RUAF GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP: STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2018-2023

A partnership to make urban food systems work better
Coming up to celebrating 20 years since its formation in 1999, The Global Partnership on Sustainable Urban Agriculture and Food Systems (RUAF) is charting its direction as the leading international community of practice, developing innovative solutions to food systems and policies in towns and cities. In order to stay at the cutting edge of developing and applying knowledge, RUAF works with city and municipal governments that are adapting and changing their policies as urban food systems evolve rapidly in the 21st Century. These changes are both fast and ongoing; national and global institutions, as well as cities themselves, are realising and acting upon the need to make urban food systems work better.

RUAF's strategic direction for 2018-2023 ***is to support and promote knowledge exchanges between cities and towns on specific issues of sustainable food systems, drawing on the considerable expertise and experience in its Global Partnership*****.**
RUAF has already developed vast expertise, captured in its knowledge base. Currently, the partnership consists of nine organizations: three international research organizations, three cities, and three non-governmental organisations. Together these represent a further dense network of partnerships in the global North and South. The RUAF Partnership will continue to grow and to further intensify its networking in all regions, and to share this experience with associated cities and municipalities through mutual learning and capacity building.

To promote **inclusive and resilient urban food systems,** the RUAF strategy 2018-2023 is guided by **three principles**:

The universal right to food
Sustainable and resilient cities
Multi-stakeholder engagement

And by its **three strategic goals**:

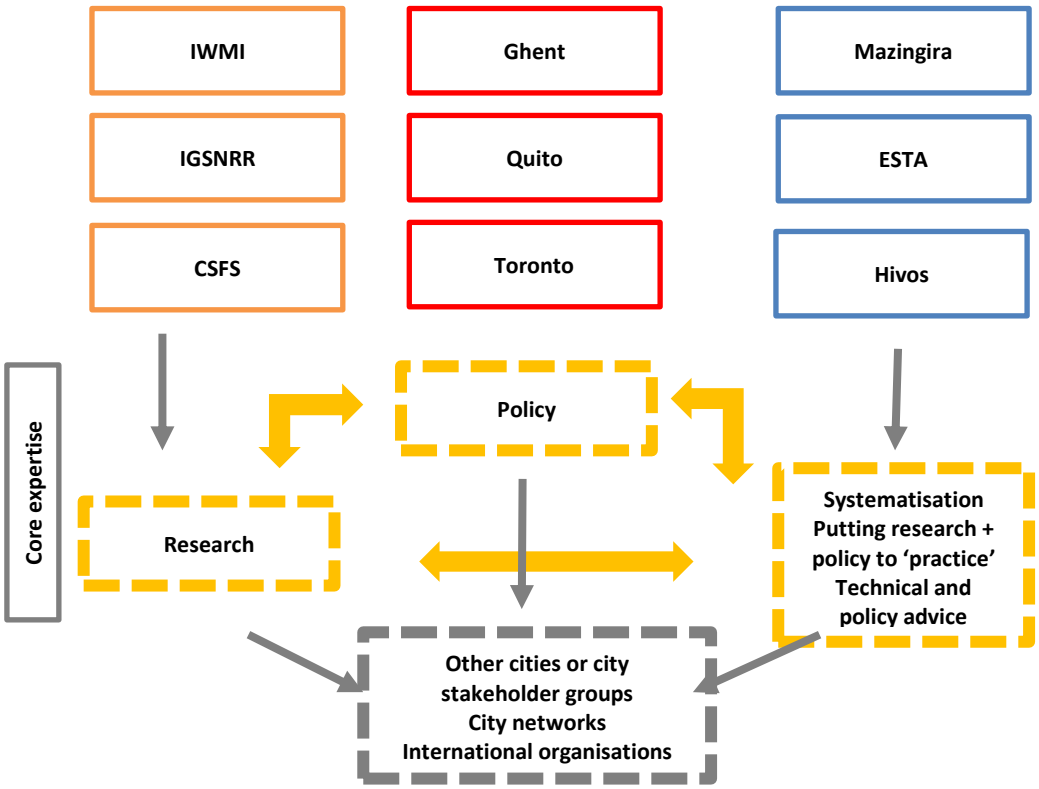
1: Promoting localised systems of production and consumption for more inclusive food systems
2: Strengthening the resilience of urban food systems
3: Strengthening the role of cities in food policy governance

