

TOPIC GUIDE

Human Rights

Jo Crichton

Topic Guide on Human Rights

Jo Crichton

About this guide

This topic guide provides an introduction to the interactions and links between human rights and international development. Human rights are increasingly visible in international development language, policies and programmes. Human rights, and the principles they are based on, are argued to improve the effectiveness of development programmes. But beyond that, a human rights framework is seen as essential for poverty reduction because it seeks to address the multiple rights denials that cause and shape poverty.

Human rights approaches combine international, regional and national legal frameworks with a focus on individuals and context-specific struggles for rights. Human rights can also be defined collectively, most commonly by indigenous peoples. Approaches to promoting human rights can therefore involve both 'bottom up' empowerment and 'top down' strengthening of accountability institutions. They also necessitate efforts to tackle structural inequalities caused by exclusion, discrimination and unequal power relations.

This guide introduces the international human rights framework, 'rights-based approaches to development', and the policies of various donors and NGOs. It explores how human rights can enhance policy and practice in various development sectors, and examines the relationship between rights, social exclusion and discrimination. The guide uses parallel vocabulary. For the legal aspects of human rights, it employs the controlled vocabulary used in international law. For rights-based approaches and development policy, it uses the language of development agencies.

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Human rights – overview

Contemporary discussions about human rights and their role in international development are born out of a vast philosophical tradition which cuts across a number of disciplines such as law, anthropology, politics, sociology and theology. An understanding of how and why human rights approaches can be applied to international development requires an appreciation of these theoretical underpinnings. 'Human rights' can be understood from a number of perspectives: as natural entitlements which are beyond dispute and accord with 'natural' or 'moral' law; as a deliberative concept arising out of societal agreement which attempts to establish mutual-co-existence; as a way of redressing injustices and changing the status quo through protest, and; as a concept which only exists discursively, i.e. at the level of analytical discussion.

Dembour, M.B., 2010, 'What Are Human Rights? Four Schools of Thought', *Human Rights Quarterly*, vol 32, no 1, pp 1-20
http://muse.jhu.edu/login?uri=/journals/human_rights_quarterly/v032/32.1.dembour.pdf

Rights, poverty and development

On what conceptual ground do human rights lie? How is the link between human rights and development assistance established and maintained? In particular, there have been attempts to place human rights at the centre of poverty reduction. This has been translated into support for the participation of the poor in their development (for instance in the formulation of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers), as well as an articulation of poverty-related deprivations in terms of human rights violations. There are however different types of human rights, which have been seen as competing. A popular argument is that civil and political (CP) rights should be prioritised over economic, social and cultural (ESC) rights. This can cause problems, for it places the state at the centre of the human rights discourse, when in many instances it is not viable for human rights to be upheld by a state either due to their transnational nature or the capacity of state institutions. It also relegates basic socioeconomic needs that rights-holders may consider most pressing as secondary considerations.

Hunt, P., Nowak, M. and Osmani, S., 2003, 'Human Rights and Poverty Reduction: A Conceptual Framework', Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva

What is a human rights approach to poverty reduction? This paper is part of the UN's efforts to integrate human rights into its work. It argues that attention to human rights helps to ensure that the concerns of poor people are central to the formulation of Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSs).

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1575>

Shue, H., 2003, 'Global Accountability: Transnational Duties Towards Economic Rights', in Jean-Marc Coicaud et al. (eds), 2003, *The Globalization of Human Rights*, United Nations University Press, Tokyo, pp. 160-177

Do transnational duties towards human rights exist? If it is agreed that a child has a right to food, whose duty is it to fulfil that right? This chapter argues that the wealthy do have a responsibility to the poor. Indeed, they bear more transnational duties toward economic rights than is currently understood. There are chains of responsibility towards the fulfilment of economic rights, and we all have a role in this chain.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/2082>

Amartya Sen's ground-breaking conceptual work on freedoms and capabilities sheds light on the moral and political reasoning behind rights. Both rights and entitlements to capabilities are understood as having a mutually-reinforcing relationship which enriches the lives and freedoms of people. However, the concept of universally-applicable human rights is problematic and has been met with criticism for imposing normative standards upon distinct cultures. While it is suggested that cultural differences erode the applicability of human rights, one counter argument suggests that human rights must be culturally legitimate by being adequately tailored to different contexts.

Sen, A., 2000, 'Human Rights and Human Development', Chapter One in the Human Development Report 2000, UNDP

Are the concepts of human rights and human development similar enough to be complementary? Are they diverse enough to enrich each other? Amartya Sen argues that human rights and development are indeed mutually compatible. He shows that the promotion of human development and the fulfilment of human rights share a common motivation: enriching the lives and freedoms of ordinary people. The combination of the two perspectives gives us something that neither can provide alone.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1560>

Sen, A., 2005, 'Human Rights and Capabilities', *Journal of Human Development*, vol. 6, no. 2

Can human rights be understood as entitlements to capabilities? Should an overarching list of capabilities be compiled? How can we ascertain the content of human rights and capabilities when values diverge so much across borders and communities? This article discusses the relationship between human rights and capabilities and seeks to answer these questions. It argues that neither of these two concepts should be subsumed within the other.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1960>

UNFPA, 2008, 'Negotiating Culture; Building Support for Human Rights', in The State of World Population 2008: Reaching Common Ground: Culture, Gender and Human Rights, United Nations Population Fund, ch.2

How can support for human rights be enhanced within local cultures? This chapter suggests that human rights can become ingrained through 'cultural legitimacy'. Culturally sensitive approaches cannot promise immediate and predictable results, but they can provide effective tools for understanding the relationships between human rights and cultures and tackling oppression. Changes fundamental to human development, which require full realisation of human rights, depend on serious and respectful engagement with cultures.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display&type=Document&id=3188>

The 'right to development' forms part of international United Nations policy documents adopted with a majority vote from member states. But it is contested. It is opposed by certain governments, and it does not form part of international law. It has generally received little attention in the policy and practice of governments and development agencies.

The OHCHR website provides information on the 'right to development':

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/Pages/DevelopmentIndex.aspx>

Read more on human rights from Eldis:

<http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/governance/human-rights>

The UK Government's human rights policies are based on the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. This is the most widely accepted definition of human rights, encompassing civil and political as well as economic, social and cultural rights, all sharing the principles of universality and indivisibility. Its principles have subsequently been developed in a range of international human rights instruments, some of which have been accepted by most states, others not. Two key areas where the UK Government is taking an explicit rights approach are labour standards and HIV and AIDS. DFID's (2000) policy on human rights involves empowering people to make decisions about their own lives in order to achieve poverty reduction and the Millennium Development Goals.

Human rights are promoted through the following principles: promoting participation in decision-making processes, building socially inclusive societies, and strengthening institutions and policies to ensure that states and other duty-bearers fulfil their obligations to protect and promote the realisation of rights.

Piron, L. and Watkins, F., 2004, 'DFID Human Rights Review: A Review of How DFID has Integrated Human Rights into its Work', ODI, London

What lessons can be learned from the UK Department for International Development (DFID)'s human rights work in a range of sectors and initiatives, particularly at the country level? How can human rights make a contribution to poverty reduction? This paper documents DFID's human rights activities in a number of domains. It is designed to serve as a reference document, and contains a number of practical recommendations.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display&type=Document&id=1229>

O'Neil, T., Foresti, M., Braunholtz, T., and Sharma, B., 2007, 'DFID's Human Rights Policy: Scoping Study', Overseas Development Institute (ODI), London

This scoping study examines the policy framework for DFID's work on human rights. Its review of DFID policy in relation to eight specific human rights finds that human rights are systematically integrated into DFID's policy and practice, but that the extent to which they are incorporated into sectoral policy is variable. A twin-track approach to integration is needed that both clarifies policy and supports its effective implementation.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display&type=Document&id=3886>

Department for International Development, 2004, 'Labour Standards and Poverty Reduction', Issues Paper, DFID, London

How can labour standards contribute to poverty reduction? This paper, written by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), focuses on the nature and impact of labour standards in developing countries. Effective and well-judged implementation of labour standards can play an important role in reducing global poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). A commitment to core labour standards is part of a broader rights-based approach to poverty reduction.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display&type=Document&id=1546>

Department for International Development, 2004, 'Taking Action: The UK's Strategy for Tackling HIV and AIDS in the Developing World', DFID, London

HIV and AIDS pose a serious threat to eradicating poverty and meeting the Millennium Development Goals. On World AIDS Day in 2003, the UK Prime Minister called for stronger international action to tackle the epidemic and to meet global targets. This document sets out in detail the British government's strategy for tackling HIV and AIDS around the world.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1115>

However, the role of human rights conditionality in development assistance is a difficult issue, including the question of how to deal with human rights violations by partner governments. The UK Government's approach offers a cross-

departmental perspective between the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and DFID which moves away from imposing policy conditions on recipient country governments. However, the UK Government offers support to country development planning in their poverty reduction plans.

UK Government, 2005, 'Partnerships for Poverty Reduction: Rethinking Conditionality. A UK Policy Paper', DFID, FCO and HM Treasury, UK Government, London

In recent years the UK has been moving away from traditional approaches to conditionality. This paper sets out the current UK government's position on effective aid partnerships. Produced jointly by the Department for International Development (DFID), HM Treasury and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, it is based on a broad range of international experience and evidence. While good policy matters for development, it has proven ineffective for donors to impose policies on developing country governments. Donors should support countries to decide what policies should be included in poverty reduction plans.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1557>

The UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office uses a human rights approach to underpin its sustainable development work. In 2008 the FCO's Human Rights, Democracy and Governance Group (HRDGG) produced a strategy to outline the priorities and goals for the FCO in this area between 2008 and 2011.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 2008, 'Human Rights and Democracy Strategic Programme Fund. Programme Strategy 2008-2011', Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

<http://ukinmexico.fco.gov.uk/resources/es/word/doc1/estrategia-derechos-humanos-spf>

The FCO has developed a set of pages on human rights, as one of its international policy priorities. These pages provide an online introduction to human rights, including thematic issues, key multilateral organisations and instruments, and UK Government policy.

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/global-issues/human-rights/>

Donor and NGO policies

Donors' understandings and approaches to human rights vary, although they often have core themes and principles in common. The policies range from rights-based approaches emphasising power and participation, to rights associated with democracy and the rule of law, to approaches that use rights implicitly, or only accept civil and political rights. For more information on DFID's human rights policy, please see the previous section, '[UK government human rights policy commitments](#)'.

UNDP, 2007, 'Human Rights and the Millennium Development Goals: Making the Link', UNDP, New York

While policies of aid agencies increasingly emphasise the connection between human rights and development, in practice the concepts often remain on separate, parallel tracks. This paper provides guidance for development practitioners to link human rights with the design and implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The human rights framework can help achieve the MDGs in an equitable, just and sustainable manner and ground development work within a universal set of values.

<http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display&type=Document&id=2890>

Multilateral Donors

UNDP

UNDP, 2011, 'Fast Facts: Human Rights and UNDP'

<http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/fast-facts/english/FF-Human-Rights.pdf>

UNDP, 2000, 'Human Development Report: Human Rights and Human Development', United Nations Development Programme, New York

The 2000 Human Development Report is perhaps the best starting point on rights and development. It provides a sustained argument that human rights and human development are mutually reinforcing, referring to specific human rights treaties.

<http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1590>

The **UN Practitioners' Portal on Human Rights-Based Approaches** to programming features a broad collection of practical resources designed to support UN staff. The Portal is also the virtual home of the UN Human Rights Policy Network HuriTALK.

<http://hrbportal.org/>

UNICEF

UNICEF uses human rights, particularly the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), as a basis for programming.

Web page on rights and results

http://www.unicef.org/rightsresults/index_4727.html

UNICEF, 2007, 'Implementation Handbook for the Convention on the Rights of the Child' (Revised Third Edition), UNICEF, New York

<http://www.unicef.org/crc/files/Implementation%20Handbook%203rd%20ed.pdf>

World Bank

The World Bank's website on social development has sections on empowerment, social inclusion and social action.

<http://go.worldbank.org/8WWCZQW5Q0>

World Bank, 2002, 'Empowerment and Poverty Reduction: A Sourcebook', World Bank, Washington DC

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTEMPowerment/Resources/486312-1095094954594/draft.pdf>

The World Bank's engagement with human rights has been subject to a degree of controversy due to its policy of non-political engagement with recipient countries. Historically this has meant that they have avoided expanding their activities into what is seen as human rights territory. In the last decade the World Bank has however made inroads into what has traditionally been considered the 'political' side of international development due to an explicit embracing of the 'good governance' agenda.

