

# HAKI ZETU

## ESC rights in Practice

---

### The Right to Adequate Food

*Haki Zetu* is Swahili for Our Rights

© 2010 Amnesty International

Published in collaboration with FIAN – FoodFirst Information and Action Network

ISBN: 9789064632624

Cover illustration: Lawson B Sworh, Liberia

Illustrations: Sammy Mwangomba, Tanzania

Design and lay-out: Connie Kraaikamp, Netherlands

Printing: Drukkerij Bariet, Netherlands

This book is part of the Handbook series *Haki Zetu, ESC rights in Practice* and should be used in conjunction with the Main Book.

Distributed by:

Amnesty International Netherlands

Special Programme on Africa (SPA)

PO Box 1968

1000 BZ Amsterdam

The Netherlands

Email: [spa@amnesty.nl](mailto:spa@amnesty.nl)

As PDF file available at [www.amnesty.nl/spa](http://www.amnesty.nl/spa)

This publication is copyright, but may be reproduced by any method without fee for advocacy, campaigning or teaching purposes, but not for resale. When doing so, please acknowledge Amnesty International Netherlands as your resource. For copying in any other circumstances, or for re-use in other publications, or for translation or adaptation, prior written permission must be obtained from the publishers.



**AMNESTY**  
**INTERNATIONAL**



**Amnesty International is publishing *The Right to Adequate Food* in collaboration with FIAN – FoodFirst Information and Action Network**



**Amnesty International** is a global movement of 2.8 million supporters, members and activists in more than 150 countries and territories who campaign to end grave abuses of human rights.

Our vision is for every person to enjoy all the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards.

Amnesty International is independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion – funded mainly by its members and public donations.



**FIAN** International is an international human rights organisation that has advocated for the realisation of the right to food for more than 20 years. FIAN consists of national sections and individual members in over 50 countries around the world. FIAN is a not-for-profit organisation without religious or political affiliation and has consultative status with the United Nations. FIAN's mission is to expose violations of people's right to food wherever they occur and to help secure people's access to the resources they need in order to feed themselves, now and in the future.

The Handbook series has been developed and produced by the **Special Programme on Africa** (SPA) of Amnesty International Netherlands. The SPA works together with African partners to make human rights more meaningful to people at community level.

The programme aims to contribute to:

- The growth of human rights activism in Africa, with an emphasis on making human rights work in and for rural communities; and
- Innovation of strategies and methods as a means of increasing their effectiveness and making a meaningful contribution to the promotion, protection, respect and fulfilment of human rights.

For more information and to download publications go to [www.amnesty.nl/spa](http://www.amnesty.nl/spa)



## Acknowledgements

This book was researched and drafted by Sandra Ratjen, an international jurist who worked for the promotion and protection of the right to adequate food within FIAN International for over 10 years. At FIAN's international secretariat in Heidelberg, she coordinated the organisation's work within the UN Human Rights system as the advocacy and international policies coordinator. For three years she also coordinated the FIAN's work in Africa. Her main fields of work are monitoring state policies related to the right to food, justiciability of the right to food, and extraterritorial obligations. She is the author of several handbooks related to economic, social and cultural rights and the right to food.

Gillian Nevins, the principal writer of the *Haki Zetu* series, contributed to the drafting with comments and suggestions. She worked with Amnesty International for 25 years, of which 18 years as researcher in the Africa Program and the last two years as Campaign and Training Coordinator in the ESC rights team. As a researcher she wrote a major report on forced evictions and the right to adequate housing in Angola. In the ESC rights team she helped to prepare Amnesty International's worldwide Demand Dignity campaign.

We thank the members of the Editorial Advisory Committee who helped to develop the concept and framework for this Handbook series (see the Acknowledgements in the Main Book for details).

We thank Paul McAdams for his editing work and design advice, without which this handbook series would not be as reader-friendly as it is.

Peter van der Horst, Coordinator of Amnesty International Netherlands' Special Programme on Africa managed the development and production of this book.

The *Haki Zetu* handbook series has been developed by Amnesty International in partnership with others. It is an educational tool and not an Amnesty International policy text.



# Table of Contents



## List of figures, boxes, tables & checklists 7

---



## Introduction 9

---



## 1 Understanding the right to adequate food 12

---

- 1.1 The current food situation in Africa 12
  - 1.1.1 The impact of the world food crisis on Africa 13
  - 1.1.2 The right to food and other human rights 13
  - 1.1.3 Main violations of the right to food 15
- 1.2 The right to adequate food 15
  - 1.2.1 The basics 15
  - 1.2.2 More in depth 16
- 1.3 The right to be free from hunger 18
  - 1.3.1 The basics 18
  - 1.3.2 More in depth 18
- 1.4 The right to water 19
  - 1.4.1 The basics 19
  - 1.4.2 More in depth 20
- 1.5 The right to access to land and other resources for food production 20
  - 1.5.1 The basics 20
  - 1.5.2 More in depth 21
- 1.6 The right to food and trade 25
  - 1.6.1 The basics 25
  - 1.6.2 More in depth 25
- 1.7 Access to food and nutrition 26
  - 1.7.1 The basics 26
  - 1.7.2 More in depth 27
- 1.8 The right to food and social assistance 29
  - 1.8.1 The basics 29
  - 1.8.2 More in depth 29
- 1.9 The right to food of different vulnerable groups 31
  - 1.9.1 Identifying vulnerable groups 31
  - 1.9.2 Women and children 31

- 1.9.3 Indigenous people 32
- 1.9.4 Internally Displaced Persons 33
- 1.9.5 Small-holder farmers and landless 34
- 1.9.6 Artisanal fishers 35
- 1.9.7 People living in poverty in urban areas 35
- 1.9.8 The impact of HIV/AIDS on the food situation in Africa 36
- 1.9.9 Other vulnerable groups 36

## **2 Preparing to take action 37**

---

- 2.1 Identifying government obligations 37
- 2.2 The role of non-State actors 39
- 2.3 Identifying violations of the right to adequate food 40
- 2.4 The right to adequate food in national legislation and policies 42
- 2.5 Identifying and planning strategies for action 43

## **3 Actions to realise the right to food 44**

---

- 3.1 Promoting the right to food 44
- 3.2 Monitoring public policies relevant for the right to food 46
  - CHECKLIST 1: Monitoring access to adequate food 47
- 3.3 Actions to increase food security 50
  - 3.3.1 Monitoring food security 50
  - 3.3.2 Ensuring access to resources 52
  - 3.3.3 Monitoring access to productive land and resources for food production 52
    - CHECKLIST 2: Monitoring access to productive land and resources for food production 53
  - 3.3.4 Monitoring and addressing the impact of agribusiness and the production of agrofuels 56
    - CHECKLIST 3: Monitoring the impact of agribusiness on the right to food 57
  - 3.3.5 Actions on extractive industries 59
  - 3.3.6 Actions on illegal fishing 60
- 3.4 Actions to monitor the effects of trade 61
- 3.5 Actions to promote the consumption of nutritious food 62
  - 3.5.1 Monitoring State obligations concerning nutrition 62
    - CHECKLIST 4: Monitoring State obligations concerning nutrition 63
  - 3.5.2 Acting to improve the nutritional status of specific groups 65
- 3.6 Monitoring social assistance 67
  - 3.6.1 Monitoring food aid 67
  - 3.6.2 Monitoring Social Cash Transfers 67
    - CHECKLIST 5: Monitoring State obligations concerning Social Cash Transfers 69
- 3.7 Other actions to realise the right to food 71

- 3.7.1 Empowering vulnerable groups and raising awareness among decision-makers 71
- 3.7.2 Participating in the development of policies and budgets and monitoring their implications 71
- 3.7.3 Using indicators on the right to adequate food 72
- 3.7.4 Building alliances and lobbying the government 74
- 3.7.5 Highlighting and encouraging good practices 74
- 3.7.6 Following and monitoring regional policy debates and initiatives 74
- 3.7.7 Reporting to the CESCR and the African Commission 75
- 3.7.8 The international arenas 75



---

**Acronyms 76**



---

**Glossary 77**



---

**Endnotes 84**



---

**Appendices 86**

---

- 1: Extracts from regional and international standards 87
- 2: The right to food in national legislation 95
- 3: Sources and resources on the right to adequate food 97
- 4: NGOs and IGOs 100



## List of figures, boxes, tables & checklists



### Figures

---

Figure 1: Causes of hunger 11

Figure 2: The right to adequate food linked to other rights 14



### Boxes

---

Box 1: The right to adequate food, food security and food sovereignty 16

Box 2: Elements required to qualify food as “adequate” 17

Box 3: Hunger in Niger 18

Box 4: Company tries to secure farm land in Madagascar 22

Box 5: Genetically modified (GM) seeds 23

Box 6: Organisations on food and agriculture 24

Box 7: Growing tomatoes in Ghana in competition with foreign imports 25

Box 8: Five keys to a healthy diet 27

Box 9: Product labelling 28

Box 10: The Batwa: an example of the impact of food rights violations 32

Box 11: A framework law on the right to adequate food 38

Box 12: The Ogoni Case 39

Box 13: Monitoring agribusiness 40

Box 14: Case study – Identifying right to food violations 40

Box 15: Constitutional protection of the right to food 42

Box 16: Adopting a national framework law on the right to food 45

Box 17: How to use checklists 46

Box 18: The Right to Food Guidelines 50

Box 19: Monitoring food security in Africa 52

Box 20: Community action to resist land grabbing 56

Box 21: Farmers learn about their rights 59

Box 22: “Publish What You Pay” 60

Box 23: Using radios to report illegal fishing 60

Box 24: Working on trade agreements – examples from Eastern Africa 61

Box 25: Recognising malnutrition 62

Box 26: Breastfeeding 65

Box 27: South Africa: Food gardens 67

Box 28: The Kalomo STC pilot project in Zambia 67

- Box 29: Village seminars in Malawi 71  
Box 30: Popular budget work in Benin 72  
Box 31: African Right to Food Network 74



## Tables

---

- Table 1: Indicators on the right to adequate food 73  
Table 2: Extracts from international standards 93



## Checklists

---

- Checklist 1: Monitoring access to adequate food 47  
Checklist 2: Monitoring access to productive land and resources for food production 53  
Checklist 3: Monitoring the impact of agribusiness on the right to food 57  
Checklist 4: Monitoring State obligations concerning nutrition 63  
Checklist 5: Monitoring State obligations concerning Social Cash Transfers 69



The right to > adequate food is the right of every woman, man and child to have > sustainable access to food which is sufficient in quantity and in quality. It is a right denied to many.

In 2007 rising food prices added another 40 million people to those living in > hunger, bringing the world total to 963 million, of whom 236 million lived in Sub-Saharan Africa. It is estimated that the number of people living in hunger in 2009 is 1.02 billion. The poorest, landless and female-headed households were the hardest hit.<sup>1</sup>

Threats of hunger have persisted for decades. In 2008 the international community recognised that the world food situation had reached a crisis point. In addition to higher food prices and > land grabbing by developers or big businesses, > climate change is increasingly seen as a threat to world food security. > Small-scale farmers, > artisanal fishers, > indigenous communities and rural communities are among the most vulnerable. People living in poverty in urban areas are increasingly affected by hunger and chronic > undernourishment. In all these groups, women are especially affected.

Hunger is not inevitable. It can be avoided if States adopt a human rights-based approach to address the national and global food situation. Some States have done this, often with the support and encouragement of international agencies and civil society organisations (CSOs). CSOs and communities can promote understanding of the right to adequate food. By monitoring and documenting access to food, they can call attention to violations of the right that occur when people in rural or urban areas are evicted from their farms, gardens, fishing areas or indigenous lands. In times of hunger the delivery of food aid can be monitored to deter corruption or misuse of food for political reasons.

Terms indicated by an > arrow are defined in the Glossary.

In conjunction with the Main Book, this booklet aims to contribute to this work. This booklet builds upon the understanding of economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR)

provided in the Main Book. It is divided into three sections:

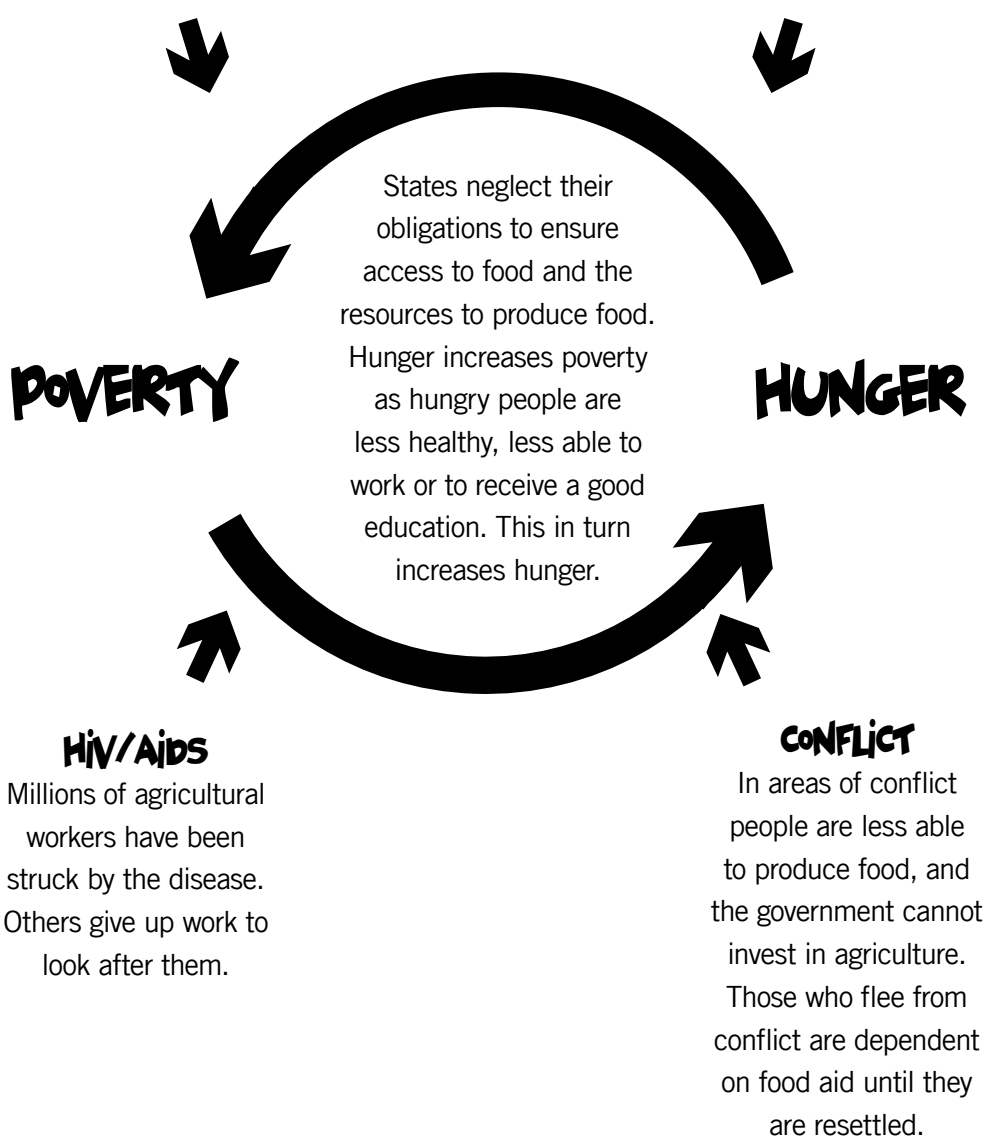
- **Section 1** gives a brief introduction to the right to adequate food and the main issues facing CSOs working on food rights. Information is presented in two ways:
  - Basic info provides the reader with general information on an element of the right to adequate food. It is indicated by a Basic info box in the margin.
  - In-depth info provides the reader with additional information on the right to adequate food. It is indicated by an In-depth info box in the margin.A reader wishing to understand the basic elements of the right to adequate food can read only the Basic info parts and proceed to Section 2.
- **Section 2** gives advice on preparing to work on the right to food:
  - How to identify the State's obligations;
  - What the role of non-State actors is concerning the right to adequate food;
  - How to identify violations of the right to adequate food;
  - Where to find the right to food in national laws and policies; and
  - Working with the community to develop and carry out a strategy.
- **Section 3** is about actions to realise the right to food in practice. It describes several activities to monitor and demand rights associated with the main issues outlined in Section 1.
- At the end of the book there are a Glossary and Endnotes.
- There are four **appendices**:
  - Relevant extracts from international and African standards on the right to adequate food;
  - Overview of the right to adequate food in national law;
  - A list of resources on the right to adequate food; and
  - A list of organisations working on the right to adequate food.



Figure 1: Causes of hunger

**DROUGHT, FLOODS AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION**

These are causes of hunger, but governments could and should take measures to prevent them. These should include installing early warning systems and keeping reserve food stocks.



# 1 Understanding the right to adequate food

This section gives an overview of the current situation of the right to food in Africa. It explains what the right to adequate food means, and considers the challenges that food rights advocates face.

## 1.1 The current food situation in Africa

---

For decades, Africa has been regarded as an area of recurrent > famines (long periods of having no food) and persistent > food insecurity (when food is in short supply, too expensive or of poor quality).

It is estimated that 70% of the labour force in most African countries is engaged in agriculture<sup>2</sup>, yet not enough food is being produced. Many farmers are planting crops on small areas of land in soil that has lost its fertility. Infrastructure, such as roads to transport food, is often poor and > extension services for improving farming are often not available.

About 80% of agricultural workers are women, but discrimination means that they have much less access to land, credit and other resources than men. Millions of agricultural workers have been struck with HIV/AIDS. Other members of their families have given up work to support them.

Food producers may also have to deal with climate change. According to recent research, this is likely to bring higher average temperatures and rainfall patterns. This would mean different planting times for farmers and less water for both farmers and herders. Cattle were dying of > malnutrition in Niger's Diffa region in 2009 and in Gadabeji in 2010. Fishing has become more difficult in lakes that are shrinking and polluted, like Lake Victoria bordering Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Resources are also being deliberately destroyed, for example by logging, which undermines the food supply of people who depend on hunting and gathering.

There are positive developments too. In some countries school feeding programmes have helped to improve pupils' health and to keep children, especially girls, in school. The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) was launched in June 2002. It encourages farmers groups to participate. In 2003 African governments pledged to spend at least 10% of their budget on increasing access to food. Malawi showed this was possible: between 2005 and 2007 productivity doubled and Malawi exported maize. However, in February 2009, approximately 30 percent of rural Malawians did not have the food they need to stay healthy.<sup>3</sup>

### 1.1.1 The impact of the world food crisis on Africa

More than ever, African countries import most of their food. This is partly due to the food crisis, which started after a rise in oil prices and droughts in some grain-producing countries. It is also due to a lack of investment in agriculture in African countries and overproduction in developed countries.

The 2008 world food crisis had a significant impact (effect) on African countries. According to the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Food<sup>4</sup>, there are six inter-related causes of the world food crisis:

- **An increasing demand for food** due to annual world population growth of 75 million people;
- **Insufficient investment in agriculture and > irrigation**, particularly in countries depending on agriculture. Developed countries, notably in Europe, > subsidise or assist food producers in their own countries and flood the markets of developing countries with cheap food (see Box 7 to find out what happened in Ghana);
- **Climate change** raises the average temperature and increases the frequency of droughts;
- **High oil prices** raise the cost of > pesticides and fertilizers and also encourage the production of > agrofuels (fuel produced from plants);
- **The demand for agrofuels** increases the demand for > arable land, and
- **Speculative investment** (buying when prices are low to make a profit as prices rise). Large investors > speculate on crops, especially grains. There are currently no rules to control this and the impact on the right to food is not being taken into account.

