



AfriFOODlinks

URBAN FOOD SYSTEMS NEED BOLD TRANSFORMATION.

AfriFOODlinks creatively unlocks this transition, and will drive change in 65+ cities. It is delivered by 26 partners and funded by the European Union.

email: afrifoodlinks@iclei.org
website: www.afrifoodlinks.org

TERMS OF REFERENCE

**City Research Contractor
(02 May 2023)**

AfriFOODlinks invites applications to join an exciting 20 city research initiative, the [*AfriFOODlinks project*](#).

Bids due: 17h00 on 02 July 2023

All bids should be valid for 90 days.

Work is expected to start by 1 August 2023

Bids and technical queries can be sent to AfriFOODlinks: AfriFOODlinks@iclei.org
with cc to Paul Currie: paul.currie@iclei.org

Bids will still be accepted if interest is not indicated, but bidders must accept that they may not have received responses to questions submitted.

AfriFOODlinks and AfriFOODlinks project partners reserves the right not to appoint a service provider in relation to this Terms of Reference (ToR)



Terms of Reference

Introduction

The **AfriFOODlinks project led by ICLEI-Africa** invites applications to join an exciting 20 city research initiative, the [AfriFOODlinks project](#). The **AfriFOODlinks project led by ICLEI-Africa** wishes to contract researchers located in, or with a work-related footprint in the following cities: **Windhoek, Lusaka, Quelimane, Arusha, Antananarivo, Bukavu, Tamale, Dakar, Rabat, and Niamey**. These cities have been designated as a “Sharing City” within the AfriFOODlinks project. Government officials from these Sharing Cities are part of the project and have an agreement with the AfriFOODlinks project leadership organisation, ICLEI-Africa, to support and actively engage food systems research taking place in the respective Sharing Cities.

This is a contracted research position, led by designated **AfriFOODlinks project partners with connections to or association with the respective Sharing Cities**. The **AfriFOODlinks project partners** are responsible for coordinating research and related activities within the **AfriFOODlinks project** and engage the wider **AfriFOODlinks** network of city level researchers connected to the different work packages. The contracted work carried out by the appointed Sharing City Contractors is essential in the wider knowledge generation process within the **AfriFOODlinks project**.

Background

The AfriFOODlinks project has four key areas of focus, all of which fall within the expected areas of focus of the contractor:

- Supporting the generation of novel and path-leading urban food systems knowledge;
- Participating in and supporting the development of a network of urban food system researchers across the partner African cities – this includes travel to some project meetings;
- Engaging other AfriFOODlinks work packages to support and guide views and positions in areas of multi-level governance, agri-food system entrepreneurship and innovation and urban food environments;
- Actively engaging government actors, specifically city officials and where necessary political actors, and sharing project information and concepts while also feeding insights from these engagements back into the project.

Prospective contractors are required to partner with **AfriFOODlinks project partners** through **the AfriFOODlinks project lead, ICLEI-Africa**.

The contractual partnership is limited to the agreed fixed amount, and in accordance with the time/duration of the contract period.

The contracted period is time bound and linked to the agreement between the contractor and **the AfriFOODlinks partner contracting organisation**.

The contracted work entails three (3) areas of work or tasks. These include a research component, a case study component (including two (2) designated case studies), and a knowledge sharing component. These are discussed in greater detail below.

The contractor will report to **the AfriFOODlinks partner contracting organisation** project lead.

Contractor Expertise Requirements

- Contractors are expected to have an existing knowledge of the respective **Sharing City** food system with a track record of publications and outputs associated to the respective **Sharing City** food system, but with a clear knowledge of how the respective **Sharing City** and wider **Sharing City and their national** food systems intersect.
- Having worked in and with knowledge of the following key urban food system areas would be an added advantage:
 - The state of food security in the respective **Sharing City**
 - An understanding of nutrition related considerations in respective **Sharing City**, specifically in terms of how place and inequalities drive certain food system and nutrition related outcomes.
 - Understanding of the urban governance activities, processes and challenges in respective **Sharing City**.
 - Understanding of the nature, challenges, changes in and opportunities associated with the urban food retail environment, specifically the operations of the formal and supermarket systems and the informal food retail sectors in respective **Sharing City**.
 - How the food system of, the respective **Sharing City** is linked to wider regional, and inter-country, and international processes.
- A demonstration of having worked with or led wider projects and with academic and practitioner partners would be advantageous.
- Contractors are expected to have completed a doctoral degree in a relevant area of study (e.g. urban studies, food systems, food security, nutrition security, human geography – urban, sustainable development). Contractors with a relevant Masters degree and significant relevant experience will also be considered.
- Contractors should have a track record of both academic and public facing writing outputs and have a knowledge of qualitative research methods, policy review methods and excellent writing skills in academic and non-academic registers.
- Contractors can either work as independent contractors or put together a team to ensure a coverage of skills. In both cases, the time allocations and funds available will remain the same.
- Included in the person months allocated to this work is time set aside for project meetings and engagement but per an agreed schedule.
- A key aim of the **AfriFOODlinks project** is to build a legacy where a network of African Urban Food System researchers is convened, where this network is able to continue once the project is complete. Contractors might be asked to contribute to and comment on proposals to secure further funding for such a network on completion of the project.
- Applicants should have well-developed and professional interpersonal and communication skills.

- As the project has an explicit focus on broader development challenges, including inequity, informality and development limitations, including race and gender, ideally the applicant is well versed in de-colonial and intersectional approaches to research.
- As the project has a pan-African focus, applicants should have a broad knowledge of urban challenges across Africa, but with active knowledge and research in the respective **Sharing City** and a track record of relevant research and publication.
- Fluency in English is a requirement.

