



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

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粮食及
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Food
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pour
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Продовольственная и
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организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
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Unidas
para la
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y la
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THIRTY-FIRST REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Panama City, Panama, 26-30 April 2010

FOLLOW-UP TO THE HUNGER-FREE LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN 2025 INITIATIVE

Background

1. The Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean 2025 Initiative (HFLAC) emerged from the commitment of the countries and organizations of the region to eradicate hunger within one generation and to ensure food and nutritional security for all its inhabitants in the framework of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
2. The idea of instituting the HFLAC Initiative was first presented and discussed at the Latin American Summit on Chronic Hunger (Guatemala, September 2005). The consequent Declaration of the Presidents of Central America and Brazil, outlined the general orientations of the Initiative, which received the support of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and Brazil. In November 2005, the Director-General of FAO, Mr Jacques Diouf, and the Secretary-General of the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AECID), Ambassador Juan Pablo de la Iglesia, received a formal proposal from the Government of Guatemala to establish the project.
3. In 2006, the Initiative received the support of the Presidents of Brazil and Guatemala, formal support was also given by the Latin American and Caribbean Group of Countries (GRULAC) and FAO was requested to provide support and technical assistance for its implementation. This led to the formulation of the support project for the Initiative which received financial assistance from Spain through the Spain-FAO Trust Fund. Under the Technical Secretariat provided by FAO, Project GCP/RLA/160/SPA began its operations in October 2006.
4. There have subsequently been a number of statements of recognition of and support for the Initiative on the part of governments, heads of state and parliamentarians, including:
 - Final Declaration of the XVI Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government (Uruguay, 4 and 5 November 2006)
 - Declaration of Salvador, Latin American and Caribbean Summit on Integration and Development (Bahia, Brazil, 16 and 17 December 2008), in which the Heads of State and Government of the region gave their full support to the HFLAC 2025 Initiative

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and for the first time in a regional forum of such stature, included food and nutritional security (FNS) as a priority item on their common agenda.

5. The world leaders meeting at FAO for the World Summit on Food Security (Rome, 16 and 18 November 2009) unanimously adopted a declaration promising renewed commitment towards eradicating hunger from the face of the earth in a sustainable manner and within the shortest possible time. One of its explicit commitments is to heighten support to projects such as the HFLAC Initiative.

Project objectives

6. It is important to distinguish between the objectives of the Initiative, which is an effort and commitment of the countries and whose objectives are included in declarations and statements, from the proposed objectives for Project GCP/RLA/160/SPA formulated by the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean in support of the Initiative. *The development objective of the Initiative is:*

7. To help eradicate hunger and ensure food and nutritional security for all inhabitants of the Latin American and Caribbean countries, promoting the Right to Food and bolstering the target of the World Food Summit (WFS) and the Millennium Development Goals until 2015 and beyond if necessary.

The objective of the support project for the Initiative (GCP/RLA/160/SPA) is:

8. The support the development of public policies and programmes to eradicate hunger through state commitments that will translate as institutional recognition of food and nutritional security (policies, laws, Right to Food, strategies) and as implementation of a plan of action with an allocation of budgetary resources commensurate with the magnitude of the problem in each country.

9. The specific objectives of this project are:

- to sensitize key players of the public, academic and private sectors to the issue of hunger and malnutrition;
- to train and build capacity in the different sectors involved in combating hunger and malnutrition; and
- to develop and support research on food and nutritional security at regional and national level.

Annual follow-up meetings with the Working Group

10. As agreed at its previous meeting, the III Meeting of the Working Group on the HFLAC Initiative (WG 2025) was held in Buenos Aires, on 6 and 7 October 2009. The IV Meeting was scheduled for 3 and 4 February 2010 in Port au Prince but had to be postponed and transferred to an alternative venue because of the earthquake of 12 January.

III Meeting proceedings

11. The meeting was attended by 35 delegates from 9 of the 10 countries in WG 2025 (Bolivia was absent). It was also attended by two Ambassadors to FAO (Brazil and Guatemala) in representation of GRULAC, and representatives of IICA, WFP, the Embassy of Chile, the Government of Ecuador, the Coordinator of the Special Programme for Food Security for Central America and the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AECID).

