6 Appendix C – Placed-based consultation summaries

s22

s22 Hub Forum Summary

A Hub Forum was conducted in s22 on 25 July 2024 and attended by representatives from s22 the s22 and the s22 It should be noted that consultation participants advised the conversation may not have represented the severity of food security issues in more remote areas of s22 such as s22 and s22 (all of which are classified as Very Remote Australia).

Several critical issues emerged during the discussion. Water supply management was a significant concern, with poor water quality directly impacting the health of community, household expenditure and the potential for local food production. Economic barriers, such as lack of local employment opportunities and high living costs, further exacerbate food insecurity. Additionally, systemic barriers, including the need for support from all levels of government and insufficient public health resources, were highlighted as major obstacles to food security. Participants stressed the need for more transparency and more skilled experts to address persistent challenges.

To address the identified issues, the participants proposed several solutions and activities. Emphasis was placed on community-led initiatives tailored to local needs, such as developing sustainable local food production systems and improving water management practices. Enhancing public health support and resources was also a priority. Furthermore, fostering shared planning and decision-making processes, involving all stakeholders, was seen as crucial for effective governance and long-term success.

Structural and operational improvements were identified to implement the proposed solutions effectively including the critical need for government support at local, state, and federal levels. Establishing a remote food security governance body to oversee and coordinate efforts was also suggested. Participants noted there is a strong desire within community to put in the work to become self-sufficient.

The consultation underscored the importance of leveraging existing community strengths to combat food insecurity. Local organisations, such as the s22 and the s22 play pivotal roles in community health and advocacy.

s22

s22 Hub Forum Summary

The Forum held in s22 on 23 July 2024 was attended by various stakeholders, aimed to gather insights, and develop strategies to ensure that community members have access to nutritious and affordable food. The participants emphasised the importance of community-led consultations and ensuring that Aboriginal voices are heard.

Key Issues and Challenges

Several key issues were identified during the discussion:

- Supply Chain Issues: Infrastructure inadequacies, such as poor road conditions, significantly impact food prices and availability.
- Profit-Driven Stores: Community stores often appear to prioritise profits over providing affordable and healthy food options.
- Government Dissatisfaction: There was notable frustration with t government's failure to yield tangible results from past conversations.

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Proposed Solutions and Activities

Participants proposed various activities to tackle food security:

- Freight Food Subsidy: Introduction of a freight food subsidy in s22 to reduce food prices in remote stores.
- Healthier Food Promotion: Ensuring that fresh and healthy food is prominently displayed in stores.
- Community-Led Initiatives: Encouraging local food production and traditional food practices.

Structural and Operational Improvements

To improve food security, several structural and operational changes were suggested:

- Review Store Models: Shift store governance from profit-driven models to social enterprises.
- Regulation Enhancements: Better regulation of community stores to ensure they provide adequate shelf space for healthier food choices.
- Collaboration: Strengthening partnerships with organisations like s22 for a comprehensive approach.

Leveraging Community Strengths

The discussion highlighted the importance of leveraging community strengths:

- Local Knowledge: Utilising community knowledge and experiences to improve local food production.
- Education: Developing nutrition information and cooking lessons in Aboriginal languages.
- Social Enterprises: Considering social enterprises to align better with community needs, thus ensuring sustainable food security solutions.

s22 Community Visit Summary

The Community Visit to s22 took place on 17 July 2024. While attendance was limited, the discussion highlighted the community's need for effective solutions to improve the food security situation.

Key Issues and Challenges

Several key issues were identified during the consultation. The community has a significant lack of trust in outsiders and government due to recurring, unproductive conversations about improving food security. There is strong opposition to government bodies taking over their community-controlled store. Additionally, there is a notable shortage of white goods, including microwaves. Service roads experience significant access issues, especially during the wet season, making it difficult to transport food. The airstrip is also not large enough to accommodate large aircraft, limiting the amount of food that can be delivered.

Proposed Solutions and Activities

Community members suggested that the only way to improve food security is for the government to take decisive action and implement effective measures. This includes improving infrastructure such as service roads and the airstrip to ensure consistent and reliable food delivery. Additionally, there is a need for increased availability of white goods to help store and prepare food.

Structural and Operational Improvements

To address the identified challenges, structural and operational improvements are necessary. Enhancing the infrastructure, particularly the service roads and airstrip, would facilitate better access to food supplies. Ensuring the community-controlled store remains under local management while receiving support to improve

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its operations could help build trust and efficiency. Additionally, increasing the availability of essential white goods will support food storage and preparation.

Leveraging Community Strengths

Leveraging the community's strengths is crucial for the success of any proposed solutions. The community's strong sense of ownership and control over their store should be maintained and supported. Building on the community's resilience and willingness to engage in discussions about food security can help foster a collaborative approach to implementing effective measures. Engaging local leaders and members in the planning and execution of improvements will ensure that solutions are tailored to the community's specific needs and context.

s22 Community Visit Summary

The s22 community consultation took place on 1 August 2024, and was attended by community members, shop owners, and representatives from the s22 . The main topic was the urgent need for healthier food options, including dietary products, fruits, vegetables, and sandwiches, to improve the health of the community and future generations. Additional discussions revolved around the availability, affordability, and quality of food products, as well as the need for better access to information on nutrition and healthy cooking.

Key Issues and Challenges

Several critical issues were highlighted during the consultation. The limited availability of healthy food options in the local store was a significant concern, especially for children's health. Community members noted that healthier foods were often more expensive and not always available. The store owners mentioned difficulties in sourcing specific dietary foods from wholesalers, leading them to purchase these items from s22 at higher prices. Additionally, there were concerns about the frequency of food deliveries, the quality of food (with reports of expired items), and negative experiences with the store management.

Proposed Solutions and Activities

To address these challenges, various solutions and activities were proposed. Establishing a community garden to grow and harvest vegetables and eggs was suggested, although support would be needed for its maintenance. Another idea was to set up a kitchen in the school to hold cooking classes, teaching both adults and children about healthy cooking. Community members also expressed a desire for more sandwich and healthy takeaway options in the store, rather than unhealthy foods like pies and pasties. Lastly, there was a suggestion to limit the visibility and availability of unhealthy foods in the store, only offering them on weekends or after school hours.

Structural and Operational Improvements

The consultation revealed several structural and operational improvements that could enhance food security in s22 . These included increasing the frequency of food deliveries to ensure a consistent supply of fresh and healthy items, improving store management to foster a more positive shopping environment, and implementing pricing policies that promote healthy foods while disincentivising unhealthy options. There was also a call for better collaboration between the store, the community, and the school to address health challenges and ensure that dietary needs are met consistently.

Leveraging Community Strengths

The consultation identified the community's strengths as crucial assets for improving food security. The strong desire for healthier eating habits and the willingness to learn about nutrition and healthy cooking were seen as significant advantages. By harnessing these strengths, the community could implement sustainable local food production through gardening and educational programs. The involvement of community leaders and organisations like the s22 was essential in advocating for and supporting these initiatives, ensuring that efforts to improve food security are community-driven and effective.

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s22 Hub Forum Summary

The Hub Forum held in s22 on 9 July 2024, brought together various stakeholders, including community leaders within Indigenous organisations, government representatives, and industry experts, to discuss the challenges and potential solutions for ensuring consistent and affordable access to nutritious food in these regions. The discussions were framed around the unique geographical, economic, and social contexts of remote communities, particularly the impact of significant seasonal changes and infrastructure limitations.