The world food crisis has contributed towards higher prices for food, thereby making it even harder for many families in Africa to have adequate food. The crisis has also led to a number of riots and demonstrations in countries such as Senegal, Somalia, Mozambique and Côte d'Ivoire where people have been arrested, injured or killed during demonstrations.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), changes in climate are likely to impact most heavily on the poorest regions where most people suffer from hunger.<sup>5</sup>

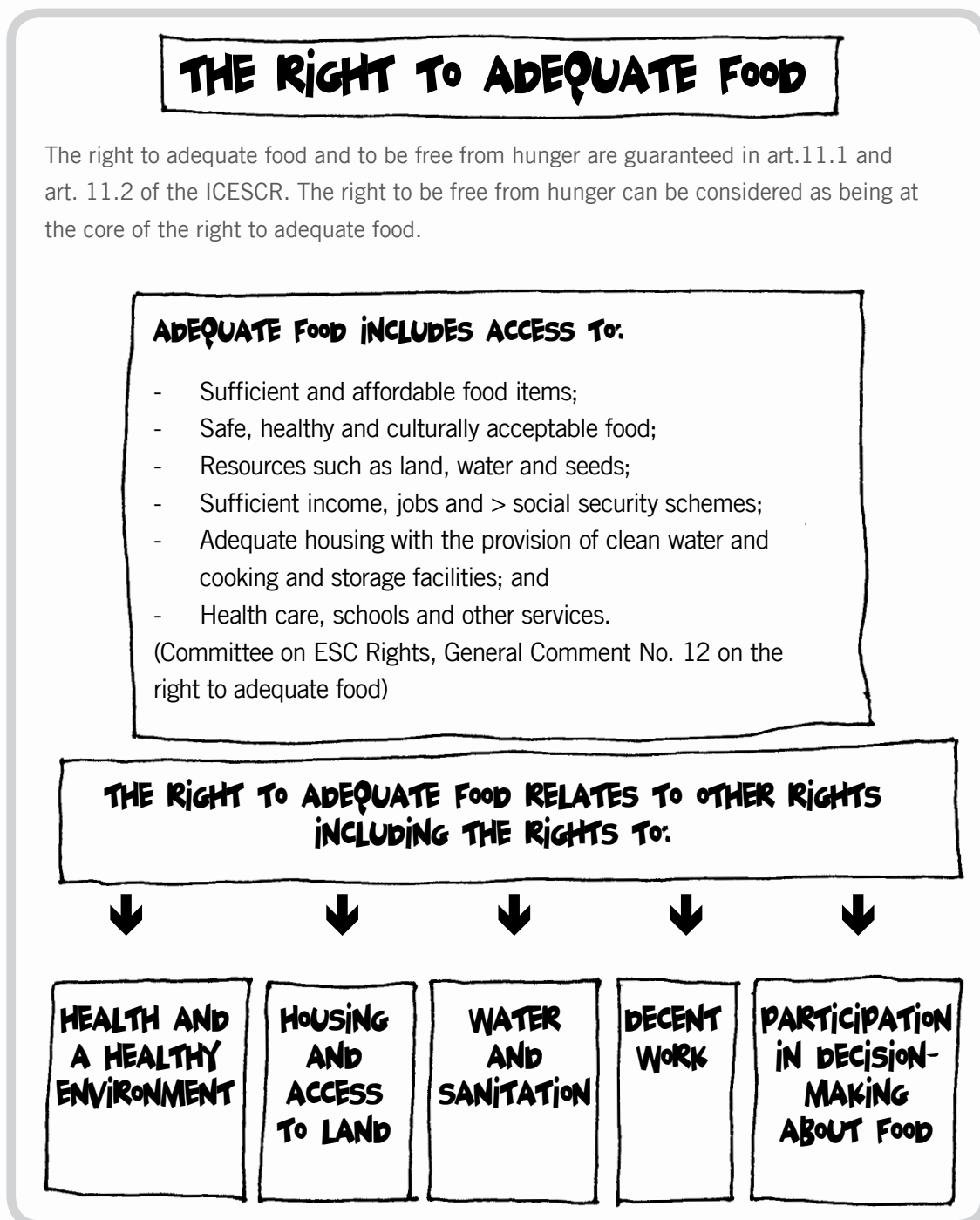
### 1.1.2 The right to food and other human rights

The right to adequate food is indivisible from, and interdependent with other rights. It is also indivisible from human dignity. Analysing these linkages helps non-governmental organisations (NGOs), civil society organisations (CSOs) and community-based organisations (CBOs) not only to understand the right but also to form alliances with groups working on related rights.

More information about other ESC rights may be found in other booklets in this series.

Without adequate food it is impossible to live a dignified and healthy life. People with empty stomachs are unlikely to work. The links between the right to adequate food and other rights are illustrated in Figure 2.

Figure 2: The right to adequate food linked to other rights



### 1.1.3 Main violations of the right to food

As with any other right, if the State fails to respect, protect or fulfil the right to adequate food, it is violating this right. Typical violations of the right to adequate food include:

- Destruction of food producing resources, for example by failing to limit soil erosion or other damage to the environment or by allowing large tracts of land to be taken for > agribusiness, urbanisation and industrialisation – this is sometimes referred to as “land-grabbing”;
- Denial or deprivation of access to land and other productive resources; and also denial of > security of tenure for rural communities through > forced evictions;
- Discrimination, such as blocking access of groups or individuals to food or food aid;
- Failing to prevent non-State actors from violating people’s right to food;
- Failure to promote access to decent work for fair wages that would allow people to feed themselves and their families; and
- Failure to provide protection against hunger, for example by providing food aid or other social programmes and setting up mechanisms to prepare for disasters.

## 1.2 The right to adequate food

### 1.2.1 The basics about “adequate food”

basic info

Food is “adequate” when it is sufficient both in quantity and quality. It must be > nutritious, which means that it should contain a variety of the > vitamins, > proteins and > carbohydrates necessary for good health.

The right to adequate food does not mean that States should give free food to everyone. It means, among other things, that the government must:

- Ensure at least that no one will suffer from hunger or severe malnutrition;
- Provide enough food which is safe and nutritious to those who are not able to feed themselves, either by buying food surpluses from other parts of the country, or seeking international aid;
- Take immediate steps to end discrimination in access to food or resources for food production, such as land; and
- Take progressive steps, using the maximum of its resources, towards ensuring that everyone can feed her or himself and her or his family in dignity.

CSOs working on the right to food can inform the government and the public in general that if governments do not take the above steps, they are committing human rights violations.

Please refer to Section 2 on government obligations.

**Box 1: The right to adequate food, food security and food sovereignty**

**The right to adequate food**

According to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), Art. 11.1, everyone has a right to “... an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing ...” Art. 11.2 adds that everyone has a right to be free from hunger. It also requires the State to:

- Improve methods of production. This can be done through actions like increasing education, research and extension services;
- Promote understanding about the principles of nutrition (the elements of a healthy diet);
- Increase access to productive land, good seeds and fertilizer;
- Achieve the most efficient development and use of natural resources; and
- Ensure an equitable distribution of food supplies in relation to need. This requires information about where food is needed and well-functioning distribution, processing and market systems so that food can be moved to where it is needed.

**Food security**

> Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food for a healthy and active life. It is part of the State’s obligation to ensure that people do not go hungry. Even if it does not have sufficient food, the State must seek help from other countries and it must take steps towards ensuring food security.

**Food sovereignty**

> Food sovereignty is a situation where:

- Everyone has access to healthy and culturally appropriate food;
- Food producers and consumers, not big business, define and control their own food and agriculture systems;
- The interests of the next generation are respected and protected;
- The needs of food producers, including family farmers, artisanal fishers and pastoralists, are prioritised; and
- Food production, distribution and consumption are based on environmental, social and economic sustainability.

**1.2.2 More in-depth about “adequate food”**



The right to food is a part of the right to an adequate standard of living (ICESCR Art. 11). In its General Comment No. 12, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) identified specific elements of the right to adequate food: adequacy, availability and accessibility, and sustainability (see Box 2). The CESCR noted that the right would have to be realised progressively, but that States have a core obligation to relieve hunger even in times of natural or other disasters.



**Box 2: Elements required to qualify food as “adequate”**

**Adequacy**

To be adequate, food must fulfil certain quality requirements:

- It must be free from dangerous substances like chemicals that come from polluted water or soil;
- Food production, processing, packaging and storage must follow internationally agreed standards for food safety;
- Food must fulfil the dietary and nutritional needs of different groups, such as young children and the elderly; and
- It must be culturally acceptable to consumers.

Adequacy also includes availability, accessibility and sustainability.

**Availability**

Availability of food refers to the possibilities for feeding oneself and one’s family either:

- Directly from productive land or other natural resources; or
- Buying it from shops supplied by well functioning processing, market and distribution systems.

**Economic accessibility**

Economic accessibility implies that individuals and families should not have to choose between buying food and, for example, going to the doctor.

**Physical accessibility**

Adequate food must be accessible to everyone, including:

- Physically vulnerable individuals, such as infants and young children, elderly people, the physically disabled, the terminally ill and persons with persistent medical problems, including the mentally ill;
- People requiring assistance in times of emergency. States must cooperate in allowing disaster relief and humanitarian assistance ; and
- Indigenous populations that must have physical access to their traditional sources of food.

**Sustainability**

Food must be available and accessible over time, for both present and future generations. This means protecting land and other resources for food production by, for example, preventing deforestation, erosion and the pollution of soils or water.

## 1.3 The right to be free from hunger

### 1.3.1 The Basics about the right to be free from hunger

basic info

The right to be free from hunger is about guaranteeing that everyone has regular access to food in order to live. Someone may be hungry after missing two meals but “hunger” is when people lack food or a healthy diet over a long period. This is called > chronic undernourishment.

States have an obligation to use all the resources they have to relieve hunger. If they have no resources, they must request international support. (See Section 1.8)

Deaths from hunger or starvation are usually the result of human rights violations. Indeed, most deaths occur because States have failed to take action to prevent hunger. In some cases, States may have helped to cause hunger, for example by diverting food supplies away from political opponents or allowing waste chemicals from a mining company to poison crop-growing areas.

When conflicts or natural disasters occur, people may need the active support of the State and the international community to be able to meet their basic food needs.

### 1.3.2 More in depth about the fundamental right to be free from hunger

in-depth info

Today hunger kills more people than HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined.<sup>6</sup> Starvation deaths are rarely recognised as such in the media or by governments. Signs of acute or chronic malnutrition, such as > stunting and > wasting are treated as specific diseases and not as the consequences of malnutrition. Few governments gather adequate information about access to food. This limits their ability to develop effective policies.

#### Box 3: Hunger in Niger

In Niger more than three million people were affected by hunger in 2004 and 2005.  
> Subsistence farmers ran out of food, and child malnutrition increased. Despite the fact that droughts and crop failures are common in Niger, the State had failed to maintain adequate food reserves. Instead, it had reduced its reserves throughout the 1990s. By 2004 it was no longer able to fulfil its obligation to ensure its people’s right to be free from hunger.

Source: Réseau des organisations paysannes et de producteurs de l’Afrique de l’Ouest. Histoire des crises alimentaires au Sahel: cas du Niger.

Available online: [www.roppa.info/IMG/doc/Mme\\_Yaye-Crise\\_alimentaire\\_au\\_Niger.doc](http://www.roppa.info/IMG/doc/Mme_Yaye-Crise_alimentaire_au_Niger.doc).

## 1.4 The right to water

### 1.4.1 The basics about the right to water

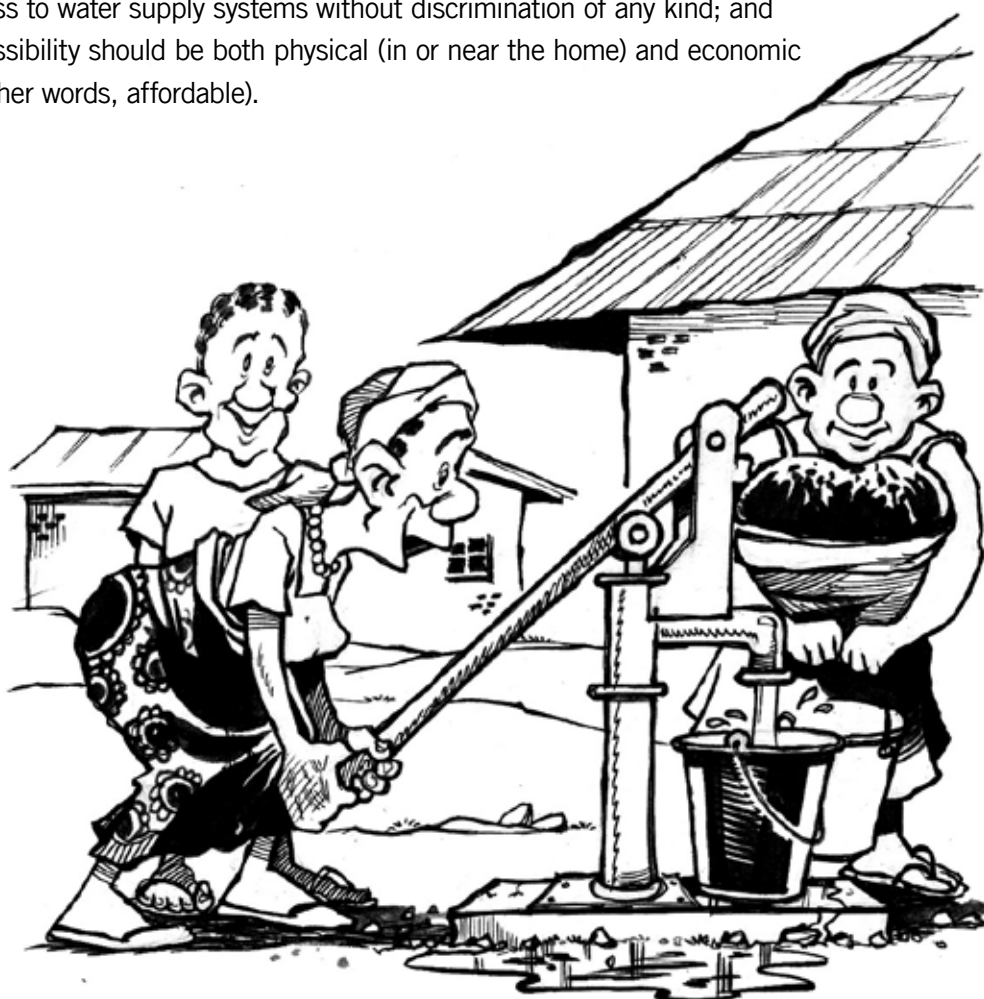
basic info

Like the right to food, the right to water is part of the right to an adequate standard of living. The UN has defined 20-50 litres daily as the minimum amount for a person's basic needs for drinking, cooking and cleaning.<sup>7</sup> Nevertheless, one sixth of the world population has less than this. In Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Niger and Nigeria, only around 30% of the rural population has access to safe drinking water.<sup>8</sup>

The lack of access to clean water particularly affects women and girls. They are typically the ones who spend precious time and energy fetching water for their families. Also, women and girls have special hygiene needs.

Elements of the right to water include the following rights:

- Access to existing water supplies;
- Not to be arbitrarily disconnected from water supplies;
- Access to adequate water in quantity and quality (having enough water which is safe to drink as well as clean water for washing);
- Access to water supply systems without discrimination of any kind; and
- Accessibility should be both physical (in or near the home) and economic (in other words, affordable).



### 1.4.2. More in-depth about the right to water

in-depth info

The right to water includes clean water for drinking, preparing food and personal hygiene. It also includes access to water for agricultural and other productive purposes. In its General Comment No. 15 on the right to water, the CESCR says that States should ensure that water resources are properly managed and accessible to all, particularly women farmers and marginalised groups.

Further information may be found in the booklet on the right to water and sanitation, including an example of a court case in South Africa, the so-called Mazibuko v. City of Johannesburg case.

There are great challenges for governments to fulfil the right to safe water for rural communities, especially in dry areas. Providing infrastructure is expensive, major agribusinesses often over-use or pollute water sources, and in urban areas, privatisation and high prices can deprive poor communities of access to safe water. Nevertheless, there are ways that governments can realise the right to water for all by, among other things, protecting water sources and using low-cost technology.

## 1.5 The right to access to land and other resources for food production

### 1.5.1. The basics about the right to access to land and other resources for food production

basic info

Though food insecurity is growing fast in cities, rural communities are still the most affected. It is a fact that, in most cases, those who produce crops are the first to be hungry. A major reason for this is lack of secured access to land and other productive resources such as water and seeds.

Lack of secure access to land means that people can easily be evicted to make way for large-scale agricultural or other projects. This drives rural people into the cities to seek work or into other countries, where they become “hunger refugees”.

Efforts to increase agricultural productivity can increase the demand for land. This in turn may lead to conflicts over access to land and resources. To avoid human rights violations, States, in consultation with food producers, should develop policies to improve productivity while maintaining secure access to productive land. They should also provide mechanisms to resolve conflicts and ensure accountability. If evictions are necessary, those affected should receive assistance for relocation and compensation for loss of land, crops, livestock and income.

Read more on forced evictions and the right to security of tenure in the booklet on the right to adequate housing, Sections 3.3 and 3.4.

#### Access to land includes access to:

- Land that is suitable for agriculture;
- Grazing lands;
- Forests and > mangroves; and
- Fishing grounds.

**Obstacles to access to land for food production include:**

- Lack of security of tenure, where people do not invest in land because they fear being evicted; and
- Failure to protect access to traditional land and resources for indigenous people or grazing lands for > pastoralists (herders).

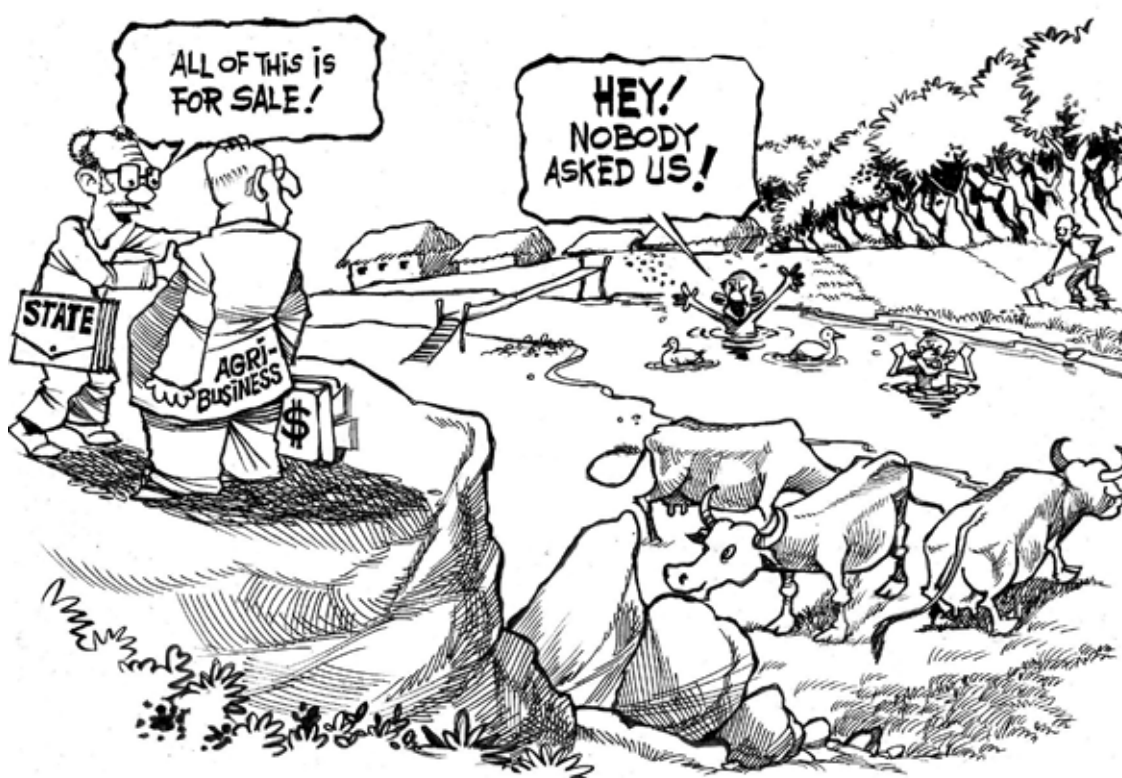
**Access to productive resources includes access to:**

- Water for irrigation;
- Energy (such as electricity);
- Seeds;
- Extension services;
- Tools; and
- Advice and training on how best to use these resources.

**1.5.2. More in depth about the right to access to land and other resources for food production**

in-depth info

This section provides information on how agribusiness and mineral extraction impact on people's access to land and other resources for food production.



States Parties to the ICESCR are obliged to respect, protect and fulfil the right to access to land and other resources. However access to land is decreasing as the demand for land worldwide has grown. Africa is particularly affected because of the increasing demand for agrofuels, other agribusiness and mineral extraction.

These businesses increase State revenues. At the local level, they may provide job opportunities and improve roads and other types of infrastructure. Some agribusinesses provide local farmers with credit or other resources. However, they can have serious negative impacts, particularly on small food producers.

- **Agribusinesses.** Powerful countries that lack agricultural land (mainly Middle East countries) or have degraded much of their own agricultural lands (such as China) are exploiting vast tracks of land in other countries to grow food for their own people. They take up land and water resources. They employ local people as “contract farmers” to grow crops for a set price.
- **Mineral companies** or the > extractive industry: Africa’s rich mineral resources include oil, diamonds, gold, coltan (which yields tantalum, an element used in the manufacture of electronics such as mobile phones), copper, and bauxite (which contains aluminium, an element used in the building, aircraft and other industries). Extractive companies (many of which are transnational corporations or TNCs) make big profits. While these companies may contribute to national budgets, the amount is often not in proportion to the costs to the people. They also deplete natural resources without paying adequate taxes that could be used for basic social services.

