



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

LAUNCH OF THE WFP URBAN STRATEGY

# Achieving zero hunger in an urbanising world

SIDE EVENT ON THE MARGINS OF THE ANNUAL EXECUTIVE BOARD SESSION

29 JUNE 2023, 13:30 – 14:30 CEST



# Bringing together global, field and inter-agency perspectives

## Agenda

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- ❑ Introducing the WFP Urban Strategy  
Valerie Guarnieri, WFP
- ❑ Video: Urban areas are crucial to achieve zero hunger
- ❑ Keynote presentation  
Stephen Devereux, Institute of Development Studies
- ❑ Roundtable  
Lauren Landis, WFP Kenya  
Francesca Erdelmann, WFP Zimbabwe  
Mr. Guido Santini, FAO  
Ms. Megha Mukim, The World Bank
- ❑ Closing comments  
Samir Wanmali, WFP

Moderated by:



SAMIR WANMALI

**Deputy Director, Programme Division**  
**World Food Programme**







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# Introducing the WFP Urban Strategy



VALERIE GUARNIERI

**Assistant Executive Director for  
Programme and Policy Development  
World Food Programme**



**“I received training from WFP [to launch] my peanut butter business... Because of the profits I can make, my children are not going to bed hungry anymore.”**

**EDITH'S  
STORY**





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An aerial photograph of a food distribution center. A long, dense queue of people is lined up along a metal fence that separates a paved area from a dirt path. On the paved side, there are several large stacks of white-wrapped food packages on pallets. The dirt path is lined with lush green trees. In the background, a large, light-colored building with a corrugated metal roof is visible. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

# VIDEO

## Urban areas are crucial for achieving zero hunger





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# KEYNOTE



STEPHEN DEVEREUX

**Global Expert & Research Fellow**  
**Institute of Development Studies,**  
**University of Sussex**



# Launching the WFP Urban Strategy: A framework for action to achieve zero hunger in an urbanising world

## Keynote presentation

Stephen Devereux

29 June 2023



# ZERO HUNGER IN AN URBANISING WORLD

Launch of the  
WFP Urban Strategy

Side event on the margins of the  
Annual Executive Board

**THURSDAY,  
29 JUNE 2023  
13:30 – 14:30**

Auditorium, WFP Headquarters  
In-person & online



## Speakers

**Valerie Guarnieri**  
Assistant Executive Director, WFP

**Stephen Devereux**  
Global Expert & Research Fellow, Institute  
of Development Studies

**Francesca Eldermann**  
Country Director, WFP Zimbabwe

**Lauren Landis**  
Country Director, WFP Kenya

**Megha Mukim**  
Senior Urban Economist, The World Bank

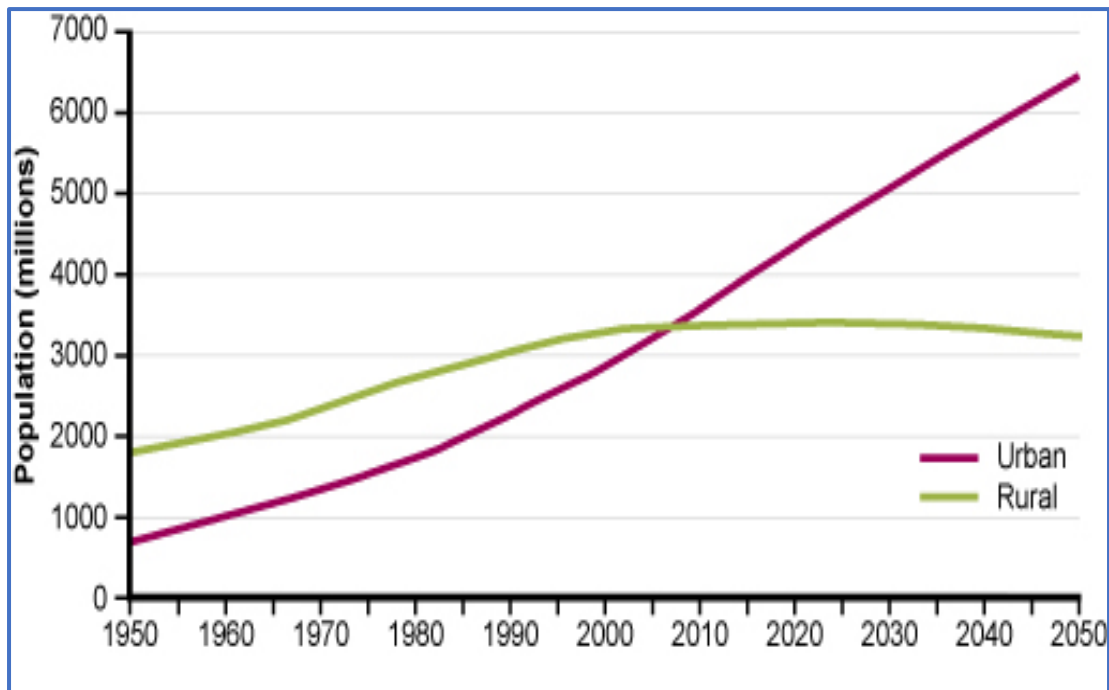
**Guido Santini**  
Food for Cities Coordinator, FAO