Key Issues and Challenges

Several key issues were identified during the Hub Forum. The high cost of food and freight, particularly during the wet season when communities are often cut off, is a major concern. The lack of infrastructure, such as storage facilities and reliable transportation, exacerbates food insecurity. Additionally, there is a significant gap in the regulation of privately run stores, leading to inconsistent food quality, variety and pricing. The consultation also highlighted the need for better financial recognition of Traditional Knowledge and practices, as well as the importance of culturally appropriate food solutions.

Proposed Solutions and Activities

Participants proposed a range of solutions to address these challenges. These included investing in infrastructure improvements, such as better roads and storage facilities, and implementing freight subsidies for healthy foods. There was also a strong emphasis on supporting local food production through community gardens and traditional hunting and gathering practices. Other suggestions included the introduction of a sugar tax to fund healthy food initiatives, regulating privately run stores, and increasing Centrelink allowances to match the high cost of living in remote areas.

Structural and Operational Improvements

To improve the structural and operational aspects of food security, the consultation recommended several actions. These included upskilling the local workforce, particularly in nutrition and food preparation, and ensuring ongoing funding for training programs. There was also a call for better collaboration between government departments and community organisations to streamline efforts and resources. Additionally, the consultation suggested implementing policies to restrict the merchandising of unhealthy foods and incentivising retailers to support healthier options.

Leveraging Community Strengths

The consultation recognised the strengths and resilience of remote communities and emphasised the importance of leveraging these assets. This includes supporting micro-businesses and sustainable community-led initiatives, such as local fisheries and market gardens. The consultation also highlighted the value of Traditional Knowledge and practices in promoting food security and suggested financial recognition and support for these activities. By building on existing community strengths and fostering local leadership, the proposed solutions aim to create sustainable and culturally appropriate food security strategies.

s22 Community Visit Summary

The consultation was conducted in s22 on 16 July 2024 brought together various community groups, including s22, the s22, and the s22, aiming to address significant challenges and propose actionable solutions.

Key Issues and Challenges

The primary issues identified include high food prices, limited access to healthy food options, overcrowded housing, and inadequate cooking facilities. Additionally, there are concerns about the high costs of emergency healthcare, substance abuse, and the inefficiency of overlapping governance bodies.

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Proposed Solutions and Activities

Proposed solutions include reintroducing bush foods, improving community governance, and empowering traditional hunting practices. There is also a call for better education on healthy eating, more local nutrition workforce training, and healthier takeaway options. Enhancing supply chains and reducing freight costs are also critical.

Structural and Operational Improvements

Improvements suggested included better coordination among healthy food programs, more local health workers, and training community members to educate others. There is also a need for better housing that supports food security and health needs, and more community markets to promote local products.

Leveraging Community Strengths

The community's strengths, such as Traditional Knowledge and practices, can be leveraged to improve food security. Empowering the community through jobs, education, and better governance will help achieve self-sufficiency and resilience. Collaboration between s22 and s22, sharing stories and knowledge, is also essential.

s22 Community Visit Summary

The s22 Community Visit was held on 1 August 2024 included community members, service providers, and local leaders, who discussed various aspects of food availability, quality, and affordability. The consultation aimed to identify key issues faced by the community and propose actionable solutions to enhance food security and overall well-being.

Key Issues and Challenges

Participants highlighted several pressing issues affecting food security in s22 The remoteness of the community creates significant logistical challenges, leading to high costs and limited availability of fresh produce. Dependency on a single supplier, s22 exacerbates these problems, with monopolised delivery services driving up prices and reducing resilience during crises. Additionally, malnutrition was identified as a critical concern, especially among young children, with many families struggling to afford nutritious food. Educational challenges were also noted, including low literacy and numeracy skills among young people, further complicating efforts to improve food security.

Proposed Solutions and Activities

To address these challenges, participants suggested several solutions and activities. Establishing local food production initiatives, such as community gardens, was proposed to reduce reliance on expensive imports and improve access to fresh produce. Enhancing educational resources and support for children was also emphasised, aiming to better equip them with essential life skills. Community kitchens were recommended to promote bulk buying and cost-effective meal preparation, while also serving as venues for nutritional education. Additionally, improving financial literacy through existing programs like the Community Development Program (CDP) and Money Management services was seen as vital to helping families manage their resources more effectively.

Structural and Operational Improvements

Structural and operational improvements were deemed necessary to support these initiatives. Increasing on-site storage capacities, such as freezers, would help preserve food and reduce spoilage. Diversifying supply chains to include multiple providers could lower costs and increase resilience against service disruptions. Implementing transparent governance and consistent funding for government programs was also stressed, ensuring that initiatives are sustainable and not subject to political changes. Collaboration between government

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service providers and the community was highlighted as essential for creating flexible and effective solutions tailored to local needs.

Leveraging Community Strengths

The consultation identified several community strengths that could be leveraged to enhance food security. Local cultural knowledge and practices, such as hunting and fishing, provide valuable food sources and should be integrated into broader food security strategies. The strong sense of community and willingness to participate in collective activities were seen as assets for implementing local food production and education programs. By harnessing these strengths, the community can develop sustainable and culturally appropriate solutions to improve food security and overall health outcomes.

s22 Community Visit Summary

The Community Visit to s22 held on 11 July 2024 included discussions on food availability, pricing, quality, and the broader socio-economic and cultural issues impacting the community's access to nutritious food.

Key Issues and Challenges

The community faces significant challenges in food availability, especially during the wet season when fresh food is scarce. High food prices, poor quality, and limited variety exacerbate the situation. Additionally, infrastructure issues, such as poor road conditions and equipment failures, hinder food deliveries. Cultural and community dynamics also pose challenges, including limited community input in store management and inadequate support for special needs children.

Proposed Solutions and Activities

Proposed solutions include improving food quality and variety, enhancing community involvement in store management, and implementing cooking and meal planning programs. Addressing equipment and infrastructure issues is also crucial. There is a need for better food planning and storage for the wet season, and suggestions include establishing a barge landing at s22 for large-scale food deliveries.

Structural and Operational Improvements

To improve the situation, it is essential to address equipment and infrastructure issues, such as freezer malfunctions and poor road conditions. Enhancing internet capabilities and resolving electronic modem issues in fuel storage are also necessary. Strengthening community services, such as establishing a creche to enable mothers to work, is another critical step.

Leveraging Community Strengths

The community has the potential for local food production, but challenges such as community empowerment and interference by feral animals need to be addressed. Opportunities for meal preparation and cooking classes can help improve nutrition and food security. Additionally, leveraging community strengths through better planning and storage for the wet season can significantly enhance food availability.

s22 Hub Forum Summary

The consultation held in s22 on 25 July 2024 brought together community members and representatives of Aboriginal organisations to discuss their experiences and perspectives on food security. The forum highlighted the importance of addressing leadership and decision-making within the community as a precursor to tackling food security issues.

Key Issues and Challenges

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Key challenges identified included the lack of community engagement in decision-making processes and the impact of lateral violence on community cohesion. Participants noted that low literacy levels and unsuitable educational programs hindered effective food safety training. Additionally, systemic issues such as housing shortages, high living costs, and limited access to nutritious food in the remote communities in the s22 region were significant barriers to achieving food security.

Proposed Solutions and Activities

Participants proposed several solutions to improve food security, including the introduction of culturally appropriate food safety courses and educational programs focusing on family groups. They also suggested re-establishing community gardens and leveraging existing facilities like the s22 agriculture and horticulture centre for training purposes. The need for local leadership development and better communication systems to plan for community events were also highlighted.

