

Dhaka Food System: gender analysis and strategy

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Introduction

Gender equity is essential to reducing poverty, improving living standards and achieving sustainable economic growth. The Dhaka Food Systems Project (DFS) promotes gender equity through activities that deliver specific gender outcomes, paying careful attention to gender issues throughout the life cycle of the project.

This document analyses gender in Dhaka's food system and offers a strategic pathway to address women's issues and problematic gender dynamics in the project, taking into account the impact of COVID-19. Section 1 of the document provides general background information about the DFS project and gender issues in Dhaka's urban food system. Section 2 discusses gender issues in the specific context of the project, including the impacts of the current COVID-19 situation. Section 3 covers the frameworks and models used to understand, analyse and strategise for building gender-responsive food systems. These frameworks and models have been applied in the Theory of Change (ToC) to strengthen gender-focused action. The strategic pathways identified in the ToC lead to specific actions to reach more women, ensure that they benefit from project actions, and facilitate their empowerment and effective participation in decision-making.

Project background

The Dhaka Food Systems project (DFS) supports the Government of Bangladesh at different levels to develop an appropriate food agenda for the Dhaka Metropolitan Area (DMA). The DFS project will build capacity and skills for urban food planning, while exploring policy options to improve access to and distribution of safe, healthy and nutritious food within the DMA, reduce urban food waste, and encourage consumers at all levels to make more informed food choices. Strong engagement with the private sector and civil society will be necessary to support the enabling policy and regulatory environment that the project aims to facilitate, and to assist the Government of Bangladesh to achieve its obligations under the New Urban Agenda.

The DFS project aims to contribute to developing a safe, sustainable and resilient food system in the DMA through an iterative action learning approach. Three key, mutually reinforcing outputs will fundamentally contribute to this outcome:

- Output 1: Food system model for the DMA;
- Output 2: Strategic Food Agenda 2041 for the DMA;
- Output 3: Interventions to improve the performance of the DMA food system (developed and tested).

Gender proposal

The objective of the gender strategy is to ensure that both women and men, including youth and adults, from all backgrounds, benefit equitably from the project. The project analysis, strategy and action plan aim to develop a gender-inclusive food system in the greater Dhaka area.

The project addresses gender equity as essential to poverty reduction, improved living standards and sustainable economic growth. Thus, as stated in the project document, the project will “promote and support gender equity by designing appropriate activities that deliver specific gender outcomes and pay careful attention to gender issues throughout the life cycle of the project.” To this end, the project includes conducting a gendered analysis of Dhaka’s urban food system and developing and implementing a gender-sensitive project design and approaches.

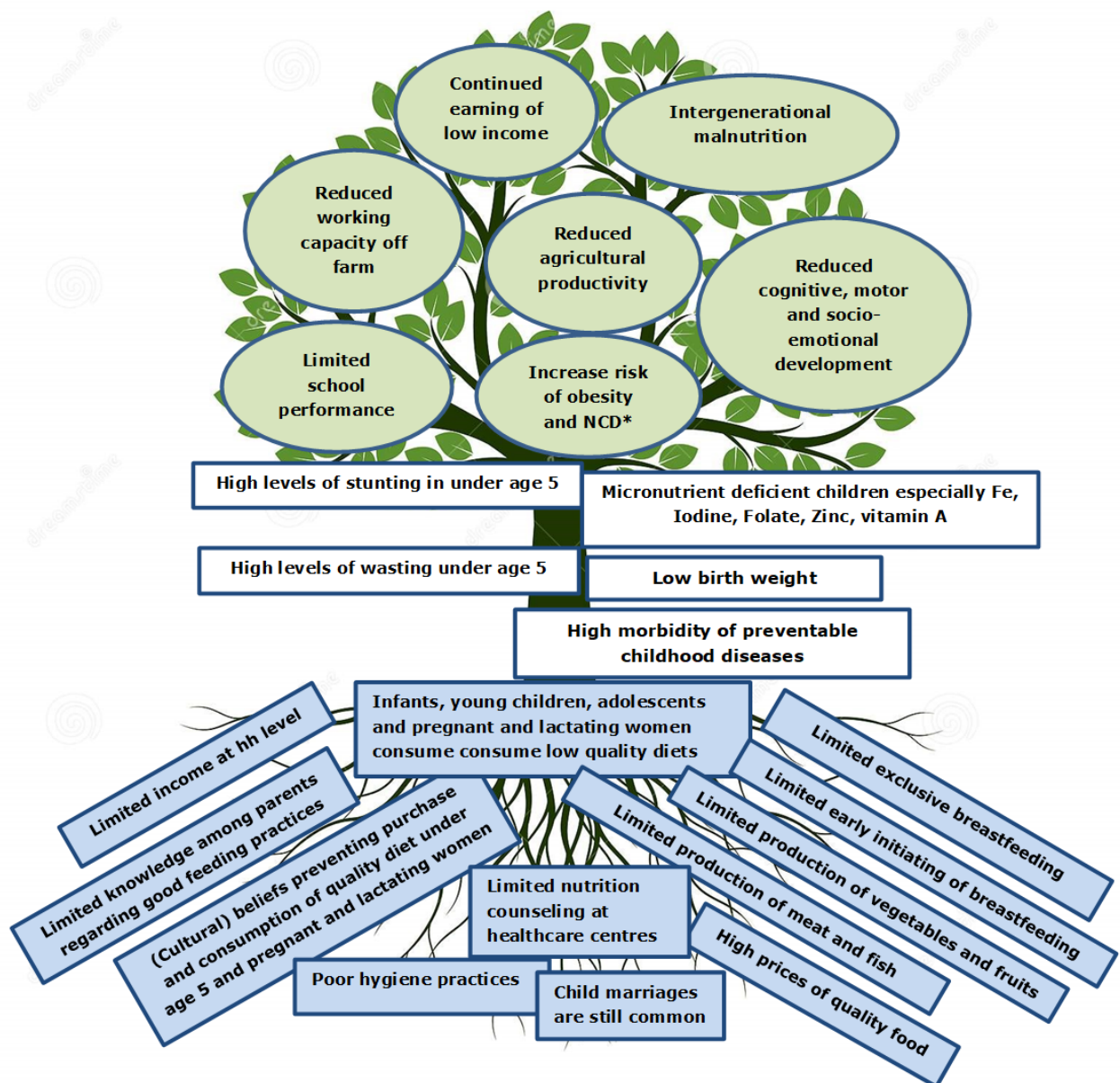
With a strong gender analysis and strategy, women’s issues and problematic gender dynamics within the food system can be transformed. This report explores the livelihood and food challenges faced by women in the Dhaka food system and presents the gender framework that will support the project’s analysis, design and implementation.

1. Gender in the Dhaka food system

1.1 Context and situation analysis

Bangladesh has made significant progress in recent decades in its food production. The country is largely self-sufficient in terms of food supply and is one of the world's leaders in fruit and vegetable production. However, due to the high cost of living in urban areas and, specifically, to rising food prices, the urban poor continue to struggle to eat sufficient nutritious food (The Business Standard, 2020). Unstable earnings and unexpected financial shocks, such as medical emergencies, exacerbate the problem, leading to malnutrition as well as obesity. The poor also face health risks from unsafe and low-quality foods. These insufficient diets, in terms of both quantity and quality, affect not only the present generation, but the health, productivity and educational development of future generations. This is especially true for young women of reproductive age, the most vulnerable amongst the malnourished, who are at risk of maternal morbidity and mortality and whose condition may negatively impact their children. In the context of the already weakened food security of Dhaka's poor, the food crisis arising from the COVID-19 pandemic sheds light on the urgent need for consistently affordable and nutritious food sources for the poor.

Figure 1 shows the root cause analysis of Bangladesh's food crisis, existing malnutrition conditions and the related economic, social and cultural aspects. The problem tree shows how hygiene, cultural practices and infrastructure are systemically related to malnutrition and agricultural production, and how gender plays an important role in all the domains. The DFS project applies a food systems approach, with the understanding that the way forward to improve and transform Dhaka's food system is to work systemically across domains.



*NCD = Non-communicable disease.

Figure 1 Bangladesh Food System Analysis
Source: Bosch, 2020

Socio-cultural gender aspects as root cause of malnutrition and poverty

Bangladesh's gender order is partially responsible for existing gender disparities, in which women have limited mobility, decision-making power and access to income. This leads to women having lifelong poor nutritional status, particularly when combined with multiple pregnancies and strenuous work situations (Levy, 2013).

Research shows that many women in Dhaka are aware of the importance of healthy eating practices. Nonetheless, knowledge and awareness are not the only factors determining food consumption. Food taboos still exist which prohibit women from eating certain foods during pregnancy. For example, papaya and pineapple are believed to lead to miscarriage, green coconut makes babies' eyes grey or

cloudy, catfish makes the baby's mouth wide as the fish, and consuming eels causes epilepsy in babies. Moreover, pregnant women are advised not to eat more than usual because it is believed that the foetus will get too big, making the delivery difficult.

Women's limited mobility is another important determinant of women's participation in food systems. For example, it is an issue for a woman to go to the bazaar and purchase the food items of her choice, because her reputation might be jeopardised, which in turn jeopardises her family's reputation as well. As a result, husbands or other male family members do the food shopping, but they tend to purchase food according to their preferences, rather than buying the nutritious food items that the women would prefer. (Women in slums, however, experience increased mobility and decision-making power.) Lastly, rising food prices and low income further drive women's marginalised position in Dhaka's food system.

Survey and interactive workshop on gender in DFS

A survey was conducted with 19 members of the DFS project staff to identify important topics related to gender in Dhaka's food system. The participants identified twelve topics and these were categorised according to Harvard's analytical gender framework that considers the productive, reproductive and social roles of men and women and maps access to and control over resources, including income, land, education and empowerment. Subsequently, an interactive workshop was conducted in July 2020 with DFS project experts who validated all the gender categories and issues. These are listed below and include the topics that were mentioned by Levay, as well as those identified in a study on North Dhaka: knowledge and awareness of food related behaviours, food consumption patterns, mobility and purchasing power.

Gender categories and issues:

Access to sufficient income

- Women have limited control over assets

Access to healthy and nutritious food

- Women do not have equal access to food

Access to and control over markets

- Unequal involvement of women and men in supply chains
- Women participate less in commercial aspects of food systems
- Male dominance in market system hampers women's access and participation

Decision-making power

- Women have less power and ownership in value chains
- Women have less decision-making power regarding food and nutrition
- Norms and roles limit women's participation
- City corporations and stakeholders are insufficiently aware of gender issues within the food system
- Women have little decision-making power at the household level
- Lack of education and awareness regarding women's and children's food needs
- Lack of women's participation in policy formulation

The DFS project will conduct a value chain analysis and a consumer study, providing gender-disaggregated data. The data will inform the first output of the DFS project – a food system model, and will further clarify the list of issues mentioned in the previous paragraph. Women’s access and contribution to value chains and their visibility as producers, consumers and decision makers are important systemic aspects of the food system. In terms of governance and the development of a food agenda for Dhaka, the project’s second objective, it is important to strengthen women’s empowerment and decision-making opportunities and capacities. Raising women’s voices on the individual level, but also within decision-making fora, in representation of other women, will enhance women’s voices and gender issues within the food system. Thirdly, regarding access to food, creating opportunities for income generation and food production, and developing market access for women to purchase and sell food are the focus of the interventions, as envisioned in the third objective.

As is apparent from the overlap of gender issues in each of the three project objectives, these issues are cross-cutting and not limited to any single aspect of the food system. From households to the public domain and from the consumer level to the policymaking level, gender inequities are systemic and exist throughout the food system. These systemic inequities become more urgent in a crisis, as is currently the case with the COVID-19 pandemic.

1.2 Gender dynamics during the COVID-19 emergency in Bangladesh

The COVID 19 crisis has impacted the men and women of Bangladesh in multiple ways. In addition to its direct impact on health, it has impacted gender relations and access to food, both directly and as a result of the imposed lockdown.

Immediate health effects and consequences

The immediate health effects of the virus have directly impacted gender relations. More men die from COVID-19 than women, increasing the number of female-headed households. As work and income opportunities shrink during the lock-down, especially in cases of the loss of male income due to death, families are spending less on food and purchasing a limited range of food items. This results in malnutrition and even under nutrition.

Indirect effects of COVID-19 on gender dynamics

The effects of the measures taken to stem the spread of the virus, such mobility restrictions, have changed consumer behaviour and reduced nutritional intake. Widespread job losses have significantly reduced purchasing power, resulting, on the one hand, in lower demand for agricultural products and, on other hand, less access to healthy and nutritious foods. Diet diversity has been reduced as food prices have increased. In particular, the prices of vegetables, eggs and fish have risen due to shortages. On the consumer side, there is also less demand for some animal-based foods due to misinformation on the relation between COVID-19 and animal foods. Additionally, government food relief programs have not taken into consideration the need for balanced and diverse foods when distributing for food relief.

A sector that has impacted women in particular is the garment sector. Many women in the sector have lost their jobs and face immediate harmful effects of the lost income itself and of their status as income providers. As restrictions have continued, men have taken to mobile food vending, while women have begun preparing food at home for sale through home delivery.

Children bear the greatest burden of malnutrition, especially in low-income households. Seventy percent of the respondents indicated that they could not provide for a healthy and balanced (varied) diet for their children under two years old.

Another impact of the crisis is an increase in domestic violence as men face the loss of their jobs, income, status and increased indebtedness (FAO Bangladesh, 2020).

Specific gender-focused recommendations for short-term actions are the following:¹

- Focus on female-headed households (facing more severe impact during the crisis).
- Organise credits for female farmers.
- Enhance coordination with partners working in gender-related issues.
- Provide information to female stakeholders, including representatives of the urban poor, regarding gender dynamics and the role of women in the food system under crisis conditions.
- Implement skill-development packages for youth (especially young women) – for example in food safety and food processing – so they can participate in job schemes.
- Disseminate quality information on the importance of healthy, nutritious diets, debunking myths around the spread of COVID-19 through certain food products. It is important to focus on decision making in food purchasing. (Food purchasing decisions made by men or women may vary from poor to middle-income households.)
- Advocate for the provision of nutritious and healthy food within government food relief programs.

Box 1 Situation reports

Situation reports on the impact of COVID-19 on food security and urban poverty

Between March and August 2020, FAO Bangladesh has published 15 situation analysis reports on the impact of COVID-19 on food security and urban poverty. In these reports there are three references to women. The first is on their position as garment workers who have lost their jobs and have less opportunity to enter other job markets. The second regards the vulnerability of pregnant and lactating women whose nutritional intake is insufficient due to rising food prices and reduced food availability, and the need to support them urgently with government food aid. The third reference is to the White Ribbon Alliance (WRA) and lactating women who prefer to buy formula milk instead of breastfeeding their babies and who now cannot afford formula because of lost income and rising food prices.

Within the project, disaggregated data will be collected on gender for intermediary reports, covering gender analysis in general and gender in Dhaka's urban food system in particular. It is important to understand the effects of COVID-19 on women as producers, processors, vendors and in other economic roles and to increase their visibility in commercial activities within the food system (in addition to their role in the households). Women's roles as decision-makers or influencers should also be highlighted.

¹ Adapted from Rapid country assessment of the impact of Covid-19 on Food Systems in Bangladesh by Termeer, Brouwer and De Boef, 2020.

2. Gender frameworks for transforming food systems

2.1 Food systems analysis frameworks

The advantage of a food systems approach is that it helps to clarify the dynamics within food systems, identifying interconnectedness and addressing complex issues. The problem tree in Figure 1, for example, indicates that child marriage, poor hygiene and economic disparity are all important factors in Bangladesh's food system and that these must be transformed in order to effect healthier and more nutritious diets for all. As these social, economic and infrastructure issues are connected, there are multiple entry points for transformation. Thus, change can best be brought about through multidisciplinary approaches, working from various domains, with different stakeholders, from practice to policy levels. Furthermore, interventions in the food system should achieve more equitable gender outcomes, especially as some of the root causes of food system problems lie in the inequity of gender relations. Gender is a cross-cutting issue that cannot be viewed separately from any aspect of the food system.

The disadvantage of food systems thinking is that frameworks may actually obscure the gendered relations that are part of all the social interactions in the system. Systems are often described on a meta-level that may not show the diversity of the actors present within the system. These actors may be individuals or institutions and may have high or low economic, nutritional or gender status. Thus, gender issues (as well as youth issues) must be made visible from the start in a systems approach. As such, the presence, roles and challenges of women and youth should be researched and addressed. Stakeholder mapping and stakeholder power analysis are instruments that help shed light on the stakeholders who are marginalised in the food system.

Figure 2, the Innocenti food systems framework, used by UNICEF, provides a schematic view of stakeholders that highlights the roles of women and children at the household level, and how food security and healthy and nutritious diets can be provided, especially for underserved women and children.

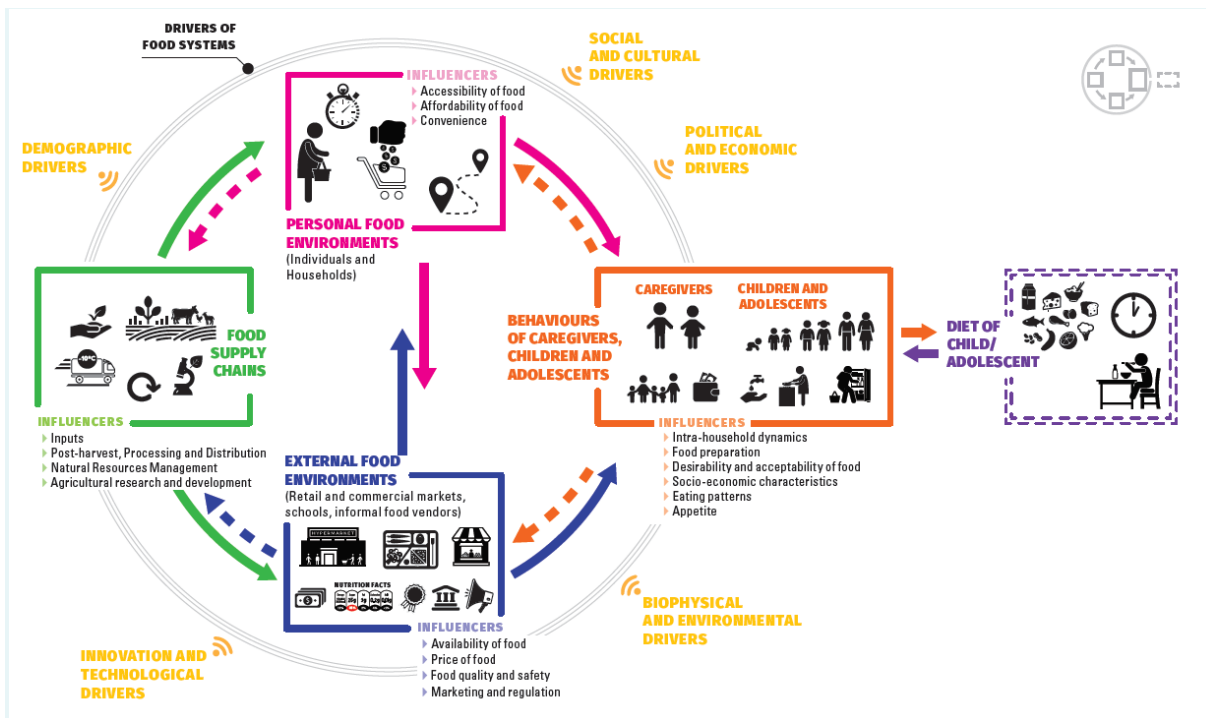


Figure 1. The Innocenti Framework on Food Systems for Children and Adolescents.²

Figure 2 The Innocenti Framework on Food Systems for Children and Adolescents
Source: UNICEF, 2018

The Innocenti Framework on Food Systems for Children and Adolescents complements other food systems frameworks, by focusing on gender issues. The focus on children and adolescents increases the visibility of household dynamics and gender. The DFS project applied this framework for gender analysis as it visualises the household level and the food security and nutrition issues from a gender perspective. The DFS project also employs the framework created by V. Berkum *et al.* (see Figure 3), in which gender is embedded in all the socio-economic drivers and food system activities.

