

# People Centered Food Systems

Fostering Human Rights Based Approaches



## The Challenge

Identify, characterize, and address constraints that impede marginalized and vulnerable food system actors from participating in decisions to realizing their rights to food security, healthy diets and improved nutrition outcomes, adapting to and mitigating against climate change and other food system-related challenges, and fully contributing to and benefiting from their food systems

## Our Goals

Use advocacy, build capacity, and develop accountability tools that better integrate human rights frameworks within food system policy and action to address ongoing constraints by strengthening the capacity of right-holders.

# Establishing an Enabling Environment

## Phase 1 Activities



### INFORMATION, KNOWLEDGE, & CAPACITY

The aim of this activity is to increase awareness, access to information and build capacity among national right-holders and beneficiaries to ensure that governments effectively integrate and implement human rights requirements into food systems via training sessions, mini-courses, Interactive discussions with stakeholders and by working with small-scale farmers, women and youth working across food systems, policymakers, and development partners



### HUMAN RIGHTS FRAMEWORKS

This activity aims to assist key stakeholders (rights-holders, duty bearers and intervenors) in each pilot country to co-design and build national legal and policy frameworks that supports the effective implementation of national and international instruments based on the right to food and other human rights in the context of food systems.



### MONITORING & ACCOUNTABILITY STRENGTHENING

Using accountability, technical, and feedback reflexive workshops, this activity aims to co-design and integrate human rights monitoring and accountability mechanisms specifically adapted to food systems' conditions in existing M&E systems at both national and international lev



### POLICY COHERENCE

The aim of this activity is to increase the policy coherence between global norm setting processes for food systems and the right to food and UNDROP at national and sub-national levels.



### THEORY-BASED EVALUATION & LEARNING

This activity aims to develop and implement a theory-based evaluation of the project with the objective to document the system-level changes observed around rights-based laws and legislation in the food system, as well as changes in international rights-based norms and guidelines (including around gender)

# Human Rights Frameworks & Instruments

## United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Peasants



Encourages the support of peasants and other people working in rural areas to enjoy physical and economic access to **sufficient and adequate food** that is produced and consumed **sustainably and equitably**

### Voluntary Guidelines on Food Security and Nutrition

Presents a set of science and **evidence-based guidelines** to achieving healthy diets through sustainable food systems while also addressing economic, social and environmental sustainability issues and impacts.

Contributes to the improvement and development of the **policy, legal and organizational frameworks** regulating the range of tenure rights that exist over land, fisheries, and forests.

### Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure

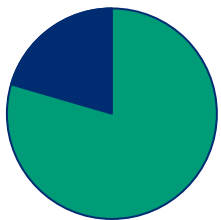
Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security

Provides practical guidance to States in their implementation of the progressive realization of the right to adequate food **in the context of national food security**

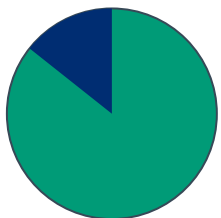




## Host Countries: Cambodia



Agriculture contributes  
**22%** of Cambodia's  
GDP



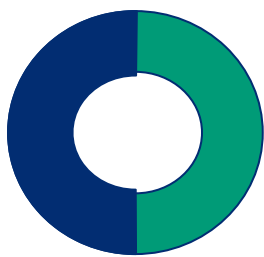
**14%** of Cambodia's  
population lives under the  
international poverty line

Cambodia, a rural and agrarian country, is classified as a lower middle-income country. Women constitute 74% of the agriculture workers and produce as much as 80% of Cambodia's food but their ownership of land is disproportionately low compared to men. While agriculture plays a major role in the country's economy, growth in this sector has been slow, barely averaging 1% between 2004 – 2013 (20). The major causes for the lack of the growth of the agriculture sector is low productivity, declining global commodity prices and extreme weather such as floods and droughts. The agriculture sector is also at risk of losing its remaining agriculture labor caused by better job opportunities offered by fast growing agriculture and other sectors in its neighboring countries. Cambodia needs to improve income generation from farming by investing in diversifying production and mechanization as well as strengthening value chains of these agriculture products.