Structural and Operational Improvements

To address structural issues, participants emphasised the need for suitable and affordable housing tailored to community needs and the inclusion of bush foods in home gardens. They also stressed the importance of reassessing mining royalty distributions to benefit the community more effectively. Improving the reliability of food supply chains through freight and fuel subsidies and ensuring consistent access to essential services like sober up centres were also discussed.

Leveraging Community Strengths

Despite the challenges, the consultation recognised the community's strengths, such as the potential for sustainable local food production and existing agricultural facilities. Participants shared successful practices from other communities, like the s22 community garden projects, which could be adapted for s22 . By harnessing local knowledge and resources, the community can build a more resilient and self-sufficient food security system.

s22 Community Visit Summary

The consultation session was held in s22 on 7 August 2024 where Community Elders emphasised the significance of addressing food security, proposing the establishment of a working group to tackle these challenges at a local level.

Key Issues and Challenges

Several key issues were raised during the consultation. One concern raised included the sale of expired food items posed serious health risks. The quality and affordability of food, access to clean drinking water, and inconsistent power supply were highlighted as critical challenges affecting the community's well-being.

Proposed Solutions and Activities

To improve food security, participants suggested several actionable solutions. These included establishing community bushfood gardens and developing a solar farm to provide affordable, reliable power while creating employment opportunities. Another proposal was to form a business enterprise for pest control, offering job prospects for locals. The creation of a homemakers/healthy homes education programme was also recommended to educate families on proper house cleaning and food storage practices.

Structural and Operational Improvements

Addressing structural issues was seen as essential for long-term improvements. Proposals included improving housing conditions to ensure proper food storage, enhancing employment opportunities to reduce reliance on welfare, and reopening educational facilities to provide access to learning resources. Improving supply chains to ensure safer and more consistent delivery of food and other essentials was also discussed.

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Leveraging Community Strengths

Community strengths were identified as vital assets in addressing food security. Participants noted the potential for sustainable local food production through bush gardens and locally grown foods. By empowering the community to take ownership of projects like the solar farm, it was believed that local engagement and responsibility would increase. Harnessing traditional knowledge and practices, along with fostering partnerships for economic development, were seen as key strategies to enhance food security and overall community resilience.

s22

s22 Community Visit Summary

Introduction and Context

The consultation held on 14 August 2024 in s22 focused on food security within the community. Facilitators engaged with community members, service providers and local councils to understand the current state of food security, identifying critical issues and discussing potential solutions. The discussions were deeply rooted in the cultural practices and the socio-economic challenges faced by the community, with a strong emphasis on continuity of funding and local governance.

Key Issues and Challenges

Several key challenges impacting food security in s22 were highlighted. High freight costs and monopolisation in the s22 inflate food prices significantly. The wet season disrupts food availability, and housing issues, including overcrowding and lack of functional appliances, exacerbate food insecurity. Social issues such as community violence, social isolation, and the prioritisation of vices like tobacco and gambling over food contribute further to the problem. Additionally, systemic issues such as high unemployment rates and a significant portion of the population being incarcerated were noted.

Proposed Solutions and Activities

To address these challenges, various solutions and activities were proposed. Empowering community members to practice traditional hunting and fishing was suggested as a means to enhance food security and cultural education. Facilitating classes on cooking, basic life skills, and financial literacy could also support the community. There was a call for service providers to supply materials for cultural practices and for targeted youth programs to build partnerships with the five tribal groups in s22 Highlighting successful past initiatives, like the "Pride of Place" home gardens, emphasised the need for sustainable funding.

Structural and Operational Improvements

Structural improvements discussed included addressing housing shortages and ensuring consistent funding for essential programs. There was a strong consensus on the need for stable service delivery, overcoming the disruptions caused by frequent changes in s22 council leadership. Additionally, improving employment opportunities and building broader industries were identified as crucial steps. The need to amend legislation affecting Indigenous councils and to provide better support for community members facing legal and employment barriers (such as Blue Card issues) was also highlighted.

Leveraging Community Strengths

The strengths within the s22 community were seen as pivotal to improving food security. Traditional knowledge and practices play a central role, with activities such as hunting and crabbing not only providing food but also fostering community bonds and cultural education. The community's resilience and willingness to embrace and amplify successful initiatives were recognised. Identifying and supporting positive role models within the community could further enhance these efforts. The importance of community buy-in and leveraging the strengths of the five clans for any solution was underscored throughout the discussions.

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s22 Community Visit Summary

The consultation took place on 6 August 2024 at s22 in s22 and discussed a variety of community concerns, insights, and suggestions aimed at improving the overall food security situation on the island.

Key Issues and Challenges

A major issue raised during the consultation was the high cost of freight and logistics, which significantly impacts the price and availability of consumer goods, including fresh produce. s22 receives just one shipment per week, adding to the challenge of maintaining fresh and varied food supplies. Other remote islands face even longer intervals between shipments. Community members also expressed frustration about the complexity of dealing with multiple government agencies and perceived lack of communication.

Proposed Solutions and Activities

Community members suggested several activities to support food security. There was a keen interest in establishing a community garden similar to the successful initiative on s22 which ceased operations due to COVID-19. Additionally, participants proposed that the s22 offer concessions or subsidies for freight costs, similar to the reduced airfares provided for medical travel.

Structural and Operational Improvements

To address structural issues, community members recommended more transparent and effective communication between various governmental bodies and the community. They also highlighted the need for better logistical infrastructure, such as additional barge ports and improved facilities for other marine vehicles. Reducing freight costs was seen as essential for making food and other necessities more affordable for island residents.

Leveraging Community Strengths

The community's resilience and determination were noted as significant strengths that could be leveraged to improve food security. Despite facing numerous challenges, there is a strong desire among community members to ensure better living conditions and health outcomes for future generations. Ideas included harnessing local knowledge and resources for sustainable food production, such as aquaculture or bush foods, and fostering community-driven initiatives like gardening and local markets.

s22 Community Visit Summary

The consultation on 9 July 2024 included discussions on accessibility, affordability, and the quality of food, with a strong emphasis on connecting to culture and country. The event was attended by various stakeholders, including community members, and local organisations, and government representatives, who shared their insights and experiences regarding the challenges faced by the community.

Key Issues and Challenges

Several key issues were identified during the consultation. High rates of substance abuse, the presence of drugs, alcohol, and gambling, and the financial strain on Elders who support family members were highlighted. The high cost of freight and the lack of enforcement of additional baggage allowances for local flights further exacerbated the community's struggles. Additionally, the monopolisation of the market by a single food provider, poor food quality, and limited employment and housing options were significant challenges.

Proposed Solutions and Activities

To address these challenges, the community proposed several solutions. Enhancing support and partnerships between organisations within s22 and surrounding towns was suggested to increase productive

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expenditure and deliver effective services. Accountability measures for shop owners to complete price comparisons and align with surrounding towns were recommended. The community also emphasised the need for more community garden beds to increase connectivity and self-sufficiency, as well as improved infrastructure, for example closer distribution centres, to minimise freight costs.

Structural and Operational Improvements

The consultation highlighted the importance of structural and operational improvements to enhance food security. These included the ideas for community gardens to improve memory recognition for Elders suffering from cognitive impairment, incorporating flowers for sight and smells as part of memory recall. Additionally, the facilitation of cooking workshops focused on purchasing healthy, cost-effective food and innovative ways to grow and harvest food was proposed. Traditional practices of hunting and harvesting were also encouraged to be shared with younger generations.