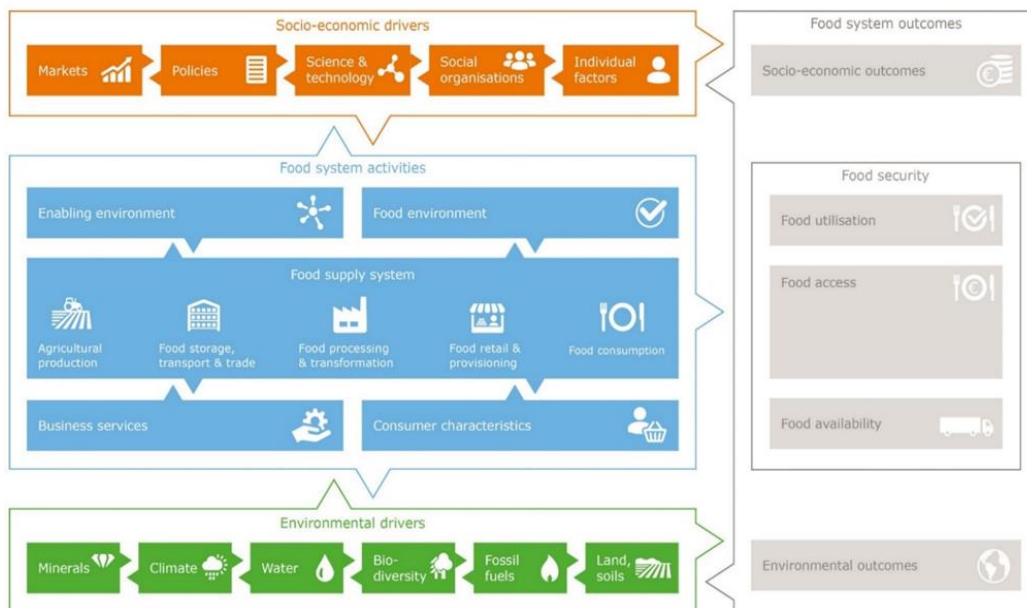


Figure 3 Van Berkum *et al.* food systems framework
Source: Van Berkum *et al.*, 2018

Priority themes for gender in food systems

According to the special issue on gender in food systems prepared by the Resource Centre for Urban Agriculture and Forestry (RUAF, 2020), there are three priority themes for women in urban food systems:

1. Women must be made more visible in the food system.
2. The role of women as consumers and caregivers has traditionally received more attention than their role in commercial aspects of the food system.
3. Women's decision-making in the food-system (at the household level) and their representation in the public domain and in policymaking have lagged behind those of men.

The DFS project aims to ensure women's visibility in the food system, enhance their benefits from the food system and empower them to make decisions that are conducive to equitable power relations. If women benefit equally from an improved food system and are strengthened in decision-making arenas, they can contribute to securing better access to healthy and nutritious diets for their families. In the following paragraph we introduce the Reach, Benefit, Empower model that supports this gender strategy.

2.2 Gender strategy model

The DFS project applies the Reach, Benefit, Empower model as developed by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), based on the Gender, Agriculture, and Assets Project (GAAP2).² The essence of the model is that women's practical and strategic needs should be met. This relates to the importance of women's participation in projects: including them as decision makers and ensuring they benefit from project activities. If the focus is limited to women's participation, for example attending training sessions, this does not guarantee that women actually benefit from the project. Likewise, focusing solely of women benefitting from project activities, for example, from better healthcare facilities, does not ensure that legislation and policies are beneficial for women. Thus, the DFS project activities will address all three levels of the Reach, Benefit and Empower model to ensure that gender transformative change happens.

² The Gender, Agriculture, and Assets Project (GAAP). <https://www.ifpri.org/blog/reach-benefit-or-empower-clarifying-gender-strategies-development-projects>

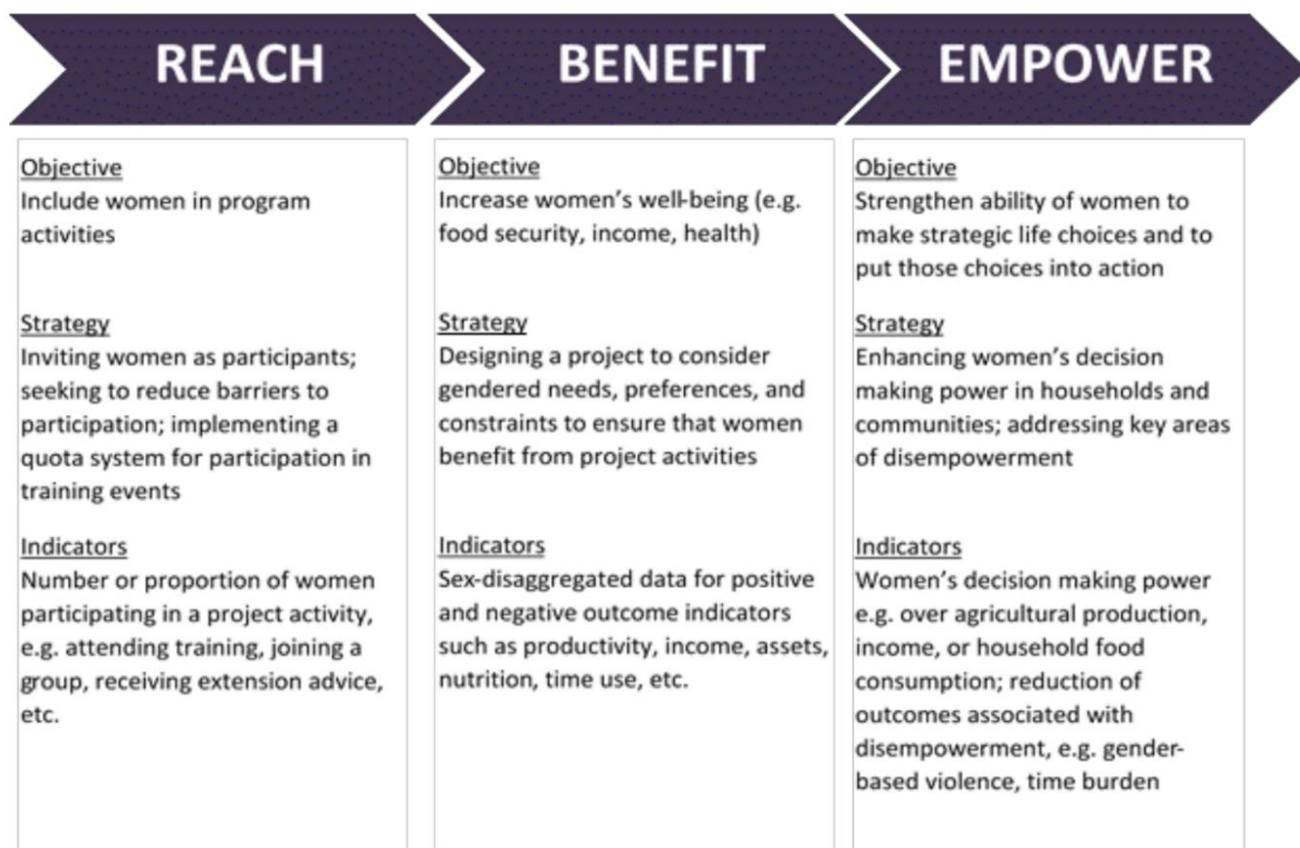


Figure 4 Reach, Benefit, Empower model
Source: IFPRI, 2016

The project's gender-specific indicators are developed based on the Reach, Benefit, Empower model (see section 3.5). The DFS project outputs also reflect the elements of the model, as described below.

Output 1: Food system model for the DMA (Reach)

This output is important for increasing women's visibility in the food system, one of three main gender issues in urban food systems (see section 2.1). It directly addresses women's roles and responsibilities in the food system as well as gender dynamics at the household level. Under the DFS project, gender-disaggregated data on the Dhaka food system is being collected and analysed, and research outcomes are being shared with key stakeholders who participated in the data collection process (particularly the four city corporations – Dhaka North, Dhaka South, Gazipur and Narayanganj, and private sector and civil society organisations). The results and analyses regarding gender inform the design of project activities.

Output 2: Strategic Food Agenda 2041 for the DMA (Empower)

This output deals with governance, policymaking and stakeholder engagement. Efforts in this area can empower women by enabling their participation in creating policies and making decisions that benefit them within the food system. Output 2 aims to build gender-responsive food systems governance. To this end, the project aims to develop an urban food systems agenda that is gender responsive or transformative, promoting the participation of women and youth in multi-stakeholder platforms and city corporations, which is crucial to attaining a gender responsive outcome. The agenda itself should also include strategic, gender-specific issues to improve women's position in the food system.

Output 3: Interventions to improve the performance of the DMA food system (developed and tested) (Benefit)

This output addresses women's economic empowerment in the food system through interventions that build a sustainable and inclusive food system, emphasising women's opportunities and providing sound guidance for them to participate in project activities. Key areas for women in the DFS project are: urban agriculture, markets, food waste/biogas. The interventions and pilot projects planned to produce this output will create economic opportunities for female producers and entrepreneurs, as well as creating jobs for women and increasing their participation in household decision making. These activities are expected to improve the health, well-being and income of both women and youth.

3. Gender strategy and action planning for the DFS project

3.1 Gendered theory of change

The gender focal team has revised the DFS project's theory of change (ToC), making the outcomes, outputs and activities gender-sensitive and responsive. The ToC was validated by the DFS team and serves three purposes:

1. Guide the outcomes and make the project's gender aims explicit
2. Describe the rationale for a sustainable and gender-inclusive food system and provide the basis for discussing assumptions for achieving the transformation envisioned.
3. Serve as the basis for ongoing reflexive learning.

The gender focal team and the DFS staff use the ToC to build an overall understanding of the strategic pathways for gender in the project. Through this process of learning and reflecting on the assumptions and challenges vis-à-vis gender transformation in Dhaka's food system, the ToC will be fine-tuned and will guide ever more effective action within the project.

The main assumptions of the ToC are the following:

- The COVID-19 crisis will not impede the implementation of most of the project activities.
- The research will provide substantial disaggregated data for designing the interventions and advocating for women's visibility in the food system.
- Greater women's participation and better representation of women in the food system will lead to food system decisions that will be more beneficial for women.
- It is possible to work at the household level and influence household decision making.
- Policymaking institutions and other high-level decision-making institutions are willing and motivated to put gender at the centre of their food system development models.

If the assumptions do not hold true, some project outcomes and impact may not be achieved or may be achieved to a lesser extent. Therefore, these assumptions will be discussed by the project team and with project partners and donors in order to develop a deeper shared understanding of how gender-sensitive transformative change in food systems is brought about and to reflect this in the project's monitoring, evaluation and learning process.

Below is an example of a higher level outcome and corresponding outputs of the ToC with a gender lens:

Improving access to healthier, safe and nutritious food & nutrition security for the urban poor for equitable benefits of women, men and children in the food system

Output 1: food system modelled for the DMA: to understand the current situation (baseline) of the demand, supply and institutional aspects of the food system including gendered social inequities in the system.

Identification of hotspots/leverage points where intervention could improve food system's performance so that urban poor women and men profit equitably.

Output 2: strategic food agenda 2041 for the DMA developed including strategy for a gender transformative urban food system; participatory meetings and workshops, multi-stakeholders and gender responsive engagement.

Output 3: interventions to improve the performance of the food system for the DMA developed. Transformative food system benefiting and empowering women (specifically WRA) aiming at shifting gender dynamics.

For a full overview of the ToC, please visit this link:

<https://app.mural.co/t/wcdiworkspace21786/m/wcdiworkspace21786/1597090308865/7ded0fdc7f6e034b0499d1618cdf137015910127>

3.2 Main strategic issues and recommendations

Based on the gender analysis of the Dhaka food system, conducted through primary and secondary research, including consultations with DFS project experts, four strategic pathways for driving gender-transformative change were developed:

1. Address the visibility of women in Dhaka's food system and develop communication material for public policy advocacy and for training stakeholders on gender in food systems.
2. Engage and support stakeholders who have a strong gender agenda, ensure women's representation on decision-making bodies and platforms, and invite women leaders and influencers to participate in project activities.

3. Promote the participation of women, men and youth in the project and explicitly address gender issues via training and workshops.
4. Document pilot projects and interventions on gender transformative change, including interventions in urban agriculture, markets and biogas systems. Documenting and communicating changes in gender dynamics will serve monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) purposes as well as supporting advocacy endeavours to strengthen the role of women in food systems.

Throughout the project, the gender focal team, consisting of seven members, will continue to:

- Organise and facilitate interactions with all DFS staff to create a learning environment conducive to the exchange of ideas and information regarding gender issues.
- Serve in an advisory role for project activities, including monitoring, and function as a sparring partner for project experts.
- Compile and distribute information, results and communication materials on gender in the DFS project and beyond.

3.3 Activities

This chapter addresses the context and gender dynamics for the project's interventions. For every activity, there are recommended actions that will ensure gender responsiveness and transformation towards a gender-equitable food system in Dhaka. Annex 1 provides a schematic overview of these activities and the context for these interventions.

Output 1: Food system model for the DMA

Activity 1.1. Collect secondary food system data

1.1.1 Prepare city food system profile

The city food system consists of various markets, stakeholders and local economies as well as laws and policies that govern the food system. It is important to have a clear, in-depth understanding of the context of the city's food system in order to successfully intervene in it. There is no separate department within the city corporations that is solely responsible for the city's food system. However, Dhaka's four city corporations, (Dhaka North City Corporation, Dhaka South City Corporation, Gazipur City Corporation and Narayanganj City Corporation) are all involved in activities that have a significant impact on the city's food system. Hence, under the project, information relevant to the city's food system will be collected and a profile of the system, covering all four city corporations, will be prepared. The profile will provide information about what is happening in the food system throughout Dhaka and will serve as an important tool both for the DFS project and city working groups. It will provide critical information for developing strategic policy recommendations and activity plans and pilots. The profile will be a dynamic collection of relevant information and the focus of information and data collection will vary with the evolving needs of each city throughout the project period. It is important to note that numerous stakeholders are contributing to the food system in each city, each with their own policies and initiatives. However, information regarding these initiatives is not available in a consolidated form. Hence, these stakeholders are unaware of each other's activities. By gathering and compiling all the relevant information about the city's food system and initiatives being implemented within each of the four city corporations in a single document, the DFS project will provide important information to the city working groups and enable them to make better strategic decisions for the sustainability of the city's food system.

Gender dynamic: Overall, information regarding the city's food system is not readily available. Due to their lower literacy rates, women have less access than men to the information that is available. Moreover, cultural norms generally constrain women to the household domain, restricting their ability to seek information. Nonetheless, women play a very crucial role in the food system as they are responsible for buying and cooking food for their families and, therefore, are in charge of the family's nutrition. Thus, it is very important for women to have access to information about the city's food system, especially information about easily accessible, safe and nutritious food. Women are also involved in many different stages of the city's food system, from production to food waste

management. However, their role in the food system is usually invisible or not well appreciated. There is also a lack of gender-disaggregated data in reports or surveys about the city's food system.

The DFS project will address the existing gender dynamic by:

1. preparing the city food system profile, which will address women's lack of visibility by indicating the number of women involved and how they are involved in the food system (the information will be made available to many groups, thus addressing women's lack of access to information);
2. including data on gender ratios and including the target groups (that is, slum dwellers, street vendors, wholesale and retail market actors and students) in the household analysis;
3. informing city corporations about women's lack of visibility and sharing DFS project data on women in food systems, and including male and female representatives in the city corporations (slum development department, revenue department and waste management department);
4. advocating for the development of a policy on gender participation in the public domain (based on the city profile that includes women and the target groups mentioned above).

1.1.2 Collect secondary data on the food system from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), city corporations and other stakeholders

Various government and non-governmental organizations in Dhaka are currently working on the food system in different capacities. However, the data relating to these activities is in the hands of the various organizations. Thus, the data is not systematized nor consolidated and is not easily accessible to all. The DFS team will collect all the secondary data regarding the food system from different organizations contributing to city's food system and prepare a consolidated report which will be shared with all the relevant government and non-governmental organizations.

Gender dynamic: The data that is available regarding city's food system is, for the most part, not gender disaggregated. Hence, the role of women in the food system and their challenges and needs (as well as those of children and other disadvantaged groups, such as the elderly and differently abled persons) are not acknowledged.

The DFS project will address this issue by:

1. Gathering, analysing and presenting gender-disaggregated data that documents the challenges and needs of women, children and other disadvantaged groups.

1.1.3 Gather data on food security and diet diversity from slum areas of the four city corporations

Urbanization is significantly changing the patterns of food production and consumption in Bangladesh, particularly for the urban poor. People migrate from rural areas to cities in search of better jobs and lives, leaving behind their farming jobs and traditional ways of life. An increasing number of women also migrate to cities in search of jobs in the garment sector or in the informal sector, for instance as domestic workers. Once in cities, the poor bear higher and more volatile food costs, making them more

economically vulnerable. As a result, they struggle with food security. Malnutrition is a significant problem for the urban poor, especially children. This is a common scenario for urban poor communities such as the Dhaka slum dwellers. In Dhaka City, development efforts focus largely on improving livelihoods, housing and infrastructure of the urban poor, but often overlook the impact of food and nutritional insecurity. Importantly, many development initiatives do not engage the poor in examining the situation, nor do they identify and learn from the strategies and solutions of the poor or understand their efforts to organize themselves to respond to challenges.

Through this activity, the DFS plans to have the urban poor communities themselves define and measure food security and nutrition. By collecting and analysing data on how the poor access food, together with representative urban poor organizations, the project will build the groundwork for a dialogue that brings together grassroots organizations of the urban poor, local governments and other stakeholders. This, in turn, will set the basis for the joint development of solutions that respond to the needs of the low-income communities.

Gender Dynamic: Women from the poorest households are the most vulnerable to food insecurity and other shocks. Other vulnerable groups include the ultra-poorest community members, specifically those whose livelihoods depend on daily wages. Moreover, female-headed households (especially those of widows) and unemployed married women in male-headed households are the most disadvantaged in terms of access to resources. Malnutrition in women, especially maternal malnutrition, is the result of a complex set of factors, including increasing food prices. Although women in urban poor households know about the importance of good nutrition and about healthy eating practices, they are often faced with challenges in accessing adequate quality and quantity of food due to increased food prices and insufficient income opportunities. Other factors that contribute to poor nutritional outcomes for food-insecure households, in particular women and girls, include: low educational status of women, lack of information on safe food handling and hygiene, low decision-making power, limited access to social and economic resources, culturally defined eating practices dictating that men eat first and women eat only after ensuring everyone else has had sufficient food, and socially defined roles in which men are not responsible or engaged in domestic work and child care. In addition, it is relatively common among urban poor communities to uphold certain taboos regarding eating during pre- and postnatal periods that negatively impact the health of mothers and babies. (These taboos are often imposed by older women on their daughter-in-laws, who usually feel they must comply for fear they might create rifts in the households if they refuse.)

