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**Title:**

**Multisectoral governance for sustainable urban food systems in secondary cities of Asia and sub-Saharan Africa**

**Abstract:**

**Introduction:** Nutrition and environmental sustainability are multisectoral and intricately interlinked. Despite exploiting natural resources, current food systems are not able to provide an adequate diet to all people. The Nutrition in City Ecosystems (NICE) project works with local governments to make food systems more resilient to improve health, nutrition, and reduce poverty amongst city populations in six secondary city ecosystems in Bangladesh, Kenya and Rwanda. NICE was established against the backdrop of the rising proportion of the world's population that lives in smaller cities and towns.

**Methodology:** Effective governance of urban food systems making use of multisectoral collaboration and coordination following the example of the Scaling-up Nutrition (SUN) Movement is a first step towards food system transformation and tackling malnutrition within planetary boundaries.

**Results & Discussion:** When the NICE project started in 2021, there were no multisectoral nutrition governance structures in any of the cities involved. However, there were existing structures that could be used as a basis. Illustratively, in Rangpur city corporation in Bangladesh, NICE supported the diversification of the City-Level Multisectoral Nutrition Coordination Committee (CLMNCC) that so far had health and nutrition actors as its members. Meanwhile, there are now many more members from the agriculture and education sectors, women's associations, youth groups, civil society organizations and local businesses. A multisectoral city action plan for nutrition has been developed to monitor Rangpur's progress in food system transformation. Similarly, a standing committee on city nutrition and food systems at Rangpur City Corporation as per legal provision of section 50(2) of the Local Government (City Corporation) Act 2009 has been established to promote the nutritional well-being of residents within the city jurisdiction through further advocating for food system transformation and providing an institutional framework for the CLMNCC.

**Conclusion:** Taking best practices of multisectoral collaboration as proposed by the SUN Movement to city-level holds important potential for food system transformation in secondary cities. A key step is to bring wider food system stakeholders together from different government line ministries, civil society organisations and the private sector, including local businesses.