

# Right to Food Campaign Month of Action Report

## Month of Action

June 2021

Food  
Work Health **FOR ALL**

ensuring government  
accountability

#JantaMangeJawab

#ZeroGovt



@rightto  
food



@rozi\_  
roti



@roziroti  
abhiyan

## **Background/Introduction**

The second wave of COVID-19 had a devastating impact on the lives and livelihood of people across the country. The incapacity of a long-neglected healthcare system to deal with the sudden surge in covid cases had led to multiple crises for the vast majority of our population. Not only was their health affected, but they were suffering from hunger, unemployment, and economic insecurity. The major brunt of the pandemic had been once again experienced the most by the marginalized and informal sector workers. Lockdowns in most parts of the country led to severe economic distress in both rural and urban areas. This time the situation was even worse compared to the first wave in 2020 with the disastrous scenario in health, economic and social terms. There had been a further push into poverty and marginalization for a vast section of the society. The Central Government's approach to deal with these situations has been highly inadequate in all sections. Therefore, amid the ongoing crisis and structural dysfunctioning of governments required a strong campaign with an objective of raising the demand of accountability from those responsible on all fronts.

## **National call for Month of Action (June 2021)**

It is in this background that the Right to Food Campaign gave a call for a month of action, starting from 1st June, 2021. It was felt that there was a need to emphasise on the Government's accountability towards the right to life for every individual in the country. There was also a need to raise demands on the crucial issues in the midst of the ongoing crisis. In order to do this, the campaign along with various networks, organisations and people organised in various parts of the country throughout the month on the demands of the Right to Food, Right to Work and Right to Health for all.

## **Webinar Series: Pandemic and the Welfare State**

The webinar series was planned by the campaign for the Month of Action where it consisted of four part discussion within the four weeks of Month of Action. The discussions focussed on the demands of food, work and health for all along with the issue of accountability. The first discussion in the Webinar series was held at the end of the first week of the Month of action which focussed on the issue of increasing inequalities. Similarly, the coming weeks and their respective were concluded with the discussion at the end of the week which were; Food for All, Work for All and Health for All.

### **Week 1 - Initiation**

The Month of Action was initiated from 1st June, 2021, starting with the announcement week from 1st to 7th June, 2021. Some states, networks and organisations performed demonstrations by raising demands of health, food and income. Press briefings and social media campaigns were done where the campaign as well as organisations and networks extended solidarity with the demands articulated by the Right to Food Campaign. United Milli forum, RTFC Jharkhand, Sangatin Kisan Mazdoor Sangathan, RTFC Uttar Pradesh, MNREGA Mazdoor Union, Varanasi, West Bengal Right to Food & Work Campaign, Udayani Social Action Forum, Sampurn Nari Kalyan Sangathan and other organizations, networks across the country strongly raised these demands.

## यूएमएफ द्वारा कुरपनिया मे डे ऑफ एक्शन के तहत जागरूकता कार्यक्रम



### बेरमो कार्यालय

बेरमो / सोमवार को युनाइटेड मिल्ली फोरम के द्वारा कुरपनिया में डे ऑफ एक्शन कार्यक्रम के तहत भोजन, स्वास्थ्य और रोजगार जैसे मुलभुत अधिकारों को सुनिश्चित करने हेतु जिला प्रशासन व राज्य

लगाई गई लॉकडाउन के कारण अनौपचारिक क्षेत्रों के लाखों मजदूरों की आजीविका खास तौर पर स्वास्थ्य, खाद्य एवं आर्थिक सुरक्षा पर भारी प्रभाव पड़ा है। रोजी-रोटी अधिकार अभियान राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर 1 जून से डे ऑफ



### प्रातनाथ, महाराष्ट्र

श्रीने एक जून से भोजन के अतिरिक्त अभियान द्वारा दैनिकीय प्रदर्शन किया गया. नरगा स्वास्थ्य केंद्र की ओर से भोजन, काम व स्वास्थ्य की जवाबदेही सरकार को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए विभिन्न गोले के उपस्थित लोगों व सामाजिक कार्यकर्ताओं ने अपने रायों में

शब्दों लान्त सड़क में पड़ा प्रदर्शन किया. वहीं कोरेम मामलों में लोगों की समस्या को देखते हुए सरकार से भोजन, काम व स्वास्थ्य की जवाबदेही सुनिश्चित करने की मांग की गयी. भूकंप पर नरगा कचरा संचयन अस्पताल, दिवा प्रखण्ड, इनेसिया मिट्ट, अलर्किना, सपील नाथ पैकग, ननलकु, सिंह, पवन समेत कई ग्रामीण उपस्थित थे.



