



Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Regionalisation Process **ACTION PLAN 2023-25**



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MUFPP Steering Committee 2023-25



Map of MUFPP regions and SC members.

Regionalisation process

Introduction

The Milan Pact counts today over 280 signatory cities, representing a total of 490 million inhabitants distributed over the 6 MUFPP regions. Based on the assumption that cities face similar challenges and seek appropriate solutions for their specific geographical and socio-economic contexts, the Milan Pact has created dedicated spaces to promote regionalisation process.

The first task of the new Steering Committee, elected in September 2023, was to draft the **leadership plan**, a document setting objectives for each MUFPP region for the 2 years ahead. This action plan aims to identify joint activities, challenges and goals to be achieved during the mandate.

The 6 leadership plans converge in the **MUFPP Regionalisation Process Action Plan**, which has the aim of providing a general overview of the regional processes that the MUFPP Secretariat and the Steering Committee representative aim to develop over the 2023-2025 mandate.

Responsibilities of the MUFPP Secretariat and Steering Committee

The **MUFPP Secretariat**, hosted by the City of Milan, is responsible for engaging new signatory cities; facilitating the knowledge sharing and organizing capacity building activities; developing partnerships with relevant stakeholders and institutions; engaging in international food-related policy and advocacy processes; coordinating the elections and work of the MUFPP Steering Committee; supporting the organisation of Global and Regional Fora in collaboration with hosting cities; organizing the Milan Pact Awards.

The governance of the Milan Pact is ensured by the **Steering Committee**, which is elected every two years and has the responsibility of representing signatory cities at global level and the regionalization of the activities on urban food system. It is composed of **13 members**, 2 per each MUFPP region together with the Mayor of Milan which is the permanent Chair.

The current Steering Committee (2023-25) is composed as follows:

- Africa: Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Dakar (Senegal);
- Asia Pacific: Bandung (Indonesia), Seoul (South Korea);
- Eurasia & South West Asia: Istanbul (Türkiye), Jabalpur (India);
- Europe: Barcelona (Spain), Birmingham (United Kingdom), Milan (Italy) – permanent Chair;
- North & Central America: Baltimore (United States), Guadalajara (Mexico);
- South America: Belo Horizonte (Brazil), Rosario (Argentina);

In the following section, a general overview of the regional goals along with the leadership plans will be presented. The MUFPP Secretariat is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the plans and supporting the SC members in cross-cutting activities or connections among the regions.

Leadership plans

Leadership plans 2021–2023

Over the 2021–2023 mandate, the Steering Committee has achieved significant results. The City of Bandung in Indonesia hosted the **1st Regional Forum in Asia Pacific**; Africa celebrated its **4th and 5th Regional Forum in Ouagadougou** (Burkina Faso) and **Dakar** (Senegal). In Europe, **Almere** and **Barcelona** hosted respectively a **Regional and a Global Forum**. The MUFPP also celebrated its **first Global Forum in South America** in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in 2022.

The past mandate also saw the **highest number of practices** submitted by signatory cities to the **Milan Pact Awards 2022**, with a total number of **251 practices from 133 cities**. The 6th edition of the Milan Pact Awards also marked the launch of the **Fellowship Programme**, a comprehensive learning and capacity building programme running throughout 2023 and 2024.

Regional goals

The Steering Committee representatives have identified a set of ambitious goals in order to further enrich our community of cities. The table below shows an overview of the regional goals.

In a nutshell, the SC representatives aim to engage **68 new cities**, organize **9 regional fora** and **23 webinars** to exchange good practices and food system knowledge, to collect about **265 practices through the MPA** and organize other 11 food-related activities to advance our food policies.



	Regional goals 2023–25				
REGIONS	New Cities	Fora	Webinar	MPA	Other Activities
Africa	6	1	2	40	
Asia Pacific	9	2	7	20	3
Eurasia & South West Asia	15	1	2	35	
Europe	15	2	4	100	5
North & Central America	8	1	4	30	1
South America	15	2	4	40	2
Total	68	9	23	265	11

State of the Milan Pact 2024

Africa

41 Signatory cities
5 Regional Fora
90 Food practices submitted



Asia Pacific

34 Signatory cities
1 Regional Forum
37 Food practices submitted



Eurasia & South West Asia

35 Signatory cities
1 Global Forum
1 Regional Forum
46 Food practices submitted



Europe

102 Signatory cities
12 Regional Forum
250 Food practices submitted



North & Central America

29 Signatory cities
91 Food practices submitted



South America

33 Signatory cities
2 Regional Forum
107 Food practices submitted





Africa

REGIONAL CONTEXT

The urban food system in Africa faces a complex landscape of challenges and opportunities. **Rapid urbanization, population growth, and climate change** pose significant threats to food security. Many African cities struggle with inadequate infrastructure for food distribution and long and inefficient food chains, leading to high levels of food waste. Additionally, smallholder farmers often lack access to markets and face difficulties in adopting modern agricultural practices. Moreover, most African cities suffer from the “**triple burden of malnutrition**”, the coexistence of undernutrition (stunting and wasting), micronutrient deficiencies (often termed hidden hunger), and overnutrition (overweight and obesity).

