



Sierra Leone Alliance Against Hunger



[S L A A H]

www.slaahunger.org

Citizens participation on the
RIGHT TO FOOD in Sierra

Leone

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Citizens participation on the RIGHT TO FOOD in Sierra Leone

- The Sierra Leone Alliance against hunger was formed by different Associations NGO's) Civil Society group all over the country with the aim of fighting against hunger, strives to complement Government effort by mobilizing more resources and enhancing direct access to food by the most needy through raising awareness, advocating, building capacity through training and support for policy, programme development and Implementation.

- SLAAH's main focus is bringing existing organizations together into an alliance with a common goal that gives them the opportunity to speak with a unified voice, build political will and advocate for policy support in the fight against hunger and poverty. The alliance represents a new way of tapping and combining effort and resources at national level – ranging from highest levels of government to grassroots organizations to the individual beneficiaries themselves – building on what already exists, rather than creating a new entity.

- **Awareness Raising Sensitizations on Hunger and Right to Food:** The alliance has been creating awareness on hunger and the Right to Food through mini-trainings at district and community level. Several radio discussions have also taken place at these levels and usually spaces were provided for listeners to phone-in and ask questions or make contribution. These radio and phone-in programmes have been very effective in delivering the message and they provide enormous opportunity for raising awareness as there are community radios in almost all the regions in the country.

- Some of the concepts or topics that have been discussed include: Government draft Agricultural and Seed policy, and the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food.
- Some of the participants that have been taken part in the phone in discussions have been Farmers, Students, Government officials, Civil society, Petty traders, NGO workers and Members of the print and electronic media.

- It is essential to engage all stakeholders in their contribution to the right to food. When stakeholders do not have a stake in making adjustments, or in reforming political, economic and social relationships, then the process is likely to fail. Together, a government, private sector and civil society partnership is a formidable team for success in the achievement of the right to food. There is a clear imperative for this kind of partnership if the new attempts in implementing the right to food in Africa are to yield fruits.

Role of SLAAH

- Our role has been widely recognized as an essential 'third' sector. our strength can have a positive influence on the state and the market. Civil society is therefore seen as an
- Increasingly important agent for promoting good governance like transparency, effectiveness, openness, responsiveness and accountability.
- We can further good governance, first, by policy analysis and advocacy;

- second, by regulation and monitoring of state performance and the action and behavior of public officials; third, by building social capital and enabling citizens to identify and articulate their values, beliefs, civic norms and democratic practices;
- fourth, by mobilizing particular constituencies, particularly the vulnerable and marginalized sections of masses, to participate more fully in politics and public affairs; and fifth, by development work to improve the wellbeing of their own and other communities.

- **SLAAH joined the International Alliance at an early stage in 2004.**
- It was promoted, nurtured and developed by a core group of civil society organizations and since then main effort were paid in the effect of dumping, focusing on dump rice and chicken as well as emported textle.
- We have been working very hard to bridge the gap between communities where people in politics thinks they should not dialoged with the grass root for the development of their society

- Consulting rural communities on their needs and problems in some cases reinforcing their lobbying capacities in negotiating with local and national institutions
- Organizing advocacy and training activities aimed to inform citizens on the Right to Food and to strengthen the lobbying capacity of citizens on hunger and poverty reduction strategies especially referring to impact of trade on agriculture development in Sierra Leone.

partnerships

- SLAAH has received numerous support from well meaning organisations
 - IAAH facilitated contact with National programme for food security and the RTF unit of FAO
 - ActionAid has supported capacity building activities at community level and helped organise policy dialogue forum and have also given grant to our most vulnerable members especially women farmers and youth.

Conclusion

- Our organizing have been seriously focusing on advocacy and training activities aimed to inform citizens on the Right to Food
- and to strengthen the lobbying capacity of citizens on hunger and poverty reduction strategies especially referring to impact of trade on agricultural developement in Sierra Leone.



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Thanks for your attention

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