



# The ABC of Human Rights for Development Cooperation

## Introduction

Given that development cooperation seeks to promote human rights, how can it best be geared towards them? For example, what can be done to ensure that water supply reforms in Kenya and health sector reforms in Kyrgyzstan yield the maximum benefit for the population? How can we make development cooperation projects more effective and what can we do to prevent reforms having any detrimental effects?

In 2011, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) adopted a [Strategy on Human Rights in German Development Policy](#) (PDF, 485 KB). The strategy provides for a human rights-based approach in German development policy and is binding on Germany's official implementing agencies. It makes human rights a guiding principle in German development policy and aims to help reduce poverty and inequality and promote sustainable development through the improved implementation of the human rights commitments of Germany and its partner countries. Integrating human rights aspects into development cooperation projects can make them more effective and prevent any unintended adverse impact. The global rise in refugee numbers in particular makes clear just how urgent this work is, since human rights violations are one of the principal reasons that people flee their homes. As such, adopting a human rights-based approach in development cooperation also helps to provide individuals with hope of remaining in their home countries.

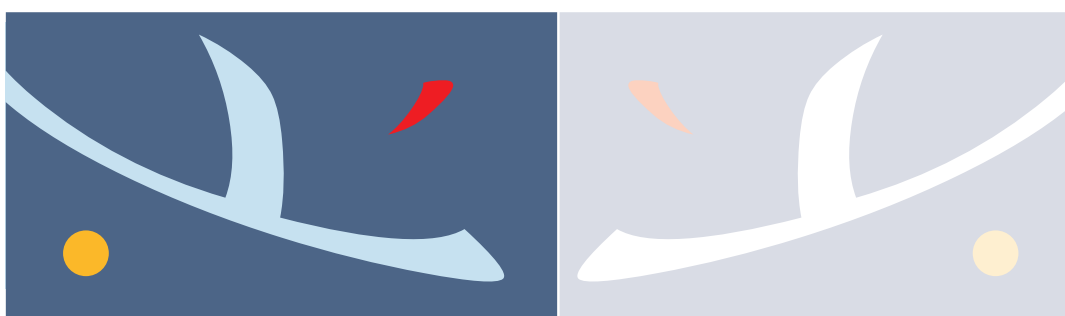
This paper forms part of a series of tools designed to aid development cooperation practitioners in putting the human rights-based approach into practice (see list of resources at the end of this paper).

One element of the human rights-based approach is the use of human rights instruments and information (see Section 1 for more on the human rights-based approach itself). This tool provides information about the essentials of the United Nations human rights system, and helps development practitioners take human rights as the framework of reference for their daily work.

The publication consists of six sections:

1. [Human rights-based approach in German development cooperation](#)
2. [Core international human rights treaties](#)
3. [Reporting procedures on the implementation of human rights treaties](#)
4. [UN Human Rights Council, special mandates and the Universal Periodic Review \(UPR\) process](#)
5. [Human rights-based indicators](#)
6. [Additional resources on human rights in development cooperation](#)

Since June 2005, the cross sectoral programme '[Realizing Human Rights in Development Cooperation](#)', based at the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), has been supporting BMZ in aligning its work with human rights imperatives. The project cooperates closely with the [German Institute for Human Rights \(DIMR\)](#).



## 1. Human rights-based approach in German development cooperation

The paper ‘[The Human Rights-Based Approach in German Development Cooperation](#)’ (PDF, 1.2 MB) provides essential information on this approach in German development policy. In addition to assessing and averting human rights risks, the human rights-based approach also involves:

1. strengthening rights holders (the population) and duty bearers (government agencies) in their respective roles;
2. applying and promoting the human rights principles of participation, non-discrimination and accountability;
3. using human rights instruments and sources.

BMZ is pursuing a dual approach. Firstly, it is working to mainstream the human rights-based approach on a cross-cutting basis in all sectors and priority areas of German development cooperation. In order to flesh out the approach formulated in the 2011 Strategy on Human Rights in German Development Policy, BMZ adopted the [Guidelines on incorporating human rights standards and principles, including gender, in programme proposals for bilateral German Technical and Financial Cooperation](#) (PDF, 244 KB) in 2013. Secondly, German development policy provides targeted support to human rights projects in partner countries, for example by strengthening regional human rights systems and national human rights institutions.

