



In Latin America and the Caribbean, more than 50 million people still have not had access to adequate food. Infant malnutrition, with its biological, social and economic effects, currently affects more than 9 million children, putting at risk the achievements in the fight against poverty and destitution due to lack of food.

The problem of poverty and hunger in our region is linked to a poor distribution of wealth and to the concentration of land in the world. This is a result of neoliberal economic policies of extreme privatization and reduction of domestic investment imposed by international financial institutions. Beyond the economic trends, the climate or protectionist factors which have a major impact on the current crisis, one of the major problems facing this food crisis is the lack of access to land and property and, consequently, to food, particularly among rural and indigenous women and female heads of household.

This situation worsens when neutral policies that underestimate and ignore the role and contribution of rural and indigenous women in food production are implemented and through development strategies that do not have a gender approach, with a negative impact on the living conditions of women and their potential contribution to food production and rural development, both at local and regional levels.

Given this situation, ActionAid joined with women organizations / networks, peasant women organizations, rural and indigenous women organizations, feminist organizations and other networks of women concerned about reducing poverty and achieving gender equity, under the theme HungerFree Women (Women for a hunger free future Food Sovereignty now!) to denounce that the current food crisis is the result of the failure of macroeconomic and structural policies implemented during the past 30 years under the leadership of the international financial institutions (IMF, the World Bank, IDB and the WTO).

1.4 billion people live below the poverty line of USD 1.25, being the majority women and girls.

Around 850 million people around the World are starving and 820 of these 850 million live in developing countries.

According to the OECD report, one third of the increase in the prices of agriculture for the next nine years is caused by biofuels.

¡Soberanía alimentaria ya!

WHAT DO WE WANT?

That the right to food of rural women is met through policies and programs that:

- Assure that more land (and related resources) are held by women;
- Women acquire permanent rights to land (and resources), as citizens, through the elimination of discriminatory laws and policies and / or enforcement of legislation on equal treatment for women;
- The political power of rural women will be strengthened through alliances and solidarity movements and effective steps to form a political group that fights for women's rights to land and natural resources;
- That governments protect and defend the rights of women and have regulatory frameworks against the concentration of land in the hands of an elite and corporations.

In sum, that national governments and international institutions make their pledges to sign the CEDAW (Article 14) and ICARRD (paragraph 7).

ICARRD's Final Declaration, paragraph 7, March 2006

We recognize that laws should be designed and revised to ensure that rural women are accorded full and equal rights to land and other resources, including through the right to inheritance, and administrative reforms and other necessary measures should be undertaken to give women the same right as men to credit, capital, labour rights, legal identification documents, appropriate technologies and access to markets and information.

CEDAW - Article 14

1. States Parties shall take into account the particular problems faced by rural women and the significant roles which rural women play in the economic survival of their families, including their work in the non-monetized sectors of the economy, and shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the application of the provisions of the present Convention to women in rural areas.

2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, that they participate in and benefit from rural development and, in particular, shall ensure to such women the right:

(a) To participate in the elaboration and implementation of development planning at all levels;

(b) To have access to adequate health care facilities, including information, counseling and services in family planning;

(c) To benefit directly from social security programmes;

(d) To obtain all types of training and education, formal and non-formal, including that relating to functional literacy, as well as, *inter alia*, the benefit of all community and extension services, in order to increase their technical proficiency;

(e) To organize self-help groups and co-operatives in order to obtain equal access to economic opportunities through employment or self employment;

(f) To participate in all community activities;

(g) To have access to agricultural credit and loans, marketing facilities, appropriate technology and equal treatment in land and agrarian reform as well as in land resettlement schemes;

(h) To enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications.

WHO PARTICIPATES?

Today we have women's groups in several countries in the region, as **ANAMURI** in Chile, **FEMUCARINAP** in Peru, **Vía Campesina Honduras**, the campaign **Por una Guatemala Sin Hambre (For a HungerFree Guatemala)**; **GISSAN** in Nicaragua, **REDCASSAN**, **Actionaid**, **the International Food Security Network (IFSN)**, among others.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO JOIN:

- Alejandra Scampini (ActionAid, Women's Rights) - Alejandra.Scampini@Actionaid.org y Marta Antunes (IFSN/ActionAid, Right to Food) - Marta.Antunes@Actionaid.org
- Francisca Rodriguez (ANAMURI) - franciscarh@gmail.com
- Natalia Paulino (CLOC) - clocaribe@gmail.com

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HungerFREE
Women