Scope of Work

The successful contractor will join an interdisciplinary team and will be expected to satisfactorily complete the following tasks:

Task 1: Research

- Conduct desk top research on food and urban systems in the respective **Sharing City** including the following key research activities: Data, trends and materialities for engagement in the immediacy and across scales and the above-mentioned urban food system areas of focus. A template of required areas of enquiry is attached as Annexure 1.
- Conducting grounded research activities, the extent and scale of which will be agreed, including ethnographic work aimed at understanding and activating agency and illuminating the detailed richness of everyday food struggles.
- Support processes to assess and evaluate existing food related governance (policies, processes, structures, capacities) and Sharing City Food System needs and dynamics.
- Assess the barriers to the development of profitable and sustainable small scale and informal agri-food businesses in the respective **Sharing City** and identify entry points to strengthen the small-scale circular entrepreneurial ecosystem in the respective **Sharing City**.
- Document business and investment cases along key food value chains contributing to nutrition and circularity the respective **Sharing City**.
- Map vulnerable consumers', school and food retailers' environments in agreed areas in the respective **Sharing City**.
- Actively engage in work package activities, identifying key learning areas during the report writing contract period.
- Document and report on learnings and the implications for urban food policies.

Task 2: Case Studies

- In collaboration with **Sharing City** officials and the **AfriFOODlinks project partner** contracting organisation, identify two (2) food system related case studies and investigate the benefits of such interventions to the **Sharing City** food system.

Task 3: Knowledge Sharing

- Following completion of the above tasks, contractors will be expected to participate in a maximum of four (4) virtual meetings over the duration of the **AfriFOODlinks**

project. These meetings form part of the knowledge generation process and are intended to support the sharing of urban food system related information, perspectives, challenges, opportunities and possible pathways going forward.

- These meetings will be virtual and will be scheduled with 6 weeks prior notice. A separate fee is allocated over and above the report and case study fees, to contribute to preparation and participation time in these meetings.

Application Requirements and Process

Applicants are required to submit a brief proposal – of no more than 5 pages – to AfriFOODlinks@iclei.org documenting skills and areas of expertise as per the contractor expertise requirements listed above, by no later than **01 July 2023**.

The 5-page document needs to be supported by the following:

- CV/CVs of contractor or contractor teams. Female applicants are strongly encouraged to apply.
- A brief summary of relevant past outputs to demonstrate alignment to and skills related to this work – with no more than five lines describing each output (with URL links where possible)
- A one-page listing of previous projects and engagements to demonstrate alignment to this work.
- An expected budget divided into the following:
 - Staff costs
 - Research staff activities
 - Case study staff activities
 - Active research costs
 - Post research and report writing
 - Knowledge sharing and meeting attendance costs

AfriFOODlinks is committed to the pursuit of excellence, diversity and in achieving its gender, equity and development aspirations (These form part of the AfriFOODlinks proposal and can be accessed [here](#)).

The **AfriFOODlinks Project** partners and **AfriFOODlinks** reserves the right not to appoint.

Project Background

Launched in December 2022, **AfriFOODlinks** is an EU funded project that aims to improve food and nutrition security, while delivering positive outcomes for climate and the environment, and building social and ecological resilience in 65+ Cities in Africa and Europe. Coordinated by **ICLEI Africa**, the project gathers 35 partners across the African and European continents.

The project aims to improve food security and urban sustainability in African cities by:

1. applying an urban food systems lens to promote shifts to healthy, sustainable diets;
2. transforming urban food environments through real-world socio-technical experiments;
3. promoting inclusive multi-actor governance to empower public officials, small businesses and communities with ownership and agency to shape their food systems;
4. accelerating innovative, women- and youth-led agri-food businesses to support local value addition and inclusive economic participation.

AfriFOODlinks will put a particular emphasis on five African "Hub Cities": Cape Town, Tunis, Kisumu, Mbale and Ouagadougou.

"Sharing Cities" include: Windhoek, Lusaka, Quelimane, Arusha, Antananarivo, Bukavu, Tamale, Dakar, Rabat, Niamey, and Bruges, Montpellier, Barcelona, Vienna and Milan.

The overall **AfriFOODlinks** project is led by **ICLEI-Africa**.

The **African Centre for Cities (ACC)**, the **University of Ghana (UG)** and the **Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOOUST)** co-lead the knowledge generation workpackage of the project.

The **Knowledge Generation Work Package** seeks to build, through multi-stakeholder collaboration, an action-oriented knowledge and evidence base needed for shaping and achieving resilient urban food systems in African cities.

In **AfriFOODlinks**, we are using African knowledge to shift the multiple ways in which cities function. This is about engaging a set of values, as so much of the food we are eating is a legacy of an extractive colonial history that was based on a particular form of economy. The value framework, which all consortium partners commit to apply, is about reframing how our societies and economies work, activated by engagements with food, as food is deeply values-oriented, representing humanity, culture, aspirations, celebration and society.

This value framework is named **LINCS** based on preceding city food dialogue processes: that is, the need to build more and stronger linkages in cities. **LINCS** represents systems thinking, notably that by understanding the causal relationships between elements in a system, we understand the overarching system behaviours, and target our interventions at these. The 5 **LINCS** Values include:

1. Learning
2. Inclusivity
3. Novelty



4. Collaboration
5. Sustainability

AfriFOODlinks aims to address the systemic underpinnings of food insecurity and environmental impact, to lead to real transformation. **AfriFOODlinks** views urban food environments as the key arena for improving nutrition and reducing environmental impact in African cities. This is because food environments are where residents make the choices about the food they eat and it is where the food security priorities of food availability, access, agency, utilization and stability manifest. **AfriFOODlinks** proposes three drivers of food environment form, function and dynamics. These are Infrastructure Investment, Social and Cultural Preference & Business Innovation.

The project methodology and the learning of the project will be integrated into the exploitation plan to make the project's results usable for a wide range of stakeholders going beyond the project period. This work and the research activities are key to supporting this process. This specifically concerns the comprehensive and practical set of principles, guidelines and tools for taking a food systems approach for tackling food insecurity in the selected African cities.

