

# Analysis of the Factors Causing the Persistence of Street Vending in the City of Kigali, Rwanda

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## Abstract

This paper mainly analyzes the factors causing persistence of street vendors despite decision taken by Kigali city council. Given the emerging social classes, globalizations and loss of values (local currency) against the trading dollar, most of the petty traders are facing challenges to meet the legal trading requirements, including tax obligations, small traders opt to street vending which might be easy to evade tax and also avoid paying renting cost. It has been argued that vending attracts people who have limited opportunities for obtaining formal employment and street vending is increasingly becoming an option. However, the City of Kigali with Vision 2050 to be a green city, master plan defines the location of traders which doesn't much with petty trading, yet a certain social class of "have not" still demands to fit within the context. According to findings street vendors' majority with 54.6% said "the unemployment is main cause ". Suggested to resolve unemployment issue by creating more jobs. 10.3% of respondents said "Main cause for non-compliance is extreme poverty". Findings indicates impact like air pollution and lack of hygiene as confirmed by 17.5% of respondents; and fiscal losses due to undeclared economic activities on rate of 21.6%. Consensual measures taken to end street vending is includes regularization of trade policy, inclusive doing business policy in a given free min-markets by government for street vendors and startups financial support, however consensual measures had an impact which is less compared to the output. Recommendations shall be considered as sustainable solutions.

**Key words:** Street vendors, Persistence, and City dwellers

## 1. Introduction

Street vendors have been in existence since ancient times. In all civilizations, ancient and medieval, one reads accounts of travelling

merchants who not only sold their wares in the town by going from house to house but they also traded in neighboring countries reference. Perhaps ancient and medieval civilizations were tolerant to these wandering traders and that is why they

flourished. In modern times we find that street vendors are rarely treated with the same measure of dignity and tolerance. They are targeted by municipalities and police in the urban areas as illegal traders, the urban middle class complains constantly on how these vendors make urban life a living hell as they block pavements, create traffic problem and also engage in anti-social activities. Winnie Mitullah, (2003) argued that "though more often than not, the same representatives of middle class prefer to buy from street vendors as the goods they sell are cheaper though the quality is as good as those in the overpriced departmental stores and shopping malls". For most street vendors, trading from the pavements is full of uncertainties. They are constantly harassed by the authorities. The local bodies conduct eviction drives to clear the pavements of these encroachers and in most cases confiscate their goods. A municipal raid is like a cat and mouse game with municipal workers chasing street vendors away while these people try to run away and hide from these marauders stated by one of the street vendors. According to the interviewed street vendors, confiscation of their goods entails heavy fines for recovery. In most cases it means that the vendor has to take loans from private sources (at exorbitant interests) to either recover whatever remains of his confiscated goods or to restart his business. According to street vendors during our interviews, ...continue to state that besides these sudden raids, street vendors normally have to regularly bribe the authorities in order to carry out their business on the streets. All these mean that a substantive income from street vending is spent

on greasing the palms of unscrupulous authorities or to private money lenders. In fact, in most cases street vendors have to survive in a hostile environment though they are service providers (Zoe Elena 2009).

Most developing countries are experiencing unsustainable urban growth and consequently, poverty incidences are high resulting in a large increase in the number of the urban poor reference. Thus, many of the poor have turned to the urban informal sector for their livelihoods (Muiruri, 2010). In the words of MoHUPA (2009) Street vendors form a very important segment of the unauthorized business sector in the country. It is estimated that in several cities street vendors count for about 2 per cent of the population reference. Women constitute a large segment of these street vendors in almost every city reference. Street vending is not only a source of self-employment to the poor in cities and towns but also a means to provide 'affordable' as well as 'convenient' services to majority of the urban population.

