



action plan

PROJECT GCP/RLA/160/SPA



initiative
HUNGER-FREE
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



AECI

INITIATIVE “HUNGER-FREE LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN” ACTION PLAN 2007 - PROJECT GCP/RLA/160/SPA

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INITIATIVE'S DEVELOPMENT GOALS

To eradicate hunger guaranteeing food and nutritional security for every inhabitant of Latin America and the Caribbean, in compliance with the UN Millennium Development Goals for 2015 and beyond.

SPECIFIC PROJECT GOALS

To support public policies and program development aimed at hunger eradication through national commitments, supported by government, congress, society and the private sector. The initiative will strengthen the institutional framework of Food Security and Nutritional Programs (Policies, Laws, Right to Food, Food Security Strategies), and the implementation of an Action Plan with appropriate budget allocations to the dimension of the problem in each country.

THE INITIATIVE'S OBJECTIVE

To reduce to a minimum level child chronic malnutrition and undernourishment, as a necessary condition and prerequisite to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals (particularly the first), and as a first step towards social cohesion and human development.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

To increase the number of projects, strategies and programs against hunger to be implemented in the region, establishing them as state policies to guarantee the **Right to Food** and to strengthen the institutional

framework. These strategic documents should have an effective implementation, through budgetary assignments or external financial assistance in relation to the scale of the problem. Finally, the impact of the policy and budget allocations should bring -during the project's lifespan- an important reduction in the numbers of starving people (according to chronic malnutrition and undernourishment indicators). This impact can be achieved if the political, local and international situation remains stable.

PRIORITY COUNTRIES AND TARGET GROUP

Although the project has regional coverage, during the first year it will concentrate most of its efforts in supporting national processes in the following countries: *Haiti, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Peru, Bolivia and Paraguay*, in addition to specific actions in other countries. During the following years, the list will include additional nations.

Actions to eradicate Child Chronic Undernourishment will be prioritized, supporting policies and programs that benefit affected children as well as their families and the communities where they live, thereby increasing and reinforcing the means of subsistence for these children's families.

STREAMLINING OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

One of the main goals of the project is to promote political action against hunger through an increase in financial, human and



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institutional resources. These additional resources and their assignment to priority groups and areas should be channeled via governmental institutions (ministries, departments and local institutions), through their own or complementary funds from Official Development Assistance.

GOALS

1) *Increased awareness regarding hunger and the Right to Food issues in the agenda of national, regional as well as international organisms, to ensure that hunger eradication becomes a national priority, thus gaining civil society's support for the efforts against hunger.*

2) *Strengthening of the countries' capacity to develop public policies and programs for eradicate hunger thus guaranteeing the Right to Food for their citizens, in a proper institutional framework on local, regional, and national levels.*

3) *The development of a Food Security information system at a regional level, monitoring the countries' situation within the MDG framework and the promotion of knowledge exchange about the causes of hunger in order to develop guidelines to eradicate it.*

PROJECTED RESULTS OF THE PRIORITY LINES OF ACTION

GOAL 1: Increased awareness regarding hunger and the Right to Food issues in the agenda of national, regional as well as international organisms, to ensure that hunger eradication becomes a national priority, thus gaining civil society's support for the efforts against hunger.

1.1. Awareness-raising amongst politicians, businessmen, decision makers and social leaders.

We seek to generate awareness in decision makers, trendsetters, social leaders and society. Specifically, through work with government employees, Members of Parliament, Judges and lawyers, journalists, national and international NGO's workers and college professors, as well as private sector representatives.

1.a.1. Proposal for Political Actions.

- XVII Iberoamerican Summit (Santiago, Nov 07) and SEGIB (Madrid, 18-19th. June).
- Latin-American Parliamentary Front against Hunger.
- Work with Regional Economic Integration Organizations: SICA (meeting with the Secretary on May in Chile), CAN, MERCOSUR (work with the Small Scale Agriculture Network, REAF).
- Presentation by Guatemala (17th. May) to the 77 Group (Non-Aligned Countries) in the United Nations Headquarters in New York.



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1.a.2. Academia.

- Latin America Studies Association (Montreal, Sept 07th.).
- Latin American Congress of Social Sciences (FLACSO Ecuador, 29-31th. October).

1.a.3. Private Sector.

- Meeting with Central American businessmen (INCAE, Costa Rica with RUTA).
- Material for Business Initiatives in Peru
- Events with Universidad Central of Chile.
- Proposal for Business Alliance Against Chronic Hunger with World Economic Forum.
- Food Banks (Chile, Argentina, Guatemala and Paraguay) and Forum Empresa in LAC.

1.a.4. Civil Society.

- Work with REAF of MERCOSUR.
- Support to FAORs in the promotion of National Alliances against Hunger.
- Activities with international NGOs (SCF, ACH, Oxfam, CARE, FIAN, Prosalus).

1.a.5. Media.

- Development of a communication strategy and conveying the messages of the Initiative.
- Organization of a regional journalists network.
- Publication of op-ed papers in journals and press agencies.

