Edible Cities Network

**EDICITNET GLOBAL LUNCH TALKS :
URBAN FOOD INNOVATION**

Gender in Urban Food Systems

With Dr Jess Halliday, Senior Associate RUAF Global
Partnership on Sustainable Urban Agriculture and
Food Systems - www.ruaf.org

24th March 2022 | 09.00-10.30 CET
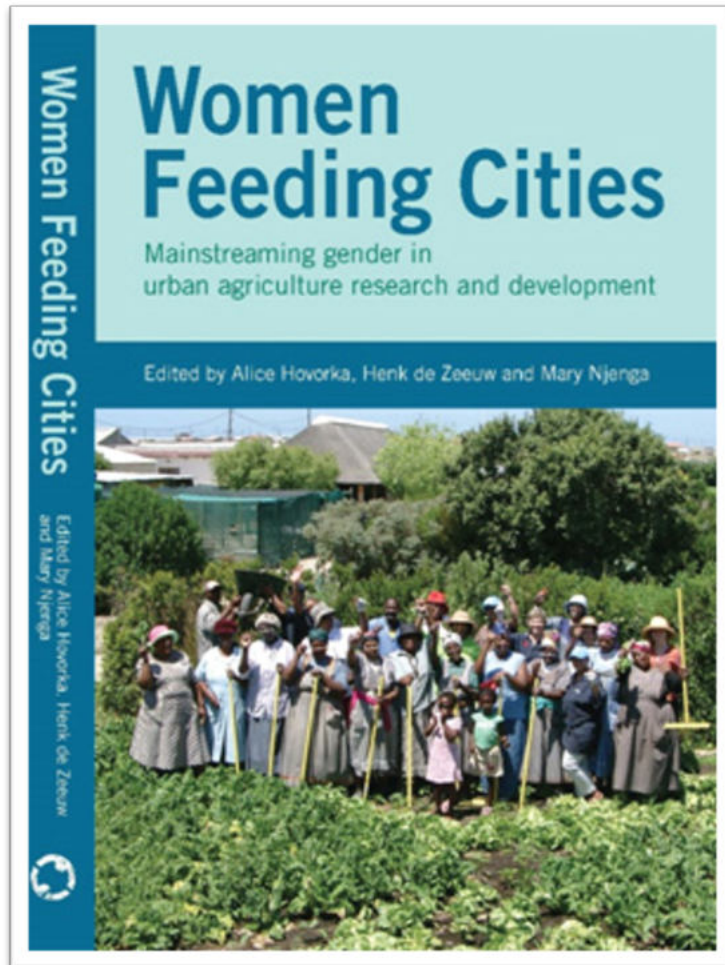
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Applying an intersectional gender lens in urban food systems planning

EdiCitNet workshop & webinar
24 March 2022

Dr Jess Halliday, Senior Associate
RUAF Global Partnership on Sustainable Urban
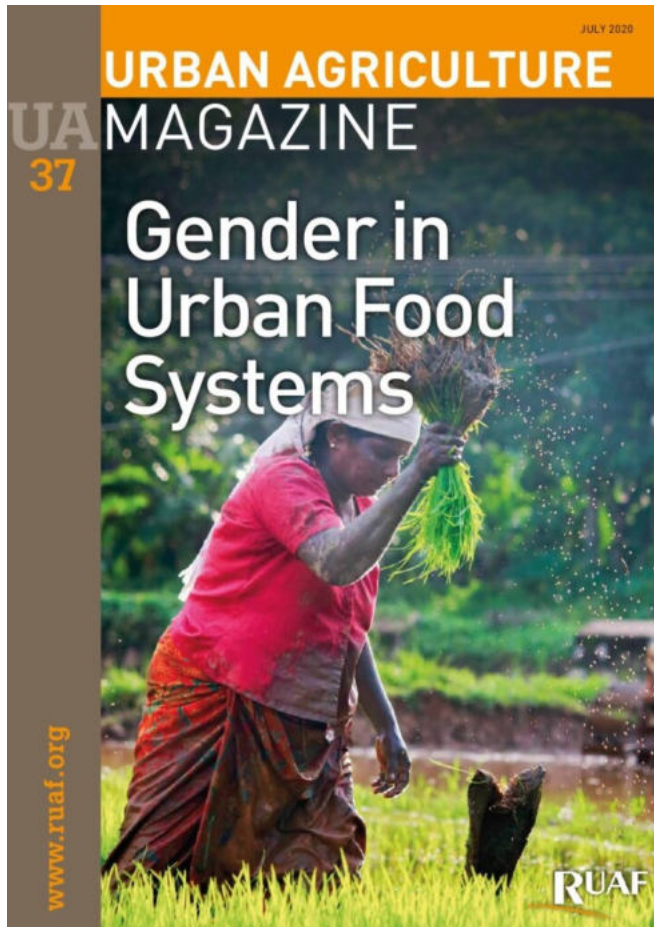Agriculture and Food Systems
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Introducing Gender in Urban Food Systems

