

TEP 7

Urban Food Systems Governance

Engaging urban food governance in inclusive and transparent ways, enhancing and valorizing agency and developing methods for co-produced food sensitive planning

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THE CHALLENGE

Cities remain embedded in traditional hierarchical governmental structures. The challenge is how to create opportunities for other voices such as civil society, particularly if traditional management structures, policies and systems remain in place. Diverse voices form part of a wider conceptualisation of governance, and represent a form of bottom up, contextually specific governance.

Urban governance is

“The many ways individuals and institutions, public and private, plan and manage the common affairs of the city. It is a continuing process through which conflicting or diverse interests may be accommodated and cooperative action can be taken. It includes formal institutions as well as informal arrangements and the social capital of citizens.” (UN-Habitat, 2002, p.14)

THE CHALLENGE

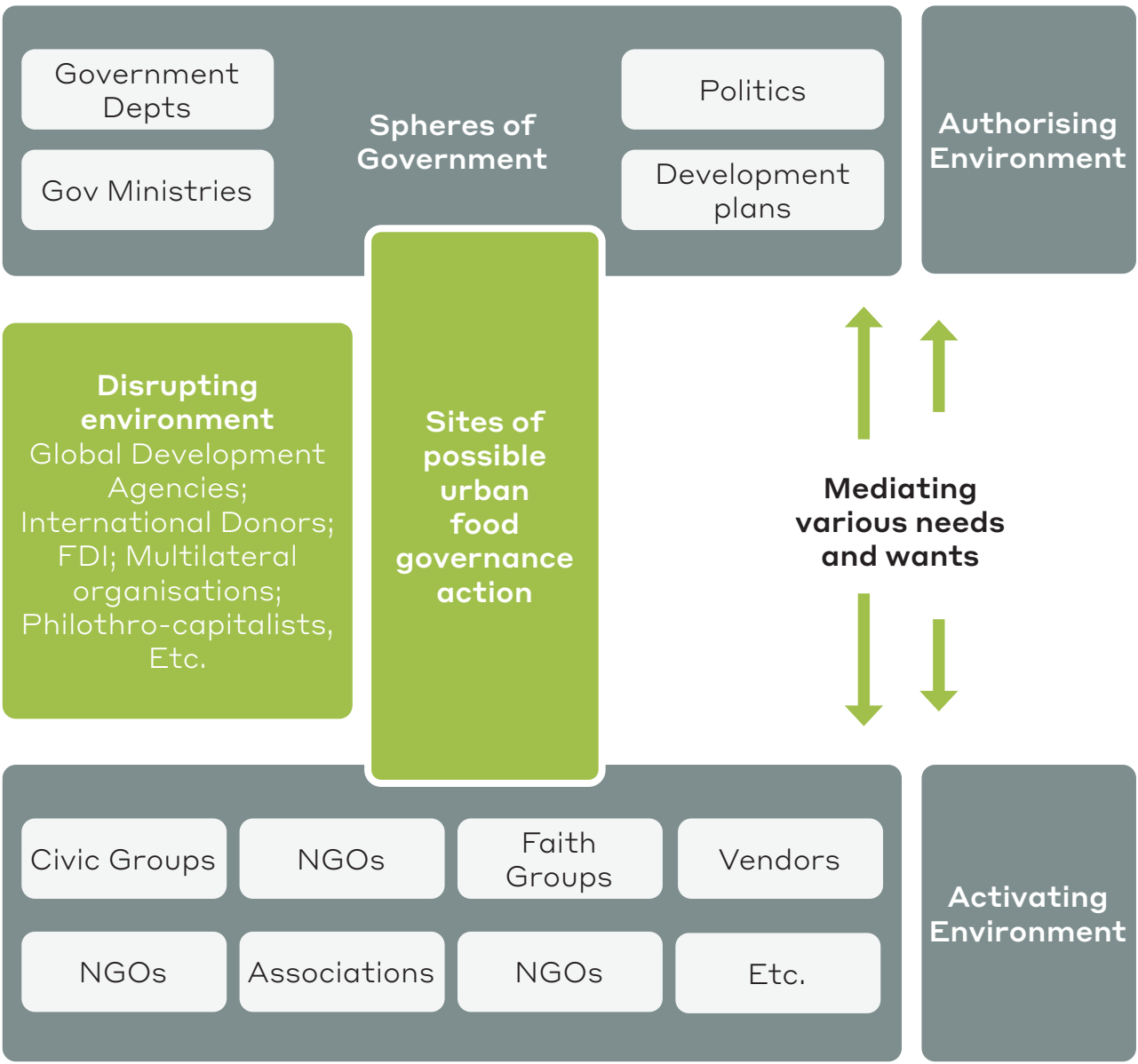
“The state is incoherent and failing its own people. Between the spheres of local and national governments, there are conflicting policies, conflicting ideologies, and conflicting agendas that hamper short-term solutions and long-term commitments.”

