

Chapter 3: Formalize Aims and Functions

Overview

Formalization refers to **identifying targets and milestones, defining comprehensive legal and regulatory frameworks** and **establishing a relevant institutionalized body** to oversee the initiative.

Identify Targets and Milestones

Targets indicate whether success has been achieved within a given objective. It is necessary to establish targets (once baseline data has been collected) that are measurable, time bound and relevant to the desired zero poverty initiative outcomes. To determine whether targets are reached, previously established indicators are used. Hence, it is important to establish outcomes, indicators and targets in the early stages of planning so that all facets of the initiative align.

Milestones signify key elements or stages during the course of an initiative. They are important components of a planning process because in addition to identifying significant events, they also help to chart a path forward towards the initiative's objectives.

Key Point

Identification of targets and specific milestones during the early stages of planning will allow the committee to assess if the recommendations are appropriate and making a difference in the lives of those impacted by poverty.

Define Comprehensive Legal and Regulatory Frameworks

A policy framework for poverty elimination should encompass a human rights-based approach. **Human rights** – rights that are equally inherent to all people regardless of who they are or where they are from – are legislated internationally, federally and provincially. However, a human rights approach to poverty elimination uses international human rights standards and tenets as a basis for instituting anti-poverty plans and policies.²

Fundamentally, this approach acknowledges the right to protect those living in poverty and promotes transparency, accountability and empowerment by encouraging and embracing participation of those who are poor in the development of anti-poverty plans.³ According to this approach, any such plans to reduce poverty should include mention of human rights, express goals and objectives in the human rights context and ensure project members are trained in human rights standards.²

Key Point

Adopt a human rights-based approach as a policy framework to tackle poverty in Oxford County.

Establish a Relevant Institutionalized Body

Tackling poverty in Oxford County will require collaboration from many different sectors and stakeholder groups. As such, the Zero Poverty Action Committee has been established to oversee the development and direct the implementation of the Zero Poverty Oxford Plan. The Committee will be responsible for providing strategic oversight and ensure that a coordinated approach is taken to support the goals and the objectives of the initiative.

A defining feature of the collective impact approach is that a formal body or a backbone organization is established to coordinate the various facets and stakeholders involved in the initiative. The six functions of a backbone organization include: advancing the overall vision and strategy, establishing shared measurement, aligning activities and resources, building public will, advancing policy and securing resources and funding.⁴

Key Point

The Zero Poverty Action Committee will continue to serve as the backbone organization to oversee and mold the implementation of the recommendations of the Zero Poverty Oxford Plan.