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## Background Documents

In Preparation of the

# Regional Forum on Accelerating Food Systems Transformation in the Arab Region

The Sheraton Amman Al Nabil Hotel

Jordan

30-31 October 2024

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Regional Meeting on Accelerating Food Systems Transformation in the Arab Region  
Amman, Jordan  
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# Background Document 5

**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia**

**The right to Food- Draft**

## Food as a Fundamental Right: Opportunities for The enhanced food security in the Arab region.

In the Arab region, food systems are failing to ensure universal access to safe and nutritious food, and to do so in a sustainable and inclusive manner. As of 2021, undernourishment affected 54.7 million people, with one in three women suffering from anemia and one in five children suffering from stunting<sup>1</sup>. These challenges stem from food system policies that are unable to address issues such as poverty, widening inequalities, degradation of natural resources, food import dependency, and political instability.

Recognizing food as a fundamental human right is essential for transforming food systems towards sustainability, inclusivity, and resilience. The Right to Food goes beyond legal obligation, it is a moral imperative. This policy brief outlines how the right to food can establish a unified framework for food systems regulations and policies, reinforce compliance with human rights, and facilitate coordinated action.

### What is The Right to Food ?

The Right to Food can be defined as *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*<sup>2</sup>.

The Right to Food is a human right recognized by international human rights law. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes in article 25, and in the context of an adequate standard of living, that: “Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control”<sup>3</sup>.

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), recognizes the right to adequate food as an essential part of the right to an adequate standard of living in art. 11 “The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. The States Parties will take appropriate steps to ensure the realization of this right, recognizing to this effect the essential importance of international cooperation based on free consent”<sup>4</sup>.

To date, 171 States have ratified the ICESCR, however, only 45 countries have recognized the Right to Food in their constitution<sup>5</sup>. The right to sufficient food is a long-standing international human right that many nations are committed to upholding. It is commonly regarded as the right to feed oneself with dignity. Many nations have created and put into effect national laws, plans, programmes, initiatives, and constitutional modifications in recent decades with the goal of ensuring that everyone has access to food<sup>6</sup>. As mentioned by the United Nations Special Rapporteur, Olivier de Schutter, coherence and accountability result from considering food as a human right. Placing the food security of all citizens at

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<sup>1</sup> ESCWA compilation using FAOSTAT data.

<sup>2</sup> OHCHR. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations. United Declaration of Human Rights.

<sup>4</sup> OHCHR. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

<sup>5</sup> FAO. The Right to Food.

<sup>6</sup>FAO. Policy Support and Governance Gateway.

the top of the decision-making hierarchy and ensuring that these processes are responsible and participative help to close the gaps<sup>7</sup>.

The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights stated that the Right to Food, like any other human right, imposes three types of obligations: obligation to respect, obligation to protect, and obligation to fulfill the Right to Food<sup>8</sup>. This typology of states obligations was defined in General Comment 12<sup>9</sup> by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and endorsed by states, when the FAO Council adopted the Right to Food Guidelines in November 2004.

- The obligation to respect mandates that governments refrain from taking any actions that would arbitrarily deny individuals their Right to Food, such as blocking people's access to it.
- The obligation to protect implies that states should implement the necessary legislation and take other pertinent actions to stop third parties from breaching other people's Right to Food.
- The obligation to fulfill implies that in order to support people's ability to feed themselves, governments must actively participate in initiatives aimed at enhancing people's access to and utilization of resources. States have an obligation to directly fulfill the Right to Food whenever an individual or group is unable to enjoy it for reasons outside of their control.

### Why is the Right to Food important?

The Right to Food plays a crucial role in establishing coherent and inclusive approaches to food security and nutrition, fulfilling several key functions:

- **Guiding Framework:** Serves as a guiding tool to establish national strategies and programs related to the Right to Food and food security.
- **Legal Foundation:** Reinforces compliance with international agreements and explicitly recognizes the Right to Food as a key human right.
- **Effective Coordination:** Facilitates the coordination and institutionalization of responsible bodies and plans.
- **Higher coherency:** Integrates diverse regulations related to food systems—such as food safety laws or land tenure laws—into a unified approach, thereby ensuring cohesive management of food-related regulations.

