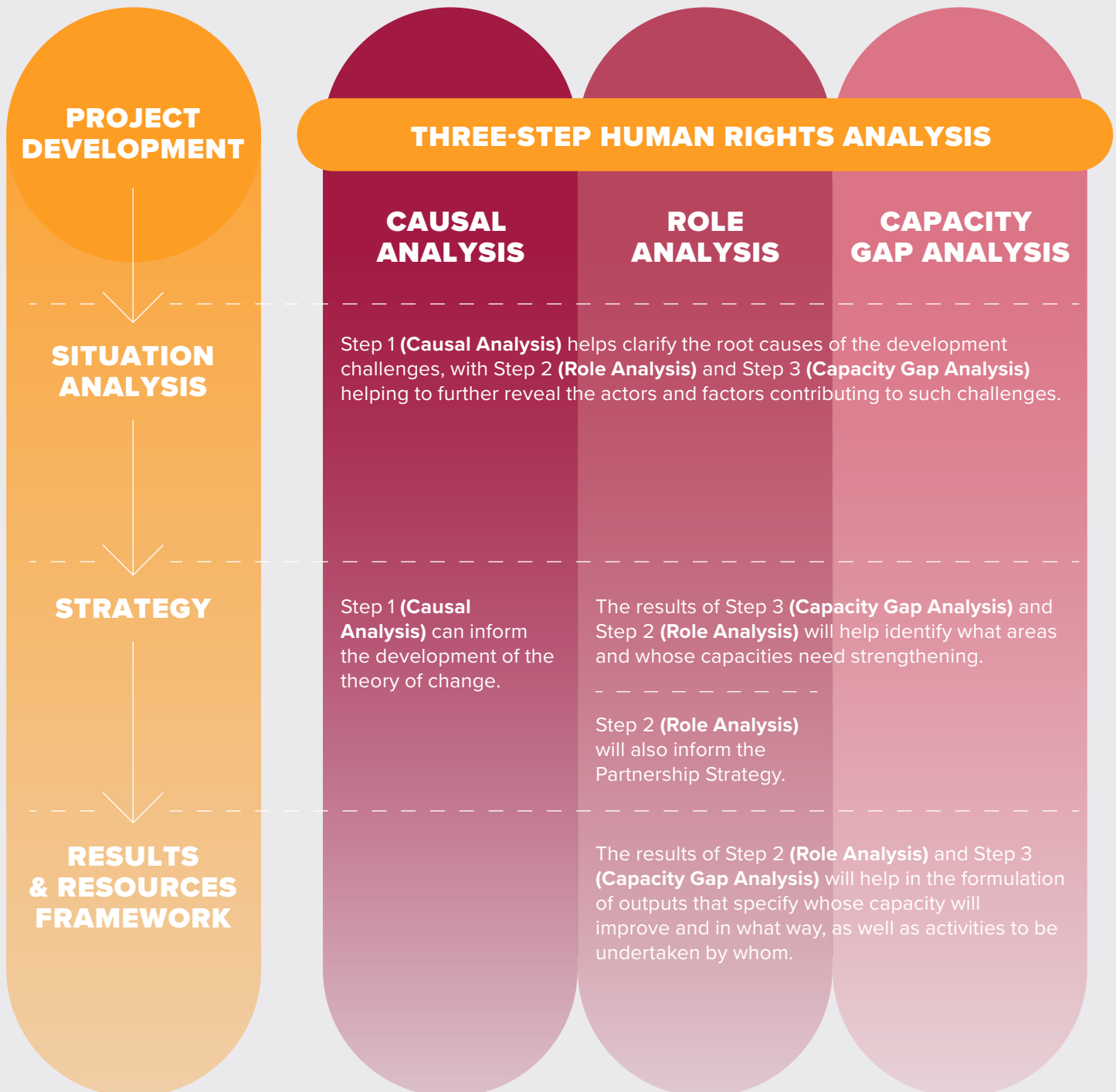
Rights holders: Are they able to access political entities sufficiently to engage in constructive dialogue and work towards effective development solutions?

Duty bearers: Are there champions among duty bearers with sufficient authority who can drive development solutions and increase political support?



How to use the results

The results of the three-step human rights analysis conducted in the pre-design phase can be used in the design stage of the UNDP development project cycle, as they directly feed into sections of the UNDP Project Document Template, as well as formats used by donors, such as:



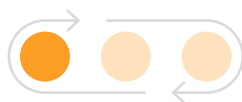
2.3 Application of PLANET to the Stages of UNDP's Development Project Cycle

Following the three-step human rights analysis you now move to the application of PLANET to the stages of development projects – design, implementation and transition/close – which align with and support the design phase of the Portfolio Approach.

The PLANET principles of **P**articipation, **L**ink to human rights, **A**ccountability, **N**on-discrimination and equality, **E**mpowerment and capacity-building, and **T**ransparency are interrelated and relevant for all three stages of project development.



The linking of human rights standards and principles in designing a project is of particular importance. This aligns the project objectives with the realization of human rights and progress towards the achievement of the SDGs. It is the identification of the relevant human rights and guidance on their implementation that underpins the empowerment of rights holders and the accountability of duty bearers, promotes the meaningful participation of rights holders, effectively addresses non-discrimination and equality, and leads to transparency in monitoring and evaluation.



Accordingly, you will see from the following checklists that PLANET – and the link to human rights standards - is applied more comprehensively at the design stage. The checklists include relevant questions from SESP to support users in integrating SESP responses into the PLANET checklists.

RELEVANT QUESTIONS FROM SESP TO CONSIDER WHEN DESIGNING THE PROJECT OR PORTFOLIO THAT CAN BE ADDRESSED USING THE PLANET APPROACH

PART A. QUESTION 1

How does the initiative integrate the programming principles in order to strengthen social and environmental sustainability?

- Briefly describe how the initiative mainstreams HRBA.
- Briefly describe how the initiative is likely to improve gender equality and women's empowerment.
- Briefly describe how the initiative strengthens accountability to stakeholders.

P PARTICIPATION

- 01** Have you identified all relevant rights holders and duty bearers in the project/portfolio design?
- 02** Are you ensuring and supporting the meaningful participation of identified rights holders, those most affected and with heightened risk of marginalization and vulnerability, and all relevant stakeholders and duty bearers in project/portfolio design?
- 03** Do processes for participation enable the rights holders above to contribute in a free, safe, active and meaningful way, including by allowing rights holders to influence and shape project/portfolio design?
- 04** Are there barriers for rights holders to be able to contribute in a free, safe, active and meaningful way to the project/portfolio design and not be excluded, for example, due to geographical, cultural, financial or other barriers, and are they being addressed?
- 05** Have you ensured the accessibility of rights holders and stakeholders in project design, including by addressing accessibility barriers for persons with disabilities – whether physical, sensory, intellectual, or otherwise?
- 06** Are all rights holders and stakeholders able to contribute meaningfully and influence outcomes irrespective of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status?



SESP ALIGNMENT SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISK SCREENING CHECKLIST

- 01 Human Rights**
P.1 Have local communities or individuals raised human rights concerns regarding the initiative (e.g. during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)?
- 02 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**
P.8 Have women's groups/leaders raised gender equality concerns regarding the initiative, (e.g. during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)?
- 03 Accountability**
P.13 Would the initiative potentially involve or lead to exclusion of any potentially affected stakeholders, in particular marginalized groups and excluded individuals (including persons with disabilities), from fully participating in decisions that may affect them?
- 04 Indigenous Peoples**
6.4 Would the initiative potentially lead to an absence of culturally appropriate consultations carried out with the objective of free, prior and informed consent on matters that may affect the rights and interests, lands, resources, territories and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples concerned?



WHEN ANSWERING QUESTIONS FOR PARTICIPATION CONSIDER, FOR EXAMPLE:

- Ensuring participation of **stakeholders before having concluded key decisions or stages** of the project/portfolio design, such as the finalization of the project/portfolio document.
- When relevant, ensuring the **participation of indigenous peoples**, including by securing the free, prior and informed consent from indigenous peoples for any activities planned that could potentially affect them or their rights.
- Ensuring relevant **feedback** from rights holders is **reflected in initial project** designs and plans.
- Being open to a number of **rounds of consultations** with rights holders where possible to do so.
- Taking into account the **working schedules and availability of key rights holders** for when consultations take place, e.g., not holding consultations on agricultural projects during mornings when farmers are unavailable; checking with the schedules of domestic and care workers to ensure they are available to participate.
- Using **digital tools and platforms** to facilitate participation of affected rights holders with access to such technologies but also being aware of barriers to such participation for persons with access including from rural or remote areas.
- Organizing **missions and field visits** to communities without access to digital tools.
- Working through **representative organizations** who can facilitate accessibility of affected rights holders, having confirmed that such organizations effectively represent rights holders.
- Adopting a **format for the participation** process that **facilitates interaction and inputs** from affected rights holders, including by holding workshops and smaller group discussions.
- **Creating a space** for rights holders where they can speak freely – **free from fear of censorship (and self-censorship), reprisals or intimidation** – including, where necessary, in the absence of duty bearers and other groups that may result in censoring inputs from rights holders.
- Focusing consultations on the **root problems** facing rights holders, including challenges faced between rights holders and duty bearers and other groups.
- Ensuring consultations give **equal opportunities** to rights holders from **different groups** and with **different perspectives** to input to the design and planning process.
- Assessing **dynamics between rights holders** and avoiding participatory processes that perpetuate **'elite capture'**, whereby processes and resources are biased for the benefit of a few individuals of superior social and/or educational status to the detriment of the welfare of the larger population or most-affected people.
- Ensuring the participation of those at **heightened risk of marginalization and vulnerability**, those **furthest left behind**, and those typically not engaged in consultation processes in the decision making of the project.
- Ensuring **access to information** for rights holders to facilitate their effective participation in the design and planning process, including by **building awareness** on development challenges and proposed solutions among rights holders.
- Bringing together **different stakeholders** with the intention of providing an opportunity to **exchange ideas** for the project design and planning, including where certain stakeholders rarely have such opportunities to exchange.
- Engaging rights holders to **co-create consultations** processes and participation in the project.
- Addressing **barriers** faced by rights holders to participate in project design, including by providing **recovery costs** for rights holders' participation.
- Establishing the necessary **safeguarding frameworks** when engaging **children** and youth.
- Clarifying a **timeline and plan** for the participation of rights holders in the project.



ACTS OF INTIMIDATION AND REPRISALS

The United Nations relies on the cooperation of the people it serves. Individuals and groups engaging with the United Nations provide valuable on-the-ground insights and information, alert the United Nations system to evolving situations, and push for relevant action to be taken.

