

HUMAN RIGHTS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES: A FOCUS ON ECONOMIC CHALLENGES, LIMITED ACCESS, AND DISCRIMINATION IN REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FARMERS

UPR Info Pre-sessions

Situation in Country RNM – Issue 1

- No explicit recommendations regarding poverty in rural communities and rural areas
- Rural poverty is escalating, as indicated by the MDP Report 2023, with a notable increase over the last five years
- A significant part of the population considers that they are on the edge of existence
- Intensifying climate changes and persistently low purchase prices pose significant challenges for farmers, impacting their economic activities and overall quality of life for the past fifteen years

Recommendations – Issue 1

We recommended to the government of the RNM to:

- Implement obligations from the adopted UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other people working in rural areas, with a focus on Articles 3, 6, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18
- Ensure that state policies and programs address rightful access to fundamental services such as healthcare, education, social services, employability and infrastructure in rural areas in conformity with Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2.3, 3, 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3.
- Create measures to stimulate contract farming and their consistent implementation (regulated by the Law on Agriculture and Rural Development
- Implement the new Law on Advisory Services in Agriculture, enabling effective knowledge transfer for adapting agriculture to the new climate changes
- Prepare mechanisms for improvement and availability of the employees – it is important to work on equal access for men and women in rural areas.

Situation in RNM – Issue 2

- Rural women, youth, and individuals with disabilities face challenges leading to increased poverty and migration
- Supportive measure for women farmers and young farmers as part of the “Program for financial support for rural development” has been taken by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, in collaboration with socio-economic partners
- Improved dialogue between the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and non-governmental sectors aims to enhance economic and social conditions, exemplified by the Program for Social Security Support for Women Farmers enabling the utilization of benefits during periods of inability to perform agricultural work due to childbirth

Recommendations – Issue 2

We recommended to the government of the RNM to:

- Continue the collaboration between the non-governmental sector and institutions aimed at improving the economic and social situation of marginalized groups
- Support and implement a Human Rights-Based Approach in all programs and measures, with direct inclusion of marginalized groups from rural areas in conformity with Sustainable Development Goals as well as recommendation No.42 (2018) from the CEDAW Committee's sixth periodic report on the RNM
- Adopt measures to register and recognize the work of rural women and make provisions for recognizing their rights to social benefits
- Ensure that rural women, youth and people with disability have access to subsidies and rural development support measures to the greatest possible extent
- Implement educational campaigns to increase the number of women and youth landowners and property owners in rural areas

Thank You



In the Name of National Federation of Farmers