Despite these challenges, there are opportunities for positive change. **Urban agriculture initiatives** are emerging, empowering communities to grow food locally and reducing dependence on long supply chains. Innovation in agri-tech is also on the rise. Furthermore, **local governments** are developing more awareness on the importance of their role in food systems’ transformation, becoming key actors in driving it, through the development of more expertise, tools and capabilities. Another opportunity is the growing **administrative decentralization** that is observed also in the African continent, even if with remarkable differences among countries and with different paces. Multi-level governance mechanisms are crucial in this process.

The African continent is among the more active and lively areas within the MUFPP, accounting for 41 signatory cities. This high representation of African members should be considered as an asset for the development of MUFPP activities in the region.

PARTNERSHIPS

- **NGOs:** ACRA, Mani Tese, Rikolto, Hivos, RUAF
- **Universities and Research centers:** University of Cape Town - UCT, University of Ghana, Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement - CIRAD, ESTà, African Population and Health Research Centre - APHRC, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement -IRD, Institut National de Nutrition et de Technologie Alimentaire - INNTA, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology-JOOUST, SupAgro Montpellier
- **EU-funded projects:** AfriFOODlinks, INCITIS Food
- **International organisations:** ICLEI, World Food Programme - WFP, Food and Agriculture Organization – FAO, UN-Habitat, World Health Organization – WHO, the World Bank, the European Commission
- **Public institutions:** Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS); Agence Française de Développement (AFD), German Development Agency (GIZ), Belgian Development Agency (ENABEL)

REGIONAL GOALS

<p>[6] Membership <i>Number of new relevant cities that will sign the MUFPP</i></p> <p>[1] Forum <i>Number regional or global forum</i></p> <p>[2] Webinar <i>Number of thematic webinars</i></p> <p>[40] Practice <i>Number of food policy practices submitted by Asia Pacific region to the Milan Pact Awards per year</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have at least one city per country, giving priority to cities in countries not yet represented, with a focus on the North African Sub-Region • Organization of the 6th Regional Forum in Africa, namely in Addis Ababa on School meals • Organization of 2 webinars, one during the second half of 2024, and one during 2025, on themes to be agreed with SC members and participating cities • Participation with at least 40 practices from Africa to the Milan Pact Awards
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REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

<p>2024 activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate 3 new African cities, giving priority to cities from countries not yet represented (RDC, Nigeria, Morocco) • Involve at least one city in the North African Sub-Region • Organization of the 6th MUFPP Regional Forum in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on School meals Programmes • Organization of an online regional webinar in the second half of the year • Start spreading information regarding the upcoming MPA, with newer cities • Synergize with AfriFOODlinks activities
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<p>2025 activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate 3 new African cities, giving priority to cities from countries not yet represented (RDC, Nigeria, Morocco) • Involve at least one city in the North African Sub-Region • Organization of an online regional webinar • Support African cities in submitting practices to the MPA 2025, giving priority to cities that haven't submitted any practices in past editions • Support in the organization of regional sessions in the MUFPP Global Forum • Participating to the 10th MUFPP anniversary in 2025



MUFPP Steering Committee leadership plan 2023-25

Asia Pacific

REGIONAL CONTEXT

As members of the MUFPP Steering Committee for the Asia Pacific region, **Bandung and Seoul, possess a unique opportunity to drive regional progress towards sustainable food systems during the 2023-2025 timeframe.** Both cities will leverage their expertise and strategic position to champion key activities that cater for the specific needs and challenges of the region.

Food system transformation in the region means establishing a sustainable food system that provides food security and nourishment for all while not jeopardizing the economic, social, and environmental foundations for future generations. In line with this, climate change, growing urbanization and land degradation, shortage of natural resources, a decline in consumption of plant-based food, a growing prevalence of common chronic diseases all pose difficulties to the current food system. All these issues confronting the Asia Pacific area must be addressed collaboratively. Regional discourse is required to be able to act together as a region and grasp the region's links, but also to be able to contribute to the network on an international level.

In particular, the **city of Seoul** would like to contribute by **encouraging the shift towards healthier diets**, not only for health but also for the sustainability of the planet. Seoul City is actively pursuing diverse initiatives to advocate for healthy eating habits and foster an environment conducive to sustainable food practices.

As part of the effort, Seoul is exploring various directions through consultations at both the national and city levels, actively involving local governments, universities, companies, and NGOs. Leveraging these endeavors, the goal is to share their findings with diverse stakeholders in cities across the Asia Pacific region and engage in discussions to explore ways for the region's improvement.

