

RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH MAINSTREAMING GUIDELINE



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RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH MAINSTREAMING GUIDELINE

The Civic Space is a Technical Assistance Project funded by the European Union. It aims at contributing to build in the Turkish Cypriot community, a stronger civil society, which supports democratic changes and confidence-building measures.

Within this context, Civic Space aims at ensuring that:

- The public and the Turkish Cypriot community are better informed about CSOs' actions and are more involved in CSOs' actions and management,
- CSOs improve their capacities in general and adopt a rights-based approach to advocate for democratic changes, confidence-building measures, and a more enabling environment for civil society,
- Local bodies are better informed about CSOs' roles and activities and are supported in promoting a fully enabling environment for civil society,
- Exchanges and joint actions between Greek and Turkish Cypriot CSOs are mainstreamed throughout the project's activities.

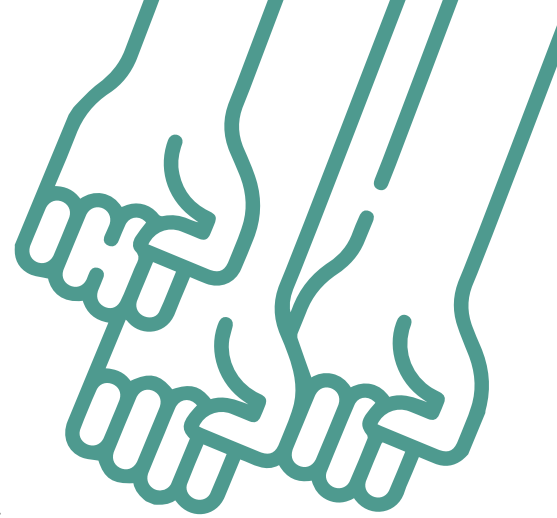
PREFACE

This Rights-Based Approach Mainstreaming Guideline was developed by the Civic Space Technical Assistance Project funded by the European Union. Civic Space Project aims to strengthen the capacities of CSOs and support them in embracing 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 has 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 incorporate rights-based concerns into their policies, planning, and daily operations. The guidelines were developed through a participatory approach, involving CSOs specializing in each topic in the drafting process. An advisory group of CSOs was identified for each cross-cutting topic and consulted at every stage. These guidelines produced in English and Turkish will be beneficial not only for the Civic Space help desk or Grow Civic beneficiaries but for all civil society organizations. Furthermore, most of the practical measures proposed in these guidelines also apply to 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 to allow for separate use in mainstreaming specific aspects. Therefore, you can utilize this Rights- Based Approach Mainstreaming Guideline to improve your capacity in enhancing the rights-based approach of your organization.



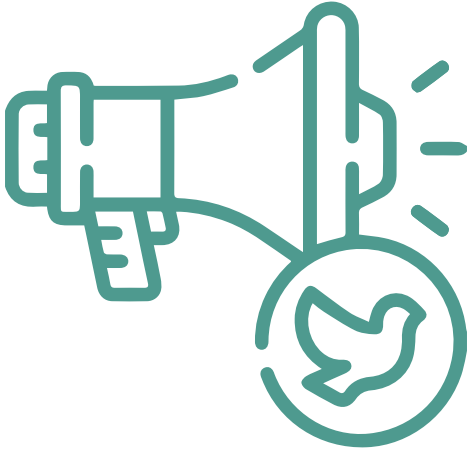


The guidelines start by providing the international framework and background of the topic, followed by key concepts and a brief introduction. Subsequently, specific applicable measures that CSOs can employ at policy and strategic levels, as well as at operational levels during meetings, events, in offices and etc., are presented. While it is recommended that your organization implements all measures covered in the guidelines, 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 progress. You could benefit from sharing your monitoring results publicly, as this would demonstrate your commitment to the rights-based approach's principles of transparency and accountability.

