



HOW TO



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MONITOR THE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO FOOD

Why Monitor the Right to Food?

The right to food is still not realized for many people. It is important to know who is not enjoying the right to food and why, so that efforts can be made over time to increase the number of people who are benefiting from this right. At the same time, those who are enjoying the right to food need to be protected to ensure that their situation does not change.

Monitoring through the periodic collection, analysis and interpretation, and dissemination of relevant information is critical to know whether progress is being made and whether policies, programmes and other actions by government and other stakeholders adequately address the causes that limit the realization of the right to food, while at the same time respecting and protecting the right to food. Monitoring information serves to make decisions on what needs to be done or what to do differently. It also speeds up progress towards the realization of the right to food.

How to Monitor the Right to Food?

The Right to Food Guidelines* invite states to monitor progress towards the realization of the right to food. Guideline 17, Monitoring, Indicators and Benchmarks, includes an agenda for this purpose. It invites states to pay particular attention to the situation of vulnerable groups and to any discrimination they might suffer from. In order to assist states and others in these efforts, the Right to Food Unit at FAO is preparing a methodological reference guide that shows how assessment and analytical methods can be applied in monitoring the right to food.

The Right to Food Guidelines also emphasize that the monitoring process itself should be participatory, inclusive and empowering. This means that monitoring is not only to be undertaken by technical monitors, but also by the people themselves or their representatives. It also means that the findings and conclusions obtained from monitoring should be shared widely and linked to follow-up actions by government, civil society and grass roots groups.

What Should Monitoring the Right to Food Focus On?

Poverty and food security monitoring is currently being carried out in many countries. Including the right to food in existing monitoring systems means adding the following key questions:

- Is the food that is safe to eat and culturally acceptable to them? Does this food meet