UNDP seeks to identify, reduce and address the risk of retaliation and reprisals against people, including human rights defenders, who may seek information on and participation in project/portfolio activities, express concerns and/or access project/portfolio-level grievance redress processes/mechanisms or [UNDP's Stakeholder Response Mechanism or Social and Environmental Compliance Unit \(SECU\)](#).

Resources on acts of intimidation and reprisals against those engaging with the United Nations include:

- [Guidance Note on Human Rights for Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams](#)
- [Guidance Note for United Nations Resident Coordinators and Country Teams: supporting Governments to Better Respect, promote and Protect Environmental Human Rights Defenders](#)
- [San José Guidelines to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of treaty body action to prevent and address reprisals](#)
- [Res. A/HRC/39/41 on Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights](#)
- [OHCHR resources on Intimidation and Reprisals](#)

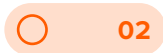


LINK



01

Are you linking the project/portfolio design to the relevant human rights standards and principles, and global development frameworks, including human rights treaty obligations, UPR recommendations and the SDGs?



02

In linking human rights standards and principles to the project/portfolio design, are you considering resources that help to interpret and shape the understanding of such standards and principles?



03

If the project/portfolio is focused on ensuring the meaningful participation of rights holders in sustainable development processes, are you linking the project/portfolio design to interpretations and guidance on human rights principles related to participation?



04

Are you using recommendations from human rights mechanisms to identify the relevant human rights gaps and political commitments on human rights, including the related SDGs (i.e. the Universal Human Rights Index; Matrix of UPR Recommendations) in project/portfolio design?



WHEN ANSWERING QUESTIONS FOR LINK, CONSIDER FOR EXAMPLE:

Sources and authorities for interpreting and shaping the understanding of human rights standards, such as:

- International Human Rights Law
- General Comments from United Nations human rights treaty monitoring bodies
- Resolutions on human rights and related issues, including from the United Nations General Assembly, Human Rights Council and Environment Assembly
- Reports on country specific or thematic human rights issues from the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council
- Reports, guidance and other analysis from OHCHR

See below for applying relevant human rights standards across UNDP's Six Signature Solutions, and Section 2 and Annexes I and II for more on human rights standards and principles, and an overview of the human rights system.

KEY TOOLS TO USE:

- [Matrix of UPR recommendations](#)
- [Universal Human Rights Index](#)
- Overview of country [Voluntary National Reports](#)

- 05** Are you using relevant context-specific human rights data sources (i.e., data sources, baseline data) to inform targets and indicators?
- 06** Does the project/portfolio examine the national human rights system, including the role of national human rights institutions, as a source of opportunities to advance human rights protection and the objectives of the project/portfolio?
- 07** Are you ensuring that the AAAQ framework (see above) is applied when working for the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights?



NOTE

The '**AAAQ**' framework is a set of criteria used to assess the availability, **accessibility**, **acceptability**, and **quality** of services delivering economic, social, and cultural rights. It is not conclusive but often a useful tool.

→ HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED INDICATORS AND INDICATORS THAT ARE SENSITIVE TO HUMAN RIGHTS

Indicators are used to implement, monitor and track progress towards development objectives. We measure what we treasure – how indicators are utilized and whether they are sensitive to human rights can have an important impact. In many instances, they can be linked to the outcomes of the three-step human rights analysis and systemically embed progress on the steps identified in the analysis into the project design.

Types of human rights-based indicators include:

- **Structural indicators** help in capturing the acceptance, intent and commitment of the State to undertake measures in keeping with its human rights obligations.
- **Process indicators** measure duty bearers' ongoing efforts to transform their human rights commitments into desired results. Unlike with structural indicators, this involves indicators that continuously assess the policies and specific measures taken by the duty bearer to implement its commitments on the ground.

→ **Outcome indicators** reflect individual and collective attainments that reflect the state of enjoyment of human rights in a given context and usually over an extended period of time.

Read more at [Human Rights Indicators: A Guide for Measurement and Implementation](#) and [A Human Rights-Based Approach to Data - Leaving No One Behind in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Guidance Note to Data Collection and Disaggregation](#).

A

ACCOUNTABILITY

- 01 Have you identified the relevant mechanisms to hold duty bearers accountable for their human rights obligations, including for remediating violated human rights?
- 02 Are you assessing if there are adequate mechanisms for participation, complaints, and redress in place for the identified rights holders, civil society, and other stakeholders to hold duty bearers accountable?
- 03 Are you assessing the accessibility of accountability mechanisms that enable rights holders to hold duty bearers to account and not be excluded by, for example, geographical, cultural, financial or other barriers?
- 04 Are you assessing the effectiveness of accountability mechanisms that enable all rights holders to hold duty bearers to account irrespective of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status of rights holders?
- 05 Are you assessing the quality of accountability mechanisms and that their outcomes are compatible with human rights standards and principles?



SESP ALIGNMENT SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISK SCREENING CHECKLIST

01 Human Rights

P.2 Is there a risk that duty bearers (e.g. government agencies) do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the project/portfolio?

02 Accountability

P.14 Would the project/portfolio potentially lead to grievances or objections from potentially affected stakeholders?

03 P.15 Is there a mechanism to monitor and respond to risks of retaliation or reprisals against stakeholders who express concerns and grievances or who seek to obtain information about the project/portfolio?



WHEN ANSWERING QUESTIONS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY CONSIDER FOR EXAMPLE:

- **Previous efforts** to hold duty bearers **accountable** through available **mechanisms**, including through government or judicial mechanisms, and the effectiveness of such mechanisms.
- The **scope** and **mandate** of mechanisms to ensure accountability of duty bearers, including their mandate to **provide redress, compensation, hear complaints**, etc.
- The **availability** of accountability mechanisms or the need for the development **new mechanisms** under the project/portfolio.
- The **barriers** for rights holders in **accessing** accountability mechanisms.
- **Collecting feedback** from rights holders who have attempted to use such mechanisms in the past and what the outcomes of such attempts were, including any **evidence** of the **unsuitability** of such mechanisms for certain groups of people based on past experiences.
- Any **practical guidance or tools** needed for both rights holders and duty bearers to strengthen the effectiveness and improve the quality of accountability mechanisms.

N

NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUALITY

- 01 Are you assessing how project/portfolio interventions are designed to ensure certain groups or people are not discriminated against, including those at heightened risk of marginalization and vulnerability?
- 02 Does the project/portfolio design include a gender analysis and determination of relevant gender marker, including, where relevant, a gender impact assessment on the adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women and girls?
- 03 Are you assessing risks of unintended harm to certain groups over others, including possible discrimination of some groups over others in the enjoyment of the benefits of project/portfolio activities and results?

- 04** Are you considering intersectionality – where some population groups may be facing overlapping or multiple burdens of discrimination on more than one ground?
- 05** Have you collected disaggregated data on the existing situation of different groups affected by project/portfolio activities, or data on the likely impacts of project/portfolio activities on different groups?
- 06** Does the project help to combat discrimination and promote equality among targeted groups, including linking the project activities to international human rights principles of non-discrimination and equality? (see ‘Link’ above)
- 07** Have you considered applying the concept of ‘inclusive equality’, which elaborates equality in redistributive, recognition, participatory and accommodation dimensions, specifically relevant for persons with disabilities?³¹



SESP ALIGNMENT SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISK SCREENING CHECKLIST

- 01 Human Rights**
P.5 Would the project/portfolio potentially involve or lead to inequitable or discriminatory impacts on affected populations, particularly people living in poverty or marginalized or excluded individuals or groups, including persons with disabilities?
- 02** P.6 Would the project/portfolio potentially involve or lead to restrictions in availability, quality of and/or access to resources or basic services, in particular to marginalized individuals or groups, including persons with disabilities?
- 03 Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment**
P.10 Would the project/portfolio potentially involve or lead to reproducing discriminations against women based on gender, especially regarding participation in design and implementation or access to opportunities and benefits?
- 04 Indigenous Peoples**
Would the project/portfolio potentially involve or lead to impacts (positive or negative) on the human rights, lands, natural resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples (regardless of whether indigenous peoples possess the legal titles to such areas, whether the project/portfolio is located within or outside of the lands and territories inhabited by the affected peoples, or whether the indigenous peoples are recognized as indigenous peoples by the country in question)?

31 See Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, General Comment No. 6 on equality and non-discrimination (2018). Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/general-comments-and-recommendations/general-comment-no6-equality-and-non-discrimination>



WHEN ANSWERING QUESTIONS FOR NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUALITY CONSIDER FOR EXAMPLE:

- **Available data** on relevant development challenges for certain groups, including **characteristics** or other relevant factors contributing to **heightened risk of marginalization and vulnerability**.
- Risks identified using SES ensure that programming does no **unintended harm** to the realization of human rights standards.
- How **gender** concerns have been integrated into the project/portfolio's approach.

E

EMPOWERMENT AND CAPACITY-DEVELOPMENT

- 01** Are you ensuring the prioritization of rights holder empowerment and capacity-development activities based on identified rights holders from the three-step human rights analysis and as informed by relevant additional human rights data?
- 02** Have you included the interventions to close the capacity gaps of both rights holders and duty bearers as part of the project/portfolio design, as well as the sustainability of these efforts over the longer term?
- 03** Are you assessing the degree of interest and needs of identified duty bearers and other relevant stakeholders in any capacity-building programming?
- 04** Are you analysing the political economy and power dynamics between targeted beneficiaries and other rights holders of your empowerment and capacity-building programming, incorporating human rights considerations?
- 05** Are you assessing the extent to which proposed empowerment initiatives are prioritising those rights holders identified as being of heightened risk of marginalization and vulnerability, and risk of being left behind?
- 06** Are you collecting data on the potential impact of the project/portfolio on empowerment and capacity development of duty bearers and rights holders (and to enable continuous assessment of capacity gaps)?



SESP ALIGNMENT SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISK SCREENING CHECKLIST

Human Rights

- 01** P.3: Is there a risk that rights holders (e.g. project/portfolio-affected persons) do not have the capacity to claim their rights?



