

The Lusaka Food Security Initiative 2020



The Lusaka
Food Policy Council

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Acronyms

COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease
CUTS	Consumer Unity & Trust Society
LCC	Lusaka City Council
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
LFPC	Lusaka Food Policy Council
NFNC	National Food and Nutrition Commission
NCDs	Non-Communicable Diseases
WFP	World Food Programme

Forward

The Lusaka City Council (LCC) is delighted to partner with the Consumer Unit and Trust Society (CUTS) to launch the first ever Food Security Initiative in Lusaka City. The Food Security Initiative is founded on the fact that food is an important concern of many growing cities everywhere in the world. As the population of Lusaka city continues to grow, the problems of food facing cities globally have become common in Lusaka. These problems include the rising demand for diverse types of foods that are needed not only in large quantities but also in good quality. However, Lusaka as a city faces several challenges which makes it difficult for the city to strike this balance.

The launch of the food security initiative will immediately lead to the set-up of the Lusaka Food Policy Council (LFPC), a multi-stakeholder initiative that will work closely with the LCC to promote the strengthening of the Lusaka city food system. The mission of the LFPC is to have a community where all residents have access to adequate, affordable, safe, nutritious, and culturally acceptable food. A community where there are a sustainable food system whereby local, nutritious foods are available, affordable and promoted, local agricultural lands and farmers are protected and supported, urban agriculture is encouraged, and food is produced and distributed in an environmentally acceptable way.

The LFPC will also promote innovative food policy approaches that ensure equitable food access by residents regardless of their socio-economic status. The LFPC will also seek to contribute to making food markets in Lusaka accessible as well as ensure fair food pricing mechanisms. Working closely with the LCC and other community members, the LFPC will also seek to enhance the capacity of community groups and households to get involved in food production such as growing of vegetables in their backyards for those who have space as one way of supplementing their diets and improving food security.

The LFPC will work within the existing legal framework and food policies to support the efforts of the Lusaka City Council in its efforts to ensure Lusaka city residents have access to diverse, health and sustainable foods through policy advocacy, community outreach, research and knowledge dissemination and food production promotion. This is important in ensuring a healthy and productive population that works effectively towards the attainment of the aspiration of Zambia's Seventh National Development Plan.



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We also recognise the invaluable contribution from the Lusaka food system stakeholders who played an important role in consolidating the food security initiative document and setting up the LFPC. These are: Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR); National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC); University of Zambia ; Food and Drugs; Ministry of Health (MoH); Zambia Alliance of Women (ZAW); Hakuna Matata Farms; Southern Africa Cross Boarder Traders Association (SACBTA); World Food Program (WFP); National Resource Development Centre NRDC; Care International; Soweto Traders; Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS); Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) and the Lusaka City Council (LCC)

1. Introduction

This food security initiative is intended to provide a general framework for the improvement of the food system in the city of Lusaka. The initiative is based on the realisation that as the city of Lusaka grows, the needs of food by the inhabitants are also growing and even faster raising concerns of sustainability now and soon. The growing population also means that more diversity in food consumption is going to be expected, and therefore the city needs to respond in a more systematic manner. This document will therefore provide an overview of the food system in Lusaka, some of key concerns, the Terms of Reference for the Lusaka Food Policy Council which will implement the initiative and the initial operational plan to guide activities.

2. Background

Lusaka is one of the fastest growing cities in Africa. Since 1990, the population of Lusaka has almost tripled, from just under a million to approximately 2.7 million in 2020, overtaking that of Copperbelt province which was the most populous at the time (Zambia Statistics Agency, 2011). The growth of Lusaka population is largely a result of not only rural-urban migration but also urban-urban migration especially following the fading of economic fortunes of the Copperbelt since the early 1990s. For three consecutive censuses of 1990, 2000 and 2010, Lusaka has been posting positive net urban-urban migration, estimated at around 28%, 21% and 26% respectively (International Organization for Migration, 2019). At the same time, other provinces including the Copperbelt have been experiencing negative net migration.

The above trends have resulted into a bulging of Lusaka population. Nonetheless, the bulge in population has not been accompanied by a corresponding increase in social amenities such as water and sanitation, housing, health and educational facilities and public markets both in terms of quality and quantity. Not only that, like the rest of urban areas in Zambia, job opportunities have also not grown at the same pace as the population leading to high levels of unemployment. This has resulted in the proliferation of informal settlements and economic activities. It is estimated that nearly 80% of Lusaka's population live in high density informal settlements that lack decent living conditions (Consumer Unit & Trust Society, 2017).

