

URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES Newsletter

5th Edition | January 2023



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The UN-Habitat Arena at the World Urban Forum 11 Expo in Katowice, Poland June 2022

EDITORIAL TEAM NOTE

Dear reader,

Welcome to this 5th Edition of the Urban-Rural Linkages (URL) Newsletter!

This edition of the URL newsletter marks the fifth year anniversary of the January 2018 draft of what evolved through a year and a half of multi-agency, multi-actor contributions, resulting in the Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework of Action to Advance Integrated Territorial Development (URL-GP).⁴ This set of principles and actions have been utilized, adapted and incorporated in thematic guides, interactive tools, and national/subnational policy processes.

Since the formal launch of the URL-GP in 2019 at the UN-Habitat Assembly, UN-Habitat has issued a series of newsletters to disseminate and take stock of ongoing work by UN-Habitat and many partners. Recent years have seen progress on mainstreaming the importance of strengthening urban-rural linkages in relation to localizing the SDGs.

National and subnational applications of the URL-GP have also progressed through initiatives of UN-Habitat and partners with governments, academic and civil society organizations in 2022.

In this edition, we showcase URL highlights at the 11th World Urban Forum (WUF 11) and other international fora where UN-Habitat and partners engaged in projects or initiatives. We also present guest articles from experts in different organizations related to market systems, biodiversity and land as major entry points for managing urban rural linkages. This edition also summarizes a few of the latest knowledge products from UN-Habitat and inclusion of urban-rural linkages in decisions from UNCCD and CBD Conferences this year.

Happy reading and please share widely!

Editorial team

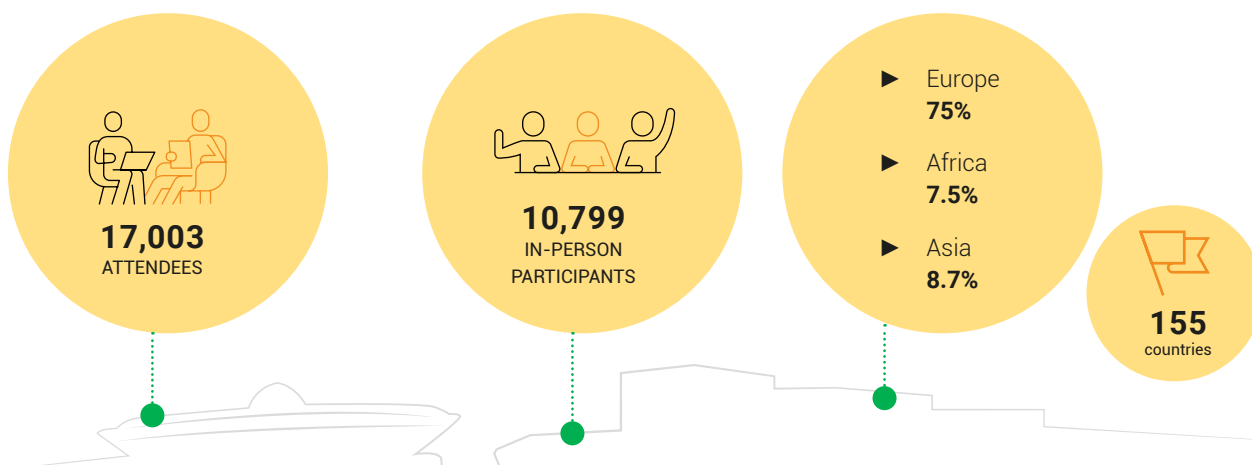
- Grace Githiri;
- Antonio Kipyegon;
- Thomas Forster;
- Florence Egal.

