



**Navigating Formalization of Street Vending: The Case of Street Vendors in Kigali City,
Rwanda**

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Disclaimer:

This document represents part of the author's study programme while at the International Institute of Social Studies. The views stated therein are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Institute.

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List of Abbreviations

CBD: Central Business District

ILO: International Labour Organization

IMF: International Monetary Fund

NEP: National Employment Programme

SAP: Structural Adjustment Programme

SMEs: Small and Medium Enterprises

Abstract

Background: In most developing nations, streets and alleyways act as places where vendors conduct their operations selling different items and services to people. However, issues such as creating traffic jams, not contributing to revenue collection, pollution of the environment, issues with hygiene, and sale of substandard products have encouraged governments to pursue banning street vending and in turn adopt trade in designated municipal markets. Rwanda is one country that has adopted this initiative through its efforts to formalize street vending in the capital city, Kigali. Such a move has significant impacts on the livelihood of the street vendors and in seeking to contribute to this discourse the current study explores the challenges street vendors encounter in Kigali because of the trade's formalization, evaluates the challenges faced by the vendors in navigating this formalization process, the coping strategies they adopt, and the role of economic and social networks in this context.

Methods: The study employed a qualitative research approach that entails focus group discussions with 30 street vendors in Kigali as well as semi-structured interviews with 5 key informants who are municipality officials. Thematic analysis was used to interpret the findings from the data collected.

Findings/Results: The findings highlighted how most vendors are against the formalization process due to factors like the lack of participation in policy formulation and a lack of proper understanding of the intended impacts of the initiative. Nonetheless, vendors who undertook the formalization process reaped benefits such as job security that comes from having a designated place to operate, working in better conditions without exposure to weather elements, and enhanced income. The main challenges encountered by vendors operating in the mini markets included higher operational costs stemming from the formalization process, limited spaces in the designated markets, challenges with the bureaucracy of the formalization process, and loss of opportune selling locations. Challenges encountered by vendors still on the streets included exposure to elements, harassment from municipality officials, and lack of job security. The main coping strategies for vendors in the mini-markets included working with cooperative societies to help with the formalization process and working with municipality officials to prevent vendors from operating near the designated markets. Those still operating in the streets are willing to endure harassment and arrests while others bribe officials to be allowed to continue their operations. The findings also highlighted the important role of social and economic networks in helping vendors secure places in the designated markets.

Conclusions: From the findings and based on the perspective of the institutional theory and dual economy theory, the paper recommends that the government and other relevant stakeholders should offer financial support and access to credit; simplify the complicated bureaucratic process, enhance infrastructure and accessibility of the designated markets; and conduct civic education on the importance of formalization of street vending in Kigali.

Keywords: Street Vending; Formalization; Municipal Markets

Relevance to Development Studies

As a student of development studies, I understand that this field explores societal change in the context of interaction between economic, social, technological, political, and cultural aspects with the aim of ensuring solutions and initiatives are adopted to promote sustainable and inclusive development. The current study examines the impact of the formalization of street vending on the livelihoods of street vendors. The study is relevant to development studies as it highlights the intersections of governance, informality, and the lives of affected populations (vendors in Kigali). The study contributes to discourse on the informal economy providing insights into how regulatory changes affect people operating in this sector. Moreover, analysis of the challenges and opportunities faced by vendors centres on understanding the adaptability and agency of persons in adverse socio-economic contexts which is a vital part of development studies. By examining the role of social and economic networks in helping individuals cope with precarious economic situations, the study emphasizes the importance of community solidarity and social capital in enhancing the resilience of marginalized people in the pursuit of development.

Chapter 1: Introduction

This chapter provides a background on the research phenomenon, as well as the main question and objectives, and significance of the study. It also provides a structure for the entire research paper.

1.1 Background

Streets, alleyways and adjacent leftover spaces in developing nations usually act as important public places where people can sell products and services to people walking in cities. Informal street vendors usually develop their businesses in these spaces (Zaman & Ahmed, 2023). While serving their main function of income generation for the traders, they also foster social interaction and cohesion in the general populace. Nonetheless, because of their informal nature, the contributions of these activities towards the economy and society as a whole are not adequately appreciated by most nations. Indeed, most governments regard them as unwanted features of their cities. They are besieged by police and municipality officers as illegal traders. Ndikubwimana (2020) notes that the urban middle class complain incessantly about how the street vendors make urban life difficult because they block pavements, create traffic issues, and engage in anti-social activities. The situation is not different in Kigali, Rwanda. The Rwandan authorities claim that street vending encourages the sale of substandard products, hinders authorized trade, causes traffic jams, and affects hygiene in these urban areas (Bishumba, 2016). Since, 2015, Kigali started effecting 2015 guidelines prohibiting street vending; especially those dealing in clothes, fruits, and groceries.