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. Therefore, 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 Rights 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 goes back to the Magna Carta which was signed by the King of England in 1215. It imposed several limitations on political authority. Human rights have been discussed through the idea of 'natural law', which argues 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 the 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. Human rights are usually classified through the following categories:

- **Civil and political rights** (first generation of rights) include rights such as the prohibition of torture or forced labor 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** 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>>

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 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, collective rights can not be considered as individual rights, and they should be claimed by a community or a 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 for the Council of Europe to protect and promote human rights, and the Member States are required to follow its jurisdiction. The others are the UN or Council of Europe mechanisms that are established under different international human rights conventions except for the UPR, which requires all UN Member States to periodically assess their human rights situation and determine whether they have ratified specific human rights conventions. The 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 on the origins of the human rights-based approach as a concept. Some argue that it has stemmed from the gender equality struggle, whereas others claim that 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 movements.⁶ Nevertheless, the struggle for human rights carried out by civil society organizations (CSOs) has had an invaluable contribution for the development of the human rights-based approach.

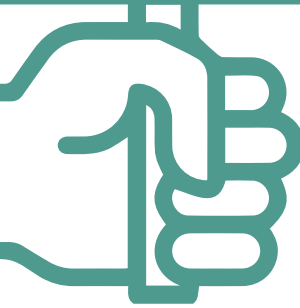
³ Adrian Vasile Cornescu, 'The Generations of Human's Rights' (2009) <https://www.law.muni.cz/sborniky/dny_prava_2009/files/prispevky/tvorba_prava/Cornescu_Adrian_Vasile.pdf>

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

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 which includes the principles and standards of the international human rights law. The main difference between the human rights-based approach and the rights-based approach is that the latter does not merely focus on the obligations and rights identified under international human rights law but also encompasses other areas such as labor rights classified under international labor law, intellectual property rights, sexual health rights or international, transnational crimes that cover human trafficking or migrant smuggling crimes. Although, the RBA incorporates rights specified under human rights law, it is vital to note that it is not restricted to this framework and has the capacity to extend further.⁷

The rights-based approach differs from the charity-based or need-based approaches that were previously popular. The RBA is a departure from previous concepts, and the chart below depicts the key differences.

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>

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 indicated in the table above, the three different approaches address distinct issues and seek different outcomes. In terms of access to education, a charity-based approach might be effective in building schools or providing textbooks for pupils. In contrast, a needs-based approach might prioritize teacher or student training. However, the RBA would endeavor to mobilize parents and children to claim their right to education and advocate for improvements to the education system and services.

The Rights-Based Approach (RBA) defines the duties of both rights-holders and duty-bearers. Every person has rights, and for each right there is at least one corresponding duty-bearer. The rights-holders acknowledge their rights and hold duty-bearers accountable for their rights. The states are usually the legal duty-bearers of rights, and they have the responsibility to respect, protect and protect and fulfil the rights of rights-holders. Aside from that, it is expected that each rights-holder respects the rights of others. Institutions such as private businesses, CSOs, international organizations, and so on have a moral duty to respect and protect rights.

RBA endorses the following human rights principles and values:

Inalienability, indivisibility and interdependence of rights

1

The principle means that all people are entitled to their rights around the world and these rights are universal and inalienable as they were inherited by birth. 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. Furthermore, the rights are interdependent from each other since they all contribute to human dignity and enjoyment of a right mostly depends on the fulfilment of other rights' obligations.⁸

Empowerment and participation

2

The RBA challenges the notion that individuals are merely beneficiaries of goods and services. In most circumstances, the approach is more important than the outcome of the intervention. It is expected that through empowerment, the rights-holders will have the capacity and knowledge to claim and be part of processes for the improvement of their rights effectively.⁹

Equality and non-discrimination

3

The 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

Accountability

4

The RBA advocates holding duty-bearers accountable for failing to meet the standards for access to rights. The rights-holders have the right to take legal action to claim their rights and to hold the states accountable. CSOs and international organizations are essential bodies that rights-holders use to increase their capacity.¹¹

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/> >

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 >



WHAT IS RBA MAINSTREAMING?

There is no single agreed definition of the RBA mainstreaming. Overall, it can be defined as incorporating and implementing the RBA in all levels of policy-making, programming, and planning in CSOs, as well as 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

The RBA mainstreaming systematically addresses duty-bearers' responsibilities and calls them to action.

Multiplies the effect of advocacy for rights

The RBA mainstreaming empowers rights-holders, increasing their ability to demand their rights and aims to make each rights-holder an agent of change, multiplying the effect beyond an intervention carried out within the framework of a charity or needs-based action.

