

**Combined Regional Workshop on a HRBA to Development and Programming,
Bangkok 12-14 November 2007**

Completion Report

Overview

The UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok (RCB) in collaboration with the Action 2 Global Programme on Human Rights (A2) and the Oslo Governance Centre (OGC) hosted a combined three day 'Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) Event' from the 12-14 November in Bangkok.

The HRBA Event was divided into two parts: i) a two day training on the UN Common Learning package on HRBA – co-hosted by RCB and Action 2 and primarily delivered by two members of the Action 2 Task Force: Patrick van Weerelt (UNDP Human Rights advisor, New York) and Lee Waldorf (UNIFEM, Human Rights Advisor, New York); ii) a one day 'consultation' on HRBA indicators, co-hosted by RCB and OGC and delivered primarily by Felisa Tibbitts (Director of Human Rights Education Associates and consultant for the HRBA Indicators Project) Emilia Mugnai (Programme Specialist, Justice and Human Rights RCB) and Emilie Filmer-Wilson (Human Rights Specialist OGC).

Participants

The main target group of the workshop were Country Teams in the Asia Pacific Region. Of the thirty participants at the combined HRBA Event, the majority were from UNDP Country Offices. Other UN agencies represented were UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNFPA, OHCHR, IOM, UNHCR, UNAIDS, and the RC Office. A representative from the Ministry of Justice in India also took part in the event. The Human Rights and Justice advisor from UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS (RBEC) was also present to emphasize interregional links on HRBA. Finally, Prof. Vitit Muntarbhorn, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea was present to observe the proceedings in his role as evaluator of the Action 2 programme. With a view to ensuring that a range of issues were reflected in the workshop, participants were chosen from different thematic areas, including democratic governance, poverty reduction, capacity development, monitoring and evaluation and the UN Coordination.

Purpose of the HRBA Combined Event

The training on the common learning package was planned as part of the initial roll-out of the UN Common Learning Package on an HRBA to UNCTs in Asia and Pacific. This training series is in accordance with the Action 2 roll-out agenda. The overall objective of the training was for participants to acquire a strengthened understanding and the capacity to apply a HRBA to programming in a practical and meaningful way. The specific objectives were 1) for participants to understand the centrality of human rights to the work of the UN; and 2) for participants to understand how to apply a 'human rights based approach' to programming.

The second part of the workshop, the consultation on HRBA indicators had the following objectives: 1) to provide input on avenues for promoting the use of HRBA indicators within CCA/UNDAF planning processes and programming cycles; 2) To assess the value and provide concrete feedback for improving a draft Toolkit for Indicators for the Human Rights-Based Approach to Programming.

Outcome of the HRBA Combined Event

The combination of the two HRBA events proved worthwhile. In terms of learning flow, participants were first grounded in principles of a HRBA to programming process and then challenged to put their learning into practice through operationalising this approach at the Indicator consultation.

The HRBA training was delivered through a mix of presentations given by resource persons, practical exercises in groups and open floor discussions. Presentations were adapted from the UN Common Learning Package Facilitator's Guide on HRBA to Development Programming (available on the [UNDG website](#)¹). The exercises were aimed at sensitising participants to the consequences of discrimination of disadvantaged groups, at helping participants to develop their own HRBA checklist to use when developing or implementing a project; and guiding participants through the steps of applying HRBA when designing a development project based on a fictional case study. During the discussions participants exchanged views on their experiences of brokering this approach to government counterparts and in countering misunderstandings regarding the use of HRBA as a monitoring and 'fault finding' tool. The need to ensure linkages between different programming frameworks was emphasised, especially in terms of capacity development and HRBA, and the importance of creating partnerships in the implementation of HRBA programmes. Concern was expressed regarding support from senior management for the application of the HRBA. Participants agreed that there is a need for examples on good practices on HRBA. Discussions also addressed how UNDP is to work with HRBA within the context of the new UNDP Strategic Plan (2008-2011). Prof. Muntarbhorn provided participants with his insights on the nascent ASEAN Human Rights mechanism and on his role as UN Special Rapporteur.

