

FOOD SECURITY - Habitat Universities Thematic Hub

Hosted by: Newcastle University, UK

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PART A: Description

1. Name of Hub: Food Security – Securing a healthy and sustainable urban food supply

2. Main UN-Habitat thematic priorities to which this Hub connect:

- *Urban Legislation, Land and Governance*
- *Urban Planning and Design*
- *Urban Economy*
- *Urban Basic Services*
- *Housing and Slum Upgrading*
- *Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation*
- *Research and Capacity Building*

3. Short description of Hub:

What:

A collaboration of academic and practice partners seeking to promote urban food security through development of initiatives in research, communications, education, outreach, and capacity building, to assure a sustainable urban food supply that reduces environmental impact, enhances the food security and livelihoods of the urban poor and protects public health and urban ecosystems.

Why:

Urban food security, as defined by continuation of affordable, appropriate, safe and accessible supply, is probably the most critical issue facing the urban poor in the Global South. The UN recently raised concern over escalating world food prices. However, work on urban food security has typically been disconnected from other development agendas; for example, spatial and urban development, housing and settlements, water quality, health, sustainability or urban governance. There is an urgent need to bring these agendas together. Moreover, because the provision of a sustainable food supply has strong links with several UN-Habitat issues, including resilience and gender, the theme cross-cuts several of the WUC themes.

Who:

Initially:

- › Newcastle University, Global Urban Research Unit, Global Urban Research Unit (GURU)
- › University of Pennsylvania, Penn Institute for Urban Research (PennIUR), USA
- › Chandigarh University, India
- › Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria
- › Foro Ciudades Para La Vida, Peru
- › University of South Florida
- › University of Twente

For a list of proposed partnerships and connected projects, see point 5 below, and point 2. in part C.

How:

Partners developed and circulated a draft work plan at the HPUI Global Meeting in Tampa, May 11, 2013. In order to advance the program, members will work virtually and meet regularly at international meetings. They will engage in the following activities:

Research

The Hub will develop a global landscape study of urban food security, surveying and assessing national and local food security policies and make recommendations for improved policies.

Instruction

The Hub will create a web-based catalog of curriculum offerings and develop modules to enhance knowledge and capacity building in urban food security for further and higher education which will also be the basis of capacity building materials.

Communications

The Hub will develop an educational and awareness outreach campaign related to urban food security through a range of audience-specific publications, including a quarterly bulletin. It will also seek to develop and host workshops related to research and instructional initiatives.

Each activity will have tangible outputs as described in the chart on pages 4-6.

4. Linkages to HPUI Pillars

Education:

As well as programmes focused on food security, there is a particular need to embed issues of food security within a range of curriculum, or areas of study, where it is relevant but not currently considered. In particular the hub will seek to develop curriculum on food security for programmes relevant to spatial and urban planning, settlement upgrading, infrastructure development, agriculture and nutrition programmes, water quality, food waste use, fair trade, organic food production and urban ecosystems services. These will be developed for both in-house and distance delivery.

Research:

Two areas of research need to be addressed early within the hub's lifespan. First, there is a need for a study of the drivers and barriers to securing a healthy and sustainable **urban** food supply. This can be initiated through a study of the global landscape of international, national and local policies in highly developed and rapidly developing countries. Second, if research on food security is to be multi- and trans-disciplinary, there is a need to develop a shared language and methodological approach to research.

Further potential areas for research include urban agriculture, post harvest management and technology, access to markets, fair trade; land allocation, settlement upgrading, food waste beneficial uses, organic production and other topics. However, many myths about urban food security, particularly in relation to urban agriculture, still need to be dispelled.

Professional Development:

There is considerable scope for the development of urban food security capacity by building initiatives and workshops for a wide range of professionals including nutritionists, spatial and urban planners, community development experts and those working in the 3rd sector directly with low-income urban communities. In particular, the hub offers the opportunity to bring 3rd sector, 'professionals', local functionaries and politicians as well as local producers together to share and disseminate knowledge and tools. Ultimately, the

team might produce a resource and training guide for 3rd sector organisations, so they can build capacity in local producers and communities and also disseminate good practices from around the world on how to undertake programs to assure a secure and healthy urban food supply in a safe and sustainable manner.