Women in urban slums who are in charge of making financial decisions regarding food purchases deal with inadequate income and rising food prices, impacting their ability to buy quality food. As a consequence, they generally feed their families cheap foods that fill them up and take less time to prepare. Food preparation time is an important factor as well, as kitchens are often communal and gas is only available for a few hours each night. (Women must wait in a long queues in order to prepare their family meals.) In addition to these challenges, many women have a double burden as they work outside home to earn money as well as managing their households.

Some aspects of the situation of women in Dhaka are changing. Women are making an effort to increase their mobility, decision-making power and knowledge regarding nutrition. Because of

frequent NGO interventions, most women are now aware of the nutritional value of different types of foods, appropriate feeding times for infants and hygiene practices. In fact, in urban slums, women enjoy greater mobility and decision-making power regarding food purchases. Despite increased awareness, however, appropriate infant and young child feeding practices and proper hygiene are not widely practiced. Furthermore, women's greater awareness and efforts to change are thwarted because their minimal incomes and competing priorities (food, housing and education) do not enable them to buy nutritious food. Rising food prices further limit their ability to choose nutritious food for their families.

The DFS project will address this existing gender dynamic by;

1. disaggregating data for women and children in household surveys;
2. researching household expenditure and decision-making regarding food purchases;
3. gathering data on cultural practices regarding food consumption, especially with regard to women of reproductive age.

Possible directions for change:

1. promote urban agriculture and food related business for urban poor women;
2. provide Information and training on nutrition and urban agriculture to women through community groups;
3. empower community groups to advocate for the benefit of the poor.

1.1.4 Collect wet market data, with GPS locations, including general conditions, basic services, facilities, etc.

Most people in the cities depend on wet markets for their daily supply of food. However, wet markets have evolved very little to meet changing consumer demands. Most wet markets do not have any modern amenities and are unable or unwilling to ensure food safety, hygiene and the safety of the vendors and consumers. Wet markets in Bangladesh are often deteriorated, unclean and mismanaged. Wastewater flows in shallow, uncovered drains, which often get clogged with accumulated wastes, causing bad odours. Moreover, some stalls in wet markets are made of inflammable materials that could amplify any small fire. Protecting these markets from fire hazards will require installing fire extinguishers and a supply of sand and water. Importantly, no data or digital record exists on the wet markets in the cities, especially regarding their conditions and available services. The city does not manage its food-related services and resources in a coordinated manner and many wet markets are managed by different departments, such as revenue or health departments. Due to the lack of investment, wet market conditions in the cities continuously deteriorate.

As part of the DFS project's data collection, information will be collected on the city's food system infrastructure and sources of food. This information will be shared with city officials and used to create and implement policies for wet markets.

Gender dynamic: Bangladesh's wet markets are traditionally dominated by men, as almost all the vendors are men. Women, who are generally in charge of cooking and buying food for their families, are the prime customers of the wet markets. They face a number of challenges shopping at the wet markets due to their deteriorating conditions, lack of facilities and safety issues. The unfavourable wet market conditions and their impact on the women who shop there have not been seriously addressed by the market committees or by the city corporations in charge of managing the markets.

The DFS project will address this existing gender dynamic by:

1. analysing the data collected and creating gender-disaggregated databases;
2. advising city officials on the social aspects of access to food markets, to market facilities such as slaughterhouses, and to secondary waste transfer stations;
3. helping city officials and policymakers with gender-responsive investment planning to improve conditions at the markets.

1.1.5 Food system web browser and data analysis

In order to plan interventions and propose regulations to manage Dhaka's food system more effectively, it is necessary to have a nuanced understanding of the food system. This is not possible at the moment since information related to the food system is scattered among governmental and non-governmental organizations. This results in a lack of food system analysis and planning, affecting citizens who depend on the food system, especially the disadvantaged groups, whose roles and needs with regard to the food system are often unacknowledged and undocumented. Under the DFS project, a food system web browser will be created which will house information on the city's food system in an organized manner. This will be useful for many different organizations and stakeholders involved in the food system and will facilitate better coordination and implementation of their activities.

Gender dynamic: The lack of gender-disaggregated data is a significant issue in managing the food system effectively. Because this data is not available, women's roles in the food system, especially those of disadvantaged groups such as urban poor women, differently abled persons and adolescent groups, are often unrecognized. Consequently, their needs are overlooked in food system policies.

The DFS project will address this existing gender dynamic by:

1. developing a food system web browser with gender-disaggregated information;
2. publishing short narrative case studies focusing on gender aspects.

1.1.7 Collect data to monitor the impact of COVID-19 on the food security of the urban poor and prepare weekly situation reports

The COVID-19 crisis has had a devastating impact on the food security of the urban poor, most of whom depend on labour-intensive, low-paid work in the informal sector. They rely entirely on markets, shops and vendors for their food because they cannot grow their own food. Due to the government-imposed

lockdown, many among the urban poor have lost their jobs and income. With little savings or cash in hand, urban poor families have struggled not only to protect themselves from the virus, but to get enough food. Female-headed households have struggled even more than male-headed households.

Gender dynamic: The pandemic has forced the poor to adopt negative coping mechanisms to feed their families, such as eating just one meal per day, consisting mostly of staples, such as rice, potato and lentils, which are cheaper and less nutritious. Women may eat less than other family members or skip a meal in order for other family members to have sufficient food. Should this situation continue much longer, children and women of reproductive age are likely to suffer the most from malnourishment. For women, malnutrition undermines their productivity and their ability to care for their families, and children of malnourished mothers are at higher risk of child mortality. Another aspect impacting women during the pandemic is that they are confined to their homes, increasing their unpaid workload, whereas men leave the home to look for alternative livelihoods.

The DFS project will address this existing gender dynamic by:

1. Engaging women-led urban poor federations of the four city corporations in the process of data collection and COVID-19 response at the community level, increasing their organisational capacity significantly and providing the federation members with paid work (data collection) during the crisis period.
2. Provide emergency funds for urban poor women to help them satisfy their family's basic needs during the COVID-19 crisis.
3. Analyse the collected data from a gender perspective and prepare weekly situation reports on the impact of COVID-19 on food security and urban poverty. Share the situation reports with FAO and governmental and non-governmental organisations, including other United Nations (UN) organisations.

1.1.8 Collect data to monitor the impact of COVID-19 on food prices at wet markets and prepare corresponding situation report

Wet markets are an important source of fresh and affordable food and a means of livelihood for many. The nationwide lockdown imposed by the Government of Bangladesh to contain the spread of COVID-19 has disrupted food supply chains, causing food prices to increase and affecting all the income groups, but particularly the poor, who are the most vulnerable to rising food prices.

Gender dynamic: The increase of food prices, especially of essential food items, has affected not only low-income groups but also middle-income groups. Like the low-income groups, many of the middle-income families have lost their jobs and incomes during the COVID-19 crisis. While the low-income groups have been supported by governmental and non-governmental organisations through emergency food support, middle-income families, who also face challenges in securing food during this crisis, have been excluded from any support. Middle-income families have indicated that they feel shy or hesitant to queue up to buy essential food items from the Open Market Sales (OMS) even if they are in great crisis, as the OMS service is considered to be for the urban poor or lower-income groups.

The DFS project will address the existing gender dynamic by:

1. analysing the data collected, including the gender-related data; preparing weekly situation reports on the impact of COVID-19 on wet markets; and sharing the situation reports with FAO and governmental and non-governmental organisations, including other UN organisations;
2. providing information regarding emergency food support to target groups to help them deal with food security problems;
3. inquiring from middle-income groups what they need to make use of the OMS arrangements;
4. providing training to members of associations, vendors and workers, including cleaning personnel, on COVID-19 safety practices in wet markets.

1.1.10 Study on urban agriculture

Most of the urban poor earn their living through low-paying, informal jobs and they struggle to obtain adequate, nutritious food due to the high cost of living in general and to the rising food prices. This leads to malnutrition as well as obesity among the urban poor. In addition, because they often consume low-quality and unsafe foods, they also face additional health challenges. This impacts not only the present generation, but the health, productivity and educational development of future generations. Young women of reproductive age are the most vulnerable to the negative effects of malnutrition, with increased risks of child and maternal morbidity and mortality. The urgent need for consistently affordable and nutritious food sources for the poor is underlined by the unravelling food security crisis arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Urban agriculture, as a sustainable, dependable and inexpensive source of food, can provide an answer to the barriers urban poor communities face in achieving good nutrition. Growing food in a backyard, on a river- or lakeside plot, or on vacant land within or near a slum, can make a significant contribution to a family's or a community's nutritional intake. It can also provide food and income in times of hardship or crisis, such as the current global pandemic. Urban agriculture can help the poor become more independent, resilient and healthy. Though urban agriculture is practiced by many, particularly those in the city outskirts, very little is known about urban agriculture in Dhaka. Notably, the government does not have a sound understanding of urban agriculture and its potential benefits, or what the government can do to support it. The ongoing pressing COVID-19 crisis highlights the importance of learning more about urban agriculture, how it can serve as an independent source of food, and what kinds of support can be offered to the urban poor communities in this regard.

The DFS project will promote the adoption of urban agriculture by urban poor communities throughout Dhaka, in order for them to increase their nutritional intake, create food-related small businesses, and establish independent and local sources of nutritious food. This will improve the long-term food security of urban poor communities, increasing their access to safe and nutritious food.

Gender dynamic: Urban farming is a viable source of food and a potential source of income for urban poor communities, benefitting men, women, the elderly and children. Traditionally, farming is considered to be a man's job, with women involved only in processing the produce. However, in recent

times, increasing numbers of women in the cities are being drawn to urban farming. In addition to providing food for their families, urban farming can also be a source of income for urban poor women, who often lack access to income-generating activities, in addition to increasing their social standing, making them financially independent and increasing their decision-making power in the household. At present, however, the lack of knowledge and skills on proper farming practices, as well as lack of access to good quality inputs, are significant barriers for many women in the urban poor communities to adopt to urban farming.

DFS will address this existing gender dynamic by:

1. conducting a study to get insights of both men and women, particularly in urban poor communities (women-led federations in the slums), on their interest in urban agriculture and their ability to be involved in it;
2. designing and develop training content based on the study;
3. empowering women by increasing their skills and facilitating their practice of urban agriculture as a source of food and revenue;
4. maintaining gender equality and eliminating gender bias by including male participants and including gender issues in the training.

1.1.11 Study on mobile vendors

Mobile food vending is not only a common and accessible source of food for many of Dhaka's population, it also a significant source of livelihood for the urban poor communities living in informal settlements. Despite its importance, however, mobile vending is illegal. This illegal status means that street vendors are constantly at risk of being evicted and often exposed to exploitation by local enforcers or even police. Sometimes, vendors must pay these enforcers a certain amount of money to be allowed to operate their food vending business on the street. Additionally, very little is currently known about how mobile street vendors organize themselves, their organizational capacity, or how they operate their small businesses. There is also little opportunity for vendors to engage with one another and to collectively develop solutions for long-standing problems.

The DFS project will conduct research, engaging the street food vendors, to identify opportunities for local governments to work with the vendors to introduce policies that improve food safety and hygiene in street food. The project will also investigate and promote policies and means to manage public spaces in a manner that facilitates street food vending and promotes improved livelihoods and opportunities for the poor.

Gender Dynamic: The informal profession of mobile street food vending is dominated by men. However, women also play a significant role by assisting their husbands to prepare the food before they go out to sell it. As women traditionally prepare food, mobile food vending could be a viable income-generating opportunity for women in urban poor communities. However, the unfavourable and even threatening environments to which they would be exposed on the streets, the long working hours and the lack of basic services (drinking water, sanitation and waste disposal) as well as lack of

inclusive regulations on mobile food vending, hinder women's participation in this profession. Furthermore, lack of access to politically influential people and lack of knowledge regarding the informal politics of the street pose additional barriers for women to enter this business. Currently, because of the COVID-19 crisis, a trend is emerging of women preparing food at home and selling it through home-delivery. Even women's mobility (not always socially accepted) has increased because of the necessity to earn an income via home food delivery.

DFS will address this existing gender dynamic by:

1. conducting a study to know more about the mobile vendors in the city;
2. conducting a study to understand the challenges women face to become mobile vendors;
3. finding the gaps and proposing regulations to help improve the management of mobile vendors in the city;
4. developing training on food preparation and safety, as well as entrepreneurship for the mobile vendors based on the study;
5. providing support to mobile vendors to better organize themselves, identifying their needs and challenges through the study.
6. advocating before city authorities to develop simple but effective regulation regarding street food vending, that is mindful of gender equality.

Activity 1.2 Review legislation and policies impacting the food system in the DMA

1.2.5 Review legislation and policies impacting the food system in the DMA

Although the concept of food systems is not new, it is still not well understood. Legislation and policies around the food system exist under specific themes in Bangladesh. Such policies include the National Food Policy 2006, the National Food Policy Plan of Action (2008-2015), the National Nutrition Policy (2015), and others. However, there is no evidence that the existing food policies for the Dhaka Metropolitan Area have been reviewed or that any coordinated strategy or policy exists to address the challenges of providing a reliable and sufficient supply of safe, healthy and nutritious food for Dhaka's urban residents.

Gender dynamic: As there is no comprehensive understanding of food policies, gender-aspects of food policies are not understood either. Women's and men's opinions and needs must be taken into account in policy-level decision making around the food system.

The DFS project will address the existing gender dynamic by:

1. analysing existing policies to identify the gaps;
2. contributing to developing gender-sensitive legislation, particularly for gender advocacy.

Activity 1.3 Develop a dynamic interactive geographic information system (GIS) tool for mapping the food system in the DMA

1.3.4 Document Dhaka's historical street food areas

Street food is very popular among people of all ages and income groups. Day labourers, rickshaw pullers, office workers, school children, university students and slum dwellers consume mostly street food because of its low price, taste, variety, convenience and accessibility. Street food vending is not regulated. It is carried out in public places: on streets, at historical sites and in parks. Although street food is sold throughout Dhaka City, there are many areas where large numbers of street foods vendors concentrate, such as Dhanmondi Lake, Old Dhaka, Dhaka University-TSC, Bangladesh Parliament and Zia Udyan. Despite the prevalence of street food vending, there is little information about historical street food sites nor is there gender disaggregated data regarding food vendors in the DMA.

Gender dynamic: Though the majority of street food vendors are male, women play a crucial role in helping to prepare the foods that are sold by the men. Selling street food could be an option for women to earn an income. But, as street food vending is not regulated and vendors are sometimes evicted and subject to being treated as criminals, it is not seen as a safe means of livelihood for women. Still, many women are now engaging in street food vending, especially in areas near their homes.

The DFS project will address the existing gender dynamic by:

1. identifying the street food areas where women are engaged in street food vending;
2. identifying trends of women selling food from their home and providing home delivery (a trend observed since the COVID-19 crisis began);
3. documenting the challenges women engaged in street food vending face and identifying how those challenges can be addressed so that more women can take advantage of this livelihood opportunity.

Activity 1.4. Evaluate the performance of indicative food chains in the DMA

1.4.3b Data collection on food value chain

Bangladesh has made rapid progress in food production and achieved food self-sufficiency. About half the population is engaged in livelihood activities in the agriculture sector, which contributes to food and nutritional security as well as contributing significantly to GDP growth. As the population continues to grow, the demand for food rises (in terms of both quantity and quality), and consumption patterns change. Although producers and other stakeholders involved in the food sector are producing more in response to the growing demand, they struggle to be profitable due to various constraints in the food system. These constraints are lack of scientific post-harvest techniques, poor transportation networks that delay food delivery, and poor information and communication, all of which contribute to inefficiencies and result in a variety of problems.

Gender dynamic: Both women and men are active in the food chain, but there are considerable differences in the ways and degrees to which they participate, largely due to gender stereotypes and social norms. These gendered differences are related to division of labour, access to and control over resources and benefits, and decision-making power. Women are present in each stage of the value chain, from production to consumption, as producers, processors, entrepreneurs, employees, retailers and customers; but their participation is not considered as important as that of men. Most women

producers or women-owned businesses are small-scale, domestic businesses, while men are active at higher levels of the value chain. Women's limited access to assets, credit, services, markets and information reduces their opportunity to move from domestic, small-scale activities to higher value activities. At the agricultural production level, men generally own the land and control the production and returns, while women perform activities related to household maintenance and care work, as well as participating in agricultural production. Women's socially attributed responsibility to carry out domestic tasks and the socio-cultural norms regarding women's behaviour and mobility also limit women's participation in value chains and even restrict their position within the chain. Consequently, women's double burden of domestic and productive responsibilities and their contribution to adding value in production is often invisible or ignored. However, women's involvement in different segments of the value chain varies across locations, socio-economic position and cultural contexts. For example, poor women, widows, and indigenous women are more active in economic activities, whereas women in conservative Muslim families are less active.

The DFS project will address the existing gender dynamic by:

1. integrating gender in value chain mapping and analysis, including gender disaggregated quantitative and qualitative data collection, which will help identify gender-based constraints and opportunities in the value chain and support the design of actions to address those constraints.

Activity 1.5 Conduct consumer behaviour research

1.5.3 Conduct focus group discussions (FGD) on consumer behaviour in Dhaka's four city corporations

People have a wide variety of food choices, but their choices are heavily influenced by many factors, such as taste preference, income, food prices, availability, convenience, knowledge, culture, etc. These major influences on food choice may vary between different income groups. For low-income consumers, household income and food costs are important factors influencing food choices. They can afford less food and foods of low quality. On the other hand, those with higher incomes have greater purchasing capacity, but this does not necessarily contribute to improving their health and nutritional status. A higher income may increase diet diversity and food quality at the household level, but it can also increase the consumption of less nutritious foods that are rich in fat, sugar and salt. The consumption these types of foods from cafés, restaurants and even street vendors has become very popular among city dwellers, particularly children and youth, irrespective of income, resulting in imbalanced dietary intake leading to malnutrition as well as obesity.

Gender dynamic: Women play a key role in ensuring their family members have safe and nutritious foods in adequate quantity to meet their dietary needs. As Bangladesh is a patriarchal society, women are responsible for caregiving and domestic work, while men are responsible for providing income. Although this traditional view of women as caregivers and men as the breadwinners has shifted over time, women still bear the primary responsibility of caregiving and food preparation and are the ones who generally determine what foods will be purchased and prepared. Women who live with their in-laws, however, do not control food decisions as their mother-in-laws hold the decision-making power in this domain. Furthermore, a recent FAO study on food security and urban poverty, conducted under the DFS project, shows that urban poor women are more adept at utilizing their limited resources to

satisfy household necessities and are more knowledgeable regarding the strategies to ensure the whole family has enough to eat.

The DFS project will address the existing gender dynamic by:

1. analysing the findings of research into consumer behaviour to identify strategic interventions for specific target groups;
2. providing information and training on food safety, hygiene and nutrition;
3. implementing awareness campaigns on healthy and nutritious food, targeting different age groups.

Output 2: Strategic Food Agenda 2041 for the DMA

Activity 2.1 Establish a Consultative Group in Urban Food System Strategies (CGUFSS)

2.1.1 Prepare an inventory of stakeholders

A diverse range of stakeholders, including institutions, organisations and individuals, is currently involved in the city's food system. However, collaboration between the stakeholders is limited. Thus, it is important to develop a stakeholder inventory.