## 2. Core international human rights treaties

UN human rights treaties form the basis for today’s system of international human rights protection. International human rights treaties are complemented by regional treaties in Europe, the Arab League states, Africa, and the Americas, for example. When a state ratifies such a treaty, it becomes legally binding for that country. Most of these treaties have been ratified by a large number of states.

In addition to the international human rights treaties, many states have ratified so-called optional protocols, which complement the treaties.

These protocols frequently establish a **mechanism for individual complaints**, as is the case in the [First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#) (1966, PDF, 49 KB, not barrier-free), the [Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women](#) (1999, PDF, 65 KB, not barrier-free), the [Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (2006), the [Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#) (2008, PDF, 48 KB, not barrier-free), and the [Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) (2011).

Other optional protocols guarantee additional rights. The [Second Optional Protocol to the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#)

(1989, PDF, 57 KB, not barrier-free), for instance, obliges states parties to abolish the death penalty. Likewise, the two optional protocols of 2002 to the Convention on the Rights of the Child regulate the involvement of [children in armed conflict](#) (PDF, 95 KB, not barrier-free) and the [prohibition of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography](#) (PDF, 113 KB).

### The nine core UN human rights treaties (all in PDF) and the number of states parties

■ International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination ( <a href="#">ICERD</a> ) 1965	<a href="#">177</a>
■ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ( <a href="#">ICCPR</a> ) 1966	<a href="#">168</a>
■ International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ( <a href="#">ICESCR</a> ) 1966	<a href="#">164</a>
■ Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women ( <a href="#">CEDAW</a> ) 1979	<a href="#">189</a>
■ Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment ( <a href="#">CAT</a> ) 1984	<a href="#">158</a>
■ Convention on the Rights of the Child ( <a href="#">CRC</a> ) 1989	<a href="#">196</a>
■ International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families ( <a href="#">CMW</a> ) 1990	<a href="#">48</a>
■ Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ( <a href="#">CRPD</a> ) 2006	<a href="#">162</a>
■ International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance ( <a href="#">CED</a> ) 2006	<a href="#">51</a>

As at: January 2016

The [Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture](#) (2002, PDF, 89 KB, not barrier-free) establishes a national prevention mechanism. Sometimes, these mechanisms are included in the human rights treaties themselves. For instance, [Article 33 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (PDF, 488 KB, not barrier-free) stipulates that states parties must set up an independent national monitoring mechanism.

In some countries, [National Human Rights Institutions \(NHRIs\)](#) (2011, PDF, 294 KB) act as prevention or monitoring mechanisms. In Germany, for example, the [independent national body of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) is based at the German Institute for Human Rights (DIMR). NHRIs also monitor government performance and advise governmental bodies on how to improve their human rights policy. Thus, NHRIs make a prominent contribution to the monitoring of state policies and the prevention of human rights violations at the national level and serve as a bridge between the national, regional and international dimensions of human rights protection. In several countries, NHRIs serve as ombuds offices, registering complaints lodged by individuals about potential human rights violations and attempting to redress the situation in a variety of ways.

## Interpretation of human rights treaties

The rights enshrined in human rights treaties are set out in general terms. They need to be interpreted to be understood and applied in specific contexts. The human rights treaties are interpreted by the UN treaty bodies, which are committees of independent experts whose tasks include monitoring the extent to which the treaties are implemented by the states parties. The treaty bodies do so by analysing the reports of individual states and making decisions on complaints brought by individuals. In doing so, the UN treaty bodies flesh out the individual human rights. Key interpretations can be found in country-specific concluding observations on state reports.