Brodnig, G., 2005, 'The World Bank and Human Rights: Mission Impossible?', Policy Working Paper, Carr Center for Human Rights, Cambridge, MA

<http://www.hks.harvard.edu/cchrp/Web%20Working%20Papers/BrodnigHR&WorldBank.pdf>

Bilateral donors

AusAID (Australian Agency for International Development)

Web page on human rights:

<http://www.ausaid.gov.au/keyaid/humanrights.cfm>

BMZ (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany)

Web page on human rights:

http://www.bmz.de/en/what_we_do/issues/HumanRights/

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2011, 'Human Rights in German Development Policy: Strategy', BMZ Strategy Paper 4/2011e, BMZ, Berlin

http://www.bmz.de/en/publications/type_of_publication/strategies/Strategiepapier305_04_2011.pdf

CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency)

CIDA, 1996, 'Policy for CIDA on Human Rights, Democratization and Good Governance', Canadian International Development Agency, Quebec

<http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/acdi-cida/acdi-cida.nsf/eng/REN-218124821-P93>

Danida (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark)

Web page on freedom, democracy and human rights:

<http://um.dk/en/danida-en/activities/strategic/freedom/>

Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Web page and resources on human rights:

<http://formin.finland.fi/public/default.aspx?nodeid=15630&contentlan=2&culture=en-US>

New Zealand Aid Programme

The New Zealand government recognises human rights as a cross-cutting issue that has significant impact on development outcomes.

New Zealand Aid Programme, 2011, 'International Development Policy Statement', Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Wellington

http://www.aid.govt.nz/webfm_send/3

SDC (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation)

Web page and resources on human rights:

<http://www.sdc.admin.ch/index.php?navID=21871>

SDC, 2004, 'Integrating Human Rights and Poverty Reduction: Towards a Human Rights-Based Approach for SDC', Working Paper, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Berne

http://www.sdc.admin.ch/ressources/resource_en_24885.pdf

SDC, 2006, 'SDC'S Human Rights Policy: Towards a Life of Dignity – Realising Rights for Poor People', Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation/Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Berne

http://www.deza.admin.ch/ressources/resource_en_25225.pdf

SIDA (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency)

Web page on democracy, human rights and equality:

<http://www.sida.se/English/About-us/our-fields-of-work/Democracy-human-rights-and-equality/>

SIDA, 2001, 'A Democracy and Human Rights-Based Approach to Development Cooperation', Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Stockholm

<http://www.sida.se/shared/jsp/download.jsp?f=DemokratiEng.pdf&a=3060>

USAID (United States Agency for International Development)

Web page on democracy, human rights and governance:

http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/democracy_and_governance/

USAID, 2011, 'USAID Policy Framework 2011-2015', USAID, Washington DC

http://www.usaid.gov/policy/USAID_PolicyFramework.PDF

International NGOs

This section presents links to selected international NGOs that emphasise human rights or rights-based approaches in their development programmes. Where the NGO provides online information about their rights policies, the direct link to the webpage is provided.

ActionAid

<http://www.actionaid.org/what-we-do>

Food rights: <http://www.actionaid.org/what-we-do/food-rights>

Women's rights: <http://www.actionaid.org/what-we-do/womens-rights>

CARE

<http://www.careinternational.org.uk/>

Oxfam

<http://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/our-work/methods-approaches>

Save the Children

<http://www.savethechildren.net/what-we-do/child-rights-governance/>

The **Child Rights Information Network (CRIN)** website also provides a wide range of documents on human rights and rights-based approaches to development in practice, drawn from various NGOs.

<http://www.crin.org/>

Rights-based approaches

The adoption of right-based approaches (RBAs) in development work has a significant impact on the ways in which development agencies operate. The rapid expansion of RBAs among donors and NGOs has led to considerable debate about whether the operationalisation of rights can be made a reality for poor and excluded people. It is thought that in order to have impact, RBAs must focus on improving relationships and processes, accountability mechanisms and channels for different actors to participate in development. Despite the desirability of RBAs there is still debate as to their impact on development outcomes.

Nyamu-Musembi, C. and Cornwall, A., 2004, 'What is the Rights-based Approach all about? Perspectives from International Development Agencies', IDS Working Paper no. 234, Institute for Development Studies, Brighton

Are rights-based approaches transformative, or merely a new development fashion? What are the implications for donors of adopting them? This paper analyses rights-based approaches in international NGOs, multilateral and bilateral donors. Done well, these approaches can help agencies better achieve development outcomes by moving them away from unreflective patronage to better partnership with and empowerment of beneficiaries.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1317>

Grugel, J. and Piper, N., 2009, 'Do Rights Promote Development?', Global Social Policy, vol. 9, no. 1, pp. 79-98

How do human rights impact on development? Are rights-based agendas useful for addressing issues of social and economic exclusion experienced by the poor? This article suggests that while the promotion of rights has become intertwined with development, the evidence of their effect on development policy is mixed. Many rights are difficult to put onto the agenda of states. Other arguments for development and justice are therefore also required, alongside sustained theoretical reflection on and engagement with the state.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display&type=Document&id=3619>

Vizard, P., Fukuda-Parr, S. and Elson, D., 2011, 'Introduction: The Capability Approach and Human Rights', Journal of Human Development and Capabilities, Vol 12, No 1, pp. 1-22

This paper argues that the capability approach provides a useful applied framework for evaluating the human rights position of individuals and groups.

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/19452829.2010.541728>

Implications of RBA for development agencies

What are the implications of RBAs for how development agencies function? The rapid expansion of rights-based approaches among donors and NGOs has led to considerable debate about whether the approaches can make rights a reality for poor and excluded people by having a significant impact on poverty reduction. A key discussion amongst researchers and policymakers about rights-based approaches centres upon improving relationships and processes between donors, partners and recipients in order to realise pro-poor outcomes. Principally this implies improving domestic and international accountability mechanisms whereby donors and NGOs can be held to account, and considering the potential effects of interventions upon human rights.

Aid relations and the politics of engagement

Many rights-based approaches involve an understanding that denials of human rights are caused by and perpetuate inequality, discrimination and exclusion based on power relations. In order to successfully support the realisation of human rights in RBAs these efforts need to rest on an understanding of how unequal power relations lie at the base of causes human rights denials and how this is institutionalised through values, rules and practices. This approach involves a need to reform institutions and transforming power relations through enhanced participation, inclusion and accountability, and through compelling organisations to fulfil their rights obligations.

In an international development context RBAs differ from international human rights law, which views rights denials as caused by the unwillingness or inability of governments to meet their human rights obligations. RBAs do also emphasise the primary obligations of governments in upholding human rights. However, they also examine the role of other actors in society, and use analysis of power relations and social and political change.

Piron, L-H., 2005, 'Human Rights and Poverty Reduction: The Role of Human Rights in Promoting Donor Accountability', Overseas Development Institute (ODI), London

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/1555.pdf>

Eyben, R., 2004, 'Relationships Matter for Supporting Change in Favour of Poor People', Lessons for Change in Policy and Organisations No. 8, Institute of Development Studies, Brighton

What role does influencing play in making pro poor change take place? Are current international donors spending too much time managing their budgets and not enough time managing relationships? This paper examines the role of

organisational learning in improving the performance of international development organisations. A number of approaches are identified for agencies to influence processes that lead to positive changes in the lives of poor people.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1267>

Brocklesby, M.A., Crawford, S. and Harding, M., 2005, 'Making Rights Real: The Politics of Engagement', Workshop Report, 23-24 March 2005, London

Rights based development is a people-centred approach to development based on the norms and standards of international human rights law. This report advocates a move beyond initial rights-based frameworks by focusing instead on the 'politics of engagement'. Donors and civil society actors should recognise the political nature of development and redefine their strategy of engagement through participation in new networks and alliances to fulfil basic rights and poverty reduction goals.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1563>

Alsop, R. (ed.), 2005, Power, Rights, and Poverty: Concepts and Connections, World Bank, Washington DC

Discussions about power and rights are increasingly taking place in international development agencies, but the activity of those organisations does not reflect this. This report brings together background materials and discussions from a working meeting between the World Bank and DFID that focussed on understanding the conceptual underpinnings and relationships among power, rights and poverty reduction.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1489>

Aid Effectiveness

Accountability is also desirable due to the perceived impact it has on aid effectiveness. In line with both the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, and Accra Agenda for Action which emphasise the need to recognise the 'centrality of... human rights in development', a RBA involves respecting and responding to partners' priorities and existing commitments on human rights issues, and being transparent and consistent about donor decision-making processes. There may be a danger, however, on a complete reliance on RBAs to justify development interventions and that the human rights discourse is employed in a rhetorical manner which offers little in the way of practical substance or change for the intended beneficiaries.

Foresti, M., Booth, D. and O'Neill, T., 2006, 'Aid Effectiveness and Human Rights: strengthening the implementation of the Paris Declaration', Overseas Development Institute, London

How can a human rights perspective be integrated into the aid effectiveness agenda set out in the Paris Declaration (PD)? This paper provides an analytical framework for applying a practical human rights framework to the 2005 Paris Declaration of the High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (PD), arguing this would strengthen its implementation and address its shortcomings. In particular, it recommends strategies to integrate human rights thinking into the monitoring and evaluation process of the PD.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display&type=Document&id=2593>

Uvin, P., 2004, 'A Rights-Based Approach to Development', Chapter 6, in Human Rights and Development, Kumarian Press, Bloomfield, pp. 122-166

How can the rights-based approach (RBA) change how development is 'done', and help practitioners do things better on the ground? RBAs have often been seen as primarily rhetorical and as offering little in hard content. This chapter outlines what the RBA means in practice, and how this differs from current practice. It argues that human rights, when deeply integrated with the practice of development, can be a powerful addition and correction to the development enterprise.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1679>

See also [The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action](#) (pdf, 300 KB).

Participation

DFID has developed 'Participatory Rights Assessment Methodologies' or PRAMs, a tool for putting the rights agenda into practice. PRAMs aim to support government, civil society and other individuals in understanding their rights and obligations, and in creating the institutional change necessary to achieve rights. This operationalises a 'people-centred' understanding of development which is sensitive to the needs and opinions of people in recipient countries. The attitudes, behaviours and skill sets of the donor community have been put under the spotlight as a result of this thinking.

Brocklesby, M.A. and Crawford, S., 2004, 'Operationalising the Rights Agenda: DFID's Participatory Rights Assessment Methodologies (PRAMs) Project', Centre for Development Studies, Swansea

How successful have rights-based approaches (RBA) been in reducing poverty? How can RBAs best be operationalised? This study assesses the success of its Participatory Rights Assessment Methodologies (PRAMs). PRAMs are intended to create institutional change to ensure participation, inclusion and obligation to all human rights for all people. The study argues that PRAMs re-enforce institutional learning: rights based development brings positive changes in the relationships

between people at all levels and stages in development.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1600>

Rights and citizenship

Understandings of rights and citizenship in development have evolved from what was initially a more instrumental approach to participation. 'Citizenship' has entered the development vocabulary during the last decade as part of the return to a focus on state institutions as the locus of development and good governance necessary for implementing successful development-oriented policies. Unlike the earlier term 'beneficiary', citizen connotes an active participant in society who possesses both rights and responsibilities rather than someone passively receiving welfare or accessing services. This shift highlights the multiple lines of accountability between state and citizen, donor and recipient, and a more general shift towards putting 'people' at the centre of development.

A common debate about both 'rights' and 'citizenship' is whether these are genuinely universal concepts that make sense for people in all parts of the world or are examples of Western imposition. Again, this brings the discussion around to the need for the international community to be seen as legitimate by building accountable aid relationships which squarely tackle the charge that donors simply export political concepts only of relevance to the Western world.

Kabeer N. 2005 'The Search for 'Inclusive' Citizenship: Meanings and Expressions in an Inter-connected World' in (ed) N. Kabeer, Inclusive Citizenship: Meanings and Expressions, Zed Books, London

What does 'citizenship' mean for excluded groups around the world? What do these meanings tell us about the goal of building inclusive societies? This chapter outlines some of the values and meanings associated with citizenship. It considers how debates around citizenship, rights and duties can be interpreted in the light of these values, and discusses the emergence of an explicit rights-based approach in the development agenda.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1710>

Lewis, M., et. al. (eds), 2005, 'Alliances Against Poverty: DFID's Experience in Peru 2000-2005', Department for International Development (DFID), London

Addressing the underlying causes of inequality and exclusion requires donors to engage with political processes. Alliances involving state and society must be strengthened and donors need to play an active role in them. This report reviews the application of rights-based approaches through the concept of active citizenship in a middle-income country context. For the first time it tackles questions of legitimacy, potential and accountability of donor engagement from a donor's perspective.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1164>

Citizenship is not always constructed through engagement with the state, but is formed at a more communal level (e.g. a societal feeling of belonging). This has significant implications for how we view the role of non-state entities in upholding human rights. If rights (and corresponding responsibilities) are not inevitably constituted by the state, what does this mean the universal applicability of state-endorsed rights? It has been argued that rights and citizenship are constituted not only through the state, but also at community and individual level.