WHEN ANSWERING QUESTIONS FOR EMPOWERMENT AND CAPACITY-DEVELOPMENT CONSIDER, FOR EXAMPLE:

- Whether the design and modality of the programming addresses the **capacity needs** of both duty bearers and rights holders.
- Whether the design and modality of programming targets **empowerment of rights** holders to claim their rights, including by using existing platforms and mechanisms to claim their rights.
- **Including other actors as partners**, such as CSOs, networks and representative organizations working on behalf of or in the interest of affected rights holders.
- **Assessing the power relations** between the relevant duty bearers and rights holders and other stakeholders and the extent to which the duty bearers are prepared to undertake changes in this dynamic (e.g., Would the duty bearers be open to an increase in the availability, accessibility, acceptability, and quality of participation and accountability processes for rights holders? Similarly, are the rights holders prepared to engage in constructive and quality participation in public affairs?)
- Conducting a **political economy analysis of dynamics** between and among duty bearers, rights holders, and other non-State actors such as businesses, to identify possible barriers or entry points for empowerment and capacity development interventions.
- The dynamics between the rights holders and duty bearers identified for capacity development support and empowerment and **approaches to manage risks** based on such dynamics.
- The presence of **representative organizations** working on behalf of or in the interest of groups at heightened risk marginalization and vulnerability and whether **extra accommodations** must be made in project/portfolio design to ensure the empowerment of such groups.
- Existing capacities and access of **larger representative** organizations to advocate and engage with policymakers and possible **imbalances** between groups of affected rights holders due to such capacities.
- The engagement of **non-United Nations security forces** in the project/portfolio and the carrying out of **Human Rights Due Diligence** assessment together with mitigating measures in place to address risks identified.
- The relevant **human rights treaty committee recommendations and UPR recommendations and commitments** to help identify human rights gaps, including capacity and empowerment challenges, and to assist in the identification of appropriate measures and solutions to these challenges.
- Incorporating **assessment, and data and evidence collection** on capacity development and empowerment outcomes that measure the capacity gap/power dynamics vis-a-vis the impact/contribution of the project/portfolio and beyond.

T

TRANSPARENCY

- 01 Is the project/portfolio design available online and clearly communicated to key partners, including making programming objectives accessible to identified rights holders, all relevant stakeholders and duty bearers?
- 02 Is the project document, including project strategy, approach and results framework been shared with relevant stakeholders?

- **03** Are identified rights holders, duty bearers and other project/portfolio partners aware of the monitoring mechanisms, relevant timelines and their respective roles in project/portfolio design, implementation and closure/transition?
- **04** Have the relevant findings of the human rights analysis been made available (and in an accessible format) to rights holders and other key stakeholders as needed?

↳ MANAGING HUMAN RIGHTS RISKS

UNDP's Enterprise Risk Management Policy (ERM) applies to risks across all levels of the organizations, including human rights risks at the project/portfolio level, which are tracked using the project Risk Register. The composition of the Risk Register presents an opportunity to identify, categorize, assess and treat human rights risks as part of HRBA.

Composition of Risk Register:

- Human rights risks can be identified under the relevant ERM Risk categories, with the option of adding categories as needed, including:
- Social and environmental risk (identified using SESP)
- Risks identified through Human Rights Due Diligence processes for working with the non-United Nations security sector and private sector
- Organizational risk
- Reputational risk
- Regulatory risk
- Strategic risk
- Safety and security risk

Impact and Likelihood:

- Impact: of risk occurring from 1 (negligible) to 5 (extreme)
- Likelihood: of risk occurring from 1 (not likely) to 5 (expected)

Risk Treatment:

What actions have been taken/will be taken to counter identified risks?

Current state of Risk Treatment(s):

Implementation of status of risk treatment/management measures and their effectiveness and relevant changes in context.



Monitor progress and manage change



P PARTICIPATION

- 01 Do rights holders have an opportunity to participate directly in project/portfolio implementation?
- 02 Are you ensuring that both rights holders and duty bearers are directly engaged in a meaningful way in the project/portfolio implementation and in monitoring the impact of project/portfolio implementation?
- 03 Have you followed up on ensuring the effectiveness of grievance mechanisms on challenges or complaints in project/portfolio implementation, including follow up on complaints received?

L LINK

- 01 Are you considering newly available, and forthcoming human rights data from human rights mechanisms and other relevant data sources to inform project/portfolio implementation and monitoring? I.e., recommendations from UPR reviews and human rights treaty monitoring bodies, SDG implementation scorecards, human rights indicators?

A ACCOUNTABILITY

- 01 Are you assessing the accountability of the identified relevant duty bearers, to identified rights holders, through accountability mechanisms for protecting and remediating violated rights?
- 02 Are you assessing the effectiveness of identified accountability mechanisms based on human rights claims and challenges brought to such mechanisms?

N

NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUALITY

- 01 Are you tracking or continually assessing the potential impact - so far and ongoing - of the project/portfolio on the identified rights holders?
- 02 Has the project/portfolio had unintended consequences of exacerbating the situation for rights holders, or negatively impacted upon other rights holders, including against the human rights risks and impacts identified in SESP and related risk management processes and the three-step human rights analysis?
- 03 Are there groups or sub-sets of groups within the identified group of affected rights holders that have been negatively impacted or not benefitted as much as other groups?

E

EMPOWERMENT AND CAPACITY-DEVELOPMENT

- 01 Are you measuring the extent to and the ways in which the project/portfolio implementation is achieving empowerment of the rights holders identified, in terms of identifying, monitoring, advocating and realizing both their own rights and the rights of people that they are representing or working to protect?
- 02 Are you monitoring and assessing the impact of the capacity development of rights holders to build on project/portfolio empowerment activities and secure their rights?
- 03 Are you monitoring and assessing the outcome of the capacity development of duty bearers to respect, protect and fulfil human rights?
- 04 Are you assessing the need for advocacy to encourage the participation of duty bearers and relevant stakeholders in capacity-building programming?



WHEN ANSWERING QUESTIONS ON EMPOWERMENT AND CAPACITY-DEVELOPMENT CONSIDER, FOR EXAMPLE:

→ **Advocacy** may be necessary to encourage the **participation** of duty bearers. For example, such advocacy could include referring to relevant **UPR commitments** and related **SDGs** as a means of encouragement for the State to demonstrate the implementation of its obligations and commitments which could encourage development support,

foreign direct investment, and strengthen future reporting by the host State to the treaty system and UPR process. In this context, it may be necessary to conduct a **political economy analysis** to understand political dynamics that could affect empowerment and capacity development efforts and could guide strengthening political support for such efforts.

T

TRANSPARENCY

- **01** Are project/portfolio implementation results and lessons learned accessible by key partners, including duty bearers and rights holders?
- **02** Do key partners, including rights holders and duty bearers, have the opportunity to input into reporting? I.e. prepare draft annual reports and share with partners ahead of annual meeting to invite inputs and feedback.
- **03** Are project/portfolio budgets and other finances accessible for key partners?
- **04** Are there ongoing monitoring and relationship management measures in place among key stakeholders to ensure and not assume effective and ongoing participation in the project/portfolio, including through spot checks and field missions?
- **04** Are you ensuring that the monitoring, evaluation, and lessons learned are shared internal-ly to inform subsequent programming cycles and so lead to continuous improvement of programming?



WHEN ANSWERING QUESTIONS ON TRANSPARENCY CONSIDER FOR EXAMPLE:

- Conducting **annual consultations** with affected rights holders to gauge the effectiveness of project/portfolio interventions on their lives, including through surveys.
- Conducting **field missions, spot checks and interviews** among key stakeholders.
- **Monitoring activities** being carried out regularly to **collect data to track** the project/portfolio progress (incl. indicator target achievements).
- **Collecting feedback** from people and groups most affected and at heightened risk of marginalization and vulnerability.
- **Collecting data against SDG and Human Rights Index indicators** to monitor project/portfolio effectiveness.
- The **availability** and **accessibility** of monitoring data for most affected rights holders and duty bearers while ensuring data protection and privacy.
- **Integrating human rights data and analysis** in any project/portfolio evaluations, including in mid-term evaluations.



STAGE 3
**TRANSITION/
CLOSE**



Final evaluation

P

PARTICIPATION

- 01** If the project/portfolio is transitioning to further phases, are the identified rights holders, those most affected and at heightened risk of marginalization and/or vulnerability, and duty bearers participating in discussions on lessons learned to inform the continuity of the project/portfolio?
- 02** If the project/portfolio is closing, are the identified rights holders, those most affected and at heightened risk of marginalization and vulnerability, and duty bearers participating in identifying project/portfolio results and consultations on preserving the gains of the project/portfolio?
- 03** Are the identified rights holders, those most affected and at heightened risk of marginalization and/or vulnerability, and duty bearers engaged in meaningful participation in the project evaluation, review or assessment?
- 04** Are the identified rights holders, those most affected and at heightened risk of marginalization and/or vulnerability, and duty bearers engaged in discussions around the sustainability plan

L

LINK

- 01** and/or exit strategy development?

Are you considering how the project/portfolio findings from completed activities and evaluations are contributing to the advancement of human rights, including implementation of human rights recommendations or contributing toward the achievement of the SDGs?³²

32 For more guidance on linking human rights and gender equality to evaluations please see 'Applying a Human Rights and Gender Equality Lens to the OECD Evaluation Criteria', OECD (2023). Available at: https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/applying-a-human-rights-and-gender-equality-lens-to-the-oecd-evaluation-criteria_9aaf2f98-en.html

A**ACCOUNTABILITY**

- 01 Are you assessing the overall increased accountability of the identified duty bearers in the transition/close of the project/portfolio?
- 02 Are there recommendations for increasing accountability in the evaluation, in the final report, in the sustainability plan related to the transition/close of the project based on gaps identified?

N**NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUALITY**

- 01 Are you assessing changes in levels of discrimination against the identified affected rights holders?
- 02 Are you assessing any unintended consequences (positive or negative) for other rights holders, including increased discrimination and inequality?
- 03 Are you identifying recommendations for reducing discrimination and inequality of rights holders for transition/close of the project and are you communicating these with the relevant duty bearers?

E**EMPOWERMENT AND CAPACITY-DEVELOPMENT**

- 01 Are you assessing the contribution of the project to the empowerment of rights holders to claim their rights?
- 02 Are you assessing the development of the capacity of duty bearers to improve in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities as a result/outcome of the project?
- 03 Are you assessing the potential impact of the project/portfolio transition/closure on the sustainability of capacity development, including possible new dependencies on strengthened capacities from the project/portfolio, and if so, what measures might be taken to mitigate any negative impacts of the project transition/closure?

T

TRANSPARENCY

- 01 Are you ensuring the human rights findings from the project/portfolio are used to inform needed changes or adjustments in policy or other interventions in other sectors?
- 02 Are you ensuring that all stakeholders have access to the project/portfolio results, evaluations and lessons learned to benefit further learning and inform possible transition into new phases of the project/portfolio, or, if closing, to inform efforts to sustain results by other actors.

