



Selected Resources

Food Security and Human Rights

Human rights in German development policy

BMZ Strategy and Guidelines on human rights in German development policy

The cross-sectoral strategy affirms the central role of human rights in German development policy and contains binding requirements for the implementing agencies; the Guidelines provide guidance on the incorporation of human rights standards and principles, including gender, in programme proposals.

- BMZ Strategy (2011):
http://www.bmz.de/en/publications/type_of_publication/strategies/Strategiepapier305_04_2011.pdf
- BMZ Guidelines (2013):
http://www.bmz.de/en/zentrales_downloadarchiv/themen_und_schwerpunkte/menschenrechte/Leitfaden_PV_2013_en.pdf

BMZ (2010), Human rights in practice – Fact sheets on a human rights-based approach in development cooperation

Collection of 2-page fact sheets that explain what the human rights-based approach in development cooperation means in general and for all priority sectors of German development cooperation. The fact sheet on food security and agriculture is on pages 12-13.

- http://www.bmz.de/en/publications/topics/human_rights/BMZ_Information_Brochure_7_2010e.pdf

BMZ also provides a thematic portal on rural development and food security.

- http://www.bmz.de/de/was_wir_machen/themen/les/ernaehrung/index.html (German)

United Nations reference documents and resources on the right to food

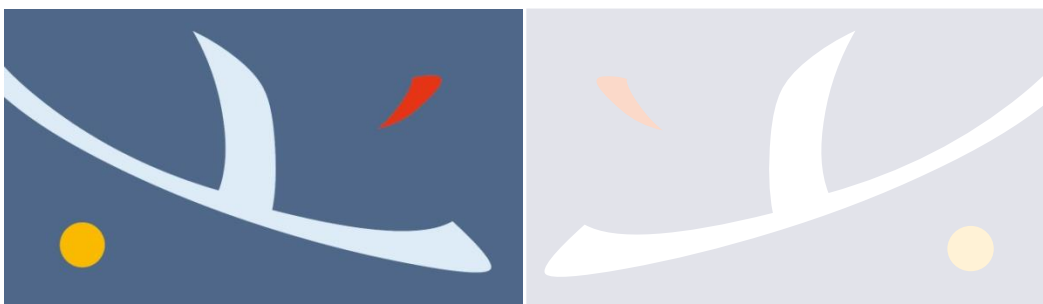
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), Article 11 (1), the right to an adequate standard of living, including housing and food; Article 11(2), 'the fundamental right to be free from hunger'

- <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CESCR.aspx>

UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), General Comment No. 12 on ICESCR Article 11: The right to adequate food (E/C.12/1999/5, 1999)

The treaty bodies, committees of independent experts established under the UN human rights treaties, issue 'General Comments', authoritative interpretations of the provisions of the treaty. The CESCR, through General Comment No. 12, has interpreted Article 11 in respect to the right to food.

- <http://www.refworld.org/type,GENERAL,CESCR,,4538838c11,0.html>



All states parties are obliged to submit regular reports to the CESCR on the steps taken to implement the rights stipulated by the Covenant. The Committee examines each report and addresses its concerns and recommendations to the state party in the form of ‘Concluding Observations’.

- http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/TBSearch.aspx?Lang=en&TreatyID=9&DocTypeID=5

FAO (2004), Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realisation of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Voluntary Guidelines, unanimously adopted in 2004, are one of the most important reference documents for the right to food. The Guidelines try to bridge the gap between legal recognition and effective realisation of the right to food by providing guidance for governments in meeting their obligations.

- <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/009/y9825e/y9825e00.htm>

UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food

The website of the Special Rapporteur offers a wide range of information on relevant international standards, country visits and annual reports. The current Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate food, Hilal Elver, has been in office since June 2014.

- Website: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Food/Pages/FoodIndex.aspx>
- Annual reports, e.g. on nutrition security, development cooperation, access to farm land and the situation of vulnerable groups such as women, indigenous peoples, small farmers, pastoralists and fisher folk: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Food/Pages/Annual.aspx>
- Further reports: http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?m=101
- The following report could be of particular interest: Former Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Olivier De Schutter, Final report: The transformative potential of the right to food (A/HRC/25/57, 2014), summarising deficiencies in the global food system and providing detailed recommendations to ensure the effective implementation of the right to food: http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/25/57

International and non-governmental organisations working on the right to food

FAO

The Food and Agricultural Organization’s website offers extensive background information on its work and strategy, as well as a number of relevant publications and tools.

