



ZERO HUNGER IN MONTRÉAL

Collaborative Mapping of Montréal's Food Security Ecosystem: Knowledge, Stakeholders and Challenges



Background

The 2017 *Vital Signs of Greater Montréal's Children* report shed light on the extent of food insecurity and hunger in Montréal, as compared to other Canadian cities. In Montréal, 11% percent of households experience moderate or serious food insecurity whereas the Canadian average is 8%. It is also notable that Greater Montréal has the greatest number of people seeking food assistance in Quebec. This major issue affects both children and adults: more than a third of Quebecers who received food assistance were under the age of 18. Community, private, governmental and philanthropic stakeholders are already tackling this issue. The Foundation of Greater Montréal (FGM) has launched a collaborative approach to studying the ecosystem with the goal of developing concerted strategic actions based on improved understanding.

Initial observations

- ▶ There is a large number of different types of stakeholders working to improve food security at various levels.
- ▶ All activities are traditionally organized by sector or geographic area.
- ▶ There is an increase in the number of food security projects (both studies and fieldwork) using an ecosystem and collaborative approach.
- ▶ A similar process was carried out by the Victoria Foundation and other organizations.

Action: Convening the sector's stakeholders to understand ongoing initiatives in order to understand the ecosystem as a whole and to develop a coordinated approach.

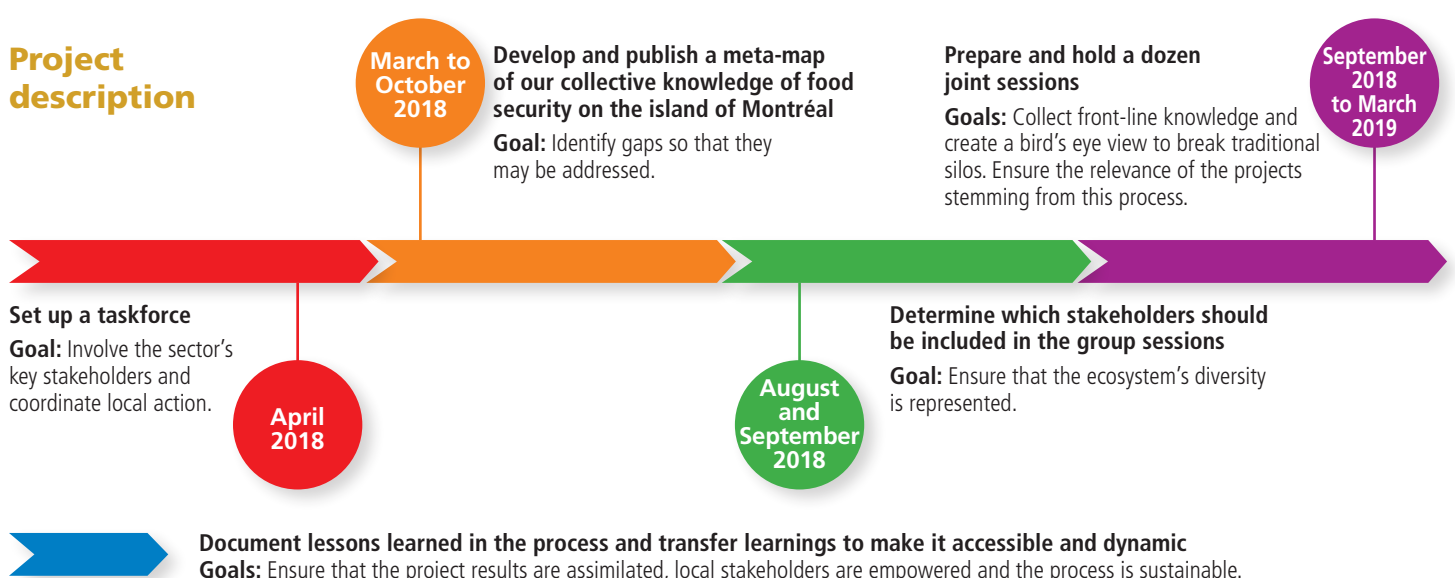
Participants

Taskforce: Centraide of Greater Montreal; the Dépôt Community Food Centre; the Direction régionale de santé publique (CIUSSS du Centre-Sud de l'Île-de-Montréal); the Foundation of Greater Montréal; the Fondation Lucie et André Chagnon; the McConnell Foundation; the Quebec Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; the McKinsey Group; Moisson Montréal; Conseil du système alimentaire montréalais (Conseil SAM); Ville de Montréal; Récolte; Esplanade.

