



Human Right to Water

An Evolving Human Right and the Move to Apply Indicators for Global Health

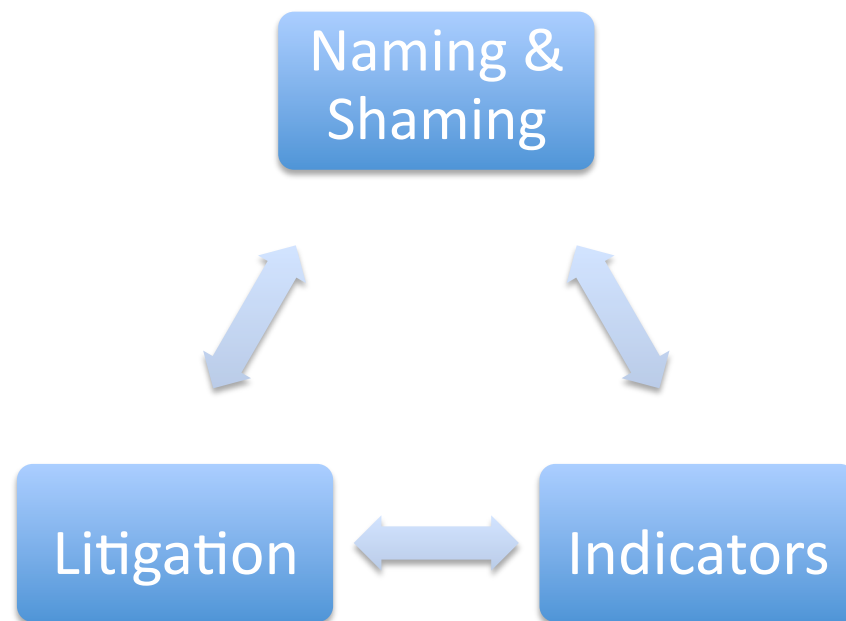
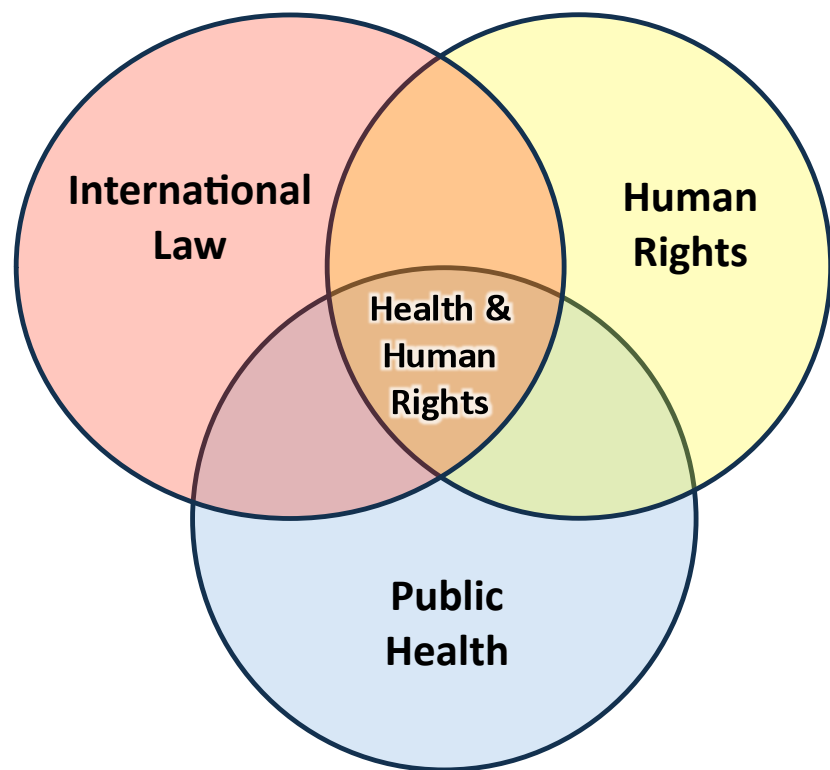
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Global Legal Regulation and Social Science
Measurements:
Balancing Critique and Pragmatism



THE UNIVERSITY
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at CHAPEL HILL

Human Rights Accountability for Global Health

Health & Human Rights



**Accountability
through
Implementation**

Outline

1. Development – Human Rights to Water & Sanitation
2. Implementation – Indicators as a Means to Accountability
3. Application – Creating Indicators for Water & Sanitation

Developing Water as a Human Right

Millennium
Development
Goals

1945

1965

1985

2005

To halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger and, by the same date, to halve the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water.



MDGs for Health



General Comment 15 (2002)

The adequacy of water, although variable, is determined in all circumstances by:

1. Availability
2. Quality
3. Accessibility
 - Physical accessibility
 - Economic accessibility
 - Non-discrimination
 - Information accessibility



[R]ight to water indicators should be identified in national water strategies or plans of action. The indicators should be designed to monitor, at the national and international levels, the State party's obligations . . . [and] should address the different components of adequate water (such as sufficiency, safety and acceptability, affordability and physical accessibility)

- UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Implementing Water as a Human Right

UN Resolution on the Right to Water and Sanitation (2010)

“the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.”



From Independent Expert to Special Rapporteur



MDGs



Human Rights

“Measuring whether Governments are making efforts towards the realization of the rights to water and sanitation to the maximum of available resources is an important budding area of work.”

- Catarina de Albuquerque

From General Comment to Rights-Based Indicators

Role of the OHCHR/
Special Rapporteurs

Process – Indicator Development

Structural	Process	Outcome
Binary	Largely Qualitative	Largely Quantitative
State commitments to undertake measures for the realization of the right	State efforts to implement the right	Population-level results reflecting individual enjoyment of the right



Paul Hunt

Creating Indicators for Water and Sanitation

Justify → **Propose** → **Review**

- Elaborate Norms
- Conceptualize
- Outline Indicator Categories

- Translate Existing Data into Rights-Based Indicators
- Create Overlap across Rights

- Consult for scientific validity and policy relevance



Conflicts in Creating an Indicator Set for Water and Sanitation

Qualitative vs. Quantitative

- Statistics as Objectivity
- Cross-National Comparison
- Technical Specificity vs. Governmental Flexibility

Data vs. Reality

- Objectivity as Accuracy?
- Structuring Norms to Fit Data?
- Setting Policy to Meet Indicators?

What Role for Interdisciplinarity?

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