



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

## Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition • FSN Forum

### TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSIONS

15.05.2023 – 23.06.2023

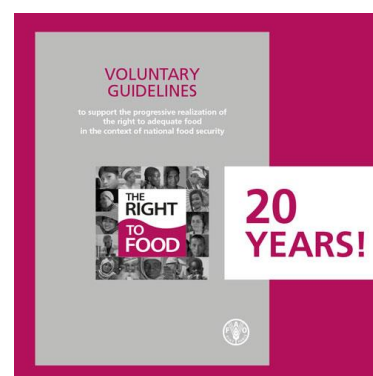
➤ <https://www.fao.org/fsnforum/call-submissions/20th-anniversary-right-food-guidelines>

## 20th anniversary of the Right to Food Guidelines – Call for inputs on the realization of the Human Right to Adequate Food

### Template for submissions

Please use this **submission template** to share your experience on the realization of the human right to adequate food, including in the use and application of the [Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security \(RTFG\)](#).

**The Call for Submissions is open until 23 June 2023.**



For the necessary background and guidance, please refer to the topic note and other relevant documents available [here](#). Please keep the length of submissions limited to 1,000 words.

You can upload the completed form here or, alternatively, send it to [fsn-moderator@fao.org](mailto:fsn-moderator@fao.org).

Submissions can be made in any of the UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish). You can add links or attachments with case studies or additional information to your contribution.

### Template for submissions

<b>Title of your submission</b>	<b>Right to Food Campaign in Jharkhand, India</b>
<b>Geographical coverage</b>	<i>Jharkhand in India</i>
<b>Country(ies)/ Region(s) covered by your submission</b>	India
<b>Contact person</b>	Name: Balram Organization: Right to Food Campaign Email address: rtfcjharkhand@gmail.com
<b>Affiliation</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> UN organization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Civil Society / NGO <input type="checkbox"/> Private Sector <input type="checkbox"/> Academia <input type="checkbox"/> Donor <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)
<b>Awareness of the Right to Food Guidelines and CFS policy agreements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b><i>How did you become aware of the Right to Food Guidelines (e.g., CFS meeting or event, other UN Organizations, internet, colleagues, government, civil society organization)?</i></b></li> <li>- Through our participation in the CFS.</li> <li>- <b><i>Have you taken any actions to make the Right to Food Guidelines known to your colleagues, partners or other stakeholders?</i></b></li> <li>- <input type="checkbox"/> No</li> <li>- <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</li> <li>- <i>If yes, please explain:</i></li> </ul> <p><b><i>What would you recommend to Member States, UN Agencies and /or other stakeholders to make the Right to Food Guidelines more widely known? Please explain:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make right to food a priority in the political agenda at the state and national level.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Orientation of service providers on RTF guidelines during various trainings and capacity building programmes by the state and civil society organisations, where right to food campaign members invited as resource persons.</li> <li>- Inclusion in training curriculum of services providers. Preparation of policy based on the guidelines and appropriate budget allocations for food security.</li> <li>- Mass awareness about RTF guidelines.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Use of the Right to Food Guidelines</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b><i>Have you/ your government/ or any multistakeholder group you are representing in this form used the Right to Food Guidelines?</i></b></li> <li>- Yes</li> <li>- <b><i>At what level were the Guidelines used? - Sub-national, national, regional or/and global?</i></b></li> <li>- We are using and supporting the use of the Guidelines at subnational and national level.</li> <li>- <b><i>For what purpose were the Guidelines used?</i></b></li> <li>- The constitution of the country provides for democracy as stated in the preamble of the constitution of the country. India is a signatory to International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). There are many international treaties involving right to food including Right to Food Guidelines to which India is a signatory.</li> <li>- India being a country with a diverse population and regional variations, every caste category as classified by the government has been covered under these schemes: General, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes, Minorities.</li> <li>- The issue of food security has been addressed right from the time of independence. To begin with the constitution of the country has made provision for RTF under the Fundamental Rights (indirectly) and Directive Principles of State Policy {Articles 37, 39(a)} and Article 47: “Duty of the State to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living and to improve public health.” The Constitution of India makes an indirect reference to right to food thereby making it obligatory for the Government at the national and sub – national levels to fulfill the right to food of the people.</li> <li>- Under the constitutional framework democratic institutions and bodies comprising the parliament and state assemblies, policy and decision makers, implementers and the judiciary. These have been established from the national level down to the village level.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Govt has set up ministries and their corresponding departments from the national to state level such as Rural Development, Women &amp; Child Development, Food, Public Distribution &amp; Consumer Affairs, Social Justice and Empowerment, among others.</li> <li>- Food grains are purchased by the government and supplied to sub national governments.</li> <li>- As a welfare state, successive governments have been implementing the following food security programmes across the country: (i) Public Distribution System, (ii) Mid – Day Meal (school food program for children studying in classes 1 – 8 in govt and govt - aided schools), (iii) Integrated Child Development schemes (ICDS) for pregnant &amp; lactating women, children (0 – 6 years) and Maternity Benefit (a conditional benefit scheme for pregnant mothers who get rupees five thousand in three installments for their first child). These schemes are covered under the National Food Security Act, (NFSA) 2013 and are justiciable.</li> <li>- Under National Food Security Act 2013, food commission has been set up at sub-national level including Jharkhand to deal with grievances of the beneficiaries of the aforementioned schemes.</li> <li>- There is a District Grievance Redressal Officer at district level also.</li> <li>- Functional Vigilance Committees exist at the village level under ration schemes.</li> <li>- The Niti Ayog (earlier planning commission) is a policy making body of the national government.</li> <li>- In addition to food security schemes, in agriculture sector there is provision for crop insurance, drought management, research and development.</li> <li>- There are parliamentary committees on agriculture, food, consumer affairs and public distribution, social justice and empowerment, water resources and Public Accounts Committee among others.</li> <li>- The Right To Information Act (RTI) provides for the people to obtain information about govt schemes, expenditure, etc.</li> <li>- RTF guidelines are used for policy advocacy through multistakeholder dialogues by us.</li> <li>- Credit and drought relief schemes for farmers.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Have your say where it matters!</b></p>	<p><i>The FAO Right to Food Team and the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) invite stakeholders to:</i></p>
<p><b>(i) Experiences and good practices</b></p>	<p><i>(i) Share your experiences and good practices on the realization of the right to food for everyone, always:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A well-established extensive decentralised network of CSOs and individuals exists in the country, state and down to the community level</li> </ul>