Eyben, R., and S. Ladbury, 2006, 'Implications for Aid Practice: Taking a Citizen's Perspective', Citizenship DRC Synthesis Brief, Institute of Development Studies, Brighton.

http://www.drc-citizenship.org/system/assets/1052734531/original/1052734531-eyben_etal.2006-implications.pdf?1289909563

Rights-based approaches tools and guidelines

Donors are experimenting with a variety of approaches to rights-based development. The following aspects are found in some, but not all, RBAs:

- The belief that development assistance should, and can, contribute to the realisation of human rights
- The use of international human rights standards as a basis to the approach
- The application of human rights standards and principles to inform all levels of programming, with corresponding guidelines
- Support for both rights-holders to claim their rights and duty-bearers to meet their obligations to protect and promote rights.

RBAs are increasingly being used in the design, monitoring and evaluation of programmes. This is particularly the case in governance reform interventions, in which good governance and human rights are seen to be mutually reinforcing; in directing efforts towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); and informing the country programmes or strategies of bilateral donors.

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), 2003, 'Human Rights-Based Reviews of UNDP Programmes: Working Guidelines'. UNDP, Geneva

The UN operates a Common Understanding of the human rights-based approach to development (HRBA). This paper sets out working guidelines for a human rights-based review of UNDP country offices and projects based on the Common Understanding. The guidelines aim to support reviews at each phase of programming, strengthen existing activities and assist in the design of new programmes from a human rights perspective.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1788>

United Nations Development Programme, n.d., Human Rights-Based Approach Checklist for Programme Staff, UNDP
http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HRBA_Checklist.pdf

OHCHR, 2007, 'Good Governance Practices for the Protection of Human Rights', Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, New York and Geneva

How can governance reforms contribute to the protection of human rights? How are governance and human rights linked in the areas of democratic institutions, state service delivery, the rule of law and anti-corruption measures? This publication uses 21 case studies from around the world to show how governance interventions by a range of social and institutional actors can implement human rights principles. Good governance and human rights are mutually reinforcing.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display&type=Document&id=3076>

UNDP, 2007, 'Human Rights and the Millennium Development Goals: Making the Link', Primer, United Nations Development Programme, Oslo

While policies of aid agencies increasingly emphasise the connection between human rights and development, in practice the concepts often remain on separate, parallel tracks. This paper provides guidance for development practitioners to link human rights with the design and implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The human rights framework can help achieve the MDGs in an equitable, just and sustainable manner and ground development work within a universal set of values.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display&type=Document&id=2890>

SIDA, 2003, 'Country Strategy Development: Guide for Country Analysis from a Democratic Governance and Human Rights Perspective', Swedish International Development Agency, Stockholm

Democratic governance has become a priority in donor policies. This guide aims to assist the analysis of country strategies from the perspective of democratic governance and human rights and guide donor intervention. It is important to adapt to the reality of each country and to guarantee synergy between the priorities of partner countries and donors.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1585>

NORAD, 2001, 'Handbook in Human Rights Assessment. State Obligations, Awareness and Empowerment', Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, Oslo

How do you enhance the human rights profile of development programmes? How do you identify the need for human rights impact analysis? This handbook assists the user in addressing human rights concerns by recording the potential, planned or likely positive or negative effects of the programme under review. It is not a manual on how to conduct a full-scale human rights impact analysis but a guide to identifying the need for such analysis.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1581>

Practical guidance for RBAs

As indicated, implementing a human rights-based approach in development cooperation is – at country level – being viewed in conjunction with commitments made as part of the Accra Agenda for Action in 2008. Although there is practical guidance on how to approach these emerging development aid principles, there is still a need for practical guidance on implementing human rights at programme and project level. This has often been done on a 'lessons learned' basis, leading to the development of general principles, tips, and implementation tools in terms of the following: a) project/programme design, planning and implementation; b) situational analysis; c) capacity building; and monitoring and evaluation. This guidance is also tailored according to particular human rights concerns (e.g. women and children) or sectors.

General

Berman, G., 2008. 'Undertaking a Human Rights-Based Approach: A Guide for Basic Programming – Documenting Lessons Learned for Human Rights-Based Programming: An Asia-Pacific Perspective – Implications for Policy, Planning and Programming', UNESCO, Bangkok

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0017/001791/179186e.pdf>

Boesen, J. K. and Martin, T., 2007, 'Applying a Rights-based Approach: An Inspirational Guide for Civil Society', Danish Institute for Human Rights, Copenhagen

With its focus on law and the root causes of poverty, the rights-based approach (RBA) releases a new transformative potential for development. This guide provides practical methods for the integration of the RBA into programmes

implemented by smaller civil society organisations (CSOs) in poor countries. While it is not a panacea, the RBA has the potential to bring people whose rights are denied by poverty to the centre of development analyses and implementation. *One-page summary:* <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display&type=Document&id=3780>

BMZ, 2010, 'Human Rights In Practice: Fact Sheets on Human Rights-Based Approaches in Development Cooperation', Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Berlin, Germany
http://www.bmz.de/en/publications/type_of_publication/information_flyer/information_brochures/Materialie206_Information_Brochure_7_2010.pdf

Children

Theis, J., 2004, 'Promoting Rights-Based Approaches: Experiences and Ideas from Asia and the Pacific', Save the Children, Stockholm

What is a rights-based approach (RBA)? How can rights-based programming be translated into practical project and programme tools? This manual is a collection of articles introducing RBAs and presenting practical advice on application, case studies and innovative tools for implementing RBAs. It concludes with a list of web resources on rights-based approaches.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1587>

Save the Children, 2002, 'Child Rights Programming: How to Apply Rights-Based Approaches in Programming', Save the Children, Stockholm

What is the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and how can it be used in development programming? This handbook demonstrates how the CRC can be used as the basis for the project cycle and efforts for advocacy and change. It promotes the Child Rights Programming (CRP) approach and provides guidance about how to use this approach in practice.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1584>

Gender and reproductive health

UNFPA and Harvard School of Public Health, 2010, 'A Human Rights-based Approach to Programming: Practical Information and Training Materials', UNFPA, New York

<http://www.unfpa.org/public/publications/pid/4919>

Additional information

See also the UN Portal on Human Rights Based Approaches (HRBA)

<http://hrbaportal.org/>

Human rights legal framework

In international law, human rights obligations are those that states have undertaken by signing treaties, which are then ratified by national parliaments and enacted through changing the state's practice. The 1948 Universal Declaration on Human Rights is by far the most widely accepted definition of human rights, encompassing civil and political as well as economic, social and cultural rights, all sharing the principles of universality and indivisibility. Its principles have subsequently been further developed in a range of international human rights instruments, some of which have been accepted by most states, others not. These instruments define specific standards for women, children, disabled persons, migrant workers and other vulnerable groups, as well as collective rights for minorities and indigenous groups.

Human rights are also defined in the many treaties generated by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) since its creation in 1919.

The human rights framework is designed to be a legally, politically and morally binding set of principles for governments. A distinction must be made between legally binding treaties, covenants, statutes, protocols and conventions, and political statements such as declarations and principles. The UN human rights system also involves a series of organs and institutions designed to promote these rights, including treaty monitoring bodies and special mechanisms. This page introduces a selection of core human rights treaties and treaty monitoring bodies.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has produced a series of online fact sheets which provide an accessible introduction to the various aspects of the international human rights system.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/PublicationsResources/Pages/FactSheets.aspx>

International human rights instruments

This section introduces the core human rights treaties or instruments generated within the United Nations and the ILO. The International Bill of Human Rights consists of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its two Optional Protocols.

- International Bill of Human Rights
<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FactSheet2Rev.1en.pdf>
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/cescr.htm>
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
<http://www.hrweb.org/legal/cpr.html>

In addition to the Declaration of Human Rights, there are seven core human rights treaties which lay out in more detail what these rights mean. These include the ICESCR and ICCPR, mentioned above, and the following five conventions. The conventions vary in status, as some have been ratified by many more countries than others. Only the ICCPR, ICERD, CEDAW and CAT have complaints procedures.

- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/icerd.htm>
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/cedaw.htm>
- Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/cat.htm>
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/crc.htm>
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers & Members of their Families (ICRMW)
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/cmw.htm>

Other human rights instruments include:

- OHCHR page on International Law: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/>
There are hundreds more legal instruments and political declarations on a wide range of issues that are relevant to international development. The website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights provides links to the full text and ratification status of many of these instruments.
- ILO Labour Standards: <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/subjectE.htm>
Since its creation in 1919, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has generated almost 200 treaties. These treaties lay down basic standards on labour-related issues ranging from child labour to indigenous rights. The international labour standards laid out in these treaties can be accessed on the ILO website.
- ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work: <http://www.ilo.org/declaration/thedeclaration/lang-en/>
The ILO launched a Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work in 1998, which reasserts the labour standards laid out in ILO treaties.

Regional treaties

Some regional organisations have also developed their own human rights systems, although these systems vary considerably. Further information on regional approaches to enshrining human rights at regional level can be found below.

- African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
<http://www.achpr.org/>
- African Union
<http://www.au.int/>
- Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
<http://www.cidh.org/>
- Inter-American Court of Human Rights
<http://www.corteidh.or.cr/>
- European Court of Human Rights
<http://www.echr.coe.int/echr>
- European Committee of Social Rights
http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/socialcharter/ECSR/ECSRdefault_en.asp

International treaty monitoring bodies

International human rights are protected by core international structures and organisations developed to promote and protect human rights. This includes the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, treaty-based human rights committees, and the ILO's systems for enforcing labour rights.

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR): <http://www.ohchr.org/>

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is part of the UN Secretariat. It works to raise awareness of human rights and to promote them through dialogue, advice and technical assistance with member governments and other organisations.

Treaty-based human rights bodies are committees of independent experts elected by governments. They work in specific areas laid out by the particular treaty and monitor its implementation by the states that have ratified it. States that have ratified a treaty are required to periodically submit reports on progress to the relevant treaty committee. All the committees consider states' reports. In addition the HRC, CERD, CAT and CEDAW committees examine and decide on complaints.

The following committees deal with complaints:

- The Human Rights Committee monitors the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrc/>

- The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cerd/>
- The Committee Against Torture
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cat/>
- The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/committee.htm>

The following committees only consider states' reports:

- The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cescr/>
- The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/>
- The Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW)
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cmw/>
- ILO webpage on Enforcement of Labour Standards
<http://www.ilo.org/global/standards/lang--en/>

Rights and the private sector, growth, labour, PFMA and information

Human rights are not only linked with service delivery but also have significant implications for the private sector, growth, labour, public financial management (PFMA) and access to information. A number of resources explore the links between human rights, right-based approaches and these areas. They include donor guidance and policy statements, academic research, and advocacy papers. Many of these documents aim to show how a rights-based approach helps to enhance existing sectoral work based on the assertion that the indivisibility or interdependence of rights also demonstrates that cross-sectoral working is essential for realising rights.

Rights help to move beyond predominantly technical approaches, to recognise the need to address the wider political and social environment within which programmes occur. This may mean that rights necessitate the use of new language or ways of thinking about how to make decisions and prioritise, with implications for policy formation.

Private sector

Human rights approaches and private sector development have traditionally been viewed by donors as separate issues. It is only in the last few years that donors have begun to systematically consider how to integrate human rights into their support for the private sector. These moves have been supported by the United Nations Human Rights Council's endorsement of a policy framework for business and human rights in June 2008, based on three key principles: the state's duty to protect against human rights abuses by third parties, including business; the responsibility of corporations to respect human rights; and the need for victims of corporate-related human rights abuses to have easier access to more effective remedies.

OECD, 2011, 'Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises', OECD, Paris

These guidelines provide non-binding principles and standards for responsible business conduct in a global context consistent with applicable laws and internationally recognised standards.

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/43/29/48004323.pdf>

Gibb, H., Foster, J. and Weston, A., 2008, 'Human Rights and Private Sector Development: A Discussion Paper', North-South Institute, Ottawa

How can development organisations integrate a rights-based approach (RBA) into private sector development (PSD) initiatives? While RBAs have historically been part of the good governance agenda, donor agencies have recently been exploring the possibilities for integrating human rights into economic development. This study suggests that future research needs to bring together the experiences of donor agencies, financial institutions and NGOs who have attempted to integrate rights with PSD. The role of the state and of transnational corporations in rights-based PSD needs to be more clearly defined.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display&type=Document&id=3632>

Manzella, L. and Lusiani, N., 2008, 'Collective Report on Business and Human Rights: Submission to the 8th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council', International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR-net), Corporate Accountability Working Group, New York

How do businesses abuse human rights, and what must be done to prevent such abuses? This report draws on case studies from around the world. It concludes that direct or indirect violation of all types of human rights by companies is widespread and occurs across many different political systems and industries. Effective redress and accountability procedures at national, regional and international levels are needed to ensure that businesses, governments and the international community meet their obligations in this area.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display&type=Document&id=3077>

Read more on business and human rights from Eldis: <http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/corporate-responsibility/business-and-human-rights>

Growth and investment

How complementary are human rights-based approaches and policies to promote economic growth? It has been argued that although economic growth can occur without the poorest benefitting, poverty reduction objectives can be served by approaches which emphasise both economic growth and human rights. The objectives of economic growth have seen a shift, however: a narrow focus on utility and income has been replaced, thanks to Amartya Sen, with an increased emphasis on the capacity of the individual to live a fulfilling life. In order to direct economic growth towards pro-poor outcomes it is further argued that observing human rights in this process is essential.