'*Women feeding cities: Mainstreaming gender in urban agriculture and food security*', published in 2009, is essential reading for practitioners to ensure gender is a central consideration in urban agriculture projects. The book shares experiences that link gender with urban agriculture in its broad practice. It is designed to contribute to more gender-sensitive and responsive policies and projects on urban agriculture and food security; to cities that are better and more equitably fed; and to women who are better recognised and supported in this crucial role.

https://ruaf.org/assets/2019/11/Women_feeding_cities.pdf

Introducing Gender in Urban Food Systems

JULY 2020

URBAN AGRICULTURE
UA MAGAZINE
37
Gender in Urban Food Systems

www.ruaf.org

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https://ruaf.org/document/urban-agriculture-magazine-no-37-gender-in-urban-food-systems/

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A call to action

This issue of Urban Agriculture Magazine is a call to action to cities and the international urban food policy community to raise our game on gender and inclusivity.

There is an urgent need for many more cities and city regions to work on issues surrounding all genders in urban food systems. It is crucial that responses do not just involve application of technocratic frameworks and that they move beyond gender awareness to enable the reversal of pervasive and systemic intersectional inequalities.

Adding a gender perspective does NOT always need to constitute new work on top of what you're doing.

Mainstream gender lens into plans you are already making.

What is gender?

- Women and girls, men and boys, and transgender, intersex, and non-binary people

- A question of identity
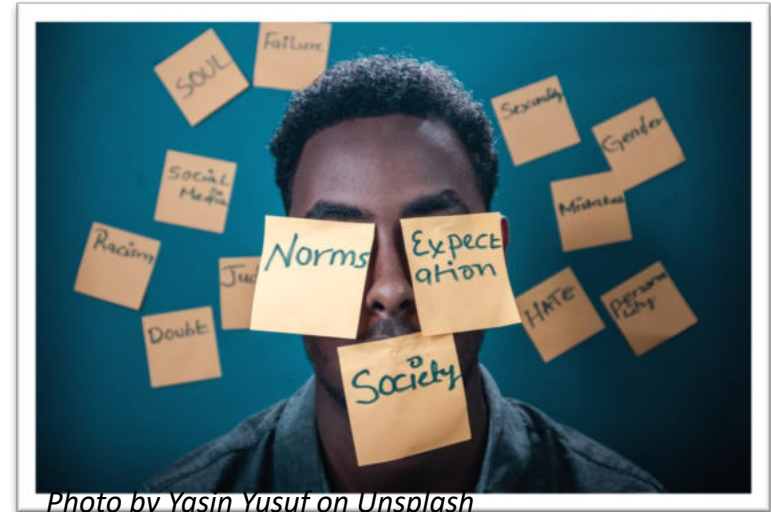
Photo by Yasin Yusuf on Unsplash

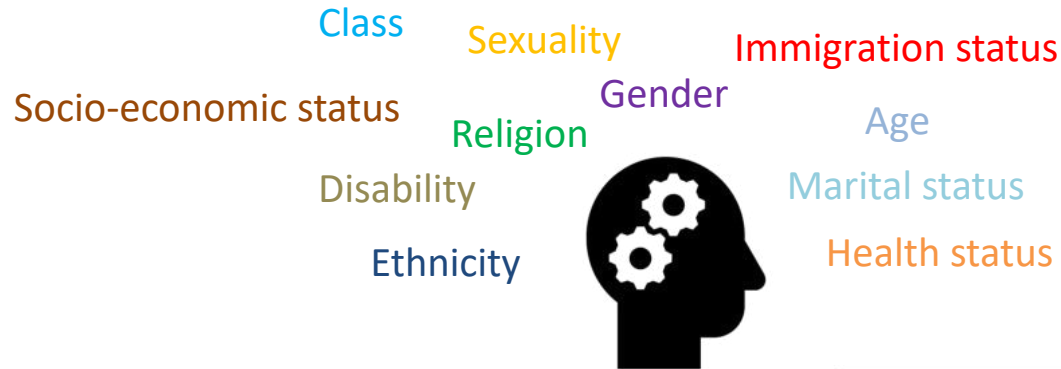- A social and culture construct

Expectations of characteristics, aptitudes, behaviours

Roles and responsibilities that vary between cultural contexts and Change over time

