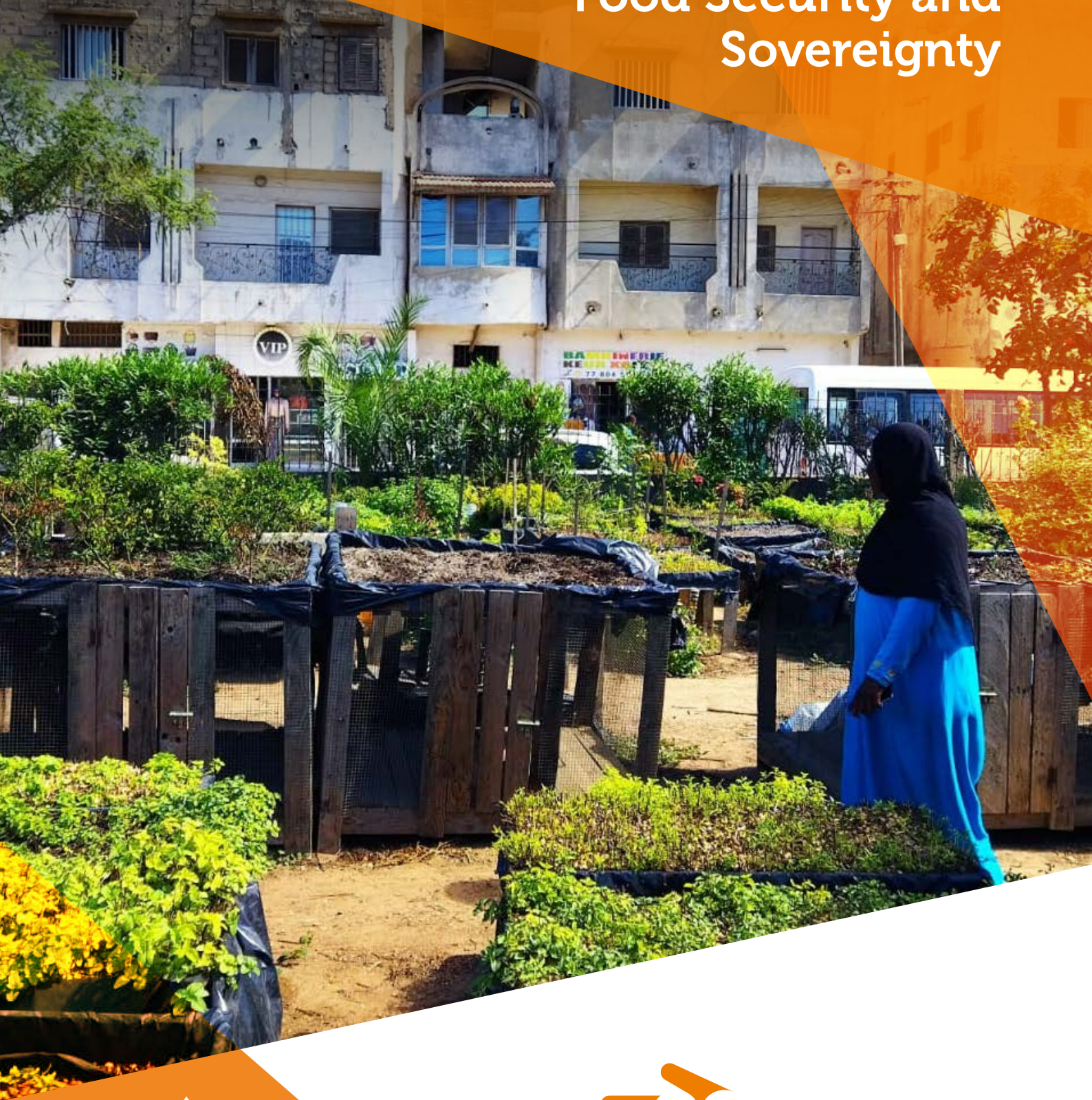


ACRA's Commitment to Food Security and Sovereignty





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ACRA's Commitment to Food Security and Sovereignty

For ACRA, food is a fundamental human right.