Policy Advice:

Through a broad study of global practices this Hub will gather and disseminate information on the wide range of urban food security policies at the international (e.g. food aid), national (e.g. trade, food subsidies, food inspection) and local (land use and urban agriculture, water quality, health provision, storage, distribution and waste) levels. It will place particular emphasis on urban food security policies affecting the poor.

Knowledge Management:

The Hub will engage in outreach activities to major stakeholders, including public and private decision-makers, to bring to their attention the full range of critical issues in securing a healthy and sustainable urban food supply. It will employ academic and popular publications, policy position and advice papers and the HPUI interactive website. In addition, it will disseminate knowledge through the individual member institution networks. Outputs of the Hub will be available through the HPUI interactive website in English and Spanish.

5. Possible linkages to related projects: UN-Habitat and other universities/institutions/ organizations

UN-Habitat already has a working relationship with RUAF. The Hub members have discussed potential collaboration with RUAF in the past and this is a logical progression of those conversations. They have sponsored international conferences on the topic, notably Feeding Cities, Food Security in a Rapidly Urbanizing world as the University of Pennsylvania, March 2013. The full proceedings of the conference are posted at www.feedingcities.com.

Further linkages will be established through the execution of the activities discussed below as well as by working with the UN HABITAT branches listed in the table below. (Note that this is a proposed list by UN-Habitat, intended to facilitate communication from the Hub Coordinator to the listed contacts. The HPUI Office has introduced the contacts to the focus and aim of the Hub, and these have indicated their interest in discussing collaborations.)

Kindly cc the HPUI Office at HPUI@unhabitat.org for the initial communications regarding collaborations on the below.

UN-Habitat Branch	Unit	Contacts	Current Projects
Urban Legislation, Land and Governance		Diana Lopez	
Urban Planning and Design		Anna Skibeveag	Urban Agriculture
Urban Economy		Douglas Ragan	Urban Youth Research Network
		Eric Luguya	Urban Youth Fund
		Mutinta Munyati	One Stop Youth Resource Centers
Urban Basic Services		Daniel Adom	Water and Sanitation
		Debashish Bhattacharjee	Mobility
		Vincent Kitio	Energy
Housing and Slum		Mohamed El-Sioufi	Global Housing Strategy

Upgrading			(overarching project for the below)
		Kerstin Sommer	Slum Upgrading (PSUP etc)
		Katja Dietrich	Housing Strategy and Policy
		Roberto Carrion	Housing Finance
		Emma-Liisa Hannula	Sustainable and Green Housing
		Jagoda Walorek	Housing Rights
		Christophe Lalande	Housing Culture and Diversity
		Jan Turkstra	Community Development
Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation		Dan Lewis	
Research and Capacity Building	Capacity Development Unit	Claudio Acioly	Habitat Universities
		Fernando Cabrera	Training activities
		Asa Isacson	Online tools
Global Initiatives, Regional Offices etc.	Advocacy, Outreach and Communications	Christine Auclair	World Urban Campaign

PART B: Output

1. Description and frequency of outputs:

a. **Policy advice papers:**

One landscape study undertaken by Hub members followed by policy papers, produced regularly (potentially every six months), sent to HPUI and uploaded to the interactive website

b. **Curriculum and teaching materials:**

Inventory of current relevant courses: sent to HPUI by September 2013, updated on an on-going basis

Teaching Resource library: Update on resource library sent to HPUI every six months and updated on interactive website

List of proposed modules: sent to HPUI by September 2013. 2 complete modules per year sent to HPUI and uploaded to interactive website.

Module on urban agriculture: final output at the end of term WUF 7 2014.

Lecture session on 'conceptualising food security' As part of above and as a basic introduction to other modules. Available for Web by October 2013

Lecture session on 'settlements and food security' Available for Web by October 2013

c. **Professional Development:**

Development of a database and mailing list: of policy and practice stakeholders at regional/national level, with contact details, initially by December 2013, and updated annually. NOTE this is dependant on all hub participants being willing to contribute to data base as this would need to be done regionally by hub members.

