

An aerial photograph of a bustling outdoor market stall. The ground is wet and reflective. Various fresh vegetables are displayed: green bell peppers in a white bowl, green leafy herbs in several blue and red bowls, and bunches of purple and green leafy greens. A person wearing a traditional conical hat and blue boots is visible on the left. Another person is crouching on the right, handling vegetables. The overall scene is vibrant and captures the essence of a local food market.

CITYFOOD NETWORK

JOIN AND PARTICIPATE
INVITATION TO LOCAL AND
REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

Together, ICLEI and RUAF have more than 20 years of experience working with local and regional governments and providing technical expertise on food systems.

RUAF FOUNDATION

ICLEI
Local
Governments
for Sustainability

What is a City-Region Food System?

A city-region is made up of one or more larger cities, towns and smaller settlements, and its surrounding peri-urban and rural area, which are linked by functional ties. It provides a territorial development perspective (e.g. metropolitan development area) and links urban and rural areas for the benefit of the urban and rural population alike.

A sustainable and resilient city-region food system can help meet (future) food needs of the population while promoting food security, nutrition and social inclusion. It also integrates vulnerable populations in economic development through food production, processing and retail by encouraging urban and peri-urban agriculture, short supply chains and new food markets. Furthermore, it aligns environmental management strategies on food, water and energy and builds diverse food systems that are more resilient to climate change and disaster risk.

Within this context, CITYFOOD projects can be site specific or encompass the full region.



80%

**of all jobs in East
Africa are affiliated
with food systems.**

(CFS, 2016)

60%

urban areas

90%

rural areas



The CITYFOOD Network

A network for local and regional governments to develop a strategic approach to their city-region food systems.

Food provides a vital link between cities and rural communities. It offers a key opportunity for addressing hunger, poverty and unemployment, climate change impacts and environmental degradation. Although local and regional governments have considerable leverage over several facets of a city-region food system, from nutrition and health to economic development to land use and resource management, few of them integrate food in a cohesive manner across their different thematic departments, or maximize its potential in service of their constituencies.

The ICLEI-RUAF CITYFOOD network aims to accelerate local and regional government action on sustainable and resilient city-region food systems by combining networking with training, policy guidance and technical expertise. CITYFOOD is open to local and regional governments, whether they are engaging with the issue for the first time or working to implement the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact and at the frontier of innovative food systems work.

Women living in urban areas are about 7-12% more likely to be overweight than rural women.

(IFPRI, 2017)

CITYFOOD is active in both the Global North and South and will build a strong south-south-north exchange platform for learning among cities. It will establish direct connections with people on the ground and staff engaged in policy development.

Asia's poor spend more than **50%** of their income on food with nearly one-fifth spending more than 70%.

(ADB, 2012)

More than **US\$ 12.6 billion** is spent on food imports annually in Oceania.

(FAO, 2015)

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Reasons why cities develop sustainable and resilient city-region food systems



Enhance food security and nutrition for all.



Improve livelihoods of urban, peri-urban and regional food producers, especially women, youth and other vulnerable groups.



Promote job creation, with an emphasis on green jobs, through local and regional production, agro-processing and marketing.



Protect and restore ecosystems and natural resources, including biodiversity, air, soil and water quality.



Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through climate friendly production, transport, processing and consumption of food.



Advance climate change adaptation by greening cities through urban and peri-urban agriculture.



Support the achievement of national and international goals and agendas, such as the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals, the New Urban Agenda and the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact.

"Healthy food for all, sourced as regionally as possible, and as sustainably produced, processed, packaged, and distributed as possible"

Toronto City Region Food System Vision



Reduce food waste and losses and promote safe reuse of organic waste and wastewater.



Increase the resilience of the food system by diversifying food supply sources and building resilient food production, transport, storage and marketing systems.



Facilitate public-private-civil society participation by engaging stakeholders in food governance across sectors and levels of government.



Benefits

of participating in CITYFOOD

CITYFOOD serves as a **gateway for information**, curating innovative city-region food system issues, policies and initiatives.

CITYFOOD enhances advocacy efforts to both **gain support and influence** decision making by regional and national governments, international bodies and civil society organizations.