The key objective of the HRBA Indicators workshop was for participants to review the draft HRBA indicators tool and provide constructive feedback. The feedback from participants was positive: participants underlined the need and interest for support in this area and expressed appreciation for the efforts being made to develop a resource on this topic. It was noted that this resource would be most useful if integrated in the UN Common Learning Package on HRBA rather than a stand alone resource, so as to ensure coherency with the programming framework and guidance provided in the UNCLP. It would also provide an effective entry point for additional capacity development of Country Offices in his area.

Follow up and next steps:

- Several participants pointed out the need for HRBA training at the country level and have asked the resource persons and organisers how to carry this forward. In response to these requests, UNDP RCB will map these requests and needs in Asia-Pacific with a view to developing a strategy to support capacity development of UNDP Country Offices on HRBA in partnership with UNDP NY, OHCHR South East Asia office and Action 2 Task Force;
- In response to feedback from participants that the draft toolkit on indicators would be most useful integrated with the UNCLP on HRBA, the toolkit will be re-oriented in that

¹ This webpage includes the UN Common Understanding of a Human Rights Based Approach to Development Cooperation and Programming, UN Common Learning Package on HRBA, Action 2 Interagency Plan of Action - Strengthening human rights-related UN action at country level and the Inter-Agency Plan of Action on SG Action 2

direction and UNDP will work closely with the Action 2 Task Force to ensure ownership from all agencies represented in the Action 2 Task Force and alignment of the tool;

Evaluation

At the conclusion of the training, participants were requested to complete quantitative and qualitative evaluations. These evaluations illustrate that the HRBA Training was extremely successful in meeting its overall objective *"by the end of the training participants will have strengthened their understanding of and capacity to apply the Human Rights Based Approach to programming in practical and meaningful way*, ranked as "highly" or "fully" successful in achieving its objectives by over 85 % of participants;

In addition qualitative feedback was also sought, with a number of key feedback 'themes' identified, including that:

- The practical exercises were particularly appreciated as key elements of the training, however, the majority of participants pointed out that in addition to the material provided it would have been useful to have examples of good practices of applying HRBA, these could come from specific areas of work for example poverty or environment;
- The discussions which allowed for real understanding of issues at country level and exchange ideas on practical solutions among participants and with the resource persons were also appreciated;
- Participants suggested that it would be useful to have additional sessions focusing on the application of HRBA to all phases of the programming process, including M&E and integration of HRBA with results based management;
- Participants suggested that it would be useful to have a session to discuss follow up at country level (how it could be supported by Action 2 and UNDP) and to have participants devise a 'work plan' showing how they would apply HRBA in their work;
- Regarding follow up some participants emphasized that it would be useful to follow this initial roll out with trainings at country level, targeting Country Offices and project partners, and that it would be important to ensure networking between countries that have applied this approach;

Both formal and informal comments received at the end of the workshop demonstrated that participants felt that HRBA combined event was of real value in clarifying the concepts and scope of application of the HRBA to programming. Participants were satisfied with the workshop as a whole, with 89% of participants ranking the workshop as "extremely" and "highly" worthwhile to attend.

Resources

For further information on the Combined Regional Workshop on a HRBA to Development and Programming please visit the UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok website:
<http://regionalcentrebangkok.undp.or.th/>

For background material on HRBA, please consult the UNDG HRBA website:
<http://www.undg.org/?P=221>

Annexes:

- Programmes
- Participant List
- Presentation on the role of Capacity Development

Annex 1: Programmes



Training Workshop on the UN Common Learning Package on the Human Rights-Based Approach to Programming

12-13 November 2007
Bangkok, Thailand



Co-hosted by the Action 2 Global Programme and the
UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok

12 November 2007

| | | |
|---------------------|--|---|
| 09:00-09:30 | | Welcome and Opening |
| | | Introductory Remarks by <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Ms. Marcia V. J. Kran, Head of Policy and Programmes, UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok;▪ Mr. Pablo Espiniella, Human Rights Coordinator, OHCHR South-East Asia and; |
| 09:30-11:00 | | Session 1 |
| | | Human Rights in the context of UN Reform/Human Rights Protection Systems |
| 11:00-11:15 | | Coffee break |
| 11:15-11:45 | | Session 2 |
| | | Power Walk-Exercise Grounding development programming in reality |
| 11:45-12:30 | | Session 3 |
| | | HRBA (Part 1)- Key Concepts and Principles |
| 12:30- 14:00 | | Lunch |
| 14:00-14:30 | | Icebreaker |

| | | |
|--------------------|--|---|
| 14:30–16:00 | | Session 4 |
| | | Human Rights Principles (group work) |
| 16:00–16:15 | | Coffee break |
| 16:15–17:00 | | Session 5 |
| | | Report back to Plenary-Checklist |
| 17:00-17:30 | | Session 6 |
| | | Discovering available UN human rights information |
| | | Homework (Case-study) |

13 November 2007

| | | |
|--------------------|--|---|
| 09:00–09:30 | | Introduction |
| | | Recap of Day 1 |
| 09:30–11:00 | | Session 1 |
| | | Exercise in groups: (Case-Study) Design a basic programme outline applying a HRBA |
| 11.00-11:15 | | Coffee break |
| 11:15–12:30 | | Session 2 |
| | | Report Back to Plenary |
| 12:30–14:00 | | Lunch |
| 14:00–16:00 | | Session 4 |
| | | Q&A on HRBA |
| 16:00–16:15 | | Coffee break |
| 16:15–17:15 | | Session 5 |
| | | HRBA Jeopardy-Game |
| 18:30 | | Cocktail Reception |

Consultative Workshop on Indicators for a Human Rights-Based Approach to Programming

14 November 2007



UNDP Regional Centre Bangkok in Partnership with UNDP Oslo Governance Centre

OBJECTIVES

1. To provide input on avenues for promoting use of HRBA indicators within CCA/UNDAF planning processes and programming cycles within UNDP and other UN agencies;
2. To assess the value of and provide concrete feedback for improving the Toolkit for Indicators for a Human Rights-Based Approach to Programming

WEDNESDAY, 14 November, 2007

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 09:00 – 09:30 | Introduction |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of HRBA Indicators Initiative- <i>OGC handbook-How this links up- Main issues coming up by consultations with practitioners- questions that will be addressed in the workshop</i> |
| 09:30 – 10.45 | Session 1 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of (draft)-tool concepts and structure- <i>4 steps- framework etc and introduce the coffee table feedback later on</i> <i>Small group feedback activity w/ plenary presentations???</i> |
| 10.45 – 11:00 | Coffee break |
| 11:00 – 13:00 | Session 2 |
| | <p><i>Presentation: (20 min)</i> <i>Devising HRBA Indicators:</i> <i>Step 1- Situational Analysis</i> <i>Step 2- Capacity Assessment of Duty Bearers and Claim Holders</i></p> <p><i>Presentation: (10 Min)</i> Data Sources and Data Collection</p> <p>Work in 4 Groups –Case studies- (1 hour)</p> <p>Report back to plenary (30 min)</p> |
| 13:00 – 14:00 | Lunch |

| | |
|---------------|--|
| | Session 3 |
| 14:00 – 16:00 | <p><i>Presentation +Q&A: (30 Minutes)</i> <i>Devising HRBA Indicators: Step 3 and 4 Design Implementation and monitoring of programmes and impact</i></p> <p>Work in 4 Groups –Case studies- (1 hour)</p> <p>Report back to plenary -(30 min)</p> |
| 16:00 – 16:30 | Coffee break |
| | Session 4 |
| 16:30 – 17:15 | <i>Feedback-Session?</i> |
| 17:15 – 17:30 | Wrap up of meeting |

