



UNITED NATIONS  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Wok Bung Wantaim

# WanWok

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## UN Human Rights Based Approach Training



Understanding Human Rights Principles and Standards and applying them to all stages of programming process was the subject of a one day refresher training conducted by Neal Gilmore, OHCHR and Anthony Nolan, UNICEF for all UN staff. The training was based around the UN common understanding on the human rights based approach to programming which is mandatory for UN programme staff. The Common understanding provides that:

- All programmes of development cooperation, policies and technical assistance should further the realization of human rights as laid down in the UDHR and other international instruments;
- Human Rights Standards and Principles should guide all development cooperation and programming in all sectors and phases of the programming process;
- Development cooperation must contribute to the development of the capacities of duty bearers to meet their obligations and/or rights holders to claim their rights.

The Human Rights Principles which staff learnt to apply include:

- Universality and inalienability,
- Indivisibility,
- Interdependence and interrelatedness,
- Equality and non-discrimination,
- Participation and inclusion,
- Accountability and rule of law.

For example: the UN must ensure the active, free and meaningful participation of rights holders and duty bearers in all stages of the programming process. Programmes should promote the right to non discrimination and equality.

More awareness raising needs to be done in communities to build people's capacities to understand Human Rights Principles and for the government to implement PNG's obligations under the twin Human Rights Covenants.

### Some Important Human Rights Q&A

#### What is a right?

That which a person is entitled to have, to do, or to receive from others, and which is enforceable by law.

**Who are Rights Holder?** All people are rights holders.

**Who is a Duty Bearer?** A duty-bearer is responsible to a rights holder and is responsible for making sure that the rights of the rights-holder are being met.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

24 October

*REDD Scoping Mission*

24 October

*UN Day and the launch of the State of the Asia Pacific Children 2008*

28 October

*Launch of the UNDP 2008 Asia Pacific Regional Human Development Report*

## COMMON ADVOCACY CORNER

### First Global Handwashing Day 2008 celebrated worldwide

Handwashing with soap is one of the most effective and inexpensive ways to prevent diarrheal disease and pneumonia, which together are responsible for approximately 3.5 million child deaths every year.

The first ever Global Handwashing Day—15 October was celebrated in over 70 countries across five continents in an effort to mobilize and motivate millions around the world to wash their hands with soap.

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2008 the International Year of Sanitation (IYS). Global Handwashing Day reinforces the IYS's call for improved sanitation and hygiene practices.

### International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 17 October 2008

"We will not be able to achieve the Millennium Development Goals unless human rights are promoted and respected. We will not be able to end extreme poverty and hunger unless greater action is taken to support the inherent dignity and equal worth of all human beings. And we will not be able to stop women from dying needlessly during childbirth and people from getting infected with HIV unless the right to sexual and reproductive health is protected". **Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, UNFPA Executive Director**

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UN COMMUNICATIONS TEAM