*You are a representative of citizens living in urban areas in developing countries. You must purchase your food for you and your family for consumption at home as well as at work/school.*

**Background Information:**

* The location of poverty and malnutrition is shifting from rural areas to urban areas and efforts to address the issue of urban poverty are very slow in coming. Traditionally the efforts to reduce poverty have targeted rural areas.
* Urban livelihoods are complex and not easily characterized so there is no “one size fits all” fix. Men are more likely to be laborers, women more likely to be involved in small, family businesses or food vending, making far less than men.
* Both household and individuals try to diversify their income and people are relying heavily on the urban markets for food. 90%+ of food is purchased with cash, 32% of the food budget is spent on prepared (street) foods and usually about 70% of the total household budget is spent on food, leaving 30% of the budget to pay for other things, as compared to just 7% of budget for food in the United States..
* Housing takes up a very small percent of the budget because most people live in family compounds that they neither own or rent.
* About 40% of households are food insecure, meaning that they do not consume enough calories per day not to be malnourished. This number is far higher in female-headed households.
* The education level of household members is related to income and food security. The higher the education level, the greater the income and more food security experienced by a household.