Discussions and resulting agreements

12. The meeting reaffirmed the relevance and currency of the central objective of the HFLAC Initiative, this being to eradicate hunger within one generation.

13. It characterized the current situation in Latin America as a region in which there was no crisis of food availability but rather a crisis of access to that food. It was therefore important to

promote strategies that would enhance access to food and to hold sectoral discussions between large and small producers, with the State acting as facilitator.

14. The meeting recommended discussing production problems, in particular production of family farming. It was in the region's interest to support farming families and their relationship with the community.

15. It emphasized the need for joint action between the HFLAC Initiative and the governments of the countries of the region, and indicated the desirability of encouraging the participation of civil society.

16. It stressed that the State should play a key role in achieving food security through strong political commitment, focusing actions within an optic of territorial integrity, mainstreaming of food security and notion of law.

17. The meeting viewed South-South cooperation as a valuable tool for achieving food security and agreed on the need to strengthen country competencies and to foster the exchange of experiences and successful models. It agreed that, within its frame of reference, FAO could provide resources, technical support and a search for other partners, working together with the governments.

18. It stressed the need to promote and mobilize voluntary work to forge linkages between civil society and local institutions.

19. It supported the idea of establishing a web site or virtual community in which countries could post information on the institutionalization of food security, successful experiences, lists of profiles of experts, technicians and other resources to foster synergies. Argentina offered to begin designing and maintaining the site.

20. It requested that FAO guide countries in preparing indicators for monitoring the food security situation and that it deepen and continue the work of the Observatory on Food and Nutritional Security, with a view to integrating it into the regular programme of FAO-RLC, and that it reinforce the work of the Initiative in the following topic areas:

- a) Parliamentary Front Against Hunger (PFH).
- b) Reports on progress on the Right to Food, especially on institutionalization and justiceability, and preparation of guides and training of social actors for litigation and claims for the protection of rights to water and food.
- c) Support to processes of institutional recognition and coordination of FNS and exchange of experiences between countries.
- d) Social mobilization initiatives such as "Chefs Against Hunger".
- e) Corporate social responsibility: work with organizations and companies of regional or subregional scope in the areas of food banks and support to FNS research.

21. It agreed that from the III Meeting, the Initiative would operate according to: *Fundamental principles:*

- Commitment of government and society
- Approach based on rights and respect for diversity
- Comprehensiveness of public policies and mainstreaming of actions
- Sustainability and continuity

Action thrusts:

- Institutionalality
- Formulation and implementation of public policies and programmes
- Advocacy and mobilization
- System of monitoring and evaluation

22. The meeting agreed that the Secretariat of the Initiative would develop a proposal for a breakdown of each thrust into action menus, quantification and measurement of results, national and regional instruments used, means and estimated costs to implement them.

23. The national delegates would encourage the designation of focal points in their respective countries to form a functional network that could help the work of the Initiative.
24. It agreed that progress of the HFLAC Initiative would be presented at the IV Meeting of WG 2025 and decided that the next meetings would be in Haiti (2009) and then in Peru (2010).
25. It agreed to ask the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AECID) for a budget review to permit an extension of the project until the end of 2009 and to submit proposals to maintain the work of the Secretariat until the end of 2011; the countries – according to their abilities – would contribute resources (economic, technical, etc.). FAO-RLC would formulate a proposal of renewed support for more than two years to be sent to GRULAC in order to collect contributions and for subsequent presentation to AECID. (N.B: in follow-up to this item, AECID accepted the request and contributed 500 000 euros in 2008 and 1 million euros in 2009, thus enabling the project to extend to 30 June 2011 with an overall budget of 4 488 093 US dollars.
26. It clarified that participation in the working group meetings was open to all countries of the region.
27. The Secretariat of the HFLAC Initiative would issue a monthly bulletin reporting its activities.
28. It agreed to promote the signature of a political commitment of countries with the HFLAC Initiative, at the highest level, which gave rise to several aspects of the Final Declaration of the Latin American and Caribbean Summit on Integration and Development (Salvador, Brazil, December 2008).

Work of the FAO Regional Office in support of the Initiative

29. The FAO Regional Office (RLC) adopted the HFLAC Initiative as reference for its action and regional strategy on food security, within the conceptual framework of FAO's twin-track approach. This includes the Right to Food as a basic element, guiding action so that immediate attention to those suffering hunger and capacity-building will operate in a synergistic and congruent manner, and so that all people can achieve food security independently, ensuring the sustainability of that food security through a rights-based development approach. The package of projects and the action of the RLC's regular programme are directed towards supporting the Initiative promoted by the countries and are initiated from the framework of the twin-track approach.
30. Project GCP/RLA/160/SPA which supports the work of the Secretariat of the Initiative has been supplemented by other projects with the same explicit objective:
 - Regional programme to strengthen the impact of public policies on the eradication of hunger and chronic child malnutrition GCP/RLA/169/SPA (8 113 749 USD).
 - Project Strengthen the school feeding programme as part of the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean 2025 Initiative GCP /RLA/180/BRA (496 277 USD).
 - Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean 2025 Initiative (HFLAC 2025) – Contribution of the Federative Republic of Brazil GCP/RLA/160/BRA (751 025 USD) targeting support to emergency interventions.
 - Programme of support to family farming in Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador to improve the availability, access and use of quality seeds in the High Andean regions GCP/RLA/183/SPA (5 177 515 USD).
 - Strengthening staple grain seed production policies in support of family farming for food security in the member countries of the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC) GCP/RLA/182/SPA (5 177 515 USD).

31. These projects have served to strengthen various elements of the Initiative that would not otherwise have been effectively addressed by project GCP/RLA/160/SPA, such as support to policy and programme implementation. South-South cooperation and/or emergency actions, all elements signalled as priorities at the III Meeting of WG 2025 (Argentina, October 2009) and the XXX Regional Conference (Brazil, April 2008).

32. Also, since the beginning, efforts have been made to seek coordination and complementarity of actions with other projects, including:

- Coordination component of the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) in Central America, GCP/RLA/160/SPA (3 373 548 USD).
- Strengthening civil society in issues of family farming and access to renewable natural resources, GCP/RLA/173/BRA (500 000 USD).
- Strengthening of indigenous organizations and support to the recovery of traditional products in the High Andean regions of Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru, GCP/RLA/163/NZE (1 296 787 USD).
- Strengthening of food and nutritional security in Colombia, UTF/COL/028/COL (5 000 002 USD).

33. Moreover, the FAO/RLC regular programme also operates in support of the Initiative through its Policy Unit which provides guidance to the Secretariat and, as part of its mandate develops actions for follow-up and technical assistance to policies and programmes. The Regional Office produced the documents “Panorama of Food and nutritional Security in Latin America and the Caribbean” (2008 and 2009) which were generated by the Initiative and have been incorporated as an annual output of the RLC’s regular programme.

34. Similarly, the Hunger Observatory, initiated in the context of the Secretariat’s work in promoting an adequate institutional structure for progress in food security and eradication of hunger, has been fully absorbed by the regular programme and now produces a consolidated by-monthly bulletin, while providing technical assistance to countries implementing their own national observatories. A case in point is Colombia which began with Project TCP/COL/3201 Formulation of a pre-feasibility, design and operational proposal for a Food and Nutritional Security Observatory for Colombia (45 546 USD) and followed this up with UTF/COL/035/COL Preliminary studies, cooperation agreement between the Ministry of Social Protection of the Republic of Colombia and FAO in support of the establishment of the Observatory of Food and Nutritional Security (56 927 USD).

Progress and results

Legal and institutional framework

35. Since the XXX FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (Brazil, April 2008) there has been an increase in the number of countries that have a framework law on food and nutritional security: Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador and Guatemala have been joined by Venezuela (2008) and Nicaragua (2009). Ecuador, after approval of a new constitution (2008) which refers expressly to the Right to Adequate Food, approved a new Law on Food Sovereignty and Security (2009). Similarly, Bolivia with its new constitution (2008) and Brazil, through an amendment (2010), expressly recognizes the Right to Adequate Food. A further ten countries of the region have such a law in the pipeline.

36. Already for ten years some countries have been producing national documents that set long-term objectives, some the result of political and social convergences, when drawing up policies, plans and strategies. These documents constitute an effort of convergence in national goals that serves to give importance to food and nutritional security in government programmes. Some countries include technical components that help make it possible to evaluate the results. This practice has continued in scope and depth and there are now national policy, strategy or programme documents in Argentina (2003), Bolivia (2008), Brazil (2007), Colombia (2008), Costa Rica (2006), El Salvador (2006, in elaboration a new FNS policy and plan), Guatemala

(2007), Honduras (2004), Nicaragua (2000, 2007), Panama (2000), Paraguay (2009), Peru (2004), and Venezuela (2004). Haiti is drafting and discussing its National Food Security Plan and CARICOM is formulating a Regional Policy on Food and Nutritional Security.

