

S.17 Knowledge Hubs for mainstreaming Human Rights

1. What, in brief, is the solution?

This solution proposes the establishment of Knowledge Hubs on all human rights, including the right to food, decent employment, health and gender; how human rights connect to each of the SDGs and how their respect, protection and fulfilment is key to equity in food systems. All people, without exception, have human rights, including the right to food¹. However, many people lack the capacity to adequately advocate for the realization of their right to food because they lack knowledge and understanding of its meaning and application and they lack networks and institutions to engage with. Advancing equitable livelihoods requires that all people are not only knowledgeable about their human rights but are empowered to make decisions about their implementation and have access to enforceable remedies if their rights are denied. This solution thus proposes the establishment of Knowledge Hubs which will facilitate the mainstreaming of human rights and the Right to Food. It will establish connections between all stakeholders including marginalized groups and ensure better access to the appropriate knowledge, resources, and tools required to respect, protect, and fulfil the Right to Food.

2. What was/were the source(s) from which this solution emerged?

Though Human Rights is a central theme of the UNFSS, Action Track discussions demonstrated that more substantive human rights-based solutions and proposals were required. Human rights are the foundation upon which all propositions presented at the Summit should be based. Human rights experts from across Action Tracks, therefore, joined forces to develop a series of propositions and this specific solution was identified as one within those conversations.

3. What problem is it trying to address within food systems?

The denial of rights and entitlements, through formal and informal institutions and laws, is central to the problem of inequity in livelihoods within food systems. The widespread and systematic institutional discrimination and bias against marginalized groups in access to resources in food systems is frequently attributable to the denial of human rights. The precise problem that this solution seeks to address is the lack of knowledge and awareness among all actors across food systems, including rights holders and duty bearers, on the right to food and other rights that impact the right to food. For example, it will allow all stakeholders to seek practical guidance on the pursuit of the right to food.

4. Why is addressing that problem important for achieving the goal of your working group?

Equity with food systems livelihoods cannot be achieved without the realization of human rights. Control over the production of and access to food is as one of the world's most fundamental sources of power. However, many current food systems are premised on extreme imbalances in this power structure which is reinforcing the inequalities the Summit aims to resolve.

¹ The right to food is authoritatively defined by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Committee on ESCR) in its [General Comment 12](#) of 1999 *the right to adequate food is realized when every man, woman and child, alone and in community with others, has physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement (para. 6).*

5. How can this solution address that problem (theory of change)?

If all stakeholders have the same access to knowledge on the right to food and all relevant human rights, mutual accountability will improve. Our theory of change is based on the premise that capacity strengthening across institutions and interest groups through improved access to knowledge within independent Hubs will lead to more active and responsive duty bearers.

6. Why does this solution align to the definition and criteria for a ‘game changing solution’ developed by the Summit?

This solution is game-changing because it is an innovative and cross-disciplinary mechanism that will be designed to meet the needs of all stakeholders. It will build on practices by many organizations (e.g. [FAO Right to Food Training](#), [FIAN The Right to Food: A Resource Manual for NGOs](#)) and link directly to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Because all aspects of food systems require a human rights focus, coherence, and mutual understanding on the Right to Food is required. This solution will broaden outreach on right to food and human rights concepts and understanding so that all actors are informed and aware of the key role of all human rights for more sustainable, productive, equitable and resilient food systems.

7. What do you think are the key actions required to address this solution?

FAO identifies three groups of relevant stakeholders involved in the realization of the human right to food: rights-holders, duty-bearers, and agents of accountability². Knowledge and learning processes focusing on the human right to food and other human rights can help strengthen the capacity of duty-bearers to fulfil their mission, encourage the empowerment and participation of rights-holders, and actively involve agents of accountability. The key actions of the Knowledge Hubs will be to:

- Establish Hubs, led by an independent and impartial lead agent, with membership from all stakeholder groups (including but not limited to cross-ministerial representation and civil services, civil society and social movements, private sector, academia (ensuring multidisciplinary engagement) and consumer organizations)
- Establish common working principles and practices that would address issues of inclusion and access (distances, languages, technology etc.)
- Establish capacity strengthening strategies and host trainings (including training of trainer programs) and inductions on guidelines and principles (such as the UN Principles on Business and Human Rights, the OECD-FAO Guidance for responsible agricultural supply chains and all relevant CFS-Voluntary Guidelines)

8. What is the current and/or likely political support for this idea?

There is widespread recognition within the summit action tracks and across a broad spectrum of stakeholders that more knowledge and awareness on the right to food and all relevant human rights is required if we are to ensure its mainstreaming and realization

9. Are there certain contexts for which this solution is particularly well suited, or, not well-suited?

A multi-stakeholder approach is needed if this solution is to have the desired impact. This will require different types of facilitation of dialogues and knowledge sharing sessions and training. While a major

² [Right to Food Handbooks 10 - Right to food training \(fao.org\)](#)

focus of this solution is on building capacity within marginalized communities, all stakeholders will be invited to the knowledge hubs to ensure broad understanding of human rights so that all sectors are engaged in their promotion, respect, protection, and fulfilment (duty-bearers at all levels also require updated or new knowledge). Due to human rights being such an important factor to be integrated throughout the entire Summit, this solution is particularly important for all contexts.