ChangeMakers Refugee Forum human rights-based programming checklist

What does a human-rights based approach mean?

A human rights-based approach incorporates concepts that support people to realise their human rights. This includes non-discrimination, social justice, participation, and accountability.

A human rights-based approach works from the assumption that **everyone's rights are inalienable** (no one can change or take them away), **indivisible** (each right has equal status), **and inter-related** (rights are cross-cutting, e.g. the realisation of the right to health may depend on the right to housing).

Rights-based work is about identifying root causes of the problem, empowering communities to claim their rights, and supporting agencies (and other duty-bearers) to fulfil their responsibilities to communities.

There are three main components to human-rights based work:

1. Capacity building

This includes research, trainings and workshops, awareness-raising activities, and supporting organisations/groups to develop.

2. Strengthening governance, state and civil society interaction

This includes projects that promote communication between agencies and communities, and support for organisations /community groups to better function.

3. Advocacy

This includes campaigns, promoting changes in policies and practice.

Situation Analysis	
This is the overall assessment of the current situation, particularly around understanding the legal/policy environment. Identify the key issues and what the focus of the project will be.	
What is the issue or problem?	
What is the intended project?	
Which human rights are we aiming to address with this project?	
What are the underlying causes currently preventing those rights from being enjoyed?	
Which human rights conventions signed or adopted by NZ (including NZ's human rights legislation) does this project relate to?	
What are the gaps between government policy or human rights conventions and refugee-background experience?	
Do current policies or projects addressing this issue acknowledge refugee-background communities? If so, how?	
How will this project build capacity for realising, respecting, promoting, and protecting human rights?	
How do the objectives of this project fit with ChangeMakers' strategic plan? How will the project contribute towards ChangeMakers' long-term goals?	
Participation	
This is about how people are involved in the project from start to finish. Show how communities will have 'ownership' of initiatives, and how we will communicate with communities, agencies, and anyone else who might be affected by the project.	
How is the issue relevant to communities? Where has the initiative come from for this project (ie community-driven)?	
How are the people who are directly affected by this project involved in all aspects of the project?	Planning:
	Implementing:

	Assessing/Monitoring:
How will people across communities be informed and involved? This includes community leaders, women, youth, other groups within and across communities, and marginalised groups.	
How are people's capacities developed so that their participation is meaningful?	
Are other agencies already working on this issue? If so, who?	
How is ChangeMakers working with others who are working on this issue?	

Equality and non-discrimination

This is about making sure that people have equal access to our programmes and that we are not unintentionally discriminating against any groups. Show how projects will reach a wide range of people, especially people who may find it difficult to access the project. This is also about advocating for changes in policies and public attitudes to support non-discrimination.

How does this project consider marginalised groups within communities (eg women, elderly, people with disabilities, gay people, children, out-of-school youth, rb communities with different/higher needs)?	
How will you make sure that people from marginalised groups have access to the project and an equal voice in the project?	
Does this project address any existing discrimination?	

Accountability

Human rights represent the legal obligations of the government to respect, promote, protect and fulfil the rights of people living in New Zealand. Show how the project will seek to hold government and others accountable, and encourage communities to claim their rights. Also keep in mind ChangeMakers' accountability to communities.

How aware are refugee-background communities of their rights and obligations?	
Which agencies are responsible for upholding the rights covered in this project? Which obligations are they supposed to have	

met?	
Are service providers and policy-makers aware of refugee-background rights relating to the project? Are they aware of their responsibility to support people with refugee backgrounds in realising their rights?	
How will this project encourage the above agencies to be more accountable?	
Transparency Transparency is part of accountability. This is about the right of access to public information about our work, including being about our decision-making processes.	
Is information already available about this issue?	
How will we communicate/inform people about this project and what we hope to achieve?	
How will we manage expectations across refuge-background communities?	
Are links made with other cross-cutting human rights issues and/or work that ChangeMakers is doing?	
Sustainability, monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment This is about how we will monitor and evaluate the programme from the first idea of it, all the way to its completion. The indicators of a successful project should be able to show how human rights objectives have been achieved.	
Is there a risk for duplication and overlap?	
How will the initiative be monitored and evaluated?	
How will we know if we're successful?	
How will communities or people from refugee backgrounds be included in the monitoring process?	
What are the risks of *not* achieving our hoped-for outcomes?	
How will these risks be addressed?	