37. Likewise, countries that are federal in constitution are also experiencing an increasing involvement and commitment of state governments, as evidenced in the nine FNS state laws already in force in Brazil, most recently in Amapá and Piauí (2009), the Law on Food and Nutritional Security of the Federal District of Mexico (2009) and the draft Law on the Integrated Food Security System of Neuquén, Argentina (2009). There are also the Territorial Food Security Plans which already exist in 19 of Colombia's 32 departments.

38. The support project for the HFLAC Initiative, in coordination with other entities such as the SPFS, GCP/RLA/169/SPA, FAO's Right to Food Unit and the FAO Country Representations, has supported the elaboration and discussion of the laws of Nicaragua, Ecuador and the Federal District of Mexico, as well as the preparation of draft laws in Paraguay and Bolivia. In August 2009, the Legislative Assembly of the Federal District of Mexico approved the Law on Food and Nutritional Security with 46 votes in favour, no votes against and no abstentions. The draft law, promoted by Members of Parliament Carla Alejandra Sánchez Armas García, Enrique Pérez Correa and Juan Ricardo García Hernández, is the first of its type in the Mexican capital.

Mobilization and advocacy

39. The most significant progress made by the Secretariat of the Initiative in this connection has been with the parliamentarians of the region. In this regard, the establishment of the Parliamentary Front against Hunger represents a major breakthrough in involving parliamentarians, congressmen and members of national, regional and inter-American legislatures in prioritizing the eradication of hunger on LAC national agendas and providing the necessary legal, institutional and financial means for achieving this.

40. The process began in 2008 with a number of workshops and a conference with parliamentarians of Central America and the Dominican Republic who acted as the driving group behind the formation of a Parliamentary Front. In 2009, a task force was set up and contacts were initiated with all the parliaments of the region. Preparatory meetings were proposed to draft a tentative agenda or plan of action of the front and to discuss what form it should take. This was discussed at two working meetings, one held in Santiago (25 and 26 June) with parliamentarians from South America where a preliminary draft Plan of Action and Statutes were prepared and subsequently debated at the meeting held in Panama (13 and 14 July) with parliamentarians from Mexico, the Caribbean and Central America. The results were circulated among the participants of both meetings and distilled into a concrete proposal that was presented at the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on the Right to Food, an event jointly organized by the Latin American Parliament (Parlatino) and the HFLAC Initiative, with the participation of more than 67 parliamentarians from the region (Panama, September 2009). This conference approved the agenda of the PFH and its final declaration expressed agreement to give the PFH and institutional structure, with support from the Latin American Parliament, whose committees on agriculture, health and legal rights would establish a joint working mechanism for food security issues. It was also decided to hold a forum of exchange and discussion with civil society organizations, programme officers and other players. The forum was convened with the support of the National Assembly of Sao Paulo and Brazil's Parliamentary Front Against Hunger, and was held in Sao Paulo on 4 and 5 March 2010.

41. The Secretariat of the Initiative attended the VI Plenary Meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA) (Ottawa, Canada, September 2009), providing technical support to the Working Group on Food Security whose final report makes a series of recommendations on policy and measures to improve food security and also recommends the establishment of

Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger in the congresses of the member countries and refers to the Right to Food.¹

42. Another consolidated activity in the communications sphere has been “Chefs Against Hunger”, a campaign grouping chefs from the whole region in a campaign to raise public awareness of the problems of malnutrition, the importance of traditional foods in the diet and eating a varied diet. This campaign and the Economic Culture Fund published two recipe books for traditional staples, the potato in 2008 and the bean in 2009. This initiative has proven to be very effective in conveying the Initiative's messages and in helping launch programmes on good dietary and nutritional practices and programmes to recover traditional foods, such as Colombia's Indigenous Foods Programme.

