



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition • FSN Forum

TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSIONS

Call for submissions No. 202 • 09.10.2024 – 27.11.2024

➤ <https://www.fao.org/fsnforum/call-submissions/community-engagement-rural-transformation-and-gender-equality>

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Community engagement for inclusive rural transformation and gender equality

The objective of this call for submissions is to collect good practices, experiences, and lessons learnt on the use of community engagement for inclusive rural transformation and gender equality. The initiative, organized by the [Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division \(ESP\)](#), seeks to gather insights from a diverse range of contributors, both within FAO and from external stakeholders. Its goal is to share knowledge, foster learning, and guide the scaling up of community engagement and community-led collective action to leave no one behind. The call builds on FAO's past efforts in this area, such as the [Community Engagement Days](#) series of webinars.¹



The call for submissions is open until 27 November 2024.

How to take part in this call for submissions:

To take part in this Call for submissions, please [register](#) to the FSN Forum, if you are not yet a member, or “sign in” to your account. Please review the **topic note** to understand the criteria we are considering for this call. If you wish to learn more about community engagement, you may refer to the [background document](#). Once you have completed this submission template, upload it in the box “Post your contribution” on the [call webpage](#), or, alternatively, send it to fsn-moderator@fao.org.

Please keep the length of submissions limited to **1,500 words** and feel also free to attach relevant supporting materials.

¹ The call for submissions is directly aligned with the thematic components of collective action within FAO's Programme Priority Areas (PPAs), specifically Better Life 1 (Gender Equality and Rural Women's Empowerment), Better Life 2 (Inclusive Rural Transformation) and Better Life 3 (Agriculture and Food Emergencies).

Template for submissions

Contact person	Name: Md. Shafiqul Islam Organization/Unit: Jano Unnayan Foundation (JUF). Country: Bangladesh Email address: jufda2022@gmail.com
Name/title of the good practice	Engagement of Community people for inclusive rural transformation and gender equality by village group formation accumulation savings by the group member.
Where is the good practice taking place? (Multiple selection allowed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Europe and Central Asia <input type="checkbox"/> Latin America and the Caribbean <input type="checkbox"/> North Africa and Near East <input type="checkbox"/> Sub-Saharan Africa ✓ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asia and the Pacific <input type="checkbox"/> North America ✓ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Global
Affiliation	<input type="checkbox"/> Farmer and producer organizations <input type="checkbox"/> Trade Union <input type="checkbox"/> Informal community-based, farmer-based or self-help group <input type="checkbox"/> Research and academia ✓ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government ✓ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local/traditional authorities <input type="checkbox"/> Private Sector ✓ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Civil Society Organization <input type="checkbox"/> Intergovernmental Organization (e.g. UN system, World Bank) ✓ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource Partner/Donor <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)
In which sector(s) and context (s) have you used this community engagement good practice? (Multiple selections allowed)	✓ <input type="checkbox"/> Education ✓ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health and Sanitation ✓ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food production in agrifood systems (please also tick the sub-categories)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crop cultivation ✓ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fisheries and aquaculture production <input type="checkbox"/> Livestock <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry <input type="checkbox"/> Agroforestry ✓ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Horticulture <input type="checkbox"/> Apiculture (beekeeping) ✓ <input type="checkbox"/> Agroecology and sustainable farming practices <input type="checkbox"/> Soil and water management <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ ✓ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Post-production in agrifood systems (please also tick the sub-categories) <input type="checkbox"/> Processing and value addition ✓ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marketing and retailing <input type="checkbox"/> Transporting <input type="checkbox"/> Food loss and waste <input type="checkbox"/> Packaging <input type="checkbox"/> Storage ✓ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Distribution <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ ✓ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender Equality <input type="checkbox"/> Climate Action <input type="checkbox"/> Citizenship and Governance <input type="checkbox"/> Social Protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Humanitarian and protracted crisis <input type="checkbox"/> Conflict resolution, peace and resilience <input type="checkbox"/> Digital innovation <input type="checkbox"/> Other sector (please specify) _____
Who are the financial partners supporting this good practice, if applicable?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Revenue of Microfinance Program ii) Ministry of Science and Technology iii) Human Relief Foundation iv) Local Community Contribution v) Donation of EC and GB Member

