Social Mobilization and Food Security

The contribution of organized civil society to hunger reduction policies in Latin America

Marygold Walsh-Dilley
Wendy Wolford

Presented at:
New Directions in the Fight Against Hunger and Malnutrition
A Festschrift in Honor of Per Pinstrup-Andersen
December 14, 2013
**Key Argument**

- Civil society has come to play a key role in hunger reduction strategies in Latin America.

- But how well it does so is related to the particular form of state-society relations.
Outline

1. Shifting nature of state-society relations in Latin America
2. Data on commitment to hunger reduction
3. 7 moments of interaction between civil society organizations (CSOs) and states
4. Examples from case studies: Peru, Brazil, Bolivia
5. Conclusions
State as state-society relations

- 1980s: “third wave” of democracy
- “Perverse confluence” between democracy and neoliberalism created both the potential and demand for an active civil society.
- “Pink Tide” governments
Right to food around the world (as of 2011-2012).[1][2][3]

- Adopted or drafting a framework law (19).
- Constitutional, explicit as a right (23).
- Constitutional, implicit in broader rights or as directive principle (41).
- Direct applicability via international treaties (103).
- Committed by ratifying the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (160).

Source: Gulpen based on Knuth and Vidar (2011)
State-Society interactions around food security

1. **State formation**: elections, political ideologies of leaders, influence the promises, agendas, and strategies of elected officials.
State-Society interactions around food security

1. State formation

2. **Voice**: Represent excluded and marginal voices, aggregate demands, articulate demands in political language
State-Society interactions around food security

1. State formation
2. Voice
3. Framing: Narratives about the causes, consequences and solutions to hunger; framing to resonate with and motivate broader publics
State-Society interactions around food security

1. State formation
2. Voice
3. Framing
4. **Pressure**: Call attention to concerns and make demands more visible; Interrupt business as usual; Shaming
State-Society interactions around food security

1. State formation
2. Voice
3. Framing
4. Pressure
5. **Targeting**: Linkages and infrastructures to help services reach intended recipients
State-Society interactions around food security

1. State formation
2. Voice
3. Framing
4. Pressure
5. Targeting
6. **Oversight**: oversee implementation to ensure accountability
State-Society interactions around food security

1. State formation
2. Voice
3. Framing
4. Pressure
5. Targeting
6. Oversight
7. Implementation: Project execution outsourced to contractors or assumed by civil society.
Productive State-Society Relations

1. Willing to collaborate: state actors must hear CSO concerns, CSOs and movements must be more interested in reform than revolution

2. Both must be technically competent

3. CSOs need to retain their autonomy, able to step outside and protest partnership if they are not effective
Peru

- Child Nutrition Initiative: CSO/NGO/donor coalition
- Framing: “5 by 5 by 5” strategy
- State formation: candidate commitments at both national and state level; policy recommendations and action plan
• Close ties between Landless Workers Movement (MST) and President Lula
• Zero Hunger: formulated by movement leaders, technical experts, politician
• Includes movement goals as central elements
Bolivia

• Strong linkages between President Morales and social movements
• Strong commitment to food security/sovereignty in legal frameworks and development plans
• But, surprising lack of involvement of civil society in food security programs
• Implementation failures of ZM program at municipal level
Conclusions

• Food security is influenced in a variety of ways by state-society interactions
• But, certain forms of state-society relations are most productive
• Civil society helps engender sustained commitment to hunger reduction – from start to finish