

***A Rights-Based Approach,  
encompassing all Human Rights,  
for EU Development Cooperation***

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**1. What is a RBA to development cooperation?**

**2. How to apply a RBA?**

**3. Checking a list of elements**

**4. Supporting a change of approach**



## How to apply a RBA?

### i. Targeting two objectives:

*Do No Harm & Do Maximum Good*

### ii. Encouraging sector policy dialogue

### iii. Applying five working principles

*All rights, Participation, Non – discrimination, Accountability and Transparency*

### iv. Addressing the project cycle

*From identification, formulation, implementation, monitoring to evaluation*

# Checking a list of elements

Checking a list of element:

1. At the design stage

*Context analysis, identification & formulation*

2. At the implementation stage

3. At the monitoring and evaluation stages

## 1. Context analysis

- Has the proposed intervention identified the immediate and underlying root causes of the main development problems also in terms of HR?
- Is the proposed programme/project compliant with the existing relevant legal HR obligations?
  - Which international instruments are binding for the sector?
  - Is the constitutional framework compliant with international obligations?
- Is the proposed programme/project consistent with the HR Country Strategy?
- Does the proposed programme/project support the partner country in implementing recommendations that it accepted during the UN Universal Periodic Review?
- Does the proposed programme/project clearly identify the rights holders/vulnerable groups with regard to the development challenges identified?
- Does the proposed programme assess the capacity of rights holders/vulnerable groups to claim their rights? Particularly regarding:
  - Awareness about rights and access to information
  - Access to legal/administrative/political services for claiming their rights
  - Access to basic services
  - Access to decision making processes
- Does the proposed programme/project assess the capacity of state institutions to fulfil duties and responsibilities? Particularly regarding:
  - Transparency and openness
  - Legal, political and social accountability (complaint mechanism)
  - non – discrimination and equality
  - meaningful participation and empowerment

## 2. Identification & Formulation

- Have you identified for the sector of intervention potential gaps between human rights standards and day to day reality including:
  - Human rights concerns raised by international treaty bodies (UPR);
  - Potential negative development trends potentially leading to human rights violations;
  - Evidence of disparities for vulnerable groups;
  - Capacities of local governmental and/or non-governmental partners;
  
- Do the objectives:
  - Ensure that the rights of vulnerable groups are taken into account?
  - Ensure that the targeted end–users enjoy or participate effectively in the benefits of the selected intervention strategy?
  - Ensure that inequality and discrimination issues are taken into account?
  
- Does the programme /project:
  - Ensure that the capacities of targeted vulnerable groups are strengthened, with a view to allow them to claim their rights?
  - Aim at strengthening accountability mechanisms, with a view to make both donors and recipients accountable to rights holders?
  
- Were target groups and/or targeted vulnerable groups involved in the decision making processes?
  
- Does the proposed intervention strategy identify human rights indicators?

### 3. Implementation

- Does the implementation process respect the working principles of legality/universality/indivisibility, participation, non-discrimination and equality, accountability and the rule of law and transparency?
- Do implementation activities ensure non-discriminatory practices and safeguards, particularly with regard to selected vulnerable groups?
- Are target groups and/or targeted vulnerable groups involved and consulted during the implementation of activities?
- Does the implementation process take into account:
  - The relations between target groups and all stakeholders?
  - The capacity gaps identified?
- Is the proposed strategy transparent in its implementation activities?
- Are the accountability mechanisms effectively used?

#### 4. Monitoring and evaluation

- Do monitoring and evaluation mechanisms effectively foresee specific monitoring with regard to the working principles of the RBA listed above?
- Do they allow monitoring of:
  - The impact on vulnerable groups in general? On targeted vulnerable groups?
  - The effectiveness and quality of participation of targeted vulnerable groups?
  - The impact of the selected programme/project on accountability mechanisms?
- Do monitoring and evaluation mechanisms effectively refer to the quality of the implementation process?

Do the sources of information used include disaggregated data, qualitative and quantitative information, assessments and recommendations provided by national/international HR bodies, NGOs and other donor?



## Supporting a change of approach

Some concrete steps to be taken in 2014:

1. Revising the Identification fiche for all aid modalities
2. Changing the Commission project monitoring system
3. Amending the Commission grid of criteria for project & programmes evaluation
4. Drafting Roadmaps for engagement with CSO
5. Integrating the RBA principles into the various existing sector training and guidance