AfriFOODlinks and AfriFOODlinks Partners RESERVES THE RIGHT NOT TO APPOINT A SERVICE PROVIDER IN RELATION TO THIS TERMS OF REFERENCE.

Please note that the proposals submitted will be evaluated in July 2023 and the successful service provider is anticipated to be contracted from 1 August 2023.

Please be aware if you do not hear any feedback, either AfriFOODlinks has decided not to appoint a service provider for this piece of work, or you have been unsuccessful in your application.

ANNEXURE 1

City Name

AfriFOODlink city profile report

AUTHORS-

CITY PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

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Introduction to the city

Introduction to the AfriFOODlinks project

Launched in December 2022, AfriFOODlinks is an EU funded project that aims to improve food and nutrition security, while delivering positive outcomes for climate and the environment, and building social and ecological resilience in 65+ Cities in Africa and Europe. Coordinated by ICLEI Africa, the project gathers 35 partners across the African and European continents.

The project aims to improve food security and urban sustainability in African cities by:

1. applying an urban food systems lens to promote shifts to healthy, sustainable diets;
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3. promoting inclusive multi-actor governance to empower public officials, small businesses and communities with ownership and agency to shape their food systems;
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AfriFOODlinks will put a particular emphasis on five African "Hub Cities": Cape Town, Tunis, Kisumu, Mbale and Ouagadougou.

"Sharing Cities" include: Windhoek, Lusaka, Quelimane, Arusha, Antananarivo, Bukavu, Tamale, Dakar, Rabat, Niamey, and Bruges, Montpellier, Barcelona, Vienna and Milan. (See Figure 1)

The overall AfriFOODlinks project is led by ICLEI-Africa.

Objectives and Ambition of the AfriFOODlinks Project

AfriFOODlinks aims to improve food and nutrition security while delivering positive outcomes for climate and the environment, and building socio-ecological resilience in 65+ Cities (15 African and 5 European Hub & Sharing cities and 45+ Network Cities) cities by:

- promoting public shifts to sustainable healthy diets;
- transforming urban food environments through real-world socio-technical experiments;
- promoting inclusive multi-actor governance to empower public officials, established and informal small businesses, communities, youth and women with ownership and agency to shape their food systems; and
- accelerating innovative, women- and youth-led agri-food businesses to support local value addition and inclusive economic participation.

AfriFOODlinks invests in direct food system change in 5 African *Hub Cities*, and invites 10 African and 5 European *Sharing Cities* to join them on a mutual-learning journey, to share their innovative food systems work and to co-design pilot projects for implementation in each Sharing City. These cities are each from a different country, represent different regions in Europe and Africa, and comprise an array of city sizes, political or economic functions and languages: francophone, anglophone or lusophone.

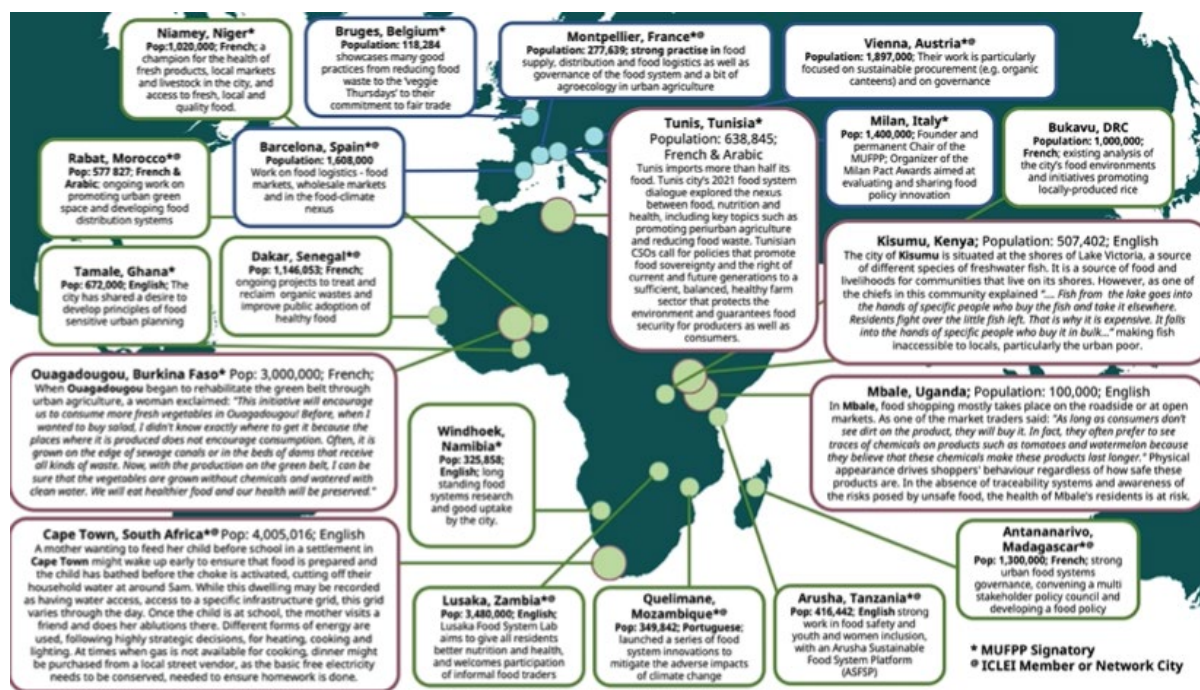


Figure 1: AfriFOODlinks Hub and Sharing Cities

Through a diverse set of AfriFOODlinks interventions, these cities will become beacons of inspiration for urban food systems transitions across the continent. Novel practices, methodological guides, and public awareness toolkits will be developed and shared with 45+ *Network Cities* in Africa, Europe and Global South regions (& further interested cities), who can adopt, adapt and replicate AfriFOODlinks outcomes. At the core of AfriFOODlinks is the LINC value framework, based upon systems thinking and necessarily engaging a value process that reinforces the practices of Learning, Inclusivity, Novelty, Collaboration and Sustainability across project activities.