HRBA IN THE UNDP PROGRAMMING CYCLE

THREE-STEP HUMAN RIGHTS ANALYSIS

STEP 1 | CAUSAL ANALYSIS



STEP 2 | ROLE ANALYSIS



STEP 3 | CAPACITY GAP ANALYSIS



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STAGE 1 | DESIGN



STAGE 2 | IMPLEMENTATION



STAGE 3 | CLOSE/TRANSITION



Annex I

UNDP Signature Solutions and Relevant Human Rights

SIX SIGNATURE SOLUTIONS AND RELEVANT HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS AND GUIDANCE



Human rights standards are provided by the nine core United Nations human rights treaty, and relevant guidance on these human rights standards is provided by the treaty body committees, including in the form of General Comments.

The following are some of the relevant human rights standards and guidance for the six signature solutions. These standards must inform and influence UNDP support in the specific signature solutions. Please note the list is non-exhaustive and other rights may apply to programming areas.



Global inequality reduces choice, exacerbates poverty, and reduces upward mobility. Following the devastating and unequal impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNDP supports governments and policymakers to work toward a more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable economic recovery. Recognizing that systemic discrimination is a key factor in inequality, UNDP supports the furthest behind, focusing on age, gender, displacement, disability, race, and how these and other factors intersect to compound barriers to development progress. Inequalities also leave many people behind in accessing health and other basic services, critical in pandemic preparedness and response. UNDP recognizes that inclusive, rights-based economies that respect, protect, and fulfil a State's social and economic rights obligations will be the greatest levers for inclusive growth and more equal and sustainable societies.

As UNDP supports Member States to uphold their human rights obligations UNDP focuses on both the micro and macro level economic policy responses. UNDP will aim to support States in deploying the maximum available resources to promote social and economic rights that will address inequalities and ensure people have access to food, essential health care, clean water, adequate housing, and essential levels of social protection without discrimination.

→ SOCIAL PROTECTION

Article 3 of the UDHR says that everyone deserves to be safe and secure in their life. The government and other stakeholders should support as much as possible to ensure that everyone lives a good life. Article 22 of the UDHR entitles everyone to social security. Article 9 of the ICESCR also says that everyone has the right to government support such as money, health, and other support when they need it. [General Comment No. 19](#) explains that the government needs to help everyone when they are sick, hurt, out of work or need extra support for their families. The support should be sufficient, low cost, and available to everyone including women, children, migrant workers, and persons with disabilities. The government should not discriminate against anyone while providing support. The former [Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights \(2014\)](#) observed that the right to social security is directly linked to social protection which should include health care and financial help for children, the elderly, and those who cannot work due to sickness, unemployment, maternity, or disability, ensuring they have support when needed.

LEGAL INSTR.	RELEVANT STANDARDS	CONTENTS
UDHR	Article 3: Right to life liberty and security of a person	Everyone deserves to be safe and secure in their life.
	Article 22: Right to social security	The government and other stakeholders should support as much as possible to ensure that everyone lives a good life.
ICESCR	Article 9: Right to life liberty and security of a person	Everyone has the right to government support such as money, health, and other support when they need it.
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	Article 27: The right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.	Children's right to an adequate standard of living, meant to guarantee the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development and to provide material and support programmes, with reference to nutrition, clothing and housing maintenance.
General Comment No. 19: Right to social security		Right to government support when sick, out of work or need extra support for families.
Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights (2014)		The right to social security is directly linked to social protection, which should include health care and financial help for children, the elderly, and those who cannot work due to sickness, unemployment, maternity, or disability, ensuring they have support when needed.

→ JOBS AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Article 23 of the UDHR says that everyone should have the chance to get a job they like, work in a safe environment, and receive support if they don't have a job. Similarly, Article 6 of the ICESCR guarantees that everyone should be able to choose a job they like and work safely, and the government will make sure that. It also says the government will help people learn new skills such as fixing cars or find good jobs while making sure everyone's freedom and safety are protected. The right includes the chance to choose the job one wants but it does not guarantee that anyone would automatically get a job free of condition (General Comment No 18). The working environment needs to be safe. Everyone needs to have equal pay, be treated with respect, and be given enough breaks and support to do their best (see Article 7). The former Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights (2017) pointed out that basic income should be given prominence, as it ensures economic security and is relevant to the right to work and social security. The governments must not also discriminate while ensuring the right to work and must provide support and services to help people get jobs.

LEGAL INSTR.	RELEVANT STANDARDS	CONTENTS
UDHR	Article 23: Right to work	Everyone should have the chance to get a job they like, work in a safe environment, and receive support if they do not have a job.
ICESCR	Article 6: Right to work	Everyone should be able to choose a job they like and work safely, and the government will make sure that.
	Article 7: Right to just and favourable conditions of work	Everyone needs to have equal pay, be treated with respect, and be given enough breaks and support to do their best.
General Comment No. 18: Right to work		The right includes the chance to choose the job one wants but it does not guarantee that anyone would automatically get a job free of condition. Governments must not also discriminate while ensuring the right to work and must provide support and services to help people get jobs.
Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights (2017)		Basic income should be given prominence, as it ensures economic security and is relevant to the right to work and social security.

→ SMES, TRADE AND VALUE CHAINS

Article 23 of the UDHR allows everyone to form and join trade unions. Article 8 of the ICESCR also acknowledges the right to a trade union. The right to a trade union is deeply connected to the right to work as it helps to express the interests of workers and demand positive changes (General Comment No 18). United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights indicated that a combined approach between different groups and trade unions is necessary to combat corruption in the business context. The current Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights (2023) emphasized that States should help make it easier for workers and employers to negotiate wages and other agreements through their organizations.

LEGAL INSTR.	RELEVANT STANDARDS	CONTENTS
UDHR	Article 23: Right to work	Right to join and form trade union.
ICESCR	Article 8: Right to trade union	Right to trade union.
General Comment No. 18: Right to work		Right to trade union is deeply connected to the right to work as it helps to express the interests of workers and demand positive changes.

LEGAL INSTR.	RELEVANT STANDARDS	CONTENTS
United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights: Connecting the business and human rights and the anti-corruption agendas		A combined approach between different groups and trade unions is necessary to combat corruption in the business context.
Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights (2023)		States should help make it easier for workers and employers to negotiate wages and other agreements through their organizations.

→ HEALTH

Healthy populations are essential for sustainable development. As a key partner to the Global Fund, UNDP leverages its operational capacity and partnerships with governments and civil society to support countries in accessing resources to fight AIDS, TB, and malaria, while building resilient, people-centred health systems. By fostering enabling legal and policy environments, reducing stigma, and improving access to justice for health, UNDP strengthens responses to health challenges, especially for those left behind. In response to global health threats like COVID-19, the climate crisis, and weak health systems, UNDP works to build resilience, expand digital health solutions, and address health inequalities, driving progress toward multiple SDGs.

LEGAL INSTR.	RELEVANT STANDARDS	CONTENTS
UDHR	Article 25: Right to an adequate standard of living	Right extends to medical care.
ICESCR	Article 12: Right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health	Reduction of child mortality, improvement of hygiene, prevention and treatment of disease and the provision of medical services and care.
	Article 2: Non-discrimination in the realization of economic, social and cultural rights	Through the reference to ‘other status’, applied by UNDP in relation to the provision of health care and services for persons at heightened risk of marginalization such as people living with HIV, key populations, LGBTIQ+ people.
CESCR General Comment No. 3: Right to health		Provides guidance on State obligations for the progressive realization of economic, social, and cultural rights, including health.
CESCR General Comment No. 14: Right to health		Clarifies State obligations related to the right to health, including the “AAAQ” framework – Availability, Accessibility, Acceptability, and Quality.
CRPD	Article 25: Right to health without discrimination for persons with disabilities	Provision of health services the same as other persons, health services specific because of disabilities, accessibility to health services, and consent to health services.
CEDAW	Article 12: Right to access health care services without discrimination for women	Equal access to health care, including related to family planning, provision of women appropriate services, including for pregnancy.
<u>Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health</u>		Addresses inequalities in access to health care, health care systems, access to medicines, and preventive measures, focusing on vulnerable populations.



To ensure that no one is left behind, UNDP's governance work is focused on the empowerment of all voices in development processes, ensuring that public services are accessed equally, and addressing emerging complexities by 'future proofing' governance systems through anticipatory approaches and better management of human rights risk. Upholding human rights is inextricably linked to the rule of law. Access to justice, security, and direct programmatic support on human rights, alongside locally driven local governance solutions, civic engagement, and wide civic space, are key dimensions of human development and foundational elements of a renewed social contract anchored in human rights.

UNDP recognizes that political institutions and processes that facilitate the participation of all – including those at the margins – are more resilient, peaceful, prosperous and fair. Supporting contemporary governance mechanisms that meaningfully respond to what people want and need, including their rights, is essential to a renewed social contract and greater trust in representative institutions and processes. UNDP also advances civil and political rights through electoral support and is ensuring rights-based and inclusive governance of digital legal ID systems as a digital public good. UNDP further assists countries in efforts to address [civic space](#) and expand [access to justice](#); eliminate racism and discrimination; and strengthen the rule of law, people-centred justice, and human rights promotion and protection.

→ INCLUSIVE AND FUTURE-SMART PUBLIC GOODS AND SERVICES

Article 21 of the UDHR recognizes that everyone has the right to participate in government either directly or through elected representatives. The Article also ensures that everyone can enjoy government services equally. Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) ensures everyone's right to access to public services including legislative, executive, and administrative [services](#). Article 28 of the UDHR guarantees that for the enjoyment of human rights, a fair and organized social environment is required. Article 28 of the UDHR guarantees that for the enjoyment of human rights, a fair and organized social environment is required. [General Comment No. 12](#) requires that for the enjoyment of human rights, a fair and organized social environment is required. It also explains that good governance is necessary for enjoying human rights and to make sure that no one suffers from poverty and leads a satisfactory life. This is also directly related to [access to the Internet](#) as digital technologies impact the enjoyment of human rights such as the right to information and freedom of expression. Article 19 of the ICCPR provides that the right to freedom of opinion and expression includes the right to access to information held by State authorities. It does not matter if the information is on digital platforms (see [GC No 34](#)).

LEGAL INSTR.	RELEVANT STANDARDS	CONTENTS
UDHR	Article 21: Right to take part in the government	Everyone has the right to participate in government either directly or through elected representatives.
	Article 28: Right to social and international order	For the enjoyment of human rights, a fair and organized social environment is required.
ICCPR	Article 19: Right to freedom of expression	The right to freedom of opinion and expression includes the right to access to information held by State authorities.
	Article 25: Right to take part in public affairs	Everyone's right to access to public services including legislative, executive, and administrative services.
CRPD	Article 9: Accessibility	Accessibility to physical, informational, and communication spaces.
	Article 21: Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information	Emphasizes the right to access information, including accessible formats for persons with disabilities.
	Article 29: Participation in political and public life	Protects the right to participate in political and public life, including standing for elections, holding public office, and participating in public administration on equal terms.

