RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH MAINSTREAMING GUIDELINE

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# RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH MAINSTREAMING GUIDELINE

PREFACE

This Rights-Based Approach Mainstreaming Guideline is produced by the Civic Space Technical Assistance Project funded by the European Union. One of the Civic Space Project aims is to strengthen the capacities of CSOs and support them in adopting a rights-based approach to advocate for democratic changes, confidence-building measures, and a more enabling environment for civil society.

In this context, a set of guidelines have been developed as a do-it-yourself tool to help CSOs mainstream cross-cutting issues such as accessibility, ecology, gender, rights-based approach, and youth. These guidelines aim to promote and support CSOs to mainstream rights-based concerns into their policies, planning and daily operations. The guidelines are developed with a participatory approach in which CSOs working on each topic were involved in drafting. An advisory group of CSOs were identified for each cross-cutting topic and were consulted at each stage.

We believe that these guidelines, produced in English and Turkish will be beneficial not only for help desk or Grow Civic beneficiaries of Civic Space, but for all civil society organisations in Cyprus and elsewhere. Furthermore, most of the practical measures proposed in these guidelines are also applicable for corporate and public institutions.

The guidelines on thematic cross-cutting issues are developed as a complementary set, with the rights-based approach providing a general framework for their implementation. However, we designed each thematic guideline in such a way that they can be separated in mainstreaming that specific aspect. As such, you can use this Rights-Based Approach Mainstreaming Guideline to improve your capacity in enhancing the rights-based approach in your organisation.
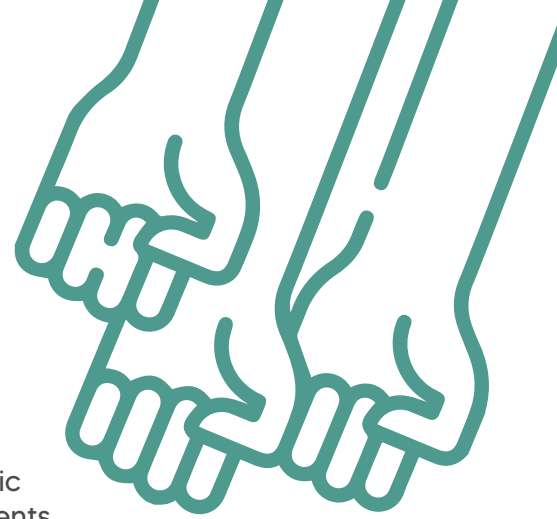
The guidelines start by providing the international framework and background of the topic, followed by key concepts and a brief introduction to the topic. Then specific applicable measures CSOs can use at policy and strategic levels and at operational levels such as during meetings, events, in the offices, etc. Although aligning your organisation to actualise all measures covered in the guidelines is recommended, you can opt for a step-by-step approach and implement measures one by one. The checklist provided at the end of the guideline can be used to monitor your status. You might even consider making your monitoring results publicly available not only to be in line with the transparency and accountability principles of the rights-based approach but also to encourage other CSOs to make use of the guidelines.

Civic Space aims to periodically improve the guidelines, based on feedback received from CSOs that implement the proposed measures. Such improvement might mean revising and/or adapting a measure or adding a new one. Thereby, we kindly ask you to send us your feedback about the guidelines.

Taking this opportunity, we would like to thank the following CSOs, as the advisory group of this rights-based approach mainstreaming guideline, for their valuable input and expertise:

Civil Society Initiative
Human Righs Platform
Queer Cyprus Association
Third Community Forum
Turkish Cypriot Bar Association – Human Rights Committee
Turkish Cypriot Human Rights Foundation
Universal Patient's Rights Association
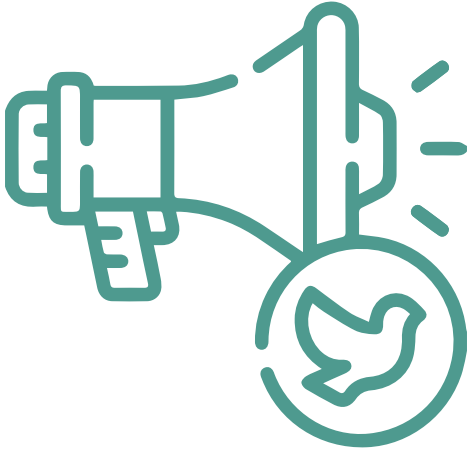
THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS FRAMEWORK AND MAINSTREAMING

The rights-based approach has evolved from the human-rights based approach, which relies on universal human rights principles and standards. The roots of the human rights concept go back to the Magna Carta signed by the King of England in 1215, which imposed several limitations on political authority. Human rights have been discussed through the idea of 'natural law', which defends that each person is born with rights and freedoms that the state is obliged to protect.