Annex 2: Participant list:

| No. | Name | Title | Email |
|--------------------|----------------------|---|--|
| Afghanistan | | | |
| 1 | Dilawar Khan | National Programme Officer, UNDP Afghanistan | dilawar.khan@undp.org |
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| 3 | Fairuz Haque | Young Professional officer, UNDP Bangladesh | Fairuz.haque@undp.org |
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| 4 | Birgit Weyss | Programme Officer, UNDP Bhutan | Birgit.weyss@undp.org |
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| 9 | Praneel Sinha | Programme Finance Associate, UNIFEM Fiji | Praneel.singha@unifem.org |
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| Pakistan | | | |
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The HRBA to Programming

- Introduction
- Expectations/Fears
- Experiences with the HRBA
- Ground rules
- Rapporteur/Time keeper
- Agenda

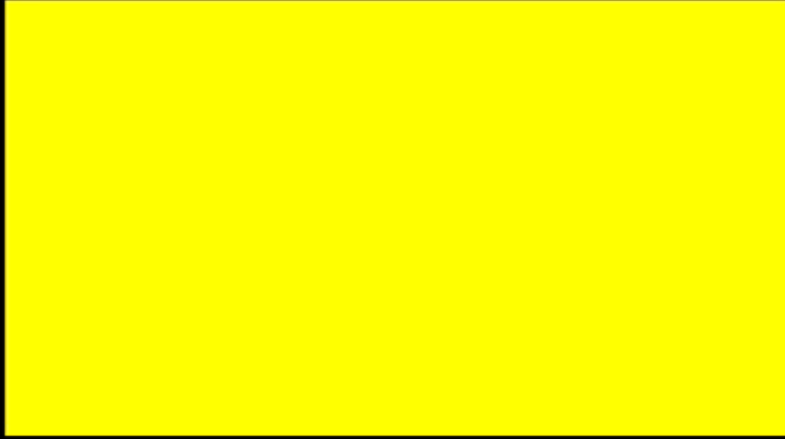


Human Rights in the context of UN Reform





The UN and Human Rights

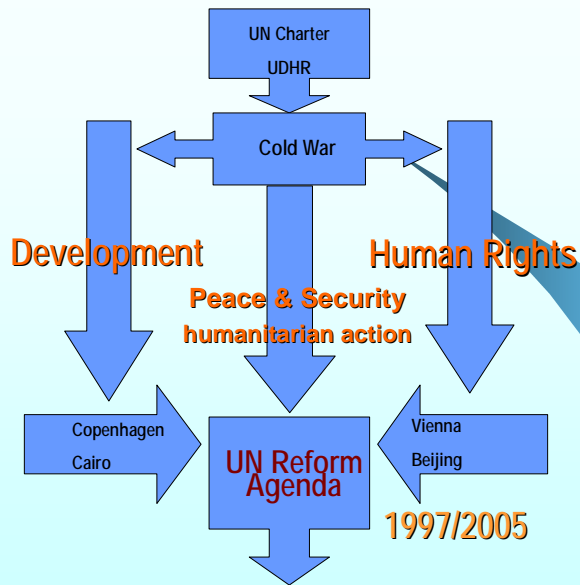


Group exercise!

At your table discuss and identify:

What has been the UN's response to the legitimate expectations of the rights-holders?

2 cards per Table!



Milestones of the UN Reform

- 1993 **UN World Conference on Human Rights**, Vienna
Post of **UN High Commissioner for Human Rights** created
(GA Res. 48/141)
- 1995 **Beijing Platform of Action**
- 1997 **SG Reform Programme**-human rights are inherent to the
promotion of peace, security, economic prosperity and social
equity
- 2000 **Millennium Summit/Declaration**
- 2002 **SG Agenda for Further Change**- human rights are a
bedrock requirement for development
- 2005 **World Summit Outcome Document**- support the further
mainstreaming of human rights throughout the UN System



UN Agency and Interagency Commitments to Human Rights

Agency level:

HR are Integrated in the mandates and policies of UN agencies, funds, programmes and specialized agencies

Inter-agency level:

UN Common Understanding on HRBA to Development

Action 2 Plan of Action (UNDG, ECHA and OHCHR)

Increasing number of UNCTs have adopted the HRBA

Revised CCA/UNDAF Guidelines



Substantive Linkages

Even if he can vote to choose his rulers, a young man with AIDS who cannot read or write and lives on the brink of starvation is not truly free. Equally, even if she earns enough to live, a woman who lives in the shadow of daily violence and has no say in how her country is run is not truly free.

