



**ACCESS TO INFORMATION &  
RIGHT TO WATER  
DFID 2013-2014  
BRAZIL**

## **ABSTRACT**

This report summarizes the developments during the second year of the Right to Information and Right to Water project in Brazil. The project aims to promote Right to Information as an instrumental right to be used as a tool for the realization of other human rights, such as the right to water, in Brazilian semi-arid communities. The content of this report will present the main activities and results, focusing on lessons learned and beneficiaries' feedback.

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## INTRODUCTION

Brazil has already achieved the targets of the Millennium Development Goals related to water and sanitation. While the country heads to universal access of water supply in urban areas, in rural areas efforts should be tripled. In the semiarid, the Brazilian government had to deliver 83,258 tanks of water in 2011. By July 2012, 40,033 tanks had already been distributed. Tanks installed in 2011 and 2012 are benefiting 123,000 households. But this is not enough for the most populous semiarid in the world: the population of the semiarid region of Brazil corresponds to approximately 12% of the Brazilian population and covers 1,135 cities in 9 states - Alagoas, Bahia, Ceará, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Piauí Rio Grande do Norte, Sergipe and Minas Gerais .

Both the first and the second year of the project had a particular purpose: to work with vulnerable and marginalized groups, promoting access to information as an empowerment tool for the achievement of other human rights. Especially in a context of concentration of income and political power, these groups are traditionally deprived of information and knowledge that could allow them to question inadequate public policies and demand their rights.

Among other products, during the first year of the project ARTICLE 19 developed campaign materials, research and carried out workshops on access to information and the right to water in rural communities of the state of Pernambuco. Considering these activities and their results, the second year had two complementary objectives. The first one was to give continuity to the results and secure benefits, in a way to ensure and improve the sustainability of the project. The second objective was to expand the project to enhance and maximize results, exploring the partnerships and the materials previously produced.

Under this perspective, we renewed the partnership with Sabiá Centre to promote workshops and meetings in communities in the State of Pernambuco by visiting communities that had participated in the first year of the project. These return visits were aimed at accompanying the difficulties and achievements of these communities regarding the right to water, also checking how they were using the right to information after learning about the right during Year 1. Later on, these activities allowed us to evaluate and modify the methodology of the project.

We have also continued to work with the same consultant, Doctor Vanessa Empinotti. We requested her to prepare a research which main focus was the forms of political inclusion and popular participation in the context of water resources management. The intention was to take our work a step further, considering that once these citizens, organized or not, get an information, they should be able to use that information in different ways and through different participatory spaces to influence decision making and public policies concerning water in their regions.

In addition, to amplify the impact of the project and promote the use of materials produced, we carried out new workshops on access to information and the right to water with groups that had not participated in the project in the previous year. The target audience was young people and organizations that could be the potential multipliers in their communities, reaching an even greater number of people. One of the workshops was held in a different state, also in the Northeastern region, a factor that represented a breakthrough for the project. We have

also sought new partners and ways of disseminating the information beyond the use of internet, for example making use of radio programs. The diversification of partnerships and the monitoring of results allowed us to extend our sphere of influence and better ensure the sustainability of the project.

## **SUMMARY of Year 1 activities and results**

The lack of information and participation when it comes to access to water in the dry lands was the rationale behind ARTICLE 19's decision to start this project. Many rural communities are subject to months without water in a place where there is no shortage of rain. The poor distribution of water, the concentrated access to this resource in the hands of a few and the lack of investment to solve this issue are the real causes of the unbearable situation that affects the Brazilian semi-arid. Under this perspective, the planning and implementation of proper public policies is key to democratize access to water in the dry lands and access to information can be a tool to achieve it.

In the first year of the project, ARTICLE 19 carried out capacity building activities with Sabiá Center, other NGOs and community leaders in three different sub-regions of the Brazilian dry lands. What encouraged the partnerships was the urge to know more about water quality, water supply in far away communities, water trucks schedules and provision of cisterns. The workshops would follow the same methodology (available at Annex), beginning with an introduction about the work of ARTICLE 19 on freedom of expression and access to information, followed by the presentation of the facilitators, Karina Quintanilha (Right to Information Programme Officer) and Dr. Vanessa Empinotti (University of São Paulo researcher and agronomy engineer). Campaign material on the right to information was distributed to the audience. Also, the main aspects of Law 12.527/2011 were presented – what is the right to information law, what is public information, how we can benefit from the law and what to do when this right is violated.