The AfriFOODlinks Values Framework

This value framework is named LINC based on preceding city food dialogue processes: that is, the need to build more and stronger linkages in cities. LINC represents systems thinking, notably that by understanding the causal relationships between elements in a system, we understand the overarching system behaviours, and target our interventions at these. The 5 LINC Values include:

1. Learning
2. Inclusivity
3. Novelty
4. Collaboration
5. Sustainability



Learning acknowledges that much of the research and evidence gathered in this project will be emergent, based not on applying external theory, but rather upon creating the circumstances by which new theory building can be led by practitioners who are attempting to drive food system transformation in their cities. The project stresses the value of experiential learning and that multiple ways of knowing are welcomed, deemed of equal value, and can be connected to enhance understanding.

Inclusivity is required across all project processes and attention will be made to ensure that project activities involve diverse voices with different food system experiences. Deliberate engagement and empowerment of communities will enhance their agency and participation in decision-making for a people-centred and informed research, policy and practice. It is also important to acknowledge the vested interests that wield more power in shaping urban food systems and to develop strategies to engage with and manage these interests.

Novelty represents the embracing of the *new* or *unexpected*, which necessarily requires diverse expertise, skills and perspectives. It is about being open to emergent processes that lead to innovation. Here we can understand innovation as practices or ideas that are atypical or unusual in the context, even if globally present, or the dismantling of inappropriate systems in favour of traditional or indigenous practices.

Collaboration and co-production are in themselves novel approaches to driving relevant and engaged scientific research, and project implementation. Transdisciplinary approaches are fiendishly difficult to achieve entirely, and much research practice returns to a familiar approach of consultation between researcher and societal actors, closed door analysis and writing by the researcher, and 'validation' of the research when complete. However, to successfully ensure transdisciplinary work, societal actors must be continuously engaged to co-define the research objectives and questions, and to continuously contribute to meaning-making with the researcher as the research progresses. Collaboration is a vital aim for this project, both to provide evidence that others can use to leverage their work, and to support related AU-EU projects to achieve their aims

Sustainability, for AfriFOODlinks, is articulated both as the overarching global imperative to ensure economic, environmental and social wellbeing, and as the ethos that every project intervention must aim to become self-sustaining. To ensure longevity of AfriFOODlinks outcomes, the processes to develop robust governance systems will be developed in a manner that ensures they continue after the project; the incubation of innovative businesses is framed to ensure that appropriate and effective business models are trialled and taken up to ensure long lasting business operation and attract further financing; local governments will be guided to take on lessons for enabling good business environments so that businesses can emerge and produce novel solutions; knowledge processes will lay the foundation for ongoing knowledge sharing processes and initiatives through knowledge hubs. Finally, large and small

real-world socio-technical experiments aim to leave financially sustainable initiatives which contribute directly to improved nutrition and environmental regeneration, while providing key lessons for the replication of such projects in other parts of the city and for other cities.

AfriFOODlinks Theory of Change

AfriFOODlinks aims to address the systemic underpinnings of food insecurity and environmental impact, to lead to real transformation. AfriFOODlinks views urban food environments as the key arena for improving nutrition and reducing environmental impact in African cities. This is because food environments are where residents make the choices about the food they eat and it is where the food security priorities of food availability, access, agency, utilization and stability manifest. AfriFOODlinks proposes three drivers of food environment form, function and dynamics. These are Infrastructure Investment, Social and Cultural Preference & Business Innovation.

Infrastructure shapes the way in which food is produced, processed, transported and arrives at the consumer, how it is purchased, stored, prepared and consumed. The form of infrastructure therefore, has direct implications for food quality and safety, greenhouse gas emissions, loss and waste. Investing in, for example, robust transport infrastructure, market blocking (to reduce congestion) or storage facilities can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve the longevity of food produce and products, improving food safety (Pieterse et al, 2018; Battersby and Watson, 2018). AfriFOODlinks argues that consumer behaviours are also shaped by the form of infrastructure present in the city. For example, limited energy supply infrastructure may be a stronger driver of residents' preference for quick cooking meals (such as two-minute noodles) than proposed perceptions of Western dietary aspirations.

Social and cultural preference drives many of the food choices by residents and is influenced by education on sustainable healthy diets and nutrition, cultural and religious norms and by marketing and advertising present in urban environments.

Business innovation is vital for economic development in cities. This applies both to formal and informal businesses, both of which display a form of flexibility, not currently possible in government bureaucracies. It also contributes to increasing the local availability of diverse, improved food products. The presence of businesses and facilities that locally add value challenges the trend of importing processed foods from other regions and around the world. Business innovation is also vital for improving the availability of environmentally friendly food-related practices such as through developing bio-based packaging, ensuring the use of less desirable produce for new food products, or increasing the availability of desirable and nutritious foods. Business innovation shapes preferences through new retail and food experiences.

These three levers and the urban food environment are all shaped by local and national governance processes which encompass both the written policies, laws and practices, and the many relationships between food system policymakers, businesses, civil society mobilizers, researchers and residents. Governance processes are typically influenced by vested interests. The presence of large multinational food retailers in African cities often exerts more influence

on policy than urban residents, communities and small businesses. AfriFOODlinks aims to strengthen governance processes both to engage with vested interests and assure that citizen voice and local needs are represented equitably. It further wishes to demonstrate that, contrary to many claims, there does exist a local government mandate for improving urban food security which needs to be resourced. The urban food environment is also influenced from beyond its territorial food system by global health and economic shocks, exemplified by the COVID-19 pandemic and associated government lockdowns. Climate change and associated shocks, and regional trade regulations, are notable drivers of food availability and quality. These three external drivers are important considerations for ensuring the stability of food security, which can be improved by building resilience in urban food systems. By improving business innovation, infrastructure investment, and shaping cultural preference, AfriFOODlinks expects to contribute systemically to the realisation of fair, equitable, healthy and environmentally friendly urban food systems from primary production to consumption. The intersections and relationship between these different project components and sites of engagement are detailed in Figure 2.

