Invitation to the CFS 45 Side Event organized by the World Food Programme’s Vulnerability Analysis Unit (VAM) and the Global Food Security Cluster (gFSC)

Adapting to an Urban World: tailoring food security assessments to address the challenges of urban settings

Recent decades have seen increasing rates of urbanization across the world – from 746 million people in 1950, to 4.2 billion in 2018. By 2050, two thirds of the global population will be living in urban areas. This escalating urbanisation trend is accompanied by an increasing prevalence and intensity of natural and man-made disasters in urban centres. Countries which are urbanising most rapidly are also often among the most vulnerable.

To meet the targets under SDG 2 on achieving zero hunger, there is also need to make significant progress on SDG 11, on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. However, urbanization challenges our usual ways of working. Urban areas are characterized by high-density, heterogeneous communities. In contrast to rural areas, urban inhabitants are more mobile and their social, political, economic and institutional environment is more complex. Humanitarian and development actors are realizing that the traditional focus on assessing local food systems as well as people’s food security and other basic needs, and translating those into appropriate responses, does not work well in urban areas.

In the framework of CFS 45, WFP VAM and the gFSC in close collaboration with FAO – Food for the Cities Programme, the University of Arizona and the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture will be hosting an event to discuss how urban assessments are different and the challenges in assessing and responding in cities. Through a series of three short stories, the panel will highlight what are the opportunities to ensure food security in urban areas as well as building more resilient cities. Finally, the event will also stress the importance of partnership development and active participation of key urban actors at all levels when conducting assessments, but also in strengthening preparedness and improving resilience.

Panellists include:
- Dr. Susanne Schlaack, Head of Division - German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture;
- Dr. Tom Evans, School of Geography and Development - University of Arizona;
- Guido Santini, Programme Coordinator - Food for the Cities Programme (FAO);
- Marina Angeloni, Programme Officer - gFSC;
- Sergio Regi, Food Security Analyst - WFP VAM;
- Katrina Frappier, Information Management - WFP VAM

Please join us on Friday, October 19th from 1-2:30 pm in the Philippines Room at the Food and Agriculture Organization – Rome, Italy