LOCALISING THE SDGS THROUGH AND URBAN FOOD LENS IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH: LESSONS FROM THE HUNGRY CITIES PROEJCT

Gareth Haysom;

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HUNGRY CITIES PARTNERSHIP

Localising the SDGs through an urban food lens in the Global South: Lessons from the Hungry Cities Project

9 & 10 November 2020

Workshop report

RISE AFRICA
Inspiring Action for Sustainable Cities

AFRICAN CENTRE FOR CITIES

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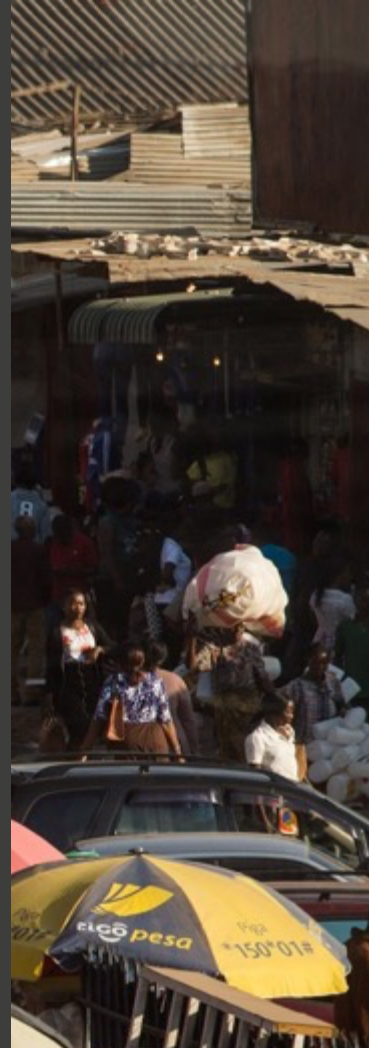
Local Climate Solutions
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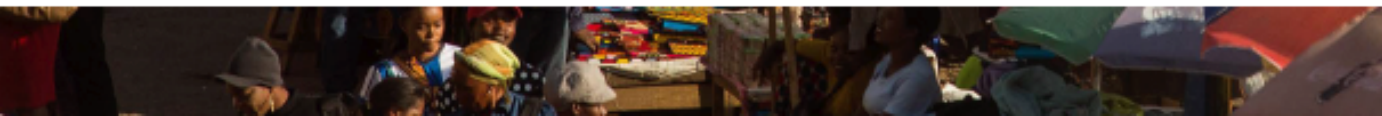
Introduction

Workshop description

There are growing efforts to localise the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), acknowledging the vital role of local government and urban actors in driving sustainability. These efforts are supported by an intuitive understanding of the interrelationship between each of the SDGs, yet the integration of the SDGs is not as clearly articulated by the underlying SDG targets and indicators.

This workshop offered global reflections on SDG localisation efforts presented and discussed though and URBAN FOOD lens. Food is a useful lens for approaching sustainability, global development challenges and the SDGs in a holistic manner (Day 1). Day 2 of the workshop then reflected on the learnings emanating from global South cities engaged in the Hungry Cities Partnership project, shedding light on food insecurity, food retail environments and policy implications for food and urban sustainability.

These discissions started an important conversation on emerging policy imperatives at the urban scale, particularly given the fact that the rapid urban development trajectory in the global South needs to be effectively managed whilst basic needs are satisfied at an unprecedented scale, economic foundations are built, and the carbon-neutral economic transition is delivered.

Programme & Speakers

The event was a partnership between the African Centre for Cities, the Balsillie School of International Affairs and ICLEI Africa. The two-day event was designed to stimulate discussion and reflect on policy and action processes associated with the post COVID/SDG alignment questions at the urban scale. Two aligned but discrete sessions were held. The first day took the form of a discussion, engaging global actors working in the urban SDG space. The second day took a deep dive into the various Hungry Cities Partnership city findings, with key inputs from the different Hungry Cities Partnership cities scale researchers.

An African Centre for Cities, Balsillie School of International Affairs & ICLEI Africa Side Event, as part of RISE Africa

Localising the SDGs through an urban food lens in the Global South: lessons from the Hungry Cities Project

Contents

Hungry Cities Partnership

The **Hungry Cities Partnership** is an international network of cities and city-based partner organizations which focuses on the relationships between rapid urbanization, informality, inclusive growth and urban food systems in the Global South.

The **Hungry Cities Partnership** conducts collaborative research, training and advocacy with the objective of providing innovative solutions to the challenge of building sustainable cities and policies and programs that promote food security in the cities.

The **Hungry Cities Partnership** currently operates in China, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa and is funded by the International Partnerships for Sustainable Societies (IPaSS) program of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

ICLEI Africa

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, is a global network of more than 1,750 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 100+ countries, ICLEI works to influence sustainability policy and drive local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development. Members and the ICLEI team of experts work together through peer exchange, partnerships and capacity building to create systemic change for urban sustainability.

ICLEI Africa is convening the RISE Africa movement as a series of activities to build momentum around Inspiring Action for Sustainable Cities.

Event funders and support:

We would like to convey our sincere thanks to the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) for their generous finding of this event

We would also like to thank the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) for their continued and generous support for the Hungry Cities Partnership project

This event was made possible thanks to the unwavering support, professionalism and enthusiasm from the team at ICLEI – Africa, in particular, Paul Currie, Solophina Nekesa, Ryan Fisher, Daniel Adeniyi, Jannike Bergh, Jehan Bhiko, Esethu Mngxunyeni, Jokudu Guya and Kirsty Robinson.

Day 1: Exploring our assumptions about urban food & achieving the SDGs

Time	Activity	Objectives	Speaker & Comments
14:30 - 14:35	Opening & Logistics		Opening by Paul Currie, ICLEI Africa

14:35 - 15:00	Stating global sustainability imperative & positioning food and urban as two key levers
	
	Exploring the assumptions of food and the SDGs through a Hungry Cities Lens
	
	Key insights and high level findings from the Hungry Cities Partnership project
	
	Inputs from ICLEI's work on localising the SDGs
		Food and the urban agenda
		
		To highlight 2 problematics of food:
		- resilience & localism?
		- why no mobilisation on food poverty (politics of provision)?
		