Today in many African countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, the population continues to grow, and so does the number of people living in urban areas (Bizoza A.2014). The population growth in urban areas is a combined result of migration to the cities and natural growth, where by 2015, 54% of Africans will live in cities, and the proportion increase will be between 14% to 30% (Alfred, 2014). Economic growth, however, does not keep pace with the population growth which surpasses the capacity of both industrial

and urban social services to effectively absorb the growing labor force (UN-Habitat, 2008).

Street vendors is the result of increased populations growth, which leads to big number of unskilled men and women migrating to cities (John O 2017). Migrant from rural to cities in Africa leads to serous struggle to earn living which always is associated to disrespect of trade regulation mostly in smart cities in Africa. The practices sound very similar both in form and nature of vending mostly sounds similar across southern sub-Saharan Africa John O.2017).

A number of entrepreneurs have entered the trade as an option, especially since the beginning of the Structural Adjustment Programmes [SAPs] that resulted in the retrenchment of civil servants across Africa. The merging of trade disrespect among the street vendors is the result of population growth. In Rwanda, population growth is at 2% growth rate (Bizoza, 2014). It would be easy to conclude and say population growth is associated with big number of men and women migrating to rural for search of job which leads to increased number of street vendors (Bizoza, 2014). In Rwanda, street vending falls with the Small and Micro Enterprises [SME] which provides employment and income to more than 98% of Rwandan's population, especially in urban areas. In the year 2012 alone, the SME sector employed about 92.6% (MINEACOM, 2015). Given the scholars augment and different street vendors reports across the global, Street vendors in Kigali City as per the official statistics total number is 8,300 (City Council Report 2016).

Although it has been argued that vending attracts those who have limited opportunities for obtaining formal employment and prestigious business minimizes chances of social exclusion and marginalization, street vending is increasingly becoming an option for many citizens. It is no longer limited to the lower social groups especially the underprivileged who carve out a living in an environment of aggressive pressure by urban authorities as experienced in different case studies, Street vendors usually lack appropriate business permits, violate zoning codes, fail to report tax liability, lack compliance with labor regulations governing work conditions, and/or lack legal guarantees in relation to suppliers and clients.

The immediate problem currently attracting the attention of Kigali urban space is a street vending at Central Business Nyarugenge District in its busiest area commonly known as Nyabugogo which is densely populated place. This relates to the continuing rise in the concentration of street vending activities on a busy intersections, around markets and major transport routes in Kigali city. Street vending causes environmental pollution, congestion, poor aesthetics and hygiene with unauthorized structures that have sprung up on the cities. Street vending activities generate non-compliance with trade rules and regulation based on its nature. Given the above background, this research seeks to investigate why street vending is still rampant despite consensual measures taken.

However, Nyarugenge District authority aims to eradicate the street businesses completely, as the

smart city demands to grow green and smart, yet street vending cause city skirmishes and disorder. These vendors are therefore depicted as unwilling and unfortunate pawns in an exploitative global economic system. As Bhowmik (2007:96) states that, for such marginalized populations, street vending ‘is the only means for survival’. Indeed, jobs like street vending, hawking, small store vendors, road side cobbling and pedal rickshaw driving are all commonly depicted by this structuralist perspective as necessity-driven endeavor which is highly insecure and unstable, composed of long hours, poor conditions, no legal or social protection, limited access to credit and very limited bargaining power (ILO 2002, Kapoor, 2007).

## 2. Research Methodology

The objective was to describe and analyze the factors causing the persistence of street vendors in the city of Kigali. For this purpose, the street vendors and the authorities of the city of Kigali were interviewed during this study.

A qualitative method approach was followed, which incorporated qualitative research paradigms. The choice for such an approach was motivated by the need to explore and describe the evolution of the problem of street vending, measures undertaken to handle it and factors causing the persistence of street vendors in the city despite of the existence of practices and regulations governing this phenomenon. The focus was put on the analysis of views of respondents and their recommendations in this regard. NISR-EICV, (2017) shows the 8000 street

vendors in Kigali city where more than of 3,756 street vendors were located in Nyarugenge District as the focus of this study.