Of particular importance are the UN treaty bodies' [general comments](#) (or recommendations). General comments are authoritative interpretations of legally binding human rights. They clarify the content of human rights obligations. Recent examples are [general comment no. 35 on liberty and security of person](#) (2014) by the Human Rights Committee, which monitors the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and [general comment no. 1 on equal recognition before the law](#) (2014, PDF, 107 KB, not barrier-free) and [general comment no. 2 on accessibility](#) (2014, PDF, 115 KB, not barrier-free), both by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

General comments also substantiate the fundamental human rights principles, namely participation and empowerment, non-discrimination and equality of opportunity, transparency and accountability, in relation to a specific human right or treaty.

## Relevance for development cooperation

By ratifying human rights treaties, Germany and its partner countries assume certain legally binding obligations which should play a major role in their (development) policy strategies and priorities. In cases where a partner country has yet to ratify a core human rights treaty or optional protocol, political dialogue is an instrument to encourage ratification. Political dialogue can also serve as a means to address specific shortcomings in implementing human rights norms and at the same time to provide support for gearing future activities and approaches to human rights and/or to discuss reform priorities. The 2011 BMZ Strategy on Human Rights in German Development Policy provides for human rights to be addressed in political dialogue as a common legal obligation regarding the realisation not only of civil and political rights, but also specifically of economic, social and cultural rights.

Ratifying states commit themselves to translating the treaties into national law and into practice within the country. In many areas, this obligation applies immediately, such as the obligation to refrain from using torture or to eliminate discrimination in the access to education or health care. Other human rights obligations require progressive realisation. For instance, governments have to develop strategies and take measures to introduce a fair judicial system, or to set up a sufficient number of accessible schools and health care facilities.

Human rights can also be used for analysing challenges facing development processes in the respective country, and can be taken as a basis for defining objectives, programmes and approaches. When preparing programme proposals, the state implementing organisations must assess the relevant human rights impacts in advance for all measures. As part of this, analysis should be carried out at the earliest possible stage of what key human rights risks the development measure in question may entail, and how these can be avoided. Assessment should also be carried out of whether, and if so how, the measure can make a sustainable contribution toward the realisation of human rights standards and principles. To this end, BMZ issued a binding set of [guidelines](#) (PDF, 244 KB, not barrier-free) in 2013.

The general comments of the UN treaty bodies flesh out human rights standards, incorporating the declarations and action plans of international conferences on key development cooperation issues. Because they are linked to development policy issues, the general comments are a useful aid for elaborating sector strategies and other strategy papers, and for designing programmes.

BMZ uses the general comments as guidelines and reference points in its sector strategies, including those on [health](#) (2009, PDF, 322 KB), [social protection](#) (2009, PDF, 777 KB), [good governance](#) (2009, PDF, 277 KB), [education](#) (2015, PDF, 268 KB), [poverty reduction](#) (2012, PDF, 1.75 MB) and [government-civil society cooperation](#) (2014, PDF, 515 KB).

## Resources

- [Core UN human rights treaties](#)
- [OHCHR, Interactive dashboard on the status of ratification](#)
- [UN treaty body database](#): general comments, concluding observations and other documents. Searchable by state and treaty (recommended for those with existing knowledge of human rights issues)

### 3. Reporting procedures on the implementation of human rights treaties

Every state party to a human rights treaty undertakes to report regularly to the corresponding UN treaty body. The initial state report is due one year after ratification and, subsequently, every four to five years, depending on the treaty.

State reports are prepared by ministries in the states parties. These reports often contain optimistic assessments of the human rights situation and measures taken by the government in the respective country. Therefore it is important that NHRIs and civil society organisations submit alternative reports reflecting a more critical point of view to the relevant UN treaty bodies. Often with reference to these alternative reports, the treaty body in question then comments on the state report and issues concluding observations or concluding comments. Therein, the treaty body comments on progress made and shortcomings encountered; it also recommends practical as well as legal measures to be taken by the respective state party in order to improve compliance with the human rights stipulated in the relevant convention.

#### Relevance for development cooperation

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and bilateral donors support governmental bodies, civil society organisations and NHRIs in their capacity to produce state and alternative reports.