Mobilising knowledge for mutual learning, capacity building and policy influence
RUAF regularly synthesises its local, national and international knowledge exchanges, advocacy and learning activities. It disseminates this synthesis on-line through the Urban Agriculture Magazine (UAM), RUAF papers and up-dates, as well as partner publications and international meetings.

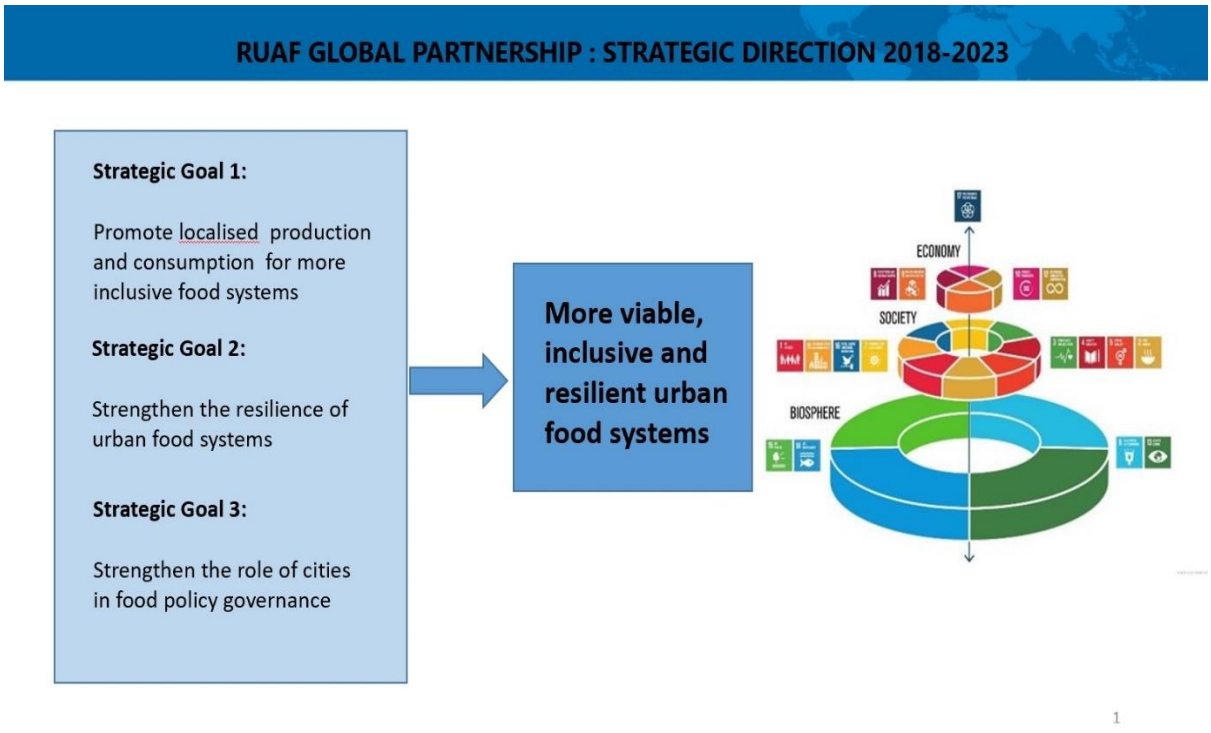
RUAF has so far engaged with over 100 local and international partner organisations and worked in 50 cities in more than 40 different countries. RUAF supports local and subnational governments, urban producer organisations, NGOs, CBOs, research centres and other stakeholders, with training, technical assistance, action-research and policy advice. RUAF receives funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS), the EU, IDRC (Canada), UN HABITAT, Ministry of Environment Norway, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), CDKN (UK), the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), OXFAM, CARE (Netherlands), Welthungerhilfe (Germany), the Daniel and Nina Carasso Foundation and the CGIAR, as well as municipalities.

