

Civil society organisations can play an important role in improving markets and business conduct. Drivers of Change are change-agents, dedicated to influence the private sector to work in a more sustainable and inclusive way and thereby contribute to poverty reduction and a sustainable development.

Drivers of Change have great potential to influence and transform business behaviour to become more environmentally, socially and economically responsible, creating opportunities for people living in poverty.

WHAT IS A DRIVER OF CHANGE?

Drivers of Change are civil society organisations or other change agents transforming current ways of doing business so that they become more sustainable and inclusive of people living in poverty. Drivers of Change are contributing to transforming markets, better business practises, long-term systemic change and a sustainable development.

Drivers of Change can operate in various ways, for an example by;

- promoting the development of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)



- and better business practices contributing to transforming markets, long-term systemic change and sustainable development
- influencing governments to improve business climate and facilitate for sustainable business practises
- facilitating relations between civil society organisations and the business community

- supporting social entrepreneurship and innovation, to achieve poverty alleviation
- identifying unacceptable business conduct
- working together with companies and other private sector actors to improve business conduct and the inclusion of people living in poverty, in company core operations and value chains.



SUPPORT FROM SIDA

In order to receive support from Sida as a Driver of Change, the organisation or change agent must work to influence the private sector and/or the market for the benefit of people living in poverty and for a sustainable development.

The Driver of Change is expected to cover at least 30 % of the total cost of the project. The 30 % should be a mix of project-owners' contribution and other funding, preferably from the private sector. The owners' contribution should be substantial and can be a mix of cash and in-kind.

A Driver of Change can be based in any country but the effects of their activities must have a large impact on people living in poverty in low-income countries.

Examples of programmes:

Swedwatch is a watchdog, who investigates human rights breaches and blows the whistle when necessary in order to push companies to act according to international standards and be pro-active.

HERproject is a education programme, run by Business for Social Responsibility (BSR), targeting women working in factories in Asia and Africa. The objective is to achieve widespread impact on women's sexual and reproductive health through workplace training programmes. HERproject has been implemented in over 150 factories across eight countries reaching over 200,000 women.

Business Call to Action (BCtA) challenges companies to engage in inclusive business models related to their

core business, to achieve both development outcomes and commercial good.

Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) is one of the leading standards on sustainability reporting. The support from Sida aims to enhance the capacity of GRI to provide guidance and support to companies and organizations to manage their economic, environmental, social and governance performance and impacts responsibly and report transparently.

CONTACT

For further information or queries please contact a Swedish embassy through www.swedenabroad.com, or Sida at www.sida.se/privatesector