Many households in the city region are low-income and are found in informal settlements: As indicated earlier, about 79% of residents in Lusaka live in low income, high density areas. These households are the most adversely affected by food and nutritional insecurity. Further, seasonal variations in food supply and unstable pricing negatively impacts the food and nutritional security of low-income households. The major reason for food and nutritional insecurity for all socio-economic classes is a lack of adequate and regular income. Social safety nets (which include social cash transfer and agriculture input support programmes) all seek to enhance food security but seem poorly administered and are inadequate to curb high nutritional economic insecurity. Additionally, most interventions for the poor that can help curb food insecurities including school feeding programmes tend to target rural areas leaving the urban poor to face food insecurities. This

means that most Lusaka residents are struggling to access food even when it is available in the markets as a result of high poverty levels.

An important concern of growing cities everywhere in the world is food - which plays a unique role in sustaining human life, since everybody needs to eat. Food relates to a wide range of local and national policy areas: from land-use planning to infrastructure and transport, environmental conservation, housing and economic development which have all reached their critical stage more especially in Lusaka. Food can thus be said to be a vehicle to integrate the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainability and for addressing justice and health issues at different geographies and scales (Foodlinks, 2013).

3. Food System Policies In Zambia

Zambia does not have a specific policy that guides the operation of the food system. However, several policies exist that have direct impacts on the food system. This section is a review of existing policies, assessing how their impact on Zambia's food system.

3.1 The National Food and Nutrition Policy

The vision of the National Food and Nutrition Policy is to achieve optimum nutritional status of the Zambian population (National Food and Nutrition Commission, 2006). The policy objectives are as follows:

- To develop and implement policies and programmes that will ensure adequate nutrition, food security, food quality and safety at individual, household, community and national level.
- To promote and establish programmes aimed at providing quality nutrition care.
- To incorporate nutrition issues into developmental programmes.
- To monitor and evaluate all nutrition interventions.
- The policy is very comprehensive and touches on several salient concerns that are also critical for a functional food system as outline below:

i. Household Food Security: The policy acknowledges that both rural and urban households in Zambia are vulnerable to food insecurity. This is a result of insufficient food production capacity, lack of income diversification and unfavourable climatic conditions. These issues negatively impact the functioning of Zambia's food system.

ii. Food Production: The policy also notes that the production of legumes, fruits and vegetables has also been very low to meet national demands. These food deficits imply that Zambia has had to import large quantities of food meet the demands of citizens. This is an indication that Zambia as a nation is not food self-sufficiency and has to rely on other countries to feed its people. This fact raises the need for a food policy council that can help advocate for food self-sufficiency.

iii. Food Consumption: The policy observes that food

consumption patterns in Zambia are poor. Generally, there is a low frequency of food consumption of usually one to two meals per day, lack of variety in the diet, (about 70% of the energy is from the staple maize) and consumption of low nutrient dense foods. The low consumption of food is influenced most by low food availability and accessibility. This situation means that there is more that needs to be done in order to improve food consumption patterns at national level.

iv. Food Purchases: The policy notes that incomes for most Zambians have declined over the last two decades due to inflation while prices of essential goods and services including food have risen and continue to do so. Rising unemployment in the country also means that people do not have access to regular earnings. This has affected people's ability to procure food. For urban dwellers who must buy most of their food, urban food security depends mostly on whether the household can afford to buy food, given the high prices and low incomes. This concern implies that there is need to investigate food pricing in order to ensure citizens in rural and urban areas can have access to affordable food.

v. Food Trading: The policy raises concerns on the unprecedented increase in informally traded foods due to rising poverty levels and diminishing economic opportunities. This has led to encroachment on the roadsides and pavements, Hygiene and sanitation problems, Possible contribution to the deterioration of law and order (Aggressive entrepreneurs are often no exception) and sold food items tend to have a high and empty energy content due to excessive sugar or frying. The above concerns raised in the National Food and Nutrition Policy imply that Zambia does not have a reliable food system that can sustain its population now and in years to come. The concerns raised lay a good foundation for policy makers and other stakeholders to come together and find lasting solutions to make the country self-sufficient in staple and other key foods.

