

Assessment of TAP workshops on Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit

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INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the TAP Network, I have made a small assessment of 5 workshops carried out so far in relation to the Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit.

The assessment is based on interviews with facilitators of the 5 workshops as well as on a reading of workshop reports from Kenya and Jordan and a reading of the Toolkit itself along with the corresponding Workshop Guide and Workshop Communications Guide.

Facilitators interviewed

- 1) Cassia Moraes, CIVICUS (civicus.org) and John Romano, TAP Network. Launch event and workshop for Civil Society Week in Bogota, April 2016 (but also reflecting on the Brazilian context where Cassia is based in relation to the SDG's and Civil Society)
- 2) John Romano, Workshop in connection with the HLPF, New York, July 2016
- 3) Odeny Salim, African Platform (africapatform.org), National Workshop in Nairobi, Kenya, November 2016
- 4) Rasha Abdel Latif, Partners – Jordan (partners-jordan.org), National Workshop in Amman, Jordan, December 2016
- 5) Daya Sagar Shresta, Ngo Federation (ngofederation.org), Nepal, National Workshop in Kathmandu, Nepal, January 2017

The interviews were structured around the following themes: National context of the SDG's, Objectives of the workshop, Target Groups, Methodology, Outcomes, usefulness of the Toolkit as well as recommendations for improvements.

The objective of the present assessment was:

- 1) To inspire the TAP secretariat and Steering Group on how to coach future workshop holders sharing cases and experiences from workshops held so far
- 2) To present ideas to the TAP secretariat and Steering Group on how to further explore ways of designing and facilitating workshops in an engaging manner
- 3) To provide concrete feedback the TAP secretariat and Steering Group on the use of the Toolkit from facilitators

4) To provide other reflections and ideas that have come up during the assessment process, that could inspire the future work of the TAP Network

THE INTERVIEWS

SDG context

All interviews from US to Nepal reflected a similar story of the SDG's being relatively known by only parts of politicians and government officials, with the rest being unaware of the goals, and the SDG's being relatively unknown by the broader public.

Furthermore, we touched upon the ownership to the agenda among civil society. Although many organisations seem to be quite enthusiastic about the existences of the SDG's (Jordan, Nepal, Kenya), other countries reported a slight resistance as well towards what was seen as a UN driven agenda (US, Brazil), or just by the fact that it is an agenda, that also involves private sector (Brazil).

Most facilitators (but not all) were quite strong in the focus on the issue of general awareness raising of the 2030 agenda as a pertinent urgency! The approach on how to address this however were different.

Objectives

Even though several of the workshops had specific objectives on how to do advocacy issue around goal 16 at national level as outlined by the Toolkit, a main objective turned out to be general awareness raising among workshop participants about the existence of the SDG agenda in itself. For most facilitators the low level of awareness among their civil society colleagues came as a surprise. Following this all facilitators also emphasized the need to inform as well civil society as well as politicians and the general public of the existence of the 2030 agenda. Additionally, while the Goal 16 Toolkit showcased various case studies, it was noted that TAP might be well positioned to develop a thorough database of case studies and best practices relating to Goal 16, both for civil society as well as government policies. This would help facilitators of workshops in planning of workshops, but also with nationally-focused follow-up activities from workshop participants.

The **Target groups** differed. All workshops were targeted at civil society, but one workshop focused mainly on grassroots activists trying to link activists to national level advocacy processes (Kenya), others had more formal civil society organisations and representatives present (Nepal, New York, Bogota), and one had even government officials participating along with civil society organisations (Jordan).

Outcomes

All facilitators were very pleased and enthusiastic about the workshops and felt they had covered important ground. In Kenya the workshop resulted in concrete action plans on behalf of the activists, in Jordan action plans were also designed and the participating organisations expressed their commitment to different parts of the plan. A common challenge for Kenya and Jordan though were the follow up after the workshop. For Kenya mostly in relation to how activities from the plans are to be funded. For Jordan the issue was both funding as well as initiatives from participating organisations to get started not waiting for Partners-Jordan being the workshop organizer to follow up on agreed action plans. In Nepal a joint advocacy plan was developed and a new thematic working group was established under the umbrella of

the national civil society SDG Platform. (Since the Nepal workshop had just finished, we did not discuss how the follow up was going.) National-level workshops at times also struggled with the wide range of issues contained within Goal 16, with some feeling the need to prioritize those issues that were most important in their own national contexts. The workshops in Bogota and New York were international and structured as launch events with more general discussions on challenges and opportunities for national level advocacy on goal 16. Concrete outcome of the Bogota workshop was the promotion of the toolkit, resulting in several of the following national workshops. Outcomes of the New York workshop were a joint realization between the "SDG community" and the Open Government Partnership (OGP) community, that there are linkages between the two agendas – the question remaining how to explore those.