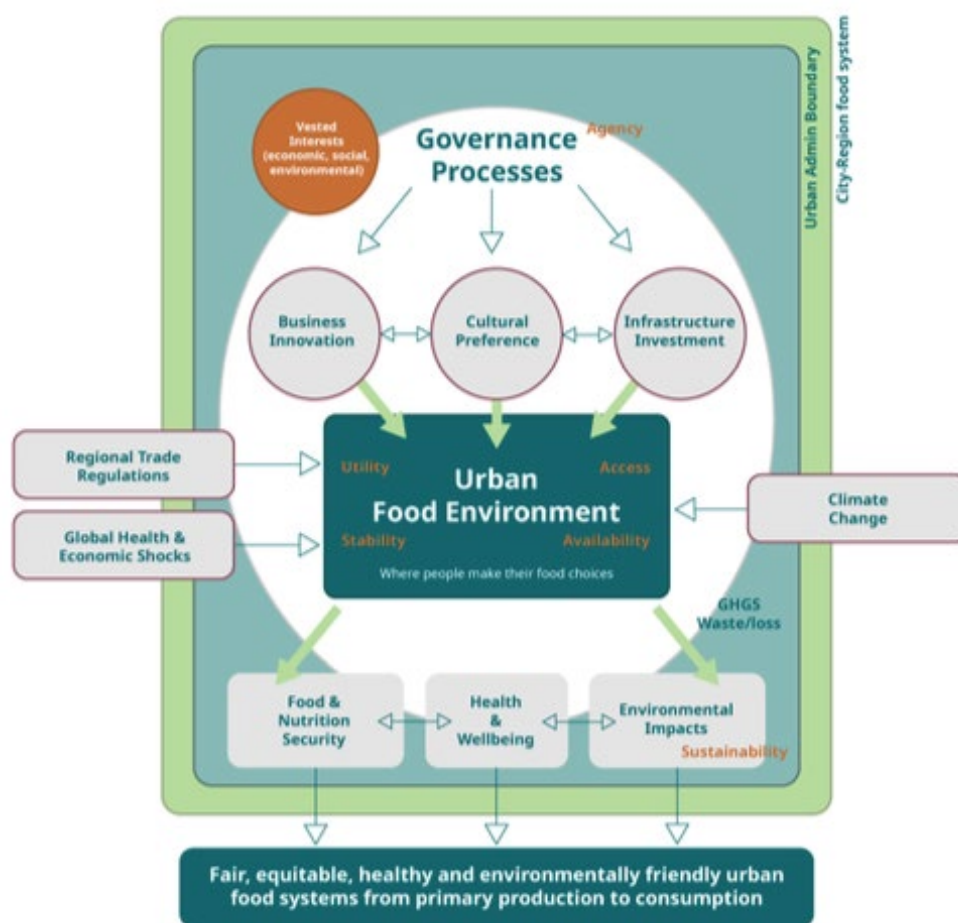


Figure 2: AfriFOODlinks project Theory of Change and mode of operating

The project methodology and the learning of the project will be integrated into the exploitation plan to make the project's results usable for a wide range of stakeholders going beyond the project period. This work and the research activities are key to supporting this process. This specifically concerns the comprehensive and practical set of principles,

guidelines and tools for taking a food systems approach for tackling food insecurity in the selected African cities.

AfriFOODlinks' Five Methodological Approaches

Knowledge validation and amplification

This is one of the primary overarching strategies of this project: drawing in multiple knowledge holders, validating this everyday knowledge and situating it within a rights-based framework. AfriFOODlinks will draw the connections between food systems and human rights and how a network of rights is impacted by food systems. In the context of AfriFOODlinks, a rights-based approach is entrenched within the context of human rights through an African lens. It is the recognition of rights forming part of the fabric of African societies before colonial disruptions and tracing those to modern contextual understanding of human rights and how they interact with the food system. AfriFOODlinks will specifically valorise and legitimise the insights and existing knowledge domains at the activating environment in cities. This involves placing a researcher in each city to undertake process-oriented engagements (taking inspiration from MISTRA Urban Futures embedded researcher methodology) seeking out existing knowledge (*not knowledge creation*) and proactively legitimising this existing knowledge and the roles and voice of the knowledge actors, while integrating this knowledge into ongoing processes. These knowledge actors include residents, food producers, movers and vendors, government officers, food system actors, and all who enter the food environments.

This process is essential in ensuring that agency and voice are systematically included into project activities, that traditional and indigenous knowledges are given equal space next to scientific knowledge, and that structures and processes are representative of diverse voices and knowledge.

Strengthening or developing multi stakeholder platforms (MSPs)

Given the continent's fragmented urban governance system [38], AfriFOODlinks will promote a coherent and participatory approach to urban governance, based around HIVOS' strategy for forging multi-actor initiatives & RUAF's Multi-stakeholder Policy Formulation methodology.

Where strong governance platforms exist, AfriFOODlinks will support this platform in identifying and prioritizing food system needs and incorporating voices of those who may not be effectively represented in these platforms. It will do so by mobilizing existing constituencies for those affected by food insecurity inviting them into this platform as well as ensuring that platform meetings are convened in neutral spaces in different parts of the cities welcoming participants to experience different parts of the city and supporting the platform to be convened by neutral parties. The exact formation of the multi-stakeholder platforms will differ across cities as will the specific prioritizations raised by the platform. AfriFOODlinks project is wary of imposing a specific platform formation such as a Food Policy Council, given that contextual specificities in each city will determine the most appropriate form and

purpose of the platform. AfriFOODlinks will encourage a ground-up approach to crafting, adjusting and implementing policies that affect city food systems. Here, experiences from Sharing Cities will guide development of MSPs in hub cities. Where governance platforms are non-existent or need reshaping, AfriFOODlinks will convene stakeholders to develop a new MSP based on their needs.

