

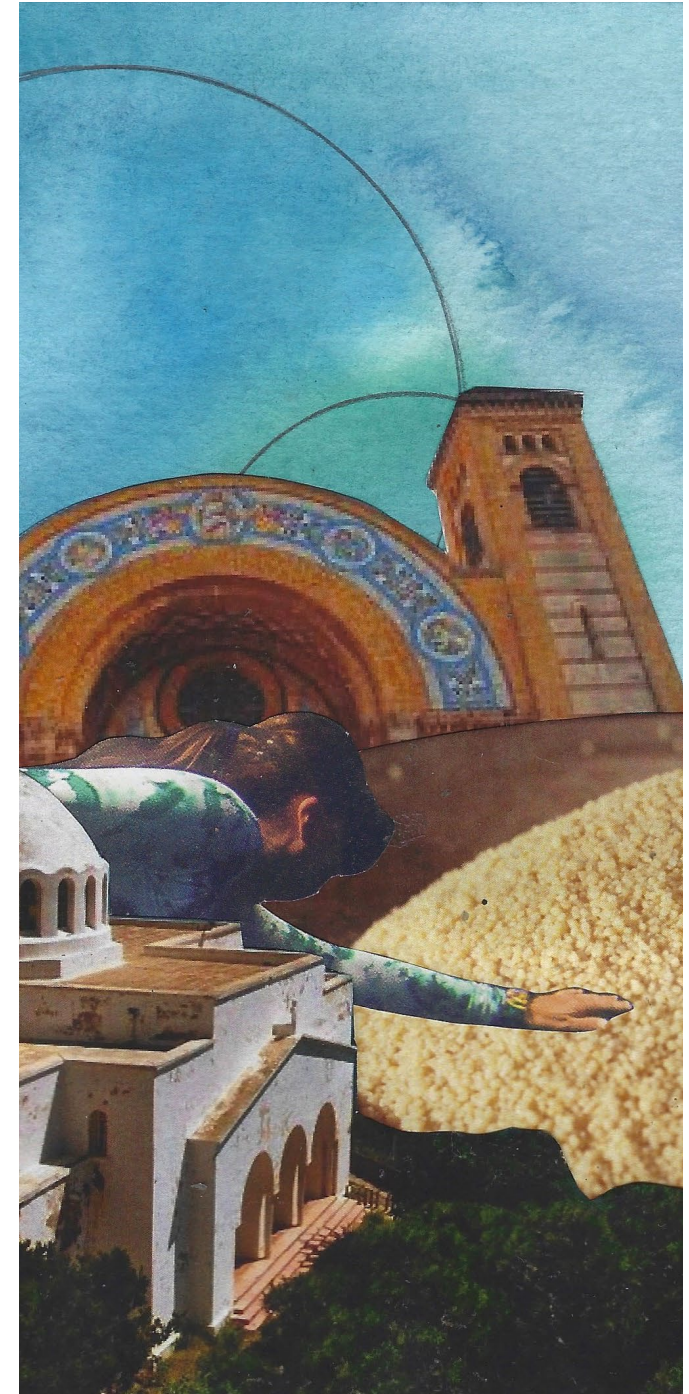
# #AfricanCITYFOODMonth

July 2021 | Brought to you by ICLEI Africa and partners



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# Introduction

The year 2021 has been a significant year for food. It represents the commencement of the decade of action towards the attainment of the SDGs and is a year in which significant events and discourse around food systems have been held. Notably, the UN Food Systems Summit in September 2021, with the associated independent dialogues that fed into it, the 7th Global Forum of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) in October 2021 and the Nutrition for Growth summit held in December 2021, all represent touchpoints in a growing awareness of, and interest in, food system transformation.

This year's #AfricanCITYFOOMonth campaign built on the momentum around the [UN Food Systems Summit](#) and reflected on the Independent Summit Dialogues process that ICLEI Africa, FAO and partners conducted in 13 African cities under the [FAO-ICLEI Partnership](#). Altogether, the partnership between FAO and ICLEI supported 26 cities that were engaged in local multi-stakeholder Food Dialogues, ongoing from April to August 2021. The African cities supported include:

- Accra and Tamale, Ghana
- Antananarivo, Madagascar
- Arusha and Dodoma, Tanzania
- Cape Town, South Africa
- Entebbe, Uganda
- Kigali and Rulindo, Rwanda
- Kisumu and Nairobi, Kenya
- Quelimane, Mozambique
- Tunis, Tunisia

The purpose of the partnership was to elevate the voices of cities during 2021's critical global summits - namely, the UN Food Systems Summit 2021 and the Nutrition for Growth 2021. This process assembled key players, such as local governments and their associations, city networks, national governments, business sector, academia and farmers, among others. As a synthesis of the dialogues process, two infographics (see following pages) were developed



*"We have seen that 'food' demonstrates the most powerful interlinkages between our cities, our environment, our health and wellbeing, our nature and our climate, and offers vast potential for improving equity and sustainability on our planet."*



**Kobie Brand**  
**Regional Director, ICLEI Africa and**  
**Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI**



to highlight the 5 strategic areas of focus and the 10 critical actions proposed by urban food system stakeholders participating in the dialogues.

Building on the above partnership, the #AfricanCITYFOODMonth 2021 campaign was geared towards generating concrete actions from cities that would contribute to achieving sustainable urban food systems in this 'Decade of Action,' as well as facilitating sharing and co-learning through a city-to-city learning exchange. Following a successful inaugural AfricanCITYFOODMonth campaign in July 2020, ICLEI Africa and partners came together again to use this platform, throughout July 2021, to improve the understanding of urban food systems concept, to build consensus around local food systems challenges and opportunities in African cities, and to highlight the actions and processes that are key to transforming urban food systems.

The 2021 campaign was organised as a learning journey for cities and food systems actors. It created a platform to share reflections from the Independent Dialogues on key challenges and opportunities in Africa's urban food systems. It hosted peer-to-peer exchanges between city officials and food systems actors, and it shared knowledge and resources that could support practical implementation or identify entry points for cities to improve food system outcomes (through governance processes, food environment transformation and government-business interaction). This was done through a series of events (see the webinars and workshops), and through Instagram and Twitter Campaigns. This synthesis report captures key reflections and outcomes from the campaign events, which were attended by over 700 people in July, and curates messages and resources produced in 2021.



*"From a global perspective we can call the year 2021 a year of food as this is a year where the UN Food Systems Summit is taking place in September in New York and also Nutrition for Growth later this year in Tokyo"*



**Jiwon Lee**  
**Senior Officer,**  
**Principal Support for ICLEI Global Food Program.**



## Webinars and workshops

- 7 July 2021**  
African City food Exchange Part 1: What have we learnt from the UNFSS independent food dialogues process in 16 African cities?
- 13 July 2021**  
African City food Exchange Part 2- A City-to-City Exchange on A city-to-city workshop on achieving sustainable urban food systems
- 20 July 2021**  
Sustainable Food Cultures webinar
- 27 July 2021**  
Where Chemistry, Storytelling and Policy Collide: Lessons from the Inclusive Metabolism Project: Summary Draft
- 29 July 2021**  
Multiplicities (Menu) of entry points into urban food governance

# #ACFM2021 Partner reflections

“At Rikolto we are telling these stories because we want key players in African food systems to see the value of investing in young entrepreneurs and to create an enabling environment for them to thrive and prosper. Because their success is everyone’s success.”



