

Name of the organization or entity:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Type of organization:

Please choose as appropriate:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local government/ municipal authority | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional center/network/initiative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intergovernmental organization (IGO) | <input type="checkbox"/> Research institution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National/public entity | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UN and affiliated organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-governmental organization (NGO) | <input type="checkbox"/> University/education/training organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private sector | |

Location

City: Multiple

Country: Focus on Sub-Saharan Africa

Scale of operation:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Global | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local | <input type="checkbox"/> Subregional |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Transboundary |

City(ies)/Country(ies) of operation (if appropriate):

Sub-Saharan Africa cities

Description of relevant activities/processes or research:

Recent years have seen a historic shift: people around the globe are increasingly moving to urban areas. By 2050, more than half of the Sub Saharan Africa (SSA) population could be living in towns and cities. This poses huge challenges, particularly for the poorest cities, as they are already facing increased urban poverty and inequalities, and growing levels of food insecurity and malnutrition in a context of high vulnerability to climate change. The initiative related to food security in cities focuses on working to empower local governments in Sub-Saharan Africa to lead efforts that improve food security and nutrition through city-to-city collaboration and South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC).

Across the international agenda, the central role of local governments is recognized. The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP)¹, to which 150 cities are signatories, provides a useful organizing framework through which needs and solutions can be shared and matched, exchanges scoped and innovative city projects launched to address the pressing issues of food security and nutrition, taking into account that food systems can serve in adapting to and mitigating climate change.

¹MUFPP: <http://www.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org/>

The main beneficiaries of this initiative include all actors in the food chain, including for example producers, processors, traders, retailers, and consumers who will acquire new skills and opportunities through the innovative exchanges and projects that result from city to city collaboration.

Description of relevant tools/methods:

Through city to city collaboration and in partnership with local government/city networks² this initiative is working to:

1. **RAISE AWARENESS AND CAPACITY** – at political and technical levels to sensitize and equip cities and their surrounding regions to develop sustainable and climate smart food systems;
2. **FOSTER DIALOGUE AND SHARE EXPERIENCES** – between local governments engage in dialogue and exchange experiences as a source of innovation for effective food solutions and adaptation to climate change (particularly from other Southern cities);
3. **SPARK INNOVATIVE ACTION** - Local government-led initiatives turn policy into practice, strengthen food systems and improve their resilience to climate change.

Key outcomes of the activities undertaken:

These activities largely pertain to objectives 1 and 2 above (RAISE AWARENESS AND CAPACITY and FOSTER DIALOGUE AND SHARE EXPERIENCES).

1. City to City Dialogue and Exchange

West Africa: The MUFPP Secretariat, in partnership with FAO, supported cities in West Africa to exchange visions and key actions towards the implementation of the MUFPP. As a result, Dakar, Senegal offered an in depth training on micro-garden technologies to Douala, Cameroon and Praia, Cabo Verde. This involved Dakar sharing its experience on micro gardens in order to achieve the following goals: i) Raising awareness on urban food policies: ii) Increasing capacity of representative of Doula and Praia on Micro gardens techniques: iii) Supporting both Douala and Praia in implementing micro garden projects in their respective cities. Among the activities, a training of trainers on micro garden techniques, including substrate, composting, nutrient solutions and soil preparation was held in Dakar on 24-28th April 2017 for 10 technicians and representatives from the Praia and Douala municipalities.

The training allowed the 3 cities to share experiences and exchange on specific topics, such as fertilizers and phytosanitary products, plant protection, high value added crops and crop calendars. The delegates also visited a Training and Demonstration Center (Grand Dakar) as well as a Production Center (Patte d'Oie district) to have a better understanding of micro-gardens and learn new agricultural practices. At the institutional and structural level, the Cities involved in the process have adopted micro garden technologies as one measure to alleviate malnutrition and poverty resulting from the rapid growth of urban populations. The three cities are informed and sensitized on the city-to-city initiative through South-South cooperation and are ready to scale up climate smart food solutions for their cities by sharing further good practices.

Central Africa: A regional Workshop held in São Tomé from 5 to 9 June 2017 brought 13 African cities together to validate a strategy to grow greener cities. The participants agreed on a strategic framework for the development of urban and peri-urban horticulture in Central Africa. Participants included representatives from: Yaoundé & Foumbot (Cameroon), Ouessou & Pointe Noire (Congo), Akanda, Kopugouleu & Motobo (Gabon), Malabo & Bata (Equatorial Guinée), Lobata & Santo Antonio (São Tomé e Príncipe), N'Djamena & Moundou (Chad). Additional cities attended the event, such as Maputo

² ICLEI, C40, UCLG, Milan Secretariat etc.