		To explore the SDGs as aspiration and reporting requirement; how are we (as ICLEI) localising the SDGs to support reporting & approaching integrated Sustainability
			Welcome & Context setting
			- Edgar Pieterse (5mins)
			  African Centre for Cities
			- Jonathan Crush (8 mins)
			  Hungry Cities Partnership
			- Nachi Majoe (8 Mins)
			  Manager: Strategic Partnerships ICLEI Africa
			
			Facilitator: Paul Currie

15:00 - 15:15	Global perspectives
	
	Global Nutrition Report and aligned insights into the SDGs
		Linking perspectives from the GNR process but arguing these in the context of food equity and the SDGs
		
		Tracking a UN body (who looks a child and maternal health) and their views on this.
			- Jane Battersby
			  African Centre for Cities
			
			- Jo Jewell
			  UNICEF Food and the developmental legacy
			
			Facilitator: Gareth Haysom

15:15 - 15:30	Reflections Open Q&A with audience		Facilitator: Gareth Haysom
15:30 - 16:00	Roundtable – reflections and inputs Facilitator: Edgar Pieterse	Perspectives on the SDGs Planning Key Priorities for Food in Entebbe How do you support cities to engage with SDGs Developing a city index for the SDGs in Canada Locating informal trade and women within the SDGs and cities SDG 11 as a placeholder to recognise cities in the first place - where from here?	Euginie Birch – Penn State City and Regional Planning Mayor Kayanja - Entebbe City Billy Cobbett - Cities Alliance Bruce Frayne - University of Waterloo WIEGO representative Aromar Revi – Indian Institute for Human Settlements
16:00 - 16:30	Reflections Open Q&A with audience		Facilitator: Edgar Pieterse
16:30 - 16:50	Closing reflections by roundtable participants		Facilitator: Edgar Pieterse
16:50 - 17:00	Closing summary	Tease out key questions – across 8 Global South cities – food as transversal lens on SDGs raises. Are SDGs being scaled? What can food teach us about how to respond to SDGs at urban scale? What are the policy imperatives that emerge from this?	Jonathan Crush

Day 2: Insights from the Hungry Cities Partnership

Time	Activity	Objectives	Speaker & Comments
14:30 - 14:40	Opening & Scene setting	Overview of Hungry Cities Partnership project and discussion themes	Jonathan Crush, Hungry Cities Partnership
14:40 - 15:20	**Theme: State of food insecurity and hunger in Southern cities** Food security focus dealing with issues of poverty and spatial alienation 5 minute inputs with 10 minutes moderated Q&A	Nuanced understanding of the dynamics of food insecurity and hunger in the context of three Southern cities.	Elizabeth Thomas-Hope	Kingston, Jamaica Ines Raimundo	Maputo, Mozambique Samuel Owuor	Nairobi, Kenya Facilitator: Gareth Haysom
15:20 - 15:50	**Theme: Food retail in Southern cities** Focus on both formal and informal retail across a mix of HCP cities. 5 minute inputs with 10 minutes moderated Q&A	Gain insight into vending in Mexico City, wet markets in Nanjing and the governance of informality in Cape Town.	Salomon Gonzalez & Guenola Capron	Mexico City Zhenzhong Si and Taiyang Zhong	Nanjing Graeme Young	Cape Town Facilitator: Elizabeth Thomas-Hope
15:50 - 16:20	**Theme: Policy implications - HCP findings** 5 minute reflection on key point with 10 minute Q&A	Gain insight into differentiated governance in Windhoek. Reflections on informality and the food economy in Bangalore	Ndeyapo Nickanor & Lawrence Kazembe	Windhoek Keerthana Jagadeesh & Shriya Anand	Bangalore Facilitator: Jane Battersby
16:20 - 16:45	**Theme: Food & the city** Facilitated conversation with all attendees asking key questions about the role of food in guiding local sustainability		Facilitator: Edgar Pieterse
16:45 - 17:00	Closing reflections		Jonathan Crush Edgar Pieterse

Sites from which attendees logged into the meeting and attendance:

A total of 117 participants attended Day 1 of the Localising SDGS through food session.

This represented 71% of all those who registered for the session.

Day 2 recorded 108 participants (67% of those that registered).

A total of 67 cities and 38 countries were represented in both sessions.

Localising food through SDGs attendance

	Localising SDGs through Food Day 1	Localising SDGs through Food Day 2
Registered but didn't attend	48	54
Attended	101	84
Panelist/Facilitator	16	24

■ Panelist/Facilitator ■ Attended ■ Registered but didn't attend
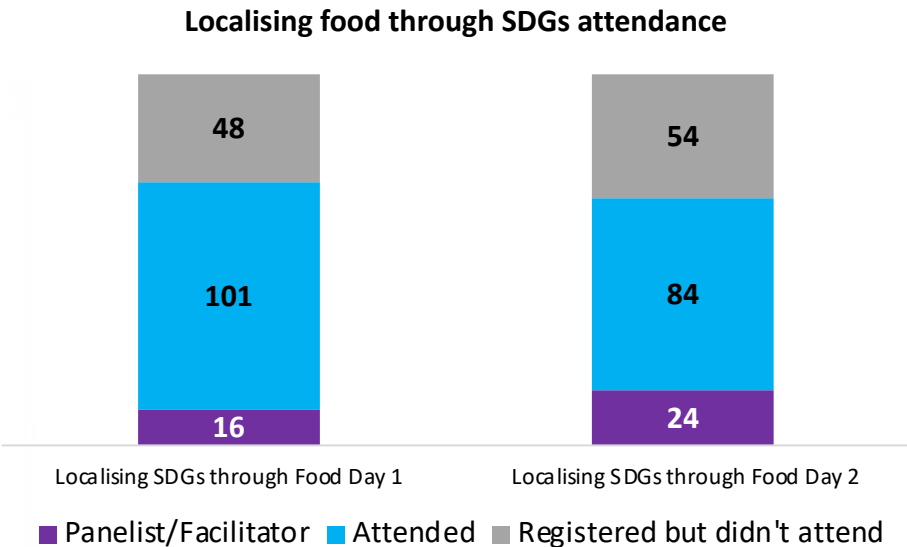
Urban development challenges and opportunities – localising the SDSs through an urban food lens

Over the past 12 years, the African Centre for Cities at the University of Cape Town and the Balsillie School of International Affairs in Waterloo, Canada, along with an international team of research partners across the Global South, have partnered with the aim of interrogating and building a greater understanding of the multiple urban encounters in African, and more broadly, Southern, cities. The primary entry point of these enquiries has been urban food and the urban food system. Through a food lens the subjects investigated, including poverty, inclusive growth, urban health, governance, etc. have generally been inter-connected and span scales and areas of governance. Many of these research areas feed directly into issues aligned to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically when seeking tools to localise the SDGs at the urban scale.

