



## RIGHT TO FOOD AT DISTRICT LEVEL

# Training Course: Integration of the Right to Food into District Development Plans

*FAO started a new global project that supports governments and civil society in applying human rights principles when addressing food insecurity and malnutrition problems through district and sub-district development planning. InWEnt and FAO collaborated on strengthening capacity of district technical officers on food security and nutrition and the right to food.*

## The Project

### Why the focus on good governance practices?

Good governance practices are essential for sound food security and nutrition interventions to be effective. Targeted interventions to address food insecurity and malnutrition are likely to be more effective when governments take a lead role and vulnerable groups directly participate in the development, implementation and monitoring of food security and nutrition actions. Meaningful participation requires transparent planning processes and real opportunities to hold government and its partners accountable for their actions and performance, and for the use of public resources.



Sierra Leone, Village meeting

With the additional emphasis on the right to food and good governance practices we expect that planning and implementation of technically sound food security and nutrition actions will be more efficient and effective.

### Why the focus on district and sub-district levels?

The project responds to a global trend of decentralization and devolution of functions, decision making power and resources from national to district level. This trend supports the hypothesis that food security action based on community level priorities and needs can potentially accelerate the reduction of persistent high prevalence of hunger and malnutrition. The district with its close ties to grassroots groups, while obtaining guidance and general policy direction from the central level, may be the most adequate administrative level for development planning and actions. Further, the close interaction between district officials and civil society at district level catalyzes the positive effects of applying good governance practices in planning and implementation of food security and nutrition activities.

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## The Learning Experience

### The FAO-InWEnt collaboration

As an integral part of the 3-year development project, InWEnt offered a two-week tailor-made course on food security, nutrition and the right to food to district technical officers from Uganda, Sierra Leone and Zanzibar. The course used an interactive learning approach. Country and district specific examples were used to respond to specific needs of the participants and to directly relate to the participants' working context. One session was dedicated to prepare individual work plans for next steps. FAO will provide technical assistance to accompany the implementation of these work plans and the project in general.

#### Strengths of the course:

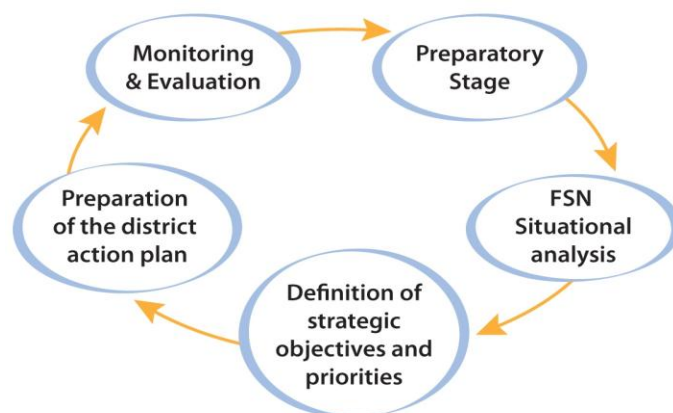
- Part of an ongoing project – follow-up and assistance after training ensured
- Training content closely related to working context (e.g. use of concrete examples)
- Country delegations of 8 to 9 ensure sound information about country and working context
- Working in country groups facilitates follow-up
- Working in cross-country groups facilitates exchange and mutual learning

### The training content

How can one ensure that causes of food insecurity and malnutrition are adequately addressed in district plans and that planning, implementation and monitoring take due account of human rights principles?

The course followed a generic planning cycle at district level and reflected how to address food security and nutrition concerns in each of the steps. Most crucial is the food security and nutrition situation analysis, i.e. understanding who are food insecure and why. Participants learned how to choose appropriate methods to obtain relevant data and how to interpret this data to get a solid understanding of the food security and nutrition situation of a district. If this step is done thoroughly, formulating objectives and drafting a food security action plan follow smoothly. Compliance with human rights principles, coordination with other sectors and partners, and advocacy and communication were other topics of the course – knowledge and skills that strengthen food security and nutrition actions.

Five Stages of the Planning Process



### The way forward

All country groups prepared detailed work plan on the basis of the lessons learnt and the demands at their home district. Some individual commitments:

- Call up a training workshop for other colleagues
- Review draft situation analysis/district profiles
- Advocacy on food security and the right to food
- Sensitize the communities
- Train and create awareness of the stakeholder and directly coordinate the development planning process to ensure that food security and nutrition is integrated in the plan
- Work more closely with different sectors to build synergies and integrate food security and nutrition aspects into plans developed guided by human rights principles
- Hold meetings with district food security and nutrition committee, develop a concrete action plan
- Coordination, advocacy and lobby