3.2 National Agriculture Policy

The overall objective of the Agriculture Policy is to facilitate and support the development of a sustainable and competitive agricultural sector that assures food security at national and household levels and maximizes the sector's contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (Ministry of Agriculture, 2011). The policy has the following specific priority objectives:

- To ensure national and household food security through an all-year round production and post-harvest management of adequate supplies of basic foodstuffs at competitive costs.
- To contribute to sustainable industrial development by providing locally produced agro-based raw materials.
- To increase agricultural exports thereby enhancing the sector's contribution to the national Balance of Payments.
- To generate income and employment through increased agriculture production and productivity and
- To ensure that the existing agricultural resource base is maintained and improved upon.

The National Agriculture Policy acknowledges the need to achieve food security whereby all Zambians have access to enough of the right food for an active and healthy life on a sustainable basis. The policy further suggests that achieving

food security means that: there is dependable and efficient annual production of adequate supplies of cereals, legumes, roots and tubers, tree and plantation crops, horticultural crops, fisheries and animal products is maintained and sustained; ensuring that storage, building long-term strategic food reserves or offseason production and processing of food crops, bridges the hunger periods in rural areas; that markets and marketing incentives exist to channel food commodities from surplus to deficit areas and that farmers have a steady and reasonable income from their production.

The concerns raised in the agriculture policy are like those in the Food and Nutritional Policy and all point to the same problem of lack of food security, low production and market concerns. This is indeed a cause for concern as it threatens Zambia's strides to maintain a healthy and productive population that is key in growing the economy and realising its national development goals. Both policies also point to clear interventions that are required to address the bottlenecks in the food systems of the country. However, many of the problems continue to persist and as the Zambian population grows, it becomes continually difficult to ensure food security for everyone. This can result in chronic hunger for the whole nation and can result in mortality.

3.3 The National Strategy on Vitamin A and Anaemia

The development of this national strategy is based on the realisation that Zambia has severe and widespread Vitamin A deficiency. Vitamin A deficiency is a nutritional disease that can be easily addressed by consuming foods rich in Vitamin A. According to the strategy this problem is partly linked to food production. The strategy therefore recommends an improvement in the availability of carotene-rich foods at the family level. This can be done through improving the availability of small livestock (especially egg-producing chickens) at the household level. Improve the consumption, particularly by pregnant and lactating women and preschool children, of carotene- and retinol-rich foods produced by the family. Nonetheless, although this is known, little is being done to promote production of these foods at the family level. There is need for coordination among various stakeholders to address this problem alongside others raised in the National Food and Nutrition Policy and the Agriculture Policy.

3.4 The Food Safety Act

In 2019, the National Assembly of Zambia enacted the Food Safety Act, No. 7 of 2019 whose objective is to provide for the protection of the public against health hazards and fraud in the manufacture, sale and use of food; provide for a streamlined process for regulatory clearances for regulatory health requirements for food premises; establish the Food Safety Coordinating Committee and provide for its functions and powers; provide for health inspection reports and report notices; establish the National Food Laboratory; repeal the Food and Drugs Act, 1972 and sections 79 and 83 of the Public Health Act, 1930. The Act further establishes the Food Safety Coordinating Committee which is responsible for the following:

- Coordinate activities and responses relating to food safety among enforcement agencies in order to have a unified scientific basis in the food control system;

- Coordinate the regulation of importation, exportation, production, manufacturing, labelling, storage, promotion, transportation, advertisement, packing, packaging, sale, distribution and disposal of articles and materials or substances used in the manufacture of an article;
- Facilitate consumer protection in relation to food safety in collaboration with the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission;
- Facilitate information sharing among enforcement agencies on matters relating to food safety;
- Coordinate the implementation of food safety policies, procedures and guidelines;
- Advise the Minister on policy matters related to food safety; and
- Liaise with other agencies in matters relating to food safety

4. Emerging Food Policy Concerns: Covid-19 And Cholera Outbreaks

Although food plays an important role in society, Lusaka and other big cities in Zambia have taken it for granted that every day, enough food will arrive at restaurants, cafés, shops, supermarkets, local markets and schools to meet the health and diverse cultural needs of its inhabitants. As the World faces a the COVID-19 threat which has disrupted not only the operations of health systems but also the socio-economic fabric of nations, Lusaka city has not been spared and it has been exposed in several ways. In terms of the food system of Zambia's biggest city, COVID-19 has been able to real interesting things as follows:

- As a country that heavily depends on imported goods including food, the restrictions of international trade and reduced flow of goods can have a negative impact on the availability of imported food that people have adopted as part of their usual diets. This can lead to hunger in some cases and welfare reduction even for those who may have the financial means to obtain such foods. Being one of Zambia's largest urban centres and the capital city, Lusaka's population is more diverse and will therefore demand various kinds of foods. Lusaka thus remains one of the cities where imported foods are consumed regularly and could suffer proportionately more from an interruption in international trade.
- A city like Lusaka, which relies on surrounding areas to feed its residents, as will be shown, can face food shortages which can spike food prices due to movement restrictions from areas that supply the city with food. However, the current arrangement provides an opportunity for many small-scale farmers access to a market. The main challenge is that the aggregation, supply chain (including cold chain) is not well developed, particularly for fresh vegetables and fruits. This means that even a day's disruption in the current system can lead to food shortages at the household level resulting in hunger and starvation even for those who may have the financial means to access the foods. For the poor, this could mean a rise in food prices to a level they would not be able to afford.
- Markets in conditions that do not meet public health

standards have the potential to become outbreak centres for diseases. To prevent the spread of diseases and save lives restrictions can be imposed on such markets which can culminate into food further shortages at the household level and may lead to hunger.

- Restrictions to local and neighbourhood food markets that are usually accessed by majority of low income households in Lusaka (over 60%) (Consumer Unit & Trust Society, 2017) as a result of COVID-19 can force poor households to buy their foods from modern supermarkets that are likely to remain open due to their high hygienic standards. However, this would force the poor to obtain foods at higher prices as supermarkets tend to have higher prices in comparison to ordinary markets. This can lead to reduced welfare at the household level and possible hunger.

Another emerging concern that continues to have important implications on the Lusaka city food system is the Cholera disease. Nearly every year, Lusaka city experiences Cholera disease outbreaks which to a large extent has to do with food hygiene. A functional food system is therefore required to ensure that food is prepared and sold in conducive environments without risking the outbreak of diseases like Cholera.

5. Key Issues in Lusaka's Food System

This section is based on the report by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) published in 2019 which assessed the Lusaka City region food system (FAO, 2019). The report provides a comprehensive assessment of the city of Lusaka's food system from production all the way to disposal and forms an important basis for the work of the LFPC. The report raised several issues regarding the food system in Lusaka city which include:

5.1 Lusaka City Doesn't Grow Its Own Food

Lusaka city region does not have what could be considered a resilient, dynamic, inclusive and sustainable food system, and the region falls short on the ability to feed itself. The levels of food production in Lusaka are insufficient to meet the burgeoning food demand every day, especially for fresh horticultural, meat and aquaculture products. Lusaka does not also produce staples such as maize to produce mealie meal which is consumed by nearly 70% of the city population each day. To feed the city region, supplemental food supplies (imports) from outside the city region are inevitable. This also means that the residents of Lusaka will continue to rely on other towns for their survival. Therefore, in case of a disruption in the links between Lusaka and surrounding towns, as has been the case during the COVID-19 disease outbreak, the city will run the risk of high food insecurity levels.

A key factor in the lack of enough food production in Lusaka is absence of an adequate support system for those involved in production. For instance, women remain one of the largest groups that participate in food production in Lusaka city, yet remain without support to make their contribution sustainable. Several challenges remain that make it impossible for this

group and many others to continue producing food that would sustain the city of Lusaka. Some of the other challenges include lack of access to affordable farm inputs; lack of land for farming; lack of quality road infrastructure between farms and markets and; lack of agriculture extension services among others. Additionally, changes in climatic conditions are increasingly making it difficult for food growing especially the drought spells experienced in recent years. While it is expected that Lusaka's surrounding districts, such as Chongwe, Chisamba and Mumbwa can produce and deliver, there is room to promote home gardens within the city especially where space is available.

