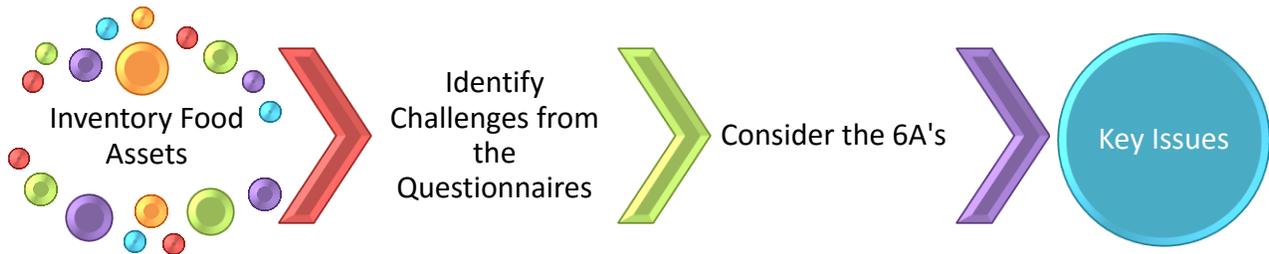


Analyzing Strengths & Weaknesses Worksheet

Purpose: The purpose of this worksheet is to summarize your findings from the **Community Food Mapping** exercise and the **Community Food and Food Outlet Questionnaires**. Questions about the food resources in your community will help you identify some **Key Issues** and challenges in your food system.

Worksheet Process:



Use this worksheet to summarize your findings on the food services and food programs in your community, gained from food mapping and the dialogue with community members and service providers. Discuss these findings and consider any challenges identified from your questionnaires and conversations, then answer the questions to identify the barriers to accessing and learning about food (**Six A's**). This analysis will uncover some of the key issues that are challenging food security in your community.

The following are the lists of food related services and programs that may be available in your community:

FOOD SERVICES (Commercial and Not-For Profit)

Based on your mapping and community dialogues, what **Food Services** are available in your community? Please list them by name and use your findings from the **Community and Food Service Providers Questionnaires** to describe the services they offer:

- Grocery – Primarily Packaged/Frozen _____

- Grocery – Primarily fresh/produce _____

- Cooked food (from scratch) _____

Tool 9. Analyzing Strengths & Weaknesses

- Cooked food (from pre-prepared ingredients) _____

- Farmer/Farmers Market _____

- Food Delivery (Meal/Grocery Delivery, etc.) _____

- Emergency food (foodbank, meal program, etc.) _____

- Food in schools (breakfast, lunch, after school programs) _____

- Alternative Food Sources (Community Garden, Food Box, Food Sharing, Rooftop Agriculture, etc.) _____

- Other (please describe) _____

FOOD AWARENESS Programs

Based on your mapping and **Community** and **Food Service Provider Questionnaires**, could a lack of food skills, food preparation facilities and/or awareness of food service providers be contributing to food insecurity in your community? Please name the services and resources in your community and use your findings from the **Questionnaires** to describe the services they offer:

- Food Map, food directory or other resource for locating food _____
- Community Kitchens _____
- Menu preparation or grocery shopping training _____
- Cooking Classes _____
- Nutritional Education _____
- Gardening Classes/Training _____
- Other (please describe) _____

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Review the results from your **Community Food Mapping*** and **Not-For-Profit Food Providers Questionnaires*** and make note of the **challenges** relating to the food services and programs identified by community members and service providers.

Consider the following questions (combines the two sets):

1. **Accessibility**- Are there food services and programs available in your community? Are these programs offered in the right locations to allow residents to access them without requiring a vehicle, a lengthy transit trip or a very long walk? Are there other barriers to access?
2. **Affordability**- Based on your community's demographics and community feedback, do you think the food services and programs are affordable for all residents?
3. **Availability and Adequacy**- Are there enough food services and programs offered and are there any other barriers to attending such as lack of advertising, scheduling, attendance caps, etc.? Are community members getting enough healthy food year round?
4. **Appropriateness**- Are there food services and programs that address culturally diverse and health related diets?
5. **Awareness**- Are there programs or information offered in your community to improve food awareness and skills?