प्रदर्शन में शामिल लोग.



Some of the protest demonstrations, letter representations and demand chartres submitted to government offices across the country

## #Twitter Storm

#FoodWorkHealth4All  
#JantaMangeJawab

The Right to a Dignified Life is incomplete without the right to food, work, and health for all. In these grim times when loss of lives and livelihoods surround us, let us get together in demanding answers from our governments. Accountability is not a thing of the past!

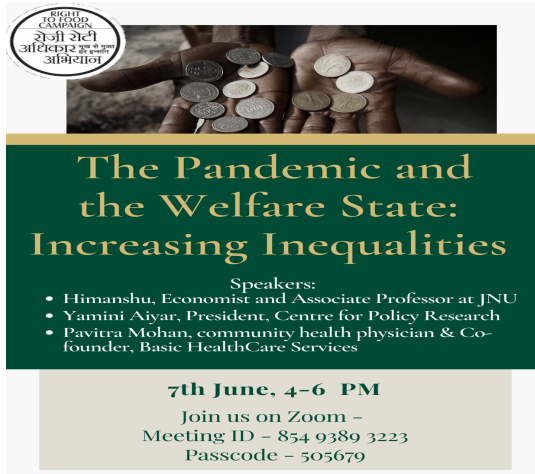
Join the Twitter storm on  
3rd June 2021  
from 5 to 7 pm.

रोजी रोटी अधिकार आंदोलन @rozi\_roti

On 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021, the campaign organised a successful twitter storm focusing on the demands towards government's accountability in terms of health, food and work while sharing the actual situation on ground with the #FoodWorkHealth4All and #JantaMangeJawaab. People from across the country raised their voice through the

Twitter storm. The twitter campaign trended all over India in the the top 30 trend.

# Webinar: Increasing Inequalities



**RIGHT TO FOOD CAMPAIGN**  
रेडी रोटी  
अधिकार के लिए  
अभियान

**The Pandemic and the Welfare State:  
Increasing Inequalities**

Speakers:

- Himanshu, Economist and Associate Professor at JNU
- Yamini Aiyar, President, Centre for Policy Research
- Pavitra Mohan, community health physician & Co-founder, Basic HealthCare Services

**7th June, 4-6 PM**  
Join us on Zoom -  
Meeting ID - 854 9389 3223  
Passcode - 505679

The first discussion in the webinar series “**The Pandemic and the Welfare State**” was organized by the Right to Food Campaign on the issue of ‘**Increasing Inequalities**’. Speaker panel included Himanshu, Yamini Aiyar and Pavitra Mohan who discussed these issues vividly to reflect the grave scenarios in present times. For the last few years, during the pandemic and even earlier, the economic crisis within the economy was apparent with continued reduction in government spending on social welfare. This has become even more dangerous with the health crisis that the country is facing.

The issue of inequality was focussed in the discussion under the lens of the whole economic scenario which had experienced an increased disparities in all terms where the poor have been pushed into more crisis while the pandemic period had witnessed rapid increase in the wealth of the rich section of the country. (Youtube link of the Webinar <https://youtu.be/Bbxec2iLeUc>)

## Week 2 - Food for All

With our demand for Universalisation of ration, networks and organizations around the country raised these demands. Food security not only in terms of PDS but also through ICDS and MDM entitlements needs to be focussed in present scenarios. Demand for nutritional kits for women and children has been considered crucial with an increase in malnutrition and hunger in the country.