Larger freedom implies that men and women everywhere have the right to be governed by their own consent, under law, in a society where all individuals can, without discrimination or retribution, speak, worship and associate freely.

They must also be **free from want**- so that the death sentences of extreme poverty and infectious disease are lifted from their lives- and **free from fear**- so that their lives and livelihoods are not ripped apart by violence and war"

Reform report "In Larger Freedom", 2005



The linkages between...

Human Development...

Is the process of enhancing **people's capabilities** to expand choices and opportunities so that each person can lead a **life of respect and value**

freedom and dignity need the legal guarantees of human rights to avoid being threatened

...and Human rights...

All people have **claims** to social arrangements that protect them from the worst abuses and deprivations-and that secure the **freedom for a life of dignity**

The realization of human rights requires capacities that development can make possible

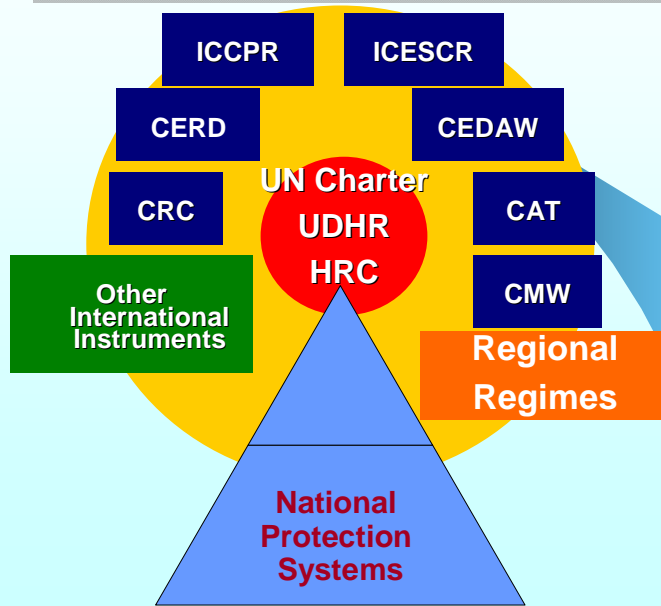


International, Regional and National Human Rights Systems





Human Rights Systems



Women's Human Rights

The rights in all international human rights treaties belong equally to women and men, without discrimination.

CEDAW requires comprehensive measures to eliminate discrimination against women in all areas of their lives.

More than 90% of UN Member States are parties to CEDAW

Standards are found in:

CEDAW
ICCPR & ICESCR
Other International Treaties,
e.g. CRC
Regional treaties – e.g. African
Charter's Protocol on
Women's Rights"



Regional Human Rights Systems

Instruments

Europe:

European Convention for the Protection of human Rights and fundamental freedoms

Americas:

American Convention on Human Rights and San Jose pact on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Africa:

African Charter on Human and People's Rights

Arab States:

Arab Charter on Human Rights

Mechanisms

European Court of Human Rights

Inter-American Commission of HR

Inter-American Court of Human Rights

African Commission on Human and People's Rights

African Court on Human and People's Rights



International Mechanisms: The Role of Treaty Bodies

Monitor and facilitate the Implementation of the Treaty through:

- **Exam of State Party reports** and additional sources of information
- **observations and recommendations**
- **General Comments** on HR Standards contained in the treaty
- Exam of **individual complaints** (some of them)
- **Confidential inquiries** (some of them)



The Human Rights Council

What is it ?

A subsidiary body
of the General
Assembly
composed of
Members States.
It replaces the UN
Commission on
Human Rights

What does it do ?

