

HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED PROGRAMMING

WHAT IT IS



A HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO PROGRAMMING

is a conceptual framework and methodological tool for ensuring that human rights principles are reflected in policies and national development frameworks. Human rights are the minimum standards that people require to live in freedom and dignity. They are based on the principles of universality, indivisibility, interdependence, equality and non-discrimination.

Through the systematic use of human rights-based programming, UNFPA seeks to empower people to exercise their rights, especially their reproductive rights, and to live free from gender-based violence. It does this by supporting programmes aimed at giving women, men and young people ('rights holders') the information, life skills and education they need to claim their rights.

It also contributes to capacity-building among public officials, teachers, health-care workers and others who have a responsibility to fulfil these rights ('duty bearers'). In addition, UNFPA strengthens civil society organizations, which often serve as intermediaries between governments and individuals, and promotes mechanisms by which duty bearers can be held accountable.

A HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED
APPROACH TO PROGRAMMING

REDUCES GAPS IN EQUITY AND EQUALITY

Creating a truly equitable society is a long-term process. Nevertheless, through the collection and analysis of disaggregated data, UNFPA can identify groups that are consistently marginalized or excluded and target its interventions accordingly. By using evidence-based research and partnering with strategically placed individuals and groups, UNFPA can strengthen its advocacy efforts and encourage national authorities and civil society to engage in policy dialogue – with the ultimate goal of eliminating the most egregious forms of inequality.

TIP: *Emphasize the positive. Inform government officials of the gains that have already been achieved in the area of human rights. At the same time, tactfully point out the inequities that still exist. Stress the need to adopt policies that advance equal rights, rather than maintaining the status quo or even slipping backwards.*

A HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED
APPROACH TO PROGRAMMING

RELIES ON BROAD PARTICIPATION

All people have the right to participate in decisions that affect their lives. A human rights-based approach invites diverse segments of the population to become involved in the programming process: from initial planning and design to implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The participatory requirement stems from the idea that people are not passive recipients of services or commodities, but actors in their own development process.

To ensure meaningful participation, consider seriously the views and opinions put forth. Take the time to listen and to understand the needs and aspirations of stakeholders. Inform them of their rights and entitlements (or, in the case of duty bearers, their obligations). Ask them what their expectations are and the solutions they envisage to the concerns they raise. Encourage them to ask questions about UNFPA's mandate and activities.

TIP: *Participation of disadvantaged groups should not be limited to filling out surveys or questionnaires. Make sure they are involved in actual decision-making and that their concerns are taken into account throughout the programming cycle. Initially this may require actively reaching out to groups that have long been disenfranchised.*

A HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED
APPROACH TO PROGRAMMING

TARGETS MARGINALIZED OR EXCLUDED GROUPS

If UNFPA programmes are to reach those in greatest need, it is essential to know who these groups are, where they live, their sex, age, ethnicity, marital status, the composition of their families and communities, their reproductive health issues, the types of services they have access to, and the mechanisms, if any, that can help them to claim their rights.

Through data collection and analysis as well as qualitative studies, excluded groups can be identified and programmes developed to reach them. In many countries, for example, maternal mortality rates overall have decreased. But among indigenous and rural women, maternal mortality rates are much higher than those of non-indigenous and urban women.

Disaggregated data is not only a mechanism for identifying such inequalities and inequities. It is also a powerful tool for advocacy and empowerment.

TIP: *Get involved in data collection processes early on to make sure that the information being collected will help identify marginalized or excluded groups and their specific needs.*

A HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED
APPROACH TO PROGRAMMING

EMPOWERS BOTH DUTY BEARERS AND RIGHTS HOLDERS

Duty bearers are those responsible for promoting, respecting and fulfilling human rights. According to international law, the main duty bearer is the State. But others, including health-care personnel, teachers and community leaders, also play a key role. For example, parents, teachers and the Ministry of Education all have a duty to ensure that adolescents have access to information on reproductive and sexual health. Their duties and obligations are in some instances positive (to provide information or prevent discrimination, for example) and, in others, negative (to refrain from doing something, such as interfering in private decisions).

Through human rights-based programming, UNFPA makes duty bearers aware of their responsibilities in the areas of reproductive rights and women's equality, and gives them the skills and tools to fulfil them.

Rights holders are those entitled to claim their rights. Through human rights-based programming, even those living in absolute poverty, for example, will have greater access to reproductive health services that are accessible, acceptable and of good quality.

TIP: *When designing projects involving reproductive health services, be sure to consider awareness-raising as one component. Clients need to understand that they not only have a right to such services, but to quality services that are culturally acceptable to them. Providers need to understand their obligations in this regard as well.*

A HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED
APPROACH TO PROGRAMMING

ADDRESSES THE ROOT CAUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Understanding why a problem occurs is the first step in addressing it. For instance, the fact that refugee women cannot access certain services can be caused by longstanding discrimination against foreigners living in poverty – a deeply rooted structural cause. Or, it could also be the result of a lack of specific, culturally sensitive policies or budget allocations for these services – which could be considered underlying causes that can be more easily remedied.

Confronting the causes of human rights violations will eventually transform the attitudes and policies that enable such violations to persist. Moreover, activities will be comprehensive and programme-oriented, rather than sector-specific, and results will be more sustainable.

TIP: *Discerning the causes of human rights violations requires understanding a culture – and the perceptions of local people. It also requires*

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_20141

