



Urban Agriculture Program



August 2010

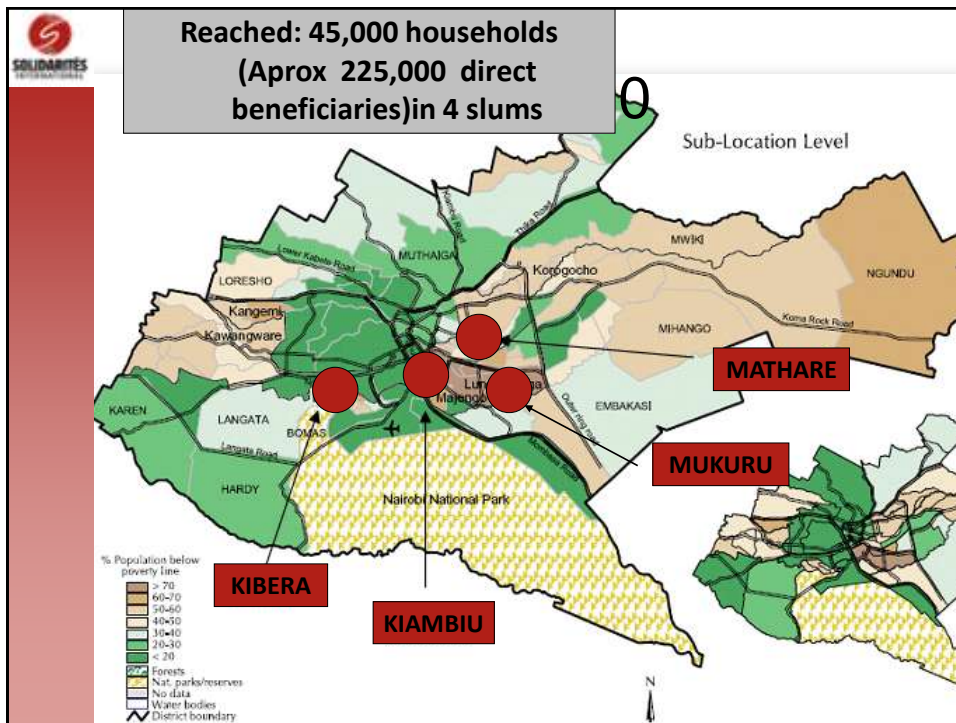
INTRODUCTION

- Solidarites urban food security program **started in 2008** as an **emergency response** to the food crisis following the **Post Election Violence**



- The project has since grown to encompass a **more sustainable approach** utilizing **sack gardening** as the core component , embracing an early recovery/ development approach
- The project has been scaled up based taking an active learning and integration of the **lessons learned** and best practices from within and without the project

Regional workshop in East Africa – FAO – Food for the Cities
Ensuring resilient food systems in African Cities
Nairobi, 13-14 December 2011
Partner organization : Mazingira Institute




Activities supported

- Sack gardening (primary activity)
- Green house farming
- Small scale poultry rearing

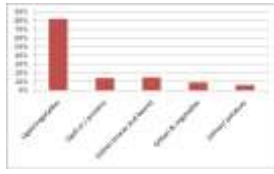


August 2010

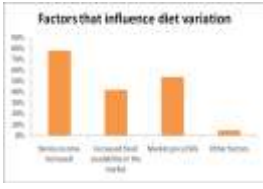


Vegetables in the Slum Household Diet

- Vegetables are a very important part of household diet in Nairobi slums (SI baseline revealed that to cope with food insecurity, slums population fed mainly on Ugali and vegetables)
- Household income and vegetable cost directly influences diet diversification in slum households
- Sack gardening can improve nutrition in vulnerable households by increasing the number of meals with vegetables (quantity and diet diversification) or enabling saving that can be used to buy protein foods.



Typical family meal composition in Nairobi slums
(source: Solidarités International)