	<p>for over 20 years. Over these years they have worked on several burning issues as per the need of the hour especially food security.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The CSOs advocacy strategy is evidence based along with suggestions and recommendations to govt. They have contributed significantly and consistently to the National Campaign on Food and Nutrition Security.</li> <li>- Right to Food Campaign has steering committees at State and National level with representation from different levels. It meets quarterly and as per need. It has the desired understanding of food security issues. For instance, they have taken up the issues, which are relevant for the community such as, in 2002, Mid - Day Meal in schools, in 2004 Employment Guarantee Convention. CSOs have made critical engagement with administration and policy makers.</li> <li>- There has been active Civil Society participation in Social Audit of food security and livelihood schemes.</li> <li>- Advocacy campaigns have been undertaken through social action such as MDM Campaign, Egg Campaign, <i>Dal-Bhat Yojna (meal at highly subsidized rate for the poor)</i>, Dakiya Scheme(a free ration scheme for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups delivered at their doorstep by govt in Jharkhand), Universal Pension Schemes (for aged, widows, physically handicapped), Reserve Grain, preparation of starvation death protocol by state govt.</li> <li>- Sustained campaign has been carried out across the state/country for food security. Their sustained efforts resulted in the passing of National Food Security Act 2013. In addition to the right holders RTF engaged with multiple stakeholders such as those from the legal fraternity, academicians, nutritionists, experts, volunteers and individuals.</li> <li>- Through RTI they obtain information on FNS schemes as well as Social Security Schemes. On the basis of the information on FNS schemes of the govt., RTF campaign has been able to file petitions in Supreme Court which led to the enactment of the NFSA. They are continuing their work and obtaining information from the government for effective implementation of the NFSA.</li> <li>- CSOs have been actively involved in national campaign on right to food. CSOs have played a pivotal role in advocacy for key welfare, development and food security policies formulated by governments.</li> <li>- Advocacy has been undertaken with the governments to deal with issues related to food security such as inclusion of eligible beneficiaries of public distribution system (ration schemes) who have been left out. Consequently, an additional 5 million eligible beneficiaries have been provided ration cards by Jharkhand govt.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- They have provided support to government to identify the needy/left out sections of the community for emergency food relief during Covid-19 pandemic.</li> <li>- CSOs have supported community in filing of applications for inclusion in food security schemes under National Food Security Act (NFSA), social security and livelihood schemes, drafting &amp; filing of complaints and grievances with govt. The National Food Security Act 2013 has made provision for Grievance Redressal in the Act.</li> <li>- Filed interlocutory applications in Supreme Court on hunger and starvation deaths, ICDS, safe drinking water, BPL, PDS, NOAPS, etc. Has been providing legal aid where there have been RTF violations.</li> <li>- There are various levels of people responsible in government of policy decision and has strong linkages with respect to agriculture, health and education. These departments are key responsible to put decision about the same. Further there are several civil society organizations and pressure groups for RTF.</li> <li>- The policy decisions are being disseminated through various channels of mass media and local level meetings at various offices and further through gram panchayat level.</li> <li>- Have published papers, books, manuals and guide books for influencing policies and programmes as per existing provisions under flagship programmes related to Right to Food.</li> <li>- Govt of India has set up the Millet Mission and at the behest of India UN has declared 2023 as International Year of Millets.</li> <li>- Under MNREGA scheme kitchen gardens in households and village level child care centers under Integrated Child Development Scheme – ICDS) and mango orchard cultivation is being undertaken.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>(ii) Gaps, constraints and challenges</b></p>	<p><i>(ii) Identify any gaps, constraints and challenges encountered in realizing the right to food or in implementing the Right to Food Guidelines:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Challenges faced by the community in accessing govt schemes.</li> <li>2. Technological challenges faced by community in using digital platforms introduced by the govt to access schemes and services. (for instance beneficiaries are required to give their thumb impression to get monthly food ration). Also erratic and poor internet connectivity.</li> <li>3. Non distribution of provisioned quantity of ration, inadequate coverage and inappropriate food supply.</li> <li>4. Geographical challenges - Access to hard to reach areas to provide services to beneficiaries.</li> <li>5. Corruption in the system.</li> <li>6. Ineffective implementation and monitoring of the food security schemes.</li> <li>7. Gaps in human resources as recruitment has not been done for a long time thereby adversely affecting service delivery.</li> <li>8. Spending on food security schemes as per budget allocations by govt.</li> <li>9. Ineffective Grievance Redressal Systems and processes under National Food Security Act 2013.</li> <li>10. Shrinking space for advocacy on right to food.</li> <li>11. Introduction of fortified food in schemes under National Food Security Act. Use of packaged food items (in ICDS child care centers) and cooked food from centralized kitchen in school meal program (Mid- Day Meal scheme).</li> </ol> <p>The VG on RtF is mostly known and promoted by the civil society organisations. There is a need to make the guideline more popular and contextualize it.</p>
<p><b>(iii) Lessons learned and suggested recommendations</b></p>	<p><i>(iii) Share any lessons learned and suggest recommendations for improvement in realizing the right to adequate food:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Evidence based advocacy and campaigns on right to food have been successful in influencing policies on right to food.</li> <li>2. CSOs have been successful in mobilizing community and raising awareness. The community has been using the grievance redressal mechanisms and participating in public hearings.</li> <li>3. Govt officials have also been attending public hearings on right to food.</li> <li>4. Govt have been receptive to evidence based advocacy on right to food. For instance in context of Jharkhand state, (i) Green Ration cards have been issued to left out beneficiaries of public distribution system, (ii) budget provision to provide 6 eggs a week for children in school meal program and ICDS child care centers has been made by sub – national govt, universalization of social security (pension for aged above 60 years, widow, disabled persons,</li> </ol>

