

## VLIR Flashing light diagram

The following is a "flashing light diagram" designed to provide researchers and staff with a concrete tool to "screen" potential partners and activities. In particular, it points to a number of scenarios in which particular vigilance is needed.

The central questions of the human rights test are these:

Is a partner within the cooperation involved in grave and/or systematic violations of human rights? Serious violations refer to the nature of the violations (e.g., serious assaults on the physical and psychological integrity of individuals and groups); systematic violations are those that occur repeatedly, such that they can no longer be considered occasional, but can reasonably be assumed to be inherent in an established practice or policy at the partner.

Yes  No

Will cooperation activities contribute to human rights violations?

Yes  No

Certain types of partners, activities and contexts may prompt heightened vigilance:

### 1. Partners

1.1. One of the partners in the project is not an academic institution, but an actor that by its nature may pose a risk of involvement in human rights violations. In particular, one can think of:

- (parts of) police, military or other (public and private) security services, and other government services whose operation may give rise to human rights violations;
- companies in sectors where large-scale violations of workers' or local residents' rights are common (extractive sector, garment industry, large-scale plantations, infrastructure and utilities (e.g. a dam)).

Yes  No

1.2. One partner is a government agency (other than a public university) in a country with a bad record of human rights violations. E.g. a country classified as "not free" in the "Freedom in the world" index (Freedom House, <https://freedomhouse.org/report-types/freedom-world>)

Yes  No

1.3 One of the partners in the project is an academic institution that is very closely related to an actor mentioned in 1.1. or 1.2.

Yes  No

### 2. Activities

2.1. Due to the nature of the activities and the context, there is a risk that messages will be disseminated in the context of the project (e.g., in training or education) that may give rise to human rights violations (this may include problematic donor requirements, e.g., a formal requirement not to discuss family planning in medical programs).

Yes  No

2.2. There is a risk that knowledge, equipment or results acquired in cooperation will be used/misused to violate human rights.

Yes  No

2.3. There is a risk of human rights violations on the margins of the project ("collateral damage") or prior to the project (e.g., in order to build a test field, people could be driven off their land).

Yes  No

### 3. Context

3.1. The project is implemented (in part) in a country/region where there are serious human rights violations, which one can reasonably suspect may also affect cooperation (activities and/or partner) (e.g. large-scale discrimination against a particular ethnic group, systematic censorship...).

Yes  No

3.2. The project is implemented (in part) in a country/region where academic institutions are instrumentalized by the government in a policy of human rights violations (e.g. cooperation in persecuting dissidents or legitimizing human rights violations).

Yes  No