However, the absence of robust and critical engagement in the urban food questions has been a long-standing challenge. Urban food security, urban food systems and questions of urban food governance have been largely absent from urban governance debates. If these questions have been engaged, they have been linked to dated and ineffective "twin track approaches of produce more - and for those who cannot access this produce, support is offered through social protection". The experiences of COVID-19 have highlighted the flaws in the governance oversight that ignores urban food system questions, across urban types and scales, but most acutely, for the urban poor.

There is value in an urban food systems perspective as this brings the interactions between multiple urban systems and resource needs into sharp relief. Food and cities are closely connected but engagement in these connections is generally absent in policy and development debates. However, as Wayne Roberts argued 20 years ago,

> "more than with any other of our biological needs, the choices we make around food affect the shape, style, pulse, smell, look, feel, health, economy, street life and infrastructure of the city."

Urban food systems provide a useful lens through which urbanisation and urban development processes can be interrogated, feeding into global policy actions and engagements. Urban food challenges and the urban food system provide a particularly useful lens to interrogate the challenges faced in rapidly expanding and developing cities. Urban food and the food system are uniquely transversal, as Roberts described, touching many urban functions, and many SDG goals and targets.

As the world, and particularly developing world cities, come to grips with the challenges presented by COVID-19, and their planning towards localising the SDGs scales up, now is a unique time to interrogate, through an urban food lens, what this localisation of the global development goals may mean, or resemble.

The Hungry Cities Partnership (HCP), co-led by the African Centre for Cities and the Balsillie School for International Affairs, has recently completed a seven year research project on urban food systems. This body of work provides a useful point through which to engage policy makers, researchers, civics, and other actors contributing to these emergent discussions, facilitating reflection on priorities and the inter-connected nature of urban food systems and the SDGs at the urban scale.

Day 1

Session title: Welcome and introductions

Key lessons from the session

Edgar Pieterse noted that within SDGs, there are several blind spots, one of which relates to the urban food systems. Urban food systems must be given increased attention. Localisation of the SDGs fundamentally deals with the livelihoods of people. One of the powerful merits of the food lens is that it brings to the fore people's everyday lives. A food lens demonstrates the absolute tenacity and capability of poor households to fend for themselves, but it also reveals profound inequalities within the urban system.

Jonathan Crush thanked the partners of the HCP as well as funders (IDRC and SSRC of Canada) for the success of the project. He noted that the findings from the Hungry Cities Partnership project emphasises three issues – urbanisation, food system transformation and the nexus that exists between food and cities. SDG 2, which is the zero-hunger goal, frames the problem of hunger as an issue of insufficient food, but fails to speak to the problems leading to food insecurity in cities

Nachi Majoe highlighted ICLEI Africa's work in developing a roadmap and framework to localize the SDGs. ICLEI Africa needed to align to municipalities or subnational government priorities. She noted that the two components of the localization framework are; localization and mainstreaming, and measurement and reporting. Four essential steps in the roadmap towards localizing SDGs are; awareness and understanding, strategic embedding, implementation, and review, measuring, monitoring and reporting. Trusted tips for achieving localization of the SDGs are that there is no one-size-fits-all approach, when things are being done well, continue doing this, and the creation of strategic alliance and cooperation.

Edgar Pieterse
Director,
African Centre for Cities
South African Research Chair in
Urban Policy

Keynote input:
Global sustainability imperative & positioning food and urban as two key change drivers

Jonathan Crush
Professor,
School of International Policy and Governance,
Balsillie School of International Affairs

Keynote input:
Exploring the assumptions of food and the SDGs through a Hungry Cities Lens

Nachi Majoe
Manager:
Strategic Partnerships
ICLEI Africa

Keynote input:
Inputs from ICLEI's work on localising the SDGs

Paul Currie
Manager: Urban Systems,
ICLEI Africa
Session Facilitator

"SDG 2 imagines food with no settlements, SDG 11 imagines cities with no food, and all the SDGs imagine a world in which no one moves anywhere."

Jonathan Crush, Professor, Balsillie School of International Affairs

10

Session title: Global perspectives on food

Key lessons from the session

Jane Battersby highlighted the findings from the 2020 Global Nutrition Report, noting that the challenge of the triple burden of malnutrition persists in most countries of the South. Many African countries suffer from high levels of overweight, anaemia and stunting which is concentrated in urban areas as a result of changing food systems, changing urban systems and poverty. Food and nutrition security is an outcome of the interaction of multiple systems. To address malnutrition and food insecurity, it is important to dig into the systemic drivers of the inequities across food, health and urban systems. A lot needs to be done to bring food consciousness into existing programming that can have significant impact, rather than food specific programming. Jane concluded by reiterating the need for SDG 2 policy work to focus on malnutrition in all its forms, the need to focus on reducing inequities and not just inequalities, and the need for transversal work at the local governments scale.

Jo Jewell stated that there have been achievements in some instances although more needs to be done. He highlighted the drivers of malnutrition that include globalisation, socio-economic inequities, climate and environmental crises, health epidemics, humanitarian crises and urbanisation. UNICEF has focused largely on the rural food system, but it is now apparent that the urban food system can no longer be ignored. There is need to think about urban food supplies, urban agriculture, food price hikes and the increasing exposure to marketing of unhealthy foods. A systems perspective is important, and it is apparent that the vulnerability of the urban system has been exposed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Spaces for innovation to change the food system must be recognised and explored in local governance.

Jane Battersby
Associate Professor,
African Centre for Cities

Keynote input:
Linking perspectives from the GNR process in the context of food equity and the SDGs

Jo Jewell
Nutrition Specialist,
UNICEF

Keynote input:
UNICEF Food and the developmental legacy

"I think that there is a lot to be done in bringing food consciousness into existing programming that can have significant impact, rather than food specific programming. It is about relationships and governance."

"To address malnutrition and food insecurity, it is important to dig into the systemic drivers of the inequities across food, health and urban systems."

Jane Battersby, Associate Professor African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town

"It is now apparent that the urban food system can no longer be ignored. There is need to think about urban food supplies, urban agriculture, food price hikes and the increasing exposure to marketing of unhealthy foods."

Jo Jewell, Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF

Session title: Global SDG policy engagements and reflections – round table discussion

Key lessons from the session

Edgar Pieterse argued that localisation of the SDGS must be considered with reference to four main issues: what jobs will look like in the context of automation; the intractable challenge of inequality; the climate emergency which is changing our environments; and how meaning and belonging can be supported, particularly for youth. He noted that with all these in mind, it is important to ask how do we use SDGs to animate citizenship? How do we excite citizens about the prospect of becoming citizens through placemaking? We must ensure that SDGs do not become a sideshow that detracts from the fundamental question of meaning and belonging.