A sample was drawn from the target population of street vendors in the district of Nyarugenge of Kigali city. The non-probability sampling methods were used to design the sample size of 97 respondents selected by using purposive sampling technique. According to Ashley Crossman (2018), purposive sampling is a non-probability sample that is selected based on characteristics of a population and the objective of the study. Purposive sampling is also known as judgmental, accidental, availability selective, per quota or subjective sampling.

The criteria for selection included: to be a street vendor, having been in street vending for more than 2 years, enjoying permanence residence in the sector or business centers where activities of street vending take place, accepting to participate in the study. The authorities who were targeted included those who are in charge of designing and implementation of practices and rules governing street vending at the sector and district level in the city of Kigali.

However, primary and secondary data were collected where in terms of secondary data, there is the review of articles, reports related to street vending, and any materials deemed to be relevant to this study. While, Primary data were collected through designed interview guide and observation guides, hence, the qualitative and quantitative methods enabled to provide in-depth understanding of the responses from the field.

### 3. Results and Discussion

This section of the article first reports on proportions for the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents and the main causes for non-compliance of city council trading regulations by street vendors in the city of Kigali, the impact of the persistence of street vendors in the city of Kigali, and consensual measures taken to end street vending in the city of Kigali, Nyarugenge District.

#### i. Socio-Demographic of Respondents

This sub-section identifies gender balance, age, level of education, marital status, and the experience in street vending different products in Nyarugenge.

**Table 1: Gender distribution**

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Male	33	34.0
Female	64	66.0
Total	97	100.0

*Source: primary data (2019)*

During this study at Nyarugenge District with street vendors, the findings indicated that majority of 66.0% of respondents were women in street vending while 34.0% were men. Many of them confirmed that they became street vendors because of being widowed, other said that they have not got chance to attend schools, among others and confirmed that the life lived is not good and they know also how being street vending in Kigali city is prohibited but there is no any other option for them.

Maria, K., (2003) explained that gender is the range of characteristics pertaining to, and differentiating between masculinity and femininity. The expression of gender in our societies mainly through the division of labour by sex, with the result that responsibility for household work and bringing up children devolves almost exclusively upon women; inequality between men and women in terms of access to productive resources and the benefits of these; limitations on participation in decision making processes and access to the various forms of public power.

It gives an impression that female are most non-compliant compared male counterpart. However, even the challenges on the ground are tougher to women compare to men. Run up and down confronting with DASSO in Kigali.

**Table 2: Age distribution of respondent**

Age distribution	Frequency	Percent
Less than 20years	23	23.7
21 to30 years old	33	34.0
31 to 40 years old	32	33.0
41to 50 years old	4	4.1
51 years and above	5	5.2
Total	97	100.0

*Source: primary data (2019)*

The study findings show that among street vendors of Nyarugenge District, 23.7% have less than 20years who are stile children, 34.0% have between 21 and 30 years old, 33.0% have the range from 31 and 40 years old, 4.1% were between 41 and 50 years old while only 5.2% have 51 years and above. When, we look the statistics above, it is clear that majority of street vendors were youth and adults people in Kigali City-Nyarugenge District, and some are married,

divorced, and single with different challenges of live in Kigali City.

**Table 3: Marital Status of Respondents**

Marital Status	Frequency	Percent
Single	56	57.7
Married	19	19.6
Divorced/separated	3	3.1
Widow (er)	19	19.6
Total	97	100.0

*Source: primary data (2019)*

Findings from table 3 indicated that 3.1% were separated or divorced. 19.6% were widow(er). 19.6% were married people but living in bad conditions and 57.7% were single who said more of them they came to be street vendors because of being unemployment after their studies, poverty, and other reasons. These are also proven by statement from one of the district authorities who said that the increase of street vending is a result of poor living conditions, which contributes to an end of street vending habit in Kigali despite the strict measures taken by City Council.