The international human rights framework that is used in the modern sense has evolved after World War II through various international and regional conventions. The starting point was the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)[1] by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. The most established way of classification for human rights is through the following categories:

- **Civil and political rights** (first generation of rights) include rights such as the prohibition of torture or forced labour as well as freedom of religion or freedom of expression. These rights are set out under the UDHR and UN Convention on Civil and Political Rights.

- **Social, economic and cultural rights** (second generation of rights) include rights such as the right to work, education and insurance in the UN Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the European Charter of the Council of Europe.

- **Solidarity rights** (third generation of rights) cover collective rights such as the right to peace and a healthy environment.[2]

[1] Universal Declaration of Human Rights (adopted 10 December 1948) UNGA Res 217 A(III) (UDHR)
[2] Council of Europe, 'The evolution of human rights' <https://www.coe.int/en/web/compass/the-evolution-of-human-rights> accessed 6 February 2022.

These three categories are not a definite list of human rights and in fact, most of the rights fall under more than one category. However, the difference between them can be described in a nutshell through the states' **'negative'** and **'positive'** obligations. The first generation of rights mainly involves the negative duties, which means that the states should refrain from certain acts such as torture, degrading treatment, limitations on freedom of expression, or freedom of religion. The negative obligations usually cover civil and political rights and refer to the prohibition of certain acts to protect human rights. One of the basic examples of a negative obligation is the prohibition of torture or inhumane treatment. On the other hand, positive obligations refer to the acts that the states should take such as introducing measures to protect certain rights. The positive obligations are mostly about social and economic rights. Finally, the collective rights involve not individual but rather collective rights, and they should be claimed as a community or group.[3]

The human rights framework was strengthened with the establishment of monitoring mechanisms such as Universal Periodic Review (UPR), Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Committee Against Torture (CAT), Group of Experts on Action Against Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) or the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR). The ECHR is a crucial element of the Council of Europe's protection, and promotion of human rights and the Member States are required to follow its judgments. The others are all UN or Council of Europe mechanisms that are either established under different international human rights conventions except for the UPR, which obliges all Member States of the UN to regularly review the situation regarding human rights, whether they have ratified specific human rights conventions or not. UPR mechanism aims to improve the human rights context in each member state. It provides support and technical assistance to address human rights violations and share best practices among States.[4]

The establishment of the human rights framework has led to discussions around the human rights-based approach. The approach was initially mainstreamed through the UN agencies under the UN Programme for Reform, launched in 1997.[5] There are different accounts of the origins of the human rights-based approach as a concept. Some argue that it derived from the gender equality struggle, whereas others claim it is related to the rights struggle of persons with disabilities. Some also believe that the concept is an inevitable consequence of the human rights movement.[6] Nevertheless, the struggle for human rights carried out by civil society organizations (CSOs) had an invaluable contribution to developing the human rights-based approach.
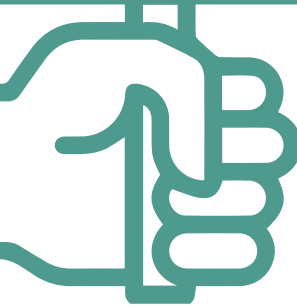
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[3] Adrian Vasile Cornescu, 'The Generations of Human's Rights' (2009) <https://www.law.muni.cz/sborniky/dny_prava_2009/files/prispevky/tvorba_prava/Cornescu_Adrian_Vasile.pdf> accessed 6 February 2022

[4] UN Human Rights Council, 'Basic Facts About the UPR' <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/BasicFacts.aspx> accessed 6 February 2022

[5] UNSDG Human Rights Working Group, 'The Human Rights Based Approach to Development Cooperation Towards a Common Understanding Among UN Agencies' (2003) < https://unsdg.un.org/resources/human-rights-based-approach-development-cooperation-towards-common-understanding-among-un>

[6] Emma Harris-Curtis, 'Rights-Based Approaches: Issues for NGOs' (2003) 13 Development in Practice 558, p.558