**Moderator: Samir Wanmali**  
Deputy Director, Programme Division, WFP

# Urbanisation of poverty and food insecurity

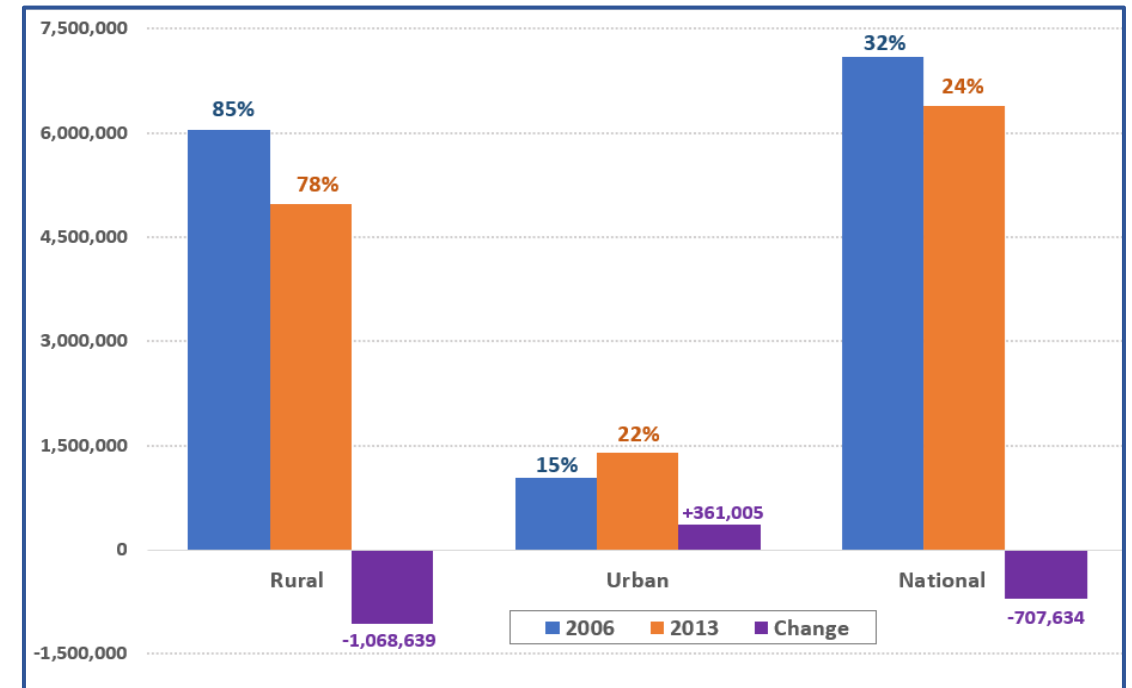
About 15 years ago, the number of people living in urban areas exceeded the number living in rural areas, for the first time in human history.

## Global rural and urban population (%)



The number of poor and food insecure people living in urban areas is also rising, mainly because urbanisation is driven by rural to urban migration.

## Rural and urban poverty in Ghana





# WFP's entry point to the urban context

- ❖ “The strategy treats ‘urban’ as a context ... rather than a new or siloed type of programming.”
- ❖ WFP does not enter cities and towns with a different mandate, or revised objectives, or a new set of instruments.
  - ❖ **Mandate:** to save lives, and to change lives.
  - ❖ **Objective:** zero hunger.
  - ❖ **Instruments:** food assistance – cash transfers, in-kind transfers, food vouchers, school feeding, public works – and nutrition.
- ❖ Significant shift: the urban context is very different to the rural.
- ❖ What makes urban areas different?
- ❖ Essential to understand this – to target, design, deliver food and nutrition programmes in urban areas effectively and efficiently.



**WFP Urban Strategy**  
Achieving zero hunger  
in an urbanising world



# Differences in vulnerabilities between rural and urban poor

	Rural poor	Urban poor
<b>Employment</b> is more precarious in urban areas.		
	Most working adults are <u>farmers</u> or <u>farm labourers</u> , working on family farms since childhood	Most poor adults are <u>unemployed</u> or working in the <u>informal sector</u> for low, unpredictable income
<b>Food security</b> is more precarious in urban areas.		
	Families have <u>direct access</u> to food through production and/or labour	Households <u>purchase</u> food from the market, so they need regular cash
<b>Nutrition security</b> is more precarious in urban areas.		
	Rural lifestyles are more active. Rural diets are more organic. Undernutrition still a challenge.	Urban lifestyles are sedentary. Urban diets shift to fast foods. Rising overweight and obesity.



# Differences in vulnerabilities between rural and urban poor

	Rural poor	Urban poor
<b>Vulnerability</b> derives from different sources in rural and urban areas.		
	Rural food access is vulnerable to <u>weather shocks</u> (e.g., drought)	Urban food access is vulnerable to <u>income poverty</u> (e.g., inflation)
	Rural poor are usually <u>community members</u> , sometimes supported but often socially excluded	Many urban poor are <u>migrants</u> or <u>IDPs</u> , politically marginalised and excluded from services and rights
<b>Living costs</b> are generally higher in urban areas.		
Food	❖ Food is often self-produced	❖ Food is usually purchased
Fuel	❖ Fuelwood is collected (free)	❖ Power/fuel is purchased
Water	❖ Water is collected (free)	❖ Water must often be paid for
Transport	❖ Transport costs are low	❖ Urban transport is expensive
Housing	❖ Housing is self-built	❖ Housing is rented or bought

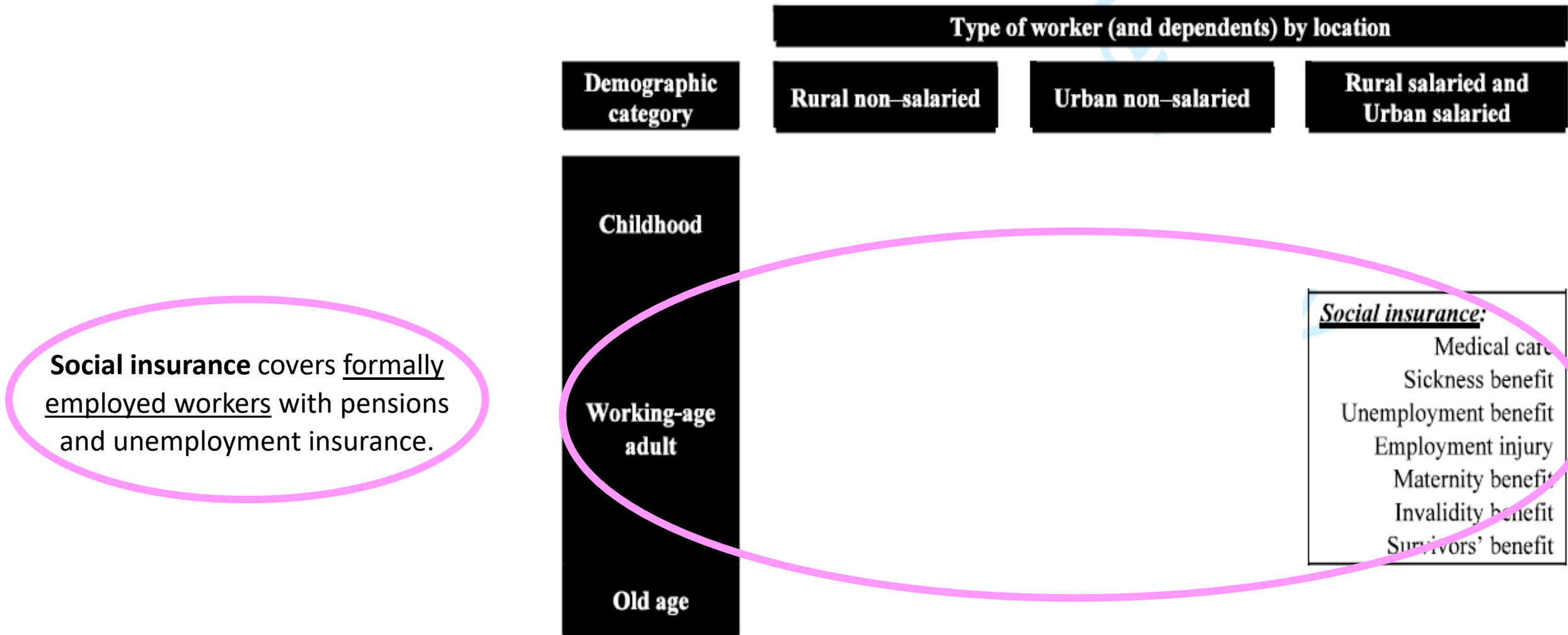
# The COVID-19 dividend – focusing attention on urban vulnerability