Advances the culture of democracy

The RBA mainstreaming helps rights-holders to become active citizens and advocates for their rights. The RBA mainstreaming focuses on civic involvement with duty-bearers for a better implementation of rights. Active citizenship helps to advance the culture of democracy.

WHERE SHOULD RBA BE MAINSTREAMED?

The RBA is multisectoral and comprehensive. It should be mainstreamed not only in civil society organizations but also in public and private sectors such as municipalities, ministries, law enforcement agencies, the education sector, and corporations. The RBA mainstreaming can result in important changes in society that promote human rights, which can only be accomplished by collaborative efforts from multiple sectors.



HOW SHOULD RBA BE MAINSTREAMED?

The RBA demands careful programming and planning while keeping the aforementioned basic notions in mind. The RBA needs a cross-thematic approach that acknowledges the non-hierarchical nature of rights. All rights are interconnected and interdependent; they coexist together and none is superior to the other. As a result, regardless of the field of work, the RBA is critical for all organizations. Furthermore, it is a perspective that requires constant and sustained effort to observe results. Following on, this guideline will provide suggestions for implementing the RBA mainstreaming in your organization. Furthermore, the following two examples show how the RBA mainstreaming can be accomplished through international or regional bodies.



RBA AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

The UN Member States adopted the 2030 Global Agenda for Sustainable Development to promote global peace, build a sustainable environment for all, and alleviate poverty.¹² The 17 SDGs and 169 goals stated in the Agenda demonstrate the UN's vision for the world.¹³

The SDGs' main slogan is 'leave no one behind', implying that the priority should be on vulnerable and marginalized groups.

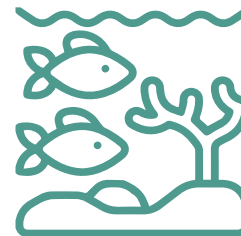
This statement addresses two of the RBA's principles: non-discrimination and participation.¹⁴

The SDGs underscore states' responsibility to fulfill their obligations under human rights and international laws.¹⁵ Countries around the world are committed to the SDGs that provide a road map which prioritizes progress in key domains of sustainable development.

Goals involve addressing poverty, malnutrition, climate change, and inequality, as well as improving health and education.

Overall, 90% of SDG targets are related to the international human rights and labor standards.¹⁶

The effective implementation of SDGs ensures the realization of the rights standards established by international frameworks.



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

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

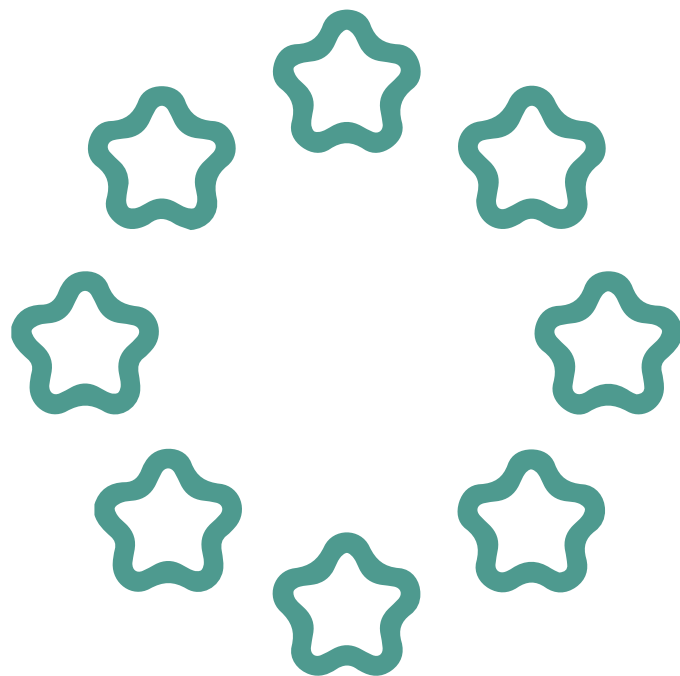
¹⁴ Annelie de Man, 'The Sustainable Development Goals and the Rights-Based Approach to Development: Compatible or Missing the Point?' (2019) 19 African Human Rights Law Journal <<http://ref.scielo.org/fbm8k6>>