Leveraging Community Strengths

The community's strengths were recognised as vital assets in addressing food security issues. Organisations such as s22 and s22 were acknowledged for providing food vouchers and maintaining program delivery and connection with the community. The influence of s22 in creating community garden beds and facilitating workshops for local food production and traditional practices was seen as a key strength. The community's resilience and willingness to support each other, such as placing food orders for neighbours travelling to regional hubs, were also highlighted as significant strengths.

s22 Community Visit Summary

The consultation held on 1 August 2024 in s22 included various stakeholders, such as representatives from s22 s22 and s22 The meeting highlighted the challenges faced by the community regarding food security and explored potential solutions to improve access to nutritious food.

Key Issues and Challenges

Several pressing issues were identified during the consultation. There was a significant concern about over-consultation without tangible actions leading to community frustration and disengagement. Participants highlighted the lack of coordination among services and unclear funding directions. High costs of living, poor water quality, and inadequate housing stock were also mentioned as critical barriers to food security. Additionally, the community faces challenges with employment opportunities and the high turnover of police officers, which hampers relationship building.

Proposed Solutions and Activities

Participants suggested multiple activities to support food security. Building on existing crisis food initiatives like the s22, was recommended. The concept of a "Store for community, run by community" was discussed to support social enterprises and self-employment. This store could sell locally grown products and prepared meals. Furthermore, there were calls for cooking and traditional knowledge classes to educate the community on growing and preparing food.

Structural and Operational Improvements

To enhance food security, several operational improvements were suggested. Undertaking service mapping to understand who gets what and evaluating funding agreements could help streamline the allocation of resources. Coordination of services was seen as crucial, with a need to document community aspirations and ensure accountability. Initiatives such as water testing, improving housing accessibility, and succession planning for skilled community members were also discussed.

Leveraging Community Strengths

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The consultation emphasised harnessing community strengths for sustainable solutions. s22 cultural knowledge and skills could be leveraged through traditional hunting, fishing, and bush food cultivation. Supporting local leadership and encouraging self-determination were seen as vital. The community's ability to grow crops and engage in social enterprises could create employment opportunities and foster a sense of pride and ownership, contributing to long-term food security and overall well-being.

s22 Community Visit Summary

The consultation held on 10 July 2024 in s22 focused on addressing food security issues within the remote community. The forum hubs and community visits aimed to gather insights and develop strategies to improve access to affordable, high-quality food. The discussions highlighted the holistic approach needed to tackle the multifaceted challenges faced by the community, including affordability, accessibility, health, education, and structural barriers.

Key Issues and Challenges

One of the primary issues identified was the high cost and low quality of fresh produce, leading many community members to prefer frozen alternatives. The s22 service, which has significantly increased its prices, is now unaffordable for many, and the quality of meals does not justify the cost. Additionally, there are only two grocery stores in town, both of which are expensive. The community also faces challenges with the timing of food deliveries, which often do not align with when community members receive their payments, resulting in missed opportunities to purchase higher quality produce.

Proposed Solutions and Activities

To address these challenges, several solutions were proposed. Expanding community gardens managed by s22 which provide seasonal fruit and vegetables, was suggested. Partnerships with organisations like s22 and s22 which visit the community for produce drop-offs, were also recommended. s22 recent purchase of a cool room and their supply of baby formula to Aboriginal mums were highlighted as positive steps. Additionally, s22 cooking classes aimed at promoting cost-effective healthy eating were seen as valuable educational initiatives.

Structural and Operational Improvements

The consultation identified several structural barriers, including isolation, high unemployment, and over-policing within the community. The presence of over 20 police officers and the relocation of parolees without cultural connections to the area were noted as factors impacting community wellbeing. To improve the situation, it was suggested that partnerships between s22 and other organisations be strengthened, and that there be greater accountability and transparency from shop managers to supply affordable, high-quality produce. The need for more concessions or discounts from local stores, given s22 significant spending at these establishments, was also emphasised.

Leveraging Community Strengths

The community's strengths, such as the existing partnerships and the commitment to improving health and education outcomes, were recognised. s22 investment in developing a local gym and their strategic plan targeting community priorities were seen as positive developments. The consultation also highlighted the importance of leveraging these strengths to create a more resilient and self-sufficient community. By building on existing initiatives and fostering collaboration, the community can work towards overcoming the challenges and improving food security for all its members.

s22 Community Visit Summary

The consultation took place in s22 over two days, on 15 July 2024 and 16 July 2024, focusing on food security within the community. The discussions involved various stakeholders, including the s22 , community members, school representatives, and health services, representatives

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from the store (run by s22 . The primary aim was to understand the current food security situation, identify challenges, and explore potential solutions to improve access to nutritious and affordable food.

Key Issues and Challenges

Several key issues were identified during the consultation. The cost of living is high, with food prices being double those in s22 the nearest major city. Some houses lack proper storage facilities like fridges and freezers, and the community does not have a food-growing program. The quality of food is often compromised due to long transportation times, leading to mould and spoilage. Additionally, there is a lack of healthy food options, and many community members lack knowledge about nutrition and budgeting.

Proposed Solutions and Activities

To address these challenges, several solutions were proposed. These include implementing a franchising model for the food stores which bring them under community control so community can be self-sustaining and self-determining. There is also a need to capitalize on traditional knowledge of both hunting and food sourcing; and potentially source food from local hunters. Education on budgeting and nutrition is crucial, with suggestions for nutritionists to visit the community and teach healthy cooking practices.

Structural and Operational Improvements

Improving infrastructure is essential, particularly ensuring that houses have adequate cooking and storage facilities for food. The s22 could benefit from a review of the job network provider to create non-commercial, food-oriented outcomes for regional communities. Additionally, working with the s22 to gain fishing licenses could provide a sustainable food source. The food store's operational hours and the quality of food supplied need to be reviewed to ensure better service to the community.

Leveraging Community Strengths

The community has a wealth of traditional knowledge in hunting and sourcing food, which can be leveraged to improve food security. There is an abundance of local seafood and bush foods that can be utilized. Employing locals in the food store, which is currently being done, and creation of self-sustaining models that provided employment and community development opportunities can provide income and strengthen community ties. Education and training programs can empower community members to make healthier food choices and manage their resources better.

s22 Hub Forum Summary

The consultation in s22 took place on 19 July 2024 amidst a period marked by significant community challenges, including Sorry Business affecting attendance. As a regional town with characteristics of a remote community, s22 faces unique hardships, including limited food relief organisations and a highly transient population. The discussion aimed to explore these challenges in-depth and identify potential solutions to improve food security and support for homeless individuals.

Key Issues and Challenges

A critical issue identified was the significant increase in homelessness in s22 with services witnessing a surge from 15 to 60 families seeking assistance daily. Contributing factors include housing shortages, rising cost of living, and food insecurity. Participants highlighted how these issues particularly affect children, impacting their school attendance and performance. Teachers often bear the burden of providing food for students, as many schools lack breakfast programs.

Proposed Solutions and Activities

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Participants proposed increasing access to valuable programs like s22 and s22 which play crucial roles in food relief. They stressed the importance of enhancing government understanding and support for food security issues in rural and remote communities. Additionally, they advocated for more robust support systems to ensure families have consistent access to food, thus enabling children to attend school regularly and perform better academically.

