



INTEGRATING ACTIONS FOR INNOVATIVE FOOD SYSTEMS ACROSS RURAL-URBAN COMMUNITIES IN KENYA

Over the years, Kenya has continued to experience high levels of food and nutrition insecurity. At the same time, the country is experiencing a rapid rate of urbanization, which is double the population growth rate. The growth of cities and urban areas has a direct impact on food security due to diminishing land for agriculture productivity and decreasing labour force, as a result of rural urban migration. In addition to reducing land for agriculture production, rapid urbanization contributes to climate change because of increasing greenhouse gas emissions from cities. Urban populations often struggle to pay the high cost of city living or are unable to afford sufficient food to meet their minimum nutritional requirements. Food systems present an opportunity to address these challenges and contribute to sustainable urban development. This project was therefore designed to contribute to improved food security and nutrition by empowering local government and communities, while fostering food systems innovations with the assistance of partners and advisory agents.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project established food governance mechanisms, namely Food Liaison Advisory Groups (FLAGs), and developed the first ever food systems strategies in Kisumu and Nairobi, which were approved and endorsed by the respective county governments. The FLAG members were trained and engaged in various forums and meetings. In Nairobi, food retail mapping was carried out to generate more information on the food retail environment, to better understand the gaps, challenges and opportunities around food access for the city residents. Data collected from five major food markets in Nairobi resulted in the creation of a digital interactive food market portal that will support decision-making and multisector collaboration, thereby improving access to nutritious foods for residents in Nairobi. Other notable achievements of the project included the establishment of microgardens in schools and communities, and the engagement of youth in innovative ways of managing food waste while in the process of creating jobs. Four schools, comprising 5 456 children, benefited from an improvement in their diets, because of the incorporation of the vegetables produced in their school meals. In addition, 27 community groups and enterprises were equipped with skills and technical knowledge, and some of them were supported to acquire inputs for their businesses.

KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget
USD 2 100 000

Duration
November 2018-April 2023

Resource Partners
Government of Italy (Italian Agency for Development Cooperation [AICS])

Partners
Nairobi City County Government;
County Government of Kisumu; Regional
Center for Mapping of Resources for
Development (RCMRD)

Beneficiaries
County governments; community
groups; county government extension
agents; food system stakeholders in their
different capacities in the Food Liaison
Advisory Group (FLAG); local academic
institutions

IMPACT

The project improved the lives and livelihoods of both rural and urban communities in Nairobi and Kisumu, while highlighting the importance of urban food systems to ensure food security and nutrition. It is expected that the series of concrete actions implemented will contribute to substantial economic benefits to the population of the two counties, including greater economic possibilities in terms of food production, and improvement in food distribution and retail, value addition/agroprocessing and food waste management.



ACTIVITIES

- FAO Rapid Urban Food Systems Appraisal Tool (RUFSAT) developed and implemented in Kisumu for food system assessment.
- Food system strategies developed through a multistakeholder process.
- Food retail mapping carried out in Nairobi and an interactive food market dashboard created.
- 27 mini-grant enterprises selected in Nairobi and Kisumu comprising 365 individuals (181 men and 184 women), who received training and equipment grants.
- A total of 1 644 beneficiaries received training on sustainable food system practices such as urban agriculture microgarden technologies, improved indigenous chicken farming, dairy goat and pig production, food waste management, value addition, food safety, nutrition, animal feed production.
- 308 multistorey gardens established in Nairobi, benefiting 14 community-based groups with 351 community members; 463 multistorey vegetable gardens benefited 416 individuals (244 men, 172 women) in Kisumu.
- 61 extension officers trained on food systems approach and integration of food-related activities across sectors.
- City-to-city exchange on food waste facilitated to promote triangular exchange between Nairobi, Kigali and Milan on best practices on food waste management in cities.
- Two items of resource material produced and published on FAO Urban Food Actions Platform: i) 10 Critical Actions for transforming Urban Food systems; and ii) 5 Strategic Areas for Urban Food Systems Transformation.
- Organization and participation of Nairobi and Kisumu in four international knowledge-sharing events supported, attended by seven government officials.



Project Title

Integrated actions for innovative food systems across rural-urban communities in Kenya: strengthening food security and nutrition, fostering local entrepreneurship and harnessing migration

Project Code

FAO: GCP/KEN/089/ITA

Contact

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