The taskforce's mandate is to share knowledge, mobilize the ecosystem's stakeholders, take part in validating and diffusing project findings, and identify coordinated solutions focussed on joint action.

Ecosystem representatives: A dozen group sessions will be organized with stakeholders throughout Montréal's ecosystem, with a view to understanding their experience, challenges and keys to success.

Project description



Intended impact



Project goals: This project aims to help us better understand Montréal's ecosystem in the areas of food security and the fight against hunger, through a coordinated approach with local stakeholders.

Vision: This project is the first step in a long-term process. It aims to help reduce hunger and improve food security on the island of Montréal and to root an ecosystem approach in stakeholders' practices.

Impacts: Educate stakeholders. Generate complementary projects, both in research and on the front-lines. Facilitate access to funding.

► This iterative process is neither a turnkey solution to eliminate hunger nor an end in itself. Rather, it is a means to share knowledge and encourage action within Montréal's food security ecosystem.

Glossary

Ecosystem approach

A strategy for analyzing and taking action, the ecosystem approach considers each element to be an integral part of an ecosystem, namely a dynamic and coherent complex made up of living organisms anchored in the environment and with which they interact. This holistic approach is based on a multi-level analysis of key processes, functions and interactions between the organisms and their environment. It aims to reimagine humans as one element of a whole ecosystem, to maintain the biodiversity and viability of natural ecosystems and thus the ecological functions essential to human activity.

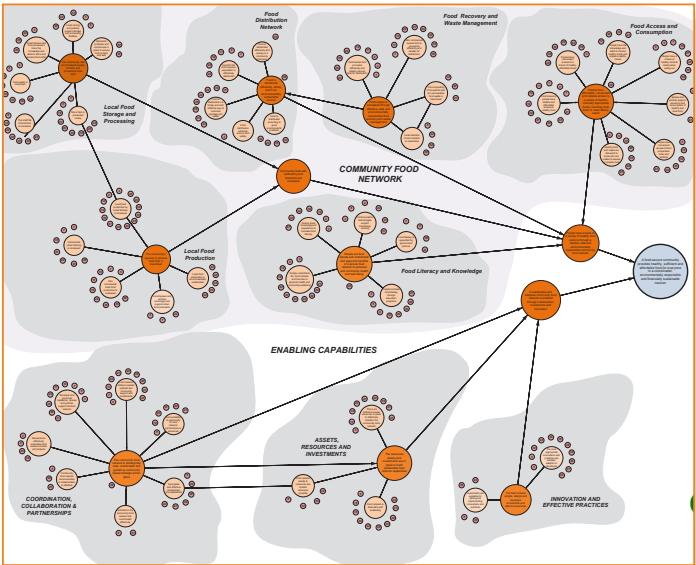
Translation of the definition by Vivre en Ville

Food security

What this concept means:

1. Individuals have, at all times, the physical and economic means to access enough food to be able to lead an active and healthy life.
2. Individuals are guaranteed the ability to access food.
3. Individuals have access to simple, reliable and objective information allowing them to make informed decisions.
4. Foods are nutritionally satisfying, and personally and culturally acceptable.
5. Foods can be obtained in respectful and dignified ways.
6. Foods are produced and consumed according to the social values of justice, equity and morality.
7. Foods are produced and distributed in a sustainable agrofood system.

Translation of the definition provided in the Cadre de référence en matière de sécurité alimentaire, 2008, Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux



Food System Roadmap of Victoria, B.C., sponsored by Victoria Foundation.



Meeting of the taskforce.