With an eye observation, through the street, and vendors talked during the survey majority are separated couples due to tough live condition which will always lead to misunderstanding in families and end up with serious conflict which may lead to separation and divorce.

The results is everybody looks for her/his own survival but always the children of some women street vendors are victims where majority of them end up as kid street or street vendors.

**Table 4: Education of street vendors in Nyarugenge District.**

Education background	Frequency	Percent
Bachelor's degree	12	12.4
Secondary level	22	22.7
Primary level	27	27.8
VTC	21	21.6
Illiterate	15	15.5
Total	97	100.0

*Source: primary data (2019)*

The education level of the most street vendors in Kigali city- Nyarugenge District is basic primary education and secondary with the rate of 27.8% and 22.7% of respondents. The findings also indicates that, most of the unskilled personnel and vulnerable prefer going for street vending which needs small capital and easy to start and make quick profit as shown by 15.5%. Only 21.6% confirmed that they attended the VTC but they did not get job as reason to come at street vending in order to survive.

Only 12.4% who are unemployed also said they did not wait what will come out, they tried to create their own job because there is no another option they have of living. With discussion with these all categories of street vendors, they don't want to leave the street vending, but reasons might differ depending on individual case. Some do it because of habit; others can't easily get the alternative business or employment.

**Table 5: How long have you been in street vending in Nyarugenge**

Time finished in street vending	Frequency	Percent
Less than 1year	1	1.0
Between 2-4years	44	45.4
Between 5-8years	35	36.1
Above 9years	17	17.5
Total	97	100.0

*Source: primary data (2019)*

The study shows that majority of street vendors in Nyarugenge were in street vending longtime where the statistics show that 45.4% were in street vending between 2-4years. 36.1% were in range between 5-8years while 17.5% have experience of above 9 years in street vending different products in Kigali city, Nyarugenge District.

**Table 6: Categories of items sold in Kigali City, Nyarugenge**

Categories of items	Frequency	Percent
Beverages	14	14.4
Fruits	31	32.0
Rubber products	22	22.7
Cosmetics	14	14.4
Other products	16	16.5
Total	97	100.0

*Source: primary data (2019)*

Findings from table 6 shows the categories of items sold in Kigali city, where 32.0 percent sell fruits, it was discovered during the survey, majority women sell fresh fruits, these are single, separated and divorced female.

They deal with fresh fruits which are out sourced from suppliers at low price and that is reason they sell at street with lower price compared to those in ordinary markets and super markets. 22.7 percent who sold rubber products are the younger boys and girls who outsource their goods from

surrounding markets and majority does not own what they sell on the street but act as agents of the big super markets, and owners pay fines when goods are confiscated by DASSO, at times owners because of their influence and friendship they get their stuffs back very easily. 14.4% sold the Beverages and Cosmetics while 16.5% said that they sold other products. Such acts encourage unending to street vending despite consensual measures taken by all government institutions and their partners.

## ii. The main causes of street vending in Kigali City, Nyarugenge District.

Street vendors are identified as self-employed workers in the informal sector who offer their labour to sell goods and services on the streets without having any permanent built up structure. These people usually own low skills and lack in the level of education required for the better paid jobs in the formal sector. Besides, everlasting protected jobs in the formal sector are shrinking hence even those have the requisite skills are unable to find proper employment. Then, in Rwanda also especially in capital city of Kigali, the street vendors persisted in the streets vending different products with different reasons. Among the street vendors met during this study confirmed the following causes of being street vendors in Kigali City, Nyarugenge District.

