



## RIGHT TO FOOD AT COUNTRY LEVEL



Monthly Progress Note /// October 2012

[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.*

In October 2012, FAO hosted the annual Committee on World Food Security (CFS)’s meeting in Rome. The Right to Food Team in FAO and the project, in the context of its **Global Level Services**, were actively involved in the preparations and organization of both a CFS side event and an afternoon seminar on the right to food. The CFS side event, entitled “The transformational power of the right to food: Countries pioneering right to food strategies”, was co-organized by the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food Olivier de Schutter, the OHCHR and FAO. By posing the following two questions, “what does it mean to implement the right to food at the national level?” and “what is its added value for achieving food security and what are good practice examples?” and with a set of distinguished guest speakers, the side event looked at concrete steps to strengthen national laws, policies and strategies to realize the right to food and discussed lessons learned from national experiences presented by the panelists. Among the panelists of the CFS side event on the right to food, Mr. Biraj Patnaik, Principal Adviser of the Office of Commissioners to the Supreme Court in the right to food case in India, was invited to speak at an afternoon seminar organized by the project entitled “A briefing on right to food in India”. India provides interesting insights over the advances countries can make on the right to food and Mr. Patnaik addressed key questions related to his country leading an insightful discussion on the topic.

In October 2012, the project also supported a mission to El Salvador and Bolivia undertaken by the Project Manager and International Right to Food Consultant based in Mozambique. The mission to **El Salvador** was undertaken from the 22-26 October with the main objective of supporting the project’s main stakeholders’ efforts to achieve the progressive implementation of the right to food. More practically the team undertook trainings and high level meetings with Parliamentarians and Government officers. Parliamentarians were informed about the advantages of integrating the right to food and more generally a human rights-based approach in policies and normative. Meetings and trainings involving CONASAN reinforced the capacity of this body to coordinate issues related to the right to food in the country. A number of recommendations were made to stakeholders on how to replicate the integration of the right to food in the Family Farming Plan – Food Security (Plan de Agricultura Familiar (PAF) - Seguridad Alimentaria) in other FAO projects. The mission also helped defining priorities, activities and future areas of work of the project in El Salvador and revising the strategy for an advocacy campaign for the right to food.

The mission to **Bolivia** was undertaken from the 27-31 October. The mission took part to the event during which the Bolivian Parliamentarian Forum for Food Sovereignty and the Right to Food (Frente Parlamentario por la Soberanía Alimentaria y el Derecho a la Alimentación) was presented. The project has long been supporting its establishment, including during missions, and the efforts of the national project team based at CONAN. The mission made also an important contribution by participating to and providing briefings during a seminar on right to food, food security and nutrition responsibilities in the context of the autonomous territories in the country. Lastly, together with the national team, the mission evaluated project activities undertaken in 2012; opportunities and priority activities for 2013; discussed possible synergies and areas for collaboration between FAO Bolivia, head quarters and the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative (Iniciativa América Latina y Caribe sin Hambre - IALCSH); and defined the methodology for the preparation of a document which will constitute one of the main outputs of the project and which will address the seven steps for the implementation of the right to food in Bolivia.

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*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.*

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