43. There has been collaboration with the RLC's Food Safety and Quality Unit in publicizing the good hygiene and nutrition practices campaign COME SANO (eat safely), and its adaptation for Haiti. Scripts have been prepared to convert it into television commercials and radio slots. A pilot radio programme is being developed FAO's Onda Rural (Rural Radio) programme in five countries.

44. The Secretariat has also concentrated its advocacy work on journalists by means of two online courses on hunger and communication (maximum of 85 journalists) to increase their knowledge of food security issues and specific aspects to improve their communication on these issues. A competition on food security topics was organized with the EFE news agency, and there is an active network of leader-writers interested in the eradication of hunger.

45. Another advocacy instrument on the Right to Food are the progress reports on this topic that are produced in collaboration with civil society organizations and academic institutions. A total of 14 country reports have so far been issued.

46. The Initiative's blog has become a popular tool for communication and advocacy, reaching 45 000 visitors.

Training activities

47. Training has mainly been through online courses run in collaboration with the RLC Policy Training Unit. Six online courses have been organized on food security, four in Spanish and two in Portuguese, for a total audience of 293 students in 19 countries.

48. Fifteen teachers from Bolivia, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Paraguay have been trained in distance learning methodologies in order to promote the establishment of distance courses on food security in those countries. Along the same lines, training has been given to 17 teachers of Colombia's National Training Service (SENA), an agency that has incorporated the distance training Course on Food Security Policies in Colombia, which has been followed by more than 4000 students since it was first launched in the second half of 2008.

49. In collaboration with the Argentina's “White Helmets” RLC Policy Training Unit, an online course has been prepared on Risk Management and Food Security: Disaster Risk Management applied to Food Security in Crisis Situations, whose first edition was released in the second half in 2009 for 67 students. There have also been classroom courses for programme and organization technical staff working in the field of food security:

- II Postgraduate Course on Food Security, Poverty and Development in FLACSO Ecuador. 24 participants. November 2008 to January 2009.
- Workshop on Food Safety in Emergency Situations and Applied to the Sale of Streetfood. This was prepared and financed jointly by the RLC Food Safety Group and the support project for the HFLAC Initiative. 40 participants, Haiti, May 2009.

¹ http://www.e-ipa.org/Plenaries/Ottawa2009/Ottawa_en_docs.html

- A classroom course on Food Sovereignty and Security was organized in collaboration with Paraguay, 2009, GCP/RLA/169/SPA.

50. With regard to the Right to Food, work has been carried out with the Henry Dunant Foundation, on three editions of the Diploma on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR) and Public Policy, organized by the Foundation (210 students) and on two editions of the Diploma on ESCR of Indigenous Populations and the Right to Food (2008 and 2009) with a total of 70 students from 12 countries.

Implementation of policies, programmes and projects and capacity building

51. At both the XXX Regional Conference and the III Meeting of WG 2025, countries expressed a special interest in strengthening the framework of the Initiative, and the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes. In practice this has been seriously hampered by the absence of a specific technical working mechanism and deliberation and decision-making instrument similar – in a certain sense – to the regional conference, but able to operate with greater frequency.

52. At the same time, if the HFLAC Initiative is to be consolidated with the implementation of policies to eradicate hunger in 2025, the more vulnerable countries will need support from cooperation movements. In this connection, the L’Aquila Food Security Initiative (AFSI) could serve as a funding channel to enable the countries with higher levels of malnutrition and fewer resources to respond to the crisis and move ahead at the necessary pace to achieve the 2025 target. This would require an instrument comparable to Africa’s Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), which could be developed in the framework of the Initiative, although clearly taking into account the diversity of situations and characteristics of the countries of the region and also introducing subregional perspectives, so that the approaches adopted reflect different country needs and remain coherent with the efforts being made by countries at subregional level.

53. To that end, the Technical Secretariat will suggest to the IV meeting of WG 2025 the possibility of establishing a coordinating mechanism for the subregional integration organizations on the one hand: Central American Integration System [SICA], Southern Common Market [MERCOSUR], Community of Andean Nations [CAN], Caribbean Community [CARICOM] and WG 2025 and the HFLAC Technical Secretariat on the other. This mechanism would aim to establish a working instrument that, using existing structures, could establish a programme of priorities and investments with a project portfolio that would operationalize initiatives such as the AFSI in LAC and/or establish an implementation fund for implementation of the Initiative that would be open to the different partners of the region, so that priority countries could develop appropriately scaled programmes of strengthening family farming, territorial rural development and mitigation and adaptation to climate change geared towards the eradication of hunger in 2025.