Gender dynamic: Many women stakeholders are involved in the city's food system, but their presence is not visible and their decision-making power is limited due to lack of representation in relevant institutions.

The DFS project will address the existing gender dynamic by:

1. preparing an inventory of stakeholders, disaggregating the involvement of men and women who are directly and indirectly involved in the city's food system.

2.1.2 Conduct introductory workshop

This workshop will emphasize the importance of collaborative work between the food system stakeholders in order to improve the city's food system. The purpose of this workshop is to assist the relevant stakeholders in defining their roles, facilitate collaboration and participatory decision-making.

Gender Dynamic: From the private sphere to the public sphere, women are largely under-represented in decision-making processes. The importance of women's representation as stakeholders will be emphasised by prioritising women's participation in the workshop.

The DFS project will address the existing the gender dynamic by:

1. conducting an introductory workshop;
2. ensuring women's participation in the workshop.

2.1.3 Establish terms of reference for the CGUFSS

The purpose and structure of the CGUFSS will be discussed and finalised.

Gender dynamic: Special and specific attention will be given to addressing the women's needs and challenges, especially those of urban poor women, through the ToR.

The DFS project will address the existing gender dynamic by:

1. establishing the terms of reference for the CGUFSS;
2. addressing the needs and challenges of women, especially urban poor women.

2.1.4 Establish and operationalise the CGUFSS

At the moment, there is no overarching body that evaluates the performance, addresses the weaknesses, plans better coordination, or promotes interventions to improve the city's food system, either within or outside of the government.

The CGUFSS is intended as a broad-based multisectoral committee made up of food system stakeholders, including representatives from key government agencies with a direct role in the food industry, representatives from food industry bodies (producers, traders, wholesalers, retailers) and consumer and civil society organisations with direct interest in food and nutrition security. The CGUFSS will take on these responsibilities and make decisions at the metropolitan level to improve the food system. Such decisions would have a positive, long-term impact on men and women in Dhaka.

Gender dynamic: In Bangladesh, women's participation in public and political domains has progressed significantly. However, women still lag behind in every tier of those domains. Women's participation at high levels in politics, policymaking and professional fields is still low. Because of this, women's voices are absent in decision-making processes, leading to the creation of gender-blind policies and practices. Women make the most important contribution to household and national food security, but this contribution is poorly understood and often undervalued, as they are mostly invisible actors in the food chain. To ensure that all people, regardless of gender, benefit from policies and programmes to improve the food system, women must participate in the consultative group so that their voices are heard and acknowledged.

The DFS project will address the existing gender dynamic by:

1. providing gender training on food system planning for the CGUFSS;
2. ensuring that the CGUFSS has sufficient information and data about the food system;
3. establishing a ToR for the CGUFSS that includes gender equity and women's representation.

Activity 2.2. Facilitate the development of a Strategic Food Agenda 2041 for the DMA

2.2.1 Conduct scenario planning workshops

Many stakeholders or policymakers are not aware of existing scenarios in the food system that require urgent essential attention.

Gender dynamic: The needs and challenges of women and children in the city's food system, especially those of women and children from urban poor communities, are not sufficiently known.

The DFS project will address the existing gender dynamic by:

1. conducting scenario planning workshops that focus on the needs and challenges of urban poor women.

2.2.2 Conduct training programme in urban food system planning

Food systems are complex and little information is available about food system planning. In Bangladesh, policymakers have a limited understanding of urban food systems. For policymakers to design appropriate policy instruments and incentives, there must be a way for them to learn how to determine the likely impact of food policy interventions.

Gender dynamic: Women's roles in urban food production, in trading fresh and cooked foods, in household nutrition and in generating income, are mostly invisible and undervalued. A clear understanding of women's role in the food system is needed. Moreover, it is vital that women's perspectives be included in food system planning through their active participation.

The DFS project will address the existing gender dynamic by:

1. adopting a participatory approach in planning;
2. ensuring an equal number of women and men participate in the training.

2.2.3 Draft a strategic food system agenda for review by the CGUFSS

In order to address the pressing issues in Dhaka's food system, a proposal of activities for developing a sustainable food system in Dhaka and corresponding policy implications will be drafted.

Gender dynamic: Poor communities, especially the women, young people, differently abled people and members of ethnic minorities, usually have little voice in articulating the urgency of their situation to local governments, and they usually are not included in planning and policy decisions that could benefit them. The needs and challenges of women, children and differently abled persons from urban poor communities will be prioritised in the draft of the food system agenda.

The DFS project will address the existing gender dynamic by:

1. Drafting a strategic food system agenda, in consultation with relevant actors, emphasizing the needs and challenges of women, children and differently abled persons from urban poor communities.

2.2.4 Consult with the stakeholders for the draft

It is necessary to gather opinions, feedback, consent and, especially, commitments from the diverse stakeholders regarding the draft as they are actively involved in and impact the city's food system.

Gender dynamic: It is necessary to consult with the women stakeholders regarding the draft to gather their feedback and, eventually, their approval of the draft as they understand more accurately the needs and challenges of women and children within the city's food system, particularly those of women and children from urban poor communities.

The DFS project will address the existing gender dynamic by:

1. consulting on the draft with stakeholders, prioritising women stakeholders who are actively involved in making a positive impact on the city's food system.

2.2.5 Organise an international conference on the Strategic Food Agenda 2041 for the DMA

It is essential to gather learnings from the international domain to increase impact and ensure the sustainability of the city's food system.

Gender dynamic: It is very important to understand how other countries are addressing the pressing challenges of women and children in urban food systems in order to ensure the development of a comprehensive city food system.

The DFS project will address the existing gender dynamic by:

1. Organising an international conference on the Strategic Food Agenda 2041 for the DMA and ensuring the participation of women stakeholders.

2.2.6 Revise the Strategic Food Agenda 2041

Rapid urbanization is forcing people to live in underserved areas of the city with limited access to safe, nutritious and affordable food. Furthermore, food safety has become a growing problem in the country. From production to consumption, there are a number of steps in the food value chain in which food can become contaminated. Contaminated food causes illnesses and can even cause death. This issue affects everyone, but especially the poor, who do not have enough money to buy better quality and safer food.

Gender dynamic: Urban poor communities play a significant role in the food system as large numbers of urban poor people earn their living through many different food-related activities. At the same time, the urban poor are most vulnerable to food insecurity, particularly the women, children and differently able persons. The most basic needs of these vulnerable urban communities are often unrecognized or overlooked in food-related policies and strategies, leaving them even more vulnerable.

The DFS project will address the gender dynamic by:

1. obtaining feedback from a wider group of stakeholders regarding the draft Strategic Food Agenda 2041, ensuring that gender-responsive feedback is incorporated so that both men and women will benefit from the food agenda.

Output 3: Interventions to improve the performance of the food system for the DMA, developed and tested.

Activity 3.1. Actions to reduce food waste and losses assessed (Reduction)

3.1.3a Engaging the private sector to reduce food waste

The food business sector is growing tremendously in Dhaka City, keeping pace with the growth of the urban population and the trend of eating out among city dwellers. At the same time, an extensive amount of food is being lost and wasted. Food loss is generally rooted in issues in the handling, storage and transport of foods from farms to wholesale and retail warehouses before they reach the consumer, while food waste (food thrown away by consumers) takes place in households, restaurants and hotels. The latter includes leftovers and unconsumed food on plates and excess cooked food that is not served. Supermarkets also contribute greatly to food waste. For example, processed foods and ready-to-eat meals found in supermarkets are a growing source of food waste, as it is difficult to use these foods if they aren't sold or if they expire. Supermarkets tend to carry large volumes of processed foods, and improper inventory management is an important factor in supermarket food waste. A related issue is the pollution caused by poor management of lost and wasted food.

Gender dynamic: While restaurants and retail stores throw away large quantities of food, many people in the city, especially the disadvantaged urban poor, go to bed hungry. Children, the elderly and women, who often lack sources of income, suffer from hunger the most. Often, they are forced to beg and to eat leftover foods from dustbins. Furthermore, food waste from poor handling of vegetables increases the retail price of the vegetables. The higher the price of vegetables, the less the urban poor can afford to purchase and consume them.

The DFS project will address this gender dynamic by:

1. creating awareness in the private sector of the implications of food waste for the urban poor, especially women and children;
2. establishing a voluntary business platform to promote the development of food waste policies and food waste-reduction practices in the private sector;
3. encouraging the private sector to donate excess food to poor communities, benefitting the elderly, women and children; and investigating food bank and food sharing opportunities;
4. providing training on food safety and hygiene practices.

3.1.3b Feasibility study for bio-digestion of food waste

Every day, high volumes of food waste are generated in Dhaka by households, restaurants and wholesale and retail markets. This food waste is poorly managed and has become a serious problem for the people and the local government, polluting the environment and threatening public health. The city government is concerned about the volume of the food waste and its management, but lacks the resources and capacity to manage the waste, which would require large-scale investment as well as innovation. For this reason, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) are implementing several ongoing initiatives to manage solid waste, providing technical and infrastructural support to Dhaka's city corporations. Most importantly, the NGO Waste Concern has implemented a successful project in Narayanganj, which is demonstrating the viability and profitability of converting organic waste to compost while creating employment opportunities, especially for the poor.

Gender dynamic: Biodigesters are an innovative technological approach for reducing and leveraging food wastes. In rural areas of Bangladesh, household biogas digesters are very popular and of great benefit to poor families, reducing cooking times and energy costs, as well as being an environmentally sound way to use and dispose of waste. The impact of biogas digesters in urban settings may be different, but there is potential for them to be used in urban settings and to benefit women, men and children.

The DFS project will address this gender dynamic by:

1. conducting a feasibility study on the use of biogas digesters and analyse the data;
2. piloting biogas digesters in a food market to reduce food waste.

3.1.3d Food waste reduction campaign in supermarkets

The number of supermarkets has grown significantly in recent years in Bangladesh, along with rapid urbanization and higher per capita income. The demand for supermarkets is increasing among the growing middle-class who seek convenience, high product quality and a safe environment. In addition, urban customers are more conscious of the prevalence of contaminated perishable food items, such as vegetables, fruits, meat and fish. This drives supermarkets to regularly purchase large quantities of foods from sources such as Dhaka-based market hubs, resulting in the waste of edible foods. To some extent, supermarkets are responsible for the food waste crisis in Dhaka City, but supermarkets can also be part of waste reduction and prevention. Supermarkets have significant power to impact food waste due to their direct link with producers, food processors and consumers.

Gender dynamic: Most supermarket customers are from middle- and upper-income groups, and most of them are women. Impulsive bulk-buying at supermarkets is, to some extent, responsible for excessive food waste in households. Thus women, who purchase the food, can contribute significantly to reducing household waste. Customers, suppliers, producers and retailers all have an important role to play in reducing food waste.

The DFS project will address this gender dynamic by:

1. raising awareness among supermarket consumers regarding the adverse effects of excessive food waste in supermarkets through campaigns, targeting women, as they are primarily in charge of food buying and preparation;
2. encouraging the donation of excess food to urban poor communities, through food banks, food sharing and the like.
3. encouraging the supermarkets to promote food waste reduction among their consumers through innovative schemes.

3.1.3e Pilot biogas digesters in a food market to reduce food waste

Food markets are an important commercial hub for selling and buying fresh vegetables, fruits, fish and meat as well as dry products, including spices. The markets generate huge quantities of solid organic waste, comprised mainly of spoiled or unsold foods. Food and non-food waste from the markets is

dumped outside to be collected by city corporation waste services. But the waste is often not collected, making the market environment dirty and unhygienic. This has created serious environmental and health problems in the city, in addition to hampering in market operations.

Gender dynamic: Installation of biogas digesters for food waste at the market would benefit both customers and market vendors by managing food waste and greatly improving the market environment. As most wet market customers are women, they are at great risk of contracting diseases at the markets due to lack of waste management. The introduction of biogas digesters may also generate income for the market committees from the sale of electricity.

DFS will address this gender dynamic by:

1. ensuring the scaling up the biogas digester project, targeting more women-owned food businesses, such as restaurants.

Activity 3.2 Model and evaluate strategies for improving wholesale food marketing, logistics management and distribution

3.2.1a Build capacity of market committees

Most of Dhaka's public food markets are managed by autonomous bodies. The majority of these bodies lack administrative and organizational capacity to effectively address the problems in the markets, including lack of proper waste management, food safety and hygiene, accounting, emergency preparedness, marketing, safety and operational effectiveness. As most of Dhaka's citizens source their food from public food markets, these have the potential to play a critical role in improving food accessibility, quality, and affordability. The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the existing problems in wet markets and their impact on the population and the lack of leadership necessary to institute needed changes.

Gender dynamic: Most of the members of market committees are men and most market vendors are also men. However, a growing portion of the market customers are women, as urban life has relaxed traditional gender roles and socio-cultural restrictions on women's mobility. Thus, committees must understand the needs of women consumers and make the market environments and services more women-friendly and inclusive. Another important aspect is that attitudes towards food are changing in Dhaka. People are increasingly concerned about the quality and safety of food as well as the convenience of the retail environment. With growing competition from supermarkets and online markets, the committees must manage market operations and services more professionally, including aspects such as waste management, toilet facilities and parking facilities, in order to compete for customers of different ages, genders and income groups.

DFS will address this gender dynamic by:

1. training market committees in gender, management, leadership;
2. advocating for market committees to allow women to be on the committees;
3. encouraging women to join market committees or to establish women's market committees;
4. encouraging women to become market vendors;

5. identifying constraints for women to participate in commercial market activities and creating an environment that is women- (and men) -friendly.

3.2.1b Upgrade public food markets in terms of food safety and functionality

Public food markets are the primary channel of food distribution and play a critical role in feeding Dhaka's growing population. However, they are becoming increasingly less popular among consumers, especially middle class consumers. Most of Dhaka's over 150 public food markets, including wholesale and retail markets, were built 30 to 40 years ago. Many have had little investment over the years and are in poor condition. Generally, they are overcrowded, with the number of vendors surpassing their capacity and insufficient space for consumers to move freely. Toilets are often broken, they are unhygienic, lack proper waste management, and there is insufficient parking. Due to lack of monitoring, food safety and hygiene are not properly maintained in the markets.

Gender dynamic: Despite the poor conditions of the markets, most urban consumers from poor and lower-middle income groups, regardless of age, gender and ethnicity, purchase their vegetables, fruits, fish and meat from the public food markets as the products are fresh and prices are reasonable. But the poor conditions make it unpleasant and unsafe for women customers, especially for pregnant women. Most middle and upper class women shop at supermarkets close to their homes, which are clean and ensure food safety, and buy food from mobile vendors (for convenience).

The DFS project will address this gender dynamic by:

1. providing guidelines on useful infrastructure upgrades for the markets, including design guidelines to make markets more inclusive for women customers;
2. drawing insights from the women, particularly regarding their challenges and recommendations to upgrade the markets, including user-friendly facilities for pregnant and lactating women;
3. creating awareness within the government of the need to invest in the markets, and advocating for such investment.

3.2.1c Upgrade wet markets

Most urban households in Dhaka, regardless of income, purchase vegetables, fruits, fish and meat from wet markets because their products are fresher and more reasonably priced. Wet markets are very popular and always crowded but they are losing customers and competitiveness because of their poor conditions and lack of food safety. Most wet markets do not have modern amenities, are unhygienic and do not provide safe conditions for their vendors and consumers. Vendors do not follow food safety measures, such as selling meat and vegetables in separate sections. Meat vendors, for instance, do not use slaughterhouses because they are far away and doing so would incur additional costs. Instead, they slaughter the animals in front of the shops, making the wet markets dirty and smelly. During the monsoon season, inefficient drainage systems in the wet markets cause additional problems.

Gender dynamic: Though wet markets are a popular place to shop, they are becoming less popular among women, mostly due to their poor conditions, which are especially unfavourable for women. As a result, some women often prefer not to go to the wet markets and the male members of the households go instead. Nevertheless, most women from poor households buy food regularly from neighbourhood markets despite the poor conditions, as they are responsible for food preparation and purchasing.

The DFS project will address this gender dynamic by:

1. providing guidelines on useful infrastructure upgrades for wet markets, including building standard slaughterhouses, improving drainage systems and establishing food safety regulations (such as separating meat and vegetable sections);
2. drawing insights from the consumer behaviour survey, providing recommendations to upgrade the wet markets to be more inclusive for all customers regardless of age, gender, ethnicity and income.

3.2.1d Introduce COVID-19 safety measures at the market

Since public food markets, especially wet markets, are poorly regulated, maintaining proper hygiene has always been an issue. Most vendors are not sufficiently aware of COVID-19 safety measures, such as social distancing, hand hygiene and wearing masks. As a result, food markets have become epicentres of COVID-19 contagion.

Gender dynamic: Due to the lack of COVID-19 safety measures and regulations in public food markets, vendors and consumers are at high risk of being infected. The risk is especially high for people over 60 years old and those who are immunocompromised. The situation has put immense pressure on women who bear the responsibility of purchasing and preparing food. Women are concerned about going to the wet markets or even sending the male members of their families there during the pandemic. Finding alternative options for purchasing food is a challenge, especially for women heads of household, due to the nationwide lockdown. Some women opted for bulk buying and storing food before the lockdown was imposed, but financial constraints made this impossible for many families.

The DFS project will address the gender dynamic by:

1. raising awareness about COVID-19 among the market committees, vendors and consumers;
2. providing training and guidance on maintaining necessary safety measures, such as hand hygiene, wearing masks, social distancing and cleanliness within the market and recommend the committees install hand washing stations and ensure there is always enough water and soap to wash hands.

3.2.1d Establish farmers' markets

Farmers, especially small-scale and mid-sized farmers, have been deprived of earning reasonable profits due to the dominance of *aarotdars* (middlemen) in the food supply chain. Furthermore, there is a communication gap between farmers and consumers, and consumers are seriously concerned about the safety of the food, particularly in terms of the use of agrochemicals. Farmers' markets are

very common in rural areas where farmers sell their fresh produce directly to consumers, but they are very rare in the city. Recently, the government has begun taking steps to support marginalised farmers by establishing a farmers' market, called *khishoker bazar*³ in Shech Bhaban premise, in Dhaka. However one farmers' market is not enough to meet the demands of the urban population.

Gender dynamic: At the farm level, both men and women are engaged in production, but their participation is often shaped by traditional gender roles. In rural areas, women work on family farms without pay, or on other farms, with pay. In both cases, their role is mostly invisible and unacknowledged. Women have less access to agricultural resources, such as inputs and finance, and less opportunities, such as training on better seed identification, more effective cultivation methods and pest and disease management. Women lack access to information about farming and marketing. Their lower literacy rates are a major impediment to their access to resources and information. The small and mid-sized farming sector is predominantly male-dominated; as are the food marketing and distribution sectors. Farmers' markets could be a better platform for small-scale women farmers to access to the market and be economically empowered. This, in turn, would help them achieve control over their resources and more decision-making power in the household and in the wider community.

The DFS project will address this gender dynamic by:

1. advocating for the government to establish more farmers' markets in Dhaka;
2. providing the government with technical assistance to establish more farmers' markets in the city;
3. developing a ToR specifically mentioning women's inclusion and empowerment, to ensure women farmers have access to the markets;
4. forming farmers' market committees to properly manage and monitor the markets, especially to protect marginalised farmers from middlemen;
5. encouraging more women to market their produce in farmers' markets;
6. ensuring farmers' market committees include at least equal numbers of men and women;
7. promoting food safety practices among the consumers, specifically among female consumers, as food safety has always been a major concern of women as they are in charge of their families' wellbeing.

