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ASSISTANCE TO PARLIAMENTARY FRONTS AGAINST HUNGER IN SELECTED COUNTRIES OF THE CARICOM CARIBBEAN

May 2022

SDGs:



Countries:

Grenada, Haiti, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Caribbean subregion

Project Code:

TCP/SLC/3701

FAO Contribution:

USD 374 000

Duration:

1 January 2019 – 30 November 2021

Contact Info:

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Implementing Partners

Ministries of Agriculture of Grenada, Haiti, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Parliamentary Front against Hunger (PFH) in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO).

Beneficiaries

Parliamentarians and parliamentary advisors from targeted countries and the Caribbean as a whole.

Country Programming Framework (CPF) Outputs

Strategic Objective (SO)

SO1: Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

SO2: Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable.

SO3: Reduce rural poverty.

SO4: Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems.

Regional Initiative (RI)/Priority Area

RI1: Support to the Initiative for a Hunger Free Latin America and Caribbean.

RI2: Family Farming and Inclusive Food Systems for Sustainable Rural Development.

CPF Outputs

Grenada, CPF 2016-2019: (Government priority 2 - Food and Nutrition Security): By 2018, support is provided for the establishment of the parliamentary front in Grenada and Zero Hunger Challenge initiative councils at the parish level.

Haiti, CPF 2017-2020: Output 1.3: The policies and strategies selected by the Government in the area of Food and Nutrition Security and their Action Plans are formulated.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, CPF 2016-2019: Government Priority 4: Sustainable Natural Resource Management. Output 4.4: Fisheries legislation framework strengthened.



BACKGROUND

The Parliamentary Front against Hunger (PFH) for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) began in 2009, within the framework of the Hunger Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative, as a policy process to set agenda and build political commitment for policy development and implementation against hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. Assistance provided thus far, has resulted in the establishment of platforms (national, regional and subregional) integrated by parliamentarians from ruling and opposition parties to permanently end hunger.

The importance of supporting the PFH has grown with the recognition of the significance of the work and commitment of legislators/parliamentarians as a key factor for placing Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) and the fight against hunger at the highest possible level of political and legislative agendas. As stated by the CARICOM, the PFH is being used as a vehicle to achieve SDG 2 (Zero Hunger).

The project aimed to strengthen the elaboration and implementation of appropriate policies and legislation for food and nutrition security in selected Caribbean countries, with an effective institutional framework, linked with the key results identified by FAO and the governments of Grenada, Haiti and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, by supporting these countries' parliaments and consolidating permanent and plural spaces within them, in the form of PFH. To achieve this, FAO provided technical support based on the experiences of 21 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, where PFH chapters have been established.

IMPACT

Despite the fact that the project was impacted by serious constraints, significant progress was made in supporting governance structures and mechanisms relevant for the development and implementation of adequate policy instruments in the target countries. It is expected that this will contribute to achieving food security and improved nutrition in the Caribbean, and to promoting sustainable agriculture; as well as to revitalizing partnerships for sustainable development.

ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS

The project was seriously impacted by several important hindering factors, resulting in changes and/or delays in many of the activities. However, the project was able to support the elaboration and implementation of appropriate policies and legislation for FNS in the three target countries, Grenada, Haiti and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, as well as in Belize.

Assistance was provided for five key activities, as follows:

i) awareness building, aimed at a greater understanding of the PFH work, comprising enhancing the capacities of parliamentarians for the promotion, formulation and monitoring of the implementation of laws and/or policy instruments relevant for the PFH; ii) the establishment and operationalization of the governance structure of PFH in Belize, Grenada and Haiti; iii) the preparation and implementation of a national PFH road map with specific actions, programmes, policies and/or laws of interest to be supported by established national PFH chapters, in Grenada, Haiti, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; iv) the facilitation of access to model of laws and policy instruments pertaining to FNS; and v) updating, drafting and/or preparing policy instruments and/or laws pertaining to hunger eradication and FNS.

More specifically, the PFH and the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development of Haiti succeeded in advancing two important laws, namely: i) the Law on School Feeding; and ii) the Law on Plant Variety Protection.

