Food Waste in urban low-income households and street markets: Perspectives from Harare, Zimbabwe

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Pretoria

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- Significant **data gaps** in the causes and quantities of food waste

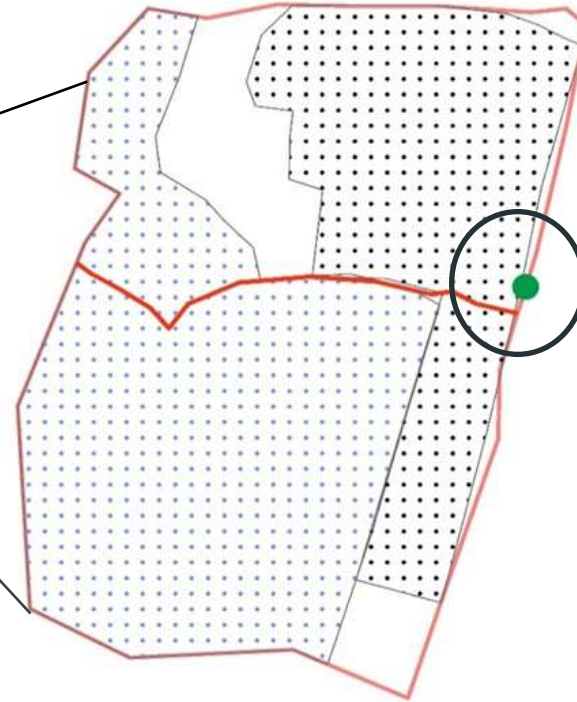- Localised, data-driven research is essential for practical interventions

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Study Area: Hatcliffe, Zimbabwe

Source: Mubaya et.al. (2020)

Legend
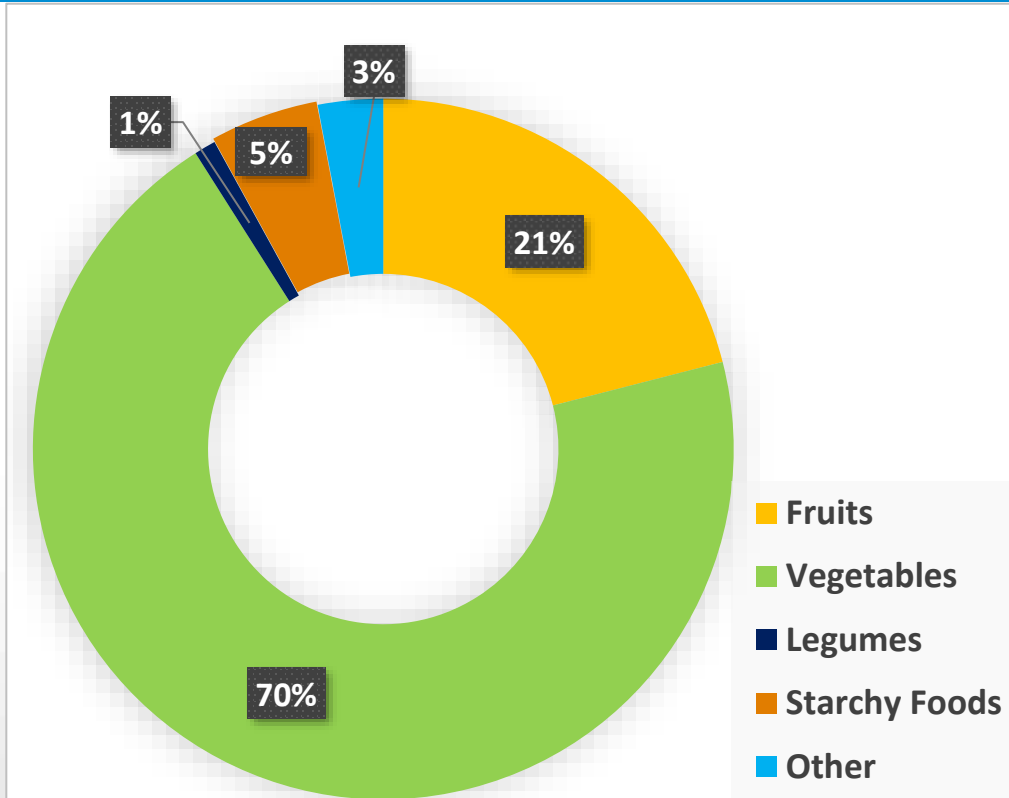
● Street Market

— Data Collection Divide

▢ Hatcliffe

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Methods used to collect data

	Street Market	Household
7-day Kitchen Diary Survey	✗	✓
7-day Waste Composition Analysis (food waste mass)	✓	✓
Questionnaire Survey	✓	✓
Observations	✓	✗