RUAF plays an important role in global processes such as in the Technical Advisory Committee drafting of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (2015), as well as ensuring urban agriculture and food systems are included in the New Urban Agenda, the key outcome of UN Habitat III (2016) which will guide global efforts around urbanisation for the next 20 years.

Current RUAF partners include the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) based in Colombo, Sri Lanka; the Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (IGSNRR/CAS), based in Beijing, China; the Centre for Sustainable Food Systems, Wilfrid Laurier University in Canada; the City of Toronto, Canada, Food Strategy team and the Toronto Food Policy Council, the City of Ghent, Belgium, CONQUITO, the Economic Promotion Agency of the Municipality of the Metropolitan District of Quito; and the NGOs Economia e Sostenibilita (ESTA) from Milan, Italy, Mazingira Institute, Nairobi, Kenya, and RUAF Netherlands.



Each RUAF partner comes with its own network of contacts and ongoing activities in the fields of urban food systems, including urban agriculture. In fact, RUAF's vision for resilient and equitable urban food systems includes urban agriculture, its original mission. RUAF supports arising global agendas including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda (NUA), in response to the increasing urbanisation of poverty and challenges that cities and city regions face in ensuring secure access to food, productive livelihoods and resilient development for their citizens.



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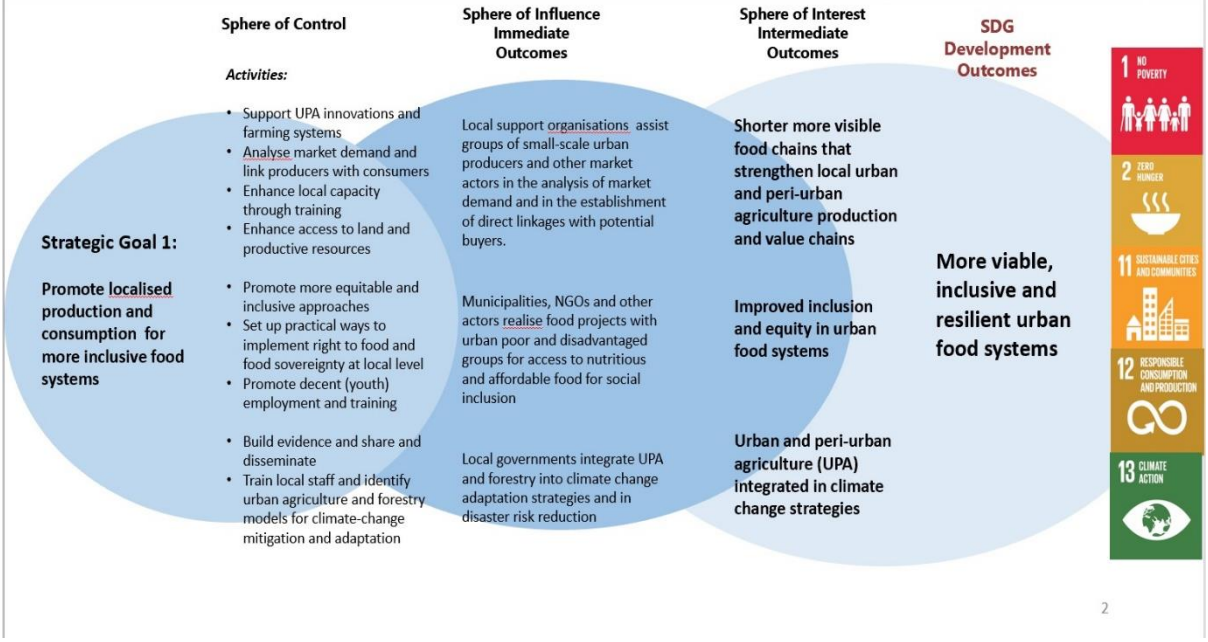