On the other side, the **city of Bandung** will spearhead a **"Knowledge Hub"** initiative to facilitate knowledge sharing and capacity building across diverse Asian Pacific cities. This platform could host workshops, webinars, and exchange programs focusing on topics like **urban agriculture, food waste reduction, and community-based food systems.** **Bandung's own successful "Bandung Food Movement through Buruan SAE initiative" can serve as a model for adaptation and replication in other urban contexts.** By fostering a collaborative learning environment, the "Knowledge Hub" will empower cities of all sizes to implement effective practices, accelerate their progress towards sustainability, and contribute to regional knowledge development. The city of Bandung is hoping to become as a champion of innovation by establishing an "Asia Pacific Food Systems Innovation Lab." This platform would bring together researchers, entrepreneurs, and policymakers to co-create and pilot solutions for regional food challenges. The focus could be on areas like climate-resilient agriculture, alternative protein sources, and circular economy approaches to food waste management. By fostering collaboration and providing space for experimentation, the Innovation Lab can nurture innovations that address the region's specific needs and pave the way for a more sustainable food future.

As a committed signatory and member of the Steering Committee, Bandung aims at developing the regional activities within the 2023-2025 timeframe via following actions:

1. Fostering Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building on urban agriculture and community engagement in Asia Pacific;
2. Championing Food Waste Reduction and Resource Recovery through its innovative approaches;
3. Promoting Food Education and Consumer Awareness through collaboration with regional partners;
4. Facilitating Regional Networking and Collaboration among cities and stakeholders across Asia Pacific;
5. Advocating for Regional Policy Coherence on issues such as food waste management, agricultural practices, and food security;
6. Promoting Research and Innovation for Sustainable Food Systems focusing on regionally relevant challenges and opportunities.

PARTNERSHIPS

- **Public Institutions:** The institution with its focus on poverty reduction and infrastructure development, can provide financial and technical support for scaling up sustainable food system initiatives. Similarly, the institution for Asia and the Pacific can offer expertise in capacity building and knowledge sharing. Collaboration among municipal governments (all off MUFPP member in the Asia Pacific Region). Seoul aims at involving public institutions like Seoul Research Institute of Public Health and Environment, the Seoul Institute, Seoul Eco-Friendly Distribution Center, Seoul Metropolitan Council, Ministry of Food and drug Safety, Korea rural economic institute. The activities to be developed in the region will count on the support of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS).
- **NGOs and Foundations:** Rikolto Indonesia, with its focus on research and policy advocacy, can collaborate on developing regional policy frameworks and promoting best practices. Meanwhile, philanthropic organizations can provide crucial funding and technical assistance for pilot projects and innovative solutions. Another alternative are local NGOs: Gita Pertiwi, Indonesia berseru, pasar rakyat. Seoul is willing to involve civic group such as Slow Food Korea, Center for health and social change, and Korea consumer agency.
- **Universities and Research Institutions:** Leading universities like Parahyangan University possess immense research potential. Partnering with them can drive research and development efforts in areas like climate-resilient agriculture, alternative protein sources, and food waste management. Another alternative: UPJ (Univ pembangunan Jaya), Machun University, Prasetya Mulya Jakarta, Binus University, Tampere Univ Finlandia, Ughent Belgia, HTH Belanda. Seoul National University, University of Seoul, Korea university, Sungshin women's university, University of Seoul, Hallym University, Baewha women's university, Hanseo University, Seojeong University.
- **Private Sector:** Food processing companies, logistics providers, and technology start-ups can offer valuable expertise and resources. Collaborating with them can foster innovative solutions for food waste reduction, supply chain optimization, and sustainable packaging. For example: Bandung Food Bank, Komunitas Magot, Hotel Hilton, Hotel Santika, Grand Cokro, Garden Hotel Cipaku, Green forest Hotel Lembang, Modern market in Bandung (Superindo, dll) as well.

By actively engaging with these diverse partners, Bandung and Seoul will create a dynamic regional ecosystem for knowledge sharing, resource mobilization, and innovation.

