
Research Methodology Guide

Food Riots and Food Rights: The Moral and Political Economy of Accountability for Hunger

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INTRODUCTION

This research methodology guide is designed to ensure that our research tools, activities and data are, as far as is possible, shared across the four countries. This is necessary because the final output from the project will be a synthesis of the four country case study findings, which will in turn be a synthesis of the analysis of the four types of data collected. If we are not talking about the same types of things, using data collected in similar sorts of ways and with comparable actors, this will not be possible.

The guide contains all that is needed for the field research, but is not to be treated as a rigid document to which everyone must stick at all times. In the field, the situation will not always be as anticipated, and researchers should adapt as necessary. However, the researchers are expected to use the tools as their basis for the field research, and it would be a good idea to consult the guide periodically during the field work to ensure efforts are being made to stay close to the original plan. Where adaptations are being made, these need to be recorded by the researchers and shared with the rest of the group. Parts of the guide have already been tested to some degree, but the researchers should share feedback across the group about what they are finding works and where the problems are, so that the chance to address any issues is taken earlier rather than later.

The guide has four main sections:

- RESEARCH OVERVIEW AND RESEARCH QUESTIONS
- WORKING DEFINITIONS OF KEY TERMS
- ETHICS AND DATA MANAGEMENT, including RESPONDENT PROFILES AND METADATA LABELS
- RESEARCH METHODS

1 and 2 are mainly provided to help guide research assistants and others who were not at the Nairobi workshop. Section 3 helps establish which systems need to be set up to ensure the guidelines are followed as far as possible (e.g., consent forms or procedures need to be developed and data storage and quality control systems put in place).

The fourth section on RESEARCH METHODS comprises four types of collectively developed tools, for use with different groups of research participants.

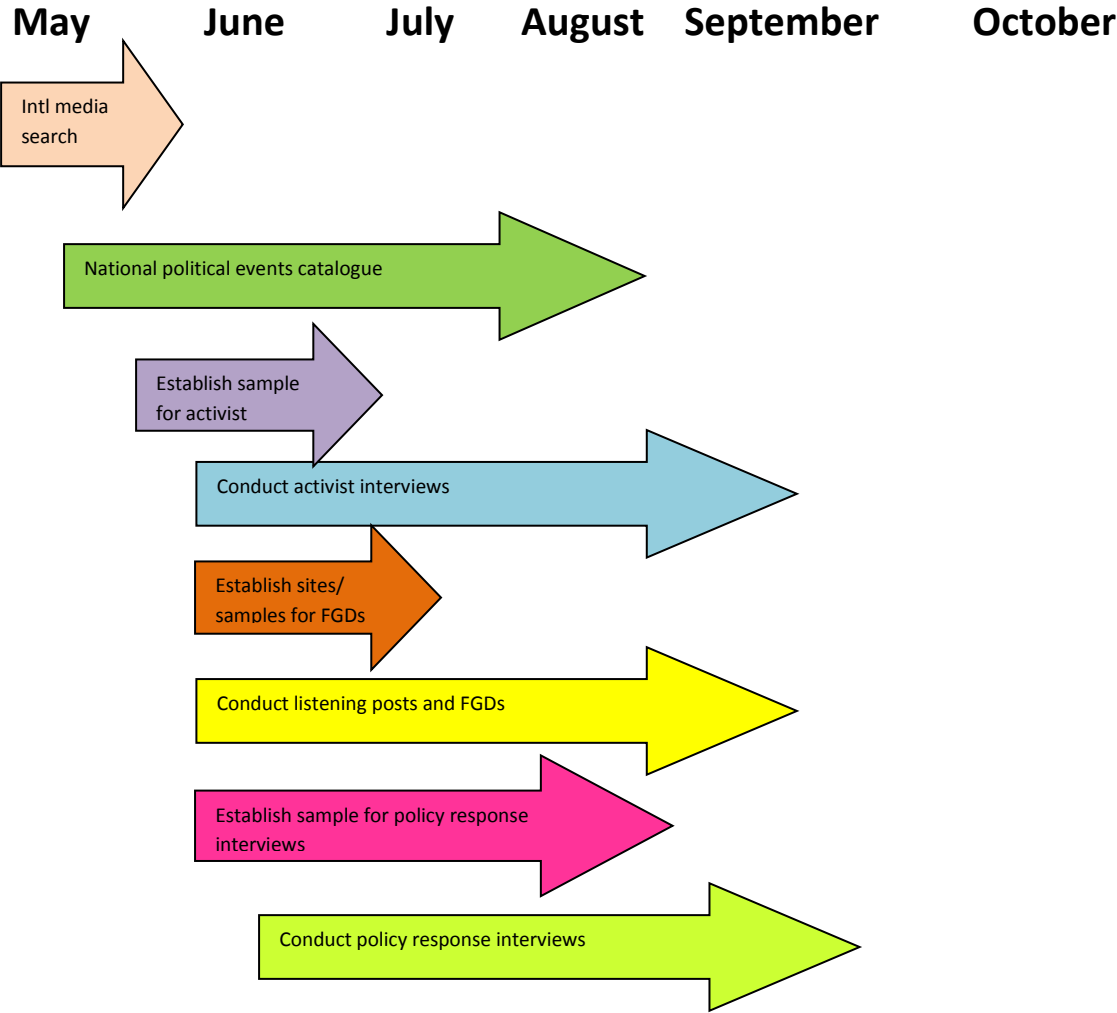
- **POLITICAL EVENTS CATALOGUE:** this includes a description of the sequence for the catalogue development, including
 - Phase 1: Initial Search of International Media
 - Phase 2: Country Searches of National & Regional Media
 - Phase 3: Data Analysis (this will be developed in more detail shortly)

The annex includes an Excel spreadsheet format in which the data extracted from the Political Events Catalogue needs to be stored.

- **ACTIVIST AND PROTEST LEADERS' INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS:** this includes details of who should be interviewed (sample selection criteria) and a checklist of questions on a) the national food situation; b) popular mobilisation around food; c) the policy response to the food situation and the popular mobilisation; and d) views on the moral economy and globalisation
- **LISTENING POSTS AND FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS (FGDs):** this includes a guide to how to conduct the initial 'listening' activities, as preparatory to the FGDs, setting out a) why b) with whom c) what these should consist of and d) where these should take place and a guide to the FGDs, including their objectives, principles and process, and a checklist of topics to be covered
- **POLICY RESPONSE INTERVIEW CHECKLIST:** this includes details of who should be interviewed (sample selection criteria) and a checklist of topics on a) food security context and policy b) perceptions of food crisis; c) moral economy; d) the policy response e) accountability in the food policy response.

The figure below gives an idea of the likely sequence of research activities, illustrating that some activities would ideally be started before others, to help with sample and site selection. This is indicative and aims to give a sense of why we need all the research activities, and how they work together to triangulate and enrich each other. The sequence will not necessarily follow this sequence precisely in each country (e.g., in India and Mozambique, much is already known of the key moments or activists involved in popular mobilisation around food in this period), but samples / sites should be selected following the overall research design logic, i.e. that they are likely to have been adversely affected by food price changes and/or to be disposed to mobilise around it (FGDs, activist interviews), or to have played a key role in the policy response (policy response interviews).

Figure 1: Likely sequence of field research activities, 2013



RESEARCH OVERVIEW AND RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The objective of this research is to improve the prospects for accountability for food security at a time of volatility. This will be achieved through an exploration of the proposition that recent popular mobilisation around food has activated public accountability for hunger. The research aims to study the causes, i.e. grievances and opportunities of food riots and right-to-food movements, as well as their effects in Bangladesh, India, Kenya and Mozambique, during the recent period of food price volatility from 2007 to 2012. It will specifically look into how governments respond and whether their response institutionalises accountability.

Background

The need to strengthen accountability for food insecurity has become more pressing since the 2008 food price spike. Feeding the world in this context is a political challenge - how to institutionalise accountability and responsiveness towards the hungry - as much as a technical or economic one. With predictions of further volatility and price rises, this challenge is increasingly urgent. The period since the mid-2000s offers an opportunity to study the popular politics of accountability for hunger, because of the not coincidental rise in the level of popular mobilisation around food globally. The right-to-food movements that emerged in developing countries since the mid-2000s and the upsurge in food riots and protests since 2007 both signal strong popular pressures for a response to the increasing uncertainties people face around access to food. Yet we have sketchy information about who mobilises, why and what they seek to change.

