



AFSUN

AFRICAN FOOD
SECURITY URBAN
NETWORK

AFSUN aims to influence global, national and municipal policy affecting food security in urban Africa in four ways:

- By producing reliable data on the dimensions of urban food insecurity, the relationship between poverty and food security, the role of supermarkets and the informal food economy, and the livelihood strategies of urban households.
- Knowledge dissemination and advocacy interventions into urban food systems and the built and natural environment.
- Capacity building and training of officials, policy-makers and graduate students to build a group of African urban food security specialists who engage with policy.
- Providing avenues through which the food security needs and priorities of the urban poor can be articulated and addressed.

The African Food Security Urban Network (AFSUN) is an international partnership led by the Balsillie School of International Affairs, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, and the African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town, South Africa.

AFSUN has partners in nine African countries and collaborates with international organizations, major NGOs, municipal governments and global networks such as the Hungry Cities Partnership.



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AFSUN focuses on the implications of rapid urbanization in Africa for urban food systems, local and global food markets, and the food security of the rapidly growing numbers of urban poor. It seeks to raise the global profile of the crisis of food insecurity in African cities and to suggest concrete policies and interventions to improve food access, diversity and nutrition. Research centres on:

- The operation of urban food systems, including formal and informal supply mechanisms.
- Assessments of levels and trends in food insecurity.
- Perceptions and attitudes of the urban poor, including women and children, to food and nutrition.
- The double burden of malnutrition.
- Gender dimensions of food security strategies.
- Impacts of national and municipal legislation and regulations on food security of poor urban households.
- Extent of urban agriculture and obstacles to increasing urban agriculture.
- Impacts of social grants on the food security of urban households.
- Environmental constraints on urban food security and the dynamics of environmental vulnerability.

URBAN AFRICAN SURVEYS

Three countries in the AFSUN network – South Africa, Mozambique and Namibia – are part of the **Hungry Cities Partnership**, a global network that also includes Kenya, Jamaica, Mexico, India and China. Surveys of informal food system vendors and entrepreneurship in Cape Town, Maputo, Nairobi and Windhoek have been done through this project and reports on opportunities for youth employment and entrepreneurship in the food system of these cities are in progress.

AFSUN is expanding knowledge about urban food systems and experiences of household food insecurity in secondary African cities through a project funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) of Canada. Secondary cities in Malawi, Cameroon and Namibia are the focus of the project, which is undertaking baseline household food security surveys and researching the role of informal food vendors and rural-urban links in these countries.



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