REGIONAL GOALS

<p>[9] Membership <i>Number of new relevant cities that will sign the MUFPP</i></p> <p>[2] Forum <i>Number regional or global forum</i></p> <p>[7] Webinar <i>Number of thematic webinars</i></p> <p>[20] Practice <i>Number of food policy practices submitted by Asia Pacific region to the Milan Pact Awards per year</i></p> <p>[3] Other <i>Number of other food policy activities promoted among cities in the network</i></p>	<p>During the mandate, the city of Seoul and Bandung aim to achieve the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase the membership in the region by involving 9 new cities (e.g. <i>City of Manado, City of Jakarta, Jambi Province, City of Depok, City of Malang, City of Pontianak, Riau Islands, Musi Banyu Asin Regency and Tasikmalaya Regency</i>); • The region aims to organise two Regional Fora (one in 2024, one in 2025). The city of Semarang is interested in organising one regional forum on the theme: “establishing early awareness of food and nutrition to create a golden generation”; • webinars will be held by SC representatives. The City of Bandung aims at organising a webinar series presenting 12 Indonesian cities local best practices (Surakarta, Bogor, Denpasar, Sukabumi, Semarang, Makassar, Pekanbaru, Tarakan, Bontang, Banjarbaru, Balikpapan, and Gorontalo Regency); • The SC representatives envision that the region will submit 20 practices to the Milan Pact Awards 2025; • The city of Bandung would like to carry out 3 additional activities: one is the development and implementation of an application <i>Aplikasi Kota Berbagi</i> launched by UNPAR; the second is the translation of the Pact’s text in Indonesian; the third is the publication of a book tailored to collect Indonesian best practices related to the urban food system.
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REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

2024 activities

- **2 Webinars.** Output: 1 published webinar series report by the City of Bandung
- **Translation of Milan Pact's text in Indonesian**
- Development and implementation of an **application *Aplikasi Kota Berbagi*** launched by Parahyangan University;
- **2nd Regional Forum** organized by the city of Semarang in October 2024 or 2025. Output: 1 published international conference report (If Bangkok organizes a similar meeting in 2024, Semarang conference will be postponed to 2025).
- Through hosting the **7th Seoul International Conference on Urban Food in 2024**, Seoul aims to explore methods for transforming the urban food system, prioritizing the health of citizens and environmental well-being. In addition, Seoul aims to forge ahead with various initiatives aimed at creating an environment where Seoul residents are encouraged to cultivate healthy eating habits. We anticipate that these efforts will yield practical results, including heightened citizen awareness and a shift in lifestyle towards healthier choices. Such changes are expected to contribute to the reduction of food-related chronic diseases.

2025 activities

- **4 Webinars.** Output: 1 published webinar series report by the City of Bandung
- Organisation of the **3rd Regional Forum** in Asia Pacific
- The region aims to submit **20 practices to the Milan Pact Awards 2025**
- **Publication of a book** of Asia pacific urban farming practice/urban agriculture governance by the City of Bandung
- Participating to the 10th MUFPP anniversary of MUFPP in 2025
- Support in the **organization of regional sessions in the MUFPP Global Forum**
- Seoul is set to host the **8th Seoul International Conference on Urban Food in 2025**, with the aim of exploring methods to transform the city's food system for the betterment of its citizens' health and the environment.
- **Seoul aims to renew its five-year basic plan for food**, targeting to establish Seoul as a sustainable food city for the period of 2026-2030 and to share the achievement with cities in the region through a dedicated webinar.



Eurasia & South West Asia

REGIONAL CONTEXT

In the complex tapestry of Eurasia and Southwest Asia, urban food systems play a pivotal role in addressing the evolving challenges of **rapid urbanization, population growth, and environmental sustainability**. The region's diverse geography, encompassing sprawling metropolises and ancient cities, contributes to a multifaceted urban food landscape.

In densely populated urban centers in the Region, the demand for food resources is escalating, necessitating innovative solutions to ensure food security. Urban agriculture initiatives are gaining prominence, with rooftop gardens, vertical farming, and community-supported agriculture projects emerging as sustainable alternatives. These endeavours not only provide fresh produce but also mitigate the ecological footprint associated with traditional agricultural practices.

However, the region grapples with **disparities in access to nutritious food**, particularly in sprawling informal settlements and marginalized urban areas. Addressing these inequities requires comprehensive urban planning and policy interventions to create inclusive food systems. Collaborative efforts between local and national governments and local communities are crucial for fostering resilient, equitable, and sustainable urban food networks.

The rich culinary heritage of Eurasia and Southwest Asia adds a cultural dimension to urban food systems. Traditional markets serve as vibrant hubs where local and global food traditions converge. Balancing the preservation of **cultural culinary identities** with the **need for modern, efficient food distribution systems**, while preserving food safety, presents a unique challenge.

Moreover, the region is not immune to the global impacts of **climate change**, exacerbating water scarcity and disrupting agricultural patterns. Sustainable water management practices and climate-resilient urban agriculture must be integrated into the fabric of urban planning to ensure the long-term viability of food systems in the face of environmental challenges.