(Mozambique) and Luanda (Angola), to join the session on experience sharing. The participating cities were sensitized on the city-to-city initiative and are also ready to engage in further city to city dialogue and climate action.

2. Technical advisor scheme

The technical advisor scheme is being piloted in Nairobi. A food planning advisor has been fielded to the Nairobi County to assist in developing a food system strategy through a multi-stakeholder process. Hotspots in the food system are being reviewed and urban-rural linkages studied in order to maximize food access and sustainable production. Adaptation to climate change is an integral part of the strategy.

3. Online Tools for exchange

Launch of the Global Urban Food Actions Platform: developed by FAO, City Networks (ICLEI-RUAF, UCLG, ORU-Fogar) and the MUFPP Secretariat – the Global Urban Food Actions Platform aims to be the largest and most effective dynamic platform on urban food systems policies and initiatives. The Platform will be launched in Valencia, Spain, 19-21 October 2017 and aims to collect knowledge, manage and share a growing body of policy analysis, information and example initiatives to serve as a foundation for collaboration, innovation and to improve policy and decision-making. It will serve to support policy makers and practitioners. To date, a prototype of the platform is in development and includes over 20 cities sharing their experiences and good practices.

Description of lessons learned and good practices identified:

- **Food security critical issue** - Most local governments in SSA identify food security and nutrition as a critical issue for their constituencies, with climate change adding to the challenge. However, they do not often see themselves as critical actors or are empowered to bring about change.
- **Peer- to – peer highly relevant** - The most effective means is to sensitize cities as to what other cities have done, particularly but not exclusively in the South, to address food security and climate change issues.
- **City Network partnerships vital for outreach** - Through partnering with city and local government networks, the initiative can capitalize on the expertise within their global membership through convening cities into thematic groups, or working groups, where city officials share ideas and best practices to accelerate actions.
- **Further documenting and codification of best practices** - While cities are a powerful engine of concrete solutions, there is a need to further identify and share experiences between cities, particularly amongst the South, which face similar challenges and where innovations can be developed, adapted and adopted.
- **Ongoing technical support to local governments** - Inspired by other cities' experiences within city networks, SSA local governments require support to design and implement policies, programmes and projects suited to their specific context. Based on demand and match-making, FAO can facilitate policy dialogue for food security across the different level of government to enable local governments' actions. In partnership with local government networks, FAO can assist cities to adapt and adopt relevant practices, and build capacities throughout project

implementation. With its technical expertise, FAO can also backstop implementation, assist in sourcing of co-financing and support the monitoring of these projects.

- **Making the appropriate learning match** - FAO has a critical role to play in advising and supporting local governments on their interventions and sourcing the most appropriate providers, including through South-South Cooperation. Based on a broad network of country offices, strong track record in SSTC, and extensive technical expertise, FAO in partnership with city networks is strategically positioned to facilitate experience sharing among different actors at different levels and through a wide variety of exchange modalities

Description of key challenges identified:

SSA faces particular challenges, which make it even more pertinent for its cities to focus on a transition towards sustainable food systems.

- **SSA vulnerability to climate change and natural resource scarcity and degradation** - Climate change will increasingly have critical impacts (changes in rain patterns, in temperature, ocean acidification, increase in the frequency of extreme events like heat waves, droughts and floods, etc.) and SSA is at particular risk, compounding issues of poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition affecting millions of urban and rural people. Due to the critical role of food systems in its current and expected socio-economic development path (population growth, importance of agriculture in GDP and employment), SSA is fundamentally vulnerable and the transition towards sustainable food systems even more critical.
- **Unique pattern of urbanization and demographic transition** - Unabated urbanization in Africa, especially in SSA, has occurred over the past 60 years. The urban population in SSA represented 11 percent of the total population in 1950 or 19 million people; by 2015 it reached 38 percent or 359 million.
- **The employment challenge and the role of sustainable food systems** - In SSA, the continued absolute growth of the population, combined with the pace of urbanization, limited industrialization and the strong development of informal services, all point to the fact that agriculture – and its many related upstream and downstream manufacturing and services as long as food is locally produced and transformed³ – should remain a major provider of jobs in the decades to come, especially viable family farming.⁴

³ OECD, and FAO. 2016. *OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2016-2025*. Paris: OECD Publishing.