Ensuring universal access to healthy, safe and nutritious food means upholding dignity, health and social justice. This is why, over the years, food security and food sovereignty have become one of the pillars of the organisation's action.

From the Right to Food to Public Policies

The right to adequate food is enshrined in international treaties and recognised by the United Nations as essential to human life and development. Yet this right remains unenforceable if food systems continue to be dominated by market logics that generate inequality, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss.

For ACRA, advancing **food security** means guaranteeing availability and access, as well as stability and the quality of diets. Advancing **food sovereignty** means, instead, placing producers, distributors, consumers and communities back at the centre, strengthening their capacity to decide how food is produced, processed and consumed.

An Integrated, Multi-Stakeholder Approach

Over the past twenty years, ACRA has developed an approach that interweaves **social justice, environmental sustainability and community participation**. This means working along the entire food chain through actions that range:

- » from improving **access to food** and promoting healthy diets,
- » to driving the **agroecological transition**, which reduces the use of external inputs, values local resources and traditional knowledge, and supports socially and environmentally sustainable production,
- » through to accompanying the design of **public food policies** that recognise food as a common good.

Every intervention stems from co-design processes and engages a plurality of actors: grassroots communities, cooperatives, local and national authorities, universities, research centres, international networks, the private sector and civil society.



Food security and sovereignty

**THEMATIC STRATEGIC
POSITIONING PAPER
BY ACRA**





Geographies and Practice

In Africa, ACRA works alongside cities and rural communities to strengthen resilience in the face of climate and social crises. Inclusive urban gardens, community granaries, support to producer groups for the agroecological transition and the start-up of agroforestry systems, valorisation of local species with high nutritional value, agri-food processing centres, healthy markets and municipal policies for organic-waste management are just some examples of good practices launched with local partners.

In Latin America, programmes have enhanced local production and small-scale economies, strengthening the role of women and young people.

In Europe, ACRA carries out awareness-raising and education on responsible consumption, connecting citizens, institutions and international networks.

Advocacy and Food Policy

ACRA's commitment goes beyond field projects. The organisation plays a multi-level advocacy role, taking part in major global processes (the 2030 Agenda, the UN Food Systems Summit, the UNFCCC COPs) and promoting the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP), now signed by 300 cities worldwide.

Since 2015, ACRA has supported African, Latin American and European cities in joining the Pact and in developing inclusive local food policies. This work has helped to strengthen the network of MUFPP signatory cities, which today serves as a reference point for exchanging experiences and defining common strategies between cities and their surrounding rural territories.

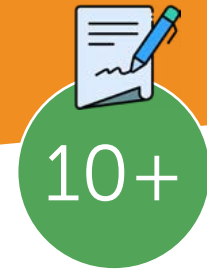
Towards a Food Green Deal in Africa

Together with institutional, academic and civil-society partners, **ACRA promotes the vision of a Food Green Deal in Africa**: a shared agenda that connects sustainable social, environmental and economic objectives. The premise is clear: only fair, inclusive and sustainable food systems can address the climate crisis, reduce inequality, combat hunger and offer concrete alternatives to forced migration.



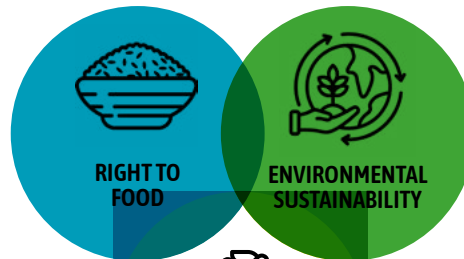


**YEARS OF ACRA
EXPERIENCE ON FOOD
AND SUSTAINABLE
AGRICULTURE**



**CITIES ACCOMPANIED
TO SIGN THE MUFPP:**

Agadez, Bissau, Dakar,
El Salvador, Gaya,
N'Djamena, Niamey,
Ouagadougou,
Tegucigalpa, Ziguinchor