PARTNERSHIPS

- **International organisations:** World Food Programme - WFP, Food and Agriculture Organization – FAO, UN-Habitat, World Health Organization – WHO, the World Bank, the European Commission, the Food Foundation
- **NGOs:** RUAF
- **Public institutions:** Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), USAID, UKAID, GIZ, AFD

REGIONAL GOALS

<p>[15] Membership <i>Number of new relevant cities that will sign the MUFPP</i></p> <p>[1] Forum <i>Number regional or global forum</i></p> <p>[2] Webinar <i>Number of thematic webinars</i></p> <p>[35] Practice <i>Number of food policy practices submitted by Asia Pacific region to the Milan Pact Awards per year</i></p>	<p>During the mandate, the city of Istanbul and Jabalpur aim to achieve the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have at least 15 more cities in Eurasia, giving priority to cities in countries not yet represented Advocate cities in the Region to host one in person Regional Forum in 2025. Two online Regional Webinars, one led by Istanbul, one led by Jabalpur; Webinars will be organized one during the second half of 2024, and one during 2025 Participation with at least 35 practices from the region to the Milan Pact Awards
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REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

<p>2024 activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate 7 Eurasian cities giving priority to cities in countries not yet represented. 1 online regional webinar during the second half of 2024 on the integration of cities within the MUFPP Start spreading information regarding the upcoming MPA Start raising cities' interest on hosting a Regional Forum Synergize with UN Climate Change Conference in Baku – UNCCC COP29 activities
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<p>2025 activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate 8 Eurasian cities, giving priorities to cities in countries not yet represented Organization of an online regional webinar Support Eurasian cities wishing to organize an MUFPP Regional Forum Support Eurasian cities in submitting practices to the MPA 2025 with at least 35 practices Push the participation among cities in the region to the 10th MUFPP anniversary in 2025 Support in the organization of regional sessions in the MUFPP Global Forum

Europe

REGIONAL CONTEXT

European cities have worked since 2016 to transform their local food systems and collectively improve the European food system. Since the launch of the MUFPP, they have discovered the benefits of collaborating and sharing knowledge on food issues, developing a permanent network, a set of meetings, projects, and organizing joint advocacy actions towards the EU institutions.

The European interest in the MUFPP also became clear due to the advisory role the European Commission and the European Committee of the Regions had, in 2015, in the process of defining the content and international dissemination. In 2016 Eurocities, the organisation of major European cities, launched the **dedicated Working Group Food that became the regionalization process of the MUFPP**. The relevance of the MUFPP in Europe, through the active role of different cities, also increased interactions within European spaces of debate and the most innovative EU food projects. Within the Working Group Food, the European cities are actively working to strengthen their efforts to share knowledge among EU cities through meetings and webinars; advocate actions towards the EU institutions; codesign joint participation in EU funded calls for projects.

The EU Commission's Food 2030 Expert Group has defined cities as a new kind of actor that can make a difference in food system transformation and has proposed cities as an innovative partner for Europe in defining a multi-objective and multi-actor drive for responsible innovation across the food system. **Through EU-funded projects** (Horizon Europe, EUI, Urbact, DEAR, Life+) **cities can strengthen their food policy processes** thanks to the support of researchers and other relevant stakeholders.

Furthermore, the **Urban Agenda for Europe – Thematic Food Partnership** gathers **relevant stakeholders** from all parts of the food chain in order to build a shared vision **together with the necessary means for its sustainable implementation**. The work will be coordinated by the City of Milan and Lisbon Metropolitan Authority and will be extremely relevant for MUFPP cities in terms of advocacy. The goal of the 21 stakeholders, which are members of the Partnership, is to **advocate on the role of cities in the food system transformation**, while addressing key topics such as agroecology, food justice, access to land, and public land management.

European cities will also work to **position the MUFPP Framework for Action in upcoming calls for funding and other European Commission's opportunities and initiatives**, further expanding the scope of the Pact and involving a higher number of stakeholders in the implementation.

PARTNERSHIPS

- **City networks:** Eurocities, ICLEI, ANCI, Red de Municipios por la Agroecología, Let's Food Cities, Dutch city deals.
- **European Commission:** EU Cities are participating in platforms, working groups, meetings organized by the General Directions of the EC such as RTD, SANTE, EMPL, ENVI, AGRI, DEVCO, REGIO, and JRC.
- **EU-based stakeholders:** Thematic support is coming from EU-based stakeholders during the activities of the sharing knowledge, joint project and EU advocacy in the field of planetary health diets, circular economy for food, citizen engagement, start-ups and investments.
- **International organisations:** WFP, OECD.
- **Research bodies:** Wageningen University, Wageningen Economic Research, Politecnico di Milano, Fondazione Politecnico, Roskilde University, Cardiff University, World Resources Institute, Copenhagen University, Trinity College, University of Barcelona.

