

## WFP Global Urban Vision

WFP recognises that the urban environment is a crucial operational context to achieve zero hunger for the large percentage of the population that now concentrates in cities. It also recognises that a better understanding of the urban space is needed, if we are to design and implement effective programmes that reach the most vulnerable and food-insecure urban populations.

In response, WFP established a corporate urban workstream involving Country Offices, Regional Bureaus and Headquarter Units to develop forward looking, effective, innovative approaches that advance WFP engagement in the urban environment. Through this formal architecture, WFP developed a Corporate Urban Strategy to be launched in 2022. The Urban Strategy aims to articulate WFP's intent and priorities in urban areas, and provide a framework and strategic direction for its activities that can contribute systematically to achieving zero hunger in cities.

## WFP & UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat and WFP have joined forces to reduce urban vulnerability. In August 2020 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed in October 2020 to formalise the collaboration between the two organisations.

WFP and UN-Habitat have recently completed their collaborative work on the publication: "Life Amidst a Pandemic: Urban Livelihoods, Food Security, and Nutrition in Sub-Saharan Africa" in 2022." (<https://unhabitat.org/life-amidst-a-pandemic-urban-livelihoods-food-security-and-nutrition-in-sub-saharan-africa>).

Working from urban vulnerability and food security perspectives, this report analyses how the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects have compounded the vulnerability to poverty of the urban poor currently living in slums and informal settlements in Sub-Saharan Africa.



## The Southern Africa Regional Urban Preparedness Project

The first regional project in this work area, the Regional Urban Preparedness Project, is guided by the WFP's vision for urban areas. The project aims to design options and prepare conditions to deliver effective and relevant post-shock responses in urban contexts of the Region.

The project highlights the interdependence and complementarity of SDG2 and SDG 11. Cities and human settlements must be inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable to achieve zero hunger.

It will strengthen the urban preparedness capabilities of Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe by creating a better understanding among urban actors of the context and vulnerabilities of the urban environment and by providing a set of consolidated tools for urban emergency response through cash transfer programming to key regional, national, and local actors.

Therefore, embracing an urban lens and a multi-stakeholder approach, the project aims to inform an expansion of the mainstream social protection regulatory environment towards dedicated and specifically developed and arranged frameworks that could be leveraged to prepare for and to respond to a disaster, exploring the linkages between disaster risk management, social safety nets, and resilience building in urban areas.

## Fostering Urban Resilience through Preparedness Activities: Lessons from Southern Africa



## WFP Engagement at the World Urban Forum

The Southern African region is highly exposed to the effects of extreme climate events, which, combined with pre-existing stressors, such as high levels of poverty, unemployment, and absence of strong local governance results in high vulnerability levels, that have been furtherly compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The networking event contributes to the World Urban Forum 11 objective of suggesting how cities can be better prepared to address a wide range of shocks. The overall aim of the event is to raise awareness and promote dialogue on how various urban contexts could implement preparedness and response to shocks could be implemented. The event's goal is to find out how better disaster risk management coordination and social protection systems can respond to shocks and provide emergency assistance in urban areas.

The event will focus on the WHAT, WHO, and HOW of addressing urban preparedness for shocks. To achieve this goal, below are some of the critical areas of the event:

- Highlight opportunities and challenges for collaborative evidence-building that effectively captures the realities of vulnerabilities and essential needs of urban dwellers (**the WHAT**) and ensure this evidence leads to better and innovative solutions
- Highlight the role of local authorities, municipalities, and other influential state and non-state actors in managing and responding to urban shocks (**the WHO**)
- Enhance knowledge on capitalising on the humanitarian and development nexus; adaptive urban planning and risk management approaches; shock-responsive social protection systems; and innovative solutions to promote livelihood and asset creation (**the HOW**).

### Where and when? Take part!

Networking Event NE4,  
Monday 27 June 2022, 13.30 - 15.00pm  
Room 4, Multifunction Hall,  
Katowice International Conference Centre  
**TO ATTEND ONLINE / Register before 22 June**  
<https://www.unevents.org/Home/Register>



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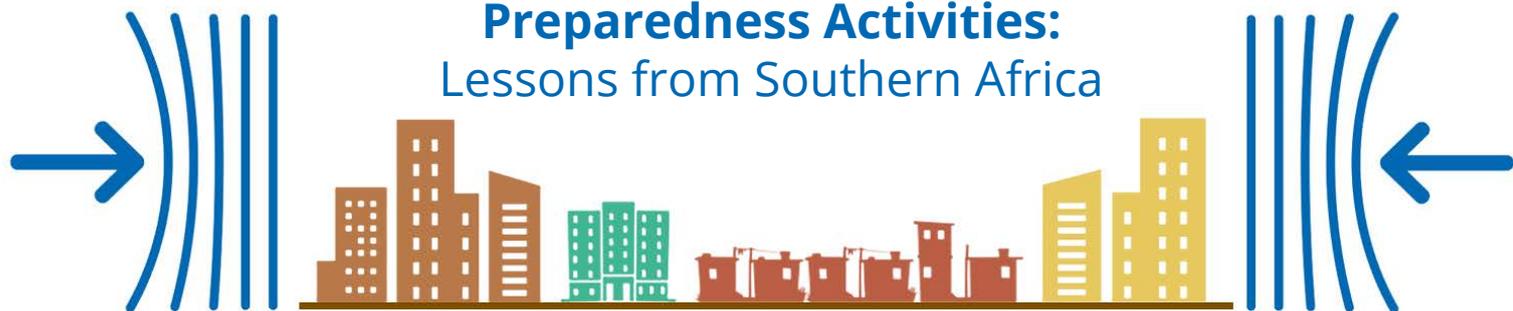
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# Networking Event

## Fostering Urban Resilience through Preparedness Activities: Lessons from Southern Africa



Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, Zimbabwe

**Organized by :** World Food Programme

**President of the Session:** Issaka Garba Abdou, Coordinator, Secretariat of African Union | Specialized Technical Committee on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization

**Moderator of the Session:** Isis Nunez Ferrera / Head of Urban Programming , WFP

**13 : 30 | Introduction and Rules of the Game :** Isis Nunez Ferrera / Head of Urban Programming / WFP

**13 : 35 | Key Note Address by :** Issaka Garba Abdou / Coordinator, Secretariat of African Union

*Speaker will address the importance of National Urban Policies to converge national sectoral urban policies and help to clarify roles and responsibilities horizontally across ministries as well as vertically between all levels of government towards transformative, productive, inclusive and resilient urban development for the long term.*

**13 : 45 | Brief Presentations by :**

**Arianna Francioni** / Regional Urban Preparedness Project Coordinator / WFP

**Setlaba Samson Phalatsi** / NISSA (National Information System for Social Assistance) Manager / Ministry of Social Development / Lesotho

**Fruzsina Straus** / Urban Resilience and DRR Regional Focal Point / UN-Habitat

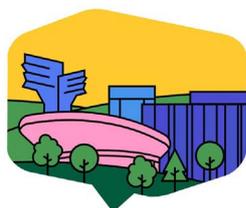
**Tafadzwa Muguti** / Permanent Secretary of Provincial Affairs and Devolution Harare Metropolitan Province / Office of the President and Cabinet / Zimbabwe

*Speakers will address different aspects of fostering resilience through preparedness activities, such as the relevance of harmonized social registries in urban areas, visions and models to migrate urban communities from social assistance to livelihood creation and the importance to design any strategy starting with the participatory involvement of the community itself.*

**14 : 05 | Panel Discussion & Q/A**

**14 : 55 | Recommendations and Closing Remarks**

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