

ADDRESSING FOOD SECURITY ISSUES USING A HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

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In the face of persistent hunger stalking the Philippines, Asia, and the entire world, it is important to situate food security issues in relation to other issues such as poverty, increasing urbanization, informalization of work, international trading regimes, and climate change. Existing pillars of food security echo and support the normative content of the right to food and put into question state compliance with its obligations to respect, protect, and fulfill this right. Food security is also very much a gender equality issue, which foregrounds the rights of women and girls throughout their life course and the core human rights principle of non-discrimination. Given the various dimensions and interrelationships of food security with overarching concepts related to human rights, a national policy anchored on a food sovereignty framework is imperative. Food security policy should likewise be integrated into a broader human rights-based social protection policy. While linking to global human rights-related directions such as the Millennium Development Goals and drawing inspiration from existing models such as that of Brazil, food security policies and programs should also be pursued at the local level and break new ground in adopting strategies like urban and peri-urban agriculture (UPA).