Structural and Operational Improvements

The discussion emphasised the need for systemic improvements to address the foundational causes of food insecurity and homelessness. This includes better integration of services and resources to support homeless individuals, such as providing access to food, showers, and washing facilities. Improving these basic amenities is essential for enabling people to gain employment and achieve higher levels of skills and productivity.

Leveraging Community Strengths

Despite the challenges, the consultation highlighted the community's resilience and proactive approach. Participants shared knowledge of successful practices within their organisations, contributing to a solutions-based discussion. There was a consensus on the importance of leveraging existing community strengths, such as local organisations' efforts in emergency relief, to build a more robust support network for those in need.

s22 Community Visit Summary

The consultation on s22, held across 17 July 2024 and 18 July 2024, aimed to address food security and community health issues. Various stakeholders, including community members, health councils, and store representatives, participated. The discussions highlighted the unique challenges faced by the community, such as high food costs, limited access to fresh produce, and the impact of cultural practices on health and nutrition.

Key Issues and Challenges

The primary issues identified were the high cost of food due to freight expenses, limited availability of fresh produce, and the prevalence of unhealthy eating habits. The community also faces significant health challenges, including diabetes and renal failure, exacerbated by poor diet and limited access to healthcare services. Additionally, there is a high turnover of staff in local agencies, which affects the consistency and effectiveness of community programs.

Proposed Solutions and Activities

Several solutions were proposed to address these challenges. These included the establishment of a coordinated freight system to reduce costs, the development of market gardens to provide fresh produce, and the promotion of traditional bush foods. There was also a call for more education on healthy eating and the implementation of community-wide initiatives to improve food security and health outcomes.

Structural and Operational Improvements

To improve the structural and operational aspects, it was suggested that local stores and agencies work together more effectively. This includes better management of store infrastructure, ensuring the availability of essential items at affordable prices, and improving the transparency and accountability of community programs. The need for long-term funding and support for health and nutrition programs was also emphasized.

Leveraging Community Strengths

The community's strengths, such as the strong cultural ties and the willingness of families to support each other, were highlighted as key assets. Leveraging these strengths involves engaging local champions to promote healthy eating, utilizing traditional knowledge of bush foods, and fostering a sense of community ownership

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over local initiatives. By building on these strengths, the community can create sustainable solutions to improve food security and health outcomes.

s22 Hub Forum Summary

The consultation took place in s22 on 30 July 2024 and engaged various community representatives and organisations, aimed to address food security challenges faced by remote communities.

Key Issues and Challenges

Several critical issues emerged during the consultation:

- Limited Health Data and Structural Issues: There is insufficient health data specific to s22 complicating efforts to tailor interventions effectively.
- Economic Constraints: Low incomes, high living costs, and expensive freight contribute significantly to food insecurity.
- Housing and Employment: A lack of affordable housing and limited employment opportunities further exacerbate community vulnerabilities.
- Access to Traditional Foods: Barriers exist in accessing traditional or bush foods, which are vital for cultural and nutritional reasons.

Proposed Solutions and Activities

Participants suggested several solutions to improve food security:

- Medically Tailored Food Plans: Developing tailored food plans for patients, especially those with specific medical needs like dialysis, to ensure adequate nutrition.
- Community-Specific Activities: Leveraging successful activities from other communities and adapting them locally.
- Enhancing Local Food Production: Initiatives to support local food production, including controlled cropping environments and partnerships with local schools and community centres.

Structural and Operational Improvements

To address operational inefficiencies, the following improvements were recommended:

- Supply Chain Optimisation: Engaging logistic partners to reduce freight costs and improve supply chains.
- Government Collaboration: Working hand-in-hand with government bodies to create a national strategy that avoids discrepancies between state policies.
- Funding and Grants: Strengthening community capacities to apply for grants, ensuring clear guidelines, and fostering collaborations to enhance application success rates.

Leveraging Community Strengths

The consultation highlighted the potential of leveraging community strengths:

- Existing Infrastructure: Using s22 as a training hub to benefit surrounding communities.
- Local Alliances: Forming alliances with local schools and community centres to prioritise food distribution.
- Economic Opportunities: Exploring opportunities within local industries and tourism to create jobs and support food security initiatives.

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s22 Hub Forum Summary

The consultation held on 11 July 2024 in s22 and gathered various stakeholders to discuss the current state of food accessibility, quality, and affordability. The community has faced challenges such as occasional weather events affecting supply, and the commercial unviability of prioritising local produce. Various services and grocery stores have been providing support through hampers, vouchers, and delivery services, especially for older residents.

Key Issues and Challenges

The primary issues identified include the accessibility and quality of food, which is often compromised due to long travel times affecting freshness. Affordability is another significant concern, exacerbated by media reports and rising supplier costs. Structural barriers such as housing shortages, tradesman scarcity, and limited employment opportunities further complicate the situation. The community also faces challenges in retaining qualified staff and ensuring sustainable economic development.

Proposed Solutions and Activities

Improvements in infrastructure and distribution centres closer to the area were suggested to enhance efficiencies. Adult education programs focusing on healthy eating, cooking, and meal planning were recommended. School programs and support from organisations like s22 and s22 were also highlighted as essential. Educational opportunities for traditional bush food and medicines, as well as community upscaled gardens, were also discussed. The potential for a 'UFoodz' model to provide healthy, affordable food packs was considered, along with the need for a stronger presence of s22 in the community.

Structural and Operational Improvements

To address these challenges, several solutions were proposed. These include increasing the stock of smaller living spaces, employing a dedicated workforce officer, and consulting with industries to bring more economic opportunities to s22. The council is looking at ways to disrupt the supply chain of building materials to decrease costs and is considering various strategies to retain staff and increase employment opportunities.

Leveraging Community Strengths

The community's strengths lie in its existing support systems and the willingness of various organisations to contribute. Services like s22, s22, s22, s22 and s22 play crucial roles in providing food and support. The community's focus on healthy eating and the involvement of local producers, despite commercial challenges, demonstrate a strong foundation that can be built upon. Engaging with external stakeholders and leveraging educational programs could further enhance the community's resilience and economic prosperity.

s22 Community Forum Summary

Introduction and Context

The virtual community forum was held on 7 August 2024, to discuss food security in remote communities, with attendees from s22 and s22. The forum aimed to gather insights from community members and facilitators regarding the current state of food security and explore potential solutions.

Key Issues and Challenges

Several key issues were identified during the forum. Community members expressed frustration over the lack of agency and self-determination. They highlighted the monopolisation of local markets by shop owners, leading

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to high prices and poor-quality products. Accessibility and affordability of food were major concerns, compounded by structural barriers such as cyclone damage and seasonal road closures. The lack of employment opportunities, incentives to be productive, and outdated household appliances further exacerbated food insecurity in these communities.

Proposed Solutions and Activities

Participants suggested various activities to support food security, including sustainable local food production initiatives like bush foods, aquaculture, and community gardens. There were calls for stronger community coordination and agency, as well as funding for community initiatives and programs such as nutritional and cooking classes. Employment opportunities that build capacity and capability within the community were also recommended to drive participation and economic development.

Structural and Operational Improvements

To address structural issues, the discussion focused on improving infrastructure and service delivery in s22 and s22 . Proposals included setting up an s22 in s22 to ensure community control over food supplies. Participants also emphasised the need for better coordination among existing services and workforce strengthening. Enhancing accessibility through improved transport and affordable freight options was identified as crucial for ensuring consistent food supply.