**HUMAN
RIGHTS**

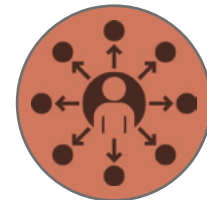


**FOOD GREEN DEAL
IN AFRICA:**

promoting a shared agenda
for climate resilience and
food sovereignty

3 INTEGRATED DIMENSIONS:

Right to food, Human rights,
Environmental sustainability



**MULTI-STAKEHOLDER
APPROACH:**

communities, institutions,
universities, private sector,
civil society



The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP)



Launched in 2014 on the initiative of the City of Milan in the run-up to Expo Milano 2015, the **Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP)** is today the leading international network of cities committed to developing sustainable urban food systems. First signed on 15 October 2015 by over one hundred mayors, the Pact created a unique global platform for exchange and collaboration.

The MUFPP is built on a framework of **37 recommendations** across six key areas: governance; sustainable diets and nutrition; social and economic equity; food production; food supply and distribution; and food waste reduction. It is not a binding treaty but a political commitment, fuelled by cities' willingness to cooperate, learn and innovate together.

To reinforce this commitment, since 2015 **Global Forums** (biennial, hosted by signatory cities) and several **Regional Forums** have been organised.

In Africa, **ACRA** has supported the MUFPP Secretariat in launching the Regional Forums of African signatory cities since 2016, the year the 1st Regional Forum was organised in Dakar.

By organising and facilitating city participation in forums, exchange visits and webinars, we have fostered the sharing of good practices among signatory cities, **re-proposing and adapting them to different local contexts**.

Support for the creation of the Regional Forums of African **MUFPP signatory cities - co-organised by ACRA** in Dakar (2016 and 2023), Niamey (2019) and Ouagadougou (2021) - **has helped to facilitate regional cooperation and strengthen local capacities**. Building regional networks enhances inter-city cooperation, eases the adaptation of food- and climate-governance models at regional scale and amplifies the impact of local projects.

Today, the MUFPP serves as a privileged observatory of good practices: cities transforming markets into healthier spaces, valorising short supply chains and local products, and building urban resilience in the face of climate and social crises. Along this pathway, **ACRA has played a leading role, accompanying numerous African cities in signing and implementing the Pact and supporting civil-society participation**.





2015:

launch of the Pact in Milan and official signing by 100+ mayors

6 areas of action and 37 recommendations

1 Steering Committee elected every two years by the assembly of signatory cities, representing different world regions

Africa Regional Forums:

Dakar 2016, Brazzaville 2018, Niamey 2019, Ouagadougou 2021,
Dakar 2023, Addis Ababa 2024

300+ signatory cities



<https://www.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org>



Good Practices from N'Djamena



2016

N'Djamena signs the MUFPP with ACRA's support

N'Djamena, the capital of Chad, lies at the heart of the Sahel, one of the world's most vulnerable regions to climate and humanitarian crises. It hosts local communities, refugees and internally displaced persons who experience the direct effects of desertification, flooding and regional instability. In a country where an estimated **5.3 million people** face food insecurity, **1.5 million** of them severely during the dry season - building resilient urban food systems has become a priority.

With ACRA's support, N'Djamena signed the **Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP)** in 2016, joining an international network of cities committed to making their food systems more sustainable and inclusive. From the outset, the Municipality has taken an active part in the **Regional Forums of African MUFPP signatory cities**, strengthening dialogue with other African capitals and assuming a leading role in the regionalisation of the Pact.

A decisive step was the launch of dedicated food-policy governance: in 2021 the **Urban Food Policy Steering Committee (CPPAU)** was established, bringing together local institutions, ministries, civil society, cooperatives and the private sector. Thanks to this body, N'Djamena developed key instruments such as:

- » a **Municipal Contingency Plan against food crises**, with specific measures to address flooding, fires and inflows of refugees and IDPs;
- » **Guidelines on market health and safety** to improve hygiene and food safety conditions;

- » a **mapping of urban and peri-urban areas** designated for horticulture and fruit growing, integrated into municipal urban plans.

Among the most recent initiatives, ACRA has supported the Municipality of N'Djamena in implementing the Municipal Contingency Plan and in testing innovative tools for local governance.