These workshops aimed to empower individuals and their communities, as well as organizations working in the water sector, so that they can exercise their right to information and better monitor the implementation of public policies seeking to improve access to water to poor rural communities in the Semi-Arid. By enhancing monitoring and participation in the planning and execution of water policies, ARTICLE 19 believes that such policies could serve better to the needs of those rural communities. Another goal of this project was to serve as a catalyzer for the implementation of the Brazilian Access to Information Law (12.527/2011) among vulnerable groups, especially in the Northeast of Brazil.

The workshops were held in the following cities:

**Zona da Mata region:** City of Recife 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2013

City of Rio Formoso 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2013

City of Recife 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2012

**Sertão region:** City of Triunfo - 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2013

**Agreste region:** City of Bezerros - 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2013

Participants demonstrated concern about the quality of the water distributed, the difficulty the water trucks have to access some communities due to roads in bad conditions, lack of cisterns and the privatization of public wells. Regarding access to information, some communities revealed difficulties in having access to newspapers, community radio, telephone and internet, due to both the cost and the lack of such services (infrastructure) in the region. Many farmers only have access to information through meetings of the Neighborhood Associations and Municipal Councils, besides the activities promoted by civil society groups that work in the communities. The audience was mainly farmers, young people, students, community leaders and civil society organizations.

The workshop would begin by playing the video "Women Adapting to Climate Change", bringing up the issue of drought and gender. Then a debate circle would be created to discuss the means of public information and how they can seek information on a day-to-day basis. The project's consultant, Vanessa Empinotti, talked with the participants about government actions that ensure access to water. After that, an Access to Water Map for the Community was created. On the second day of activities, step by step instructions were given on how to make an information request. At the end, the participants would form groups to draft information requests based on their own demands related to the community's access to water.

## **PROJECT DEVELOPMENT – Year 2**

### **ACTIVITIES**

The activities of the second year of the project are basically divided into two areas: (1) workshops and meetings in the communities that participated of the first year of the project and (2) events with new communities and organizations. In addition, we counted again with the support of consultant Vanessa Empinotti to carry out a research, already described above. Finally, we participated in meetings and consultations organized by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Water and Sanitation in order to disseminate our project's conclusion and see them taken into consideration in her official documents.

Following the chronological order of the activities, in September and October ARTICLE 19 took part in two strategic meetings with Sabiá Center in order to plan the period of workshops and debate what should be the theme investigated by the consultant. At these meetings, it was decided that the best time for workshops would be at the beginning of the following year, due to the workload of the partner organization and the time needed for greater mobilization. In the same period and with the support of the Sabiá Center, we re-established contact with the ASA articulation with the purpose of exploring the project's material and expanding activities to other states.

Also in October, we held three planning meetings with consultant Vanessa Empinotti to discuss and explain the activities planned for the second year. Whereas in the first year of the project the research evaluated the government programs and projects and their gaps of information, this year the research main goal was political participation. This decision was based in the links between access to information and political participation based on the following concern: *once they get the information, how the communities could insert themselves politically to demand their rights and follow up on their demands?* The first part of the research analyzed the role of the water shed committees and councils, prioritizing the state of Pernambuco for this research.

The second part analyzed case studies and interviews to assess informal spaces of participation and political inclusion, ie, understand and analyze existing mechanisms not established by law or public policy. In this second phase, the objective was also to verify access to information related to the operation of these political spaces and the information available in the respective websites. The report's first part was delivered in January 2014 and the second part was finished in April.

Consultant Vanessa Empinotti was also present at the meeting between civil society organizations and UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Water and Sanitation in December in Sao Paulo, while the rapporteur was visiting Brazil. The visit originally scheduled for June 2014 was cancelled and ARTICLE 19 had publicly questioned such cancelation and had written information requests to verify the reasons for cancelling it. The official information given by the government stated that the visit had been canceled for "unforeseen circumstances", although other sources would informally consider that the protests started in June and the death of 37 people in Alagoas allegedly due to contaminated water distributed by water trucks may have influenced this decision.

When it was canceled, the government did not set another date for the rapporteur visit. Therefore, we keep in contact with the rapporteur and wrote even further information requests asking for the preparations for a new mission. ARTICLE 19 was one of the leading organizations campaigning to ensure that a new date for her mission would be confirmed still for 2013. In October, the visit of the UN Special Rapporteur on water and sanitation was confirmed for the 9th to the 18th of December. The rapporteur visited and met with government officials and civil society representatives in Brasilia, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Fortaleza and Belém.