- Website: <http://www.fao.org/righttofood/right-to-food-home/en>
- FAO Knowledge Centre, compiling tools relating to the right to food, including the Right to Food Methodological Toolbox, a legislative database and learning resources. It also provides access to distance learning courses: <http://www.fao.org/righttofood/knowledge-centre/en>

Food First Information and Action Network (FIAN)

FIAN is an international advocacy NGO working on issues related to the right to food. Apart from annual reports and the periodical ‘Right to Food Quarterly’, the website offers reports, studies and fact sheets dealing with a variety of issues surrounding the right to food.

- <http://www.fian.org>

Right to Food and Nutrition Watch

‘The Right to Food and Nutrition Watch’ is an annual compilation of contributions on the right to food published by a consortium.

- <http://www.rtfn-watch.org>

The right to food in development cooperation

UN Practitioners’ Portal on HRBA to programming – Resources on food

This is a growing collection of resources on applying a human rights-based approach (HRBA) to development in support of, amongst others, the realisation of the right to food.

- <http://hrbaportal.org/topics>

FAO (2013), Guidance note: integrating the right to adequate food into food and nutrition security programmes

This guidance note is a practical tool for practitioners, designed to integrate the right to food into food and nutrition security (FNS) programmes. It explains key concepts related to the right to food and examines entry points for FSN programs.

- <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3154e/i3154e.pdf>

Olivier De Schutter (2009), The role of development cooperation and food aid in realising the right to adequate food: moving from charity to obligation (A/HRC/10/5)

This report makes a number of suggestions on how to adjust programmes aimed at food security by better integrating a perspective based on the human right to adequate food.

- <http://www.srfood.org/images/stories/pdf/officialreports/or4-a-hrc-10-5-advanced-edited-version.pdf>



The right to food and particular groups

FAO (2009), The right to adequate food and indigenous peoples

This paper focuses on the analysis of the right to food from an indigenous peoples' perspective. It addresses the main issues of concern to indigenous peoples that relate to the right to food, including access to natural resources, intellectual property rights and the environment.

- <http://www.fao.org/docrep/016/i0728e/i0728e.pdf>

Olivier De Schutter (2012), Women's rights and the right to food (A/HRC/22/50)

This report identifies the multiple forms of discrimination women face, and how they affect their right to food. It argues that, only by tackling these different forms of discrimination, can their root causes be effectively addressed. Moreover, the report calls for states to respond to women's and girls' needs and priorities in their food security strategies.

- http://www.srfood.org/images/stories/pdf/officialreports/20130304_gender_en.pdf

UNHCR (2007), Food aid and nutrition – handbook for the protection of internally displaced persons, Action sheet 18

This 6-page briefing paper argues that it is essential to ensure that food aid not only contributes to preserving the life and adequate nutrition levels of those affected by displacement, but also realises its full potential to become, itself, an agent of protection.

- [http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/search?page=search&docid=4794b6382&query=right to food](http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/search?page=search&docid=4794b6382&query=right%20to%20food)

The right to food, access to land and natural resources

FAO (2012), Voluntary Guidelines on the governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security

The Voluntary Guidelines, adopted in 2012, represent the first international instrument on tenure. They provide guidance on how to improve the policy, legal and organisational framework for tenure rights and systems, and analyse the governance of tenure in the context of national food security.

- <http://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/69cedff9-d20d-5aed-8de5-1524bc24949e/>

Olivier De Schutter (2010), Access to land and the right to food (A/65/281)

This report discusses the importance of land tenure for the realisation of the right to adequate food. It examines the implications of increasing pressure on land, in particular for indigenous peoples, smallholders and groups such as herders, pastoralists and fisher folk.

- http://www.srfood.org/images/stories/pdf/officialreports/20101021_access-to-land-report_en.pdf

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