### The Right to Food and the pillars of food security :

The concepts of Food Security<sup>10</sup> and the Right to Food presents some overlaps but there are inherent differences between them. In relation to food security, the Right to Food adds additional, primarily legal, tools that guarantee access to social protection and income-earning opportunities, especially for the most vulnerable groups<sup>11</sup>. Food security in and of itself is not a legal notion; it does not grant rights to or impose responsibilities on parties. By paying special attention to avoiding and eliminating discrimination in access to food or resources for food, as well as to the requirements of the marginalized population groups, the Right to Food can strengthen the pillars of food security.<sup>12</sup>

We can observe some of these overlaps in the Right to Food Guidelines<sup>13</sup> developed and designed by FAO, endorsed by the 30th Committee on World Food Security (CFS), and adopted by the United

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<sup>7</sup> Olivier de Schutter. 2013. "No longer a forgotten right" – UN expert hails a decade of Right to Food progress.

<sup>8</sup> OHCHR. 2010. *Fact sheet no. 34: The right to food*.

<sup>9</sup> CESR. 1999. The right to adequate food (Art.11) : . 12/05/99.E/C.12/1999/5. (General Comments)

<sup>10</sup> The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) defines food security as existing "when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life". Food security relays in 6 main pillars: availability, access, utilization, stability, agency, and stability.

<sup>11</sup> FAO. 2011. *Right to Food--Making It Happen: Progress and Lessons Learned through Implementation*.

<sup>12</sup> J Clapp et al. 2022. *Viewpoint: The Case for a Six-Dimensional Food Security Framework*.

<sup>13</sup> FAO. 2005. *Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security: Adopted by the 127th Session of the FAO Council, November 2004*.

Nations in 2004. These guidelines help governments and stakeholders ensure the realization of the right to food, by providing frameworks for formulating and implementing policies :

- Availability and stability : States should “promote adequate and stable supplies of food” (Guideline 2).
- Access : States should “ensure access to adequate food”(Guideline 2). States should “consider adopting and, as appropriate, reviewing a national poverty reduction strategy that specifically addresses access to adequate food” (Guideline 3).
- Utilization : States “adapt or strengthen dietary diversity and healthy eating habits and food preparation”(Guideline 10). States “consider accompanying food assistance in safety nets schemes with complementary activities to maximize benefits towards ensuring people’s access to and utilization of adequate food” (Guideline 14).
- Agency : Implicitly embedded in Guideline 1, calling on states to “promote and safeguard a free, democratic and just society in order to provide a peaceful, stable, and enabling economic, social, political and cultural environment in which individuals can feed themselves and their families in freedom and dignity”. In addition, Guideline 11 recommends “States should provide information to individuals to strengthen their ability to participate in food-related policy decisions that may affect them, and to challenge decisions that threaten their rights”.
- Sustainability: Guideline 8 calls on states to “consider specific national policies, legal instruments and supporting mechanisms to protect ecological sustainability and the carrying capacity of ecosystems to ensure the possibility for increased, sustainable food production for present and future generations, prevent water pollution, protect the fertility of the soil, and promote the sustainable management of fisheries and forestry”.

### **A Human Rights Approach to Reduce Inequality and Food Insecurity in the Arab Region**

A human rights approach and, particularly, the implementation of the Right to Food are crucial for protecting the most vulnerable and reducing inequalities. This approach calls for inclusive policies that prioritize marginalized groups such as the poor, women, children, and minorities, who are disproportionately affected by food insecurity and undernourishment.

ESCWA’s report, "Inequality in the Arab Region: Food Insecurity Fuels Inequality," highlights the two-way relationship between food insecurity and inequality, showing how limited access to food exacerbates existing social and economic disparities, making it harder for marginalized groups to secure their right to food. At the same time, food insecurity and undernourishment help perpetuate social and economic inequalities. To break this vicious cycle, comprehensive policies must recognize food as a fundamental human right, targeting particularly the most vulnerable and aiming to reducing inequality and achieving social justice<sup>14</sup>.