“While we work day-to-day on the ground at local community scale, we recognise the value of a platform that enables learning about the experiences of others in both similar and different contexts, particularly within Africa among Africans.”



“The key to succeed in fixing the food system is partnering, networking, exchanging and cooperating, and this is exactly what the #AfricanCITYFOODmonth campaign has been doing so far!”



“Changing our food system to one based on the principles of the circular economy is one of the most powerful things we can do to tackle climate change, restore biodiversity, and build long term resilience — while providing healthy and nutritious food for all.”



“Governance is not top-down decisions being made and detected by government alone. Rather, governance involves non-state actors and organisations like farmers, food businesses, civil society, academics, unions and so on, working with local government”.



“Our ongoing work demonstrates how central food is to urban well-being, justice and sustainability, but also just how great a need there is for new policy and governance responses in the African context.”



Read all partner full messages for #AfricanCITYFOODmonth here

Watch reflections from the ICLEI Africa AfricanCITYFOODmonth team:



#AfricanCITYFOODmonth

# Global infographics

## Key outcomes from the ICLEI-FAO Dialogues



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



Local Governments for Sustainability

**CITIES CALL FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION TO TRANSFORM OUR URBAN FOOD SYSTEMS**  
Currently, food systems are failing to achieve food security for all, and the environmental and climate impacts of food production, processing, transport, distribution, consumption, loss and waste are unprecedented. The COVID-19 pandemic and associated lockdowns have demonstrated the importance of food system resilience. There is an opportunity to rethink the governance of food systems. Cities are vital to this process given rapid urbanisation, the linkages with built environment, consumption and nature, and because local governments are best placed to implement policies and approaches that reflect local conditions and their residents' needs.

**5 STRATEGIC AREAS FOR URBAN FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION**  
Leading up to the UN Food Systems Summit, we convened independent food dialogues with 1000+ people from 26+ cities around the world, and asked local and regional governments, urban practitioners, researchers, business owners and food system stakeholders what they thought were the most important drivers of urban food system change. This infographic shares the outcomes of their reflections.

**EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE PROCESSES**  
The people who face the most inequities in our cities are often the voices least heard. An equitable food system requires deliberate and differentiated action to guarantee everyone full participation in decision making and access to nutritious, safe, affordable and culturally appropriate food. This has been a fundamental consideration in discussion that cuts across all strategic areas.

**NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL FOOD GOVERNANCE**  
National and sub-national governments must work together to better coordinate policies, planning and interventions.

**FOOD AND URBAN PLANNING**  
Integrated planning must consider the use of space, infrastructure and funding mechanisms while entrenching food policy across municipal government and ensuring effective stakeholder engagement.

**EMERGENCY PLANNING, RESPONSE AND RECOVERY**  
Food must be part of any emergency response plan. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted vast inequities and structural failures of food systems. Cities must develop informed emergency food response and recovery plans that recognize that crises can be recurrent, have long-term structural impacts, and amplify existing stresses such as chronic food insecurity.

**HEALTHY AND RESILIENT FOOD ENVIRONMENTS**  
Resilient food environments support efficient urban food value chains, through formal and informal economies, ensuring access to nutritious, safe and culturally relevant food, while regenerating natural environments.



Download here

Download here



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



Local Governments for Sustainability

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**10 CRITICAL ACTIONS FOR TRANSFORMING URBAN FOOD SYSTEMS**  
Leading up to the UN Food Systems Summit, we convened independent food dialogues with 1000+ people from 26+ cities around the world, and asked local and regional governments, urban practitioners, researchers, business owners and food system stakeholders what they thought were the most important drivers of urban food system change. This infographic shares the outcomes of their reflections.

<p><b>DEVELOP COHERENT, INTEGRATED FOOD POLICIES AND INVITE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT</b> to provide clear vision and guidance, while equipping actors to effectively implement policy recommendations, and practice inclusive governance.</p>	<p><b>FOSTER TERRITORIAL LINKAGES</b> to shorten or simplify supply chains, leverage neighboring logistics capacities, support local investment, grow regional food economies, and promote nature-positive food supply.</p>	<p><b>INTEGRATE FOOD INTO PLANNING AND URBAN DESIGN</b> to build food environments that facilitate access to land, market space, and healthy, sustainable and culturally appropriate food.</p>
<p><b>STRENGTHEN PUBLIC FOOD PROCUREMENT</b> to drive sustainable markets, facilitate short supply chains, promote good nutrition, boost the local economy and support school meal programmes.</p>	<p><b>ADOPT ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE FINANCE SYSTEMS</b> to guarantee credit and ensure cash-flow for farmers and small businesses, improve local government revenues and enable infrastructure development.</p>	<p><b>LEAD CLIMATE ACTION</b> to foster mitigation and adaptation strategies by introducing stress tolerant crops and livestock, making use of climate information services and offering insurance services, as well as by supporting afforestation, reducing food miles and sharing sustainable agricultural practices.</p>
<p><b>SUPPORT DATA COLLECTION, MANAGEMENT AND DISSEMINATION</b> to map food system interactions, identify gaps and enable evidence-informed decision making.</p>	<p><b>INVEST IN CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGIES</b> to improve efficiency and safety across the food value chain, ensure access to nutritious food for consumers, connect producers with markets, promote economic development and enhance value addition.</p>	<p><b>PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE URBAN AGRICULTURE</b> to encourage healthy diets, connect communities, supplement incomes and bring nature into the city.</p>
<p><b>REDUCE FOOD WASTE AND LOSS</b> to protect natural ecosystems, lower greenhouse gas emissions, use valuable resources responsibly and bring all food produced to market.</p>		





# Campaign messages



#AfricanCITYFOODmonth  
July 2020  
Report

#AfricanCITYFOODmonth

Watch last year's webinar videos for a crash course in Africa's urban food systems

WEBINAR  
6 July 2021 | 2pm CAT

African City Food Exchange Part 1: What have we learnt from the UNFSS independent food dialogues process in 16 cities?

#AfricanCITYFOODmonth



VOICES FROM OUR CITIES

"The complex and multi-dimensional nature of our urban food system requires different levels of intervention. Notably, policy, implementation support, and capacity building and awareness raising. Not one intervention can act and survive on its own."

Hon. Davis Mwanape,  
Mayor of Dodoma

#AfricanCITYFOODmonth

ICLEI Circular's Practitioner's Handbook shares best practices for local governments to facilitate the transition to circular food systems, from engaging with stakeholders to designing city policies.

Visit [circular.iclei.org](http://circular.iclei.org)

WEBINAR  
13 July 2021 | 2pm CAT

African City Food Exchange Part 2: A city-to-city workshop on achieving sustainable urban food systems.