In addition, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines initiated a dialogue on the need to develop a national school feeding policy that would be a supplement to or an update of the existing draft national school nutrition policy. The “Resilient School Feeding Programs”, a subproject of the Mexico–CARICOM–FAO “Cooperation for Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience in the Caribbean” Government Cooperative Programme (GCP) project, incorporated a provision for support to this process, to assist in the development of key documents.

The Saint Vincent and the Grenadines PFH was supported for the development of a road map of actions and tools for operation. In addition, a flagship initiative entitled “farm to table” of the road map was supported, in collaboration with the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Zero Hunger Trust Fund (ZHTF).

Grenada completed the process of establishing its National Parliamentary Front against Hunger Secretariat, and developed a road map that would guide the work of that chapter moving forward, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Forestry and the Grenada Food and Nutrition Council (GFNC).

Prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the project supported the participation of Caribbean parliamentarians from Grenada, Haiti, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Belize in forums and meetings that facilitated a greater understanding of the work of the PFH.

The project concluded with a draft document on “Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger in the Caribbean”, which systematizes the remarkable experiences of Haiti, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Belize, and in dealing with the PFH.

IMPLEMENTATION OF WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

As mentioned above, the project was seriously impacted by important hindering factors, which affected both the quality and quantity of outputs delivered, and resulted in changes and/or delays in many of the activities. These included the following: i) the dissolution of Parliament in Haiti; ii) the outbreak of COVID-19 in March 2020, which made it necessary for most partners and stakeholders to shift priorities. For example, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had to request a reorganization of the project to support specific activities of its FNS-COVID-19 plan; iii) Grenada did not join the project until the end of 2020, with the designation of a national focal point; iv) in addition to the COVID-19 impacts, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had to deal with two other important emergencies (the eruption of the La Soufrière volcano and an outbreak of dengue fever); and v) most activities that involved travel and training had to be cancelled. This was due not only to the COVID-19 restrictions, but also to the competing agendas of the direct beneficiaries.

Given these delays and challenges, two no-cost extensions were requested and approved; and the project was subject to reprogramming. The logframe in the Terminal Report provides reporting information on the actual use of funds.

Not all of the project budget was spent. In addition, some revisions were required to take into consideration the changes referred to above.

FOLLOW-UP FOR GOVERNMENT ATTENTION

Given that the established PFHs are nascent, moving forward, the continuous leadership and commitment of the governments and parliaments of the participating countries will be critical. Likewise, support from FAO, particularly from the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (FAO RLC) technical secretariat for PFH will be important. It is recommended that some of this support include: i) assistance for the recognition of the national fronts by the collegial bodies in charge of decision-making and coordinating the actions of the PFH in the LAC region; ii) supporting active participation of the fronts in the regional planning and forum meetings of the PFH; iii) guidance and technical assistance in the implementation of the PFH road maps of the fronts; and iv) operational support for the strengthening of the secretariat of the fronts.

It is highly recommended that the Parliamentary Front against Hunger Platform (<http://parlamentarioscontraelhambre.org/en>) continue to be populated with a repository of policies and laws promoted by and implemented with the support of PFH in LAC. These will be very useful for new PFH chapters established.

SUSTAINABILITY

1. Capacity development

The project supported and worked directly with the Parliament in Haiti; the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour and the ZHTF in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; and the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Forestry and the GFNC in Grenada, which owned the process. These institutions are in a good position now to keep supporting PFH in these countries, moving forward.

2. Gender equality

This cross-cutting area was not applicable to the project.

3. Environmental sustainability

As above, this cross-cutting area was not applicable to the project.

4. Human Rights-based Approach (HRBA) – in particular Right to Food and Decent Work

The project has facilitated the application of the Participation, accountability, non-discrimination, transparency, human dignity, empowerment, rule of law (PANTHER) approach, promoting the development and implementation of policy instruments aiming at promoting the right to food. Specifically, in Haiti the law on school feeding was supported. Similarly, in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the project worked with the national ZHTF to further the vision of zeroing hunger in that country.

5. Technological sustainability

The project contributed significantly to the development of knowledge, capacity, resources and good practices. However, further support and technical assistance is required, as outlined above.

6. Economic sustainability

Additional financial resources have been allocated for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Belize. It is recommended that similar support be provided for Grenada and Haiti.