As already mentioned, ARTICLE 19 and the project consultant, Vanessa Empinotti, attended the meeting that took place on December 13 in Sao Paulo. The meeting was attended by researchers and civil society representatives, including our partner organization Vitae Civilis. We were the only organization not working directly on environmental issues present at the meeting. We had the opportunity to present the project and distribute the material among those present. Our goal was to illustrate how access to information can influence the struggle for other rights, notably the right to water. We also remarked the communities' difficulty in obtaining information, the concentration of political power and lack of participation and corruption related to water resources, the concern about the water quality and its origin, the need to use context-aware media to disseminate information, such as radios, and the need for simplified language when providing information.

In January we held the first workshops on access to information and the right to water. On January 16, ARTICLE 19 attended the 4th Meeting of Youth and Agroecology, which theme was communication for freedom. At the event, we led a workshop on access to information and social networks in partnership with Sabiá Center. Participants learned how to make an information request and how to explore the main government websites when seeking information, and then how they could transmit this information through social networks. The target audience was young multipliers who are based at various communities of the state of Pernambuco.

Between 21 and 22 January, ARTICLE 19 held two workshops in the semi-arid region of Pernambuco. The project's consultant, Vanessa Empinotti, accompanied the workshops for the second consecutive year. The goal was to return the communities present in the workshops of the previous year and evaluate the project impacts and outcomes, working with aspects of LAI not previously covered, such as complaints and appeals.

On the 21, we were in the rural area of Triunfo for the first workshop. Aproximatly 20 people from different communities such as Sitio Souto, Sitio Oiticica, Sitio Carnaubinha, Curralinho and Carro Quebrado attended the activity. Most of those presents had participated in the workshops the previous year, showing great interest in knowing more about the Access to Information Law and eager to tell their experiences. Initially, we reviewed the events and activities of ARTICLE 19 through the year, highlighting the launch of the project site and the meeting with the UN Special Rapporteur for Water and Sanitation.

Later, a debate circle addressed the experiences, difficulties and expectations of the participants in the year gone by. One information request was sent to the Water and Climate Agency of Pernambuco (APAC) on the water quality of Rio Pajeú; another information request was sent to the City Hall on the expansion and recovery of cisterns and artesian wells; and finally one information request was delivered to the Agronomic Institute of Pernambuco (IPA) on the well cleanness. None of the three inquiries were answered by the competent authorities and one of them was not even granted a protocol number that would allow petitioners to follow up on it.

The participants showed that they acquired knowledge about the Access to Information Law usage, but the lack of response from local agencies has arisen frustration and the need to work other instruments, such as complaints and appeal mechanisms. These two modalities were worked in groups during the afternoon, taking as an example the cases of the previous year. Finally, we presented the Access to Information *Cordel*, which was well very appreciated by participants for showing pictures and drawings of their routine.

On June 22, we were in the rural area of Santa Cruz da Baixa Verde to lead on another workshop of continuity of Year 1 of the project. About 25 people participated in the workshop, mostly young people and farmers from the towns of Sitio Velho, Mundo Novo and São Gonçalo, who had participated in the previous workshop. As the workshop in Triunfo, after ARTICLE 19's activities presentation, a debate circle addressed the project's impact, the difficulties and potentialities for the community and possible changes from one year to another. The participants reported that two information requests were presented, but none had received reply. They also reported that in a meeting between the residents' association

and the mayor, he confirmed that the information requests were received, but gave no explanation about the lack of response.

In the afternoon, the initial activity was based on a true or false game, debating the main points of the AtI Law and examples of information requests. After the game and handing of the material, the participants were divided into two groups to work on complaints and appeals. They had to prepare a plan of action to solve some difficulties such as lack of internet, unawareness of responsible agencies, difficulties in reading and writing, lack of participation and discontinuous flow of information. Participants decided to make further information requests through the Sítio Velho Residents' Association, but this time to authorities of higher degree.

In February, we held a workshop in the city of Caruaru, with the support of the Sabiá Center and the Northeast Rural Women Workers Movement. The participants were young communicators who are partners of the Sabiá Center, union's representatives, river basin committees and other civil society organizations. We presented the Rtl Law and explained how to make an information request. Unlike the other workshops, the consultant Vanessa Empinotti presented the research on transparency in the water management in Brazil.