Demographic category	Type of worker (and dependents) by location		
	Rural non-salaried	Urban non-salaried	Rural salaried and Urban salaried
Childhood	<u>Social assistance:</u> Child grant School feeding	<u>Social assistance:</u> Child grant? School feeding?	<u>Social insurance:</u> Medical care Family benefit Survivors' benefit
Working-age adult			
Old age	<u>Social assistance:</u> Social pension	<u>Social assistance:</u> Social pension?	<u>Social insurance:</u> Pension

**Social assistance** covers non-working vulnerable groups (children, older persons, persons with disability).

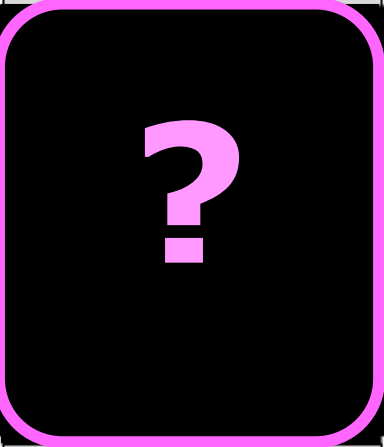


# The COVID-19 dividend – focusing attention on urban vulnerability



# The COVID-19 dividend – focusing attention on urban vulnerability

Low-income urban informal workers have no guaranteed access to any form of social assistance or social insurance.

Type of worker (and dependents) by location			
Demographic category	Rural non-salaried	Urban non-salaried	Rural salaried and Urban salaried
Childhood	<p><u>Social assistance:</u> Child grant School feeding</p>	<p><u>Social assistance:</u> Child grant? School feeding?</p>	<p><u>Social insurance:</u> Medical care Family benefit Survivors' benefit</p>
Working-age adult	<p><u>Social assistance:</u> Public works (labour capacity)</p> <p>Direct support (no labour capacity)</p>		<p><u>Social insurance:</u> Medical care Sickness benefit Unemployment benefit Employment injury Maternity benefit Invalidity benefit Survivors' benefit</p>
Old age	<p><u>Social assistance:</u> Social pension</p>	<p><u>Social assistance:</u> Social pension?</p>	<p><u>Social insurance:</u> Pension</p>



# Case study: Informal workers in urban Bangladesh

**COVID-19  
lockdown**





# Case study: Informal workers in urban Bangladesh

**COVID-19  
lockdown**

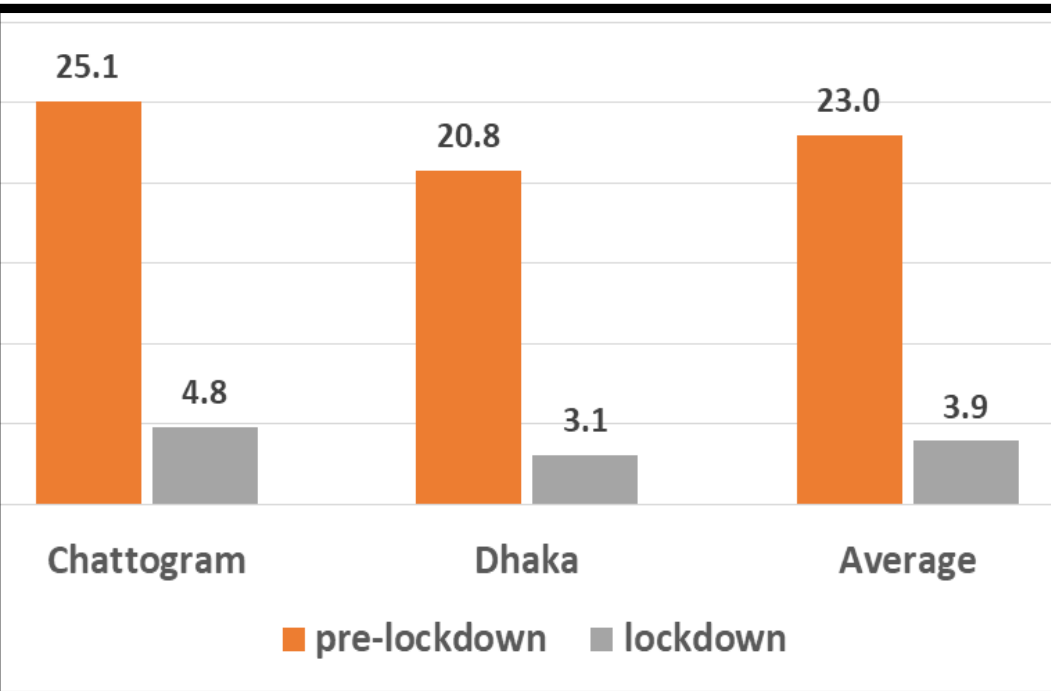


- Closing all educational institutions
- Cancelling public events
- Closing of all but essential services and workplaces
- Restriction on movement
- Stay-at-home requirement
- Closing public transport
- Banning international travel

