

PROMISES AND CHALLENGES



of the informal food sector in developing countries

Promises and challenges of the informal food sector in developing countries

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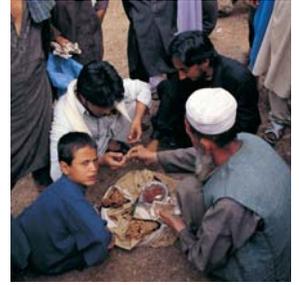
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Photos by **Olivio Argenti**

Cover photo: Pakistan, Lahore: traders buying food





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The informal food sector exists in all countries of the world. It has continued to flourish, even when illegal or state-oppressed. It offers autonomy and incomes to a wide variety of families in economic difficulties. It is thus unlikely to disappear. The convenience of purchasing food from informal vendors is also appreciated by many consumers, including the urban poor, office workers and tourists. Authorities, and local authorities in particular, should consider informal agents as partners in local development initiatives. They should implement policies and programmes aimed at creating adequate conditions for informal sector activities to be efficiently undertaken while minimising risks to society.