#AfricanCITYFOODmonth

2021 African CITYFOOD Exchange elevated voices from 16 African cities, around building sustainable urban food systems.

Catch up on the webinars here: [africa.iclei.org/2021-african-city-food-exchange/](http://africa.iclei.org/2021-african-city-food-exchange/)

VOICES FROM OUR CITIES

"Accra can strengthen its role to improve food security by continuously learning from the activities of other cities. It is important to openly discuss where the opportunities are along the food systems value chain for urban area."

Dr. Charles Ekua,  
Director, Food & Agriculture,  
Accra Metropolitan Assembly  
Accra Independent Dialogue

#AfricanCITYFOODmonth

#AfricanCITYFOODmonth  
July 2020  
Report

VOICES FROM OUR CITIES

"We can say unmistakably that our health depends on the quality of the food we eat and therefore on the quality of the food system that we depend on. When the food system that we depend on as consumers and producers collapses, our individual and collective wellbeing also collapses as we experienced in the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic."

Gualbert Gheboanu,  
FAD Representative Rwanda  
Kigali and Ruhinda  
Independent Dialogue

#AfricanCITYFOODmonth

5 ways to improve health and nutrition in our cities:

- Improve access & aspiration to healthy, nourishing foods
- Promote a variety of fresh food or fortified foods
- Invest in early childhood development and encourage breastfeeding
- Promote the balanced consumption of all food groups, including indigenous veggies
- Improve opportunities for urban agriculture, green areas & public space for recreation and ecological regeneration

SHARE YOUR RESOURCES ON SUSTAINABLE URBAN FOOD SYSTEMS USING #AFRICANCITYFOODMONTH

WEBINAR  
20 July 2021 | 2pm CAT

Sustainable Food Cultures: How our appetites can transform our cities.

#AfricanCITYFOODmonth

#AfricanCITYFOODmonth

IMPACTS ON FOOD CULTURE

Awareness: Agency  
Food linked to income  
Opportunity  
Dignity

Attitude? Behaviour? Health? Economy?

Visit [africa.iclei.org/2021-african-city-food-exchange/](http://africa.iclei.org/2021-african-city-food-exchange/)

#AfricanCITYFOODmonth

VOICES FROM OUR CITIES

"Access to nutritious food is one of the biggest challenges because of what is happening in Sub-Saharan Africa in general. We need to give value to our home-grown food and make it marketable because we do have nutritious food!"

Dr. Inda Bainsambo,  
Eduardo Mondlane University,  
Maputo Quilimans  
Independent Dialogue

#AfricanCITYFOODmonth

#AfricanCITYFOODmonth

VOICES FROM OUR PARTNERS

"Governance is not top-down decisions being made and dictated by government alone. Rather, governance involves non-state actors and organisations like farmers, food businesses, civil society, academics, unions and so on, working with local government."

Jess Walliday,  
Associate, RIFAF Global  
Partnership on Sustainable Urban  
Agriculture and Food Systems

#AfricanCITYFOODmonth

#AfricanCITYFOODmonth

VOICES FROM OUR CITIES

"How can we attract more youth to agriculture? The respect of agriculture providing an income to youth at every level is important. Therefore we need to ensure access to information, technology, ICT infrastructure and land."

Kimera Heary,  
Consumer Education Trust,  
Uganda

#AfricanCITYFOODmonth

WEBINAR  
27 July 2021 | 2pm CAT

Where Chemistry, Storytelling and Policy Collide: Lessons from the Inclusive Metabolism Project.

#AfricanCITYFOODmonth



Actions for the implementation of Sustainable Healthy Diets

- Ensure that affordable and desirable foods are accessible
- Promote capacity development strategies for behaviour change
- Quantify and balance the potential trade-offs
- Develop national food-based dietary guidelines

CHECK OUT @FAO'S SUSTAINABLE HEALTHY DIETS GUIDING PRINCIPLES

WEBINAR  
29 July 2021 | 2pm CAT

Multiplicities (Menu) of entry points into urban food governance through the lenses of "Food Sensitive Urban Planning" and the "City Region Food System."

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# Campaign numbers

## INSTAGRAM



282 likes

7729 impressions

7154 reached

24 comments



284 video views



33 saves

574 profile visits

4,74%  
post  
engagement  
rate

## TWITTER



414 likes

1,4%  
engagement  
rate

253 retweets



133 link clicks

97 000  
impressions

# Campaign Video

A taste of food systems ideas across African cities through dialogue

How can dialogue contribute to building resilient urban food systems in Africa? Listen to what our cities are saying.





# Webinar summaries





# African City food Exchange Part 1: What have we learnt from the UNFSS independent food dialogues process in 13 African cities?

## Speakers



Paul Currie: Manager, Urban Systems Unit, ICLEI Africa



Sinethemba Mthethwa: Food Systems Intern



Jiwon Lee, Senior Officer: ICLEI World Secretariat



Solophina Nekesa: Professional Officer, Urban Systems



Hon. Davis Mwamfupe, Mayor of Dodoma



Daniel Adeniyi, Professional Officer: Urban Systems, ICLEI Africa



Harold Lema, Horticulture & Grains Senior Agribusiness Advisor: Rikolto, Arusha



Ryan Fisher, Professional Officer: Biodiversity and Nature-based solutions, ICLEI Africa

## Summary

The webinar offered a platform to share outcomes and themes that emerged in the food dialogues that were conducted in 12 African cities through the UNFSS Independent Food Dialogue format. The key messages that came out of the city dialogues were highlighted under the following themes: areas for improving food systems, policy and governance, enablers for transformation of Africa's urban food systems as well as multi-stakeholder engagements and partnerships.

Intensifying urban food production was identified as one of the key areas for investment identified by a number of cities as it will ensure that cities are able to feed the growing urban population. Intensifying urban food production has the potential to improve livelihoods



WEBINAR

**6 July 2021 | 2pm CAT**

**African City Food Exchange Part 1:**  
What have we learnt from the UNFSS independent food dialogues process in 16 cities?

#AfricanCITYFOODmonth

[Watch the recording here](#)

(economic and social conditions) of many farmers as well as improve food security for citizens. To maximise efficiency and increase accessibility in urban food systems, there is a need to prioritise infrastructure development (transport and market). Areas of improvement identified included railways for trains, roads for motor vehicles, bikes etc, airports and seaports for imported foods as well as storage facilities such as refrigerators to ensure that food is preserved for longer periods of time.

In the dialogues, participants from different cities highlighted the fact that there is a lack of adequate local level policies that speak to the urban food system. Major focus is on national level policies at the expense of the local level. It was also noted that there is a lack of local mandates for governments to intervene in the food system. Where there are policies that speak to the food system, the implementation of these policies is poor. There is a need to strengthen resources for implementation and also a need to translate policies into local languages for all relevant stakeholders. To drive the food system forward, there is a need for multi-sectoral coordination.

To transform food systems in cities, there is a need for innovative financing models targeting small scale actors by giving credit to cooperatives and strengthening mobile money platforms as well as financing for large scale infrastructure. There is also a need for inclusive food sensitive urban planning to ensure easy access to urban land for food related activities. There is potential for cities to invest in technology such as data management systems to be able to map the demand for food, and obtain early warning systems, map the linkages and analyse existing capacities to build capacity.