One of the key challenges for food security and equality in the region is women’s access to land and resources, currently limited by discriminatory laws and practices. ESCWA's report "Her Land, Her Right" emphasizes that empowering women by ensuring equal land rights is not only about gender equality but is also key to enhancing food security in the region<sup>15</sup>. Addressing these disparities will enable Arab countries to make significant progress in realizing the right to food for all.

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<sup>14</sup> ESCWA. (2023). Inequality in the Arab Region: Food Insecurity Fuels Inequality. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. Retrieved from <https://www.unescwa.org/publications/inequality-arab-region-food-insecurity-fuels-inequality>

<sup>15</sup> ESCWA. (2023). *Her Land, Her Right: Factsheet*. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. Retrieved from <https://www.unescwa.org/publications/factsheet-her-land-her-right>

## Implementing the Right to Food :

Some countries - including Uganda, Mozambique, Brazil India, or Guatemala- have been able to give major steps towards the realization of the Right to Food<sup>16</sup>.

Key elements present in the implementation processes of the Right to Food include<sup>17</sup>:

- Strong political commitment and the allocation of public resources;
- Promotion of policy coherence through the use of a human rights-based approach;
- Commitment to meaningful participation, strong partnerships and multi stakeholder dialogue;
- An emphasis on the most vulnerable populations, communities, groups and individuals, including women, youth and indigenous peoples;
- Dedicated attention to raising awareness, access to information and education;
- An undertaking of evidence-based analysis, information and monitoring to increase accountability

Examples of successful initiatives<sup>18</sup>:

- Brazil illustrates the link between empowerment and accountability by showing how local municipal councils, composed of community members, play a crucial role in monitoring public officials, while farmers are connected to school feeding programs to strengthen the domestic food supply.
- India's Supreme Court in Delhi has actively enforced the right to food since 2001 through public interest litigation, issuing orders that enhance public assistance accountability and led to landmark legislation ensuring rural employment for the poor.
- Guatemala's Secretariat for Food and Nutrition Security (SESAN) and National Food and Nutrition Security System Law (SINASAN) demonstrate efforts to create an enabling environment for food security through institutional frameworks.
- Uganda has integrated the Right to Food into its poverty reduction strategies and governance structure via the Uganda Food and Nutrition Council.

According to FAO, there are 10 contributions parliamentarians can make towards achieving "Zero Hunger"<sup>19</sup> :

- 1- Legislators should establish the principles that guide policy towards ending hunger and malnutrition.
- 2- Legislators should establish the rules of the game when it comes to overseeing laws and organizing their implementation.
- 3- Members of parliament should draft laws that take food and nutritional security into account while also considering the needs of different industries.
- 4- Parliaments could take advantage of the knowledge held by national and international academic bodies, such as universities and research institutes.
- 5- Parliaments should maintain a dialogue with civil society, businesses, and the executive and legislative branches of government.
- 6- Parliamentarians could improve the work they do by undergoing specialized training.

<sup>16</sup> FAO. 2011. Right to Food--Making It Happen: Progress and Lessons Learned through Implementation.

<sup>17</sup> FAO. 2019. Fifteen years implementing the Right to Food Guidelines. Reviewing progress to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

<sup>18</sup> FAO. 2011. Right to Food--Making It Happen: Progress and Lessons Learned through Implementation.

<sup>19</sup> FAO, 2018. 10 contributions parliamentarians can make towards achieving "Zero Hunger".

- 7- Parliamentarians should build and strengthen opportunities to share knowledge and experience.
- 8- Raising awareness and informing the public should be part and parcel of parliamentary work.
- 9- Legislators should form inclusive alliances.
- 10- Towards a shared objective : building a global alliance.

