



# OCTOBER 2025 FOOD DESK REPORT

Prepared For: CUTS and LCC Management

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## Executive Summary

The month of October 2025 marked a milestone for the Lusaka Food Desk as it transitioned from foundational setup to broad stakeholder engagement and international representation. Key highlights included the successful Food Desk Stakeholder Onboarding Meeting at Nakatindi, participation in the MUFPP Global Forum in Milan, and strong representation at youth-led and co-creation governance platforms. Collaborative opportunities with FAO and lessons from Smart Farming and CRFS projects deepened understanding of post-harvest losses, smart technology gaps, and climate vulnerability, shaping the Desk's next implementation phase.

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## INTRODUCTION

This report documents activities implemented by the Lusaka City Council Food Desk in October 2025. The initiatives undertaken reflect the Desk's mandate to strengthen urban food governance, promote innovation, and support the operationalization of the Lusaka Food Policy Council.

## 3. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

### 3.1 STAKEHOLDER ONBOARDING MEETING – NAKATINDI (9 OCTOBER 2025)

The Food Desk held its first stakeholder onboarding meeting at Nakatindi, drawing participation from government ministries, NGOs, and Lusaka City Council departments. The session provided an overview of the Food Desk's objectives and coordination role across the city's food value chain.

Hivos reaffirmed its commitment to supporting LCC's food systems work, and seven institutions pledged technical and financial support. see link

<https://web.facebook.com/share/p/1BaX4Sncnk/>



Figure 1: Stakeholders during the onboarding session at Nakatindi.

### 3.2 FAO STRATEGY MEETING

The Food Desk Coordinators met with FAO representatives Mr. Cornelius Zemba and his colleague to discuss collaboration in implementing Lusaka's Food Desk Action Plan. FAO expressed interest in providing technical assistance for components aligned with nutrition, governance, and urban resilience.

Figure 2: Food Desk team meeting with FAO representatives.

## 4. REGIONAL AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENTS

### 4.1 MILAN URBAN FOOD POLICY PACT FORUM / AFRIFOODLINKS SUMMIT (15–18 OCTOBER 2025)

Lusaka was represented by Bwalya Funga at the MUFPP Global Forum in Milan under the AfriFOODlinks initiative. Represented Lusaka's Food Systems Desk, highlighting the city's strides in building inclusive, resilient, and sustainable urban food systems supported by ICLEI Africa, AfriFOODlinks, CUTS International, Hivos, and the University of Zambia. The initiative addresses challenges such as limited farming space, food safety, and nutrition gaps while promoting youth engagement and stronger community coordination. Early successes at Chilenge Market including improved hygiene, storage, and reduced food loss—illustrate practical progress. Through its participation in a network of 65 African cities, Lusaka contributes to implementing the African Urban Food Systems Action Plan, aligned with Zambia's 8th National Development Plan and the UN SDGs, advancing a shared vision of sustainable and equitable nourishment for all.

See link for more information :[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/iclei\\_join-afrifoodlinks-at-the-mufpp-global-forum-activity-7383101742953054209-Zhda?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop&rcm=ACoAABM-aJoBhyHFm2REcL1JdDLB2G9Q3Y9riXM](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/iclei_join-afrifoodlinks-at-the-mufpp-global-forum-activity-7383101742953054209-Zhda?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAABM-aJoBhyHFm2REcL1JdDLB2G9Q3Y9riXM)

### 4.2 VOICES FOR CHANGE – YOUTH-LED GOVERNANCE PANEL

The panel “**Voices for Change: Youth-Led Governance for Urban Agrifood System Transformation**” focused on how young people can drive change in urban food systems through active participation in governance and the creation of green jobs. Led by moderator Robin Alnäs (ICLD) with opening remarks from Corinna Hawkes (FAO), the discussion features voices from Lusaka and global youth networks. It highlights practical lessons from

Lusaka's experience, explores inclusive governance mechanisms, and shares actionable strategies for empowering youth in urban and peri-urban agrifood transformation. The session aims to inspire policymakers, practitioners, and young leaders to adopt scalable, youth-centered approaches that build more sustainable and equitable city food systems. Link for more information <https://web.facebook.com/share/p/1AJ6LXFhGu/>



Figure 4: Panel discussion – Voices for Change session.

#### 4.3 CO-CREATION PROCESSES IN PRACTICE – BRUSSELS (21 OCTOBER 2025)

At the **Co-Creation Processes in Practice** session in Brussels on **21st October 2025**, **Evelyn Musonda** presented Lusaka City Council's collaborative efforts with **ICLEI Africa** and **FAO** to strengthen urban food systems. The presentation outlined the establishment of the **Food Desk**, endorsed by the Mayors of Lusaka and Chongwe, and officially launched on **29th August 2025**. Operating under the Senior Community Development Officer and reporting directly to the Mayor, the Food Desk supports the **Lusaka Food Policy Council**, facilitates stakeholder coordination, and develops sustainable funding mechanisms. Achievements include training **35 Community Development Officers**, improving **Chilenje Market's drainage and sanitation**, and constructing a **waste separation bay**. Future plans involve establishing **community heritage gardens**, implementing **renewable energy and biodigester projects** at Simon Mwewa Lane, and producing **organic fertilizer**—all supported by the **European Union through the AfriFOODlinks initiative**.

## **5. SMART FARMING AND CRFS BASELINE VALIDATION WORKSHOP (23 OCTOBER 2025)**

Facilitated by Dr. Gilbert Siame (UNZA), this workshop validated results for Smart Farming and CRFS projects. Findings included 40% post-harvest losses, limited smart tech adoption, informal market dominance, and climate vulnerabilities affecting vegetable farmers.

## **6. KEY OBSERVATIONS AND LESSONS**

- Strong stakeholder engagement enhanced the Desk's visibility and partnerships.
- International representation positioned Lusaka as a regional leader.
- Smart Farming insights informed policy and practice.
- Youth and gender inclusion remain central to sustainable outcomes.

## **7. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NOVEMBER 2025**

- Finalize FAO collaboration framework.
- Strengthen Food Policy Council technical