



RIGHT TO FOOD AT COUNTRY LEVEL



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The FAO Project “GCP/GLO/324/NOR - Integrating the Right to Adequate Food and Good Governance in National Policies, Legislation and Institutions” (in short, Right to Food at Country Level) is a continuation of Norway’s support to Mozambique and the Plurinational State of Bolivia (Bolivia), and marks the beginning of activities in Nepal and El Salvador, all in view of strengthening national institutions and coordination mechanisms in their efforts to formulate policies and support the legislative process on food security and the right to food. The Project addresses country challenges by promoting the human rights-based approach in efforts to achieve food security at all levels - in legislation, policy and programme design, formulation, decision and implementation. The Project also allows FAO to participate to global efforts to mainstream human rights in development work.

The **Global Services** component of the Project allowed FAO to actively contribute and participate to second Expert Consultation on the right to food this time from Southern and Eastern Africa, which was held in Nairobi on April 4-5, 2012. The consultation was jointly organized by the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food Olivier De Schutter, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). More than 45 experts - parliamentarians, government officials, national human rights institutions and representatives from NGO’s and farmers’ association - from the region discussed the progress made and the challenges ahead in the realization of the right to adequate food in the region. What steps must Governments take to secure the right to food in their countries? How well are countries in Eastern and Southern Africa proceeding along this path, and how can the best practices be shared? These were the questions underpinning the consultation. Amongst its main objectives, the consultation also looked at ways to strengthen the implementation of the right to food by encouraging dialogue at national level and by supporting existing, and the creation of new, initiatives. This event offered a unique opportunity to a range of experts from different institutions and organizations to present practical solutions and concrete actions on ways to promote the right to food through legislation and strategies, as well as to strengthen accountability through monitoring and claims mechanisms. The main results of the consultation is a register of commitments by the participants to take concrete actions once back in their respective countries. Among such commitments: members of parliament will explore possibilities to create networks of parliamentarians; CSOs will identify possibilities to strengthen their networks on the right to food; Human Rights Commissions will seek dialogue with small scale farmers; farmers organizations will inform their networks about the right to food and its relevance.

From 16 to 20 April 2012, the Project Manager and the International Right to Food Consultant undertook the first mission to **El Salvador**. The mission had the objective of sensitizing and informing parliamentarians, high level officials, food security practitioners, and other stakeholders on how the right to food can be integrated in legislations, programmes and projects, policies and strategies. In order to achieve this objective, the Project also organized a workshop together with CONASAN, FAO colleagues and the UN Inter-Agency Technical Group on Food Security and Nutrition. The Project Team was in El Salvador at a crucial time, when the current legislature had only two weeks left to approve an amendment aiming at incorporating the right to food into the Constitution of El Salvador. The mission met with both the Commission responsible for legislative and constitutional matters and the Commission responsible for agriculture. On 19 April 2012, the important constitutional amendment was adopted by the plenary of the current Legislative Assembly with 81 votes in favor out of 84, and no vote against. This amendment represents an achievement for the right to food, in view of its ratification by the next legislature which will begin its mandate in May 2012. The amendment also reads that the State has the obligation to develop a food security and nutrition policy and a specific law in this area. It furthermore recognizes water as an essential resource with corresponding obligations by the State.

The Right to Food Team in FAO works on the implementation of the human right to adequate food, using the Right to Food Guidelines. Its vision is the one of a full realization of the right to food, through it being respected, protected and fulfilled for everyone, everywhere.

The Right to Food Team in FAO

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