



urban»futures

City Selection

Urban Futures is an exciting global new program working at the intersection of urban food systems, youth well-being, and climate action, with local partners in Colombia, Ecuador, Indonesia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In this brief, we present the ten cities where Urban Futures will operate.

The Urban Futures program

Urban Futures (UF) is a 5-year global program (2023-2027) at the intersection of urban food systems, youth well-being, and climate action. Hand in hand with local partners, it operates in 10 intermediary cities in five countries to empower youth in building more inclusive, climate-resilient urban food systems by amplifying their voices, influencing decisions, and facilitating access to promising economic opportunities. The program is funded by Fondation Botnar, managed by Hivos, supported by Yayasan Humanis dan Inovasi Sosial, RUAF and local partners, networks, and experts. During the inception phase (January 2023 to December 2023), the program has been collecting information for the selection of the cities. This forms the basis for further assessment and validating the program's Theory of Change to the reality of each city, which UF is embarking on now, together with the identification and recruitment of local partners. UF will further focus on establishing and extending the local program structure, validating and operationalizing the program framework and co-creating city strategies together with local partners under strong multi-stakeholder platforms.

Selecting the UF cities

The focus is on intermediary cities since these cities are growing fast and are regional hubs for flows of goods and people. Hence they are key for the future of each country, and indeed for young people. It is essential that youth are involved in the narrative of the current and future food systems, play a meaningful role in local governance and policy making, and build a living and a future, using the opportunities their city provides.

Hivos, supported by RUAF, created a set of criteria to facilitate a transparent selection of the cities. The selec-

ted cities differ in size from large cities (1-2.5M inhabitants) to emerging towns and municipal associations (200,000 inhabitants). These differences will allow for comparison of various social and spatial circumstances. The cities further differ in climate, major food systems, opportunities, and challenges. The city selection is based on desk research, including the learnings, networks and experiences of past and ongoing programs of Hivos, Yayasan Humanis dan Inovasi Sosial, RUAF and partners, and Botnar. The regional teams visited the cities and interacted with a wide variety of key informants. Several of these cities are already dedicated to food systems transformations and/or supporting youth in finding a proper livelihood, including links to more resilient food systems. Some cities are members of city network(s), varying from city collaborative networks and associations, to the global Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP). A number of cities have a supportive policy framework while others are developing related policies.

Criteria used for the selection were amongst others:

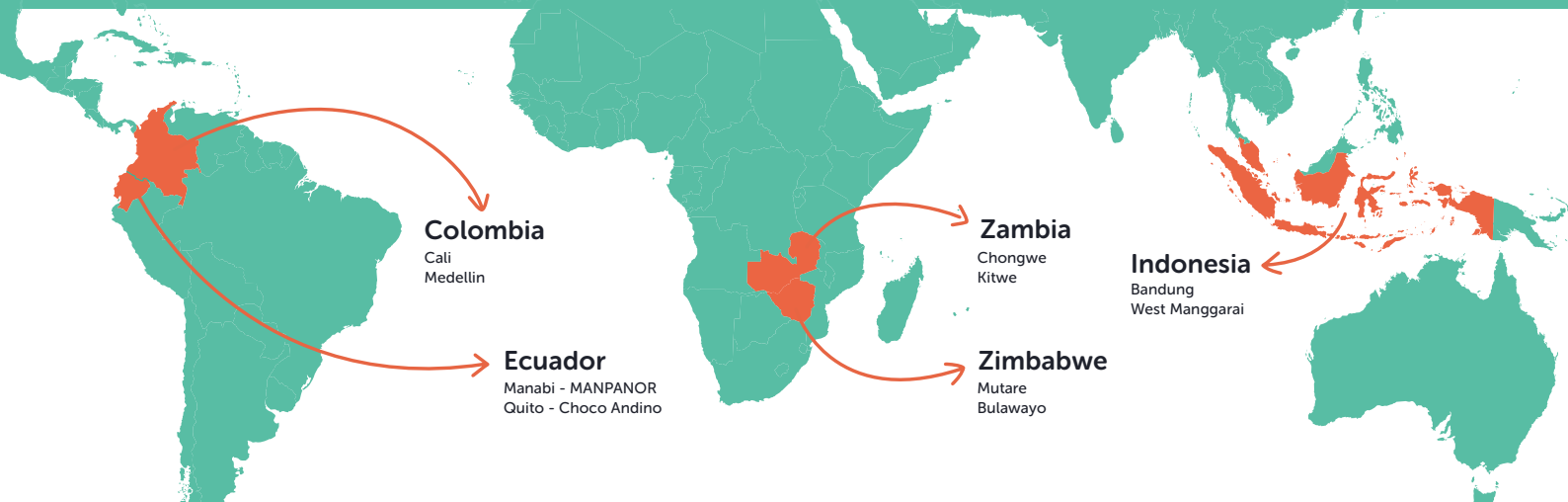
- Secondary cities
- Potential for transformation in relation to Food and Youth, forms of adaptive governance, past/ongoing work of Hivos, RUAF or partners
- Interested and committed local partners and local authorities
- Current initiatives working with youth and the potential to enhance these and make them intrinsic to urban development
- Preliminary assessment of impact, co-investment and risk mitigation