WHAT IS THE RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH (RBA)

The rights-based approach derives from the human rights-based approach that includes the principles and standards in international human rights law. The main difference between human rights based-approach and rights based-approach is that the latter does not merely focus on the obligations and rights identified under international human rights law but also other areas such as labour rights identified under international labour law, intellectual property rights, sexual health rights or international, transnational crimes that covers human trafficking or migrant smuggling crimes. Although RBA includes rights identified under the human rights law, it is important to highlight that it is not limited to this particular framework and has the potential to go beyond that.[7]

The rights-based approach is different from charity-based or need-based approaches that used to be used more often in the past. RBA is a shift from those understandings, and the chart below describes the main differences between them.

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[7] European Commission, 'A Rights-Based Approach Encompassing All Human Rights for EU Development Cooperation' (2014) <https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/online-170621-eidhr-rba-toolbox-en-a5-lc_en.pdf> accessed 6 February 2022, p.7.

Charity Approach	Needs Approach	Rights-Based Approach
Focuses on input, not outcome	Focuses on input and outcome	Focuses on process and outcome
Emphasizes increasing charity	Emphasizes meeting needs	Emphasizes realizing rights
Recognizes moral responsibility of the rich toward poor	Recognizes needs as valid claims	Recognizes individual and group rights as claims toward legal and moral duty-bearers
Individuals are seen as victims	Individuals are objects of development interventions	Individuals and groups are empowered to claim their rights
Individuals deserve assistance	Individuals deserve assistance	Individuals are entitled to assistance
Focuses on the manifestation of problems	Focuses on immediate causes of problems	Focuses on structural causes and their manifestations

Source: Jakob Kirkemann Boesen and Tomas Martin, 'Applying a Rights-Based Approach: An Inspirational Guide for Civil Society' (2007) The Danish Institute for Human Rights < https://gsdrc.org/document-library/applying-a-rights-based-approach-an-inspirational-guide-for-civil-society/> accessed 6 February 2022.

As it is illustrated in the table above, the three approaches focus on different issues and work for different outcomes. For instance, in terms of access to the right to education, the charity-based approach would work in building schools or buying textbooks for students. In contrast, the needs based-approach would focus on providing teacher training or direct training to students. However, RBA would work on organizing the parents or students to claim their right to education and advocate the authorities to improve the education system and services.

RBA identifies the rights-holders and duty-bearers for their work. Every human being is a rights-holder, and for each right, there is a corresponding duty-bearer. The rights-holders claim their rights and hold the duty-bearers accountable for their rights. Typically, the states are the legal duty-bearers for rights, and they have the responsibility to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the rights-holders. Apart from that, it is expected that each rights-holder respect the rights of others and every person, as well as an entity such as private companies, CSOs, international organizations etc. have the moral duty to respect and protect rights.

RBA endorses the following human rights principles and values:

1

Inalienability, indivisibility and interdependence of rights

The principle means that all people are entitled to their rights around the world and these rights are universal and inalienable. In addition, the rights cannot be separated and addressed in a hierarchical order. Denial of one set of rights may negatively influence the enjoyment of other rights. In addition, the rights are interdependent on each other since they all contribute to human dignity and enjoyment of a right mostly depends on the fulfillment of other rights obligations.[8]

2

Empowerment and participation

RBA opposes the understanding that regards people as solely the recipients of goods and services. Hence, the process is more important than the outcome of intervention most of the time. It is expected that through empowerment, the rights-holders will have the capacity and knowledge to claim and participate in the improvement of their rights effectively.[9]

3

Equality and non-discrimination

RBA puts forward that all human beings are entitled to their rights equally and should be able to access those rights without facing any discrimination based on sex, ethnicity, citizenship status, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, language, religion, colour, race, family or any other status, etc.[10]

4

Accountability

RBA advocates for duty-bearers to be accountable for failing to meet the standards for access to rights. The rights-holders are entitled to pursue legal proceedings to claim their rights and hold the states accountable. CSOs and international organizations are important bodies used by the rights-holders to raise their capacity.[11]

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[8] Jakob Kirkemann Boesen and Tomas Martin, 'Applying a Rights-Based Approach: An Inspirational Guide for Civil Society' (2007) The Danish Institute for Human Rights < https://gsdrc.org/document-library/applying-a-rights-based-approach-an-inspirational-guide-for-civil-society/> accessed 6 February 2022, p.42.

