TRANSFORMING NUTRITION GOALS into NUTRITION RIGHTS

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1. GO FOR RIGHTS, NOT JUST GOALS

Rights systems have three major components:

A. **Rights holders** and their rights;

B. **Duty bearers** and their obligations (duties) corresponding to the rights of the rights holders; and

C. **Methods of accountability** designed to ensure that the duty bearers meet their obligations to the rights holders.
2. RIGHTS AS A GOAL-SEEKING STRATEGY

A good strategy is one for which there is a serious commitment of resources, a clear management structure, and is based on a program of action that could be expected to result in achievement of the goal.

Has there been a serious strategy for achieving any of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals? Any for ending hunger (SDG2)?
3. ACCOUNTABILITY AS A STEERING MECHANISM

Steady mid-course corrections by the rights system steer it toward its goal, the fulfillment of rights.

Steering requires a *monitoring* system and a *control* system that makes corrections, a fundamental component of good governance.

It fixes things when they go wrong—even a little.
4. THE HUMAN RIGHT TO ADEQUATE FOOD AND NUTRITION

The right to adequate food is realized when every man, woman and child, alone or in community with others, has the physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement.
5. ICDS PILOT STUDY?

(INdia’s INtegrated Child DeveLopment SeRviceS)

WASTING –WEIGHT TOO LOW FOR A CHILD OF A GIVEN HEIGHT

STUNTING-HEIGHT TOO LOW FOR A CHILD OF A GIVEN AGE
ICDS TAKE HOME RATIONS

MID DAY MEALS IN SCHOOLS
6. ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES

Social welfare systems that provide more help to the poorest people or the poorest areas in effect reward poverty, which tends to lock them into that condition.

However, when the collection of data on levels on wasting and stunting is accompanied with data on the rate of reduction (ROR), that opens the option of rewarding the climb out of poverty, a very different sort of incentive for those who are helped.
7. DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

The data on levels and rates of reduction could be used to assess different Anganwadis and different states for their effectiveness in reducing the levels of stunting and wasting or their effectiveness in keeping them at low levels.

Public praise could be provided for those that are doing well. Private discussions could be conducted with those that are not doing well. In many cases, this would provide all the accountability that is needed to nudge them into doing better.
“As we strive to end all forms of malnutrition by 2030, there is an urgent need to harness data to track progress, hold stakeholders accountable and foster rapid collaboration. Being able to collect, analyse and translate nutritional data, therefore, is essential to understanding the challenges and making important decisions to meet global nutrition goals.”

To be effective, steering toward nutrition goals should be based on a data-rich digital system that is used to help its managers design and deploy remedies to where they are needed. The data should be fine-grained in the sense that it supports local as well as national and global aggregation of the data, thus empowering local actors, not just national and global actors.