### The Right to Food in the Arab Region :

As of June 2024, 18 out of 22 Arab countries have ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, including the Right to Food as stated in Article 11. The integration of this commitment into national legislation, however, progresses slowly. Currently Egypt is the only country to have explicitly included the Right to Food in its constitution, while Lebanon has drafted a law concerning the Right to Food. This section will delve into their respective experiences in more detail.

	Ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights <sup>20</sup>	Right to Food <sup>21</sup>
Algeria	Yes	No
Bahrain	Yes	No
Comoros	Signed but not ratified	No
Djibouti	Yes	No
Egypt	Yes	Yes
Iraq	Yes	No
Jordan	Yes	No
Kuwait	Yes	No
Lebanon	Yes	In progress <sup>22</sup>
Libya	Yes	No
Mauritania	Yes	No
Morocco	Yes	No
Oman	Yes	No
Palestine	n.a.	No
Qatar	Yes	No
Saudi Arabia	No	No
Somalia	Yes	No
Sudan	Yes	No
Syria	Yes	No
Tunisia	Yes	No
UAE	No	No
Yemen	Yes	No

### Egypt :

The 2014 Egyptian Constitution states in Article 79 that "*Each citizen has the right to healthy, sufficient amounts of food and clean water. The state shall provide food resources to all citizens. It also ensures food sovereignty in a sustainable manner, and guarantees the protection of agricultural biological diversity and types of local plants to preserve the rights of generations*"<sup>23</sup>.

<sup>20</sup> UN Human Rights treaty Bodies.

<sup>21</sup> FAO. The Right to Food around the Globe

<sup>22</sup> UN Food Systems Coordination Hub. 2024. Lebanon Food System Transformation Pathway.

<sup>23</sup> OHCHR. 2014. Constitution of Egypt.

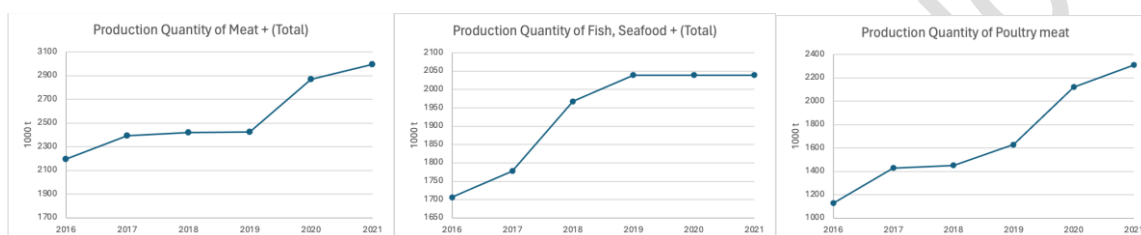
Egypt's national framework for the Right to Food is anchored in three pillars: (i) the constitution, (ii) the legislative framework, and (iii) the Sustainable Development Strategy: Egypt Vision 2030<sup>24</sup>.

Several achievements have been accomplished under this framework:

1- Development of the agricultural sector key initiatives :

The Egyptian Government Action Program (2018-2022), the national project to reclaim one and a half million acres, the establishment of the New Egyptian Countryside Development Company to oversee this project, and the implementation of the National Project of Grain Silos. Additionally, Egypt signed an agreement with FAO in 2018 aimed at improving agricultural productivity, ensuring food security, and promoting sustainable natural resource management through the adoption of international best practices.

2- Increasing the production of livestock, fish, and poultry:



.Figure 1 Production Quantity of Meat, Fish, and Poultry Meat in 1000 t from 2016 until 2021. Compilation by ESCWA using FAOSTAT data.

- 3- Increasing social protection through government policies and programs. Key actions include providing food at subsidized prices to groups in most need, creating a new food subsidy system, providing basic food commodities at reduced prices through a disciplined and regular distribution network, expanding free school feeding programs accommodating more than 11 million students, and in 2019 the Egyptian Food Bank assisted about 3.5 million families with its feeding programs and provided nearly 3 million school meals for 24 schools.
- 4- Increasing nutritional and food loss awareness by conducting education campaigns.
- 5- Enhancing food safety. Egypt established the National Food Safety Authority in 2017 which helps in protecting consumer health, monitoring the process of handling food properly, and developing and implementing a system to control food establishments and verify the implementation of the provisions of food legislation.

