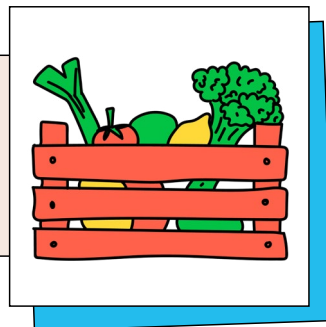


# C40 THRIVING FOOD SYSTEMS ACCELERATOR



How cities are addressing food and nutrition insecurity and creating thriving food economies within planetary boundaries

## SIGNATORY CITIES

Accra, Cape Town, Curitiba, Dakar, Fortaleza, Guadalajara, Johannesburg, Lagos, Medellín, Nairobi, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Tshwane

## WHAT IS IT

In 2025, a working group of cities from Africa, Asia, and Latin America co-created the C40 Thriving Food Systems Accelerator to identify key ways of advancing food and nutrition security, while building thriving food economies that generate good green jobs within planetary boundaries. The Accelerator sets out four ambitious commitments to be achieved within the next decade.

Signatory cities across Africa, Asia and Latin America are powerful drivers of a just food systems transformation, grounded in innovation, community leadership, and deep local knowledge. Mayors and communities are already pioneering bold solutions: collaborations with neighbouring towns to increase the availability of sustainable and healthy food, regenerate land and create good green jobs; markets that minimise food waste and improve food safety; and school meals that nourish children and support local farmers. These are not isolated projects – they are the building blocks of a new urban food future that is resilient, healthy for people and the planet, and grounded in justice.

## WHY IT'S NEEDED

People living in cities **consume more than half of all food produced globally**, and due to rapid population growth and urbanisation, this figure is **expected to rise to 80% by 2050**.

Current food systems fail urban needs, with an estimated **76% of food insecure people living in urban and peri-urban areas**, and women, children, marginalised ethnic groups, and migrants disproportionately affected.

Food systems contribute approximately **one-third of global GHG emissions**.

Food systems drive biodiversity loss, deforestation, and water overuse compounded by **a third of all food being wasted**.

Cities across Africa, Asia, and Latin America are home to the majority of the world's urban population. While the C40 Good Food Cities Accelerator presents a globally relevant framework, cities from these regions underscored the need for a co-created strategy tailored to their unique realities. These cities are among the most vulnerable to climate change, and face a dual challenge: reducing food and nutrition insecurity while revitalising local food economies and laying the foundation for resilient, sustainable, and inclusive food systems.

Cities in these regions are at the forefront of climate disruption, experiencing severe impacts like droughts, floods, heatwaves, and erratic rainfall that repeatedly disrupt food production and distribution, exacerbating food insecurity and existing inequalities, [especially in sub-Saharan Africa](#). Rapid urbanisation often outpaces infrastructure, compromising food access and safety, while new development risks locking cities into [carbon-intensive pathways](#) and leads to the loss of vital urban agricultural land. This vulnerability is heightened as agriculture remains a cornerstone of [many regional economies](#).

## COMMITMENTS BY MAYORS

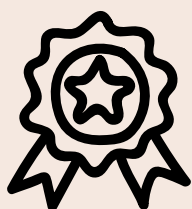
**To ensure every resident has access to affordable, healthy and sustainable food, improve livelihoods, and build a thriving future for their city, mayors commit to annually take steps to:**

### WITHIN 10 YEARS:

- **Provide a healthy and sustainable daily meal for every child:** Establish a universal school feeding programme aligned to a locally relevant planetary healthy diet.
- **Create safer, cleaner, and more affordable markets:** Sustainably modernise our city's market infrastructure to improve food safety and minimise food loss and waste.
- **Boost local food businesses:** Foster good green jobs and increase the supply of diverse and healthy food that is sustainably produced, by partnering with neighbouring towns to develop farmer and small and medium enterprise support programmes.

### WITHIN 2 YEARS:

- **Secure a thriving food future:** Co-create an integrated food system strategy that is reflected in the city's Climate Action Plan and disaster preparedness mechanisms.



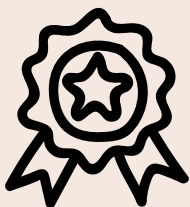
#### CAPE TOWN

A redesign is underway at Cape Town's Smiley Market in Langa, a culturally significant market where women have informally sold prepared sheep's heads for generations. Through the AfriFOODLinks programme, vendors worked with a design firm to create a new framework that addresses their needs for better access to clean water, waste management, and defined spaces for cooking and serving. The framework was finalised in 2025 with municipal partners and promises to improve conditions for both traders and customers.



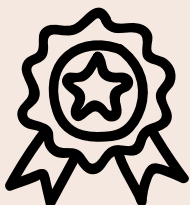
#### CURITIBA

Pro-Metrópole is a public-interest, non-profit governance initiative launched in August 2017 to coordinate metropolitan development across the 29 municipalities of Greater Curitiba. It pioneers integrated urban and peri-urban food governance to build a metropolitan common market, enhancing local cohesion through shared infrastructure and policies, and embedding cross-sector coordination across urban planning, agriculture, mobility, and food security. It also supports small businesses and family farmers, while ensuring inclusive, participatory governance focused on sustainability, climate resilience, and equitable food systems.



## NAIROBI

Since 2023, Nairobi's Dishi na County school meal programme has provided daily hot plant-based meals to 310,000 children in 230 primary schools. To achieve this, the city built 17 central kitchens and created 2,000 jobs. Parents pay a nominal fee of KES 5 (US\$0.04) for the KES 45 (US\$0.35) meal, with subsidies covering the rest. The programme has increased school enrollment by 34%, and there are plans to expand the service to more students, especially those in informal settlements.



## SÃO PAULO

São Paulo's approach to their food work is spearheaded by its Food and Nutrition Security Coordination (COSAN), established in 2015, which aims to ensure universal access to sufficient, quality food for all residents. This involves advocating for food security and equality across all city policies, including the Municipal Master Plan, which notably recognises the importance of urban agriculture. A key initiative is Sampa+Rural. São Paulo also implements programmes to combat food waste and loss. These efforts align with São Paulo's Municipal Climate Action Plan (PlanClima SP), demonstrating a commitment to a low-carbon, resilient food future.



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