Resource and training guide: for 3rd sector organisations linking in to training materials and curriculum tools at b above. Initial outline by June 2014, to be completed throughout Hub's life time

			Professor D Kaur
Latin America	Peru	Foro Ciudades para la Vida	Dr Liliana Miranda
Caribbean			
United States		University of Pennsylvania	Eugenie Birch
		University of South Florida	Patrizia LaTrecchia George Philippidis
Canada			
Europe	UK	Global Urban Research Unit, Newcastle University	Dr Suzanne Speak

NOTE: The above is a list is of proposed Hub Committee members, participation is only determined once UN-Habitat has received a Letter of Commitment from the Hub Coordinator, with signatures of all committed Hub Committee members.

For more information and to engage in the Hub, kindly contact the Hub Coordinator:

Suzanne Speak: s.e.speak@newcastle.ac.uk

HPUI@unhabitat.org

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A.

Plan and Timeline of Global Landscape Study on Food Security

Under its proposed activity #1, the Hub will produce a global landscape report to understand the drivers and barriers to securing a healthy and sustainable **urban** food supply by studying the international, national and local policies in highly developed and rapidly developing countries. While many studies have looked at food security in general, there is no comprehensive work that focuses on urban food security and addresses land use, production, storage, transportation, distribution, waste management as well as water quality, involving local producers and policy makers. This work will begin to fill this gap. The Hub leadership recognizes that such a study is ambitious and will require funding for its execution. To secure funding, the Hub will create a steering committee to develop

- a concept paper/proposal (research design),
- budget and
- timeline for the execution of the project.

Timeline:

TASK	DUE DATE
Organize international team/steering committee	June 30, 2013
Produce concept paper/proposal and budget	September 30, 2013
Identify and develop funding sources	September 2013-June 2014
Launch study	July 2014- June 2015

Attachment B.

Plan and Timeline of Curriculum Inventory and Development on Food Security

Under its proposed activity #2, the Hub will:

- a) Produce an inventory of current higher and further education programmes on urban food security.

- b) Develop a range of teaching materials which can fit within curriculum on a broad spectrum of development and urban studies topics (e.g. housing, settlement planning, urban planning, infrastructure development, sustainability), as well as being of value to curriculum on agriculture and public health. While some programmes already exist on food security in general, there is a need to make the topic relevant and easily transferable to other curriculum areas. The aim of this activity is to fill gaps, rather than replicate what already exists and to begin to embed the issue of food security within a broad range of disciplines.

To secure funding, the Hub will create a steering committee to develop

- a concept paper/proposal (research design),
- budget and
- timeline for the execution of the project.

Timeline:

TASK	DUE DATE
Organize international team/steering committee	June 30, 2013
Produce initial inventory	October 31, 2013

Identify discipline areas for input on food security	October 31 2013
Produce concept paper/proposal and budget	September 30, 2013
Identify and develop funding sources	September 2013-June 2014
Produce initial lectures / teaching materials as indicated in B 1. Outputs above	July 2014

**Attachment C.
Plan and Timeline of Capacity Building Activities**

i) Under its proposed activity #3, the Hub will produce a *Resource and Training Guide* for 3rd sector organisations linking in to training materials and curriculum tools at b above. This will be promoted both via HPUI interactive Web site and directly to appropriate organisations and institutions identified and recorded in a global database.

To secure funding and allocate work packages, the Hub will create a steering committee to develop

- a concept paper/proposal (research design),
- budget and
- timeline for the execution of the project.

Timeline:

TASK	DUE DATE
Organize international team/steering committee	August 30, 2013
Begin development of global database of key 3 rd sector Organisations	August 30, 2013
Produce concept paper/proposal and budget	January, 2014
Identify and develop funding sources	February 2014 -June 2014
Produce initial capacity building guide and materials	December 2014

ii) Under its proposed activity #3, the Hub will seek to deliver a series of capacity building workshops to test and promote the capacity building materials developed at 1) above.

To secure funding and allocate work packages, the Hub will create a steering committee to develop

- a concept paper/proposal (research design),
- budget and
- timeline for the execution of the project.

Timeline:

TASK	DUE DATE
Organize international team/steering committee	December, 2013
Produce concept paper/proposal and budget	March, 2014
Identify and develop funding sources	March 2014-June 2014
Establish timetable for initial workshops	July 2014
Promote workshops to members of global database	July 2014
Deliver workshops	December 2014 onwards
Deliver policy and education workshops at Habitat III	Habitat 7 2016