## Host Countries: Ethiopia



48% of Ethiopians cannot afford a nutrient-adequate diet



In Ethiopia, prices of nutritious foods have increased in recent years, while grain and sugar prices have decreased

Ethiopia is classified as a low-income country with **31% of the population living under the international poverty line** of US\$1.90 per day. Changes in the economy and demography of the country, however, have gone through major changes with a doubling of the urban population, a fall in rural in poverty rates from 45% in 2000 to 23% in 2016. Despite these changes, most of the country's population live in rural areas (78%). There is a high reliance of the rural population on agriculture for their livelihoods and the agricultural sector, while it has grown and contributed to the country's growing economy, remains very subsistence based. Nevertheless, the country faces challenges across its food systems related to agricultural productivity, access to and costs of healthy diets and more.





## Host Countries: Honduras



Honduras is classified as a lower middle-income country with 66% of the population living in poverty. In rural areas, those living under the international poverty line of US \$1.90 a day is high with every 1 in 5 person experiencing poverty. Economic growth in the country has been high but development has not been experienced equally, noted by the high poverty rates and high levels of inequality. This condition of inequality especially affects women and girls, but also the population living in poverty and those exposed to conditions of physical, psychological, social, environmental, economic, or structural vulnerability. These inequalities have been understood to be linked to limitations in access to basic services, decent employment opportunities (livelihoods), and poverty.



1 in every 5 Hondurans is experiencing poverty



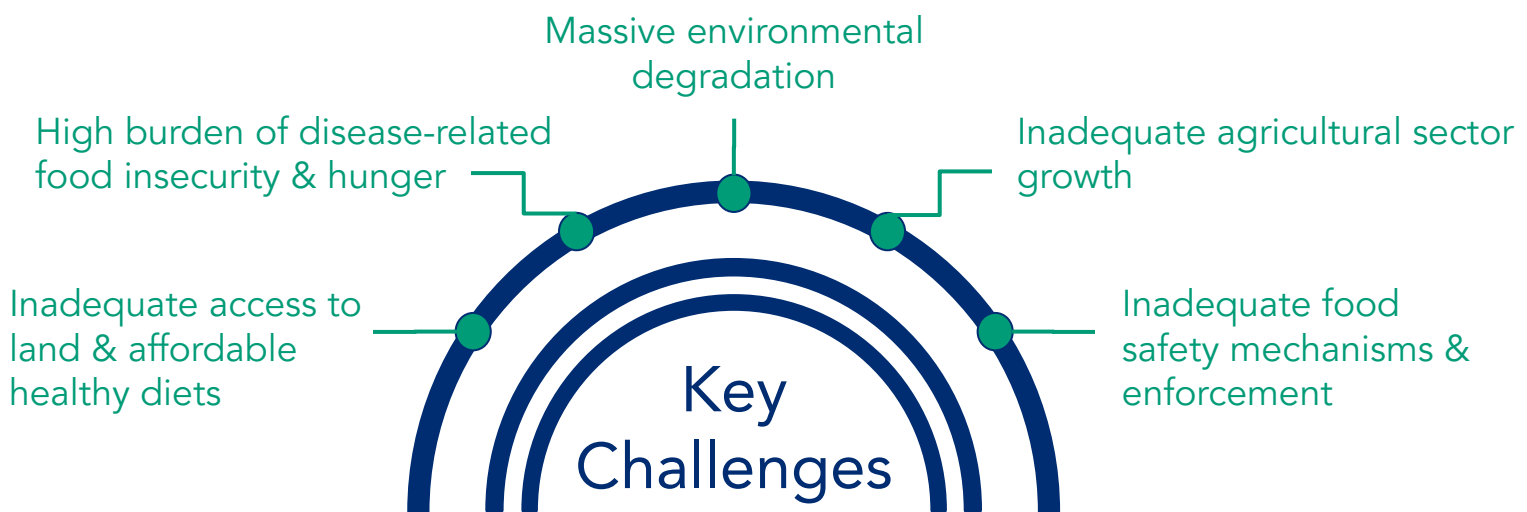
The cycle of violence and other socio-economic issues are significant in vulnerable populations