DOCUMENTS AND OUTREACH PRODUCTS

- ❑ Letter of Agreement (LOA/015/2021) Between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (“FAO”) and The Zero Hunger Trust Fund For provision of Services to support “the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Parliament Front Against Hunger”. 4 October 2021. 17 pp.
- ❑ Letter of Agreement (LOA/017/202) Between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (“FAO”) and the Grenada Food and Nutrition Council (GFNC) for provision of Services to support “The Grenada Parliament Front Against Hunger”. 14 October 2021. 15 pp.
- ❑ **FAO & Parliamentary Front against Hunger.** 2021. Parliamentary Fronts Against Hunger in the Caribbean (draft). 44 pp.
- ❑ **ZHTF.** 22 December 2021. Final Report on the implementation of the Letter of Agreement Between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (“FAO”) and The Zero Hunger Trust Fund For provision of Services to support “the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Parliament Front Against Hunger”. 30 pp.
- ❑ **Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Forestry.** 20 January 2022. Press release: Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Forestry and Food and Agriculture Organisation lend support to expansion of food bank initiative. 2 pp.
- ❑ **Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Forestry.** 31 January 2022. Final Report - The Grenada Food and Nutrition Council (GFNC) for provision of services to support the functioning of the “Grenada Parliamentary Front Against Hunger”. 3 pp.
- ❑ Cover letter for Final Report - The Grenada Food and Nutrition Council (GFNC) for provision of services to support the functioning of the “Grenada Parliamentary Front Against Hunger”. 24 March 2022. 2 pp.



ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS - LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Expected Impact	Improved food and nutrition security in the Caribbean in support of the 2030 Agenda by supporting governance structures and mechanisms relevant for the development and implementation of adequate policy instruments	
Outcome	The elaboration and implementation of appropriate policies and legislation for food and nutrition security, with effective institutional framework, in selected Caribbean countries are strengthened by supporting the Parliaments	
	Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Number of policies and/or laws drafted, approved and/or strengthened as a result of assistance provided by this TCP. – Number of countries having Parliamentary Front against Hunger established and/or strengthened as a result of this TCP. – Number and level of diversity of stakeholders (parliamentarians, civil society) and regional institution engaging in substantial actions and processes of Parliamentary front against hunger in the Caribbean.
	Baseline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – N/A – 2 – N/A
	End Targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 3 – 3 – At least 25% of parliamentarians from either parties (opposition and ruling party) is part of PFH chapters created.
	Comments and follow-up action to be taken	<p>The project provided assistance for five key activities, as follows: i) awareness building, aimed at a greater understanding of the PFH work; ii) the establishment and operationalization of the governance structure of PFH in Haiti, Belize, and Grenada; iii) the preparation and implementation of a national PFH roadmap with specific actions, programmes, policies and/or laws of interest to be supported by established national PFH chapters, in Haiti, Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; iv) the facilitation of access to model of laws and policy instruments pertaining to FNS; and v) updating, drafting and/or preparing policy instruments and/or laws pertaining to hunger eradication and FNS.</p> <p>The PFH and the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development of Haiti succeeded in advancing two important laws. In addition, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines initiated a dialogue on the need to develop a national school feeding policy that would be a supplement to or an update of the existing draft national school nutrition policy. The “Resilient School Feeding Programs”, a subproject of the Mexico–CARICOM–FAO “Cooperation for Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience in the Caribbean” GCP project, incorporated a provision for support to this process, to assist in the development of several key documents.</p> <p>The Saint Vincent and the Grenadines PFH was supported for the development of a road map of actions and tools for operation. A flagship initiative entitled “farm to table” of the road map was supported, in collaboration with the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines ZHTF.</p> <p>Grenada completed the process of establishing its National Parliamentary Front against Hunger Secretariat, and developed a road map that would guide the work of that chapter moving forward, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Forestry and the Grenada Food and Nutrition Council (GFNC).</p> <p>Prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the project supported the participation of Caribbean parliamentarians from Grenada, Haiti, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Belize in forums and meetings that facilitated a greater understanding of the work of Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger. This included participation at the VII planning meeting of Parliamentary Front against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was celebrated 24-26 July 2019 in Cartagena, Colombia.</p> <p>The project concluded with a draft document on “Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger in the Caribbean”, which systematizes the remarkable experiences of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Belize and Haiti, in dealing with the PFH.</p> <p>It should be noted that, in spite of the long period of inactivity of the PFH in Haiti (for reasons mentioned above), some of the most tangible deliverables were achieved there. This was due to the highly efficient management of the implementation of project outputs and activities in that country. It is recommended that this be taken into consideration by countries that aim at implementing similar projects involving parliamentarians as primary beneficiaries.</p>

Output 1	Selected Caribbean countries have a national PFH chapter established, institutionalized and operational for the development and implementation of FNS policy instruments and laws		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Number of countries having Parliamentary Front against Hunger established and/or strengthened as a result of this TCP.	3	Partially
Baseline	2		
Comments	In addition to Haiti and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Belize launched its Belize Parliamentary Alliance against Hunger and Malnutrition (BPAHM) in July 2019. Likewise, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Forestry of Grenada advised that a motion be passed in the Parliament of Grenada for the establishment of the national PFH in that country, with the support of the GFNC.		
Activity 1.1	Support awareness building for greater understanding of PFH work		
	Achieved	Partially	
	Comments	<p>The PFH chapters were facilitated with access to materials and information relevant for their establishment and functioning.</p> <p>In addition, parliamentarians from Belize (one), Grenada (one) and Haiti (one) participated at the VII Meeting of Planning of Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean, held 24-26 July 2019 in Cartagena, Colombia. It was an opportunity for information sharing and learning from the experience of other parliamentarians in LAC.</p> <p>In addition, the project supported the participation of one of the members of the PFH in Haiti in the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Global Gathering, which was held from 4 to 7 November 2019 in Kathmandu, Nepal.</p> <p>With the support of a liaison consultant based at the CARICOM Secretariat, the issue of the PFH was incorporated in various spaces for dialogues and discussions at the CARICOM level, including in the subregional food systems summit meeting that was organized in 2021.</p> <p>Other tasks planned under this activity were not fully implemented, due to the above-mentioned challenges, including: i) support for the participation of seven parliamentarians in the XI regional LAC parliamentarian forum and the LAC PFH planning meeting 2021; and ii) the participation of parliamentarians from selected Caribbean countries in virtual sessions of PFH-FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (RLC) for sharing/learning experiences in the post-COVID-19 era.</p>	
Activity 1.2	Assist the establishment and operationalization of the governance structure of PFH in participating countries		
	Achieved	Partially	
	Comments	<p>A liaison consultant based at the CARICOM Secretariat was hired by the project to support: i) a rapid assessment of the status of existing PFH in the Caribbean; ii) a mapping of key champions and potential stakeholders in selected Caribbean countries (including Haiti, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Barbados and Belize); and the creation of a virtual platform for exchange of information and experiences; and iii) the organization of regional thematic video conferences (one every three months) between Caribbean parliamentarians and parliamentarians from the PARLATINO, the Pan-African Parliamentary (PFH) Alliance, and others, to support networking, exchange of experiences and lessons learned. Although substantial progress was made under the first two tasks, the last task was not achieved, due to some of the challenges referred to earlier.</p>	
Activity 1.3	Support the preparation and implementation of a national PFH roadmap with specific actions, programs, policies and/or laws of interest to be supported by established national PFH chapters -- Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		
	Achieved	Partially	
	Comments	<p>National consultants were hired in Haiti and in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and a national liaison consultant based at the CARICOM secretariat, who provided support with the preparation of national PFH road maps in the three countries.</p> <p>To support this activity, LoAs were signed with the ZHTF in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the GFNC in Grenada. With the assistance provided by the ZHTF, the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines PFH was able to: i) develop a road map of actions, which was consulted with key stakeholders in the country; ii) receive assistance in terms of tools and materials that could support the PFH in the process of implementing the road map; and iii) receive support for the implementation of a flagship initiative entitled "farm to table", as a direct contribution to the road map of actions developed (please see the final narrative report of the LoA for more details). In addition, Grenada succeeded in completing the process of establishing its National Parliamentary Front against Hunger Secretariat, and in developing a road map that would guide the work of that chapter moving forward, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Forestry and the GFNC. The Food Bank Initiative of the GFNC was prioritized by that front for support by the project (please see the final narrative report of the LoA with GFNC for more details).</p>	