⁴ UN-Habitat (2020): Urban-Rural Linkages Guiding Principles: <https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/03/url-gp-1.pdf>

1. Urban-Rural Linkages at WUF11



► WUF TOTAL ATTENDANCE



The Eleventh session of the World Urban Forum (WUF11), hosted by the City of Katowice, Poland, brought together national and subnational governments, private sector, urban actors, academia and civil society organizations, to engage in structured, thematic, and sustainable-urban-future responsive deliberations on sustainable urban development. Themed **Transforming Our Cities for a Better Urban Future**, the forum raised important questions about the future of cities, including what form they should take and the kind of cities needed to support the future of humanity. Experience from the global pandemic and its consequences, as well as the challenges of climate change, also informed the forum. The event attracted a total of **17,003 attendees**, with 10,799 participants from **155 countries** attending in person. Approximately three-quarters of the gender-balanced participants came from Europe, while participants for Africa and Asia accounted for 7.5% and 8.7% respectively⁵.

During WUF11, a wide range of events were organized by different partners addressing the relevance of integrating rural development into sustainable urbanization efforts. A key spotlight was an urban-rural linkages event organized by the governments of Poland, the host of the event, supported by OECD. The event provided a space for a dynamic discussion on urban-rural linkages while increasing awareness on the fundamental value of the rural sector for sustainable development. It was also a great occasion to present for the first time the recommendations resulting from the OECD report [Urban-rural linkages in Poland](#). The report provides elements for discussing how cities can work together to optimize the use of cooperation for effective and efficient cooperation. It also recommends that building urban-rural partnerships in Poland would help territories enhance the production of public goods; achieve economies of scale in public service provision; coordinate decisions where cross-boundary effects are important and increase the capacity of the partners.

⁵ IISD (2022): Summary report of the World Urban Forum 2022: <https://enb.iisd.org/world-urban-forum-wuf11-summary>

Below is a snapshot of the various events during WUF11, highlighting the urban-rural linkages approach



DATE URL EVENTS AT THE WUF11

Monday 27 June	Urban-rural partnerships
	City Region Food Systems Concept and Toolkit : Strengthening and Building Resilience against Pandemics and Climate Change

Tuesday 28 June	How can urban-rural partnerships promote Europe's green transition?
	Secondary Cities: what viable policies and approaches can bring sustainable and structural transformations to its urbanization and economic growth?

Wednesday 29 June	Territorial governance, biodiversity and urban rural linkages
	Building Back Better to Achieve Zero Hunger by 2030: learning from the response to COVID-19 in cities to address urban food security and nutrition
	Unleashing the Potential of Intermediary Cities for Climate Action
	Spatial Inequalities in Asia and Africa -Demystifying the Drivers
	Increasing Urban Resilience In LMICs Using Transdisciplinary Approaches

Thursday 30 June	Integrating urban forestry, urban agriculture and urban food systems in urban and territorial planning to enhance resilience and the health and wellbeing of urban dwellers (focus Africa)
	Urban Food Systems Governance in small and intermediate cities and their catchment areas: Bridging the national-local divide
	Building sustainable and resilient food systems: Market Systems at the Centre of Urban-Rural Linkages



Read More -



PLGS @ WUF11
<https://urbanpolicyplatform.org/plgs/wuf11-katowice/>

This edition provides brief details on three events co-organized by UN-Habitat and partners, for more details the [link](#) to the full report is provided for each event.



► Territorial and Urban-Rural Governance: Key Tools for Biodiversity Preservation

This event highlighted the outcomes and perspectives by UNEP, UN-Habitat, FAO, ICLEI, and the CBD Secretariat to further action to protect biodiversity in cities, implement nature-based solutions, and strengthen integrated planning and Urban-Rural Linkages, in line with the objectives of the NUA.

The session also enabled a discussion on how to accelerate action to protect biodiversity with nature-based solutions and integrated planning between cities and surrounding regions.

