Bringing together global, field and inter-agency perspectives

Agenda

- 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
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.”
VIDEO

Urban areas are crucial for achieving zero hunger
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
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.

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.
“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.
## Differences in vulnerabilities between rural and urban poor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Urban poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Most working adults are farmers or farm labourers, working on family farms since childhood.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food security</strong></td>
<td>Families have direct access to food through production and/or labour.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nutrition security</strong></td>
<td>Rural lifestyles are more active. Rural diets are more organic. Undernutrition still a challenge.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Differences in vulnerabilities between rural and urban poor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vulnerability</th>
<th>Rural poor</th>
<th>Urban poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural food access is vulnerable to weather shocks (e.g., drought)</td>
<td>Urban food access is vulnerable to income poverty (e.g., inflation)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural poor are usually community members, sometimes supported but often socially excluded</td>
<td>Many urban poor are migrants or IDPs, politically marginalised and excluded from services and rights</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Living costs</th>
<th>Rural poor</th>
<th>Urban poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>- Food is often self-produced</td>
<td>- Food is usually purchased</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuel</td>
<td>- Fuelwood is collected (free)</td>
<td>- Power/fuel is purchased</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>- Water is collected (free)</td>
<td>- Water must often be paid for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>- Transport costs are low</td>
<td>- Urban transport is expensive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>- Housing is self-built</td>
<td>- Housing is rented or bought</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The COVID-19 dividend – focusing attention on urban vulnerability

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

Devereux & Cuesta (2021)
Social insurance covers formally employed workers with pensions and unemployment insurance.
Low-income urban informal workers have no guaranteed access to any form of social assistance or social insurance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic category</th>
<th>Rural non-salaried</th>
<th>Urban non-salaried</th>
<th>Rural salaried and Urban salaried</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Childhood</td>
<td>Social assistance: Child grant</td>
<td>Social assistance: Child grant?</td>
<td>Social insurance: Medical care, Family benefit, Survivors’ benefit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working-age adult</td>
<td>Social assistance: Public works (labour capacity)</td>
<td>Social assistance: School feeding?</td>
<td>Social insurance: Medical care, Sickness benefit, Unemployment benefit, Employment injury, Maternity benefit, Invalidity benefit, Survivors’ benefit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old age</td>
<td>Social assistance: Direct support (no labour capacity)</td>
<td>Social assistance: Social pension?</td>
<td>Social insurance: Pension</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Devereux & Cuesta (2021)
Case study: Informal workers in urban Bangladesh

COVID-19 lockdown
COVID-19 lockdown

Case study: Informal workers in urban Bangladesh

- 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Pre-lockdown</th>
<th>Lockdown</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chattogram</td>
<td>25.1</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhaka</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average income per month by gender, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>2020 Pre-lockdown</th>
<th>2020 Lockdown</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>13689</td>
<td>1578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>6228</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“I can’t buy enough food for my family.”

“I didn’t get any help from government.”

Devereux and Shahan 2020
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?
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.

3. **What type of support?**

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

Issues for WFP–supported interventions in urban areas
Thank you
ROUND TABLE
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
Achieving Zero Hunger in an Urbanising World
Zimbabwe
High inflation, rising food prices, and fluctuating exchange rates have devalued assets, savings, and micro-enterprise output at household level.

5.2 million of the 15.2 million people live in cities.

33 percent of urban populations reside in informal settlements.

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

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.

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

There is a circular migration between rural and urban areas.

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.

[YouTube link: Zimbabwe: Egetta's Story]
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

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

Social Cohesion – Inclusion

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

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

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

SRSP – DRM - EPR

Seasonal Livelihood Programming
Multistakeholder analysis of challenges and opportunities for enhanced urban livelihoods

Devolution & Decentralization
Evidence based planning & budgeting
THE URBAN PROGRAMME’S HISTORY

- **2019**: A pilot programme starts in Epworth (only CBT), with 19,000 participants.
- **2020**: Scale-up to address the fallout of COVID-19, reaching 326,004 participants.
- **2021**: Resilience-building and preparedness introduced, with 326,004 participants.
- **2022**: Scale-up resilience-building to encourage the uptake of livelihoods, reaching 107,970 participants.
- **2023**: Layering with nutrition and protection, with 57,790 participants.

- **Cash recipients**
- **Resilience-building participants**
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?*
‘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
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

- maximising the provision of ecosystems goods and services
- fostering sustainable and climate-resilient practices and technologies to improve local food production and management of urban forests and trees

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

Supporting Local Governments
Adopting Holistic Approach
Promoting Rural-Urban Synergies

Cross-cutting areas
GCI action programme

Urban/peri-urban agriculture
- Home gardens
- School gardens
- Community gardens
- Commercial small-scale farming

Improving Food Environment
- Market access
- Public Procurement
- Nutrition programmes and education

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

Urban/peri-urban forestry
- Strategies for urban greening
- Standards for tree management
- Nature-based solutions in and around cities

Food waste and Circular economy
- Surplus food recovery for vulnerable people
- Compost production for agriculture and tree nurseries
- Renewable energy sources
Partners

- UN-Habitat
- ICLEI
- RIKOLTO
- C40 Cities
- RUAF
- Milan Urban Food Policy Pact
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

NAIROBI CITY COUNTY FOOD SYSTEM STRATEGY
2021 - 2025

- 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

- Market access for Local Smallholders & Agroecological products via Public Procurement
- Healthy food for vulnerable groups
- Youth Food Education
Support in assessing risk and vulnerabilities to multiple shocks and formulate strategies and policies to increase resilience.

- Identify short-term contingency measures and long-term structural interventions to increase the resilience of the food system;
- Promote multi-stakeholder coordination and governance to manage crises and plan concerted actions;
- Promote sustainable and resilient urban and peri-urban agriculture and short supply chains as measures to adapt to multiple shocks.
- Promote mechanism City-to-City knowledge exchange on good practices.

- 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
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/urban-food-agenda/en/
https://www.fao.org/urban-peri-urban-agriculture/en
QUESTIONS & REMARKS
Thank you