Where do we work?

3 continents

5 countries

10 intermediary cities



INDONESIA

In Indonesia the UF program is implemented by Hivos partner organisation, Yayasan Humanis dan Inovasi Sosial.

West Manggarai

West Manggarai is a regency in the province of East Nusa Tenggara, and consists of 12 sub-districts. The administrative center is Labuan Bajo, which is also the tourism hub of the regency. West Manggarai's role as the tourism hub has led to its rapid growth in recent years. The regency has a total population of over 264,000 (in 2022), with 34% in the age group of 15 to 34. East Nusa Tenggara's population is one of the poorest of Indonesia with 20% living in poverty, whereas 17% of West Manggarai's population income falls below the poverty line.

West Manggarai has been identified as a priority area for tourism development. Dependency on the food supply from Java is a challenge, therefore, food production and diversity (less focus on rice, more on vegetables and traditional crops), as well as food security are key areas for attention to fully realize the potential of tourism. Waste management is also a critical concern. Main local products are rice, grains, beans, coffee, tubers, moringa and fish (the latter being promoted in the "Gemar Makan Ikan" – "Love to eat fish" campaign). West Manggarai is also famous for its coffee. This all provides ample opportunities for business and jobs. However, youth has little role and interest in the food sector, while the tourist sector does not yet provide sufficient opportunities either. As a result, many migrate away from the region.



Seni Tani volunteer demonstrated how they run their community garden. Photo: Anggietta Kustina, Seni Tani

The local authorities strongly support UF, and the program's focus on strengthening the local food system, supply chains, and enhancing the role of young people (as well as other excluded groups). The UF program will be aligned to the Ministry for National Development Planning decree on the National Action Plan of Food and Nutrition for 2021-2024 and the local governments plan to form millennial farmer groups (Kelompok Tani). Yayasan Humanis dan Inovasi Sosial works with several potential partners under its Voices for Climate Action programme (KEHATI working on local production, but also LontART, Rumah Baca Aksara, Teater Siapa Kita, Nuca Lale, Politeknik El Bajo Commodus), and will

collaborate with RUAF and Rikolto, while further strengthening its network of local youth groups & stakeholders (like YAKINES working with youth, Telusur Musim on local culinary identity, or Rumah Pekerti on women with disability).

Bandung

Bandung is the capital city of West Java Province and the center of government and economy of West Java Province. With a population of almost 2.5M people in 2022 it is a large intermediary city (although still a medium-sized city in Indonesia). About 32% of its inhabitants are from the age group 15 to 34. The city of Bandung consists of 30 districts and 151 sub-districts, and the program will work at both city and district level.

Food supply for the city of Bandung (96%) depends on imports, most of it from the neighbouring districts. This is still largely unregulated and needs enhancement of local markets (cold storage, food waste), hence innovations will be sought to improve local food chains, and food related information and multi actor governance. A key asset is the support and commitment from the local authorities to collaborate for the improvement of the City Food System, supporting the multi-actor platform and a Regional Action Plan on Food, as well as urban farming initiatives in the city. In addition, Bandung sees a growing and dynamic youth community. The last three years, the growth of alternative and local food initiatives in Bandung increased.

