



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 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 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.

The Human Rights Due Diligence Toolkit

In order to address this gap, the Coalition for Human Rights in Development worked with human rights and development experts to develop a toolkit to incorporate human rights standards and principles within the social and environmental management frameworks utilized by development finance institutions. The toolkit includes a survey of practice, an HRDD protocol, sample policy language, and an online Human Rights Risk Analysis Tool (HuRRA). These tools may be adapted to most development finance institutions, including national development banks and bilateral development agencies.

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 HRDD Protocol 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 for development banks.

The HuRRA Tool is a demonstration tool that allows 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. HuRRA is based on a set of Standards and Risk Indicator Questions across various Issue Areas, ranging from Security and Conflict to Basic Services.

Policy Advocacy

The Coalition uses policy advocacy, campaigning, and technical capacity building to strengthen due diligence policies and practice at a variety of institutions including the World Bank and International Finance Corporation, the Inter-American Development Bank and Inter-American Investment Corporation, the Dutch Development Bank, the US Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the European Investment Bank and others.

Next Steps

With the launch of the Toolkit we will coordinate a series of workshops and meetings with government officials, agencies, and staff and management of a variety of multilateral and national development finance institutions to promote its uptake. We also hope to work with financial institutions to pilot the toolkit on live projects in order to showcase its impact.

In the future, we hope to expand the accessibility and effectiveness of the HRDD Toolkit by translating the tools into other languages, incorporating more tools, and adapting the existing tools for use by export credit agencies and other public financiers servicing the private sector.

More info at www.rightsindevelopment.org/HRDD