Factors that influence diet variation

August 2010



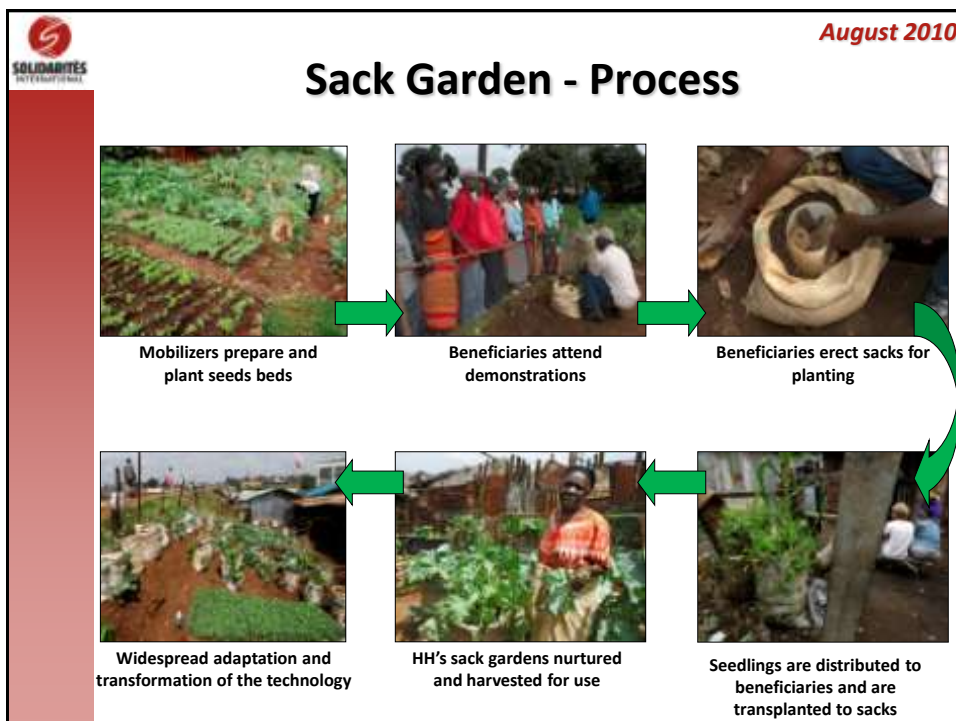
Why Sack Garden Technology?


- The technology is **accessible** to target beneficiaries (cost and available materials)
- Possible to implement in limited **spaces** within the slum s. Sack gardens occupy 0.35m² and grow crops that would fit in 4.4m² in the field
- Many slum residents come from an **agricultural** background and therefore have a good skill base
- Positive **environmental** impacts – cleanup of waste land for sack sites



Conti.....

- Requires very little water, and domestic waste water can be used
- Improves household food security by providing a means of production
- Saves money when vegetables are not purchased and can supplement household income when excess production is sold






 **SOLIDARITÉS**
INTERNATIONAL

August 2010

Sack Garden - Process

- **Technical cooperation and consultation with government ministries/institutions**
 - **MoA** – Extension support for beneficiaries. Building a common understanding of the technology.
 - **KARI** – Soil tests, pest and disease identification, greenhouse specifications,
 - **HCDA** – Technical expertise on greenhouse production
 - **Research institutes** – UoN, Private research centres
 - **Other Humanitarian actors**- COOPI
- **Training and support** for beneficiaries to maximize benefits from the sack gardens
- **Follow up with HH** to track the change in garden performance, HH consumption and income




 **SOLIDARITÉS**
INTERNATIONAL

August 2010

Beneficiary Selection

- Target beneficiaries are **individuals or groups** living in the slum who are willing to:
 - Source materials and erect sacks
 - Identify suitable sites for sacks
 - Participate in training
 - Plant and maintain vegetables
- **Particularly vulnerable groups** are also specifically targeted as beneficiaries and are assisted with startup material support when necessary. Specifically targeted groups include:
 - HH with Disabled persons
 - Persons living with HIV/AIDS or chronic diseases
 - Grandmothers and child headed HH
 - Orphaned children/ Orphan headed HH
 - Otherwise housebound individuals





 **SOLIDARITÉS**
INTERNATIONALE

August 2010

Achievements to Date

- Increased **access to common vegetables** at the household level for targeted beneficiaries
- Decreased **dependency on markets** for vegetable purchases
- **Cash** previously used for vegetable purchases is saved for other important HH needs
- Some HH are able to **generate income** from sale of excess vegetables.
- Positive **environmental impacts** – Conversion of dumping sites into group sack garden sites
- Positive **security impacts** – many youth groups have become involved in the project
- Wide **acceptance and replication** of **sack gardening** approach by the community




 **SOLIDARITÉS**
INTERNATIONAL

August 2010

Challenges

- Ability of beneficiaries to **protect** their sack
- **Pest** and **disease** control
- Access to appropriate **soil** and manure
- Some **landlords** are not receptive to the technology
- Need to develop a robust and sustainable local **seedling production capacity**




 **SOLIDARITÉS**
INTERNATIONAL

August 2010

Lessons Learned

- Sack gardening is most attractive to **vulnerable households** who have limited livelihoods options (the food security and financial benefits are **modest but important** to poorer households).
- Beneficiaries appreciate the technology because it provides them with a **means of food production**.
- **3-4 sacks** will produce enough vegetables for average **household use**.
- **5-6 sacks** will produce enough vegetables for family use and for **sale of excess** to neighbors. (Sales of excess generating an average of Ksh 600 per HH per month)
- **Beneficiary contribution** (materials and participation) is a critical element of project sustainability:
 - Inputs are modest and are within the means of most potential beneficiaries
 - With good sensitisation, only those HH's that recognise potential benefits for their HH will become involved.



Regional workshop in East Africa – FAO – Food for the Cities
Ensuring resilient food systems in African Cities
Nairobi, 13-14 December 2011
Partner organization : Mazingira Institute