- *Promotes universal protection
- *Addresses and prevents violations
- *Develops international law
- *Reviews compliance of Member States
- *Responds to emergencies
- *International forum for dialogue



International Mechanisms: Special Procedures

Countries

Belarus – Burundi
Cambodia – Cuba
DPRK – D.R. Congo
Haiti - Liberia
Myanmar – OPTs
Somalia – Sudan
Uzbekistan

28 Thematic, including:

Arbitrary Detention – Sale of Children
Right to Education - Extreme Poverty
Right to Food – Freedom of Opinion
Freedom of Religion – IDPs – Migrants
Indigenous People – Violence Against
Women



Instrumental Value of International Mechanisms in UN work

Country-based observations and recommendation

Global Treaty Bodies' General Comments

Special procedures' Thematic studies

Assessment tool: Identify main development and human rights problems

Analytical tool: Help understand underlying and root causes of development problems

Programming tool: Identify specific actions

Advocacy tool: bring attention to sensitive issues at a legal, policy, budget or practice level



To sum up: the present UN setting tells us

The normative value

The political environment

Substantive linkages

The institutional response

Extensive international legal framework



But still.....

How do I use all this information in my day to day work, and how is it improving the services we provide to our clients in programme countries?

Walking the Talk- The Power-walk



The Human Rights Based Approach to Programming





What is a Human Rights Based Approach?

The development process is normatively based on international HR standards and principles

It recognizes human beings as rights-holders and establishes obligations for duty-bearers.

It focuses on discriminated and marginalized groups

It aims for the progressive achievement of all human rights

It gives equal importance to the outcome and process of development



Why a human rights-based approach to development?

Intrinsic value

Instrumental to development strategies

Institutional reasons



The UN Common Understanding on the HRBA

GOAL

All programmes of development co-operation, policies and technical assistance should further the realization of human rights as laid down in the UDHR and other international human rights instruments

PROCESS

Human rights standards and principles guide all development cooperation and programming in all sectors and phases of the programming process

OUTCOME

Development cooperation contributes to the development of the capacities of 'duty-bearers' to meet their obligations and/or of 'rights-holders' to claim their rights



GOAL

1. All programmes of development co-operation should further the realization of human rights as laid down in the UDHR and other international human rights instruments



Programming informed by Human Rights Mechanisms

- **Human Rights Treaties**
- **Treaty Bodies**
- **Special Procedures**

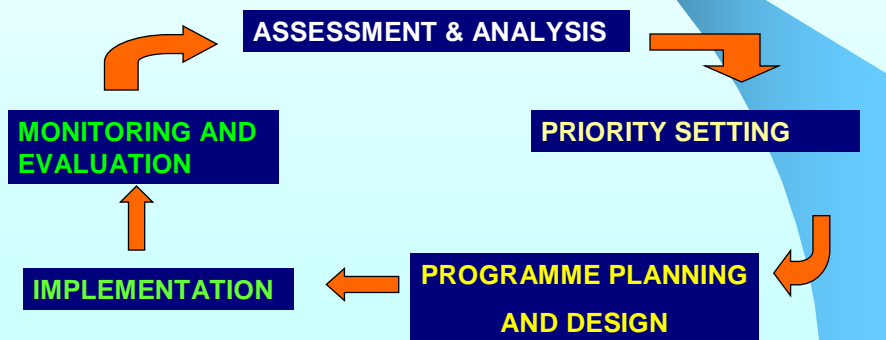


PROCESS

Human rights standards and principles guide all development cooperation and programming in all sectors and in all phases of the programming process



...The integration of human rights principles and standards into all stages of the programming process...



Human Rights Principles

Universality and inalienability

Indivisibility

Interdependence and Inter-relatedness

Equality and non-discrimination

Participation and inclusion

Accountability and rule of law





OUTCOME

Development cooperation contributes to the development of the capacities of 'duty-bearers' to meet their obligations and/or of 'rights-holders' to claim their rights



Rights-holder and Duty-bearers

Right-holders:

6,652,595,567 persons

- Every individual, either a man woman or child, of any race, ethnic group or social condition
- To some extent groups

Duty-bearers:

Much less

- Primarily States
- In some cases individuals have specific obligations
- Individuals and private entities have generic responsibilities towards the community to respect the rights of others



The role of Capacity Development