1.a.6. International Agencies.

- Interagency Group of Rural Development (July, Guatemala).

1.2. Promote the Right to Food for all.

The Initiative will promote the establishment of Right to Food (RTF) programs at different

levels in each country, on a local as well as national level. It will be necessary to carry out a campaign for awareness-raising in governments, legal and judicial institutions, as well as in with the entire population. The Right to Food must be placed among the fundamental human rights, so that each state guarantees it to its citizens, allowing for the creation of laws and statutes that will lay the foundations for establishing the Right to Food.

The Initiative will organize or participate in the following events:

- Workshop on Food and Nutrition Security Laws during IV FNS Conference, Brazil (3-6th. July 07).
- II International Seminar on Right to Food and Food Sovereignty (Cordoba, 4-5th. October 07).
- Week on RTF activities (WFD, 15-19th. October 07), collaborating with ESDG (Rome).
- And will develop a report on “Elements to develop a legal framework to support the right to Food”.

1.3. Communication and distribution of material produced by the Initiative.

The production and distribution of documents, publications, news, and other materials in the media and academic forums, will be crucial in the awareness-raising efforts. The Initiative will:

- Design material for awareness-raising and communication, with the establishment of a web page linked to the FAO RLC site.
- Prepare a text with conceptual elements on hunger and malnutrition, and another with figures and indicators in the region for broadcasting.



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- Publish a monthly bulletin with progress of the Initiative, beginning in July 2007.
- Publish a series of Initiative documents: A) Working Papers, B) Initiative Reports, C) Policy Synthesis, and D) Country Profile.
- Perform videoconferences with countries of the region (FAORs and Governments) to discuss agenda items.
- Prepare a Base Document (White Paper) of the Initiative (history, fundamentals, statistics, messages, components, work plan) for the Regional Conference.

GOAL 2: Strengthening of the countries' capacity to develop public policies and programs for eradicate hunger thus guaranteeing the Right to Food for their citizens, in a proper institutional framework on local, regional, and national levels.

2.1. Technical backstopping for National Food Security Policies and Programs to eradicate hunger in the region.

The Initiative will support in the preparation of documents on policy, strategy, territorial planning and laws of Food Security, along with plans for action with appropriate budget allocations, on a national as well as sub regional (regional economic integration organizations) to eradicate hunger. This backstopping will be carried out by FAO officials as well as by exchanges among countries (south-south cooperation) which will be promoted in the framework of the Initiative. This work is part of the main core of the project's objective, because it represents concrete and practical support to

be offered to countries with the most critical food insecurity prevalence.

Support to institutional frameworks and National Food Security Programs is organized in three sets:

2.1.1. Support anti-hunger policies and programs that mobilize additional resources, either from national budgets or international cooperation.

- Food Security Program of **Peru**.
- Food Security Program of **Ecuador**.
- Food Security Program of **Paraguay**.
- Food Security Program of **Bolivia**.

2.1.2. Coordination with PESA to expand the coverage of National Food Security Programs.

There will be a close collaboration with PESA programs that are already in progress, building upon their institutional development and actual experience. The focus will be on the replication of successful experiences in a greater scale, and on the promotion of the institutional framework of Food Security.

- Program to eradicate Chronic Malnutrition in **Guatemala**.
- Zero Hunger Program of **Nicaragua**.
- National Food Security Program of **Haiti**.

2.1.3. Technical assistance to existing National Initiatives/Programs against Hunger, when required by countries.

- Program Alto La Paz, **Bolivia**.
- Program Bogotá sin Hambre, **Colombia**.
- Assessment of the FS Institutional Framework in **Guatemala**.
- Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture Programs.



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2.2. Training food security managers and policy workers.

This type of training, focused on the multiple dimensions of the Right to Food and on the planning, carrying out, and evaluation of programs that fight hunger, will target government officers and technicians who operate programs and projects concerning FS, as well as personnel of NGOs and members of international organisms, universities, unions, associations of farmer workers, etc. The goal is to create a critical mass of trained officials in order to carry out successful programs against hunger.

During the first year, the training activities will be focused on seven priority countries.

- On-line seminar for Journalists on hunger and poverty.
- FODEPAL course on Food Security: Brazil.
- Blended courses with FODEPAL in Nicaragua and Brazil.
- Face-to-face course in Food Security: Paraguay, Ecuador and Bolivia.
- Design of material for self-learning (CD and printed material) on Food Security.
- FODEPAL experts' workshop on Biofuels and Food Security.

GOAL 3: The development of a Food Security information system at a regional level, monitoring the countries' situation within the MDG framework and the promotion of knowledge exchange about the causes of hunger in order to develop guidelines to eradicate it.

This result has an immediate link with the previous one, since the goal it sought is to improve the quality of the FS information

that social leaders and program managers have access to, which would contribute to a better design, execution and tracking of the programs against hunger.