**Table 7: The main causes for non -compliance of city council trading regulations by street vendors in the city of Kigali.**

Main causes of being street vending in Nyarugenge	Frequency	Percent
They have extreme Poverty in the family	10	10.3
They lacked the education opportunity	5	5.2
They are an unemployment situation	53	54.6
High taxes in the formal business	7	7.2
It is a way to create their own job opportunity	6	6.2
Some leave their jobs to reducing working time from formal sector	6	6.2
They escaped high cost of renting in Kigali	3	3.1
They have low capital investment	3	3.1
They have no other choice/option of life	2	2.1
Other reasons which are not specified	2	2.1
Total	97	100.0

*Source: primary data (2019)*

During the discussion with street vendors in Kigali City, Nyarugenge District, majority of 54.6% said that they are in unemployment situation which is a big problem as supported by the statistics indicated in table7. Government should look how to handle it both in short and long run impact before combating with street vending, should resolve unemployment crisis in the citizens by continuing creating more jobs and provide policies reinforcing the quality of education to their citizens especially to the youth to mitigate new street vendors in long run planning. 10.3% said that the main cause for non-compliance of city council trading regulations by

street vendors in the city of Kigali is to have extreme Poverty in their families. High taxes in the formal business are also confirmed by 7.2% as causal problem of being street vending in Kigali city, Nyarugenge. 6.2% respondents confirmed that to be in street vending is a way to create their own job opportunity, and also some of them leave their jobs to reducing working time from formal sector.

The rate of 5.2% said that they are not educated; this means they did not get opportunity to go to school. 3.1% escaped high cost of renting in Kigali, and they have low capital investment to be formal business. 2.1% said that they have no other choice/option of life, and other reasons which are not specified by them. Generally, according to this discussion with street vendors in Kigali, Nyarugenge District, government has to create and increase job opportunities to the citizens apart other opportunities in order to reduce the persistence of street vendors in Kigali.

### **iii. The impact of the persistence of street vendors in Kigali City, Nyarugenge District.**

Although it has been argued that vending attracts those who have limited opportunities for obtaining formal employment and/or prestigious business, and minimizes chances of social exclusion and marginalization; street vending is increasingly becoming an option for many citizens. It is no longer limited to the lower social groups, especially the underprivileged who carve out a living in an environment of aggressive pressure by urban authorities as experienced in different case studies. They usually lack appropriate business



permits, violate zoning codes, fail to report tax liability, lack compliance with labour regulations governing work conditions, and/or lack legal guarantees in relation to suppliers and clients. However, these are having different impacts when the street vendors persisted in those activities as confirmed by some respondents in the study at Kigali City, Nyarugenge District.

**Table 8: The impact of the persistence of street vendors in Kigali City, Nyarugenge**

District	Frequency	Percent
Urban air pollution followed by sick on neighborhoods	17	17.5
Source of unsafely and unhygienic foods	27	27.8
Fiscal losses due to undeclared economic activities	21	21.6
Being prisoned in case of rested	15	15.5
Some street vendors lost their life in street	9	9.3
Insecurity in roads and causing traffic jump	4	4.1
Other impacts	4	4.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: primary data (2019)*

Findings from table 8, indicated that the impact of the persistence of street vendors in Kigali City, were many, but among of them there is Urban air pollution followed by sick on neighborhoods as confirmed by 17.5%; Source of unsafely and unhygienic foods confirmed by 27.8%; Fiscal losses due to undeclared economic activities on rate of 21.6%; Being prisoned of street vendors in case of they are rested with 15.5% confirmed it; Some street vendors lost their life, especially when they confront with District Administration

Security Support Organ (DASSO) in street as confirmed by 9.3%; causing an insecurity in roads and causing traffic jump as 4.1% confirmed together with other many impacts.

#### **iv. Consensual measures taken to end street vending in Kigali city.**

Key Individual from Nyarugenge district was interviewed through face to face discussion on the outcome of the consensual measures taken and analysis on how far it have come to end vending in the street of Kigali city, below is the summary of the discussion summarized along policies and measures for implementation.