Leveraging Community Strengths

The forum explored how community strengths could be harnessed to improve food security. Examples included On-Country programs in s22 that support social and emotional wellbeing, and past successful initiatives like market gardens and school nurseries. Partnerships with organisations such as s22 and s22 were noted for their role in driving community-specific projects. Traditional fishing and harvesting practices were also recognised as valuable assets that could be leveraged for greater food security.

s22 Virtual Consult s22

The consultation on 6 August 2024 focused on food security within remote communities, particularly addressing the roles of community stores and the impact of various factors on food availability and affordability. Attendees included representatives the s22 and s22 . The goal was to present findings from the research and actions.

Key Issues and Challenges

Participants identified several critical issues affecting food security in remote areas. High freight costs and the lack of a national approach to support extreme weather events and remote store policies were significant challenges. Additionally, there was concern over the limited access to traditional foods, insufficient infrastructure, and the high cost of living, including power, rent, and food. Consultation fatigue and the need for better feedback mechanisms were also highlighted as barriers to effective engagement and progress.

Proposed Solutions and Activities

To address these challenges, various solutions were proposed. These included developing a national industry code for remote stores, implementing co-designed best practice actions, and ensuring emergency relief models are adapted to remote contexts. Other suggestions involved supporting healthy in-store environments, promoting healthy food options, and increasing their affordability. Participants also recommended adult education and training programs to enhance employment skills and job availability.

Structural and Operational Improvements

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Structural improvements discussed during the consultation included the need for a responsive funding model to manage supply chain disruptions due to extreme weather. Enhancing community transport and local infrastructure was also seen as essential for accessing traditional foods. Policies such as a national Sugar Tax, healthy food subsidies, and culturally responsive processes for obtaining necessary certifications were suggested to support food security and economic stability in remote communities.

Leveraging Community Strengths

The discussion underscored the importance of leveraging community strengths to support food security. Participants noted the value of traditional knowledge and practices, such as those developed by the s22 with their healthy foods policy. Engaging local, trained workforces, and incorporating community-specific strengths into broader strategies were seen as vital steps towards sustainable improvements. The emphasis was also placed on privileging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices in decision-making and governance.

s22 Hub Forum Summary

The Forum on 11 July 2024 brought together various stakeholders, including NGOs, supermarkets, and community members, to discuss the challenges and potential solutions for ensuring consistent and affordable access to nutritious food. The discussions highlighted the importance of a multifaceted approach that integrates supply chain improvements, infrastructure upgrades, and community-led initiatives.

All participants acknowledged that food security must be address holistically. Participants strongly recommended that to effect meaningful and sustainable change in remote communities, it is essential to tackle interconnected issues simultaneously. This included tackling housing and homelessness issues, electricity, employment, and health. Other issues identified included a perceived monopoly by s22 and the high cost of delivering food to remote areas. Access to roads and airstrips, inadequate storage facilities, and the lack of refrigeration in homes are seen as further exacerbating the problem. Additionally, the rising cost of living has increased the demand for emergency food relief, and many households struggle to afford groceries due to low-income.

To address these challenges, the forum proposed several solutions. Establishing a regional distribution centre in the s22 and employing local drivers could improve supply chain efficiency. Rail delivery was also suggested as a viable option. Tax incentives and subsidies for low-income families, along with increased social assistance payments, were recommended to alleviate financial pressures. Promoting health education and literacy, particularly around nutrition, was seen as crucial for long-term food security.

Improving infrastructure was a key focus, with recommendations to upgrade store freezers and enhance home storage facilities. Emphasising renewable energy solutions, such as solar power, could support these upgrades. Implementing electricity cards, similar to those used by the s22 , was also suggested. Enhancing transparency and accountability in food pricing and store operations was deemed essential for building trust within the community.

The forum underscored the importance of community-led initiatives and decision-making. Land councils and community-controlled organisations play a vital role in this regard. Examples of successful community projects, such as food hubs and social supermarkets, were highlighted. Strengthening cultural practices and traditional food systems was also emphasised as a means to empower communities and reduce dependence on external food sources. A significant shift in government policy and operations was deemed necessary to support these community-driven efforts effectively.

s22 Community Visit Summary

Community members from eight different areas, including s22 and surrounding communities like s22 s22 attended the Community Visit on 30 July 2024. Despite the

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challenging travel conditions and short notice, a significant turnout highlighted the critical importance of food security to these communities. Various organisations, such as the s22 , s22 and s22 supported the consultations, underlining the collaborative effort required to address this issue.

The participants identified several critical challenges affecting food security in the s22 . The high cost of living, particularly the affordability of fresh produce, meat, and pantry items, emerged as a major concern and a priority for community members. Impacts of the high cost of living are further exacerbated by low incomes and levels of financial literacy. There was a strong call for lowering food prices and at a minimum, to make them comparable to those in s22

Community members expressed deep frustration, distress, and sorrow over the lack of accessible stores, especially in remote communities where local stores had closed during COVID-19 and have not reopened. This has led to long travel times and high fuel costs for residents. Poor standards of existing stores, including the sale of out-of-date foods and health hazards like mice infestations, were significant points of distress. There was varying level of trust and frustrations with the s22 community store, s22 as there is a lack of transparency of profit reinvestment and support for the community. These issues are further compounded by other issues such as the lack of white goods and facilities in homes, with community members travelling 4-5 hours daily to shop.

To combat these issues, participants proposed various solutions aimed at improving food security. Key suggestions included community decision-making and transparency for reinvesting store profits into much needed community programs to increase local employment and skills building, food relief and cultural activities.

Health education programs were also recommended to promote healthy eating habits across generations and improve health literacy. Additional ideas included establishing community gardens for fresh produce, implementing self-service fuel stores with a card-based system, and using mobile freezer/fridge trucks to service remote areas frequently.

Participants emphasised several structural and operational improvements necessary to alleviate food insecurity. Improving the reliability of supply chains, ensuring that stores maintain high health standards, expanding store hours, especially on weekends, and providing a more diverse range of healthy premade meal options were suggested to meet the needs of the community better. Additionally, there was a call for more flexible employment opportunities and support programs to reduce reliance on government payments.

Despite the challenges, the consultation highlighted the resilience and strength of the s22 communities. There is an unspoken mutual agreement among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to support each other, which becomes even more crucial when resources are limited. By leveraging this inherent community strength, proposals such as opening lands to tourism to generate income and promoting traditional food and hunting programs can be effectively implemented. Encouraging direct engagement and listening to the community's voice were seen as vital steps towards sustainable and impactful solutions.

s22 Community Visit Summary

The Community Visit held on 23 July 2024 was attended by s22 s22 . This session focused on assessing the issues relating to food security by exploring the community's current state, identifying challenges, and exploring potential strategies for sustainable development.

The primary concerns highlighted during the consultation included food security, housing, infrastructure, and employment. Overcrowding in homes and inadequate facilities for buying and cooking meals were identified as significant issues. Additionally, the community described high freight costs, poor road conditions, and a lack of government support, which compounded their logistical challenges. While community ownership and control of the local store is a point of pride, the transition of ownership from s22 was a pain point due to its initial poor condition and lack of inventory.

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To address these challenges, the community proposed several activities and solutions. These included seeking funding for transport vehicles to reduce freight costs, generating local employment through wood harvesting and fencing businesses, and encouraging more community members to obtain truck licences. Additionally, the community aimed to expand their general store to increase stock variety and ensure affordability by maintaining discounted pricing arrangements with s22 .