For more information on TNCs, refer to the Main Book, Part I, Section 5.4. Also see: [www.corpwatch.org/article.php?id=15191](http://www.corpwatch.org/article.php?id=15191)

The demand for land for agribusiness and mining mainly affects communities who depend on natural resources and are the most vulnerable to food insecurity.

#### Box 4: Company tries to secure farm land in Madagascar

In 2008 Daewoo Logistics, a subsidiary of the South Korean Daewoo Corporation, tried to secure rights to 1.3 million hectares of farm land in Madagascar – half of the country’s arable land – to produce maize and palm oil for export back to South Korea. The Malagasy people protested strongly. The agreement ended when the government of Madagascar president Marc Ravalomanana was ousted in March 2009 in a coup led by the military-backed Andry Rajoelina. Upon claiming leadership of the country, Rajoelina stated, “In the constitution, it is stipulated that Madagascar’s land is neither for sale nor for rent, so the agreement with Daewoo is cancelled.”

> continued

Sources:

FIAN. Madagascar:

Threat of large-scale land acquisition by foreign companies. Available online:

[www.fian.org/cases/letter-campaigns/madagascar-threat-of-large-scale-land-acquisition-by-foreign-companies/fcampaign\\_view](http://www.fian.org/cases/letter-campaigns/madagascar-threat-of-large-scale-land-acquisition-by-foreign-companies/fcampaign_view).

Reuters News. Madagascar's new leader says Daewoo land deal off. March 18, 2009:

[www.reuters.com/article/idUSLI8971720090318](http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLI8971720090318).

### Seeds

Traditionally, seeds have been freely selected, cultivated and exchanged among communities and plants have become well adapted to local conditions. This system has been largely ignored by agricultural development officials. It is further endangered by the privatisation and > monopolising (gaining legal ownership) of seeds. Big companies often purchase local seed companies and distribute free seeds to small farmers. This makes local companies and farmers dependent on international companies. It leads to market concentration and to a decrease in > biodiversity.

#### Box 5: Genetically modified (GM) seeds

> Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) are plants and animals that have been scientifically changed to give them useful characteristics such as resistance to disease or drought. Some people say that GMOs will help to solve the food crisis and alleviate poverty. Others worry about their safety. There are also concerns about Africa's capacity to monitor the use of GMOs.

For information about other advantages (pros) and disadvantages (cons), search the internet using "GMOs – pros and cons".

### Forests

Forests play a crucial role in ensuring the right to adequate food. Forests:

- Provide food resources to gatherers, especially indigenous people such as the Batwa (see Box 10 in Section 1.9.3);
- Play a vital role in maintaining biodiversity and water resources;
- Provide livelihoods to millions of people; and
- Absorb carbon gases which are a major cause of climate change.

In its 2009 report, *State of the World's Forests*, the FAO shows that deforestation is more severe in Africa than in other regions. From 2000 to 2005, the continent lost about 4 million hectares annually, which amounts to one-third of the area deforested globally.<sup>9</sup>

The main causes of deforestation are illegal logging, the expansion of large-scale > monocultures (a single crop such as cotton, cacao or palm oil) and the increased demand for wood (cellulose) to produce agrofuels. The damage is permanent. Replacing natural forests with tree plantations is not a solution. Plantations provide few livelihood opportunities, damage biodiversity and do not provide the same ecological benefits as forests.

#### Box 6: Organisations on food and agriculture

The FAO ([www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)), which provides expert advice on food and agriculture, is one of three UN agencies working against hunger in the world. Another is the World Food Programme (WFP, [www.wfp.org](http://www.wfp.org)), which provides food aid. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD, [www.ifad.org](http://www.ifad.org)) provides finance.

#### Contract farming

Contract farming is when independent farmers have a formal contract with a company, usually a processor or an exporter, to supply farm produce. The company decides on the type of crop and the price paid to the farmer. It may also supply fertilizer or machinery.

Now that fuels can be produced from crops like palm oil and jatropha, investors are keen to persuade African farmers to grow them under contract. This can provide jobs, but there are also potential negative effects of contract farming under this system:

- Many people have been evicted, often forcibly;
- Monocultures and > cash crops reduce food security because they take up land and labour which might otherwise be engaged in growing food crops;
- Monocultures and cash crops bring pollution (owing to the heavy use of fertilizers or pesticides which contain poisonous chemicals) and damage the biodiversity in the area;
- Some big companies take control over parts, or the whole, of the food chain including seeds and fertilizers, processing installations and marketing facilities;
- Farmers may be required to use particular “improved”, or GM seeds;
- Farmers may have to stop growing their own crops and buy food with the money they earn. When the growing season ends they have no income and no food stocks;
- Working conditions for the farmers are often inadequate;
- Farmers become company employees and therefore dependent on the companies; and
- Economic and financial risks are transferred from the company to the farmers.



## 1.6 Right to food and trade

### 1.6.1. The basics about right to food and trade

basic info

Many small-scale producers have lost their land to large-scale producers without being given proper compensation. They have also suffered severe competition from cheaper imported food.<sup>10</sup> The argument in favour of free trade is that it will lead to economic development. However, while agriculture is key to the development of African countries, people's right to food has been undermined by structural adjustment policies that have promoted large-scale agricultural production for export.

See the Main Book, Part I, Section 5.5 on structural adjustment and trade liberalisation.

### 1.6.2. More in depth about the right to food and trade

in-depth info

The example in Box 7 shows how trade liberalisation makes it more difficult for African States to protect local producers and markets.

#### Box 7: Growing tomatoes in Ghana in competition with foreign imports

Exporters from the European Union (EU), China and the United States of America have flooded local markets in Ghana with canned tomato paste. Farmers in Ghana cannot compete with them. Foreign producers benefit from better agricultural infrastructures (irrigation, roads, credits, processing and marketing systems, etc.) in their own countries and take advantage of low tariff (tax) barriers in Ghana.

Tomato farmers in Ghana are forced to borrow money before they can plant their crops. The majority have to sell their produce at very low prices, which makes it difficult to repay loans. According to the Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana, over 700 tomato farmers lost their livelihoods owing to tomato importation. Suicides of desperate farmers have regularly been reported in harvest periods (for more information (see [www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive](http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive)).

### A new framework for trade

Trade is not wrong or bad, but the way international trade is organised has affected human rights including the right to food. During the 2007 World Social Forum in Nairobi, Kenya, civil society groups protested about the EU's new Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs). These were proposed after the WTO ruled out the Cotonou Agreement which gave preferential treatment to nations in the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions.

Civil society groups in Africa feared that the EPAs would allow imports from the EU to undermine African agriculture and industries.

There is a growing movement in favour of a new human rights framework for trade. The aim is to make trade a tool for development.

Key aspects of the proposed framework are:

- Respect fundamental human rights principles in deciding upon trade policies and rules (participation, non-discrimination, transparency, priority given to the most vulnerable groups);
- Make proper > social and environmental impact assessments before concluding any trade agreements;
- Always take into account the specific contexts of the parties to international trade agreements and allow them to protect their key sectors; and
- Never impose conditions of “reciprocity” when opening up markets as an absolute condition to trade. (“Reciprocity”, or equal terms, can give the advantages to the stronger party to an agreement).

More information on the new framework can be found on websites mentioned in Appendix 4.



## 1.7 Access to food and nutrition

### 1.7.1 The basics about access to food and nutrition

basic info

People whose diets are nutritionally balanced or composed of a variety of fresh foods are usually healthy. An unbalanced diet - one which lacks certain minerals (such as iodine and iron) and vitamins - can lead to illness and death. An inadequate diet is particularly dangerous for people who are already sick, such as people living with HIV/AIDS.

### Box 8: Five keys to a healthy diet

The World Health Organisation prescribes “Five keys” to a healthy diet:

- Give your baby only breast milk for the first six months of life;
- Eat a variety of foods;
- Eat plenty of vegetables and fruits;
- Eat moderate amounts of fat and oils; and
- Eat less salt and sugar.

The keys are available at [www.who.int/features/factfiles/nutrition/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/features/factfiles/nutrition/en/index.html).

#### 1.7.2 More in-depth about the access to food and nutrition

in-depth info

Poor nutrition in rural areas is usually the result of insufficient food and not enough variety. For example some people live mainly on a > staple crop such as maize or cassava, but eat very low quantities of meat, vegetables and fruits.

In urban areas people pay high prices for food. Some eat too much processed food, like frozen chicken and tinned tomato paste, and not enough fresh food. Some eat “convenience-foods” or “fast-foods”, which contain mainly fats and sugars. Aggressive advertising makes these foods popular. The consumption of processed food also reduces the income of local food producers. Gradually, people are forgetting how to cook traditional foods such as mahango (millet), moringa leaves and mopane worms. Traditional foods, some of which are highly nutritious, are in danger of dying out.

To improve the right to nutritious food, governments should:

- Gather information and statistics about the nutrition and health of vulnerable groups, especially women and children, the elderly and people living with HIV/AIDS;
- Investigate and remedy causes of health problems such as the lack of access to clean water in rural areas;
- Set up systems for monitoring the symptoms of severe malnutrition;
- Adopt programmes to educate consumers about nutrition and healthy food habits;
- Protect and encourage breastfeeding and strictly regulate the marketing of breast milk substitutes;
- Promote and support the cultivation of individual and collective gardens, including in urban areas, schools, etc.<sup>11</sup>;
- Facilitate and promote the creation of > consumer protection associations; and
- Establish effective systems to control food safety and give advice to producers, processors and handlers, including street vendors.

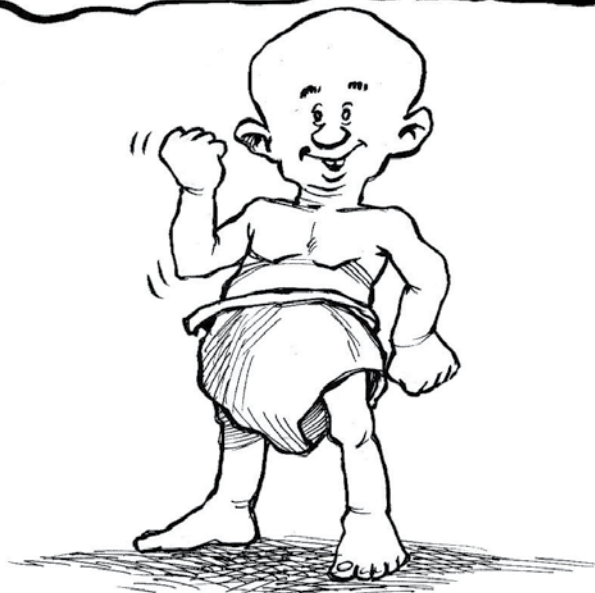
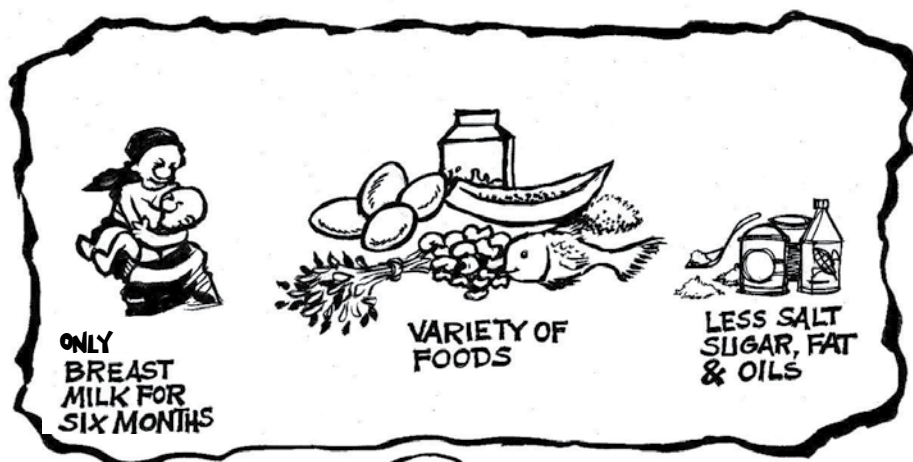
For further information on malnutrition and breastfeeding see Boxes 25 and 26 in Section 3.5.

### Box 9: Product labelling

People have a right to be informed about the food products they buy so that they can know where the food comes from and its nutritional value. Labels should give information about:

- Where the ingredients come from;
- How the product should be stored;
- When the contents are no longer safe to eat (an expiry date);
- The nutritional value: how much salt, sugar, carbohydrates etc.; and
- Contents such as > additives, GMOs or pork that people may avoid for dietary or religious reasons.

“Social and environmental labelling” is a term that covers food and other products, such as cleaning products or clothing. Labels should provide information about chemicals that, if used incorrectly, may harm those using the product or damage the environment. Labels may also provide social information about the manufacturer’s policies on workers’ health and safety.



## 1.8 Right to food and social assistance

### 1.8.1 The basics about access to food and social assistance

basic info

Social assistance is the aid States provide to people or communities when they are unable to meet their own basic needs. (See the Main Book, Part I, Section 4.2 on minimum core obligations and Section 2 below.)

States may not always be able to prevent hunger and starvation. However, if they fail to ensure the right to be free from hunger, they will have to prove that they have:

- Used all their own available resources, for example by using surplus production from another part of the country or buying food from a neighbouring country;
- Sought international assistance; and
- Set up mechanisms to evaluate the impact of their policies and programmes and to receive any complaints.

Governments can provide social assistance in the form of “social safety nets” during periods of food scarcity. A Social Cash Transfer (SCT) is one form of safety net. SCTs are state-run programmes whose main aim is to guarantee a minimum level of consumption and to increase households’ income.

SCTs can reduce poverty and hunger, stimulate the production of essential products and services for the poor, encourage school attendance, and promote gender equality and social fairness. Governments must sometimes rely on networks of NGOs and CSOs to support them in the implementation of SCTs.

### 1.8.2 More in-depth about access to food and social assistance

in-depth info

The obligation to protect people from hunger means the State has a duty to prepare for food shortages including by:

- Identifying the groups most vulnerable to food insecurity, what their needs are, and what risks they face. For example, there are specific needs of Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (EVIs) like unaccompanied minors, mothers with young children, persons with disabilities and the elderly;
- Carrying out probability assessments (identifying the types of disasters and where they are likely to happen); and
- Establishing national mechanisms to coordinate the actions of different actors and to prevent and detect corruption, especially where food aid is given in cash.

For more information, see General Comment 12, Art. 28 and the Hyogo Declaration in Appendix 2.

If a State has to ask for international food aid, it should ensure that food aid, among other things:

- Reaches those needing it;
- Does not destroy national production or create dependency on foreign markets; and
- Is acceptable to the culture of those receiving the food.



SCT programmes include:

- Minimum Income Programmes (MIPs) which guarantee a minimum level of consumption for each person within the scope of the programme;
- Conditional Cash Transfers (CCTs) which make payments conditional on things like school attendance or using health services; and
- Special SCTs which aim at specific households or groups such as older people or children.

STC programmes can be:

- Global: these types of SCTs are for all the poor;
- Categorical: these SCTs are limited to certain categories such as the South African pension scheme for the elderly or a child support grant; or
- Means tested: these SCTs are for people without sufficient “means” to help themselves. People who can help themselves will not qualify.

The World Bank promotes its own version of CCTs and, since 2005, the African Union has tried to promote the introduction of global means tested cash transfer programmes in several Sub-Saharan African countries. However, many experts reject the introduction of conditions in cash transfers as this inevitably excludes some needy people.

The provision of social assistance can be open to corruption by officials and others. There have been situations where, for example, fake relief agencies have received donor funding. In some cases people who were not in need managed to register to receive assistance. In other cases, food was withheld from discriminated groups or diverted to those not in need.

## **1.9 The right to food of different vulnerable groups**

---

This section deals with the rights of vulnerable and marginalised groups, focusing particularly on women, people with special needs and internally displaced people. Readers working with other vulnerable or marginalised groups should adapt the information given below and also refer to the Main Book, Part I, Section 4.4 which covers basic human rights protection for these groups.

Vulnerable or marginalised groups are often unjustly discriminated against. International and regional treaties and most national constitutions forbid discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. “Other status” covers groups not specifically mentioned in the treaty.

### **1.9.1 Identifying vulnerable groups**

---

As a first step towards meeting their right to food obligations, States must identify the vulnerable groups. However, few countries collect the necessary information. Data should be > disaggregated according to sex, region, economic situation, etc. Information should also be made public. CSOs can play a crucial role in identifying people who are hungry and sharing the information with governments.

### **1.9.2 Women and children**

---

Gender equality is guaranteed in international law and in many national constitutions and legislations. Also, almost all African states have ratified UN and African treaties on women’s rights. But in fact, 60% of the world’s chronically hungry people are women and girls. Rural and indigenous women and their children are particularly vulnerable to high food prices. They have special nutritional needs but are more likely to suffer from consuming a less nutritious diet.<sup>12</sup>

Various factors threaten women’s and children’s right to adequate food:

- Limited access to and control over resources, especially land;
- Lower income, insecure and unstable labour conditions;
- Discrimination in laws, regulations and programmes;
- Cultural practices and taboos in some cultures that prevent women from consuming certain food items;
- Increased vulnerability to food deficiencies during pregnancy and breastfeeding;
- Limited access to education;

- Inadequate access to public health care;
- Food discrimination within the household; and
- Exclusion from decision making processes.

Women are frequently discriminated against in many ways which prevent them from exercising their right to food. For example:

- The FAO estimated that in sub-Saharan Africa, “women produce up to 80% of the staple crops [and] are almost exclusively responsible for storage, handling, marketing and processing.”<sup>13</sup> Yet, worldwide, women own only 2 % of the land and receive only 1 % of the resources allocated to agricultural enterprise<sup>14</sup>;
- Without security of tenure, it is difficult for women to borrow small amounts of money to buy essential > inputs such as seeds and fertilizer;
- In many cases, women lose their rights to use land when they divorce or when their husband dies; and
- Pregnant workers have insufficient maternity leave and new mothers often stop breastfeeding too early.

Refer to Box 26 on breastfeeding in Section 3.5.2.

### 1.9.3 Indigenous peoples

In Africa, various groups of pastoralists, hunter-gatherers, and some groups of small-scale farmers identify themselves as indigenous. These groups have specific needs including lands on which they depend for survival. Their main demand is that the authorities recognise their collective rights to land and natural resources.

Indigenous peoples’ traditional lands are often in remote areas that have fragile ecosystems, which makes them vulnerable to natural disasters. Or they may live in areas rich in natural resources such as wood and minerals: these attract the attention of the extractive industries or agribusiness. Many groups have been forcibly evicted from their lands. After that, it is difficult, often impossible, for them to adapt to a new lifestyle and a new diet.

Many national constitutions recognise indigenous peoples’ rights and ban discrimination based on origins. The African Commission of Human and Peoples’ Rights (African Commission) has mechanisms in place to promote and defend the rights of indigenous communities.

Find out how the African Commission protected the rights of an indigenous group in Kenya in Section 3.8 of the Housing Booklet. For more information on the African Commission’s work on indigenous peoples see: [www.achpr.org/english/Special%20Mechanisms/Indigenous/ACHPR%20WGIP%20Report%20Summary%20version%20ENG.pdf](http://www.achpr.org/english/Special%20Mechanisms/Indigenous/ACHPR%20WGIP%20Report%20Summary%20version%20ENG.pdf).

#### Box 10: The Batwa, an example of the impact of food rights violations

Batwa communities in Uganda’s Kisoro district traditionally survived by hunting and gathering in forests. Over time, these forests were cut down to make way for farming and

> *continued*



tourist attractions. This forced the Batwa to become tenant farmers or squatters. But they did not adapt successfully to their new life. For example, a group of Batwa living around Kanyabukungu village, Nyakabande sub-county, lacked access to land and food, and faced violence and harassment from neighbours. An NGO, the Forest Peoples' Programme, helped them to establish their own organisation, the United Organisation for Batwa Development in Uganda (UOBDU). UOBDU represented Batwa views in meetings with government representatives and with NGOs. UOBDU also helps the Batwa to re-develop lost skills, particularly in managing forest resources ([www.wrm.org.uy/](http://www.wrm.org.uy/)). Despite these advances, the Batwa people are still suffering.

#### 1.9.4 Internally Displaced People

Africa hosts more than half of the world's internally displaced persons (IDPs).<sup>15</sup> Many of them, particularly those living in camps, depend on food aid.

Read more about IDPs in the Main Book, Part I, Section 4.4.4. This includes information about the AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (2009). The Convention does not cover the right to adequate food in detail but it recognises the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (next page).



The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement contain important provisions on the right to food, in particular:

- Principle 9 reminds States of their obligations to protect those with a special dependency on, and attachment to, their lands, including indigenous peoples, minorities, peasants, and pastoralists;
- Principle 10, 2, b) concerns the protection of IDPs against starvation as a method of combat;
- Principle 18 refers to IDPs' rights to an adequate standard of living including access to essential food and potable water; and
- Principle 29, 2 says that, on return or resettlement, IDPs should have assistance in recovering their property and possessions and/or to receive appropriate compensation or reparation.