Based on your findings, what do you think are the **Key Issues** in your community relating to **Food Services and Food Awareness Programs**? Please identify these below.

Identification of Zoning and Policy Barriers

Your local zoning regulations may be creating a barrier to accessing food in your community. Refer to Chapter 5 (pg. 65) for more resources on Zoning. Planning policy regulates activity and development of the built environment; this regulation of the use and design of the built environment can create significant barriers to accessing necessary food services and products. As these policy documents can be very technical, it is recommended that you work with your local planner to identify what is permitted or restricted in your community. Visit www.halifax.ca or your municipalities' webpage where you can search for how to connect with planning and development departments. The following steps can help guide this process:

Tool 9. Analyzing Strengths & Weaknesses

1. **Identify** the Planning Strategy (ies) and Land Use Bylaw(s) that apply to your community with your local planner, using the community boundaries identified in Chapter 2.
2. **Obtain** maps from your local planner showing the applicable planning designations and land use zones for your community (either physical or online mapping).
3. **Review** planning Strategy (ies) with your local planner looking for language that enables or constrains. Scan for policies relating to food, agriculture (food production & animals), retail/commercial activities (food retail & outlets), and industrial (food processing). Make note on your maps of the designations that these activities are permitted in.
4. **Review** together with your local planner the general provisions of the Land Use Bylaw(s) for restrictions that may enable or constrain your local food system. Search the individual zones for where food uses, agricultural activities (food production & animals), retail/commercial activities (food retail & services), and industrial uses (food processing & warehousing) are permitted. Make note of where these zones are located and roughly what activities they permit.
5. **Analyze** these policies to identify planning and zoning opportunities and barriers. Examples of this might be:
 - a. A blanket of residential zoning which does not permit food retail, production or processing. This essentially creates a food desert by prohibiting new food uses.
 - b. Lack of zones which specifically mention or encourage urban agriculture and food production. Uncertainty about what is or is not permitted can create a barrier to introducing these unrecognized uses into your community.
 - c. Large distances between residential areas and zones which permit the sale of food and provision of food services. The distance between where you live and where you access food has been linked to dietary health; having to travel a long distance to access food can involve additional costs (transit & vehicular), and compromises in quality and quantity of food.
6. **Review** your findings with your local planner to see if these are correct and if there are any other planning or policy considerations which could be creating invisible barriers.
7. **Summarize** your findings in the **Analyzing Strengths and Weaknesses Worksheet** (pg43).

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ZONING AND PLANNING BARRIERS (AN EXAMPLE):

The table below shows an example of how to organize your findings to identify possible opportunities or constraints resulting from planning and zoning policy in your community. A local

General Provision/ Designation/ Zone/ Policy Identify specific policies or zones which relate to food.	Summary of Issue/Opportunity How does this policy potentially impact food in your community?	Enabling/Constraining Could this policy make it easier or harder to change the situation and improve access to food?
Example: R-1 Residential	Does not permit food outlets, processing or distribution; limits food retail in home based businesses (must be accessory to another use).	Constraining
Example: C-3 Commercial	Permits food outlets, small scale production and warehousing.	Enabling
Example: Policy S-2	Requires edible landscaping for new buildings	Enabling

planner can help identify policies that may affect the ability to set up different services, programs, or businesses based on the current zoning or policy restrictions of a specific area.

OTHER ISSUES:

Please use the following section to make note of any other considerations or issues that arose from the inventory, community feedback and your food conversations. Based on your findings, what do you think are the **Key Issues** relating to these Considerations? Please identify below (You can use these notes to help inform the **Action Plan Worksheet** in Chapter 4):
