

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

Guidance Note to LCDC/ LDC

Mid-Programme Review & Statement of Priorities
July 2021



**Social Inclusion &
Community Activation
Programme**



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Social Inclusion &
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Programme

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In light of the recent announcement by the Minister of a one-year extension to SICAP and his request for a mid-programme review in his communication on 19th July, the emphasis of this year's engagement meetings will specifically focus on what the programme has achieved so far at lot level and what the priorities of the programme should be going forward in each SICAP lot. Therefore, a statement of priorities is to be agreed and submitted with 2022 Annual Plan. A template has been provided below.

The aim of this paper is to provide guidance to LCDCs and LDCs in advance of these meetings and outline the support role of Pobal. It will also detail the national SICAP priorities for the remainder of the programme based on learning from programme implementation to date, research, publications, and policy papers from relevant bodies and the expected outcomes from a mid-programme review at lot level.

This guidance will detail the context, overall process and expected outcomes from the annual engagement meetings and the mid-programme review process. The paper will also provide support documentation to inform the discussions.

Context

As the programme has been extended for an additional year, this is an opportune time to take stock of where SICAP is at, reflect on where the emphasis should be in the future and consider priorities for the remainder of the programme.

Therefore, LCDC /LDCs should collectively complete a mid-programme review at lot level. Part of this process will be facilitated by Pobal at the annual engagement meetings in September and October.

As part of this review, there are a number of national priorities that have been signaled by Minister O'Brien and DRCD, which we would like both LCDCs and LDCs to consider in conjunction with your own local priorities, when undertaking this mid-programme review. These programme priorities, outlined below, reflect current national policy, learning from the programme to date, low representation of certain target groups on the caseload and acute needs highlighted by the COVID 19 pandemic:

1. New Communities with particular focus on those living in Direct Provision
2. Mental Health (including youth)
3. Long Term Unemployed
4. Travellers /Roma
5. Older People and isolation

The priorities are to be reviewed within the context of SICAP and consider which priorities dovetail comfortably with programme while others may be more appropriate under other local programmes, initiatives, or organisations etc.

Further details on the national priorities are explored in the Evidence of Selection of Programme Priorities for 2022/2023 which accompanies this guidance note.

Overall Process

We recognise that this process requires significant time and may be difficult to commence as we are coming into the summer period, however we would encourage you to start as soon as possible.

The steps below are a guide to assist in this process but can be changed depending on the time available to the LCDC and LDCs.

Step 1- Internal mid- programme review by each LCDC/LDC at lot level. This can commence as soon as possible.

Step 2 -Annual Engagement Meeting facilitated by Pobal where each LCDC/ LDC present their list of lot priorities and rationale based on the findings from their internal mid-programme review. (September/ October). Depending on timing of annual engagement meetings, this internal review process will either only have started or will have progressed significantly.

Step 3 -Follow up discussions/meetings (if required) between LCDC and LDC based on agreed outcomes from the annual engagement meeting. Priorities may require further discussion, refinement in order to finalise the statement of priorities for each lot.

Step 4 - The agreed statement of priorities to accompany the submission of the 2022 annual plan in mid- November with clear actions addressing the agreed priorities for the lot. Statement of priorities should be uploaded onto IRIS under the 2022 Annual Plan folder.

Some of these steps may be carried out in advance of the engagement meeting and some may take place after the meeting. The important element here is that the review is a collective process and Pobal DCs will facilitate the process and the collective discussion.

The annual engagement meetings are taking place during September and October and are currently being scheduled. Pobal are currently liaising with LCDCs to agree dates. The LCDCs should liaise with LDCs on same.

Who is involved in this process?

The expectation is that both LCDCs and LDCs would complete a separate process independently and come to the annual engagement meeting with the findings from their own review. This should be an inclusive process within each organisation/structure and include all those involved in the delivery and oversight of SICAP.

The LCDC could include members of the LCDC, members of the SICAP Sub Committee and LCDC support staff. The LDC could include management and Board of LDC, beneficiaries of the programme if appropriate and staff involved in the delivery of SICAP and other stakeholders.

Role of Pobal

- The role of Pobal is to facilitate the collective discussion at the annual engagement meetings with the LCDC and LDC.
- Pobal will prepare a report which presents an analysis of lot level social inclusion data across a variety of indicators relevant to the SICAP 2018 – 2022. The report is part of the Social Inclusion Analysis Project that aims to support conversations between the Local Community

Development Committees (LCDCs) and Local Development Companies (LDCs) on local level issues. As SICAP has entered its fourth year of implementation, this report also serves as a tool to facilitate a mid- programme review at local level. This report has drawn on SICAP programme data, which was sourced from the IRIS database and covers the period 01 January 2018 – 31 May 2021. The 2021 Social Inclusion Analysis Reports will be issued prior to the annual engagement meeting.

- Pobal will also produce an overall programme report and analysis on the priority statements submitted by LDCs/LCDCs.

Questions to consider

The following are a suite of possible questions that the LCDC/ LDC may find useful in framing the review and discussions. There is no requirement to provide answers to all the questions listed below, they are a tool to help complete this process within each lot.

1. Programme achievements:

- What has worked well in the programme?
- Name the areas or actions where there is a clear impact from the work to date.
- What were the core components of this work and identify why they were successful?
- Which actions are needed going forward, what are the priorities for the lot?

2. Challenges/barriers faced

- What has not worked so well and why?
- What were the key issues or obstacles to success with specific areas of work or action in the plans to date?
- What were the expected outcomes for these actions, can they be changed or refocused?

3. Targeting approach

Please consider the following questions in the context of the National Programme Priorities outlined above.