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

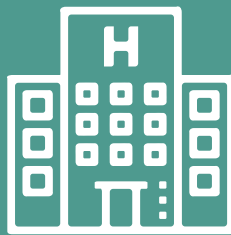
¹⁶ The Danish Institute for Human Rights, 'The Sustainable Development Goals', <<https://www.humanrights.dk/learning-hub/sustainable-development-goals-sdgs#:~:text=The%202030%20Agenda%20is%20explicitly,realise%20human%20rights%20for%20all.&text=In%20fact%2C%20analysis%20has%20shown,human%20rights%2C%20and%20vice%20versa.>>>

EU ACTION PLAN ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY 2020-2024

The EU adopted the Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy, which sets out the EU and its Member States' priorities for external action. The Action Plan provides clear instructions for governments to implement core human rights principles while reaffirming the EU's leadership in human rights. The text emphasizes the significance of the Rights-Based Approach (RBA), mandating its use in all external actions. The Action Plan combines essential RBA components 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 >



MEASURES FOR MAINSTREAMING RBA

The following measures are designed to suggest practical measures for CSOs to begin mainstreaming the RBA. The measures are not exhaustive; the aim is to improve and expand this guideline based on the experiences of CSOs that implement the RBA mainstreaming. Civic Space has created five mainstreaming guidelines (others are: Accessibility Mainstreaming Guideline, Ecology Mainstreaming Guideline, Gender Mainstreaming Guideline, Youth Mainstreaming Guideline). The RBA mainstreaming is not limited to a specific thematic area; rather, it provides a perspective and a set of suggested methodologies for assessing and acting on whatever topic your organization is working on.

MEASURE ①

COMMITMENT

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

- Draft a declaration or policy paper that explicitly states your commitment to the RBA.
- After stating your commitment, you can produce a strategy document that includes your main objectives for implementing the RBA approach and the main steps that should be taken for integrating the RBA in all aspects of your work.



MEASURE 2

IDENTIFY YOUR FIELD OF WORK

Identifying the field of your work is essential when introducing new programs and projects. The points below will provide you with practical steps for using the RBA to select the parts you want to focus on as an organization.

- Identify the groups that face rights violations in your field of work through collecting and analyzing data in your region, and reports published by local bodies, CSOs, or international organizations.
- Create a list of 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 field of work are ratified in your local context.
- Analyze 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 field that you wish to focus on, you should start 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 people who are entitled to rights defined under international or regional human rights conventions.
- Identify the main needs of the rights-holders. A needs assessment should be done through participatory and inclusive information-gathering methods 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 categorized into at least national, ethnic, or social origin, age, region, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital, and accessibility status. The data that you have collected needs to be categorized. This will allow you to identify any dual discrimination that some rights-holders may face due to any one of these factors. Please make use of the Youth Mainstreaming Guideline, Gender Mainstreaming Guideline, and Accessibility 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 obligations and have the necessary capacity to implement them, then you need to focus on activities that would remind them of their responsibilities and invite them to act. However, if they are not aware of their obligations or lack the necessary capacity to fulfil their responsibilities, then your work should focus on how to tackle these problems.

MEASURE 4

IDENTIFYING YOUR MAIN OBJECTIVES

After finalizing your analysis of rights-holders and duty-bearers, focus on the main objectives of your work by relying on your analysis. 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 that you have decided to work on. If a certain group of people are deprived of their rights, try to focus on the structural causes that might be related to discrimination, inequalities, lack of political participation, and unequal power relations. The root cause will allow you to understand the scope 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 life standards of the rights-holders by enhancing access to their rights while building the capacity of the duty-bearers to carry-out their obligations fully and to promote rights.

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

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

5 { If the involvement of duty-bearers is not possible or if it might harm your work, try to follow other ways to be informed about their conditions and challenges. This may be through 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

Empowering rights-holders is a core objective of the Rights-Based Approach (RBA). All activities aimed at their empowerment should adhere to the principles of inclusion, participation, equality, and non-discrimination.

- » 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. It is important that you put special effort to include 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 enable everyone to participate in your organizational activities and processes fully. Please use the Youth Mainstreaming Guideline, Gender Mainstreaming Guideline and Accessibility Mainstreaming Guideline published by the Civic Space to identify steps that you should take for the 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 utilize. All informative materials should also be published in different languages depending on your target groups and be in line with the accessibility standards.
- » Conduct awareness raising campaigns on the RBA perspective that inform the public on 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 information and encourage rights-holders to engage with the duty-bearers to remind them of their obligations.