Yayasan Humanis dan Inovasi Sosial and RUAF partner Rikolto have been working in Bandung for several years, and Bandung is an active member of the Regional Steering Committee of the MUFPP. UF will align to past and ongoing initiatives (MUFPP, SD4ALL, Local Harvest, VOICE, CREATE, Food Smart Cities, and Safe and Sound Cities). Thereby, Hivos will build further on the strong network of local youth groups and stakeholders (with organizations like Earth Hour, Seni Tani (urban farming), Generasi Baru Dapur Indonesia (gastronomy), Komunitas 1000 Kebun (gardening), as well as Parti Gastronomi, Lab Pangan, Komunitas Earth Hour, Komunitas Organik Indonesia, Sobat Bumi (Friends of the Earth), and Greenation (an existing partner of Yayasan Humanis dan Inovasi Sosial's VCA program).

ECUADOR

MANPANOR

MANPANOR is a Municipal Association of the Northern Pacific Coast of the Province of Manabí. MANPANOR is made up of the counties of Jama, Pedernales, San Vicente and Sucre with a total population of approximately 200,000 inhabitants, of which 60% are below

30 years old. MANPANOR is established to strengthen governance and participation of its citizens in various development issues. The selected municipalities face similar challenges and opportunities as 90% of the other cities in Ecuador with populations of less than 50,000 inhabitants, hence, this collaboration can inspire other Ecuadorian municipalities for replication. The level of education in Manabí is 20% lower than the average of Ecuador. Young people have to migrate to other provinces and countries looking for educational opportunities. In addition, extreme natural events increase migration.

There are more than 13 different ecosystems in the area, and Manabí has a wide cultural and natural diversity. The main economic sectors in the cities are agriculture, aquaculture, commerce and tourism. Its gastronomy has been declared an intangible heritage of Ecuador. Food has the potential to be an engine to promote social, economic, cultural and ecological transformations. Food tourism and regenerative agriculture are seen as a catalyst for the transformation of the food system in the coastal area.

Emphasis will be on existing efforts to promote a transition towards a more inclusive, sustainable, healthy and innovative food system. This will be based on earlier and ongoing work of Hivos and Rikolto, and with a number of partners, including the Fuegos Foundation. Fuegos participated in developing food guidelines, and leads in the promotion of regenerative food gastronomy. Other potential partners are FOCAZMOM, on agroecology and education; All you need is Bahía, working with poor, local communities and sustainable tourism; the Iche Food and Hospitality School building capacity of young leaders; and MANPANOR. MANPANOR through Fuegos will coordinate the actions of the selected municipalities, but also promote multi-stakeholder collaborations with actors like universities, civil society organizations and private companies.

Quito/Chocó Andino

Chocó Andino Association of Municipalities (MCA), is a platform for coordination, dialogue and participatory governance, made up of six rural parishes in the Pichincha province, Northwest of Quito: Calacalí, Gualea, Nanegal, Nanegalito, Nono and Pacto. It was formed in 2014 with the objective of consolidating the region as a productive, sustainable and biodiverse territory. In 2018, the Declaration of the "Chocó Andino de Pichincha" Biosphere Reserve (RBCA) was obtained, expanding the territory of the MCA with rural and urban parishes of Quito Metropolitan Area, home to a unique wealth of species, ecosystems, and cultural and productive landscapes. The RBCA has in total about 100,000 inhabitants, of which 65% are below 34 years of age.

The RUAF/FAO CRFS study within Quito Metro shows that the Pichincha area was seen as a major food provision area of key food products. Playing a crucial role in food provision and preservation, the Chocó Andino area exemplifies urban-rural relations as an integral part of the Quito Metro City Region Food System. While it is increasingly recognized that the well-being of the population is directly related with the conservation of the values of the territory, the Chocó Andino area lacks proper attention and support regarding food production, education, health, etc. A large part of the youth leaves the territory during or after secondary school, many go to Quito Metro and few return. There is policy attention to integration of young people in the local labour market, but this needs stronger support.