3.2.2 Deliver training in wholesale food marketing, logistics management and distribution

Wholesale food markets are key to the food system as they connect all the actors in the food chain. Once produced, food products are aggregated, processed and transported to urban markets. Many wholesalers do not have proper knowledge of food handling, safety, marketing, management and distribution. This causes delays in food distribution, resulting in food waste and significant financial losses for wholesalers.

Gender dynamic: The wholesale food sector is predominantly male-dominated. Women vendors are somewhat visible at the retail level, but not in wholesale marketing. Wholesaling requires capital, good

³ The Business Standard website: <https://tbsnews.net/bangladesh/safe-vegetables-khishoker-bazar>

social relations with other food chain actors, and knowledge of marketing and distribution systems. Women lack access to all these necessary resources and opportunities, including access to the market and financial services.

The DFS project will address this gender dynamic by:

1. identifying women entrepreneurs and women's grassroots organisations engaged in wholesale food businesses and supporting them with resources and opportunities, including access to loans and inputs, technical guidance and training to help them to grow their businesses;
2. showcasing successful women wholesalers to encourage more women to engage in food wholesaling;
3. training male and female wholesalers (ensuring gender equality) on food safety, handling, marketing, logistical management and distribution.

Activity 3.3 Explore mechanisms for the adoption of Dhaka Best Quality label

3.3.4 Establish guidelines, standard operating procedures (SOPs) and a manual for a Dhaka Best Quality

Almost all urban households depend on foods purchased from wet markets, supermarkets and mobile vendors. Due to the increasing use of chemicals and synthetic fertilisers, urban consumers are losing confidence in increasingly distant food supply chains. Moreover, consumers are aware of food adulteration and contamination, but they are not sure which foods are safe and which are not. Since there is very limited access to affordable, safe and nutritious foods for urban people, especially for the middle and low-class groups, they have no other alternative than to buy from the markets.

Gender dynamic: Women are more concerned than men about consuming safe food as they bear the principle responsibility for their family's wellbeing. Due to the lack of information about food safety and rising incidences of food adulteration, as well as the gap in communication between farmers and consumers, women do not trust the foods sold in the markets in terms of food safety.

The DFS project will address this gender dynamic by:

1. mobilising small, mid-sized and large-scale farmers to commit to producing and providing safer food by raising awareness about the importance of food safety;
2. developing guidelines, SOPs and manuals to enable the farmers to deliver safe food, restore consumer trust, and increase farmer income;
3. developing a strategy to create awareness among consumers regarding the importance of safe and healthy food (possibly through an NGO or other parties that can reach consumers).

3.3.8 Promote the Dhaka Best Quality

The demand for diverse, convenient, perishable and value-added food products is on the rise in Dhaka. In response, a variety of locally grown and imported foods are now available in the markets. Food

availability per person has increased, however, access to food and food quality – important dimensions of food security – are still a considerable challenge. In addition, urban consumers do not trust the safety of the food from increasingly distant food supply chains, due to the use of toxic pesticides and fertilizers as well as food adulteration during processing and distribution.

Gender dynamic: Women are more aware of food safety issues than men as they are the primary decision-makers regarding food purchasing and preparation. Due to the lack of information about food safety and rising incidences of food adulteration, as well as a gap in communication between farmers and consumers, women doubt the safety of foods sold in the markets.

The DFS project will address this gender dynamic by:

1. organising farmers (mostly small and mid-scale farmers) and assisting them to agree on terms regarding the use of organic farming methods and the avoidance of harmful agrochemicals in order to regain consumer trust;
2. facilitating the creation of women’s farmer networks and link them with existing farmers’ networks;
3. developing a strategy to build trust among consumers regarding the safety of foods sold at public markets (possibly through an NGO or other parties that can reach consumers).

Activity 3.4 Develop and test alternative options to increase the supply of healthy and nutritious food within informal low-income settlements

3.4.3a Promoting community gardening among the urban poor

The urban poor struggle to obtain adequate and nutritious foods due to insufficient income and rising costs of living, especially food prices. Their dietary intake consists mostly of carbohydrates, such as rice and potatoes. Lack of diet diversity affects their health and productivity, especially affecting children and adolescents, who are most vulnerable to hunger and poor nutrition. For the urban poor community, growing their own food can be an important option for increasing household food and nutritional security. It can also generate additional income, through the sale of surplus production. Although urban agriculture is not widespread among the urban poor in Dhaka (due in part to lack of usable land and lack of land security), many urban poor families in the densely populated low-income settlement areas do practice small-scale urban agriculture, growing vegetables in their backyards, on riverbanks, on lakeside plots and on vacant land within or near their settlements. In addition, raising livestock (goats, pigeons and chickens) is quite common and often done commercially within small spaces. Expanding this practice will provide local, independent sources of nutritious food for poor communities and can lead to the creation of small food businesses. The barriers to community gardening among the poor are land scarcity, expensive agricultural inputs, and lack of knowledge about innovative gardening methods.

Gender dynamic: The high cost of living and the insufficient income has greatly impacted the food security of the urban poor, particularly women’s access to high-quality and affordable foods. With little income and high food prices, poor women are left with no choice but to look for cheaper foods to feed

their families. Household food insecurity disproportionately affects women as they tend to eat last and less when there is not enough food for the family. To combat this situation, many women in low-income settlement areas like Korail, Agargaon and Duaripara, grow vegetables and rear livestock in small spaces for their own consumption. These women are playing an important role in enabling their families to meet their nutritional needs. Urban farming can also generate additional income, especially in the case of women heads of household. (Men play a bigger role in the commercial aspects of urban farming, especially in the city's periphery.) The visibility of women as urban farmers has historically been overlooked by researchers and practitioners.

The DFS project will address this gender dynamic by:

1. promoting urban agriculture among women by providing training and inputs to urban poor communities to increase their access to nutritious food;
2. providing economic opportunities for women by assisting them to create food-related small businesses;
3. building social cohesion, leadership, capacity and confidence within the urban poor community federations, comprised mostly of women;
4. raising awareness amongst the household members regarding equal food distribution within the household to ensure food security and improved nutritional status for all, particularly children and women of reproductive age;
5. providing women with training on entrepreneurship, leadership and food safety to enhance their decision-making regarding food choice and cooking.
6. considering involvement of schools as locations for model gardens.

3.4.3b Support small-scale food businesses of the urban poor

Small-scale food businesses, such as street food vending, food shops, catering services, etc. make an important contribution to employment and to household food security among the urban poor. However, there are significant barriers for the poor to start up or sustain such businesses, including lack of capital and information and lack of access to financing and markets. For women, lack of family support and unequal distribution of social roles and responsibility are additional barriers to starting up such businesses.

Gender dynamic: Although men dominate the food business sector, there are a significant numbers of women involved directly or indirectly in such businesses. Women prepare the foods their spouses sell on the street and they run food stores and tea shops, either together with their spouses or on their own. However, there are less women-owned food businesses as women are traditionally expected to remain in the private domain fulfilling their reproductive role. Although economic prosperity opened up opportunities for women to join the workforce, women still have difficulty entering the public domain. Another aspect is that women's workload of household chores and caregiving, particularly childcare, often limit their involvement in economic activities. Women who are involved in economic activities bear double or triple the workload of their male counterparts.

The DFS project will address this gender dynamic by:

1. providing training on entrepreneurship and on food safety, hygiene, handling and processing as well as financial support (including small business grants) to poor women, particularly single mothers, to run or upgrade businesses;
2. creating a platform for urban poor women and youth running food businesses and connecting them with private sector and government foundations, such as Joyeeta Foundation and SME Foundation to help them to expand their businesses and build resilience to future adversities such as the COVID-19 crisis;
3. advocating for building an enabling environment for women and young entrepreneurs to enter the food business sector.

3.4.4 Form neighbourhood volunteer food safety committees

Food safety has become a national problem in Bangladesh. Over the last decade, food contamination and adulteration throughout the supply chain has been widely reported. The government has taken initiatives to curb this through a mobile court, but the problem persists. As a result, there is growing concern among consumers about the quality of the food sold in the public markets and the food sold by food service providers. This is fuelled by a lack of information about the origin of the foods.

Gender dynamic: Women are not permitted to be members of market committees. Hence, women's challenges and needs are left unheard. Furthermore, women are more concerned about food safety than men, as they bear the primary responsibility for food provisioning and for their families' well-being.

The DFS project will address this gender dynamic by:

1. forming food safety committees with different stakeholders and ensuring that women are on the committees (also forming women's food safety committees if needed, based on consultation with relevant actors);
2. training the food safety committees on gender awareness and food safety, preferably by training women as food safety experts who will train other individuals;

Activity 3.5: Implement targeted consumer awareness programmes to influence food choice

3.5.4a Raise awareness regarding food safety and nutrition through town, federation or community development committees (CDC)

People living in informal low-income settlements face the greatest risk of malnutrition, particularly women of reproductive age and children. They often spend 60 to 80 percent of their income on food, due to high food prices, and their food choices are dictated by price and quantity rather than food preference and quality. As such, their dietary intake is composed mainly of carbohydrates (rice and potatoes) as these are cheaper and more filling and they generally lack diet diversity, especially lacking vegetables, fruits and protein-rich foods. Additionally, the urban poor have limited knowledge and skills regarding healthy food choices, healthy food preparation, proper hygiene practices, innovative farming practices (vertical farming or sack farming), and proper food storage.

Gender dynamic: Women who live in informal, low-income settlements are solely responsible for purchasing food and preparing family meals, while men are engaged in labour-intensive and low-paid work. Hence, women are key to the food choices made in the household, but they are prevented from accessing nutritious foods due to their low incomes. Furthermore, most urban poor women lack awareness and knowledge regarding children's nutrient requirements and the importance of breastfeeding, resulting in high prevalence of malnourished children. In addition, they are burdened with the double workload of earning incomes and domestic responsibilities, which makes it difficult for them to give adequate time to feeding their children.

The DFS project will address this gender dynamic by:

1. providing training on food safety and nutrition, particularly how to select affordable, safe and nutritious food items and how to cook them properly, with limited household resources;
2. eliminating the knowledge gaps and misinformation related to existing cultural food taboos and inviting peer role models and institutional leaders (possibly health care workers or religious leaders) to support innovative thinking related to food.

3.5.4b Implement food safety awareness campaign

Food safety is a public health priority. The consumption of adulterated or contaminated foods and drinks causes foodborne diseases, including diarrhoea, kidney problems and other illness, even leading to the death. Children, pregnant women and the elderly, in particular, are vulnerable to foodborne diseases. In Bangladesh, food safety concerns have gained significant attention due to continuous reporting by the media of widespread food adulteration and the sale of unsafe foods. Examples include using formalin to preserve fish and fruits, using red colouring in beef, and using antibiotics in pasteurized milk. In fact, many food items are adulterated with toxic chemicals or substances, unbeknownst to the public. Foods can be adulterated or contaminated at any level of the food chain, from production to distribution and consumption, but most adulteration is done by producers and sellers who are aware of the harmful effects of food adulteration on human health.⁴ Another important aspect of food safety is that most consumers and food handlers lack sufficient knowledge regarding food safety and hygiene, as this information is not readily available. Because of this, people are exposed to a range of contaminants from foods that are improperly handled or prepared in restaurants, at markets and even at home, resulting in serious foodborne illness.

Gender dynamic: Though there is a general lack of access to food safety information, women have a much harder time accessing such information due to their lower literacy levels. Hence, women are more vulnerable to misinformation regarding food safety and the impact of this is greater as they are responsible for their family's wellbeing. Children are especially vulnerable to the impact of such misinformation.

Gender stereotyping also plays a role in food safety and occupational hazards. For instance, men, who slaughter animals and process meat in wet markets, are more at risk of infection from the market's unhygienic conditions or if they themselves do not practice proper hygiene, such as using safety

⁴ Nasreen, Sharifa and Ahmed, Tahmeed (2014). Food Adulteration and Consumer Awareness in Dhaka City 1995-2011. *J. Health Popul Nutr.* 32(3):452-464. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4221451/>

equipment and proper handwashing. Moreover, food markets, food businesses, and even professional kitchens are dominated by men, not all of whom understand basic food hygiene practices, thus threatening their own health and that of their customers.

The DFS project will address this gender dynamic by:

1. working with city corporations, food safety authorities and other stakeholders to develop and implement food safety awareness campaigns that are easily accessible to everyone, especially women.
2. advocating on behalf of poor women before the city level coordination committee, through federations representing the poor, engaging women leaders/champions and other relevant stakeholders including health departments of city corporations and the Bangladesh Food Safety Authority;
3. enhancing the role of the media to create awareness about food safety.

3.5.4d Launch youth activity for awareness campaign

Fast food and processed food containing unhealthy fats and sugar are very popular among young people, including children. They prefer to eat food purchased outside their homes than to eat healthy, homemade food. Furthermore, to some extent, children influence families' food decisions. The low cost, convenience and high-level of marketing of fast food and processed food items are the major drivers of the unhealthy eating habit of young people. This is contributing to high incidences of obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes and other diet-related conditions among younger people. In fact, healthy and nutritious food is scarcely available outside the home, and when it is, it is more expensive and young people cannot afford it. No action is being taken to promote the consumption of healthy and nutritious food, even in schools, and youth have little access to information about food safety and nutrition.

Gender dynamic: More children are being exposed to unhealthy foods sold outside the home, which are easily accessible to them. A study revealed that even children in urban poor communities are given food prepared outside the home for breakfast, since it is difficult for mothers to prepare food for them in the morning. Most importantly, there are no opportunities for younger women, in particular potential leaders, to have their voices heard and to promote changes in society.

The DFS project will address this gender dynamic by:

1. finding innovative ways to involve the youth in the food system, such as training youth peer-coaches to promote healthy food behaviours;
2. providing training to youth groups on community gardening, food safety, nutrition, waste management (mostly food waste) and leading awareness campaigns;
3. including youth in leadership and empowerment opportunities so that their voices can be included in the development of agendas and plans;
4. supporting the engagement of youth in food businesses that practice food safety.

Activity 3.6: Document and promote Dhaka's urban food culture

3.6.1 Study the diversity of food available in the food service sector

Urban consumers in Dhaka City are becoming more interested in food. Both eating out and ordering food for delivery have become more popular as wages rise and working hours extend later into the evening. Dhaka's food culture has undergone a transformation, with urban consumers interested in a greater variety of foods, including traditional foods, Chinese foods, fast food, etc. The urban food services sector, including hotels, restaurants and street foods, is booming to meet the demands of urban consumers from diverse income and age groups. Food culture plays a significant role in urban lifestyle, yet very little is known about the availability of diverse foods and consumers' food consumption behaviour.

Gender dynamic: Both men and women are involved in the food service sector, though there is a significant disparity in numbers. Although women bear the socially ascribed responsibility of preparing food for their families, it is mostly men who cook in restaurants, hotels and food stalls. Women lack access and opportunities to establish careers in the food and beverage industry. For example, most street food vendors are men, but women play a crucial role in helping them prepare the foods they sell.

The DFS project will address this gender dynamic by:

1. designing and conducting a study on the diversity of foods available in the food service sectors in the DMA;
2. identifying women's roles in the food service sector, including identifying women who have built careers or earn their livelihood in the food service sector;
3. analysing the study findings to identify potential iconic examples of heritage foods, women's contribution to such foods, and opportunities to promote foods made with local ingredients that are rich in nutrition and reflect cultural values.

3.6.2 Identify iconic examples of heritage foods and areas for further development

Beyond dietary requirements and nutritional value, food is an expression of cultural and national identity. Traditional cuisine is also passed down from one generation to the next. As Dhaka is one of the oldest cities in South Asia, the city has a rich culinary history, especially in its street food. For instance, Iftar Market in Old Dhaka serves iconic dishes during Ramadan. However, very little is known about the existing heritage foods and areas in Dhaka City.

Gender dynamic: Traditionally, women provide the food for their families. They play a key role in managing food and using it to uphold traditions. Women's knowledge and skills for making a variety of traditional foods were most likely passed down from generation to generation. This traditional knowledge is not sufficiently acknowledged. In fact, men dominate the heritage food market, preparing traditional foods for sale and as owners of traditional food businesses, while women prepare food in the private sphere.

The DFS project will address this gender dynamic by:

1. identifying the areas and people engaged in heritage food production and sale in Dhaka, collecting gender-disaggregated data;
2. identifying the challenges and opportunities to further develop heritage food through research;
3. identifying women's role in heritage food production and sale and their challenges in terms of accessing resources and opportunities in the sector.

3.6.3 Work with civic authorities to provide dedicated areas for heritage food vending

Street food vending is very common in Dhaka City. Food vendors serve millions of lower and medium-income city dwellers every day. Food vending is an important source of income for a considerable portion of the population, but vendors are often evicted from the locations where they are selling due to government restrictions on mobile food vending in the city. Another issue in the street food sector is that vendors lack knowledge regarding food safety and hygiene. This is a health hazard for their customers. If vendors were properly regulated and trained on food safety and hygiene, heritage food vending would contribute to accessible, affordable, safe and healthy foods for the urban population as well as the preservation of traditional culture.

Gender dynamic: Women are underrepresented in the food industry due to lack of access to social networks and opportunities to establish a career or make a living in the food and beverage industry. This is mainly due to the existing unfavourable environment in the food sector. For example, street food vending is often seen as an illegal activity and vendors are evicted from vending sites because of strict government restrictions on selling food or drink in public places not licensed by the city corporation. So, this mode of livelihood seems unsafe for women. As women are traditionally tasked with food provisioning and feeding the family, properly regulated the heritage food vending can be a viable economic opportunity for women.

The DFS project will address this gender dynamic by:

1. advocating before civic authorities to address the challenges of people engaged in the food sector, including the heritage foods sector, which will be identified through research;
2. facilitating women's participation in the food heritage sector by advocating before the civic authorities to create safe spaces in which women can run their businesses.

Activity 3.7. Improve monitoring and enforcement of food legislation

3.7.7 Strengthen food system governance by engaging a range of stakeholders

The food system functions within a complex nexus of social, political, economic and environmental factors. It is greatly influenced by population growth, rapid urbanization, socio-economic inequities, climate change, etc. In the absence of a comprehensive policy framework and strong governance, cities suffer from food insecurity, degraded food quality and food price hikes. There are many actors involved in this complex food system in Dhaka and various organizations are currently working on the food

system in different capacities. However, there is no coordination between these stakeholders. Moreover, stakeholders lack adequate knowledge regarding the city food system and the necessary skills to better plan and govern the different aspects of the system.

Gender dynamic: Both women and men play significant roles in throughout food system – in food production, processing, marketing and distribution, preparation and consumption – but their roles are different. Men are mostly active in commercial cropping and marketing; while women are more involved in subsistence farming, post-harvest management and preparing food for their families. Women’s roles are mostly invisible and, thus, neglected in policies and planning. Women lack access to the governance platforms and, thus, their voices are not heard.

The DFS project will address this gender dynamic by:

1. developing an urban food system governance platform that includes female representatives for decision making and advocacy;
2. facilitating the institutionalising of food system governance within city corporations;
3. establishing nutrition coordination committees, obtaining the endorsement of the city food councils, and establishing the Dhaka Metropolitan Consultative Council;
4. including government officials and private sector stakeholders (NGOs, community organisations, researchers, activists and local leaders) in the platforms, to ensure their diversity and bring together the diverse range of food-related interests;
5. empowering women by ensuring the inclusion of women stakeholders from different sectors in the platforms;
6. training these stakeholders in capacity building, governance and leadership.