Caroline Skinner highlighted the nexus between the informal economy and food security, noting that the former has become indispensable. There are two popular discourses around the informal economy: the informal economy or informal retail being an essential service and the counter-narrative of informal economy as vectors of diseases, a non-issue that the HCP project robustly counters. The he informal sector is not a vector of disease. It is often safer than the formal sector. Drilling down to the SDG targets and indicators, the mention of public space in SDG 11 brings a focus on the role of informal economy within the food system.

Billy Cobbett challenged the 'siloization' evident in the implementation of the SDGs. He noted that the SDGs are a radical, political and transformational concept which cannot be delivered through sectoral approaches. He argued that the SDGs can only work within a joined-up system. Localisation is a component of a joined-up system and not an alternative to nationalisation. Intergovernmental relationships between national, state and municipal governments are essential and are underscored by a rational allocation of resources and responsibilities. Political impetus has not been given due consideration in terms of the overarching driver for achieving the SDGs.

Eugenie Birch noted the importance of taking cognizance of how the United Nations has evolved over the years. Given that the world and the membership of the United Nations has changed dramatically, these have also had effect on the agenda of the United Nations. There were different lobby groups during the development of the SDGs who had different agendas. Strategically, for the cities SDG (SDG 11), areas that other proposed SDGs omitted were considered in the conceptualisation of SDG 11. An enabling environment for localising the SDGs is important. Understanding who does what at what scale and how to organise this needs to be prioritised.

Aromar Revi
Director,
Indian Institute for
Human Settlements

Edgar Pieterse
Director,
African Centre for Cities
South African Research Chair in
Urban Policy

Eugenie Birch
Lawrence C. Nussdorf
Chair of Urban Research
& Education,
Penn Institute for Urban
Research

Caroline Skinner
Senior Researcher,
Urban Policies
Programme Director,
WIEGO

Billy Cobbett
Director,
Cities Alliance

Bruce Frayne
Professor and Director, School of
Environment,
Enterprise and Development,
University of Waterloo

Paul Currie
Manager: Urban Systems,
ICLEI Africa
Session Facilitator

Session title: Global SDG policy engagements and reflections – round table discussion, cont.

Key lessons from the session, cont.

Aromar Revi stated that the SDGs are the outcome of negotiations between diverse countries and diverse groupings, all with diverse interests. There was tension between rural and urban during SDG development, with the notion that rural communities represent everything that is not in the urban space. This was a territorial frame. There is also tension between state-based systems that focused on sectors and not space. It is important to consider the concepts of spatial justice and urban-rural linkages. He noted that the integration of systems must be seriously considered, while also considering that the people who can integrate are mostly at the local government level.

Bruce Frayne, likened the HCP to a boundary organisation, with associations between the academia and society. He noted that academia is becoming a lot more trans-disciplinary. He argued that data driven decision making and research are catalysts for change, and research can catalyse actions around SDGs. It is important to think about maintaining public trust by ensuring transparency and academic rigour in research.

Responding to Edger Pieterse's question about whether a new collection of local SDGS is needed or what is needed is to capacitate local governments to work with the SDGs, Billy Cobbett noted that the there is a lack of capacity in many cities. It would be a long-term exercise of building institutional capacity at the city level.
Billy Cobbett further stated that a mind-shift is required from national governments to understand the importance of local governments.

The session ended with participants each reflecting on one major idea or issue needing further consideration. Billy Cobbett highlighted the importance of getting relationships right in all sectors within the public sector. Bruce Frayne reflected on the question of food system as a theme pursued by international agencies. He noted that as a concept, the urban food system is actually a very new. The idea of urban food system being a key development agenda is not really on the international agenda yet. There is a lot of work to be done. Aromar Revi added that there is a huge gap in the understanding of urban food system.

"Considering the Urban food system is actually very new. The idea of urban food systems being a key development agenda item is not really on the international agenda yet. There is thus a lot of work to be done."

Bruce Frayne, Professor and Director of the School of Environment, Enterprise and Development, University of the Waterloo

"In a post-COVID world, you cannot fight poverty without dealing with food insecurity. There is a huge gap in the understanding of the urban food system."

"the integration of systems must be seriously considered, while also considering that the people who can integrate are mostly at the local government level."

Aromar Revi, Director Indian Institute for Human Settlements

"SDGs can only work within a joined-up system. Localisation is a component of a joined-up system and not an alternative to nationalisation."

Billy Cobbett, Director Cities Alliance

"An enabling environment for localising the SDGs is important. Understanding who does what at what scale and how to organise this needs to be prioritised."

Eugenie Birch, Professor and Lawrence C. Nussdorf Chair of Urban Research & Education, Penn Institute for Urban Research

Global SDG policy engagements and reflections – round table discussion
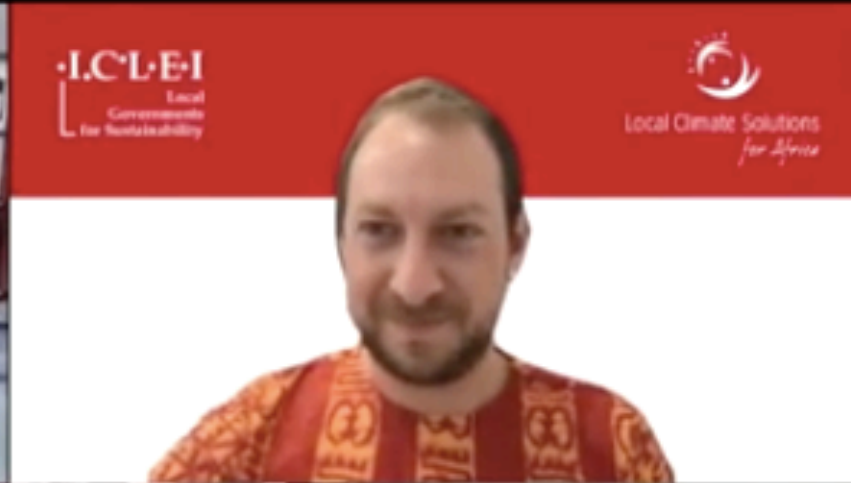
Day 2

Session title: Overview of Hungry Cities Partnership project and discussion themes

Key lessons from the session

The session showcased outcomes of the Hungry Cities Partnership (HCP) project. Providing an overview of the Hungry Cities Partnership (HCP) project. Jonathan noted that the goals of the project were to research levels and determinants of food security in partner cities, compare results between cities and build the capacity of researchers in understanding urban food systems.