The main discussion points facilitated by the event included:

- Showcasing **UN agencies' work on post-2020 GBF**, the One Health and One UN concepts, and the UN Decades on Restoration and Ocean Science from the perspective of urban-rural teleconnections and territorial governance, and provide a platform to further align efforts.
- Offering a **toolbox of climate-** and nature-positive solutions that can be upscaled to wider networks of cities, regions and their partners, for instance those active in platforms such as CitiesWithNature and RegionsWithNature.
- Engaging champion countries and agencies in **multi-level, multi-stakeholder partnerships** relevant to the SDGs under review in 2022 and enhance multilevel governance, cross-sectoral cooperation and the coordination of policies for sustainability at local and regional levels.
- Discussing **opportunities for investment** and provision of funding to support territorial governance and development, including initiatives aimed at sustainable food, water and energy systems ecosystem restoration and rehabilitation, and green & blue infrastructure.



► Urban Food Systems Governance in small and intermediate cities and their catchment areas: Bridging the national-local divide



A particularly important outcome of the Food Systems Summit convened by the UN Secretary General in September 2021 was the clear recognition of the key role of cities and local governments as a part of the solution in promoting sustainable food

systems transformation at all levels. This event's purpose was to discuss and identify possible mechanisms through which UN Agencies can join forces amongst them and with others to bridge the national-local food governance gap.



The event resulted in:



- Showcasing the challenges facing small and medium size cities and their catchment areas in managing food systems towards sustainability.
- Brainstorming on the key challenges faced by small and intermediary cities and national governments in putting in place a functional multi-level food systems governance.
- Identification of possible mechanisms for UN Agencies to work across levels of governments for promoting urban food policy coherence and facilitating multi-level urban food governance



Director, Global Solutions Division (UN-Habitat), making his remarks during the event © UN-Habitat

► **Building sustainable and resilient food systems: Market Systems at the Centre of Urban-Rural Linkages**



This networking event was organized by the World Union of Wholesale Markets, the World Farmers Markets Coalition, the Market Cities Initiative, with the support of UN-Habitat. The event brought together market actors and platforms, civil society, UN agencies, researchers, and representatives of local governments to showcase and exchange information on how policy and practices can be adapted to strengthen the resilience and sustainability of territorial food systems. It identified priorities of different sectors for mapping market systems in different geographical contexts and also provided insights into the key role of market systems in food systems transformation. It also built on lessons from the impacts of COVID-19 and ongoing crisis (armed conflicts, climate change) affecting the food supply chain on all types of food markets and the global recognition that food systems must be transformed as part of the transformation of cities to be more resilient, sustainable, and inclusive.



2. Key takeaways from WUF11 URL events



- Urban areas have continued to benefit from rural resources without equitable reciprocal mechanisms which have over time, and in most contexts, led to inequalities between urban and rural communities. The livelihoods of the rural communities in some areas have been deprived as resources are drained, and the rural areas have stagnated or underdeveloped as their investment potential has reduced. It is therefore imperative that strategies towards sustainable urbanization doesn't not exclude rural areas from the conversation.



- Rural development should be prioritised as much as urban development, to ensure “**No one and No place is left behind**”. Amid urbanization and urban population growth leads to encroachment of rural lands, inevitably posing a risk to peri-urban and near rural food production, increasing threats from climate change impacts.



- Food systems are among the flows of goods, services and people across the urban-rural continuum that in most contexts are not linear supply chains, but a complex web of interactions. Prioritizing the functions of each space in the urban-rural continuum would somewhat address the possible social, economic, and environmental threats.



- Different categories of urban areas such as metropolitan areas or intermediary cities are linked to rural areas, but their nature and extent must be clearly studied and understood. Metropolitan areas are mainly urban with pockets of rural and peri-urban areas whereas intermediary cities are service centres for many rural communities. Context specific interventions are what should be put into practice for all the respective spaces to enhance maximum benefit to both rural and urban communities.

3. Guest articles on entry-points to strengthen urban-rural linkages

► Urban Rural Linkages and Market Systems



Eugenia Carrara
Secretary General
World Union
of Wholesale
Markets (WUWM)



For more information on markets and biodiversity, see [WUWM](#) blog and [CBD](#) here

For many centuries, local fresh food markets have been at the centre of rural to urban and urban to rural flows of food, people, services and information, defining urban-rural linkages. In times of crisis local fresh food markets and the many actors that support the functioning of food markets reveal their essential role as a source of not only accessibility to nourishment, but also for social solidarity and security. Municipal governments and local authorities have great influence over the location, regulation and management of food markets.

