

The Reality of Aid

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Business and Human Rights Advocacy in the Plantation Sector



COUNTRY
Indonesia

INCLUSIVE DATES OF IMPLEMENTATION
Feb 2019 - Apr 2019

STATUS
Active/Ongoing

Business and Human Rights Advocacy in the Plantation Sector

The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGP on BHR) establishes a component of human rights due diligence. Recognizing the unique characteristics of human rights due diligence is the basis for the identification and management of effective human rights impacts that may be related to operations, supply chains, or business value chains.

The Indonesian NGO Council as a CSO umbrella organization with 109 members spread across 19 provinces and other stakeholders, is developing a due diligence guide for the plantation business sector with a strategy of collaboration with national and local civil society organizations. This guide is to encourage and support transparency and accountability of human rights due diligence by corporations. Focal human rights due diligence network, Indonesian NGO Council, is at the national level, North Sumatra, Riau, Jambi, Bengkulu, West Kalimantan, Yogyakarta, and Southeast Sulawesi provinces.

Given the strategic role of CSOs in the regions, especially in the provinces mentioned above, it is important for members of the Konsil LSM and other NGO networks to be able to establish dialogue and collaboration with the business sector in implementing business and human rights principles. Therefore, it is necessary to understand and share the concept of human rights due diligence and CSO Collaboration and Business Ethics guidelines.



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NAME OF IFI/DFI
ICCO Cooperation



TOTAL COST
EUR 136000 (The Government of the Netherlands, through the CEA International Coalition)

NATURE OF FUNDING
Stand-alone

TYPE OF ASSISTANCE
Grant



PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNER/S
Sinarmas and GAPKI, among others

CSO PARTNER/S
Members of the NGO Council: Bitra Indonesia, PKPA, Hapsari, LPS-AIR, and Gemawan

OTHER PARTNER/S
CEA Indonesia Members

POSSIBLE/EXISTING IMPACTS ON COMMUNITIES/HUMAN RIGHTS

This project will encourage companies to respect human rights, especially the rights of women, children and communities in the operational areas of the business. The broader impact is the establishment of CSO and Business Sector cooperation in community empowerment, restoration of natural and environmental resources, which are transparent and accountable.

POSSIBLE/EXISTING IMPACTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

If there is no commitment and support from the government in ensuring the existence of human rights due diligence in the plantation business sector, it will have an impact on the expansion and exploitation of forests by palm oil plantation companies. Therefore, encouraging corporate compliance with human rights and the environment, through due diligence is a strategic issue for CSOs.

IMPACTS ON OTHER ASPECTS

Poverty and loss of sources of community livelihood.

Does the project have an environment/social impact assessment?

Yes, and accessible by the public.

Does the project target the SDGs?

Yes.

If yes, which SDG/s are targeted by the project?

OHCHR said that SDGs were very close to the UNGPs. A development path where human rights are not respected and protected cannot be sustainable. This is why the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development underlines the goal of the SDGs to "realize the human rights of all". In particular, the partnership with CEA Indonesia identified SDGs 7, 8, 10 and 17.



OTHER COMMENTS

Economic growth, human rights, equality, and development are interrelated and inseparable things. The business sector has become one of the most important actors that also controls the economic and social strategic fields of a country. In many cases, the business sector can "replace" the role of the state to provide public facilities and services. Corporate strength is so high that it increases the gap of unequal relationships between companies and society. This imbalanced relationship can lead to human rights violations.

Human Rights Violations (HRVs), as reported by the National Human Rights Commission and human rights and environmental activist institutions in Indonesia, highlight the fact that corporations are the second largest actor of human rights violators, after the police institution. This means that corporations are non-state actors that have great potential to be human rights violators. They fear that it will endanger the community, the environment, the economy and even the sustainability of the corporation itself.



COMPLIANCE/NON-COMPLIANCE TO DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS (DE) PRINCIPLES

Democratic country ownership of national development priorities

The UNGPs and CRBP have become the new agenda of the Indonesian government policy. Currently, the Indonesian government has formed a Task Force for the implementation of the UNGPs and will implement it in the National Action Plan on Human Rights. CSOs, especially the Indonesian NGO Council, have built dialogue with the government (UNGPs focal points) to develop human rights due diligence guidelines.

Focus on results

Strategies on strengthening CSOs at the grassroots level and guidelines for CSR partnerships are some forms of implementation of the UNGPs. It will encourage improvement in community welfare and long-term partnership of the business sector with CSOs.

Inclusiveness

The Indonesian NGO Council and NGO Network at the national level will encourage legal certainty and policies that are integrated with the government's national program while member NGOs at the local level will build strategic partnerships with companies, government, and community groups.

Transparency and mutual accountability

In addition to the Completion Test guidelines and the implementation of the UNGPs, Indonesian NGO Council has produced the guide, "Business Collaboration Ethics and CSOs", which discusses the issues of transparency and accountability as an important point in the ethical principles of collaboration.