LEGAL INSTR.	RELEVANT STANDARDS	CONTENTS
CEDAW	Article 7: Political and public life	Guarantees women's equal participation in public and political life, including the right to vote, participate in formulating government policies, and hold public office.
	Article 10: Equal rights in education	Focuses on equal access to education.
	Article 14: Rural women	Emphasizes the rights of rural women, including access to public services, education, and economic opportunities.
General Comment No. 12: Right to adequate food		Good governance is necessary for enjoying human rights and to make sure that no one suffers from poverty and leads a satisfactory life.
		Good governance includes access to internet as digital technologies impact the enjoyment of human rights such as the right to information and freedom of expression.
General Comment No. 34: Freedom of opinion and expression		The right to freedom of opinion and expression includes the right to access to information held by State authorities. It does not matter if the information is on digital platforms.

→ DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND PROCESSES

Article 21 of the UDHR states that people should be able to elect a government by giving votes in fair and genuine elections. Article 25 of the ICCPR says that everyone has the right to participate in public affairs directly or indirectly such as by being a legislator, choosing or changing the constitution, or making decisions about local issues (see GC No 25). Article 25 also guarantees that everyone should be able to vote in a fair election through a secret ballot. The right also includes the right to be a candidate in the election. The right to vote is deeply connected to other rights such as freedom of expression and assembly and governments are obliged to give full protections.

LEGAL INSTR.	RELEVANT STANDARDS	CONTENTS
UDHR	Article 21: Right to take part in the government	People should be able to elect a government by giving votes in fair and genuine elections.
ICCPR	Article 25: Right to take part in public affairs	Everyone has the right to participate in public affairs directly or indirectly such as by being a legislator, choosing or changing the constitution, or making decisions about local issues.
		Everyone has the right to participate in public affairs directly or indirectly such as by being a legislator, choosing or changing the constitution, or making decisions about local issues.
General Comment No. 25: Right to take part in public affairs		Right to vote is deeply connected to other rights such as freedom of expression and assembly and governments are obliged to give full protections.
<u>Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression</u>	Article 7: Political and public life	Right to participate in democratic institutions and the protection of an open and inclusive public sphere. It is relevant for governance reforms aiming to enhance transparency and public participation in decision making.

→ OPEN AND INCLUSIVE PUBLIC SPHERE

Article 19 of the UDHR provides that everyone has the right to think and express their ideas with others using any way they choose. This could include by talking, writing, drawing, or using other means such as audio visuals and social media according to Article 19 of the ICCPR. Freedom of expression can also include discussion on public matters, canvassing, journalism, teaching, religious discussion among others. The right to access to information is also included within the right to freedom of expression under Article 19(2) of the ICCPR. Governments must ensure that everyone has the right to identify who holds their information. Freedom of expression and freedom of assembly are connected to each other. Freedom of peaceful assembly is a recognized right under both UDHR (Article 20) and ICCPR (Article 21). Freedom of assembly is important for participatory governance. The right protects the peaceful (non-violent) gathering both physical and online of people/ an individual for specific purposes. Both citizens and non-citizens of a country have the right to peaceful assembly (GC No. 37). The right to peaceful assembly can be fully enjoyed when other rights such as freedom of expression and association are protected.

LEGAL INSTR.	RELEVANT STANDARDS	CONTENTS
UDHR	Article 6: Right to legal identity and legal recognition	Right to legal recognition regardless of whether they are citizens or immigrants, students or tourists, workers or refugees, or any other group.
	Article 19: Right to freedom of opinion and expression	Everyone has the right to think and express their ideas with others using any way they choose.
ICCPR and General Comment No. 34: Freedom of Opinion and Expression	Article 19: Right to freedom of opinion and expression	Mode of expression includes talking, writing, drawing, or using other means such as audio visuals and social media.
ICCPR	Article 19(2): Right to freedom of opinion and expression	Right to access to information is included within freedom of expression.
ICCPR and UDHR	Article 21 and 20: Right of peaceful assembly	Freedom of peaceful assembly is a recognized right
ICCPR and General Comment No. 37: Right of Peaceful Assembly		Freedom of assembly is important for participatory governance and includes both physical and online gathering. Both citizens and non-citizens can enjoy the right.
ICCPR and General Comment No. 34: Freedom of Opinion and Expression		Freedom of expression can also include discussion on public matters, canvassing, journalism, teaching, religious discussion among others.
CRPD and General Comment No. 6: Equality and non-discrimination		Outlines the recognition, participation, and accommodation dimensions specifically relevant for persons with disabilities.
<u>Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association</u>		Democratic institutions must support inclusive participation, focusing on the rights of assembly and association, especially in digital governance and public goods.



UNDP commits to working on human rights for sustainable development in all development contexts, in ways that are relevant to each country. UNDP recognizes that addressing the root causes of human rights violations is a vital investment in resilience and in the promotion of peace, justice, and inclusive institutions and governance approaches. Additionally, prevention, peacebuilding, response, and recovery involve a wide array of programming, rooted in HRBA, which contributes to the realization of country priorities under the SDGs and complements efforts to build resilience.

UNDP's work aims at stabilizing and protecting development gains, mitigating risks of relapse and recurrence, and building institution and community resilience to sustain peaceful development pathways. In crisis settings, UNDP needs to consider a diverse range of approaches and entry points for its human rights work, acknowledging there is no 'one size fits all' for human rights programming, particularly in crisis contexts, and noting the diversity in national contexts and the complexity of human rights systems. Conflict sensitivity and political economy analysis tools and HRBA to development programming can more rigorously support human rights risk management. Right-based anticipation and foresight can help to envision different futures and inform policy and decision-making to uphold human rights and minimize the impact of a crisis.

Human rights abuses significantly heighten the risk of conflict. Evidence shows a direct correlation between countries with recent human rights abuses and the likelihood of civil war. Violations of human rights are often core elements driving conflicts, indicating the importance of addressing long-standing grievances, inequalities, and lack of opportunities. As acknowledged in [Security Council Resolution 2171](#), serious human rights abuses can be early indicators of conflict escalation. The [United Nations Secretary-General's Report Our Common Agenda](#) supports this, asserting that the continuous erosion of human rights contributes to destabilizing inequalities and perpetual crisis.

In crisis settings, the protection and promotion of human rights are paramount to prevent, respond to, and recover from crises and conflicts. UNDP's Crisis Offer emphasizes the necessity to anticipate, prevent, respond, and recover through three interconnected pillars: breaking the cycle of fragility, getting ahead of the crisis curve, and sustaining development throughout crisis situations. To integrate HRBA effectively into interventions, it is imperative to tailor solutions to each context while considering stabilization approaches, area-based development, governance-based engagements, resilience programs, and localization efforts.

The [Secretary-General's Policy Brief on COVID-19 and Human Rights](#) outlines that respecting and protecting human rights enhance resilience in countries, enabling them to withstand unexpected shocks such as pandemics or climate change. While upholding human rights doesn't guarantee peace, data suggests that countries with solid human rights records tend to be more peaceful. However, the global landscape indicates a concerning trend of increasing violence against human rights defenders and journalists, highlighting the urgency to address violence, justice, and governance concerns to achieve peaceful, just, and inclusive societies.

In crisis and complex environments, human rights considerations are crucial as violations of human rights often trigger violence and instability. UNDP's Crisis Offer integrates human rights perspectives across its components and can be informed by human rights standards:

From a conflict-sensitivity perspective, the notion of rights holders and duty bearers is important because it creates a dynamic of managed conflict within which individuals are empowered to demand State action to protect their rights and State resources are directed away from doing harm. Where capacities and political will exist to respect, protect and fulfil human rights, the rights holders and the duty bearer are brought into a positive relationship designed to meet needs and address grievances through peaceful processes of dialogue, participation and accountability. Where this relationship breaks down, for whatever reason, the risk of conflict and violence increases. Unaddressed human rights violations indicate that the relationship is not functioning well: widespread and systematic violations of human rights indicate that the relationship is broken, and the chances of violent conflict rise exponentially. Supporting duty bearers and rights holders is therefore an important conflict sensitive tool for reducing risk of conflict and sustaining peace.³³

33 UNSDG Good Practice Note: Conflict sensitivity, Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, 2022

→ IN ANTICIPATION AND PREVENTION CONTEXTS

Utilizing human rights as an entry point in designing policy and programming solutions can address barriers and daily indignities faced by marginalized groups, ensuring inclusivity and equality.

Both Articles 3 and [6\(1\)](#) of UDHR and ICCPR respectively confirm that everyone is entitled to the enjoyment of the right to life. General Comment No. 36 explained that the right to life cannot be violated even during public emergencies and armed conflicts. The derogation from the right to life however needs to be justified by law and cannot be an arbitrary exercise by States. To protect the right to life, General Comment No. 36 requires that States take effective measures to protect the right to life. This could include States developing disaster management plans that “increase preparedness and address natural and man-made disasters that may adversely affect the enjoyment of the right to life [.....] resulting in disruption of essential services.” Article 11 of the CRPD affirms that State Parties must protect and ensure the safety of persons with disabilities in emergencies, armed conflicts, and natural disasters.

LEGAL INSTR.	RELEVANT STANDARDS	CONTENTS
UDHR and ICCPR	Articles 3 and (1): Right to life	Everyone is entitled to the enjoyment of the right to life.
CRPD	Article 11: Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies	State Parties must protect and ensure the safety of persons with disabilities in emergencies, armed conflicts, and natural disasters.
General Comment No. 36: Right to life		States need to take effective measures to protect the right to life including developing disaster management plans.

→ IN RESPONDING AND RECOVERING CONTEXTS

Human rights perspectives must be integrated early in response and recovery cycles, prioritizing the agency and voice of affected populations while promoting resilience, green practices, and equity.

Under Article 25 of the UDHR, everyone has the right to adequate resources to have a healthy and comfortable life. [Article 6](#) of the ICCPR confirms that States are expected not to take any measures that violate one’s right to life. [Article 7](#) of the ICCPR requires States to take measures to protect everyone from torture, even when there is a [public emergency](#) (see [GC No. 7](#)).

