

Developing Human Rights
Indicators V. Value for Money
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The title of the presentation that I have been asked to speak on suggests one of the main reasons WHY we need to devise measurements of Human Rights – funders of our work need to be able to assess if the goals have been achieved *quantitatively*.

BUT: Human Rights are notoriously difficult to measure *quantitatively* (i.e. by attaching a number to their achievement).

WHY?

3 reasons:

1) They are fundamentally *normative*: HR's are about how we *ought* to treat / not treat people

2) Often the duties that attach to rights are *negative*: they are duties *not* to harm, etc. and how can you measure this? E.g. how do you measure how many people were NOT tortured?

3) Where their duties are *positive* (i.e when there is a duty to do / provide something) how much is enough? What standards of measurement do we employ and are they universal?

There is also an important distinction between *Specification* and *Enforcement* of Rights.

The way we specify rights may be universal (ie what human rights people have), but enforcement may be relative, especially for second generation rights.

This relates back to the difficulty of developing measures / indicators of how successful programmes aimed at human rights practice have been. What is adequate? What is prioritised?

QUANTITATIVE V QUALITATIVE INDICATORS:

- Difficult to *quantitatively* measure HR's, because often in HR terms, 1 in a million can be a significant number (e.g. Gugu Dlamini, Amina Lawal)

BUT

- We shouldn't abandon quantitative measures, as they can tell us a great deal about the state of human rights (e.g. infant mortality rate)

BUT:

Quantitative measures (stats) must be read in conjunction with qualitative measures if we are to make sense of them. These are critical to understanding contextually what statistics mean. People's attitudes and voices are a critical measure of human rights standards and achievements.

A good example is the SASAS: tool that can be used as a qualitative indicator of the state of HR's in SA today. The FHR is urged to take this up and build qualitative measures into all programmes alongside the quantitative ones.