	<p>introduction of pulses in ration, steps taken by govt to fill up HR gaps among others.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Continued dialogue between state food commission and CSOs on right to food and grievance redressal. Food Commission has been conducting public hearings in districts in which community has been participating actively.</li> <li>6. Need for efficiency and transparency in the service delivery in RtF schemes.</li> <li>7. Strengthen monitoring of food security schemes by community being implemented in the state and national government.</li> <li>8. Need for effective social audit for monitoring of public service programs and schemes. There should be better understanding of Right to Food guidelines among CSOs and government..</li> </ol>
<b>(iv) Concrete plans</b>	<p><i>(iv) Next steps: are there any concrete plans to (further) use and apply the Right to Food Guidelines?</i></p> <p>We plan to use the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the VG on RtF, as an opportunity to strengthen awareness and use in our advocacy processes.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Our advocacy will be framed as per Right to Food Guidelines such as dietary diversification, expand coverage, etc).</li> <li>2. Awareness on Right to Food Guidelines of various stakeholders (community, govt, CSOs, others).</li> <li>3. State level consultation on Right to Food Guidelines.</li> <li>4. Inclusion in training curriculum of govt officials.</li> <li>5. Engagement (ToR, etc) and dialogue with govt on right to food guidelines by CSOs.</li> </ol>
<b>Link(s) to specific references</b>	<p><i>Please include attachment(s) or add here link(s) to documents with specific references (e.g., laws, decrees, regulations, programs, etc.) on how the Right to Food Guidelines have been used or applied by you/your organization.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.jharkhandsfc.in">www.jharkhandsfc.in</a> (Jharkhand State Food Commission website)</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.aahar.jharkhand.gov.in">www.aahar.jharkhand.gov.in</a> (portal of dept of food, public distribution &amp; consumer affairs, govt of Jharkhand)</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.nfsa.gov.in">www.nfsa.gov.in</a> (national food security portal)</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.mnregaweb4.nic.in">www.mnregaweb4.nic.in</a> (social Audit Unit)</li> </ul>
<b>Link(s) to additional information</b>	<p>Report on egg campaign. Civil society/Right to Food Campaign initiated public campaign to build pressure on the government to include eggs as a source of nutrition and micro-nutrient for children under 6 years of age at the village level child care centres known as Anganwaris.</p>