Cities and Covid-19: Food access for vulnerable communities in practice

Webinar Series
Food Systems
Approach in Practice
The impact of COVID-19 on food systems in cities

1. Provide information to cities

2. Share lessons and recommendations between cities

3. Key role of local governments

852 answers (May 2020)

57% local and subnational governments

What is the impact on urban food systems?

- 86% suspension of school meals
- 68% restrictions in selling food in public spaces
- 57% restrictions in functioning of markets

Measures have been taken

- Direct food distribution particularly to vulnerable population

4. FAO urban food agenda

5. Concluding message

Urban food actions platform

Is a space where information and experiences are shared

No capacities to deal with changes in food systems are lacking

1.9 billion people live in informal settlements

Governments must ensure food services

Jamie Monson
Strategic Leader of FAO’s Food Systems Programme

We need to support local governments in order to make urban food systems more:

- Inclusive
- Resilient
- Sustainable

We need to build back better, focusing on more sustainable and resilient food systems

1900

Big cities are vulnerable
FEEDING NEW YORK DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS

Kate MacKenzie
Director of the Mayor's Office of Food Policy,
New York City

Data as of May 11

Goals
A. Prevent disruption
B. Support food industry workers
C. Enable long-term food sector resiliency

Strategies
1. Guarantee the movement of food deliveries (especially in the most affected areas)
2. Childcare service for workers
3. Monitor food system failures (information from producers and intermediaries)

Estimated food insecurity

- Pre COVID: 1,200,000 people
- During COVID: 2,038,709 people

Cut to door transport is challenge

Lessons and insights

Working with multisectoral team with different perspectives
Connections between food access and supply chain
Emergency has allowed innovation and action
Having line of sight into food distributions

There are a large number of organizations that predict and give data about insecurity, unemployment

Access to food has been affected severely by the crisis

Supply Chain

Feeding New Yorkers

Current Situation in New York

Workflows

Support for emergency food providers
Public policies worked together with the local government

Home delivered meals via taxi
Grab-n-go meals via schools
Ensuring Continuous Supply of Food from Markets to Citizens of Kampala

- Esau Galukande
  Deputy Director Production and Marketing, Kampala Capital City Authority

1. Background of Kampala
   - 2M People resident population
   - 5M Daytime
   - 70% is employed in informal sector

2. Directives to Control the Spread
   - Public transport suspended and private vehicles restricted
   - Motorcycles (boda boda) can only carry goods and not passengers
   - Mobile and seasonal traders are suspended

3. Directives to Obtaining the Spread
   - Members with their regular, favourite vendors
   - Obtain contact numbers, generate list of requirements
   - People with no contact in market but need of assistance

4. Directives to Control the Spread
   - E-commerce platforms
   - 29 markets enabling the public to purchase and make deliveries
   - Visits with precautions

5. Directives to Control the Spread
   - Residents residing near markets
   - Shoppers have made between 10 to 50 orders per day
   - The acceptance of the new shopping system is low

6. Results
   - The amount of orders overwhelms sellers
   - Different units of measure for products may at times not be acceptable to the buyer

7. Lessons Learnt
   - 400 cyclists have been engaged in the deliveries
   - 200 packers
   - Online marketing can secure jobs for the vendors and also create new jobs

Consumer Options

- Physical shopping visits continue with strict safety precautions
- 20,000 clients can do their groceries
- 84 markets exist

3 Types of Markets
- Seasonal
- Mobile
- Permanent

Challenges
- Shoppers have made between 10 to 50 orders per day
- The acceptance of the new shopping system is low

Although the number of sellers in the market was reduced...
Successful urban responses require the active collaboration of various categories of actors across different sectors.

1. Final Messages

2. Value Essential Actors

3. Urban Food Resilience

Food SMEs, smallholder farmers and the informal sector are essential actors to maintain citizens' access to food in the face of emergencies and we have to make sure that they are rightly valued.

Depends largely on the strength and flexibility of networks within the food system that are able to quickly convene and organise collective action.
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