Research

This research project will study grievances around recent food price volatility, including the possibility that policy makers systematically under-estimated these, particularly the unmeasured impacts on well-being and women's unpaid work in the care economy.

The research moves beyond assuming that people protest because they are hungry, to explore whether contemporary struggles are informed by popular ideologies prioritising rights to food over the freedom of markets in times of dearth. 'Moral economies' of this kind have been found in historical analogues to the present period of crisis and adjustment, and were often potent enough to elicit protective responses from political elites. The research will explore whether analogous 'moral economies' feature in the present. It will also explore what globalisation means for the moral economy: the contemporary food policy regime features global integration, commodity speculation and pressures to liberalise trade, which both increase the likelihood of shocks (and protests), and constrain government responses. The research will also investigate the effects of popular food politics in this more globalised context.

Finally, the research will explore the institutional and policy conditions under which the different forms of popular mobilisation - food riots or right-to-food movements - succeed in activating responses which institutionalise accountability and responsiveness for food security, particularly for women. It will look at the effects of how directly the food crisis is transmitted to the country context; pre-existing social protection provision; the strength and orientation of civil society; the political history of famine prevention; and the interaction and mutual influence of riots and rights movements. The research aims for impacts on policy and practice by generating policy-relevant knowledge of the determinants of the political will to act to address food insecurity and by creating new, more inclusive spaces in which civil society actors can engage with policy makers in dialogue about the right to food.

DOES POPULAR MOBILISATION INCREASE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUNGER?

POPULAR MOBILISATIONS AND GRIEVANCES

To what extent did grievances about hunger and food price volatility feature in popular mobilisation in 2007-12?

What trends have been observed in 2007-12? (with regard to food access, food prices, wages and real incomes and well being)
How were different groups affected by the trends?
How did the different groups cope and with what effects?
How was the crisis discussed in the media?
How did the policy actors find out and understand?

How to understand circumstances? Did food price volatility articulate in grievances?
What were people asking for/ complaining about?
To whom were the grievances directed?
How were the grievances responded to and with what effect?

What forms did popular mobilisation take?
Riots, organised protests etc.
What issues did the mobilisation take up – natural resources, wages, cost of living
Who were the key players, participants in the different forms of popular mobilisation around food price volatility?
What motivated them to protest? What are the de-motivations for those who did not participate?

MORAL ECONOMY

To what extent are mobilisations between 2007-2012 underpinned by ruptures in moral economies?

What do people expect of the state and of the market with regard to food (national/ global)?

Of what does the contemporary moral economy consist? How much tradition? how much is the moral economy actually about holding on to what is there than demanding something new?

How much does the moral economy actually govern political life and culture (political both in the statist and political society sense)?

What are the different versions of moral economy among different groups?

How does 'globalisation' impact on mobilisation, moral economy and political response?

What is the dynamism in moral economies, how are the sense of entitlements shifting? What is the evocation of memory and history in moral economy narratives?

POLITICAL AND POLICY RESPONSE

To what degree did country experience food price spike in 2008 or 2007-12(coming from quantitative data)?

Which food commodities were affected by the price spike?
Is price spike on account of local or global factors?
Which commodity's price volatility appears likely to lead to

What was the nature and quality of response?

What were the policy and political arrangements in place in relation to food production, access and distribution prior to 2007?
What were the policy and political arrangements in place in relation to food production, access and distribution after 2007-2012?
Are there analytical linkages between demands expressed in popular mobilisations and policy and political response that was produced?

Does the policy/political response amount to increased institutional accountability for hunger?

Is there guaranteed access to food? (on the ground defacto and legal/constitutional guarantee)
Are there mechanisms for monitoring?
Are there sanctions on public officials?
Are there remedies for those widely affected by misuse of power/failures by public officials?
Are there clear and transparent criteria for determining beneficiaries?
In the design of policy response, is there space for citizen engagement?
What is nature and extent of civil society in ensuring accountability?
To what extent were policy responses repressive?

WORKING DEFINITIONS OF KEY TERMS

This section puts forward working definitions for key terms of our research project. It tries to set out the ambit of the project.

Food Riots

When we are talking about food riots, we would be specifically referring to events that have been categorised as 'food riots' by the international media, and in some cases by mainstream national media during the time period of 2007-12. There are the following points to note while using this as a working definition:

- There is a vast array of events that has seen rioting, in which issues of food price volatility, inflation and cost of living can be identified as one of the trigger agents – our working definition of food riots, is thus a way of narrowing down on a few specific riots. Such a definition would necessarily exclude many events, and which is a limitation we acknowledge at the outset.
- Such a working definition also gives us an opportunity to critically analyse the term 'food riots' projected on political events by the international media. This research does not take the term food riot as a given, but seeks to problematise it. We want to dispel the notion of “people being hungry and rioting”. Our argument is that these events are not simply about the price and accessibility of staple foods, but is a more complex phenomenon, and concerns the political economy of food production, provisioning and distribution under neoliberalism. They are also complex political events symbolising a specific kind of rebellion against structural inequality, injustice and political repression expressed in local and national settings, within a larger context of late capitalism and global commodity flows.
- The research also based on the hypotheses that the recent food riots are not just a direct function of food shortage in the material economy, but a sign of contest over the rules of how the economy worked – the moral economy (which has become much more complex in the context of globalisation).

Food Crisis

The use of the term *food crisis* in this research would refer to the food price volatility that has characterised the period from 2007-2012 and as well as the sudden and steep food price spike in certain countries in 2008. The attempt here, as well, is to problematise and historicise the use of this term. The events of violence and rupture that took place during 2007-2012 and the right to food movements that have been emerging, has brought the question of the political economy of food production, access and distribution back to national and international public discourses through the notion of the *food crisis*. However, for the researchers in this project, there has always been a crisis for a long time, where more and more people are being pushed to the margins with regard to access to most basic goods and services; with millions of people being exposed to conditions of chronic hunger and stress for a long time now. In our understanding, the food crisis is hence not a temporary dysfunction of the contemporary food regime, but is its systemic feature.

Moral Economy

Our working theory of the moral economy can in most simple terms be thought of as “who has the right to what?”. Based on EP Thompson's seminal work, the moral economy, for us, encompasses a range of ideas, values and complex interactions that historically develop and circulate within society; and govern the way in which communities perceive what should be the desirable distribution of wealth and resources in a given context. Moral economies become observable in contexts where existing patronage systems (which are necessarily diverse and exist at different levels) are breaking down or being modified due to changing socio-economic-political conditions (in this case, the effects of global food price volatility on local political economies) and generating protests. Our research seeks to understand the moral economy that is based on some set of moral rules regarding food exchange practices which are socially shared (to varying degrees) and which are socially enforced in situations of hunger and famine. Many writers have identified the 'coping strategies' of the poor and the vulnerable in times of famine or food crisis. But 'coping' essentially means acting to survive within the prevailing rule-systems. What the moral economy literature shows is that the assertion of entitlements also involves negotiation of the rules, confrontation, and struggles, in which 'unruly' social practices of various kinds are brought to bear. We are also interested in exploring the specific rules and repertoires in protests that are legitimised in the operations of the moral economy.

In locating the kind of riots or protests that indicate a changing moral economy, we would be careful to categorise the violent episodes that are stimulated by patrons wishing to strengthen or maintain the patronage relationship, (e.g. a political party instructing its cadres or supporters to riot). For a more direct relationship with the moral economy we would be looking at popular mobilisations that have emerged from contexts where patronage relationships are being *eroded* or changed. In our study, through a series of innovative methods, we will gather perspectives on the following questions from poor people, local patrons and protesters of various kinds :

- a) What is the expectation of moral behaviour in relation to the economic essentials of life?
- b) From whom and for whom is there an expectation?
- c) In what ways is the moral economy being ruptured as the economy and society changes?
- d) What kind of protest does it link to and how?