During the first two years of the COVID-19, Pandemic, UN-Habitat invited several major international associations of market actors to share their experiences and lessons on the role of fresh food markets during the pandemic outbreak. In April of 2022 these market actors were invited to co-organize an expert consultation, together with representatives of global networks of cities and subnational governments and FAO.

The consultation underscored the key role that fresh food markets played to ensure food security during COVID-19 and their resilience in contrast to markets dependent on solely global supply chains.

This has brought attention to the role of markets in food systems transformation for greater sustainability and resilience to shocks. A comprehensive approach to inclusive market systems is vital to the future adaptation of cities and towns to rapid urbanization and rural transformation.

Exchanges between market actors, representatives of local and subnational governments and UN agencies informed the planning for a roundtable during the 11th World Urban Forum in June. Both the consultation and roundtable are the basis of the publication of a joint policy report titled “[Strengthening Local Fresh Food Markets for Resilient Food Systems](#)”, available on the [Urban Food Policy platform](#).



<https://www.wwm.org/>



<https://www.cbd.int/>



Recommendations from the report provide guidance for local and subnational governments in planning and capacity development for food environments that can ensure availability, accessibility and affordability of healthy diets to citizens worldwide. The year 2022 also saw all three of the “Rio Conventions” holding their Conferences of the Parties or COPs on climate, biodiversity and desertification.

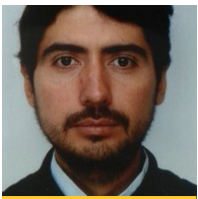
The vital role of local and subnational governments was included in decision outcomes of all three COPs (see below). Now it is clear that local fresh food markets are also vital for both resilience and adaptation to climate change as well as for biodiversity protection across the urban-rural continuum and thus need to be an important part of implementation actions!

► Urban- Rural Linkages and Land



Sasha Alexander
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

&



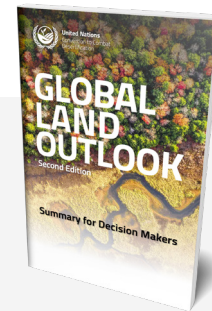
Camilo A. Romero

Urban residents depend on rural areas for food, water, energy and raw materials. At the same time, they generate the bulk of carbon emissions, waste and pollution on our planet. While cities and built up areas cover less than 3% of the global land surface, their consumption footprint extends to virtually every corner of the earth. In addition, sprawling settlements and infrastructure are displacing some of our most fertile agricultural lands. This puts immense pressure on more remote rural and natural areas to meet increasing demand for nature’s goods and services.

We need to rethink our urban-rural relationships. Ensuring a healthy mosaic of land uses that deliver essential services for both urban and rural communities is crucial for the sustainability of the planet. Managing urban-rural linkages is crucial to improve the health and wellbeing of both urban and rural communities.

So how can we strengthen urban-rural linkages and better care for our land resources?

Decisions adopted at UNCCD COP 15 included a request to further support government efforts to address urban-rural linkages, land degradation and forced migration ([UNCCD COP15/22](#)). The UNCCD is collaborating with UN-Habitat to develop a technical guide on how to apply an urban-rural linkages lens to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and land restoration initiatives. This Technical Guide will provide multiple entry points for national and subnational governments to harness the transformative power of governing urban-rural linkages for improving soil health, conserving water and protecting biodiversity while delivering benefits to both urban and rural communities.



► <https://www.unccd.int/resources/global-land-outlook/glo2>

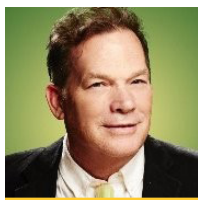
► Box 1

UN Desertification (UNCCD) Conference of Parties Decision: The [15th session of the conference of parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification \(UNCCD\)](#) spotlighted urban-rural linkages and the [guiding principles of urban-rural linkages](#). In [Decision 22/COP.15](#) on measures to address desertification/land degradation and drought to address forced migration; parties are invited to promote sustainable territorial development, including multi-level governance and planning mechanisms, as appropriate, to strengthen urban–rural linkages.

