

# GOLD VI

**Case-Based Contribution  
to Chapter 8: Prospering**  
*GOLD VI Report on Pathways  
to urban and territorial equality*

**Regional economic development  
to promote endogenous dynamics  
and territorial solidarity**

In partnership with:

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# Regional economic development to promote endogenous dynamics and territorial solidarity

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## CITIES/COUNTRIES IT COVERS

Pichincha province, Ecuador; Izmir, Turkey; Seoul, Korea

## CHAPTER

8: Prospering

## SUMMARY

New relations of greater equity and balance between rural and urban areas require a new narrative underpinning territorial planning and development. The New Urban Agenda<sup>1</sup> and subsequent efforts support this new narrative, starting with agreed fundamental principles and a framework for action to strengthen urban-rural linkages to advance territorial development.<sup>2</sup> This normative framework builds upon concrete experiences of local and regional governments working with civil society and private actors to address challenges emerging from increased urban-rural integration. Three cases of endogenous urban and territorial solidarity show that inequitable relations between urban and rural populations can be addressed by overcoming a narrow focus on developmentalist and functionalist approaches to a more balanced territorial development. The cases include the rural local economic development programme of the metropolitan government of Quito in **Pichincha province** (Ecuador), women's agriculture cooperatives in **Izmir** (Turkey), and an urban-rural coexistence partnership in **Seoul** (Korea). Each case highlights local relationships balancing rural and urban participatory engagement, relevant institutional mechanisms and legislative and regulatory frameworks, regional planning and the results for improved and equitable economic development.

## Regional economic development to promote endogenous dynamics and territorial solidarity

Increased interpenetration of urban-economic processes across all geographic space has in part led to increased integration of urban and rural spaces, with one consequence being a renewed attention to the need for new forms of political organization to manage processes of spatial integration. New relations of greater equity and balance between rural and urban areas require a new narrative underpinning territorial planning and development. The New Urban Agenda<sup>3</sup> and subsequent efforts support this new narrative, starting with agreed fundamental principles and a framework for action to strengthen urban-rural linkages to advance territorial development.<sup>4</sup> This normative framework builds upon concrete experiences of local and regional governments working with civil society and private actors to address challenges emerging from increased urban-rural integration.

Cases of endogenous urban and territorial solidarity are being recognized around the world; many of these are reaching wider public and policy audiences. These cases show that inequitable relations between urban and rural populations can be addressed by overcoming a narrow focus on developmentalist and

functionalist approaches to a more balanced territorial development. From a foundation in local cultures, histories and autonomous innovation, several cases in different regions showcase locally grounded and collaborative approaches between different levels of government with community-based actors from civil society and the private sector. Three of these cases build on traditional practices including family and community networks, and complementarities between urban, peri-urban and rural communities to realize greater equity with economic, social and environmental co-benefits across territories.

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### Supporting a solidarity economy through participatory governance, Pichincha Province, Ecuador

The province of Pichincha is home to **Quito**, Ecuador's largest city and a metropolitan area of over 2.5 million people. Nearly 90% of the provincial population resides in Quito and 30% of urban dwellers suffer poverty defined as lacking

basic needs according to a 2015 City Region Food Systems (CRFS) assessment.<sup>5</sup> Provincial governments formed in 2014 a consortium of local governments, CONCOPE, to promote programs and strategic actions as an intermediary between

3. NUA, 2016

4. UN-Habitat, 2019

5. FAO, 2015

national policies and the management of local governments to contribute to integral territorial development and the solidarity economy.<sup>6</sup>

One of the programs convened by CONCOPE is CONQUITO (the Economic Development Agency of the Metropolitan Area of Quito) which launched the Quito Food Strategy. This was built upon the 18 year experience of AGRUPAR (Participatory Urban Agriculture Project), and includes strengthening urban agriculture production, agricultural development in peri-urban and rural areas, and development of a food hub and biofairs for commercialization of food products from the territory. The food strategy was

accompanied by a formal resolution and ordinance adopted in 2018. The Pinchincha government with national support integrating civil society initiatives, has developed local public policies to guarantee human rights and support decentralization as a means to combat territorial inequalities. These policies target improving health services and providing local economic development through support for small producers and businesses and establishment of new distribution and marketing channels to consolidate food sovereignty at a regional level. The results include training of 6,000 entrepreneurs for product commercialization, generating \$1.5 million in income for small producers of whom 84% are women.<sup>7</sup>

## Combining social and economic benefits of women's cooperatives in Izmir, Turkey

Turkey's third largest city, **Izmir** has a population of 4.3 million and is surrounded by rural agricultural lands. Cooperatives are a widespread business model in Turkey and municipal governments, through agricultural chambers of commerce, support rural agricultural cooperatives of many kinds to strengthen rural economies and jobs. This example of cities' promotion of rural development, includes "machine parks" to provide tractors and other farm equipment to small producers, early warning systems for weather and forecasting, and promotion of good agricultural practices for healthy, sustainably produced and environmentally friendly production and animal husbandry.

