



**FIAN**  
INTERNATIONAL

# MONITORING TOOLKIT

THE RIGHT  
TO FOOD AND  
NUTRITION  
DURING COVID-19

## WHAT IS THIS TOOLKIT ABOUT?

This is a hands-on toolkit on how and what to monitor in the context of the right to food and nutrition (RTFN) and COVID-19. The list of questions below can serve as a guide to monitor whether and how the RTFN of people and communities is impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

These questions are meant to guide you – it is ok if you cannot reply to them all, but only to those that apply to your context.

FIAN International is also very interested in learning about positive experiences and innovative proposals that can be shared with other communities and countries. We encourage you to share your findings and your initiatives with us at [monitoringcovid19@fian.org](mailto:monitoringcovid19@fian.org).

## NATIONAL CONTEXT

### Food Systems and Healthy Nutrition

- Are people denied access to adequate and nutritious food due to measures and policies of the government? Related questions: How? Is it due to a lack of availability to adequate food, lack of physical (you cannot go out) or economic access (you do not have the money)?
- Are any positive measures taken to ensure uninterrupted supply of food? (For example, in India the Essential Commodities Act has been invoked as a positive measure).
- With regards to the accessibility of food, what measures are states taking to avoid food speculation and the increase of food's prices?
- Are food-related social protection programs and schemes (e.g. school feeding programs and soup kitchens) disrupted or have stopped completely? Are other measures taken to ensure the availability of adequate food following hygienic rules?
- Are soup kitchens, food assistance programs or food banks closed? If that is the case, how is this the gap covered, if at all? Have any alternatives been developed?
- Have you observed a surge in direct selling schemes and local and solidarity-based partnerships between producers and consumers (such as Community Supported Agriculture or food coops for example)?
- Have you observed if these short supply chains initiatives have been supporting vulnerable (peri)urban poor and those most affected by covid-19?
- Are health facilities and public health services available to all?
- Are there any specific problems to ensure access to water or targeted measures implemented by the authorities to ensure such access? Are there conditionalities imposed for accessing benefits (e.g. insistence of ID cards and proofs/documents)? Do these create discrimination?

## **Access to Natural Resources and Food Sovereignty**

- Have policies on lockdowns, quarantines and bans on movement led to the loss of harvests of small-holders? Related questions: Are there proposals to face this problem? How coherent are these proposals in your own experience?
- Have agricultural workers lost jobs and their wages? What is the situation of migrant workers?
- Have farmers' markets been forced to close as a result of confinement policies? Or have some measures been taken to keep them open following specific measures? If so, which ones?
- Are small-scale food producers restricted/discriminated in other ways regarding their ability to provide/sell food? Related question: Are they paid less for their products?

## **Decent work and social security**

- Are there any schemes/policies to avoid layoffs during the crisis?
- Are there any policies/schemes to ensure a decent income for the population, in particular for those who cannot work due to confinement measures (for example basic income programs for some groups of the society)? Related question: is there any discussion on the implementation of universal basic income?
- How are workers in informal sectors affected? Related questions: Are seasonal migrant workers able to ensure their livelihoods upon returning home? Are domestic helpers able to retain work after the confinement measures?

## **Corporate Capture**

- Are state measures favoring large food chains (e.g. supermarkets) and processed food over local food producers/their cooperatives? Is there any specific support program to support small food producers and cooperatives?
- Are states including the business sector in their COVID-19 crisis decision-making or consultation spaces (e.g. task forces, committees)? Which actors are/aren't included? Are there any mechanisms for food consumers and small food producers to participate?
- Are states' measures encouraging the privatization of COVID-19 response aid, social programs or schemes?
- Have you observed corporate abuses using the situation caused by the pandemic which have an adverse impact on the RTFN? Which ones?
- Are the guidelines for corporations on pay cuts and lay-offs of the existing employees in line with national labor law?
- Have there been attempts to declare mining or other activities negatively impacting the environment as essential activities and therefore excluded from the restrictive measures?

## **Democracy and Human Rights Defenders**

- Are government authorities (including police) using violence in enforcing measures to contain the spread of COVID-19? Related question: Is the exceptional or necessity status being abused? Is COVID-19 being used as an excuse for the retrogression or regression measures that could not be implemented in the past?

- How are governments collecting/using/storing data in the face of COVID-19 and how are surveillance measures affecting the privacy of persons? Are there people's monitoring initiatives in your country or community? If so, which ones?
- Are authorities using the pandemic in order to abuse power, in particular against marginalized groups? Are there specific discrimination patterns?

### **Eco Destruction and Climate Change**

- Are previous and informed consultations on environmental or other related issues cancelled under the excuse of COVID-19?
- Are measures negatively impacting the environment being taken while people's attention is focused on COVID-19?
- Is there any reflection in your country or community on the relation between eco-destruction, climate change and COVID-19?

### **Women's Rights and LGBTIQ+ Rights**

- Do measures implemented by states have a different impact on women and LGBTIQ+ people? (e.g. quarantine/confinement policies, protection gear or policy for female workers, pregnancy or other regular healthcare measures, etc.)?
- Are there any policies/measures/economic support to address the situation of women as well as LGBTIQ+ groups?
- Has there been an increase in domestic violence reported in your country or community?
- Has the burden of paid and unpaid work increased especially for women due to the confinement measures, household work and closure of schools?

### **Human Rights Principles**

- Can people, communities, and others (e.g. trade unions) affected by state programs and policies participate in the decision-making of public policies (e.g. through collective bargaining)?
- Are any groups of people discriminated?
- Is there credible information available to all regarding the pandemic? How is this accessed?
- Are there existing grievance redress or complaint mechanisms functioning during the COVID-19 crisis? Which possibilities do exist to file RTFN complaints, in particular those related to COVID-19?
- Are there any measures/policies in place to ensure that the needs of marginalized groups are taken into account and their rights are respected?

## **INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT**

- What 'solidarity' and cooperation measures have states taken in order to support other states in countering the effects of COVID-19 and the realization of the RTFN ([ETO principles](#))?
- Does such aid include a human rights perspective?

- Are states cooperating (e.g. within intergovernmental organizations) to realize the RTFN in response to the COVID-19 crisis?
- If your state is a developing country, has it used the possibility of suspension of the debt offered by the International Monetary fund or has requested such suspension?
- Is your country especially affected due to economic sanctions or bilateral coercive measures while facing the COVID-19 crisis?
- Are international UN agencies present in your country reacting to the crisis by following a human rights approach or just a charity approach?

Please share any other experiences of violations of the RTFN or positive solutions or measures adopted or proposed in your country or community at [monitoringcovid19@fian.org](mailto:monitoringcovid19@fian.org)