Collective action and time:

“Each consortium contributed to the inclusive, integrated development plan:
1. Collecting and analyzing data
2. Consulting the community - seeking feedback on proposals
3. Developing solutions that integrated community knowledge and aspirations with due consideration for context...”

What is Agency?

Agency as a temporally embedded process of social engagement, informed by the past, but also oriented toward the future and toward the present. Contexts of action are also temporal as well as relational fields — multiple, overlapping ways of ordering in which social actors assume different simultaneous agentic orientations.

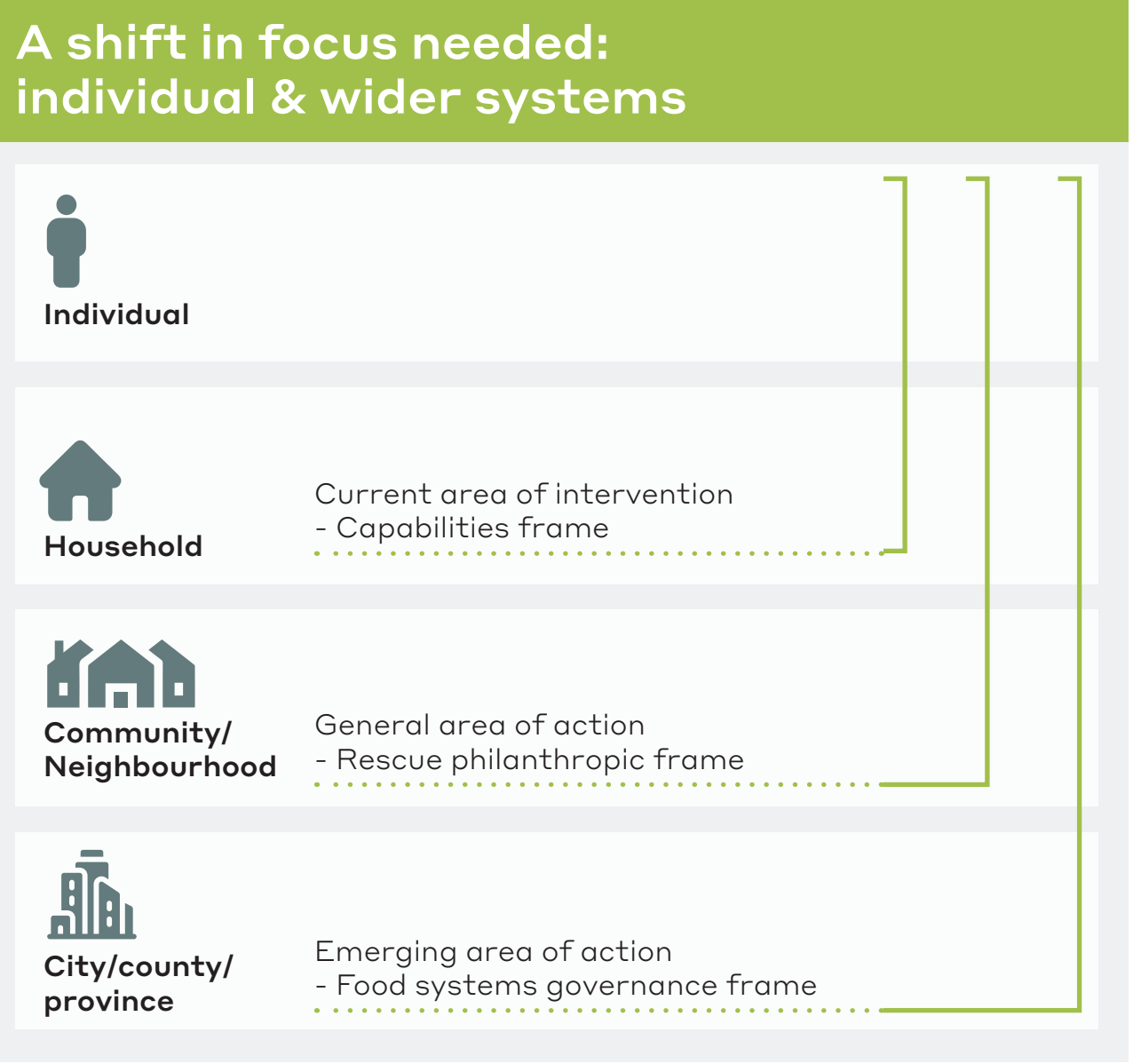


WHY DO WE DO THIS?