The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement may be found at [www.reliefweb.int/ocha\\_ol/pub/idp\\_gp/idp.html](http://www.reliefweb.int/ocha_ol/pub/idp_gp/idp.html)  
See also the links to the Principles on Housing and Property Restitution for Refugees and Displaced People (the Pinheiro Principles) and the Basic Principles and guidelines on development-based evictions and displacement (Kothari Principles) in Appendix 2.

#### **1.9.5 Small-holder farmers and landless**

---

Subsistence farmers are those who grow only enough to feed their families, leaving little or nothing that can be sold.

Landless farmers are those who do not have their own land but work on the land as members of a community. They may be vulnerable to land-grabbing.

See also Sections 1.5 and 3.4.

Both subsistence and landless farmers are vulnerable to natural and human-made disasters.

Natural disasters like droughts, floods or locust swarms can be devastating. Human-made disasters can be worse. They all increase poverty. Such types of disasters include:

- Armed conflicts;
- Discrimination against women and other groups;
- Mass forced evictions in rural areas;
- Lack of support to small-holder farmers and of investment in rural development;
- Destruction of local markets and small-scale agriculture under international trade rules; and
- Excessive logging and deforestation.

States have a core obligation to take whatever action may be needed to increase food security for these groups. They are also obliged to prevent hunger, for example by identifying the risks, ensuring that risk assessments are conducted before any major project is agreed, setting up warning systems, and holding stocks of food.

### **1.9.6 Artisanal fishers**

---

Artisanal fishers are those whose fishing is a full or part-time activity, for subsistence purposes (feeding the family) or for trade. They do not own large boats with sophisticated equipment. About nine million people in Africa live exclusively from fishing.<sup>16</sup>

Fish is an important element in a balanced diet. It provides high-quality protein and many > micro-nutrients essential to good health.

In 2009, African fish stocks amounted to half what they were in 2002.<sup>17</sup> Fish stocks continue to decrease because of:

- > Overfishing and destruction of fishing grounds, especially by foreign industrial fleets, some of which use illegal fishing techniques such as > pair trawling (fishing technique using two boats);
- Environmental damage including pollution and destruction of fish habitats (waters and mangroves);
- Increasing frequency and intensity of tropical storms in coastal regions, apparently due to climate change; and
- Lower water-levels in lakes (particularly in Eastern and Southern Africa) caused by changes in temperature and rainfall patterns.<sup>18</sup>

These situations continue because States have failed to develop:

- Laws, for example to protect endangered species, and policies for managing fisheries effectively. Fishing communities should contribute to these; and
- Monitoring mechanisms to prevent illegal fishing and bring to justice those responsible.

### **1.9.7 People living in poverty in urban areas**

---

Having enough money to buy adequate food can be difficult for people living in urban areas. This is especially true for those who live in slums, on the streets, who are jobless or live on low or uncertain incomes. For these groups, food hygiene may be undermined by the use of unsafe water and other hazardous conditions.

In urban areas food prices are increased by costs such as shop rents and the cost of fuel. Also, more women have jobs and spend hours travelling to and from work. With little time to cook, many choose processed instead of fresh food. Some governments and NGOs have encouraged the development of urban gardens, but the conditions will only improve when people have secure and adequate places to live.

### **1.9.8 The impact of HIV/AIDS on the food situation in Africa**

---

The spread of HIV/AIDS in African countries is one of the most serious threats to food security and the enjoyment of the right to adequate food.

The disease particularly affects poor and rural communities and therefore local and national food production. It:

- Deprives households and families of wage earners;
- Represents an additional financial burden on families for medical expenses, which often means less money to spend on food; and
- Impacts on families' food and water resources: people living with HIV/AIDS have higher water needs and specific nutritional needs to live longer and in dignity.

States and CSOs working on the right to food should pay particular attention to the situation of HIV/AIDS-affected households. Useful measures include basic social programmes, in particular in the form of SCTs, for example to families whose breadwinners are too sick to work.

For more information on safety nets and cash transfers, see Section 3.6.2.

### **1.9.9 Other vulnerable groups**

---

Other vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly and ill and disabled people have special needs in order to have adequate food because:

- They depend on others to buy and prepare adequate food;
- They are either unable to work or lack employment opportunities and therefore lack money to buy enough food; and
- Family and community networks which used to care for vulnerable people have broken up, especially in urban areas.

## 2 Preparing to take action

This section outlines preparations to make before taking action to realise the right to adequate food. They include:

- Identifying government obligations to realise the right to adequate food;
- Understanding the role of non-State actors;
- Identifying violations of food rights;
- Identifying relevant national laws and policies; and
- Developing strategies for action.

### 2.1 Identifying government obligations

Section 1.2 described some examples of government obligations to respect, protect and fulfil food rights. This section goes into more detail. See also the Main Book, Part I, Section 4.1, Tables 4 and 5.

In addition to the general obligations to end discrimination in access to food and ensure that affordable remedies for violations of the right to food are available. States have the following specific obligations:

For more information on government obligations related to the right to adequate food, refer to the CESCR General Comment No.12.

#### **Obligation to respect**

The obligation to respect means that governments should:

- Neither harm nor interfere with existing access to adequate food or productive resources, for example by diverting water that is needed for crops into other projects; and
- Respect people's right to participate in making decisions about their food rights and allow them to cultivate food that suits their needs.

#### **Obligation to protect**

The obligation to protect means that governments should:

- Adopt measures to ensure that third parties (such as private companies or individuals) do not deprive people of their access to adequate food; and
- Make sure that the cost of food and of resources for producing food are affordable for all without discrimination.

#### **Obligation to fulfil (facilitate and promote)**

The obligation to fulfil (as in to facilitate and promote) means that governments should

- Facilitate access to food and resources to produce food including through

- appropriate laws and policies (see Boxes 11 and 16 on framework laws);
- Adequate opportunities for collaboration with civil society and the private sector and with international organisations;
  - Facilitate people's participation in decisions about policies;
  - Promote access to credit for small farmers;
  - Promote access to food by providing information about food policies and services and about people's rights and how to realise them; and
  - Invest the maximum available resources in agriculture. They should also adapt agricultural science and technology to serve the needs of small scale farmers and encourage the use of appropriate traditional and new farming techniques.

### **Obligation to fulfil (provide)**

The obligation to fulfil (as in to provide) means that governments should:

- Provide food whenever people are unable to feed themselves for reasons beyond their control, for example during a drought (see also Section 3.6.1).

For more information, refer to the UN Human Rights Council 's Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Olivier De Schutter, paragraph 5. A/ HRC/9/23 8 September 2008. Available online: <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G08/155/08/PDF/G0815508.pdf>

### **Box 11: A framework law on the right to adequate food**

General Comment No. 12, paragraph 29, recommends that governments should develop and adopt a framework law with the following elements:

- The purpose of the law;
- The targets or goals to be achieved;
- A timeframe for the achievement of those targets or goals;
- The means by which the purpose could be achieved;
- The intended collaboration with civil society and the private sector and with international organisations;
- A framework for coordination among the institutions involved;
- National mechanisms for monitoring the law; and
- A system for receiving complaints.

Governments should ensure that food policies reflecting human rights obligations are included in the framework law. In developing such legislation, governments should actively involve the community and NGOs.

### **Seeking remedies for food rights violations**

According to General Comment 12, Article 31, governments should set up a system for monitoring and enforcing the right to food, including a mechanism for receiving complaints. This may be located in the relevant ministry.

Other ways to make complaints may be by approaching the relevant Parliamentary Committee or bodies such as:

- Human rights commissions;
- Anti-corruption agencies;
- Ombudsman offices; and
- Local citizens' advice offices.

If the right to food is violated it may be possible, with the help of a lawyer, to take the case to a court.

If all these remedies fail, complaints may be taken to the African Commission or the CESCR. See the Main Book Part II, Section 10, and Section 3.7.7 of this booklet.

### Box 12: The Ogoni Case

The Ogoni case in Nigeria shows how regional systems can offer legal remedies to victims of violations of the right to food. The Nigerian military government had allowed the state oil company to dump toxic (poisonous) waste into the environment and local waterways, causing serious health problems among the Ogoni people. When the Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People (MO-SOP) campaigned against the destruction of their environment, the government reacted violently. Some Ogoni leaders were sentenced to death and executed.

In March 1996, the Social and Economic Rights Action Center (SERAC) of Nigeria and the Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR), an international NGO, brought a complaint to the African Commission. In 2001, the African Commission said the government had contaminated soil and water upon which Ogoni farming and fishing depended. It said that the State must ensure access to adequate food for all citizens, and must not destroy or contaminate food sources or allow private parties to do so. Following this decision, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU – now the AU) endorsed the findings of the Commission.

## 2.2 The role of non-State actors

Non-State actors include international development and aid organisations as well as agribusinesses and other companies. These organisations should respect human rights, including the right to food. They should adapt their policies according to relevant standards and principles and support States in realising food rights. Governments in Africa and elsewhere are under pressure to facilitate foreign investments and may be attracted by financial income. However, in order to protect human rights they should carry out full impact assessments, pass appropriate laws and set up monitoring systems to ensure that non-State actors respect human rights.<sup>19</sup>

For the definition of and difference between violation and abuse, please refer to the Main Book, Part I, Section 4.6. To read more about non-State actors, refer to the Main Book, Part I, Section 5.

### Box 13: Monitoring agribusiness

While many African NGOs and CSOs focus on agriculture, only a few monitor agribusiness. Biowatch in South Africa works for sustainable agriculture. It tried to persuade the government to publish information about genetically modified (GM) crops grown from seed provided by Monsanto, an international company. In 2000 the NGO took legal action. The Pretoria High Court ordered the government to provide most of the information Biowatch had requested, but told Biowatch to pay for Monsanto's legal costs. In June 2009, the Constitutional Court ordered the State to pay those legal costs.

Source: Biowatch. Victory for Biowatch in Landmark Legal Case.

Available online: [www.biowatch.org.za/main.asp?show=66](http://www.biowatch.org.za/main.asp?show=66). Accessed on 4 August 2009.

## 2.3 Identifying violations of the right to adequate food

The following case study about a fictitious NGO explains the process of analysing a situation in order to determine:

- Whether the government has failed to meet a specific obligation and, if so;
- Whether this amounts to a human rights violation.

### Box 14: Case study – Identifying right to food violations

#### 1. Summarise the main points of the issue

After a severe drought, an NGO visited an area to which refugees had returned five years earlier. The NGO found that the returnees' crops had failed for a second time and children showed signs of malnutrition (malnutrition had been noted in the country's Demographic Health Survey two years previously). It also learned that:

- The former refugees (returnees) were much poorer than the rest of the community;
- On their return, the returnees were given access to land and received maize seeds (at the time, the government was encouraging maize growing to increase food security). The returnees wanted to grow sorghum which is drought-tolerant. However, the government insisted that the extension officer should promote maize crops;
- The people from the community who had not fled during the conflict made a living from growing maize, working on a rich farmer's land, trading, or working at a tourist resort near the lake;

> continued



- A new extension officer had tried to help the returnees, but she was unable to persuade the authorities to provide adequate tools or set up a > rainwater harvesting scheme; and
- To help those in need, the government introduced a Social Cash Transfer scheme only for the returnees. This angered the other maize growers.

**2. Identify the areas that need further research including documentary and first hand information**

- What national laws apply?
- What regional and international standards apply?
- Which are the responsible ministries and government bodies?
- What are the elements of the right to access resources for food production (see Section 1.5) and how do they apply to this case?
- What actions has the government taken to respect, protect and fulfil the right to adequate food and were these adequate (see Section 2.1)?

**3. Assess the violations**

On the basis of this information, and with reference to the elements of the right to adequate food (Section 1), assess whether the government may be accused of any of the following and if so, which aspects of the right to food they violate:

- Depriving people of access to resources for food production?
- Failure to respect the rights to health, food and water of returnees? (Note: the IDP Guidelines also apply to returnees)
- Discrimination?
- Lack of state support for rural development?
- Failure to take steps to limit the impact of natural disasters?
- Failure to avoid and control the impact of private actors on the access to resources for food production?
- Failure to set up programs to improve food security?
- Failure to allow the community to participate in decision-making?

**4. Explain the violations clearly**

- What national law (if any) has been broken and how;
- Which human rights obligations has the government failed to carry out;
- The name and article of the law or treaty containing the obligation; and
- Referring, as appropriate, to the General Comments or to case law.

## 2.4 The right to adequate food in national legislation and policies

Before taking any action on the right to adequate food, it is important to know what the laws and policies say about the right.

The constitutions of several countries including Cape Verde, Congo, Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda and South Africa<sup>20</sup> recognise the right to food either for the whole population or for specific groups such as children. All African countries have acceded to the African Charter and most have acceded to other human rights treaties (see the Main Book, Part I, Section 3.3).

Even if the right is not mentioned in the Constitution, it is probably recognised at other levels in national laws and government policies. Useful places to look are:

- **Constitutions:** for provisions on the rights to life, food, health and the protection of the family;
- **Laws:** about land, agriculture, rural development, fishing, nutrition, consumer protection, social security and child protection;
- **Government ministries:** their websites or libraries may contain policies and programmes on matters related to the right to food, poverty reduction strategies;
- **The Finance Ministry:** for the budget allocations for food, water, and agricultural and rural development;
- **Courts and human rights commissions:** for reports of investigations into complaints about violations of the right to food; and
- **The libraries of educational or other institutions,** such as agricultural colleges or law faculties, for reports and studies.

### Box 15: Constitutional protection of the right to food

A list of national laws concerning the right to food is provided in Appendix 3 of this booklet.

Examples of constitutional protection are:

- **Senegal's Constitution of 2001**, Chapter II (Arts. 7 and 8), recognises human rights and especially economic and social rights for all citizens.
- **South Africa's Constitution of 1996**, Chapter II – Bill of Rights, section 27, states:
 

“Everyone has the right to have access to health care services, including reproductive health care; sufficient food and water; and social security, including, if they are unable to support themselves and their dependants, appropriate social assistance.

The state must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within its available resources, to achieve the progressive realisation of each of these rights. No one may be refused emergency medical treatment.”

Source: <http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/cafrad/unpan002912.pdf>  
[www.info.gov.za/documents/constitution/1996/96cons2.htm#27](http://www.info.gov.za/documents/constitution/1996/96cons2.htm#27).

## 2.5 Identifying and planning strategies for action

The Planning Box at the end of the Main Book, Part II, outlines the steps necessary for identifying and planning strategies for action. These steps are:

- Identifying the problem(s), setting goals and objectives;
- Gathering information;
- Analysing the information and identifying the strategy;
- Setting > indicators and deciding on actions; and
- Evaluating the project.

For more information about working with communities, see the Main Book, Part II, Section 4.

CSOs working on the right to food can follow these steps when deciding on the types of actions to undertake to realise food rights.

In all these steps, it is crucial to ensure ongoing participation of the community. In most of the cases where the right to food is violated, experience has proved the importance of unity among those affected. The authorities and other responsible actors often use disagreement among community members to evade their responsibilities.

## 3 Actions to realise the right to food

This section suggests ways to work with communities to improve the enjoyment of their right to adequate food.

Different types of actions include:

- Increasing everyone's understanding of the right to food;
- Monitoring the way policies and projects are carried out;
- Identifying food rights violations;
- Working to exercise rights through practical, self-help actions; and
- Participating in policy development.

The actions described in this section refer to issues related to the right to food explained in Section I. This section contains five checklists for monitoring and investigating specific types of violation.

### 3.1 Promoting the right to food

---

Increasing understanding of food rights includes:

- Ensuring that NGOs, CSOs, government agencies, development partners and the general public have a better understanding of food rights;
- Persuading the government authorities to recognise and understand their obligations; and
- Working with communities or specific vulnerable or marginalised groups to exercise food rights directly.

In situations where CBOs are improving their access to adequate food through self-help actions, they may not know that they are exercising their rights. Knowing about government obligations under national and international law could empower them to defend their actions and demand additional rights. For more information on how to do this, see Section 3.7 below.

It cannot be assumed that everyone working on food security, such as government officials and development agency staff, really understand the right to food or the needs of communities. In turn, national NGOs and CSOs can learn about the practical aspects in food production from experts such as agricultural extension officers or soil or nutrition experts. Collaboration among all groups can lead to greater understanding of the problems and to improved food policies.

**Box 16: Adopting a national framework law on the right to food**

If the government has not yet adopted a national framework law for implementing the right to adequate food, CSOs working on the right to food should consider campaigning to promote the adoption of such a law (see Section 2.1; the obligation to fulfil (facilitate)). This would be an ideal opportunity to make everyone more aware of the right to adequate food.

The promotion of the right to adequate food is linked to the promotion of the right to information. CSOs working on the right to food and others must have access to information in order to:

- Access official documents;
- Participate in policy development;
- Monitor how the government is carrying out its obligations; and
- Ensure accountability for violations of the right to food.

In many countries, the right to information is not specifically recognised. Recently, some African countries have adopted right to information laws. In others, for example Malawi and Ghana, NGOs have campaigned for the adoption of such laws. See also the Biowatch case in Box 13.



### 3.2 Monitoring public policies relevant for the right to food

The checklists in this section are tools for monitoring and investigating aspects of the right to food. By monitoring we mean to observe over a period of time the actions that the government or non-State actors are doing to either realise or obstruct rights. By investigating we mean to gather facts about a specific situation, such as access to land and resources for food production.

Monitoring and investigation are often grouped together because they can happen at the same time. These actions play a key role in analysing a food rights situation and enabling CSOs working on the right to food to identify other actions to help realise rights.

Checklist 1 is for monitoring the right to adequate food in general. Checklists 2-5 are about monitoring and investigating specific aspects: access to land and other resources; the impact of agribusiness on the right to food; State obligations concerning nutrition; and State obligations concerning Social Cash Transfers.

#### Box 17: How to use checklists

Checklists should be used in collaboration with members of the community, following the advice in the Main Book, Part II, Sections 5 and 6.

Note that:

- The checklists do not cover every situation nor do they cover every aspect of a situation; and
- Sometimes two or more checklists may be used to monitor a specific situation, for example to monitor the rights of indigenous women as an aspect of monitoring an agricultural project.

Use Appendix 1 to find relevant extracts from regional or international human rights standards.

Before starting to monitor, it may be useful to refer to Section 3.5 of the Main Book, Part I for States' reporting obligations to the African Commission and the CESCR.



# Checklist 1. Monitoring access to adequate food



## Objectives

---

To identify:

Specific violations and patterns of violations, including immediate obligations that are not being met;

- How and where community/NGO work could make a difference; and
- How to make communities and the authorities more aware of food rights.



## Tasks

---

### 1. Initial preparations – finding out about the law and policies

**NOTE: Keeping knowledge up to date is an ongoing task.**

- Obtain and read copies of:
  - The Constitution, relevant laws, policies and budget .....
  - The poverty reduction strategy .....
  - Reports and other relevant documents .....
- Identify aspects to monitor, for example:
  - Child malnutrition (use this checklist and Checklist 4 on nutrition) .....
  - Lack of access to jobs in urban areas .....
- Find out what powers local governments have in relation to food and nutrition, and ask:
  - What local food security policies exist (including within policies on agriculture, food, health and consumer protection)? .....
  - What opportunities are there for people to participate in local food and nutrition policies? .....

### 2. Participatory research - Identifying patterns of discrimination and non-participation

- Discrimination against marginalised or vulnerable groups
  - Carry out mapping (see the Main Book, Part II, Section 4.2.2) to identify groups suffering discrimination. ....
  - Do in-depth individual and collective interviews to determine both the causes and the impact of food insecurity (see the Main Book, Part II, Sections 6.5 and 6.6. ....
- Participation in developing food policies:
  - What mechanisms and opportunities for participation exist, if any? .....
  - Are they accessible, transparent and effective? .....
  - Do the officials responsible for the consultation receive adequate training and resources to carry out effective consultations? .....
- Participation in developing food policies:
  - What mechanisms and opportunities for participation exist, if any? .....
  - Are they accessible, transparent and effective? .....
  - Do the officials responsible for the consultation receive adequate training and resources to carry out effective consultations? .....

**3. Monitoring the State's obligations to respect and to protect the right to adequate food**

- State officials (respect) (see Section 2):
  - Do people have access to land? Do they have security of tenure? .....
  - Have any evictions been carried out? If so, were they forced (refer to the Right to Adequate Housing booklet)? Which groups are affected? .....
  - What are the main factors that obstruct access to adequate food (poor infrastructure to transport food, high prices, corruption, etc.)? .....
  - Is there evidence that local markets are affected by international trade agreements? .....
  - What are the relevant administrative, legislative or judicial officials doing about these situations? .....
  - Are there mechanisms to allow people to register complaints and receive explanations or remedies? .....
- Non-State actors (protect):
  - Are there laws to prevent private companies from interfering with people's access to adequate food? Are these laws adequate? .....

