

urban>futures

Youth action for inclusive,
climate-resilient urban
food systems



Urban Futures works at the intersection of urban food systems, youth wellbeing, and climate action. Operating in intermediary cities in five countries, it supports local partners and especially young people to create more inclusive, climate-resilient cities and urban food systems

Food systems need to change now

Our current food systems are failing to meet the needs of the people or the planet. They contribute significantly to global greenhouse gas emissions (34%) and face a growing challenge in providing adequate nutrition. Additionally, with urbanization expected to reach 68% by 2050, cities, which already consume 80% of all food, play a crucial role in influencing climate change, youth well-being, and economic opportunities.

Youth led transformations

Urban Futures supports local partners and innovators, especially young people, in collaborations to build more inclusive, climate-resilient urban food systems while voicing their priorities, influencing decisions, and seizing opportunities in the food sector. The approach involves multi-stakeholder collaborations and locally-owned innovations. [Hivos](#) is the global fund and program manager, complementing and amplifying these local experiences with linking and learning, advocacy, communication, and strategic coherence. Yayasan [Humanis](#) is a key global partner, with special focus leading the work in Indonesia. [RUAF](#) supports these efforts with technical expertise, research, and policy development.

Cities offer unique opportunities

Intermediary cities are experiencing rapid growth and are expected to welcome over 400 million new residents in the next 15 years. Local authorities are taking on more responsibility for addressing issues that impact them, such as climate action, as evidenced by initiatives like the C40 and Milan Urban Food Policy Pact. The UN Food Systems Summit highlighted the significance of transforming urban food systems, emphasizing the importance of building agency, changing narratives, and recognizing the central role of young people.



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VISION: Program cities are more liveable, with increased green spaces and edible landscapes that improve climate resilience, social cohesion and wellbeing. Citizens have taken responsibility for their food system: they voice their priorities, and grow and demand healthy, sustainable food. Young people, collaborating with other actors, influence decision making and access quality employment opportunities in the food sector. Food value chains are shorter, providing healthy, sustainable food that is accessible, affordable and attractive



Focus areas

- Influencing and supporting transformative urban food policies through multi-stakeholder platforms and youth movements.
- Shaping new narratives that reimagine inclusive, climate-resilient cities to inspire behavior change and influence consumption patterns.
- Enabling young sustainable food entrepreneurs to flourish and increase financial flows towards inclusive, climate-resilient cities.

These are underpinned by cross-cutting priorities on (i) linking and learning (ii) gender equality and inclusion & (iii) technology and digitalization.

Highlights

The project is financed and supported by [Foundation Botnar](#)

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