Output 2	Parliamentarians, advisors and drafters of the CARICOM region improved capacities for the promotion, formulation and monitoring of the implementation of Laws and/or policy instruments relevant for the PFH		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Number of policies and/or laws drafted, approved and/or strengthened as a result of assistance provided by this TCP.	3	Partially
Baseline	N/A		
Comments	<p>The above-mentioned challenges and impact on the activities of Output 1 affected the level of achievement in Output 2.</p> <p>Haiti succeeded in developing two laws with the support of the project. In addition, provision was made via the Mexico-CARICOM-FAO initiative to support Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Belize to develop a national school feeding policy, which contributed to the PFH road map of both countries.</p> <p>Recommendations were made for support to be given to Grenada on request, or via other opportunities that could arise.</p> <p>The project also aided the CARICOM Secretariat, in order to promote CARICOM parliamentarians' participation in implementing the Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Action Plan of the CARICOM. It is recommended that this collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat be maintained.</p>		
Activity 2.1	Facilitate access to model of laws and policy instruments pertaining to FNS		
	Achieved	Partially	
	Comments	<p>This activity included: i) the dissemination of communication materials pertaining to the work of PFH to strengthen the road map elaborated in each of the countries; and ii) the creation of a repository of laws and policies pertaining to food and nutrition security in the Caribbean by the CARICOM liaison consultant.</p> <p>This activity also envisaged the translation of models of laws and policy instruments into the languages of the participating countries. However, this was not carried out. Only Haiti translated some materials from English into French for the use of the parliamentarians.</p>	
Activity 2.2	Support to update, draft and/or prepare policy instruments and/or laws pertaining to FNS -- Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Haiti		
	Achieved	Partially	
	Comments	<p>There was a deviation from the initial plan of the project, as it was not possible to undertake a systematization of legislative processes, contents and impacts of policies and regulations of existing PFH chapters in LAC, which could be of use to the Caribbean. Three FAO documents that had previously been prepared were of great use, and were disseminated among stakeholders involved in the project. These include: i) Parliamentary fronts against hunger, and legislative initiatives for the right to adequate food and nutrition (https://www.fao.org/3/i7872e/i7872e.pdf) (the experience of Latin America and the Caribbean 2009-2016); ii) How to create and strengthen a Parliamentary Front against Hunger in 10 steps; and iii) Parliamentary Front Against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean, 10 things you should know.</p> <p>In addition, a document entitled "Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger in the Caribbean" was prepared, to report on the experience of Haiti, Belize and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in dealing with Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger.</p> <p>Assistance was provided in the form of consultancies and a national workshop to develop some policy instruments and/or laws pertaining to food and nutrition security, including the development of two laws in Haiti, namely: i) the Law on School Feeding; and ii) the Law on Plant Variety Protection.</p> <p>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada and Belize have expressed interest for support to develop their national school feeding policy/law, as part of the road map of actions of their PFH. For the next steps, assistance has been identified for both Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Belize for their request on the development of the national school feeding policy. The "Resilient School Feeding Programs", a subproject of the Mexico – CARICOM – FAO "Cooperation for Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience in the Caribbean" GCP project (GCP/SLC/018/MEX) incorporated a provision for support to this process in both countries, to assist in: i) a detailed situation analysis of school feeding and recommendations; ii) a draft national school feeding policy statement; iii) a feasibility analysis and proposed action plan for national school feeding; and iv) a proposed road map and recommendations for the implementation of the national school feeding policy.</p>	

Activity 2.3	Support the CARICOM FNS policy monitoring platform to monitor progress on implementation of policies	
	Achieved	Partially
	Comments	<p>An LoA was signed with the CARICOM Secretariat to support: i) training and building capacity for the use of the platform by CARICOM countries; ii) awareness building on the progress, and reports for Caribbean parliamentarians; and iii) resource mobilization for the implementation of policies and/or laws.</p> <p>However, the implementation of the LoA was delayed, owing to internal administrative issues of the CARICOM Secretariat. Upon request of the service provider, the LoA was extended with resources identified from FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (FAO SLC) and FAO RLC Regular Funds of the biennium 2020-2021, in order to propel CARICOM parliamentarians' participation in the implementation of the Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Action Plan of the CARICOM.</p>

Partnerships and Outreach

For more information, please contact: Reporting@fao.org

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