Activity 3.8 Improve planning to integrate food in spatial planning

Dhaka’s population is increasing rapidly, primarily due to the high demand for unskilled labourers to support industrial growth. The downside of this transition is that it brings unprecedented challenges for providing accessible, affordable and healthy food, particularly for urban poor communities. Urban planners and policymakers view the issue of the urban food supply as one of rural production, overlooking the aspect of urban food distribution. So far, city planning and policy development have prioritised public transportation and housing, and little attention has been given to the city’s food system. As a result, food and nutritional security are not taken into consideration in urban planning. Food waste management in public food markets is also not considered. In addition, there is little to no planning or regulations to secure arable land in urban and peri-urban zones for urban agriculture or to protect cities against unsustainable land conversion. Consequently, the city has very little agricultural land to support the food needs of a growing population. This makes the city more vulnerable to food shortages, which leads to food price hikes and reduced accessibility on the part of city dwellers (particularly the poor) to safe, affordable and nutritious foods.

Gender dynamic: Many of the urban poor living in informal settlements in the city are engaged in the food chain, from production to distribution. They are the most vulnerable sector of the population to food shortages and to problems related to unauthorised and unregulated urban development, such as lack of drinking water and flooding resulting from poor management of water and drainage systems. Yet the urban poor, their vulnerabilities as well as their contribution to urban food supply and distribution, are not taken into consideration in urban planning and policy development. Women's contributions and vulnerability are especially ignored. Gender issues must be considered as a basic social feature in city planning in order to create a resilient, sustainable and equitable food system for women and men.

The DFS project will address this gender dynamic by:

1. working with city government planning professionals and local urban planning associations, introducing and emphasising the need to consider food and nutrition issues, especially the food security of urban poor populations, in urban planning;
2. sharing spatial analysis findings with urban food sector stakeholders and addressing important challenges such as large scale city expansion, the preservation of gardening plots and managing water usage;
3. training local urban planners, policymakers and urban food council members on food system sustainability.

Activity 3.9. Pilot food vendor regulation to effectively manage strategic areas of the city

Street food vending is a common feature of life in Dhaka City. Every day millions of people buy food and drinks on the streets. The urban poor, middle-income groups and students are more likely to buy food from street vendors due to its affordability, variety, taste and convenience. The street food sector provides livelihoods for millions of urban poor city dwellers. Despite its importance, very little is known about how mobile street food vendors organise themselves and how they operate their small businesses. Furthermore, street food vending is questioned due to food safety and hygiene issues as vendors operate outside of regulations, without much oversight. In addition, they occupy public or private spaces, sometimes blocking pavements and causing traffic congestion.

Gender dynamic: Most street food vendors are men. Women's engagement in the sector is comparatively low. Furthermore, a number of issues make street food vending potentially unsafe for women. Chief among these is the risk of being evicted due to the illegal status of street food vending and the exposure of vendors to the informal politics of the street and potentially exploitative situations.

The DFS project will address this gender dynamic by:

1. training street vendors in food hygiene and safe food handling practices and in small business management;
2. supporting street vendors to better organize themselves;

3. establishing a joint task force on street vending by building effective coordination between public health authorities, the police and the local municipality, so that the food vending sector is well managed.

4. Monitoring, evaluation and learning about gender in the Dhaka Food System project

4.1 Objectives for monitoring, evaluation and learning

Introduction

In the DFS project, monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) will have two main aims. The first is to track the impact of project interventions on gender dynamics in the food system. The second is to develop greater understanding of Dhaka's urban food system, with particular focus on learning about inclusivity and gender transformation within the system. The project team will undertake activities to understand Dhaka's food system more fully as well as learning about the system together with project partners. Indicators will be developed based on the Reach, Benefit, Empower framework, showcasing the level of women's participation and their practical economic and social gains resulting from the project. Indicators will also be developed for strategic issues such as women's representation, voice and decision-making capacity.

Impact

The MEL system will be used to measure impact and document results. The MEL system will provide results and outputs that will contribute to the longer-term impact envisioned. How the results and outputs contribute is part of the Theory of Change and therefore outcomes will be measured for the short-term, mid-term and long-term.

Learning and development

A set of indicators has been developed to guide the project monitoring and track impact. Additionally, the project team will participate in reflection and learning events, based on the input from the MLE system. Similar events will be held with project partners for joint learning and to improve inclusivity in future urban food system projects. Peer-monitoring or peer-evaluation by women in the food system might be a useful methodology for creating ownership and building capacity among women stakeholders. Another option to explore regarding inclusion is training youth from universities in Dhaka (final-year students in nutrition, health, food safety, marketing, urban farming and gender) and linking them to youth who are active in the food system.

Advocacy

Besides using quantitative and qualitative data, the outputs of these MEL efforts will be used to develop high-quality narratives, videos and visuals for use in advocacy efforts benefitting women in Dhaka's urban food system and beyond.

4.2 Result chain and gender indicators

Result chain	Gender indicators
Output 1: Food system model for the DMA	Number of gender-related questions incorporated in the survey
	Dynamic GIS maps are disaggregated by gender layer
	The research report contains a specific section on gender analysis
Output 2: Strategic Food Agenda 2041 for the DMA	% of women will be represented in the CGUFSS/Thematic Working Group (TWG)
	Number of women participating in the CGUFSS/TWG meetings
	Number of minutes women speak at each CGUFSS/TWG meeting
	Number of gender-related issues discussed at the CGUFSS/TWG meetings
Output 3: Interventions to improve the performance of the food system for the DMA, developed and tested	
Activity 3.1 Actions to reduce food waste and losses assessed	Number of women taking part in food waste training
	Number of women leading food waste reduction initiatives
	Number of women benefited by the food waste reduction initiatives
Activity 3.2 Model and evaluate strategies for improving wholesale food marketing, logistics management and distribution	% of women satisfied with market service facilities
	% of women serving on the market committee
Activity 3.3 Explore mechanisms for the adoption of Dhaka Best Quality label explored	Number of women who participated in the training
	Number of women involved in Participatory Guarantee Scheme network
Activity 3.4 Develop and test alternative options to increase the supply of healthy and nutritious food within informal low-income settlements	Number of women who participated in the alternative options
	% of women who obtained or increased their income through the alternative options

	% of women who have a roles in household-level decision making in the alternative options
Activity 3.5 Implement targeted consumer awareness programmes to influence food choice	Number of awareness programs implemented on the relationship between gender and nutrition (on household level)
Activity 3.6 Document and promote Dhaka's urban food culture	Gender mapping on heritage food in Dhaka
	Number of women involved in the Dhaka urban food culture
Activity 3.7 Improve monitoring and enforcement of food legislation	% of women taking part in decision-making regarding food legislation
	Number of agenda points that contain gender-specific topics
Activity 3.8 Improve planning to integrate food in spatial planning	Number of gender issues explicitly mentioned in the spatial planning to create an equitable and resilient food system
Activity 3.9 Pilot food vendor regulation to effectively manage strategic areas of the city	Number of women food vendors challenges reflected in the food vendor regulation

5. Gender focal team

As part of the organisational or project strategy to incorporate gender firmly in the DFS project, a gender focal team was established. Three gender advisors from FAO Bangladesh and Wageningen University & Research (WUR) invited various staff members to create a team to: (a) help strategize the means to place gender at the core of the project, (b) facilitate the development of a shared vision on the project's gender approach, and (c) incorporate opportunities for women in the food system throughout the project, in a participatory manner.

From January through August 2020 a number of activities were carried out for the gender analysis and to develop the project's gender strategy. Because of the pandemic, the report of these activities was delayed by approximately two months and the workshops that were to have been held in Dhaka, were conducted online. This meant that more staff members were able to participate, despite being in various countries. This would not have been possible if the workshops were conducted in person.

5.1 Gender focal team activities to date

- 12 May 2020: Agreement on gender approach and workplan, development of focal team and brainstorming on an outline for the gender analysis and the strategy report
- June: Request sent to project leaders to appoint personnel to the gender focal team
- 7 June 2020: Focal team established with the following members: Janet Naco, Samprita Chakma, Harriette Snoek, Melanie Kok, Anouk Cormont, MD Parvez and Riti Herman Mostert
- 9 June 2020: First focal team meeting: Discussion of findings of North-Dhaka research and definition of gender focus domains for the DFS project. Needs assessed of M&E advisor, value chain advisor and spatial planning advisor regarding opportunities to integrate gender aspects in their work
- Mid June–July 2020: Outline for gender analysis and strategy document developed
- July 1–13 2020: Survey conducted among project staff on gender learning assessment, knowledge and learning needs
- 14 July 2020: Workshop with 17 staff members from FAO Bangladesh and WUR. Presentation on gender survey and gender concepts, and analysis of results
- Mid July 2020: Outline for gender analysis and strategy document revised
- 14 July 2020: Workshop with DFS project team to present survey and conduct a learning and sharing session on gender analysis
- 16 July 2020: Workshop with gender focal team to review ToC with a gender lens
- 22 July 2020: Workshop with DFS project team on gender-responsive activities
- Other activities: Ongoing guidance provided on household consumption survey, urban agriculture concept, beef and mango supply analysis.
- 11 August 2020: Workshop to present gender analysis and strategy

5.2 Action plan

September–December 2020

Learning about and mainstreaming gender in the DFS project

- Create an interactive mobile group/platform through sharing and learning on gender within the DFS team. Use research, quick scans, news items and narratives to inspire and learn.
- Specific workshops, as needed by DFS staff, covering topics such as gender in value chains, gender and inclusive markets, and gender and public policy advocacy

Gender focal team provides advisory support to the DFS project

- Advise the DFS project staff on gender-specific approaches, practical tips and ideas for project activities
- Gender as part of multi-stakeholder partnership (MSP) development. Conduct training and include gender aspects in the design of platforms

Partnerships

- Develop partnerships with organisations and institutions that have a balanced male/female ratio
- Map partners in the food system and related domains (health, WASH, well-being, education) that have strong gender strategies

Gender advocacy

- Design training for the DFS project staff and invite experts on gender advocacy and policy influencing in food systems
- Develop gender advocacy process
- Identify platforms with strong gender representation (percentage of women participating) and support informal meetings contributing to gender in MSPs for DFS platforms.

Monitoring and evaluation

- Support data collection for gender-disaggregated data
- Develop a plan for qualitative documentation of gender aspects in interventions and pilots
- Use documentation (including quantitative and qualitative data) to develop communication material for policy influencing

Communication

- Write two-page paper on the gender approach within the transformation of Dhaka's food system, including FAO Bangladesh and WUR expertise around gender analysis, main issues and approaches, and guidance for solutions.

Annex I Gender matrix: DFS project activities for context analysis, gender dynamics, activities and outcomes

SL #	Task #	Activity	Situation and context	Gender dynamic	What we can do?	Expected outcome
Output 1: Food system model for the DMA						
Activity 1.1. Collect secondary food system data						
1	1.1.1	Prepare city profile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The city corporations in Dhaka are somewhat involved in the city's food system. - There is a lack of information on the city's food system and the information is scattered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information is not readily available, but women generally have less access to information. - Women play a crucial role in the food system, but their role is usually invisible or not well appreciated. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare the city profile, which will address women's lack of visibility by indicating the number of women are involved and how they are involved in the food system and by making the information available to many groups, thus addressing women's lack of information. 2. Include data on gender ratios and include the target groups (slum dwellers, street vendors, wholesale and retail market actors and students in the household analysis 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Insight into the current state of gender equality, creating awareness 2. More visibility of women in the Dhaka food system. 3. Increased space for women and a broader target group, including urban poor,

					<p>3. Inform city corporations about lack of visibility of women and sharing DFS project data on women in food systems and including male and female representatives in the city corporation (slum development department, revenue department and waste management department)</p> <p>4. Advocate for policy on gender participation in public domain (based on the city profile that includes women and the target groups mentioned above)</p>	<p>represented policymaking.</p> <p>4. Women have equitable opportunities to hold positions in public entities. The perspective of the DFS project stakeholders regarding gender is broadened.</p> <p>5. Women are more knowledgeable regarding healthy food, marketing, consumer demand and the food system perspective</p> <p>6. Information collected increases the project stakeholders'</p>
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						understanding of empowerment
2	1.1.2	Collect secondary data on the food system from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), city corporations and other stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Various organizations are currently working on the food system in different capacities - The data relating to these activities on the food system is in the hands of different organisations. - No system has been developed to consolidate all the data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gender disaggregated data is missing in many food system reports and data. - Women's role in the food system and their challenges and needs, as well as those of children and other disadvantaged groups (such as the elderly and disable persons) in the food system are unacknowledged. 	1. Gather, analyse and present gender-disaggregated data that documents the challenges and needs of women, children and other disadvantaged groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Secondary data sources of institutions that are useful for keeping track of gender-disaggregated data regarding food systems are identified. 2) Food system data is gathered and recorded.
3	1.1.3	Gather data on food security and diet diversity from slum area of the four city corporations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Large population living in extreme poverty. - Poverty affects health, nutrition, livelihood, etc. of the urban poor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women lack of knowledge regarding nutrition. - Women have limited access to information and resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disaggregate data for women and children in household surveys 2. Research household expenditure and decision- 	1) Better understanding of intra household relations and negotiations in urban poor areas

			<p>- In Dhaka City, development efforts focus largely on improving livelihoods, housing and infrastructure of the urban poor, but often overlook the impact of food and nutritional insecurity</p>	<p>- Women who work have more control over household food expenditure than stay-at-home women</p> <p>- Poor access to food- (distance, time, security)</p> <p>- Poverty impacts children's nutrition.</p> <p>- Women carry a heavy burden of childcare, managing households and engaging in income-generating activities</p>	<p>making regarding food purchasing</p> <p>3. Gathering data on cultural practices regarding food consumption, especially with regard to women of reproductive age.</p> <p><u>Possible directions for change:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote urban agriculture and food-related business for urban poor women 2. Provide information and training on nutrition and urban agriculture to women through community groups 3. Empower community groups to advocate for the benefit of the poor. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2) Greater understanding of practical obstacles for women to make healthy food choices 3) Greater understanding of obstacles to accessing healthy and nutritious food 4) Insight into the challenges for women to participate in project activities related to food. 5) Better understanding of women's knowledge regarding food and nutrition
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4	1.1.4	Collect wet market data, with GPS locations, including general conditions, basic services, facilities, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The city does not manage its food-related services and resources in a coordinated manner - Management of wet markets is split among different departments, such as revenue and health - No data or digital resources are available on the wet markets - Wet markets are deteriorated - Lack of investment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vendors are men. - Lack of facilities and poor conditions in the markets limit women's access. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyse the data collected and create gender-disaggregated databases. 2. Advise city officials on the social aspects of access to food markets, to market facilities such as slaughterhouses, and to secondary waste transfer stations. 3. Help city officials and policymakers with gender-responsive investment planning to improve conditions at the markets. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Data and information on gendered aspects of access to markets are available. 2) Greater understanding of obstacles women and men face regarding access to wet markets and obtaining safe, healthy and nutritious food. 3) Gender responsive planning investments to improve market quality.
5	1.1.5	Food system web browser and data analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All citizens are affected by the lack of food system analysis and planning. - A nuanced understanding of the food system is needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is no gender-disaggregated data. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a food system web browser with gender-disaggregated information. 2. Publish short narrative case studies focusing on gender aspects. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Better understanding of the food system and gendered implications 2) Better access to gendered data

			<p>in order to plan interventions and propose regulations to manage the system more effectively.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food system information is scattered and thus cannot be analysed it effectively. 			<p>and narratives on the food system</p> <p>3) Narratives are available about the food system and its gendered implications that can be shared with policymakers and decision-makers.</p>
6	1.1.7	<p>Collect data to monitor the impact of COVID-19 on the food security of the urban poor and prepare weekly situation reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The COVID-19 crisis has had a devastating impact on the food security of the urban poor. - Urban poor people who work in formal and informal sectors lost their jobs due to the government imposed lockdown for COVID-19. - Without income and with little cash in hand or savings, urban poor families have struggled to not only to avoid being infected but to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poor families are eating less for a sustained period during the crisis. Adults, particularly women, eat less or skip meals to ensure others have enough food. - Women's unpaid care work has increased. - Women's access to productive work is reduced. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage women-led urban poor federations of four city corporations in the process of data collection and COVID-19 response at the community level, increasing their organisational capacity significantly and providing the federation members with paid work (data collection) during the crisis period. 2. Provide emergency funds for urban poor women to help them satisfy their family's basic 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Information that can be used for communication on gender issues with policymakers, decision-makers, NGO's, civil society groups and other important stakeholders is available 2) Improved knowledge and insights on

			<p>get enough food to feed their families.</p> <p>- Female-headed households struggle most.</p>	<p>- Men find other alternative livelihoods by changing jobs amid COVID-19.</p>	<p>needs during the COVID-19 crisis.</p> <p>3. Analyse the collected data from a gender perspective and prepare weekly situation reports on the impact of COVID-19 on food security and urban poverty. Share the situation reports with FAO and governmental and non-governmental organisations, including other United Nations (UN) organisations.</p>	<p>gender issues in the food system</p>
7	1.1.8	<p>Collect data to monitor the impact of COVID-19 on food prices at wet markets and prepare corresponding situation report</p>	<p>- Wet markets are an important source of fresh and affordable foods and a source of livelihood for many.</p> <p>- The disruption of supply chains and food products has caused food prices to rise in wet markets, affecting different income groups.</p>	<p>- The increase in the prices of essential foods have affected low- and middle-income groups.</p> <p>- Like low-income individuals, many of the middle-income individuals have lost their jobs during the COVID-19 crisis.</p>	<p>1. Analyse the data collected, including gender-related data, preparing weekly situation reports on the impact of COVID-19 on the wet markets; and sharing the situation reports with FAO, and governmental and non-government organisations, including other UN organisations.</p>	<p>1) Information material that can be used for communication on gender issues with policymakers, decision-makers, NGO's, civil society groups and other important stakeholders is available</p>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unlike the low-income families, the middle-income families have been excluded from emergency food and monetary support from the government. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Provide information regarding emergency food support to target groups to help them deal with food security problems. 3. Inquire from middle income groups what they need to make use of the OMS arrangements. 4. Provide training to members of associations, vendors and workers, including cleaning personnel, on COVID-19 safety practices in wet markets. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2) Better informative materials for associations, vendors and workers on COVID-19 safety measures is available. 3) Middle class families have better access to OMS.
8	1.1.1 0	Study on urban agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many people in the city outskirts practice urban agriculture, but very little is known about the practice. - Urban agriculture has become essential for many of the urban poor. - Lack of understanding on the part of the government regarding urban agriculture, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Urban agriculture is generally considered a man's job, but many women practice it. - Gender dynamics exist in the practice of urban agriculture. - Urban agriculture can improve children's nutrition as well as 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct the study to get insights of both men and women, particularly in urban poor communities (women-led federations in the slums), on their interest in urban agriculture and their ability to be involved in it 2. Design and develop training content based on the study 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Better understanding of gender roles in urban agriculture 2) Training curriculum developed 3) Urban farmers have better skills 4) Urban farmers are more knowledgeable regarding healthy

			<p>its benefits and how the government can support it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The COVID-19 crisis highlights the importance of knowing more about urban agriculture as an independent source of food and what kinds of support can be offered. 	<p>generate income for women heads-of-household.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Empower women by increasing their skills and facilitating their practice of urban agriculture as a source of food and revenue. 4. Maintain gender equality and eliminate gender bias by including male participants and including gender issues in the training 	<p>food and nutrition</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5) Project participants, farmers and other stakeholders have increased insight into gender roles and their implications in urban farming
9	1.1.1 1	Study on mobile vendors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most people purchase food from mobile food vendors due to the convenience - Street food vending is a source of livelihood for the poor. - Very little is currently known about how mobile street vendors organize themselves and how they 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most vendors are men. - Women play a significant role in street food vending in helping to prepare the food that is sold on the street - Barriers for women to run businesses are: lack of inclusive regulations on mobile vending, lack of access to politically influential people and 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct the study to know more about the mobile vendors in the city 2. Conduct a study to understand the challenges women face to become mobile vendors 3. Find the gaps and propose regulations to help to improve the management of mobile vendors in the city. 4. Develop training on food preparation and safety, as well 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Greater insight into barriers that prevent women from selling street food. 2) Training curriculum developed for female and male street food vendors on food

			operate their small businesses	knowledge of the informal politics of the street	as entrepreneurship for the mobile vendors based on the study. 5. Provide support to mobile vendors to better organize themselves, identifying their needs and challenges through the study.	preparation and safety. 3) Better-organised vendor groups, female vendors formally organized and increased networking.
Activity 1.2. Review legislation and policies impacting the food system in the DMA						
10	1.2.5	Review legislation and policies impacting the food system in the DMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dhaka's food system is new and information about its regulations is not readily available, limiting the possibility to improve the system. - Few people/entities are aware of the national food policy. - No coordinated strategy or policy exists to address the challenges of providing a reliable and sufficient supply of safe, healthy and nutritious food for Dhaka's urban residents 	- Food policy does not address gender.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyse existing policies to identify the gaps. 2. Contribute to the development of gender-sensitive legislation, particularly for gender advocacy 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) National Food Policy analysed with attention to gender dynamics. 2) Advice on food policy development, including gender aspects has been developed.

