Urbanization, Economic Crisis and Multi-Local Livelihoods in Africa

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Multi-local livelihood is combining…

Livelihood sources in town

Multi-local livelihoods

Rural livelihood sources

Improving urban household’s food security and income situation
Economic crisis in the last three decades

Decline (fall) in:

- Per capita incomes (generally)
- Urban economies
- Standards of living
- Formal sector employment
- Public expenditure on health, education
- Real wages
Economic crisis in the last three decades

Increase (rise) in:

- Food prices & service charge
- Cost of living
- (Urban) unemployment
- “Informalization” of the urban economy
- Urban life has become expensive
- Urban poverty (many people live below “poverty line”)
Responses to increasing urban poverty

- Multiple sourcing of cash incomes
- Own food production (urban & rural)
- Reducing expenditure
- Social networks (urban & rural)
Responses to urban poverty: multiple livelihoods

Urban farming

Urban non-farming activities

Social networks

More women in income-generation
Responses to urban poverty: multiple livelihoods
Urban-rural linkages

- Social reciprocity
- Economic interactions
- Split (return) migration
- Flow of food
Rural farming by urban households
Food flows sans frontiers...
Thank you and welcome to Kenya