1. In a few sentences, **summarize** your community engagement good practice.

- The organization has been practicing engagement of Community people for inclusive rural transformation and gender equality by village group formation accumulation savings by the group member, providing training for the village group member (Rural Community People) on women leadership development and village group management and raising voice for social right. Supporting soft loan as business start-up money, Supporting students scholarship to the students of poor family as social commitment from revenue of microfinance Program, Linkage and liaison with different networking NGO's for sharing knowledge and experiences, Collection of fund for empowering local community people. In addition, we have running a technical and vocational training/education centre for training technical knowledge to the school drop-out unemployed youth of poor families in the remote villages.

2. What **problem(s)** or **challenge(s)** does your good practice aim to address through community engagement?

➤ **The problem(s) or challenge(s) we are facing there are given below:**

- i) Due to fund constraint don't able to provide adequate trains to the community people considering demand.
- ii) We have a piece of land but not adequate amount of fund for construct of training campus.
- iii) We don't have enough fund for Vocational skills trains fund for unemployed youth
- iv) We don't have enough fund for business start-up fund for needy people.

However, organizations are still searching for the best and most effective ways to engage citizens in the shaping of financial service. This review highlights the barriers and enablers for engaging communities in the planning, designing, governing, and/or delivering of Microfinance services on the macro level. It provides policy makers and professionals with evidence-based guiding principles to implement their own effective community engagement strategies.

3. Describe your **good practice** in more detail. Include the main **guiding principles**, the **desired changes or outcomes** you aim to achieve (*Theory of Change*), and the **key phases of implementation**.

- Jano Unnayan Foundation practices integrated and participatory way in planning and implementation of its development programmes. Since inception, we believe in the progress and betterment of all human being so it works for community development as a whole. It applies both community and target group approaches in its development efforts. But there is a certain class of people in our society that needs special attention. This attention helps them integrate with the advanced one. These people are the marginal farmers, day labors, street children, widows, people with disability, elderly people, orphan, widows and the other oppressed people of rural origin.

4. Who are the **key actors and stakeholders** involved in the design and implementation of the good practice, and what are their respective roles? *Consider local partners, government, local authorities, community radios, civil society, research, the private sector, etc.*

- The key actors and stakeholders in the design and implementation of good practice are community people include- The marginal farmers, day laborers, street children, widows, people with disability, elderly people, orphan, widows and the other oppressed people of rural origin. In addition, the local community leaders, Local government representative, Local Govt. administration, Social Media Print media Networking NGO.

5. How does your intervention ensure **inclusivity and equal and meaningful participation** within the **community**?

Describe how your intervention includes and engages different groups within the community. Consider aspects like gender, age, ethnicity, disability status, livelihoods, and other specific conditions (e.g., people living in prolonged crisis, migrants, refugees). Explain how your intervention engages diverse segments of the rural community. Highlight the specific actions or strategies you use to reach these groups. If applicable, mention if your intervention uses specific approaches such as gender-responsive, gender-transformative, intersectionality, or other methods to ensure inclusivity and gender equality.

- As voluntary organization, we all have tools in our toolbox to use during community engagement. In our organization constitutions it is clearly mentioned that all of our activities are free of cost. Using facilitative techniques is one of the most meaningful tools local government can use to foster inclusion and create a process for community engagement that is welcoming and results in stronger support. Facilitation is a tool that inherently creates inclusivity—as a facilitator you are a guide, a motivator, a bridge builder, a cheerleader, and an active listener. Facilitation is a very different approach from the way most community engagement is designed. Instead of presenting, a facilitator will ask questions. Instead of telling the community what might happen, a facilitator will create opportunities for the community to tell us. Instead of presenting a conclusion, a facilitator guides the participants to reach a consensus-based decision.