There is room for wider stakeholder involvement in many cities. Cities as entities do not have the capacity to function on their own. Identifying existing structures is important for collaborating with technical partners that provide relevant services through formal or informal systems/channels (for data collection, research, etc). Identifying existing structures helps cities to leverage on existing capacities. Partnerships build capacity in the food system and they allow for accountability of stakeholders. Partnerships have the potential to bridge the gap between policies and implementation.

The common themes that emerged from the FAO-ICLEI food dialogues and city consultations that were conducted included: food equity and sovereignty, food circularity, integrated food planning, food system resilience, access to nutritious food and green space, food adulteration, and school nutrition, and procurement. Equity and inclusion was a cross cutting

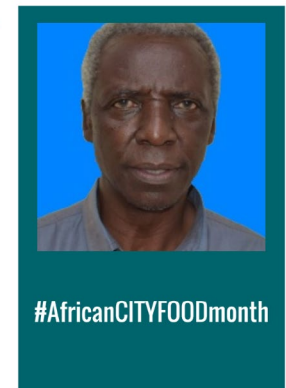


YFOODmonth#AfricanCITYFOODmonth#AfricanCITY



#### VOICES FROM OUR CITIES

"The complex and multi-dimensional nature of our urban food system requires different levels of intervention. Notably, policy, implementation support, and capacity building and awareness raising. Not one intervention can act and survive on its own."



**Hon. Davis Mwamfupe,**  
Mayor of Dodoma



theme for many local governments when it came to food planning, ensuring food security and good nutrition for all. It was noted that there is a need to integrate local food planning and the need to develop healthy food environments to promote access to nutritious, safe and culturally relevant food. Food waste was also prevalent in many cities. It was highlighted that food in many cities is wasted before it can be used for consumption. The current crisis of Covid-19 proved the need for emergency planning, response and recovery for cities to be able to respond to any emergencies they may encounter.

Harold Lema from Rikolto noted that the main challenge that was identified in the Arusha dialogue was that majority of the food consumed in Arusha is adulterated with either chemical or antimicrobial agents which results in the people of Arusha being more vulnerable to unsafe and unlikely nutritious food. The lessons taken from the Arusha Independent Dialogue included the need for youth inclusion in implementation of recommendations especially about urban systems, city-to-city learning and communication on outcomes, and also developing multi-stakeholder platforms to promote planning with Arusha's City Council on the way forward.

Honourable Mayor Davis Mwamfupe from Dodoma noted that the dialogue discussion managed to get a wide range of stakeholders engaged in urban food systems making the dialogue a success. He emphasised that cities cannot continue with their current speed of action if they want to attain the 17 SDGs especially because in urban areas there is evidence of rapid population growth that cities need to cope with. Food systems needed to be developed to become sustainable. There is a need to transform the food system.

Lessons taken from the Dodoma dialogue included the need for governments to supply land, control market operations, develop transport and infrastructure and improve bylaws that govern and enable access to food for urban dwellers. It was noted that there is great vulnerability in the city. The degree of resilience is a concern with climate change, market operations and the most recent Covid-19 Pandemic. Transformation of urban systems is therefore not a matter of choice but a necessity. There is a need to raise awareness of farmers and capacity building across different stakeholders because no one component can survive on its own.



# African City food Exchange Part 2: A city-to-city exchange on city-to-city workshop on achieving sustainable urban food systems

## Speakers



Paul Currie: Manager, Urban Systems Unit, ICLEI Africa



Solophina Nekesa, Professional Officer: Urban Systems, ICLEI Africa



Barbara Emanuel, Former Manager of the Toronto Food Strategy

## Summary

The workshop facilitated co-learning, knowledge and expertise sharing between cities. It allowed cities to share constraints in their food system as well as the interventions they are implementing to lessen the impact of these constraints and achieve a sustainable and resilient urban food system.

Many cities rely heavily on food imports because they lack adequate resources for production. An example of such a city is Kisumu, Kenya. It was highlighted during the discussions that FAO in partnership with the Department of Agriculture in Kenya intervened by allocating resources towards three key areas: training residents how to grow their own food, introduction of production technologies to improve efficiency and supporting processes to put in place measures food safety. A total of 63 farmers were trained in different areas on growing food, safety and nutrition, waste management, business skills and entrepreneurship. Additionally, the city has revamped the rice sector and put in place interventions to boost food production and ensure that rice is readily available in Kisumu markets.

The city of Ouagadougou also implemented an intervention to boost food production. Ouagadougou used an Agro-forestry rehabilitation project to reclaim land that was previously degraded by human activities. This land is known as the Green Belt. It is 1065 hectares that



WEBINAR

13 July 2021 | 2pm CAT

African City Food Exchange  
Part 2:

A city-to-city workshop on  
achieving sustainable urban  
food systems.



#AfricanCITYFOODmonth

Watch the recording here

circumnavigates the city. The land ownership system has permitted Ouagadougou to utilise the Green Belt for agricultural activities such as producing quality food for local consumption in large quantities. Furthermore, this city has formulated a matrix that relates to urban agriculture within the Green Belt. Ouagadougou knows how much it costs to cultivate one hectare for urban agriculture, how many jobs are created per hectare, how much money can be gained per year per hectare etc. This is important to monitor progress, areas for improvement etc. It also allows the city to seek support from relevant stakeholders where it lacks certain technicalities; promoting multi-stakeholder collaboration.

Moreover, multi-stakeholder collaboration and coordination was emphasised as an important aspect in achieving resilient and sustainable urban food systems. Cities may lack certain technicalities and the inclusion of different stakeholders may bridge those gaps. A suggestion was made by different city stakeholders that there is a need for stakeholder mapping and assessing the roles that different players can play in capacity building to maximise urban capacities.

Additionally, it was noted by the participants that urban food systems could be improved if infrastructure (transport and markets) was developed to increase accessibility. In many cities consumers and producers are unable to access the markets to trade because of poor transport infrastructure which impacts negatively on food accessibility in cities. It was also added that the lack of market infrastructure increases food loss thus decreasing food availability and accessibility. This also impacts negatively on food security in cities. Infrastructure should be developed and maintained to ensure consistent efficiency.

Many participants agreed that the youth in African cities are key to their prosperity and therefore local governments and different stakeholders should empower the youth to get involved in food system activities especially through creating livelihood opportunities. In the city of Accra, the youth are given the opportunity to enrol in an internship of between three months to one year long to learn practical aspects of agriculture and other food system related courses. The internship allows students to acquire skills that they are able to utilise to set up, manage and sustain their businesses.