##### ***Trade policy***

According to authorities of Nyarugenge district, city council have issued a policy and above all there a trade policy provided by the Ministry of trade and commerce which regulates how business are conducted. The policy outline the objectives of strengthening productive capacities as well as investment into productive capacities and it articulates the policy environment and industrial policy with master plan from 2010 to 2020, this policy guides the city council to regulate on how the business should be located as per the master plan; however the city vendors are always in non-compliance.

##### ***Doing Business***

Master Plan of Kigali city, specifically for Nyarugenge district, business are located in the heart of city, a place called Mateus, that is a place for whole sellers of different manufactured

products. Most of the merchants complain about street vendors because they sell with low price because of not incurring any renting costs. For street vending doing business is different compared to other merchants, because they evade tax, no cost of renting and it is one of the reasons government took serious measures against them.

### ***Free min-markets for Street Vendors***

Number of constructed min markets for street vendors in ten sectors have been a consensual measure or solution to the street vending. Markets are given for free to street vendors, and it has an impact as we consider the tremendously decreasing number on the street and very rare to find street vendors in center of Kigali city -Nyarugenge, however, the outskirts of Kigali you find few moving around the residential streets and Nyabugogo-Bus station, though not at big number but still exist in the day and evening time. Selling some stuff which hidden in their pockets such as watch, belts, groundnut, Eggs etc. It has been noted from the interview with senior management of the district and DASSO, that some street vendor still exist due to habits and some work with big people who acts as their protectors mostly when they are under the arrest.

Number of min-markets was constructed but not occupied like Nyiragasazi market which was so costly to the city council, however, street vendors didn't occupy the market with an argument that "the market was not at the strategic point where customers are not available to buy their stuff" DASSO said, he continued and said, "some mini market are not operational and others was closed".

It has been noted during face to face discussion with DASSO members, some of the free min-market are given to street vendors sometimes not occupied, and there are rented to other business operators, during discussion with district authorities, it was underlined to indicate this type of business as habit to most of the street vendors and proves why street vending sometimes doesn't end. It has been noted during discussion that, selling on the street is ever fast and street vendors earns big profit compared to those in super-markets paying rents and taxes, so majority of them dodge not because they are poor.

### **Government Financial support to street vendors**

During the Key interview with district officials, it was disclosed that, "number of consensual measures taken such as trade rules, formation of cooperatives of street vendors, construction of free min-markets for street vendors, one of the city authority said *"street vendors normally are given a grace period to graduate from street vending and work like other tax payers with respect of trade act provided by the city council of Kigali city"*.

He continued and said "before graduating poverty, Street vendors was given free funds non-reimbursable funding equivalent to 60,000frw per each and 300million Rwanda francs was a total budget on this activity, was disbursed during 2016.

The funds were given to vendors, whose status has not graduated to pay tax. Graduation period after getting funds is 3 years period and there after

vendors are treated like other tax payers. That is was part of the consensual measure taken and it was implemented during 2016/17. Street vendors confirmed this funding during face to face discussions. Another solution to this matter was to give them a training on trade rules and regulations provided by Kigali city, and this confirms they know these trade rules, but they don't comply. The reason of non-compliance, one of the street vendors from Rwezamenyo Sector "Uwamariya charlotte" said " I have been in business for 27 years, ... continued to say, I am addicted to street vending and it pays back since the cost of running the business is not high though this have changed and it is too risk because wherever you meet the DASSO will confiscate your stuff and go to jail "she narrated, according to her the mindset is changing due to government strict measures and proved to work but more need to be done.

**Fines** - is another consensual measure taken by city authority after long discussion with all parties concern in this process of ending street vending in Kigali city. Fines have been introduced against street vendors , one of fines is confiscating their properties for a certain period and subject to pay fines and agree to stop street vending and comply with city trade rules, however goods confiscated some are perishable and when taken from street vendors is not easy to get their stuff back because of its nature.