Development policy actors can draw upon these reports as a source of information on the human rights situation in a partner country and should in particular use the country-specific concluding observations. They may refer to them in political dialogue, in regional and country strategies and when designing specific programmes. Development cooperation can also support partner countries in preparing national human rights action plans which may include concluding observations, further recommendations of the UN treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) by the UN Human Rights Council. For example, OHCHR supported the human rights action plans of Uganda, Senegal and Tanzania (OHCHR Report 2014, OHCHR in the field: Africa, p. 150, p. 158, p. 183 and p. 209 (PDF, 6.55 MB, not barrier-free)). Recently, in Uganda, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) worked on behalf of BMZ to help put together a national action plan for human rights.

Development cooperation can thus contribute to partner countries' efforts to fulfil their human rights obligations. The systematic alignment of German development policy with human rights that have been internationally agreed and ratified by the partner country encourages ownership by the partner country and furthers donor harmonisation, as laid out in the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action (Article 13c, PDF, 317 KB, not barrier-free) and the 2011 Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (para. 11, PDF, 200 KB, not barrier-free).

In September 2015, the UN member states adopted the 2030 Agenda, agreeing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that build on human rights principles and standards. Devised with a particular commitment to leave no one behind, the SDGs seek to reduce discrimination and inequality. The SDGs include a target to strengthen accountable institutions and must be implemented 'in accordance with the human rights [...] obligations of member states'. This means that partner countries can be supported in using the information from the treaty bodies, such as concluding observations, to develop and review programmes for achieving the SDGs. Because the SDGs apply equally to all countries, the concluding observations for Germany itself should be consulted and used in the implementation of development policy objectives and goals in all other policy areas.

#### Reporting to UN treaty bodies on the part of selected partner countries, 2015–2017 (as at November 2015)

##### Human Rights Committee (CCPR):

- Cambodia (March-April 2015)
- Uzbekistan (June-July 2015)
- Benin (Oct.-Nov. 2015)
- Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa (March 2016)
- Burkina Faso, Ghana (June-July 2016)
- Bangladesh, Colombia, Morocco (Oct.-Nov. 2016)

##### Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)

- Tajikistan (Feb.-Mar. 2015)
- Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Uganda (June 2015)
- Burundi, Morocco (Sept.-Oct. 2015)
- Kenya, Namibia (Feb.-Mar. 2016)
- Burkina Faso, Honduras (June 2016)
- Yemen (Sept.-Oct. 2016)

##### Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

- Ecuador, Kyrgyzstan (Feb.-March 2015)
- Bolivia, Namibia, Viet Nam (July 2015)
- Malawi, Uzbekistan (Oct.-Nov. 2015)
- Mongolia, Tanzania (Feb.-March 2016)
- Albania, Mali (July 2016)
- Bangladesh, Burundi, Honduras (Oct.-Nov. 2016)

#### **Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CMW)**

- Peru, Uganda ([April 2015](#))
- Mauretania ([April 2016](#))
- Honduras, Niger ([Aug.-Sept. 2016](#))

#### **Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)**

- Colombia, Tanzania ([Jan. 2015](#))
- Ethiopia, Ghana, Honduras, Mexico ([May-June 2015](#))
- Bangladesh, Brazil ([Sept.-Oct. 2015](#))
- Benin, Kenya, Peru, Zambia ([Jan. 2016](#))
- Nepal, Pakistan ([May-June 2016](#))
- South Africa ([Sept. 2016](#))
- Mongolia ([Oct. 2016](#))
- DR Congo, Malawi, Serbia ([Jan. 2017](#))

#### **Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**

- Mongolia ([March-April 2015](#))
- Brazil, Kenya, Ukraine ([Aug.-Sept. 2015](#))
- Serbia, Uganda ([March-April 2016](#))
- Bolivia, Colombia, Ethiopia, Guatemala ([Aug.-Sept. 2016](#))

#### **Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)**

- Guatemala ([March-April 2015](#))
- Colombia, Niger ([Aug. 2015](#))
- Egypt, Mongolia ([Nov.-Dec. 2015](#))