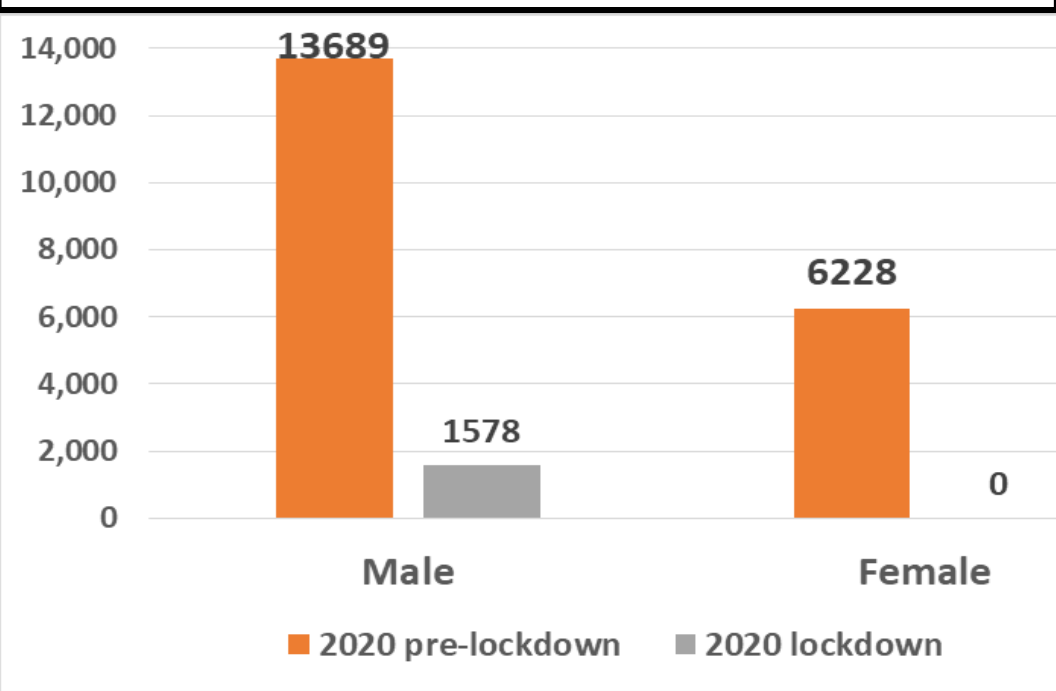


# Case study: Informal workers in urban Bangladesh

Days worked per month in urban Bangladesh, 2020



Average income per month by gender, 2020



*"I can't buy enough food for my family."*

*"I didn't get any help from government."*

# Issues for WFP–supported interventions in urban areas

## 4 questions

### 1. Who to target?

Fill the coverage gaps: Urban populations worst affected by COVID-19 were also neglected by social protection before – informal workers, homeless, youth, migrants, IDPs. LNOB.

### 2. How much support?

Should social assistance be higher in urban areas?

- ❖ Higher urban living costs (food, housing, water)
- ❖ High urban–specific costs (transport, electricity)

But are differential payments inequitable?



# Issues for WFP-supported interventions in urban areas

## 4 questions

### 3. What type of support?

- ❖ Cash transfers
- ❖ Food transfers
- ❖ Food vouchers
- ❖ School feeding
- ❖ Public works

### 4. Does one crisis response fit all?

- ❖ **COVID-19 pandemic:** shock-responsive social protection was dominated by cash transfers.
- ❖ **Cost-of-living crisis:** public responses to protect citizens are dominated by subsidies.
- ❖ **Obesity pandemic:** nutrition education or SBCC can influence shifts towards healthier diets.

2

ZERO  
HUNGER



*Thank you*



# ROUNDTABLE

## COUNTRY & INTER-AGENCY PERSPECTIVES



**Jean-Martin  
Bauer**

Country Director,  
WFP Haiti



**Francesca  
Erdelmann**

Country Director,  
WFP Zimbabwe



**Guido Santini**

Coordinator,  
City-Region Food  
Systems Programme,  
FAO



**Megha Mukim**

Senior Urban  
Economist,  
The World Bank





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May 2023

# Achieving Zero Hunger in an Urbanising World

## Zimbabwe



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# ZIMBABWEAN CITIES

1

5.2 million of the 15.2 million people live in cities

2

33 percent of urban populations reside in informal settlements.

3

Urban areas contribute extensively to national GDP – the Harare metropolitan area contributed some 34% to GDP between 2015 and 2020.

4

There is 43% informal labour & 31% unemployment in urban areas

5

The average cost of the urban food basket in Zimbabwe Dollars increased by 470 percent (in May 2023) compared to the same time in 2022

6

2020: 2.3 million people in urban areas were estimated to be food insecure.

2022: 1.5 million were food insecure; some 28% of the total urban population.

High inflation, rising food prices, and fluctuating exchange rates have devalued assets, savings, and micro-enterprise output at household level.

Urban areas are most afflicted by inequalities stemming from differences between socioeconomic groups, gender, ethnicity, migratory status, location of residence (slums or formal settlements), city size.

There is a circular migration between rural and urban areas.



# PROGRAMMING IN URBAN AREAS IN ZIMBABWE

## Emergency cash-based assistance

Extremely vulnerable households receive humanitarian support over a given period (USD 13 per person, per month).

*Shock Responsive Social Protection  
Harmonized Cash Transfer Programme*

## Resilience-building

Builds the absorptive, adaptive and transformative capacities of urban communities (minimum 18 months, combines two-to-three income-generating activities per household depending on model and the establishment of internal savings and lending groups)

*Urban Agriculture – SMEs - Financial Inclusion  
Youth and women economic empowerment*

**Preparedness to disasters**  
Strengthens urban disaster risk management and its coordination within urban domains at local authority and community levels

*SRSP – DRM - EPR*

## Protection

Promotes community dialogue on GBV through creation of safe spaces and increases access to GBV information and response services.

