



## The Human Rights Based Approach to Achieve Results - A Guiding Checklist -

The HRBA is about achieving positive human rights results for people living in poverty. Sida increasingly uses the method of RBM to see to that such results come about. When planning, assessing or dialoging in relation to a development intervention the below questions A-D can guide you.

Please keep in mind that:

- 1) This is a general checklist that is not specific to your intervention. You will have to modify your answers to the questions accordingly.
- 2) The four human rights principles of accountability, transparency, non-discrimination, and participation apply to how Sida interacts with partners and co-workers, as well as to the partners themselves.
- 3) The below questions are meant to be used as a guide - and not a list of questions that have to apply to your intervention in a specific order.
- 4) Since the HRBA aims to achieve human rights development results the checklist questions below mixes terminology that has to do with the HRBA and Results-based Management (RBM). The checklist does, however, not explain any of the terms used. If you would like a longer explanation of many of the terms used, and get references to further reading, please [click here http://msc.st/HRBAChecklistLong.html](http://msc.st/HRBAChecklistLong.html).



## A) The RBM results chain and its links to the HRBA

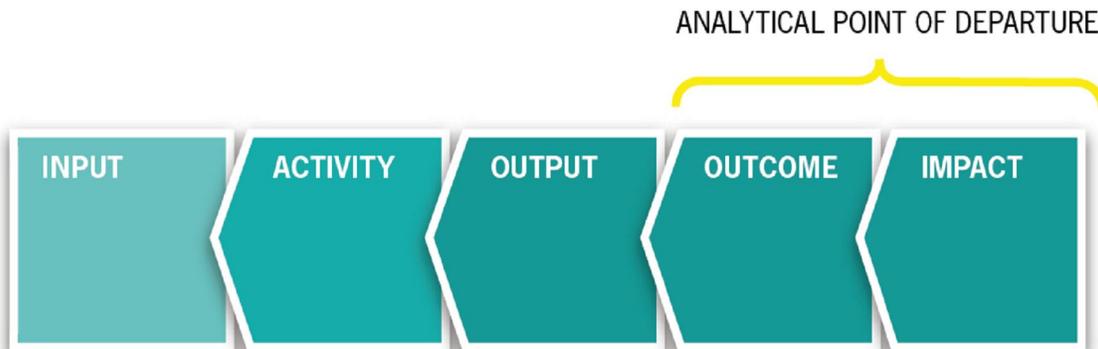
When looking into the results chain logic (- i.e. the assumptions of what is going to happen, and who's lives it will affect, as a result of the intervention) of an ongoing or planned intervention from a HRBA there are a number of questions that needs to be considered:

- ❑ What aspects of human rights and democracy is the intervention aiming to improve? - or - What effects on human rights and democracy may the intervention have?
  - ❑ With whom could alliances be built to achieve HRBA? E.g. - government, donors, civil society organizations, media? What is their take on, or language to describe, the HRBA (knowing that could make dialogue easier)?
  - ❑ How does the intervention relate to the four human rights principles of accountability, transparency, non-discrimination and participation (see the questions below)?
- Non-discrimination:
    - Who are the rights holders whose lives the intervention aims to improve – are they people who are poor in the multidimensional sense?
    - Have men/boys, women/girls, persons with disabilities and/or LGBT been considered?
    - Have Sida's policies and strategies on people at risk of discrimination been considered (i.e. children, disabled, LGBT, women)?
    - Are there ways to achieve results for the above mentioned people through the intervention?
  - Accountability:
    - Who are the duty bearers in relation to the intervention?
    - What obligations (legal frameworks) of relevance for the intervention are they accountable to?
    - What do those frameworks say?
    - Is there a complaints mechanism for those concerned in relation to the intervention? Do people know who is accountable and who to complain to? Do they have the capacity to do so?
    - In what way is Sida accountable to those concerned?
  - Transparency:
    - Is quality information on the situation available, accessible and reaching the rights holders and duty bearers above?
    - Is information related to the intervention available to those concerned – rights holders and duty bearers?
    - Can capacity to produce accessible information be built?
    - In what way is Sida transparent towards those concerned?
  - Participation of rights holders and/or duty bearers:
    - Are the rights holders and/or duty bearers involved in the planning, assessing, implementing, and monitoring?
    - Do they have the capacity and space to do so?
    - What could increase their capacity and access to space?



## B) RBM and a HRBA focus on impact and outcome

Presented below are a number of guiding HRBA questions to consider when assessing the impacts and outcomes of an intervention. The assessment should build on a situation analysis (including the economic, social and political) of the situation to date, and from that make an analysis of what the intervention should aim to achieve to improve in terms of contributing to positive outcomes and impacts.



### Impacts in society

- What treaties/laws/policies/plans/customary laws apply to the intervention – and are they implemented, have gaps, work against human rights, or are missing?
- How can the above identified legal standards be used (or improved or created) to achieve results in the intervention?
- What is the situation in relation to the identified rights holders in terms of accountability, transparency, non-discrimination and participation?
- What are root causes of the current situation?
- Are rights holders and duty bearers participating in the analysis of the above? Do they have the capacity and space to do so? What could increase their capacity and access to space? Are any of them refrained from participating due to discrimination?

### Outcomes for the target group

- What outcomes in relation to accountability, transparency, non-discrimination and participation could contribute to improving the situation?
- Who are the stakeholders addressing the root causes - i.e. allies and opposition to achieving the outcomes?
- What power dynamics may the outcomes of the intervention change or have to deal with?
- What risks of not achieving the outcomes is the intervention facing? Is there a risk that the intervention will contribute to conflict that could have a negative effect on the outcomes of the intervention?
- What capacity (and gaps) do the rights holders and duty bearers have to contribute to the outcomes?
- Is there a plan on how to deal with the power dynamics, risks and capacity gaps?
- Are the rights holders and duty bearers participating in the above analysis and planning? Do they have the capacity and space to do so?



### **C) Plan for outputs, processes, activities and inputs from a HRBA**

Looking at the intervention from a HRBA point of view the following points should then be considered when assessing or planning the intervention:

#### Outputs, processes, activities and inputs

- What outputs could contribute to achieving the above outcomes and impacts?
- What processes and activities should take place to realise the above identified outputs?
- What participatory and other processes are needed to realise the outputs and activities in a way that secures ownership?
- What resources (financial, human, material) are available to support the activities and participatory processes?
- What processes and activities should be prioritized with the available resources?
- Where will the resources come from in the short and long-run?
- Are the rights holders and duty bearers part of analyzing and deciding the above? Do they have the capacity and space to do so? What could increase their capacity and access to space?

### **D) A HRBA to monitoring and evaluating development effects**

Looking at assessing or developing a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system from a HRBA point of view, the following points should be considered:

- Who will monitor and evaluate the implementation of the intervention - how, where and when?
- What outcome and process indicators form the basis for the monitoring and evaluation?
- Have baselines been established to measure performance and process indicator trends?
- Will the M&E system provide transparent and accessible information to people affected by the intervention, and to those who will monitor/adjust/evaluate it?
- Are there accessible ways to complain for people who receive information from the M&E that the intervention is impacting negatively, or having no or little positive effect, on their human rights?
- Does the Country Team have a plan on what to do if the intervention does not perform as expected, or receives complaints?
- Are the rights holders and duty bearers part of the establishment of the M&E system? Do they have the capacity and space to take part? What could increase their capacity and access to space?

Comments on the checklist are very welcome – talk, or send them, to Anna Schnell, Melander Schnell Consultants, +46-(0)706-990475, [aschnell@msc.st](mailto:aschnell@msc.st), [www.msc.st](http://www.msc.st)