5.2 Lusaka Food is Mostly Traded in Informal Markets

Lusaka's informal, street and neighbourhood markets have a defining role in food distribution and access in the city region. A study by CUTS Lusaka conducted in 2017 showed that more than 60% of households in low income residential areas that host 79% of Lusaka population rely on these markets for their daily food needs. Both large and small-scale farmers sell their produce at these markets. Nonetheless the conditions of these markets have been less than desirable. It has been observed that during the current COVID-19 pandemic, these areas are among some of the riskiest areas with regards disease spread. This situation shows that food markets in Lusaka need to be upgraded in order to meet minimum health standards as food sources for a large city such as Lusaka. Street vending in general remains a serious challenge in Lusaka city. However, in recent years, street vendors have now gone into the selling of food. This raises important safety concerns about the food they sell and their own safety as they run from one car to another in the busiest streets of the city. Although there have been efforts by the Lusaka City Council to control street vending in general, there is nothing that has been done about addressing the rise in food sold on the streets. From another perspective, it can also be true that street vending increases access to nutritious foods as most foods sold on the streets are better packaged than the ones you find in informal markets in order to attract customers quickly. In this regard there is need to come up with a well-thought mechanism of ensuring street vending is well coordinated by especially emphasising safety of vendors and the food they sell.

5.3 Lusaka is facing an Emergence of Modern Supermarkets

Although most markets in Zambia are informal, Lusaka has, in recent years been experiencing centrifugation at very fast rates leading to a proliferation of supermarkets that in some cases tend to replace local markets. Unfortunately, the desire to build modern supermarkets and malls has in some cases happened at the expense of local township markets which have tended to be replaced. The implication of this is that residents are deprived of the much-needed access to local markets that sell relatively affordable and more nutritious foods. These local markets are replaced by supermarkets that are relatively expensive and may not stock all the varieties of local foods with the same nutritional value. With this background it would be good to have larger markets like Soweto at different in-lead roads of Lusaka that can help farmers, retailers, and consumers access nutritious and local foods much easier. The supermarkets that are replacing local markets also tends to

stock imported foods especially fresh fruits and vegetables, as the aggregation and supply chain system for these crops are not well developed.

5.4 Lusaka Lacks Market Accessibility and Infrastructure

Most markets, especially informal markets in Lusaka lack the appropriate infrastructure that meet the minimum health standards required to sell certain foods. This is because the City Council has not provided clear procedures to be followed in these markets to ensure that food being sold meet certain required health standards. For instance, the slaughter and sell of livestock in some markets in the city is done in open places without any form of quality checks and controls to ensure minimum health safety standards are adhered to. This poses a huge risk to the consumers and the population in general as it is unclear whether the livestock is certified fit for human consumption or not. Food traders in Lusaka also face storage challenges which remain poor and undeveloped. For example, only three cold-room facilities are functional for the entire Soweto market. This means that food goes to waste with traders losing out. There is therefore needed to ensure that storage facilities are provided for not only in large markets such as Soweto but also in in-let markets in residential areas. Lusaka city also lacks enough food processing infrastructure leading to the absence of value addition to foods produced within and in areas surrounding the city. This does not only deprive the city population of diverse foods but also reduces the contribution to employment creation that can come from food processing activities. As a result, the city continues to rely on imported processed foods building on consumers' preference for imported over local foods.

Lusaka also faces a problem of market accessibility as the major markets are not easily accessible which contributes to limited access to foods that are sold in these places. Lusaka city is served by one major market, Soweto market and smaller ones situated in various townships. However, Soweto is largely inaccessible, and the situation becomes worse in the rainy seasons as access roads become impassable. If Soweto cannot be easily accessible residents rely on smaller markets located in townships and residential areas. One of the obvious reasons for the lack of markets that are easily accessible is that most of them usually emerge without deliberate planning by the City authorities. Several markets in Lusaka start off with few informal makeshift stalls that are expanded to become permanent structures drawing larger populations without initial planning. Because of this, many of them are lacking the basic services and infrastructure that one would expect to be find in any market that is providing a service to the population. There is need therefore to establish properly constructed markets that are well planned across the City.

5.5 Lusaka Has Inadequate Policies that Promote Healthy Foods

Lusaka city lacks policies that promote consumption of healthy foods. The city remains open to infiltration of unhealthy foods as no deliberate policies exist to police the type of foods that supermarkets, corner shops and tuckshops in places like schools and workplaces stock and sell. There are also no deliberate incentives such as tax exemptions that would encourage shop owners and food vendors to stock and sell

healthy, especially unprocessed foods. The current situation where highly processed foods are sold everywhere freely and unchecked exposes the city population to various forms of lifestyle Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) such as obesity. As a matter of fact, obesity and other NCDs have been on the rise in Zambia with food consumption being one of the likely contributors. There is needed therefore to strengthen the City Council's Monitoring and Evaluation processes to ensure all policies and regulations are followed by all participants in the food system.

