

METHODS TO MONITOR THE HUMAN RIGHT TO ADEQUATE FOOD

VOLUME I





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Making the Case for Rights-Focused and Rights-Based Monitoring



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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Preface

*The right to adequate food is enshrined in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in a number of subsequent international and regional covenants. It has been reaffirmed by world leaders at the World Food Summits in 1996 and 2002 and concrete commitments were made to promote its progressive realisation. Since then governments and international civil society organisations have come together, under FAO's leadership, to pledge their renewed commitment to the realisation of the right to adequate food. In November 2004, the FAO Council adopted the "Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security" (from here on called **Right to Food Guidelines**), following a two-year long negotiation process, which was marked by active and constructive participation by civil society organisations and the international donor community. The entire process represented the first time that member states have worked together to draft such a document for any one of the economic, social and cultural right. It represents a milestone in the advancement of basic human rights.*

*The **Right to Food Guidelines** are intended to provide practical guidance and advice to states in establishing priorities and in implementing ways to promote, protect and fulfil the right to adequate food in their own countries. First and foremost, the **Right to Food Guidelines** present a broad normative framework within which this may take place. In practice, an **additional step** is required, that is, transforming their contents into practical tools for: (i) development planning, policy formulation, and programme and project design and implementation, and (ii) monitoring the implementation of all measures and actions that should contribute to the right to adequate food being realised over time for more people.*

*These two volumes of the **Methods to Monitor the Human Right to Adequate Food** contribute to this additional step. These volumes are part of a series of reference guides that the Right to Food Unit has prepared. They aim to be highly practical and to provide the most current and relevant methodological and operational information related to monitoring the right to adequate food. No recipes are presented but instead, methodological options are explained and discussed. Information regarding specific methods are summarised, and references to easily accessed sources of technical and methodological documentation are provided. In most cases, the methods included are already being applied in more general monitoring of food security, nutrition and poverty reduction.*

Volume I presents a broad framework for monitoring the protection and realisation of the right to adequate food, within the broader context of rights-based development. In "making the case" this volume attempts to contribute to a common understanding of what rights-focused monitoring and rights-based monitoring mean. Issues are introduced that will undoubtedly be involved in country-level monitoring of the right to adequate food. An analysis of likely opportunities and constraints can help to put in place strategic approaches. In-country monitoring the right to adequate food also involves

institutional issues that need to be considered and addressed, as well as analytical and methodological issues involved in rights-based monitoring. Finally, some hints are provided as to how to go about organising at country level to implement monitoring the right to adequate food, building on existing monitoring systems.

Volume II provides a detailed overview of various methods and approaches relevant to monitoring the right to adequate food. The primary target users of Volume II are expected to be technical staff in public sector institutions and civil society organisations that are responsible for planning and monitoring food security, nutrition, and poverty reduction policy development and programming, and of progress towards achievement of food security, nutrition and poverty related goals and targets. Volume II is meant to help make their work easier, more efficient and effective.

We consider both volumes to be “living” documents, in the sense that it is through in-country application and use that it will be possible to gauge needs to introduce changes and modifications in order to increase their usefulness. We expect these documents to be adapted to specific situations and refined as they are being implemented. We therefore kindly invite users to share with us their experiences with the use of these documents, as well as any comments and suggestions that will allow us to improve the contents, organisation and/or presentation of these volumes.

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List of acronyms

AGN	Nutrition and Consumer Protection Division
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
ESC	Economic, Social and Cultural
ESCR	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FIAN	Food First Information and Action Network
FIVIMS	Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IAWG	Inter-Agency Working Group
IDS	Institute of Development Studies
IGWG	Inter-Governmental Working Group
IPRFD	International Project on the Right to Food in Development
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
PDSA	Participatory Service Delivery Assessment
RFM	Rights Focused Monitoring
RTFG	Right to Food Guidelines
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WHO	World Health Organization