On the same month, we returned to the city of Bezerros for a meeting with farmers who had participated in the training workshop the previous year. At the meeting were present about 12 farmers and a representative of Sabiá Center. We discussed the information requests made by farmers and played the *Cordel* video, which was enthusiastically received by them. The farmers commented that most of them currently have cisterns, therefore the biggest concern remains the water distribution by water trucks and the quality of the water distributed by them. Unlike the other cases, the information request made by the community of Bezerros was answered, raising enthusiasm among farmers and contributing to their mobilization.

The last workshop was held in Fortaleza, in Ceará, with the support of CETRA - Labour Studies and Assistance Worker Centre. The partnership with CETRA occurred through contact with the ASA network and started in October the previous year. The Fortaleza workshop was attended by approximately 25 people. Again, the consultant on the project attended and presented the research on water management transparency, which raised great interest in the audience. The workshop participants were composed mostly of young people, whose main interests were information requests on family farming, cultural, vocational and large projects involving dams and family settlements. Still in relation to the activities in Fortaleza, we have participated and helped to foster a debate on the right to communication and human rights, and took part on a radio programme broadcasted by the radio of the Federal University of Ceará, discussing access to information and the right to water.

On March 18, we launched the Free Flow Principles: Freedom of expression and the rights to water and sanitation, to celebrate the World Water Day. The final event brought together 70 participants, 33 men and 37 women and was carried out in partnership with GovAmb – Environmental Governance, a research center at the University of São Paulo. After two years developing the Right to information and Right to Water project in Brazil, we have registered cases and perspectives from the semiarid region and have come up with some concrete recommendations that will be presented to authorities and strengthened by the free flow principles. We have also participated in the preparation of the free flow principles, having the



opportunity to present our work and considerations on this topic during the consultation in London (the country director and project consultant were in London for the debate). We have already presented the principles to the UN Special Rapporteur on Water and Sanitation and participants of her consultation on the right to water and participation, which took place in Lisbon, in April. We also intend to use the principles for further advocacy and activities during 2014.

## **RESULTS**

One of the most important results of the project was relationship established with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Water and Sanitation. The rapporteur was quite interested in our work perspective, and in her statement about the visit to Brazil, she wrote about the need for popular participation that is free, prior and informed regarding public policies (<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=14127&LangID=E>). The final report on the visit has not been published, but we believe one chapter would be dedicated to access to information issues and social participation.

The links with the Special Rapporteur also contributed to our participation in the Expert Consultation on Participation in the Realization of the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation, organized by her. The meeting took place on 1 and 2 April in Lisbon, Portugal. It was held as preparation for her report to the General Assembly, where she will propose Guidelines in the area. ARTICLE 19 Brazil Director was also invited as a consultant to draft the Access to Information Chapter of the SR's handbook on implementing the right to water.

The project results can also be demonstrated by the very positive final numbers of beneficiaries, especially the large participation of women in workshops and meetings. In the three activities with communities that participated in the project in the first year, 54 participants, 34 women and 20 men, learned how to appeal in case the information asked is not provided and how to access justice in these cases.

Regarding the workshops with new groups, 50 participants, 24 women and 26 men, have been trained to use RtI Law and discussed their main problems in access to water. The workshops were in Recife (PE), Caruaru (PE) and Fortaleza (CE).

For the final launch event and discussion of Free Flow Principles, we have had 70 participants, 33 men and 37 women and it has allowed us to establish a new partnership with the GovAmb Study Center at the University of São Paulo.

An interesting situation in relation to the project was verified on the return visit to the Bezerros community. In the region, many rural schools are being closed and students are transferred to study in larger cities, much farther away. Farmers are not being properly informed of the reasons for the closure, nor its justifications. This situation was observed in Bezerros and also in Santa Cruz da Baixa Verde. At the meeting, farmers from Bezerros commented that one of the impacts of our project was to encourage popular mobilization. These farmers, who are already organized in a small association, prepared a document to deliver to the mayor of the city and demand that the rural school would not be closed, and they had their demands accepted. We hope that this good result in Bezerros can serve as an incentive for other communities.

Participants were the ones telling us that they felt empowered by our activities and capacity building, even in areas not directly related to Fol.

