Evaluating Multi-Stakeholder Initiative (MSI) Potential to Combat Trafficking in Persons

Each sector report includes examples of actions stakeholders, including companies, are taking to address social issues such as trafficking within that sector. Many of these efforts are multi-stakeholder initiatives (MSIs). Due to the preponderance of existing and emerging, MSIs, companies, and other stakeholders are seeking guidance on how various initiatives can address trafficking risk. The guide below provides indicators that users can reference in evaluating these or other efforts.

Reference point	Definition	Considerations
Commodity focus	MSI is focused on sustainability of one commodity or a coherent set of commodities e.g. extractives with due consideration to the variety of production/supply chain conditions	• Variation in scope - large scale production as well as small-scale/artisanal production • Integrated approach - sustainability is broadly defined including social, environmental and rights challenges
Participation	MSI is inclusive of a range of diverse stakeholders, including the most marginal/affected by the problems the MSI aims to tackle	• Representation of government officials (both consumer/producer countries) • Representation/support of business and employers • Representation of organized and informal workers • Representation of communities, recipients or beneficiaries • Representation of vulnerable groups (women, migrants, children, informal workers) • Representation of civil society organizations, including grassroots/local groups
Transformation and Change focus	MSI has clear statement of purpose and statement of intended impact.	• Public legitimacy - a recognised challenge is addressed • Clear proposition or theory of change • Evolving approach • Publicly communicates measurable short-term and long-term goals • Clearly communicates role of MSI

Vulnerable People	MSI acknowledges and documents realities of the most vulnerable actors in the sector	• Communicates nuanced view of social vulnerability • Conducts needs assessment, risk assessment and other due diligence • Supports collaboration between international and local civil society organizations. • Is guided by human rights-aligned principles
Reporting and Validation	MSI has credible, frequent and accessible reporting and third party validation processes	• Publicly discloses credible validation system • Publicly communicates impact and challenges • Beneficiaries and recipients' views are included in future activities planning •
High Standards	MSI goals and targets are based on best practice, ILO and other conventions; they integrate emerging thinking into their goals and practices e.g. gender, informal work	• Responsive to feedback from advocacy groups, communities and other stakeholders • Provides sanctions and measures for removal or expulsion for underperforming/participating members • Requires members to adhere to due diligence practices
Trafficking in Persons Risk Awareness	MSI has includes trafficking push and pull factors in programming goals.	• Social and labour standards clearly integrated • Root causes identified and stated • Research commissioned/published • Has effective mechanisms for affected parties or their legitimate representatives to raise concerns and needs and influence the MSI scope

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