Covid-19, Municipal Response & Food Systems in African Cities

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#AfricanCITYFOODMonth
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1 - 31 July 2020
• African cities are between 20 and 90 per cent informal (economically & physically)
  • Citizens are highly reliant on retail for livelihood
  • Low income citizens spend around 50% of their income on [low quality] food
  • Covid-19 responses (lockdown, physical distancing) represent huge disruptions for informal economic activities
• Global governmental response has shown that rapid fundamental change is possible
• Many innovations have emerged in Africa – examples:
  • Community Action Networks to gather resources to feed and house citizens (eg. South African cities, Freetown)
  • Use of IT and boda-bodas (motorbike taxi’s) to connect market vendors with customers (eg. Kampala)
  • Provision of public busses to allow vendors to distribute food (eg Addis Ababa)
2 – Cities must be part of shaping resilient food systems

- **Local governments** are most in touch with citizen needs, and better positioned to deliver context-appropriate responses
  - Requires resources (own-revenue; distribution of national finances, etc)
  - Multi-level governance – to extend across jurisdictions (as food does)
- Covid-19 has **catalysed innovations** and processes that were already underway
  - **Resilience strategies** and plans
  - Climate & disaster risk response planning
  - Food policy processes (policy councils, food safety committees, etc)
3 – Alignment of food resilience with Nature, Climate & Equity

- Improving Food Systems in Africa has the potential to:
  - **Regenerate nature** (mainstream agroecological methods – improves safety too)
  - **Connect our citizens** (through urban community food gardens)
  - **Provide recreational areas and urban cooling** (by connecting productive plants with urban greening initiatives)
  - **Mitigate Climate Crisis** (through increased greenery & improved waste prevention & reclamation)
  - **End injustice** (prevent stunting and obesity through improved diets and food cultures)
  - **Improve economic participation** (by ending stunting, and empowering youth- & women-led agri-businesses)
  - **End gender-based violence** (through improving affordability of quality food)
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www.africa.iclei.org/cityfood
Coming Up | Á Venir

7 July 2020 | 2:00pm – 3:30pm CAT
**Food, Climate and Covid-19: Stories from our Cities**

15 July 2020 | 2:00pm – 3:30pm CAT
**Nourishing our Cities**

21 July 2020 | 2:00pm – 3:30pm CAT
**Associated Webinar: Food and the Circular Economy**

29 July 2020 | 2:00pm – 3:30pm CAT
**Associated Webinar: How youth- and women-led small businesses can improve our local food systems**

31 July 2020 | 2:00pm – 3:30pm CAT
**Our future food systems**

7 Juillet 2020 | 14h00 – 15h30 CAT
**Alimentation, Climat et Covid-19: Les expériences de nos villes**

15 Juillet 2020 | 14h00 – 15h30 CAT
**Nourrir nos villes**

21 Juillet 2020 | 14h00 – 15h30 CAT
**L'alimentation et l'économie circulaire**

29 juillet 2020 | 14h00 – 15h30 CAT
**Comment les petites entreprises dirigées par des jeunes et des femmes peuvent-elles améliorer nos systèmes alimentaires locaux ?**

31 juillet 2020 | 14h00 – 16h00 CAT
**L'avenir de nos systèmes alimentaires**

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