



RIGHT TO FOOD AT COUNTRY LEVEL

Monthly Progress Note /// June 2013

[Right to Food at Country Level](#)

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 Level Services** component of the Project allowed FAO to co-organize and participate to the third [Expert Consultation on the right to food](#) this time for Francophone West African countries, which was held in Dakar on June 13-14, 2013. More than 40 experts from 8 countries concluded the two day’s consultation with the adoption of recommendations and commitments related to concrete activities to be conducted in their respective area of work so as to contribute to the advancement of the right to food in the region. The meeting met all the expectations related to its objectives: it provided a forum where parliamentarians, government officials, representatives of CSOs, human rights institutions and intergovernmental organizations, exchanged very rich and encouraging experiences on the practical aspects of the implementation of the right to food at national level. The constructive and trustful dynamic of this dialogue showed that it is possible to include all relevant sectors around one common agenda - the right to food as a reality for all - and to replicate this dynamic at the national level.

The consultation highlighted, among others, the central role the right to food has to play in efforts to eradicate hunger both as an overall objective and as an approach that promotes participation, transparency and empowerment. Including small-scale farmers, pastoralists, fishermen and women in decision-making ensures that investments in agriculture and rural development indeed contribute to reducing poverty in rural areas. Social safety nets guided by human rights will also help to focus on the needs and rights of the most vulnerable groups, while increasing the resilience of households to climate related shocks. Strengthening coordination, accountability and monitoring mechanisms will ensure better policies, targeted interventions, and efficient delivery of measures and plans. Africa is a young continent: many participants stressed the importance of creating an environment where young people can develop, engage themselves, study and work. At the end of the consultation, participants made concrete commitments related to follow-up actions they will be taking. These commitments range from trainings and awareness building events within their own structure, to providing technical advice and approaching parliamentarians on specific issues. A full report of the meeting will be available shortly, including the [recommendations](#) made (available only in French).

In **Bolivia** the project has been supporting the work of Ms. Barbara Villar, a Right to Food Consultant based since May 2013 at the FAO Office in La Paz who’s main activities relate to the preparation of the 4th Forum of the Parliamentary Front against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean to be held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra in September 5-6, 2013. She will be also supporting the FAO Bolivia’s Country Programming Framework (CPF)’s component related to the right to food and the work undertaken by the main project partner CT-CONAN.

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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