AfriFOODlinks articulates MSPs as spaces for holding tensions between different priorities and voices, encouraging open dialogue, and representing an umbrella which connects and leverages aligned activities. Based on the capacity gaps or food system priorities articulated in the MSP, Food Lab Processes (FLPs) will be convened. FLPs offer more focussed lenses than MSPs by convening participatory innovation processes around a specific aim, such as better understanding food system issues, building coalitions of change, generating and testing solutions, or building skills and abilities among different actors. These can be with particular groups, such as planners, youth, informal vendors, or in specific neighbourhoods, to engage a local issue.

Incubating innovative circular businesses, and guiding the development of enabling business environments

AfriFOODlinks will strive to mainstream 6 principles of inclusive business inspired by the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture's LINK methodology into new or existing circular business models that contribute to nutritious and sustainable food for partner cities. These principles include fair and transparent governance (open communication, fair prices, risk-sharing), equitable access to services such as credit and technical support, inclusive innovation, chain-wide collaborations driven by a common goal, and effective market linkages. We will also strive to mainstream key short and medium term actions recommended by the Agri-Food and Rural Agenda for the new Africa-Europe Alliance (Task Force Rural Africa, 2019: 64) such as improving agri-food MSMEs' access to private finance and EU cooperation instruments, scaling up sustainable value chain development, mainstreaming environmental sustainability and promoting climate action, and supporting an innovative local action programme based on a territorial approach. We will also use the Circular City Actions Framework, a set of 5 strategies and 15 actions to improve circularity at the local level, to guide the integration of circular economy principles in both specific business models from farm to fork and the enabling environment in hub cities.

Mutual learning, sharing and operationalisation of knowledge

The theoretical and practical outcomes of this project will be shared and enriched through a programme of mutual learning between multiple stakeholders across project cities. These will be convened around a virtual knowledge hub and will vary in depth to include informational webinars for network cities, inter-city dialogue and learning, city-to-city match-making, and intra-city fora for deep multi-stakeholder engagement. The 5 Hub and 15 Sharing Cities will be clustered into five groups: one hub, two African sharing cities and one European sharing city. A programme of city exchange visits will be organised: two focal points from each city will visit the three sharing cities in their cluster over the first half of the project, to engage in a field trip of site visits, participation in local food cultures and Policy Dialogue organised by the host city and city coordinator. Such visits are beneficial to draw out unexpected learnings

across multiple food related theme. The city exchange visit will result in co-designed pilot project proposal, 10 of which will be implemented in African Sharing Cities. Sharing engagements with the 45+ Network cities will take place consistently throughout the project to ensure that iterative learning improves delivery of AfriFOODlinks activities.

Experimentation, piloting and demonstration

A mosaic of innovative real-world experiments across twenty cities will contribute to the research, evidence and action. Five large experiments in the Hub Cities and 10 small-scale pilots, co-designed as part of the mutual learning exchanges, will be implemented in the African Sharing Cities. Such co-design processes could make use of WIEGO's exposure dialogues approach, in which participants reflect together on shared observations and experiences, and weave these into a set of reflections. These place-based activities will contribute either to governance process or policy development, business incubation, or a physical socio-technical experiment that influences the food environment in a tangible manner. Baseline cross-sectional studies will be undertaken to assess food environments based on the following three broad constructs proposed by:

- (i) the community nutrition environment, which includes the number, type, location and accessibility of food outlets;
- (ii) the organisational nutrition environment, relating to food outlets within institutions, such as schools and workplaces;
- (iii) the consumer nutrition environment, including food product availability, accessibility (cost), and quality. To this end, geographic information system will map population settlements (informal and formal), schools, and the food supply; water; sanitation; and energy infrastructure in the hub cities. Cross-sectional household surveys will assess food security, dietary diversity and nutritional status of children, youth and women. Assessment methodologies like "Urbal" methodology will be used to evaluate the experiment performance; we will employ quasi-experimental studies (using baseline and endline surveys) to test how the interventions affect the food environment constructs, food security, dietary diversity, and nutritional outcomes.

The AfriFOODlinks project aims to enable the connection between, and active sharing, across different African cities. From an AfriFOODlinks project perspective, project cities are differentiated as hub cities, sharing cities and networked cities. This interaction is represented conceptually in Figure 3 below.