5.6 Lusaka Lacks Food Waste Disposal System

Markets do not only lack storage facilities but also advanced methods of waste disposal. Poor storage facilities and limited access to information on crops, food handling and storage drive an increasing proportion of food waste and food losses in the Lusaka City Region. The components of food waste in the region include leftover food and spoiled agricultural products. The waste disposal methods consist of open dumping, land fill, feeding the crop residues to livestock, and use as manure in fields. There is little use of technology and advanced methods of farm waste management and waste re-use as a mechanism to deal with the challenge and reduce the amount of waste being burnt, and or buried.

5.7 Lack of A Clear Food Pricing Mechanism and Measurements

Lusaka city has seen increases in food prices, not only during the COVID-19 pandemic but also before and highly likely after. Food inflation has been a rising concern in Zambia and especially in big cities like Lusaka. This is true not only during the COVID-19 pandemic but even before. The pricing of foods imply that low income households may not be able to access nutritious food and may need support. However, none exist now. This therefore raises important question as to what may be the best food pricing model that affords even the poorest of households in cities to have access to enough and nutritious food.

Most markets in Lusaka also lack standardised and uniform units of measurements for certain foods. In this regard, it is difficult not only for consumers but also for traders to know and determine the exact quantities of certain foods to be sold and at what price. In many cases, the standard of measurement that are adopted such as 'medas' do not have uniform sizes and therefore make it difficult for one to ensure accurate value. This concern, along with food pricing mechanisms needs to be standardised in order to strike a good balance between consumer welfare and good returns for food traders and providers.

6. The Lusaka Food Policy Council

6.1 Introduction

This section presents the terms of reference of the Lusaka Food Policy Council (LFPC) which is established to spearhead the food policy initiative. The role of the LFPC is to implement the food policy initiative in order to have a functional food system

in Lusaka that ensures accessibility to affordable, healthy and reliable food for consumers.

6.2 Vision

The vision of LFPC

is to have a community where all residents have access to adequate, affordable, safe, nutritious, and culturally acceptable food. A community with a sustainable food system where local, nutritious foods are available, affordable and promoted; local agricultural lands and farmers are protected and supported; urban agriculture is encouraged and; food is produced and distributed in an environmentally acceptable way.

6.3 Mission

To encourage and facilitate dialogue and collaboration among food related organizations, agencies, services, food producers and distributors, consumers, business and government to develop strategies for the promotion and facilitation of a functional sustainable food system for the city of Lusaka.

6.4 Goal

To increase awareness on issues that affect the food systems and opportunities to make nutritious food more affordable and available in Lusaka

6.5 Aims and Objectives

- i. To promote innovative food policy approaches that ensure equitable food access by residents regardless of their socio-economic background through advocacy for accessible markets, functional urban agriculture, fair food pricing and consumption of nutritious foods.
- ii. To advocate for food security in the city by encouraging cooperation among the many government ministries and departments and sectors that have an impact on food security.
- iii. To support innovative projects and policies that improve food and nutrition security by encouraging urban agriculture, city region food self-reliance and improved access to food markets.
- iv. To work with the Lusaka City Council and other community members to enhance the capacity of community groups and agencies to advocate for improvements to government food security programs and provide direct services that address the food security needs of people.
- v. To partner with educators to promote inter-disciplinary research and teaching in subjects related to community food security.
- vi. To identify municipal mechanisms best suited to advance community food security.
- vii. To initiate research, publications, educational events and partnerships that foster dialogue and advocacy on ideas, policies and programs that promote sustainable food systems in Lusaka city.

6.6 Activities

i. Advocacy: advocate for a functional food system in Lusaka around key areas of concern including market access, availability of nutritious foods, food vending, pricing, storage and food waste management.

ii. Networking and education: build new partnerships and enhance networking between existing food system stakeholders in Lusaka.

iii. Coordinating: identify and prioritize food system needs in Lusaka and support creation and implementation of initiatives.

iv. Evaluating: establish benchmarks and targets for achievement of mission/goals to improve overall food system.

v. Funding: lever community resources to support implementation of goals and objectives.

vi. Policy: identify policy changes which support goals and advocate for their implementation to improve the food system.

