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# Urban food policies and governance in Kenya: Examining the linkages

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# Background

- Globally, there is a commitment to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition (SDG 2) and make cities safe and sustainable (SDG 11)
- However, poverty and food insecurity are rising in urban areas
- In Nairobi, 1 million people (a quarter of the city population) are hungry; similar proportion are overweight leading to increase in diet-related non-communicable diseases
- Various policy and governance frameworks for food system exist to combat malnutrition
- **However, minimal understanding on extent to which urban policies and governance provide an enabling environment for a sustainable urban food system**
- This paper examines; i) the linkages between urban food policies and their governance frameworks and; ii) extent to which they support a sustainable food system
- Review of urban policies complimented with 27 key informant interviews involving actors in the urban food system in Nairobi City ( Pop: 4 million)

# Food Policy: Kenya context

- Kenya Constitution - Articles 43 (1) C; 53 (1) (c); 21, 22 and 60:
  - Provides right to be free from hunger, access to food of acceptable quality, children rights to good nutrition and right to own or access land
- Food Policy (2012) & Food and Nutrition Security Bill (2014):
  - Focus on food access to the poor Provides for coordination b/n. national & County govt.
  - Propose - Food Security Authority (FSA) and committees
  - Bill not passed into law
- Prior to 2010, food policy was viewed as largely a rural issue
- Lack of consideration for urban food issues was identified as a critical gap in the MDGs (Battersby, 2016)

# Urban food policies in Kenya

Policies	Remarks
Draft National Urban and Peri-Urban Agri & Livestock Policy, 2011	Created U-turn on urban agriculture issues Not finalized and need revision to reflect new governance structure
Nairobi Urban Agriculture Production Regulation Act 2015	Legalizes agriculture in the City Dept. of Agriculture set up – focus production Advisory authority not set up Does not address complexities of land issues
Urban Areas and Cities Act No. 13 Of 2011	City integrated plan done – recognize agriculture; fragmented approach to planning
The Physical planning Act 2011	Land use classified as commercial or industrial; Change of user process is slow and complex
Public Health Act	Some aspects of livestock production still considered a nuisance or cause harmful pollution of water supplies

# Governance arrangements for urban food system

## Land use and production

Ministries of Agriculture, Lands, Planning, Health, Education; The National Land Commission; County Governments; Surveys of Kenya, Department of Remote Sensing and urban food producers

## Food marketing and Trade

Ministries ( Trade, industrialization) informal traders, supermarkets, multinational food firms

Food and Nutrition Security

## Food Distribution

County Government, Ministries and agencies (Transport, Trade; social protection), NGOs ;

## Food Consumption ( including food safety)

Ministries of Agriculture, Health; County Government Departments; KEBS, Pharmacy and Poisons Board, Public Health Standards Board, professional associations and regulatory boards ( e.g. Veterinary Board, Public Health Officers and Technicians Council, Food Manufacturers, private sector; business associations and civil society

## Strengths and weaknesses of urban food policies

Food System Objective	Strengths	Weaknesses
<b>Enhancing equitable access (physical and economic) for all citizens to healthy and affordable food</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agricultural Production now legal</li> <li>• Actions noted for home and community gardening especially for low income groups</li> </ul>	No explicit actions to regulate prices and control quality of basic staples, fruits and vegetables and on improving food distribution
<b>Secure adequate nutrition and public health for people at risk of malnutrition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek to identify marginalized groups and mainstream support mechanisms</li> <li>• Actions proposed to enhance production of food by the marginalized groups</li> </ul>	Allocation of land not yet implemented Advisory authority not yet formed
Promote food production in city region	National spatial plan now recognize agriculture as an urban land use Institutional arrangements for food production proposed and County Department operational	The Planning & Public Health Acts still constraining Implementation of key aspects NUALPRA yet to happen No measurable goals and indicators for success

# Conclusions & policy Implications

- Many good policies but scattered and therefore difficult for a city to implement
- Suggests need for a comprehensive food policy – involving multistakeholder consultations
- Food policy continue to be productionist and rural oriented; limited attention on food distribution and processing
- Complex governance structure; many actors with conflicting interests and minimal coordination
- Including: Ministries of Agriculture, Health, Treasury, Planning and Education; Government Regulatory agencies (NEMA, KEBS, PCB, KEPHIS, etc) County Government Departments; Food Security Agency, Food Security Committees, County food security committees, Courts of law, Private sector organisations
- Implementation of policies is weak or lacking
  - associated with complex governance framework
  - lack specific actions for implementation and indicators for succes
- Role of private sector, especially in distribution of food not prioritized
- Need for improved coordination and consideration of complex spatial and social relations among food system actors

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Kenya