Since taking over the community store, s22 believes it has implemented significant improvements. The store is now described as being well-stocked, well-priced, and efficiently managed. Profits from the store and roadhouse are reinvested into community programs and infrastructure upgrades. The commercial kitchen within the store provides meals to the elderly and the local school, with plans for further expansion. s22 has also been able to acquire essential equipment like a refrigerated truck and forklift to support their operations.

The consultation underscored several strengths within the s22 community, including stable leadership, a strong focus on self-determination, and a commitment to health initiatives. The community maintains a complete dry zone free from drugs and alcohol and reinvests profits back into community development. Successful programs, such as reducing consumption of drinks with high sugar content and promoting healthy food options, demonstrate the community's resilience and proactive approach.

s22

s22 Community Visit Summary

The consultation held in s22 on 8 August 2024 engaged community members to discuss their experiences and the challenges related to food access, availability, and storage.

Key Issues and Challenges

Several key issues were identified during the consultation. Community members highlighted the lack of consistent access to fresh food and water throughout the year, exacerbated by poor housing conditions and fluctuating power levels. Theft of food from homes and stores was also a prevalent issue, linked to overcrowded housing and structurally unsound buildings. Additionally, there were concerns about the high costs of food, particularly during the wet season when road closures hindered supply chains, and the community's reliance on bottled water due to the poor quality of tap water.

Proposed Solutions and Activities

To address these challenges, participants suggested a range of solutions and activities. Reintroducing nutrition and cooking classes was a popular idea, as these had previously been effective in educating different age groups, including mums and bubs. There was also support for traditional cooking lessons from elders, which would help preserve cultural practices while promoting healthy eating. Community-prepared lunches provided by the school were proposed to ensure students receive nutritious meals, and the involvement of students in meal preparation was seen as a way to teach valuable cooking skills.

Structural and Operational Improvements

Several structural and operational improvements were discussed to enhance food security. Participants emphasised the need for better housing infrastructure, including reliable white goods and kitchen appliances like fridges and freezers, to prevent food spoilage and theft. Participants identified the challenges associated with housing maintenance – including reports of service providers refusing to come out to the community unless there were multiple maintenance jobs to be completed. Participants advised that on one particular occasion this resulted in a resident being forced out of their home due to unsafe conditions caused by overrunning taps. Installing solar panels was suggested as a solution to power fluctuations and to extend the lifespan of white goods. Additionally, there were calls for the store to be better prepared for the wet season, possibly through the creation of a storage area for bulk non-perishable items and ensuring consistent access to traditional/bush foods.

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Leveraging Community Strengths

The community's strengths were recognised as vital assets to support food security initiatives. Creating communal kitchen spaces within the community was suggested to foster connections, cultural exchange, and mutual support among families. The art centre, already a hub for community engagement, could serve as a venue for various food-related activities. Furthermore, leveraging the knowledge and skills of Elders in traditional food practices and bush classes for students were seen as important ways to strengthen food security while preserving cultural heritage.

s22 Community Visit Summary

The consultation took place at the s22 Aboriginal Community on 10 July 2024. Participants expressed concerns about the high cost of food and the overall impact on their quality of life.

Key Issues and Challenges

The community faces several challenges related to food security. High food prices are a key concern, with community members feeling that they are paying unreasonably more than those in s22 further north). Other challenges identified include housing which may be overcrowded, a lack of facilities for proper food storage (such as fridges), the store's operating hours and Centrelink payments not keeping up with the cost of living. Together these issues result in community members resorting to cheaper, less nutritious food options. Community members expressed frustration relating to the topic of food security and shared feeling a sense of apathy and cynicism towards the subject matter.

Further conversations about decision-making and governance relating to the store also occurred, but it is acknowledged these are internal community matters (given the community-controlled management structure), rather than matters that the national strategy should seek to address.

Proposed Solutions and Activities

Several solutions were proposed to address these challenges. One suggestion was to grow food locally, leveraging the available land for farming and creating a sustainable food source. Community members expressed a desire to have a greater involvement in decision-making relating to food security and some community members suggested profits made from the store could be reinvested to alleviate affordability issues. Additionally, enhancing financial education within the community was identified as a potential solution to improve financial literacy.

Structural and Operational Improvements

To improve the structural and operational aspects of food security, the community noted a need for housing to be appropriate with appliances such as fridges and cooking equipment and access to affordable power. Mechanisms to reduce freight costs could help alleviate some of the financial burden on community members. In addition, community also highlighted the need for service providers, including financial assistance programs, to extend their services to remote communities.

Leveraging Community Strengths

The community has several strengths that can be leveraged to improve food security. The existing land around surrounding the community could be used for farming to grow fresh produce, reducing reliance on external food sources. The community's willingness to participate in governance and decision-making processes relating to food security could also be harnessed to deliver outcomes the community is proud of.

s22 Hub Forum Summary

The consultation took place in s22 on 9 July 2024, focussing on food security within remote communities. The discussion highlighted the need to consider cultural requirements in food security and the inadequacies in

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data collection from Closing the Gap initiatives. The definition of food security was discussed, with suggestions to emphasise the availability of fresh, healthy, and affordable food year-round.

Key Issues and Challenges

Participants identified several key issues, including the high cost and low quality of food, restricted access to natural resources due to Native Title, and a lack of confidence in government actions. Structural and operational issues were noted, such as the management of local stores by non-community members and inadequate storage facilities in homes. The community expressed frustration over repeated consultations without tangible results and a focus on individuals rather than broader, systemic issues.

Proposed Solutions and Activities

Proposed solutions included improving the quality and affordability of food in stores, enhancing education on nutrition, and implementing community gardens. The need for dieticians to visit communities and demonstrate healthy cooking was emphasised. Participants suggested that s22 should support rather than take over from the community, and a regulatory board should be established to hold stores accountable. The introduction of a pricing index for foods and the drafting of remote store standards were also recommended.

Structural and Operational Improvements

Improvements in storage and infrastructure were deemed essential for enhancing food security. The community called for better contract management and involvement in decision-making processes. There was a consensus on the importance of place-based approaches and the need for governance support within communities. The consultation also highlighted the necessity of reducing reliance on freight and ensuring the sustainability of food stores.

Leveraging Community Strengths

The community's strengths, such as local knowledge and resources, were recognised as vital for successful initiatives. Empowering community members through education and upskilling was seen as crucial. The potential for community gardens to provide fresh produce and generate income from tourism was discussed. The importance of involving the community in all stages of planning and implementation to ensure long-term success was underscored.

s22 Community Visit Summary

The consultation was conducted at the s22 Aboriginal Community on 31 July 2024. The forum included discussions on various structural and operational issues impacting the community's ability to access fresh and healthy food.

Key Issues and Challenges

Several significant issues emerged during the consultation. The community faces persistent food security challenges, including unreliable tap water, theft of store infrastructure, and inadequate storage conditions for perishable goods. The current supply chain involves a lengthy and costly journey from s22, resulting in inconsistent and sometimes expired food supplies. Additionally, road conditions during rains further complicate food access. There is a lack of interest in maintaining a community vegetable garden, and the community has been frustrated with the reduced government support since about 2009 due to past mismanagement issues.