We do not see the manifestation of moral economy as a substitution of state-enforced legal rules ('the law') for socially enforced moral rules ('custom'), but rather the emergence of new types of interplay in nation-states, which reflect the coexistence of socially enforced moral rules, with bureaucratic rules, and with the formal 'rule of law'. We also do not see the moral economy as a static entity, but believe it involves dynamic processes of changing relationships and values. Within a society, there are numerous conflicting and competing rule-orders, and hence, moral economy cannot be regarded as monolithic. The rules of the moral economy are dynamic and can change in ways that increase or decrease the vulnerability of particular groups, not just over a short period as different rule-systems become

dominant, but also over longer periods of time as transformations in the rules of entitlement take place. We thus, see it important to locate the moral economy in a historical context. However, we acknowledge that given that the time-period of study for our research is only 5 years (2007-2012), it might not be able to capture such variations.

The new dimension we wish to introduce to the existing work on moral economy, is the current context of globalization and late capitalism where all processes are inter-connected and inter-dependent. The global food order is more interdependent now than ever before. So far the studies of moral economy have largely looked at a specific micro-contexts. The demands of moral economy in a particular location and the responses/non-responses to it by state and authorities can have repercussions internationally (Eg. If a country imposes export bans owing to internal protests). Is this where the concept of moral economy meets its limits or can we talk of a globalizing moral economy, as new ways of connecting, organising and communicating develop for movements and protests across the world? Are there recurring patterns and narratives that we can discern across different micro-political moral economies?

Also we believe that moral economies over time tend to get institutionalized in the available social and political organizations, even political parties. These institutionalized platforms are likely to create the conditions for the convergence of the local discourses with the meta-narratives of globalization. Hence it is important for us that in the search for locating and understanding the moral economy we do not exclude even the explicitly politically organized popular actions as long as they succeed in drawing mass support from the grassroots.

Globalisation

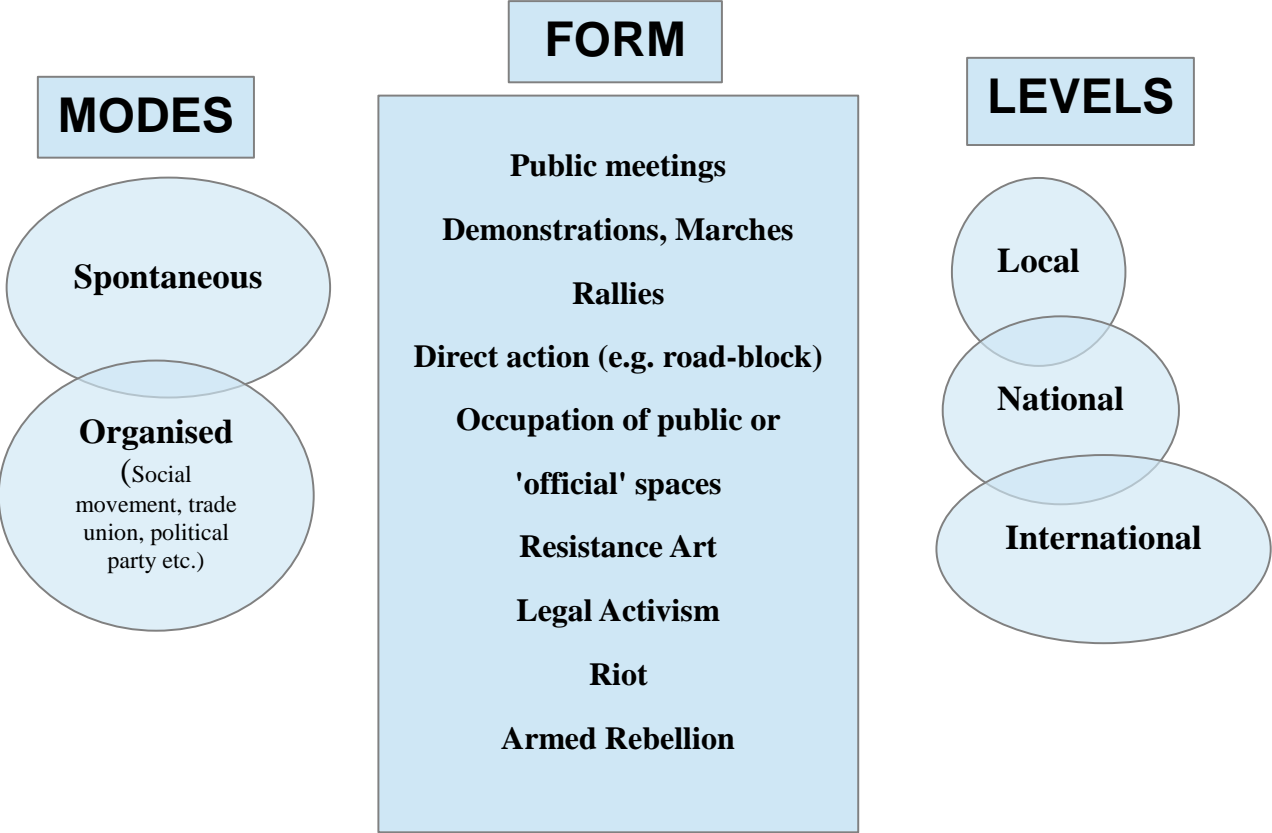
In our research, we are interested in specific aspects of globalisation with relation to food politics relevant for our research, such as export-import of staple food, bio-fuels debate, future markets and speculative trading on food; fuel price hike, fossil-fuel intensive model of agriculture, the international division of labour and production in the current food regime, global discourse on food security, transnational peasant movements and solidarity networks. This would also include issues of globalisation which are specific to each country that has a direct or indirect impact on food production, access and distribution.

Political Event

In this research, a political event refers to forms of popular mobilisation that involve contestory occupation of public space or a contestory intervention into dominant public discourse. We are interested in exploring and documenting events which entailed some sort of a rupture to mainstream discourses and perceptions around food politics, emerging from some connection to popular masses or organisations from marginalised contexts. For instance, we are interested in exploring riots linked to food price spike, right to food or peasant movements articulating alternatives to current food regimes, demonstrations and rallies on rising costs of living and essential commodities, public conventions, hearings and gatherings demanding rights, organised by social movements, public hearings,

historic judicial verdicts guaranteeing rights to the poor, etc. However, given the nature of our understanding of political events, we will not be focussing on events which do not articulate a direct challenge to the dominant discourse and structures of power – for instance a G-8 meeting on the issue of food security.

Popular Mobilisation



ETHICS AND DATA MANAGEMENT

Ethics

We anticipate that this research could possibly involve some complex ethical issues, given the nature of the research topics it is dealing with. Research into protest forms such as riots that also often involve acts of violence and transgression of the 'law' as well as into conditions of vulnerability such as acute hunger, require us to be particularly sensitive and careful.

Ethical issues may arise in relation to the qualitative data collection activities with right-to-food activists, protesters (where it is ethical and safe to try to trace them and practical to do so), and research participants selected from the social and occupation groups matched to the profiles of protesters. The concern is the possibility that interviews and focus group discussions may uncover illegal or risky actions and/or politically dangerous views; there then arises the ethical concern of whether to report these, should they be uncovered. The strategy for addressing these concerns will include a review of the project as a whole by the Research Ethics Committee of the IDS. In addition to the directives of the Research Ethics Committee, the research will adhere to the IDS policy on good research conduct, including taking the following actions:

- Establishing the level of risk to research participants and researchers; the research team will early on establish the degree of risk of state repression of activists and protesters through discussions within the team (which in each country case team includes national research organisations and researchers experienced in researching sensitive political issues) and with national officials and activists within the stakeholder or Reference Group. The research institutions of the co-investigators are themselves experienced and knowledgeable about the political contexts in which they work, and therefore the political risks posed by such research. All have the capacities to undertake research that avoids undue risk, yet addresses important political issues of power, authority and resistance. The discussions on ethics will establish the ethical parameters for which groups can be safely traced, which topics covered, and data would be recorded, stored and reported without undue risk to research participants.
- Developing accessible and comprehensive consent procedures appropriate to the country context, including consent forms in local languages and/or accessible verbal explanations. All research participants will be provided with clear information about the purposes of the research, how it will be conducted, and how it will be disseminated. Discussions with country teams have revealed that using written consent forms might not be possible in all contexts, given the associations of 'officialdom' and 'legality' that poor people associate with the written order. These are also contexts where the written is a symbol of power which marginalised, and mostly illiterate communities do not have access to. These communities are often forced to or tricked into signing written documents that snatch away from them some form of entitlement (e.g. eviction notice). In such scenarios, the verbal form would be the primary mode of communication for sharing the purpose of the research and for seeking of consent.
- Ensuring that all participants are provided with a good understanding of how the information collected of them would be used and what purposes and interests it would serve. There might be special cases where some sort of posturing/role-playing might be essential in terms of withholding information (e.g. during an interview, not telling a powerful politician who is hostile to the Right to Food movement, that one of the aims of the research is to amplify the voices

of such movements). These instances would be seen as exceptions that need to have well-defined rationales that justify the need for such a tactic for fulfilling the purpose of the research.