[9] Ibid.

[10] Ibid.

[11] Luxembourg Development Cooperation Agency, 'Guidelines for Mainstreaming Human and Fundamental Rights in ICP V' < https://luxdev.lu/files/documents/Human_rights.pdf> accessed 6 February 2022, p.9.

WHAT IS RBA MAINSTREAMING?

There is no single agreed definition of RBA mainstreaming. Overall, it can be defined as incorporating and implementing RBA in all levels of policy making, programming and planning in CSOs and also across public and private sectors such as municipalities, ministries, law enforcement bodies, large corporations, small-scale businesses and trade associations.

WHY RBA MAINSTREAMING?

Reminds the responsibilities of the state in relation to rights
RBA mainstreaming systematically addresses the duty-bearers' responsibilities and calls them into action.

Multiplies the effect of advocacy for rights
Through empowering rights-holders, RBA mainstreaming increases their capacity to claim their rights and aims to make each rights-holder the agents of change that multiply the effect beyond an intervention made under a charity or needs based approach.

Advances the culture of democracy
RBA mainstreaming encourages the rights-holders to become active citizens and advocate for their rights. The civic engagement with the duty-bearers for the development and better implementation of rights is one of the areas that RBA mainstreaming focuses on. Active citizenship leads to advancing the culture of democracy.

WHERE SHOULD RBA BE MAINSTREAMED?

RBA is multi-sectoral and comprehensive. It should be mainstreamed not only in CSOs but in public and private sectors such as municipalities, ministries, law enforcement bodies, education sector, private companies, etc. RBA mainstreaming can lead to significant changes in societies to promote human rights which can only be achieved through efforts from different sectors.

HOW SHOULD RBA BE MAINSTREAMED?

RBA requires careful programming and planning by bearing in mind its main principles, as explained above. RBA requires a cross-thematic approach that would acknowledge the non-hierarchical nature of the rights. All rights are related and interdependent, they coexist together and none is superior to the other. Hence, regardless of work areas, RBA is necessary for all organizations. In addition, it is a perspective that requires constant and sustainable efforts to see its reflection on the ground. This guide shall next provide suggestions for implementing RBA mainstreaming in your organization. However, the following two examples are useful to see how RBA mainstreaming can be achieved via international or regional bodies.

RBA AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

The UN Member States adopted the 2030 Global Agenda for Sustainable Development to strengthen world peace, create a sustainable environment for all, and reduce poverty worldwide.[12] The 17 SDGs and 169 targets outlined under the Agenda show us the UN's vision for the world.[13] The main slogan of the SDGs is to 'leave no one behind', which points out that there should be a focus on vulnerable and marginalized groups. This statement addresses two principles of RBA: non-discrimination and participation.[14] SDGs clearly emphasize the responsibilities of states to implement their obligations arising from international instruments relating to human rights and international law.[15] Countries around the world are committed to SDGs that provide a road map for prioritizing progress on different topics that lie at the heart of sustainable development. They include specific and determined targets that address issues such as ending poverty, hunger, climate crises, reducing inequality, and improving health and education conditions. Overall, 90 percent of the SDG targets are related to the international human rights and labour standards.[16] Thus, the effective implementation of SDGs will equally result in the implementation of the rights standards set out under the international framework.

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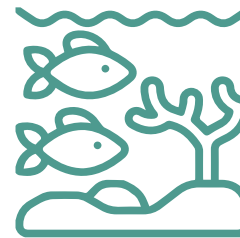
[12] For more information on SDGs please check: UNDP, 'What are the Sustainable Development Goals?', < https://www.undp.org/sustainable-development-goals> accessed 15 October 2021.

[13] UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda> accessed 15 October 2021.

[14] Annelie de Man, 'The Sustainable Development Goals and the Rights-Based Approach to Development: Compatible or Missing the Point?' (2019) 19 African Human Rights Law Journal <http://ref.scielo.org/fbm8k6> accessed 10 February 2022.

[15] UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda> accessed 10 February 2022.

[16] The Danish Institute for Human Rights, The Sustainable Development Goals, < https://www.humanrights.dk/learning-hub/sustainable-development-goals-sdgs#:~:text=The%20 2030%20Agenda%20is%20explicitly,realise%20human%20rights%20for%20all.&text=In%20fact%2C%20analysis%20has%20shown,human%20rights%2C%20and%20vice%20 versa.> accessed 10 February 2022.