LEGAL INSTR.	RELEVANT STANDARDS	CONTENTS
UDHR	Article 25: Right to adequate standard of living	Everyone has the right to adequate resources to have a healthy and comfortable life.
ICCPR	Article 6: Right to life	States are expected not to take any measures that violate one’s right to life.
	Article 7: Right not to be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	States need to take measures to protect everyone from torture.
General Comment No. 7: Prohibition of Torture		States are obliged to provide protection from torture even when there is a public emergency.
Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of Non-recurrence		Mechanisms for addressing grievances in post-conflict situations, ensuring accountability, and preventing future crises.

→ IN PROTRACTED CONTEXTS

Strengthened, rights-based, and gender-responsive analyses are essential to understanding root causes of fragility, delivering integrated development solutions, and building inclusive and stable societies over the longer term.

- [Article 28](#) of the UDHR says that both national and international systems are needed to support and uphold human rights. It means there should be a fair system everywhere to make sure people's rights are protected.
- [Article 2.1](#) of ICESCR, each country promises to do its best and get help if needed, to make sure everyone enjoys the rights including making the right laws. [Article 9](#) of the ICCPR provides that States must do everything they can to protect people from being unfairly detained. This could include, for example, detention awaiting trial, house arrest, and forced hospitalization.

LEGAL INSTR.	RELEVANT STANDARDS	CONTENTS
UDHR	Article 28: right to a social and international order	Both national and international systems are needed to support and uphold human rights.
ICESCR	Article 2.1: Progressive realization of rights	Each country promises to do its best and get help if needed, to make sure everyone enjoys the rights including making the right laws.
ICCPR	Article 9: Right to liberty and security of person	States must do everything they can to protect people from being unfairly detained.
General Comment No. 35: liberty and security of person		Protection from detention awaiting trial, house arrest and forced hospitalization.
Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)		Protracted and fragile situations, and the human rights obligations of States to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to displaced persons.



Under Article 3 of the UDHR, everyone is entitled to the right to life, liberty, and security. Article 9 of the ICCPR also speaks of everyone’s right to liberty and security. This right obliges States to take measures to protect individuals from future harms to life and bodily injuries. [General Comment No. 35](#) explains that “The right to personal security also obliges State Parties to take appropriate measures in response to death threats against persons in the public sphere, and more generally to protect individuals from foreseeable threats to life or bodily integrity proceeding from any governmental or private actors. State Parties must take both measures to prevent future injury and retrospective measures”. If the environment is polluted or unsafe, it can lead to serious health problems and increase the likelihood of harm. [The Special Rapporteur \(2018\)](#) points out that ‘environmental degradation interferes with specific rights, including the rights to life, health, food, water, housing, culture, development, property and home and private life’. [Article 11\(1\)](#) of the ICESCR says that everyone has a right to a decent standard of living which means that everyone should have enough food, clothes, and a safe home that meets these basic needs. [United Nations Resolution 76/300](#) acknowledges that everyone has the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment. The [user guide](#) by the United Nations on the right to a healthy environment explains the right to a clean and healthy environment means “having clean air to breathe, safe water to drink, healthy food, and places to live and play that are free from pollution. This helps keep our planet happy and safe for everyone”. The is for everyone to live well and for conditions to keep improving over time. Protecting the environment and ecosystems helps improve people’s quality of life and ensures they can fully enjoy their rights. This benefits both current and future generations.

LEGAL INSTR.	RELEVANT STANDARDS	CONTENTS
UDHR	Article 3: Right to life, liberty and security	Everyone is entitled to the right to life, liberty, and security
ICESCR	Article 11(1): Right of everyone to an adequate standard of living	Everyone has a right to a decent standard of living which means that everyone should have enough food, clothes, and a safe home that meets these basic needs
General Comment No. 35: liberty and security of person		The right to personal security also obliges State Parties to take appropriate measures in response to death threats against persons in the public sphere, and more generally to protect individuals from foreseeable threats to life or bodily integrity proceeding from any governmental or private actors. State Parties must take both measures to prevent future injury and retrospective measures.
United Nations Resolution 76/300: The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment		Everyone has the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.
The Special Rapporteur on the human rights to a healthy environment		Environmental degradation interferes with specific rights, including the rights to life, health, food, water, housing, culture, development, property and home and private life’.
The United Nations user guide on the right to a healthy environment (2024)		Right to a clean and healthy environment means “having clean air to breathe, safe water to drink, healthy food, and places to live and play that are free from pollution. This helps keep our planet happy and safe for everyone”.



Access to energy is a precondition for health and economic prosperity. Energy helps to realize human rights, including the right to work, the right to education and the right to better health. Some 759 million people still lack access to electricity and 2.6 billion live without clean cooking options, disproportionately affecting women and girls. UNDP is working with governments to increase energy access for those furthest behind and accelerating the transition to renewable energy. By speeding up investment in distributed renewable energy solutions, especially for those hardest to reach and in crisis contexts, UNDP aims to increase energy for 500 million people, achieving equality and non-discrimination in access to safe, sustainable, adequate, affordable and appropriate renewable energy.

Article 25 (1) of the UDHR says that everyone should have enough food, clothes, a nice place to live, and medical care to stay healthy and happy. Article 11(1) of the ICESCR says that everyone has a right to a decent standard of living which means that everyone should have enough food, clothes, and a safe home that meets these basic needs. Energy is essential for heating homes, powering medical care, and keeping food fresh. Without it, maintaining a good standard of living, including safety and health, would be much harder. So, energy helps ensure everyone has the basics they need to live well. Article 12(1) of the ICESCR guarantees that everyone has the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. Energy is vital for maintaining health because it powers hospitals, clean water systems, and safe living conditions. Without reliable energy, it's harder to ensure good physical and mental health.

LEGAL INSTR.	RELEVANT STANDARDS	CONTENTS
UDHR	Article 1: Equal dignity and human rights	Everyone should have enough food, clothes, a nice place to live, and medical care to stay healthy and happy
ICESCR	Article 11(1): Right of everyone to an adequate standard of living	Everyone has a right to an adequate standard of living which means that everyone should have enough food, clothes, and a safe home that meets these basic needs
	Article 12(1): Right of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health	Everyone has the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health



UNDP's Gender Equality Strategy 2022-2025, underscores in vivid terms how development challenges are more significant for women than men. UNDP's Gender Equality Strategy is guided by normative frameworks, such as the UDHR and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Implementation of human rights mechanism recommendations, including from CEDAW and the UPR, should be effective in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. Through its gender justice programming, UNDP is providing technical, financial, and policy support on the links between gender equality and legal protection, gender-responsive justice, security sector reforms, legal aid services, transitional justice, and constitutional reform.

Article 1 of the UDHR mentions that everyone is born equally important and deserves to be treated with respect. Article 2 says that everyone has the same rights and freedoms, no matter what they look like or where they come from. Everyone should be treated equally, regardless of their background or beliefs. General Comment No. 18 states that in general, to treat someone differently, to give some people special treatment, or to exclude someone because of their race, gender, age, religion, language, etc., will be considered as 'discrimination'. Principle 1 of the Yogyakarta Principles affirms that everyone is entitled to equal enjoyment of human rights regardless of one's sexual orientation and gender identity. Under [Article 26](#) of the ICCPR everyone needs to be treated the same by law and everyone should get the same protection. They should not be discriminated against because of who they are. Article 3 of the ICESCR provides that everyone should have equal chances to enjoy important things in life including having access to education, jobs, and cultural activities. However, in certain circumstances, States are not obliged to maintain equal treatment of everyone. General Comment No. 18 points out that 'the principle of equality sometimes requires State Parties to take affirmative action in order to diminish or eliminate conditions which cause or help to perpetuate discrimination prohibited by the Covenant'.

LEGAL INSTR.	RELEVANT STANDARDS	CONTENTS
UDHR	Article 1: Equal dignity and human rights	Everyone is born equally important and deserves to be treated with respect.
	Article 2: Right to enjoy rights without discrimination	Everyone has the same rights and freedoms, no matter what they look like or where they come from. Everyone should be treated equally, regardless of their background or beliefs
ICCPR	Article 26: Equality before law and equal protection of law	Everyone needs to be treated the same by law and everyone should get the same protection.
ICESCR	Article 3: Equal enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights	Everyone should have equal chances to enjoy important things in life including having access to education, jobs, and cultural activities
The Yogyakarta Principles	Principle 1: equal enjoyment of human rights	Everyone is entitled to equal enjoyment of human rights regardless of one's sexual orientation and gender identity
General Comment No. 18: Non-Discrimination		In general, to treat someone differently, to give some people special treatment, or to exclude someone because of their race, gender, age, religion, language, etc. will be considered as 'discrimination'
		The principle of equality sometimes requires State Parties to take affirmative action in order to diminish or eliminate conditions which cause or help to perpetuate discrimination prohibited by the Covenant'.
United Nations Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls		Stresses that the elimination of discrimination against women and girls in law and in practice requires a comprehensive and coherent HRBA and puts women and girls at the centre of efforts to hold States accountable for implementing international standards guaranteeing civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights

Annex II

An Overview of the Human Rights System

The human rights system of the United Nations consists of different mechanisms, both United Nations Charter based bodies and human rights treaties supported by treaty-based bodies. These mechanisms include the normative framework of the -and mechanisms through which human rights standards are articulated. Member States receive interpretations, recommendations and guidance and other information on human rights standards that can support HRBA.

There are two types of mechanisms: bodies that are based on the United Nations Charter (charter-based bodies) and bodies that are based on United Nations human rights treaties (treaty-based bodies). These bodies develop interpretations, recommendations, guidance, and other information on human rights standards that can support HRBA.

Charter-based include all United Nations organs established by or derived from the United Nations Charter that either directly or indirectly play a role in the protection and promotion of human rights, such as the General Assembly, Security Council, ECOSOC, etc. Among them, the Human Rights Council (HRC) deals exclusively with human rights. Its main purpose is to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights worldwide. Two important functions that can support application of HRBA are:

- The Universal Periodical Review (UPR) – The UPR is a peer review process in which Member States review the overall human rights situation three times a year and produce recommendations. By way of this process, each State is reviewed every four years. The recommendations a State receives usually provides an overview of existing human rights obligations for a State to consider or where a State has already committed to take action.
- Special Procedure Mandate Holders – the HRC appoints Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts and Working Groups to monitor the human rights situation in specific countries (country mandates) or on specific issues (thematic mandates), such as extreme poverty or water and sanitation. Special Procedures can make country visits, conduct research, and provide recommendations. They also provide reports and analysis on human rights standards and through their reports provide insights into gaps in the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as good practices.

