

Special Requirements Relating to the Objectives and Indicators in Funding Requests and Narrative Reports

1. Funding request (project application): objective(s) and indicators

The project objective(s) have to be formulated such that they are achievable by the end of the funding period. They should therefore clearly and realistically describe the effects that are to be achieved by the end of that period (as a rule as intended changes in the lives/work of the direct target groups or project beneficiaries).

The project objectives have to be verifiable. They must therefore precisely describe, for example, the number of people, groups or communities in which the envisaged change is to become visible.

The task of those responsible for project implementation is to ascertain both during the project and on its completion whether the intended changes have taken place, in other words whether the project objectives have been achieved. It is therefore generally necessary to establish indicators by which achievement of the objectives can be observed and measured.

Indicators provide answers to the question: How do we know that the intended change (as expressed in the project objective) has taken place? For instance, an increased self-help capability in the population could be evidenced by certain independent actions on the part of self-help groups; an improved nutritional status could be indicated by the fact that more families are eating three meals a day; and an improved health status could be reflected in a reduction in the incidence of certain illnesses.

Applicants should select the indicator(s) themselves based on two guiding questions:

1. Does the indicator reliably show the intended change (achievement of objective) in the specific situation of the target group?
2. Can the indicator be regularly monitored with a minimum of effort or expense, preferably by the target groups themselves or by those responsible for project implementation?

It may be necessary to have more than one indicator for each objective. However, too many indicators make it difficult to establish the achievement of objectives.

In your funding request, please specify the indicators with which you intend to ascertain the achievement of objectives, or inform us of these as soon as possible.

If you intend to ascertain the achievement of objectives using other recognised methods, please explain in detail how you will apply these.

2. Final narrative report: achievement of objectives, other effects, sustainability

The achievement of the project objective(s) has to be assessed at the latest in the final narrative report using the indicators specified in the funding request or the other specified methods (comparison of the current and planned situation).

The final narrative report should also include information on:

- the longer-term development effects ('impacts' in MISEREOR terminology) the project has already generated or that are still expected;
- the relevance of the project;
- the sustainability of the positive changes achieved.