McKay, A. and Vizard, P., 2005, 'Rights and Economic Growth: Inevitable Conflict or 'Common Ground?', ODI, London
Is there a conflict between rights and economics? Are freedoms and rights in tension with growth and the optimal allocation of resources? This paper argues that there are significant complementarities between economic growth and rights in terms of poverty reduction objectives.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1667>

Overseas Development Institute, 2001, 'Economic Theory, Freedom and Human Rights: The Work of Amartya Sen', ODI Briefing Paper, Overseas Development Institute (ODI), London

What are the central tenets of the work of the Nobel Prize winning economist Professor Amartya Sen? How have these changed development approaches? This review shows how his work has contributed to important paradigm shifts in economics and development. There has been a move away from approaches that focus exclusively on income, growth and utility, with an increased emphasis on individual entitlements, capabilities, freedoms and rights.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1594>

Foresti, M., Higgins, K., and Sharma, B., 2010, 'Human Rights and Pro-Poor Growth', Project Briefing 34, Overseas Development Institute (ODI), London

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/4613.pdf>

Amnesty International, 2006, 'Human Rights, Trade and Investment Matters', Amnesty International, London/New York
<http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/hrtradeinvestmentmatters.pdf>

Labour rights

It is argued that supporting the rights of workers can enhance both economic growth and equitable growth. Much of this discussion centres upon the need to adopt the ILO's five core labour standards, which are seen to provide incentives for workers to stay with their employers, develop jobs-specific skills, leading to a decrease in employee turnover. Formalised employment encompassing the ILO's standards is also thought to prevent prices of goods from being drastically reduced as wages are maintained at a sufficient level. Workers' organisations have also been seen as potential drivers of change in developing country contexts, by holding powerful elites to account. Strategies to support the agenda of workers have therefore been explored.

Bivens, J. and Weller, C., 2003, 'Rights Make Might: Ensuring Workers' Rights as a Strategy for Economic Growth', Economic Policy Institute, Washington DC

Can workers' rights promote economic growth and stability? This paper outlines the economic case for implementing the International Labour Organisation's five core labour standards (CLS). It argues that enforcing worker rights results in higher economic growth and a better distribution of income.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1607>

Department for International Development, 2004, 'Labour Standards and Poverty Reduction', DFID, London

How can labour standards contribute to poverty reduction? This paper focuses on the nature and impact of labour standards in developing countries. Effective and well-judged implementation of labour standards can play an important role in reducing global poverty and achieving the MDGs. A commitment to core labour standards is part of a broader rights-based approach to poverty reduction.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1591>

Public financial management and accountability

Legal entitlements need to be translated into government policy priorities, with appropriate resource allocations, if rights are to be promoted, enforced and upheld. Public financial management links with human rights in a number of ways, including the way in which pro-poor public policy is enhanced through more responsive and rights-aware budgeting processes. This not only refers to resource allocation, but the budget process itself – for instance through participatory budgeting and budget monitoring. A human rights-based approach to public financial management therefore promotes – and upholds – accountability mechanisms whereby violations of human rights can be made known, as well as redressed. Public financial management is particularly associated with anti-corruption measures, which is a way of redressing human rights violations which occur through the redirecting of government resources from public services to private possession.

Norton, A. and Elson, D. 2002, 'What's Behind the Budget? Politics, Rights and Accountability in the Budget Process', Overseas Development Institute, London

This paper contributes to evolving a wider understanding of PEM and is part of a programme of work to progress DFID's human rights strategy. It looks at the ways in which a rights-based approach can advance pro-poor and gender-equitable outcomes in the budget process and support citizen accountability; and identifies partners, tools and methods that may help achieve these goals.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/402>

Hentschel, A-K., and Rebhan, C., 2008, 'Social and Human Rights Budgeting: Budget Monitoring, Participatory Monitoring and Human Rights', Conference Report for the Dialogue on Globalization, Friedrich Erbert Foundation, Berlin, December 9th 2008

http://www.tdh.de/fileadmin/user_upload/inhalte/04_Was_wir_tun/Themen/Kinder/Entwicklungspolitik_und_Kinder/Materialien_zum_Download/Social_and_human_rights_budgeting.pdf

Budlender, D., 2004, 'Budgeting to Fulfill International Gender and Human Rights Commitments', UNIFEM Zimbabwe

How can national budgets be monitored to assess their contribution to fulfilling international gender and human rights commitments? As part of its ongoing work supporting the gender analysis of budgets in Southern Africa, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) has designed a tool to support this process. It illustrates how various international instruments aimed at achieving gender equality can be used to evaluate gender responsive budgets (GRBs).

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1615>

ICHRP and Transparency International, 2009, 'Corruption and Human Rights: Making the Connection', International Council on Human Rights Policy, Versoix, Switzerland

http://www.ichrp.org/files/reports/40/131_web.pdf

Information

As empowerment, choice and accountability have become common concepts in development the right to information is an increasingly popular legislative change and area of advocacy. The right to information is protected in international, regional and national human rights instruments. This legally guaranteed access to information has enabled people to participate in governance and empowered them to push for the protection of other human rights. If enforced adequately and acted upon by rights-holders, the right to information is empowering and provides a key accountability mechanism between citizens and decision-makers. Further, a lack of information has been associated with ongoing human rights violations, which means that the right to information is viewed as a preventative instrument.

Anand, P. B., 2011, 'Right to Information and Local Governance: An Exploration', Journal of Human Development and Capabilities, Vol 12, No 1, pp. 135-151

Using four case studies in India, Indonesia, Uganda, and Nicaragua, this paper explores issues relating to right to information (RTI) and RTI laws, in the context of local governance. It proposes a framework tool which recognises the dynamic way in which RTI laws are developed. It argues that both formal and informal mechanisms can be used by NGOs and communities to hold local government institutions to account.

One-page summary: <http://www.informaworld.com/smp/content~db=all~content=a933531725~frm=abslink>

Daruwala, M. and Nayak, V. (eds), 2007, 'Our Rights, Our Information: Empowering People to Demand Rights through Knowledge', Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

Why is the right to information important? How can it be used, and how can it be effectively implemented by governments? This report provides case studies to show that information empowers people to demand adherence to the whole range of their human rights. By establishing the right to information in domestic law and by setting up public information systems, governments can enhance citizens' participation in governance, advance equitable economic development, reduce poverty and fight corruption.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display&type=Document&id=3078>

Darch, C., and Underwood, P., 2010, 'Struggles for Freedom of Information in Africa', in Freedom of Information and the Developing World: The Citizen, the State and Models of Openness, Chandos Publishing, Oxford

How far have rights to information progressed in Africa? The conditions that make information access rights both important and hard to implement are seen in their most extreme forms in Africa. This chapter presents case studies from Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Angola, Mozambique and South Africa. The advance of information rights in Africa has been limited. However, low-key activity indicates that some awareness exists. Further, if any resistance to the state is arguably a struggle over information, then it is important to listen for 'stifled voices of protest'.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display&type=Document&id=3736>

The right to information is also used to justify calls for increased aid transparency from donors and NGOs.

Access Info, 2009, 'The Aid Transparency Toolkit: What You Always Wanted to Know About Aid and How to Get the Information', Access Info, Madrid

http://www.access-info.org/documents/files/The_Aid_Transparency_Toolkit_-_Access_Info_22_October_2009.pdf

Rights and migration, livelihoods, housing, land and property

This section provides a selection of resources that explore the links between human rights, right-based approaches and a selection of sectors and themes. They include donor guidance and policy statements, academic research, and advocacy papers. Many of these documents aim to show how a rights-based approach helps to enhance existing sectoral work. The indivisibility or interdependence of rights also demonstrates that cross-sectoral working is essential for realising rights. A rights-based perspective helps to move beyond predominantly technical approaches, to recognise the need to address the wider political and social environment within which programmes occur. Rights often necessitate the use of new language or ways of thinking about how to make decisions and prioritise, with implications for policy formation.

Migration

Migrants are largely more vulnerable to rights violations or omissions. This is particularly the case in the labour market, where fair labour standards for migrant workers are a key concern.

ILO, 2004, 'Towards a Fair Deal for Migrant Workers in the Global Economy', International Labour Conference 92nd Session, ILO, Geneva.

Economic, political and demographic factors are causing increasing labour migration and associated pressures. How can this be better managed to protect human rights, maximise growth and development, and prevent clandestine flows and trafficking? This International Labour Organisation report draws lessons from the experience of both origin and host countries in managing migration to improve the treatment and conditions of migrant workers and their families. It aims to provide a basis for formulating sound recommendations for future action.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1641>

Livelihoods

Securing livelihoods and attaining sustainable development is a key component in poverty reduction. Sustainable livelihoods approaches and human rights based approaches are not necessarily mutually exclusive as approaches to reducing the burden of poverty. The promotion of livelihoods and sustainable development benefits from a human rights perspective which analyses of power relations, institutions and political context. A human rights based approach is seen to have added value in livelihood strategies for it focuses attention on people rather than 'providers', as well as promoting citizenship and meaningful participation in society.

Moser, C. and Norton, A., 2001, 'To Claim Our Rights: Livelihood Security, Human Rights, and Sustainable Development', Overseas Development Institute, London.

How can human rights contribute to the promotion of sustainable development and strengthen the livelihoods of poor people? This paper argues that a human rights perspective makes a difference by developing a more concrete understanding of social sustainability and by extension, sustainable development. It outlines a conceptual framework for the application of a human rights approach to strengthening sustainable development and livelihoods, which also serves as a useful guideline for practical implementation by donors.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1562>

Foresti, M., and Ludi, E., with Griffiths, R., 2007, 'Human Rights and Livelihood Approaches for Poverty Reduction', Poverty wellbeing Briefing Note, Overseas Development Institute/Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, London/Stockholm

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/1548.pdf>

Housing rights

How can housing rights be used to tackle problems of homelessness at local, national, regional and international level? In addition to being enshrined in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, housing rights are supported by a wide variety of other legal instruments. These instruments have been adopted successfully in many states with extremely diverse social, cultural, political and legal contexts. Experience has shown that women and indigenous people are particularly susceptible to housing rights violations due to their often disadvantageous status within society.

UN-Habitat, 2002, 'Housing Rights Legislation: Review of International and National Legal Instruments', UN Housing Rights Programme, Report No. 1, UN-HABITAT, Nairobi

<http://www.unhabitat.org/programmes/housingrights/documents/HS-638.pdf>

Scholtz, B., and Gomez, M., 2004, 'Bringing Equality Home: Promoting and Protecting the Inheritance Rights of Women', Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions, Geneva

How and why are women's rights to adequate housing systematically violated in sub-Saharan Africa? How can national and international actors change customary and statutory law and practice to improve this situation? This report provides an overview of the local legal tools that already exist and those that need reforming or putting into place in ten African countries. It argues that strategies based on human rights can effect change if pursued with strength and persistence.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1663>

UN-HABITAT, 2005, 'Indigenous People's Right to Adequate Housing. A Global Overview', UN Housing Rights Programme, UN-HABITAT, Nairobi

To what extent do indigenous peoples in different parts of the world enjoy the right to adequate housing? This report illustrates the lack of adequate housing and consequent poor living conditions of indigenous peoples worldwide. The study was undertaken within the framework of the United Nations Housing Rights Programme – a joint initiative of UN-HABITAT and the OHCHR. It includes a review of relevant literature, identification of case studies and the collection of primary data. Seven case studies are drawn from ten countries: Australia, Canada, Ecuador, Finland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, the Philippines, the Russian Federation and Sweden. Adequate housing for indigenous people is a critical human rights concern and there is a profound connection between indigenous peoples' rights to land and rights to housing.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1639>

Land and property rights

There appears to be a general consensus that investing poor people with land and property rights has positive social and economic outcomes, or at least does not harm social standing or the ability of beneficiaries to improve productivity, access to credit, increase income and encourage social and economic investment in land, property or other things such as education, health or other income-generating activities. However there is debate as to whether interventions such as land titling always lead to pro-poor outcomes due to the increased burden of servicing bills and related payments. A perceived challenge to address is how the formalisation of land rights based on individualised European tenure has adversely affected the poor people's access to common land due to the erosion of customary rights and common property interests.

