

Development of a draft monitoring tool for the Nairobi Food System Strategy

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Mazingira Institute, with RUF consultants, has led development of a draft monitoring tool for the Nairobi Food System Strategy, with review inputs from the Food and Agriculture Sector of the Nairobi City County (NCC).

The tool, which was developed under the One CGIAR Resilient Cities programme (see Box) is an adaptation of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact monitoring framework, customised to the local situation in Nairobi with reference to the City Region Food System (CRFS) indicators (see back cover).

Supported by FAO's NADHALI project, Nairobi began developing a Food System Strategy in 2017. The 5-year Nairobi Food System Strategy (NFSS) was published in March 2022 following a lengthy public consultation in 2021. It contains a summary of the present situation with some baseline data, analysis of gaps with a summary of problems ranked in order of priority and explanatory narrative, and interventions.

The NCC government sector responsible for food and agriculture will be responsible for overall coordination and monitoring of the strategy implementation. Section 8.0 of the NFSS sets out a brief description of the purpose and

approach. As yet, there is no monitoring and evaluation plan, but the strategy makes clear there is a commitment to develop and implement one in due course: 'Monitoring will be continuous and will be reported on a quarterly basis while evaluation will be done bi-annually'.

Building on past indicator experiences

The development of a draft monitoring tool based on the MUFPP framework makes sense, since Nairobi is among the cities with the most experience of working with indicators.

Nairobi began implementing the MUFPP indicator framework in 2019, in a project coordinated by the Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems, a RUF partner. It was executed by two RUF Associates, Joy Carey and Brian Cook, and Mazingira Institute, who together provided technical and strategic support to the pilot cities. This project was funded by FAO, with data research and the



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publications – an online handbook and resource pack – also supported by the CGIAR Research Programme on Water Land and Ecosystems.

Under the Nairobi MUFPP monitoring framework implementation pilot project, the 2019 pilot project worked with 12 selected MUFPP indicators and provides further foundation and reference for monitoring work in Nairobi done through the Resilient Cities programme. The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, launched in 2015, is a

non-binding agreement on sustainable urban food policies ‘designed by cities for cities’.

The MUFPP Framework of Action sets out practical ways that cities can contribute to the transformation of urban food systems through increased sustainability, articulated in a set of 37 recommended actions with 44 associated indicators, organized around six food system change categories.



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Starting point for a future full NFSS monitoring plan

A draft monitoring tool for the NFSS has received review inputs from the Steering Committee for the Food System. As an adaptation of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact monitoring framework, it is customised to the local situation in Nairobi with reference to CRFS indicators.

The intention is to help guide further plans for monitoring, with a focus on the problems identified as priorities in the NFSS. These initial priority areas could be seen as starting points for a future full NFSS monitoring plan.

A validation workshop will be organised by Mazingira Institute, in collaboration with the NCC Food and Agriculture sector. The workshop will also serve as an orientation and training platform to introduce the monitoring tool to the agriculture extension officers, who will collect data on the ground.

Creation of food governance structures

The NFSS shores up food systems governance in Nairobi by setting out several structures:

- The Food Liaison Advisory Group (FLAG). Initially formed under the NADHALI project, has been institutionalised through the NFSS, the FLAG comprises members from all the different food system components, public sector,

academic institutions, civil society organisations and development partners. FLAG represents the voices of the various food system actors

- The Joint Committee on Nairobi City Food System. Institutionalised in the Intergovernmental Relations Act, the committee comprises County Executive Committee Members responsible for Food and Agriculture from NCC and other county governments supplying food to Nairobi.
- The Steering Committee for the Food System Strategy. The committee comprises directors of all the NCC directorates in charge of implementing aspects of the Strategy. The Secretarial for this Steering Committee will be provided by the Nairobi City Food System Directorate (located in the NCC sector responsible for Food and Agriculture). It meets quarterly to coordinate implementation of workplans.

NCC has recently established a new combined ‘Green Nairobi’ sector, which brings together the three previously separate sectors of ‘Water’, ‘Environment’, and ‘Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources’. These are now categorised as sub-sectors of the Green Nairobi Sector.

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Resilient Cities through Sustainable Urban and Peri-urban Agri-food Systems

RUAF is collaborating with the CGIAR research initiative ‘Resilient Cities through Sustainable Urban and Peri-urban Agri-food Systems’, or in short: ‘Resilient Cities’.

This initiative seeks to provide science and research contributions to improve food security and diets, economic opportunities, and environmental health of low-income urban populations.

Resilient cities operates in capital cities in Philippines, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Kenya, Ethiopia, Ghana, and Peru, and in five work packages(WP), which work on:

- Enabling sustainable production of nutritious foods in (peri-)urban zones by identifying, piloting and scaling innovations with local partners and in collaboration with local governments.
- Building inclusive and sustainable food markets and safeguarding supply chains to protect and improve consumers’ diets, by helping strengthen micro, small and medium enterprises in this sector, with a focus on opportunities for women and youth, and by safeguarding food supplies against losses and waste.
- Strengthening the circular bio-economy, food safety and the urban environment by turning the burden of waste into an opportunity

through resource recovery, reducing the risk of contamination and fostering demand for innovation by connecting stakeholders to technology and institutional change options.

- Strengthening consumer demand and access to healthier diets by exploring ways to improve food environments and nutrition knowledge in collaboration with consumer initiatives and stakeholders such as schools and women’s groups. The evidence will inform the design of policymaking toolkits.
- Strengthening the evidence base and research and innovation capacities for urban agrifood system growth through improved research and monitoring tools and processes, and innovation hubs targeting young urban entrepreneurs.

RUAF collaborates under the WP on Governance, in Nairobi (with Mazingira), Lima (with Ecosad), Accra (with IWMI) and Dhaka.

More information

- CGIAR Research Initiative on Resilient Cities <https://www.cgiar.org/initiative/16-resilient-cities-through-sustainable-urban-and-peri-urban-agrifood-systems/>