The Izmir municipal government provides financial support through the Izmir Development Agency to cooperatives for processing and storage facilities. Among the investments are those made to support local specialty artisanal products of the region as well as cut flowers, milk, and grape molasses. Beyond the conventional cooperatives supported by local and national govern-

ments and operated principally by men, the women's cooperatives of Izmir and across Turkey have been a special case. Women's cooperatives in Turkey cross the divide between organizational structures purely for economic purposes, and those purely for social purposes. These cooperatives are started, governed, and owned by women and are doing a wide array of activities, and hence are referred to as "multi-purpose women's cooperatives".

Their impact is most importantly empowering for women, contributing to lifelong education and learning, and contributing to women's ability to obtain an income through employment. Importantly, these do not occur in silos, but reinforce each other and can be understood to have a multiplier effect on the women who engage with the cooperatives as members or beneficiaries. The legacy of women's cooperatives extend beyond income earned to skills development, fulfillment of community needs, maintenance of social fabric through interaction with local women, local governments and other institutions.

6. CIFAL, 2020

7. Source: [http://conquito.org.ec/?wpfb\\_dl=3294](http://conquito.org.ec/?wpfb_dl=3294)

## Harnessing the power of public procurement for urban-rural partnership in Seoul, Korea

**Seoul** is the capital of South Korea with 9.7 million inhabitants. The past 50 years have seen steady decline of the rural population and increasing economic disparity between rural and urban communities as a result of rapid industrialization and urbanization of the country. This, combined with heightened concerns about food security and food safety of the capital city's food supply, led the Seoul Metropolitan Government to create the "Urban-Rural Coexistence Public Meal Service" (UCPMS) in 2017. The programme has five goals to provide: 1) healthy food; 2) food security; 3) urban-rural coexistence; 4) food safety; and 5) build capacity for inter-jurisdictional governance.

Other municipalities have elevated public food procurement to increase access to healthy food and increase food security, but Seoul went further, launching inter-government agreements pairing urban districts with rural authorities to supply meals to schools, hospitals and other public institutions. Funding, technical assistance and distribution support for district meal centres are all part of a systemic approach to the partnership between urban and rural areas for inclusive economic development.

As of June 2021, 13 of Seoul's 25 boroughs are participating in the UCPMS program. Five meals per week are provided free of charge through subsidies to schools, day care and welfare facilities. Benefits include a stable commercial environment with fair prices for producers and quality food for consumers, reduction of distribution costs and steps through direct trade from farmers to boroughs, and municipal food quality and safety standards are more efficiently monitored.

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## PROSPERING

This paper has been produced as a Case-Based Contribution to the sixth Global Report on Local Democracy and Decentralization (GOLD VI): the flagship publication of the organized constituency of local and regional governments represented in United Cities and Local Governments. The GOLD VI report has been produced in partnership with the Development Planning Unit (University College London), through the programme Knowledge in Action for Urban Equality (KNOW). GOLD VI focuses on how local and regional governments can address the local manifestations of growing inequalities and contribute to create “Pathways to urban and territorial equality”. The GOLD VI report has been produced through a large-scale international co-production process, bringing together over a hundred representatives of local and regional governments, academics and civil society organizations. This paper is an outcome of this process and is part of the *Pathways to Equality Cases Repository*, which collects the over 60 Case-Based Contributions produced as part of the GOLD VI report.

In particular, the present paper has contributed to Chapter 8 on “Prospering”, which focuses on prosperity as a culturally specific and multi-dimensional concept, including income but not only. The chapter explores key drivers of urban inequality reflected in the scarcity of decent work and in social-spatial disparities in the location of different productive activities within cities. The chapter analyses how local and regional governments can increase decent work opportunities, and, drawing on the impacts of COVID-19, how they can mitigate the effects of future pandemics and of climate change on decent work, urban prosperity and inequality.

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