6. By using community engagement, what **results and impacts** have your good practice achieved?

Please provide specific examples and evidence demonstrating the effectiveness of your intervention, focusing on both qualitative and quantitative outcomes related to livelihoods and well-being improvements.

- Active community engagement enhances decision-making and produces meaningful solutions that align with community needs by combining a variety of viewpoints. The importance of community lies in its ability to strengthen ties and promote societal cohesion by encouraging accountability and trust between citizens and institutions. As contributions are put into practice and institutions gain credibility, a closer relationship between citizens and local governments is fostered. Neighborhoods come together via active involvement, building

resilience and improving their capacity to overcome obstacles.

results and impacts:

- ❖ Women and girls access has been increase in decision-making processes both family and community.
- ❖ Increases citizens' and organizations' sense of accountability and trust
- ❖ Improves interpersonal ties and community cohesion
- ❖ Increases the capacity for problem-solving and community resilience
- ❖ Increases trust in establishments.
- ❖ Enhances collective capacities for upcoming obstacles

7. Among these results, has the good practice led to improvements in terms of **gender equality, women's empowerment, and/or social inclusion?**

*Describe the **behavioral changes** in terms of gender that the good practice promotes, emphasizing agency, leadership, and participation in local governance. Include efforts to challenge discriminatory norms and unequal power dynamics. Highlight also how the intervention has supported the well-being (including psychological resilience) of marginalized groups and enhanced their inclusion and participation in decision-making processes.*

- Yes , the good practice led to improvements in terms of gender equality, women's empowerment, and/or social inclusion, Our target given below:
 - Reduces all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
 - Gradually reduces all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.
 - Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.
 - Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.
 - Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life.
 - Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.
 - Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

8. What **key challenges did you encounter while implementing **the community engagement activities**, and **how did you address them**?**

Include any resistance from communities, pushback, or issues related to unequal power dynamics,

if applicable.

- *When it comes to community engagement, the public sector often faces a shortage of resources. Limited budgets and staffing constraints make it difficult to fully involve and empower communities. This means fewer opportunities for interaction, less support for community-driven projects, and, overall, a hindered ability to engage meaningfully. Achieving fairness within the public sector is a major challenge for community engagement. Some groups have less access to services, which can lead to a lack of diversity in engagement efforts. It's important to address these disparities, promote equal representation, and empower underrepresented communities to ensure everyone has the chance to participate and shape outcomes.*

9. What are the key **lesson learned** from your community engagement good practice?

- **We learned many things these are given bellow:**
 - 1) Increased social cohesion
 - 2) Enhanced quality of life
 - 3) More equitable and fair policies and programs
 - 4) A more inclusive environment where community members feel valued and heard
 - 5) Enhancing the quality and sustainability of outcomes
 - 6) Developing a communication outline or plan
 - 7) Defining target audiences and desired levels of engagement
 - 8) Strengthening social cohesion.
 - 9) Capacity Development.

10. Has this practice been **replicated** in the same context or in different contexts?

What are the required conditions to replicate and adapt the practice in another context/geographical area?

- Our approach to community outreach was multilayered. We began by identifying key partners who shared the same process goals (inclusion, diversity, transparency), serve the same geographic area, and were also interested in learning of the community's priorities in order to inform their own programmatic or philanthropic agendas. Those key collaborators became the Coordinating Team. Building solid partnerships with key organizations also helps build a broad base of community support and brings a greater set of talents and diversity of perspectives into the process. Further, establishing partnerships early helps to avoid the problem of duplication of effort, which can be burdensome for practitioners and wearisome for community members, not to mention confusing to all!

