How might the power of systems thinking address food security in urban settings?

Steps 1–3

What do you think if someone talks about food as a system?

Can you think of examples, when you have thought about food as a system, or when it may have been useful to do so?

Are there others in your organisation or elsewhere who can help you think about the food system?

What are possible benefits of thinking about food as a system?
Explore: Steps 4-11

1. Recognise the benefits of food systems thinking
2. Consider existing guides and tools on food system thinking
3. Prioritise the needs of children in the system
4. Recognise the links to household income
5. Explore other household dynamics: gender, consumption, and access to services
6. Map the place of food distribution and retail
7. Consider levels of households’ production and direct access to food
8. Explore opportunities in local food production and shorter supply chains
9. Address food waste and make food systems more circular
10. Improve both the physical and ecological infrastructure
11. Shape and support environmentally friendly diets and purchasing behaviours
12. See the big picture and prioritise and connect issues and response
13. Foster coherent and participatory urban governance on food

Step 4
How does this layer relate to what is currently going on in your area?

What am I doing in relation to this challenge or opportunity?

What are others doing?

What is there that can still be done?

Step 5
How does this layer relate to what is currently going on in your area?

What am I doing in relation to this challenge or opportunity?

What are others doing?

What is there that can still be done?

Step 6
How does this layer relate to what is currently going on in your area?

What am I doing in relation to this challenge or opportunity?

What are others doing?

What is there that can still be done?
Recognise the links to household income

Explore other household dynamics: gender, consumption, and access to services

Map the place of food distribution and retail

Consider levels of households’ production and direct access to food

Explore opportunities in local food production and shorter supply chains

Address food waste and make food systems more circular

Improve both the physical and ecological infrastructure

Shape and support environmentally friendly diets and purchasing behaviours

Foster coherent and participatory urban governance on food

See the big picture and prioritise and connect issues and response

Step 7
How does this layer relate to what is currently going on in your area?

What am I doing in relation to this challenge or opportunity?

What are others doing?

What is there that can still be done?

Step 8
How does this layer relate to what is currently going on in your area?

What am I doing in relation to this challenge or opportunity?

What are others doing?

What is there that can still be done?

Step 9
How does this layer relate to what is currently going on in your area?

What am I doing in relation to this challenge or opportunity?

What are others doing?

What is there that can still be done?
Prioritise: Steps 12-13
Prioritise the levers for impactful intervention

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12. Foster coherent and participatory urban governance on food
See the big picture and prioritise and connect issues and response

Step 12
Has engagement with the tool enabled you to identify who you, or your organisation, should be working with to have impact?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Step 13
Has the tool enabled you to identify the opportunities and next steps?
☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes, what could those be?

Action
Was the framing of the urban food system as a layered onion useful to you?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Will you use the tool again within your organisation?
☐ Yes ☐ No

If not, how can the tool be improved to support it being spontaneously adopted and applied within food-related organisations and government departments?

Other comments:
... continued Explore: Steps 4–11

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Step 10
How does this layer relate to what is currently going on in your area?

What am I doing in relation to this challenge or opportunity?

What are others doing?

What is there that can still be done?

Step 11
How does this layer relate to what is currently going on in your area?

What am I doing in relation to this challenge or opportunity?

What are others doing?

What is there that can still be done?