

Lusaka Food Desk

September Activity

Report

2025

Prepared by
Lusaka city council

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Prepared For:	CUTs and LCC management
Date:	October 1, 2025
Prepared By:	Food Desk Coordination Team(Bwalya funga and Evelyn Musonda)

Executive Summary

The month of September 2025 saw significant progress across the Food Desk's primary initiatives, driven by key partnerships with ICLEI Africa, GIZ, Hivos, and CFHHZ. Work intensified on the 'Strengthening Fresh Food Markets' project at Chilenge Market, with two consulting firms beginning infrastructure upgrades focused on sanitation, water access, and drainage. Concurrently, a new partnership with the Civic Forum on Housing and Habitat Zambia (CFHHZ) was formalized to introduce renewable energy solutions at Simon Mwewa Lane.

In community engagement, the AfriFoodlinks mural promoting waste management was completed at City Market. Policy and coordination efforts included participation in the FoSTA-Health National Dialogue and a critical Food Desk planning meeting to clarify roles and prepare for the inaugural Food Policy Council meeting scheduled for October 9, 2025. Furthermore, ICLEI Africa announced the forthcoming ReMark Fund, which plans to allocate \$5-10 million for refurbishing selected markets in Lusaka, marking a major future opportunity.

INTRODUCTION

This report covers activities that were undertaken by the Food Desk coordinators in the month of September, 2025. The following activities were undertaken

1. FRESH FOOD MARKET ENVIRONMENT UPGRADES

1.1 ICLEI AFRICA/GIZ PROJECT: CHILENJE MARKET INVESTMENT

Following a rigorous evaluation, Chilenje Market was designated as the priority site for targeted investment efforts under the ICLEI Africa project. Key activities commenced by procured consultants in September:

Firm	Scope of Work	Status
DICHEM LTD	Repair and upgrade water infrastructure, secure clean running water access, and upgrade the drainage system.	Works commenced, visible progress on urinal/toilet rehabilitation and drainage system.
Catalyst Development (CADEV)	Install waste separation infrastructure (skip bins/labelled bins), develop a waste management action plan, and conduct training/sensitization for market actors.	Construction of the waste separation bay is underway.

Visual Evidence of Market Upgrades



Figure 1. Rehabilitated urinal in the toilet of the market	Figure 2. Rehabilitated female toilets
	
Figure 3. group photo after the launch preparatory meeting and inspection of works	Figure 4. Improvement of drainage system

Figure 1, 2, 3,4: Progress on Chilenje Market water and sanitation works.



Figure 4: Construction of the waste separation bay.

1.2 ICLEI Partner Visit

On September 29th and 30th, representatives from ICLEI Africa visited Lusaka, met with the mayor, director housing and social services, food desk coordinators and project Multi-stakeholder Task Force, and inspected the ongoing works at Chilenje Market. <https://web.facebook.com/share/p/1FVPm4rwPq/>

2. RENEWABLE ENERGY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2.1 RENEWABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS PARTNERSHIP

A partnership was established with the Civic Forum on Housing and Habitat Zambia (CFHHZ) to promote safe environmental management and renewable energy solutions at Simon Mwewa Lane. This project focuses on generating clean cooking gas from waste and producing organic fertilizer.

- LCC Role: Provide land, security, community mobilization, waste zoning, and fertilizer harvesting support.
- CFHHZ Role: Install €40,000 worth of equipment, train communities, and guide households/farmers on biogas and fertilizer usage.
- Council Engagement: CFHHZ presented the project to Councillors and management on September 18, 2025.

2.2 AFRIFOODLINKS PUBLIC AWARENESS MURAL

The food desk coordinators supervised and provided space for the AfriFoodlinks Youth Ambassador, Womba Mufuzi, is spearheading a collaborative public art project at City Market. Titled 'Keeping Our Market Clean,' the 3m x 4m mural is designed to promote proper waste disposal and hygiene, directly aligning with AfriFoodlinks' advocacy goals. Womba is partnering with local artist Sabi Arts to execute the design. The vibrant abstract-cartoon style features relatable community figures (including a schoolboy, policewoman, and sanitation worker) actively demonstrating good waste practices. Two mock-ups have been finalized, and the mural has been completed; the final step is obtaining approval from ICLEI Africa for public posting and dissemination



Figure 6. mural painted on the entrance of City Market

2.3 Urban Heritage Gardens Initiative

A proposal was presented to ICLEI's "The Race to Resilience Culture" project to establish community-managed gardens in historic neighbourhoods, including the Kenneth Kaunda House and Kabwata Cultural Village.

- Primary Objectives: Promote Food Security and Nutrition, serve as intergenerational learning spaces, strengthen climate resilience, and preserve heritage knowledge.
- Target Vulnerable Groups: Low-income households, female-headed households, unemployed youths, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

3. STAKEHOLDER COORDINATION AND POLICY

3.1 FOSTA-HEALTH NATIONAL DIALOGUE

The Food Desk Coordinator, Bwalya Funga, represented the desk at the Second FoSTA-Health National Dialogue (September 17–18, 2025). The dialogue focused on sharing project research, building capacity, and integrating research lessons into Zambia's policy framework for food systems transformation.

3.2 Food Desk Co-Coordinating Planning Meeting (CUTS & HIVOS)

A crucial planning meeting took place on September 29, 2025, to clarify roles among LCC, CUTS, and Hivos ahead of the first stakeholder meeting on October 9, 2025.

- Outcome: LCC will lead implementation, while CUTS manages financial tasks. All budget re-allocation requires approval from CUTS, HIVOS, and LCC.
- Next Steps: Finalize logistics for the first Food Policy Council meeting, which will include onboarding new members and establishing operational guidelines.

4.0 MILAN PACT AWARDS.

- Made a submission of the food desk for the Milan impact awards
- Registered for MUFPP Global Forum in Milan taking place October 15, 2025, where the coordinator will participate in various panels to share the works that have been done around the food desk

5.0 PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR OCTOBER 2025

- Hold the first stakeholders meeting **1st week of October** (logistical support needed)
- payment of allowances, refreshments, internet and a power station)
- Finalise workplan and communication strategy **1st week of October**
- Attend the MUFPP Forum in Millan **2nd week of October**
- Develop a comprehensive stakeholders directory **3rd week of October**
- Plan for the launch of the chilenge project with ICLEI **4th week of October**