REGIONAL GOALS

<p>[15] Membership <i>Number of new relevant cities that will sign the MUFPP</i></p> <p>[2] Forum <i>Number regional or global forum</i></p> <p>[4] Webinar <i>Number of thematic webinars</i></p> <p>[100] Practice <i>Number of food policy practices submitted by your region to the Milan Pact Awards per year</i></p> <p>[5] Other <i>Organization of dialogues; project proposal to be submitted; support development of urban food policies; advocacy activities with Eurocities and Urban Agenda for the EU; Barcelona Challenge working group</i></p>	<p>The main goals for the years 2023-25 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extend the membership in key countries that are still not represented in the MUFPP network, i.e. Northern European countries and Eastern Europe. This should lead to a more diverse environment of cities and bring added knowledge to the exchanges, providing useful input for future projects and partnerships; • Organization of 2 Regional Fora; • Organization of 4 thematic webinars; • Encourage European cities to submit 100 practices to the MPA 2025; • Organization of European and National Dialogues linked to multilevel governance; • Submission of 1 project proposal for Horizon Europe involving cities; • Support the development and launch of urban food policies in a larger number of cities, also considering the wide range of tools developed by EU-funded projects targeting the food system's governance understanding and management; • Advocate, in alignment with the Urban Agenda for EU on Food, towards the European Commission to launch bold legislative initiatives aimed at supporting the food system transition; • Support the working group of the Barcelona Challenge.
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REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

<p>2024 activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization of a MUFPP Regional Forum in Europe, in partnership with the Eurocities Working Group and Food Trails project, hosted by the City of Warsaw on 22-23 May 2024. • Support to cities on food policy definition, establishment and implementation, including utilizing tools developed by EU-funded projects like Food Trails, SchoolFood4Change, CleverFood, FEAST, Cultivate. • Promote the signing of the MUFPP from at least 7 new cities, prioritizing countries that are under-represented, and cities that have marginalized populations, and/or require support in developing food system governance processes. • Collaborate with the CleverFood project on the National and European Dialogues linked to multilevel governance and advocacy. • Regular update with coordinators of the Urban Agenda for Europe – Thematic Food Partnership to follow the activities on better regulation, better funding, better knowledge. • Organization of 2 thematic webinars. • Advocacy actions, in alignment with the Urban Agenda for EU on Food, towards the European Commission to launch bold legislative initiatives and funding scheme aimed at supporting the urban food system transition. • The Barcelona Challenge will evolve into a formal MUFPP WG focusing the food-climate nexus. In particular, a group of MUFPP cities and partners, will propose revised MUFPP actions and indicators targeting the climate crisis. This will result into a compendium of actions, indicators and tools available for those cities wishing to work on climate and food, to integrate and enrich the MUFPP Framework for Action.

2025 activities

- Support in the **organization of regional sessions in the MUFPP Global Forum**
- Organization of a **MUFPP Regional Forum in Europe**, in collaboration with the Eurocities Working Group Food in a city to be identified.
- Support cities for **submission of at least 100 good practices** to the Milan Pact Awards 2025.
- Submission of a **joint project proposal for Horizon Europe** involving MUFPP cities.
- Promote the **signing of the MUFPP to at least 8 new cities**, prioritizing countries that are under-represented, and cities that have marginalized populations, and/or require support in developing food system governance processes.
- **Regular update with coordinators of the Urban Agenda for Europe – Thematic Food Partnership** to follow the activities on better regulation, better funding, better knowledge.
- Organization of **2 thematic webinars**.
- **Advocacy actions**, in alignment with the Urban Agenda for EU on Food, towards the European Commission **to launch bold legislative initiatives and funding scheme** aimed at supporting the urban food system transition.



MUFPP Steering Committee leadership plan 2023-25

North & Central America

REGIONAL CONTEXT

From the food system perspective, the North & Central America region presents a very diverse area. In order to better understand the regional context, it is fundamental to analyse the two parts of the region individually.

As it is the case globally, the food system in **Central America** faces important **challenges in terms of health, sustainability, resilience and social inclusion** that negatively impact people's quality of life, social cohesion and the environment. In the face of the COVID 19 pandemic, the needs and problems that exist in our region to access a minimum of the basic food basket became more evident, with a balanced diet being a distant point in the objective of families, especially with limited resources. In addition to this, local markets, agroecological fairs, goods from local producers, are in most cases difficult to find since there is a greater custom of buying in large supermarket chains. Furthermore, local produce also acquires a high monetary value which means that only a small part of the population is able to afford it. There is an important loss of food, either due to the waste of citizens for their lack of conscience about their purchases and their consumption patterns, as well as for the environmental problems that lead to the loss of food during the supply chain. However, in recent years, **a large number of initiatives undertaken pointed to a positive transformation of the food system**. Indeed, there are many initiatives related to health and food, food security, sustainable production, innovation in the agri-food sector and gastronomy as an engine of economic, social and cultural development promoted by a wide array of actors. It becomes a priority to share these experiences, policies and programmes beyond the cities that are already participating in the MUFPP. For sure there are a lot of successful practices that should be shared between the cities, that could improve practices and could facilitate the local processes in terms of governance, food justice, sustainability and health of the food systems.