## खाद्य सुरक्षा अधिकार अभियान के समर्थन में पोस्टर अभियान




पार्यायन संवाददाता < तिल्दा नेवरा  
www.dailypioneer.com

खाद्य सुरक्षा अधिकार अभियान के समर्थन में दलित, आदिवासी महिला मोर्चा छत्तीसगढ़ के सदस्य गणों ने पोस्टर अभियान के माध्यम से अपना समर्थन अभियान को दिया है। बहनों ने रोजी-रोटी अधिकार, भोजन के अधिकार, तथा स्वास्थ्य के अधिकार को लेकर लगातार सहयोग कर अपने खाद्य सुरक्षा कानून में संशोधन कर अपने

अभियान में मुख्यमंत्री को सौंपे गए ज्ञापन के मांगों को लागू करने लगातार प्रयास कर रहे हैं। इस पोस्टर अभियान में, रोहित भाई पाटिल समाजिक कार्यकर्ता सहित दलित आदिवासी महिला मोर्चा छत्तीसगढ़ के नेत्री सविता पाटिल, अध्यक्ष मीरा कौनौजे, अंजू वर्मा, लक्ष्मी बाई, विमला देवी, सुशिला, रोशनी दीदी, कुंवर, रमशील, मनटोरा दीदी, सहित बहनों ने अपना समर्थन दिया।



## Webinar: Food for All



**The Pandemic and the Welfare State:  
Food for All**

Speakers:

- Reerika Khera, Economist and Associate Professor, IIT, Delhi
- Vandana Prasad, Community Physician, Public Health Resource Network.
- Siraj Hussain, former Union Agriculture Secretary
- Rohit Parakh, Food and Agriculture Policy Analyst, ASHA Kisan Swaraj

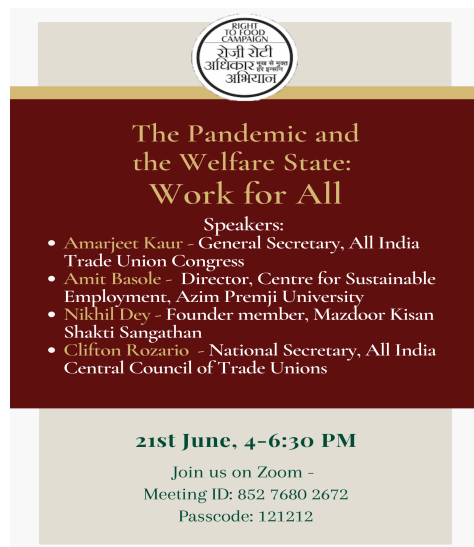
14th June, 4-6:30 PM

The second discussion in the webinar series was held on 14th June 2021 on the issue of **Food for All**. The discussion concluded the second week of the Month of Action which focussed on the demand of Food for All. Speaker panel included Reetika Khera, Vandana Prasad, Siraj Hussain and Rohit Parakh who discussed the issues around food security and the demand of universalizing food from varied perspectives. The discussion started with the presentation of NFSA entitlements distribution around the states and union territories of India by the campaign's secretariat to overview the current scenario in the midst of the

pandemic. (Youtube link to the Webinar <https://youtu.be/Wa2yucSYb-s>).



## Webinar: Work for All



The poster is a vertical rectangular graphic with a dark red background. At the top center is a circular logo for the 'RIGHT TO FOOD CAMPAIGN' with the text 'रेजी रेजी आदिवासी शक्ति संगठन' below it. The main title 'The Pandemic and the Welfare State: Work for All' is written in white serif font. Below the title, the word 'Speakers:' is followed by a bulleted list of four names and their affiliations. At the bottom, the date and time '21st June, 4-6:30 PM' are listed, along with Zoom meeting details: 'Join us on Zoom - Meeting ID: 852 7680 2672 Passcode: 121212'.

