

# Indicators

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Indicators are a set of criteria that allow measuring the input, output and outcome of a project. Setting indicators is essential for monitoring and evaluation. In this context, the following questions and issues need to be discussed:

- **Quantity:** How much?
- **Quality:** How well?
- **Time:** When?
- **Target group:** When?
- **Location:** Where?

## Example

Goal or objective = Improve the well-being of people with disabilities in Uzbekistan.

Possible indicators:

- The number of people with disabilities who are employed has increased by 50% in 2010 (compared to 2005).
- The life expectancy of people with disabilities has increased by ten years in 2010 (compared to 2005).
- The percentage of disabled children enrolled in schools has increased by 50% in 2010 (compared to 2005).

This example shows that an effect cannot be measured by just one indicator, and that baseline data are needed to compare data from two different periods.

## SMART Indicators

So-called SMART indicators help to assess the quality of the objectives. These are defined as follows:

**S**pecific: Not general and vague, but practical and concrete


**M**asurable: Answering the questions: How many? How much? To what degree?


**A**chievable: Do you have enough material and human resources?

**R**ealistic: Is it possible to achieve?

**T**ime-bound: When do you want to achieve your objectives?

Adapted from:

 Harris, Alison with Sue Enfield (2003): *Disability, Equality and Human Rights: A Training Manual for Development and Humanitarian Organisations*. An Oxfam Publication in association with Action on Disability and Development (ADD), Oxford, p. 278.

 You can find a checklist to assess objectives in CEDPA (1999): *Advocacy: Building Skills for NGO Leaders*. CEDPA Training Manual Series, Volume IX, Washington. Available at: <http://www.cedpa.org/content/general/detail/666/>, p. 23