#### **Government Institutions and other Partners dealing with street vendors**

There are number of government institutions that have taken this matter serious, which includes

Ministry of Commerce and Trade, Rwanda development board (RDB), National Police, Ministry of Gender and family promotion so involved because they are number of women and youth in the vending activities, then Ministry of Education through their program of VTC's and TVET's for hands on training and skills development mostly for informal sector, Work Development Agency (WDA), National Employment Program (NEP) and Imbuto Foundation issues funds as a start-up capital to Women , all these government institutions and other partners convened a number of meeting and come up with consensual measures to end street vending in Kigali.

According to DASSO, during our face to face discussion, searching for the root cause of the street vending, we discovered the unique classification of street vending, city authority classify this group as Vagabondism because of life condition they follow in, some are homeless, widows with poor shelter and illiteracy, and thus contribute to opt vending. It has been noted during our discussion, most of the vendors come from outside- neighboring districts of Kigali City - it proves that those sectors that are near to Kigali, majority come street vending and other comes from the slams that in Kigali.

Street vending is business which the owners prove that it is profitable and easy to get money so fast with small capital, it was noted during face to face discussion with DASSO that some vendors are school boys and girls from poor families in Kigali and near. During school holidays go for street

vending since it earns money very quickly and poor families can't afford their school fees and therefore their mothers who are addicted to vending send school children to look for quick earnings during short and long holidays. At times owners of big supermarkets use school boys and girls during holidays as supplies of their goods through street vending and it is a contributing factor of not ending this street vending. Through the analysis, we might say, street vending is associated to habit, poverty, and lack of business ethics. Another contributing factor, we discovered as a favorable factor which contributes street vending of Kigali city is growing clean and its size and trade regulations, buildings are changing, and parking space are continued to be clean.

However, some building from their back space create a safe haven to street vendors to hid, therefore street vendors are using back of building like their illegal markets to trade during evening time and behind the building they sell cosmetics and other rubber products from big super market. Vendors act as dealers of big shopping malls in Kigali as part of the struggle to empty their stores in a short time to earn profit, therefore some might be treated as agents of the shopping malls in the city. According to DASSO, Street vendors have changed techniques of vending; they hide and move with staff that cannot be easily seen like watch, flash disk, gnuts, boiled eggs and airtime. DASSO continued to say "street vending involves number of people from outside Kigali, most of them is come and go they are purely vulnerable".

#### 4. Conclusion and Recommendations

##### *Conclusion*

The street vending still exists in Kigali city, though number have reduced tremendously, this would be a response of measures taken by city council authority. Based on the findings, street vendors have been given number of incentives, whereby handout of 60.000frw was given to some from Nyarugenge district, free min markets was constructed for street vendors though some complain the areas was isolated form target customers, that is why few of the min-markets was closed and others are still operational. Therefore, more political, educational efforts and economic strategies to reduce income inequality and friendly business environment needs to be taken for sustainable solutions.

##### *Recommendations*

Considering views and concern from the respondents, in consideration with current policy to Burn Street vending in Kigali City, the following can be taken as suggested solutions.

- Street vendors strictly to form cooperatives which facilitate easy cash disbursement from any government institution or stakeholder. It will make easy follow up and easy to assess the impact funds given.
- To come with a tax policy which might be relevant to small tax payers like street vending and other start up business and allow prospering and becoming sustainable before subjected to real taxable businesses.

- To come with venues in master plan of Kigali city which contains the building spaces that are fordable to rent for small business including former street vendors.
- To provide continued entrepreneurship training and mentorship to small business owners on business development, create affordable loan and easy access for funding of small business.
- Generating, credit rotation which might be facilitated by the street vending cooperative movement.
- Education policy which prepare citizens to do all activities from Nursery to university levels instead of relying on automatic promotion and engaging our youth in both theories and practices during their education. That is why Government of Rwanda and other stakeholders in education shall include practical activities like technical, agriculture, carpentry, etc. in Lower classes to avoid this street vending in the future from our youth.
- Continued campaign on awareness of trading rules and regulation provided by city council and other trade act in line with small business in Rwanda.

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