Finally, we had some positive results on promoting the project and publishing access to information materials, like the Cordel printed and in video. Both Sabiá Center and Cetra proved very involved in promoting the workshops and disseminating their results (<http://www.cetra.org.br/noticia/104-oficina-de-acesso-a-informacao-com-o-artigo-19>), (<http://www.centrosabia.org.br/index.php/imprensa/noticias1/171-juventude-camponesa-reunida-no-recife>) and (<http://www.centrosabia.org.br/index.php/imprensa/noticias1/191-oficina-de-acesso-a-informacao-envolve-jovens-do-agreste-pernambucano>). The Cordel video was also published by the Federal Government's General Comptroller Office in its portal on the social network Facebook (link: <https://www.facebook.com/cguonline/posts/644958255548244>.)

We have also gotten some repercussion in the national press, as the following examples: <http://www.pagina22.com.br/index.php/2014/03/sede-de-cidadania/> and <http://avozdocidadao.com.br/detailAgendaCidadania.asp?ID=4810>). Our project has also appeared in the newsletter Freedom of Information (link: <http://www.freedominfo.org/2014/02/ati-used-brazil-get-access-water/>). In addition, to promote access to information among the target audience of the project, ie, rural communities in the Brazilian semi-arid region, the partnership with the ASA is extremely important. The ASA network released some news about the project (link: <http://www.asaceara.blogspot.com.br/2014/03/radio-debate-com-participacao-do-forum.html>) and recently produced a radio program on the subject, highlighting the Cordel (link: <http://mais.uol.com.br/view/hnup96b83bb7/riquezas-da-caatinga—chovendo-informacoes-04024D183764D4815326?types=A&>). The radio program will be distributed to 217 community radios of the ASA network in the region in the coming days.

## **BENEFICIARY FEEDBACK**

Both CETRA and Centro Sabiá replied the evaluation questionnaires with very positive feedback. For Centro Sabiá, the project contributed to learn about information tools and know to use them. They also pointed out that the intention to multiply RTI knowledge in their articulation with other NGOs and in the communities that they deal with. When asked about possible suggestions or changes, Centro Sabiá said that we need to construct a long-standing and constant dialogue with communities and partners to improve our relationships and project's results. In their questionnaire, CETRA qualified as high their acquired knowledge about the right to information and their commitment and political involvement to improve the knowledge and use of the right in their area of work. As a suggestion, CETRA asserted that using local examples could improve the methodology and hold participants' interest.

For most of workshops, we used feedback forms to evaluate participants' opinions. In some of them, we also collected feedback videos. It is important to mention that we distributed one feedback form for more than one participant, so they fulfilled it in groups of 2 or more participants. We decided to do this because some participants have difficulties to read or write.

Regarding the activities carried out with communities that had also participated in first year project, the main feedback that we could have was their interest to participate this year again. Most of them participated and also invited other farmers. Other important fact was that they sent all the information requests made in the workshops. However, they demonstrated disappointment for not receiving the answers. Analyzing 8 feedback forms, 6 of them considered that the workshop was excellent and useful. The comments also demonstrated that they recognized the importance to learn more about their human rights and how to fight for them. As took place with CETRA's questionnaire, the feedback forms suggested more local and specific examples.

Combining the feedback forms from Caruaru and Fortaleza, 12 of them considered that the workshop was good and 10 of them considered excellent (in total we collect 23 feedback forms). Besides that, the most useful parts pointed out were the practical exercise to explain how to write an information request and the RTI Law explanation. In the general comments, many of them asked for more workshops in different cities and with public servants,; they also asked for right to education material and the introduction of more practical sections in the workshops. As suggestions, they registered the possibility of creating on-line groups to continue the capacity building and that the participants could make their own versions of the material.

## **EVALUATION**

Considering the schedule and the activities planned in the project's idealization, we have not introduced many changes. All planned activities have been carried out, except the proposal to visit a community of young multipliers. During the workshops and meetings with partners, it had been noted that participant organizations and youth multipliers would not be able to make a commitment to train a community on access to information (this would be too much to ask). This commitment could move away people from the workshops, so we understand that this "knowledge multiplication" should be done voluntary. As mentioned previously, workshop participants indicated on feedback that they see spreading the knowledge learned as a responsibility and they intend to do so.

In this sense, we highlight the Paulene Rocha's case, who has attended the training workshop in Fortaleza and then asked for campaign material for an event led by the association in Morrinho - Ceará. The event will be promoted in June by the Alliance for Community Entities of Morrinho and will aim the training of community leaders in areas related to social participation and access to information in public policies. For this occasion, we have sent 50 booklets. We also understand that divulgation and collaboration with ASA is also a way of multiplying the knowledge, and it could supply the initial change.