In **North America** (Canada and the United States), as is the case in many regions, **COVID-19 both exacerbated food insecurity and exposed the infrastructure weaknesses in our regional supply chain**. Underlying this, structural inequities, such as racism and socio-economic disparities, have only widened or have been brought more to the forefront in discussions around food systems. Additionally, **the ever-present threats caused by the global climate emergency impacts both our ability to produce food and accelerates farmland loss**. Also, over the last two years a **sharp rise in inflation** and the end of enhanced pandemic assistance such as SNAP have increased food insecurity for millions of residents. Despite these challenges, there is **limited support for systemic, cohesive efforts to rectify these root inequities and overcome barriers to true food system transformation**. The current US administration has a more positive outlook on integrating food system policies into broader systemic efforts to reduce inequities and increase resources to those producing, harvesting, processing, transporting, preparing, and serving our food. This came to fruition with the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health in 2022, the first such event in over 50 years. The significant influx of funding from the American Rescue Plan Act is supporting innovative food system pilot projects in cities across the US through 2026, but preparations for a funding cliff have already begun. Additionally, the US has still not passed a new Farm Bill, and there is a presidential election in 2024. All of these challenges and opportunities make collaboration amongst existing and new MUFPP signatory cities in the region vital going forward as we continue the work to create more equitable and resilient food systems.

PARTNERSHIPS

Central America:

- **Academic institutions and universities:** ITESO, CISAI, Guadalajara University, Gastronomic University of Guadalajara.
- **NGOs:** Food Alliance and Animal Equality, Red Mexicana de Ciudades Amigas con la Niñez
- **Private:** Camera of food industry and restaurants.
- **Public institutions:** Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS);

<p>North America:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National organisations: United States Conference of Mayors, United States Department of Agriculture, Canadian Food Policy Advisory Council, American Planning Association's Food Division ● International organisations: ICLEI, IPES-Food ● NGOs: Food Chain Workers Alliance, HEAL Food Alliance, National Young Farmers Coalition, American Farm Trust, Natural Resources Defense Council, The Center for Good Food Purchasing ● Foundations: Rockefeller Foundation, Ford Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Michael & Susan Dell Foundation, The Conservation Fund, Reinvestment Fund ● Academic institutions: Johns Hopkins University Center for a Livable Future, University at Buffalo Food Lab, Vermont Law School Center for Agriculture and Food Systems
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REGIONAL GOALS

<p>[8] Membership <i>Number of new relevant cities that will sign the MUFPP</i></p> <p>[1] Forum <i>Number regional or global forum</i></p> <p>[4] Webinar <i>Number of thematic webinars</i></p> <p>[30] Practice <i>Number of food policy practices submitted by your region to the Milan Pact Awards per year</i></p> <p>[1] Other <i>Number of other food policy activities promoted among cities in the network</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Have at least one city per country in Central America, with a focus on Belize, Nicaragua, and Panama ● Add at least 4 new signatory cities in North America, with a focus on Denver, Detroit, Indianapolis, Philadelphia, Salt Lake City, and Seattle ● Organise the first Regional Forum in North & Central America ● 4 webinars focus on the integration of the cities within the MUFPP; elaboration of a local diagnosis of food policies, and the results of the diagnosis ● At least one practice by the majority of signatory cities in the North & Central America Region for the MPA ● In other: Generate a diagnosis about the food policy practices in Central America
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REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

<p>2024 activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Diagnosis about the food policy practices in Central America. ● Webinars about the integration of the cities at the MUFPP, elaboration of a local diagnosis of food policies, and the results of the diagnosis. ● Have at least one city per country in Central America. ● Meet with USCM cities that are not MUFPP signatory cities and encourage them to join the Pact. ● US cities will continue to meet monthly under the umbrella of the US Conference of Mayors to share best practices and problem-solve through shared challenges. These best practices are in alignment with MUFPP food system foci. All participating cities are implementing these best practices as part of each municipal officials' formal job description. ● Work to foster collaboration between the US Conference of Mayors Food Policy Advisors and the Canadian Food Policy Advisory Council. ● Meet with foundations and NGOs to seek funding and logistical support for the Regional Forum.
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<p>2025 activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Host the first ever Regional Forum for North & Central America in a signatory city that is centrally located. ● Webinars about the integration of the cities at the MUFPP and result of the diagnosis about the food policy practices. ● Share the practice "Dieta Planetaria" in the region. ● US cities will continue to meet monthly under the umbrella of the US Conference of Mayors to share best practices and problem-solve through shared challenges. These best practices are in alignment with MUFPP food system foci. All participating cities are implementing these best practices as part of each municipal officials' formal job description. ● North America can aim to organise regional webinars aligned with the US Conference of Mayors Winter Meeting in January. ● The region aims at gathering at least 30 practices to the Milan Pact Awards. ● Support in the organization of regional sessions in the MUFPP Global Forum.





