



## Development of a Policy Brief on Civil Society Engagement in Food Systems Transformation in Kenya

Rural Outreach Africa (ROA), in partnership with Welthungerhilfe (WHH), is implementing a project; “Strengthening Rural Governance for the Right to Adequate Food” in Vihiga County.

The multi-country initiative is aimed to ensure that vulnerable food and nutrition-insecure population groups (rightsholders) in 4 countries in Africa and Asia enjoy improved availability and access to adequate food, using a rights-based approach. For Kenya, the project is grounded on the Kenya Constitution 2010 Article 43 1 C that states “every person has the right to be free from hunger, and to have adequate food of acceptable quality”.

Welthungerhilfe (WHH) is one of the largest non-governmental aid agencies in Germany and has supported Kenyan development organizations since the 1970s. Welthungerhilfe has a vision of a world in which everyone can lead a self-determined life in dignity and justice, free from hunger and poverty. Hunger is the biggest solvable problem in the world.

Rural Outreach Africa (ROA) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) founded in 1992 and registered in Kenya in 2004. ROA works with the farming communities in the western Kenya counties of Kakamega, Vihiga, Bungoma, Busia, Nandi, and Siaya. ROA aims to build on local strengths and mobilize resources to empower rural communities thus improving family incomes, food, and nutrition security while ensuring environmental protection.

The Right to Food Coalition is an alliance of 40 organizations (including ROA and WHH) dedicated to ensuring that every individual has access to adequate, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food. We advocate for legislation and policies, support grassroots initiatives, and foster collaboration among stakeholders.

The Coalition organized independent dialogues 2 years ago, at sub-national and national levels to raise the issue of food as a human right. The right to food lens brought out the aspect of entitlements (of rightsholders) and obligations and accountability of the state but also the private sector and civil society. We developed key messages, demands, and recommendations for the duty bearers.

In line with the UNFSS Stocktaking, the Coalition aims to reflect on our role in food systems transformation and its governance, to jointly generate some takeaways/ conclusions that provide the basis for key messages and demands for our communication around the UNFSS+2, the COP28 in December, and the 20 years of RTF Voluntary Guidelines celebration in 2024.

## Terms of reference for consultancy services

### Developing a policy brief on civil society engagement in food systems transformation in Kenya

#### Background

Globally and in Kenya, progress toward Zero Hunger by 2030 is slowing, driven by multiple crises, such as climate change, the Covid-19 pandemic, and its consequences, increasingly severe and protracted violent conflicts such as the war in Ukraine, and rising costs of living. These crises come on top of underlying factors, such as poverty, inequality, inadequate governance, poor infrastructure, and low agricultural productivity that contribute to chronic hunger and vulnerability. Globally and in many countries and regions, current food systems are inadequate for the task of addressing these challenges and ending hunger.

Within a global food system that has fallen short of sustainably ending hunger, it is important to look at food systems governance at the subnational level, where county governments can deliver on their role and citizens can hold decision-makers accountable for addressing food and nutrition insecurity. The 2021 UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) aimed to tackle these issues and drive transformative change toward more sustainable, equitable, and resilient food systems. One of the Summit's main results was 118 'National Pathways,' outlining the roadmap for each country's food systems transformation.

However, many countries have yet to define truly holistic food system goals and targets to guide policy action. These need to be developed in a participatory and inclusive manner. Civil society actors and marginalized groups (e.g., small-scale producers, indigenous people, women, youth, and others) face significant barriers to meaningful participation in food systems governance, particularly as civic space is increasingly restricted in many countries. Yet, civil society actors and marginalized groups make crucial contributions towards food systems transformation through grassroots innovations and up-scaling of approaches, proposing legal and policy changes, and holding duty bearers accountable.

#### Rationale

It is two years since we had the UNFSS dialogues and particularly, the Right to Food Coalition's independent dialogue on **"Accountability for the right to adequate food in Kenya: Pathways to sustainable, inclusive, resilient, and equitable food systems"** where we jointly developed recommendations for the government for inclusive, resilient, and equitable food systems. The Coalition actively participated in the UNFSS processes and is dedicated to following up and holding decision-makers accountable for the commitments made. Recognizing that food systems transformation needs to happen at various levels: individual, community, private companies, sub-national and national government, and international institutions, the coalition would like to focus on the civil society organizations' role in food systems transformation and its governance, particularly on the following topics:

1. National Pathways and their relevance for food systems transformation in Kenya
2. Structure & Governance of food systems transformation
3. Civil society engagement in food systems transformation

#### National Pathways and their relevance for food systems transformation in Kenya

Through the UNFSS process, governments have committed to national pathways for food systems transformation.

