

# Engaging stakeholders in Due Diligence - A Beginners Roadmap for SMEs

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### Why stakeholder engagement?

- Stakeholder engagement is at the core of due diligence for responsible business conduct.
- By consulting your key stakeholders, you will most likely get access to information no social audit or selfassessment questionnaire will provide.
- You will be able to make informed decisions and identify collaborative ways to address complex issues in your supply chain.





## Roadmap for engaging stakeholders

- New guidance: "Engaging stakeholders in due diligence: A beginner's roadmap for small and medium sized companies (SME's)"
- A Practical tool
  - Designed to improve companies' due diligence for responsible business conduct
  - Sets out how to identify key stakeholders and better engage with them
- Result of consultation with SMEs, a number of stakeholders in India and China and with Norwegian civil society organisations
- Accompanied by specific tools for stakeholder engagement in China and India.



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### Engaging stakeholders in due diligence:

A beginner's roadmap for small and medium sized companies (SME's)

### Key in Responsible Business Conduct





- The guide is divided into six subchapters, based on OECD's model for due diligence for responsible business conduct (2018) and UNGP.
- It has an overview over key stakeholders and list of why and how to engage.
- The graphic provides an overview of the six sub-chapters, the due diligence stages across which stakeholders should be involved.
- It has an overview over key stakeholders and list of why and how to engage.

### Example stakeholder checklist



#### STEP 1 Embed: stakeholder checklist

Stakeholder	How and why engage?
Internal	
Board and Senior management	<ul> <li>Raise awareness of key issues at a senior level.</li> <li>Gain their buy-in, support and ownership.</li> <li>Agree on policy review procedures and timelines</li> <li>Add weight to communications with suppliers on these issues.</li> </ul>
Cross departmental teams (procurement, buyers, technical etc.)	<ul> <li>Ensure company commitments in policies reflect colleagues' expertise and practice</li> <li>Agree on responsibilities for implementation</li> <li>Ensure consistent messaging on these issues when engaging with suppliers <ul> <li>e.g. When discussing pricing, quality, deadlines vs. criteria for human and environmental issues.</li> <li>Embeds policy commitments in wider company process and practices, such as contracts and procurement</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
External	
JETI contact	<ul> <li>Ask for template examples of policies and codes of conduct which can be used and amended for a company's supply chains and specific topic.</li> </ul>
Customers / Investors	<ul> <li>Understand what their requirements are to ensure commitments are as aligned as possible.</li> </ul>
Suppliers	<ul> <li>Clearly articulate company commitments and expectations.</li> <li>Listen and try to understand their challenges in meeting requirements.</li> <li>Ensure Input on challenges they face that you haven't considered?</li> <li>Ensure Input on gaps, commitments/requirements you should have</li> </ul>
Trade unions and NGOs	<ul> <li>Get an expert view on any gaps in existing policies related to specific issues such as homeworking, subcontracting, and migrant workers</li> <li>Understand their expectations of what a commitment should cover and how it should be embedded</li> <li>Articulate the company's constraints and challenges.</li> <li>Increases the credibility and legitimacy of a company's approach to addressing human rights and environmental issues.</li> </ul>

### **Key considerations**



### Key considerations stakeholder engagement:

- Seek to collaborate with others
- Consider the best approach for making contact, and consider language barriers. Consider local facilitators or support if needed.
- Be clear with objectives and scope of proposed engagement to set realistic expectations
- Agree on how to engage and communicate on an ongoing basis
- Be careful not to put vulnerable groups at further risk through engagement with stakeholders



### Tool: Stakeholder engagement India



<u>7</u>	ARPAN	NITI Aayog, Go	NITI Aayog, Government of India	
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Sect	or-Wise NGO Directory			
lome	Sector-Wise NGO Directory			
ector-\	Wise NGO Directory	Total Signe	ed Up VOs / NGOs (10	
ctor-W	Vise list of VOs/NGOs signed up on the NGO-DARPAN			
1	Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries (17193)	Aged/Elderly (17654)		
3	Agriculture (24543)	4 Art & Culture (25961)		
5	Biotechnology (9108)	6 Children (36916)		
7	Civic Issues (13936)	B Differently Abled (16548)		
9	Disaster Management (15311)	10 Dalit Upliftment (14152)		
11	Drinking Water (20311)	12 Education & Literacy (58611)		
13	Environment & Forests (27110)	Food Processing (13962)		
15	Health & Family Welfare (39111)	16 HIV/AIDS (18416)		
17	Housing (8494)	18 Human Rights (17954)		
19	Information & Communication Technology (16033)	20 Legal Awareness & Aid (15847)		
21	Labour & Employment (17913)	22 Land Resources (7738)		
23	Micro Finance (SHGs) (13670)	24 Minority Issues (13208)		
25	Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (13228)	26 New & Renewable Energy (8680)		
27	Nutrition (12693)	28 Panchayati Raj (11645)		
	Prisoner's Issues (3746)	30 Right To Information & Advocacy (8606)		

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https://ngodarpan.gov.in/index.php/home/sectorwise

### **Tool: Stakeholder engagement China**







http://www.chinadevelopmentbrief.org.cn/

### New project India



Project: Multi-stakeholder dialogue for responsible business conduct in India

- Ethical Trade Norway has applied Norad for funding for a new project in India (2021-2025)
- Seeks to improve working conditions in India, by strengthening stakeholder dialogue and engagement between civil society and companies through platforms in North and South India.
- Enabling structured dialogue between civil society, industry associations, global brands, suppliers, academics and other subject-experts
- Contribute to a space where civil society organisations are heard and where stakeholders can seek joint innovative solutions to challenges affecting workers
- Engage in joint advocacy.

