

## What FAO is doing

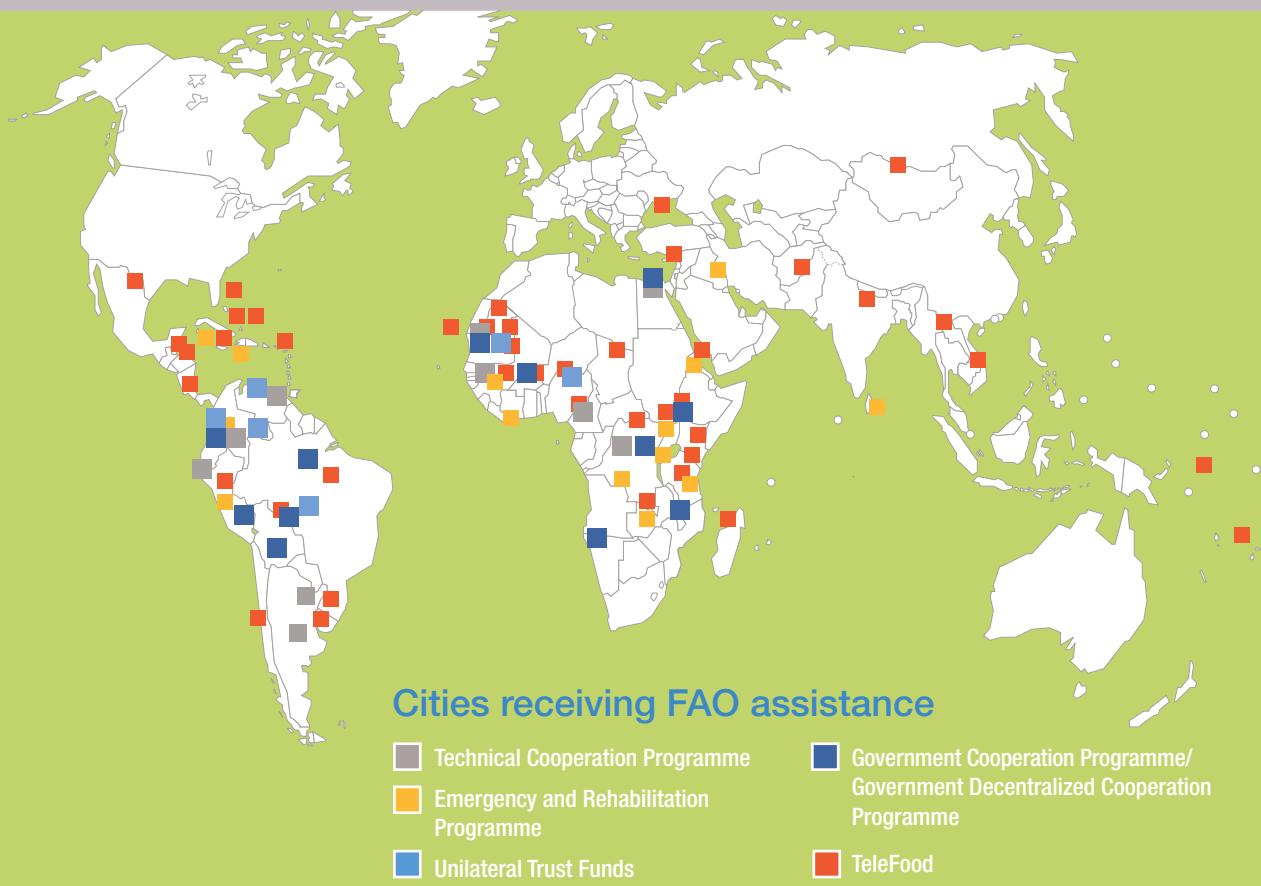
FAO already has been taking action by providing direct assistance to cities through a variety of programmes and projects, including its Special Programme for Food Security, its Decentralized Cooperation Programmes, its emergency operations, and TeleFood.

Such assistance includes the development of specific strategy and action plans and programmes:

- to support urban and peri-urban agriculture production to enhance access to quality irrigation water for urban and peri-urban agriculture;
- to improve the urban food supply and distribution systems;
- to support small livestock and dairy production;
- to promote urban and peri-urban forestry;
- to provide emergency support to internally displaced persons and other communities at risks.

FAO puts information within reach and shares experiences through:

- the production of resource materials (e.g. guidelines, manuals, resource books) for local authorities and technical staff;
- the organization of expert consultations and workshops on urban food supply and nutrition and urban and peri-urban agriculture and forestry;
- the monitoring and evaluation of performance indicators, including HORTIVAR ([www.fao.org/hortivar](http://www.fao.org/hortivar)).



## Response and actions required

FAO member countries, municipal authorities and relevant institutions need to:

- become aware of the need to give specific attention to urban food security, especially of poor households;
- make available technical guidance and capacity building tools to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of UPA production and post-production systems with special attention to strengthening livelihoods and increasing food availability, safety and accessibility;

- provide policy guidance at the municipal and national level to integrate food and agriculture as part of urban and territorial land use planning, taking into account the need to enhance rural-urban linkages;
- promote the protection and improvement of the urban and peri-urban environment;
- improve urban resilience and adaptation to natural disasters, including climate change, to reduce negative impacts on agriculture, water and urban infrastructures and consequently provide opportunities for significant saving in budget and human resources.



### FAO calls for increased collaboration, networking and joint activities with partner organizations.

At UN level, FAO and UN-HABITAT are increasing their collaboration in various fields, such as rural-urban linkages and land tenure issues. FAO is also involved in a variety of inter-agency initiatives to improve water quality and wastewater management, nutrition and humanitarian responses to crisis in urban areas.

FAO also partners with the RUAF Foundation (an international network of Resource Centres on Urban Agriculture and Food Security) and other partners engaged in food and agriculture in cities such as the CGIAR (IWMI, CIP, Bioversity International), International Development Research Centre-IDRC and CIRAD, the World Bank, as well as local authorities and a variety of NGO/CSO partners.



**“World hunger is projected to reach an historic high in 2009, with 1.02 billion people going hungry every day ....**

**The urban poor will probably face the most severe problems in coping with the global recession, because lower export demand and reduced foreign direct investment are more likely to hit urban jobs harder ...”.**

FAO, 136TH COUNCIL, 2009



**For further information and resources**  
please visit the Web site of the FAO Food  
for the Cities multidisciplinary initiative at  
[www.fao.org/fcit](http://www.fao.org/fcit)



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