*“We need to map out existing urban capacities and actors and look at how we can coordinate across departments, coordinate with civil society actors, other countries, private sector actors and researchers”*

Bessie Nikhozi, Livelihoods, Social Protection, Emergency Preparedness and Response. Concern Worldwide. Nairobi



*“How can we attract more youth to agriculture? The aspect of agriculture providing an income to youth at every level is important. Therefore we need to ease access to: information, technology, ICT infrastructure, Land”*

Kimera Henry, Consumer Education Trust, Uganda. Entebbe Independent Dialogue



# Sustainable food cultures: How our appetites can transform our cities

## Speakers



African Centre for Cities  
Podcast



Kurt Ackermann, Executive  
Manager: The SA Urban Food &  
Farming Trust



Kimberly Addison, Co- Founder  
'57 Chocolate



Turihohabwe Naibi  
(Naibishotit), Marketing  
specialist, filmmaker, freelance  
photographer: Kampala,  
Uganda



Solophina Nekesa: Professional  
Officer, Urban Systems



Daniel Adeniyi, Professional  
Officer: Urban Systems, ICLEI  
Africa

## Summary

The rapid population growth occurring in many urban areas is resulting in an increased demand for food to feed the growing population. It has therefore become important to understand how food is utilised in urban areas, why people choose to eat what they eat, and how food reaches the hands of the consumers. The aim of the webinar was to understand what shapes urban food cultures and explore ways in which we can transform our everyday and long-term relationship with the food system to a sustainable and resilient one. In the webinar, different influences of the food culture were highlighted by the different speakers.

Urban planning and design was highlighted by Daniel Adeniyi, ICLEI Africa as an influence in food cultures. The development of malls and highways and other road and market infrastructure has proved to have an influence on how consumers relate to food, their food preferences and choice of consumption. In Kampala (Uganda) for example, certain places of business were planned and built close to the city center which is characterised by roadside food and informal trading. People working in businesses that are within the parameters of



WEBINAR

20 July 2021 | 2pm CAT

Sustainable Food Cultures:  
How our appetites can  
transform our cities.



#AfricanCITYFOODmonth



Watch the recording here

the city center have been choosing to purchase food from informal traders as they are either able to walk to the informal traders, or the informal traders are able to walk to them. Also, food from informal traders tends to be much cheaper in price as it is not always sold whole, in bulk or in large quantities. The informal traders in Kampala (Uganda) will sometimes sell pieces of a cut watermelon instead of the whole fruit. Choosing which food to consume is therefore also determined by convenience, easy access and affordability which are all directly influenced by the design of the city/town.

Affordability is highly influenced by an individual's income. An individual's income plays a huge role in shaping the choice that individuals make to purchase or not to purchase certain foods for consumption. Individuals are unlikely to purchase foods that they view as a luxury and cannot afford. Certain foods are only purchased based on the economic status of the city or area; for example, middle income earners would be more likely to purchase chocolate than low income earners.

Additionally, location may also determine the food that individuals choose to consume. There are certain foods that are neglected in certain geographical areas because they are associated with another geographical area. Kimberly Addison, Co- Founder of '57 Chocolate, based in Ghana (Africa) highlighted that in the chocolate industry they are faced with a challenge of stigma. Many consumers struggle to associate chocolate with Africa, therefore chocolate with a 'Made in Africa' label has been taboo. On the contrary, Ghana is one of the largest producers of cocoa world-wide but is hardly associated with chocolate. African countries have often had to import finished goods/products, and this is because many African countries have struggled with resources and lacked capacity and have therefore been unable to transform raw materials (i.e. cocoa) to finished goods/products (i.e. chocolate). It is therefore important that resources and skills are developed in African countries so that African countries become self-sufficient.

Furthermore, the lack of knowledge and awareness on benefits of having the resources and the skills to produce limits the potential of building sustainable food cultures. Skills to produce may also be developed in other areas of the food system such as in agricultural activities i.e. food gardens. Kurt Ackermann, SA Urban Food and Farming Trust emphasised the importance of food gardens in communities and their potential to increase sources of food supply thus potentially allowing for stable food flows in households, consistent availability of food and strengthened agency within the food system. Food gardens also have the potential to become inter-generational as they become a norm in daily living. This continuous practice



#### VOICES FROM OUR PARTNERS



"While we work day-to-day on the ground at local community scale, we **recognise the value of a platform that enables learning about the experiences of others** in both similar and different contexts, particularly within Africa among Africans."

**SA Urban Food and Farming Trust**



#AfricanCITYFOODmonth

Accelerating sustainable actions towards the transformation of Africa's urban food systems.

1-31 JULY 2021

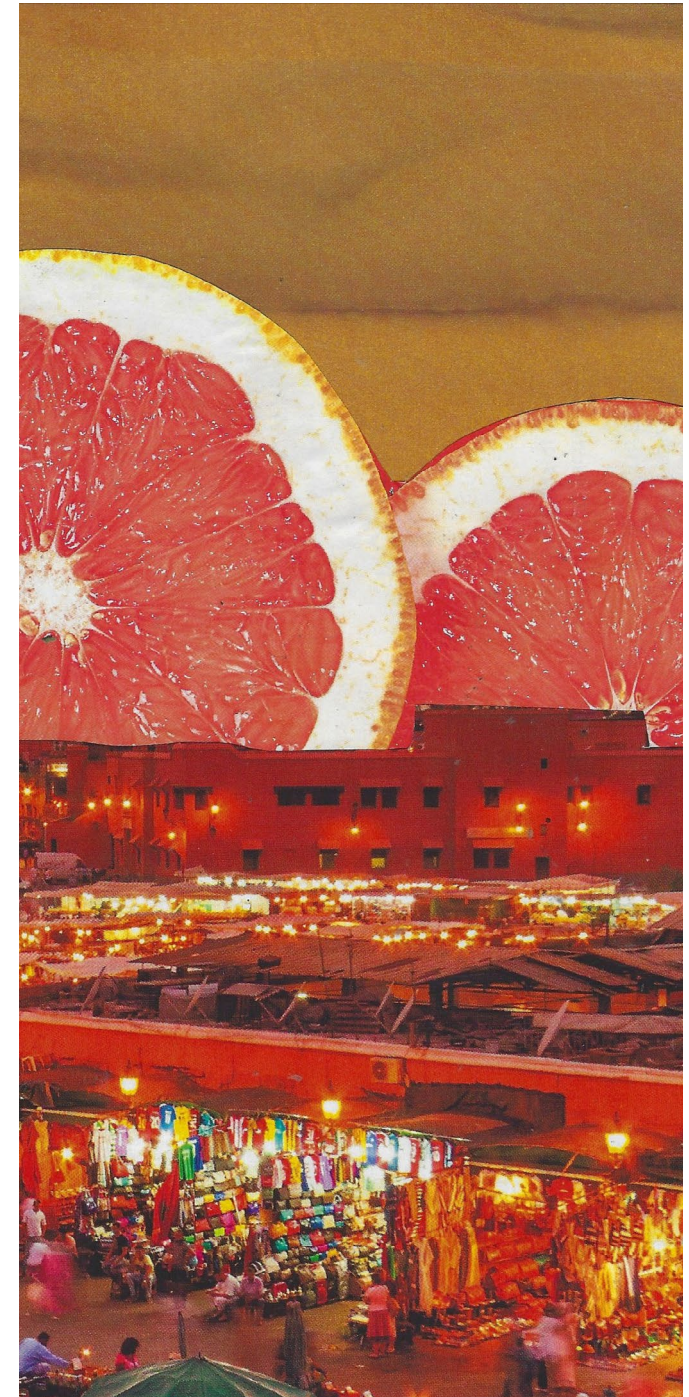
of producing food within communities has the potential to ensure sustainability and increase the health of many community members thus building sustainable food cultures. Also, producing food in communities has the potential to bring economic opportunities and create an income for many. Food is therefore a source of business and livelihood.