⁴ AfDB, OECD, and UNDP. 2015. *African Economic Outlook: Regional development and spatial inclusion*. Paris: OECD, Development Center ; Badiane, O., and T. Makombe. 2015. *Beyond a Middle Income Africa: Transforming African Economies for Sustained Growth with Rising Employment and Incomes, ReSAKSS Annual Trends and Outlook Report 2014*. Washington, D.C.: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) ; Losch, B., S. Fréguin-Gresh, and E.T. White. 2012. *Structural Transformation and Rural Change Revisited, Africa Development Forum*. Washington, D.C.: The World Bank; OECD, and FAO. 2016. *OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2016-2025*. Paris: OECD Publishing ; Losch, B. 2016. Structural transformation to boost youth labour demand in sub-Saharan Africa: The role of agriculture, rural areas and territorial development. *Employment working paper No. 204, Employment Policy Department, Employment and Labour Market Policies Branch*. Geneva: International Labour Office.

- **Limited capacities and marginal role of Local Governments in SSA** - In many SSA countries, decentralization is recognized as an important dimension of the good governance agenda since the 1990s. However, it has been mostly implemented as a top-down process encouraged by the international community. As a result, in some cases, decentralization laws and regulations are incomplete, ill-defined or partially implemented. Many local governments lack adequate human and financial resources, sometimes competing with informal and/or traditional local governance institutions.⁵

Planned next steps (as appropriate):

The activities outlined above largely aim to expand beyond objectives 1 and 2 above (**RAISE AWARENESS AND CAPACITY and FOSTER DIALOGUE AND SHARE EXPERIENCES**) and move to SPARK INNOVATIVE ACTION. To enable this, resource mobilization and fostering investment at local government level is a key activity.

1. City to City Dialogue and Exchange

4th World Forum of Local Economic Development: Praia, Cabo Verde – 17th-20th October 2017.

An interactive panel on City to City Cooperation to the benefit of Local Economic Development and Food Security will be organized by FAO during the LED Forum.

Africa Urban Food Systems Forum/s: Cote d'Ivoire (Abidjan), South Africa (city to be confirmed) and Kenya (Nairobi) - in 2018. These Forums will bring cities from different economic regions to discuss and share experiences in food security and nutrition as an urban priority. Specific objectives include:

- Raising awareness on the role of local governments in transitioning food systems towards sustainability; both how they can influence policy and stimulate the development of local initiatives;
- Alerting cities on the importance of food system diagnosis and planning;
- Through field visits, showcasing the impact of local governments' policies, projects and programs for food security and nutrition;
- Identifying areas for follow-up and further collaboration between cities for deeper learning exchange.

2. Technical advisor scheme

Mobilizing additional advisors to cities on a demand basis to support urban food systems planning.

3. Online Tools for exchange

Expand the Global Urban Food Actions Platform with more city solutions and means of interaction.

4. Resource mobilization and fostering investment at local government level

There is a critical need for FAO and City Networks to assist in mobilizing seed funds to strengthen the capacity of local governments in order for them to test and demonstrate they can drive policies,

⁵ Dickovick, Tyler, and Rachel B. Riedl. 2014. "African Decentralization in Comparative Perspective." In *Decentralization in Africa: The Paradox of State Strength*, edited by Tyler Dickovick and James Wunsch, 249-76. Boulder: Lynne Rienner.

projects and programmes for sustainable food systems. This in turn will enable them to access different streams and a larger pool of financing. As a starting point, official development assistance is vital to front seed funding – be it from traditional or emerging donors, decentralized cooperation or foundations.

Relevant hyperlinks:

The Global Urban Food Actions Platform: <http://valenciacapitalsostenible.org/en/>

Micro-jardinage : Dakar partage son expérience avec Douala et Praia: <http://www.lesoleil.sn/2016-03-22-23-37-00/item/63853-micro-jardinage-dakar-partage-son-experience-avec-douala-et-praia.html>

Rome-based Agencies reaffirm their commitment with South-South and Triangular Cooperation: <http://www.fao.org/partnerships/news-archive/news-article/en/c/1036907/> .