

# THE SOCIAL INCLUSION ASSESSMENT TOOL (SIAT)

*The Social Inclusion Assessment Tool is a four-question methodology to help policy makers and development practitioners assess how social inclusion can be addressed in projects, programs, policies or in analysis.*



Artwork by Geoffrey Ernest Katantazi Mukasa

## What do we mean by social inclusion?

World Bank report 'Inclusion Matters: The Foundation for Shared Prosperity' defines social inclusion in two ways:

### social inclusion

- The process of improving the terms for individuals and groups to take part in society
- The process of improving the ability, opportunity and dignity of people disadvantaged on the basis of their identity to take part in society

*Inclusion Matters. World Bank. 2013*

Gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, disability status and nationality are among the most common axes of exclusion.

These identities are complex, overlapping and they can change over time and vary by context.

## The Social Inclusion Assessment Tool

is based on the axiom that asking the right questions is key to the right solutions. It is based on *four questions*:

### IDENTIFICATION

#### 1. Are excluded groups identified?

Who is excluded? Are some groups less likely to benefit from a project/program/policy because of their identity?

### ANALYSIS

#### 2. Is there ex ante analysis on social inclusion?

How and why is the particular group (or groups) excluded? What drives the exclusion?

### ACTIONS

#### 3. Are there actions intended to advance social inclusion?

Social Inclusion is not always about doing more: it is often about doing things differently. What actions are built into project, program or policy design?

### MONITORING

#### 4. Are there indicators to monitor social inclusion?

How would we know if we have made progress? In projects, does the results framework contain indicators on inclusion?

***Individuals and groups tend to be included in three interrelated domains: markets, services and spaces. Change toward inclusion can be done by enhancing three related channels: ability, opportunity and dignity.***

# CONDUCTING SOCIAL INCLUSION ANALYSIS

***Asking the right questions is the central tenet of social inclusion.***

## 1. Who is excluded?

Identifying who is excluded is first step towards assessment. Exclusion, though often seen and treated as being synonymous with poverty, is often about more than poverty and at times, not about poverty at all. Minority Roma men and women in many parts of Europe may be discriminated against and excluded from economic and political spaces regardless of their wealth status. Whether poor or not, transgender individuals could face restricted access to public spaces. When identities overlap, they can create cumulative disadvantage. For example, an indigenous woman with a disability, living in a remote area may be more likely to face disadvantages than an indigenous woman without a disability, in an urban area.

## 2. How are they likely to be excluded?

Such analysis aims to understand how certain groups may be left out of growth and prosperity, and through which processes. It looks at institutional, historical, legal or other circumstances that affect excluded groups in various domains, to understand the processes that solidify exclusion (e.g. discrimination, stigma, stereotyping, lack of role models, etc.). Do norms and practices impede access and participation for some groups?

## 3. Why are they likely to be excluded?

Why people are excluded, can be the most difficult question to ask and answer. Roots of exclusion are often historical and political. One can ask: How do underlying power relations affect who is included and who is left out? For example, do some land ownership patterns affect who gets access to services? It is also important to explore institutional or organizational underpinnings – do informal norms or institutions exclude some groups from decision making? Are some groups invisible? Other questions can relate to the history of the area or earlier projects and programs, and may tell us how groups can be left out.

## 4. What can be done towards greater social inclusion?

The analysis should identify the "wrong to be addressed or the right to be deepened", whom the intervention seeks to include and who is at risk of being left out. After determining why those groups or areas are at risk of being left out, we can select channels through which inclusion can take place, consider what could be done differently and adopt innovations.



**Illustrative example of overlapping disadvantages**

*Source: Inclusion Matters, World Bank, 2013*

### Some questions to help with analysis

1. What is the breakdown of different identity groups among those excluded from the benefits (of a project)? Or in the bottom percentiles (migrants, Indigenous Peoples etc.)
2. Which groups are over-represented among those excluded from benefits?
3. Are there historical reasons for such over-representation?
4. Is the over-representation of some groups correlated with the way they participate in different social, economic and political domains?
5. What else do we know about these excluded groups? Are we taking into account their aspirations, fears and apprehensions?

*Note: This SiAT draws upon the methodology for Poverty and Social Impact Analysis and from the World Bank Group's methodology to assess the extent to which gender gaps are closed in projects*

Learn more about the World Bank's work on social inclusion:  
[worldbank.org/socialinclusion](http://worldbank.org/socialinclusion)

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