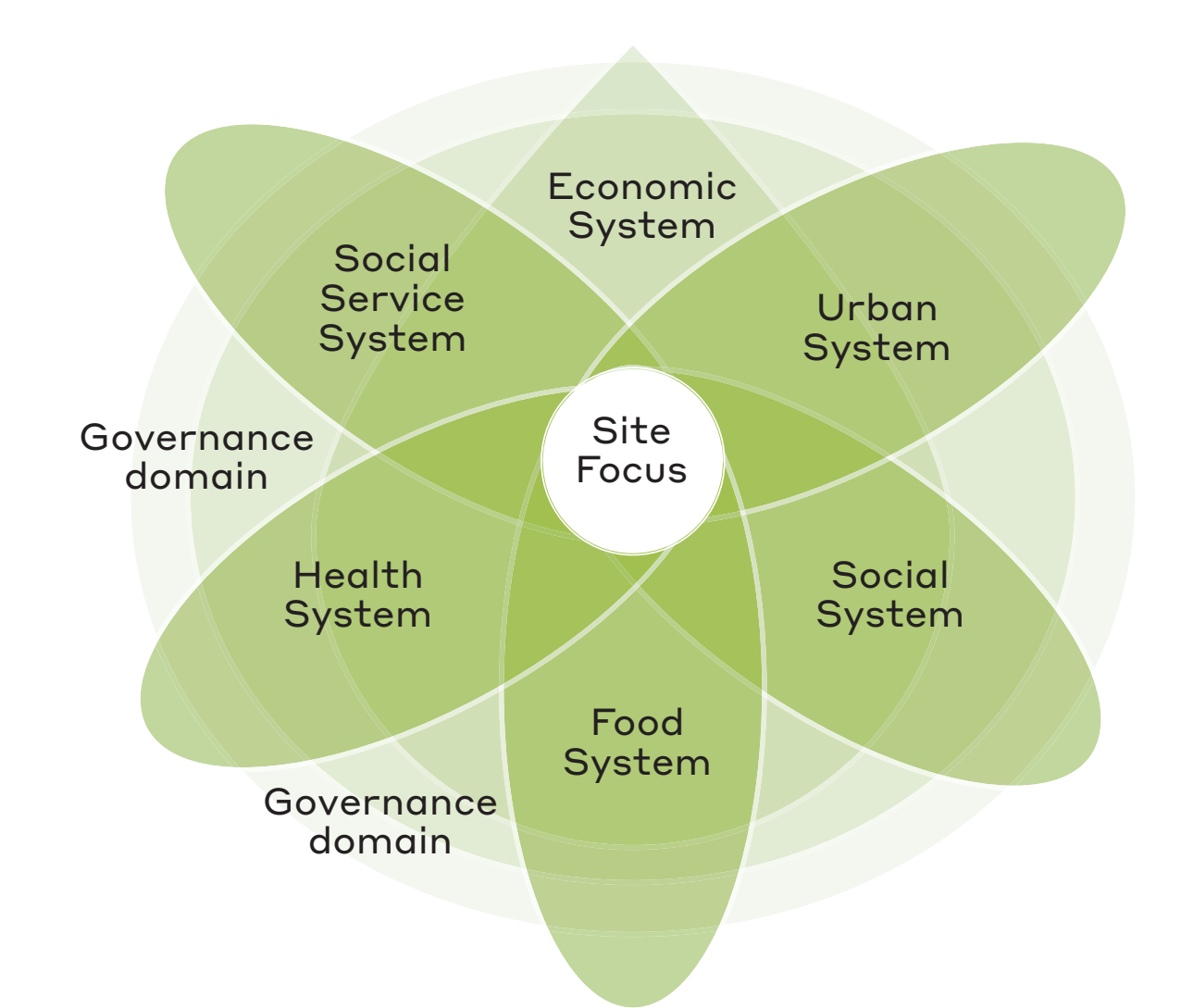
- We have to be part of the discussion.
- Cities are unjust, unhealthy & uninclusive.
- Act through co-learning, co-governing & co-developing.
- We want to share OUR stories, not read these in academic papers.

A PROPOSED APPROACH

The history of both urban systems and food systems in Africa mean that current governance processes are ill-equipped to engage the dual challenge of rapid urbanisation and negative urban food system outcomes.



New forms of government



“The Mukuru SPA Process was the first of its kind in Kenya. There was no localized point of reference that could have eased the process. We were in a sense learning on the job.”