CITYFOOD facilitates cooperation and knowledge exchange by **linking practitioners and decision-makers** to share experiences integrating food into urban and regional development.

CITYFOOD supports the **mobilization of funds** for food systems projects by providing network participants with priority access to opportunities for projects.

Services

Foundational services

Upon joining, CITYFOOD experts will work with participants to:

- Develop a city profile on city-region food systems.
- Match with cities facing similar challenges or engaged in similar projects.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange and peer-to-peer learning.
- Organize learning and training sessions during relevant conferences.
- Foster Communities of Practice with varied thematic foci.
- Connect to existing national and regional food networks.

Advanced services

With funding, either through direct investment by cities or with the assistance of outside funders, CITYFOOD experts are prepared to:

- Assess city-region food systems.
- Craft participatory action plans for city-region food systems.
- Lead engagement in multi-stakeholder planning, design, monitoring and policy support for city-region food systems.
- Assess climate vulnerability and risks of city-region food systems and introduce tools to improve its climate resilience.
- Integrate food systems into municipal development, land use, climate change and other sectoral policies.
- Execute project formulation, technical support and monitoring on: urban agriculture; climate change adaptation; short food chains; sustainable procurement; waste recycling and re-use; enterprise development in the food system; and local economic development projects around food.
- Train municipal staff.
- Enhance food system governance strategies (e.g. establishment of food policy councils) to involve stakeholders.
- Support cities in national and international policy advocacy.
- Collaborate on action and policy-oriented research.
- Sustainable food procurement.

Food losses and waste amounts to roughly

US\$ 680 billion in industrialized countries.

(FAO, 2017)

Strategic partners

The CITYFOOD Network will collaborate with technical and financial organizations already working in the field of sustainable city-region food systems.

These include, among others: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); United Nations Environment (UNEP); Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ); United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); CGIAR Water, Land and Ecosystems Research Program (WLE / IWMI); HIVOS International; Food: Locally Embedded, Globally Engaged (FLEDGE); civil society networks; research centers; and local government cooperation mechanisms including the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, C40 food systems network, UCLG food network, national and regional city networks. We welcome private sector support that aims to advance sustainable and resilient city-region food systems.

International recognition

Local and regional governments that participate in CITYFOOD are invited to join the conversation and showcase their work at events around the world, including:

- WUF-9 - The Ninth Session of the World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur / February 2018
- Urban Agriculture Forum in Melbourne / February 2018
- City-to-City Food Systems Forum in Durban / April 2018
- Resilient Cities 2018 in Bonn / April 2018
- EU Green Week in Brussels / May 2018
- ICLEI World Congress in Montreal / June 2018
- Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Annual Gathering in Tel Aviv / September 2018
- The 24th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, COP24 in Katowice / December 2018

Quito's urban agriculture program generates an additional
US\$ 2.9 million
per year.
(CONQUITO, 2017)



Join the CITYFOOD Network

Committed and interested local and regional governments are invited to join the network. Participation in network Communities of Practice depends on relevant characteristics and alignment of shared goals.

Conditions for joining:

- Express an interest in and commitment to international cooperation and sharing experiences.
- Appoint a specific contact person for network activities.
- Show readiness to engage with other cities in peer-to-peer support and guidance.

For more information, questions, or to access the commitment form: please contact the CITYFOOD Secretariat at www.iclei.org/cityfood or cityfood@iclei.org.



CITYFOOD Secretariat

CITYFOOD is managed by ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability and RUAF Foundation - Global partnership on sustainable urban agriculture and food systems; ICLEI serves as Secretariat for the CITYFOOD Network.

ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

is the leading global network of over 1,500 cities, towns and regions committed to building a sustainable future. By helping the ICLEI Network to become sustainable, low-carbon, ecomobile, resilient, biodiverse, resource-efficient, healthy and happy, with a green economy and smart infrastructure, we impact over 25% of the global urban population.

RUAF

has over 20 years of experience in working with local and subnational governments in over 20 countries on urban agriculture and city region food systems. RUAF provides training, technical assistance and monitoring, and implements action research and multi-stakeholder planning and policy formulation.

Contact

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