Intersectionality

Identity is made up of intersecting categories, e.g:

Class
Sexuality
Immigration status
Socio-economic status
Gender
Age
Religion
Disability
Marital status
Ethnicity
Health status

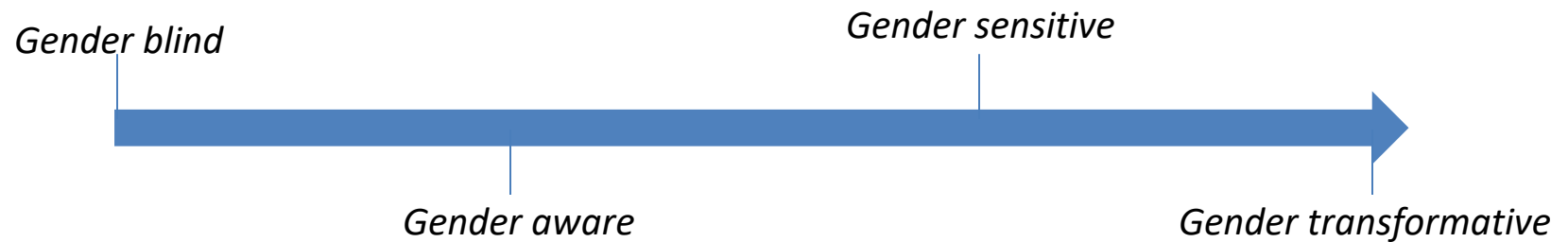Discrimination and assumptions about people of different genders is not homogenous

An **intersectional gender lens**:
- shows where certain inequities are present within a city;
- considers how to improve the situation for all urban residents.

Photo: CONQUITO

Applying a gender lens by degrees

Gender blind

Gender sensitive

Gender aware

Gender transformative

Gender blind
    X   Does not account for gender as significant factor in interactions
    X   No gender disaggregation of data
    X   No human or financial resources for gender equality

Gender aware
    ✓   Acknowledges gender-related differences and inequalities
    X   Gender is not part of programme design
    X   Does not address differences/inequalities
    X   No resources are allocated

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Applying a gender lens by degrees

Gender sensitive
- ✓ Acknowledges gender-related differences and inequalities as part of situational analysis
- ✓ Recognises need to address differences and inequalities
- ✓ Human and financial resources are allocated
- ✓ Data disaggregated by gender
- ? May be gender-relevant indicators

Gender transformative
- ✓ Challenges inequitable practices, norms, and policies that underpin inequalities, to improve gender and social equity.
- ✓ Gender issues are a key focus and integrated throughout the programme
- ✓ Data are disaggregated
- ✓ There are dedicated resources to addressing the root causes of inequalities
- ✓ There are specific indicators

Gender is mainstreamed within programme proposal and design

Inclusion, self-determination, and lived experience

Effect of gender and other intersectional factors on equality and social inclusion are context specific

Need to do situational analysis

Photo: DRAEP Analamanga

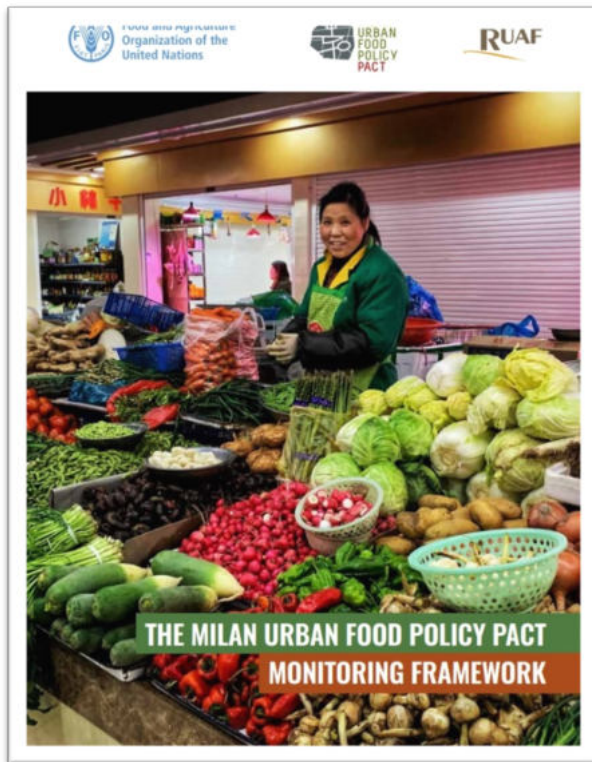Make no assumptions!

