



Launching the WFP Urban Strategy

A framework for action to achieve zero hunger in an urbanizing world

Side event on the margins of the annual session of the Executive Board
Thursday, 29 June 2023, 13:30–14:30
Hybrid format event (WFP auditorium and online)¹

The World Food Programme kindly invites its partners and members to the official launch of WFP's first-ever Urban Strategy. Keynote speaker **Dr. Stephen Devereux (Institute of Development Studies)** will highlight the evidence on how urbanization impacts food security and nutrition and what this means for WFP's mandate and programming. Speakers from **WFP country offices, The World Bank**, and **FAO** will present concrete examples of the added value of WFP programmes in urban areas.

For those who will be joining in person at WFP headquarters, you are welcome to join for light refreshments in the fountain area at 13:00 CEST.

Context

The burden of food insecurity and malnutrition is shifting from rural to urban areas, particularly in middle-income and least developed countries where many urban residents increasingly struggle to meet the high cost of living and afford enough food. To be successful in delivering on SDG 2, WFP needs to adapt its programming quickly and effectively to these complex contexts that have different populations, markets, governance structures, partners, as well as risks and opportunities.

Building on operational and analytical evidence, and lessons learned from WFP past operations in urban areas, this event will launch the **WFP Urban Strategy** as a critical step towards equipping the organization to meet its mandate in an increasingly urbanizing world. The strategy provides a more coherent and systematic approach to programming in urban contexts by answering the following questions: What **priorities** will WFP pursue to support urban people vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition? What **actions** should WFP undertake to achieve those priorities? What **programmatic shifts** are required to deliver on these priorities and actions?

¹ Those who will be already at WFP headquarters on the day of the event, will be able to attend the side event in person in the Auditorium. All other participants will join the event virtually; connection details will be shared through the WFP Executive Board Secretariat.

Objectives

The side event will bring together global, field and inter-agency perspectives to:

- launch the Urban Strategy as a framework for action for achieving zero hunger in an urbanizing world;
- present evidence on how urbanization impacts food security and nutrition outcomes and what this means for WFP's mandate and programming;
- present concrete examples on the added value of WFP's programming in urban areas, bringing perspectives from WFP country offices and partners;
- reflect on the role of partnerships and a system-wide approach in addressing food security and nutrition challenges emerging from rapid urbanization.

Agenda

Moderated by: Mr Samir Wanmali, Deputy Director, Programme – Humanitarian and Development Division, WFP

1. Introducing the WFP Urban Strategy

- Ms V. Guarnieri, Assistant Executive Director, Programme and Policy Development Department, WFP

2. Video: Urban areas are crucial to achieve zero hunger

3. Keynote presentation (remote)

- Dr Stephen Devereux, Global Expert and Research Fellow, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex

4. Round table

- Ms Francesca Erdelmann, Country Director, Zimbabwe, WFP
- Mr Jean-Martin Bauer, Country Director, Haiti, WFP
- Mr Guido Santini, Programme Coordinator, Food for the Cities, FAO
- Ms Megha Mukim, Senior Urban Economist, The World Bank

Questions and remarks from the floor

5. Closing comments

- Mr Samir Wanmali, Deputy Director, Programme – Humanitarian and Development Division, WFP

Resources

- [WFP Urban Strategy: Achieving Zero Hunger in an Urbanising World](#)
- [Summary of the WFP Urban Strategy](#)
- [WFP Urban Advocacy Toolkit](#)