Treaty-based refers to the treaties that form the normative framework of human rights law. Since the adoption of the UDHR the United Nations has expanded human rights law through treaties and its mechanisms to encompass specific standards for women, children, persons with disabilities, minorities and other vulnerable groups, who now possess rights that protect them from discrimination that had long been common in many societies. The core international human rights treaties are legally binding agreements that establish standards for the protection and promotion of human rights at the international level. These treaties are ratified by States, signalling their commitment to upholding and respecting the rights outlined within them.

Treaty-based bodies are committees composed of independent experts who monitor the implementation of the nine core human rights treaties. They perform several functions in accordance with the provisions of the treaties that established them. Their thematic focus and their working methods all differ slightly, but in general, they issue both recommendations to States on how to implement their treaty obligations and, also importantly General Comments that seek to clarify how provisions of international human rights law should be interpreted and implemented by State parties (e.g., CESCR General Comment No. 12 outlines what the right to food entails). General comments of each treaty body can be found [here](#).

The nine core international human rights treaties are:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with

Disabilities (CRPD)

- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW)
- Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED)

Key human rights standards outlined in the nine core international human rights treaties at the global level are included in Annex II.

The international human rights conventions such as these are legally binding for the States that are a party to them. Monitoring of implementation of the treaties and content interpretation are both undertaken by specific committees of experts elected by States Parties. International human rights are also implemented through regional human rights instruments, such as the European Convention on Human Rights, the American Convention on Human Rights, and the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, together with their respective courts and commissions.

SPECIAL PROCEDURES

As highlighted above, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council are independent human rights experts with mandates to report and advise on human rights from a thematic or country-specific perspective. The special procedures implement their mandate by undertaking country visits, acting on individual cases of reported violations and concerns of a broader nature by sending communications to States and others, contributing to the development of international human rights standards, and engaging in advocacy, raise public awareness, and provide advice for technical cooperation. The reports, communications and recommendations made by special procedures offer important insights into the understanding of human rights standards through thematic or country specific interpretations.³⁴ Development practitioners can be guided in understanding human rights standards through such interpretations, and can apply these standards in designing, implementing and monitoring development programming.³⁵

34 'Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council', OHCHR. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures-human-rights-council>.

35 All reports of the Special Procedures are available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures-human-rights-council/reports-and-related-calls-input>.

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

The Human Rights Council is tasked with strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe by addressing situations of human rights violations and making recommendations on them, including responding to human rights emergencies. One of the key functions of the Human Rights Council is to adopt resolutions related to human rights issues. Resolutions represent the position of the Council's members on particular human rights issues and situations. Resolutions can focus on country specific or thematic human rights issues and can include specific recommendations on how to better implement human rights on the ground.³⁶

Whilst not binding on Member States, resolutions are considered soft law. They can also help guide development practitioners in understanding and applying human rights standards to development programming as they express the will of the international community on given human rights issues or situations. Resolutions often help identify the understandings or approaches supported by the international community in best addressing the causes of violations or abuses of such rights, therefore can be invaluable in adopting HRBA.³⁷

36 Global Issues, Human Rights', United Nations. Available at: <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/human-rights>.

37 All resolutions of the Human Rights Council are available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/documents>.

Annex III

An Overview of Human Rights

The rights guaranteed by the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)** include:

- The **right to effective remedy** for any person whose rights or freedoms as recognized in the Covenant are violated (Art. 2)
- The **equal rights of men and women** (Art. 3)
- The **right to life** (Art. 4)
- The **prohibition of torture** and of **cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment** (Art. 7)
- **Freedom from slavery and servitude**; prohibition of **compulsory labour** (Art. 8)
- The **right to liberty and security** of person; protection against arbitrary arrest or detention (Art. 9)
- The **right to liberty of movement** and freedom to choose one's residence (Art. 12)
- The **right to equality before courts and tribunals**; the right to be presumed **innocent until proven guilty** and the right to a **fair hearing** before an independent tribunal (Art. 14)
- The **right to privacy** and to protection from arbitrary or unlawful interference in one's privacy (Art. 17)
- The **right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion** (Art. 18)
- The **right to hold opinions** without interference, and the right to **freedom of expression** (Art. 19)
- The **prohibition of any propaganda** for war and of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred (Art. 20)
- The **right of peaceful assembly** (Art. 21)
- The **right to freedom of association** with others (Art. 22)
- The **right to marry and found a family** (Art. 23)
- The **right of children to receive protection by the State** without discrimination (Art. 24)
- The **right to take part in the conduct of public affairs**; the **right to vote and to be elected** (Art. 25)
- The **right to equality before the law** and to equal protection of the law (Art. 26)
- The **rights of ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities** (Art. 27)

The rights guaranteed by **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)** include:

- The **right to all peoples to self-determination** (Art. 1)
- The right to enjoy the rights enunciated in the Covenant **without discrimination** (Art. 2)
- The **equal rights of men and women** (Art. 3)
- **Rights to and at work:**
 - the right to freely choose and accept work (Art. 6),
 - the right to just and favourable work conditions, including fair wages and safe & healthy work conditions (Art. 7)
 - the right to form trade unions, to join a trade union and to go on strike (Art. 8)
- The **right to social security**, including social insurance (Art. 9)
- The **right to family and married life** and the protection of children and young people (Art. 10)
- The **right to an adequate standard of living** (Art. 11), including:
 - the **right to food**
 - the **right to adequate housing**, including the prohibition of 'forced eviction'
 - the **right to water and sanitation**

- The **right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health** (Art. 12)
- The **right to education**, including free and compulsory primary education (Art. 13 and 14)
- The **right to take part in cultural life** and to enjoy the benefits of **scientific progress** (Art. 15)

The rights guaranteed by **Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)** include:

- **Absolute prohibition of torture:** The convention prohibits torture under all circumstances and categorically rejects any justification or extenuating circumstances for the use of torture.
- **No exceptional circumstances:** CAT stipulates that no exceptional circumstances, including state of war or threat of war, internal political instability, or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification for torture.
- **Obligation to prevent and investigate torture:** State Parties are required to take effective measures to prevent torture within their jurisdiction, including by ensuring that all acts of torture are offenses under domestic criminal law and establishing mechanisms for the investigation and prosecution of allegations of torture.
- **Prohibition of refoulement:** CAT prohibits State Parties from extraditing, deporting, or otherwise transferring a person to another State where there are substantial grounds for believing that the person would be in danger of being subjected to torture.
- **Prohibition of evidence obtained through torture:** The convention prohibits the use of evidence obtained through torture in any proceedings, except against a person accused of torture as evidence that the statement was made.
- **Protection of victims and witnesses:** CAT requires State Parties to provide effective remedies and redress to victims of torture and their families, including compensation, rehabilitation, and satisfaction, and to protect victims and witnesses from intimidation and retaliation.
- **Obligation to cooperate:** State Parties are obligated to cooperate with each other and with international bodies, including by exchanging information and providing mutual legal assistance in the investigation and prosecution of cases of torture.

The rights guaranteed by **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)** include:

- **Non-discrimination:** The convention requires State Parties to take measures to eliminate discrimination against women in all areas of life, including political, economic, social, cultural, civil, and family life.
- **Equal rights and responsibilities in marriage and family life:** CEDAW recognizes the equal rights of women and men in marriage and family relations, including the right to enter into marriage on the basis of free and full consent, the right to choose a spouse, the right to the same rights and responsibilities during marriage and at its dissolution, and the right to equal rights and responsibilities as parents.
- **Right to education and employment:** The convention guarantees women the right to education and employment on an equal basis with men and requires State Parties to take measures to ensure equal access to education and vocational training, as well as to promote women's participation in the labor market and their access to employment opportunities.
- **Right to health:** CEDAW recognizes the right of women to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including access to healthcare services, family planning, and reproductive health care.
- **Right to participate in public and political life:** The convention guarantees women the right to participate fully and equally in public and political life, including the right to vote and to stand for election, the right to hold public office and to participate in decision-making processes at all levels of government.

- **Protection against discrimination in the workplace:** CEDAW prohibits discrimination against women in the workplace, including in hiring, promotion, and dismissal, and requires State Parties to take measures to ensure equal pay for equal work and to provide maternity leave and other benefits to working women.

The rights guaranteed by **Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)** include:

- **Non-discrimination:** The convention prohibits discrimination against children on the basis of race, color, sex, language, religion, national or social origin, birth status, or any other status.
- **Best interests of the child:** The convention requires State Parties to ensure that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration in all actions concerning children.
- **Right to life, survival, and development:** The CRC recognizes the right of every child to life, survival, and development to the maximum extent possible.
- **Right to a name and nationality:** The convention guarantees children the right to a name and nationality, as well as the right to know and be cared for by their parents.
- **Right to education:** The CRC recognizes the right of every child to education and obligates State Parties to ensure free and compulsory primary education and access to secondary and higher education.
- **Right to health and healthcare:** The convention guarantees children the right to the highest attainable standard of health and access to healthcare services, including prenatal and postnatal care.
- **Protection from abuse, neglect, and exploitation:** The CRC requires State Parties to take measures to protect children from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence, including trafficking, child labor, and harmful traditional practices.
- **Right to express views and participate in decisions affecting them:** The convention recognizes the right of children to express their views freely and to participate in decisions affecting them, taking into account their age and maturity.
- **Protection of children in armed conflict:** The CRC prohibits the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict and requires State Parties to take measures to protect children affected by armed conflict and to provide assistance for their recovery and reintegration into society.
- **Special protection for vulnerable children:** The CRC recognizes the special protection needs of certain groups of children, including children with disabilities, refugee and asylum-seeking children, and children in conflict with the law.

The rights guaranteed by **International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)** include:

- **Non-discrimination:** The convention requires State Parties to prohibit and eliminate racial discrimination in all its forms and to ensure that all individuals are treated equally before the law, without distinction of any kind based on race, color, descent, or national or ethnic origin.
- **Equality before the law:** ICERD guarantees the right to equal treatment before the courts and other judicial bodies, as well as equal protection of the law without discrimination based on race or ethnicity.
- **Right to security of person and protection against violence:** The convention recognizes the right of everyone to security of person and protection against violence or bodily harm, regardless of race or ethnicity.
- **Right to freedom of movement and residence:** ICERD prohibits racial segregation and discrimination in the exercise of the right to freedom of movement and residence and requires State parties to take measures to ensure equal access to housing and public services for all individuals, regardless of race or ethnicity.

- **Right to work and to just and favorable conditions of work:** The convention guarantees the right to work and to just and favorable conditions of work without discrimination based on race or ethnicity and requires State parties to take measures to eliminate racial discrimination in employment and occupation.
- **Right to education and cultural rights:** ICERD recognizes the right to education and cultural rights without discrimination based on race or ethnicity and requires State parties to promote understanding and tolerance among all races through education and cultural programs.
- **Prohibition of hate speech and incitement to racial hatred:** The convention prohibits racial propaganda and incitement to racial hatred and requires State parties to take measures to combat racist ideologies and practices that promote racial discrimination and prejudice.