- **Include** intended beneficiaries

- Hear their **lived experiences**

- Ensure **self-determination** of solutions

Photo by Paul Green on Unsplash

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Monitoring challenges: city level

THE MILAN URBAN FOOD POLICY PACT
MONITORING FRAMEWORK

- Governance
- Sustainable diets and nutrition
- Social and economic equity
- Food production
- Food supply and distribution
- Food waste

THE INDICATORS

Workstream	Action	Indicator	Potential Gender Data Disaggregation
Ensuring an enabling environment for effective action (governance)	1. Facilitate collaboration across city agencies and departments and seek alignment of policies and programmes that impact the food system across multiple sectors and administrative levels.	1 - Presence of an active municipal interdepartmental government body of advisory and decision making of food policies and programs	*Disaggregate by % of each gender within municipal government body participants*
	2. Enhance stakeholder participation at the city level through political dialogue, as well as through education and awareness raising.	2 - Presence of active multi-stakeholder food policy and planning structure	*Disaggregate by % of each gender within stakeholders*
	3. Develop or revise urban food policies and plans	3 - Presence of a municipal urban food policy or action plan	*Determine whether urban food policy includes gender sensitive policies within*
	4. Identify, map and evaluate local initiatives	4 - Presence of an inventory of local food initiatives and practices to guide development and expansion of municipal urban food policy and programmes	*Disaggregate by % of each gender of who leads these initiatives and practices*
	5. Develop or improve multisectoral information systems for policy	5 - Presence of a monitoring/evaluation mechanism for assembling and analysing urban food	*N/A*

https://ruaf.org/document/gender-and-the-milan-urban-food-policy-pact-monitoring-framework-indicato

Monitoring challenges: programmatic level

What priority are you seeking to address?

Specific issue/inequality/vulnerability affecting a specific group of people, due to gender and intersecting factors

Indicators

How will we know we have got there?

Where are we now?

How will we get there?

Where do we want to be?

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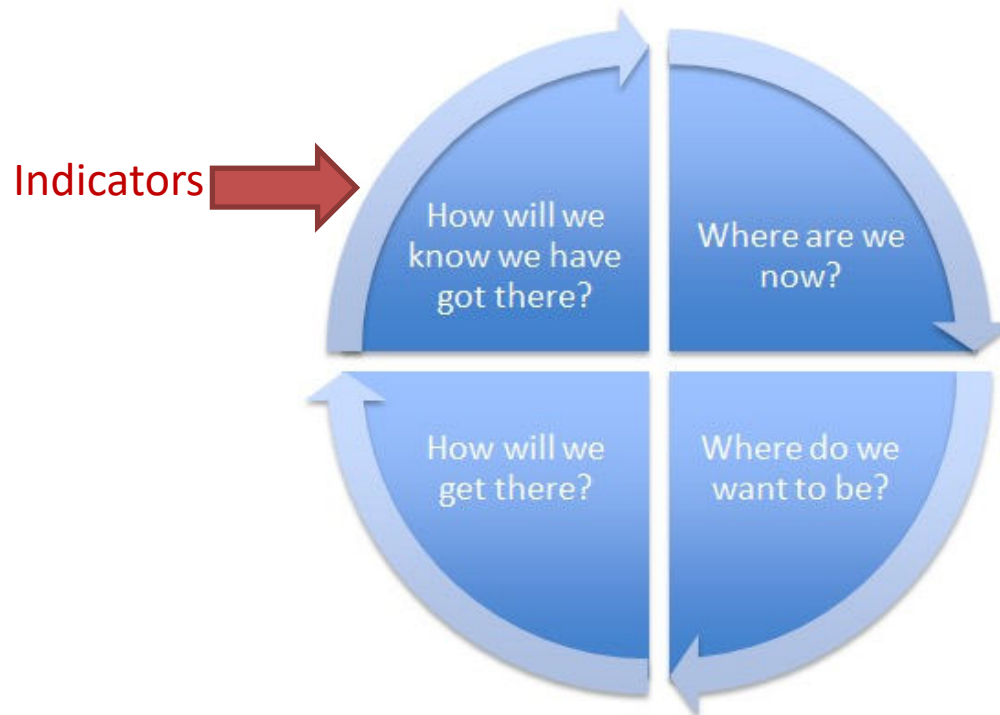
Key points