Urban Futures will collaborate and align with the Quito Metropolitan District Municipality and the Chocó Andino Biosphere Reserve Management Committee, as well as local producers, civil society organizations, youth movements and academics, that seek to reverse the depletion of the area and promote the ongoing transition towards diversified systems of sustainable production, such as regenerative agriculture and tourism. This will be done with national, provincial and local authorities and with universities, NGOs, for example, the Imaymana Foundation and CBOs, such as the Chocó Andino Youth Network, which is the most important in the territory, and the Chocó Andino Sustainable Food community linked to Slow Food Ecuador.



Young local chef from the Andean Chocó harvests from his diverse vegetable garden to cook for clients at his thriving gastronomic enterprise. Credit: Ana Caro Benítez

COLOMBIA

Medellin

Medellin is the second-largest city in Colombia with a population of approximately 2.5M in 2020. Located in

the Aburrá Valley, Medellin has a large number of youths: about 25% of the city's population is between the ages of 15 and 29.

Youth education in the Antioquia Department is a significant challenge due to various socio-economic factors and inadequate resources. The government of Antioquia has implemented several programs to improve the level of education for the youth in the region. Medellin is the economic, industrial, and commercial center of Colombia. Medellin is located in an area known for its fertile soil and ideal climate for farming, and the region produces a variety of crops. The city's agricultural sector plays a critical role in the region's economy, and the production of different crops has contributed significantly to the city's growth and supporting local livelihoods.

The Metro Medellin also collaborated with FAO and RUAF in the City Region Food Systems program (CRFS). The CRFS was defined to include 31 municipalities that play a key role in food provisioning (while also proximity and policy support played a role), and identifying opportunities for transforming the food system. This information has been presented to, and discussed with, city stakeholders and form a basis for selecting municipalities and neighbourhoods.

Medellin has dedicated itself to implement policies and initiatives that focus on creating a sustainable food system. The city is a member of the MUFPP, and committed to the change agenda. One significant food policy is the "Food and Youth Strategy", which focuses on promoting healthy eating habits among young children and adolescents. The government has launched a number of health programs that focus on promoting healthy eating habits and reducing the prevalence of diet-related diseases. Medellin also recognizes the importance of food as an economic driver. The city implemented several programs to promote youth entrepreneurship, such as incubation centres, start-up accelerators, and funding schemes. UF will seek collaboration with Fundacion MiSangre, and various partners involved in the processes mentioned above.

Cali

Cali Metropolitan has 2.5M inhabitants, and is located in the southern region of Cauca Valley and is the only large city in Colombia with quick access to the Pacific Ocean. Cali Metropolitan consists of various municipalities (such as Palmira, with 312,000 inhabitants). Cali is the third-largest city in Colombia, and it has a diversified and thriving economy, focusing on services, commerce, and industry. The agri-food sector faces several challenges, including low productivity, limited access to markets, and climate change impacts. Cali is a city inhabited by young people, the bulk of the population is under 40 years old. The unemployment (18%) and poverty rate

(45%) among young people (15 to 24 years old) is higher than the national average (2019). Many young people in Cali do not have access to basic services, and face significant challenges. The paradox of malnutrition and undernutrition is present, as in Valle del Cauca, as 53.6% of the population faces food insecurity and only 33 out of every 100 children have a minimum acceptable diet.

There are several programs in Cali aimed at reducing youth unemployment and increasing job opportunities for youth such as 'Jovenes a la Obra' and 'Alianza por el Empleo Joven'. Based on earlier influx of rural people and supporting their livelihoods, the Municipal Council approved the public policy of Food and Nutritional Security and Sovereignty and the program 'gardens for peace' on urban community gardens. The development plan 'Cali united for life' 2020-2023, includes a specific program for food security, including waste management, ecological footprint reduction and circular economy. CIAT worked with FAO and RUAF on understanding the Cali CRFS, and supporting activities in Palmira. Several actors joined under the Food and Land Use Alliance (2020), which promotes an inclusive, resilient, and sustainable city-region food system. The Cali city-region coalition was recently created, supporting a multi actor platform on CRFS. This is aligned to Cali's Municipal Development Plan, the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plan, and the city's Resilience Strategy and to the MUFPP.