Methodology

The workshops lasted from 1/2 day (Bogota and New York) to 2-3 days (Kenya, Jordan, Nepal). Where 1/2 day could work for the launch events, national facilitators agreed that 2 days were an absolute minimum, if you are to present the 2030 agenda, go through the different steps of analysis, and come up with a concrete action plan and commitment from participants. This is of course always a balance in relation to how long of a time you can keep participants engaged and committed, but the choice of engaging methods can also help in addressing this (see recommendations below).

The workshops were all using an array of different interactive and participatory methods. The Bogota and New York Launch events had presentations and group discussions, Kenya used documentaries to kick-start discussions on the power and possibilities for activists changing the political agenda, Partners-Jordan used a creative Prezi presentation and small videos for engagement and NGO Federation Nepal used an array of participatory methods to stimulate discussion and engagement.

Usefulness of Toolkit and national modifications

Common for all facilitators were, that they had been inspired by the toolkit to implement a workshop on national level advocacy in relation to Goal 16. However, the extent to which the workshop was structured according to the layout of the toolkit differed. Bogota and New York had presentation of the content and different tools, showcased case studies from organizations working around goal 16, followed by a discussion and interactive breakout groups with participants. Jordan and Nepal followed the guidelines and carried out the different step as proposed by the toolkit (GAP analysis, stakeholder analysis, advocacy plan and advocacy messages). The Kenya workshop dealt with the same issues, but did it in their own way not using the annexes. In general, all facilitators were very pleased with the toolkit, but all also had suggestions for improvements (See below). It also seemed there were great usefulness of the coaching around the workshop with the TAP coordinator. One facilitator expressed, that in the beginning they felt quite confused about how to use the tool kit, but after talking to the TAP coordinator they understood how to break it down step by step.

There was also a shared understanding that the subjects presented and discussed at each workshop obviously need to be modified to the specific national context. To accommodate this NGO federation Nepal had invited experts to the opening session to talk about 5 predefined key aspects of goal 16 in relation to the Nepali context. The identified areas were: 1) Peace and security, 2) Security and legal identity of children, 3) democratic governance, 4) Corruption control and transparency, 5) Right to information and fundamental freedoms. Furthermore, NGO Federation Nepal supplemented the toolkit with a session of

working on national indicators, which they afterwards found very useful. Partners-Jordan included two supplementary modules on community mobilization and new tactics of advocacy in a Jordanian context, which helped strengthen the participants interest in signing up for the workshop. The Africa Platform took point of departure in the local struggles and victories witnessed by activists and used this to discuss how to amplify such agendas by linking them to larger issues in society. Finally, these discussions and themes were linked to Goal 16 as a strategic tool in the daily struggles of the activists. This method helped engage the participants in the areas that mattered most to them, thereby strengthening their interest in the potential of Goal 16 to reinforce their ongoing work.

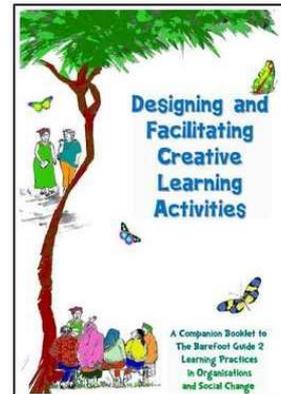
REFLECTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Methodology

Obviously the chosen methodology plays a big role for the success of a workshop. The existing TAP workshop guide is very detailed in ideas for preparing the workshop, but does not contain much about process design and facilitation. The suggested timeframe from the Workshop Guides (1/2 day or even 90 minutes) seem highly optimistic, and the guides could furthermore benefit from a few reflections on follow up procedures.

