

# Urban Food Security in Southern Africa: Strategic Policy Dimensions

10-12 June 2009

Ekurhuleni City Council Chambers, Kempton Park

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The purpose of the Urban Food Security project is to understand and plan for food security in South and Southern Africa. Urbanized society needs to be concerned with sustainable development and in particular food security.

This conference will allow city officials to share knowledge about the extent of food insecurity amongst the urban poor; and workshop participants will develop strategies for addressing these challenges.

The South African Cities Network (SACN) is partnering with the African Food Security Urban Network (AFSUN) and the Municipal Development Partnership for Eastern and Southern Africa (MDP) to host this conference. AFSUN is an organization based at the African Centre for Cities at the University of Cape Town. AFSUN is a network of organizations dedicated to studying urban food insecurity throughout Southern Africa. We are hosting the conference through the generous contribution of Ekurhuleni Municipality who is providing the venue.

In June 2008, AFSUN and associated academics met in Gaborone, Botswana to design a study to assess the food conditions in Southern Africa. There are four components of the project: (1) Research (2) Training and capacity building (3) Policy (4) Community interaction. A questionnaire was distributed to 11 cities in 9 countries (Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe). In February 2009, AFSUN met at Wits University in Johannesburg to examine the preliminary results of the questionnaire. Preliminary results confirmed high numbers of severely food insecure households across Southern Africa.

The researchers will present their findings at the conference in June 2009. We expect to host 80-100 participants (academics and municipal officials from all over South and Southern Africa) at the conference. It is intended to run over 3 days from 10-12 June 2009.

For additional information, please contact Astrid Wood at SACN at 011/407-6409.