Fondation Botnar is funding the project: 'Vivo mi Calle' implemented by Fundación DESPACIO, SENSATA and WRI. UF will also seek collaboration with Fundación SIDOC, Como Vamos Cali, PROPacífico, Plataforma Juventudes Cali, COLSemillas, the Cali Agro Ecological Gardens Network (Red de huertos agroecológicos de Cali), Compromiso Valle, among others.

ZIMBABWE

Bulawayo

Bulawayo is the second largest city in Zimbabwe and a hub city for industry and transport (to South Africa) among others. The city has over 650,000 inhabitants, with more than 60% youth (age 15-25). Bulawayo has a high level of unemployment particularly among youth (24% of the population aged 15 and above are unemployed). The food system is fragile, due to the climate (low rainfall levels), with concerns for food security (malnutrition, including changing urban diets) of the urban population and lack of formal employment, particularly affecting youth and women. Despite attention in the past, leading to small businesses on short food chains and a municipal food policy Council (supported by Hivos and RUAF), more efforts are needed. Luckily, opportunities to strengthen the food sector are present

and many backyard and community gardens are already blooming.

The local authorities take leadership in initiating and implementing urban food governance. In 2017, Bulawayo City Council initiated a vocational training program on urban agriculture for youths. Bulawayo has an Urban Agriculture Policy, under which poverty alleviation activities to improve the nutritional status of vulnerable groups are initiated. UF will support stakeholders to re-establish the Urban Food Multi-Stakeholder Forum. Thereby, UF seeks to empower the Food and Nutrition Security Committee to be efficient in the implementation of more inclusive climate resilient food strategies in urban areas.

Fruit and vegetable markets are a viable and growing business providing livelihoods for hundreds of vendors. For these perishable businesses, tackling food waste and post-harvest losses will be a game changer. Innovations will be sought in short food chains, food waste and in enhancing informal food value chains, including remittances. Hivos will further embark on its network and experiences, such as the Youth Food Change Labs (initiated by Hivos in 2020 under the UNICEF funded Youth Food Action project) within which the Bulawayo group is still active. In addition to local authorities, there is a network of active organizations in Bulawayo include Elevate Trust, Empretec Zimbabwe, Pro Africa Development Trust, Emthonjeni Women's Forum, Mhodzi Trust, the Centre for Community Development Solutions and youths organizations, such as the National Association of Youth Organizations (NAYO), Bulawayo Vendors and Traders Association (BVTA), African Food Revolution and Green Hut Youths Forum Zimbabwe and Youths Empowerment and Transforming Trust (YETT).

Mutare

Mutare is situated in Manicaland in the East of Zimbabwe, and is the third most populous city with over 500,000 people (half of which is urban). Of this urban population, over 50% is aged between 0 and 25 years. A large part of these young people have not received proper education. School dropout and youth unemployment is high, and so is drug and alcohol abuse. The economy is driven by agriculture, mining, manufacturing, industry, commerce, and tourism. The city lies on the route between Harare and Beira Port in Mozambique, which gives Mutare comparative advantages. Although agriculture is not the most favored sector for these young people, the urban food sector does provide opportunities. Mutare has a conducive climate environment for the production of a variety of horticulture crops such as potato, butternut, peas, beans, lettuce and broccoli which are in high demand to urban dwellers, food outlets and restaurants. Diversified urban horticul-



Kitwe Mayor Ms. Mpsa Mwanya and city council officials gathered after an insightful discussion on the Urban Futures project. Photo credit: Kitwe Municipality

ture can improve the city's food security and create jobs for the unemployed youths nevertheless the set bylaws prohibit urban agriculture.