These issues could be addressed in several ways:

- **Revising the existing workshop guide** including revision of suggested timeframe, inclusion of specific follow up procedures in the suggestion for agenda as well as a few ideas for questions for group discussions
- **Extending the resource page on the TAP website** including a space for sharing workshop agendas and resources used for already implemented workshops for others to be inspired (i.e. links for the Kenya documentaries, for the Jordan Prezi and for the Amnesty National indicators used in Nepal). This could also include additional space for case studies or broader information sharing on Goal 16 issues, case studies or national policies and practices.
- Supplementing the guide with links to relevant facilitation resources.
Ex. "**The Barefoot Guide 2. Designing and facilitating creative learning activities. An additional handbook**". Download here:
http://www.mspguide.org/sites/default/files/resource/barefoot_guide_2_learning_companion_booklet.pdf



- This resource along with many others also stress the importance of seeing a workshop as only one activity in a longer learning process, meaning that the learning outcome of a workshop often multiplies if a facilitator engages with participants before and after the workshop. Examples of this could be sending out small exercises, questions to reflect on beforehand, short inspirational videos or tasks, they have to solve by discussing with their colleagues, follow up questions to share with other participants etc.
- If anyone from the TAP network or secretariat would like to explore deeper how to facilitate powerful engagement of people for social change (thereby hopefully also keeping their commitment throughout a workshop of several days), I can also highly recommend the global facilitation community called "**Art of hosting**". They have trainings worldwide (www.artofhosting.org)

Specific feedback on the Toolkit directly from facilitators

The Africa Platform would like the toolkit to include a *specific component on advocacy training*, which was new to the activists. Furthermore, they suggested the use of *field visits to government offices* to discuss goal 16 issues with relevant government officials as a complimentary component

The NGO Federation Nepal would like for the toolkit to include *templates for how to present conclusions of group discussions* on the GAP analysis and Advocacy plan. The participants were confused on how to go about it.

CIVICUS pointed out, that the toolkit has an introductory character, and that a supplement could be ideas for how to establish an advocacy coalition as a follow-up initiative. CIVICUS would offer to step in as a partner in this process.

Partners-Jordan was pointing out that the quality of the Arabic translation of the toolkit is quite poor.

Partners-Jordan, CIVICUS (Bogota workshop) as well as the African Platform pointed to the challenges of *how to fund the proposed advocacy and activity plans as well as possible follow-up coalitions*. It would be useful with a small budget for follow up activities or for shadow reporting on Goal 16.

OTHER IDEAS AND REFLECTIONS FOR THE TAP NETWORK INSPIRED BY THE ASSESSMENT

THE PERTINENCE OF AWARENESS RAISING: It is clearly a shared concern that the general awareness of the 2030 agenda is low - not only among politicians and CSO's themselves (although this is also the case) but to a very high degree also among the general public. It would therefore be relevant to discuss whether general awareness raising of the SDG agenda (including goal 16) should be part of the advocacy plans developed at the workshop. General awareness raising of goal 16 as well as the SDG agenda would have several purposes. Greater public awareness of the SDG's would both increase public pressure on politicians to implement them as well as underline the importance of the agenda being for EVERYONE, meaning that also citizens, institutions, private sector, academia etc, will have to work towards achieving the goals.



FUNDING OPTIONS: Funding for follow up activities is naturally always a relevant concern. However, as funding streams from donors for development aid seem to be under increasing pressure, there is also an increasing attention towards options for local resource mobilization. In this genre I can highly recommend an the online E-learning module:

"Local fundraising"

(<https://www.changethegameacademy.org/elearning/local-fundraising/>)

The module focuses on local fundraising opportunities with Kenya, India, Brazil and South Africa as cases. It is developed by the Dutch organisation "Wilde Ganzen" as part of their "**Change the Game Academy**" (<https://www.changethegameacademy.org/>). The module is free. You just have to register to use it.

Module 1: Why raise funds locally?



Local fundraising is key in this process because it is about convincing middle class people that they could help to solve the problems that Brazil still has.



Viviane Hermida
 Project Advisor, CESE,
 Salvador de Bahia, Brazil



Janet Mawiyoo
 CEO, Kenya Community
 Development Foundation
 (KCDF), Nairobi, Kenya

It's the right thing for Kenyans to stand up and begin to be accountable for putting resources & money where their hearts are.