To conclude, the webinar explored food cultures through the lenses of different actors across the urban food system, the relationships that different individuals have with food and what influenced the nature of relationship. The discussions in the webinar highlighted the strong need to build strong community cultures around food production, celebrate local food and build capacity for food entrepreneurship along the value chain. In addition, city stakeholders and local governments should design cities that deliver affordable and healthy food for urban citizens. Moreover, the webinar explored the building blocks for food culture that meet people's nutritional needs and centers agency, independence, sustainability, resilience and autonomy. It did this through storytelling, photography and highlighting ongoing initiatives that are shaping our experiences of the food system in our cities.



*"It is important to bear in mind that for a city like Cape Town and many others in the world, we would do well to think about food culture in contrast to foodie culture. Food cultures can be integrated, can be shared and can be connecting while foodie cultures are often exclusive, elitist and discriminating. We very much want to celebrate the talents and aesthetics of food but not at the expense of others who may not have the means or the interest to participate."*

**Kurt Ackerman**  
**Executive Manager: The SA Urban Food & Farming Trust.**





# Where Chemistry, Storytelling and Policy Collide: Lessons from the Inclusive Metabolism Project

## Speakers



Paul Currie, Manager: Urban Systems Unit, ICLEI Africa



Jehan Bhikoo, Professional Officer: Urban Systems, ICLEI Africa



Abigail Quaye, Masters Researcher, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology



Sandra Boatemaa, Principle Investigator: Inclusive Metabolism, Centre for Sustainability Transitions, Stellenbosch University.



Shawn Alimohammadi, Masters Researcher, Stellenbosch University

## Summary

Transdisciplinary research has become the central approach for producing knowledge that can transform complex systems. It proposes that we move beyond research in which one specialist investigates a single issue (disciplinary research), beyond multiple disciplines investigating a challenge from each of their perspectives (multi-disciplinary), beyond multiple disciplines. Investigating challenges from their perspectives through a co-learning process together (interdisciplinary research), towards including practitioners, citizens and change agents as part of your research team. The expectation here is to shift from doing science for societal benefit (ie, sharing research outcomes, and a policy brief) to doing science with society, so that the emerging research outcomes and recommendations have been produced with actors who are expecting to take them forward, and therefore, to have more ownership over this knowledge and process.

The closing reflection for the Inclusive Metabolism project, funded as part of the Leading Integrated Research in Africa (LIRA 2030) program led by NASAC, reflected on the science-policy interface, and how the various elements envisioned by the Inclusive Metabolism



WEBINAR

**27 July 2021 | 2pm CAT**

**Where Chemistry, Storytelling and Policy Collide:**

Lessons from the Inclusive Metabolism Project.



[Watch the recording here](#)

project shared complementary outcomes and could support policy recommendations and action. These elements included:

- literature reviews to explore how resource security was envisioned across food, water and energy systems,
- a chemical analysis and stakeholder engagement process in traditional markets in Kumasi, to improve understanding of food safety
- a grounded theory approach to understand the impacts of COVID-19 on Cape Town's urban food system, as well as to develop a Food Garden experiment in a school in Dunoon, and
- a crowdsourced Photovoice process in which urban residents and photographers could share their experiences of urban resources and infrastructures in their cities across the continent.

The project had three focal investigations: The relationship between urban metabolism and informality. Here, understanding how informal systems (people!) move resources in cities; What lessons could we derive from the conceptualization of food security in understanding energy and water security; and an attempt to draw together multiple ways of knowing to produce a cohesive image of what was happening in cities.

Sandra Boatemaa presented a literature review, which explored how citizens are sourcing their water, energy and food, and what dynamics influence food access. What is notable about the review is the demonstration that urban resources are moved through both formal and informal infrastructures, that these systems are interlinked and that urban residents make use of both systems, regardless of whether they live in formal or informal settlements. Abigail Quayle shared the outcomes of the chemical analysis undertaken in five markets across Kumasi, as well as at a greenhouse that produced them, noting the increase in microorganisms over time. This was relevant to how storage practices and storage facilities are affecting the quality of nutrition, showing potential for unhealthy outcomes of unsafe food. What emerged is the decrease over time of vitamin C present in the food, as well as an increase of various microorganisms. Of note are the practices by the tomato vendors to separate the tomatoes by their ripeness and quality, potentially improving the longevity of the different batches of the tomatoes that they were selling.

Shawn Alimohammadi presented insights from his Masters research which documented the emergence of community-led, self-organising groups who came together to address covid-



*"We need clearer stories of how. Looking at the various actors involved in service delivery in urban environments, worked with instagram users, academics, city officials and market vendors to take a transdisciplinary approach to incorporate multiple views in shaping integrated resource solutions" ."*



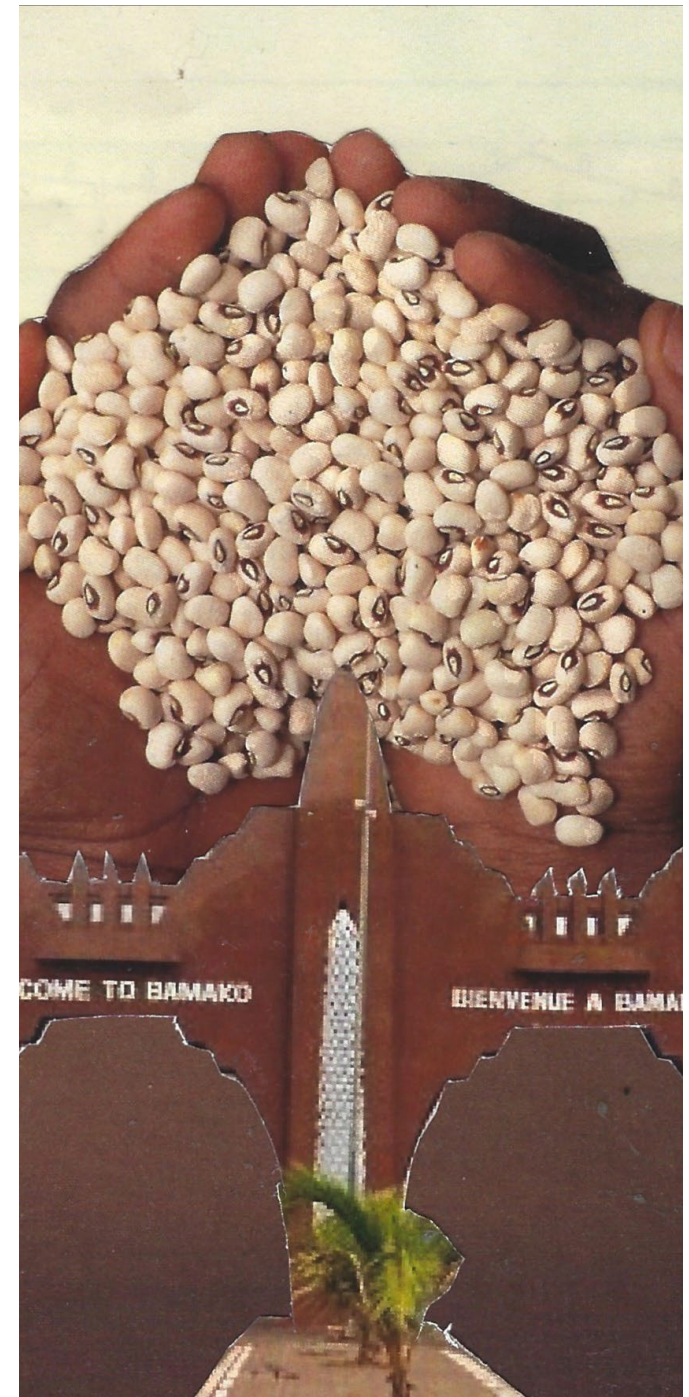
**Sandra Boatemaa, Principle Investigator: Inclusive Metabolism**