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Street Market Food Waste

Results: Street Market Food Waste Composition

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Legend:
- Fruits
- Vegetables
- Legumes
- Starchy Foods
- Other

Chart values: 21% (Fruits), 70% (Vegetables), 1% (Legumes), 5% (Starchy Foods), 3% (Other)
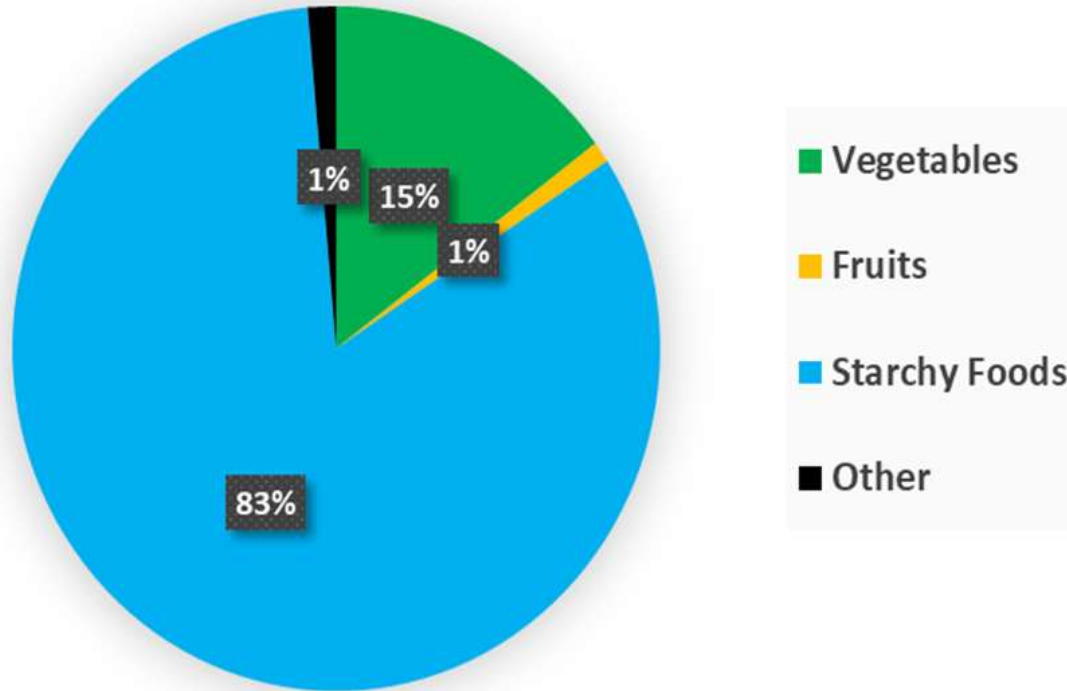
- **13.21 kg** average food waste per stall per week

- **83 %** was avoidable food waste

- **Inadequate infrastructure** and **vendor practices** drive street market food waste

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Household Food Waste

Findings: Household Food Waste Composition

Pie chart legend:
- **Vegetables** (green)
- **Fruits** (yellow)
- **Starchy Foods** (blue)
- **Other** (black)

Chart values: 1%, 15%, 1%, 83%

- **3.17 kg** average food waste per Household per week
- **59%** avoidable food waste

- Cultural norms of **preparing & serving too much** food and **discarding leftovers** contribute to household food waste

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Results: Avoidable food waste from households

- Consists mainly of leftovers from cooked food

- **Starchy Foods:** *sadza 71%* (thick maize porridge), rice, bread & baked goods, pasta

- **Vegetables:** tomatoes, leafy greens, cabbage

- **Fruits:** Bananas

- Others: meat, beans

How it starts...

...how it ends

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Policies, Initiatives and Practices: Zimbabwe & Sub-Saharan Africa

		Sub-Saharan Africa	Zimbabwe
National Policy	-Policy focus on food waste -Implementation of policies	?	✗
Organised Initiatives	-Food banks, awareness campaigns, cooling technologies, Black Soldier Fly farming	✓	✗
Individual Practices	-Donating surpluses	✓	✗
	-Discounts, "imperfect" products sold to canteens	✓	✓
	-Indigenous preservation methods	✓	✓

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What can be done?

- Awareness campaigns: collaborations of schools, universities, and research institutions

- Develop and improve infrastructure at the street markets: low-cost technologies

- Include indigenous knowledge in food waste reduction initiatives

- Train vendors and smallholder farmers on proper product handling

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Think Global, Act local!

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Project Details

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