Activity 1.3. Develop a dynamic interactive geographic information system (GIS) tool for mapping the food system in the DMA						
11	1.3.4	Document Dhaka's historical street food areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Street food is very popular among people of all age groups. - Street food vending occupies public places such as streets, historical sites and parks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Though the majority of street food vendors are men, women play a crucial role in helping to prepare the food that is sold. - Street food vending could be an option for women to earn an income.- Despite the illegal status of food vending in the city, many women are engaging in street food vending, mostly in their own neighbourhoods. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the street food areas where women are engaged with street food vending 2. Identify trends of women selling food from home and providing home delivery (a trend is observed since the COVID-19 crisis began) 3. Document the challenges women engaged in street food vending face and identify how those challenges can be addressed so that more women can take advantage of this livelihood opportunity. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Street food areas and women's participation are mapped 2) Greater insight into street food vending and food delivery trends that are benefiting women 3) Clear understanding of the factors that make it difficult for women to take up street food vending 4) Insight into how street vending and food delivery benefit and empower women. 5) Communication material for

						<p> policymakers, decision-makers and other stakeholders dealing with women street food vendors is available. </p>
<p>Activity 1.4. Evaluate the performance of indicative food chains in the DMA</p>						
12	1.4.3 .b	<p>Data collection on food value chain</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The food value chain in the DMA involves many actors and the relationships between them are quite complex. - There is insufficient information on the flow of foods from farm to consumer, including the seasonality of the food supply. - The major constraints that actors in the value chain face are lack of: access to capital and resources, storage facilities, financial services and adequate information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women participate in each stage of the food value chain, from production to purchasing, but their participation is not visible. - At the production level, men generally own the land and control the production and returns, while women perform activities related to household maintenance and care, as well as 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integrate gender in value chain mapping and analysis, including as gender-disaggregated quantitative and qualitative data collection, which will help to identify gender-based constraints and opportunities in the value chain and support the design of actions to address those constraints 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Greater clarity on the roles of women, men and youth in the food value chain. 2) Insight into women's access to and control over resources in the food value chain 3) Understanding of networks between women involved in the food value chain 4) Outcomes used to create visibility

				<p>participating in agricultural production.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women's limited access to assets, credit, services, markets and information reduces their opportunity to move from domestic, small-scale activities to higher value activities 		<p>of women in the food system and to build inclusive value chains</p>
Activity 1.5. Conduct consumer behaviour research						
13	1.5.3	<p>Conduct focus group discussions (FGD) on consumer behaviour in Dhaka's four city corporations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People's food choices are influenced by many factors, such as income, convenience, availability, knowledge, culture, etc. - Food-borne diseases, obesity and even malnutrition are increasing among urban dwellers. - Fast food consumption, including street food, has increased among the urban 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women play a key role in ensuring safe and nutritious food for their families. - Women make most of the household decisions regarding food purchasing, even if they do not make the purchases themselves. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyse the findings of research into consumer behaviour to identify strategic interventions for specific target groups. 2. Provide information and training on food safety, hygiene and nutrition. 3. Implement awareness campaigns on healthy and 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Greater insights into household decision-making patterns 2) Gender aspects of food purchasing and consumption are understood. 3) Material for training communities on gender issues in food and

			population, particularly children and youth		nutritious food, targeting different age groups	nutrition developed. 4) More women have access to money and purchase food.
Output 2: Strategic Food Agenda 2041 for the DMA						
Activity 2.1. Establish a Consultative Group in Urban Food System Strategies (CGUFSS)						
14	2.1.1	Prepare an inventory of stakeholders	- A diverse range of stakeholders are involved in the city's food system, but there is no coordination between them.	- Many women are involved in the city's food system but their presence is not visible due to lack of representation.	1. Prepare an inventory of stakeholders, disaggregating the involvement of men and women who are directly and indirectly involved in the city's food system	1) Participation of women stakeholders in the city's food system is acknowledged
15	2.1.2	Conduct introductory workshop	- As a next step, the importance of working collaboratively to improve the city's food system will be emphasised through this workshop. The purpose of this workshop is to assist the stakeholders in defining their roles and to facilitate	- Women are largely under-represented in public policy decision-making processes	1. Conduct an introductory workshop 2. Ensure women's representation in the workshop	1) Women are represented on the CGUFSS.

			collaboration and participatory decision-making.			
16	2.1.3	Establish terms of reference for the CGUFS	- Currently there is no dialogue on the purpose and structure of the CGUFSS and clear terms of reference for the platform need to be established.	- Currently the specific needs and challenges of women, especially urban poor women, are not addressed in a ToR.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish terms of reference for the CGUFS. 2. Address the needs and challenges of women, especially urban poor women. 	1) Women's needs and challenges in the context of the city food system are understood.
17	2.1.4	Establish and operationalise CGUFSS	- At present there is no overarching body that evaluates the performance, addresses weaknesses, improves coordination, or drives intervention in the city food system, either within or outside of the Government of the DMA.	- Women usually lack access to decision-making committees and opportunities to voice their needs and challenges.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide gender training on food system planning for the CGUFSS. 2. Ensure that the CGUFSS has sufficient information and data about the food system. 3. Establish ToR for the CGUFSS that includes gender equity and women's representation. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Stakeholders are knowledgeable about gender in food systems 2) Gender and youth issues are included in the agenda of the committee 3) Women are equitably represented in the CGUFSS

Activity 2.2. Facilitate the development of a Strategic Food Agenda 2041 for the DMA						
18	2.2.1	Conduct scenario planning workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many stakeholders and policymakers are largely unaware of the existing scenarios of the food system that require urgent attention. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The needs and challenges of women and children, especially those in urban poor communities, in the city's food system are not sufficiently acknowledged. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct scenario planning workshops that focus on the challenges of urban poor women 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The needs and challenges of the urban poor, especially women and children, in the city's food system are understood
19	2.2.2	Conduct training programme in urban food system planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Little information is available on the food system and food system planning. - Policymakers have limited understanding of the city's food system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is insufficient food system planning. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopt participatory approach in planning 2. Ensure equal number of women and men participate in the training. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Women's practical and strategic gender-related needs are included in training. 2) Women are engaged in and committed to the consultative group as a result of their participation in training.
20	2.2.3	Draft a strategic food system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In order to address the pressing issues, the list of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poor communities, especially women, 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft a strategic food system agenda, in consultation with relevant 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The needs and challenges of women, children

		agenda for review by the CGUFS	activities and policy implications related to the city's sustainable food system will be drafted.	young people, people with disabilities and members of the ethnic minority communities, usually have little voice in articulating the urgency of their situation to local governments, and they usually are not included in planning and policy decisions that can benefit their lives and wellbeing.	actors, emphasizing the needs and challenges of women, children and differently abled persons from urban poor communities.	and differently abled persons from urban poor communities are taken into account in the draft strategic food system agenda.
21	2.2.4	Consult with the stakeholders for the draft	- Gathering opinions, feedback, consent and, especially, commitments from the diverse stakeholders regarding the draft is necessary as they are actively making an impact in the city's food system.	- It is necessary to consult with the women stakeholders regarding the draft to gather their feedback and, eventually, their approval of the draft as they have a better understanding of their own and their children's needs and challenges	1. Consult with the stakeholders, prioritising women stakeholders who are actively involved in making a positive impact on the city's food system.	1) Women's voices regarding their pressing struggles in the city's food system are acknowledged.

				within the city's food system, particularly those of women and children from urban poor communities.		
22	2.2.5	Organise an international conference on the Strategic Food Agenda 2041	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learnings from the international domain are needed to increase impact and ensure the sustainability of the city's food system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Little is known about how other countries are addressing the pressing challenges of women and children in urban food systems. 	1. Organise an international conference on the Strategic Food Agenda 2041 for the DMA and ensure the participation of women stakeholders	1) Women from different countries are able to learn about and share pressing issues of the food system.
23	2.2.6	Revise the Strategic Food Agenda 2041 for the DMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rapid urbanization is forcing people to live in underserved areas of the city with limited access to safe, nutritious and affordable food. - The prevalence of food adulteration and contamination has become a serious problem. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The urban poor are most vulnerable to food insecurity. - Women, children and differently abled persons from low income groups are the most vulnerable to food insecurity. 	1. Obtain feedback from a wider group of stakeholders regarding the draft Strategic Food Agenda 2041, ensuring that gender-responsive feedback is incorporated so that both men and women will benefit from the food agenda.	1) The food system agenda considers and represents the voices and interests of different groups within society (women, men,

							differently abled persons, youth, children, and, especially, the urban poor).
Output 3: Interventions to improve the performance of the DMA food system, developed and tested							
Activity 3.1. Actions to reduce food waste and losses assessed (Reduction)							
24	3.1.3.a	Engaging the private sector to reduce food waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eating out has become commonplace among the city dwellers. - Food waste in Dhaka has increased to alarming levels because of the city's growing population and their unsustainable consumption behaviour. - Wedding ceremonies, restaurants and hotels are 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - While food waste in the Dhaka is increasing, many, mostly the disadvantaged urban poor, go to bed hungry. - Children, the elderly and women, who often lack sources of income, suffer from hunger the most. They tend to beg on the streets and, in extreme case, they are 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create awareness in the private sector of the implications of food waste for the urban poor, especially women and children 2. Establish a voluntary business platform to promote the development of food waste policies and waste-reduction practices in the private sector. 3. Encourage the private sector to donate excess food to poor communities, benefiting the 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The private sector has greater understanding of gendered aspects of food waste. 2) Urban poor communities have more access to safe food as result of private sector engagement 	

			<p>the primary sources of food waste.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poor handling of vegetable products during transport leads to food waste. - Most supermarkets carry a large volume of inventory.- Poor inventory management is also responsible for food waste in supermarkets. - Lack of access to cold storage and refrigerated transport also result in food waste. 	<p>forced to eat leftover food from dustbins.-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excessive waste due to poor handling of vegetable products results in retail price increases. As vegetable prices increase, the urban poor are unable to afford them, affecting their nutrient intake. 	<p>elderly, women and children, and investigating food-bank and food-sharing opportunities.</p> <p>4. Provide training on food safety and hygiene practices</p>	<p>3) Voluntary business platform to reduce food waste is established</p> <p>4) Women have been trained in food safety and hygiene.</p>
25	3.1.3 .b	Feasibility study for bio-digestion of food waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High volumes of food are wasted in Dhaka every day by households, restaurants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Household bio-gas digesters are used in rural areas of 	<p>1. Conduct a feasibility study on the use of biogas</p>	<p>1) The economic benefits of bio-gas installations</p>

			and wholesale and retail markets – a serious challenge for the city corporations to manage.	Bangladesh, reducing time spent on cooking as well as providing an environmentally sound waste disposal.	<p>digesters and analyse the data.</p> <p>2. Pilot biogas digesters in a food market to reduce food waste.</p>	<p>for women are identified.</p> <p>2) Men, women and children enjoy better health as a result of improved hygiene in the market places.</p>
26	3.1.3	Food waste reduction campaign in supermarkets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Urban consumers are increasingly interested in food and in trying a wide variety of foods, and eating out has become popular as wages increase and working hours extend later into the evening. - Impulsive buying is responsible for excessive food waste. - Poor management of excessive food waste results in polluting the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - While the increasing rate of food waste in the city is a growing concern, many, especially urban poor communities, suffer from hunger. - Children, women, the elderly and the disabled who have little or no income suffer from hunger the most. 	<p>1. Raise awareness among supermarket consumers regarding the adverse effects of excessive food waste in super markets through campaigns, targeting women as they are primarily in charge of food buying and preparation.</p> <p>2. Encourage the donation of excess food to urban poor communities, through food-banks, food-sharing and the like.</p>	<p>1) Households have reduced their food waste.</p> <p>2) Food-sharing or a food-bank has been piloted.</p> <p>3) Private supermarkets are engaged in food waste reduction campaigns.</p>

					<p>3. Encourage the supermarkets to promote food waste reduction among their consumers through innovative schemes.</p>	
27	3.1.3	<p>Piloting biogas digesters in a food market to reduce food waste</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food markets generate huge quantities of solid organic waste, comprising mainly spoiled or unsold food. - Lack of waste management by the city corporations poses serious environmental and health problems for the population and problems for vendors in the markets. 	<p>- Women's access to the market is limited and food waste is one of the causes of poor hygienic conditions for consumers at the markets. Women are not yet involved in innovative biogas projects. Their absence from market associations may hinder their involvement in innovative projects.</p>	<p>1. Ensure the scaling up of the biogas digester project, targeting more women-owned food business, such as restaurants.</p>	<p>Women use the market more as a result of the changes brought about through the implementation of biodigesters.</p>

				Women's access to markets, income development and increase of purchasing power are strategic topics to invest in.		
Activity 3.2 Model and evaluate strategies for improving wholesale food marketing, logistics management and distribution						
28	3.2.1	Build capacity of market committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most of Dhaka's public markets are managed by autonomous bodies. - The majority of these bodies lack administrative and organizational capacity to effectively address the problems that exist in public food markets, including lack of waste management, food safety and hygiene, accounting, emergency preparedness and marketing as well as the need for safer conditions and more efficient operations. 	- Most of the market committees are comprised of men.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Train market committees on gender, management, leadership 2. Advocate for market committees to allow women to be on the committees. 3. Encourage women to join market committees or to establish women's market committees. 4. Encourage women to become market vendors 5. Identify constraints for women to participate in commercial market activities and create an 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Market committees are aware of gender issues and gender ratio (lack of women's participation) in committees and in the markets 2) Market committees include women 3) There are women vendors at the markets and conditions are safe for them 4) Markets provide facilities that

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most of Dhaka's citizens source their food from wet markets and the markets have the potential to play a critical role in improving access to food, food quality, and the affordability of food. - The COVID-19 crisis highlights the problems at the wet markets and the lack of adequate leadership needed to institute necessary safety measures. 		environment that is women- (-and men) friendly	meet practical gender-related needs of the women, such as washroom facilities
29	3.2.1 b	Upgrade public food markets in terms of food safety and functionality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dhaka's markets were built 30 to 40 years ago and insufficient investment has been made in them. - Despite being an important place to get food, markets are increasingly less popular. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The current condition of the markets, including infrastructure, facilities and environment, is not pleasant and safe for women, particularly for pregnant women. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide guidelines on useful infrastructure upgrades for markets, including design guidelines to make markets more inclusive for women customers. 2. Draw insights from the women, particularly 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) There are guidelines for women-friendly infrastructure in markets 2) Women's practical needs at the markets are

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most markets are overcrowded with too many vendors for their capacity. - Markets are in poor condition, with broken toilets, overcrowding, lack of hygiene, improper waste management, narrow aisles insufficient parking, etc. - Food safety and hygiene practices are not maintained due to lack of monitoring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most of the customers in the public markets are men. 	<p>regarding their challenges and recommendations to upgrade the markets, including user-friendly facilities for pregnant and lactating women.</p> <p>3. Create awareness within the government of the need to invest in the markets, and advocate for such investment</p>	<p>understood and documented.</p> <p>3) Policymakers and decision-makers are aware of the need to improve market infrastructure and establish guidelines for adequate market conditions for both women and men.</p>
30	3.2.1 c	Upgrade wet markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most wet markets in the city have no modern amenities and are unable to ensure food safety, hygiene or the safety of the vendors and consumers. - Vendors who sell in the wet markets do not follow food safety measures, such as selling meat and vegetables in separate sections. - Wet markets are very popular and are always 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Though wet markets are a popular place to shop, they are less popular among women due to their poor conditions which are particularly unfavourable for women. 	<p>1. Provide guidelines on useful infrastructure upgrades for wet markets, including building standard slaughterhouses, improving drainage systems and establishing, food safety regulations (such as separating meat and vegetable sections).</p>	<p>1) There are improved guidelines for wet market infrastructure.</p> <p>2) Insights from female market users are incorporated into wet market planning and infrastructure design.</p>

			crowded, but little is done to keep these wet markets clean.		2. Draw insights from the consumer behaviour survey, providing recommendations to upgrade the wet markets to be more inclusive for all customers regardless of age, gender, ethnicity and income.	
31	3.2.1	Introduce COVID-19 safety measures at the markets	<p>- Public food markets, especially the wet markets, are not adequately regulated and maintaining proper hygiene has always been an issue at the markets.</p> <p>- Most public food markets; vendors are not sufficiently knowledgeable regarding COVID-19 and necessary safety measures such as maintaining social distancing, hand hygiene and wearing masks.</p>	<p>- Due to the lack of safety measures and regulations in public food markets, both vendors and consumers are at high risk of being infected with COVID-19.</p> <p>- The elderly and people with compromised immune systems bear the highest risk.</p> <p>- COVID-19 has put immense pressure on women, who bear responsibility for</p>	<p>1. Raise awareness about COVID-19 among the market committees, vendors and consumers.</p> <p>2. Provide training and guidance on maintaining necessary safety measures, such as hand hygiene, wearing masks, social distancing, cleanliness within the markets, hand washing stations and ensuring there is always enough water and soap to wash hands.</p>	<p>1) Materials for gender-awareness campaigns have been developed.</p> <p>2) Awareness raising campaigns directed at women and men vendors and consumers have been implemented.</p> <p>3) Equal numbers of women and men have been trained.</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some families opted for bulk buying and storing food before the lockdown began, but financial constraints made this difficult for many. 	cooking and purchasing food for their families.		4) Markets have handwashing products available for vendors and customers.
32	3.2.1e	Established farmers' markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Farmers, especially small-scale and mid-sized marginalised farmers, struggle to obtain reasonable profits because of the dominance of middlemen in the food value chain. - Urban consumers are concerned about food safety and do not trust the food from the markets due to a communication gap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rural women contribute their labour (usually unpaid) on farms but their role is not acknowledged. - Women have less access to agricultural resources, information and opportunities (such as training to identify high-quality seeds, more effective cultivation methods and pest and disease management) limiting their 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advocate for the government to establish more farmers' markets in Dhaka. 2. Provide the government with technical assistance to establish more farmers' markets in the city. 3. Develop TOR specifically mentioning women's inclusion and empowerment, to ensure women farmers have access to the markets. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Public policy advocacy in favour of more inclusive urban farming markets has been carried out. 2) Female urban farmers have increased access to urban farmers' markets. 3) Female urban farmers have improved their marketing and increased the

