

Country	Kenya						
Population	567,963						
Title of practice	Enhance stakeholder participation						
Subtitle	Development and Utilization of Policies, strategies and multi stakeholder platforms as Enablers of Stakeholder Participation.						
MUFPP Recommended Action	2. Enhance stakeholder participation at the city level through political dialogue, and if appropriate, appointment of a food policy advisor and/or development of a multi-stakeholder platform or food council, as well as through education and awareness raising. – GOVERNANCE						
Starting year	2019	Ending year (if any)				<input type="checkbox"/> already submitted in the past	
Actors and stakeholders' involvement	Municipal departments	Other public institutions	NGOs CSOs	Research centres	Private sectors	International organizations	Other
	9	13	11	8	7	7	4
Budget	<p>The total budget is approximated at € 276,600 over five years. The contribution is as follows among stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Government allocation: € 205,000; • Food and Agriculture Organization: € 20,000; • Practical Action (NGO): € 13,000; • Healthy Food Africa: € 5,200; • Local Community 						
Brief description	<p>Kisumu's food system involves stakeholders like; farmers, traders, processors, retailers, policymakers, researchers, and consumers, all contributing to food production, distribution, and consumption. However, weak coordination and fragmented efforts hinder food security, economic growth, and sustainability. Limited market access, poor storage, and financial constraints lead to food waste and unstable food availability, especially for low-income households. Despite existing policies, gaps in implementation and collaboration hinder system efficiency.</p> <p>To address these challenges, Kisumu formed the Food Liaison Advisory Council of Kisumu (FLACK), a platform for collaboration, transparency, and inclusive participation. FLACK's activities include community consultations, ensuring accountability and transparency in all decision-making processes, capacity building, partnerships with local organizations, and digital platforms for real-time feedback and information sharing.</p> <p>It ensures that marginalized groups, particularly women and youth, are represented in governance and decision-making. The municipality supports policy, infrastructure, partnerships, and community engagement. FLACK aims to enhance citizen participation, transparency, and local knowledge integration in urban planning. Beneficiaries include farmers, traders, processors, policymakers, NGOs, and consumers.</p> <p>Key lessons: trust, continuous engagement and diversity, strengthen policies, networks, and inclusive governance.</p>						

<p>Innovation</p>	<p>Kisumu County's Food Liaison Advisory Council presents a unique and innovative governance structure in Kenya and the East African region. It stands out as one of the first formalized platforms dedicated to coordinating food systems actors within an urban setting. Unlike many counties where food governance is fragmented across multiple departments, FLACK brings together diverse stakeholders involved in the food system including farmers, traders, civil society organizations, youth, women, researchers, and the private sector. This inclusive approach ensures that food-related decisions reflect the needs and experiences of all actors.</p> <p>FLACK is unique as it provides evidence-based advice to Kisumu's food system policies and programs. It serves as a data-driven platform, generating and utilizing local food system data to inform policy-making, planning, and implementation. This is a significant innovation in a context where many urban food policies in Kenya are not grounded in local evidence.</p> <p>FLACK promotes policy coherence by harmonizing efforts across different county departments. It acts as a bridge between research, practice, and policy, facilitating learning, sharing of innovations, and addressing cross-cutting food system challenges. It is creating a model for other cities and counties to follow. Its structured, participatory, and integrated governance approach has already attracted national and regional interest as a scalable best practice in urban food systems management.</p>
<p>Impact</p>	<p>The Food Liaison Advisory Council (FLACK) of Kisumu has created significant social, environmental, and economic impacts within the city's food system.</p> <p>Socially, FLACK has enhanced inclusivity by bringing together diverse food system actors including women, youth, smallholder farmers, traders, and vulnerable urban populations into food governance processes. FLACK constitution states that membership rights shall consider gender parity, marginalized and vulnerable groups; right to participate in activities and receive information regarding the council. This has improved participation, strengthened community ownership of food initiatives, and promoted nutrition education, leading to healthier dietary practices and improved food safety.</p> <p>Environmentally, FLACK has promoted sustainable food practices such as urban agriculture, organic farming, waste-to-compost programs, and climate-smart farming techniques. These efforts have contributed to reduced food waste, improved soil health, and better environmental conservation within urban and peri-urban areas.</p> <p>FLACK has enhanced the local food system by enabling small-scale farmers and vendors to access microgrants, cooperative financing, and subsidized inputs. This support has led to a 15% average income increase and a 10% reduction in post-harvest losses over two years. By boosting local production and market access, the initiative has reduced reliance on food imports, improved urban food security, and created jobs across the value chain.</p>
<p>Inclusion</p>	<p>Kisumu County's Food Liaison Advisory Council of Kisumu (FLACK) embraces a holistic and inclusive approach in its food governance, ensuring active participation of diverse actors across the entire food system. FLACK brings together stakeholders from county departments alongside smallholder farmers, traders, civil society, youth and women, and academia.</p> <p>This broad stakeholder engagement ensures that multiple dimensions of the food system are addressed, in line with the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) categories, including governance, sustainable diets, social and economic equity, food production, food waste, and food environment. FLACK's approach promotes multilevel governance by integrating both community-level voices and county leadership in decision-making processes.</p> <p>It ensures territorial inclusion by covering urban, peri-urban, and rural food actors within Kisumu and its surrounding areas. This structure enables the representation of vulnerable groups from informal settlements and grassroots communities, making food policy more responsive to local needs. FLACK serves as a collaborative platform facilitating coordination across different sectors and stakeholders, promoting policy coherence and resource efficiency.</p> <p>This inclusive and participatory model enhances transparency, builds trust, and ensures shared responsibility in addressing food system challenges while fostering a resilient, sustainable, and equitable urban food system.</p>