



The Human Rights Due Diligence Project

*Creating tools to respect, protect, and fulfill
human rights in development activities*

The Human Rights Due Diligence Project (HRDD Project) of the Coalition for Human Rights in Development works to advance human rights in development by making sure that governments and development finance institutions adequately assess and address the human rights risks and opportunities often associated with development activities. The HRDD Project develops policies, methodologies and tools for human rights due diligence in the context of development finance and engages with civil society, governments and development finance institutions to promote their incorporation within social and environmental management frameworks.

Development and Human Rights

Development activities can have a profound impact on the realization of human rights. This impact can be positive, such as improved accessibility and quality of health care, or increased protection of indigenous peoples' land rights. Too often, however, development activities lead to adverse human rights impacts, as in the case of forced evictions, or policy reforms that further entrench discrimination. In many instances, the future human rights implications of development activities may not be obvious or immediately apparent. This is due in large part to the fact that standard development planning, screening, assessment, and monitoring tools are not designed to fully capture human rights impacts. Because of this, opportunities to contribute to the realization of human rights, or to mitigate negative human rights impacts associated with development initiatives, are frequently missed, and communities which should have benefitted, instead are harmed.

Development banks and national development agencies are increasingly beginning to recognize the critical connection between human rights and development, and several have enacted some form of human rights due diligence requirements within their policies. At the same time, there is a lack of understanding of how to effectively operationalize these policy commitments, due to a lack of knowledge regarding the content and components of HRDD in the context of development finance, and a need for specific methodologies, tools, and best practices for risk and impact assessment. There is also a need for greater understanding of how to best support and work with borrower countries in pursuing human rights-reinforcing development, as well as how to ensure that impoverished or marginalized communities have voice and power in development processes.

Progress to Date - The Human Rights Due Diligence Toolkit

In order to address this gap, the Coalition for Human Rights in Development is working with human rights and development experts to build out a toolkit to incorporate human rights standards and principles within the social and environmental management frameworks utilized by development finance institutions. The toolkit presently includes a survey of practice, a sample methodology, sample policy language, and a draft Risk and Opportunities Analysis Tool. These tools may be adapted to most development finance institutions, including national development banks and bilateral development agencies. The toolkit has been well-received in meetings with various development finance institutions and has informed civil society proposals and policy development at national and multilateral development finance institutions.

The Survey of Practice is a database of policies and procedures relating to human rights due diligence that have been enacted by development banks, export credit agencies and government agencies. The Survey allows practitioners and civil society advocates to examine the variety of approaches taken in this emerging area and to identify best practice and policy options.

The Sample HRDD Methodology integrates human rights standards and principles into the following stages of project design and delivery: risk and opportunities analysis, anticipation of human rights impacts and their distribution, project categorization based on human rights risk, due diligence requirements based on categorization, social impact assessment, identification and evaluation of mitigation measures, and identification of supervision and monitoring requirements.

The Sample Policy Language translates the methodology into concrete policy proposals. These proposals are designed to fit within the World Bank's social and environmental framework, but can be adapted to fit other institutions.

The Risk and Opportunities Analysis Tool (ROAT) will allow development finance institutions and governments to identify and evaluate human rights-related risks and opportunities associated with a given development proposal, adjust the project or program design to address those risks appropriately, and develop a monitoring plan and indicators. ROAT is based on a Registry of Standards and Risk Indicator Questions across 12 different Issue Areas, ranging from Security to Culture. We are presently wrapping up a consultation on the draft Registry of Standards and Risk Indicator Questions and hope to have the prototype ROAT available in spring of 2016. More info at www.rightsindevelopment.org/HRDD.

Next Steps and Areas for Future Expansion

Promoting the Toolkit. Once this phase of the Toolkit is completed, our next step will be to create a user-friendly online platform for stakeholders to access and utilize the various tools and to deepen our promotion of the toolkit through a series of workshops and meetings with government agencies and staff and management of development finance institutions.

Piloting the ROAT. To demonstrate the impact of the ROAT, we will pilot it on one or two live projects receiving financing from a development finance institution. Ideally these pilots will be done in conjunction with a development finance institution, however they can also be done independently.

Expand the Toolkit upstream and downstream. Presently the HRDD tools focus on project level intervention, with less attention to upstream country-level analysis and downstream monitoring and impact assessment. By developing the upstream and downstream ends of the methodology, we can have a greater impact throughout the full project cycle of a given development activity.

Adapting the methodology to other financiers. The HRDD project has focused on development finance institutions which lend to the public sector. The context for development banks and export credit agencies which serve the private sector is similar but also distinct in several key areas. In order to reach the significant public financial flows to the private sector, we will develop an adaptation of the Toolkit for public financing of the private sector.