In 2025, this process led to the launch of the participatory platform MOPANDJ (www.mopandj.com) to enable citizens to report in real time any issues related to urban health and sanitation and to facilitate a coordinated response by the local authorities.

ACRA also established a Municipal Coordination and Early Warning Center, equipped with digital monitoring and risk-mapping systems, and provided training for municipal staff on crisis prevention and response strategies.

Alongside institutional work, and together with the City, local value chains were strengthened and concrete actions launched:

- » almost **762 producers (women and men)** received training on the agroecological approach; cooperatives were supported to formalise; and **22 refugees and 15 returnees** were formally included;
- » **4 urban agri-food production areas were secured/integrated into the urban plan through agreements between the Municipality and producer groups;**





- » **4 production areas** were equipped with solar irrigation systems and **3 multifunctional centres** for food storage and processing were built;
- » **4 health centres** were supported for the operation of Outpatient Nutritional Units (UNA); **176 health workers** were trained; and **2070 mothers** received support and nutritional counselling;
- » **300 agri-food vendors** were equipped with kits to ensure product health and safety;
- » over **310 income generating micro-initiatives** were launched;
- » multiple food-education pathways were implemented in 7 schools and health

centres, together with community awareness campaigns in the most vulnerable neighbourhoods;

- » **1050 extremely vulnerable families received immediate support.**

These interventions made it possible to address emergencies with medium- and long-term instruments, moving beyond the logic of immediate aid.

Today, the City of N'Djamena is working to develop instruments and policies that can adapt the urban food system to the challenges posed by the climate crisis, by linking community resilience, agroecological innovation, and civil-society participation.

2016 - 2023

Participation in MUFPP Afrique Regional Forums (Dakar, Niamey, Ouagadougou)

2021

Establishment of the CPPAU (Steering Committee for Urban Food Policies)

2023

1 Municipal Contingency Plan against food crises, including specific measures to address floods, fires, refugee flows, and internally displaced persons, adopted by the City Council
<https://www.mopandj.com>

2023

1 set of Guidelines for market health and safety, aimed at improving food hygiene and safety, developed

14 urban and peri-urban areas with agricultural production potential identified and mapped by the Municipality

4 urban agricultural production areas were secured through agreements between the municipality and producer groups and equipped with **4 solar irrigation systems** and **3 multifunctional centres** for food storage and processing

4 health centers supported for the operation of Outpatient Nutritional Units (UNA), including training of **176 health agents** and nutritional counseling for **2070 mothers**

+762 producers trained in agroecological techniques

+300 micro agri-food income-generating activities financed and launched

+1050 vulnerable families supported with direct assistance

2025

Activation of the participatory platform MOPA (www.mopandj.com), for reporting public health-related service issues in neighborhoods



Good Practices from Niamey



2016

Niamey signs
the MUFPP with
ACRA's support

Niamey, the capital of Niger, has in recent years embarked on an ambitious path towards sustainable and inclusive urban food policies. The city faces major challenges: environmental degradation, population growth, food insecurity and migratory pressure. In this context, **joint work by ACRA and the Municipality of Niamey has helped to transform markets and urban agri-food systems into drivers of development, resilience and social inclusion.**

The city signed the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact in 2016, launching a journey that has made it a leading city within the MUFPP network.

In 2019, it hosted the 3rd Regional Forum of African MUFPP signatory cities, which culminated in the **Niamey Declaration** (https://www.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Niamey-Declaration-MUFPP_-_ENG.pdf).

Presented later at the 2019 MUFPP Global Forum in Montpellier, the Declaration marked a key moment: African cities identified concrete priorities by selecting, among the MUFPP's 37 actions, those most urgent for the African context.

Institutional exchanges among Milan-Turin-Ouagadougou-Niamey further reinforced this process, enabling reciprocal visits by municipal officials. These exchanges led to a study of Niamey's livestock markets that highlighted hygiene and sanitary criticalities and proposed guidelines for sustainable waste management.

