

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE
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Virtual
28 February – 4 March and 9 March 2022
Comments from the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)

NEW WORK for CCFH

Dear Distinguished Delegates to the CCFH:

The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) would like to request member state support for new work at the Codex Committee for Food Hygiene in the area of traditional food markets. Traditional food markets exist all over the world and provide affordable food for many millions of consumers globally. In low- and middle-income countries, traditional food markets can be a major source for household foods, and they provide employment for many in the community.

The structure and operations of traditional food markets can pose many food safety challenges. Traditional markets frequently have inadequate market infrastructure, limited access to potable water, weak hygienic conditions, and insufficient storage practices, making them especially risky for the growth and spread of foodborne hazards. Traditional markets are frequently subject to minimal food safety oversight, inspection and enforcement.

GAIN has reviewed four separate Codex regional guidance on regulation of street-vended foods, but found no guidance specific to traditional markets where both raw and prepared foods are often sold.

- CODEX Regional Guidelines for the Design of Control Measures for Street-Vended Foods (Africa) CAC/GL 22R-1997 (Africa Guidelines)
- CODEX Revised Regional Code of Hygienic Practice for the Preparation and Sale of Street Foods (Latin America and the Caribbean) CAC/RCP 43R-1995/Revised in 2001 (LAC Code)
- CODEX Regional Code of Practice for Street-Vended Foods (Near East), CXP 71-R-2013 (Near East Code)
- CODEX Regional Code of Hygienic Practice for Street-Vended Foods in Asia, CXC 76R-2017 (Asia Code)

The four regional guidance for street-vended foods, taken as a group, have significant information that might be relevant to the regulation of street vended foods. However there are gaps in each of the Codes or Guidelines that show that a global guidance would be appropriate. GAIN has published our review here as part of our EatSafe program, funded by USAID and Feed the Future: <https://www.gainhealth.org/resources/reports-and-publications/report-normative-guidelines-governments-promote-safer>

CODEX has as its mission to protect the health of consumers, so this gap is highly significant, given the importance of the traditional markets as sources of food for consumers in many regions.

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