FOOD SENSITIVE PLANNING AND URBAN DESIGN (FSPUD)

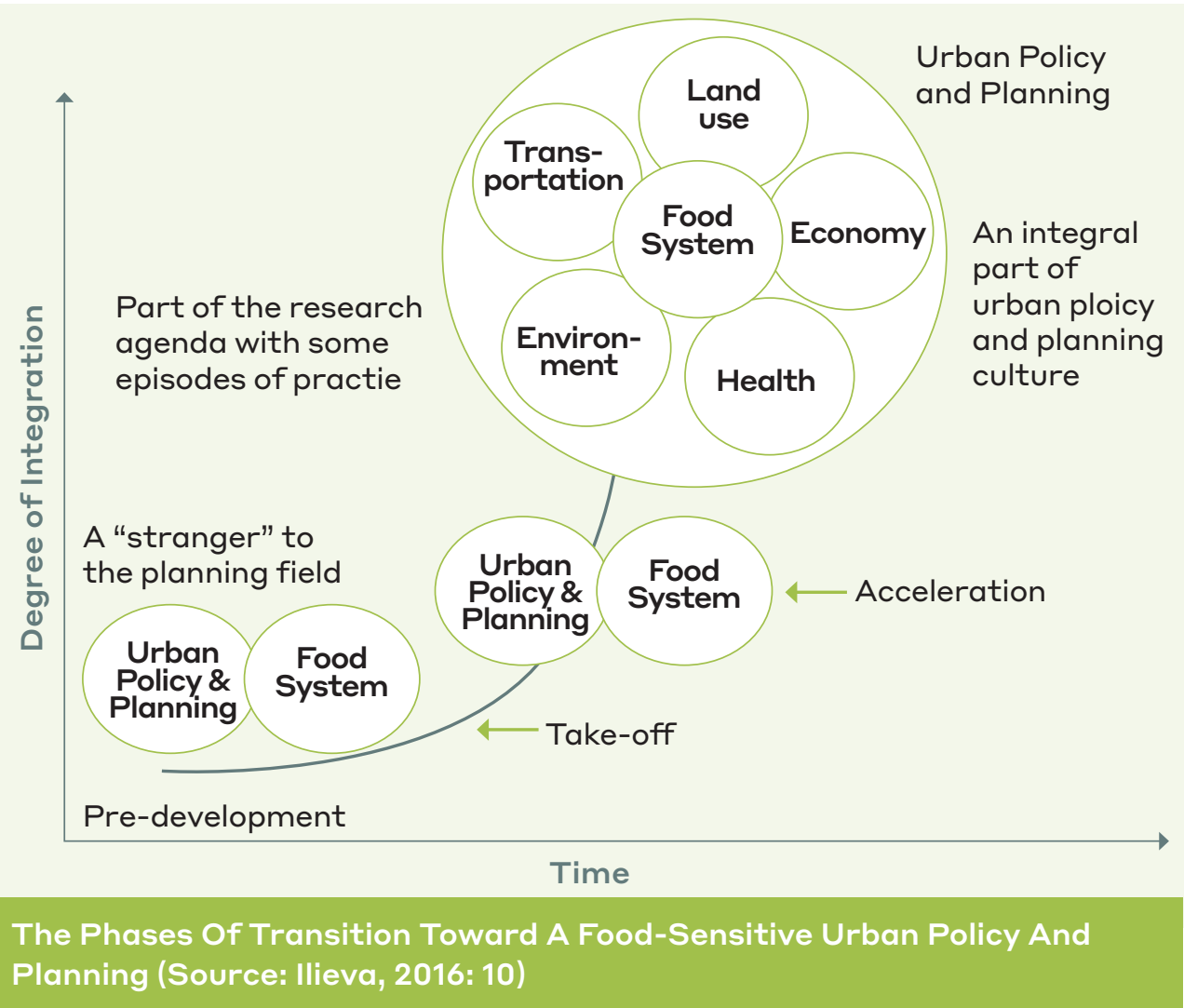
Food-sensitive planning and urban design engages the current urban challenge as one where cities are facing unprecedented change, across multiple governance domains.

These include the converging and mutually compounding threats of climate change, vulnerability to peak oil, loss of land and resource scarcity, but sought to respond to these through the concept and principles embedded within the aligned practices of urban planning and governance.

A PROPOSED APPROACH

FSPUD practices	Key practice related questions
Conceptual	Why should we care? 1. What is our obligation eg: Right to Food ? 2. Moral duty of care are the state society
Analytical	What is the problem? 1. What is the specific problem? 2. Understanding flaws in past responses?
Organisational	1. Who is in charge? 2. Who has powers? 3. How are powers assigned? 4. Who or what has unrecognised validate power?
Design	1. How do we solve it? 2. Who are the current designers? 3. Who needs to co-design processes actions?

FSPUDs potential is influenced by policies and interventions affecting the social service system, the social system, the health system, the food system and the urban system. These are all embedded within an economic system.



“The entire process gave them insights that they would use to enhance the efficiency of future planning processes.” **Muungano Alliance**

FACT: “Where’s the government? Where are our ward councillors? What they forgot was to invite us, we were not offered a seat at the table – a lot of conversations and dialogue was happening about and around us but without us.”