The rights guaranteed by **International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW)** include:

- **Non-discrimination:** The convention prohibits discrimination on the basis of migrant status and requires State Parties to ensure that migrant workers and their families enjoy the same rights and protections as nationals, without distinction of any kind.
- **Protection of fundamental rights:** The convention guarantees migrant workers and their families a range of fundamental rights, including the right to life, liberty, and security of person; the right to freedom of movement and residence; the right to work and to just and favorable conditions of work; the right to social security and to an adequate standard of living; and the right to access to education and healthcare.
- **Protection against exploitation and abuse:** The convention prohibits the exploitation and abuse of migrant workers and requires State Parties to take measures to prevent and combat such practices, including by regulating recruitment and employment practices, ensuring fair wages and working conditions, and providing access to legal remedies for victims of exploitation and abuse.
- **Family reunification:** The convention recognizes the right of migrant workers to be reunited with their families and requires State Parties to facilitate family reunification and to protect the unity of migrant families.
- **Protection of children:** The convention emphasizes the special protection that migrant children are entitled to and requires State Parties to ensure that migrant children enjoy the same rights and protections as other children, including the right to education, healthcare, and social services.
- **Access to justice and remedies:** The convention guarantees migrant workers and their families access to justice and effective remedies for violations of their rights, including access to legal assistance, translation services, and compensation for damages.

The rights guaranteed by **Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED)** include:

- **Prohibition of enforced disappearance:** The convention explicitly prohibits enforced disappearance and defines it as a grave human rights violation that constitutes a crime under international law.
- **Protection of all persons from enforced disappearance:** The convention applies to all persons, without discrimination of any kind, and requires State Parties to take effective measures to prevent and combat enforced disappearances, including by investigating allegations of enforced disappearance, holding perpetrators accountable, and providing remedies and reparations to victims and their families.

- **Right to truth and justice:** State Parties are obligated to ensure the right of victims of enforced disappearance and their families to know the truth about the circumstances of the disappearance, the fate of the disappeared person, and the progress and results of the investigation. They are also required to provide victims and their families with access to justice and to establish mechanisms for the prosecution and punishment of those responsible for enforced disappearances.
- **Right to reparation and compensation:** State Parties must provide victims of enforced disappearance and their families with full and effective reparation, including restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction, and guarantees of non-repetition.
- **Prevention of enforced disappearance:** The convention requires State Parties to take effective measures to prevent enforced disappearances, including by ensuring that all persons deprived of their liberty are held in officially recognized places of detention, by maintaining registers of detainees, and by prohibiting secret detention.
- **Cooperation among States:** The convention encourages cooperation among State Parties in the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of enforced disappearances, as well as in the provision of assistance and support to victims and their families.

The rights guaranteed by **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)** include:

- **Non-discrimination:** State Parties are required to prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability and to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with others.
- **Accessibility:** State Parties are obligated to take measures to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to the physical environment, transportation, information and communications, and other facilities and services.
- **Full and effective participation and inclusion in society:** State Parties must take measures to enable persons with disabilities to participate fully and effectively in all aspects of life, including education, employment, cultural activities, and political participation.
- **Respect for inherent dignity and individual autonomy:** The CRPD recognizes the inherent dignity and worth of persons with disabilities and emphasizes the need to respect their autonomy and independence, including the right to make their own choices and decisions.
- **Right to health:** State Parties are required to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to healthcare services on an equal basis with others, including access to rehabilitation services, assistive devices, and support services.
- **Right to education:** State parties must ensure that persons with disabilities have access to inclusive education systems at all levels and lifelong learning opportunities that are accessible, inclusive, and of high quality.
- **Right to employment:** State Parties are obligated to promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the open labor market and to take measures to eliminate discrimination in employment and promote vocational training and rehabilitation programs.
- **Right to an adequate standard of living and social protection:** State Parties must take measures to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to social protection programs, including social security, disability benefits, and other forms of support.
- **Reasonable accommodation:** necessary and appropriate modification and adjustments not imposing a disproportionate or undue burden, where needed in a particular case, to ensure to persons with disabilities the enjoyment or exercise on an equal basis with others of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Annex IV

Glossary of Terms

A ACCOUNTABILITY

Accountability, which helps identify the relevant duty bearers and increase their accountability by outlining their duty to the affected rights holders and mechanisms to hold duty bearers accountable, thus empowering rights holders, and so to enhance programming outcomes.

B CAPACITY BUILDING/DEVELOPMENT

The process of development that focuses on understanding the obstacles that inhibit individuals, organizations, institutions, and societies from realizing their developmental goals while enhancing the abilities that will allow them to achieve measurable and sustainable results.

E EMPOWERMENT

A social action process that promotes participation of people, organizations, and communities towards the goals of increase individual and community control, political efficacy, improved quality of community life and social justice.

G GOVERNANCE

The exercise of economic, political, and administrative authority to manage a country's affairs at all levels, comprising the mechanisms, processes, and institutions through which people, communities and groups articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations, and mediate their differences.

H HUMAN RIGHTS 'TOOLBOX' (UNDP HUMAN RIGHTS TOOLBOX)

The UNDP Human Rights 'toolbox' is an accessible and user-friendly set of tools to guide UNDP, UNDP partners and stakeholders in their human rights duties in the context of development cooperation.

In particular, the toolbox aims to equip UNDP and partners with the necessary skills to implement UNDP's Strategic Plan 2022-2025, which commits the organization to a "rights-based approach, promoting human agency and human development," to ensure no one is left behind.

M MATRIX OF UPR RECOMMENDATIONS

The [Matrix of UPR recommendations](#), developed by the OHCHR, enables projects and portfolios to contribute simultaneously to the realization of human rights and achievement of the SDGs. The Matrix organises the recommendations from the UPR process into thematic clusters at a country level, aligns each with the relevant SDGs and supports the tracking by multiple stakeholders of the progress made in implementation. This is available for all country levels. To find the matrix, click on **the hyperlink and further click on any selected country to download the matrix.**

O OUR COMMON AGENDA

Our Common Agenda is the Secretary-General's vision for the future of global cooperation. It calls for inclusive, networked, and effective multilateralism to better respond to and deliver for the people and planet and to get the world back on track by turbocharging action on the SDGs. Our Common Agenda calls for full implementation of the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights.

Q QUADRENNIAL COMPREHENSIVE POLICY REVIEW

The QCPR is the primary policy instrument of the General Assembly to define the way the United Nations development system operates to support programme countries in their development efforts. The 2024 QCPR notes the importance of the contribution of the United Nations development system in supporting government efforts to achieve the SDGs, leaving no one behind, based on full respect for human rights, including the right to development, and stresses in this regard that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated.

S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable development is an organizing principle that aims to meet human development goals while enabling natural systems to provide necessary natural resources and ecosystem services to humans. The desired result is a society where living conditions and resources meet human needs without undermining the planetary integrity and stability of the natural system. The SDGs, anchored in international human rights law, are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.

T TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD: THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

On 25 September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted Resolution 70/1, Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This historic document lays out the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and corresponding 169 targets, which aim to mobilize global efforts to end poverty, foster peace, safeguard the rights and dignity of all people, and protect the planet. The 2030 Agenda envisages “a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity, the rule of law, justice, equality and non-discrimination.”

U UNIVERSAL PERIODIC INDEX

The Universal Human Rights Index is a tool designed to facilitate access to human rights recommendations issued by the United Nations’ human rights mechanisms, including the nine treaty bodies established under the international human rights treaties, the special procedures, and the UPR of the Human Rights Council to United Nations Member States. It further links the country level recommendations to the relevant SDGs which supports the tracking by multiple stakeholders.

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

Is a unique mechanism of the Human Rights Council that calls for each United Nations Member State to undergo a peer review of its human rights records every 4.5 years. The UPR provides each United Nations Member State an opportunity to regularly report on the actions it has taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to overcome challenges to the enjoyment of human rights and receive recommendations – informed by multi-stakeholder input and pre-session reports – from United Nations Member States for continuous improvement.

Annex V

Resource Materials

UNITED NATIONS RESOURCES

[2024 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review](#)

[2030 Agenda](#)

[Call to Action for Human Rights](#)

[Charter-based bodies](#)

[Chronology of UN Milestones for Human Rights and Development](#)

[Common Learning Package on HRBA](#)

[Common Understanding on the Human Rights-Based Approach to Development Cooperation](#)

[Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment](#)

[Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance](#)

[Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women](#)

[Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#)

[Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)

[General comments of each treaty body](#)

[Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#)

[International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination](#)

[International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families](#)

[International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#)

[International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#)

[Matrix of UPR recommendations](#)

[OHCHR FAQ HRBA](#)

[Our Common Agenda](#)

[Pact for the Future](#)

[Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The gender snapshot 2023](#)

[Resolution 70/1, Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)

[Special Procedures](#)

[the Human Rights Council \(HRC\)](#)

[Treaty-based bodies](#)

[United Nations Agenda for Protection](#)

[United Nations Charter](#)

[United Nations Common Country Analysis](#)

[United Nations Guidance Note on Protecting and Promoting Civic Space](#)

[United Nations International Bill of Human Rights](#)

[United Nations International Human Rights Instruments](#)

[United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework](#)

[UNDG Social Protection Coordination Toolkit](#)

[Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)

[Universal Human Rights Index](#)

[Universal Periodic Review](#)

[UNSDG | Human Rights-Based Approach](#)

[Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action](#)

[Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#)

UNDP RESOURCES

[Heightened Human Rights Due Diligence for Business in Conflict-Affected Contexts: A Guide](#)

Human Rights Due Diligence [Guidance](#) and [Risk Assessment Form](#)

[Mainstreaming Human Rights in Development Policies and Programming](#)

[Policy on Partnership with the Private Sector](#)

[Social and Environmental Standards](#)

[UNDP Crisis Offer](#)

[UNDP Practice Note on Capacity Assessment](#)

[UNDP Strategic Plan](#)

[UNDP Strategic Plan Integrated Results and Resources Framework](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Guidance Note for Applying a Human Rights-Based Approach to Programming in UNFPA](#)

[Human Rights Based Approach \(HRBA\) - Raoul Wallenberg Institute](#)

[Regional Treaties](#)

[UNFPA's Human Rights-Based Approach](#)

[Taking forward the commitment to reducing inequalities: Human Rights Based Approach Toolbox adopted | Capacity4dev – European Commission](#)