**4. Monitoring the State's obligation to fulfill the right to adequate food**

- Facilitate, promote: use the preparatory work to monitor or investigate:
  - Do laws and policies comply with the Constitution and international standards? Is the information accessible? .....
  - Do the authorities collect disaggregated data about access to food? .....
  - Do they prioritise disadvantaged groups? .....
  - What food assistance is available? Is this adequate? .....
  - If more spending is needed, what budget items could be dropped so that the money could be diverted to more urgent needs? .....
  - What non-financial resources are used? Are self-help groups encouraged and given support? .....
  - Do food producers receive adequate extension services to help them improve production? .....
- Provide (minimum core obligation):
  - Is there a significant number of people who are in acute need of help? What is the State doing about this? .....
  - Find out what members of the community are doing to improve their situation and the obstacles they face. ....
- Progressive realisation of the right to adequate food (this takes time):
  - Identify specific policies or aspects to monitor and a timeframe. For example, monitoring access to land for small farmers over a 12-month period. ....
  - Either use official indicators and benchmarks or set your own. ....
  - Assess the situation before you start and then measure it again at the end of the period. ....
  - Gather your own disaggregated data. ....



**5. Analysing results and taking action**

- The results of this exercise will be useful for actions on aspects of the right to food set out in the following sub-sections of this booklet. (See also the Main Book, Part II, Sections 9-11) .....

### 3.3 Actions to increase food security

There are many “road-maps” to help governments to increase food security; one is the Right to Food Guidelines. The steps summarised in Box 18 highlight the fundamental tasks of gathering and analysing information and setting up a monitoring system. Communities and CSOs can also gather information and act as monitors. They have a vital role to play in calling attention to signs of hunger or malnutrition or discrimination in access to adequate food.

#### Box 18: The Right to Food Guidelines

The “Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realisation of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security” or “Right to Food Guidelines”<sup>21</sup> were adopted by the 187 member States of the FAO in November 2004. The 19 guidelines advise governments on policies and strategies for overcoming hunger and malnutrition and realising the right to food.

They include the following steps:

- Analyse the causes of hunger and malnutrition and identify vulnerable groups;
- Ensure that policies comply with State obligations on the right to adequate food;
- Set up effective monitoring systems in collaboration with civil society; and
- Ensure that there are effective procedures to allow people to claim their rights and receive redress for violations.

The Right to Food Guidelines promote a human rights-based approach including principles of participation, empowerment, transparency and non-discrimination. See Appendix 3 for resources on monitoring how governments apply these Guidelines.

#### 3.3.1 Monitoring food security

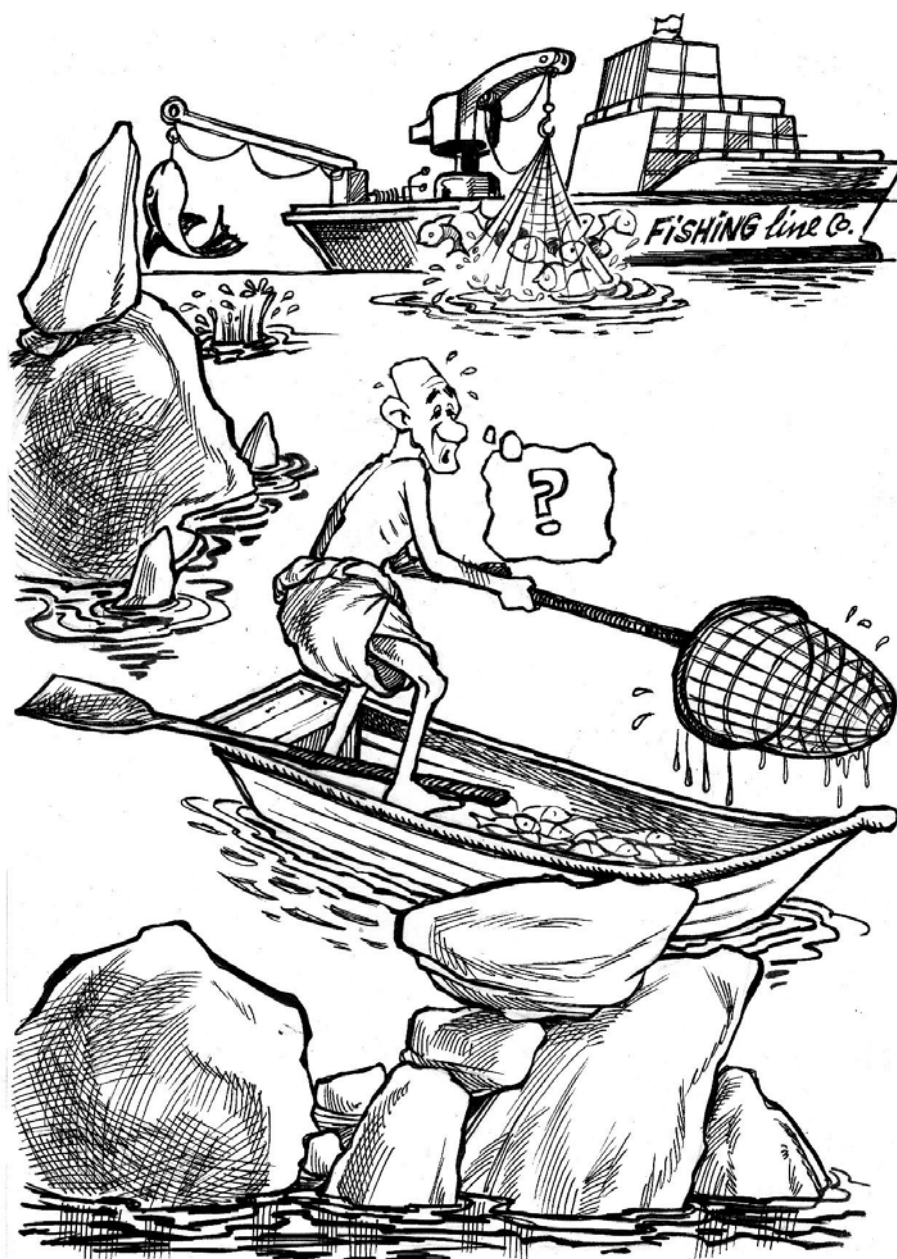
CSOs in various countries have been pressing their governments to adopt the Right to Food Guidelines. CSOs and communities can also monitor food security to find out:

- Whether people are aware of their entitlements;
- Whether the authorities have undertaken surveys to identify groups that are vulnerable to food insecurity, where they live and what they do and what problems they face;
- Whether there are policies and programmes towards improving the access of rural people living in poverty to resources for food production;
- Whether there are social programmes in place especially for people who cannot produce food for themselves or afford to buy food;

- Whether there have been initial assessments to identify whether food aid or other forms of assistance are more appropriate (food aid can be more convenient for the donors but may be more expensive because of transport costs); and
- The impact of food aid on those who receive the aid compared with those who do not.

CSOs wanting to monitor food security could find useful information in the FAO country profile. Go to the website ([www.fao.org/countryprofiles](http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles)), select the country from the “country profiles home” menu and then click “rural poverty country profiles”.

CSOs could also offer to receive complaints and pass them to appropriate authorities. Communities may not feel able to complain to an official body.



### Box 19: Monitoring food security in Africa

The Civil Society Agriculture Network (CISANET) works with farmers' groups and other NGOs on food and nutrition security. It focuses on policy development and implementation. After consulting farmers around the country it presented their views to the government. It also held a workshop with other NGOs to produce a consolidated set of indicators used by NGOs to monitor policy implementation. The government committed itself to providing financial and technical support for the use of these indicators.

Source: Adapted from: Southern African Regional Poverty Network (SARPN), Civil society experiences of monitoring food security in Southern Africa, Workshop report, 24 May, 2005. Available online: [sarpn.org.za/documents/d0001230/P1562-CSO\\_FS\\_monitoring\\_report\\_0524.pdf](http://sarpn.org.za/documents/d0001230/P1562-CSO_FS_monitoring_report_0524.pdf).

### 3.3.2 Ensuring access to resources

To ensure access to resources, CSOs working on the right to food could, among other things:

- Monitor the resource needs of those engaged in small-scale agriculture or artisanal fishing;
- Find out whether (and if so, how) the government is responding;
- Work with others, including NGOs that supply inputs, and encourage the authorities to provide more assistance to those who need it; and
- Work with communities and other NGOs to ensure that the government provides adequate opportunities for community participation.

### 3.3.3 Monitoring access to productive land and resources for food production

Section 1.5 described key aspects of access to land and other resources for food production.

The following checklist is designed for monitoring productive agricultural land and resources. Parts of it may also be useful for monitoring the situation of fishers, pastoralists and hunter-gatherers.

Access to land is often violated by forced evictions. Relevant information may be found in the Right to Adequate Housing booklet in Sections 3.3 and 3.4.



## Checklist 2. Monitoring access to productive land and resources for food production



### Objectives, with reference to a specific community:

---

- To assess the extent to which rights to access to land and other resources for food production are realised;
- To improve security of land tenure in rural areas; and
- To improve the access of small-scale farmers and their families to the resources they need.



### Tasks

---

#### 1. Initial preparations – information-gathering

- Obtain as much official information as possible about existing policies and programmes. ....
- Talk to local administrative officials and other actors such as FAO representatives and NGOs involved in food security and rural development .....
- Try to find the following information about the situation:
  - What percentage of community members are dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods? .....
  - What is the average size of farms and crop yield? .....
  - What are the different kinds of food production? How are these affected by climate? ..
  - What resources are lacking? .....

#### 2. Participatory research – monitoring access to productive land and resources for food production

Interview different sub-groups (women and men farmers, the elderly, boys and girls, and households involved and not involved in agriculture) for comparison in order to build a picture of the way households feed themselves. ....

Useful details include:

- Number of persons living in the household, respective age, sex and economic activity .....
- How long they have lived in the community? .....
- Food sources: Do they:
  - Consume the food that they grow themselves? .....
  - Buy food with money earned from agricultural or non-agricultural jobs? .....
  - Gather wild food? .....
- What are the patterns of access to food through the year? .....
- Is their food adequate? How many meals do they have each day? What is their diet? .....
- Do they have access to:
  - Safe drinking water? .....
  - Water for irrigation? .....
  - Markets? .....

- Are extension services and other resources available and accessible? For example, are there cooperatives, local seed banks, rural credit facilities, etc. and are these affordable? ..
- Who provides these resources: the government or non-State actors? .....
- How has their access to these resources varied in the last five years? Do they feel that access is secure? .....
- Is the land suitable for farming? Has the weather affected food production (such as drought or flooding)? ..

Conducting surveys in rural communities may help to clarify aspects of land tenure:

- What form of tenure do people have (freehold ownership, free use of state land, community ownership, lease of public or private land)? .....
- Have people heard of any plans to sell or lease land to private actors? If so, which land and what type of tenure do the affected people have? .....

Document your findings by taking notes and pictures in order to inform others about the community's access to resources. ....

### 3. **Participatory work: monitoring fulfilment of the State's obligations concerning access to productive land and resources for food production**

On the basis of your research, discuss with community members how the State is meeting its obligations to:

- Respect access to land and resources. Is there evidence of:
  - Forced evictions? .....
  - Pollution or destruction of land and resources? .....
  - Discrimination, especially of vulnerable or marginalised groups? .....
  - Lack of opportunities to participate meaningfully? .....

If so which officials are responsible? .....

- Protect access to land and resources. Are there:
  - Measures to promote and protect the security of land tenure? .....
  - Cases of private investors and companies denying access to land and resources belonging to the community? .....
- Fulfil access to land and resources. Are there laws, policies and other measures on:
  - Improving access to land and resources for vulnerable groups? .....
  - Improving access to markets? .....
  - Promoting and supporting the sustainable use of natural resources? .....
  - Guaranteeing access to land and resources to indigenous people? .....

Once these questions are answered, ask questions about the implementation of these policies:

- Are these adequate? .....
- How are they being implemented? .....
- How is the State monitoring the implementation of these policies? .....

**4. Analysing results and taking action.**

In collaboration with community members:

- Identify and record any human rights violations and make appropriate recommendations to key stakeholders ..... ○
- Develop an advocacy and lobbying strategy ..... ○
- Take complaints to the appropriate authorities, such as the human rights commission or, with the help of a lawyer, take legal action ..... ○
- Send your information to the CESCR and to the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Food. .... ○

### **Other actions to increase access to land, natural resources and other resources**

In addition to raising awareness of the issues in the affected community, in the wider community and among government officials, CSOs working on the right to food could:

- Refer to the booklet on the Right to Adequate Housing and follow or adapt the actions suggested in Section 3.7 on access to land and resources and on Section 3.3 on forced evictions;
- In situations where land conflicts occur, CSOs, in partnership with the community and national and international NGOs, could lobby for the creation of small emergency funds. These funds (sometimes called “emergency pots”) can, for example, help community members to pay for local transportation to the nearest town where they can seek legal advice; and
- Monitor the support that the State provides to small food producers such as extension services and access to transport and markets.

#### **Box 20: Community action to resist land grabbing**

The Kedougou municipality in Senegal decided in 2008 to give some 80,000 hectares of agricultural land to a Spanish private investor to create a holiday park. Without consulting the three rural communities in the area or completing formal procedures, the investor began building. The communities, allied with local lawyers, NGOs and peasants’ organisations, protested. As a result, the building works were stopped. The communities and their support group obtained all relevant documents and said they were determined to use all political and legal means at their disposal.

Source: <http://kedovinsdefrance.over-blog.com/article-26999118.html>

### **3.3.4 Monitoring and addressing the impact of agribusiness and the production of agrofuels**

---

The following checklist may be used to monitor the impact of agribusiness. It can be adapted to monitor the impact of other large-scale development projects, such as mining and tourist projects. Questions of access to land and resources as well as access to nutritious food are also relevant to this topic (see Sections 1.5 and 3.3.2 on access to resources for food production, and Sections 1.7 and 3.5 on nutrition).

This checklist does not give advice for monitoring the financial aspects of agribusiness or the role of foreign donors or international financial institutions. However, the information that is gathered from using this checklist may be useful for other NGOs who do monitor these actors. It is advisable to talk to such NGOs before starting to monitor.





## Checklist 3. Monitoring the impact of agribusiness on the right to food



### Objectives:

---

- To assess the impact of agribusinesses and monocultures on small-scale and subsistence farmers; and
- To identify ways to improve access to adequate food and productive resources for these groups.



### Task

---

#### 1. Initial preparations – information-gathering

- Identify the agribusiness to be monitored ..... ○
- Try to obtain copies of:
  - The company's report (some companies publish annual reports which may be on the internet), and look for newspaper and other reports about the company ..... ○
  - The official document that allows the company to operate ..... ○
  - The company's "Mission Statement" which says what it does and should contain something about its values. .... ○
- Try to find out:
  - The company's current plans and operations ..... ○
  - Whether or not social and/or environmental impact assessments have been or will be carried out ..... ○
  - Any plans to evict people from the land and if so, what steps would be taken to avoid a forcible eviction. .... ○

#### 2. Participatory research – monitoring the impact of agribusiness

- Together with the community, try to find out, as relevant:
  - What crop or crops are being or will be grown and what is their use (food, agrofuel, pharmacy, etc.)? ..... ○
  - Are they for the local or the export market? Will they be processed in the country or abroad? ..... ○
  - When was the crop introduced? ..... ○
  - How much land is being or will be used? What kind of land tenure does the company have (large private property, several smaller private properties, leasing of private land, leasing of public land, etc.)? ..... ○
  - Is there a written agreement granting the company permission to use, buy, or rent the land? ..... ○
  - Was the community informed and consulted? Were there objections? ..... ○
  - Were there evictions? If so, were they forced evictions (find the definition and monitoring advice in the Right to Adequate Housing booklet). .... ○
  - What rights does the company have over water sources (this should be stated in the contract)? ..... ○
  - Who are the owners? Are they national or foreign investors? ..... ○

- How many community members are employed on the plantations? Where do the other workers come from? What are the working conditions like? .....
- Do the company's policies include respect for the environment and for workers' rights? Does the company have a policy of corporate social responsibility (guidelines on how the company should respect human rights, workers rights and the environment)? .....
- Does the monoculture lead to environmental damage? Are there reports of pollution of soils and water, deforestation, and loss of biodiversity? .....

**3. Participatory monitoring of the impact of agribusiness**

- Interview different sub-groups of the community (women and men farmers, the elderly, boys and girls, people not involved in agriculture) to collect information concerning changes after the introduction of the monoculture or monocultures .....
- How was the land used before the introduction of the monoculture? Whose land was it? Which authority is in charge of planning or deciding on the use of the land? .....
- What has been the impact on the local economy? .....
- What is the environmental impact on soils, forests, water and biodiversity? What evidence is there? .....
- Has the monoculture had an impact on the health of the community? What illnesses? What do those affected think were the causes? How many people are affected (women, men, boys, girls, workers)? .....
- If evictions took place, how many people were affected? Where do they live now and under what conditions? .....

**4. Analysing results and taking action**

- In collaboration with community members:
  - Identify and record any human rights violations .....
  - Develop an advocacy and lobbying strategy .....
  - Take complaints to the appropriate authorities .....
  - If remedies are not available locally or nationally, send information to the CESCR and to the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Food (see the Main Book, Part II, Section 10.1). .....

### **Additional actions on agribusinesses**

CSOs could, in collaboration with relevant communities such as small farmers, agricultural labourers or environmental groups, undertake the following actions:

- Form joint strategies for action. It may be useful to consult professionals specialising in the management of forests, soils, water and other resources who could explain how the agribusiness might affect the right to food;
- Obtain information about the situation before the agribusiness starts (or started) operating by interviewing community members and villagers (especially the elderly who remember the past). And ask them about changes in the rural and agricultural environment, including about newcomers (investors), new crops, loss of forests, loss of grazing lands, water quantity and quality, etc. This information will serve as a “base-line” for measuring the impact of the agribusiness; and
- Document possible violations of the rights to food or access to land and make recommendations such as for policy reform or restitution or compensation to those who have lost access to resources.

### **3.3.5 Actions on extractive industries**

CSOs working on the right to food can undertake the following actions on extractive industries (such as mining companies):

- Using Checklist 3, carry out monitoring and research into a mining or other project;
- Facilitate or participate in negotiations between the affected community, the authorities and the companies;
- Help the community to adopt coping strategies and, if possible, to find alternative employment;
- Assist those in need of legal advice to contact a lawyer, a relevant organisation or human rights commission;
- Consider joining any national coalition concerned about the negative impact of mining; or
- Encourage international NGOs to report on problems and bring them to international attention (including within the UN system, with the World Bank and with governments which directly or indirectly finance mining projects in which violations occur).

#### **Box 21: Farmers learn about their rights**

In Teberebie, western Ghana, many farmers lost their lands to make way for a gold mine. A military force protecting the company blocked the road that farmers used for travelling to their fields. Two men were shot and wounded and several people were beaten. Afterwards, community members set up the Concerned Farmers' Association of Teberebie. They worked with AngloGold Ashanti and the Wassa Association of Communities Affected by Mining

> continued

(WACAM), an environmental and human rights organisation, to learn about their human rights. One of the group's activities was to march to a nearby town where radio, television, and newspaper journalists interviewed the leader, a young woman, about the situation facing farmers in Teberebie.

Source: Jerry Mensah-Pah, *A new leader of concerned farmers in rural Ghana: Emilia Amoateng helps defend the rights of fellow villagers, presses a legal case for compensation for their lost farms*. Oxfam America, August 6, 2007.

#### Box 22: "Publish What You Pay"

The international civil society campaign "Publish What You Pay" helps people in developing countries to hold their governments accountable for the use of revenues from the oil, gas and mining sectors. Knowing about such profits is the first step towards regaining democratic control over the country's national resources. The campaign also calls for revenues from extractive industries to be invested in areas like food security, education and health. There are affiliated organisations in most African countries.

For more information, please visit: [www.publishwhatyoupay.org](http://www.publishwhatyoupay.org).

### 3.3.6 Actions on illegal fishing

CSOs working on the right to food can help curb the practice of illegal fishing by working with fishers on ways to identify and monitor the practice. Fishing communities may be able to monitor and report illegal fishing, especially if they have equipment such as binoculars, mobile phones and cameras.

#### Box 23: Using radios to report illegal fishing

Many foreign fishing vessels operate along the coast of Guinea. Some entered areas near the shore which are reserved by law for local fishers. Every year, they caught fish worth an estimated US\$100 million. The Guinea authorities were unable to monitor these activities. In 2003 they gave radios to local fishers and asked them to report illegal fishing. The project stopped in 2006 for lack of funds.

Source: IRIN, *Illegal international fishing impoverishes local fishermen*, 13 February 2008.

### 3.4 Actions to monitor the effects of trade

This section provides advice for action on food and trade as described in Section 1.6.