EU ACTION PLAN ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY 2020-2024

EU adopted the Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy to set out the priorities of the EU and its Member States in the field of external actions. The Action Plan provides clear guides for the states to implement main human rights principles by reaffirming the EU's leadership on human rights. Throughout the document, it further emphasizes RBA and states that RBA methodology must be implemented in all external actions. The Action Plan includes several aspects of RBA, such as empowerment, accountability, inclusion, and participation.[17]
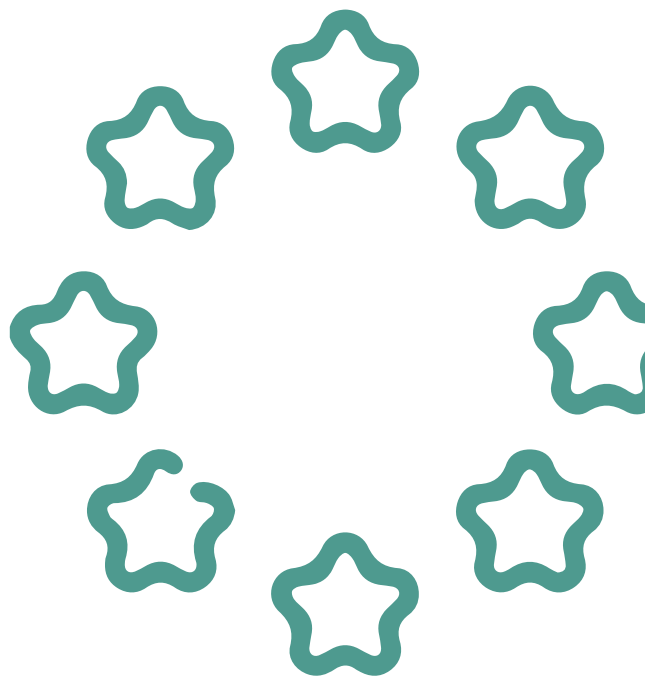
[17] European Union, 'EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy' < https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eu_action_plan_on_human_rights_and_democracy_2020-2024.pdf> accessed 10 February 2022.
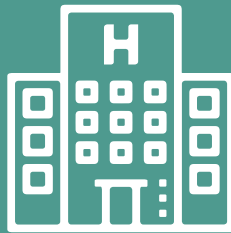
MEASURES FOR MAINSTREAMING RBA

The following measures are designed to suggest practical measures for CSOs to begin mainstreaming RBA. The measures are not an end-list and on the contrary, it is aimed that this guideline shall be revised and developed further through the experiences of CSOs that implement RBA mainstreaming in their areas of work. RBA mainstreaming guideline is one of the 6 mainstreaming guidelines (others are: Accessibility Mainstreaming Guideline, Ecology Mainstreaming Guideline, Gender Mainstreaming Guideline, Youth Mainstreaming Guideline Childrens' Rights Mainstreaming Guideline) produced by Civic Space. RBA mainstreaming provides a cross-cutting umbrella framework closely related to the other thematic mainstreaming areas. RBA mainstreaming does not fall into a single thematic area, instead provides a perspective and a set of suggested methodologies on how to assess and act on whichever area your organization is working on.

MEASURE ①
COMMITMENT

Commitment to RBA mainstreaming is vital for showing the importance you attribute to it and endorsing its principles.

- Draft a declaration or policy paper that explicitly states your commitment to RBA.

- After expressly stating your commitment, you can produce a strategy document that shall include your main objectives for implementing RBA approach and the main steps that shall be made for integrating RBA in all your areas of work.

MEASURE ②
IDENTIFY YOUR AREA OF WORK

Identifying the area of work is necessary to introduce new programs and projects in your organization. The following points will give you practical steps to follow for using RBA in identifying which areas you wish to focus on in an organization.

- Identify the groups that face rights violations in your area of work through collecting and analysing data in your region, and reports published by local bodies, CSOs or international organizations.

- Create a list of the problems faced in the field concerning these groups. You can benefit from your own organizational experiences and the experiences of other CSOs or international organizations that work with these groups.