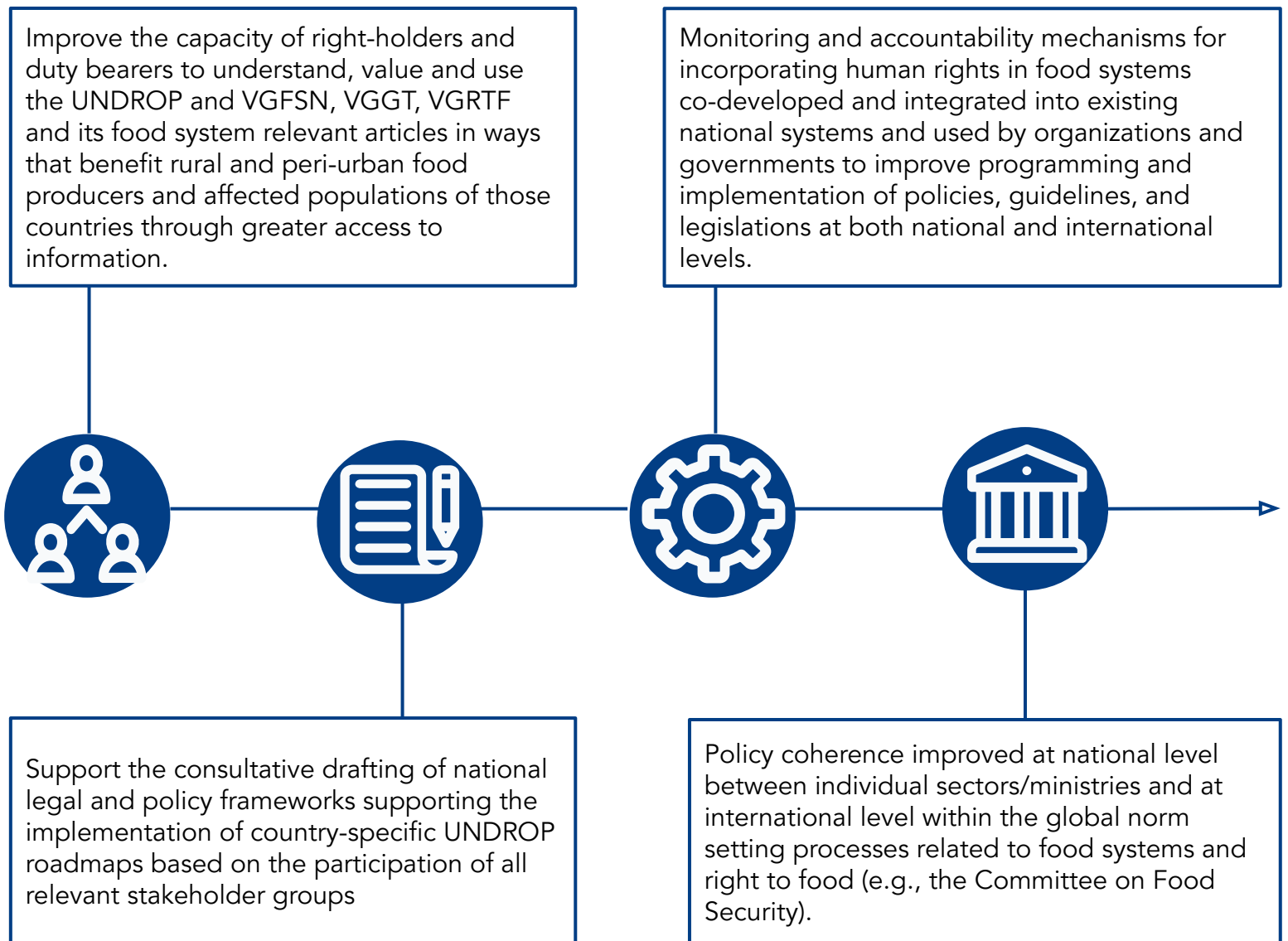


## Host Countries: Uganda

Uganda is classified as a low-income country with widespread poverty revealed by **41% of the population living under the international poverty line** of US\$ 1.90 per day. Poverty persists despite a 69% to 38% decline in households belonging to the subsistence economy between 2016-2019. Agriculture remains a significant source of income for households. Limited access to newer agricultural technologies is of major concern to those engaged in the sector. There is wide variability in surplus, adequacy, and deficiency among different food commodities within the country.



# Outcomes



## In Summary:



This project aims to integrate existing human rights frameworks and instruments with public policy to strengthen food systems, beginning with those in Ethiopia, Honduras, Cambodia, and Uganda. Initiative outcomes include country assessments, interactive consultations, training sessions, mini courses, consultation workshops, and UNDROP reports for each country. These outcomes will be based on the opinions and concerns of duty bearers, intervenors, global and local players, and local civil society organizations of each country. People Centered Food Systems is a project on the Global Food and Ethics Policy Program. Organizations partnering on this project are The Johns Hopkins University, The Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, International Institute of Rural Reconstruction, and Rikolto Consortium.



# The Consortium



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra



JOHNS HOPKINS  
BERMAN INSTITUTE  
of BIOETHICS

Alliance



References: