

# Unit 1: Introduction to the Right to Food

## Lesson: Human Rights-based Approach to Development

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this lesson, the learner will be able to:

- understand the concept of a human rights-based approach
- understand how a human rights-based approach can be applied and used in development projects
- understand how a human rights-based approach contributes to development, and why it is important

Suggestions for authors:

Focus on the direct program implications of a human-rights based approach, and keep theory to a minimum.

### Learning Step 1: Human rights-based approach; concept and principles

Scope notes: Describe the concept of human rights-based approach as based on human rights principles (transparency, participation, non-discrimination, etc), explain that it is both an approach of process and outcome. Describe, briefly, the roles of duty-bearers and rights-holders. Include various interpretations of the concept the current development discourse.

### Learning Step 2: Using human rights-based approach in development projects

Scope notes: Describe how one can use a human rights-based approach in all stages of projects (assessment, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation). Use practical descriptions, with examples.

### Learning Step 3: How a human rights-based approach contributes to development

Scope notes: Describe how a human rights-based approach leads to more efficient progress by empowering people and communities and how this self-empowerment leads to more sustainable development. Include how this efficiency also benefits UN development projects.

### Learning Step 4: Practical examples from the field

Scope notes: Use good examples from Brazil, Malawi and Sierra Leone to show how what has been discussed in previous learning steps in can be achieved in practice.

### Resources:

Frequently asked questions on a human rights-based approach to development cooperation," Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2006.

The Human Rights Based Approach to Development Cooperation-Towards a Common Understanding Among UN Agencies" 2003.

Integrating Human Rights into Development – Donor Approaches, Experiences and Challenges," OECD, 2006.

What can we do with a rights-based approach to development?, Overseas Development Institute

Indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals – Definitions, Rationale, Concepts and Sources, United Nations Development Group, 2003.