- Review the international standards in your thematic field by going through sources such as UN Conventions, Council of Europe Conventions, UN Human Rights Mechanisms (e.g., Universal Periodic Review), UN Treaty Bodies (the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Rights of the Child) etc. Check which of these international or regional conventions related to your area of work are ratified in the local context.

- Analyse the local legal framework such as the 'constitution', legal texts or regulations in force. In addition, check the policies or strategy documents related to your thematic fields. Try to identify the main gaps and challenges that pave the way for rights violations.

- Consider whether the culture or values prevalent in your context contribute to the problem you identified.

MEASURE ③
IDENTIFYING THE RIGHTS-HOLDERS AND DUTY-BEARERS

After deciding the main area that you wish to focus on, you should focus on identifying rights-holders and duty-bearers. Every right-holder has a corresponding duty-bearer, and they are both stakeholders with different needs and expectations.

- The rights-holders are persons that are entitled to rights defined under international or regional rights standards.

- Identify the main needs of the rights-holders. A needs assessment should be done through participatory and inclusive information gathering for every right-holder. You can collect this information through interviews and/or consultation meetings or surveys.

- Include at least the following questions while collecting information from the rights-holders:

  >> What are your immediate needs and expectations?

  >> Are you aware of your rights and how to claim them?

  >> Are you organized? If so, how?

  >> What are the main challenges, in your opinion, in accessing your rights?

  >> What are your abilities and capabilities?

- Make sure that the data received from these are segregated into at least national, ethnic or social origin, age, region, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital and accessibility status. This will allow you to realize any dual discrimination that some rights-holders may face due to any one of these factors. Please make use of the Youth Mainstreaming Guide, Gender Mainstreaming Guide, Accessibility Mainstreaming Guideline and Childrens' Rights Mainstreaming Guideline to find out more about how you can be more inclusive as an organization while collecting information and data.

- The state is the primary duty bearer. There are different branches of the state such as the ministries, law enforcement bodies, municipalities, parliament, etc. However, in some cases, other institutions such as corporations, academic institutions, or CSOs might also be considered duty-bearers.

- If applicable, carry out interviews or surveys with duty-bearers to address the questions below. If it is not possible, try to collect the information on the legal framework, capacity, resources, and awareness level through desk research.

> Who are the duty-bearers? Are they 'state' bodies or other entities?

> What is their situation in terms of capacity and resources?

> What are their primary obligations to the rights-holders?

> Are they aware of their obligations?

> What are the main reasons for failing to provide the rights of the rights-holders?

- If the duty bearers are aware of their rights and have the necessary capacities to implement them, then you need to focus on activities that would remind their responsibilities and invite them to act. However, if they do not know their obligations or lack the necessary capacity to fulfil their obligations, then your work should focus on how to tackle these problems.

MEASURE ④
IDENTIFYING YOUR MAIN OBJECTIVES

After finalising your analysis of rights-holders and duty-bearers, focus on the main objectives of your work by taking the results of the analyses into account. The objectives should look beyond the immediate needs and expectations of the stakeholders and focus on the main rights violations and challenges faced by the rights-holders.

1 Try to identify the root causes of the problem area you decided to work on. If a certain group of people are deprived of their rights, try to focus on the structural causes of this that might be related to discrimination, inequalities, lack of political participation, and unequal power relations. The root cause will allow you to realize the extent of the area you wish to work on, and the international human rights framework will guide you to shape your objectives.

2 The objectives should focus on improving the standards of the rights-holders by enhancing their access to rights while building the capacities of the duty-bearers to implement their obligations fully and promote rights.

3 Make sure that the objectives are related to the problems and needs identified in your stakeholder analyses.

4 Try to include both rights-holders and duty-bearers in designing your objectives. They may be included through consultation meetings, workshops or focus groups etc. Their feedback is necessary to make sure that the objectives reflect the main problems and challenges faced by the main subjects of the area you are working on.

5 If the involvement of duty-bearers is not possible or it might harm your work, try to follow other ways to be informed about their conditions and challenges. This may be through any research papers, reports and/or data published by researchers, CSOs, international organizations, or local bodies, any public statements, press releases and/or interviews by local bodies.

MEASURE 5
EMPOWERING RIGHTS-HOLDERS

Empowerment of the rights-holders is one of the main goals of RBA. Any activities related to the empowerment of the rights-holders should be made by considering inclusion/participation and equality/non-discrimination principles.

