

FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION (FAO)

TOPIC B:

Ensuring the accessibility of adequate supplies of food
for civilian populations in conflict zones.



I. Introduction of the topic

Access to adequate food supplies is a basic human right. However, conflict zones are often characterized by widespread hunger and food insecurity, driven by the destruction of agricultural infrastructure, displacement of populations, and disruption of supply chains. These crises predominantly impact civilian populations, who suffer from severe hunger, starvation, and even famine. According to the World Food Programme (WFP), approximately 60% of people suffering from hunger globally live in areas affected by conflict. Armed conflicts often destroy agricultural infrastructure, displace farming communities, and create barriers to humanitarian aid delivery. In addition, warring parties sometimes use food as a weapon, exacerbating starvation and food insecurity among civilians.

The FAO has taken a leading role in addressing these challenges by promoting policies and strategies aimed at safeguarding food access in conflict zones. Effective measures are crucial to mitigate the impact of war on food systems and protect the livelihoods of vulnerable populations. International cooperation, alongside innovative strategies to deliver aid and rebuild agricultural infrastructure, is essential to ensure the survival and resilience of civilian populations during and after conflicts.

The significance of this issue lies in its impact on global food security and humanitarian efforts.

Historical examples, such as the famine in Yemen and food crises in South Sudan, highlight the devastating consequences of failing to address food accessibility in conflict-affected areas.

Hence, the FAO's initiatives, along with collaborative efforts from governments and international organizations, are vital to alleviate hunger and restore food systems in conflict zones.

II. Definition of Key Terms:

Conflict Zones: Areas experiencing armed conflicts, political instability, or violence that disrupts the normal functioning of societies and economies.

Food Security: The state in which all people have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs.

Humanitarian Aid: Assistance provided to meet the immediate needs of populations affected by crises, including food, water, shelter, and medical care.

Food as a Weapon: A tactic used in conflicts where food supplies are intentionally withheld or destroyed to weaken or manipulate populations.

Livelihood Support: Initiatives aimed at enabling individuals and communities to secure their means of living, particularly in conflict or disaster situations.

Background Information and Important Historical Events:

Food insecurity in conflict zones is not a new phenomenon, but its scale and impact have intensified in recent years. Conflicts disrupt agricultural production and supply chains, leaving

civilian populations vulnerable to hunger. The timeline below highlights major events and milestones related to addressing food accessibility in conflict zones:

- **1945 Establishment of the FAO:** Created to address global food insecurity, the FAO's mandate includes responding to food crises caused by conflicts.
- **1974 World Food Conference:** Highlighted the link between food security and peace, leading to the recognition of food as a fundamental human right.
- **1996 World Food Summit:** Organized by the FAO, this summit emphasized the importance of protecting food systems in times of conflict to achieve global food security.
- **2011 Famine in Somalia:** One of the most devastating famines in recent history, exacerbated by conflict and restricted humanitarian access. It highlighted the urgent need for strategies to ensure food delivery in war-torn areas.
- **2017 UN Security Council Resolution 2417:** Acknowledged the link between armed conflict and food insecurity, condemning the use of starvation as a weapon of war and calling for unimpeded humanitarian access.
- **2020 FAO and WFP's Hunger Hotspots Report:** Identified conflict as the primary driver of acute food insecurity in several countries, urging for strengthened international efforts to protect food systems in these areas.

III. Possible Solutions:

Addressing food accessibility in conflict zones requires a multifaceted approach involving international cooperation, innovative strategies, and targeted interventions. Ensuring unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid, rebuilding agricultural systems, and developing early warning mechanisms are essential steps. Additionally, strengthening legal frameworks to prevent the use of starvation as a weapon and empowering local communities with sustainable farming practices

can enhance food security. Through global collaboration and resource sharing, the international community can effectively address these challenges and protect vulnerable populations.

IV. Works cited list

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