The Social Framework for Projects: a conceptual but practical model to assist in assessing, planning and managing the social impacts of projects

Eddie Smyth & Frank Vanclay
Sustainable livelihoods framework

**Key**
- H = Human Capital
- N = Natural Capital
- P = Physical Capital
- S = Social Capital
- F = Financial Capital

**Vulnerability Context**
- Shocks
- Trends
- Seasonality

**Livelihood Assets**

**Transforming Structures & Processes**
- Structures: Levels of government, Laws, Private sector, Culture, Institutions
- Processes

**Livelihood Strategies**

**Livelihood Outcomes**
- More income
- Increased well-being
- Reduced vulnerability
- Improved food security
- More sustainable use of NR base

**Figure 1.** The sustainable livelihoods framework. Source: DfID (1999–2001).
If you can’t explain it simply, you don’t understand it well enough.

— Albert Einstein
People’s Capacities, Abilities & Freedoms to Achieve Their Goals

Community/Social Supports & Context
Culture & Religion
Livelihood Assets & Activities
Housing & Business Structures
The Living Environment
Land & Natural Resources
People's Capacities, Abilities & Freedoms to Achieve Their Goals

- Basic human rights, health (including mental health) & nutrition
- Capacity to work
- Household strengths & vulnerabilities (children, elderly, disabled)
- Education & skills
- Gender divisions & women's empowerment
- Aspirations, fears, expectations and anxieties
- Leisure & recreation
Empathize

Simplify

Provide Clarity
Resettlement Site Selection

Land & Natural Resources
- Access to sufficient size & quality of replacement crop land/pasture
- Access to natural resources: forests, fishing & hunting grounds
- Security of tenure

The Living Environment
- Resettlement Site must meet minimum quality of environmental indicators: air, water, noise, etc.

Housing & Business Structures
- Availability of sufficient lands for residential housing & expansion of settlement
- Site approval by housing & planning authorities
- Should not constrain future project expansion.

Infrastructure & Services
- Proximity to existing settlements & infrastructure
- Availability of sufficient quantity & quality of water.
- Slope, drainage & suitability of site for construction
- Cost of provision of improved services & ability to construct site & houses to project schedule
- Priorities = roads, electricity, education & health

People’s Capacities, Abilities & Freedoms to Achieve Their Goals
- Approval & sign-off by genuine representatives of each household
- Gender and youth priorities addressed (access to employment/economic opportunities)

Community/Social Supports & Political Context
- Proximity to original site to maintain community networks
- Avoids conflict with host community
- Approval by:
  - Host community
  - Community & Traditional leadership
  - Political leaders & Government Agencies

Culture & Religion
- Proximity to cultural/religious resources to allow continued access

Livelihood Assets & Activities
- Proximity to project to enable access to employment & economic opportunities
- Proximity to markets to enable businesses to be re-established
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