3.1. Measuring Hunger and Tracking MDG 1 Progress in the Region.

The Initiative has as one of its main missions the analysis and tracking of the situation regarding hunger and malnutrition in the region, with the objective of having available up-to-date information about the who, what, where, and why concerning the existence of hunger in the region, and therefore will be a position to provide pertinent information to those in the position of making decisions.

This work will be jointly undertaken with CEPAL, which has been instructed by the UN Secretary General to follow up the MDG progress. The availability of information should be widely publicized, to foster a high profile and position it in the public agenda. Also, South-South Cooperation will be promoted to help the evaluation of the programs against hunger, stimulating information exchange of practical experiences among countries.

- First Latin America and the Caribbean Conference on Household Food Security Measure (8-10th. June, Antioquia, Colombia).
- Promote the Undernourishment Methodology (one of the MDG 1 indicators), and provide training (through the FAO Statistics Department) when required.
- Joint work with Mexico (CONEVAL) and CEPAL to produce a system of FS indicators incorporating a multidimensional methodology for the measurement of poverty (Meeting in July, Santiago).



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3.2. Improve information quality and analysis on FS for the design and evaluation of policies and programs.

This effort will focus on the implications of hunger and how it affects different aspects of the country's development: economic growth, governance in a Human Rights framework, ethnic groups, HIV/AIDS, foreign trade, climate change, etc. This analysis will also include different aspects related to scaling up national Food Security programs.

- Support to the Food and Nutritional Security Research Network for Latin America and The Caribbean - REDSAN.
- Agreements with research institutions and consultants to produce relevant documents.

3.3. Coordination with initiatives and institutions of the UN System for the follow-up of MDG, WFS goal follow-up.

Although with different final goals, the MDG 1, the World Food Summit and the Initiative have a common path, since all actions aimed to reduce by half the percentage and number of hungry people are part of hunger eradication in the region. Therefore, until 2015, the synergies between this Initiative and the MDG are absolute. Agreements with other UN agencies and international organizations present in the region (SEGIB, IICA), and public and private foundations, will be encouraged and developed.

- Agreement Letter on joint research with CEPAL, that includes the Annual Report on the State of Food Insecurity in LAC.

3.4. Independent evaluation of actions for possible replication.

This Initiative will review experiences of anti-hunger projects in the LAC countries, which might be considered for replication, to take advantage of FAO experience, as well as the experience of other cooperation agencies, NGOs and regional and governmental organisms. Among the experiences to be evaluated one could mention the municipal program Bogotá Sin Hambre, the Alto La Paz urban and peri-urban agricultural experience, and the development of the Guatemala national front against hunger are the most relevant at this point.

- Production of the Technical Option Menu Against Hunger, using evaluations and systematizations of existing successful practices in each country.

INSTRUMENTS TO ACHIEVE THE EXPECTED RESULTS

a. **To provide Technical Assistance** to the countries and regional organizations to elaborate and implement Food Security Policies and Programs, and backstopping other related aspects (FS Laws, Strategies, Targeting, and institutional relations). This technical support may be supplied by RLC officers, GCP/RLA/160/SPA Project technical personnel or consultants.

b. **Technical Training on Food Security and Anti-Hunger programs.** This kind of training on the multiple dimension of Food Security and planning, management and evaluation of struggle against hunger programs will



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be aimed to officers and technicians of governments that operate FS programs and projects, as well as for NGOs personnel, international organisms, colleges, unions, farmer associations, and so on. The goal is to create a critical mass of technicians to carry out successful programs against hunger. During 2007, the training activities will focus on the seven prioritized countries.

c. Awareness-raising for decision makers and opinion leaders through public activities and media presence. The Initiative will be presented in regional and international events, with the goal of keeping this anti-hunger momentum in the regional and national political agendas. The promotion of successful FS experiences that could be extended in a greater scale will be of the utmost importance.

d. To encourage Social Mobilization through NGOs and private enterprises, to demand Food Security State Policies, with the leadership of the government and support from all stakeholders.

e. To organize South -South Cooperation among the region’s countries, with FAO playing a catalytic of exchanges that will

include politicians, social leaders, experts and journalists.

f. To communicate the Initiative and the nations’ experiences. Regarding hunger, communication and the media are the key to mobilize political action. There will be special emphasis relating to National Child Chronic Malnutrition Programs. Video conferences will be used to keep close contact with FAOR as well as governments.

g. To develop Research and Information, in collaboration with universities and research centers. Production of the Technical Menu Against Hunger, taking advantage of the evaluations and systematizations of successful practices in each country. The practices to be promoted are: (a) Small-Scale Agriculture, (b) water and watershed management, (c) Nutritional Education, (d) Greenhouses, (e) Territorial Development, (f) Social Expenditure on public goods, (g) Conditional Cash Transferences and (h) Budget Support from the International Cooperation.

h. To make Alliances with regional, national and international institutions to broaden the Initiative’s scope and to make hunger eradication a fundamental step towards social cohesion.

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