- There's an urgent need to address gender intersecting factors behind inequalities in urban food systems

- Interventions should be least gender sensitive; ideally gender transformative to enable reversal of pervasive and systemic intersectional inequalities

- Context is everything; base interventions on situational analysis

- Be led by self-determination and lived experience

- Design monitoring framework/indicators at the same time as actions

Discussions in Break-out groups

we go into 6 small groups / breakout rooms for 45 min

a) Optimizing Living Lab Co-Creation
b) Optimizing ECS Master Planning
c) Optimizing City Team Work
d) Optimizing Business Consultancy
e) Effective Networking and Alliance Building
f) ECS Education

1. discuss **current realities** in the field **through the gender & intersectionality lens.**

2. agree on which **concrete case/issue** should be worked on further

3. **Short Feedback** from group discussions

Follow up with next steps in the coming months

Example: Healthy Start take-up in Birmingham, UK

Health Start food vouchers for young pregnant women and children in low-income families

Strategic plan to identify hot-spots of low uptake:
- work with agencies to increase awareness
- work with retailers to expand voucher acceptance across outlets

From 70 – 75% take up by eligible families in a year

https://foodactioncities.org/case-studies/increasing-healthy-start-uptake/

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Example: Community Food Works for Newcomer Settlement. Toronto, Canada

Opportunities for social inclusion and engagement, to facilitate resettlement and integration into Canadian life

Existing Community Food Works programme addresses:
- Accessing food handler training
- Nutrition information
- Employment support among low-income residents

Adaptations:
- cultural tailoring and translation of food safety and food skills training;
- peer-to-peer implementation and interpretation;
- strengthening employment component

https://www.fao.org/3/CA0649EN/ca0649en.pdf

Top tips to be truly transformational

What Are We Trying To Change?

Individual Change

Women's and men's consciousness

Women's access to resources & opportunities

Informal — *Formal*

Informal cultural norms and exclusionary pratices

Formal laws, policies, etc.

Institutional/Systemic Change
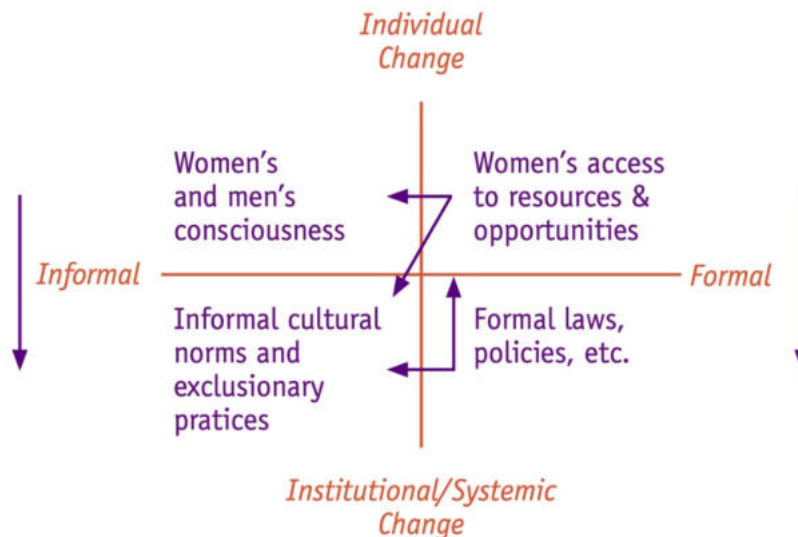
Hillenbrand, E., Karim, N., Mohanraj, P. and Wu, D. (2015). Measuring gender-transformative change: A review of literature and promising practices, working paper, CARE USA.

- In a situational analysis, keep asking **why**
- Engage and work with **multiple agencies, departments**
- Bring along **all genders**. Focusing on women rarely changes deep-rooted social behaviours and practices
- Throw away preconceptions and assumptions. Be **led by the people** in the context
- Avoid prescriptive toolkits. There's **no quick fix** or one-size fits all
- Be in it for the long-haul. Transforming entrenched gender-power relations requires **interventions over extended periods of time**

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