>> Working together with the rights-holders throughout all your activities is important. Their opinion should be received through consultation meetings, surveys, focus groups, roundtable discussions etc. Whether you are designing a new project or a new activity, you need to make sure that the opinions of the rights-holders are reflected in the process.

>> The rights-holders are not homogenous groups but rather diverse groups of individuals that claim their rights. It is important that you put special effort into including everyone and that you avoid any type of discrimination. There are marginalized groups such as women, LGBTI+s, youth, children and people with disabilities who face discrimination and may be excluded from decision-making bodies. Thus, please make sure that you allow everyone to participate in your organizational activities and process fully. Please use the Youth Mainstreaming Guide, Gender Mainstreaming Guide, Accessibility Mainstreaming Guide and Children's Rights Mainstreaming Guide published by Civic Space to identify steps that you should take for full inclusion of marginalized groups.

>> Organize and deliver training sessions to rights-holders on their rights and the practical steps they can follow when facing rights violations.

>> Publish informative reports, booklets, or brochures for rights-holders that shall include clear information on their rights, legal remedies, and support mechanisms that they can apply. All informative materials should also be published in different languages depending on your target group and be in line with the accessibility standards.

>> Conduct awareness raising campaigns from RBA perspective that shall inform the public on issues such as their rights, main challenges they face or policy or implementation changes required to promote their rights.

>> Raise the capacity of rights-holders on legal or administrative rules to access information. Understand the local legal framework on the right to access to information and encourage rights-holders to engage with the duty-bearers to remind them of their obligations.

MEASURE 6
IDENTIFYING YOUR MAIN OBJECTIVES

Engagement with duty bearers is important for helping them increase their capacity and advocating the enhancement of rights. Understanding their needs and capacities will help you plan activities to increase their awareness of rights and make steps for positive change in their practices.

Analyse the capacity and knowledge level of the duty-bearers through the data and information you have collected under Measure 3. Also, list the duty-bearers according to their responsibility, interest and motivation on the subject, formal power and authority, informal power and influence and their capacity to make changes. This will assist you in organizing your collaboration with them and addressing their needs effectively.

If the duty bearer has the motivation or interest to improve the standards for rights-holders but lacks the know-how on how to make it happen, then it would be useful to organize periodic trainings with them to increase their capacity. Make sure that you organize trainings in collaboration with them, tailored according to their needs and make sure that each training is designed through a RBA.

In the case of lack of motivation or interest, you need to consider engaging in advocacy actions to influence them to act and demand change. The advocacy can be conducted in various forms such as demand for legal change through implementing advocacy campaigns, drafting suggestions for legal change or lobbying in the form of one-on-one meetings with decision makers, etc. Think about the best possible way in your context that would remind the duty bearers of their responsibilities and invite them to act.

If the duty bearers are open to collaborative dialogue with CSOs, consider organizing joint working groups to maintain regular communication and collaboration.

MEASURE 7
RAISE AWARENESS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Enhancing the awareness level of the general public in regards to RBA will contribute to the promotion of rights. This will make your advocacy work more meaningful and improve the conditions of the rights holders.

- Make sure that all the communication activities you implement are designed with RBA.

- Regularly share information with the public and make clear demands on accountability and transparency of the duty-bearers.

- Highlight the obligations of duty bearers and the international standards they must meet in all your public statements.

MEASURE 8

COLLABORATION WITH THE RIGHTS-BASED CSOS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Joint efforts are always much more effective and needed for a substantial change. Therefore, acknowledging the work being done by other organization and building synergies with them is crucial for RBA mainstreaming.

- Build collaboration with international organizations or CSOs that are working in your area of work. Joint efforts bring better results for either advocacy or any capacity building activity you plan to offer.

- Have a regular flow of information with relevant CSOs and international organizations. Please share your knowledge and learn from their know-how and experience. This will strengthen your efforts and contribute to successful outcomes.

RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH (RBA) MAINSTREAMING CHECKLIST

The following checklist includes compliance items for each measure covered in the Guideline. For each item, the checklist allows you to consider if it is implemented in your organisation or not. If it is not implemented, you leave that line of the checklist blank. However, if your CSO complies with the relevant item, then the checklist allows you to assess if it is partially or fully implemented.

