The role of cities and local governments in the transformation of food systems, beyond COVID-19

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Urbanization in Latin America and the Caribbean

Decline in rural population, LAC

Data: UNDESA 2018 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects
Urbanization in Latin America and the Caribbean

[Bar chart showing distribution of urban population by size of agglomeration (% of total urban) from 1980 to 2035.]

- Large (5 million or more)
- Intermediate (1 to 5 million)
- Small (less than 1 million)

Data: UNDESA 2018 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects
80% of rural people live within 90 minutes of a small or medium city.
Food systems in the rural-urban territories

- Close to 100% of food primary production
- Very large proportion of:
  - Food processing
  - Services to agriculture
- Seven in 10 consumers
- Majority of poor urban and rural consumers (WB)
- Source of environmental services underpinning food and agriculture
Source: https://foodsystemsdashboard.org/
Traditional action areas for local governments

- **Food supply**
  - Technical assistance to small-scale family farmers
  - Market information to small-scale family farmers
  - Rural roads
  - Wholesale, municipal and local market infrastructure and services
  - Regulation of informal trade

- **Food Environment**
  - Enforcement of food safety regulations
  - Regulation and enforcement of informal trade
  - Technical assistance and business advisory services to food system SMEs
New action areas for local governments

- **Food systems governance**
  - Public-private food systems fora and councils

- **Food supply**
  - Digital technical assistance to small-scale family farmers
  - Digital market information to small-scale family farmers
  - Wholesale, municipal and local market infrastructure and digital services

- **Food Environment**
  - Local regulations and programs to promote healthy and sustainable diets in schools and public spaces
  - Local regulations and programs to reduce food loss and waste
  - Local regulations and programs to promote buying locally-produced foods
New action areas for local governments under COVID-19 crisis

- **Food supply**
  - Maintain operations of wholesale, municipal and local markets with high health and safety standards

- **Food Environment**
  - Ensure continuous access to healthy foods to people living in extreme poverty

- **Food system governance**
  - Food systems councils
  - Food systems strategies and action plans
Comprehensive food systems strategies

- **Argentina** – Green corridor in Santa Fe Province – 12 cities
- **Colombia** – Food supply action plans in Antioquia, Nariño, Central Region, Putumayo.
- **Costa Rica** – Municipal strategy on food security and food systems - Canton of Perez Zeledon, Canton of Santana
- **Jamaica** – Kingston urban food system
- **Mexico** – Urban food systems in State of Hidalgo – seven cities involved.
- **Peru** – Network of municipalities on urban food systems, Lima Food Systems Council
Local governments in small cities are **heavily** under-resourced

**Budgets**

**Legal authority**

**Technical capacities**

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**Traditional action areas for local governments**

- **Food supply**
  - Technical assistance to small-scale farmers
  - Market information to small-scale farmers
  - Rural support services
  - Wholesaling and municipal and local market infrastructure services
  - Post-harvest and value-chain interventions

- **New action areas for local governments**

  - **Food systems governance**
    - Public-private food system fora and councils

  - **Food supply**
    - Digital technology assistance to small-scale farmers
    - Digital market information to small-scale farmers
    - Whole of municipal and local market infrastructure and digital services

  - **Food governance**
    - Local regulations and programs to promote healthy and sustainable diets in schools and public spaces
    - Local regulations and norms to reduce food loss and waste

  - **New action areas for local governments under COVID-19 crisis**

    - **Food supply**
      - Maintain operations of wholesale, municipal and local markets with high health and safety standards

    - **Food Environment**
      - Ensure continuous access to healthy foods to people living in extreme poverty
Thank you

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