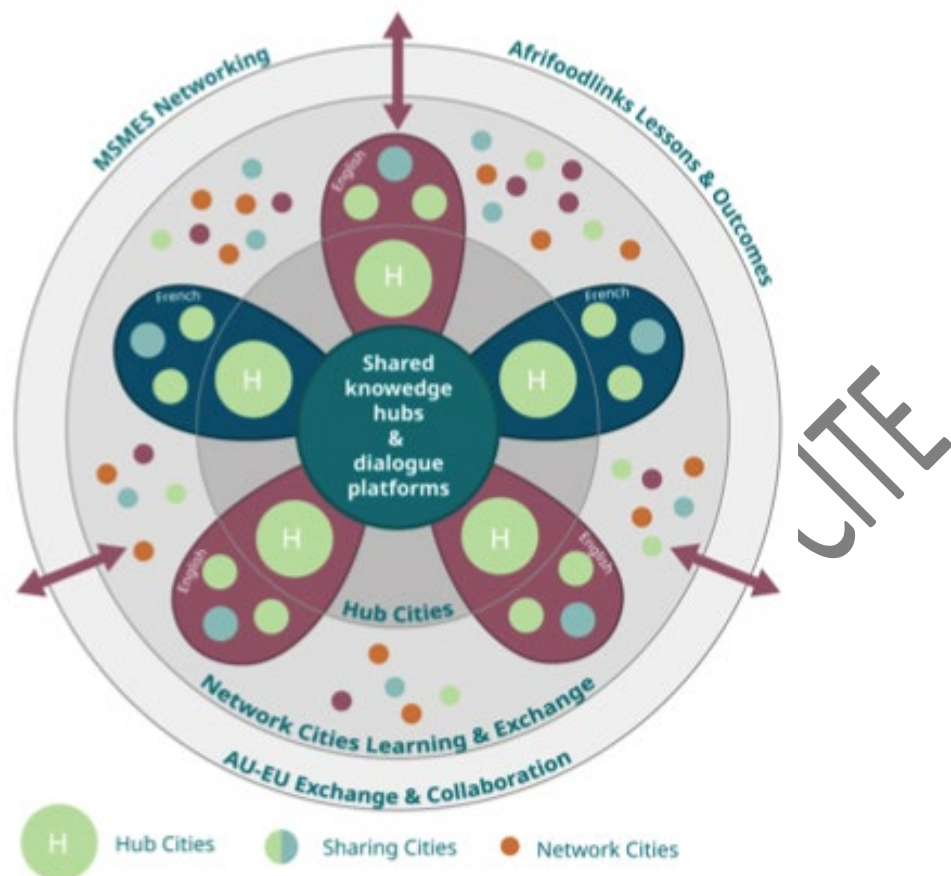


Figure 3: AfriFOODlinks inter-relational engagement with cities and knowledge

The State of Urbanisation in Africa

An African dream – towards a new urban agenda?

*We aspire that by 2063, Africa shall be a prosperous continent, with the means and resources to drive its own development, and where: African people have a high standard of living, and quality of life, sound health and well-being; Well educated citizens and skills revolution underpinned by science, technology and innovation for a knowledge society; **Cities and other settlements are hubs of cultural and economic activities, with modernized infrastructure, and people have access to all the basic necessities of life including shelter, water, sanitation, energy, public transport and ICT;** Economies are structurally transformed to create shared growth, decent jobs and economic opportunities for all...*

(Agenda 2063 - The Africa We Want – emphasis added)

There is a misconceived view that Africa is predominantly rural, a continent of smallholders (Forster and Escudero, 2014), whose production supports local food systems feeding small

urban centres (Battersby and Watson, 2018; Crush and Frayne, 2014). The colonial, post-independence and later liberalised governance approaches to urban management saw food as a rural issue, resulting in an agrarian-oriented approach to food governance (Haysom, Battersby and Park-Ross, 2020). Urban areas have little or no direct policy-directed mandate requiring urban food system governance (Haysom, 2015). Cities might have policies and mandates to manage components of the urban food system, such as informal food vending (Duminy, 2018), waste management or public health (Smit, 2016), but engagement in urban food system governance is limited. In most African countries, food system policy and management is the responsibility of provincial or national governments, clearly evident in the Malabo Declaration and details of the scale and scope of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (AU, 2014). This national scale responsibility for food security and wider food systems governance is further reinforced by donor agendas (See Smit, 2016).¹

Africa is urbanising at a rapid rate (Pieterse and Parnell, 2014). The nature and form of this urbanisation differs across countries and regions (Pieterse, Parnell and Haysom, 2018; UN-DESA, 2019). As Africa urbanises and African cities and their food systems change as a result, governing these food systems increasingly becomes an urban challenge. How African cities start to engage questions of urban food governance is the focus of this chapter.

Sub-Saharan Africa is experiencing rapid change on various fronts that is directly impacting its trajectory of development. The youth bulge (UNICEF, 2014), climate change (IPCC, 2014), economic shifts (Piketty, 2014) and environmental change (MEA, 2005) all intersect and reinforce one another. The concept of rapid change with mutually reinforcing outcomes (Swilling and Annecke, 2012) is perhaps most evident when two dominant transitions in Africa (and in much of the Global South) are considered - rapid demographic change, urbanisation, and the changes taking place in the food system, at multiple scales. Together, these combine to bring about real development challenges. The negative consequences of these intersecting transitions manifest in the form of food and nutrition insecurity. Food and nutrition security is a situation where people can gain access to food (availability) through purchase or other means; and that the food can be prepared and consumed in a manner that is socially appropriate and enables optimal nutrition and health (utilisation); and where a stable food system is present (stability) (FAO, 1996; Haysom, 2017).

Africa's urbanization trajectory differs from the past urbanization processes of the global North. This is made even more complex by the variations in urbanization across the continent in terms of the forms, and the sheer numbers and pace of growth. Urbanization is not the same for every city. Towns and cities of under 300 000 residents are, and will remain, the dominant urban typology across Africa (Pieterse et al., 2015). This is important because most of the development and research focuses on primary cities (Battersby and Watson, 2016). The fastest growing urban centres, in terms of the proportion of urban residents, are "the small and medium cities with less than one million inhabitants, which account for 59 % of the world's urban population and 62 % of the urban population in Africa" (UN-Habitat, 2016: 9)

¹ See: <https://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/initiative/alliance-for-a-green-revolution-in-africa/> and <https://agra.org>

Regionally, Africa is also urbanizing in different ways. As Table 1 demonstrates, seeing Africa's urbanization as uniform is flawed.

Region	2018	Net urban population	Per cent of African Urban
Africa	42,5%	547 602 000	42,5%
Eastern Africa	28,0%	121 316 000	22,2%
Middle Africa	49,5%	83 484 000	15,2%
Northern Africa	52,0%	123 644 000	22,6%
Southern Africa	63,6%	41 970 000	7,7%
Western Africa	46,4%	177 189 000	32,4%

Table 1: State of Urbanisation in Africa (Source: Authors own calculation of UNDESA World Urbanisation Prospects 2018)

Urban Food Security – The Slow Violence of Poverty and Inequality

A 2008 AFSUN survey that used the Food and Nutritional Technical Assistance (FANTA) methodologies to assess the state of food security (Coates et al., 2007) in predominantly poor areas in 11 Cities in 9 Southern Africa countries found high levels of urban food insecurity (Crush and Frayne 2010). Crush and Frayne point to three key findings from the AFSUN surveys:

- a. Overall levels of food insecurity in the areas reviewed was very high (at 76%)
- b. Across the 11 cities surveyed, there was significant variation across all measures of food insecurity and consumption - local conditions play a key role in determining levels of food insecurity
- c. The vast majority of poor urban households reviewed purchased their food – as a result, in urban areas levels of household income and the cost of food are key food security determinants.