*Social Cohesion – Inclusion*

## Nutrition

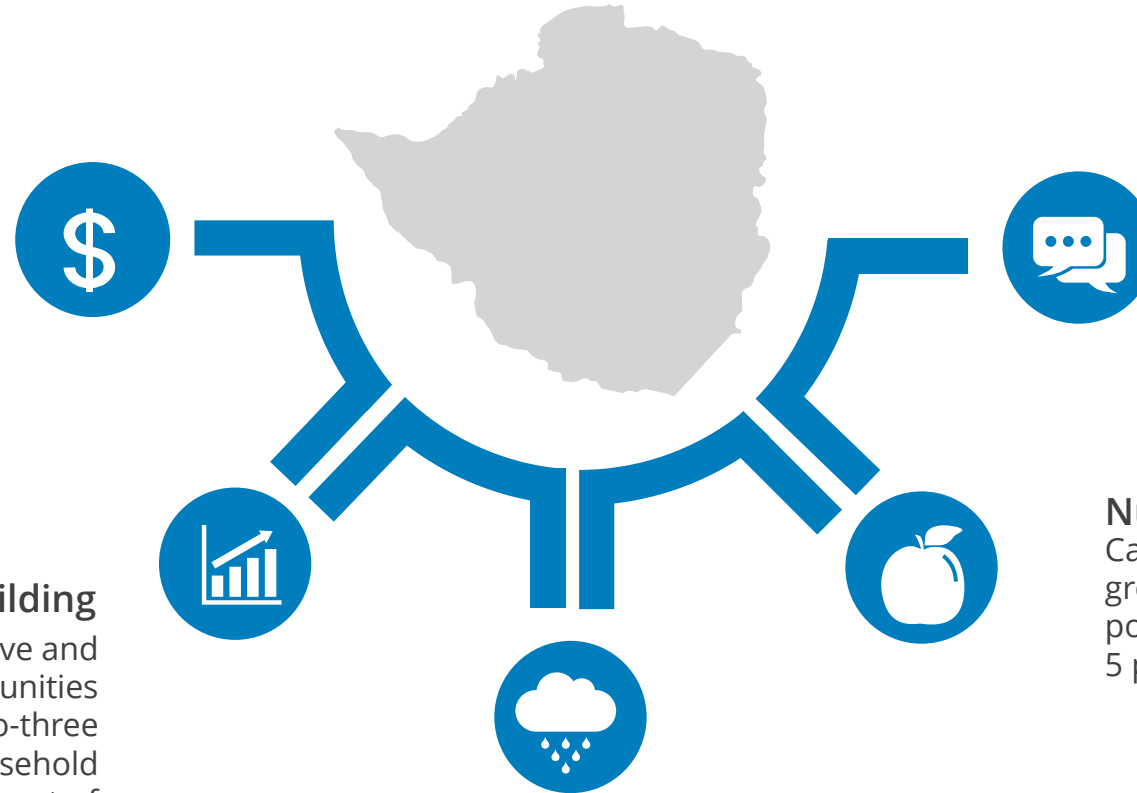
Cash top-ups to cushion vulnerable groups and increase their purchasing power to access diversified diets (USD 5 per person, per month).

*Dietary Adequacy*

## Seasonal Livelihood Programming

Multistakeholder analysis of challenges and opportunities for enhanced urban livelihoods

*Devolution & Decentralization  
Evidence based planning & budgeting*

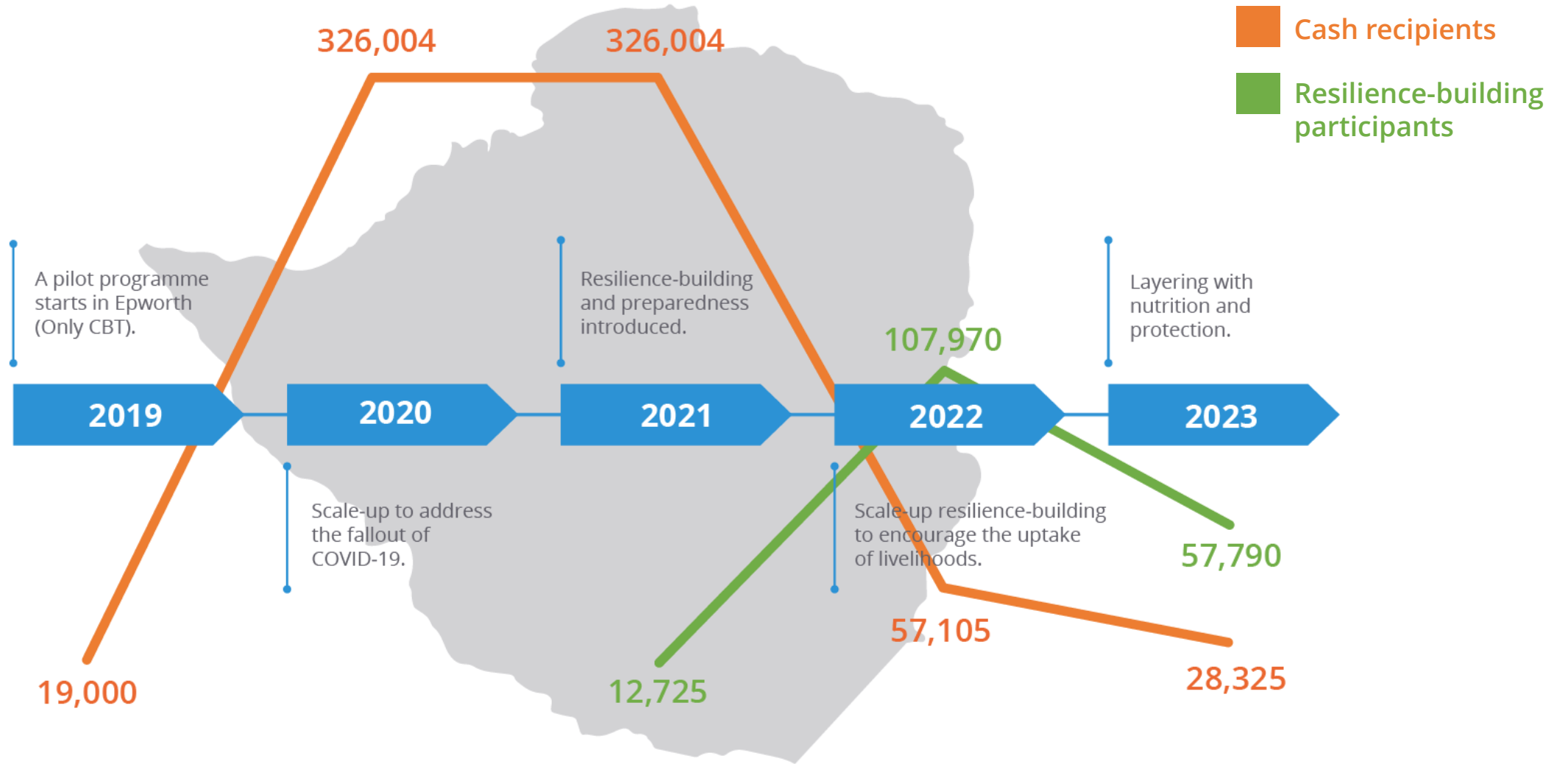




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# THE URBAN PROGRAMME'S HISTORY

