

Associazione di Cooperazione Rurale in  
Africa e America latina (ACRA)



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations –  
Sustainable Development Department, Extension, Education and  
Communication Service (SDRE)



Associazione delle ONG italiane



**Meeting on:**

**“The Contribution of Education for Rural People (ERP)  
to the Millennium Development Goals.  
Results from case studies in  
Senegal, Chad, Tanzania, Bolivia and Chile”**

Rome, FAO Headquarters  
31 May 2005, 10.30–15.30 hrs.  
**Mexico Room, D-211**

In partnership with UNESCO



Supported by the European Commission  
within the Development Education Programme  
“Education for Rural People (ERP) and Food Security”



## BACKGROUND

### The Education for Rural People Partnership Flagship

About 70 per cent of the poor live in rural areas. Despite the fact that education is a basic right in itself and an essential prerequisite for reducing poverty, improving the living conditions of rural people and building a food-secure world, children's access to education in rural areas is still much lower than in urban areas, adult illiteracy is much higher and the quality of education is poorer.

During the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002), the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO, Sustainable Development Department)** and the **United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** launched the *Education for Rural People* (ERP) flagship partnership - within the International Alliance Against Hunger and the Education for All (EFA) initiatives. The partnership, led by FAO, is a call for a collaborative action among governments, United Nations agencies and civil society, to boost education in rural areas.

The partnership seeks to address rural-urban disparities, which are a serious concern to governments and the international community as a whole.

The partnership's **objectives** are to:

- Build awareness on the importance of *Education for rural people* as a crucial step to achieve the Millennium goals of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger and achieving universal primary education.
- Increase access to basic *Education for rural people*.
- Improve the quality of basic education in rural areas.
- Foster the national capacity to plan and implement basic education plans to address the learning needs of rural people.

The flagship's **activities** are:

*At the national level*

- Technical support to countries willing to address the basic educational needs of the rural people by formulating specific plans of action as part of the national plans on *Education for all*.

*At the international level*

- Advocate and mobilize partnerships for *Education for rural people* by concentrating on strategic global, regional and international events, and encouraging the same within countries.
- Identify the capacity for different substantive components on *Education for rural people* within partner institutions.
- Support the exchange of good practices and knowledge on *Education for rural people*.

## **Building partnerships with Civil Society: a European project**

In January 2003 a group of Italian NGOs<sup>1</sup> - led by the Association of Rural Cooperation in Africa and Southern America (ACRA), in collaboration with the National Association of Italian NGOs, a group of European NGOs<sup>2</sup> and the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Africa and Latin America<sup>3</sup> - joined efforts with FAO and UNESCO-IIEP, to build a partnership in support of *Education For Rural People*. The objective was two-fold: to strengthen the ERP partnership through the participation of European civil society and to strengthen the impact of partners' work through networking.

The project: “**Education for Rural People and Food Security. From land tenure to resources management: a participatory approach in fighting against poverty**”, supported by the European Commission within the Development Education programs,<sup>4</sup> aims at facilitating the development of advocacy campaigns and international cooperation programmes among CSOs in Europe and in developing countries.

The project objectives are:

- Building a partnership among FAO, UNESCO and European NGOs to raise awareness among civil society, local and national institutions on the key role of ERP in achieving poverty reduction, food security and sustainable development.
- Strengthening NGOs advocacy and lobbying capacity in support of ERP at local, national and European level.
- Promoting NGOs' capacity to develop an ERP networking strategy in each country involved.

The project target groups are:

- Operators of European NGOs members of CONCORD<sup>5</sup>.
- Aid and Development Agencies.
- Institutions at local, National and European level (Local and Regional Administrations, Ministries of Education, Agriculture and Environment, The European Commission, Council and Parliament)
- European Schools and Universities.
- Civil Society Organizations working in education, in rural development poverty reduction and food security and consumers organizations.
- Media operators and internet users.

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<sup>1</sup> The NGOs members of the Consortium are: ACRA, CAST, and CELIM Bergamo. Other Italian NGOs involved in the project as partners: ASIA, COOPI, COMI, COSPE, COSV, ICEI, ISCOS, NEXUS, Prodocs, Progetto Continenti, PROSVIL, Terra Nuova, Terre des Hommes.

<sup>2</sup> The European NGOs members of the Consortium are CFSI (France), Global Connections (UK). Other European NGOs involved as partners: Coop'Dec (France) and Cyfanfyd (UK).