Local authorities are developing Mutare's Urban Food Policy Framework (supported by Bulawayo), but there is no specific food policy at city level yet. The city does have a multi stakeholder Food and Nutrition Security Committee comprising various government ministries and departments and civil society organizations. In addition, the Mutare council recognizes the important role informal markets play in food security, and allocates market spaces (including a digital market). Through Urban Futures the governance and vibrancy (including youth representation) of the committee will be revived and multi-actor processes will be supported and linked to the youth initiatives. Thereby, UF will support the city in developing a strategy aimed at transforming food systems and joining the MPFPP.

Mutare has a strong youth network, and a number of community youth groups. There is a formal structure, including accountability platforms, constitutional hubs, and a five-year program on Youth School on Constitutionalism working with local authorities and other CSOs. UF will explore further collaboration with key actors, such as Yefi Young Farmers Organizations, the Impact Hub Lusaka, the Chongwe Youth Empowerment Project, Chongwe Mitengo Women Association and Green Agriculture Organisation - GAYO.

ZAMBIA

Kitwe

The City of Kitwe is located in the Copperbelt Region. It is the second most populous city in Zambia with a population of almost 700,000, of which 65% are youth under 25 (52% under the age of 18). The education level of youth is low, and the city faces high unemployment among the youths (23%), while unemployment among young women is the highest in the country (69%).

Kitwe receives average rainfall (800mm per annum), but sources most of the fresh produce from other districts. These have been identified in earlier CRFS studies by FAO, RUAF and Hivos, showing issues with water, waste, degradation, and high climate vulnerability. This collaboration, also including work by the South Africa based, African Centre for Cities in Kitwe, led to high interest in food systems transformation. The Municipality is highly committed to support the development of its sustainable city region food system. Kitwe is a member of MUFPP, and has a draft City Strategic Plan. UF will link to this. The city has 5 constituencies namely Chimwemwe, Kafinsa, Kwacha, Nkana and Wusakile.

In addition to working with the Municipality/Council, partnerships are currently explored with the Alliance for Zambia Informal Economy Associations (AIZEA, that is supporting the development of a multi-actor food network in Kitwe city and in Zambia), the youth focused Buchi Youth Skills Training Centre, and the FAO/RUAF partner University of Copperbelt. Kitwe has a Youth

Forum run under the Child and Youth Department, which consists of over 25 different youth-led initiatives. Alignment to national programs (like the National Youth, the Food and Nutrition and Agriculture Policies) and international partners (like the FAO Green Cities initiative or the EU funded AfriFoodLinks project - managed by Hivos) is supported.

Chongwe

Chongwe District is located in Lusaka Province. The district has 21 wards and the capital lies at Chongwe, which is a relatively small urban conglomerate with a population of almost 150,000 people. Youth make up a significant proportion of the available labour force, yet unemployment rates for 20-24 year olds have been estimated to be as much as five times greater than for older adults. Poverty rates are high. Lack of land ownership, and limited support by the government are main reasons.

Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy of the district. Agricultural activities include crop, horticultural, and livestock production. Chongwe is the food basket of Lusaka, as 77% of their food is sourced from Chongwe, particularly fresh vegetables. Hivos supports the development of organic agriculture value chains. High demand for vegetables and diverse food provides an

opportunity for young people to enter the food market and add value. The geographical proximity between Lusaka and Chongwe makes it easier for suppliers to bring their products to big markets such as the Soweto Food Market, where a large part of the agriculture and food sector is informal.

Hivos has been working in Chongwe under the SD4All program, and currently supports several activities under the HealthyFoodAfrica (value chain support), VCA and AfriFoodLinks. Both Hivos and RUAF have strong relations with the Lusaka district based on previous projects, for example the work on CRFS with FAO. Thereby, Hivos supported the development of Lusaka Food Policy Council and Food Labs in Lusaka and Chongwe.

This work will support further development of UF, and will align efforts directly to the capital Lusaka. The national and local policy framework is supportive, including the 7th National Development Plan (7NDP), the 2nd National Agricultural Policy, as well as the Lusaka Food Policy Council. UF will align, and furthermore collaborate with key actors, as Yefi Young Farmers Organisations, the Impact Hub Lusaka, the Chongwe Youth Empowerment Project, Chongwe Mitengo Women Association, and partner with Green Agriculture Youth Organization (GAYO).



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