The second year of the project led us to important considerations regarding both the methodology and the work with the communities. The biggest concern is the project's sustainability, ie, how to ensure the use of Rtl law when requests are not answered and considering the difficulty of supporting these communities, since we can not be present all the time. Another challenge faced was how to encourage the participation of these communities, which is often related and closely linked to the performance of ASA network and it has a

specific form of act already established. Below we list some of the reflections that we have had throughout the project:

#### Methodology:

- Cases that prove the potential of access to information as an instrument to access other rights. Even if we mention the possibilities of use and examples in different areas, the use of positive cases could enhance the people's understanding and encourage in the case of denied requests.
- Strengthen the subjects of complaint and resources in the training on Rtl. Devote part of the time to go beyond information requests and include what to do in case of no response with examples, especially complaints of no response to information request or unwilling to protocol the request. Expose the complaints we have done, and if we do not use this resource very often, start to.
- Devote some time to create a plan of teamwork when working with communities: writing, who will send the request, what I need to know, who could support us, what information I need from NGO, what to do in case of having lost the request.

#### Communities:

- Difficulty in breaking the interests and existing structures in small communities. Even if we write information requests, participants have pointed out the difficulties in following the theme or in "confronting" the existing power structures, with fear of losing some benefits or put themselves in a risky situation. For example, they have had a meeting with the mayor, he cited that the request was received, but no one commented the lack of response.
- Capability: they receive the answer that the "federal government have not sent the money" or "MEC does not authorize more rural schools," but they do not check with the competent authority if the information true. Possibility of directly writing to the federal level should be explored as a way to veer from the local power relations.
- Establish what really is our target audience. Difficulty of communities and participants in working with complex subjects such as Rtl law without the support of local organizations, whether for simple guidelines - such as which agency is responsible for such information - or issues such as the organization of people from the community.
- Threat Log in delivery of information requests and compulsory protocol.
- If you really work with communities, think about broader issues such as lack of internet, illiteracy, lack of community organization, how to follow up the results. The impact may be reduced if we are only present one day and not have a follow-on work by some local organization.
- Capability: people do remember the topics and how to make an information request - beyond the awareness of the right to information - but there is still the difficulty to use to solve their daily and community problems. They can identify the problem easily, but not the information that could be helpful.

Centro Sabiá has been our partner in this project since the beginning, but their team has changed since then. This new team has not been necessarily involved nor has enough

knowledge about Rtl Law and its connection with right to water. At the same time, they were responsible for keep in touch with communities and help with their doubts. In this situation, we have learned that is important to continually strengthen partner's capacity. However, even with these difficulties, Centro Sabiá was fundamental to establish the contact with ASA and CETRA, and we know that we could not have reached the communities without this partnership.

When we came back to visit the communities who had participated in first year activities, we noted that they really learned about Right to information and how to use it to have access to water, but they still have difficulties fighting for their rights without external help, as a local NGO for instance. The situation brought the reflection that we should focus our capacity building activities for local NGOs first, and then they will share the knowledge for the communities.

As referred to delays and changes, we did not have significant problems in this project. On the other hand, partner's answers usually took more time than the expected. Also, we have improved our knowledge in water issues, mainly due to the meetings with UN Special Rapporteur on Water and Sanitation and the consultant's research about transparency in water programmes.

## **CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK**

As mention before, the project have accomplished almost all activities planned and achieved both of two objectives: follow-up the first year project impact and maximize the Rtl Law knowledge in Brazilian semi-arid zone. We believe that the issue still relevant and the results show and justify the potential to continue the project. However, when we work to change a political culture, we have to understand that the positive results are not quickly noticed. We are planting a new issue which has the possibility to really change people lives, but we have to carry on and guarantee that they keep trying to use right to information even though answers did not come.

If the project continues, we believe that it could have three different perspectives:

1- Fostering advocacy activities using the Free Flow Principles and conciliate it with Consultant research about transparency in water public policies management. The first step could be a strategic meeting to debate the research with public authorities.

2- Development of case study in partnership with Sabiá Center, especially regarding one of information requests that were not replied.

3- Carry out one campaign with CETRA about water and elections, considering that many farmers could exchanged their votes for access to water. In this campaign, we could continue use the project material and organize workshops.

## **APPENDIX**

9. Appendix – participant lists, information request, photos, other relevant materials