


Ensuring availability and access to food for all urban population  
**“Assisting Urban Population in Crisis and Emergencies”**



**Regional Seminar in Asia and the Pacific  
 Food for Cities  
 Bangkok, 17 – 18 November 2011**

**Fighting Hunger Worldwide**

WFP World Food Programme  
 Programme Alimentaire Mondial  
 Programa Mundial de Alimentos  
 برنامج الأغذية العالمي



## WFP – Globally + Asia

- In 2010, WFP delivered **3.6 million tonnes** and reached **109.2 million people in 75 countries**. This represents 2/3 of global food aid deliveries + lowest since 1961
- WFP (OMB) operates in **14 countries in Asia**: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, D.P.R.Korea, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste
- Despite rapid economic growth, **the Asia Pacific region is home to an estimated 642 million hungry people – over 50% of the world's one billion undernourished**
- Factors contributed to Asia's increasing number of hungry people:
  - Fast **growing** region
  - Rising **unemployment** and falling incomes/ remittances
  - Food **prices for basic commodities in parts remain high** placing a heavy burden on poor families, **namely the urban poor**
  - Recurring **natural disasters** - volcanoes, floods, earthquakes, landslides, tsunamis and typhoons (climate change has severe implications for Asia)
  - Unprecedented **escalation of conflict** and population displacement recently

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## WFP Strategic Objectives 2008 – 2013



Objective **in Asia is to continue building capacity** to respond to rapidly changing environments leading to food insecurity and vulnerability through:

- investments in food security and vulnerability analysis;
- mitigating chronic under-nutrition;
- monitoring and evaluation systems;
- improving supply chain management;
- reducing vulnerability to effects of climate change.

## 1. WFP Urban Interventions

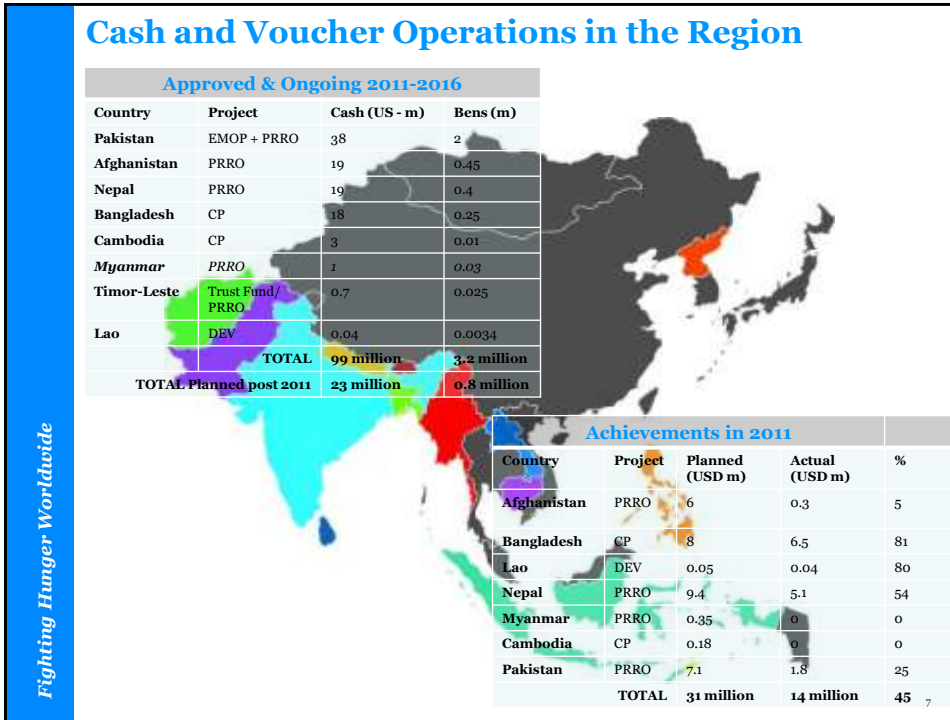
- Global experience in Africa + LA
- In Asia – urban contexts still make up relatively small portion of operations
- Since 90’s, urban contexts have been additional to rural interventions
- Reasons:
  - **Spread of epidemics:** such as HIV/ AIDS in 2000’s
  - **Disasters:** tsunamis, earthquakes and break out of conflict
  - **High Food Prices:** 2008, raised profile of cities + link to food insecurity
- Also due to **climate/ geographical positioning** – impact of disaster in cities (i.e. Jakarta, Manila and Kathmandu)
- **Contingency plans** are/ should be required from all stakeholders involved
- By intervening in urban areas:
  - **Positive:** misconception of poverty/ food + nutrition insecurity being only associated with rural areas
  - **Negative:** urban issues are intricate, therefore easier to get in but harder to come out as they are mostly to do with development