related food insecurity, as well as undertaking an experiment by establishing a food garden experiment in a school. Key reflections were the flexibility and commitment of these groups to develop food gardens or collect food, the realization of the depth of structural issues that were shaping food insecurity, and the need for champions in communities to lead and reinforce urban experiments.

Jehan Bhikoo reflected on some of the themes that were emerging from the #hiddenflows photographs, as well as the themes voiced by participants in the #hiddenflows photographic dialogue which welcomed photographers, city officials, practitioners, and academics into discussion about these things. Key reflections included that people were central to much of the imagery, demonstrating that people are both receivers of resources but are also infrastructures in themselves, that informal systems are pervasive throughout cities, and, in many respects, offer value that is overlooked by formal regulatory and policy processes. What is notable across all the elements of this research is the perspective on time. The literature shows how much of lower income populations' time is spent on gathering resources when this time could be used for social or economic value. The images demonstrate how small interventions, for example, providing clean energy in the house expands the amount of time available to residents and improved water infrastructures reduces the time needed for collecting it. Reflecting on how COVID-19 and associated lockdowns drew out the structural issues in the food system, speaks to the long term processes and trends, which must be considered in the food system, as well as the need to envisage lengthy periods to undo structural issues in our food systems.

The analysis of Kumasi's markets and storage techniques demonstrate that the aim is to improve the longevity of nutritious and safe food for the vendors, ensuring that they make a better income off their produce, and that the residents purchasing them are safe. Here, improving the quality of storage can increase the amount of time. These foods are available and safe. It was noted that while much of the imagery celebrates the ingenuity of informal actors in providing solutions where gaps have emerged, we are not speaking enough about the failure of the duty bearers in delivering adequate infrastructure or ensuring that regulations are effectively enforced for societal and individual benefit. In this way, as the outcomes of this research take new forms into further action, the question of how we support informal systems to function better and move beyond individual direct benefit to provide wider societal benefit as well, and reduce environmental impact, is key. But so is the question of how duty bearers are effectively enabled to deliver on the basic needs required for citizens to access resources and live quality lives.



# Multiplicities (Menu) of entry points into urban food governance

## Speakers



Solophina Nekesa: Professional Officer, Urban Systems



Daniel Adeniyi, Professional Officer: Urban Systems, ICLEI Africa



Jane Battersby, Senior Lecturer: Department of Environmental and Geographical Science, University of Cape Town



Benard Bwambale, Program Manager: Food Systems Lab at Kabarole Research and Resource Centre (KRC)



Tamsin Faragher, Principle Resilient Officer: City of Cape Town



Jess Halliday, Consultant and Associate: RUAF Global Partnership on Sustainable Urban Agriculture and Food Systems



Gareth Haysom, Researcher: African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town



Lorraine Anyango, Chief information public officer: Kisumu County

## Summary

The high rates of urban population growth influenced by rural-urban migration is an indication that a different approach should be explored for cities to address challenges of urban poverty, service delivery and food and nutrition security. Gareth Haysom from African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town stated that by 2030, 56% of the global south will be urbanised with a 3,9 billion population. It has therefore become critical for food systems governance to be recognised and better understood as a powerful process for addressing urban challenges.

This webinar aimed to share practical tips on how cities can shape their urban food systems through urban food governance. Jess Haliday from RUAF emphasised the importance of understanding the different dimensions of urban food governance in cities. Urban food



WEBINAR

29 July 2021 | 2pm CAT

Multiplicities (Menu) of entry points into urban food governance through the lenses of “**Food Sensitive Urban Planning**” and the “**City Region Food System**.”



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governance has three dimensions that frame the processes of making and implementing decisions around poverty, service delivery and food in relation to cities. These dimensions are vertical multi-level governance, integrated horizontal governance and territorial governance. Vertical multi-level governance creates an enabling environment for urban food actions that meet local needs; integrated horizontal governance is a multi-stakeholder platform that allows for an integrated approach involving multiple departments that are able to learn from each other's expertise and work together to maximise synergies and ensure that gaps in the food system are minimised; and territorial governance speaks to how towns or cities relate to each other over common food issues.

Food planning allows for an enabling environment for urban food actions that meet local needs. Jane Battersby highlighted that historically food planning was central to local government. Planning historically was influenced by the need for rural agricultural systems to be protected and not be overwhelmed by urban agriculture. Additionally, the vision of a food system historically was more industrial system based. The focus was more on large-scale importation rather than the cottage industry that we have seen to develop today. The current food system which is a result of historical planning has now rendered food systems as informal and technically illegal, leaving them in a complex relationship with the state. This has led to the marginalization of food actors along the food value chain which has in turn affected incomes and access of urban residents to safe and nutritious food. Informal businesses should be capacitated to fully participate in the food system; there were already 1517000 existing informal businesses in 2013 according to Statistics South Africa.

Furthermore, it is important to realise that the majority of the choices that people make about food and their ability to feed their children are all shaped by planning which is why it is important to promote a more enabling environment for urban food actions; one that closes the gaps made by historical planning. An enabling environment includes cities investing in planned infrastructure such as transport, market, and storage that meet the needs of the current food system. Additionally, food planning should incorporate interventions that focus on land use regulations for food market developments, land use regulation for nutritious food environments and using agri-food perspective for mixed use urban development models. There is a need for developments that allow people to access healthy and nutritious food.

Moreover, cities are different in topology and thus their way of accessing food is different. Many cities are unable to access food within the city and rely on food brought in from other



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#### VOICES FROM OUR PARTNERS

"Governance is not top-down decisions being made and detected by government alone. Rather, governance involves non-state actors and organisations like farmers, food businesses, civil society, academics, unions and so on, working with local government".



