

## What is the Toolkit for?

The Toolkit is a practical guide for the Realization of the Human Right to Water and Sanitation through development practice. It provides a methodology and associated tools to assist bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies and NGOs **in the development of strategies and projects integrating human rights standards and principles** and positively impacting the realization of the human right to water and sanitation in a given country. It concentrates therefore on integrating a human rights-based approach into water and sanitation projects.



**The objectives of the Toolkit are:**

**Clarifying the meaning and implications of the Human Right to Water and Sanitation**

**Providing a methodology and tools to integrate a human rights based approach in water and sanitation projects**

**Supporting development partners to align with States' efforts to progressively realize the human right to water and sanitation**

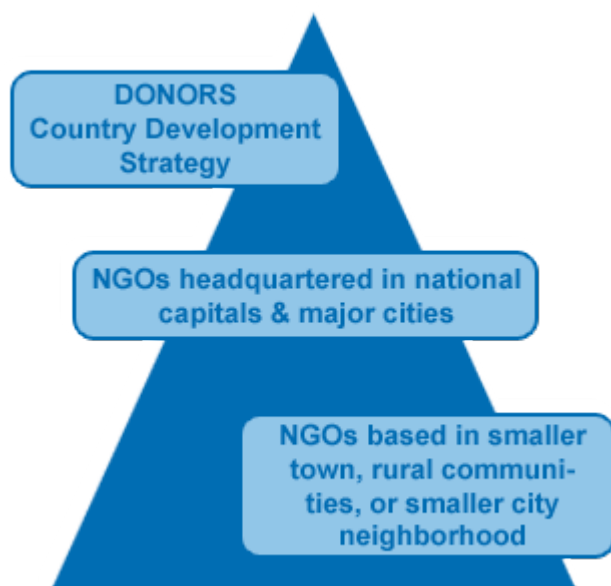
**Contributing to align aid, ensure efficiency and support efforts for the realization of the human right to water and sanitation**

The Toolkit helps to understand the meaning of the human right to water and sanitation as well as the role and responsibilities of States and development actors for its realization. It also illustrates how to work with a human rights-based approach, which, based on the human rights commitments of the State, is a common framework that facilitates development practitioners to align with the States' efforts. It thus promotes coherence, complementarity and cooperation to strengthen these national efforts.



The methodology presented complements existing manuals on human rights-based programming, by focusing specifically on the implementation of the human right to water and sanitation.

## Who is the Toolkit for?



The Toolkit has been developed following the recommendations made by practitioners during the 2011 AGUASAN Workshop that was dedicated to the topic of Human Right to Water and Sanitation. AGUASAN is an interdisciplinary Swiss Community of Practice that, since 1984, has assembled a wide range of water and sanitation specialists. The results from the 2011 workshop pointed out to the need for a Toolkit to provide WASH practitioners with practical guidance on how to implement the human right to water and sanitation through the different steps of the project

cycle.

The Toolkit therefore addresses primarily WASH practitioners, including development cooperation agencies and NGOs. It is also useful for all actors working in the water and sanitation sector, including national and local government institutions.

### ***The Rights-based Development Cascade***

*The “development cascade” illustrates the interaction between development cooperation agencies and civil society organisations, which must both coordinate their activities with the host State. The principle of coordination is at the core of aid effectiveness.*

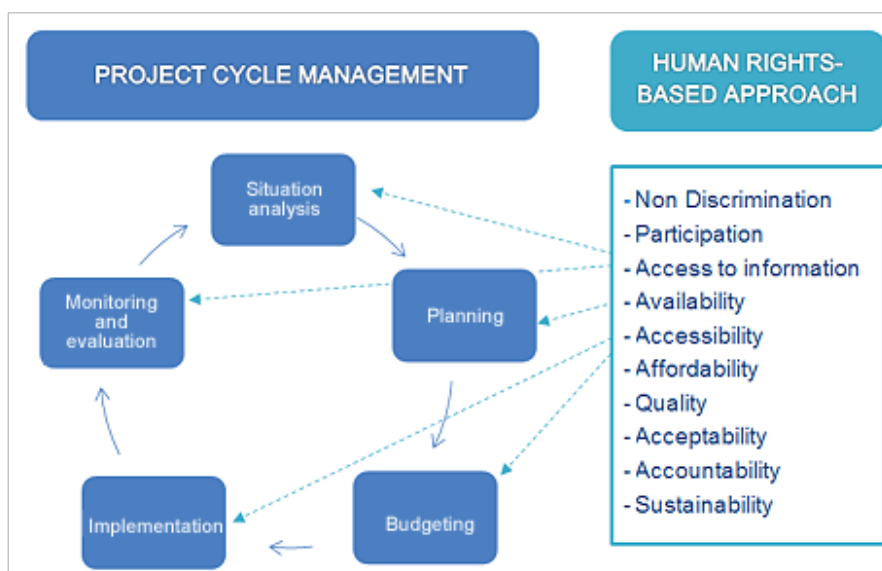
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# What is the Toolkit's approach?

## 1. A Methodology for a Human Rights-Based Approach

During recent decades, many tools have been developed to strengthen project management, meet the needs of communities, achieve sustainable outputs and anticipate adverse outcomes. Among them the **Project Cycle Management** is the most commonly used by development partners.

The image of a « project cycle » assists practitioners in understanding how to organize their work so that it is based on real needs, is well planned, monitored and evaluated, and allows involved parties to learn from every project to improve their future work. The cycle represents a **continuous process in which each stage provides the foundation for the next**.



Similarly, a **human rights-based approach** has been developed by United Nations Agencies, and increasingly also by civil society organisations, to ensure that development actors aim at fulfilling human rights obligations. A human rights-based approach is **participatory, integrated and people-oriented and facilitates the identification of who is responsible for what in the realization of human rights**.

The Toolkit draws together **these two areas of expertise** in order to ensure that development interventions are implemented where it is most needed with those responsible for water and sanitation in the country, and aimed at fulfilling the human right to water and sanitation. The process of carrying out the project itself should be in line with human rights principles, including **non-discrimination, gender equality, active, free and meaningful participation, transparency and accountability**. The process should contribute to **strengthening the capacities of relevant stakeholders**.

## 2. A Selection of Tools and Resources

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For each step of the Project Cycle Management

**1. Situation Analysis / 2. Planning / 3. Developing the budget / 4. Implementation / 5. Monitoring and Evaluation** the Toolkit provides:



**Key steps and questions** to guide the practitioner in the development of a country development strategy or a project, which fully integrates human rights as goals as well as guiding principles in the implementation process;



**Data and information sources** to assess the existing situation, legal and institutional frameworks, financing mechanisms and country-specific targets in water and sanitation;



**Process support tools** to provide examples of existing tools and how they can be useful to incorporate human rights into water and sanitation projects; and



**Good practices** that illustrate concrete cases of implementation of a human rights-based approach by a governmental donor agency and NGOs.

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