<sup>3</sup> The Latin American NGOs involved are: Cejcs (Bolivia) and Conapach (Chile); the Africa NGOs are: ACDAR (Chad), KDES and CONGAD (Senegal) and Zanzibar Youth Forum (Tanzania).

<sup>4</sup> The European-Commission-supported Development Education programs implemented by civil society aim at informing and sensitizing public opinion about relevant problems of development at an international level; sensitizing institutions in order to mobilize and orient cooperation policies; and empowering civil society networking through training and capacity building

<sup>5</sup> CONCORD is the European coordination mechanism of European Union's NGOs. It groups National Associations and Platforms of NGOs as well as NGOs Networks and Families from all Countries of the European Union.

Over the period October 2004 - October 2006 the project foresees the following actions:

In Africa and Latin America:

- ✓ **A pilot study on ERP and NGOs programmes in Senegal, Chad, Tanzania, Bolivia, Chile (\*)**. The results of the pilot study in the five Countries will be presented within the meeting "The Contribution of Education for Rural People to the Millennium Development Goals" (Rome, FAO Headquarters, 31 May 2005).
- ✓ The inclusion of local and international NGOs in ERP "Regional Capacity-Building Workshops" in Latin America and Africa.
- ✓ A participatory identification of priorities for NGOs' programmes in ERP.

In Europe (Italy, France, UK, and Belgium):

- ✓ A local networking with NGOs and institutions, aimed at promoting decentralized cooperation and joint advocacy actions at national and european level.
- ✓ The production of ERP educational and training tools and the organization of workshops for secondary schools.
- ✓ A Capacity-building on ERP strategy of NGOs, National and Local staff of Ministries of Education and Agriculture.
- ✓ A Joint planning of ERP development projects.
- ✓ The production of information and communication tools on ERP for Civil Society
- ✓ The organization of a European meeting with National Platforms of NGOs and European Institutions.

### **(\*) The pilot study**

The study has been realized by a team of five researchers (one for each country), working for five months (from December 2004 to May 2005) in close collaboration with *at least one* local partner organization. Common terms of reference were shared during the Workshop held in FAO on 15-17 November 2004.

### **Objectives**

The pilot study aimed at:

- developing a shared understanding, between FAO, local and international NGOs, on ERP and its different aspects in relation to different situations and contexts;
- increasing the involvement of NGOs in ERP and related actions;
- encouraging and advocating more investment in ERP among NGOs and Governments;
- increasing visibility of good practices in ERP promoted at all levels;
- fostering networking and coordination between local and international NGOs, UN agencies, local and national institutions in the fields of Food Security, Agriculture, Rural Development and Education.

### **Expected results**

1. An Overview on the interconnections between national education plans and rural development policies
2. The educational needs assessment of rural communities at local level.

3. The identification of priorities to improve rural livelihoods and food security through education.
4. The identification of proposals for action, involving NGOs and other actors at local, national and international level.

## **Methodology**

The criteria for collecting information were based on the studies carried out by FAO in Kosovo, Bosnia and Croatia with a focus on child, youth and adult education in formal and non-formal settings looking at Access, Quality and Capacity Building.

Information sources were Ministries and primary data complemented by a participatory field-based research carried out in selected focused areas in collaboration with the local partner NGOs in rural communities.

Following to the priorities identified in each country, each case study has been focusing on a specific sector of Education, to be strengthened through networking.

### ***Senegal***

Thematic focus: early childhood and primary education

Geographic focus: Casamance

Partner NGOs: KDES, CONGAD

### ***Chad***

Thematic focus: primary education, community schools

Geographic focus: Guéra, Mandoul and Mayo Kebbi Est

Partner NGO: ACDAR

### ***Tanzania***

Thematic focus: relevance of curriculum to rural peoples' needs and secondary school teachers' training

Focused area: Unguja (Zanzibar) and Pemba

Partner NGO: Zanzibar Youth Forum

### ***Bolivia***

Thematic focus: non formal education and basic skills training for young people and adults in rural communities

Focused areas: departments of Cairoma (Valle Araca) and Santa Cruz

Partner NGO: CEJIS

### ***Chile***

Thematic focus: non formal education and vocational training for young people and adults in artisan fishing communities

Geographic focus: X Calette, Hulaihue, La Arena and Carelmapu

Partner NGO : Conapach