The project was jointly funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) & Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

The Hungry Cities Partnership project addressed three research themes:

- Urbanization, poverty and food security;
- Organization and role of the informal food sector, and
- The impact of supermarket expansion on the urban food system.

The project led to a new body of actionable, globally comparative and locally applicable knowledge on the interactions between urbanization, the food system, the economy and food security.

Jonathan Crush
Professor,
School of International Policy and Governance,
Balsillie School of International Affairs

Keynote input:
Overview of Hungry Cities Partnership project and discussion themes

City	Partner Institution	City population	Enumerators trained	HH Survey Date	HH Survey sample	Informal retail	IR Survey sample	Informal Youth	Survey sample	Formal Retail	FR Survey sample
Cape Town	African Centre for Cities	4 618 000 (2019)	20	Oct 2014	1200	Dec 2017	1018	Dec 2017	506	Nov 2019	11
Maputo	Eduardo Mondlane University	1 110 000 (2019)	26	Oct 2014	2105	Nov 2017	1024	Nov 2017	501	Nov 2019	16
Mexico City	Autonomous Metropolitan University	21,750 000 (2019)	20	Jan 2016	1210	Nov 2018	1000	Nov 2018	500	Jan 2019	21
Nairobi	University of Nairobi	4 735 000 (2020)	26	Apr 2016	1414	Oct 2018	1267	Oct 2018	521	Jan 2019	25
Nanjing	Nanjing University	8 847 000 (2020)	25	July 2015	1210	Sept 2017	1285	Sept 2017	516	Nov 2019	20
Kingston	University of the West Indies	1 250 000 (2019)	22	June 2015	673	Nov 2017	875	Nov 2017	405	Oct 2018	15
Bangalore	Indian Institute of Human Settlements	12 327 000 (2020)	20	May 2016	1623	Mar 2018	1000	Mar 2018	500	Feb 2019	15
Windhoek	University of Namibia	417 000 (2019)	18	Aug 2017	875/36	Dec 2018	508	Dec 2018	252	Sept 2017	45

Session title: Theme: State of food insecurity and hunger in Southern cities

Key lessons from the session

Elisabeth Thomas Hope presented findings from the food security research in Kingston, Jamaica, highlighting the inability of Kingston, and indeed Jamaica, to meet the MDG target for food security in 2015. Income inequality and the unemployment rate means that many households live below the poverty line. Food security was highly and positively correlated with income. There is significant variability in food security levels across social groups. She argued that SDG 2 is not adequate on its own but must be integrated with other SDGS for it to be successful.

Ines Raimundo reported on the food security in Maputo, noting that the city is heavily dependent on food importation from South Africa, China and Brazil, which has rendered the city vulnerable to international market fluctuations. There was low dietary diversity as Maputo residents consume a lot of energy dense foods. The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic led to food import disruptions, which consequently forced municipalities to look inwards and began incentivizing local production. Informal markets are increasingly seen as the food access solution for Maputo residents owing to affordability and the options provided, enhancing agency. Highlighting poverty as a critical driver of food insecurity, she concluded that SDGs 1 and 2 must be treated as "birds of the same coin".

Samuel Owuor discussed the food security situation of Nairobi. He noted that most of the food consumed in the city comes from other counties and countries. Less than 10 percent of food in Nairobi comes from urban agriculture. Although supermarket expansion is underway, there is an increase in sourcing of food from informal sources. About 71% of households are food insecure, and 60% of the households go without certain essential foods for long periods of time. All the dimensions of food security examined in Nairobi can be linked to the challenge of poverty, he concluded.

Responding to a question from the audience about the role of civil society in food, Robert Kinlocke of the University of the West Indies responded that faith-based organizations provide a lot of social capital for people in Kingston, leading to provision of economic resources and food itself, thus enhancing people's food security. Samuel Owuor stated that NGOs and CBOs are involved in food distribution to schools in Nairobi. Ines Raimundo stated that because Maputo was seen as a more prosperous city, many NGOs have moved to other cities in Mozambique.

Elizabeth Thomas-Hope
Professor,
University of the West Indies
Jamaica

Robert Kinlocke
Lecturer,
School of Geography
University of the West Indies
Jamaica

Inês Raimundo
Associate Professor,
Eduardo Mondlane University
Maputo

Samuel Owuor
Associate Professor,
University of Nairobi
Kenya

Gareth Haysom
Researcher,
African Centre for Cities

Session Facilitator

"SDG 2 is not adequate on its own but has to be integrated with other SDGS for it to be successful."

Elisabeth Thomas Hope, Professor at the University of the West Indies.

17

Market, Kingston Jamaica

Session title: Food retail in Southern cities

Key lessons from the session

Salomón González Arellano noted that food insecurity in Mexico City is explained by socio-economic conditions and low dietary diversity and linked to obesity and other dietary diseases. The distribution of food retail in the city is explained by the politics of 'metropolitanisation'. There is an increasing concentration of supermarkets in certain nodes driving a dispersion of informal street vendors. Metropolitan lifestyles are characterised by long trips to work and schools which has resulted significant changes in dietary patterns.

Contrary to the African and Caribbean city findings, Zhenzhong Si showed how in Nanjing City there are relatively high levels of food security. The city is characterised by a complex but complementary food provisioning system, in which traditional markets (or wet markets) are the major source of meat and fresh produce, and supermarkets provide grains and dairy products. Food selling wet markets are included in urban planning and are run by both private and public companies. The Nanjing experience demonstrates what local governments can do to improve urban food insecurity. However, more than two-third of survey respondents worry about food safety. Closing wet markets in China is impossible. The Chinese government has implemented various supporting policies such as subsidizing wet market's operational costs, providing funding to upgrade market facilities, and establishing new markets in newly developed areas.

Presenting research on the informal food sector in Cape Town, Graeme Young argued that in thinking about governance, it is important to prioritize the views, motivations and interests of the informal players themselves. Informal economies do not only relate to SDGs 1, 2 and 11, but many others. More importantly the SDGs did not effectively consider informality. However, the informal food sector is important in improving food security, creating employment and decreasing inequality. Informality for some is a choice, but for others it is a necessity.

Guénola Capron
Professor, Autonomous Metropolitan University - Azcapotzalco,
Mexico City

Salomón González Arellano
UAM-Cuajimalpa
Mexico City

Graeme Young
QES-AS Scholar,
Research Associate, CRH&LCN
University of Glasgow

Taiyang Zhong
Associate Professor,
School of Geography & Ocean Science,
Nanjing University

Zhenzhong Si
Postdoctoral Fellow,
Wilfrid Laurier University
Waterloo, Canada

Elizabeth Thomas-Hope
Professor,
University of the West Indies
Session Facilitator

"In Nanjing, city government views food systems infrastructure as a social good – this has a direct and positive impact on food security outcomes."

