

SDG THEMES

The overall vision of the SDG Themes programme is that sustainable development and human rights for all are realised in a mutually reinforcing manner. The SDG Themes Programme contributes to this vision through a thematic approach to operationalizing synergies between the UN sustainable development goals and human rights.

WHY

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is firmly anchored in human rights. State actors working with sustainable development themes often do not, however, strategically address the related human rights issues. Furthermore, the engagement of national human rights institutions and other human rights actors in sustainable development processes and initiatives is limited. As a result, the potential to enhance respect, protection, and fulfilment of human rights through sustainable development initiatives is not realized.

OUR OBJECTIVE

Our overall objective is to support state actors in addressing human rights issues and recommendations in their efforts towards achieving specific SDG goals and targets and to enhance their collaboration with NHRIs and other human rights actors in this regard.

HOW WE WORK

Sector-specific Tools and Analysis

We develop theme-specific analyses and tools to assist national human rights institutions, line Ministries and other strategic partners to integrate a human rights dimension and approach when implementing specific SDG initiatives at the national level.

Agenda Setting

We engage in international dialogue and processes to situate human rights at the centre of specific SDG themes. We also work with UN human rights procedures and mechanisms to give clearer human rights guidance on specific SDG themes.

Building Capacity of National Actors

We develop capacity building processes for integrated human rights and SDG implementation, and support partners in uncovering relevant human rights issues that need to be addressed within specific sectors or themes. We support NHRIs in applying their mandate to promote human rights in relation to specific SDG themes and processes, and we cooperate with a broad range of actors operating at the national level, including line ministries, civil society actors, UN Country Teams, UN Specialised Agencies and rights-holders.

EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK

HUMAN RIGHTS IS KEY TO SUSTAINABLE OCEANS

Through our 'Oceans' project, we have worked with the NHRI in Chile and partners in Bangladesh to conduct a human rights impact assessment of the coastal fishery and aquaculture sectors, facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogues and promote human rights in the sectors. We advocate for a HRBA to the implementation and monitoring of SDG 14 at national, regional and global levels, aiming to promote improvement of labour standards and access to resources for small-scale fishing communities.

HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION ACCELERATES SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Human rights education is a tool for building peaceful, just and sustainable societies. Through the use of our SDG 4.7 / Human Rights Education Monitoring Tool, we support NHRIs to systematically assess 'States' implementation of human rights education – and identify where more efforts are needed.

PARTICIPATION - THE RIGHT TO DEFEND RIGHTS

The participation of human rights defenders in the monitoring and implementation of the 2030 Agenda is key for supporting coherence between the human rights obligations of states and their commitments under the 2030 Agenda. Together with an Expert Reference Group, DIHR is developing an online tool, the Right to Defend Rights, for monitoring the enabling environment for human rights defenders.

THE PROGRAMME IN NUMBERS

11 NHRIs in Africa have used our SDG 4.7 / Human Rights Education Monitoring Tool to assess national implementation of human rights education in primary and secondary schools.

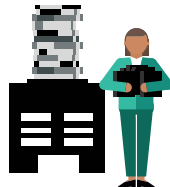
App. **1200** representatives of fishing communities in Bangladesh were interviewed under our sector-wide human rights impact assessment of the small-scale coastal fisheries sector in the country.

8,297 recommendations from UN human rights mechanisms linked to SDG 16.10 were analysed to provide guidance on human rights implementation gaps at national level for ensuring an enabling environment for human rights defenders.

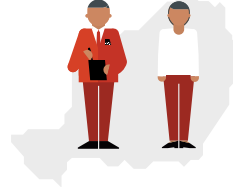
WE CREATE SUSTAINABLE CHANGE BECAUSE OF OUR



LEGITIMACY



RESEARCH CAPACITY



LOCAL APPROACH



PROVEN TRACK RECORD



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