The secretariat was also requested to support parties upon request, to strengthen urban–rural linkages through territorial governance systems by utilizing [principles of urban-rural linkages](#) towards achieving land degradation neutrality and addressing drivers of forced migration and displacement.



► Urban-Rural Linkages at the Rio Conventions and Managing URLs for Biodiversity



Thomas Forster

*UN Habitat
Urban-Rural
Linkages
Programme*

Cities and subnational governments are at the front-line response to the climate crisis and related loss of biodiversity and ecosystem collapse. These interrelated environmental threats are addressed at the international level in the three “Rio Conventions” launched by the United Nations 30 years ago in Rio de Janeiro. They are formally known as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the UN Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). All three conventions met in 2022 in Conferences of the Parties or COPs. All three are sounding a global call to action as the world faces the impacts of severe weather events, including fires, drought, heat waves and flooding.

The role of cities and subnational governments is increasingly recognized in the negotiations of national governments at the COPs. The last to meet in 2022 was the Convention on Biodiversity in Montreal. Here a decision was adopted that includes language to “support subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to manage biodiversity sustainably, provide ecosystem services to citizens and integrate biodiversity concerns into urban and territorial planning and development”.

In anticipation of this recognition by national governments, UN-Habitat launched two position papers at COP 15. The first was “Cities and Nature: Planning for the Future” found [here](#). The second is titled “Managing Urban-Rural Linkages for Biodiversity: Towards an integrated territorial approach” which can be found on the Urban Policy Platform [here](#). The second paper brings the Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action to address the targets of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) finalized at COP 15. The paper addresses the impacts of urbanization on biodiversity in both near and remote rural areas and provides pathways to address these impacts through the lens of the urban-rural interface.

In 2023 the URL Programme will collaborate with partners including CBD and UNCCD to build the capacity of subnational and local governments and other stakeholders to address ways urban and rural actors can work together to both mitigate and adapt to ongoing challenges and promote shared prosperity and solidarity across the urban-rural continuum.

► Box 2

UN Biodiversity (CBD) Conference of Parties Decision: The [15th session of the Conference of Parties for CBD](#) outcomes include the decision “Engagement with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to enhance implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework” which recognizes the role of cities and subnational governments to implement the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and includes a Plan of Action developed by these actors. (<https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/8e46/a823/bf3446ed0f1d0d62d4c7f751/cop-15-l-22-en.pdf>). The UN-Habitat paper “Managing URLs for Biodiversity” was included as an official information document for Parties by the CBD Secretariat acknowledging the partnership with UN-Habitat (<https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/8144/eb39/c5201722557e1184365c1e07/cop-15-inf-17-en.pdf>).



Theme :
‘Ecological Civilization-Building a Shared Future for ALL Life on Earth’



4. Urban Rural Linkages Spotlight

AFRICITIES SUMMIT

17-21 MAY



The 9th edition (2022) of the summit was hosted in Kenya by Kisumu County Government and co-organized by UCLG World, UN-Habitat and UNECA under the theme **The Role of Intermediary Cities of Africa in the Implementation of Agenda 2030 of the United Nations and the African Union Agenda 2063**. UN-Habitat in collaboration with OECD development center and the Global Diet and Activity Research Network held a session on "The Impact of COVID-19 on Urban Rural Linkages: Resilience of intermediary cities to global shocks."

19-21 OCT



UN-Habitat Executive Director participated at the [World Union of Wholesale Markets 2022](#) (WUWM 2022) Conference. Organized under the theme "**Global food security in the XXIs: Risks, challenges, and solutions to ensure resilient and sustainable fresh food supply chains**" the conference brought together the major actors of the fresh food system to discuss innovative and effective ways to ensure more resilient and sustainable fresh food supply chains. The Executive Director of the UN-Habitat highlighted the impact of the global threats on urbanization and food security. She stated " this requires concerted actions across sectors, countries, organizations among others as no single government or multilateral agency can address such threats alone." She further emphasized the key role of food systems in achieving global agendas and the key role innovations would play to make this a reality.

