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ADAPTING TO AN URBAN WORLD

By 2008, for the first time in history more people lived in cities than in rural areas.

Today the world's urban population stands at about 3.9 billion, but it is expected to surpass six billion within 30 years. Close to 90 percent of the increase will be concentrated in developing countries in Asia and Africa, particularly India, China and Nigeria¹.

Estimates vary but it is likely that more than one billion people live in urban slums, the fastest growing human habitat.

Urbanization can be seen as an indicator of economic progress, but unplanned urban expansion raises many challenges. Many urban residents struggle to pay the high cost of city living (rents and food) or to afford sufficient food to meet their minimum nutritional requirements.

Unhygienic, crowded living environments with poor access to basic services, lack of security of tenure, unemployment, violence, public health risks and poor sanitation may further undermine their food security. These underlying causes of food and nutrition insecurity are often exacerbated by an increasing number of climate change related disasters, and by international and domestic hikes in the cost of food and fuel. Due to a high dependency on markets for food, urban populations are particularly vulnerable to food price fluctuation.

The urban poor may have a less diverse range of coping strategies to employ in the face of food insecurity than do their counterparts in rural areas: for example they cannot access land to grow their food and inter-generational support networks tend to be weaker.

Managing urban areas is one of the major development challenges of the 21st century. This challenge includes ensuring access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets the dietary needs and food preferences of all urban residents at all times to allow them to lead active and healthy lives.

However, food security assessment tools specifically designed and tested for urban settings are limited because the humanitarian community has traditionally focused on assisting people in rural areas. The characteristics of vulnerability in urban settings are generally more complex and require a different approach to identification and targeting. More subtle vulnerability assessment and targeting tools are needed to take into account this complex dynamic. This work is urgent as urbanisation gathers pace.





ADAPTING TO AN URBAN WORLD PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The Adapting to an Urban World overall objective is to strengthen food security analysis to support humanitarian programmes for urban settings. The project will combine qualitative and quantitative methods to gain an in depth understanding of the complexity of the factors. It will be implemented over a three-year period from approximately September 2014 - December 2017. It will develop assessment tools that can establish:

- 1 Clear criteria for identification of vulnerable neighborhoods
- 2 How to take into account differences in food consumption within the household and how to account for more complex food consumption patterns (including street food and other food eaten outside the home)
- 3 How to capture the diversity of earnings within one household and within geographic areas
- 4 How to identify coping strategies more typically used in urban areas.

These tools will be designed and tested in six or more different urban contexts facing food insecurity, including areas affected by conflict, natural hazards, migration, rising food prices, poverty and in slum dwellings.

The Global Food Security Cluster & WFP Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping co-manage the project in terms of coordination and technical guidance and a Steering Committee of different partners has been created to advise on the project implementation.

WORK ACCOMPLISHED SO FAR

Desk review

Phase I of Adapting to an Urban World included an updated desk review carried out in 2014, which built upon WFP/Oxfam's 2010 review of approaches, methods and tools used by humanitarian agencies to measure

livelihoods, food insecurity and vulnerability in urban contexts. The results of the desk review have informed the design of the country case studies by highlighting the methodological gaps and recommended solutions when assessing urban food security needs.

CASE STUDY	CONTEXT	METHODOLOGY	KEY FOCUS
1 Harare (Zimbabwe)	Chronic food insecurity, relatively stable security situation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary data review • Mapping Workshop • Household and key informant interviews • Pilot test of household questionnaire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General exploratory study to better understand gaps and challenges in urban food security measurement; • To inform the development of methods and tools for ZimVAC led urban assessment.
2 Syrian Refugees: Amman (Jordan), Beirut (Lebanon)	Massive Syrian refugee population, instability and ongoing population movement, complex legal issues affecting livelihood opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews with stakeholders (humanitarian actors and government) to understand and consolidate experiences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refugee specific assessments, including humanitarian coordination and data protection; • Best methods of assessing mobile populations; • How to define 'urban.'
3 Antananarivo, Tulear, Tamatave (Madagascar)	Chronic food insecurity, relatively stable security situation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary qualitative data collection (focus groups, interviews with street food vendors) in one city. • Representative household survey across three cities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing methodology for measuring street food consumption; • Using secondary data for representative sampling. (<i>primary objective of survey was urban food security analysis to inform WFP school feeding programme design</i>)
4 Port au Prince (Haiti)	Unstable security situation in certain areas of Port au Prince. Primary constraint to food security is economic access.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary qualitative data (focus groups, street food vendor interviews) • Small household survey • Strongly partner developed/led. Exercise led by government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refining street food consumption methodology; • Using preliminary qualitative data to ensure quantitative tools are urban specific; • Informing design of urban monitoring system.
5 Mogadishu (Somalia)	Assessment in highly insecure area, including many IDPs. Unstable and unpredictable ability to gather data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary data review • Significant consultation with partners in Nairobi as part of secondary data review and interviews with stakeholders. • Small household survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimising methods for assessments in extremely insecure contexts; • Accounting for IDPs and other mobile populations; • Assessing urban livelihoods.