- Where have SICAP supports being focused and identify any gaps in the delivery to date, focusing on target areas or target groups.
- Are there any new areas or work emerging that the programme could focus on in the remaining years?
- Has the impact of the pandemic changed the focus of the programme locally, what are the key issues facing disadvantaged communities?
Has the SICAP programme made an appropriate impact on relevant LECP objectives?
- Can the SICAP actions dovetail or add value to other targeted supports currently being delivered by other organisations in the lot?
- What have been the benefits of the non-case load work in achieving the objectives of the programme?
- To what extent has the non-caseload work lead to further engagement and progression?
What approaches have been most effective?

4. Impact

- Discuss the impact of **Goal 1** actions on the LCGs, Target Groups, Social Enterprises and non-caseload,
- What has changed for these groups?

- Are they more involved in local or regional decision making?
- Are they more open to including disadvantaged individuals?
- Has their capacity to organise and deliver supports improved?
- Similarly, for **Goal 2** discuss the impact of the work on the target groups (including emerging needs).
- Which target groups have not received support and why?
- What were the outcomes for the SICAP clients? Can they be improved?

5. Collaborative approach

- Have the collaborations that were developed through SICAP worked as expected?
- Are there any opportunities for new collaborations that will bring resources or new opportunities for the programme?

Resource and Tools

A range of resources and tools could be utilised to inform and support the mid-programme review as follows:

- Evidence of Selection of Programme Priorities for 2022/2023 (attached)
- 2021 Social Inclusion Analysis Reports¹ (Pobal to issue prior to annual engagement meeting)
- Previous Social Inclusion Analysis Reports prepared by Pobal
- Review any relevant reports or research carried out in recent years, focus on the Social Inclusion and Equality elements of the reports
- Review data on the IRIS system, focus on specific target groups or areas in the lot. IRIS reports like the Lot Summary Report, Individual Caseload by Target group report or the Children and Families – SICAP Involvement Report can be used to assist in this process.
- Review Social Inclusion objectives in the LECP
- Recent reports or studies carried out in the lot or region by other agencies such as DSP, ETB, Disability
- Inputs from LCDC members – DSP & ETB priorities, gaps they have identified that focus on Social Inclusion
- Data from IRIS
- Local research, evaluations and needs analysis

Expectation for the annual engagement meeting

When completing the mid programme review, examine the current annual plan through the 'lens' of the national programme priorities and local priorities, highlight the positive achievements, what has not worked so well and identify gaps in provision of the most disadvantaged communities. This should also take into consideration the emerging needs of the most vulnerable that have surfaced during the pandemic and the impact of the associated Covid-19 restrictions.

- Depending on the progression of the internal review above, propose a tentative list of lot level priorities for the remainder of the programme. Each LCDC/ LDC will be given an opportunity to present their proposed priority list with associated rationales for discussion at the annual engagement meetings.

¹ Data input on the IRIS database up to 31st May 2021.

- We would also ask that as part of the review process LCDC/LDCs identify programme supports that could assist delivering on the 2022/2023 programme priorities. These programme supports will be considered by Pobal and DRCD and will inform the 2022/2023 SICAP Support Plan.

If possible, the LCDC and LDC should come to the annual engagement meeting with

- A statement of priorities for the remainder of the programme and rationale for inclusion.
- Identify programme supports that could assist programme delivering in 2022/2023.

Overall Expectation of the Mid-Programme Review

- The outcome is to develop a statement of priorities for each lot for the reminder of the SICAP
- The statement of priorities to be agreed collectively by the LCDC and LDC.
- The statement will inform the strategy and actions of the annual plan for 2022 and 2023.
- Pobal will analyse these statements and present an overview of them to the DRCD and the SICAP Forum.
- We would encourage where possible, that any written material on internal reviews or reports undertaken are sent on to the Pobal DC for information purposes (this is optional).

SICAP Statement of Priorities

Year: 2022-2023

For the remaining two years of the programme the following priorities have been agreed by the LCDC and LDC for:

Lot Name _____

Lot Number _____

Please Tick the Priorities to be included in this lot:

- ☐ New Communities with particular focus on those living in Direct Provision
- ☐ Mental Health (including youth)
- ☐ Long Term Unemployed
- ☐ Travellers /Roma
- ☐ Older People and isolation
- ☐ Other

Provide detail below of agreed lot level priorities linking them clearly to a programme target group (or emerging need target group) or an outcome from the programme monitoring framework.

	Statement	Rationale
1	Example 1. To develop a bespoke suite of supports for clients with a disability to help improve their outcomes from the programme.	This priority statement will build on the work of the undertaken in goal 1 in recent year to develop a strong and representative disability network in the lot. The need has been identified by the LDC and LCDC through consultation with other agencies involved in the work and data from both SICAP and other support programmes.
2	Example 2. To implement a new engagement strategy that focuses on Lone parents and to develop collaborations to address social exclusion and inequality for this target group.	To date the lone parents have not been a priority target group in the lot and based on previous Social Inclusion reports and local agency knowledge this particular target group are experiencing more inequalities as a result of the recent lockdowns.
3	Example 3. To develop stronger collaborations with employers and employer support agencies to increase the recruitment opportunity for SCIAP target groups.	Work to date in the programme has focused on the education and employment opportunities for SICAP clients but this has not resulted in employment opportunities for the clients. This strategic priority will address this issue by supporting local employers to have a more inclusive approach to recruitment.

Notes:

- *We would recommend that there should be no more than 3 priority areas chosen for the remainder of the programme*
- *Priority statements should be restricted to one sentence which describes the priority and the target group /area*
- *The statement should be supported with a brief rationale which explains the need for the priority focus*

- *Priority statements should be clearly linked in the action(s) outlined in the annual plan and named in the action description.*

Programme Supports

Please insert in the box below suggested supports that could assist programme delivering above priorities in 2022/2023.

Programme Supports
1.
2.
3.
4.