## **Resources**

- [State reports, concluding observations and complaints procedure for individuals](#)
- [UN treaty body database](#): searchable by state and treaty (recommended for those with existing knowledge of human rights issues)
- Center for Economic and Social Rights (2015), [The Measure of Progress: How human rights should inform the SDG indicators](#) (PDF, 1.3 MB, not barrier-free)
- German Institute for Human Rights (2015): [Are the SDGs relevant for Germany? Comparing the SDGs with UN Human Rights treaty body recommendations provides important clues](#) (PDF, 240 KB, not barrier-free)
- OHCHR, [list of and handbook on national human rights plans of action](#)

## **4. UN Human Rights Council, special mandates and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process**

In 2006, the UN member states established the [UN Human Rights Council](#). The Council replaced the Commission on Human Rights and has the general mandate to create, implement and monitor human rights standards. It can review the human rights situation in all UN member states – irrespective of whether or not the country has ratified a specific human rights treaty. The Council's mandate includes discussing and adopting resolutions on the human rights situation in a particular country or on specific human rights issues, such as [safe drinking water and sanitation](#) (2014, PDF 202 KB, not barrier-free), [violence against women](#) (2013, PDF, 157 KB, not barrier-free), the [right to education of persons with disabilities](#) (2014, PDF, 54 KB, not barrier-free) and the [human rights of migrants](#) (2013, PDF, 118 KB, not barrier-free). The [47 member states of the Human Rights Council](#) are elected by the UN General Assembly. Germany was a member from 2013-2015, before being subsequently re-elected for a further three years (2016-2018).

The Human Rights Council can use [special procedures](#) to issue specific mandates to investigate particular situations in a given country or individual issues. The individual mandate holders are called Special Rapporteur, Special Representative or Independent Expert. Some mandates are assigned to Working Groups. There are currently [14 country mandates](#) and [41 thematic mandates](#). The pertinent reports are based on fact finding, including country missions. Over and above these, the annual reports of the mandate holders provide up-to-date information on human rights issues and developments, as well as specific recommendations to the Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly.

The work of two Special Rapporteurs in particular has had a major and lasting impact on global debate about development cooperation in the form of the 2011 [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#) (PDF, 1.1 MB, not barrier-free) and the 2012 [UN Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights](#) (PDF, 1.3 MB, not barrier-free).

The then [Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation](#) co-authored [Realising the human rights to water and sanitation: A Handbook](#) in 2014, containing explanations, examples of good practices and checklists for specific aspects, such as financing, services and monitoring that can be helpful in development projects in the water sector. The current Special Rapporteur will also address in one of his next reports ways to more effectively realise rights to safe drinking water and sanitation in development cooperation.

The Special Rapporteur on the right to education explains in his [report on the privatisation of education](#) (2014) which human rights obligations states have with regard to regulating and supervising private education providers.



Another example is the report by the then Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights on [taxation and poverty](#) (2014, 188 KB, not barrier-free), which explains how states can use fiscal policy to combat extreme inequality and how they can improve their tax base while also protecting human rights.

Since 2008, all states with either member or observer status at the UN have been subject to a regular peer assessment under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Under this procedure, the human rights situation of individual states is reviewed by the Human Rights Council once every four and a half years. Between 2008 and 2011 all [UN member states](#) underwent the UPR process. The second cycle started in 2012 and will end in 2016.

The UPR mechanism is based on a state report, a compilation of information contained in the reports of UN treaty bodies and special procedures, and a summary of the reports submitted by NHRIs, civil society organisations, and other stakeholders. All reports cover the human rights situation in a particular country. In an interactive dialogue, the state under review responds to questions and recommendations by other UN member states and has the opportunity to accept or reject these recommendations. The recommendations and the response of the state reviewed are compiled in an outcome document.