Trade can have a significant impact, both positive and negative, on the right to food. CSOs working on the right to food should:

- Raise awareness about human rights standards and obligations with communities, government officials, national and local members of parliament;
- If a trade agreement is proposed, write letters or request influential public figures to ask the relevant authorities whether there will be proper impact assessments before the agreement is signed;
- If there is information to suggest that a new trade agreement may have a negative impact, work with the community to monitor the impact. At an early stage, preferably before the agreement comes into effect, gather information about things like people's access to land and water and the cost of food. Monitor the consultation process if there is one. Later, monitor the impact on food producers, sellers and consumers;
- Build alliances with experts who can explain the technical aspects of trade issues to communities and officials; and
- Document the impact of trade on the ability of specific communities to feed themselves.

#### Box 24: Working on trade agreements – examples from Eastern Africa

In Uganda, the Southern and Eastern African Trade Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI) and various national NGOs ran educational workshops with members of parliament to enable them to understand and effectively influence complex trade agreements during negotiations with the WTO and on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with the European Union.

In 2007 the Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC) and the Kenya Small Scale Farmers Forum (KSSFF) feared that a proposed EPA would flood the market with imports of cheap foods and ruin farmers and small businesses. The NGOs were concerned that the EPA was being agreed without consulting the affected parties. They also complained about lack of adequate information about the negotiations.

The NGOs went to court to get a legal order that would stop the negotiations on the grounds that the EPA would undermine a range of human rights including the rights to adequate food, health, work and life. At the time of writing, the case was apparently still in court.

Source: See the KHRC Trade News Bulletin, Issue No. 103 Friday, 27 October 2007, pg 9-10. See also the KHRC website.

### 3.5 Actions to promote the consumption of nutritious food

Section 1.7 gave information about nutrition. This section contains a checklist for monitoring nutrition and actions to promote healthy eating. Before taking action, CSOs working on the right to food should talk to a nutrition expert and other health workers, either government officials or staff of specialised NGOs. Box 25 gives some of the health indicators of malnutrition.

#### Box 25: Recognising malnutrition

People need to be trained to identify malnutrition properly.

Some of the signs are:

- Weight loss, decreased muscle mass, and weakness;
- Oedema (swelling);
- Anaemia (when skin looks pale);
- Dry scaly skin or rashes;
- Hair that has lost its pigment (colour);
- Brittle and malformed (humped) nails;
- Chronic diarrhoea;
- Slow wound healing;
- Bone and joint pain;
- Growth retardation (in children);
- Mental changes such as confusion and irritability; and
- Goitre (swelling of the thyroid gland in the neck).

Some situations in which malnutrition can be found are:

- Areas suffering droughts;
- Where people eat very little besides the staple crop;
- The period before the rainy season when the previous year's crops are finished; and
- When the rains have been bad and food prices rise.

Adapted from Lab Tests Online:

[www.labtestsonline.org/understanding/conditions/malnutrition-2.html](http://www.labtestsonline.org/understanding/conditions/malnutrition-2.html).

#### 3.5.1 Monitoring State obligations and achievements in nutrition

As mentioned in Section 1.3 of this manual, starvation death is often not recognised as such. The following checklist covers various aspects of nutrition. CSOs working on the right to food should select sections relevant to their projects.



## Checklist 4. Monitoring State obligations concerning nutrition



### Objectives:

---

To gather information about nutrition in a specific community or area in order to monitor:

- How the authorities fulfil their obligation to provide information about nutrition;
- Food safety;
- Cultural acceptability of food aid items; and
- Public nutrition programmes.



### Tasks:

---

#### 1. Initial preparations – information-gathering

- Try to obtain copies of policy documents (health, food, agriculture, education) to assess the government's plans for improving nutrition. ....
- Build a broad picture of the nutrition situation in the chosen area. Interview relevant local officials, representatives of UNICEF and WHO, and NGOs involved in nutrition. Identify the main food sources, weather patterns (for growing crops), and nutrition problems. ....
- Form alliances with health professionals who could provide advice and help obtain information. Health professionals can also benefit from the information gathered by human rights advocates. ....

#### 2. Participatory research – identifying concerns about food and nutrition in a chosen community or area

Interview members of households in the chosen area to find out about people's main nutrition problems. This will allow the organisation to identify key areas to monitor, using Sections 3 and 4 of this checklist as appropriate. Ask interviewees:

- What they eat, how many meals per day, what items they produce themselves, what they buy, and at what cost .....
- Have they had health problems that may be related to food? .....
- Assess the level of knowledge of food hygiene and labelling .....
- Find out about children's school attendance (for boys and girls) and any work they do at home .....
- Does the family have traditions or customs concerning food?
- What assistance do the authorities provide in terms of:
  - Information (advice on nutrition, agriculture, food safety, etc.)? .....
  - Practical help (food supplements, agricultural inputs, or Social Cash Transfers)? .....
- If possible, interview women separately to ask about particular problems, including about food production, knowledge of nutrition, child health, breastfeeding. ....

**3. Participatory monitoring of food safety**

- Are there food safety and quality control systems such as inspectors? .....
- Are food sellers well informed about food safety? .....
- Do the authorities have information programmes to make consumers aware of nutrition and food safety? Have these programmes been evaluated to assess their impact? .....

**4. Participatory monitoring of cultural acceptability**

- If local communities or groups receive food aid, were they consulted about their traditional eating and food habits? .....
- Is the food distributed culturally acceptable (for instance to respect religious or traditional food requirements)? .....

**5. Analysing results and taking action**

In collaboration with community members:

- Identify any human rights violations and make appropriate recommendations to key stakeholders .....
- Develop an advocacy and lobbying strategy .....
- Take complaints to the appropriate authorities. ....



### 3.5.2 Acting to improve the nutritional status of specific groups

In most communities, women have the responsibility to prepare food for their families. Strategies to improve nutrition must therefore begin by focusing on women. If they understand good nutrition they can help to protect themselves and their families.

#### Box 26: Breastfeeding

Breastfeeding is part of a child's right to adequate food (African Child Charter, Art. 14.2 (h); UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Art. 24. Nutritionists and paediatricians (doctors specialising in children) agree that the best start in life is exclusive breastfeeding for six months.

**Exclusive breastfeeding** is when the baby is given no other liquid or solid food for six months.

**Early breastfeeding** is also crucial. Mothers' milk during the first days after delivery is thick and yellow in colour. This is "colostrum", which is highly nutritious. In parts of Africa it is the custom for mothers to throw this away.

Early and exclusive breastfeeding prevents undernourishment and strengthens resistance to the common diseases of children under five (diarrhoea and breathing problems). But there are two big problems:

- Exclusive breastfeeding has drastically reduced in Africa, mainly because women return to work early; and
- Women are the most affected by hunger and malnutrition and as a result malnourished mothers produce milk with fewer nutrients.

Confronting these problems requires raising awareness of the benefits of breastfeeding and improving maternal nutrition. This may be done through:

- Nutrition programmes prioritising mothers with newborn babies;
- Popular education and promotion campaigns for breastfeeding;
- Medical advice and support in hospitals and health centres; and
- Strict regulation of the promotion and advertising of baby formulas and breast milk substitutes.

In Senegal child mortality dropped from 22% to 17% between 1995 and 2005, partly as a result of a national exclusive breastfeeding campaign.

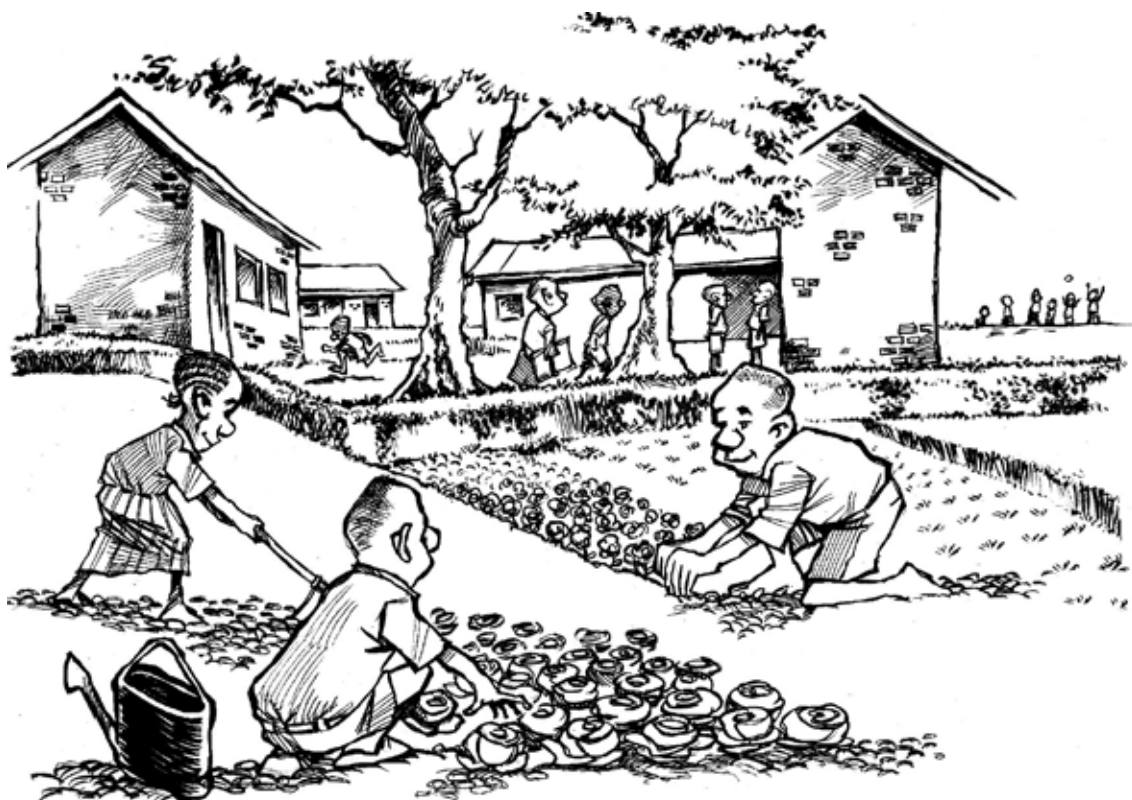
Sources:

IRIN News, West Africa: First hour of breastfeeding is crucial, 6 August 2009.

UNICEF. Countdown to 2015: Health centre in Senegal works to reduce child mortality Available online: [www.unicef.org/infobycountry/senegal\\_43516.html](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/senegal_43516.html).

CSOs working on the right to food could set up projects to:

- Investigate allegations of health problems caused by accident or neglect, such as an open sewer near a primary school, and:
  - If > food borne diseases are reported, ask professionals to take samples (or take samples but first seek professional advice);
  - Publish evidence about the causes and impact (photos, samples tested in a laboratory, statements by officials); and
  - Issue alerts.
- Offer to engage primary school children in a project to make a food garden in the school. With the help of a nutritionist, encourage the children to design a poster that gives nutritional information about the vegetables and fruit that are planted in the garden. Involve the children in discussions about healthy ways to prepare the food for eating. Develop a system for allowing the children to take some of the products home; and
- Monitor access to adequate food in urban areas and see if there are opportunities to develop food gardens.



### Box 27: South Africa: Food gardens

The NGO Abalimi helps its members develop their own organic vegetable gardens (where no chemical fertilizers are used) to supplement their diet, improve household food and nutritional security and provide sustainable additional income. The personal satisfaction, community building, and heightened self-esteem that come from growing food are added benefits.

Source: IRIN, Growing food and money in the city, 12 February 2009. Available online: [www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=82899](http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=82899).

## 3.6 Monitoring social assistance

This section contains advice on monitoring food aid and Social Cash Transfers. For information on social assistance see Section 1.8.

### 3.6.1 Monitoring food aid

CSOs working on the right to food can help to ensure that food aid reaches those who need it.

Aspects to monitor include:

- Whether there have been initial assessments to identify whether food aid or other forms of assistance are more appropriate (see Section 3.4);
- The impact of food aid on those who receive it compared with those who do not;
- Finding out whether the process is transparent and whether people are aware of their entitlements;
- Checking whether powerful people within the community are influencing the distribution to their own advantage; and
- Receiving complaints and passing these on to appropriate authorities (communities may not feel able to complain to an official body).

### 3.6.2 Monitoring Social Cash Transfers

### Box 28: The Kalomo SCT pilot project in Zambia

Poverty affects 67% of Zambians. Most of those considered poor live in rural areas. An SCT project was launched in Kalomo and four other districts in May 2004. It aimed to provide 200,000 destitute households (most of them with no adults able to work) with a minimum income. Originally there were rules about how people could spend the money they received but these were removed. As a result, nutrition and health were improved and more children attended school. For more information, see [www.fian.org/resources/documents/others/a-human-rights-view-of-social-cash-transfers-for-achieving-the-mdgs/pdf](http://www.fian.org/resources/documents/others/a-human-rights-view-of-social-cash-transfers-for-achieving-the-mdgs/pdf).

Those wishing to monitor SCTs should use checklist 5. They should also take into account the following human rights criteria for SCTs<sup>22</sup>:

- **Completeness:** SCTs should provide a minimum amount of cash to buy food;
- **Sufficiency:** The amount should be sufficient to guarantee access to adequate food;
- **Unconditionality:** The money should be given without any conditions;
- **Objectivity:** If people are selected, the criteria and selection should be objective, non-discriminatory and open to scrutiny;
- **Full coverage:** Transfers must reach each person with an income level below the stipulated minimum. If anyone receives less this may constitute discrimination;
- **Justiciability / enforceability:** Anyone entitled to transfers who does not receive them should have the right to complain and, if necessary, to sue the State and receive immediate redress;
- **Role of State authorities:** States (not private contractors) are responsible for providing the transfers, with assistance of the international community if necessary; and
- **Not compensatory:** Transfers must never be politically misused as a compensation for people and communities who have been excluded from their economic activities and from their access to productive resources.



## Checklist 5. Monitoring State obligations concerning Social Cash Transfers



### Objectives:

---

- To find out if SCTs are being used correctly and reaching the intended population (the most vulnerable, like women and children); and
- To check compliance with human rights criteria (see above).



### Tasks

---

#### 1. Initial preparations – information-gathering

- Obtain as much official information as possible about the STC project. Identify the authorities in charge. Try to find out:
  - When the programme started .....
  - Whether needs and impact assessments and community consultations were carried out before the project was agreed .....
  - What funding has been allocated to the SCT project .....
  - Whether this is a pilot project or a follow up (if so, the results of the previous project may be useful to know) .....
  - The stated objectives and expected outcomes; .....
  - The criteria for selecting those eligible to receive STCs (for example, everyone in a defined area or certain groups such as women) .....
  - How the amount of the transfer was calculated .....
  - The programme's indicators and benchmarks .....
  - What are the monitoring requirements? Who will do the monitoring? .....
  - Whether the programme includes a mechanism for dealing with complaints; .....
  - What the reporting requirements are: will a report be made and who will receive it? Will it be made public? .....

#### 2. Participatory research - identifying concerns about STC in a chosen community or area

- Identify one or two communities that are receiving SCTs. Working on two contrasting communities, if possible, would provide a comparison.
- In interviews with households and with different sub-groups (women, men, the elderly, boys and girls) find out:
  - Their food situation before the SCT project started .....
  - What information they received .....
  - What were the procedures for bringing them into the programme and how were they selected? .....
  - Were these procedures fair? (answers to this question may indicate discrimination, which should be separately investigated) .....
  - Did they regularly receive information? What sort and from whom? .....
  - What are their main food sources (local markets, street vendors, own production) and what are the average prices? .....
  - What proportion of their budget is spent on food? .....

- Who in the household purchases and/or produces the food? .....
- Have they ever experienced problems about access to STCs? What problems? .....
- How easy or difficult is it to receive STCs (distance, long queues, helpful or unhelpful officials)? .....
- Do they know about or have they used the complaints mechanism? .....
- What changes to their own lives have they noticed after the programme started? .....
- What changes have they seen in the community? .....

**3. Analysing results and taking action**

- In collaboration with members of the selected communities:
  - Identify any human rights violations, such as discrimination, or criminal acts, such as corruption .....
  - Develop an advocacy and lobbying strategy .....
  - Take complaints to the appropriate authorities, including, if possible, to the STC complaints mechanism or the human rights commission. If appropriate, take legal action with the help of a lawyer. ....

## 3.7 Other actions to realise the right to food

This section adds to the actions in previous sections. Before taking action, readers should refer to the Main Book, Part II, for advice on how to involve the community, raise awareness, analyse problems and develop strategies for action.

### 3.7.1 Empowering vulnerable groups and raising awareness among decision-makers

The right to food and other ESC rights are not widely understood. Education and information are needed at all levels of society. Appendix 3 lists materials that may be useful.

#### Box 29: Village seminars in Malawi

In 2001 the Human Rights and Advocacy department of the Blantyre Synod of the Presbyterian Church carried out a comprehensive capacity-building project to help communities. More than 1,600 seminars were held in villages across Malawi to discuss issues of human rights in general and the right to food in particular. Ideas and priorities raised at the village-level discussions have guided the elaboration of a draft law on the right to food.

Source: FIAN International, How to use the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food, A Manual for Social Movements, Community-Based Organisations and Non-Governmental Organisations, May 2007, [www.fian.at/docs/d49e\\_HowtouseVG.pdf](http://www.fian.at/docs/d49e_HowtouseVG.pdf).

### 3.7.2 Participating in the development of policies and budgets and monitoring their implications

The Main Book, Part II, Section 7 explains how CSOs can participate in the development of policies and budgets and monitor their implications. Communities and NGOs could develop a strategy for including food security needs and right to food indicators in this process (see Section 3.7.3).

Links to tools for doing budget work may be found in Appendix 3. For more information on micro-credit schemes, see the Main Book, Part II, Section 11.2.

### Box 30: Popular budget work in Benin

The Benin Social Watch Network (*Réseau Social Watch, Bénin*) has campaigned for civil society participation in reforming and implementing the country's budgetary laws. For instance, they actively participated in the 2008 budget discussions to ensure that the priority needs of people at local and national levels were taken into account.

For more information, see the Benin Social Watch newsletter, July 2008.

### 3.7.3 Using indicators on the right to adequate food

---

Sets of indicators to measure the implementation of the right to adequate food have been developed by various agencies. These are available at:

- [www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/icm-mc/docs/HRI.MC.2008.3EN.pdf](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/icm-mc/docs/HRI.MC.2008.3EN.pdf)
- <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/011/i0351e/i0351e03.pdf>
- [ibsa.uni-mannheim.de](http://ibsa.uni-mannheim.de)

Table 1 is a summary version of the different lists.<sup>23</sup>

Indicators are used to track the government's progress in implementing rights, supporting policy evaluation and informing the public. They can be used in surveys (see the Main Book, Part II, Section 6.5). Numerical data is needed for some of these indicators. It may be possible to obtain this data from the relevant local authorities.

The indicators in Table 1 could be used in various ways, for example CSOs working on the right to food could:

- Monitor availability by identifying vulnerable groups that do not receive much support from the State or other agencies. CSOs could find out what resources they lack, and inform the authorities. Later, perhaps in six months or a year, a similar assessment could be carried out to monitor progress; or
- Alternatively, to monitor access to safe food, the CSO could identify specific food, such as fish; obtain advice on how to recognise fish that is unsafe; and see how many such fish are on sale in the sample area. This information could be useful in developing policies on food safety. Even a small sample can be useful in exposing a problem.



Note:

- In each case, it is important to establish the number of people or households in the area surveyed and the number of people or households affected. It is also useful to examine gender-disaggregated results to see if any patterns emerge;
- It is always useful, and sometimes essential, to seek expert advice;
- It is vital to use clear and measurable definitions of the element (such as safe fish) to be monitored; and
- When using the data, always explain the criteria and methodology.

**Table 1: Indicators on the right to adequate food**

| <b>Elements of the right to adequate food</b> | <b>Key Indicators</b>   |
|---|---|
| Adequacy (undernourishment)                   | - Number of undernourished people in a community  |
| Adequacy (unsafe food)                        | - Number of people vulnerable to consumption of unsafe food   |
| Availability (resources)                      | - Which resources are available?<br>- Which groups lack resources? Which resources do they lack?  |
| Availability (food reserves)                  | - Are there food stocks for emergencies? Are these held at district or local level?<br>- Are they adequate?   |
| Accessibility (affordability)                 | - What proportion of their income do people spend on food and drinking water?<br>- Number of vulnerable groups covered by social safety net programs.   |
| Accessibility (physical)                      | - Proportion of children under five who are underweight; and<br>- Coverage of food aid programmes.  |
| Accessibility of services (Water)             | - Proportion of population without access to an improved water source.  |
| Gender equality                               | - Proportion of males and females with low body mass; and<br>- Proportion of underweight boys and girls.  |
| Enforceability                                | - Legal recognition of the right to adequate food and related rights;<br>- Procedural mechanisms to provide adequate, effective and prompt remedies; and<br>- Existence of an independent national human rights commission working on ESC rights. |

### **3.7.4 Building alliances and lobbying the government**

CSOs, NGOs and trade unions can work together to persuade the authorities to make public policies comply with human rights principles.

