

Parallel Session

“Food and nutrition security for African cities: Challenges and Way Forward

Dar-es-Salam, 26 February 2013 , 14h30 - 18h00, Serena Hotel

# ***FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY FOR AFRICAN CITIES :***

***Street Food Vending in West Africa***

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# Feeding the Cities: crucial role of street food vending (SFV)



- 1. Rapid pace of urbanization** in Africa. At the rate of 3.4% per year Africa is the fastest urbanizing continent in the world.  
Cote d'Ivoire = **45% population live in urban areas**  
Ghana = **80% of Ghanaian migrants** stay in Ghana and **go to urban areas**, mainly Accra
- 2. The absence of established food distribution companies** to respond to the increasing demand for safe and healthy food
- 3. Employment opportunity (especially women, almost 90% of vendors)** in comparison with scarce labor demand in the formal sector ( **SFV employs, on average, more than 38% of labor force and contributes** about 38% to total GDP in Africa)
- 4. Street food vendors mostly rely on local produce.**

# FAO Study on Street food vending



Street vended food (SFV): wide range of ready-to-eat food and beverages, sold and sometimes prepared along streets and several other public places such as lorry stations, parks, schools and construction sites an virtually all locations where there is a high number of potential costumers

FAO conducted a study on street food vending to collect harmonized information on the 4 West-Africa countries:

Cote d'Ivoire  
Ghana  
Mali  
Sierra Leone

The study was carried out between November and May 2012

Some figures:

400 vendors were interviewed

2000 consumers

More than 40 institutions

# Street food vendors: main constraints

Limited access to capital and training: vendors are seldom organized into associations (more than 90% of vendors in the 4 cities are member of any association)

Hygiene and food safety practices are not sustainably applied as law enforcement is limited and good practices may increase production costs (no real incentives to sustain the change)

The lack of common vision and municipal planning to meet the expansion of street food vendors in appropriate, serviced urban paces



# Street food vendors: Create enabling Institutional environment

- Creating and adopting legislation specifically on street food vendors (Simplification of the licensing process, right to work, role and responsibilities)
- Integrating street food planning needs into national urban planning frameworks
- Channeling governmental investments into street food vending as a response to urban poverty reduction strategies



# Street food vending: Improve the quality of services



- **Improve hygiene, food safety and quality**
  - Provision of affordable, low maintenance technology
  - Delivery of training both to vendors and municipal health inspectors
- **Promote healthy diet through Nutrition Education**
  - More fruits and vegetables
  - Less fat and oils
  - Less sugar