MUFPP Steering Committee leadership plan 2023-25

South America

REGIONAL CONTEXT

South America has stood out positively in the fight against hunger and food insecurity. According to the November 2023 FAO report for the Latin American and Caribbean region, South America has driven a drop in both indices for the macro-region. However, local inequalities have a profound impact, especially on the most vulnerable populations. For example, hunger and food insecurity continue to affect more women than men, although this gap has shown a downward trend.

In this regard, even considering their immense diversity and heterogeneity, **the configuration of food systems in South America continues to display some common characteristics:** inefficiency and exclusion; high degradation and depletion of natural resources; concentration of capital, infrastructure and technology, prevalence of landownership and export monoculture; supply difficulties, concentration of marketing channels; inadequate diets and unsustainable consumption habits; high prices.

Malnutrition, especially among children, **continues to be a challenge for the region.** Paradoxically, overweight and obesity among the South American population continues to be above the global average thanks to the rapid dietary transition that the region has undergone in recent decades. In fact, there has been a reduction in the consumption of fresh and natural foods, while the demand for foods rich in sugars, added fats and salt has increased substantially.

Finally, food waste remains high, but significantly below the global average, as the aforementioned FAO report shows. Furthermore, according to the FAO, South America and most of its countries are on track to achieve the SDG 2 target of keeping malnutrition levels (wasting) among children under 5 below 3 percent.

PARTNERSHIPS

- **NGOs:** Ciudades Educadoras; Banco de Alimentos de Rosario;
- **Regional organisations:** Mercociudades; FONARI-Brasil; Centro Iberoamericano de Desarrollo Estratégico Urbano – CIDEU
- **International organisations:** FAO; Metropolis; ICLEI;
- **Universities:** Universidad Nacional de Rosario; Universidad del Centro Educativo Latinoamericano; Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais
- **Public institutions:** Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS);

REGIONAL GOALS

<p>[15] Membership <i>Number of new relevant cities that will sign the MUFPP</i></p> <p>[2] Forum <i>Number regional or global forum</i></p> <p>[4] Webinar <i>Number of thematic webinars</i></p> <p>[40] Practice <i>Number of food policy practices submitted by your region to the Milan Pact Awards per year</i></p> <p>[2] Other <i>Number of other food policy activities promoted among cities in the network</i></p>	<p>The main goal that Belo Horizonte and Rosario want to achieve for the region is to understand the issue of food security in South America, in order to design better policies and practices that will benefit not only MUFPP cities, but the continent as a whole.</p> <p>The SC representatives would like to achieve the aforementioned objectives through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the involvement of 15 new cities in the region (e.g. Asunción, Belem, Canelones, La Plata, Santa Cruz de la Sierra); organization of 2 Regional fora (in 2024 and in 2025); the organization of 4 webinars (2 in 2024 and 2 in 2025) in which different topics will be discussed as for example the survey; the submission of 40 practices to the MPA 2025 from signatory cities of the region; elaboration of a survey on food security policies in South America; presentation for the Mercociudades South-South Programme Proposal Call.
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REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

<p>2024 activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership Plan for South America: preparation of the plan between the two cities in coordination with the MUFPP Secretariat. Survey on Food Security Policies in South America: design and implementation of an online survey on food policies in South American cities. The aim is to identify the existence, strength and degree of maturity and institutionalization of the issue of food security in the member municipalities of the MUFPP and the surrounding area. Dissemination of the survey among Mercociudades. Regional Forum: holding of the MUFPP-South America regional forum. 1st Webinar '24 MUFPP-South America: (1st quarter) promotion of a webinar to present the leadership plan and call for the survey, with presentation of the proposal, methodology and clarification of questions. 2nd Webinar '24 MUFPP-South America: (2nd quarter) presentation of the results of the survey + next steps, with experts on the subject. Strategic cooperation with Mercociudades, the Environment Thematic Unit, the Social Economy Commission and the Vice-Presidency for Sustainable Urban Development and Climate Change. Invitation for new cities to join the Pact. Presentation for the Mercociudades South-South Programme Proposal Call 2024
<p>2025 activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Forum: Support in the organization of regional sessions in the MUFPP Global Forum 1st Webinar '25 MUFPP-South America: launch and call for entries for the Milan Pact Awards. Support to cities in the region to submit their practices (at least 40). 2nd Webinar '25 MUFPP-South America: technical webinar with a theme to be defined.



Milan Urban Food Policy Pact

Regionalisation Process

ACTION PLAN 2023-25

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