**Jess Halliday,**  
Associate, RUAF Global  
Partnership on Sustainable Urban  
Agriculture and Food Systems

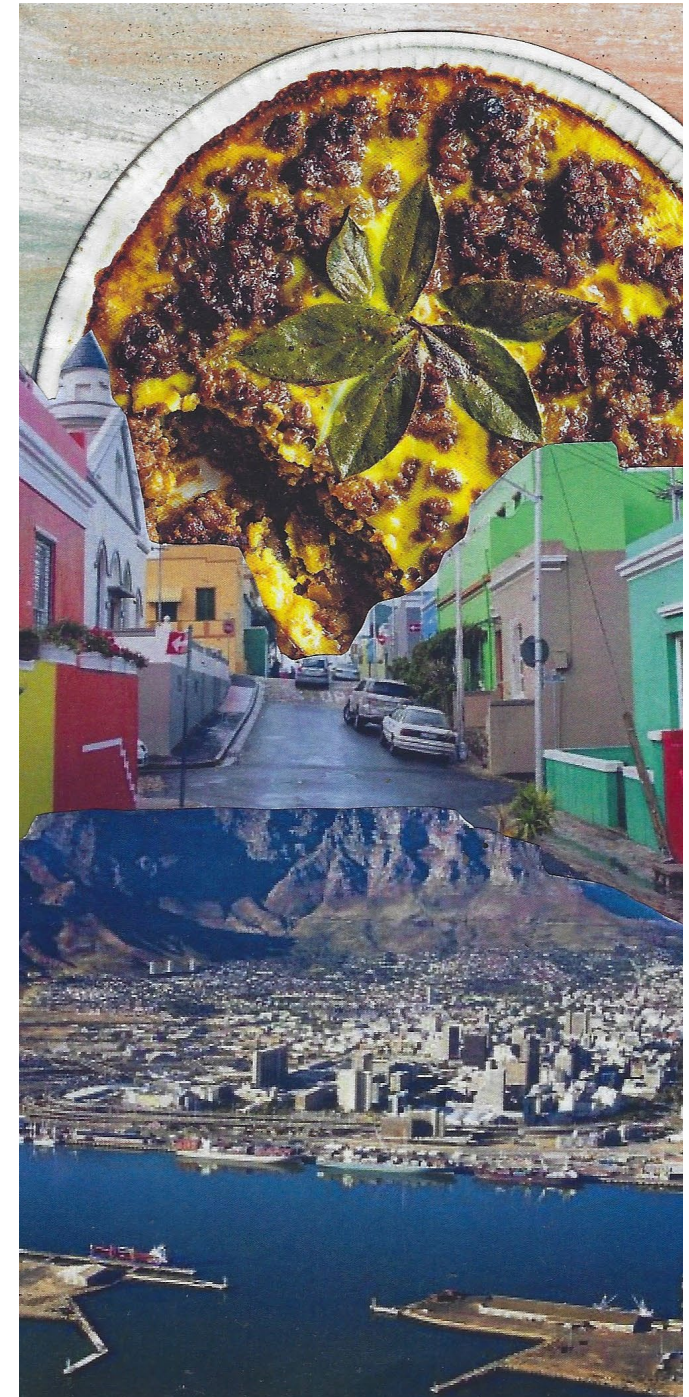
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cities. There is therefore a need for inter-regional linkages i.e. urban centers and peri-urban centers, rural areas etc. to be strengthened to ensure that there are stable food flows and territories are benefiting from each other. There are cities such as Kisumu in Kenya who import the majority of their food and need these linkages to be efficient. Households in Kisumu are experiencing high levels of food insecurity, where 26.3% of the population is moderately food insecure and 45% severely food insecure. Such cities need stable food flows so that the levels of food insecurity does not increase.

On the overall, different city officials and stakeholders shared different ways in which they are governing the food system and how we can learn from them. Tamsin Faragher, Principle Resilient Officer, Cape Town highlighted the importance of mandates as they help set out the parameters of one's work, especially work related to food which is not often included in local government as it is considered to be an unfunded mandate. She also highlighted that mandates may help better unpack how food systems work and how they perform and unpack existing issues. Bernard Bwambale, Program Manager Food Systems Lab, Kabarole Research Center on the other hand highlighted that as a city, Fort Portal in Uganda, is incorporating multi-stakeholder involvement in food actions to ensure that gaps in the food system are minimised. The Fort-Portal food lab in Uganda puts together multiple actors to identify the key food system challenges and develop actions to address those challenges. Kabarole Research Center, in partnership with different food systems stakeholders has taken the approach of leveraging on the food system lab to bring together different actors in the food system to discuss issues in the food system and co-develop innovative solutions towards addressing these challenges. Also, the local government is implementing initiatives to ensure that the county is food secure. Kisumu county has partnered with an organisation called Tranche Micro-Project grants under Kenya climate smart agriculture project to increase agricultural productivity and build resilience to climate change risks in the targeted windows of Kisumu.

In conclusion, the webinar helped to realize that urban food governance is recognised in some cities as a process for addressing urban food challenges. There are cities incorporating urban food governance to mitigate urban food challenges and working towards improved urban food systems. The webinar also allowed for different stakeholders to share the possibilities of incorporating urban food governance in addressing urban food challenges, and the ways in which cities can embark on their journey of urban food governance.



# Closing reflections

This year's food engagements have demonstrated a growing awareness on the importance of food systems in attaining the SDGs and driving sustainable urban development. Particularly, the dialogues and the #AfricanCITYFOODMonth campaign laid bare the fact that given the increasing rates of urbanisation in African cities and the vulnerabilities of these cities' food systems to multiple shocks and stresses, transformation of the urban food systems is now no longer a matter of choice, but of necessity. This was iterated by the Mayor of Dodoma in the City to City Exchange.

The campaign aimed for different stakeholders to share the possibilities of incorporating urban food governance in addressing urban food challenges, and the ways in which cities can embark on their journey of urban food governance.

The discussions in the campaign's events highlighted the need to build strong community cultures around food production, celebrate local food and build capacity for food entrepreneurship along the value chain. In addition, city stakeholders and local governments should design cities that deliver affordable and healthy food for urban citizens. Moreover, the webinars explored the building blocks for food systems and cultures that meet people's nutritional needs and center agency, independence, sustainability, resilience and autonomy.

The AfricanCITYFOODMonth Campaign and UNFSS Independent Dialogue platforms have provided the space for initial or continued engagements across different African cities. However, continuous engagement is needed to build momentum. Together with our partners, ICLEI Africa aims to grow the AfricanCITYFOOD platform in ways that promote integration and inter-connectedness with a focus on transforming Africa's urban food systems.

Contribute to upcoming campaigns by sharing short videos on interventions in your city, case studies, pictures and resources on sustainable urban food systems with the #AfricanCITYFOODMonth on Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn or join our upcoming webinars.

## AfricanCITYFOODMonth team



Solophina Nekesa: Professional Officer, Urban Systems



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Jehan Bhikoo: Professional Officer, Urban Systems



Paul Currie: Manager, Urban Systems Unit





**#AfricanCITYFOODmonth**

For more information on the AfricanCITYFOODMonth Campaign please visit: [africa.iclei.org/cityfood/](https://africa.iclei.org/cityfood/)

To partner or contribute towards upcoming #AfricanCITYFOODMonth campaigns, please reach out to Solophina Nekesa at [solophina.nekesa@iclei.org](mailto:solophina.nekesa@iclei.org)