- Agreeing strategies for anonymising and/or protecting the confidentiality of respondents across the four country case studies. Where this is difficult, we will discuss this with participants and secure their consent to use their inputs. However, we will try to ensure that in most cases, policy makers and bureaucrats are not anonymous, as they would be speaking in official capacity from positions of power and can be held accountable for their statements.
- Ensuring participants the right to drop out of research and withdraw consent at any time during the process
- Ensuring data management systems that protect the confidentiality of data, the details of which are discussed later.
- Limiting the level of detail and/or anonymising sensitive or controversial events to be shared with the Reference Group
- Limiting the level of detail and/or anonymising sensitive or controversial events to be used in published accounts of the research findings.
- Making sure that sincere efforts are made, wherever possible, to relay back information to research participants about the output from the research process and the uptake of it. Special efforts would be made to share this information with to right-to-food activists and participants from marginalised contexts.

A second area of ethical concern relates to the research of food security issues with people who may be hungry or acutely vulnerable to food insecurity. Provision has been made to provide food and/or cash compensation for research participants' time, to partly mitigate this concern. In addition, the research is intended to amplify voice for food insecure or hungry people, and so to yield longer-term benefits. This may also mitigate this concern, albeit to a very limited extent and might not have a very direct and immediate impact on the participants' lives.

Data management plan

- This plan covers management of the qualitative data – the data from the listening posts, FGDs, interviews and meetings. It does not cover the quantitative political events catalogue data, which is separate.
- Our plan is for qualitative data collection to be managed in-country in the first instance. This means country teams are responsible for ensuring the tools are used correctly, recording and note-taking are of a high standard and properly labelled, that transcriptions or translations are correct, and of completing the metadata labels.
- Data collection tools: these are provided in more detail in the methods guide. Please document any major variations or interpretations in your use of the tools as you go along.
- Recording and note-taking: all interviews and FGDs will need to be conducted in pairs because of the need to take notes and facilitate. We should aim for recording everything where possible. If people prefer not to be recorded, full notes followed by immediate follow-up with the other team mate present to fill in any gaps should be the norm.
- Transcription, checking: country team researchers will need to make time to check transcripts – these will always benefit from a second version.

- Translation, checking: we were not planning to translate everything into English, so for those of you who can work in the interview language this is irrelevant. But if translations are to be used, these also need to be checked and signed off.

Storing data

- All textual data should be provided in unformatted size 11 point calibri word documents.
- Any pictures or AV or other visuals can be provided in any common format.
- A database of all research participants needs to be maintained, to include the following:

Data activity (eg FGD/Pop mob/Policy)	Respondent ID (numbered for security)					
Region, district, village etc	Name	Age	Marital status	Occupation	Education level	

- All types of data need to have a label to include the country and respondent ID eg.:
BD-Policy-respondent ID
Moz-FGD-location
Ind-Pop mob-respondent ID.

Data sharing and archiving

- To maximise the chances that data do not get lost, all country teams will archive their data with Devangana and Naomi at IDS. This can be sent in any order or at any time but a register must be maintained of what data are expected and what has already been completed and shared.
- Our usual way of sharing data will be to use dropbox. Devangana will set up the country folders, and invite the country researchers to join.
- While we are not going to share all our data, some of it at least will need to be archived. This means we have a strong incentive to demonstrate high quality in how we manage the data.

Data analysis

- The analysis is within and across countries. Within countries, analysis of the qualitative data should include a first level of coding around key words and themes. This should then make it possible to make an assessment of the outcomes of the popular mobilization for accountability in that context. Ideas

about the key elements of that change can be explored further through closer analysis of the country data. This provides the basis for the country reports [we will probably agree formats for those later in the year].

- The IDS team can provide the country teams with a data analysis plan for use with a qualitative package like NVivo 10. However, there is no budget for software although there are good open source and trial packages available. IDS can provide a template with which to do an initial analysis of the qualitative data using keyword codes. If researchers have other plans for the qualitative data, this should be agreed with the team.
- For the comparative synthesis of the research, we will not rely on the primary source data but on the country team's analyses of those (the reports), although there may be the need to return to the primary source to check or add depth.
- The data from the quantitative aspect of the work, the political events catalogue, will be archived, and so will be treated differently to the qualitative data.

RESEARCH METHODS

This project will use the following research methods for the purposes of generating quantitative and qualitative data. These are as follows:

- **Political Events Catalogue**
- **Interviews with Activists and Protestors**
- **Listening Posts and Focus Group Discussions**
- **Policy Response Interviews with key policy makers such as politicians and bureaucrats**

In the following sections, the approach and process that the project will take to the research methods mentioned above are described in detail. These notes on the research methods are meant to serve as a template and guide for conducting field-work, but are not to be regarded as rigid prescriptions. Each research method would be adapted to its regional specificity, while adhering to the broad design discussed below, so as to maintain coherence across countries. These research methods have been developed after discussions and feedback across the country teams, and have been designed keeping in mind the different varied contexts of our research.

POLITICAL EVENTS CATALOGUE

The development of the political events catalogue would be undertaken in the following three phases:

Phase I: Initial Search of International Media

1. Based on suggestions from BLDS staff in IDS, Naomi and Devangana will conduct an initial search of a few selected international media agencies such as Reuters, Associated Press etc. and some selected publications such as The Economist, Financial Times, The Guardian UK etc. Databases such as Nexis would be used for conducting this search.
2. The rationale behind this initial search is as follows:
 - a. From the preliminary country searches, it emerged that 'food riots' is often used in media within the country to refer to events in other country contexts, or is usually a term used in opinion pieces by commentators. 'Food riots', in most cases, is not a term the media used to describe in-country political protests related to food. It is hoped that from this initial search of international media, we will be able to locate events in the 4 countries, which the international media has projected as food riots or any other form of political event related to food politics. This will provide us with information about specific events, which can be used to research how the national/regional media termed, described and analysed the same events.
 - b. This initial search also supports our working definition for food riots, and allows us to critically explore how international constructs political events around food and hunger.
3. Through this search, we hope to provide countries with
 - a. some dates of relevant events
 - b. brief descriptions of events
 - c. some key search words.
 - d. Some relevant articles, categorised to be included in the country event database.

Phase 2: Country Searches of National & Regional Media

Preparatory work

1. The research assistant (RA) responsible for the political events catalogue should be an individual who is comfortable with online materials, highly systematic and well-organised, and familiar with the themes of the research.
2. Devangana will have skype calls with each of the RAs before they start the political events catalogues, so that they are clear about the process and sequence, and also about what they are expected to do with the spreadsheet. As soon as the RA is identified, please introduce them to Devangana by email so they can start discussing. Devangana will provide support to them by email/skype throughout the process.
3. The RA will be expected to keep a **research journal** of their work on the catalogue, to be updated daily. This is necessary to ensure the Lead Researcher and Devangana can keep track of progress and provide course correction if necessary.

Selecting sources

4. The newspapers being searched need to be identified by the Lead Country and IDS Researcher. The team needs to be clear about a) how the paper ranks in terms of circulation; and b) its political reputation or tilt. A spread across the political spectrum is desirable, and newspapers read by the elite and those read by the popular classes should both be included. At least five newspapers should be selected for this task, but more if necessary / feasible.
5. Once the sources are identified, a search strategy will need to be developed. This may be online using keyword or hand searches, or in some cases it may involve the use of other search engines, or trawling the physical archives (only if absolutely necessary; if we identify a crucial newspaper that lacks a good searchable online archive, it may be possible to identify a media clippings service that can do this relatively cost effectively). A note justifying the newspaper source selection will need to be written at this stage of the process.