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

DEFINE VULNERABLE URBAN AREAS

PRIORITY ACTION:

Develop methodology for standardized area based analysis allowing for identification of vulnerable neighbourhoods.



The starting point for any assessment is the selection of the location in which to implement a survey and subsequent programme. Defining clear criteria to identify the most vulnerable and food

insecure areas within the urban context is one of the key challenges. Priority action (look the area based analysis of the other doc under the main lessons learned box

HOUSEHOLD INCOME



It is very challenging to gather comprehensive data on the income of a household because urban jobs and incomes differ so much: they can be daily, weekly, temporary, numerous, diverse and fluid. To develop a tool for a comprehensive analysis

of household income in urban contexts it is recommended supporting research that will specifically seek alternative ways to account for a comprehensive list of the sources of income and associated income, while also ensuring time and cost efficiency.

HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE

PRIORITY ACTION:

Three month period of operational research required to establish urban specific food expenditure share thresholds. Existing data, such as LSMS or Household Consumption and Expenditure Surveys, can be used to examine expenditure information and compare against other indicators.

The challenge is to comprehensively capture the number of food items and how much households spend on them, particularly in slums and poor neighborhoods. Typical indicators are more complicated to use in these settings. For example the food Expenditure Share and its established thresholds are questioned in urban contexts, where non-food expenditure, such as rent and heating, is relatively high.



LIVELIHOODS

PRIORITY ACTION:

Given the variation within one livelihood, livelihood groupings are particularly challenging in urban contexts. Specific research, including primary data collection, is required to determine how to best collect, analyse and group livelihood data in urban contexts.



Livelihoods can be very varied in urban areas; access to different economic activities may be defined by factors such as household composition, skills, physical abilities, education, etc. Given the variation within one livelihood, livelihood groupings

are particularly challenging in urban contexts. Priority action Specific research, including primary data collection, is required to determine how to best collect, analyse and group livelihood data in urban contexts.

FOOD CONSUMPTION

PRIORITY ACTION:

- Three month period of operational research required in order to verify validity of in-home, household level measures of food consumption (e.g. Food Consumption Score) in urban areas. Existing datasets including the FCS, such as some LSMS or Household Consumption and Expenditure Surveys, can be used for this purpose, allowing comparison of caloric intake and FCS results.
- Develop methodology for systematic merging of at home (household level) food consumption and outside home (individual level) food consumption.

Urban households are likely to eat a more diverse range of foods than rural, but the quality of their diet may be limited, so the standard Food Consumption Score (FCS) indicator may not adequately reflect food insecurity in an urban setting. WFP VAM is carrying out some innovative work to examine nutrient adequacy within a household, which is likely to be particularly valuable in urban areas. This FCS-N (i.e. N for nutrition) analysis will be applied and further tested in the proposed pilot country assessments. This should help identify households



that are not adequately meeting their nutritional needs. The FCS is typically focused on foods prepared or consumed at home, while urban households more frequently consume food outside. Priority action

COPING STRATEGIES

Many coping strategies typically included within urban assessments are more appropriate for rural contexts. Priority action To develop urban-specific coping strategies and severity weights in order to properly measure how urban households adapt.



SAMPLING

PRIORITY ACTION:

Develop Standard Operating Procedures for creating sampling frames and identifying households when there is no up to date population list.

The heterogeneity of urban contexts makes sampling a complicated exercise. Representative samples that include wealthy areas are a waste of resources, so this issue is closely linked to the identification and understanding of vulnerable areas. Innovative efforts are

underway to develop sampling techniques for urban areas, including the use of GIS software, population density maps, snowball samples and key informants. Combining these techniques is proving to be effective in various urban settings.

NEXT PHASES

Phase III of the project will include 2-3 additional case studies from Asia, Latin America and Africa to explore different aspects of urban food insecurity. The capacity and existing urban initiatives of national partners and governments will determine the locations of these assessments.

As with the first five assessments, these case studies will aim to identify the most common methodological challenges when assessing urban food security. They will pilot test various approaches for sampling, data collection, data analysis and targeting methods, again combining both qualitative and quantitative methods to gain an in-depth understanding of the complexity of factors impacting food security measurement.

In particular the process for each case study will include the following activities:

ACTIVITY	OUTPUTS
Secondary data review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of food insecurity situation and determinants • Description of the indicators, methods and tools to assess food insecurity, highlighting solutions, challenges and gaps
Mapping/zoning exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratification of the areas based on common demographic and socio-economic or other relevant indicators • Description of the main livelihoods of the households • Description of the sampling strategy
Household and market survey and qualitative analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of food security and key determinants in the area assessed • Validated indicators, methods and tools • Analysis of potentials for market based response and cash transfer programming
Lessons learned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations to overcome specific gaps and challenges in assessing food security needs in urban settings • Guidance on the collaboration mechanisms for food security programmes between GFSC partners and urban administrations as well as communities.





STEERING COMMITTEE:
ADVISES ON PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

INTERNATIONAL



FEDERATION

