

TRADUCCIÓN

COVID-19 and urban food systems

The COVID-19 pandemic is disrupting urban food systems worldwide, affecting the food security and nutrition of urban populations. With up to 70 percent of the global food supply destined for urban consumption, the disruption of urban food systems has particularly affected the food distribution and the food retail sectors. The management of the crisis by city and local governments can therefore play a major role in preventing the spread of the virus and, at the same time, in mitigating the disruptions in their food systems and any negative effects on vulnerable populations.

It was deemed very important for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to map the municipal responses to the emergency, and to analyse progress and setbacks in managing disruptions in the urban food systems and related implications for food security and nutrition. Such understanding will strengthen the evidence base on which countries will build policies and programmes dealing with the crisis and its effects. It will also provide valuable information on how to strengthen the performance and resilience of urban food systems. In an effort to better understand how city and local governments faced the challenges of food systems disruptions associated with COVID-19, information was collected through a survey of relevant stakeholders. The survey questionnaire was administered between April and May 2020. Eight hundred and sixty urban actors returned the completed questionnaire, 56 percent of which were members of local governments while the rest of the respondents were members of academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and national governments.

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In Lima, Peru, food markets have become the epicentres of COVID-19 contagion. Seventy nine per cent of stallholders tested positive for COVID-19 in Lima's wholesale fruit market, while spot tests at five other large fresh food markets in the city revealed that at least half of the stallholders were infected by the virus. The Municipality adapted its markets to help social distancing and support vulnerable people at the same time. The Municipality of Lima administers the main wholesale market in Lima, with a daily volume of over 6,000 tons of agricultural products destined to supply more than 1,100 traditional markets within the city in addition to the redistribution at national level. The city has been using municipal infrastructures to decentralize this large market (e.g., mobile markets are held in the large area parks). Additionally, the Municipality of Lima has been developing *ad hoc* food fairs with this aim of serving an average of 900 families for each fair, selling more than 15 tons of food per day. The Municipality of Lima has also established the House of All, with the purpose of sheltering people who have no home and providing them with nutritious food and health care. In addition, food is provided to vulnerable people through direct delivery of meal or food baskets.