Searching

The first stage of the national search will be restricted to the selected newspapers.

6. After Devangana and Naomi provide initial search results from the international media search, the countries will conduct specific searches on the selected sources within the national media about the events identified. This will give insights into how the events represented as food riots (or in any other manner) in the international media are being talked about in the national or regional media.
7. The countries will also conduct searches on the selected sources, using keywords provided after the search of international media. These will be the same terms for all four countries.
8. In each country, the RA with the Lead Country Researcher will also draw up a list of search terms in the vernacular and in English (where relevant) which they consider as specific to their country context, and conduct searches on the same. The process and rationale behind selection of these terms should be documented as the search proceeds, using the research journal.
9. In each country, the RA will also conduct purposive hand searches based on information they have about key events, including from reference group members . Hand searches should venture into various forms of media from electronic to online to social media.
A separate folder should be maintained in which to collect items from all other types of sources, including blogs, comments on online newspaper articles, broadcast items, other print media. These may then be used in later analysis.

Phase 3: Data Analysis

1. The information from the media pieces will be collected and categorised into a database in the form of an excel spreadsheet, that will be provided by Naomi and Devangana. As noted above, Devangana will provide support on how to use the database.
2. Data Analysis will be conducted in each country context from the information that is stored and categorised in the database. A simple data analysis template will be provided for each RA to use.
3. Country researchers will be supported by Naomi and Devangana in this data analysis process, especially with regard to software support. Data analysis software such as Nvivo may be used for this purpose, although there are limitations of language and Mac-compatibility.

4. The Unit of observation in the analysis is the event from which we wish to create narratives of the events.
5. It may be confusing if there is many reports on the same event. For this reason, a code identifying the event should be included so that all the reports/documents that refers to one event could be grouped. In Zotero, there is tag function that could be used for that.
6. The political event catalogue generated through this data analysis should ideally give us the following information
 - quantitative data on the numbers of events related to food politics in each country context
 - interactive action and response narratives of some of the events
 - some pointers to grievances, demands and moral economy
 - an idea of how food rights and riots are being discussed in the media, which we can then co-relate and critique with our field-work findings.

ACTIVIST AND PROTEST LEADERS' INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS

			Research question being addressed	Guidance notes for researchers	Comments
	A. Introduction				
	Provide a summary of the project, both written and verbal, with its objectives and an explanation of how we plan to maintain confidentiality, how the data will be recorded, and how the data will be used, including who will be given the report findings		Ethics	These are important issues for our research ethics; this group is particularly like to be concerned about confidentiality. And we are obliged to share our draft consent forms and explanation procedures with the Ethics Review group at IDS.	We need to establish a protocol for recording interviews e.g. they will need to be stored on the lead researchers’ computers only, and names will need to be changed on filenames; recording to start after names and personal details are given.
	Provide an agreement to be interviewed and/or recorded, to be signed		Ethics		
	Clarify that we are interested in all kinds of movements, activism and protests relating to food, including protests that were connected to the cost of living, <u>that were active since 2007</u>		Timeframe of the research	Might need to specify what we mean and give examples, e.g. to show that riots in which the cost of living was part of the grievance even though the main or headline issue was something else also count. How can we do that without being too leading? Or does it matter if we do lead them to the specific actions in which we are interested?	
	B. Background and profile			We should try to make sure we get a	
	1	Personal details			
		Name			
		Age			

		Sex			spread of activist types, grassroots and frontline as well as policy end people; older and younger; women and men; different social groups	
		Occupation				
	2	Brief description of the movement/ campaign/ activism /protests	How to understand circumstances? What forms did popular mobilisation take?			
		When did it start/happen?	What were people asking for/complaining about?			
		Who were the main actors?	What issues did the mobilisation take up?			
		What were its main goals?	Who were the key players?			
	3	History of personal association with the movement/ campaign/activism/ protests	Perhaps this question is about enabling us to situate and contextualise their responses? More participant profile than research question response?			
		When did you get involved?				
		How did you come to be involved?				
		What has been your main role?				
	C. The food situation				My sense is we are not asking for hard data, but for an overview from their perspective. We can then co-relate it with the 'hard data' we find.	
	1	Description of the food situation				
		What is the situation of hunger and undernutrition in the country?	What trends have been observed?	To what degree did the country experience a food price spike 2007-12?		
		What has been happening to the situation of access to food in the past decade? Since 2007?				
		[In case they do not mention it themselves, probe about food price inflation and/or food price volatility] What has been happening to food prices since 2007?				
		Why has this been happening now? What are the main factors driving change in food prices in your opinion?	Is price spike on account of local or global factors?			
			How did public discourse characterise the crisis?		But if any of these activists have any research or evidence they want to share, that would be interesting	

		<p>How are different groups experiencing these changes? Which groups are most exposed to or affected by these changes?</p> <p>How have people coped with food price inflation?</p> <p>Do people think there has been a 'food crisis' in the past few years? If so, when, and why do they call it that?</p> <p>Where does information about the food situation and how people are coping come from?</p>	<p>How were different groups affected by the trends?</p> <p>How did the different groups cope and with what effects?</p> <p>How did public discourse characterise the crisis?</p> <p>How did the policy actors find out and understand?</p>		<p>We prefer exposed to vulnerable, because we are interested in who is most directly affected – the poorest are already hungry, but how are other groups' affected by changes in the food situation?</p>
	2	Policies responding to the food situation		<p>They should be encouraged to be brief – we need to get an overall sense about what their food politics are. Eg. are they neo-liberalists keen on the global food market, or are they liberal food justice types worried about the environment, or is this about more radical notions of food sovereignty</p>	
		<p>Are there/what are the main policies or approaches for addressing the food situation?</p> <p>Are they adequate?</p> <p>What should be done?</p>	<p>What was the nature and quality of the response?</p> <p>What were the policy and political arrangements in place in relation to food production, access and distribution prior to 2007?</p> <p>What were the after 2012?</p>		
			<p>What do people expect of the state and of the market with regard to food?</p>	<p>What were people asking for/complaining about?</p>	

	D. The popular response					
		Did the food inflation result in any popular mobilisation around it?	What forms did pop mob take?	How does ‘globalisation’ impact on mobilisation?		
		What kind of mobilisation? What forms of action were undertaken?				
	1	Political events description				
		What did the activists or protestors actually do? When did this take place? Where did this take place? Why there? Why did this occur? What triggered this action at that time?	What forms did pop mob take?	How does ‘globalisation’ impact on mobilisation?	Make sure we are clear about whether the description is of a one-off event – a sit-in or a demonstration, or a series of events. If a series, clarify whether the respondent is talking about the general pattern of the events, or particular events they attended	
	2	Activists and participants				
		Who were the people who participated in these actions?	Who were the key players, participants?		Genders, ages, occupations, social classes, political affiliations; were they first time protestors, or regulars	
		Was it spontaneous? How were people mobilised?	What motivated them to protest?		Probe for organisations (e.g. unions) and tools (e.g. SMS, loudspeakers)	
		Were the most affected people part of this mobilisation? If not, why not?	What are the de-motivations for those who did not participate?			
		Who provided the leadership?	Who were the key players, participants?			
		What were the challenges faced in mobilising people?	What are the de-motivations for those who did not participate?			

	3	Objectives or targets of the event				
		What were people’s demands? What did they hope to get?	What do people expect of the state and of the market with regard to food (national/global)? How does ‘globalisation’ impact on mobilisation etc?	What were people asking for/complaining about? What issues did the mobilisation take up ...? What motivated them to protest?		
		What words or slogans were used? What did the banners say?				
		What did the leaders of this mobilisation hope to achieve?				
		To whom were the demands addressed?	To whom were the grievances directed?			
		How were the demands communicated to these groups or people?	What forms ... ?			
	4	Effects				
		How far were the demands and hopes met?	How were the grievances responded to and with what effect?	What were the policy and political arrangements in place ... after 2012? Are there analytical linkages between demands ... and political response?		
		What did the actions achieve or result in?				
		What happened next?				
		Did the groups mobilise more than once?	What forms did pop mob take?			