#### **Box 31: African Right to Food Network**

The African Right to Food Network (*Réseau Africain pour la Promotion du Droit à l'Alimentation, RAPDA*) was created in Cotonou, Benin, in July 2008. Its members are NGOs and social movements from about 20 African countries. The main goal was to facilitate the exchange of experience and information at local and national levels. RAPDA also offered to facilitate the development of joint advocacy strategies and actions at sub-regional and regional levels. See Appendix 4 for more information.

### **3.7.5 Highlighting and encouraging good practices**

When examples of good practice can be found at the local level, they can be used to encourage more good practice. Actions could include:

- Publicly thanking the person responsible; or
- Holding a meeting to discuss how this example could lead to others.

Examples can also be found at the national or international levels, mainly through the internet, for instance:

- Benin's draft law on agriculture;
- Burkina Faso's law of agricultural orientation; and
- Examples of mass social movements to assert rights, such as the civil society campaign for a "Human Right to Food Bill" in Malawi.

### **3.7.6 Following and monitoring regional policy debates and initiatives**

There are many regional processes which are relevant for the right to adequate food in Africa. It may be difficult for local NGOs to participate, but they could link up with a larger national NGO or an international NGO. If they have internet access, they could follow the debates on relevant websites.

Some of the most relevant processes are:

- The Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), Pillar III, Framework for African Food Security (FAFS); and
- The Declaration of Maputo which demands that governments invest minimum 10% of their national budgets in agriculture.<sup>24</sup>

### **3.7.7 Reporting to the CESCR and the African Commission**

---

Organisations interested in providing information to these bodies should refer to the guidelines for reporting to the CESCR ([www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf](http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf)). They can also refer to civil society guides to present parallel, or “shadow” reports to the ones presented by States (see the Main Book, Part II, Section 10.1.2 and Appendix 4)

The African Commission uses a similar process (Google ACHPR, go to “communications” and hit “procedures”).

### **3.7.8 The international arenas**

---

While it may be difficult or impossible for local groups and organisations to participate in the international arena, groups working on the right to adequate food should be aware of the following major processes and events:

- Millennium Development Goal (MDG 1): Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger<sup>25</sup>;
- World Food Day on 16 October; and
- International Day of Peasants’ Struggle on 17 April.

Practical links are provided in Appendix 3.

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| ACP    | African, Caribbean and Pacific countries                       |
| CAADP  | Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme         |
| CCT    | Conditional Cash Transfer                                      |
| CESCR  | Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights              |
| EPA    | Economic Partnership Agreement                                 |
| EU     | European Union   |
| EVI    | Extremely Vulnerable Individual                                |
| ICESCR | International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights |
| IFAD   | International Fund for Agricultural Development                |
| FAO    | Food and Agricultural Organisation                             |
| MIP    | Minimum income programme                                       |
| SCT    | Social Cash Transfer   |
| USA    | United States of America                                       |
| WFP    | World Food Programme   |
| WTO    | World Trade Organisation (EPAs)                                |

**A**

---

**Adequate food**

Food which is sufficient in quantity and quality.

**Additives**

Something added to processed foods to improve things like flavour or colour or to help it last longer on the shelf.

**Agribusiness**

Businesses linked to food production, food processing and distribution. In this manual, the term refers to industrial agriculture, not small-scale agricultural production.

**Agrofuels**

(Sometimes called “biofuels”): Liquid fuels such as diesel or ethanol. At first, they were produced from food crops such as soybean, sugar cane or palm oil. Lately, agricultural residues (waste products) from forestry (willow, eucalyptus) and farming (straw) have been used. There has been a substantial increase in the use of genetically modified crops for agrofuels. In this manual, “agrofuels” is used instead of “biofuels” because, in many languages, the prefix “bio” is used to describe “organic” agriculture.

**Arable land**

Land that can be used for growing crops.

**Artisanal fishers/artisanal fisheries**

Small-scale fishers, especially subsistence fishers, as opposed to industrial fishers. Artisanal fishers’ activities are usually more sustainable and less likely to endanger fish populations.

**B**

---

**Biodiversity**

The variation of life forms in a given ecosystem, both animal and plant life.

C

---

**Carbohydrates**

Mainly sugars and starches contained in food such as maize, sweet potato, yams.

**Cash crop**

A crop produced for market rather than for the grower's own use.

**Climate change**

Changes in modern climate that affect global processes as a whole (food production, rising sea levels, extreme weather, hot and cold temperatures, etc). For more information see the definition in the Main Book glossary.

**Chronic undernourishment**

Medical term for prolonged improper or inadequate diet and nutrition.

**Chronic hunger**

Prolonged or persistent hunger as distinct from famines caused by emergencies such as floods.

**Consumer protection**

Laws or regulations developed to prevent bad practices in the sale of food. They regulate quality, price and other aspects of buying and selling.

D

---

**Disaggregated information or data**

Information that gives separate figures for different categories, such as sex, age, socio-economic situation, geographical area and ethnic group.

E

---

**Extension services/officer**

Services that provide advice, for example on agricultural science and technology, productivity or marketing, and help to develop agricultural skills. These services may be provided by an extension officer.

**Extractive industries**

They are mostly companies involved in mining for minerals. Oil and logging companies are sometimes also called extractive companies.

F

---

**Famine**

Deprivation or lack of food on a large scale and over a long period of time affecting whole groups of people.

**Food insecurity**

The absence of food security.

**Food security**

Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food for a healthy and active life.

**Food sovereignty** (See Box 1 on page 16 of this booklet)

The right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods.

**Food borne diseases**

These are caused by consuming food or beverages that have been contaminated by microbes, for example through neglect of hand washing, or poisonous chemicals.

**Farmers**

– small scale – (See under S)

**Forced evictions**

Violations of human rights that occur when people are removed from their homes and lands against their will and without the provision of alternative housing or resettlement, of compensation and of legal protection.

G

---

**Genes**

Units in the cells of plants or animals (including humans) that pass on particular characteristics, for example baldness. They are part of a sequence called DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid).

H

---

**Hunger**

In this manual, the term describes the persistent (or continual) and involuntary lack of access to food resulting in a lack of calorie intake, as well as the painful sensation that it causes.

I

---

**Impact assessments**

See *social and environmental impact assessments*.

**Indicator**

A number that is chosen to show progress towards a goal. For example a government that wants to increase food productivity in six years might set indicators for doubling the number of extension officers each year.

**Indigenous peoples**

See the Main Book, Part I, Section 4.4.7

**Inputs**

Things needed to grow food such as seeds or fertilizer.

**Irrigation**

Supplying crops with water by means such as ditches, pipes, sprays or hoses.

L

---

**Land grabbing**

When countries acquire acres of land from poorer countries in order to grow crops for their own food security.

M

---

**Micro nutrient deficiencies**

The absence of micro nutrients (vitamins and minerals) which can lead to diseases or deficiencies in the body, for example goitres (swelling in the throat) due to lack of iodine.

**Monoculture**

Producing one single crop over a wide area. In areas where people are solely dependent on the success of this one crop, there is a very high potential for famine if the crop fails.

**Monopoly / monopolising**

A monopoly is when a single company has control over a product. This may be because the company uses technology that is not available to other companies or because the company has legal control over a product.

Monopolising is when a company takes control over a certain sector of the market, such as a national grain board.



**Monoculture**

A single crop such as cotton, cacao or palm oil.

**Malnutrition**

The condition of the body when it has been deprived of vitamins, minerals, and other nutrients.

**Mangroves**

A tropical tree or shrub of the “Rhizophora” family. Mangroves grow near the sea or in river estuaries. The tree produces many roots to keep it upright as tides rise and fall.

**N**

---

**Nutrition / nutritious**

To be nutritious, food should contain a variety of the vitamins, proteins and carbohydrates necessary for health.

**O**

---

**Organic**

Organic foods are foods that are produced, processed and packaged without using chemicals.

**Overfishing**

Excessive fishing that makes popular species of fish unable to reproduce.

**P**

---

**Pair trawling**

A fishing method using two boats. The net is kept open between the two boats which increases efficiency (bigger nets, lower need of fuel, larger catches) but which does not ensure the protection of species and/or of fishery resources.

**Pastoralists**

People working in the branch of agriculture concerned with raising livestock.

**Pesticides**

A natural or chemical product used to kill pests that attack crops.

**Proteins**

Elements necessary for health contained in foods such as meats, eggs, milk, seeds, nuts, peas and beans.

R

---

**Rain harvesting**

A system for collecting rainwater in tanks (mainly from roofs) for future use.

S

---

**Security of tenure**

People have security of tenure when they are protected, by law and in practice, against being unjustly or arbitrarily thrown out of their homes.

**Social security**

A social insurance program providing social protection, or protection for those experiencing socially recognized conditions, including poverty, old age, disability, and unemployment.

**Small-scale farmers: farmers working on small farms**

Small farms are usually defined as those smaller than the average farm size at a provincial or national level.

**Social and environmental impact assessments**

Assessments that take place before any major project such as building a dam or making a trade agreement, to see what impact this will have on people and the environment. They should be done by people who do not have a financial or other interest in the project.

**Speculate**

Buying something cheaply in the hope that prices will rise and the item can be sold for a profit. Speculation on food items makes food more expensive.

**Staple**

The type of food that forms the basis of the diet. In Africa, staples include cassava, maize, plantains, sorghum and yams.

**Starvation**

A lack of sufficient nutrients to sustain life.

**Stunting**

Stunted growth is a reduced growth rate in human development. It is a primary manifestation of malnutrition in early childhood, including malnutrition during foetal development brought on by the malnourished mother.

### **Subsistence farming**

Self-sufficient farming when farmers grow enough food to feed their family but with very little left over to sell. Planting decisions are made on the basis of what the family will need during the coming year, rather than market prices.

### **Subsidies**

Support in the form of financial assistance that governments or other agencies provide for projects that are considered to be useful to the community or the economy.

V

---

### **Vitamins**

Nutrients found mainly in fresh fruit and vegetables.

W

---

### **Wasting**

The process by which a disease causes muscle and fat tissue to “waste” away. Wasting is sometimes referred to as “acute malnutrition” because it is believed that episodes of wasting have a short duration, in contrast to stunting, which is regarded as chronic (long-term) malnutrition. Wasting can be caused by an extremely low energy intake (e.g. caused by famine), nutrient losses due to infection, or a combination of low intake and high loss. Infections associated with wasting include tuberculosis, chronic diarrhoea, and HIV/AIDS.

- 1 FAO, Number of hungry people rises to 963 million: High food prices to blame – economic crisis could compound woes, 9 December 2008.  
Available online: [www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/8836/](http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/8836/). Accessed on 13 August 2009. See also the FAO's 2009 hunger report: The State of Food and Agriculture, [www.fao.org/docrep/012/i0680e/i0680e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/i0680e/i0680e.pdf). Accessed on 18 February 2009.
- 2 Economic Report on Africa 2009 (UN Economic Commission for Africa- UNECA). Available online: [www.uneca.org/eca\\_resources/Publications/books/era2009/](http://www.uneca.org/eca_resources/Publications/books/era2009/).
- 3 Lameck Masina, Studies Reveal Hunger Crisis in Malawi despite Large Harvests, [www.VoANews.com](http://www.VoANews.com), 10 January 2009.  
Available online: [www.voanews.com/english/archive/2009-02/2009-02-10-voa31.cfm?](http://www.voanews.com/english/archive/2009-02/2009-02-10-voa31.cfm?) .
- 4 Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Olivier de Schutter: Background Note: Analysis of the World Food Crisis 2 May 2008.  
Available online: [www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/food/docs/SRRTFnotefoodcrisis.pdf](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/food/docs/SRRTFnotefoodcrisis.pdf).  
See also the Address to the High Level Conference on Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy, 3-5 June 2008.  
Available online: [www.fao.org/foodclimate/conference/en/](http://www.fao.org/foodclimate/conference/en/) Accessed on 18 February 2009.
- 5 FAO Media Centre, Future of agriculture and food security closely linked to climate change, 30 September 2009. Available online: [www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/35831/icode/](http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/35831/icode/). Accessed on 18 February 2009.
- 6 See World Food Programme at [www.wfp.org/hunger](http://www.wfp.org/hunger).
- 7 United Nations World Water Day 22 March 2007  
At: [www.fao.org/nr/water/docs/wwd07brochure.pdf](http://www.fao.org/nr/water/docs/wwd07brochure.pdf).
- 8 According to WHO statistics at [www.who.int/whosis/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/whosis/en/index.html).
- 9 State of the World's Forests, FAO, 2009,  
[ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/011/i0350e/i0350e01a.pdf](ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/011/i0350e/i0350e01a.pdf). Accessed on 30 August 2009.
- 10 A series of fact-finding missions reports analysing the impact of trade on the right to food in Ghana, Uganda and Zambia are available at:  
[www.fian.org/programs-and-campaigns/projects/african-smallholders-in-focus-a-voice-in-eu-trade-policy](http://www.fian.org/programs-and-campaigns/projects/african-smallholders-in-focus-a-voice-in-eu-trade-policy).
- 11 To read more on experiences with urban community gardens, visit:  
[www.cityfarmer.info/category/africa/](http://www.cityfarmer.info/category/africa/).
- 12 Fourth Report on the World Nutrition Situation: Nutrition Throughout the Life Cycle. Geneva: ACC/SCN in collaboration with IFPRI.  
Available online: [www.unscn.org/layout/modules/resources/files/rwns4.pdf](http://www.unscn.org/layout/modules/resources/files/rwns4.pdf)
- 13 FAO. African Agriculture: African women farmers struggle with the poorly designed hoe: FAO study, January 2007.

- 14 FAO. 1995. A fairer future for rural women. Rome.
- 15 Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre at  
[www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004BE3B1/\(httpInfoFiles\)/BD8316FAB5984142C125742E0033180B/\\$file/IDMC\\_Internal\\_Displacement\\_Global\\_Overview\\_2007.pdf](http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004BE3B1/(httpInfoFiles)/BD8316FAB5984142C125742E0033180B/$file/IDMC_Internal_Displacement_Global_Overview_2007.pdf)
- 16 FAO, State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) 2006, at [www.fao.org/fishery/sofia/en](http://www.fao.org/fishery/sofia/en).
- 17 Kimani, Mary. Safeguarding Africa's fishing waters, Regional action needed to stop illegal trawlers off the coast. *Africa Renewal*, Vol.23#2 (July 2009), page 10.
- 18 For more information, see [www.worldfishcenter.org/wfcms/HQ/article.aspx?ID=223](http://www.worldfishcenter.org/wfcms/HQ/article.aspx?ID=223).
- 19 A workshop for Parliamentarians in Eastern Africa discussed this problem in 2008. See: [www.ndi.org/files/2317\\_sea\\_ealaworkshop\\_engpdf\\_02292008.pdf](http://www.ndi.org/files/2317_sea_ealaworkshop_engpdf_02292008.pdf).
- 20 For more information, see [www.fao.org/righttofood/kc/maps/Map1\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/righttofood/kc/maps/Map1_en.htm)
- 21 Appendix: The Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.  
Available online: [www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/009/y9825e/y9825e00.htm](http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/009/y9825e/y9825e00.htm).  
Accessed 18 February 2010.
- 22 FIAN, Rolf Künemann, Ralf Leonhard, FIAN, *A human rights view of social cash transfers for achieving the millennium development goals*.
- 23 For indicators concerning specifically access to resources, please refer to the civil society reporting guidelines on ICARRD, accessible at: [www.fian.org/resources/documents/others/reporting-guidelines-international-conference-on-agrarian-reform-and-rural-development/pdf](http://www.fian.org/resources/documents/others/reporting-guidelines-international-conference-on-agrarian-reform-and-rural-development/pdf).
- 24 For more information, see [www.africa-union.org/Official\\_documents/Decisions\\_Declarations/Assembly%20final/Assembly%20%20DECLARATIONS%20%20-%20Maputo%20-%20FINAL5%2008-08-03.pdf](http://www.africa-union.org/Official_documents/Decisions_Declarations/Assembly%20final/Assembly%20%20DECLARATIONS%20%20-%20Maputo%20-%20FINAL5%2008-08-03.pdf).
- 25 For more information, see [www.unmillenniumproject.org/goals/gti.htm#goal1](http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/goals/gti.htm#goal1).



# Appendices

- Appendix 1: Extracts from regional and international standards
- Appendix 2: The right to food in national legislation
- Appendix 3: Sources and resources on the right to adequate food
- Appendix 4: NGOs and IGOs



## Appendix 1: Extracts from regional and international standards

This tool consists of a table to enable readers to select appropriate quotations on food rights from international and regional human rights standards that may be used in reports or recommendations to governments.

Quoting the national law and regional or international standards shows that human rights workers are aware of state obligations and increases the impact of their work.

For further information about using regional and international standards see the Main Book, Part I, Section 3.3.

### How to use the table

Look for the topic of interest in column 1. Column 2 contains relevant articles. It is best to look at the complete texts whenever possible: internet references are given for this purpose.

The quotations have been selected from:

### Human Rights treaties

---

- The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights:  
[www1.umn.edu/humanrts/instreet/z1afchar.htm](http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/instreet/z1afchar.htm)
- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights – Women's Protocol  
[www.pambazuka.org/en/petition/1/protocol.pdf](http://www.pambazuka.org/en/petition/1/protocol.pdf)
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, [www.africa-union.org/child/home.htm](http://www.africa-union.org/child/home.htm)
- AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa  
[www.africa-union.org/root/au/Documents/Treaties/treaties.htm](http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/Documents/Treaties/treaties.htm)
- The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights  
[www2.ohchr.org/english/law/ccpr.htm](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/ccpr.htm)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women:  
[www2.ohchr.org/english/law/cedaw.htm](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/cedaw.htm)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities:  
[www.un.org/disabilities/convention/conventionfull.shtml](http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/conventionfull.shtml)
- International Convention Related to the Status of Refugees  
[www1.umn.edu/humanrts/instreet/v1crs.htm](http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/instreet/v1crs.htm)
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families: [www1.umn.edu/humanrts/instreet/n8icprmw.htm](http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/instreet/n8icprmw.htm)

## Human Rights standards, advice and interpretations

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights: [www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml)
- General Comments of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: [www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cescr/comments.htm](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cescr/comments.htm)
- UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement: [www.reliefweb.int/ocha\\_ol/pub/idp\\_gp/idp.html](http://www.reliefweb.int/ocha_ol/pub/idp_gp/idp.html)
- Principles on Housing and Property Restitution for Refugees and Displaced Persons (the Pinheiro Principles): [www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/pinheiro\\_principles.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/pinheiro_principles.pdf)
- The Basic principles and guidelines on development-based evictions and displacement (Kothari Principles): [http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/housing/docs/guidelines\\_en.pdf](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/housing/docs/guidelines_en.pdf)
- Geneva Declaration for Rural Women: [www.un-documents.net/gdrw.htm](http://www.un-documents.net/gdrw.htm)

## Decisions of international programmes

- Millennium Development Goals: [www.un.org/millenniumgoals/](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/)
- Declaration of the Africa Food Security Summit, December 2006: <http://reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/KH11-6Y53QQ?OpenDocument>
- Hyogo Declaration following the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, 18-22 January, 2005, Kobe, Hyogo, Japan. [www.unisdr.org/wcdr/intergover/official-doc/L-docs/Hyogo-declaration-english.pdf](http://www.unisdr.org/wcdr/intergover/official-doc/L-docs/Hyogo-declaration-english.pdf)

