Progressio Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

RICA (Regular Impact and Capacity Assessment) is an indicator based system, which relies on development workers and staff establishing baseline data with partner organisations at the beginning of a placement, and provides a wide range of Means of Verification tools by which progress against baselines, milestones and targets can be measured. Development workers and partners are able to select the most appropriate means of verification for the theme and nature of their placement. The following table shows the tools available:

Theme/Goal	Means of Verification available
1: Participation & Effective Governance Objectives cover: influencing local government plans & policies: influencing national government plans & policies; promoting democratic participation; international advocacy on effective governance & participation	Participation and Transparency Tool (PATT) Portfolio of Evidence Civil Society Organisation Democratic Participation Interviews
2: Sustainable Environment Objectives cover: sustainable farming; sustainable natural resource management; environmental advocacy	Income & Food Security Survey Water Benefits Survey Forest Benefits Survey Coastal Benefits Survey PATT Portfolio of Evidence
3: HIV and AIDS Objectives cover: rights for people affected by or vulnerable to HIV and AIDS; gender, stigma and HIV and AIDS; prevention of HIV and AIDS	Level of Support Survey PATT Portfolio of Evidence Opinion Former Attitude survey Knowledge/Attitudes and Practice/Behaviour (KAPB) Survey

Additional Means of Verification (MoV) tools can be used across all themes: Stories of Impact; assessing change in partner capacity; Exchange visit feedback and Post-workshop evaluations. Gender issues are addressed throughout RICA and have been mainstreamed into all programme-related MoVs, by requiring that all findings are analysed by gender.

RICA is fully integrated into Progressio's Strategic Framework by means of a Route Map, which relates the indicators and the MoVs to each of the 3 Goals and, in turn, to Progressio's three themes of work. As the result of a learning process initiated by a DFID consultant, the quantitative components of the MoVs have been strengthened and included in a new integrated Programme Monitoring and Appraisal system based on Project Plans, RICA and Country Strategies. The system has been built in a participatory way with inputs from UK and country staff, partners and development workers; the indicator targets and timetables for implementation were agreed following a series of consultative workshops.

Whilst much of RICA has been in place for some time, e.g. development workers developing baselines, Participation and Transparency Tool and Portfolio of Evidence tools, the fully integrated system is still being rolled out across all countries, and will only show its full capability in terms of recording results through the life of this Strategic Framework. In addition, the system has been widely welcomed by staff and also by many partners because it has been developed in a very participatory way, largely in-house and drawing on staff and development workers with relevant experience.

The system is helping partners be aware of Progressio's input and recognise and articulate progress through the partnership with Progressio. We believe that as a result the system is deepening the quality of interaction between Progressio and its partners, and with their beneficiaries.