	What was the response of the authorities?		How were the grievances responded to and with what effect?	What were the policy and political arrangements in place ... after 2012?	Any kind of impact is of interest here: could be a policy change, or more awareness among government or repression i.e. called in the riot police or banned protests etc	
	Were there any public or official statements about this event or these events?			Are there analytical linkages between demands ... and political response?		
	Do you think the event or series of events you have just described had any effect on the public authorities? How?					
	Has there been any policy or other change in government action since the event that you think might be linked?					
	What was the media coverage like?		How was the crisis discussed in the media?	How did public discourse characterise the crisis?	e.g. ignored the action, was sympathetic to the protestors, on the sides of the authorities	
	E. Policy Response					
	1	Official perspectives on the food situation				
	What has the government said recently about food price inflation? How do they usually explain such price increases?		How did public discourse characterise the crisis?		Remind the interviewee that we are particularly interested in the period 2007-12, but that we are trying to understand how the events of that period may have influenced what politicians say or think since	
	Do you recall any particularly important official statements or announcements about food prices? What? Why did they make those statements?		What were the policy and political arrangements in place ... after 2012? Are there analytical linkages between demands ... and political response?			
	What do you think government should do if there is a problem of food access?		What do people expect of the state and of the market with regard to food (national/global)?			
	Is the government aware of how recent food price inflation has affected people's lives? Have there been any gaps in their knowledge of hunger and malnutrition in the country, now or in the past?		How did the policy actors find out and understand?			

	2	Policy responses			
		What was the government reaction to your actions / protests etc?	How were the grievances responded to and with what effect?	What were the policy and political arrangements in place ... after 2012? Are there analytical linkages between demands ... and political response?	
		What was the government's response to your demands? Did they make official statements that mentioned them? Establish new policies? Have you been called to any meetings?	How much does the moral economy actually govern political life and culture?	are there analytical linkages between demands & response ... ?	
		How did the political opposition respond?	What were the policy and political arrangements in place ... after 2012?	What are the different versions of moral economy among different groups?	
		How did the media cover inflation? Did they cover actions or protests around the cost of living?	How was the crisis discussed in the media?		
		What would you say was the most important impact of your actions or protests? Why do you think they had this effect?	are there analytical linkages between demands & response ... ?		
		Did the protests/mobilisation capture the popular imagination – of the 'common man'? Why do you say that?	How much does the moral economy actually govern political life and culture? What are the different versions of moral economy		

			among different groups?			
	What are the main policy changes relating to food access in the past few years?		What were the policy and political arrangements in place ... after 2012?	Make sure to get dates specified as clearly as possible		
	With current policies on food, is there a legal or guaranteed access?		Does the policy/political response amount to institutionalised accountability for hunger? Is there guaranteed access to food ...? Are there mechanisms for monitoring? Sanctions and remedies?			
	Is there a system for monitoring food access?					
	Are officials held to account if they fail to protect people’s rights to food? How?					
	Do or have citizens participated in formulating the policy response to the food situation? How?					
	To what extent would you say policy responses to the food situation have been repressive?					
F. Moral economy and globalisation						
1	Understandings of global food economy					
	In your view, are the main causes of food price inflation local, national or international factors? Why do you say that?		Is price spike on account of local or global factors?			What do people expect of the state and of the market.? How does ‘globalisation’ impact.?
	Would you say this country’s food supply is independent and self-reliant?					
	How much power does the government have over food prices? What can it do about food prices?					
	How much do international markets influence the price of food here? How does that happen?					
2	Popular perspectives on food and the global economy					

		Do ordinary people understand why food prices rises?	What do people expect of the state and of the market ...?		
		What role has hunger /malnutrition/ or food inflation played in political mobilisation or voting behaviour during election times?	How much does the moral economy actually govern political life and culture?		
		What do people expect their governments to do about food prices and their access to food?	What are the different versions of moral economy among different groups?		
	3	Views on the right to food			
		Do people here think they have entitlements or rights to food?	Of what does the contemporary moral economy consist? How much tradition? What is the dynamism ...? what is the evocation of memory and history ...?		
		Are any historical events or traditions relevant to perceptions of entitlements or rights to food?			
		What legal or constitutional rights have been invoked to protect people during times of food crisis?			
		Has there been any role of the judiciary on food security? What role?	What forms did popular mobilisation take? Who were the key players ... ?		
		How might rights to food be practically implemented? What might an enforceable right to food look like in this context?			
		Who else talks or campaigns about rights to food?			

Listening Posts and Focus Groups

Purpose

The purpose of the listening posts and focus groups is to understand the moral economy of essential food and living costs among poor people and its relation to changing forms of patronage and instances of protest.

The **listening post** is a way of gaining a broad understanding of how the cost of living is being experienced and talked about in selected locations. It allows researchers to understand who is who and how the matter is phrased in a location. It should allow the researchers to begin to develop trust with and understanding of at least some of the people who are then drawn in as study respondents. As such it becomes the first part of a two-stage process, the second stage of which is a series of **focus groups** with different categories of people.

Who?

The study begins with the events catalogue, which identifies the forms of publicly visible protest in each country. The listening posts and focus groups follow, as a means to understand those whose complaints are reflected in selected protests, the origins of their complaints and to whom the expectations/hopes/complaints are directed.

There are three main categories of actor (with numerous subdivisions) who can tell us something about the moral economy among poor people:

- a) people who are poor and protesting/being protested for.
- b) patrons who have real or apparent power over the economic security of poor people¹.
- c) people who take up complaints and protest on behalf of poor people.

What?

How do popular ideologies/moral economies inform the contemporary struggles prioritizing the right to food over freedom of markets in times of dearth? In each country we need to develop a coherent hypothesis that provides the basis and rationale for the listening fieldwork. A simple working definition of the moral economy is 'the right conduct by those with economic powers towards those who are poor.' It requires us to answer the question: 'to what are poor people entitled

¹ This category will probably include those who influence or appear to influence the price of basic essentials by setting the price, subsidising it, or providing welfare supplements. It may also include people who affect access to employment, licences of vendors, price of transport, security.

and from whom?’

The listening posts and focus groups will collect qualitative data on the motivations and experiences of individuals and collectives to unearth the everyday experience of food and cost of living crisis, and the popular ideology underlying protests or activism on food prices and cost of living. They will also identify where and with whom there are moral expectations.

Most often popular ideologies over time tend to get institutionalized in the available social and political organizations, even political parties, so we must seek the moral economy here – in constitutions, government bodies, trade unions, political parties and social associations. These institutionalized platforms are likely to create the conditions for the convergence of the local discourses with the meta-narratives of globalization. We will come to understand their narratives when we interview them, in the event catalogue, but also in the reports of ordinary people who tell us what claims they are making these days, and what response they have made to protests.

We expect the moral economy to be dynamic. Is there evolution towards alternative state/patron policies which are more comprehensive and nuanced than earlier systems? Does food security take account of more matters than sufficient cereal consumption as well as accounting for the adverse impacts of globalized production and markets?

We expect that moral economies will become observable in contexts where existing forms of patronage are breaking down or being modified due to changing socio-economic-political conditions and generating protests. We define patronage as “systems through which goods and opportunities are distributed by the powerful’. They are necessarily diverse and exist at different levels of society. In this case, we are concerned with the effects of global food price volatility on local political economies.

In locating the kind of riots or protests that indicate a changing moral economy, we should be careful to exclude the violent episodes that are stimulated by patrons wishing to strengthen or maintain the patronage relationship, (e.g. a political party instructing its cadres or supporters to riot). For a more direct relationship with the moral economy we would do better to look at popular mobilisations that have emerged from contexts where patronage relationships are being eroded or changed and poor people are complaining.

In what Form?

The fieldwork aims to generate ethnographic nuggets about the experiential reality of the food crisis and the moral economy. Care should be taken to not aggregate individual experiences for a logical deduction of the moral economic principles. Tilly has emphasized in his preference of ‘contentious actions’ over protests, that social reality of the popular actions is located in collectives, which should be our reference subjects rather individuals.

In our study, we will gather perspectives on the following questions from poor people, local patrons and protesters of various kinds through the listening post and focus groups and interviews:

- a) What is happening with the cost of living?
- b) What is the expectation of moral behaviour in relation to the economic essentials of life? From where should this moral behaviour come and who is entitled to it?
- c) In what ways is the moral economy being ruptured as the economy and society changes?
- d) What kind of protest (or non-protest) and what demands does it link to and how?
- e) What has been the response, and in what ways is this an evolving moral economy?