Zhenzhong Si, Postdoctoral Fellow, Wilfrid Laurier University

"Informality for some is a choice, but for others it is a necessity."

Graeme Young, Research Associate, University of Glasgow

19

Market, Mexico City

Session title: Policy implications - HCP findings

Key lessons from the session

According to Ndeyapo Nickanor, the city of Windhoek is urbanizing fast with an annual growth rate of about 5%. Food insecurity in poor areas of the city has gone up to about 92% since an earlier 2007 survey. There is also a change in the "profile of the food systems" with a great concentration of South African supermarkets in Windhoek. Supermarkets coexist with the informal sector within the city. While the former dominates the affluent areas, the latter dominates in the low-income areas. However, in terms of city regulations, the informal sector still tends to be highly restricted. There is no code or regulation to guide the informal markets and these markets are highly susceptible to disruptions by the state itself.

Shriya Anand, in her presentation on the informal food economy in Bangalore, noted that questions of the governance of space were essential in understanding the food economy. Informal businesses were more likely to worry about economic competition than harassment or evictions. There is a significant diversity of businesses that get included in the umbrella term of informal economy. Social and economic networks were critical to sustaining informal businesses, as well as ensuring access to workspaces and business operating locations.

"In Windhoek significant changes are taking place in the food system, with the market opening up to foreign supermarkets, while heavy restrictions are imposed on the informal food sector."

Ndeyapo Nickanor Associate Professor, University of Namibia, Windhoek

Shriya Anand
Senior Associate
Indian Institute for
Human Settlements
Bangalore

Keerthana Jagadeesh
Senior Associate,
Indian Institute for
Human Settlements
Bangalore

Lawrence Kazembe
Professor
Applied Statistics &
Epidemiology
University of Namibia

Ndeyapo Nickanor Associate
Professor & Dean Faculty of
Science, University of
Namibia, Windhoek

Zhenzhong Si
Postdoctoral Fellow,
Wilfrid Laurier University
Waterloo, Canada
Session Facilitator

"Social and economic networks were critical to sustaining informal businesses."

Shriya Anand, Senior Associate, Indian Institute for Human Settlements

Vendor, Bangalore, India

Session title: Closing session

Key lessons from the session

The concluding reflections for the event were given by Edgar Pieterse who offered a caution, or a warning, against the "slippage" - where poverty is seen as a key driver of food insecurity. He stressed that most regions are facing a severe employment crisis - which results in an income crisis, which clearly links to food insecurity. However, the issues are more complex. In more middle- and upper-income areas of the South, like Mexico and South Africa, countries that have the means to make investments in systems and structures that can address these issues, such as education, the quality of these investments are poor, with differential impacts resulting in a stunting of potential social mobilization. Food insecurity is not just an outcome of poverty, but rather, a coming together of many variables.

In the context of the SDGs, Edgar argued that what we are seeing, confirmed by the findings presented from the HCP cities, is the limits of mainstream development-driven responses to the issues, and the limits of macro-economic orthodoxy. This dissonance between the evidence and development approaches requires far greater research, contextualizing issues and greater nuance.

On the subject of localizing the SDGs, and the linked food system discourses, Edgar warned again reverting to easily digestible rhetoric. We need to let the evidence lead – the roles of the different actors are increasingly important. We need to appreciate the political implications for such localization and need to embrace multiple options to ensure durability and resilience. Where specific focus is applied in a systemic response, the benefits are amplified, as was the case in Nanjing where markets and food systems interventions were seen as a public and social good.

Edgar stressed that we need to be more precise about the global corporate structure and the implications that these bring for effective multi-level governance. Additionally, we need to be more propositional about how we think about the shaping of inter-governmental dynamics, thinking about institutional structures, politics and inter-relationships. Four overarching points emerged from the tow day discussions that require further consideration:

1. We need to re-appreciate the importance of organized formations and how we can democratize citizen associations (such as street vendor associations) – but it is the responsibility of the state to invest in supporting these grass routes organizations.
2. At the city level how do we think about new coalitions? The base line data from the HCP work becomes a critical asset to supporting these structures, feeding back into democratic grass routes mobilization processes.
3. We need to institute city-lab –type structures to build on the evidence, and link to the coalitions.
4. Key is mainstreaming work with city governments that is crucially about regulation and regulation alignment across formal and informal structures and systems, as well as alignment across scales of governance.

For this to be realised, we need advocacy platforms at the city scale across the South, to work with various structures, for example BRICS structures, to engage national governments to actively drive a rethinking of the rules of the game, the terms of trade, to ensure greater equity and access.

Edgar Pieterse
Director,
African Centre for Cities
South African Research Chair in
Urban Policy

Paul Currie
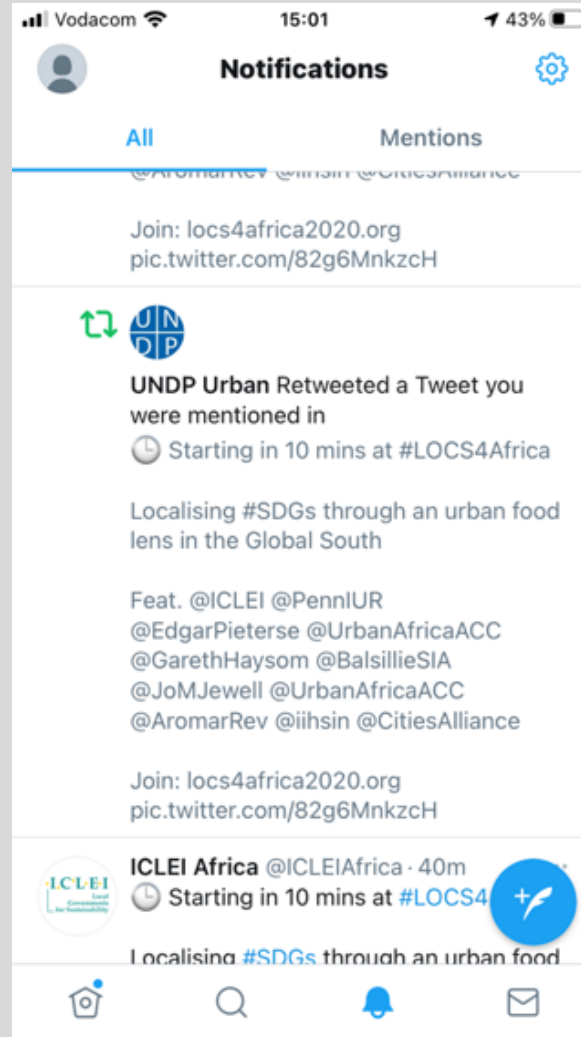**Manager: Urban Systems,**
ICLEI Africa
Session Facilitator