25-26 OCT 2022



UN-Habitat participated at the first Urban and Regional Planning Annual Conference at the University of Nairobi under the theme [Rethinking of Planning and Management of Rapid Urbanization Trends in Achieving Sustainable Development in Africa](#). UN-Habitat shared on the key available research options for policy makers in Africa on urban-rural linkages.

28 OCT 2022



UN-Habitat and OECD have been supporting the G20 in two main areas namely, Territorial development and SDGs localization: **strengthening the role of intermediary cities for a sustainable recovery and the achievement of the SDGs**. In this regard **G20 Platform on SDGs Localisation and Intermediary Cities (G20 PLIC)** has been developed. In 2022, UN-Habitat participated in several events including the first [Annual Meeting of the G20 Platform on SDG Localisation and Intermediary Cities](#). The discussion focused on identifying policy solutions that help with "Unleashing the Potential of Intermediary Cities for Sustainable Local Development. UN-Habitat The meeting was organized within the framework of the World Cities Day."

(24-25 NOV 2022)



In the context of implementing the agreement between UN-Habitat and the University Mohamed 6 Polytechnic of Benguerir (Morocco) a two-day training was delivered to Students in the Executive Masters programme. The capacity development session mainly focused on metropolitan management and on urban rural linkages for better territorial management, with the topic of smart villages attracting much attention. Discussions were initiated to engage with the partners in Morocco to develop a joint programme on metropolitan management and smart villages.

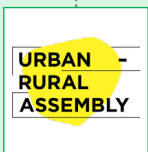


2ND NOV, 2022



The UN-Habitat Executive Director participated at the [second anniversary of the Green Cities Initiative](#) of the UN Food and Agriculture organization (FAO) just after the world cities day. Ms Maimuna Mohd Sharif congratulated FAO for the successful initiatives in African countries through projects and capacity building. She further outlined three key messages on the relevance of the FAO green cities initiative as: Cities are here to stay, better urban future will require joint efforts and that urban resilience must be prioritized for a better urban future. She also stated " we have experienced the global disruptive nature of COVID-19, armed conflicts, high inflation of food and fuel. No country or city has been spared which is a reminder that urban areas must be prepared for an unpredictable future. This will be made possible by solutions emanating from concerted actions and solutions across sectors, governance levels and organizations."

2-3RD NOV 2022



UN-Habitat participated in the [urban-rural assembly symposium](#). UN-Habitat and the Sino-German URA project consortium based at the Technical University of Berlin have been collaborating on the urban-rural assembly project. The activities in the collaboration are: series of debates, supporting knowledge transfer and dissemination, and the development of joint publications addressing guiding principles and action frameworks for integrated planning and governance at the urban-rural interface in China and beyond.

► Other events

16-21ST OCT



UN-Habitat participated at the **GDAR Network Annual Conference** at Cambridge University. UN-Habitat is supporting the network in the project on the assessment of intersection of urbanization, climate change, diets and built environment influencing physical activity.

NOV 2022

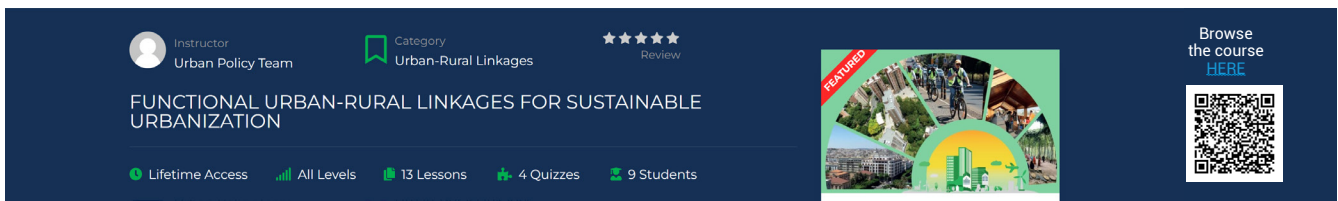


UN-Habitat participated in a Webinar co-organized by FAO, ICLEI and the Senegal government on the modalities for integrating urban-rural linkages and food systems in the National Urban policy process.