Where?

To select the best locations, it will help to have a hypothesis about the workings of the moral economy as it relates to selected events of protest or complaint in each context. A working description of the economic compact between different types of poor people and their patrons, and of where the economic compact is changing or breaking down can be set against the different sites of protest identified in the events catalogue and traced to specific locations where we can expect to find:

- a) people struggling to survive a volatile cost of living.
- b) a rapidly changing political economy;
- c) a form of complaint/protest and demand (riotous or orderly, direct or mediated);
- d) accessibility for the researchers – transport, cost, language, security, trust.

The sites should be at a place where poor people are buying food and basic goods and where their prices or supply are unstable – a market, or a government subsidised outlet, a relief food distribution point. Sites might be urban slum marketplaces, peri-urban/peri-rural marketplaces, or famine camps.

Two sites per country should be enough to develop a ‘thick’ understanding of the workings and patterns of relations between the moral economy, protest and response. The study does not aim to represent the whole economy, rather it aims to generate a couple of strong cases that show how particular local moral economies link to particular protests and forms of response. The two cases are not for comparison with one another. Together they provide *aspects* of a national moral/political economy of food in each country.

The choice of field-sites should enable us to map different parts of the national patronage network, and to demonstrate the leverage point that differentiates contexts in which people suffer silently, from contexts in which people complain through popular mobilisations.

Preparation

- To work out the rationale for the choice of field-site, each country team should first conduct the event catalogue. Then write a working hypothesis for their country context. Below are some pointer questions for the same:
 1. What are the changes in the nature of the economy in the country context (especially with regard to food politics) that could have potentially triggered manifestation of moral economies?
 2. What is the event catalogue suggesting in terms of types and locations of protest and their link to food/cost of living politics for the poor?
 3. If one maps out a broad matrix of patronage relations with regard to food and essential goods in the country, which patronage relations (most important and immediate to communities/groups) are being eroded?
 4. The breakage or weakening of what kind of patronage relations have resulted in what kind of popular/civil society mobilisations? What kind of conditions, including patronage relationships, may have prevented people from publicly registering complaint or discontent? Can we establish a leverage point?

LISTENING POST

Questions:

The researcher spends three days in a selected location, explaining to people there that she/he is there to learn about food and basic living costs and how the local economy works. The task is to listen for the moral economy:

- What is going on with food prices/cost of living? What are people doing to get by?
- Who/what institution(s) is(are) supposed to make provisions for poor people? What provisions are they supposed to make (e.g. in relation to prices or handouts)?
- Are these entitlements changing, who is changing them, who is getting what and why? How was it in the past?
- Who is complaining, how, what has been demanded and what has been the response?

Objective:

- To build confidence with a few people in a community, to help identify and get the right people for participation in focus group discussions and individual interviews.

- To get an initial understanding of the way the moral economy is talked about, the relationships and patronage that it involves and how it is changing and whether and how there have been complaints and protests.
- To scope the concrete material issues people are concerned about (e.g. food, land, public services) and their sense of entitlement, responsibility and treatment related to these.

Approach

- The researcher asks permission to join a person or group of people in what they are doing – sitting with a market seller, or queuing with a person in a line for food from a low-price shop.
- The researcher identifies her/himself as a learner: “I am a researcher and I want to learn about how food price rises and rising costs of living have affected people's lives, what people are doing about it and what they feel about it. I want to stay here a couple of days talking to people and seeing how things work. After that I would like to have more formal discussions about people's experience of price rises”.
- If that person then goes elsewhere, the researcher might go with them, or if that is not convenient to one or the other, then the researcher should go and introduce her/himself to another person.
- The researcher is aiming for a relaxed conversation that largely follows where the people he/she meets want to take it. She/he does not need to be always asking questions, but can simply watch and listen, and then after a while ask for things that are happening to be explained.
- The researcher's task is to notice and inquire about the four questions listed above – prices of food being bought and sold; who does what in the local economy; what kind of expectations people have and so on. The process should be allowed to take its own form, to emerge organically. What it most requires of the researcher is to be patient, attentive and interested.
- At the same time, the researcher should also be interactive. She/he should also talk about her/his own place, how equivalent situations are there, in order for the conversation to be more balanced exchange of information and understanding.
- If the conversation or activity is not connected to the moral economy, the researcher can move away to something and someone else, but we think there is no harm in what might appear to be a waste of time – everyone watching football for example, because maybe they have to pay some money for that, and you can talk about that.
- It requires a constant level of attentiveness to detail to be able to notice and tease out the operations of the moral economy when it manifests itself in not very obvious ways --- be it in everyday mundane exchanges, in silences, in people's body language, in their tone of voice, in the pattern in which public space is occupied and used, in people's daily practices and rituals, in the specific colloquial terms people use to describe their experience of crisis, in norms of marketplace and conducting business etc. Listening is not just about registering what people have to say, but also equally about paying attention to what people don't have to or don't say. So it includes taking account of interactions between people, and people's relation to objects such as money, food and land.

- Building friendships with particular individuals and then asking to meet friends is a good way to extend the inquiry.
- It is also good to slip *out* of conversations and friendship circles to interact with different kinds of people so that by the end, it will be possible to ask a number of different kinds of people if they would be willing to take part in a focus group and to invite people they know to join it.
- The researcher is building observations on these questions:
 - What is going on with food prices/cost of living? What are people doing to get by?
 - Who/what institution(s) is(are) supposed to make provisions for poor people? What provisions are they supposed to make (e.g. in relation to prices or handouts)?
 - Are these entitlements changing, who is changing them, who is getting what and why? How was it in the past?
 - Who is complaining, how, what has been demanded and what has been the response?

Process

- Since this component of the research project is about understanding moral economy specifically with relation to food politics, a marketplace or a fair price shop would be an ideal location for kicking off the exercise. It would be a space and context where conversations and exchanges that will help us explore our research questions will be easy to come by.
- If possible, it is beneficial to have 3-5 research assistants (of different genders) going into a single location to conduct this exercise. This way we would be able to reach out to a more diverse range of people in a community and register variations. They can also support each other and keep each other safe. Since there are 80 days of funding allocated for country Research Assistants, this could be a possibility.
- There could be 1-3 research assistants from the community itself, while the rest could be more 'traditional' researchers or students. The group of research assistants would then be a mixed group of 'outsiders' and 'insiders', and this interface would enrich the research into the moral economies, and definitely make it more interesting. The feasibility of such an approach would have to be explored further with regard to each country context. (**This idea of 'local' RA, emerged from Patta's conversations with Celestine about her work on another project where she trained local youth in the slums to conduct some research work).
- Both these two kinds of research assistants would need to be given some form of training on the principles of the listening exercise and on the concept of the moral economy.
- Finding the right kind of research assistants is essential for the Listening Post Exercise to work. It would probably be better if the RAs with academic research training are people whom the lead researchers already know, as the qualities that we need in an RA to conduct the listening exercise, are difficult to 'test' through a recruitment process. It is crucial that the RA is a person who is excited and inspired about connecting with people. He/she needs to have the ability to easily relate with people and their stories, and possess the attributes that will equip him/her to carry out the principles of the listening

exercise discussed above. It has to be someone who would be interested in the listening exercise for reasons that go beyond a professional goal.

- **Documentation:** Some suggestions are: writing down notes at the end of each day from memory, writing down reflections at the end of each day, using a recorder sometimes, writing short notes or pointers down in a small notebook at different points of the day to serve as reminders for detailed notes to be made at the end of each day.
- If it seems appropriate, the researchers could make short films and take photographs, once they have got settled in, showing the place, the researcher her/himself, and some of the people she/he is getting to know and what they have to say and point out. She/he will need to get informed consent for these.
- **Analysis:** An initial analysis of the listening post is needed to design the focus group discussion. At the end of the listening post period, the research assistants meet up with the lead researcher and discuss what they heard and saw, sorting their material under the following categories and developing their hypothesis of the moral economy and its changing face:
 - Changing cost of living/food prices
 - Changing political economy (patronage)
 - Changing complaints/protests
 - Changing responses
- **Timing:** The research assistants may spend the first two days by themselves, meeting one another occasionally, and joining each other at suppertime. On the morning of the third day we suggest it would be valuable if they are joined by the senior researchers who are going to be supporting/leading the focus groups. This will allow the researchers to be introduced to the community and to understand the concrete issues and meanings emerging.
- On the fourth day the research assistants and senior researchers can make the analysis and on the fifth day organise for the focus groups.

