

Letter to the Editor

Re: Three decades of fighting against hunger in Africa: Progress, challenges and opportunities [by Olutosin, et al.](#) *World Nutrition 2020;11(3):86-111*

I refer to the section in the paper titled 'Opportunities to explore in the fight against hunger and malnutrition across Africa'

There is nothing wrong with the calls the authors come up with. Key points are all there. But are we talking just of 'to explore'? And are we directing the recommendation to governments?? The recommendations are full of 'shoulds' (not really 'musts' or 'ought tos'). This is not human rights parlance. In this parlance we call on claim holders (in your case the most marginalized) to organize, mobilize and DEMAND those changes. It is a 'pull challenge', not a 'push challenge'. Nothing is going to come from 'government or the state should'. World Bank Reports are full of them(!) and look where that has gone. In short, any call must be coupled with human rights learning so as to help/contribute to empower claim holders for them to themselves demand needed changes. Otherwise, the calls will become yet another aspirational letter to Santa Claus.

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PS: Let me also mention how important and educational I felt the paper 'Fulfilling the RTF for S. Africa: Justice, Security, Sovereignty and the politics of malnutrition' by [Moyo and Thow](#) is in the same issue.