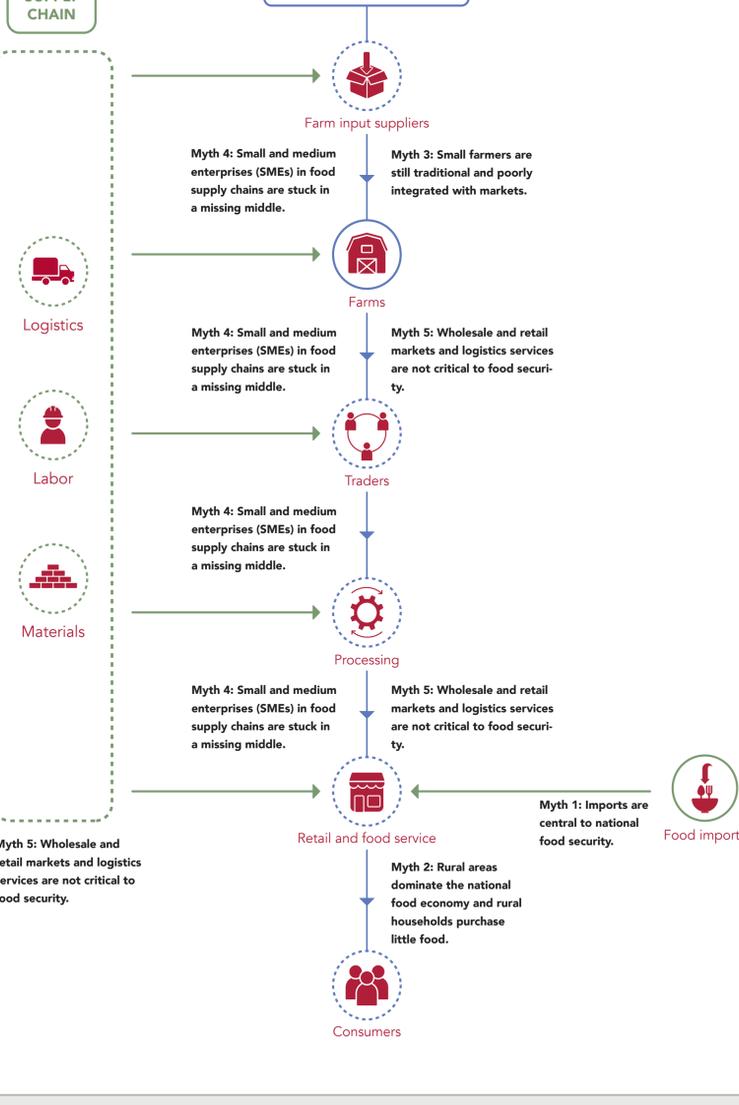
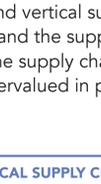
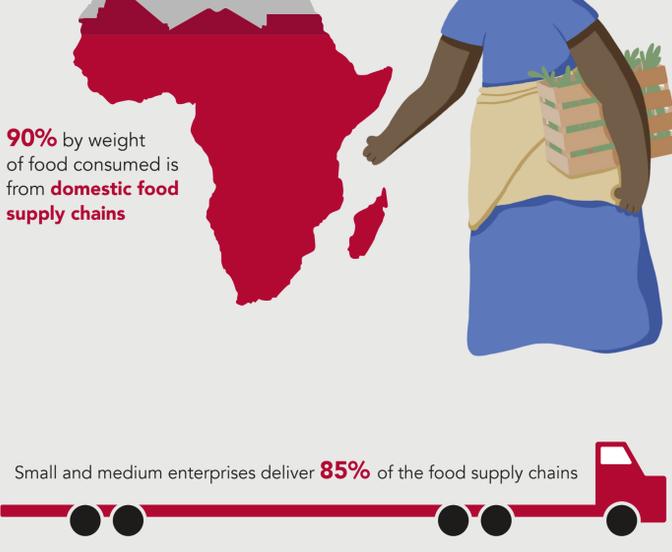
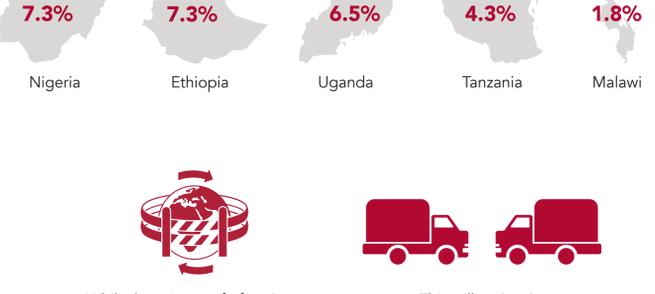