Boudreaux, K. and Dragos Aligica, P., 2007, 'Paths to Property: Approaches to Institutional Change in International Development', Institute of Economic Affairs, London

What are the best strategies for creating an institutional environment conducive to securing stable property rights? This publication draws on examples from sub-Saharan Africa to illustrate a process-oriented view of institutional change. There is no 'correct' path to property rights protection. Only by understanding the historical and institutional context can sustainable reform and its consequent economic dividends be achieved. Property rights policy should be regarded as a strategic and dynamic process, rather than as a blueprint-based exercise in social engineering.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display&type=Document&id=3196>

Ikdahl, I., et al., 2005, 'Human Rights, Formalisation and Women's Land Rights in Southern and Eastern Africa', Institute of Women's Law, University of Oslo

Land is a vital resource for rural livelihoods. How far has land reform advanced and how effectively has gender equality been implemented in five countries in Southern and Eastern Africa? What problems need to be resolved and what are the forces resisting change? This report adopts the human rights based approach to spell out a human rights framework for gender-equal and non-discriminatory land reform/formalisation processes.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1631>

Galiani, S., and Schargrodsky, E., 2010, 'Property Rights for the Poor: The Effects of Land Titling', Working Paper, Social Sciences Research Network

Secure property rights are considered a key determinant of economic development, but examining the effects of land titling programmes is complex. Are they a tool for rapid poverty reduction? Would credit accessed through land ownership be invested as capital in productive projects, increasing labour productivity and income? This study of land allocation in Argentina examines the effects on a very deprived group, concluding that land titling can be an important tool for impacting poverty. However, the programme did not open up a rapid route to credit access and entrepreneurial income, but a slow channel of increased physical and human capital investment, contributing to poverty reduction for future generations.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display&type=Document&id=3907>

Rashid, H., 2010, 'Land Rights and the Millennium Development Goals: How the legal empowerment approach can make a difference', in Legal Empowerment: Practitioners' Perspectives, ed S. Golub, International Development Law Organization, Rome, pp. 217-233

What is the relationship between land rights and the MDGs? This chapter argues that community-based organizations, representing the land rights of the poor, must be an integral part of an effective land governance system.

http://www.idlo.int/Documents/Legal_Empowerment_Practitioners_Perspectives_Book.pdf

Hatcher, J., Palombi, L., and Mathieu, P., 2010, 'Securing the land rights of the rural poor: experiences in legal empowerment', in Legal Empowerment: Practitioners' Perspectives, ed S. Golub, International Development Law Organization, Rome, pp. 235-250

This paper provides examples of legal empowerment initiatives to secure the land rights of the rural poor from Africa (Niger, Madagascar, Rwanda, DRC, Mozambique, Namibia, Burkina Faso and Mali), South America (Bolivia, Guatemala and Peru), and Asia (India, the Philippines).

http://www.idlo.int/Documents/Legal_Empowerment_Practitioners_Perspectives_Book.pdf

Rights and health, water and sanitation

The links between human rights, right-based approaches and a selection of sectors and themes are increasingly playing a guiding role in sector policy debates. Rights perspectives are used as both a diagnostic tool and a policy and programmatic response. The burgeoning literature on human rights and a number of health, water and sanitation issues include donor guidance and policy statements, academic research, and advocacy papers. Many of these documents aim to show how a rights-based approach helps to enhance existing sectoral work. The indivisibility or interdependence of rights also demonstrates that cross-sectoral working is essential for realising rights.

Rights help to move beyond predominantly technical approaches, to recognise the need to address the wider political and social environment within which programmes occur. Rights often necessitate the use of new language or ways of thinking about how to make decisions and prioritise, with implications for policy formation.

Health: an overview

Human rights standards include the right to life and survival. Therefore, human rights can be viewed as intrinsically linked to equitable health outcomes, as well as increased opportunities for those living in poverty to access health services. The realisation of human rights, therefore, is understood as having a positive effect on health outcomes. This poses the question as to whether health problems are tantamount to human rights violations.

A key discussion in the health literature is how service delivery can be made more effective. It is argued that a rights-based approach in healthcare can facilitate greater responsiveness in healthcare systems. This also concerns issues relating to voice and accountability in service delivery.

OHCHR/WHO, 2008, 'The Right to Health: Fact Sheet No. 31', OHCHR/WHO, Geneva

What is the right to health, and what are countries' obligations in realising it? This paper outlines the right to health in international human rights law, implications for states, risks facing specific groups, and accountability and monitoring mechanisms. All states must: 1) respect the right to health, refraining from interfering directly or indirectly with it; 2) protect this right by preventing third parties from interfering with it; and 3) fulfil it through legislative, administrative, budgetary, judicial, promotional and other measures. Priority obligations are non-discrimination and concrete, deliberate and targeted steps as part of a national strategy.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display&type=Document&id=3862>

Braveman, P., and Gruskin, S., 2003, 'Poverty, Equity, Human Rights and Health', Bulletin of the World Health Organisation, vol. 81, no. 7

How do poverty, equity and human rights relate to health? This study suggests that they are closely linked conceptually and operationally and that each provides valuable, unique guidance for health institutions' work. Equity and human rights perspectives can contribute to health institutions' efforts to tackle poverty and health. Focusing on poverty is essential to operationalising those commitments.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1597>

Hunt, P., 2007, 'Neglected Diseases: A Human Rights Analysis', Social, Economic and Behavioural Research Special Topics, no. 6, World Health Organization, Geneva

How can a human rights approach contribute to the fight against neglected diseases? Neglected diseases are understood to be those primarily affecting people living in poverty in developing countries, particularly in rural areas. This report aims to equip practitioners with an understanding of how human rights abuses can both cause and result from neglected diseases.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display&type=Document&id=2816>

Gostin, L. et al., 2003, 'The Domains of Health Responsiveness: A Human Rights Analysis', Health and Human Rights Working Paper Series, No.2, World Health Organisation, Geneva

What do human rights have in common with the responsiveness of healthcare systems? This report argues that the improvement of health is the main goal of health systems. It outlines eight domains of healthcare responsiveness and sets out how they can be understood through human rights principles, and in the context of international human rights instruments.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1682>

Additional Information

Harvard School of Public Health - The François-Xavier Bagnoud (FXB) Center for Health and Human Rights

The FXB Center for Health and Human Rights focuses on the practical dynamic between the issues of health and human rights. It aims to build a conceptual basis of the right to health and drive advocacy initiatives to incorporate human rights

norms into international health policy.
<http://www.harvardfbcenter.org/>

Maternal health

As a key Millennium Development Goal, strategies for reducing maternal health can be supported through a right-based approach. This means adopting a wider strategy that moves beyond scaling-up service delivery and focuses upon the accessibility of services, accountability of service providers to rights holders, and the political, social and institutional factors which affect women's maternal health. The guiding principles of a rights-based approach to maternal health include non-discrimination and equity.

Hawkins, K. et al., 2005, 'Developing a Human Rights-Based Approach to Addressing Maternal Mortality. Desk Review', DFID Health Resource Centre, London

Can a rights-based approach reduce maternal mortality? Can its focus on equity improve health outcomes for poor women? This review argues that rights-based approaches can add impetus to reducing maternal mortality. It argues that policy actors in government and civil society should find ways of addressing the economic, social, cultural and political forces that prevent poor women from asserting their right to maternal health.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1593>

Department for International Development, 2005, 'How to Reduce Maternal Deaths: Rights and Responsibilities', How to Note, DFID, London

How can a rights-based approach enhance programmes to reduce maternal death? This note shows how a rights-based approach adds value to public health and health systems approaches. It argues that reducing maternal deaths is not a purely technical action but one that challenges the political and social status quo and requires actions within and beyond the health sector.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display&type=Document&id=1550>

OHCHR, 2010, 'Report of the Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights on Preventable Maternal Mortality and Morbidity and Human Rights', OHCHR Geneva

http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/14session/A.HRC.14.39_AEV-2.pdf

HIV and AIDS

A rights-based approach in the area of HIV/AIDS can be used to mitigate the effects of the illness, by preventing stigma and discrimination, but also by preventing its spread and the long-term effects it has upon children affected by the illness. A rights perspective in HIV/AIDS programming therefore contributes to social inclusion, the inter-generational transmission of poverty, and upon the rate at which HIV/AIDS spreads. It is important to note that HIV/AIDS also has detrimental psychological impacts upon those it affects and that by investing those affected with rights, rights-based approaches offer a level of empowerment to individuals and groups.

David Stephens and Mia Urbano, 2010, HIV and Legal Empowerment, in Legal Empowerment: Practitioners' Perspectives, ed S. Golub, International Development Law Organization, Rome

How can legal empowerment advance the human rights of people living with and vulnerable to HIV? This study explores how HIV legal empowerment strategies are evolving. It shows that the law has been the axis around which debates have revolved on the restriction or promotion of rights. For a person experiencing HIV-related stigma, a legal empowerment approach affirms and restores his or her humanity and citizenship and supports psychological wellbeing. These are essential dimensions of overall welfare and health.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display&type=Document&id=4228>

Grainger, C. et al., 2001, 'Children Affected by HIV/AIDS: Rights and Responses in the Developing World', Save the Children-UK, London

What is the situation of children affected by HIV/AIDS who live in poor countries? This paper tackles this question, and analyses the responses of households, communities, programming organisations, governments and donors. Generations of children are growing up in Africa whose rights are being challenged by HIV/AIDS, and whose capacity to develop as adults is being curtailed. The paper emphasises the importance of improved monitoring and evaluation, and dissemination of lessons learned. It also recommends that agencies adopt a rights-based approach that mobilises communities and provides economic support through micro-finance.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1677>

Aggleton, P. et al, 2005, 'HIV-related Stigma, Discrimination and Human Rights Violations: Case Studies of Successful Programmes', UNAIDS Best Practice Collection, Geneva

Stigma and discrimination have fuelled the transmission of HIV and increased the negative impact of the epidemic. How can HIV-related discrimination be addressed in order to achieve public health goals and overcome the epidemic? UNAIDS

examines this question, drawing on a range of case studies from all over the world. Stigma, discrimination and human rights violations are intimately linked, reinforcing and legitimising each other. Multi-faceted action, sustained over time, is needed to prevent stigma, challenge discrimination and promote and protect HIV-related human rights.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1638>

Sexual and reproductive rights

Sexual and reproductive health is increasingly being viewed as both a human right and an integral part of achieving the Millennium Development Goals. However, universal access to sexual and reproductive health facilities and support is far from being realised. Rights-based approaches are presented as a solution to this problem, as well as a means. A rights perspective offers an analytical tool with which to identify root causes of prevention, access and treatment problems, as well as a concrete response tool in order to promote the rights and responsibilities of relevant actors. This also encompasses acute concern with violence against women and the extent to which women can access justice against the perpetrators of violent acts.

Kols, A, 2003, 'A Rights-Based Approach to Reproductive Health', UNFPA/Programme for Appropriate Technology in Health, Seattle

Effectively addressing reproductive health problems calls for an integrated, rights-based approach that draws on the fields of health, ethics, law and human rights. This approach can provide analytical tools to identify root causes and inequities, shape humane and effective programmes and policies, and pressure governments into working proactively. This issue of Outlook outlines the principles, benefits, obligations and implementation of such an approach.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1644>

Department for International Development, 2004, 'Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: A Position Paper', DFID, London

Sexual and reproductive health is a human right, essential to human development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. This paper reviews achievements since the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), sets out DFID's position on sexual and reproductive health and rights, and its view of the future. Important progress has been made, but there remains much to be done to achieve universal access to reproductive health services by 2015.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1647>

Crichton, J., Nyamu Musembi, C. and Ngugi, A., 2008, 'Painful Tradeoffs: Intimate-partner Violence and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights in Kenya', IDS Working Paper no 312, Institute of Development Studies, Brighton.

How does intimate-partner violence affect Kenyan women's rights? How can the government, NGOs, and the legal and healthcare systems support abused women? This paper explores links between intimate-partner violence and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) rights in Nairobi. Significant gaps exist between formal legal rights and the realities experienced by individuals. Legal reform, improved services for affected women and better coordination among service providers are required.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display&type=Document&id=3200>

Water and Sanitation

The international campaign for a human right to water and sanitation has gathered huge momentum in the last decade, particularly in response to the privatisation of water provision in many instances. Whilst rights-based perspectives on water and sanitation play an increasing role in government policy discussions, embedding water and sanitation in the human rights discourse still requires fundamental changes in the following three areas: policy and legislation; service delivery and accountability; and attitudinal and behavioural change at all levels.

As in the health sector, enshrining the human right to water and sanitation in official laws and treaties is not sufficient: a service-delivery approach is necessary in order to implement and maintain adequate systems which function to identify the greatest need, introduce participation, recognise the roles and responsibilities of a variety of actors, and provide clear accountability mechanisms.

Sultana, F. and Loftus, A. (eds.), 2011, 'The Right to Water: Politics, Governance and Social Struggles', Earthscan

This book analyses how struggles for the right to water have attempted to translate moral arguments over access to safe water into workable claims. It engages with approaches that focus on philosophical, legal and governance perspectives, and applies these to case studies from around the world.

