



Urban Food Systems: Building Equitable and Resilient Urban Food Systems in Southern Africa





Working Group Focus:

- Addressing challenges in urban food systems in Southern Africa, exacerbated by economic pressures, food price shocks, and climate variability.
- Promoting resilience and equitable access to food for urban households.

The Urban Food Systems working group developed strategic tools and resources to address food insecurity and build resilient urban food systems in Southern Africa. Through direct engagement with local policymakers, the group facilitated impactful policy dialogues and provided practical recommendations to enhance food equity and resilience in the region. Their efforts included developing policy toolkits, informative notes, and engaging grassroots stakeholders to drive sustainable urban food system initiatives.

Local Policy Engagement

- Active collaboration: The working group
 - conducted stakeholder meetings in key districts, coordinating with district councils, agricultural experts, and local communities to address urban food system challenges.
- Policy development: Developed a comprehensive policy toolkit and policy note aimed at guiding decision-making at the local level.
- **Community empowerment:** Facilitated direct dialogue and dissemination of key findings at the grassroots level.
- **Engaged directly** with local policymakers to present their findings and recommendations.

What actions can you take to promote resilient and equitable urban food systems in Zambia?









Key Action Areas Recommended in the Policy Toolkit:

- **1. Constituency Development Fund** (**CDF**):
 - Encourage learning about the CDF,

increased to K28.3 million per constituency in the 2023 National budget to promote inclusive development.

Highlight how the CDF can support government councils in implementing policies and projects to improve urban food systems in Zambia.

2. Street Vending and Urban **Agriculture:**

- Recognize their significant roles.
- Advocate for investment and policy planning to make these sectors important pillars of a resilient and equitable urban food system.

3. Local Policies:

- Markets and Bus Station Act: Establish new markets and improve management of existing ones.
- Urban Development Policy: Ensure new urban residential developments include zoning for markets and retail shops.
- Urban Energy Policy: Improve access to energy for cooking, lighting, and

Policy Note Highlights: Creating more resilient and equitable urban food systems in Southern Africa

- Emphasized the critical role of urban planners in shaping urban food systems.
- Stressed the importance of inclusive representation and stakeholder engagement in decision-making processes.

Recommended roles for urban planners:

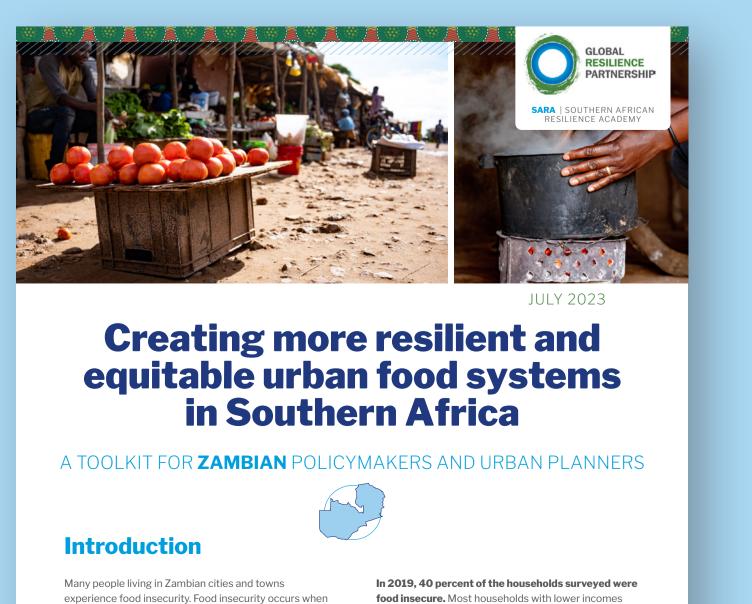
- Integrated urban food systems planning.
- Sustainable transportation and food distribution.
- Food-sensitive infrastructure planning.
- Land use planning.
- Access to food retailers.
- Climate resilience.

SABA Urban Food Systems Poster 900X2250mm indd

refrigeration in households and markets.

4. National Policies:

National Food and Nutrition Policy, National Agriculture Policy, National Lands Policy, Food Safety Act, National Social Protection Policy, National Transport Policy, National Climate Change Policy, National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change.



faced more hardships due to food insecurity compare

to households with higher incomes. Female-headed households with lower incomes especially faced

To cope with food insecurity, some household

reported that they rely on less expensive and less

preferred foods, borrow food from relatives or friends

imit portion sizes at mealtime, restrict food eaten by

adults so that children can eat, or reduce the number

of meals that are eaten in a day. Regardless of income level, however, households perceived a concern

for high food prices to be the biggest challenge for

maintaining household food security. Maintaining

second challenge, followed by climate- or weather-

employment and income of the household was a

related challenges as a third challenge.

reater hardships.

'HE UNIVERSITY 🛛 👹 🛛

people do not have enough affordable and nutritious

To better understand the challenges of food insecurit in Zambia's small to medium-sized urban areas, a team

Agricultural Research Institute and the University of

Arizona (USA) conducted household surveys in 14

Households with a diverse range of household

incomes participated in the survey. In 2019.

Zambian cities in 2019, 2020, 2021

as 1500 to 11180 Kwacha per month.

(see Figure 1).

of researchers from the Ministry of Agriculture - Zambia

nouseholds reported an average income of 650 Kwacha

per month. The households with the lowest incomes

earned as little as 0 to 300 Kwacha per month and the households with the highest incomes earned as much

food to meet their daily needs for an active and healthy

More on building equitable and resilient urban food systems in southern Africa