Video

PROMOTING OWNERSHIP AND FACING THE CHALLENGES

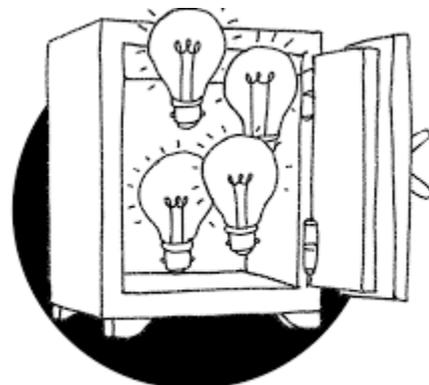
How do we make the SDG's relevant to civil society organisations, meaning overcoming the barrier of seeing this as either a UN lead agenda or as something not as strong as existing processes and instruments (ex. OGP and Human Rights)?

As regards the workshops the consequence of this concern could be to always include a reflective, interactive component, where participants explore this question with one another and afterwards share their ideas as well as are being presented to ideas of other participants from other workshops.

As inspiration I include a few examples of statements from CISU workshops with civil society organisations exploring potentials for integrating the SDG's in their own work (CISU is a network of Danish development CSO's):

- *"The Goals can clearly strengthen the way we communicate about our work"*
- *"The Goals give an opportunity to relate our existing small projects to a broader global framework"*
- *"The targets have provided us with new ideas of how to approach our work"*
- *"The Goals have inspired us to start addressing our thematic issue in our own country as well (meaning not only in developing countries)"*
- *"The Goals provides a useful framework for us to link our international and national activities"*
- *"The Goals have made us revisit the overall purpose of our work as well as our strategy to see how it can feed even better into larger global processes"*

In order to mirror the positive statements above, another workshop component could be to explore challenges for civil society to promote and integrate the SDG's in their advocacy on national implementation as well as in their own strategies. Many challenges will be shared (I.e. Governments "cherry picking" from the goals, lack of commitment to national action plans, lack of national context specific indicators etc.). This exercise could be followed with sharing of ideas of how to address the challenges



LINKING THE SDG'S TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS AGENDA

The Nepal workshop (as well as the Bangkok workshop which has not been included here) had a specific focus on Human Rights and SDG's. Providing more upcoming workshops want to use that approach a very useful resource is the Danish Institute for Human Rights' "Human Rights Guide to the Sustainable Development Goals". The guide is a database with shows the concrete linkages between SDG's and Human Rights. The database works both ways, so you can enter a goal or a target and get the related human rights conventions and articles, and you can enter a convention or article and get the links to the relevant SDG's and targets. sdg.humanrights.dk

THE DANISH INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The Human Rights Guide to the Sustainable Development Goals

Goal: Choose some options
 Rights instrument: Choose some options
 Term (full-text search): Search in instrument, target or article title/description

Direction of search:
 Right to goal
 Goal to right

Target: Format: 144
 Rights article: Format: 24.2.c

Items: 100 Search Reset

Save search
 Print
 PDF
 Data/csv

List of goals and targets
 List of instruments

Choose a goal **1** or a target **11** to see linkage to human rights.

1 NO POVERTY
 2 ZERO HUNGER
 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
 4 QUALITY EDUCATION
 5 GENDER EQUALITY
 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
 9 INDUSTRY INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

STRUCTURED TAP FOLLOW UP ON WORKSHOPS

Every workshop being implemented also serves as an opportunity for the TAP secretariat and Steering group to connect with TAP members and get feedback on the value of the services and activities the network provides and engages in. So a structured feedback mechanism could probably be useful (i.e. a simple questionnaire (5-6 questions) sent to facilitators after a workshop). The TAP Secretariat should also follow-up regularly with workshop hosts regarding the outcomes as well. This might require the Secretariat to take on additional staff, consultants or interns to follow-up on workshops in the future.



Was the Toolkit useful?
 And how?

How did you customize
 the toolkit to your
 national context?

Besides the Toolkit - how
 could the TAP Network
 support you in promoting
 Goal 16 and ensuring a
 follow up of the workshop?

Do you have any
 advice for future
 workshop holders?