"We need advocacy platforms at the city scale across the South, to work with various structures to engage national governments to actively drive a rethinking of the rules of the game…"

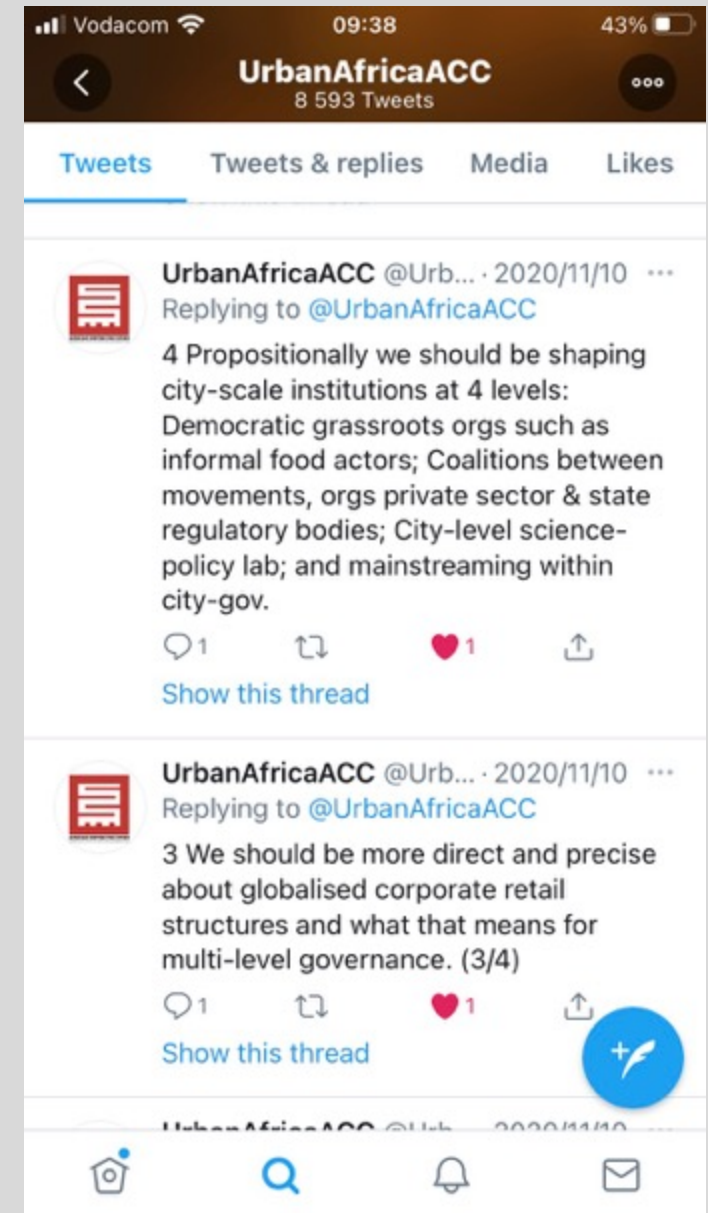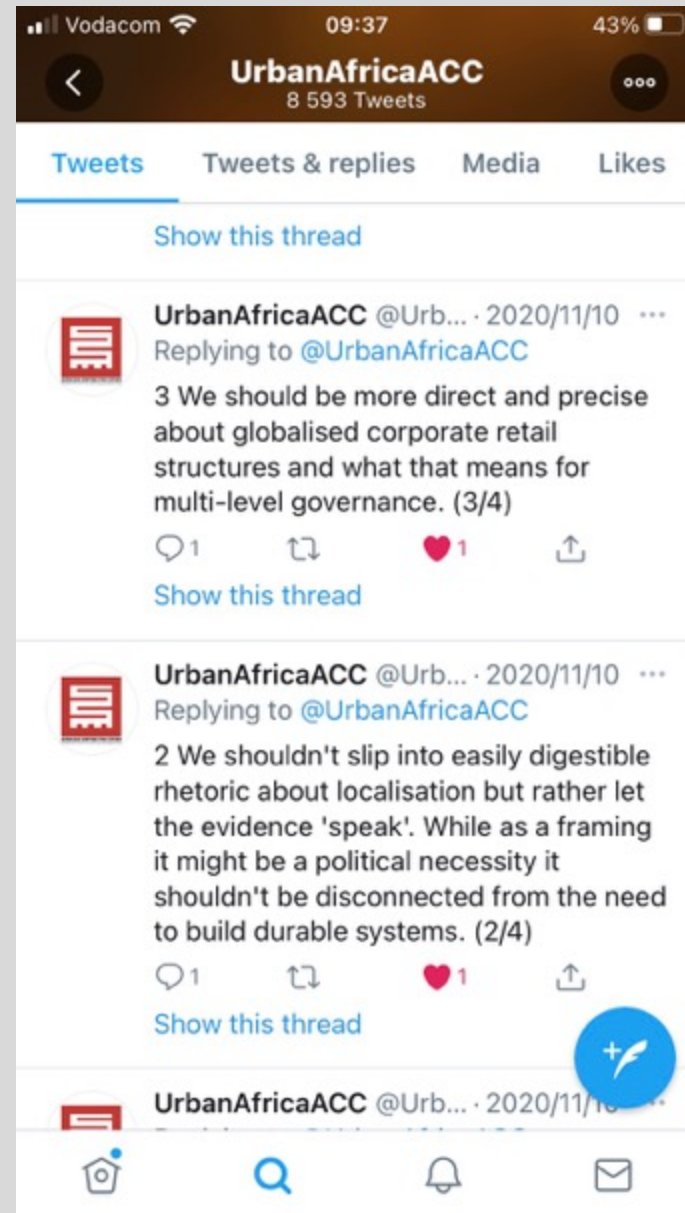Edgar Pieterse, Director, African Centre for Cities

Social media extracts:

Social media extracts:

Social media extracts:

Screen 1:

UrbanAfricaACC @Urb... · 2020/11/10
Replying to @UrbanAfricaACC

@EdgarPieterse wraps up the day by sharing 4 takeaways: 1 Guard against a slippage into generalisation that poverty, rather than a complex set of variables, is the main driver of food insecurity. (1/4)

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Read more on 'Inclusive Growth and the Informal Food sector in Bangalore, India' here bit.ly/35eVhDI

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Shriya reflects on the sheer range vendors that get included in the informal

Screen 2:

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3 We should be more direct and precise about globalised corporate retail structures and what that means for multi-level governance. (3/4)

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2 We shouldn't slip into easily digestible rhetoric about localisation but rather let the evidence 'speak'. While as a framing it might be a political necessity it shouldn't be disconnected from the need to build durable systems. (2/4)

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Screen 3:

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4 Propositionally we should be shaping city-scale institutions at 4 levels: Democratic grassroots orgs such as informal food actors; Coalitions between movements, orgs private sector & state regulatory bodies; City-level science-policy lab; and mainstreaming within city-gov.