DEBUNKING 6 MYTHS ABOUT THE FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA



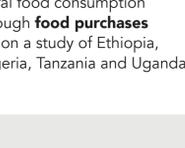
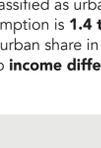
MYTH 1: "IMPORTS ARE CENTRAL TO NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY."



Whilst keeping **trade barriers open** in times of crisis is important, more attention should have been paid to the **domestic supply chains with regards to COVID-19**

This will **maintain food flows**

MYTH 2: "RURAL AREAS DOMINATE THE NATIONAL FOOD ECONOMY AND RURAL HOUSEHOLDS PURCHASE LITTLE FOOD."



MYTH 3: "SMALL FARMERS ARE STILL TRADITIONAL AND POORLY INTEGRATED WITH MARKETS."

African farmers are selling significant amounts to output markets and purchasing inputs which shows that farmers are highly engaged in commercialized markets



MYTH 4: "SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SMEs) IN FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS ARE STUCK IN A MISSING MIDDLE."

SME sector is vibrant but growth is constrained by:



MYTH 5: "WHOLESALE AND RETAIL MARKETS AND LOGISTICS SERVICES ARE NOT CRITICAL TO FOOD SECURITY."

This infrastructure is key for moving food around and making it affordable and available safely



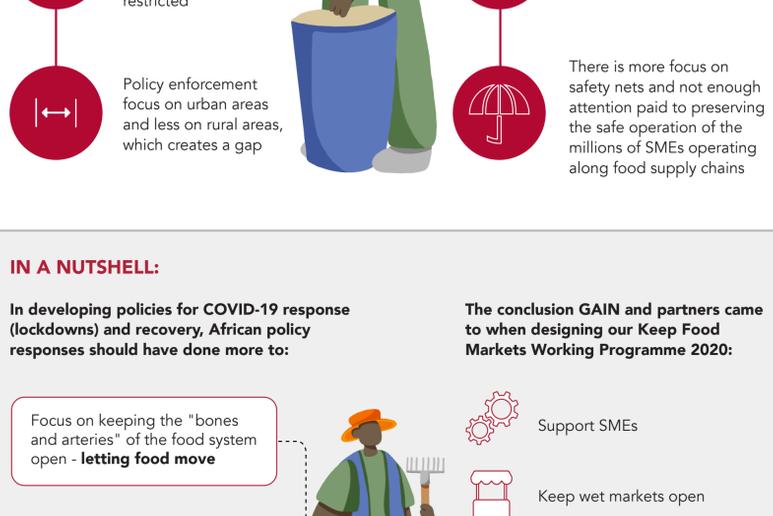
MYTH 6: "ROLE OF WOMEN IN FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS IS UNDERMINED."

Women work up to **13 hours per week** longer than men in agriculture

Women account for **60-80%** of food production in developing countries

Women represent **74%** of **informal small traders**. Their income is mostly spent on basic household needs (i.e. food, schooling)

6 IMPACTS OF PERPETUATING THESE MYTHS



IN A NUTSHELL:

In developing policies for COVID-19 response (lockdowns) and recovery, African policy responses should have done more to:

- Focus on keeping the "bones and arteries" of the food system open - **letting food move**
- Support SMEs through **cheap loans** and **targeted subsidies** leveraged to upgrade facilities

The conclusion GAIN and partners came to when designing our Keep Food Markets Working Programme 2020:

- Support SMEs
- Keep wet markets open
- Support the nutrition of workers in the vertical and lateral food supply chains

\$1 MILLION was distributed in 2020 by GAIN in small grants to African food supply chain SMEs

POLICY MATTERS AND EVIDENCE MATTERS FOR FOOD SYSTEM DESIGN