		<p>between farmers and consumers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Farmers markets are common in rural areas, but not in the cities. - Recently, the government has started taking steps to support marginalised farmers, establishing a farmers' market in Dhaka. However, one farmers' market is not sufficient to meet the demand of the urban population. 	<p>opportunity to engage in the agricultural sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The commercial agriculture sector is dominated by men. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Form farmers' market committees to properly manage and monitor the markets, especially to protect marginalised farmers from the middlemen. 5. Encourage more women to market their produce in farmers' markets.. 6. Ensure farmers' market committees including at least equal numbers of men and women. 7. Promote food safety practices among female consumers as food safety has always been a major concern of women as they are in charge of their families' wellbeing. 	<p>added value of their produce</p> <p>4) Female consumers have safe access to a market with urban farm products.</p>
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33	3.2.2	Deliver training in wholesale food marketing, logistics management and distribution	<p>- Many wholesalers do not have adequate knowledge regarding food handling, safety, marketing, management and distribution. This causes delays in food distribution, leading to growing food waste and significant financial losses.</p>	<p>- Men dominate the wholesale food sector.</p> <p>- Women’s involvement in the food sector at the retail level is visible (usually as vendors) but they are not present in wholesale marketing.</p> <p>- Women have very limited access to market and financial services necessary to engage in the wholesale food business as it requires capital, good social relations with other actors in the food chain, and knowledge of marketing and distribution systems</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify women entrepreneurs and women’s grassroots organisations engaged in wholesale food businesses and support them with resources and opportunities, including access to loans and, inputs, technical guidance and training to help them grow their businesses. 2. Showcase successful women wholesalers to encourage more women to engage in food wholesaling. 3. Train male and female wholesalers (ensuring gender equality) on food safety, handling, marketing, logistical management and distribution. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Leading female entrepreneurs have been identified. 2) Female entrepreneurs coach other women entrepreneurs involved in food-related businesses. 3) Men and women better understand and apply food safety, handling, management and distribution practices
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	Activity 3.3: Explore mechanisms for the adoption of Dhaka Best Quality label					
34	3.3.4	Establish guidelines, standard operating procedures (SOPs) and a manual for a Dhaka Best Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Urban consumers do not trust the increasingly distant food supply chains due to increasing use of chemicals and synthetic fertilisers. - Urban consumers are not sure which foods are safe to eat and which are not. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women are more concerned about food safety as they are primarily responsible for ensuring their family's wellbeing. - Women are the primary decision makers regarding household food purchases and preparation. Due to their lack of knowledge about food safety and the growing incidences of food adulteration, as well as a gap in communication between farmers and consumers, women do not trust the safety of the foods sold in the markets. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mobilize small, mid-sized and large-scale farmers to commit to producing safer food by raising awareness about the importance of food safety. 2. Develop guidelines, SOPs and manuals to enable the farmers to deliver safe food, restore consumer trust, and increase farmer income. 3. Develop a strategy to create awareness among consumers regarding the importance of safe and healthy food (possibly through an NGO or other parties that can reach consumers). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Farmers are aware of food safety issues and are motivated to adopt food safety measures. 2) Guidelines and manuals for the 'Dhaka Best' food quality assurance system are developed. 3) Farmers benefit from the increased trust of their customers regarding the safety of their products.

35	3.3.8	Promotion of the Dhaka Best Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Urban consumers do not trust the products from increasingly distant food supply chains, due to increasing use of chemicals and synthetic fertilisers. - Urban consumers have limited access to affordable, safe and nutritious foods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women are more concerned about food safety as they are primarily responsible for ensuring their family's wellbeing. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organise farmers (mostly small and mid-scale farmers) and assist them to agree on the terms regarding the use of organic farming methods and the avoidance of harmful agrochemicals in order to regain consumer trust. 2. Facilitate the creation of women farmer networks and link them with existing farmers' networks. 3. Develop a strategy to build trust among consumers regarding food safety (possibly through an NGO or other parties that can reach consumers.) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Men's and women's farmer networks are improved 2) Under the food quality assurance system, producers have practiced organic farming and consumers are provided with assurance that foods from the market are safe to consume. 3) Improved trust on the part of consumers regarding the safety of food and produce.

		Activity 3.4 Develop and test alternative options to increase the supply of healthy and nutritious food within informal low-income settlements				
36	3.4.3 a	Promoting community gardening among the urban poor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The urban poor struggle to eat sufficient and nutritious food due to high costs of living and rising food prices. - Most of the urban population depends on the market for food. - Although it is not common, some poor families living in slums practice backyard gardening or cultivate vegetables on riverbanks or lakeside plots. - Land scarcity, expensive agricultural inputs and lack of knowledge regarding innovative gardening methods are barriers to the practice of urban agriculture among the urban poor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food security disproportionately affects women as they tend to eat last and less when there is not enough food for their families. - There are many women who practice urban agriculture. They are playing a major role in subsistence farming and are key players in providing their families with food. - Men play a greater role in commercial aspects of urban farming. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote urban agriculture among women by providing training and inputs among the urban poor communities in order to increase their access to nutritious food. 2. Provide economic opportunities for women by assisting them to create food-related small businesses. 3. Build social cohesion and leadership, capacity and confidence within the urban poor community federations, comprised mostly of women. 4. Raise awareness among the household members regarding equal food distribution within the 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Women have strengthened their knowledge and skills and feel empowered with regard to urban agriculture 2) Increased number of women are able to improve their families' food security. 3) Women and men received training and are aware of gender dynamics in relation to food, nutrition and urban agriculture. 4) Women have greater decision-making power in their households

					<p>household to ensure food security and improved nutritional status for all, particularly children and young women of reproductive age</p> <p>5. Provide women with training on entrepreneurship, leadership and food safety to enhance their decision making regarding food choice and cooking.</p> <p>6. Consider involvement of schools as locations for model gardens.</p>	regarding food security.
37	3.4.3 b	Support small-scale food businesses of the urban poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small-scale food businesses, such as street food vending, food shops and catering services are making important contributions to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The food business sector is dominated by men. - A significant number of women are involved in the food business, directly or indirectly, as 	<p>1. Provide training on entrepreneurship and on food safety, hygiene, handling and processing as well as financial support (including small business grants) to poor women, particularly single mothers,</p>	<p>1) A number of women have received business grants</p> <p>2) Equal numbers of women and men have been trained on food</p>

			<p>employment and to food security for the poor.</p> <p>- Lack of sufficient capital, information and access to financing and markets are barriers for the poor to run businesses. Lack of family support and unequal distribution of social roles and responsibilities are additional barriers for women entrepreneurs.</p>	<p>business owners or helping in family businesses.</p>	<p>to run or upgrade businesses.</p> <p>2. Create a platform for urban poor women and youth running food business and connect them with private sector and government's foundations, such as Joyeeta Foundation and SME Foundation to help them expand their businesses and build resilience to future adversities such as the COVID-19 crisis.</p> <p>3. Advocate for building an enabling environment for women and young entrepreneurs to enter the food business sector.</p>	<p>safety, handling, and processing.</p> <p>3) Platform created for urban poor women</p> <p>4) Platform created for young people in the food business, with women participating</p>
38	3.4.4	Form neighbourhood-level volunteer food safety committees	<p>- Consumers do not trust the safety of food sold in the public food markets.</p>	<p>- There are barriers to women being members of market committees.</p> <p>- Most market committees are</p>	<p>1. Form food safety committees with different stakeholders and ensure that women are on the committees (also form women's food safety committees if needed,</p>	<p>1) Women are members of stakeholder committees on food safety.</p> <p>2) Equal numbers of women and men</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prevalence of adulterated foods sold in the public food markets. - Consumers' lack of information about the origin of foods they purchase - 	primarily comprised of men.	<p>based on consultation with relevant actors.)</p> <p>2. Train the food safety committees on gender awareness and food safety, preferably by training women as food safety experts who will train other individuals.</p>	<p>are trained in food safety</p> <p>3) Opportunities have been created for women to become food safety experts, possible in paid positions</p> <p>4) Women have access to food safety committees.</p> <p>5) Women are healthier as a result of consuming safe food.</p>
Activity 3.5: Implement targeted consumer awareness programmes to influence food choice }						
39	3.5.4 a	Raise awareness regarding food safety and nutrition through town, federation or	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Urban poor families suffer from malnutrition due to lack of access to affordable, safe and nutritious food, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Men are involved in productive work, while women are responsible 	<p>1. Provide training on food safety and nutrition, particularly, how to select affordable, safe and nutritious food items and how to cook them properly,</p>	<p>1) Women and men have a better understanding of safe food preparation, of their own gender</p>

		<p>community development committees (CDC)</p>	<p>resulting from their financial constraints.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The urban poor often have to spend more than 60 to 80 percent of their income on food due to high food prices - They also lack of knowledge on how to make nutritious food choices and prepare healthy food within their limited budgets. - The urban poor lack access to information about safe food and nutrition. - The urban poor have limited access to high-end food markets, which offer a greater variety of foods. 	<p>for purchasing and preparing food.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women lack awareness and knowledge regarding children’s nutrient requirements and breastfeeding practices, resulting in malnourishment among children. - Women bear a double workload of earning income and domestic responsibilities, which obliges them to compromise in their family and childrearing practices. 	<p>with limited household resources.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Eliminate the knowledge gaps and misinformation related to existing cultural food taboos and Invite peer-role models and institutional leaders (possibly health care workers or religious leaders) to support innovative thinking related to food. 	<p>roles and patterns and of household negotiation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2) Discussion with community leaders and relevant stakeholders resulted in insights to food-related taboos and issues regarding women of reproductive age 3) Key persons who can influence and advocate for improved healthy and nutritious diets have been identified, especially among the women of reproductive age 4) The Town Federation has been
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						strengthened institutionally.
40	3.5.4 b	Implement food safety awareness campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food safety is a high priority issue. - Reliable food safety information is lacking and much misinformation is circulated among the public about food safety. - Due to lack of knowledge regarding food safety, people cannot determine whether a particular food is safe or not. - Due to lack of knowledge and awareness regarding basic food safety and hygiene practices, people are more exposed to a range of contaminants from foods that are improperly handled in restaurants, at markets and even at home, resulting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is an overall lack of access to food safety information, but women in particular have much more difficulty accessing such information due to their lower literacy level. - Misinformation about food safety affects women more as they are in charge of their families' wellbeing. - Misinformation about food safety also affects children greatly as women are responsible for their children's well-being. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with city corporations, food safety authorities and other stakeholders to develop and implement food safety awareness campaigns that are easily accessible to everyone, especially women. 2. Advocate on behalf of poor women before the city level coordination committee, through federations representing the poor, engaging women leaders/champions and other relevant stakeholders including the health departments of city corporations and the Bangladesh Food Safety Authority. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Stakeholders use inclusive and participatory approaches to implement food safety awareness campaigns 2) Food safety advocacy has been carried out by FAO Bangladesh together with women-led grassroots organizations in the urban poor communities. 3) The effects of unsafe food on women have been identified and addressed.

			in serious foodborne illnesses.		3. Enhance the role of the media to create awareness about food safety.	
41	3.5.4	Launch youth awareness campaign for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fast food and processed food are very popular among young people, including children, due to their low price, convenience, and high level of marketing. - Healthy, nutritious foods tend to cost more and thus young people cannot afford them. - No action is taken to promote the consumption of healthy, nutritious food, even in schools. - Youth lack of access to information about the food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More children are being exposed to unhealthy foods that are sold outside their homes and are easily accessible to them. - Voices of younger women, who have the potential to be future leaders, are left unheard. They are also most likely to be excluded from platforms that can drive change in the society. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Find innovative ways to involve the youth in the food system, such as training youth peer-coaches to promote healthy food behaviours. 2. Provide training to youth groups on community gardening, food safety, nutrition, waste management (mostly food waste) and leading awareness campaigns. 3. Include youth in leadership and empowerment opportunities so that their voices can be included in 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Youth are more visible in the food system. 2) Youth trainers have been identified. 3) Youth have been trained in community gardening, nutrition and waste management. 4) Youth leaders are included in the development of the strategic food agenda and plans.

			<p>system, including food safety and nutrition.</p> <p>- Youth are not aware of food safety issues and they influence the food choices of their families to some extent.</p>		<p>the development of agendas and plans.</p> <p>4. Support the engagement of youth in food businesses that practice food safety</p>	<p>5) Youth have benefited economically and socially by engaging in safe food businesses.</p>
Activity 3.6: Document and promote Dhaka's urban food culture						
42	3.6.1	<p>Study the diversity of food available in the food service sector</p>	<p>- Urban consumers are increasingly interested in food, and eating out and ordering food online are becoming popular.</p> <p>- The food service sector has grown rapidly in recent decades offering a diverse variety of foods to meet consumer demand.</p> <p>- Food culture plays a significant role in urban lifestyle, yet very little is</p>	<p>- Both men and women are involved in the food service sector, but women are less involved than men.</p> <p>- Women bear the socially-ascribed responsibility of preparing food for the family, while men are involved in restaurants, hotels and local food stalls.</p>	<p>1. Design and conduct a study on the diversity of foods available in the food service sectors in the DMA.</p> <p>2. Identify the women's role in the food service sector, including identifying women who have built careers or earn their livelihood in the food service sector.</p> <p>3. Analyse the study findings to identify potential iconic examples of heritage foods,</p>	<p>1) Policymakers and other stakeholders are more aware of women's roles in the food service sector</p> <p>2) Iconic examples of heritage foods and women's contribution to them have been identified.</p>

			known about this food culture.	- Women lack access and opportunities to establish careers in the food and beverage industry.	women's contribution to such foods, and opportunities to promote foods made with local ingredients that are rich in nutrition and reflect cultural values	
43	3.6.2	Identify iconic examples of heritage foods and areas for further development	- Dhaka has a rich culinary history, but very little known about the existing heritage foods and areas in Dhaka.	- Women have knowledge and skills in the preparation of a variety of traditional foods, which were probably passed down by generations, but their knowledge and skills are not sufficiently acknowledged. - Men dominate the heritage food market - owning businesses and preparing and selling food, while women are	1. Identify the areas and people engaged in heritage food production in Dhaka, collecting gender-disaggregated data 2. Identify the challenges and opportunities to further develop heritage food through research. 3. Identify women's role in heritage food production and sale and their challenges in terms of accessing resources and opportunities in the sector.	1) Gendered mapping of heritage food in Dhaka. 2) Women's constraints and opportunities in the heritage food sector are understood and documented.

				in charge of the kitchen in the private sphere.		
44	3.6.3	Work with civic authorities to provide dedicated areas for heritage food vending.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food is an important part of heritage, culture and identity, yet little is known about Dhaka's heritage food culture. - Absence of regulations on mobile food vending in the city, leading to food vending often being considered a criminal offence and creating many challenges for food vendors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women lack access and opportunity to establish careers in the food and beverage industry or work in the food sector due to the unfavourable environment in the food sector. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advocate before civic authorities to address the challenges of people engaged in the food sector, including heritage food sector, which will be identified through research 2. Facilitate women's participation in the food heritage sector by advocating before civic authorities to create safe spaces in which women can run their businesses. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) There is greater knowledge regarding the heritage food culture 2) Women's roles in Dhaka's food culture are more visible 3) More women are involved in the heritage food sector.
Activity 3.7. Improve monitoring and enforcement of food legislation						
45	3.7.7	Strengthen food system governance by engaging a range of stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Little information is available on food systems - Various organizations are currently working on the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women's roles in family food provisioning and as farmers and food traders are mostly 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop an urban food system governance platform, including female representatives, for 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Women participate amply in the platforms, as food-sector stakeholders and in organisations

		<p>food system in different capacities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is no coordination between stakeholders who are directly and indirectly involved in the city food system. - Stakeholders in the city food system lack knowledge, skills and resources for better planning and governance of the various aspects of the city food system. 	<p>invisible and neglected in policies and planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women lack of access to the public bodies; as such their voices are left unheard. 	<p>decision making and advocacy.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Facilitate the institutionalising of food system governance within city corporations. 3. Establish the nutrition coordination committees, obtaining the endorsement of city food councils, and establishing the Dhaka Metropolitan Consultative Council. 4. Include government officials and private sector stakeholders (NGOs, community organisations, researchers, activists and local leaders) in the platforms, to ensure their diversity and bring together the diverse range of food-related interests. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2) Nutrition coordination committees include women 3) Platforms include gender equality in their agendas 4) Project facilitators (DFS project staff) are trained on multi stakeholder partnerships, inclusive stakeholder management and gender and power relations. 5) Food system stakeholders better understand gender issues in the food system.
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					<p>5. Empower women by ensuring the inclusion of women stakeholders in the platforms</p> <p>6. Train these stakeholders in capacity building, governance and leadership.</p>	
Activity 3.8. Improve planning to integrate food in spatial planning						
46	Improving planning to integrate food in spatial planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Urban planning does not take into account food security and nutrition. - Little to no planning regulations exist to protect arable land near cities for urban agriculture or to protect cities against unsustainable land conversion. - Wet markets lack food waste management planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The urban poor living in informal settlements in the city are the most vulnerable to food shortages and related adverse effects, such as water crises and flooding, resulting from large-scale unauthorised city expansion and poor management of water and drainage systems. - Urban planning does not take into account the 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with city government planning professionals and local urban planning associations, introducing and emphasising the need to consider food and nutrition issues, especially the food security of urban poor populations, in urban planning. 2. Share spatial analysis findings with urban food sector stakeholders and address important challenges such as large 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) City corporations understand importance of women's roles in the food system 2) Gender is considered in urban planning 3) There is more urban planning and it includes infrastructure which considers the needs of women in the food system 	

				vulnerabilities of the urban poor.	<p>scale city expansion, the preservation of gardening plots, and managing water usage.</p> <p>3. Train local urban planners, policymakers and urban food council members on food system sustainability.</p>	
Activity 3.9. Pilot food vendor regulation to effectively manage strategic areas of the city						
47	Pilot food vendor regulation to effectively manage the strategic areas of the city.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most people buy food from mobile vendors because of its affordability, diversity, taste and convenience. - Street food vending is a source of livelihood for the urban poor. - Little is known about how street food vendors organise themselves and operate their small business. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most street food vendors are men - Women lack the necessary knowledge to enter the street food vending business. - Since mobile food vending is not adequately regulated, this livelihood activity is considered unsafe for women. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Train street vendors in food hygiene and safe food handling practices. 2. Support street vendors to better organize themselves. 3. Establish a joint task force on street vending by building effective coordination between public health authorities, the police and the local municipality, so that the 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Vendor regulations have been improved and are beneficial to women vendors. 2) Women and men street food vendors are better organised. 3) There is a safe working environment for female street food vendors. 	

			- No regulations exist for the management of street food vendors, leaving mobile vendors outside the regulatory system.		food vending sector is well managed.	
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