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3 We should be more direct and precise about globalised corporate retail structures and what that means for multi-level governance. (3/4)

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Speaker contacts

Edgar Pieterse	edgar.pieterse@uct.ac.za
Jonathan Crush	crush@balsillieschool.ca
Nachi Majoe	nachi.majoe@iclei.org
Gareth Haysom	gareth.haysom@uct.ac.za
Jane Battersby	jane.battersby@uct.ac.za
Billy Cobbett	wcobbett@citiesalliance.org
Eugenie Birch	elbirch@design.upenn.edu
Aromar Revi	arevi@iihs.co.in
Vincent de Paul Kayanja	mayor@entebbe.go.ug;
Jo Jowell	jjewell@unicef.org
Bruce Frayne	bfrayne@uwaterloo.ca
Paul Currie	paul.currie@iclei.org
Elizabeth Thomas-Hope	ethomashope@hotmail.com
Ines Raimundo	inesmacamo@gmail.com
Samuel Owuor	samowuor@uonbi.ac.ke
Salomón González Arellano	salomonglez@gmail.com;
Taiyang Zhong	taiyangzhong@163.com
Zhenzhong Si	sizhenzhong@gmail.com
Guénola Capron	guenola.capron@gmail.com
Shriya Anand	sanand@iihs.ac.in
Keerthana Jagadeesh	kjagadeesh@iihs.ac.in
Ndeyapo Nickanor	nnickanor@unam.na
Lawrence Kazembe	kazembe@unam.na
Graeme Young	graeme.young.2@glasgow.ac.uk

The Hungry Cities Partnership

The Hungry Cities Partnership (HCP) is a collaborative research project including IDRC funded Southern partners and SSHRC-funded Canadian partners, the Balsillie School of International Affairs (BISA) and Wilfrid Laurier University and their associated network. The Southern or LMIC Partner cities include the following cities: Mexico City, Mexico; Kingston Jamaica; Cape Town, South Africa; Maputo, Mozambique; Nairobi, Kenya; Bangalore, India; Windhoek, Namibia and Nanjing, China. The LMIC countries were coordinated through the African Centre for Cities at the University of Cape Town, South Africa.

IDRC funded Southern partners

Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana (UAM)	- Mexico City, Mexico
University of the West Indies: Mona Campus	- Kingston, Jamaica
Universidade Eduardo Mondlane	- Maputo, Mozambique
University of Nairobi	- Nairobi, Kenya
Indian Institute for Human Settlements	- Bangalore, India
University of Nanjing	- Nanjing, China
University of Namibia	- Windhoek, Namibia
African Centre for Cities	- Cape Town, South Africa

And the SSHRC funded Canadian partners

Balsillie School of International Affairs (BISA)	- Waterloo, Canada
Wilfrid Laurier University	- Waterloo, Canada
University of Waterloo	- Waterloo, Canada

HUNGRY CITIES PARTNERSHIP

Full recordings of the event:

Day 1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1K8nAgPihRs&feature=youtu.be

Day 2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QY-DQxqbdP0&feature=youtu.be
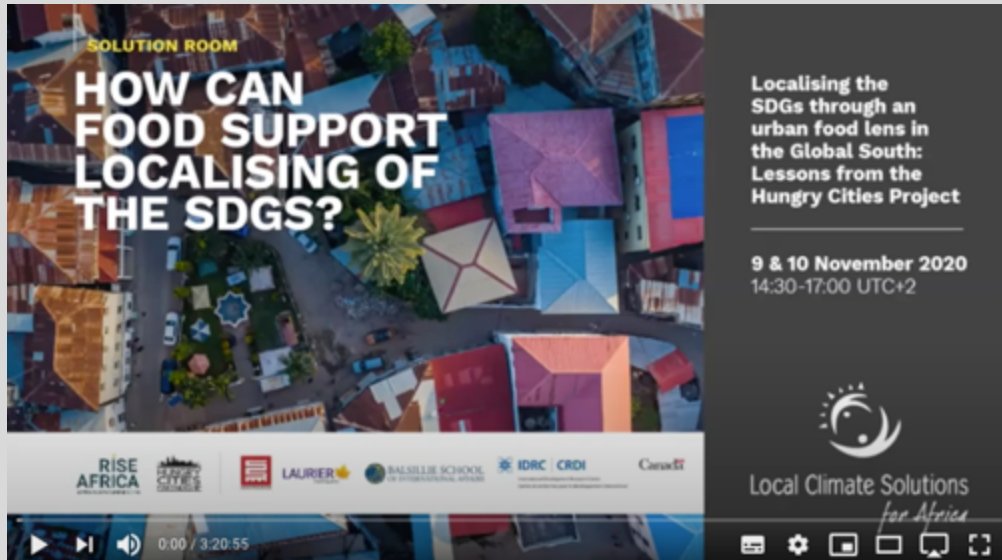
A particular note of thanks

We would like to thank all the Hungry Cities Partnership city researchers for their attendance at this event. Given the different time zones, for some the event ended after midnight, for some it started before sun rise. To all the attendees from across the 67 cities and 38 countries, thank you also for your attendance and interest.

Special thanks to all the presenters who gave of their time, despite their highly pressured schedules.

Thank you to Alma Viviers for her support in the run up to the event, from production to media liaison, and to Alma and Bronwen Dachs for their media and communications support during and after the event.

Finally, the Hungry Cities Partnership would like to convey their sincere thanks to Paul Currie, Manager Urban Systems at ICLEI Africa for his support and assistance in the arrangements of the event. Additionally, we would like to thank Paul for his excellent facilitation of a number of the sessions and for ensuring that all presenters, contributors, and those with questions, had a voice and were able to participate in the event. Without Paul's support and assistance this event would not have been possible

Photo: Samantha Reinders, for Consuming Urban Poverty

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Hungry Cities Partnership resources

Access the Hungry Cities Partnership website HERE