(Crush and Frayne, 2010: 538).

Across the region, other studies have found similar levels of food insecurity and similar food access trends (Shisana et al., 2013; Riley and Legwegoh, 2014; Tawodzera, 2014; Kazembe and Nickanor, 2016). The reliance on the market and the price of food are key determinants of food security in these urban areas.

While broad generalisations can be problematic, system-wide trends offer helpful insights into long-term changes in local food systems as the food system becomes increasingly subject to global forces (Friedmann and McMichael, 1989; Patel and McMichael, 2009; Clapp and Helleiner, 2012). These are of relevance to urban residents as cities are often sites of food system change (Steel, 2008).

However, as the above food security figures reflect, the policy, research and programmatic effort necessary to connect food and cities, to engage the intersections between the food system and the urban system, has not taken place. Given the emerging challenges associated with the youth bulge and the absolute development need, urgent action is required. Africa will not attain its development potential unless urgent research, policy, development and governance actions are not activated to ensure that Africa's food systems and urban systems connect, and connect in ways that are equitable, just and wellness enhancing. The call made by David Smith over 20 years ago, that:

In many cities in developing countries, hunger and malnutrition are common amongst the poor, even when food is relatively abundant. Over the past two decades, a considerable literature has accumulated on the problems associated with rapid urbanization in developing countries – a literature that for the most part has neglected the important dimension of urban food systems and how these link production and consumption networks at local, regional and global levels. Similarly, whilst there is a newly burgeoning literature on global food systems, the contextual role of the urbanization process is rarely addressed.

Smith, 1998: 207

Requires urgent action. The AfriFOODlinks project aims to respond directly to this problem statement. In doing so, it requires a detailed understanding of the state of the different urban systems, the partner cities, and their food systems. This is a high-level state of knowledge review of the current state of knowledge of the food system of [*insert city name here*]

Report Chronology and Reporting Structure of the AfriFOODlinks Project

The AfriFOODlinks project research and engagement activities are phased over the research cycle of the project. This first is a high-level report examining the intersections between the urban system and the food system, but with due appreciation for how these two systems are embedded within governance, political and cultural systems. As the work evolves, deeper engagements in active site-specific research will be undertaken to expose, understand and better engage each city's food and urban system environments. These two phases will intersect with two active action processes, one to deepen knowledge and actively stimulate, validate, and amplify African urban, food system, and wider urban food knowledge. The other component will be to ensure active, but co-produced knowledge at the policy scale, supporting policy processes and ultimately de-scaling food to the urban governance scale. This process is depicted in the Figure 4.

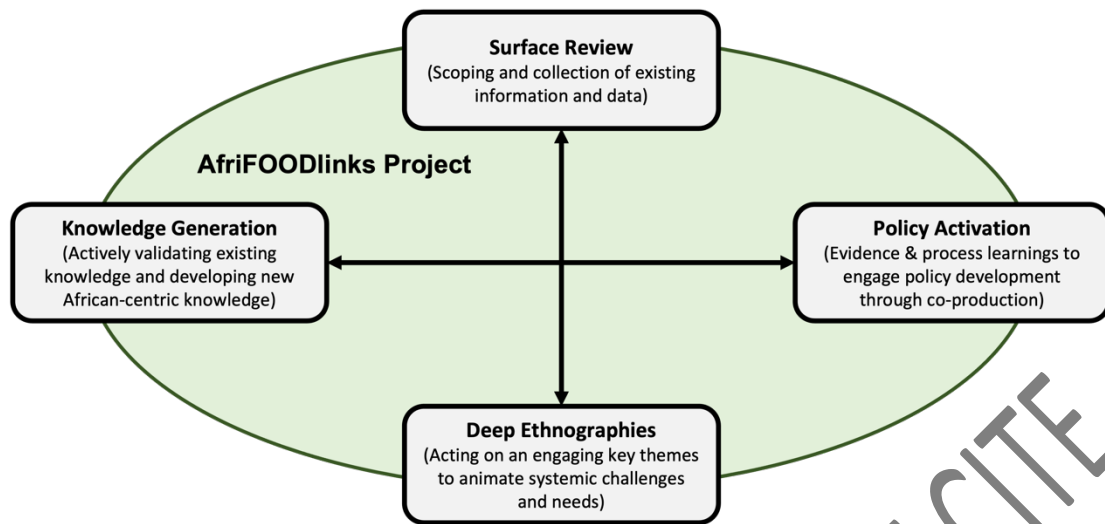


Figure 4: Phased AfriFOODlinks project focus and approach

Scope of the City Report

Section 1: The City – Name

History of the City

City's Governance Structure (embedded within national structures)

Overarching report on economy of the City

City Infrastructure report



Food and nutrition security

Current food and nutrition security responses

State of nutrition transition

Nutritional deficiencies

Vulnerable groups

Culture of the City and relationship with its food system

Challenges faces in the City

AfriFOODlinks City baseline information

Food systems stakeholders

Policy and regulatory environment

Production environment

Food diversity and staple foods

Typical food basket for different income categories

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Nature of the food economy

Formal food economy

Informal food economy

Food access strategies of households

Nutritional deficiencies (2012-2022)

Food Systems Assets

Food processing firms

Food system organizations and trade associations

Local food production/harvest assets (lakes, forests, peri-urban land)

Food safety

Food infrastructure

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Food interventions (2012-2022)

Programmes

Plans

City and regional scale development challenges and current responses

Other city-specific information

Conclusion

References

Annexure 1:

Photos, maps or other documents that might be of interest?

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