5. Advancing knowledge on Urban-Rural Linkages

► Pre-release URL Course:



This course provides an overall understanding of the significance of Urban-Rural linkages to sustainable urbanization and integrated territorial development.

It also provides a detailed overview and methodologies of localizing the Urban-Rural Linkages Guiding Principles (URL-GP) and Framework of Action.

This course has **FOUR** modules.



Module 1 – **Understanding the Guiding Principles of Urban-Rural linkages (URL-GP)**



Module 3 – **Developing and Action plan for strengthening URL**



Module 2 – **Stakeholder engagement in localizing URL-GP**



Module 4 – **Smart Villages to enhance digital inclusion in the urban-rural continuum**

► [Strengthening Local Fresh Food Markets for Resilient Food Systems](#)

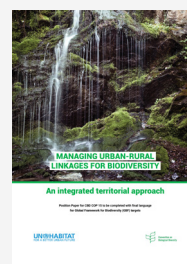
This discussion paper is written for decision-makers and practitioners to recognize and promote the idea that market systems are at the core of food systems and thus, for the transformation agenda to succeed, the catalytic role of market systems across the urban-rural continuum should be fully recognized. It argues that market systems and in particular, local fresh food markets, are key to transform food systems for sustainability and resilience and to implement the sustainable development goals (SDGs). The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic -- alongside other multiple shocks -- have drawn attention to the vulnerability of food systems around the world.

Recent global arenas, like the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) and country food system pathways, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), and Nutrition for Growth (N4G), among others have called for inclusive and multi stakeholder approaches capable of ensuring the availability, accessibility, and affordability to healthy, nutritious and safe diets for rural and urban people around the world. Fresh food markets are the intersection of flows of people, food, information and other services linking urban and rural people. This paper also focuses on a part of the food economy in which the urban-rural flows of products, people, information, and services are most visible and where the balance of economic, cultural and social values are important: in local fresh food markets. This paper seeks to give attention to more numerous food system actors in complex territorial market systems that feed people in rural and urban communities across the world.

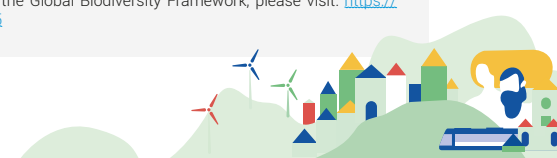


► [Managing Urban-Rural Linkages for Biodiversity- An integrated territorial approach](#)

This is a Position Paper developed by UN-Habitat and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in preparation for launch of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) to be launched in 2022 at the UNCBD COP 15⁶. The paper addresses 15 of the provisional GBF targets in the context of URL guiding principles. This provides a set of actionable entry points for the implementation of GBF by managing urban-rural linkages. This is only a starting point for further development of integrated territorial approaches to address both proximate (insitu) and distant (ex-situ or telecoupled) urban-rural interactions in an integrated manner.



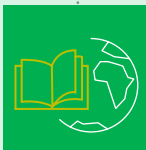
⁶ For more information about the Global Biodiversity Framework, please visit: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/COP-15>



6. Outlook 2023

GLOBAL STATE OF URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES REPORT

JUNE 2023



UN-Habitat is developing the Global State of Urban-Rural Linkages Report to take stock of the challenges, opportunities, trends, and progress in strengthening urban-rural linkages to advance territorial development. This inaugural report will be of importance to policymakers and other stakeholders to further enhance their knowledge and capacity on why URLs are important for cities and communities, and how strengthening URLs will help achieve a more resilient future and quality of life for both urban and rural dwellers. This report will be a direct contribution to the Domains of Change in the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan⁴ and to the resolution 1/5 on Urban-Rural Linkages adopted by Member States during the first UN-Habitat Assembly in 2019⁵. The report will be launched during the UN-Habitat Assembly in June 2023. We are looking for contributions from colleagues around the world working on territorial approaches and urban-rural linkages to share relevant **thematic articles, stories, projects done, national/sub-national government initiatives (including laws or policies), innovative approaches, data, photos, maps, tools, and methodologies** since beginning of the millennium. If interested and would like to contribute please write to unhabitat-url@un.org.

