



“Thinking Urban” Urban food security assessments

WFP in the Urban Food Security Context

Rapid urbanization is changing the geography of hunger. Many cities in the developing world are experiencing large influxes of vulnerable people who arrive in search of better lives and livelihoods. They find themselves overwhelmed in a new environment and cities that are under-prepared and less than welcoming. Many end up in informal settlements with few if any jobs and public services. Often they represent the new face of urban food insecurity which is vastly different to rural food insecurity both in terms of its assessment and its response.

The characteristics of vulnerability in urban settings are generally more complex and require a different approach to identification and targeting. Consequently, WFP, together with its partners, are working towards fine-tuning tools and developing guidelines for urban food security assessments that will help in the timely identification of the most vulnerable areas and households in need of assistance.

This includes instruments that enable better analysis of the distribution of urban vulnerability and resilience within cities; sampling methodologies capable of identifying vulnerable locations and households; urban vulnerability and food insecurity indicators that best capture the most vulnerable households; and targeting mechanisms that are most effective for humanitarian assistance. This work is increasingly important as urbanization gathers pace.

Using Innovative Tools

WFP is exploring with its partners ways to standardize methodologies allowing for the identification of vulnerable neighborhoods using satellite imagery to ensure inclusion of recent population influxes.

Cities offer high levels of connectivity, which allows the use of digital technology to assess food security in urban communities. Since 2013, WFP’s mobile VAM initiative has used mobile surveys involving voice calls, SMS and interactive voice response to conduct survey research in 30 countries, delivering high frequency information quickly and at low cost.

In May 2016, WFP conducted a web survey in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The survey was sent to random internet users who answered the survey on their mobile device. The survey helped WFP monitor perceptions of food security challenges in a context of rising food prices.

Food Consumption Score Nutritional Adequacy Analysis (FCS-N)

Through the development and application of the Food Consumption Score Nutritional Adequacy Analysis (FCS-N) tool, the WFP Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping Unit (VAM) is carrying out some innovative work to examine nutrient adequacy within a household, which is particularly relevant in urban areas.

Macronutrient: FCS-N focuses on Protein, Iron and Vitamin A.

Adapting to an Urban World – Haiti Urban Food Security Assessment 2016

In June 2016 an Urban Food Security Assessment was conducted by the Coordination Nationale de la Sécurité Alimentaire (CNSA) and the World Food Programme (WFP) to estimate the food insecurity prevalence and to identify community/neighbourhood factors that can directly influence food insecurity, nutrition and economic vulnerability in the Haiti urban context.



Highlights

- In the urban areas assessed in June 2016, **30 percent of the households are food insecure with 2 percent severely food insecure**. The level of food insecurity is considerably less than that seen in the drought affected rural areas assessed in December 2015.
- The commune of **Cité Soleil** and the cities of **Gonaïves, Jérémie, and Port-de-Paix** stand out as having the highest levels of food insecurity.
- 40% of households have unacceptable food consumption. Food insecurity is also driven by **economic vulnerability**, with 50 percent of households spending over half their budget on food.
- **Increase in prices of food and other goods** is the most common shock reported.
- The majority of households are forced to engage in negative coping strategies, including 25 percent relying on crisis or emergency strategies, which are difficult to reverse.

IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA OF PORT-AU-PRINCE
29% ARE FOOD INSECURE



THE LEVEL OF SEVERE FOOD INSECURITY IS **2%**