11. How sustainable are the results achieved by this good practice?

Describe the key elements that need to be in place to make the initiative sustainable, including enabling environment (legal and policy frameworks and institutions), local ownership, accountability, etc.

- By dedicating ourselves to a human-centric, rights-based approach across all the will not only end poverty but also bring dramatic improvements in quality of life, the environment and governance for everyone. They learned how to lead life.

12. Based on the conversations FAO held during the Community Engagement days, a definition of community engagement for empowerment was proposed:

“Community engagement for empowerment and community-led collective action can be defined as an inclusive and participatory process that enables community members to become active agents of change in decisions affecting their lives, health, and environment. This process develops their capacity to achieve sustainable outcomes for improved rural livelihoods. Embracing a rights-based approach, it prioritizes the agency and participation of all community members, regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, age, ethnicity, caste, socioeconomic status, political affiliation, migration status, or ability/disability. Indeed, inclusive approaches recognize the complexities of overlapping marginalization and discrimination that can exclude different community members from decision-making processes and implement strategies to foster their participation, agency and empowerment.”

We invite you to contribute to this definition. What would you add or change? Please share your thoughts, suggestions, and any additional elements you believe are crucial for a comprehensive understanding of community engagement approaches aimed at community-led collective action for inclusive rural transformation, people’s empowerment and gender equality.

- We deliberately build partnerships with leaders who work with different segments of our population – segments that we otherwise would not be able to reach. We recognize that some leaders are fairly obvious as they are vocal advocates for the communities they support, but there are also “silent leaders” – folks who are not as publically vocal but who are highly respected as leaders within their communities. In addition to working with a variety of community leaders, we also rely heavily on “trusted messengers” for outreach and to encourage people to attend community workshops. “Trusted messengers” are people who have established relationships of trust with various community populations and who can act as a liaison to engage residents in the work that we do. The importance of building layers of social networks – community leaders, silent leaders, and trusted messengers – cannot be overstated in terms of our ability to successfully engage a diverse population in our work! It allows us to build broader and more inclusive coalitions, which is the foundation of a strong and healthy community

<p>13. Based on your experience, what gaps or areas for improvement still need to be addressed in the field of community engagement?</p> <p>➤ One area that I believe needs improvement is my time management skills. Sometimes I find myself getting side tracked or spending too much time on one task, which can lead to other projects falling behind schedule. To address this, I've been working on setting more specific goals and deadlines for myself and using tools like calendars and to-do lists to stay organized and on track. I think the area where I could improve is my ability to work under pressure. While I'm generally able to meet deadlines and handle multiple tasks at once, I sometimes struggle to stay calm and focused when things get particularly stressful. To address this, I've been practicing mindfulness techniques and seeking out opportunities to work on high-pressure projects to build my resilience. I think one area where I could improve is my leadership skills. While I'm comfortable taking charge and making decisions, I sometimes struggle to motivate and inspire others to follow my lead. To address this, I've been reading leadership books and seeking out mentorship opportunities to learn from experienced leaders and develop my own style.</p>	
<p>14. What do you think is FAO's role in the field of community engagement? How can FAO support and enhance interventions like yours, if applicable? <i>Consider aspects such as policy advocacy, capacity development, funding, technical assistance, knowledge production and sharing, and fostering partnerships.</i></p> <p>FAO's role in the field of community engagement given below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capacity building. 2. Participatory Approaches 3. Empowerment Initiative 4. Collective vision and goals. 5. Knowledge Sharing 6. Collaboration and Partnerships 7. Monitoring and Evaluation 8. Crisis Response <p>Through these efforts, FAO aims to enhance community engagement, empower local populations, and promote sustainable agricultural practices, ultimately contributing to food security and rural development.</p>	
<p>Link(s) to specific references about your good practice (e.g. reports, communication products, videos, articles)</p>	<p><i>Please include attachment(s) or add here link(s) to documents/videos/podcasts/other with specific references.</i></p> <p>info@jufbd.org</p>

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