

The Urban Early Warning Early Action Project

FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION

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Urban Early Warning Early Action (UEWEA) Project in Kenya

Oxfam in Kenya is leading advocacy work for the Urban Early Warning Early Action (UEWEA) project in Nairobi, Kenya currently being implemented by a consortium of four non-governmental organizations - Kenya Red Cross, Concern Worldwide, Oxfam in Kenya and World Vision Kenya. The project is aimed at developing early warning systems and early action responses to crises that affect the poor people living in urban slums. The project will utilize Concern's Indicator Development for the Surveillance of Urban Emergencies (IDSUE) to establish thresholds for humanitarian response aimed at averting food insecurity and health related crises in the urban slum areas of Nairobi.

UEWEA is informed by scarcity of similar interventions in urban contexts: There is already sufficient effort to avert emergencies in rural areas. But these cannot be transposed to urban contexts given their demographic and socio-political peculiarities. Urban areas, especially the slums are densely populated, inhabitants are politically disenfranchised, food systems are local market-based, and their coping mechanisms during crises are different from those adopted in the rural areas. UEWEA is therefore an innovative initiative since it aims to align both rural and urban agencies understanding of the different emergency contexts and indicators as well appreciate the differences in response strategies.

The project aims to achieve four key outcomes:

- 1) Facilitate the set-up of and capacity-build a coordinated urban early action mechanism within the Nairobi County Government with agreed actions;
- 2) Strengthen the capacity of 6 Nairobi Sub-Counties and 1 Informal Settlement Community to mitigate and respond quickly to the impacts of slow onset emergencies;
- 3) Ensure routine surveillance in Urban Informal Settlements in Kenya fully coordinated and managed by the County Disaster Management Committee (CDMC) by the end of 2017; and
- 4) Advocate for UEWEA as a best practice and most cost effective model for responding to urban emergencies in the world.