**Lebanon :**

The law on the Right to Food was proposed to Lebanon's national assembly in February 2024, comprising the recognition of the Right to Food in Article 3 "Every person, whether an individual or a group, has the right to have access, regularly, at any time, to sufficient, proper and nutritious food, which guarantees him a culturally-appropriate healthy life". The law takes a human rights approach by inserting PANTHER principles (Participation, Accountability, Non-Discrimination, Transparency, Human Dignity, Empowerment, Rule of Law) and focuses on food security and the food system as well.

The project law outlines key strategies to implement the Right to Food effectively:

<sup>24</sup> SSCHR. 2021. Report on the Egyptian efforts to enhance the Right to Food on the occasion of world food day.



- Identify vulnerable groups through regular surveys conducted by the Central Administration of Statistics, with information published by the Ministry of Information across traditional and digital media.
- Conduct assessments of public policies and programs affecting food security by ministries including Finance, Public Health, Agriculture, Industry, Economy and Trade, Public Works and Transport, Social Affairs, Environment, and Labor. Allocate specific budgetary provisions to safeguard and transform food systems.
- Define roles and responsibilities of relevant public institutions at all levels to ensure transparency, accountability, and efficient coordination.  
Establish a national council for food systems with legal and financial independence, overseen by the Council of Ministers. This council, featuring specialized committees such as food safety, will coordinate plans, programs, and policies related to food systems, collaborating with international institutions to protect and uphold the Right to Food.
- Form a committee for the Protection of the Right to Food tasked with monitoring violations, conducting hearings for involved parties, and initiating requests for judicial actions through the Commission Board to enforce temporary protection measures. The committee will also oversee the implementation of laws, agreements, and protocols related to food systems, ensuring preservation and promotion of the Right to Food.

The law's development involved experts from ministries such as agriculture, economy and trade, social affairs, and institutions like the Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute (LARI). Aligning the diverse interests of government agencies, civil societies, and individuals proved challenging but was overcome by fostering dialogue among institutions to forge a new vision for governing the Right to Food. This process involved reviewing existing laws and decrees, developing analytical frameworks to identify gaps, and engaging stakeholders through dialogues and interviews.

Lebanon's recently developed Food Systems Transformation pathway closely aligns with the Right to Food, aiming to ensure universal access to adequate nutrition and improve natural-based production solutions, livelihoods, and resilience. The pathway maps out the implementation roadmap for achieving these goals.

#### Case study of Brazil : Lessons to be learned

Brazil's Fome Zero (Zero Hunger) strategy, launched in 2003, achieved significant success in reducing poverty and malnutrition by prioritizing the Right to Food and implementing robust legal frameworks. However, setbacks occurred in recent years due to political changes that dismantled key food security programs, leading to a resurgence of hunger<sup>25</sup>. Since 2023, the National Council on Food and Nutrition Security CONSEA has been reinstated, aiming to rebuild federal structures and revive successful programs like Bolsa Familia (Family Grant) and school meals. Brazil's journey to secure the Right to Food showcases a model that balances political commitment, legal frameworks, and civil society participation<sup>26</sup>.

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<sup>25</sup> FIAN INTERNATIONAL. 2023. Former FIAN Brazil Secretary General Leads President Lula's Anti-Hunger Programs.

<sup>26</sup> Leão et al. 2012. Brazil's Experience of Building a Food and Nutrition Security System.