The long-term end goal for achieving a comprehensive RBA mainstreaming in any given organisation is to have all items fully implemented. However, this requires resources such as time, knowledge, and expertise and hence should be a tailor-made process for each organisation. Thereby, first and foremost, we recommend that you use this checklist to assess where your CSO stands regarding RBA mainstreaming. Following this initial assessment, and based on your resources, you can then develop your strategy plan (as recommended in measure #1 of the checklist) in which you identify your goals to improve RBA mainstreaming in your CSO.

MEASURES FOR RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH MAINSTREAMING

MEASURE 1: COMMITMENT	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	FULLY IMPLEMENTED
1. A declaration or policy paper is adopted and publicly announced to show commitment to RBA mainstreaming.		
2. Main objectives for and steps that shall be taken to implement RBA are determined.		
3. An RBA mainstreaming strategy paper/document is adopted that includes the above mentioned objectives and steps.		
MEASURE 2: IDENTIFYING AREA OF WORK	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	FULLY IMPLEMENTED
4. Research is conducted to identify the main groups that face rights violations in the organizational area of work.		
5. Data is compiled and analysed together with organizational experiences, including other CSOs to identify and list the rights-groups and the problems they face.		
6. Research is completed to determine the relevant international standards and main international or regional conventions that cover the organizational area of work.		
7. The local legal and institutional context is analysed to understand whether it complies with international standards.		
MEASURE 3: IDENTIFYING THE RIGHTS-HOLDERS AND DUTY-BEARERS	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	FULLY IMPLEMENTED
8. The rights holders and corresponding duty-bearers are listed.		
9. Rights-holders are consulted in accordance with the questions listed in measure #3 through interviews and/or focus groups.		
10. All data collected during the consultation process of rights-holders is segregated into at least national, ethnic or social origin, age, region, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital and accessibility status.		
11. Interviews or surveys are conducted with duty-bearers to receive information that address at least the questions listed in measure #4.		
12. The capacities and needs of duty-bearers are listed based on the collected information.		

MEASURE 4: IDENTIFYING MAIN OBJECTIVES	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	FULLY IMPLEMENTED
13. The root causes of the main problems are discussed with the members and volunteers.		
14. The international legal framework is analyzed to understand the international standards. Assistance received from experts or other CSOs, when needed.		
15. The main objectives are listed through consultations with rights-holders and duty-bearers, following the problems and needs identified in measure #3.		
MEASURE 5: EMPOWERING RIGHTS-HOLDERS	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	FULLY IMPLEMENTED
16. Rules are in place to ensure that the rights-holders' opinions are received in every step of the organizational processes.		
17. Participation of all rights-holders in decision-making, processes, including those belonging to marginalized groups is ensured through rules and policies that would allow their full inclusion.		
18. Regular training sessions are held for rights-holders to equip them with information about their rights and how to respond to rights violations.		
19. Informative materials are published regularly for rights-holders to provide clear information on their rights, legal remedies and support mechanisms.		
20. Regular capacity building activities are implemented towards rights holders to increase their engagement with duty-bearers.		
MEASURE 6: BUILDING CAPACITY OF DUTY-BEARERS TO RESPECT, PROTECT AND FULFIL RIGHTS	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	FULLY IMPLEMENTED
21. An advocacy strategy is designed towards duty bearers in accordance with the needs and capacities determined by the analysis under measure #3.		
22. All activities held for empowering duty bearers are being designed in collaboration with them.		
23. Duty-bearers are regularly monitored and their responsibilities are being reminded through various tools such as petitions, trainings, lobbying visits etc.		

MEASURE 7: RAISING AWARENESS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	FULLY IMPLEMENTED
24. Rules are in place to make sure that all the communication materials produced are in line with RBA.		
25. Regular training sessions, workshops or meetings in the organization are held to discuss communication and advocacy through RBA.		
26. The public statements regularly remind the responsibilities of the duty bearers under international standards and local legal framework.		
MEASURE 8: COLLABORATION WITH THE RIGHTS-BASED CSOS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	FULLY IMPLEMENTED
27. The list of relevant international and local CSOs is prepared and their work is being followed regularly.		
28. Regular communication is sustained with relevant organizations.		
29. Membership to relevant networks and platforms are ensured for joint advocacy efforts.		

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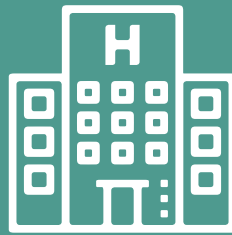
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