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS:

The focus groups follow on from the listening posts, allowing for group analysis of the individual experiences and informal understandings developing in the listening posts. This analysis will encompass the moral economy, protest and response as affected by local, national and global political-economic forces.

Questions:

We aim to hold between 5 and 6 focus group discussions at each field site (giving a total of 10-12 per country). The researchers will explain to participants that they are there to learn about food and basic living costs and how the local economy works. The task is to develop the understanding already beginning to form of the moral economy, but to do so now at a group, or community level:

- What is going on with the local economy? What are people doing to get by?
- Who/what institution(s) is (are) supposed to make provisions for poor people? What provisions are they supposed to make (e.g. in relation to prices or handouts)? What claims do different institutions make? How is the system working at the moment?
- Are these entitlements changing, who is changing them? How does the global economy affect the security of entitlements?
- Who is complaining, how, what has been demanded, and what has been (and should be) the response?

Objectives

By focusing on specific aspects of the moral economy and grievance over food prices, and by generating examples and analysing trends, patterns and norms with different kinds of people, the research team will begin to understand different views on how what the moral economy is, how it works, its origins, who is involved, how it is changing, how it influences people's actions and feelings, and in what way it is linked to food prices, protests, complaints and responses by patrons inside and outside government.

Principles

A focus group is a selected group of anything between 6 and 12 people who are facilitated in an analytical discussion about a specific topic. The researchers should aim to include social and occupational groups matched to the profile of protest participants in each country.

- The researchers identify focal people during the listening post exercise and ask them to help with convening a focus group. The listening post exercise should give a sense of what are the most pronounced segregations and discriminations to work around.
- The focus group will be in some ways homogenous – chosen by one local person, so all the same 'kind' of people (older or younger, men or women, all farmers, all women traders etc). In other ways the group will be heterogeneous, divided by often invisible lines of difference. A focus group is always going to involve power relations, people who are more confident than others, unspoken reasons why one will speak and another will be quiet and why the topic will be treated in a given way. The strength of the approach is precisely that it generates bias – a specific representation of what different constellations of 'community' think when it is working together and with an outsider to express opinions on issues of life.
- The combination of multiple focus groups creates a multi-dimensional view of the moral economy.
- The exact content of each focus group will be prepared in the short time period between the listening exercise and the group discussion, guided by the four key questions above.
- Since the focus group is conversational and analytical it is reasonable to bring ideas from one group to another, at some junctures in the conversation – you are saying this, but yesterday a group of young people said something different – can you explain the difference?

Process

- The primary material for designing the focus group discussion guides will emerge from the listening exercise. The Research Assistants with the Lead Researchers will put together various themes and issues that came up during their conversations with people. Secondly, these themes and issues will be co-related with our research questions. Finally, the exact language of the focus group design will have to be worked out from this interface.
- Different discursive tools can be used to start the group discussion. The researchers can begin with anecdotes or stories from their listening exercise, or stories and encourage explanations or ask for similar tales. They may use vignettes (that present situations of crisis or juxtapose ethical dilemmas and thereby provoke explanations of the moral economy).
- Different visual tools can then be used to understand patterns in the political economy (for details see Hossain *et al* 2010b; Hossain and Green 2011):
 - Timeline can be used to mark changes over time, key events (price spikes, rent demands, riots, political changes).
 - Social map can be used to show the different kinds of people living in the area, their different livelihoods and connections to patrons, it can also show the locations of riots or other kinds of protests, and markets and other sites of the economy.
 - Power diagram can be used to show the different degrees and forms of power in individuals and institutions (constitutions, courts, government bodies, trade unions, political parties, chambers of commerce, social associations etc) to affect food access and cost of living. It can also show how these are changing.
 - Most significant change storytelling for turning points in an individual life, or family, or community.
 - Spokes diagram for depicting entitlements, responsibilities and changes changes in a complex economy
 - Photographs (for discussing specific responsibilities for and effects of change)
 - Graphs for showing quantitative change to measurable values over time (number of people who are unable to afford the cost of living, incidences of protest against price spikes etc).
 - Matrices for analysing variations in the user and sale value of different goods.
- Documentation: by notes, voice recorder, or video. (The latter two will need to be transcribed but should contain more detail and are therefore worth doing if possible and fitting).
- Informed consent should be established with the group.

TIME-PERIOD FOR FIELD WORK (Listening Exercise, Focus groups and Individual Interviews)

- **Day 1-3:** Listening Exercise
- **Day 3** Lead researcher joins RAs in the listening exercise.
- **Day 4:** Research Assistants and Lead Researchers meet to analysis the listening exercise results. Together they design the FGD and individual interviews (whom to include, what questions to ask, how to conduct etc.)
- **Day 5-6:** Research Assistants and Lead Researchers meet people and finalise the dates and logistics for conducting the focus groups and interviews.
- **Day 7,8 and 9 (if needed):** Conduct focus groups and individual Interviews

POLICY RESPONSE INTERVIEW CHECKLIST

This interview list will be used after completing respondent profile sheet (attached later) with their personal demographic and institutional affiliation. You will need a few minutes to complete that form, and it is very important to get it right now because it saves time later.

This policy response interview checklist has 21 questions designed to specify the policy response and its political determinants to food shocks since 2007. They will be drawn from short lists of the key institutional categories and actors that need to be covered. Each team should prepare a list and group the actors according to their networks, forms and levels of power, and organisational position, and select from that. As we are doing few interviews – around 25 –selecting the correct people within the system who can shed light on all aspects of the policy process is really critical.

The 21 questions cover five themes:

Food security context and policy
Perceptions of food crisis
Moral economy [we don't need to tell interviewees these headlines – these are for our reminders]
Policy response
Accountability in food policy reforms.

Theme 1: Food security context and policy

1. What are the main program/actions/policies to ensure food security for the poor and vulnerable groups?
2. How would you evaluate the program/actions/policies by the government on food security?
3. How does the government monitor food security?

Theme 2: Perceptions of food crisis

4. We are interested in the policy response to the 2007-08 food price spike and the ongoing price volatility. How was the global price spike experienced here?
5. What was the main policy response to the 2008 or 2010 price spikes? How effective was it?
6. Have there been any significant shifts in food security policy since 200-08? Why have those come about?
7. How did recent food price rises and spikes affect people here?
8. How did people make their voice heard about the impacts from food price rises? Were there reports to the government?
9. We heard about food riots in lots of countries in the last five years. Did they happen here? If so/not, why/why not?
10. Have there been any types of popular protests or movements linked to demands for food security or protesting high food prices here in the past few years?
11. What was the role of the global economy and different international actors/forces (e.g. global financial markets, global food supply and demand chains, G8, UN, IMF, INGOs, bilateral and multi-lateral organisations etc.) in producing and/or responding to the food crisis with regard to your country context?

Theme 3: Moral Economy

12. What is the popular or folk wisdom on who is responsible for food security?
13. Do policymakers pay attention to protests, riots etc when they are developing food policy? Why and how?
14. Have there been periods in the past of food insecurity or famine? Do those experiences inform current policy? How is the current context different from the past?
15. How effectively can government act to protect against global food price spikes? What is its scope for action? What are its limitations?

Theme 4: Policy Response

16. Whose responsibility is it to ensure food security?
17. If there have been recent changes in food security policy, why were these changes put in place? Did popular demands, movements, protests etc. play role in that change in policy? How and why?
18. What has been the role or influence of foreign aid and donor agencies in contributing to food security policy?

Theme 5: Accountability in Food Policy Response

19. What is the constitutional mandate on access to food? Is there a right to food?
20. How committed in practice is the government to ensuring food rights?
21. Can public officials be held accountable for hunger – be required to answer for it and face sanctions for failures to act? How has that happened? How might that happen?
22. Do citizens' groups and organised groups such as farmers, consumers' associations, older people, wholesale and retail food sector etc play a role in food security policy design? How are they consulted? Who has veto power over policy? What does everyone agree on?
23. If there were protests or food-related activism since 2007, was there any force used to manage it? What was that?