## Relevance for development cooperation

The various reports of the UPR process are useful tools for development cooperation. Firstly, they are mostly brief and concise and provide an up-to-date overview of the human rights situation in a specific country. Secondly, the recommendations accepted (or rejected) by the country in question can be referred to at political level, such as in government negotiations. Thirdly, development cooperation is well suited to support a country's engagement with the UPR process: for example providing advice to state representatives on effective multi-stakeholder consultation models or empowerment for civil society organisations to participate effectively in those events. Fourthly, development cooperation can also advise partners on establishing mechanisms for following up the UPR recommendations. Haiti, for example, implemented several recommendations of the UPR in 2014 in the areas of rule of law and social policy, including new legislation on human trafficking (OHCHR Report 2014, [OHCHR in the field: Americas](#), p. 232 (PDF, 3.7 MB, not barrier-free)). In accordance with the relevant recommendations of the UPR, German development cooperation is assisting Bangladesh with shaping its prison and justice systems and its approach to dealing with prisoners to bring them into line with human rights standards (GIZ 2013, [Promising Practices – Justice Reform: Improving the Situation of Overcrowding in Prisons in Bangladesh](#) (PDF, 543 KB)).

The thematic reports by Special Rapporteurs reflect contemporary human rights debates and evolving human rights standards. As such they provide impetus for the thematic focus and direction

of development policy. All of these reports are useful for development measures that are supporting human rights-based sector reforms.

The German Federal Foreign Office-financed project for realising the rights of Peru's indigenous peoples to consultation invited the then Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples to Peru in 2013 to take part in a [conference of all Latin American ombuds offices on the right of indigenous peoples to consultation](#) (Spanish, PDF, 2.3 MB, not barrier-free). There, the Special Rapporteur delivered a much acclaimed keynote address which helped bring objectivity to the politically highly charged debate ('right to consultation as an obstacle to investment') and specify the rights and duties of individual actors. At the end of 2013, he undertook a mission to Peru as part of his mandate and published a [report on indigenous peoples in Peru's extractive industries](#) (PDF, 211 KB, not barrier-free). The report provided clarity on particularly contentious issues and contributed to a solution-focused debate.

Adopted in September 2015, Agenda 2030 is to be implemented explicitly in accordance with human rights standards. This means that partner countries can receive specific support to help them use the thematic and country-specific reports of Special Rapporteurs and the country-specific recommendations of the UPR to formulate and review their programmes for achieving the SDGs.

## Resources

- [Special Rapporteurs: thematic mandates](#)
- [Special Rapporteurs: country mandates](#)
- [Universal Periodic Review](#), by country: [OHCHR website](#) and [UPR.info](#)

## 5. Human rights-based indicators

The trend towards management for results has also led to the development of indicators and statistics in the field of human rights. Human rights-based indicators are not necessarily additional indicators, but rather indicators that are geared towards human rights standards and principles. In particular, this means that indicators map the content of relevant human rights and that participatory and accountability processes should be promoted in the collection and analysis of data (see brief overview: [Official Statistics and Human Rights](#), 2015, PDF, 3.8 MB, not barrier-free).

Human rights-based indicators can be used to monitor and analyse the implementation of human rights standards. At the same time, they serve to record the extent to which certain issues and sectors are meeting human rights provisions, such as the requirement for non-discriminatory access to clean drinking water. OHCHR has developed a conceptual and methodological framework for human rights-based indicators that map structures, results and processes in quantitative and qualitative terms.

The comprehensive publication includes many examples of indicators for several sectors ([Human Rights Indicators: A Guide to Measurement and Implementation](#) (2012, PDF, 9.4 MB, not barrier-free; [Summary](#), PDF, 3.4 MB, not barrier-free).

Statistics authorities, NHRIs and line ministries are working together in an increasing number of states, supported in some cases by OHCHR, to develop human rights-based indicators for national statistics and data collection, for example in Ecuador, Mexico and Kenya.

## Relevance for development cooperation

Within development cooperation, human rights-based indicators at country and sector level and the data based thereon can help to identify areas of major progress and deficits in a given partner country. This data is useful in country analyses, political dialogue and programme development, as well as for monitoring results and delivering policy advisory services to the partner country.

Human rights-based indicators are indispensable when it comes to reviewing progress with regard to the SDGs. Unlike the Millennium Development Goals, the SDGs explicitly require that they be implemented in line with human rights standards. They require quantitative and qualitative improvements, as well as better inclusion of groups that are discriminated against. Here, meaningful statistics are essential in order to ensure transparency and accountability.