6.7 Values

Members of the LFPC are committed to the following values:

i. Safety: People have a right to access and eat food that is safe and does not put them at the risk of diseases after consumption.

ii. Right to Know: People have a right to know what's in their food and where and how it was produced.

iii. Access: All people should have physical and economic access to diverse, healthy, local food.

iv. Economic Viability: Local food businesses should be valued, supported and vibrant.

v. Sustainability: All sectors of society share in the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environmentally sustainable local food system.

6.8 Resources/Staffing

Coordinating support will be provided by the LCC and the Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS). The LCC and CUTS will appoint staff personnel with knowledge of community food systems and food security to provide support and coordination to the LFPC. The staff personnel will provide technical and advisory support to the Council to assist in achieving results for its chosen priorities. Such support may include providing background information, resources, advice and support for implementation of priorities.

6.9 Membership:

The secretariat will be at the LCC and supported by CUTS for the first two terms. Members will be drawn from different institutions and individuals involved in the Lusaka city food system including individuals from farming and rural communities. It will also have a stated number of citizens

representing diverse food sectors such as restaurants, marketers and food distributors.

6.10 Leadership of the Council

Council members shall elect among themselves an executive or administration that shall be headed by a chairperson and supported by a vice chairperson. Leaders of the council shall be elected by a nomination and voting process to be held during a regular LFPC meeting. The term for a chairperson and vice chairperson will be two years to ensure consistency and stability in leadership. The maximum that any individual may serve on the LFPC consecutively is two terms.

6.11 Deliverables

Through the secretariat and under the guidance of the Chairperson, the LFPC is expected to produce a work plan and annual report each year, for submission to and approval by the LCC.

6.12 Meetings

LFPC shall meet a minimum of four times per year, at dates and times to be agreed upon by Council members. The quorum for conducting business at a meeting will be 12 members. At least half of all members must vote (mail or email) before any motion dealing with public advocacy can be acted on. At least one meeting per year shall be open to the public. Minutes of all meetings shall, upon Council approval, be available to the public.

6.13 Communications and Public Engagement

The LFPC will be accountable to the LCC and the citizens of Lusaka and as a result is committed to effective communications and public engagement. As a part of this commitment, the LFPC will:

1. Provide opportunities to hear from the public and groups
2. Publish formal meeting minutes for each quarterly meeting
3. Make use of online and social media tools to directly interact with the public
4. Seek the input of those individuals, groups or organizations that have special expertise and experience, when deemed necessary.

All official correspondence from the LFPC shall be communicated by the chair, vice chair or secretariat who will act as the official voice of the LFPC. All other members of the LFPC shall accept requests for public engagement and from media if prior notification in writing is made to the chairperson.

6.14 Sub-committees and Workgroups

The LFPC may form ad hoc sub-committees or workgroups to undertake tasks that require in-depth work on behalf of the Council. Each sub-committee and workgroup will be headed by one person who will be responsible for bringing forward issues and requests from the sub-committee or workgroup and will provide regular updates to the LFPC.

7. Operational Plan

7.1 Introduction

The vision of the Lusaka Food Policy Council (LFPC) is to have a community where all residents have access to adequate, affordable, safe, nutritious, and culturally acceptable food. A community with a sustainable food system where local, nutritious foods are available, affordable and promoted; local agricultural lands and farmers are protected and supported; urban agriculture is encouraged and; food is produced and distributed in an environmentally acceptable way. In order to realise this vision, the LFPC will implement various activities such as policy advocacy, knowledge generation and dissemination and community outreach. This operational plan is the first to outline the initial activities the Council will undertake.

7.2 Objectives of the Operational Plan

The main objective of this operational plan is to provide guidance on the initial activities of the LFPC. The actions of the operational plan are divided into immediate, short, medium and long term. This sequencing is necessary to ensure gradual progression as the institution is being established for the first time.