From this groundwork arose the pilot **"Niamey ville saine et durable"**: a virtuous system linking urban markets to horticultural producers by transforming organic waste into compost. Organic waste collected in fruit-and-vegetable and livestock markets was reintroduced into peri-urban agricultural cycles, improving soil fertility and horticultural productivity.

The pilot took place during the COVID-19 pandemic and was complemented by an awareness campaign in city markets on hygiene, health and the prevention of communicable diseases. Results, confirmed by a municipal report, showed positive impacts and a clear prospect for scaling: **30 urban producer groups**, distributed across the city's five districts, were identified as potential beneficiaries of an expanded model. The city also identified additional green areas for scale-up and, together with ACRA and the AfriFOODlinks consortium, is testing a pilot urban greenhouse that provides low-cost seedlings and local seed varieties and serves as a training centre on seed self-production for urban growers—addressing high horticultural seed prices.

Today, **Niamey is an example** of how an African capital can **combine innovation and tradition**: healthier markets, sustainable waste management, participation of local producers and international exchanges have laid the foundations for fairer, more resilient food policies.





2019

Exchange visits among mayors and officials Milan-Turin-Niamey-Ouagadougou

2019

Niamey hosts the **3rd Regional Forum of African MUFPP signatory cities**
Niamey Declaration drafted and presented at the Global Forum in Montpellier

2019

Launch of the pilot "Niamey ville saine et durable"
organic waste transformed into agricultural compost

2020

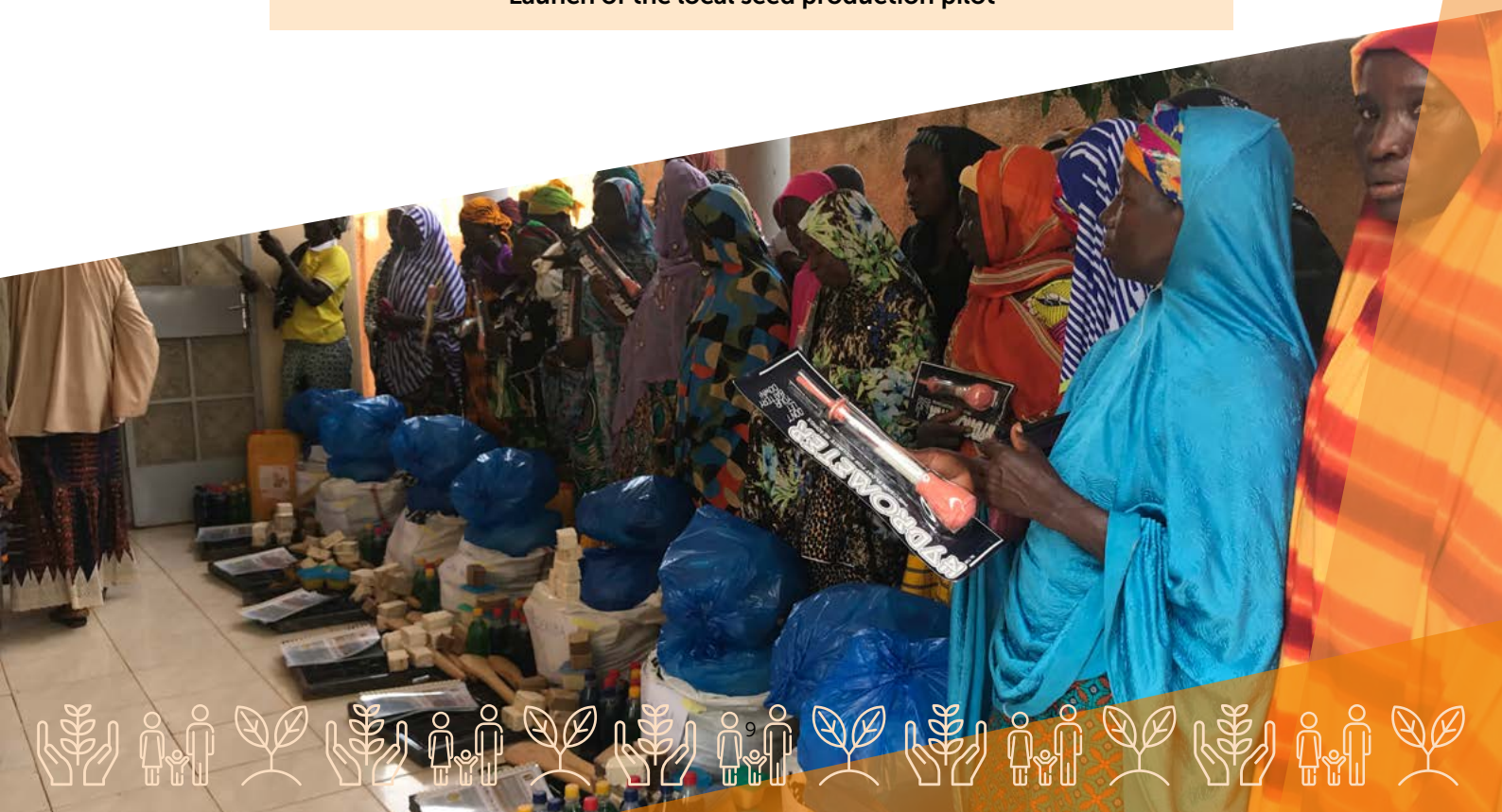
COVID-19 prevention campaign in city markets on hygiene and health

