

African Food Security Urban Network



AFSUN Policy Brief MAPUTO

Overview of the Study

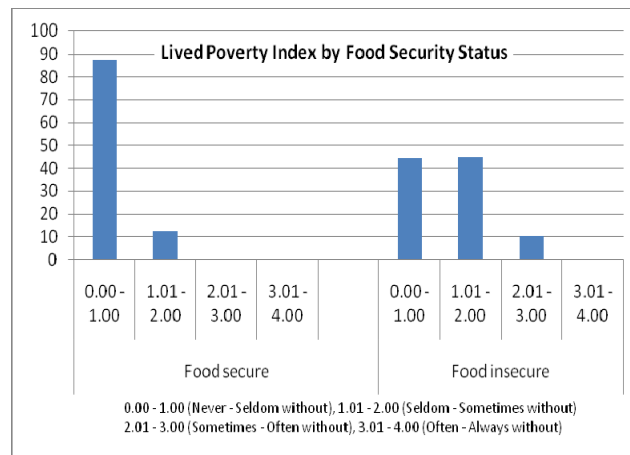
The Urban Food Security Baseline Survey for Maputo collected data from 391 households located in 40 of the city's 54 *bairros*. The results of the survey confirm that Maputo city dwellers face difficult challenges, including chronic food poverty. Unlike the trend of the country that shows a decline on poverty index the city of Maputo indicates the contrary. Maputo has become a poor city since the introduction of the Action Plan of Poverty Reduction. At the same time, the city has unprecedented growth population rates especially in the poorest *bairros*. Maputo has registered an average population growth rate of 4.5% between 1980 and 1990 and 1.7% between 1990 and 1997; this is in contrast to rates in the poorest areas which vary between the lowest at 11.3% in Laulane to the highest at 39.8% in Costa do Sol. It is in these *bairros* where dwellers have witnessed the failure of the system to provide basic services, adequate and enough food and jobs. Food insecurity has become a reality in Maputo, despite the steady increase in the availability to food at the city scale.

Key Findings

Levels of Food Insecurity: The households have limited abilities of providing enough food, which situation drives to malnourishment and diseases related to the lack of enough food. The survey findings support this trend, demonstrating that amongst the poor urban population (who are the majority) 86% are food insecure. Similarly, the data indicates that dietary diversity is poor, with an average of six different food groups being eaten. However, when sugar, fats and non-nutritive beverages are excluded, this score falls to three. In addition, more than two thirds (69%) of the sample reported that there were months with inadequate food provisioning for the household on the past 12 months.

Health and Food Insecurity: The survey demonstrates a positive relationship between food security and mortality and morbidity, with higher rates of both death and illness being recorded amongst food insecure households. Looking at TB and HIV/AIDS, only two cases were reported by households in the sample that were either 'food secure' or 'mildly food insecure'; in contrast, there were 30 cases reported by the food insecure households.

Poverty of Food Insecurity: The Lived Poverty Index (LPI) captures the experience of poverty at the household level. The graph below demonstrates that poverty (LPI) and food security status are strongly associated in Maputo – the majority of households that are food secure have the lowest LPI score (never or seldom go without).



Policy Issues

Support for the Informal Sector: As the only avenue open to many of Maputo's poor and food insecure, informal networks (particularly with migrants in rural and other urban areas) and trade provide an essential livelihoods base – a fact which has not been sufficiently taken into consideration in urban development policies.

Health Interventions: The dominant diseases of malnutrition, TB, pneumonia, HIV and AIDS are linked to food insecurity in the study area and health is therefore an urgent policy priority.

Action Plan for Poverty and Food Security: Food security should be mainstreamed in the Plan, as it is the poorest that experience the greatest food deprivation in Maputo.

Project Support

AFSUN's first funded project is *Urban Food Security and HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa* and is supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) under its University Partners in Cooperation and Development (UPCD) Tier One Program. The project is being implemented in the cities of Blantyre, Cape Town, Durban Metro, Gaborone, Harare, Johannesburg, Lusaka, Maputo, Maseru, Manzini and Windhoek.

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