7.3 Stage of the Operational Plan

- **Immediate:** In the immediate term, the activities include setting up the leadership of the Council who will guide operations. Once this is done, the Council leadership will assume office and one of their first activities will be fundraising to ensure the Council has some resources to start implementing activities.
- **Short Term (Outreach):** as indicated earlier the LFPC will be the first of its kind in Zambia and in Lusaka. Therefore, there will be outreach programs, first to alert the public on the work of the Council but also for the Council to disseminate information. The Council will also use its outreach programs to deliver lectures and lessons on some important aspects of the food system such as home gardening, finding and eating healthy foods, food and nutrition etc.
- **Medium Term (Research and knowledge generation):** under research, the main aim is to generate as much information as possible which will form the basis for future actions of the LFPC. This activity will involve baseline surveys and mapping activities of various issues regarding Lusaka's food system. The outputs from research activities will be various pieces of assessments on several important issues.
- **Long Term (Policy advocacy):** in the long term, the LFPC will have a very big interest in policies that govern Lusaka's food system. Therefore, some activities in the initial stages will be scoping exercises of the existing laws and regulations and whether these are enforced. The Council will advocate for enforcement of existing laws as well as introduction of non-existent ones.

7.4 Operational Plan for the Lusaka Food Policy Council

Program	Objective	Activities	Outputs
i. Immediate			
Lusaka Food Policy Council Executive	To put in place leadership for the Council	Elect the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson of the Council	Elections held
Resource Mobilization	To mobilize financial resources to carry out the activities of the Council	Identify potential funders per program Development of concept notes for funding Hold meetings with prospective funders to discuss funding possibilities	Potential funders are identified Project proposals are developed and presented to potential funders
ii. Short Term			
Community Outreach	To reach out to communities on the establishment of the Lusaka Food Policy Council and its vision, goals and objectives	Developing and launching a website, as well as social media accounts of the Council Developing and printing materials such as brochures summarizing the work of the Council Running radio and TV programs to publicize the work of the Council	Website developed and launched Brochures developed and distributed TV and radio programs
	To carry out community sensitizations on food and nutrition matters in order to improve nutrition at the community level	Development of food and nutrition manuals for outreach	Deliver food and nutrition outreach activities to students and communities Teach households how to prepare healthy foods at home
	To carry out community sensitizations on the concept of 'Healthy Cities' vis-à-vis food production, consumption and disposal.	Development of advocacy materials for clean cities (focusing on food hygiene)	Local leadership engagement (councillors, MPs) on clean cities concept. TV, Radio, print media advocacy for clean cities and food hygiene promotion. Competition for market/food establishment cleanliness
	To carry out community sensitizations and training on urban gardening in order to help communities grow their own vegetables [food preservation mechanisms]	Development of manuals on urban gardening	Host community and town hall meetings to teach urban gardening Hold community-based demonstrations of urban gardening
iii. Medium Term			

Food Market Maps for City of Lusaka	To develop food market maps for the city of Lusaka that can be used as guide to consumers regarding where to find various food items in the city.	Undertake a survey of food markets in Lusaka Review existing food market maps within the Lusaka City Council	Report on the locations of food markets in Lusaka with GIS codes Report on the existence and nature of facilities and services provided in each market to ensure food safety Report on the levels of adherence to food safety standards by traders in markets Report on the sources of foods traded in markets
Food Laws and Regulations	To develop a comprehensive list of existing food laws and regulations, their relevance and applicability in a fast-developing city	Undertake a scoping exercise of existing food laws and regulations	Report on existing food laws and regulations guiding food trading Report on existing food laws and regulations guiding food labelling and packaging Report on existing food laws and regulations guiding food supply e.g. slaughter of animals for public consumption
Policy advocacy	To engage government ministries and departments to strengthen existing food laws and regulations guiding handling of food as well as develop new laws where non exist.	Identify ministries and government departments involved in the food system of the City Map existing food laws and regulations and responsible institutions for their enforcement Identify existing gaps in food laws and regulations	Government ministries and departments are engaged Media articles are written to raise concerns on various issues surrounding food laws and regulations Panel discussions are held involving government ministries on matters concerning the food system
iv. Long Term			
Food pricing mechanisms	To review the food pricing mechanisms in the city of Lusaka	Undertake a survey of the food value chains and factors determining food pricing in the city of Lusaka	Report on selected food value chains in Lusaka city Report on input costs at various stages of selected food value chains Report on determinants of food pricing in Lusaka city

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**Consumer Unity & Trust Society
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We're Here

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