Access introductory chapter via BLDS document delivery: <http://blids.ids.ac.uk/directory/catalogue-record/rn/330861>

DFID, 2011, 'Assessing the Impact of a Right to Sanitation on Improving Levels of Access and Quality of Services: Executive Summary', DFID in association with Coffey International Development, London

Does formal recognition of a right to sanitation (RTS) increase levels of availability and access to quality, affordable and

adaptable sanitation services? This study finds that progress towards these goals seems to be faster in countries that have recognised an RTS. It is highly probable that sanitation services in countries seeking to fulfil an RTS will be more equitable and inclusive than elsewhere. However, attributing successes to a rights approach will require better monitoring and evaluation that includes rights-sensitive indicators. A further finding is that what makes formal recognition meaningful is a participatory approach to working to fulfil rights: citizen-state engagement is crucial.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display&type=Document&id=4210>

COHRE, UN-HABITAT, WaterAid, SDC, 2008, 'Sanitation: A Human Rights Imperative', Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions, Geneva

<http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=2927>

Irujo, A. E., 2008, 'The Right to Water', Chapter 4, in Asit, K., Biswas, E.R., and Tortajada, C., (eds), 'Water as Human Right for the Middle East and North Africa', Routledge/IDRC, Ottawa.

http://web.idrc.ca/es/ev-127191-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html

COHRE, AAAS, SDC and UN-HABITAT, 2007, 'Manual on the Right to Water and Sanitation', Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions, Geneva.

<http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=2536>

Rights and education, justice, social protection and the environment

What is the relation between human rights, rights-based approaches and education, justice and the environment? How do human rights perspectives influence approaches to social protection as a preventative, protective, promotive and transformative set of interventions?

Much of the literature concerning these links offers donor policy statements, guidance and advocacy papers arguing that a rights-based approach helps to enhance existing sectoral work and that the indivisibility or interdependence of rights demonstrates that cross-sectoral working is essential for the realisation of rights. Rights help to move beyond predominantly technical approaches, to recognise the need to address the wider political and social environment within which programmes occur. Rights often necessitate the use of new language or ways of thinking about how to make decisions and prioritise, with implications for policy formation.

The application of rights-based approaches in these sectors places an emphasis on social mobility, access, equity, equality of opportunity, the role of the state (or other institutions) in recognising human rights, and the role of citizens in demanding their rights be realised. However, recognising and demanding rights is only part of the story: it is essential that different actors possess an awareness of what the implications of human rights are within different sectors. A good example of rights-based approaches can be realised in social protection interventions, which are thought to encompass 'transformative' elements which challenge unequal power relations and lay the ground for equity in all service delivery sectors.

Education

Tomasevski, K., 2004, 'Manual on Rights-based Education: Global Human Rights Requirements Made Simple', UNESCO, Bangkok

How can rights-based strategies be used for furthering the goal of Education for All (EFA) by 2015? This manual argues for mainstreaming human rights in education in order to contribute both to EFA and to the fulfilment of the right to education. It highlights the relevant human rights standards and how they could best be translated into education practice at the micro level. It also points to the key human rights questions that ought to be addressed at the macro level.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1599>

Gauri, V., 2003, 'Social Rights and Economics: Claims to Health Care and Education in Developing Countries', Policy Research Working Paper 3006, World Bank, Washington DC

What are the foundations and uses of social rights in development? What are the differences and similarities between the rights approach to health care and education, and the economic approach? This article analyses both approaches and their policy consequences, and looks at the questions economics poses for rights approaches. It argues that there is considerable overlap between the two and that the differences are not irreconcilable.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1601>

The **Right to Education project** conducts research and provides access to information and resources on education rights, legal accountability, and social mobilisation.

<http://www.right-to-education.org/>

Justice

UNDP, 2008, 'Making the Law Work for Everyone', Volume 1, Report of the Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor, United Nations Development Programme, New York

How can legal empowerment reduce poverty? This report explores the relationship between poverty and access to justice. Four billion people cannot better their lives because they are excluded from the rule of law, their work and assets insecure and unprotected. A renewed anti-poverty agenda is needed to include the majority of the world's population in the systems of rights and obligations that foster prosperity.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display&type=Document&id=3140>

Tomasevski, K., 2005, 'Strengthening Pro-poor Law: Legal Enforcement of Economic and Social Rights', Human Rights and Poverty Reduction Background Paper, ODI, London

How can human rights legislation expose and oppose violations of economic and social rights? This paper looks at the key lessons that can be learnt from the relatively recent processes of human rights litigation worldwide. Importantly, the legal enforcement of human rights can support anti-poverty policies, since the poor are more victimised by violations of rights than the rich.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1648>

Piron, L-H., 2005, 'Donor Assistance to Justice Sector Reform in Africa: Living Up to the New Agenda?' Justice Initiative, Open Society

Is donor assistance to promote justice sector reform grounded in an adequate and appropriate understanding of African realities? Does it complement or conflict with the new poverty reduction agenda? This paper outlines the history and current status of justice sector aid in sub-Saharan Africa. Justice sector aid could be a pro-poor, long term, developmental endeavour that contributes to the realisation of human rights, but only if key changes take place.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1618>

Olsen, T., Payne, L. and Reiter, A., 2010, 'The Justice Balance: When Transitional Justice Improves Human Rights and Democracy', Human Rights Quarterly, vol. 32, no. 4, pp. 980-1007

Evidence from the Transitional Justice Data Base shows that specific combinations of mechanisms – (1) trials and amnesties, and (2) trials, amnesties and truth commissions – improve human rights and democracy. These findings suggest a 'justice balance' approach to transitional justice – that trials provide accountability and amnesties provide stability. Truth commissions alone have a negative impact on human rights and democracy, but contribute positively when combined with trials and amnesties.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display&type=Document&id=4165>

The GSDRC's **Topic Guide on Justice** contains information related to human rights, particularly on its [access to justice](#) and [transitional justice](#) pages.

<http://www.gsdr.org/go/topic-guides/justice>

Social protection

Piron, L-H., 2004, 'Rights-Based Approaches to Social Protection', Overseas Development Institute, London.

What can rights based approaches (RBAs) offer to social protection agendas? This paper explores the relationship between human rights standards, principles and programming and policies and interventions for social protection in countries worldwide. RBAs offer normative standards and principles, analytical tools and operational guidance and there is a strong congruence between RBAs and social protection.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1617>

Sabates-Wheeler, R. and Devereux, S., 2007, 'Social Protection for Transformation', IDS Bulletin, vol. 38, no. 3, pp.23-28

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1759-5436.2007.tb00368.x/abstract>

Ginneken, W. V., 2009, 'Social Security and the Socio-Economic Floor: Towards a Human Rights-based Approach', Global Social Policy, vol. 9, no. 2, pp. 228-245

<http://gsp.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/9/2/228>

The GSDRC's **Topic Guide on Social Protection** provides more detailed information on how social protection can facilitate the realisation of human rights within development.

<http://www.gsdr.org/go/topic-guides/social-protection>

Environment

An emerging topic of discussion and policy concern is how human rights are challenged by environmental problems. Climate change is threatening the realisation of internationally protected human rights, including the right to life and security; the right to food; the right to subsistence; and the right to health. Moreover, those most affected by climate change are individuals and groups whose rights protections are already precarious.

Raworth, K., 2008, 'Climate Wrongs and Human Rights: Putting People at the Heart of Climate-Change Policy', Oxfam Briefing Paper 117, Oxfam International, Oxford

What do human rights principles imply for states' responsibilities in tackling climate change? What rights-based policy approaches and actions are needed? This paper argues that rich countries are violating the human rights of millions of the world's poorest people by failing to tackle climate change. Excessive greenhouse-gas emissions cause climatic events which are set to undermine people's rights to life, security, food, water, health, shelter, and culture on a massive scale. Human rights principles must be put at the heart of climate change policy-making and international legal mechanisms must adapt to global interconnectness in order to stop irreversible damage to humanity's future.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display&type=Document&id=3075>

International Council on Human Rights Policy, 2008, 'Climate Change and Human Rights: A Rough Guide', Versoix, Geneva

How can human rights principles help to focus climate change policymaking? This report discusses the human rights impacts of climate change and maps research agendas. Climate change responses can be made more effective if policymakers include human rights thresholds (minimum acceptable levels of protection) when assessing future impacts of

climate change and of adaptation and mitigation strategies.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display&type=Document&id=3080>

Cameron, E., 2011, 'Development, Climate Change and Human Rights: From the Margins to the Mainstream?', Social Development Working Paper 123, World Bank, Washington DC

What are the social and political implications of a discourse linking climate change and human rights? How is this discourse relevant for development practitioners? The human rights lens has rapidly emerged from obscurity to prominence and has succeeded in broadening the scope of climate change debate. This paper predicts that vulnerable groups worldwide will increasingly use arguments based on human rights to demand action. However, this discourse will need to adapt and demonstrate practical value for policymaking in order to achieve substantive outcomes.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display&type=Document&id=4163>

See also the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights report on human rights and climate change submitted to the General Assembly in 2009: <http://reliefweb.int/node/301553>.

Rights, groups and discrimination

Denials or violations of rights tend to be based on social exclusion and discrimination. Social exclusion occurs where particular individuals or groups are excluded by (or adversely incorporated into) mainstream society from participating fully in economic, social and political life. In order to combat this, increasing attention is being paid to how to facilitate greater – and more equitable – inclusion. It is argued that greater equality in the distribution of economic resources, measured by distribution of income and access to land, is related to higher levels of human rights protections.

Discrimination can work explicitly, through institutions, norms and values. It can also have invisible impacts, where values and ideas affect the self-perceptions of excluded people and their capabilities to claim their rights. Rights-based approaches to development therefore emphasise non-discrimination, inclusion, and empowerment, aimed particularly at vulnerable or marginalised individuals and groups such as women, children, people with disabilities, older people and migrants.

Thinking about rights and exclusion necessitates a consideration of the role of various informal institutions and ‘rules of the game’ within formal settings. Again, human rights legislation to combat exclusion must be accompanied by relevant enforcement mechanisms which are framed on the basis of a variety of social, political and economic influences.

O'Neill, T., Piron, L-H., 2003, 'Rights-Based Approaches to Tackling Discrimination and Horizontal Inequality', Overseas Development Institute, London

How can discrimination and horizontal inequality be combated? In many societies there is a strong dimension of horizontal inequality, meaning gaps in well-being between clearly defined groups (for example, along lines of gender or ethnicity). Frequently, a lack of respect for equal rights and difficulties in claiming entitlements are major factors underlying poverty, contributing to economic and social exclusion. This paper reviews the importance of human rights, the extent, nature and processes of discrimination and how far states combat it. It presents the potential contribution of rights-based approaches by governments, civil society and international donors to combating discrimination and inequalities.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1624>

Landman, T. and Larizza, M., 2009, 'Inequality and Human Rights: Who Controls What, When, and How', International Studies Quarterly, vol. 53, no. 3, pp. 715-736

Are countries with resource distribution inequalities more likely to suffer from higher levels of human rights abuse? This article analyses data from 162 countries over the period from 1980 to 2004. The results suggest that both income and land inequalities significantly contribute to human rights abuses.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display&type=Document&id=3618>

International Council on Human Rights Policy, 2004, 'Enhancing Access to Human Rights', ICHRP, Geneva

Why do so many people not enjoy rights to which they are entitled? What needs to be done beyond law and legal reform to ensure that rights and entitlements are accessible to all? This report analyses the role that institutions play in alleviating or exacerbating social exclusion. It concludes that human rights organisations need to reposition themselves to become relevant to the very poor and those who suffer systemic discrimination.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1067>

Women

Molyneux, M., Razavi, S., 2003, 'Gender Justice, Development and Rights', UNRISD, Geneva

The 1990s saw positive changes in women's rights and human rights more broadly, with growth in the size and influence of the international women's movement. Linked regionally and internationally, the movement was able to collaborate on issues of policy and agenda setting. This paper summarises a book of the same name published by Oxford University Press. It examines ways in which liberal rights, and ideas of democracy and justice have been incorporated into these agendas in three aspects: Social sector restructuring and social rights in a neoliberal economic policymaking era; the democratisation and politics of gender; and universalism and multiculturalism in practice.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1790>

Neuhold, B., 2005, 'Focus on Human Rights and Gender Justice: Linking the Millennium Development Goals with the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Beijing Platform for Action', United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS)

What are the interlinkages between the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)? This paper explores the three instruments and offers a feminist analysis of the MDGs. It emphasises that the MDGs must be developed further from the perspective of human rights, poverty reduction and the empowerment of women.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1651>

Goetz, A-M., 2007, 'Gender Justice, Citizenship and Entitlements - Core Concepts, Central Debates and New Directions for Research', in Gender Justice, Citizenship and Development, eds. M. Mukhopadhyay and N. Singh, International Development Research Centre, Ottawa, pp. 15-57

Why have efforts at law reform and progress in exposing gender biases in formal legal systems failed to bring about gender justice? This chapter links current thinking on gender justice to debates on citizenship, entitlements, rights, law and development. It argues that equal citizenship, whilst key to the struggle for gender justice, does not guarantee it.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display&type=Document&id=2755>