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# LEARNINGS

- **Country Capacity Strengthening:** Collaboration with Government: Models, Manuals, MIS etc.
- **Depth instead of breath:** Geographic concentration and layering for impact. *Modeling vs delivery at scale.*
- **Innovation and research:** studies & assessments on *value chains, food systems, gender, nutrition, institutional capacities & governance mechanisms.*
- **Targeting:** Cash-based assistance is different from resilience-building. *How to build linkages for comprehensive social protection and household/individual graduation.*
- **Market Linkages:** Market assessments and establishment of agreements with bigger off-takers for participants to access larger markets. *Quality assurance, branding etc.*
- **Programme Design:** Standardized start-up packages for resilience-building and business & entrepreneurship skills training. *Need for continued access to resources, business centers, connectivity.*
- **Implementation Period:** A minimum of 18 months for urban resilience. (rural resilience = 5 years)
- **Beyond income generation:** Financial inclusion and savings & lending groups. *Link to formal financial institutions?*





A woman with dark skin and her hair in braids is shown from the waist up, leaning forward. She is wearing a light blue sleeveless top and a colorful patterned skirt with polka dots in shades of pink, yellow, and grey. She is holding a green-handled pitcher filled with thick, golden-brown peanut butter, pouring it into a clear plastic container. The background is dark and appears to be an outdoor or semi-outdoor setting with wooden structures. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the woman's face and the texture of the peanut butter.

‘Selling peanut butter  
has made life easier for  
me. I can now put food  
on the table for my  
family’

**Edith Ndebele**

THANK YOU

FAO work with cities to  
Build sustainable agri-food system and  
Green lifestyle  
for better cities

Guido Santini, Programme Coordinator, FAO



# Urban food systems is one of the core activities in FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31

*Support national and local decision-makers of small, intermediary and metropolitan cities to initiate, coordinate and scale up actions and investments towards urban and territorial food systems transformation*

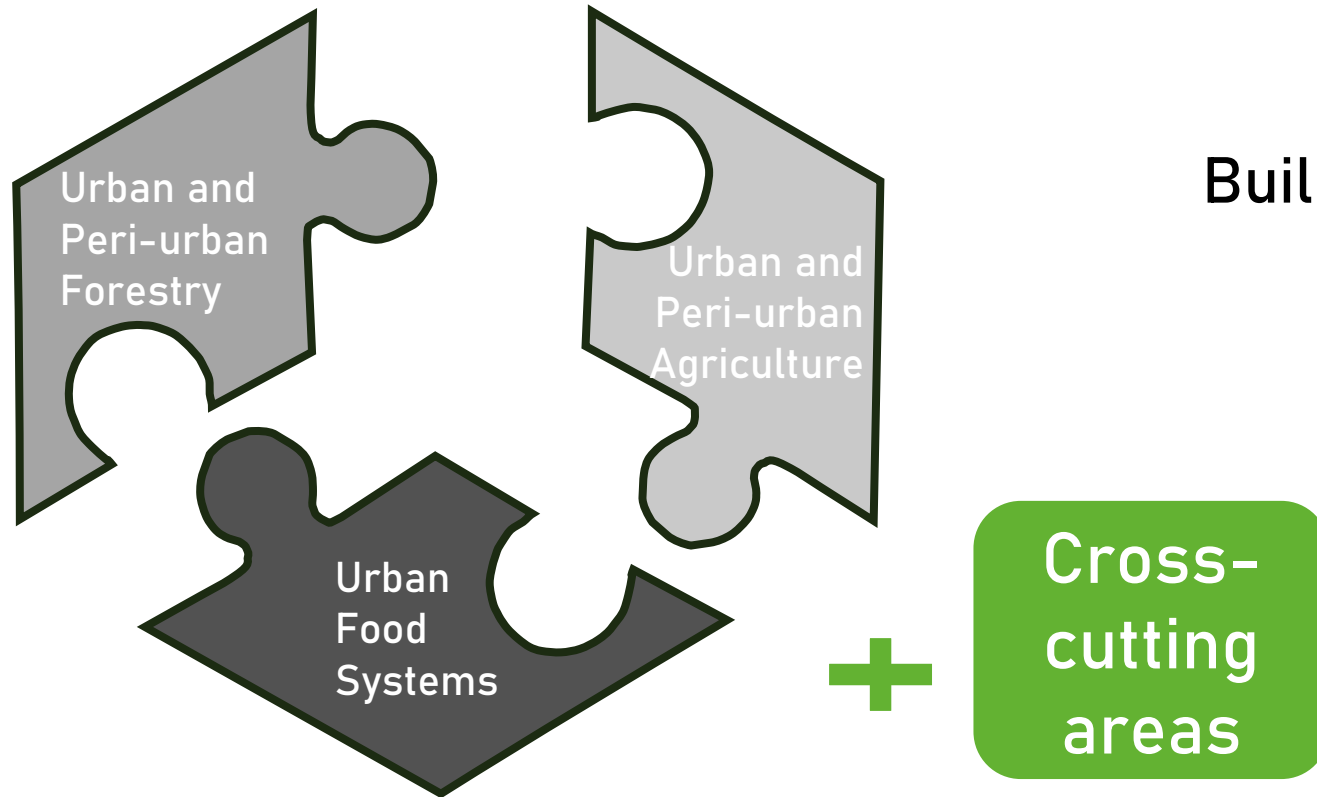
## IMPACT

- Reduce the level of **urban poverty, food insecurity** and all forms of **malnutrition**
- **Address gender and social inequalities**
- Leveraging urban demand for **healthy diets**
- Promote sustainable management of **natural resources**
- Improve **resilience** to shocks and extreme events