German development cooperation can support partner countries in a number of ways, not least as part of sectoral programmes, when it comes to reviewing progress on human rights issues with regard to the SDGs. This includes assisting with:

- the development of national and sectoral development indicators that map the SDG targets in line with human rights requirements (e.g. indicators of energy affordability and access to school education for linguistic minorities);
- the development of statistical capacity for disaggregating data in order to bring to light progress and set-backs for particularly vulnerable groups and thereby highlight any cases of inequality and discrimination;
- efforts to guarantee human rights standards in data collection, e.g. the right to privacy;
- initiatives for working with civil society, for example, to also use non-governmental data and statistics for SDG reports;
- the development and expansion of participatory and inclusive national SDG review mechanisms, including NHRIs, as appropriate.

There is also an opportunity to gear indicators at project level to a greater extent to human rights standards, for example, by taking particular consideration of vulnerable and marginalised groups or by placing a greater focus on improving the quality of social services.

## Resources

- OHCHR (2012) [Human Rights Indicators: A Guide to Measurement and Implementation](#) (PDF, 9.4 MB, not barrier-free)
- OHCHR (2015) [Official Statistics and Human Rights](#) (PDF, 3,8 MB, not barrier-free)
- OHCHR (2015): [Ensuring no one is left behind: A human rights-based approach to data](#) (PDF, 223 KB, not barrier-free)
- OHCHR (2015): [SDGs Indicator Framework: A Human Rights Approach to Data Disaggregation](#) (PDF, 387 KB, not barrier-free)

## 6. Additional resources on human rights in development cooperation

- DIMR information portal: [Development and Human Rights: Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- BMZ (2010) [Human rights in practice - Fact sheets on a human rights-based approach in development cooperation](#) (PDF, 1.4 MB)
- GIZ (2012) [Human rights in German development cooperation: Examples from the field](#) (PDF, 9.1 MB, not barrier-free)
- DIMR/GIZ: [Compilation of promising practices on the human rights-based approach in German development cooperation](#)
- OECD / World Bank (2013) [Integrating Human Rights into Development](#) (PDF, 2.6 MB, not barrier-free)
- UNDP (2012) [Mainstreaming Human Rights in Development Policies and Programming: UNDP Experiences](#) (PDF, 3.7 MB, not barrier-free)
- UNDP (2013) [Mainstreaming Human Rights in Development: Stories from the Field](#)

Other tools in this series:

- [ABC of Human Rights for Development Cooperation: The African Human Rights System](#) (2015, PDF, 429 KB)
- [ABC of Human Rights for Development Cooperation: The Inter-American Human Rights System](#) (2014, PDF, 325 KB)
- [ABC of Human Rights for Development Cooperation: European Human Rights System](#) (2013, PDF, 225 KB,)
- [Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights](#) (2013, PDF, 448 KB)
- [Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity as Human Rights Issues in Development Cooperation](#) (2015, PDF, 500 KB)
- [Human Rights Budgeting](#) (2010, PDF, 77 KB)
- [Promoting the Human Right to Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Development Cooperation](#) (2014, PDF, 213 KB)

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BMZ policy papers on related issues:

- [Gender Equality in German Development Policy](#) (2014, PDF, 621 KB)
- [Position paper on young people in German development policy – a contribution to the implementation of the rights of children and youth](#) (2011, PDF, 452 KB)
- [Action Plan for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities](#) (PDF, 2 MB).

## Additional human rights resources

- OHCHR: [Universal Human Rights Index](#), search engine for recommendations of UN treaty bodies, the special mandates and the UPR process
- OHCHR: [Human rights information and UN documents by country](#)
- University of Essex: [Human Rights Atlas](#) on ratifications and human rights indicators with data from 1981 to 2012
- [www.bayefsky.com](http://www.bayefsky.com): The UN Human Rights Treaties, search machine for ratifications, general and concluding observations etc. by country, topic and document type

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