UNESCAP, 2009, 'Harmful Traditional Practices in Three Countries of South Asia: Culture, Human Rights and Violence against Women', Gender and Development Discussion Paper, no. 21, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok

How can research, advocacy, and legal reform reverse social acceptance of practices that violate the human rights of women and girls? This paper explores these issues through case studies from Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka and finds that harmful practices have evolved from originally non-harmful colonial, religious and cultural traditions. Combating the entrenched social norms that promote these practices requires a comprehensive, human rights-based approach.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display&type=Document&id=3607>

Tadros, M., 2011, 'Introduction: Gender, Rights and Religion at the Crossroads', IDS Bulletin, vol. 42, no. 1, pp. 1-9

How has the new approach to religion since 9/11 impacted on efforts to address women's rights? How has it affected women's day to day realities? This article examines various forms of instrumentalisation of religion, gender and human rights, against the backdrop of today's volatile political context, the rise of identity politics and increased economic inequality and deprivation. It argues that the binaries of religious versus secular, moderate Islamist versus radical Islamist, feminist versus Muslim activist, conceal the ambiguities and fluidity of identities, strategies of engagement and framing of ideas. They are undermining efforts to improve the lives of women.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display&type=Document&id=4227>

Adolescents

UNICEF, 2011, 'Realising the Rights of Adolescents', in The State of the World's Children 2011: Adolescence - An Age of Opportunity, UNICEF, New York, pp.16-39

Realizing the rights of adolescents and advancing their development requires a keen understanding of their current circumstances. This chapter examines the state of adolescent health and education and gender and protection issues.

http://www.unicef.org/sowc2011/pdfs/SOWC-2011-Main-Report_EN_02092011.pdf

Children

Grandjean, A., 2010, 'No Rights Without Accountability: Promoting Access to Justice for Children', in Legal Empowerment: Practitioners' Perspectives, ed S. Golub, International Development Law Organization, Rome, pp 265-284

What can be done to improve children's access to justice? This paper focuses on intervention at two levels: (1) building a child-sensitive justice system (the supply side); and (2) providing information and support to children in claiming for their rights and obtaining redress on the other (the demand side). At both levels, the focus must be on the most excluded and the most difficult to reach.

http://www.idlo.int/Documents/Legal_Empowerment_Practitioners_Perspectives_Book.pdf

UNICEF, 2004, 'State of the World's Children 2005: Childhood Under Threat', UNICEF, New York

Childhood is the foundation of the world's hope for a better future yet millions of children grow up amid poverty, conflict and disease. The gap between the reality and the ideal of childhood is the focus of this report. What does childhood mean for children and for countries? What must be done if the rights of all children are to be protected and the Millennium Development Goals met? The paper calls for swift and decisive action from the entire international community to ensure that every child enjoys a childhood.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1654>

People with disabilities

Handicap International, 2010, 'Rights in Action - Good Practices for Inclusive Local Governance in West Africa', Handicap International

In West Africa, 7 countries (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and Benin) have taken part in an initiative called "Rights in Action", aimed at collecting good practices from multiple stakeholders on how to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). This report provides examples to help enhance participation of people with disabilities in decision-making at community level.

<http://www.handicap->

international.org.uk/Resources/Handicap%20International/PDF%20Documents/HI%20Associations/RightsInAction_2010.pdf

Meekosha, H. and Soldatic, K. 2011, 'Human Rights and the Global South: The Case of Disability', Third World Quarterly, Vol. 32, No. 8, p.p 1383–1398

How can human rights instruments contribute to the struggle for disability justice in the South? This article argues that while Northern discourses promote an examination of disabled bodies in social dynamics, the politics of impairment in the global South must understand social dynamics in bodies.

<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/routledg/ctwq/2011/00000032/00000008/art00002>

Groce, N., Kett, M., Lang, R. and Trani, J.F., 2011, 'Disability and Poverty: the need for a more nuanced understanding of implications for development policy and practice', Third World Quarterly, Vol. 32, No. 8, pp.1493-1513

This article reviews existing knowledge and theory regarding the disability–poverty nexus. It calls for more nuanced analysis of poverty and disability, in particular what does poverty mean at the level of the individual, the household, the community and broader society, and how is it experienced over the course of a lifetime? What are the most important causal factors driving the disability-poverty nexus? What benchmarks and indicators should be used?

<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/routledg/ctwq/2011/00000032/00000008/art00008>

Older people

Beales, S., 2000, 'The Mark of a Noble Society: Human Rights and Older People', HelpAge International, London

Older women and men are now the world's fastest-growing population group, and among the poorest. What barriers do older people face in having their predicaments acknowledged and their contributions supported? How can their rights be promoted and protected? There is a compelling economic as well as moral logic for including older people in global strategies to combat poverty to further human rights. This paper explores the relationship between poverty and human rights, and the barriers older people face.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1627>

Migrants

Kothari, U., 2002, 'Migration and Chronic Poverty', Chronic Poverty Research Centre, IDPM, Manchester

What is the relationship between chronic, or long-term, poverty and processes of migration? While livelihoods strategies are diverse and multiple, for many poor people migration represents a central component of these. How can research examine the characteristics of those who move and stay and what compels them? This paper identifies possible future research priorities for the Chronic Poverty Research Centre. It presents migration as both a cause and consequence of chronic poverty for migrants and those left behind.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1652>

Lean Lim, L. et al, 2003, 'An Information Guide: Preventing Discrimination, Exploitation and Abuse of Women Migrant Workers', International Labour Organisation, Geneva

Increasingly, women, and Asian women in particular, are migrating legally or illegally for overseas employment. These women are extremely vulnerable to exploitation and abuse, outside of the legal protection of their home countries and in jobs not covered by labour legislation. This information guide consists of six booklets, addressing all aspects of migrant work and including recommendations for preventing discrimination, exploitation and abuse. With appropriate knowledge, policies and tools, international migration could be a positive experience for all.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1578>

Minorities and indigenous peoples

Justino, P. and Litchfield, J., n.d., 'Economic Exclusion and Discrimination: The Experience of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples', Minority Rights Group International, London

What is the link between economic exclusion and discrimination against ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and indigenous peoples? What are the implications for poverty reduction and development strategies? This paper finds sufficient evidence to suggest that discrimination is often a strong contributing factor to the exclusion of minorities and indigenous people. Discrimination on the basis of membership of an ethnic, religious or linguistic group should be examined alongside other forms of discrimination to strengthen policy strategies for overcoming economic exclusion.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1621>

Lennox, C., 2003 'Minority and Indigenous Peoples' Rights in the Millennium Development Goals', Minority Rights Group International, London

How can human rights and poverty alleviation best be achieved among minorities and indigenous people? This report argues that greater effort is needed to ensure that these groups benefit fairly from development and the international commitment to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Governments and development agencies need to

review their MDG policies immediately to ensure that the rights and needs of minorities and indigenous peoples are fully considered.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1569>

Sexual Minorities

Oxfam, 2010, 'Break Another Silence: Understanding Sexual Minorities and Taking Action for Sexual Rights in Africa', Oxfam, London

<http://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/publications/break-another-silence-understanding-sexual-minorities-and-taking-action-for-sex-125679>

Additional information resources

HelpAge International

<http://www.helpage.org/>

Minority Rights Group

<http://www.minorityrights.org/>

United Nations Enable

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/>

UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund

<http://www.unicef.org/>

UN Women

<http://www.unwomen.org/>

Rights, conflict and fragile states

There are complex relationships between rights and violent conflict, and between rights and fragile states. There is currently considerable donor interest in this area, but work remains exploratory. Where groups are socially excluded through persistent denial of their rights, evidence suggests this can act as a cause of violent conflict. In turn, conflicts cause denials of all kinds of human rights.

DFID defines fragile states as those where the government cannot or will not deliver core functions to the majority of its people, including the poor. This tends to involve multiple failures to fulfil the state's internationally defined obligations to protect and promote rights. Many states experiencing violent conflict could be defined as fragile states, compounding the impact on human rights. It is important to note that once violent conflicts begin, humanitarian law applies, and human rights law may be restricted.

Rights denials, exclusion and the causes of conflict

Some analyses of the causes of violent conflict point to the role played by exclusion and inequalities. The exclusion of certain groups from economic, social and political life can increase the incentives for these groups to engage in violence. Explanations of the causes of conflict have focused on the role of greed versus grievance. A human rights perspective focuses upon grievances as a driver of conflict. Grievances can become particularly severe where people are – or perceive themselves to be – socially excluded. Social exclusion is therefore a central way of analysing the impact of rights denials.

Paying attention to the rights of minorities is an effective strategy in conflict prevention, mitigation and resolution. It is a particularly useful way of assessing potential conflict in areas where there are high vertical or horizontal inequalities, such as in Sudan, Rwanda, and Sierra Leone.

Attention to human rights, not only in relation to the causes of conflicts, but also as a normative and practical intervention tool can contribute to the aims of conflict transformation. If forces greater emphasis on changing structural conditions, in particular addressing the role of the state, systems of governance and issues of power; and on empowering marginalised groups to challenge the status quo.

Srinivasan, S., 2006, 'Minority Rights, Early Warning and Conflict Prevention: Lessons from Darfur', Minority Rights Group International, London

What lessons can we learn from international engagement in the conflict in Darfur? This paper analyses events in the terms of structural and operational conflict prevention. It argues that the catalogue of political and institutional failures before and during the civil war indicates a need to address minority rights issues at every stage of conflict prevention. Institutional improvements in conflict prevention and early warning mechanisms will help avoid repeating the mistakes of Darfur in the future.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display&type=Document&id=2590>

Parlevliet, M., 2011, 'Human Rights and Conflict Transformation: Towards a More Integrated Approach' in 'Advancing Conflict Transformation: The Berghof Handbook II', eds. B. Austin, M. Fischer, H.J. Giessmann, Barbara Budrich Publishers, Opladen/Framington Hills

This chapter explores the notion that human rights violations can be both causes and consequences of violent conflict. It argues that the transformation of violent conflict to sustainable peace requires insights and strategies from both the human rights and the conflict transformation fields. Considering the two in conjunction enhances one's analysis of the underlying causes, dynamics and manifestations of conflict.

http://berghof-handbook.net/documents/publications/parlevliet_handbookII.pdf

Mamdani, M, 2001, 'Tutsi Power in Rwanda and the Citizenship Crisis in Eastern Congo', Chapter 8 in When Victims Become Killers: Colonialism, Nativism, and the Genocide in Rwanda, James Currey, Oxford

How can the invasion of Congo by the Rwandan Popular Front (RPF) be understood as an outcome of the citizenship crisis on both sides of the Rwanda-Congo border? This chapter tackles this question and traces the history of the Kinyarwanda-speaking minority in the Kivu region of Congo and their struggle for citizenship rights.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1678>

Archibald, S. and Richards, P., 2002, 'Seeds and Rights: New Approaches to Post-war Agricultural Rehabilitation in Sierra Leone', Disasters, vol. 26, no. 4, pp. 356-367

Can more equitable seed distribution contribute to fostering a culture of human rights as well as lead to agricultural rehabilitation? This study assesses seeds-and-tools programmes in 19 villages devastated during the civil war in central Sierra Leone. In these cases the targeting and distribution methods used by aid agencies denied assistance to those people it was intended for, exacerbating grievances and the threat of social disorder. An alternative, more inclusive, rights-based approach to seed distribution could lead to greater social inclusion and facilitate conflict resolution.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1680>

Security, rights and development

The lack of personal security for individuals represents a series of human rights denials and violations. At the same time, measures to promote security of people and states must be based in adherence to international human rights standards. A reflection – and key driver – of this approach is the UN Secretary General, who in 2004 began promoting an integrated agenda for international cooperation which combines security, development and human rights, based on arguments about their interdependence, within a the context of achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

United Nations Secretary General, 2004, 'A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility', Report of the Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, United Nations, New York

The changes that have taken place in the world since the Millennium Declaration demand that consensus be revitalised on key challenges and priorities. What are these and how can they best be achieved? This report suggests that security, development and human rights must be advanced together, otherwise none will succeed. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) can be met by 2015, but only if all governments dramatically increase their efforts.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1577>

Rights in fragile states

Fragile states are defined by DFID as those where the government cannot or will not deliver core functions to the majority of its people, including the poor. This covers a wide range of contexts, but often involves a combination of weak administrative capacity and territorial reach, lack of state control over the use of violence, and the lack of accountability to populations, particularly poor or marginalised people. Therefore high levels of human rights violations or denials are likely, due to the failure of governments to fulfil their international human rights obligations to protect and promote rights. The fragile states agenda is a relatively new one, and little has been written so far on how rights should best be protected. This may be partly because of the wide range of types of fragile state, and the variety of implications for rights.

Stewart, F. and Brown, G., 2009, 'Fragile States', CRISE Working Paper no. 51, Centre for Research on Inequality, Security and Ethnicity, Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford.

