

GOOD FOOD FOR CITIES9 (GF4Cs) PROJECT: SUMMARY NOTE

Introduction

Under the financial support of *Belgium Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (DGD)* through RIKOLTO International SON, ADECOR and Kilimo Trust Rwanda are implementing a five years (2022-2026) project “**Good Food for Cities- GF4Cs**” in Rubavu district with potential upscaling to others cities. The project has three domains of interventions including sustainable food production, inclusive markets *and* enabling environment.

While Kilimo Trust Rwanda is responsible for implementing sustainable food production *and* inclusive markets components, ADECOR is responsible for the implementation of the “*enabling environment*” component that aims at having enabling policies, inclusive financial and normative environment at local and national levels through incentivized healthy, sustainable and nutritious diets.

Why good food for cities project

In Rwanda like in other eastern countries, cities have a strategic role to play in developing sustainable food systems and promoting healthy diets but current food systems are being challenged to provide permanent and reliable access to adequate, safe, local, diversified, fair, healthy and nutritious food for all.

The task of feeding cities faces multiple constraints posed by inter alia, unbalanced distribution and access, environmental degradation, resource scarcity and climate change, unsustainable production and consumption patterns, food loss and waste.

Hunger and malnutrition in its various forms exist within all cities, posing great burdens on individual health and wellbeing and thus generating major social and economic costs at household, community, municipality and national levels. Many households with weak purchasing power depend on the informal food sector for

their livelihoods and for access to cheap, unsafe and often less nutritious meals and snacks.

Despite the role of the informal food sector, it is often ignored, poorly regulated or subject to harassment.

Essential food system infrastructures, including markets, storage, refrigeration, processing, hygiene and sanitation, are largely inadequate for growing cities and changing food demand. Many of these infrastructures are vulnerable to floods, storm surges, zoonotic disease and other food safety shocks. Most require expansion, upgrading and modernization.

Aim of the project

The ambition of the programme is to catalyse collective action among local food system actors (local authorities, food retailers and distributors, producers, citizens, experts, financial institutions, citizens, and civil society organisations) for making urban food environments and food supply chains more conducive to healthy, sustainable and nutritious diets for all citizens as part of resilient and inclusive city region food systems.

Expected project outcome

The food production, distribution and consumption practices ensure that urban food environments and food supply chains in cities are more inclusive, resilient, and enabling healthy, sustainable & nutritious diets (HSN) for all citizens, especially women, youth and vulnerable groups.

Project components

Its three domains of interventions are:

- Healthy and nutritious food for cities produced in an efficient and sustainable way (*sustainable food production*);
- Urban food markets are inclusive of smallholder producers, vulnerable citizens, the youth and women (*inclusive markets*) and

- An enabling policy, financial and normative environment at local, national and international level incentivises healthy, sustainable and nutritious diets (*enabling environment*).

Role of ADECOR in the project

The interventions under the responsibilities of ADECOR include:

- Facilitating urban food governance processes to discuss the enabling environment for inclusive local food chains and food environment, sharing evidence from the interventions for the purpose of upscaling and creating new partnerships, also facilitating the participation of local actors in the discussion with national authorities;
- Advocating for the development of national guidance on HSN diets in cities. Under this intervention a number of policy briefs and position papers will be developed and shared in national dialogues, forums and networks, together with stakeholders in MSHPs;
- Encouraging peer-to-peer learning across cities, and facilitating knowledge sharing with international organisations, donors and networks to put inclusive business for healthy, sustainable, and nutritious diets on the international agenda for sustainable food systems and leverage additional resources.
- Documenting and sharing experience nationally and internationally. The intervention in this result area will foster partnerships, leverage resources, and contribute to strong global partnerships for sustainable development.

Approach and methodology used

The multistakeholders partnership approach is applied knowing that the public and the private sectors, civil society and community-based organizations have major roles to play in feeding cities, bringing experience, innovation and campaigns for more sustainable food systems and mainstreaming the critical need for a socially inclusive and a rights-based approach in urban food policy.

After the identification of key stakeholders, we work across sectors and levels by focusing on building interconnections between actors, and fostering collective action mechanisms through participatory food governance structures.

A multi-stakeholder food governance platform in Rubavu city was put in place to discuss an enabling environment for inclusive local food chains and food environments.

Evidences from regenerative agriculture and resilient production practices, financial institution engagement, generation Food and circular food models are shared and discussed in multi-stakeholders partnership meetings.

Public-private partnerships and the participation of key multi-stakeholders platform actors in dialogues with national and local authorities are facilitated. In facilitating multi-stakeholder discussion platforms, we ensure the participation of smallholder farmers and other marginalized groups whose participation could be affected for example due to a lack of resources.

Develop and promote Policy briefs and position papers to target decision-makers.

Regular monitoring and evaluation of the project's activities are conducted to have the feedback on the progress of activities, to identify the problems in the implementation and to take corrective action.