MEASURE 6

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR DUTY-BEARERS TO RESPECT, PROTECT AND FULFIL RIGHTS

Engagement with the duty-bearers is critical for increasing their capacity and advocating for the enhancement of rights. Understanding their needs and capacities will allow you to develop programs that improve their understanding of rights and encourage positive change in their practices.

Analyze the duty-bearers' capacity and knowledge using the facts and information you acquired under Measure 3. List the duty-bearers based on their level of responsibility, interest and motivation of the subject, formal power and authority, informal power and influence, and capacity to bring about change. This will help you organize your collaboration with them and meet their demands more efficiently.

If the duty-bearer is motivated or interested in improving the standards for rights-holders but lacks the know-how to do so, it would be beneficial to schedule periodic trainings with them to build their capacity. Make sure you organize trainings in partnership with them, suited to their specific needs, and that each training is designed using the RBA.

If there is a lack of motivation or interest, consider advocacy actions to influence them to act and demand change. Advocacy can take several forms, including implementing advocacy campaigns, drafting suggestions for legal change or lobbying in the form of one-on-one meetings with decision-makers, etc. Consider how to effectively remind duty-bearers of their responsibilities and encourage action in your context.

If duty-bearers are open to collaborative dialogue with CSOs, consider forming joint working groups to ensure regular communication and collaboration.

MEASURE 7

RAISING GENERAL PUBLIC AWARENESS

Raising general public awareness towards the RBA will contribute to the promotion of rights. This will render your advocacy efforts more meaningful and improve the conditions of the rights-holders.



- Make sure that all the communication activities you implement are designed with the RBA.
- Regularly share information with the public and make clear demands on the 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 more successful and required for significant change. Acknowledging and collaborating with other organizations is vital for the RBA mainstreaming efforts.

- Collaborate with international organizations or civil society organizations working in your field. Collaboration leads to more effective advocacy and capacity building activities.
- Maintain constant communication with relevant CSOs and international organizations. Please share your knowledge and learn from their know-how and experience. This will enhance your efforts and contribute to successful outcomes.



RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH (RBA) MAINSTREAMING CHECKLIST

The provided checklist includes components for each measure outlined in the Guideline. For each component, you have the opportunity to evaluate whether it has been implemented within your organization. If a particular component has not been implemented, please leave that line on the checklist blank. However, if your CSO has put the relevant component into practice, you can then assess whether it has been partially or fully implemented.

The ultimate long-term objective to achieve comprehensive RBA mainstreaming is to fully implement all the components. Nevertheless, this requires resources such as time, knowledge, and expertise. Therefore, the process can be customized to meet the specific needs of each organization. As a starting point, we recommend using the checklist to assess your CSO's current status regarding the RBA mainstreaming. Following this initial assessment and your available resources, you can subsequently formulate a strategic plan (as suggested in measure #1 of the checklist). In this plan, you can identify your objectives for enhancing the RBA mainstreaming within 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 the RBA mainstreaming.		
2. Main objectives and steps that shall be taken to implement the RBA are determined.		
3. An RBA mainstreaming strategy paper/document is adopted that includes the above mentioned objectives and steps.		
MEASURE 2: IDENTIFYING THE FIELD OF WORK	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	FULLY IMPLEMENTED
4. Research is conducted to identify the main groups that face rights violations in the organizational field of work.		
5. Data is compiled and analyzed 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 field 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 categorized according to 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 collect 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 is 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: CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR 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 designed in collaboration with them.		
23. Duty-bearers are regularly monitored and their responsibilities are reminded through various tools such as petitions, trainings, lobbying visits etc.		

MEASURE 7: RAISING GENERAL PUBLIC AWARENESS	PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED	FULLY IMPLEMENTED
24. Rules are in place to make sure that all the communication materials produced are in line with the RBA.		
25. Regular training sessions, workshops or meetings in the organization are held to discuss communication and advocacy through the 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 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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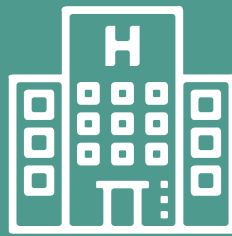


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