2021, 2023 and 2024

Participation in the 4th, 5th and 6th Regional Forums of African MUFPP
signatory cities in Ouagadougou, Dakar (with training on the
Food Policy Action Canvas) and Addis Ababa

2025

Launch of the local seed production pilot



Good Practices from Ouagadougou



2019

Ouagadougou signs the MUFPP with ACRA's support

Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso, **is among the most active African cities** in the MUFPP pathway. The city **signed the Pact in 2019** following **city-to-city exchanges**, facilitated by ACRA, placing food security and sovereignty at the heart of its political agenda.

Building on this leadership, Ouagadougou developed the **Ouagadougou Declaration (2021)** while **hosting the 4th MUFPP Regional Forum in Africa**, reaffirming its political commitment to sustainable urban food systems and bringing the voice of African cities to the **United Nations Food Systems Summit**. The city was subsequently elected to the **MUFPP Steering Committee** for the **2021-2023** term.

Through structural projects and local/international partnerships, the city **is strengthening its model of urban food policy**, with growing attention to **environmental sustainability, social inclusion** and the **valorisation of local food value chains**.

Food Policies and Inclusion

Thanks to collaboration with ACRA and the **cities of Milan, Turin and Niamey**, Ouagadougou has consolidated an **urban food-policy model** - starting with initial steps on **waste management** and **recycling** and integrating local institutions, civil society, the private sector and academia.

The objectives are multiple:

- » Reduce environmental impact through **circular-economy** solutions;
- » Strengthen the **local, social and economic fabric** by creating new opportunities for young people, women and internally displaced people;
- » Promote the **production and consumption of healthy, local food**;
- » reinforce **urban and peri-urban agroecological value chains**.

In parallel, the capital is engaged in strategic processes that **strengthen inter-municipal governance across the Grand Ouaga area**:

- » Drafting the **Grand Ouaga Territorial Food Plan** to steer the production, distribution and consumption of healthy, local food;
- » Preparing the **Grand Ouaga Climate, Air and Energy Plan** to integrate urban mitigation and adaptation policies;
- » Creating **inter-municipal mechanisms** for coordinated management of food and environmental challenges.





Concrete Actions

- » **Waste management pilot schemes:** introducing household waste separation in several districts, with dedicated bins and awareness campaigns reaching **over 3,000 households**;
- » **Green jobs and local enterprises:** support to small recycling and composting businesses creating new enterprises and hundreds of jobs, strengthening municipal waste-management capacity;
- » **City-to-city exchanges:** missions with **Milan, Turin, and Niamey** sharing of experience on market management, recycling and valorisation of local value chains;
- » **Market improvement:** rehabilitation of markets with improved hygiene, waste management and food safety, benefitting thousands of vendors and consumers;
- » **Agroecology and peri-urban production :** over **2,750 producers (60% women)** trained and supported in sustainable horticulture through agroecological approach, covering +70 hectares on the Green Belt;
- » **Social and economic inclusion:** creation and support of **micro and small enterprises**, generating employment for women, youth and vulnerable populations;
- » **Local food access:** promotion of **short supply chains** and **local procurement**, including pilot initiatives in **12 school canteens** reaching **5,000+ students**.