**The Pandemic and the Welfare State: Work for All**

Speakers:

- Amarjeet Kaur - General Secretary, All India Trade Union Congress
- Amit Basole - Director, Centre for Sustainable Employment, Azim Premji University
- Nikhil Dey - Founder member, Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan
- Clifton Rozario - National Secretary, All India Central Council of Trade Unions

**21st June, 4-6:30 PM**

Join us on Zoom -  
Meeting ID: 852 7680 2672  
Passcode: 121212

The third discussion of the Webinar series focussed on the issue of Work for All, concluding the Work for All week. The Right to Food Campaign co-organised the discussion with NREGA Sangharsh Morcha. The discussion consisted of a panel discussion with Amarjeet Kaur, Amit Basole, Nikhil Dey and Clifton Rozario to discuss the diverse issues within work and issues of unemployment. The discussion consisted of the crucial issues related to the work and employment crisis in the country for the last few years which have been in a more dire condition in the ongoing crisis. (Link to Webinar <https://youtu.be/Dgti0LowZ0>)


## Week 3 - Health for All

Various organizations displayed posters with slogans to put demands of the action campaigns in the fourth week of Action Campaign (Health for All). Jan Swasthya Abhiyan along with Right to Food Campaign co-organised the webinar at the end of the week on 28th June 2021. In the ongoing pandemic period Jan Swasthya Abhiyan and Right to Food Campaign along with various other networks and groups across the country continuously worked in the activities such as relief, work, awareness programs and raising demands towards government over universal health care and vaccination. Right to Food & Work Campaign, West Bengal (Udayani Social Action Forum), Sampurn Nari Kalyan Sangathan and other organizations, networks across the country had strongly raised the demands around healthcare related concerns. Asha unions in many states raised demands towards work conditions, payments and social security.





## Webinar: Health for All



**The Pandemic and the Welfare State:  
Health For All**

Speakers:

- Sulakshana Nandi- National Joint Convenor, JSA
- A.R. Sindhu- General Secretary, AIFAWH and National Secretary, CITU
- Jeevika- Lawyer and Social Worker
- Aashish Gupta- Demographer

**28th June, 4-6:30 PM**

Join us on Zoom -  
Meeting ID: 856 8318 8523  
Passcode: 232323

The webinar series '**Pandemic and the Welfare State**' completed with the fourth discussion of the series on the importance of **Health for All**. The Right to Food Campaign was co-organized with Jan Swasthya Abhiyan. The discussion consisted of a distinguished speaker panel of Sulakshana Nandi, A.R. Sindhu, Jeevika and Ashish Gupta who covered vast areas within health care discourse. Pandemic which led to a health crisis in the country requires detailed understanding into diverse subjects under it, these had been covered in the webinar by the speakers and the demand of Health for All was unanimously considered as a need for the society. (Link to the Webinar <https://youtu.be/TyfBT4juQE>)

## **Statement and Letters issued during Month of Action by RTFC & other Campaigns as well as state networks**

In this period, the Right to Food Campaign and the states as well as other networks have submitted letters and demand charters to the Central and State Governments. These are as follows:

1. 10th June 2021 - [Letter to Uttarakhand CM by RTFC](#)
2. 12th June 2021 - [Odisha Khadya Adhikar Abhijan](#) letter to CM of Odisha to demand relief on covid lockdown and strengthening of Welfare scheme in the state of Odisha.

[RTFCs Statement on Vaccines](#) issued on 17th June

**SWAN's (Stranded Workers Action Network) Report (the report discusses about the migrant worker distress in India due to local lockdowns during the COVID-19 second wave)** ([English](#) & [Hindi](#) version) issued on 16th June

[Khadya Suraksha Jan Adhikar Manch](#), Pashchim Singhbhum, Jharkhand wrote letter to DC to provide relief towards Yass Cyclone affected families on 18th June

NREGA Sangharsh Morcha issued a letter on 26th June to the Prime minister and to the Rural development Ministry with an appeal for implementation of a 50 days special package over and above 100 days of employment for all NREGA workers [English](#) & [Hindi](#)

[RTFCs statement](#) on Supreme Court's direction to give ration to migrant workers and revise state-wise coverage of food security net under NFSA was issued on 29th June.

## **Way Forward**

With continued repression and increased socio-economic crisis amid covid-19 pandemic, the need for these kinds of activities is important to sustain the demands and uphold the question of accountability by the government. The discussions conducted within the webinar series with opinions and the requirements in the present context will be important in the functioning of the campaign for the coming days. A strengthening movement towards the demand of social security in terms of food security, work availability and health care structure requires coordinated efforts by all campaigns, networks and organizations which the Right to Food Campaign aspires to continue in future.