What constitutes a fragile state and how can the concept be operationalised for development policy? This paper proposes a three-pronged definition of fragility: states may be fragile because they lack authority, fail to provide services or lack legitimacy. Reversing these interrelated dimensions of fragility requires a tailored, comprehensive and long-term approach based on careful contextual analysis.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display&type=Document&id=3197>

In 2005, DFID supported the **ODI's Rights in Action group** to hold a series of seminars to explore the operational value of human rights for poverty reduction. One of the seminars focused on promoting human rights in fragile and conflict environments. See the:

Background paper: <http://www.odi.org.uk/rights/Meeting%20Series/RightsConflict&FragileStates.pdf>

Meeting report: <http://www.odi.org.uk/events/details.asp?id=75&title=protecting-rights-conflict-situations-fragile-states>

Further resources

The following organisations provide information on rights violations in all states, including states that could be defined as fragile and conflict-affected states:

Amnesty International
<http://www.amnesty.org/>

Human Rights Watch
<http://www.hrw.org/>

Rights monitoring and indicators

If international rights commitments are to have genuine impacts for individuals, action must be taken to ensure that duty bearers fulfil their responsibilities to protect and promote these rights. Rights monitoring of programmes and projects is also essential for assessing the effectiveness of rights-based approaches or ensuring that other development interventions are compatible with the protection and promotion of rights. In order to monitor the human rights situation in a given context, and the effectiveness of donor interventions, there is a need to formulate appropriate indicators which indicate the degree to which human rights are being upheld. Establishing indicators requires the gathering of adequate baseline data from which human rights-related progress can be measured.

The websites of the following NGOs provide information on the human rights records of individual country governments.

- **Amnesty International:** <http://www.amnesty.org/>
Amnesty International (AI) is a worldwide movement of people who campaign for internationally recognised human rights.
- **Human Rights Watch:** <http://www.hrw.org/>
Human Rights Watch (HRW) is a human rights organisation made up of lawyers, journalists, academics, and country experts who investigate and expose human rights violations in order to hold abusers accountable.

Monitoring state performance

Despite state commitments in international human rights treaties, violations of human rights are prevalent across the world. This section provides links to information on the various approaches to monitoring the progress of governments in meeting their obligations.

A treaty monitoring body or committee has been created for each of the international human rights treaties. Links to these treaty monitoring bodies can be found on the section on the [Human Rights Legal Framework](#) in this topic guide. These treaty monitoring committees work by assessing periodic reports submitted by governments that have ratified the treaty. In addition to the formal state reports, some treaty monitoring bodies allow NGOs to submit shadow reports, providing an alternative perspective. Links to online guidance for producing shadow reports aimed at civil society groups are provided below in [additional information resources](#).

Human rights indicators

Human rights indicators can be used to assess both state progress and programmes / projects with a human rights focus and/or component. Indicators for assessing progress in promoting rights are still in the early stages of development, and limited progress has been made towards developing commonly accepted systems. There are challenges over the design, weighting, collection and use of data to measure rights. For example, there is a methodological challenge in adequately reflecting the situation for vulnerable groups, while producing aggregate data. Another challenge concerns the design of indicators that are appropriate for a range of cultures and contexts. Alternative indicators may provide evidence where human rights-specific measures are unavailable. Examples include indicators on governance, corruption, electoral fraud, and human development. The use of indicators therefore has strong links to governance interventions, such as electoral reform.

Filmer-Wilson, E., 2005, 'Summary Report of Material Collated Regarding Practical Guidance to Implementing Rights Based Approaches, Human Rights Analyses for Poverty Reduction and Human Rights Benchmarks from Development Actors and Other Relevant Communities', DFID, London

To what extent are human rights being incorporated into development programmes? How can a human rights-based approach best be developed? This report brings together material collated from development organisations in four key areas: practical guidance on rights-based approaches, including case studies and checklists; analytical tools which feature human rights for understanding the causes and characteristics of poverty; human rights impact assessment; and human rights indicators to measure development progress.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1554>

Kalantry, S., Getgen, J. E. and Arrigg Koh, S., 2010, 'Enhancing Enforcement of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights Using Indicators: A Focus on the Right to Education in the ICESCR', Human Rights Quarterly, Vol. 32, pp.254-310

This article focuses on the right to education in the ICESCR to illustrate how indicators can be used to ascertain treaty compliance and violations.

http://www.escr-net.org/usr_doc/Enhancing_Enforcement_of_Economic,_Social,_and_Cultural_Rights_Using_Indicators.pdf

Rajeev Malhotra, M. and Fasel, N., 2005, 'Quantitative Human Rights Indicators: A survey of major initiatives', Background paper for the UN Expert Meeting on Human Rights Indicators
<http://www.abo.fi/instut/imr/research/seminars/indicators/Background.doc>

Human Rights Resource Centre, 2000, 'Circle of Rights - Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Activism: A Training Resource', University of Minnesota, Human Rights Resource Centre

What are economic, social and cultural (ESC) rights? What needs to be done to assert them? This manual aims to encourage an expansion of activism for the promotion and protection of ESC rights. It presents not only information on laws and standards related to these rights, but addresses the strategy and tactics that organisations and individuals need to consider to promote economic, social and cultural rights.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1579>

Landman, T. and Häusermann, J., 2003, 'Map Making and Analysis of the Main International Initiatives on Developing Indicators on Democracy and Good Governance', Report for the Statistical Office of the Commission of the European Communities (EUROSTAT).

Democracy, human rights and good governance can be measured in many different ways, and this is reflected in the wide variety of initiatives that have developed such indicators. This project collates and evaluates existing initiatives. It also makes recommendations for the development of more efficient measurement tools.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1098>

UNDP, 2000, 'Using Indicators for Human Rights Accountability', Chapter 5 of the UN Human Development Report 2000, UNDP, New York

Under Article 55 of the UN Charter, all UN members commit to promote "universal respect for, and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction". But to what extent do they put this into practice? When a country is making progress in development, who is to say whether or not its rate of progress is adequate? In this chapter, statistical indicators are presented as a powerful tool in the struggle for human rights.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display&type=Document&id=1610>

Sector-specific monitoring

Indicators are also being developed on specific areas in order to tailor monitoring activities to particular sectors, such as housing and food rights.

UN-HABITAT, 2003, 'Monitoring Housing Rights: Developing a Set of Indicators to Monitor the Full and Progressive Realisation of the Human Right to Adequate Housing', United Nations Housing Rights Programme, UN-HABITAT, Nairobi
How can housing rights for all be realised? This report suggests ways to develop a set of indicators to monitor and evaluate the full and progressive realisation of the human right to adequate housing. It concludes that, despite the complex challenges, the creation of a set of housing rights indicators will prove a valuable tool in the world-wide struggle for housing rights.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1582>

FAO, 2004, 'Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realisation of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security', FAO, Rome

What steps are necessary to realise the goal of adequate food for all? The Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) of the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations has drawn up the following voluntary guidelines to support Member Nations' efforts to achieve the realisation of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. They define the right to food security and offer recommendations on creating an enabling environment, accountability and the rule of law.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1583>

Monitoring and evaluating RBA interventions

In line with growing concerns about how to monitor, evaluate and learn from development interventions, human rights programming is also subject to this type of scrutiny. As with other areas of human rights monitoring, approaches are at early stages. A key concern is assessing the intentional and unintentional effects (positive or negative) of a human rights programme. This has been developed further by approaches which use impact assessments to monitor and evaluate the impact of human rights interventions and/or the human rights components of interventions. Thinking about impact is also thought to contribute to awareness about human rights concerns, and therefore facilitate the integration of rights-based principles into the overall policy process.

Department for International Development, 2009, 'How to Note: A Practical Guide to Assessing and Monitoring Human Rights in Country Programmes', DFID, London

http://www.stabilisationunit.gov.uk/stabilisation-and-conflict-resources/thematic/doc_details/303-how-to-note-a-practical-guide-to-assessing-and-monitoring-human-rights-in-country-programmes-.html

Harrison, J., 2010, 'Measuring Human Rights: Reflections on the Practice of Human Rights Impact Assessment and Lessons for the Future', Warwick School of Law Research Paper No. 2010/26, University of Warwick

This study examines the practice of Human Rights Impact Assessment (HRIA). It argues that, while a uniform HRIA process in all fields will not be appropriate, eight core elements represent the 'minimum core' of a valid process: screening, scoping, evidence gathering, consultation, analysis, producing policy-oriented recommendations, publication, and monitoring and review. Overall, better performance monitoring is crucial, and the people undertaking HRIAs need a deep understanding of human rights. More reflection is also required on the connection between HRIAs and the people affected by the policies and practices that HRIAs seek to influence.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display&type=Document&id=4226>

NORAD, 2001, 'Handbook in Human Rights Assessment. State Obligations, Awareness and Empowerment', Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, Oslo

How do you enhance the human rights profile of development programmes? How do you identify the need for human rights impact analysis? This handbook assists the user in addressing human rights concerns by recording the potential, planned or likely positive or negative effects of the programme under review. It is not a manual on how to conduct a full-scale human rights impact analysis but a guide to identifying the need for such analysis.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1581>

UNHCHR, 2003, 'Human Rights-Based Reviews of UNDP Programmes. Working Guidelines'. Draft, UNDP, Geneva

The UN operates a Common Understanding of the human rights-based approach to development (HRBA). This paper sets out working guidelines for a human rights-based review of UNDP country offices and projects based on the Common Understanding. The guidelines aim to support reviews at each phase of programming, strengthen existing activities and assist in the design of new programmes from a human rights perspective.

One-page summary: <http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display/document/legacyid/1788>

Additional information resources

NGO country human rights reports

Centre for Research on Inequality, Human Security and Ethnicity

<http://www.crise.ox.ac.uk/>

Human Rights Watch

<http://www.hrw.org/>

NGO shadow reporting

The following online resources are aimed at civil society groups, and provide guidance on how to produce a shadow report for a UN treaty monitoring body.

The Stop Violence Against Women website hosts a note on producing shadow reports:

http://www.stopvaw.org/A_Note_About_Shadow_Reports.html

The website of the Centre for Reproductive Rights links to shadow reports on reproductive rights in a range of countries:

<http://reproductiverights.org/en/resources/publications/shadow-letters-reports>

The Human Rights Internet (HRI) website offers resources for advocacy on economic, social and cultural rights within the international human rights system. It also provides a comprehensive list of human rights organisations. The site is aimed particularly at Canadian NGOs, but is relevant internationally. <http://www.hri.ca/>

Treaty monitoring

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) website provides an overview of the monitoring bodies for the human rights treaties: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/treaty/>

Other online resources

This page provides links to selected organisations involved in promoting justice internationally.

Amnesty International is a worldwide movement of people who campaign for internationally recognised human rights.
<http://www.amnesty.org/>

Centre for Research on Inequality, Human Security and Ethnicity
<http://www.crise.ox.ac.uk/>

Child Rights Information Network (CRIN)
<http://www.crin.org/>

Development Research Centre on Citizenship, Participation & Accountability
<http://www.drc-citizenship.org/>

Eldis: The Eldis governance resource guide includes a section on human rights
<http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/governance/human-rights>

European Country of Origin Information Network: This site, run by **ACCORD** (Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation), provides a database of relevant up-to-date reports on country of origin conditions (human rights situation, political developments, security situation etc).
<http://www.ecoi.net/>

Program on Human Rights in Development, Harvard School of Public Health: This programme examines how to realise the right to development in practice beginning with the rights to food, primary education, and health.
<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/phrd/>

Human Rights Watch (HRW) is an international NGO working to defend human rights worldwide. This site contains overviews of the human rights situation in almost every country, in addition to reports on themes, such as prisons, child rights and women's rights.
<http://www.hrw.org/>

HURIDOCs- Human Rights Information and Documentation Systems International
<http://www.huridocs.org/>

International Council on Human Rights Policy - ICHRP: This archive website presents the results of 14 years of research.
<http://www.ichrp.org/>

International Labour Organization: This website offers access to resources on penal reform.
<http://www.ilo.org/>

Open Society Justice Initiative
<http://www.justiceinitiative.org/>

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights - OHCHR
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/>

Overseas Development Institute
<http://www.odi.org.uk/rights/>

The **Right to Education project** conducts research and provides access to information and resources on education rights, legal accountability, and social mobilisation.
<http://www.right-to-education.org/>

United States Institute for Peace, Rule of Law Center: This provides information on promoting the rule of law in post-conflict states.
<http://www.usip.org/ruleoflaw/>

UK Government Foreign and Commonwealth Office: The FCO has developed a set of pages on human rights, introducing thematic issues, key multilateral organisations and instruments, and UK Government policy.
<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/global-issues/human-rights>

UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund
<http://www.unicef.org/>

UN Women
<http://www.unwomen.org/>

Stop Violence Against Women: This website, a project of The Advocates for Human Rights, is a forum for information, advocacy and change in the promotion of women's human rights in countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.
<http://www.stopvaw.org/>

United Nations Enable
<http://www.un.org/disabilities/>