This pathway has increased Ouagadougou's capacity to plan and implement **inclusive urban policies**, consolidating **territorial food governance, climate resilience**, and **urban/peri-urban agroecological value chains**, with concrete benefits for citizens and serving as a reference for other African cities.





2017

Launch of Green Belt rehabilitation, climate adaptation measures, agroecological production, and territorial food governance initiatives

2019

Participation in the 3rd MUFPP Regional Forum in Niamey and signature of the MUFPP.

Exchange visits among mayors and officials Milan-Turin-Niamey-Ouagadougou.

Participation in the 5th MUFPP Global Forum in Montpellier.

2021

Ouagadougou hosts the 4th MUFPP Regional Forum in Africa, co-develops the Ouagadougou Declaration and is elected to the MUFPP Steering Committee (2021-2023)

2023

Participation in the 5th MUFPP Regional Forum in Dakar.

Launch of a pilot project in 12 school canteens, reaching over 5,000 children for 8 months, to promote local procurement and healthy diets.

Establishment of a multi-stakeholder coordination and management committee for the Green Belt, and Climate vulnerability assessment conducted in the area.

2024

Participatory elaboration of a Code of Conduct on agroecological good practices for the Green Belt, with over 2,750 farmers trained.

Development of Guidelines for the management of the Bangr Weogo Urban Park.

Participation in the 6th MUFPP Regional Forum in Addis Ababa, presenting the school canteen pilot.

2025

Ongoing elaboration of the Grand Ouaga Territorial Food Plan and the Grand Ouaga Climate, Air and Energy Plan; and creating inter-municipal mechanisms for coordinated management of food and environmental challenges.





Good Practices from Dakar



2015

Dakar signs the MUFPP

Dakar, the capital of Senegal, was among the first African cities to embrace the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, signing it in 2015, serving on the first Steering Committee and, already in 2016, **hosting the 1st Regional Forum of African MUFPP signatory cities**.

In July 2023 it again welcomed and co-organised the 6th Regional Forum and was re-elected to the Steering Committee (2023–2025), confirming its role as a leading West-African city on the path towards sustainable urban food systems.

A Growing City Facing Major Challenges

With around **25% of Senegal's population** concentrated in the urban area, Dakar faces a shortage of agricultural space and a strong dependence on food imports. The city's food policies have therefore focused on innovation, resilience and social inclusion, with the goal of ensuring that all households have access to healthy, safe and nutritious food.

Micro-jardins: a Model of Urban Resilience

Since 1999, Dakar has piloted and scaled the model of **urban micro-jardins**, initially promoted by FAO, ACRA and the City of Milan. These soilless gardens-created on rooftops, in courtyards and small urban

spaces - enable families to grow vegetables for self-consumption and sell the surplus, generating income.

Today, micro-jardins are a consolidated practice that has improved food security for thousands of urban families, reducing economic vulnerability and promoting the engagement of women and young people. The experience has been replicated in other Senegalese cities and in several African countries.

Towards a Local Food Strategy

At the **5th Regional Forum of African MUFPP signatory cities (Dakar, July 2023)**, the city identified as a priority the drafting of a **local strategy for food and nutrition security**. This pathway aims to strengthen and scale existing good practices - such as micro-jardins - with more structural interventions on food governance, short supply chains, urban markets and food-waste reduction. Together with ACRA and the AfriFOODlinks consortium, the city is also piloting a small-scale, sustainable, high-quality school-feeding model to be assessed and, where appropriate, integrated into the local strategy.

The strategy aims to build a food system that not only feeds the city but does so equitably, sustainably and inclusively, valuing the active participation of communities, youth and local associations.