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## 2. Examples of WFP Urban Crises

- **Philippines (2009)** – food + cash response to typhoon in Luzon (first time for WFP, 60-70% urban/ peri-urban areas including in metro-Manila)
- **Timor Leste (2006/7)** – response to conflict break-out, supporting IDP in camps (general food rations for over two years, project transitioned into protracted relief + recovery, low in-country capacities)
- **Pakistan (2005)** – earthquake in Kashmir (impacted urban areas to a certain extent)
- **Afghanistan (2000)** – during Taleban conflict, response provided wheat flour to bakeries, women created supply to meet demand, also a livelihoods project during EMOP
- **Bangladesh/ India** – ongoing
- Currently with **C&V tools** – WFP is increasingly targeting urban areas due to markets access + economic factor





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## Action Taken - Typhoon Victims EMOP

**Timeline:** initial 3 months developed to 15 months due to slow recovery

**Beneficiaries:**

1.8 million reached with mixed 40,000 MT food commodities, nutritious supplements  
250,000 beneficiaries with cash worth 1 million EUR

**Programme:**

- **GFD** (6 months) – rice, oil, canned fish
- **FFW, CFW and F/CFW** (9 months) – 10KG or 235PHP p/d (cash – 6 months) including pilot cash-for-work and use of mobile cash transfers
- **SFP** (6 months) – CSB and micro-nutrient powder



### 3. Summary Pros of Urban Interventions:

- **Breaking stereotype** – meeting additional food/ nutrition security needs beyond rural (in some cases urban is problem of over-nutrition or micro-nutrient deficiency)
- **On-site/ self-targeting** - can have greater aspects (i.e. cooked meals)
- **Cash interventions** have potentially greater impact in urban/ peri-urban than in rural due to provision of supplies/ number of markets
- **Logistically easier to deliver assistance** – closer points of distributions, more clustering of beneficiaries
- **Use of safety nets** and, where possible look for linkages to social security numbers/ database
- **Opportunities** to liaise with local governments
- **Reaching specific vulnerable groups** - i.e. elderly people, HIV/ AIDS, PLWF etc

#### 4. Summary Challenges of Urban Interventions:

- **Food vulnerabilities** – increasingly in cities beyond rural areas
- **Disaster frequencies** – high impact in urban areas (population density + food storage), fault lines
- **Short term interventions** – if not clear objective can be unsustainable, hard to measure impact
- **Dependency, lack of sustainability + pull factor** - assistance may create dependency or increase (already existing) pull-factor from rural into urban areas
- **Misuse of assistance** – urban issues related to debt, work migration, consumerism, crimes may divert use of assistance (i.e. cash) for other non-food security related concerns/ competing priorities
- **Humanitarian vs development** – interventions hard to exit (issues of poverty, unemployment)
- **Livelihoods/ habits** – several livelihoods in urban areas, harder to support in urban than in rural
- **Food + nutrition security** – more markets in urban but low purchasing power, less access to nutritious/ balanced diets. Issues of **over-nutrition (including micro-nutrient deficiencies)**
- **Protection issues** – identity, feeling of belonging, more individualistic/ less community societies – economic migration comes at high personal costs
- **Working more with local governments** – both opportunities and challenges (decentralization)
- **Tools for Assessing/ targeting/ monitoring food security** – those are increasingly needed for humanitarian agencies including WFP. Food insecure are more dispersed and migrants are absorbed by host communities – highly mobile (depending on incomes/ cultural-religious-social affiliations)

= need for FAO-WFP partnership in developing  
**GUIDANCE + METHODOLOGIES** for improved  
understanding of urban interventions

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### Guidance on assessing food and nutrition security during urban crisis



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