COUNTRY REPORTS

1ST QUARTER OF 2023



Following completion of the urban-rural linkages project titled "Leaving no-place behind: Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa", country reports have been developed, detailing the entire project period, including the background, challenges, interventions, outputs and outcomes. These reports are available for the 4 project countries, **Cameroon, Guinea, Niger State, Nigeria and Zanzibar, Tanzania**. The regional workshop report has also been finalized. Additionally, as part of the project, policy reviews in the lens of urban-rural linkages were carried out in **Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali and Senegal**. These country reports provide details of the URL challenges and opportunities, the country policies reviewed, the policy gaps as well as policy recommendations for strengthening urban-rural linkages. The reports will be published within the first quarter of 2023.

3RD EDITION OF COMPENDIUM OF CASE STUDIES ON URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES

JUNE 2023



The Compendium of Inspiring Practices on Urban-Rural Linkages is an ongoing initiative at UN-Habitat for which experiences - policies, strategies, tools, interventions, geographic or thematic projects - are continuously collected. The compendium initiative aims to inform both general and expert audiences about current practices and efforts around the globe to strengthen urban-rural linkages and advance integrated territorial development. A first edition of the compendium was developed in 2019 while the 2nd edition was published in 2020. Continuing with this trend, a 3rd edition is currently under preparation, slated for release in January 2023.

URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

1ST QUARTER OF 2023



Following the launch of the Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles (URL-GP) and Framework for Action to Advance Integrated Territorial Development in 2019, UN-Habitat and partners have been developing normative tools and knowledge materials to guide their implementation. A guide that aims to promote the mainstreaming urban-rural linkages in food related policies, plans and strategies is being developed. Secondly, a paper that outlines the relevance of the URL-GP through the lens of the food system is being finalized. Both the guide and paper will be released in early 2023.

⁴ Stronger URLs will contribute to especially the first two, but also all four of the Strategic Plan Domains of Change: (a) Reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban-rural continuum; (b) Enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions; (c) Strengthened climate action and improved urban environment; (d) Effective urban crisis prevention and response. See page 17 of UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2020-2023: https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/documents/2019-09/strategic_plan_2020-2023.pdf

⁵ Resolution 1/5: Enhancing urban-rural linkages for sustainable urbanization and human settlements (HSP/HA.1/Res.5) see: https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/documents/2019-07/hsp_ha_1_res_5_e.pdf



SONGYANG LEGACY PUBLICATION



this publication which will be in both English and Chinese celebrates China and the UN-Habitat co-hosting two events that helped to raise global attention for the need to better integrate urban, peri-urban, and rural communities and people's needs and priorities through strengthening urban-rural linkages for integrated territorial development. Songyang County, Lishui City, Zhejiang Province, China, is home to the first two International Forums for Urban-Rural Linkages (IFURL), held in 2019 and 2021. The publication aims to be approximately 150 pages and filled with compelling essays, photographs, and maps in print and online formats. The introduction and contextual framework for the Songyang Legacy will speak to the complex challenges of managing urban and territorial governance of all the essential services for urban-rural communities. It will portray the innovative local governance system's capacity to deliver all residents' health, food, and nutrition security; build resilience to stresses and shocks; ensure economic prosperity; and protect biodiversity and ecosystems. The Songyang Legacy will be launched parallel to the launch of the Global Report on the State of Urban-Rural Linkages in time for the 2nd UN-Habitat Assembly in Summer, 2023.

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