54. During this reporting period, Project GCP/RLA/160/SPA has supported the Food Security Programme of Haiti and National Food Security Coordination, with which it established a support programme together with FAO Headquarters for formulation of the National Food Security Plan and its communication and consultation strategy, as well as a law giving formal institutional recognition of the National Office for Food Security. In 2009, support was provided to extend and consolidate the network of decentralized Food Security Observatories.

55. In Ecuador, the Project for the Territorial Development of Food and Nutritional Security was supported through the training of field officers, 100 technicians of the Alimentate Ecuador Programme, who will implement the project in the field.

56. In response to the needs raised by the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC), support was given to drafting the ToR and the formulation mission of a project to strengthen and develop the staple grain seed production sector in Central America, which was the basis of the Project Strengthening Staple Grain Seed Production Policies in support of Family Farming for Food Security in the CAC Member Countries (GCP/RLA/182/SPA).

57. The Secretariat also supported and participated in the process of formulation and discussion of the FNS plan in the department of Oruro (Bolivia).

South-South Cooperation

58. The region is very active in pursuing South-South cooperation. The report on South-South cooperation in Latin America 2009 of the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) covers 19 countries, and records a total of 1879 actions in the field of bilateral cooperation alone, which is 27% higher than in 2007. However, there is no regular forum to cover all the countries of the region, systematically determine possible areas of cooperation and match supply with demand. A clear shortcoming is the absence of a detailed profile of each country's supply capacity and demand. The Secretariat of the Initiative has proposed that the IV WG 2025 discuss the possibility of creating a specific working group on this subject.

59. The support project for the Initiative has sought to promote South-South cooperation through thematic forums and seminars that can facilitate contact between policymakers, enable each to learn what the other parties are doing and to exchange experiences. In this regard, it has always worked with the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) programmes set up by the countries of the region, as these serve to improve the access of vulnerable populations to basic goods and services, including food and healthcare which are essential for good nutritional status. The III and IV International Seminars on Conditional Cash Transfer Programmes were held during this reporting period.

60. The III International Seminar on Conditional Cash Transfer Programmes (Santiago, 1 and 2 December 2008) was organized jointly with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). The secretariat for the seminar was provided by Project GCP/RLA/160/SPA . The seminar was attended by representatives of institutions operating or overseeing programmes in 13 countries of the region. Notable among the outcomes of the seminar was the information compiled by the delegation of Paraguay, which will serve to expand project Tekoporá of the Secretariat for Social Development to combat extreme poverty. It was also agreed that experts from Brazil would conduct a technical support mission backed by the Initiative.

61. The IV International Seminar on Conditional Cash Transfer Programmes (Santiago, 5 and 6 November 2009) was attended by representatives of institutions operating or supervising such programmes in 12 countries of the region. The seminar focused on the international crisis and its impacts and on the capacity of the CCTs to respond to the challenges as an instrument for food security of vulnerable populations. There was further discussion of the possibilities of financial inclusion that this type of programme offered, drawing upon the experiences of certain countries of Latin America. A book compiling the results of the first three seminars was presented at this meeting.

Monitoring and evaluation

62. In the first operational stage of the support project for the Initiative, activity was directed towards promoting the establishment of a Regional Observatory in network with National Observatories. From 2009 the Regional Office Observatory was consolidated and integrated into its regular programme. This Observatory has channelled funds from the regular programme to the observatories of Belo Horizonte (Brazil), Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

63. One aspect that the Initiative needs to address in order to monitor the progress in eradicating malnutrition and hunger in the region towards 2025 is the development of instruments by which the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean institute a process of monitoring with indicators and targets and formal mechanisms of cooperation and of mobilization of resources that will help to strengthen national efforts and programmes to build a regional initiative in all its dimensions. Such a system of indicators and targets requires a process of collaborative work and agreements from the countries. Discussions on possible mechanisms to address this topic will be

proposed by the Secretariat of the Initiative at the IV meeting of WG 2025.

Focal points

64. The Secretariat of the Initiative has been notified of the appointment of focal points for the HFLAC Initiative by Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti and Mexico.