



SUPPORT TO THE HUNGER-FREE LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN INITIATIVE

OVERALL GOAL

The permanent eradication of hunger in one generation. This Regional Initiative seeks to contribute to the efforts of countries in the Latin America and Caribbean Region in the fight against hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, strengthening the design and implementation of public policies and promoting inclusive and multi-sectoral governance of food security and nutrition.

About the Regional Initiative

Latin America and the Caribbean is the world leader in the fight against hunger. It is the only region in the world that has managed to reduce the proportion of undernourished people to less than half since 1990 (Millennium Development Goal 1 achieved). Furthermore, the region has within its reach the goal of halving the total number of people who suffer from hunger (World Food Summit target). Notwithstanding these laudable achievements, there are still 37 million people who suffer from undernourishment throughout the region, requiring us to redouble our efforts.

- The Regional Initiative (RI) was confirmed during the 2014 FAO Regional Conference, and reinforces the commitment of countries to a Hunger-Free Latin America and Caribbean by 2025.
- It continues to support the ongoing efforts of countries and is framed within the structure of FAO's Strategic Objectives 1 and 3: Zero Hunger and Poverty Reduction.
- Under this RI the "Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and the Eradication of Hunger" was developed by FAO with the support of the Economic Commission for Latin America (CEPAL) and the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI). This Plan was approved by the Heads of State and Governments of the region at the 2015 Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) (January 2015).
- The Regional Platform for Food Security and Nutrition Policy, promoted by FAO, was presented at the 1st Meeting of Mechanisms of cooperation and integration for the strategic agenda on social issues of CELAC (June 2014).



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The regional initiative is prioritizing its actions in eight countries, all with a highest prevalence of food insecurity: Bolivia, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Paraguay and the Dominican Republic. By identifying achievable goals in the short and medium term, and with a strong component of South-South Cooperation, the regional initiative assists governments in their efforts to eradicate hunger and provides support in two main areas:

- First, in the area of formulation and implementation of increased and improved multi-sectoral/sectoral public policies and programmes in a coordinated manner. This effort is accompanied by strengthening the capacity of national institutions, improved legal frameworks, better access to information and enhanced human/financial resources. All needed to reach national food security and nutrition (FSN) goals.
- Second, recognizing the significant progress already made in the region and the importance of the exchange of development solutions, good practice, policies, legislation and knowledge, South-South Cooperation will be a key area of growth. Different countries and sectors will work towards a common goal, with the participation of diverse stakeholders, including civil society, parliamentarians, academia and the private sector, in a collaborative process. Strengthening South-South Cooperation is an essential aspect of the RI.

IN PRACTICE

Specific achievements which FAO has contributed towards include:

- Seventeen countries have policies, strategies and/or plans for Food and Nutrition Security.
- All countries in the region have School Feeding programmes.
- Three countries have rules to benefit from family farmers in public procurement processes.
- Fifteen Parliamentary Fronts Against Hunger work in the region driving national legislation on the right to food.
- Twenty-two countries in the region have Conditional Cash Transfer Programmes.
- Sixty legislators from 18 countries in the region participated in the 5th Forum of Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean, where they committed to an agenda on Family Farming, linked to the Specialized Network on Family Farming of the Mercosur (REAF) (November 2014).

- The Latin American Parliament's (Parlatino) Committee on Agriculture adopted the Declaration on Family Farming, with legislative recommendations to be submitted to the Parlatino Assembly (March 2015).
- The Observatory on the Right to Food in Latin America and the Caribbean, a multi-disciplinary network of academics across the region working on human rights issues around the right to food, signed an agreement with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (November 2014) and published investigations relating to the state of the right to food.
- Bolivia approved the "Ley de Alimentación Escolar en el Marco de la Soberanía Alimentaria y la Economía Plural" (Law on School Feeding within the Framework of Food Sovereignty and the Plural Economy) (December 2014).

SCOPE FOR DOING MORE AND BETTER

The affirmed commitment of governments in the region and CELAC's recently approved Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and the Eradication of Hunger provide an additional roadmap for FAO collaboration on strengthening institutions, good governance, the rule of law and technical partnership aimed at creating and implementing internal and regional policy to guarantee FSN in an inclusive participatory process that ensures respect for human rights with particular focus on the situation of women, indigenous peoples and the most vulnerable groups in the region. The Plan will also facilitate the development of new alliances and offers strong potential for promoting new South-South and North-South initiatives to reinforce the efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty by 2025. The International Year of Family Farming (IYFF) represented a good opportunity to advocate the importance of this form of agriculture for food security and nutrition which led to many countries requesting FAO assistance in analysing and improving information that could feed into the design of national FSN policies and programmes in which family farming could play a central role.

Work at the regional level, making the most of regional spaces, can also influence the development of the legislative agendas of national parliaments. For example, FAO has worked not only with regional Parliamentary Fronts, but also with their national chapters, offering space for dialogue and providing technical and logistical support in the area of food security and nutrition, whilst respecting the internal processes of each national Congress. This work facilitates consensus-building and greater support for both Members of Parliament and civil society organizations, with the purpose of strengthening food security and nutrition in the national legislative agenda.

CONTACTS

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MORE INFORMATION

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