## KEY THEMATIC OUTCOMES

- Better understanding of the Urban Food Systems: **Analysis and Data**
- Mainstreaming urban food systems in urban **policy** at national and local levels
- Facilitate the establishment of multi-level and multi-stakeholders **food governance mechanisms**
- Provide **technical support** and develop **capacities** on various food systems entry points
- including South–South and Triangular cooperation and **City-to-city exchanges**

# Key pillars



Building well-being of urban dwellers  
and resilient cities to shocks



- ▶ maximizing the provision of *ecosystems goods and services*
- ▶ fostering *sustainable and climate-resilient practices and technologies* to improve local food production and management of urban

*Supporting* Local Governments  
*Adopting* Holistic Approach  
*Promoting* Rural-Urban Syne

# GCI action programme

## Urban/peri-urban agriculture

- Home gardens
- School gardens
- Community gardens
- Commercial small-scale farming

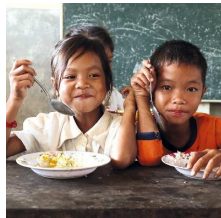


## Enabling Environment

- Food Systems Analysis
- Food Strategy/Food policies
- Integration of Food in Urban and Territorial Planning
- Multi-stakeholder Food Governance and vertical integration

## Improving Food Environment

- Market access
- Public Procurement
- Nutrition programmes and education



## Food waste and Circular economy

- Surplus food recovery for vulnerable people
- Compost production for agriculture and tree nurseries
- Renewable energy sources

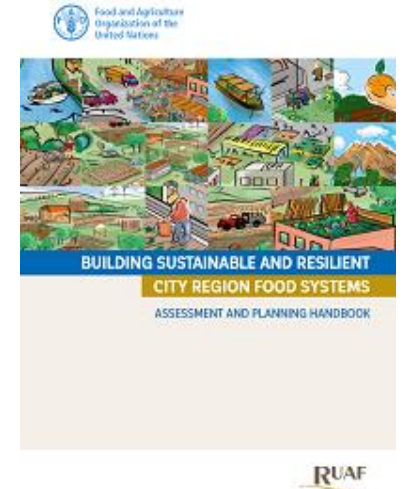
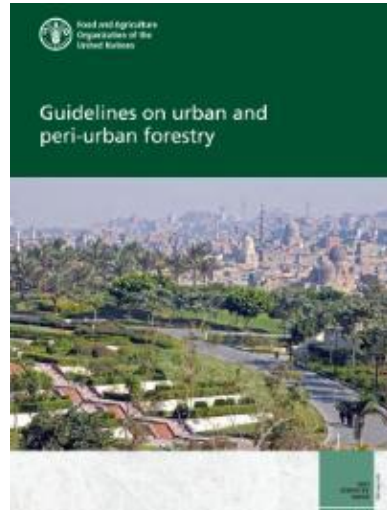
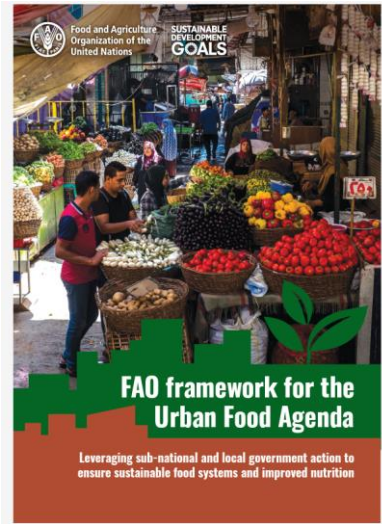
## Urban/peri-urban forestry

- Strategies for urban greening
- Standards for tree management
- Nature-based solutions in and around cities





# Knowledge exchange



## 2<sup>nd</sup> World Forum on Urban Forests

Washington DC  
16-20 October 2023

Register now



#WFUF2023



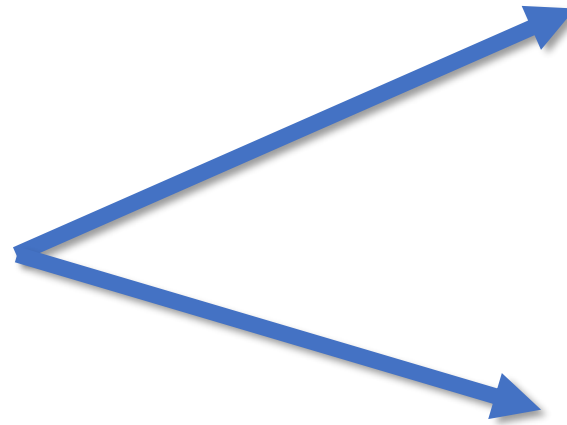
# Partners



# Action at the Global Level



The [Urban Food Systems Coalition](#) has been established during the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit: cities are recognized as key players in the overall food systems transformation.



ELEVATE THE VOICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN GLOBAL FORA (including at the Food Systems Stocktaking Moment- July 2023)