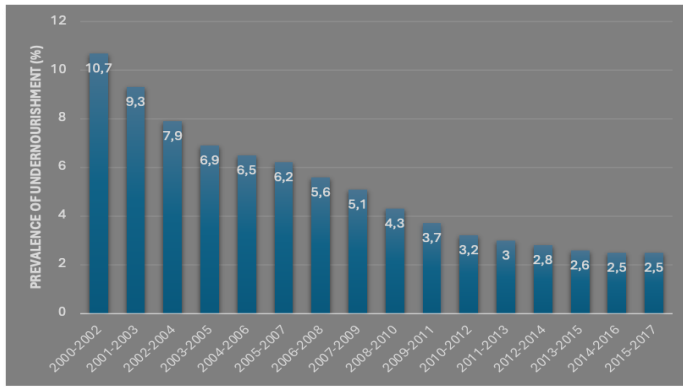


Figure 2 Prevalence of undernourishment in Brazil (2000-2017). Compilation by ESCWA using FAOSTAT data.

We present some of the key steps taken by Brazil in the implementation of the Right to Food, aligning with the guidelines set forth by the FAO in the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF)<sup>27</sup>:

<sup>27</sup> FAO. 2013. The human right to adequate food in the global strategic framework for food security and nutrition.

Guidelines	Brazil
Step 1 : Identify food insecure populations.	In 2004, IBGE conducted a food security survey in Brazil, using data from vaccination campaigns and the Indigenous Health Group. This allowed for detailed analysis by region, ethnicity, race, gender, and age, identifying vulnerable populations and regions facing food insecurity.
Step 2 : Assess policies and institutions, legislation, programmes, and budget allocations.	The Standing Commission on the Right to Food, part of CONSEA, developed a tool to integrate the Right to Food into policies and assessed key Zero Hunger programs: National School Feeding, National Family Grant, and National Family Health Strategy. Reports were shared with relevant government agencies, in collaboration with ABRANDH.
Step 3 : Adopt Human Rights Based Strategies for food security and nutrition as a roadmap for coordinated government action including targets, timeframes, responsibilities, and evaluation indicators.	Fome Zero (Zero Hunger) is Brazil's key anti-hunger program, focusing on four areas <sup>28</sup> : improving food access, supporting family agriculture, generating income, and promoting education and social mobilization. Between 2003 and 2008, Brazil invested US\$62.4 billion in this initiative, coordinated by the Zero Hunger Working Group under the Ministry for Social Development and the Fight Against Hunger (MDS).
Step 4 : Define roles and responsibilities of the relevant public institutions at all levels in order to ensure transparency, accountability, and effective coordination	<p><b>Ministry for Social Development (MDS):</b> Handles immediate food needs, underlying causes of hunger, and chairs the Inter-ministerial Chamber.</p> <p><b>SISAN (National System for Food and Nutrition Security):</b> Formulates, implements and evaluates food and nutrition policies.</p> <p><b>CONSEA (National Council on Food and Nutrition Security):</b> Monitors and sets guidelines.</p> <p><b>CAISAN (Interministerial Chamber for Food and Nutritional Security):</b> Coordinates the national food and nutrition security system (SISAN).</p> <p><b>The National Rapporteur for the Right to Food and Rural Land,</b> alongside Brazil's <b>Special Commission of the Human Right to Adequate Food,</b> investigates violations and seeks remedies with support from <b>Public Prosecutors</b> and the <b>Special Secretariat for Human Rights.</b></p>
Step 5 : Integrate the Right to Food into legislation	<p><b>Constitution (2010):</b> Art. 6 includes the Right to Food as a social right<sup>29</sup>.</p> <p><b>Framework Law (2006):</b> The Organic Law of Food and Nutrition Security (LOSAN)<sup>30</sup> details government responsibilities and creates CONSEA and CAISAN.</p> <p><b>Sectoral Law (2009):</b> The School Feeding Law mandates School Feeding Councils, nutritionist-prepared school menus, and requires at least 30% of school meal purchases to come from smallholder farming<sup>31</sup></p>
Step 6 : Monitor impact and outcomes	<p><b>Realizing the Right to Food:</b> CONSEA analyzed the food security and nutrition situation and monitored the implementation of Right to Food guidelines.</p> <p><b>Monitoring the Budget:</b> Brazil published the annual budget and monthly expenditure reports. CONSEA provided 14 advisory briefs with recommendations to the president.</p> <p><b>Monitoring Rights Violations:</b> The Secretariat for Human Rights, Public Prosecutors, and the National Rapporteur investigated human rights violations, focusing on marginalized groups between 2004 and 2006.</p>
Step 7 : Establish accountability mechanisms	<p><b>Right to Petition:</b> Citizens use the right to petition to address rights issues before authorities.</p> <p><b>Public Prosecutor's Role:</b> Investigates claims of rights violations, facilitates corrective measures, and can call for public hearings and negotiations.</p> <p><b>Public Civil Suits:</b> Used as a last resort in disputes between the state and society.</p>