2015

Dakar signs the MUFPP

2016

Dakar hosts the 1st MUFPP Regional Forum in Africa

2016

Dakar elected to the Steering Committee (2016-2018)

2017

The Micro-jardin good practice receives a mention in the Milan Pact Awards
(Food Production category)

Micro-jardin results:

- Food production in small spaces (rooftops, courtyards, underused areas)
 - Household self-consumption + surplus sales for income
 - Active engagement of women and youth
 - Contribution to reducing urban food insecurity

2023

Dakar hosts the 5th MUFPP Regional Forum in Africa (17-19 July)
19 officials and local authorities from 12 African cities
10 African activists + 24 Food Wave activists from Europe and Brazil

2023

Dakar re-elected to the Steering Committee (2023-2025)

2023

Priority set: drafting a local strategy for food and nutrition security

2024

Participation in the 6th MUFPP Regional Forum in Addis Ababa,
presenting the school meals pilot

2025

Launch of the school meals pilot



Good Practices from Bissau



2025

Bissau signs the
MUFPP with
ACRA's support

Bissau, the capital of Guinea-Bissau, is one of the most recent cities to join the **Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP)**. The signature, achieved in 2025, was made possible thanks to ACRA's technical and political accompaniment, reflecting years of support to African cities in developing fairer, more sustainable urban food systems.

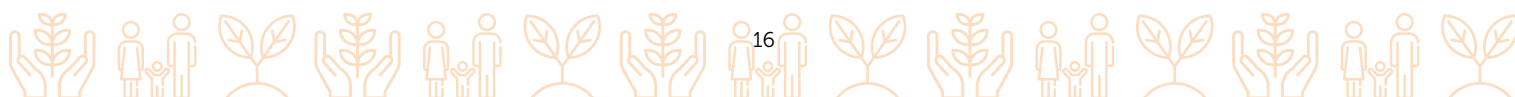
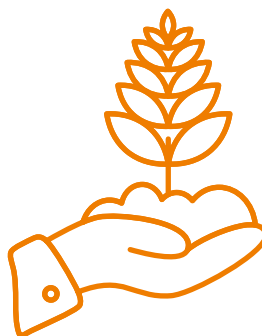
The signature marks a crucial step for a city facing complex challenges: widespread food insecurity, rapid urban growth, institutional fragility and the increasing impacts of the climate crisis.

By adhering to the MUFPP, the Municipality of Bissau commits to a shared pathway with institutions, civil society and local communities to:

- » strengthen **urban food governance**;
- » promote the **agroecological transition** and the valorisation of local production;
- » improve **access to healthy, safe food** for all residents;
- » **reduce waste and manage natural resources** more effectively.

Bissau's participation in the Regional Forum in Africa opens new opportunities for cooperation and exchange of good practices with other cities in the region - from Dakar to Ouagadougou, from Niamey to N'Djamena. This will make it possible to share experiences, develop innovative food policies and attract resources to strengthen urban resilience.

The MUFPP signature is not merely a formal act: it is the start of a political process that aims to place the right to food at the centre of the capital's development. ACRA will continue to accompany this pathway, supporting the city in building a **local Food Policy** capable of meeting the population's needs and valorising the territory's potential.





2025

Bissau officially joins the MUFPP network

Priority commitments:

urban food governance; agroecological transition;
equitable access to food; waste reduction

Context:


widespread food insecurity; rapid urban growth; high climate vulnerability.

Bissau enters into cooperation with 300 cities worldwide
(including 48 in Africa)

ACRA's role:

technical and political accompaniment to MUFPP signature





ACRA is a Milan-based Third-Sector Entity and Non-Governmental Organization committed, for over 50 years, to fight poverty, inequality, and climate change. It operates in Europe, Africa, and Latin America to protect human rights and ensure access to food, education, water, and energy, while promoting environmental protection and gender equality. It fosters a culture of dialogue, intercultural exchange, peace, and solidarity.



ACRA ETS

Via Moncalieri 5, 20162 Milano
CF: 97020740151
PEC: acra@acracert.org
info@acra.it - www.acra.it



#ACRA