ENGAGING CITIES IN MULTI-LEVEL FOOD SYSTEMS GOVERNANCE

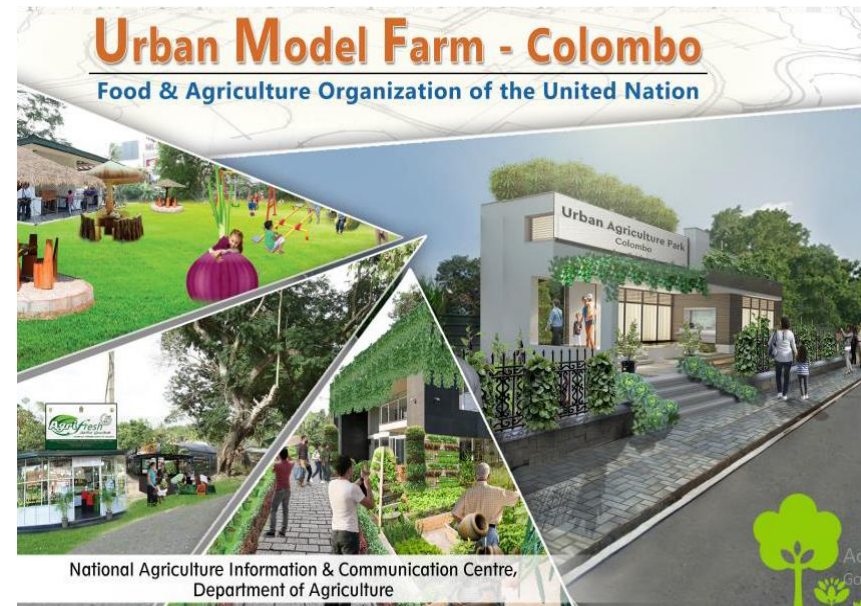


# Actions at the Local Level

School gardens in Antananarivo, Madagascar



Greening in Kigali, Rwanda



UPA project in Colombo, Sri Lanka



# Actions at the Local Level



## NAIROBI & KISUMU FOOD STRATEGIES



CITY-CITY EXCHANGE AMONG  
NAIROBI-MILAN-KIGALI  
ON  
LOCAL FOOD POLICY AND FOOD  
WASTE MANAGEMENT



- Market access for Local Smallholders & Agroecological products via Public Procurement
- Healthy food for vulnerable groups
- Youth Food Education



- Greening Bahrain: urban greening and climate change adaptation
- H2020 Conexus: Europe and Latin America NBS
- Green Urban Oases: Cabo Verde, Chad, Namibia, South Sudan, Tunisia, Jordan and Mongolia

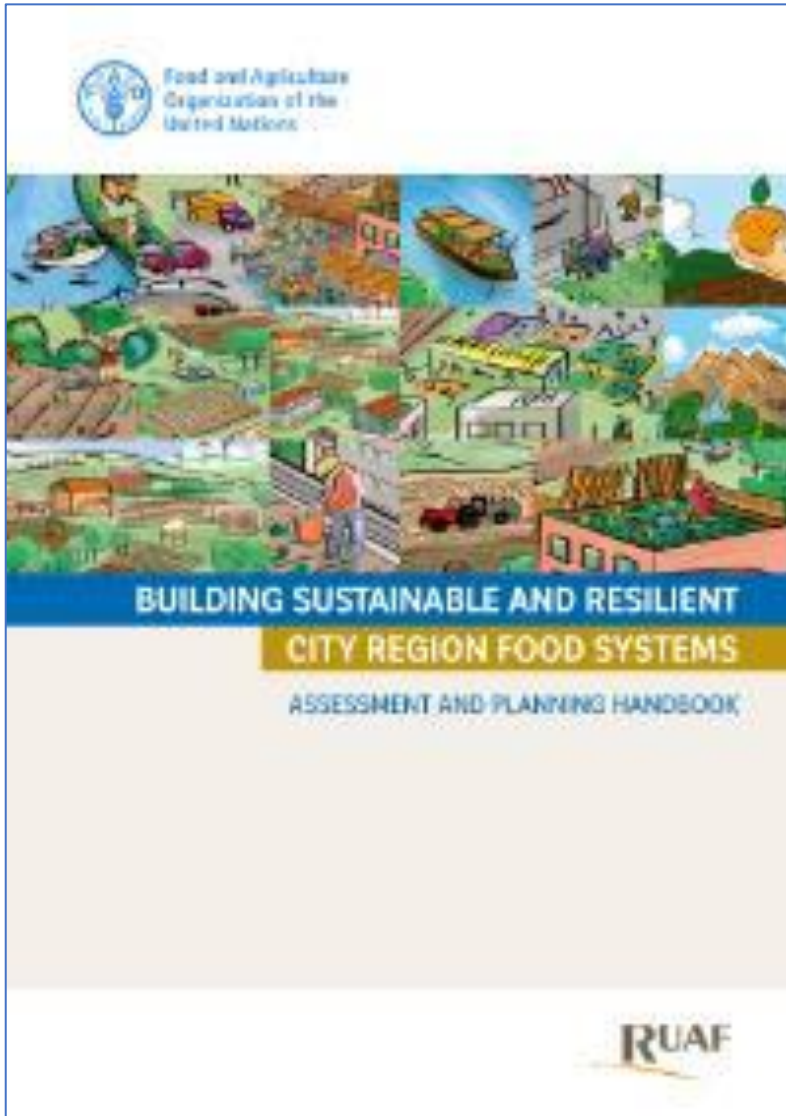
# City Region Food Systems Programme



- Build understanding of the functioning and performance of city region food systems
- Assess risk and vulnerability to multiple shocks
- Integrate resilience in local food system planning across urban and rural areas
  - Strategies and policies to improve the resilience of the local food system
- Promote multi stakeholder coordination and governance to plan concerted actions
- Foster City-to-City knowledge exchange on good practices



# CRFS Handbook and Online Toolkit



**CITY REGION FOOD SYSTEMS PROGRAMME**  
REINFORCING RURAL-URBAN LINKAGES FOR RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS

**FAO GREEN CITIES INITIATIVE**

Home Overview **Toolkit** Pilot cities News Resources Partners

**Introduction to the Toolkit**

- Programme pillars and concepts
- Inception
  - Define the CRFS
  - Rapid scan
  - In-depth assessment
  - Action planning

**City Region Food System Toolkit**

- DEFINING THE CRFS
- GOVERNANCE
- GETTING PREPARED
- CRFS SCAN
- CRFS ASSESSMENT
- POLICY SUPPORT AND PLANNING

Partners

**RUAF**

# Synergies and complementarities

- Integrate food system perspective in resilience strategies and plans
- Promote a holistic approach to resilience (5 capacities: prevention, anticipation,, absorption, adaptation and transformation)
- Comprehensive assessment of urban systems (data collection and harmonization)
- Collaborate on urban-rural linkages and territorial approaches
- Promote integrated urban planning and territorial development processes

# Many thanks!

## Useful links

<https://www.fao.org/green-cities-initiative/en/>

<https://www.fao.org/urban-food-agenda/en/>

[https://www.fao.org/urban-peri-urban-agriculture/en](https://www.fao.org/urban-peri-urban-agriculture/en/)

<https://www.fao.org/forestry/urbanforestry/en/>

<https://www.fao.org/in-action/food-for-cities-programme/en/>

Let's work together to build a resilient  
future







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# QUESTIONS & REMARKS







**THANK YOU**



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