<sup>28</sup> FAO. 2011. Right to Food—Making It Happen: Progress and Lessons Learned through Implementation.

<sup>29</sup> Constitution of the Federative Republic of Brazil. 2010.

## Conflict and the right to food in the Arab region

Conflict in the Arab region is causing widespread loss of life and displacement, while also posing a severe threat to the right to food, both in the short term and for the future. According to ESCWA's report "*Conflict in the Arab Region: A Threat to Land and Future*," ongoing conflicts have led to severe land degradation and the destruction of natural resources, exacerbating food insecurity across the region. Military activities and unsustainable practices in conflict zones such as Gaza, Yemen, and Sudan have caused widespread soil erosion, deforestation, and pollution of critical land and water resources. This degradation not only diminishes agricultural productivity but also directly undermines the livelihoods of millions who depend on these lands, challenging the long-term sustainability and food security of these regions.

Moreover, the ESCWA report "*The War on Gaza: Weaponizing Access to Water, Energy, Food, and Land*," highlights how access to essential resources has been systematically denied as a weapon of war. In Gaza, the deliberate obstruction of access to water, energy, food, and land has had devastating impacts on the environment and agriculture, leading to acute food insecurity. Such actions not only worsen the humanitarian crisis but also constitute a direct violation of the right to food, as they disproportionately affect the most vulnerable populations in an already impoverished region with high levels of displacement.

ESCWA. (2024). *Conflict in the Arab Region: A Threat to Land and Future*. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. Retrieved from <https://www.unescwa.org/publications/conflict-arab-region-threat-land-future>

ESCWA. (2024). *The War on Gaza: Weaponizing Access to Water, Energy, Food, and Land*. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. Retrieved from <https://www.unescwa.org/publications/war-gaza-weaponizing-access-water-energy-food-land>

### Recommendations :

The following steps can provide valuable guidance in both designing and effectively implementing the Right to Food:

- Consult the draft law : Engage representatives of beneficiaries and key actors during the legislative process to ensure their input and concerns are adequately addressed in the draft law.
- Ensure that the law explicitly addresses the budgetary implications and resources allocated for its implementation.
- Introduce a detailed Explanatory Note summarizing the analysis of the draft law's compatibility with human rights and existing legislation to provide comprehensive understanding of the law and its reasoning.
- After adoption, closely monitor the implementation and application of the law to ensure laws are implemented as intended and achieve the expected impact.
- Enhance and clarify the linkage between The Right to Food and the fulfillment of the Food Security pillars (Availability, access, utilization, sustainability, stability, and agency), by inserting all relevant and connected regulations or laws under one specific comprehensive framework to ensure these fundamental rights are adequately protected and promoted.
- Ensure compatibility between Right to Food framework law and the most relevant sectoral legislation affecting the enjoyment of the Right to Food.

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<sup>30</sup> FAOLEX Database. 2006. Law No. 11.346 on the National System for Food and Nutrition Security (SISAN).

<sup>31</sup> WFP. 2019. PNAE's Legal and Policy basis : building a Pathway to Homegrown School Feeding.

- Set advisory bodies to review laws and regulations to identify gaps, inconsistencies, or barriers to implementation.
- Ensure accountability by including training on data collection methodologies and analysis techniques to identify the most vulnerable communities.

Draft for Discussion