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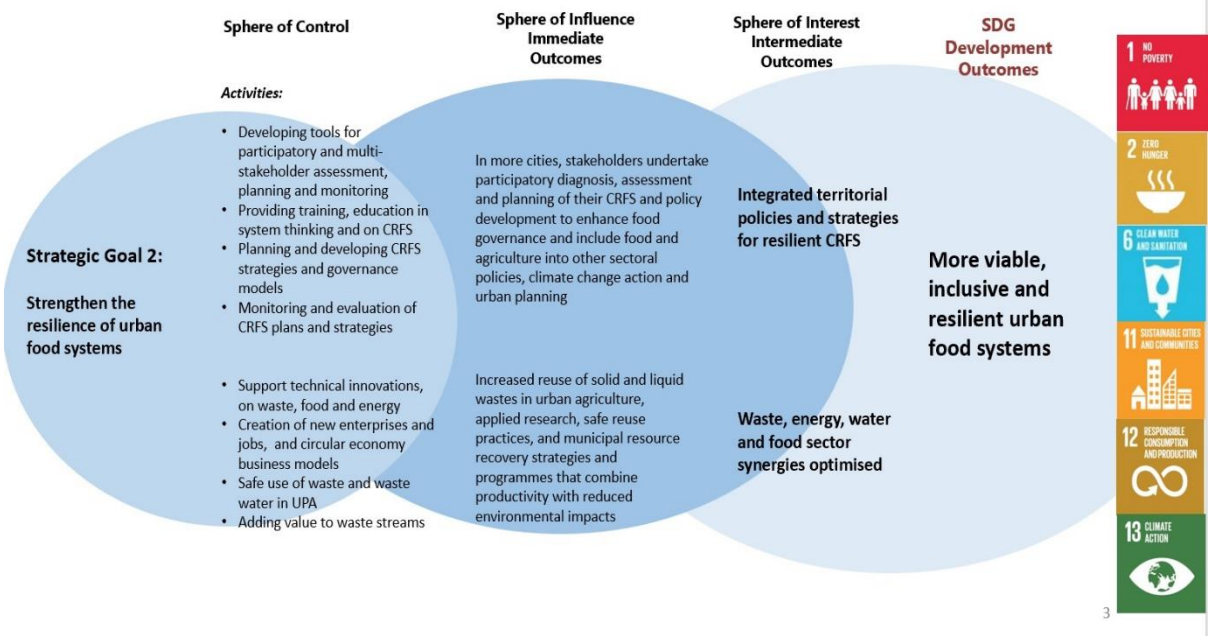

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Sphere of Control
Sphere of Influence
Immediate
Outcomes
Sphere of Interest
Intermediate
Outcomes
SDG
Development
Outcomes
Activities:
Strategic Goal 3:
Strengthen the role of cities in food policy governance
• Support national, regional and international city networks
• Support city-city learning and exchanges
• Knowledge generation: implement and synthesis case studies and innovations on new and emerging topics
• Exchange and disseminate information and stimulate learning and reflection, opening up debates, critical thinking.
• Participate in and facilitate international meetings and exchanges
• Support lobbying and agenda setting at international level
Active networks among local governments and peer to peer inter-city exchanges and learning on UPA and CRFS assessment and the design and implementation of food policies and programmes.
RUAF collaborates with a variety of networks to promote and strengthen sustainable UPA and CRFS.
New knowledge generated as response to global agendas (SDGs, New Urban Agenda), and systematised RUAF experiences, published in the form of books, working papers, policy briefs, guidelines and training manuals, and disseminated to various types of users, through the UA-Magazine, RUAF website and training modules.
Capacities built of cities in food policy governance
Knowledge, produced, systematised, documented and disseminated
High presences at International meetings, in strategy-building and in lobby and advocacy
More viable, inclusive and resilient urban food systems
2 ZERO HUNGER
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
4