How inclusive have the processes to develop national pathways on food systems transformation been so far? In how far have different stakeholders, including civil society, and representatives of marginalized groups (indigenous people, women, smallholders, youth etc.) been involved?

In how far have the national pathways gained political relevance in Kenya? E.g. does it steer the government's actual strategy or other relevant policy changes on food systems transformation?

How relevant are priority interventions and investment areas regarding the actual problems and

challenges in the food system? Is there a visible connection between the results of the food systems dialogues and the content of the national pathway document? E.g. do the pathways reflect the outcomes of the various dialogues?

### **Structure & Governance of food systems transformation**

The Agriculture Transformation Office (ATO) is tasked to implement the national pathways and coordinate stakeholder engagement including civil society actors.

How should ATO be constituted to make a real difference?

What are the top three persisting bottlenecks/ challenges for successful and inclusive governance for a transformation towards equitable and sustainable food systems?

### **Civil society engagement in Food Systems Transformation**

How can civil society actors support the ATO to bring food systems change? Are there suggestions for an improved mode of engagement with ATO to ensure inclusivity? What can civil society commit to and be accountable for in food systems transformation?

Is the civil society organized well enough to engage in food systems transformation? What are some best practices and what should we do differently?

### **Methodology and Technical Approach**

Proposed approaches include but are not limited to

- i. Outputs from the “**UNFSS+2 Stocktaking Event: CSO Reflections on where we are**” workshop
- ii. Document review/ desk review of the RTF Coalition independent dialogue report, Kenya National Food Systems Transformation Pathways, and other independent dialogue reports
- iii. Key informant interviews with Right to Food Coalition organizations and relevant stakeholders from government, private sector, academia, among others.

### **Outputs and Deliverables**

1. A policy brief, not more than 4 pages, describing the food systems and related governance challenges, opportunities for inclusive transformation at the national and sub-national levels, evidence/ examples of best practices available<sup>1</sup>, and the key messages and demands.
2. A newspaper article (op-ed) post UNFSS+2 Stocktaking in Rome - demystifying food systems, challenges, and opportunities for strengthening food system governance structures at the sub-national/ county government level and collaboratively with civil society, private sector, academia, and other players in the food systems space.

### **Timeframe**

The proposed duration of the task is 5 days between August 14-18, 2023.

### **Remuneration**

- Full payment will be done upon satisfactory submission of all the deliverables
- The payment is subject to a 5% withholding tax and other requirements under the Laws of Kenya. Please quote with that consideration

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<sup>1</sup> References from ROA, RTF Coalition, Concern, WHH, APHRC, Route to Food Initiative, ATO, Lake Region food Systems Network, and other stakeholders

### **Working Conditions**

The consultant will liaise with the Project Coordinator at ROA and work closely with the Right to Food Coalition's Research and Evidence Working Group.

### **Qualification and Experience of Consultants**

- Degree in agricultural economics, economics, public policy, public administration, social science, governance, development economics, or a related development field
- Strong understanding of the right to food and food system governance
- Strong understanding of the Kenya Government structure, especially the agriculture and food sectors, including laws and regulatory framework on devolved governance and decentralization
- Demonstrable previous experience in food systems studies, research skills, and producing policy briefs and similar studies on food systems
- Excellent command of English and report-writing skills

### **Required documentation with your proposal**

- a. Company/consultant's profile
- b. Certificate of incorporation (firms) or National ID Card (individual)
- c. Valid Tax Compliance certificate
- d. PIN certificate
- e. CV of key staff/consultant
- f. Certificate/reference information of previous undertakings of similar contracts
- g. A detailed work plan
- h. Financial proposal

### **Submission of proposals**

Kindly submit your proposal to [info@ruraloutreachafrica.org](mailto:info@ruraloutreachafrica.org) and [knjeri2003@gmail.com](mailto:knjeri2003@gmail.com) with the subject line **RTF Coalition Kenya Policy Brief**, latest by 4:00 pm, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

