Urban food policies and governance in Kenya: Examining the linkages

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Malnutrition rates are rising in urban areas

In Nairobi, 1 million people (a quarter of the city population) are hungry

Similar proportion are obese leading to increase in diet-related non-communicable diseases

Various policy and governance frameworks for food system exist to combat malnutrition

**However, minimal understanding on extent to which urban policies and governance provide an enabling environment for a sustainable urban food system**

Review of urban policies complimented with 27 key informant interviews involving actors in the urban food system
# Urban food policies

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<th>Policy</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
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| Draft National Urban and Peri-Urban Agri & Livestock Policy | Created U-turn on urban agriculture issues  
Not finalized and need revision to reflect new governance structure |
| Nairobi Urban Agriculture Production Regulation Act 2015 | Legalizes agriculture in the City 
Dept. of Agriculture set up – focus production Advisory authority not set up 
Does not address complexities of land issues |
| Urban Areas and Cities Act No. 13 Of 2011   | City integrated plan done – recognize agriculture; fragmented approach to planning |
| The Physical planning Act 2013              | Land use classified as commercial or industrial; Change of user process is slow and complex |
| Public Health Act                           | Some aspects of livestock production still considered a nuisance or cause harmful pollution of water supplies |

## Conclusions & policy Implications

- **Food policy continue to be productionist and rural oriented**
- **Complex governance structure; many actors with conflicting interests and minimal coordination**
  - Including: Ministries of Agriculture, Health, Treasury, Planning and Education; Government Regulatory agencies (NEMA, KEBS, PCB, KEPHIS, etc) County Government Departments; Food Security Agency, Food Security Committeees, County food security committees, Courts of law, Private sector organisations
- **Implementation of policies is weak or lacking (associated with complex governance framework)**
- **Role of private sector, especially in distribution of food not prioritized**
- **Need for improved coordination and consideration of complex spatial and social relations among food system actors**