Table 1: Extracts from international standards

| Topic                  | Extract   |
|------------------------|---|
| Right to adequate food | <p><b>Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), Article 25</b></p> <p>[...] Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services [...].</p>   |
|                        | <p><b>International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Article 11 (1):</b> [...] The States Parties to the present Covenant recognise “the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions [...].</li> <li>- <b>Article 11 (2):</b> [...] The States Parties recognise that more immediate and urgent steps may be needed to ensure “the fundamental right to freedom from hunger and malnutrition [...].</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">&gt; continued</p> |



| Topic | Extract   |
|-------|---|
|       | <p><b>African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, Articles 16 &amp; 18</b></p> <p>The African Charter does not specifically mention the right to adequate food. However, the right is implied in Articles 16 and 18:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Article 16 (1):</b> “[...] Every individual shall have the right to enjoy the best attainable state of physical and mental health.[...]” (2) States Parties to the present Charter shall take the necessary measures to protect the health of their people and to ensure that they receive medical attention when they are sick.</li> <li>- <b>Article 18 (1):</b> “[...] The family shall be the natural unit and basis of society. It shall be protected by the State which shall take care of its physical and moral health [...].”</li> </ul> <p>In the “Ogoni” case, the African Commission said that the State must ensure access to adequate food for all citizens, and must not destroy or contaminate food sources or allow private parties to do so. See box 12 above.</p>   |
|       | <p><b>Committee on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights (CESCR), Summary of General Comment No. 12 on the right to adequate food, para. 8</b></p> <p>The [...] core content of the right to adequate food implies the: ‘availability of food in a quantity and quality sufficient to satisfy the dietary needs of individuals, free from adverse substances, and acceptable within a given culture; and the accessibility of such food in ways that are sustainable and do not interfere with the enjoyment of other human rights’ [...]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Adequacy:</b> [...] whether particular foods or diets that are accessible can be considered the most appropriate under given circumstances for the purposes of article 11 of the Covenant.</li> <li>2. <b>Accessibility:</b> <p>“[...] <i>Economic accessibility</i> implies that [...] the cost of food should not threaten] the attainment and satisfaction of other basic needs [...]</p> <p>Socially vulnerable groups such as landless persons and other particularly impoverished segments of the population may need attention through special programmes [...].”</p> <p>“[...] <i>Physical accessibility:</i> adequate food must be accessible to everyone, including physically vulnerable individuals, such as infants and young children, [...] victims of natural disasters [...] and other specially disadvantaged groups ... . A particular vulnerability is that of many indigenous population groups whose access to their ancestral lands may be threatened [...].”</p> </li> </ol> <p style="text-align: right;">&gt; continued</p> |

| Topic   | Extract  |
|---|--|
|   | <p>3. <b>Dietary needs:</b> implies that the diet as a whole contains a mix of nutrients for physical and mental growth, development and maintenance, and physical activity that are in compliance with human physiological needs at all stages throughout the life cycle and according to gender and occupation [...].</p> <p>4. <b>Free from adverse substances</b> sets requirements for food safety and for a range of protective measures by both public and private means to prevent contamination of foodstuffs through adulteration and/or through bad environmental hygiene or inappropriate handling [...].</p> <p>5. <b>Cultural or consumer acceptability</b> implies [...] the need also to take into account, as far as possible, perceived <i>non nutrient-based values</i> attached to food and food consumption that are not concerned with nutrition (for example whether it looks fresh) and <i>informed consumer concerns</i> regarding the nature of accessible food supplies, (for example a Muslim might want to know whether a product contains pork).</p> |
| <b>Vulnerable groups</b>                          | <p><b>General Comment 12, Paragraph 28</b></p> <p>Even where a State faces severe resource constraints, whether caused by a process of economic adjustment, economic recession, climatic conditions or other factors, measures should be undertaken to ensure that the right to adequate food is especially fulfilled for vulnerable population groups and individuals.</p>  |
| <b>Women's and babies' right to adequate food</b> | <p><b>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, (CEDAW), Article 12</b></p> <p>"[...] States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of health care [...] [and...] States Parties shall ensure to women. [...] adequate nutrition during pregnancy and lactation (breastfeeding) [...]."</p> <p><b>Additional Protocol of the African Charter on Human and People's rights on the rights of Women in Africa, Article 15</b></p> <p>"[...] States Parties shall ensure that women have the right to nutritious and adequate food. In this regard, they shall take appropriate measures to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. provide women with access to clean drinking water, sources of domestic fuel, land, and the means of producing nutritious food; and</li> <li>b. establish adequate systems of supply and storage to ensure food security [...]." </li></ol>  |
| <b>Rural women and agriculture</b>                | <p><b>Geneva Declaration for Rural Women</b></p> <p>Strategies (x) Rural women have extensive knowledge of indigenous food crops, plants, animals, farming methods and ecosystems. Therefore, they</p> <p style="text-align: right;">&gt; continued</p>  |

| Topic   | Extract   |
|---|---|
|   | <p>should be involved in the discussions about what technologies and other resources they need. National extension systems should be reoriented in order to disseminate appropriate technologies for women. To make extension services more effective, the curriculum for extension workers should include gender sensitization. The number of women extension workers should be increased and local women trained as extension workers. The language of extension should be accessible to rural women. Strong links should be established between researchers, women farmers and extension workers.</p>  |
| <p><b>Children's right to adequate food</b></p> | <p><b>Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989, Article 24 (1) and (2) (c) (e)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. States Parties recognise the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health. States Parties shall strive to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her right of access to such health care services.</li> <li>2. States Parties shall pursue full implementation of this right and, in particular, shall take appropriate measures:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. To combat disease and malnutrition, including within the framework of primary health care, through, <i>inter alia</i>, the application of readily available technology and through the provision of adequate nutritious foods and clean drinking-water, taking into consideration the dangers and risks of environmental pollution;</li> <li>e. To ensure that all segments of society, in particular parents and children, are informed, have access to education and are supported in the use of basic knowledge of child health and nutrition, the advantages of breastfeeding, hygiene and environmental sanitation and the prevention of accidents.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> |
|   | <p><b>The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, in Article 14: Health and Health Services, states:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Every child shall have the right to enjoy the best attainable state of physical, mental and spiritual health.</li> <li>2. States Parties to the present Charter shall undertake to pursue the full implementation of this right and in particular shall take measures:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. to reduce infant and child mortality rate; ... (b) ...</li> <li>c. to ensure the provision of adequate nutrition and safe drinking water;</li> <li>d. to combat disease and malnutrition within the framework of primary health care through the application of appropriate technology; and</li> <li>e. to ensure appropriate health care for expectant and nursing mothers.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>   |

| Topic                                  | Extract   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Non-discrimination</b></p>       | <p><b>The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination</b> does not explicitly provide for non-discrimination in access to adequate food. However, in Article 5 (e) on ESC rights it provides rights which would all be denied if access to food were denied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The rights to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work, to protection against unemployment, to equal pay for equal work, to just and favourable remuneration;</li> <li>ii. The right to form and join trade unions;</li> <li>iii. The right to housing;</li> <li>iv. The right to public health, medical care, social security and social services;</li> <li>v. The right to education and training;</li> <li>vi. The right to equal participation in cultural activities.</li> </ul>                         |
| <p><b>Migrant workers</b></p>          | <p><b>The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families</b></p> <p>This includes protection from forced labour (Article 11) and access to social and health services (Article 43).</p>  |
| <p><b>IDPs and returnees</b></p>       | <p><b>The AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa</b> was adopted in October 2009. It covers all causes of displacement and contains provisions for meeting all the basic needs of displaced persons. The Convention recognises the 1998 IDP Guidelines (which were initiated by an African, Dr. Francis Deng).</p> <p><b>Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (IDP Guidelines) Principle 18 states:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All internally displaced persons have the right to an adequate standard of living [...] and safe access to:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Essential food and potable water [...];</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Special efforts should be made to ensure the full participation of women in the planning and distribution of these basic supplies.</li> </ul>     |
| <p><b>People with Disabilities</b></p> | <p><b>The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article 28</b> states:</p> <p>Adequate standard of living and social protection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. States Parties recognise the right of persons with disabilities to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, including adequate food, clothing and housing [...]</li> <li>2. States Parties recognise the right of persons with disabilities to social protection and [...] shall take appropriate steps to safeguard and promote the realisation of this right, including measures:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. To ensure equal access by persons with disabilities to clean water services, and to ensure access to appropriate and affordable services, devices and other assistance for disability-related needs [...]</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

| Topic                                 | Extract   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Development-based displacement</b> | <p><b>Basic principles and guidelines on development-based evictions and displacement, principle 62</b></p> <p>To the extent not covered by assistance for relocation, the assessment of economic damage should take into consideration losses and costs, for example, of land plots and house structures; [...] resettlement and transportation costs (especially in the case of relocation far from the source of livelihood). Where the home and land also provide a source of livelihood for the evicted inhabitants, impact and loss assessment must account for the value of business losses, equipment/inventory, livestock, land, trees/crops, and lost/decreased wages/income.</p> |
| <b>Monitoring the right to food</b>   | <p><b>General Comment 12, Paragraph 31</b></p> <p>States Parties shall develop and maintain mechanisms to monitor progress towards the realization of the right to adequate food for all, to identify the factors and difficulties affecting the degree of implementation of their obligations, and to facilitate the adoption of corrective legislation and administrative measures, including measures to implement their obligations under articles 2.1 and 23 of the Covenant.</p>  |

Table 2: Extracts from international standards

| International Declaration  | Decisions  |
|--|--|
| <b>Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the 1993 World Conference on Human rights, Paragraph 31</b> | States are called upon to respect “the rights of everyone to a standard of living adequate to their health and well being including food.”   |
| <b>Rome Declaration on World Food Summit of 1996</b>   | <p>The Declaration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reaffirmed the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food;</li> <li>- Declared the goal of halving the proportion of people who suffer from hunger by 2015;</li> <li>- Said that the world community must take immediate action to secure food and nutrition throughout the world; and</li> <li>- In order to achieve this goal, states adopted at the World Food Summit a <i>Plan of Action</i> containing commitments and objectives. One of these objectives is to “clarify the content of the right to adequate food as a means of achieving food security for all”.</li> </ul> |

| International Declaration  | Decisions   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>United Nations Millennium Declaration of 2000, Paragraph 19</b></p>  | <p>[...] to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger and, by the same date, to halve the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water [...].</p>   |
| <p><b>Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa, Maputo, July 2003</b></p>                          | <p>The AU members resolved, among other things, to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. [...] adopt sound policies for agricultural and rural development, and commit ourselves to allocating at least 10% of national budgetary resources for their implementation within five years [...];</li> <li>4. Engage in consultations at national and regional levels with civil society organisations and other key stakeholders, including the small-scale and traditional farmers, private sector, women and youth associations, etc., aimed at promoting their active participation in all aspects of agricultural and food production.</li> </ol>   |
| <p><b>Hyogo Declaration following the World Conference on Disaster reduction, January 2005, Hyogo, Japan</b></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. We recognize as well that a culture of disaster prevention and resilience, and associated pre-disaster strategies, which are sound investments, must be fostered at all levels, ranging from the individual to the international levels. Human societies have to live with the risk of hazards posed by nature. However, we are far from powerless to prepare for and mitigate the impact of disasters. We can and must [set up] people-centered early warning systems, risks assessments, education and other [...] approaches and activities [including] prevention, preparedness, and emergency response, as well as recovery and rehabilitation.</li> </ol> |



## Appendix 2: The right to food in national legislation

### **Nigeria – Constitution**

---

Article 16, Chapter 2 Section 2 (d) states:

2. The State shall direct its policy towards ensuring:
  - d. that suitable and adequate shelter, suitable and adequate food, reasonable national minimum living wage, old age care and pensions, and unemployment, sick benefits and welfare of the disabled are provided for all citizens.

*[www.right-to-education.org/country-node/382/country-constitutional](http://www.right-to-education.org/country-node/382/country-constitutional)*

### **Senegal – Constitution**

---

In its Chapter II (article 7 and 8), the constitution recognises human rights and especially economic, social rights to all citizens. *[www.gouv.sn/spip.php?article794](http://www.gouv.sn/spip.php?article794)*

### **South Africa – Constitution**

---

In Chapter II – Bill of Rights, section 27 “Health care, food, water and social security” reads as follows:

- Everyone has the right to have access to health care services, including reproductive health care; sufficient food and water; and social security, including, if they are unable to support themselves and their dependants, appropriate social assistance.
- The state must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within its available resources, to achieve the progressive realisation of each of these rights.
- No one may be refused emergency medical treatment.

*[www.info.gov.za/documents/constitution/1996/96cons2.htm#27](http://www.info.gov.za/documents/constitution/1996/96cons2.htm#27)*

### **Uganda – Constitution and new National Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy (NODPSP)**

---

The right to food is recognised in the non-legally binding section on National Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy (NODPSP) of the 1995 Constitution. Objective XIV of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda states that:

- “The State Shall endeavour to fulfil the fundamental rights of all Ugandans to social justice and economic development and shall, in particular ensure that; (a) all development efforts are directed at ensuring the maximum social and cultural well-being of people; and (b) all Ugandans enjoy rights and opportunities and access to education, health services, clean and safe water, work, decent shelter, adequate clothing, food security, pension and retirements.”

More specifically, Objective XXII of the 1995 Constitution emphasises that:

- “The State shall, (a) take appropriate steps to encourage people to grow and store adequate food; (b) establish national food reserves; and (c) encourage and promote proper nutrition through mass education and other appropriate means in order to build a healthy State.”

In addition, the Uganda Food and Nutrition Policy (UFNP) of 2003 was formulated within the context of the overall national development policy objective of poverty eradication.

The NFNP expressly recognises the right to food in the introductory sections (1.2 on obligations of Uganda Government to Ensure the Right to Food for all, and 1.3 on International obligations and commitments to which Uganda has subscribed).

### **Mali – Agricultural Orientation Law**

---

The agricultural orientation law of 2006 has been a topic of great interest within civil society and especially among peasants and rural groups. First, the law was adopted after an extensive participation and consultation process, especially with peasants’ organisations. Secondly, the law contains elements which can be used by CSOs working on the right to food. Part VII of the law dedicated to food sovereignty provides opportunities to defend small-scale farmers’ access to productive resources (such as land, water and credits). It also offers opportunities to protect and promote local markets and production. In addition, the law prescribes the prioritization of sustainable models of production, based on local and traditional knowledge.<sup>4</sup>

*loa-mali.info/*





## Appendix 3: Sources and resources on the right to adequate food

| Organisation   | Resource  | Where to find it   |
|--|---|--|
| <b>Amnesty International</b>   | International legal framework on the right to adequate food<br>AI Index AFR 46/018/2004, 15 October 2004. This explains the right and government obligations.   | <a href="http://www-secure.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/AFR46/018/2004/en">www-secure.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/AFR46/018/2004/en</a>   |
| <b>UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Food</b>               | Annual Reports, Reports on country visits, issues in focus, press releases, individual complaints, international standards.   | <a href="http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/food/index.htm">http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/food/index.htm</a>  |
| <b>The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)</b> | Voluntary Guidelines on the right to adequate food Reports:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA)</li> <li>- The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA)</li> <li>- State of the World's Forests (SOFO)</li> <li>- The State of Food Insecurity in the World (SOFI)</li> <li>- The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO)</li> </ul> Large scale land investments:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food</li> <li>- The Right to Food and HIV/AIDS</li> </ul> | Viale delle Terme di Caracalla<br>00153 Rome, Italy<br>Tel: +39-06-57051<br>Fax: +39-06-57053152<br><a href="http://www.fao.org">www.fao.org</a><br><a href="http://www.fao.org/righttofood">www.fao.org/righttofood</a><br><a href="http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/009/y9825e/y9825e00.htm">www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/009/y9825e/y9825e00.htm</a> |
|  | Methodological Tool Box on the Right to Food:<br><ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Guide on legislating for the right to food (4 MB)</li> <li>2. Methods to monitor the human right to adequate food - Vol I (565 KB)</li> </ol>  | Download the pdf publications:<br><a href="http://www.fao.org/righttofood/publi_02_en.htm">www.fao.org/righttofood/publi_02_en.htm</a>   |

> continued

| Organisation  | Resource   | Where to find it  |
|---|--|---|
|   | <p>3. Methods to monitor the human right to adequate food - Vol II (1.2 MB)</p> <p>4. Guide to conducting a right to food assessment (1.7 MB)</p> <p>5. Right to food curriculum outline (2.3 MB)</p> <p>6. Budget work to advance the right to food (3.9 MB)</p>                                |   |
|   | <p><b>Budget Work to Advance the right to Food: “Many a slip ...”</b></p> <p>This book draws on the experiences of budget work in a number of countries, it sets out a step-by-step process for analyzing a government’s budget to assess its compliance with its right to food obligations.</p> | <p><a href="http://www.fao.org/righttofood/publi09/budget_guide_en.pdf">www.fao.org/righttofood/publi09/budget_guide_en.pdf</a></p> <p>At the time of writing, this resource was only available in English.</p> |
| <p><b>FoodFirst Information and Action Network (FIAN)</b></p> | <p>Annual reports, reports on country situations, reports on specific issues.<br/><a href="http://www.fian.org/resources/documents">www.fian.org/resources/documents</a></p>   | <p>FIAN International<br/>PO Box 10 22 43<br/>69012 Heidelberg<br/>Germany<br/>Tel: + 49 6221 65300 30<br/>Fax: + 49 6221 830 545<br/><a href="http://www.fian.org">www.fian.org</a></p>                        |
|   | <p><b>Defending African Peasants’ Rights</b></p> <p>This publication explains the threats African peasants face; gives information about human rights tools to defend African peasants and traces political developments that support their lives.</p>   |   |
|   | <p><b>Screen state action against hunger!</b></p> <p>How to use the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food to monitor public policies?</p>  |   |
|   | <p><b>The right to food: a resource manual for NGOs</b>, by Ralph Künnemann and Sandra Epal-Ratjen.<br/>Published by the AAAS Science and Human Rights Program: HURIDOCS in December 2004.</p>   |   |
|   |  | <p>&gt; continued</p>   |

| Organisation                                      | Resource   | Where to find it  |
|---|--|---|
| <p><b>Food security network and ActionAid</b></p> | <p><b>The Right to Adequate Food: Guide for Rapid Assessments.</b><br/>Carmen Lahoz &amp; Enrique de Loma-Osorio, Instituto de Estudios del Hambre (Institute for Hunger Studies) (PDF).</p> | <p>Google:<br/>Right to Adequate Food<br/>Rapid Assessments<br/>Actionaid</p>       |
| <p><b>GRAIN</b></p>                               | <p><b>Seedling</b> – quarterly magazine<br/>Briefings, photo essays, has an e-mail list for subscribers.</p>   | <p><a href="http://www.grain.org/publications/">www.grain.org/publications/</a></p> |



## Appendix 4: NGOs and IGOs

| Organisation   | Description and contact information  |
|--|--|
| <b>Action Aid</b>  | <p>An international anti-poverty agency based in South Africa. Its mission is to work with poor and marginalised people to eradicate poverty.</p> <p>Address:<br/>           Action Aid International<br/>           Postnet Suite 248,<br/>           Tel: +27 11 838 9817<br/>           Private Bag X31Saxonwold 2132<br/>           Johannesburg<br/>           South Africa<br/> <a href="http://www.actionaid.org">www.actionaid.org</a></p>   |
| <b>African Agriculture</b>   | <p>Africa News Network that gives news and other information about agriculture<br/> <a href="mailto:africanewsnetwork@gmail.com">africanewsnetwork@gmail.com</a><br/>           Contact: Chido Makunike<br/> <a href="http://africanagriculture.blogspot.com">africanagriculture.blogspot.com</a></p>  |
| <b>ESCR-Net (International Network for Economic and Social Rights)</b> | <p>ESCR-Net seeks to strengthen ESC rights by working with organisations and activists worldwide to facilitate mutual learning and strategy sharing, develop new tools and resources, engage in advocacy.</p> <p>Address:<br/>           211 East 43rd Street, #906, New York, NY 10017, USA<br/>           Tel: +1 212.681.1236<br/>           Fax: +1 212.681.1241<br/> <a href="mailto:info@escr-net.org">info@escr-net.org</a><br/> <a href="http://www.escr-net.org">www.escr-net.org</a></p> |
| <b>Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)</b>   | <p>Works to raise levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, improve the lives of rural populations and contribute to the growth of the world economy.</p> <p>Address:<br/>           Viale delle Terme di Caracalla<br/>           00153 Rome, Italy<br/>           Tel: +39-06-57051<br/>           Fax: +39-06-57053152<br/> <a href="http://www.fao.org">www.fao.org</a></p>  |

| Organisation  | Description and contact information   |
|---|---|
| <b>FIAN International</b>   | <p>FIAN exposes violations of people's right to food and strives to secure people's access to the resources that they need in order to feed themselves, without discrimination.</p> <p>Address:<br/>           FIAN International<br/>           PO Box 10 22 43<br/>           69012 Heidelberg, Germany<br/>           Tel: + 49 6221 65300 30<br/>           Fax: + 49 6221 830 545<br/> <a href="http://www.fian.org">www.fian.org</a></p>  |
| <b>Forest People Program (FPP)</b>  | <p>FPP has expertise in land rights, environment and development and indigenous affairs. It has absorbed local coalitions such as the UOBDO in Uganda to help them with resources and development</p> <p><a href="http://www.forestpeoples.org/documents/africa/bases/uganda_base.shtml">www.forestpeoples.org/documents/africa/bases/uganda_base.shtml</a></p> <p>Address:<br/>           Forest Peoples Programme<br/>           1c Fosseyway Business Centre<br/>           Stratford Road<br/>           Moreton-in-Marsh<br/>           GL56 9NQ<br/>           England<br/>           Tel: +44 (0)1608 652893</p> |
| The African Right to Food Network: <b>Réseau Africain pour la Promotion du Droit à l'Alimentation (RAPDA)</b> | Contact FIAN International  |