Proposed Solutions and Activities

To address these challenges, several solutions and activities were proposed. The most critical need identified was hiring a store manager to oversee operations and ensure proper inventory management. This manager would also train community members to eventually take over the role. Securing initial funding for start-up costs to stock and maintain the store was deemed essential. Improving the supply chain by implementing a more

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reliable and larger weekly truck service from s22 was suggested. Training and skill development for community members were also highlighted as necessary steps to achieve long-term sustainability.

Structural and Operational Improvements

The consultation identified several structural improvements and operational changes needed to support food security in the community. These included conducting a skills audit to identify available skills within the community and determine areas for further training. Addressing road conditions to improve food transport and exploring economic development opportunities, such as artwork and fuel sales, could enhance community resources and infrastructure. Ensuring safe drinking water and improving storage conditions for both water and food were also crucial steps. Engaging community members in decision-making regarding store products would reduce waste and better align offerings with their needs.

Leveraging Community Strengths

The community possesses inherent strengths that can be leveraged to improve food security. Traditional hunting and growing fresh vegetables at the school were identified as existing strengths. Participants suggested that employing local community members at the store could be beneficial. Additionally, engaging a consultant to provide ongoing training within the shop would equip community members with the necessary skills to manage the store independently. Establishing a weekly truck service from s22 and ensuring a bigger truck than currently used would significantly benefit the community. These activities could address immediate food security challenges while building a foundation for long-term sustainability.

s22 Community Visit Summary

Consultations were conducted across different sites in the s22 including s22, s22 and s22 itself, as well as s22 and s22, between 13-16 August 2024. Discussions centred around understanding the current state of food availability, access, and utilisation, emphasising cultural connections and traditional knowledge as key elements in improving food security.

Key Issues and Challenges

A significant challenge identified was the high cost of freight, which increases food prices as supplies have to be transported from s22. Additionally, limited access to fresh and healthy foods during the wet season due to extreme flooding exacerbates food insecurity. Other challenges include inadequate food storage facilities, unreliable power supply affecting food preservation, and the lack of suitable dietary options for people with specific health needs like diabetes and gluten intolerance.

Proposed Solutions and Activities

Participants suggested several activities to enhance food security, such as establishing community gardens at schools and implementing cooking programs to teach healthy meal preparation using fresh ingredients. Excursions for kids to learn bush tukka and hunting techniques were recommended to connect them with their culture and promote healthy eating habits. Policies like restricting high-sugar item sales before midday and a "no school, no store" policy were also proposed to encourage healthier food choices.

Structural and Operational Improvements

To address structural issues, participants recommended government funding for renewable energy sources like solar or wind farms to ensure consistent power supply for food storage. Improving coordination between communities during the wet season was highlighted, with successful examples of s22 and s22 working together to maintain food supplies. Proposals for community rangers to enforce locally decided rules and the removal of alcohol restrictions to mitigate related social issues were also discussed.

Leveraging Community Strengths

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Community strengths were recognised as crucial for supporting food security. Traditional knowledge transfer through local men's and women's groups was seen as vital for teaching sustainable living off bush foods. The collaborative spirit within communities, exemplified by joint efforts to secure food during the wet season, was noted as a significant asset. Initiatives like community gardens and educational programs on traditional food practices were recommended to harness these strengths effectively, ensuring food security for future generations.

s22 Community Visit Summary

The consultation took place in s22 on 1 August 2024 and focused on food security issues within the community, particularly during school holidays when children often lack food.

Key Issues and Challenges

The community faces significant challenges with food security due to its remote location. Fresh produce is delivered bi-weekly from s22 but deliveries can be delayed during the wet season. High food prices and limited infrastructure exacerbate the situation, making it difficult for families to provide for their dietary needs. There are also issues with outdated food, unsafe roads, and a lack of transparency in store operations.

Proposed Solutions and Activities

Participants suggested several activities to support food security, including:

- Increasing transparency in store operations by providing clear information about food pricing and profits.
- Establishing consistent supply and pricing, such as setting a standard freight price for all remote communities.
- Implementing monthly audits of outback stores to ensure they meet community needs.
- Reintroducing free food programs, like those from s22 to improve access to healthy food.
- Enhancing community infrastructure, such as repairing the s22 and improving roads.

Structural and Operational Improvements

To address the structural issues, the community identified the need for better access to specialty foods, such as baby products and items for dietary needs. They also highlighted the importance of consistent support from outback stores during tough conditions, like income shortages. Additionally, they emphasised the role of community engagement in decision-making regarding store operations and product offerings.

Leveraging Community Strengths

Traditional hunting remains a crucial food source for the community. Leveraging this strength, along with exploring opportunities for sustainable local food production (e.g., bush foods, locally grown foods, aquaculture), could significantly improve food security. Increased community involvement in decisions about food production and store operations would also ensure that the solutions are tailored to meet their specific needs effectively.

s22 Community Visit Summary

The consultation held in s22 on 17 July 2024 and gathered insights from local residents about their challenges and potential solutions related to food sourcing, production, and distribution.

Key Issues and Challenges

The primary issues identified include the high cost of healthy food, limited variety, and the lack of local food production. Freight costs significantly increase food prices, making it unaffordable for many. Additionally, the

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community feels neglected by larger councils and lacks input in decision-making processes related to food supply.

Proposed Solutions and Activities

Proposed solutions include establishing community gardens to promote local food production and create employment opportunities. There is also a suggestion to divert supply lines from nearby industrial operations to ensure consistent food supply. The community also discussed the feasibility of community kitchens to prepare affordable, nutritious meals.

Structural and Operational Improvements

Improvements suggested included upgrading store infrastructure to hold a wider variety of healthier foods and implementing a centralised ordering system to stabilise prices. The community also advocates for a blanket subsidy on all food items to match metropolitan prices and better support from government and larger councils.

Leveraging Community Strengths

The community's strengths lie in their willingness to collaborate and their existing knowledge of local food production. By involving local residents in decision-making and leveraging their skills, the community can develop sustainable food security solutions. The presence of a nutritionist team from s22 also offers an opportunity for collaboration in developing healthy recipes.

s22 Hub Forum Summary

The consultation took place in s22 on 22 July 2024, focusing on food security and health issues within the community. Attendees included community members and representatives from various organisations. The discussion aimed to identify key challenges and propose solutions to improve food security and health outcomes for First Nations people in the region.

Key Issues and Challenges

The community faces significant challenges related to food security, including hunger-driven anti-social behaviour, high food prices during cyclones, lack of kitchen appliances, and power outages leading to food spoilage. Nutritional deficiencies are causing severe health issues, and there is a lack of education on healthy eating. Traditional food sources are becoming harder to access due to new regulations and environmental changes. Mining companies and their power within the region was discussed, in particular their ability to cut off land access to Traditional Owners.

Proposed Solutions and Activities

Several activities were suggested to support food security, including reinstating s22 services, implementing community gardens, offering cooking classes, improving food storage, and expanding breakfast programs in schools. Education initiatives on healthy eating and comparative pricing strategies were also proposed to encourage healthier food choices.

Structural and Operational Improvements

To address the structural issues, the community suggested improving public transport, facilitating direct contact with utility providers, and reintroducing coordinator roles to streamline services. Support for traditional hunting and updating gun licenses were also highlighted as necessary steps to improve access to traditional foods.

Leveraging Community Strengths

The community's strengths, such as traditional hunting methods and the presence of organisations like the s22, can be leveraged to support food security. Schools can play a crucial role by

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establishing community gardens and integrating healthy eating education into their curriculums. Positive messaging and gentle education approaches were recommended to avoid causing shame.

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