

**World Urban Forum V – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**  
*The right to the city – Bridging the urban divide*



World Urban Forum - Food Security: Bridging the Urban-Rural Divide  
Rio de Janeiro - 24 March 2010



IASC Task Force on  
Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas  
a Food and Agriculture perspective

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## IASC task force: why?



- Inter-Agency Standing Committee: ensure humanitarian coordination
- Cities brought on the agenda because:
  - Crises increasingly affect cities; humanitarian actors need to adapt their approach
  - Urbanisation increases the risk of crisis
- Task Force chaired by UN Habitat – FAO, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, NGOs

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## Crises accelerate urbanisation



- People leave rural areas because of:
  - armed conflict
  - food insecurity and destitution
- ...and settle in urban and peri-urban areas
  - living in precarious situations
  - adding to the problems of urban populations
- Most will never return
  - because they get used to the city
  - because they have nowhere worth going back to

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## The role of food and agriculture in emergencies



- Strengthen livelihoods of food insecure households
- Increase food availability
- Typical emergency relief interventions
  - distribution of agricultural inputs (seeds and tools, small livestock, boats and fishing equipment...)
  - training

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## Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas



- Institutional :
  - Humanitarian actors must collaborate with urban institutions, authorities and partners
  - Municipalities and local institutions are not familiar with the humanitarian set-up
- Operational:
  - Organizational tools, procedures and capacities need to be adapted
  - Humanitarian response & risk reduction should be linked
  - Humanitarian assistance must lead to recovery and sustainability

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## Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas (cont.)



- Requires an integrated approach
  - Shelter, housing, land and property rights
  - Food security (incl. food assistance)
  - Water, sanitation and hygiene
  - Basic health care
  - Protection, Security and Gender Based Violence
- and therefore a common framework

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## We therefore should...



- Adapt tools, guidelines and procedures for use in urban areas
- Assess capacities of urban authorities, NGOs and civil society
- Collate and share typologies of urban humanitarian crisis

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## By the end of 2010



### The Task Force aims to:

- provide an inventory of relevant tools and methodologies
- enhance IASC understanding of effectiveness of current methods, practices and capacity needs, (including through country case studies)
- to improve knowledge management and sharing of tools and experiences (MHCUA page on One Response website)

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## MHCUA: an opportunity?



- Food security & livelihoods are brought to the urban debate (in particular urban and peri-urban agriculture)
- Effective integration of humanitarian response
- Emergency operations must go beyond food production (in particular processing and marketing)
- Increased food availability and quality can benefit urban consumers
- Appropriate agriculture practices can contribute to DRM (for resilient cities)

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So let's join forces

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We cannot keep these issues separate any longer

...so we can't deal with them alone

***Let's network?***

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