Previously known for its old buildings that were constructed in the colonial era, Kigali is gradually transforming into a new city. These changes have occurred under the 2050 Kigali Master Plan, developed in 2020 which summarizes the future vision of the city to be the Centre of Urban Excellence by 2050. It is an updated version of earlier master plans for Kigali, first developed in 2007 and then revised in 2013 (Burns, 2021). The 2050 Kigali Master Plan outlines a vision for the city's long-term growth and development, focusing on making Kigali a more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive city by the year 2050 through reducing urban sprawl, promoting walkability and enhancing access to public transportation. The 2050 Master Plan is meant to be a tool for effective coordination of land management in Kigali and it outlines guidelines for the physical, social, economic, and environmental growth of the city by indicating the particular spaces to be used for future economic growth and improved quality of life in the city (Surbana Jurong Consultants Pte Ltd., 2020). The key tools that guide the plan are the zoning plan and regulations as well as the urban design guidelines.

These guidelines and regulations stipulate guidelines for urban development by outlining what is to be done as well as where it should be done.

As part of the 2050 Kigali Master Plan, the city of Kigali has implemented car-free zones in strategic areas such as the central business district (CBD), now known as Imbuga City Walk, and in Biryogo. Street vendors who previously operated in areas that these zones now occupy are not allowed to operate in these car-free zones. Additionally, a relevant policy of Kigali's development plans that have directly affected street vendors is the creation of mini markets, also known as "free markets", to engage some of the street vendors seeking to regularize their businesses. Additionally, the City of Kigali urged them to form Cooperatives so that they can get support from the National Employment Programme (NEP). This has been accompanied by training on selected topics (such as forming cooperatives, smart spending, financial literacy, management of income generating projects, etc.) and integrating them into existing social protection schemes namely Vision Umurenge Programme (VUP) Financial Services. These are the major strategies employed by Kigali in an attempt to formalize street vending.

The mini-markets are supported by the central government, and the Ministry of Public Service and Labour. As of 2022, 26 mini-markets had been developed to accommodate about 3977 street vendors across the City of Kigali (Local Administrative Entities Development Agency, 2022). This number of vendors is relatively low compared to the total number of street vendors that were operating in the city previously. Buningwire (2022) mentions that the City of Kigali had a total of 12,197 street vendors. The limited acceptance of the mini markets by street vendors is attributed to several challenges and difficulties including limited financial capital and lack of market patronage (Buningwire, 2022). Some street vendors claim that the mini markets do not provide them with adequate income as they do not experience a higher traffic of pedestrians as before. Furthermore, new street vendors keep emerging, and authorities tussle with them in a bid to implement the directives that illegalize street vending. My research study is underpinned by the assertion that there is a need to deeply understand the challenges of formalization of street vending in Kigali City through critical research of the implications experienced by street vendors.

1.2 Problem Statement

The formalization of street vending in Kigali through the mini markets, banning of street vending, and formation of vendor cooperatives inherently seems to be well-meaning and beneficial. However, they have been coupled with policies and directives that have resulted in street vendors

experiencing arrests and harassment at the hands of police and Kigali city Officials/municipality workers. As Bishumba (2016) noted, even though there is no clear law that forbids street vending, Kigali City Council states that several trade laws make it illegitimate to conduct business on alleyways and streets. In the implementation of Vision 2050 so as to bring order and cleanliness to the city, and to enhance its tax base, for the previous two years, Kigali City Council has emphasized the firm enforcement of regulations and directives aimed at stopping unauthorized street trading (Bishumba, 2016). For instance, on 18th of July 2016, "In accordance with the law and other penalties specified in other regulations, any person found performing the illegal act of selling any given products on the streets and alleyways will be fined Rwf10,000 (US\$13) and mandated to return the money to the customer," the City Council clarified in its official gazette. Likewise, the purchaser shall face censure and pay a fine of Rwf10,000 (US\$13) for purchasing items in locations that are not recognized as marketplaces.

Furthermore, in December 2022, the Council of the City of Kigali approved directive No. 475/02.12.2022 of 02.12.2022 aimed at preventing street vending which is considered an illegal trade of goods on streets by the directive. In July 2016, Human Rights Watch (HRW) faulted Rwandan authorities of arresting street traders along with street children and homeless people and holding them in "transit centres" where some could even end up being physically assaulted (Kigare, 2017). The implementation of the mini markets has faced such challenges. Another example is how vendors have complained that the mini-markets constructed by the authorities are isolated from target customers, which is why some of them were closed (Ndikubwimana, 2020; Buningwire, 2022). A vendor interviewed by Bishumba (2016) mentioned that "even if there are a lot of individuals working in markets right now, there is a problem with the number of sellers who have not yet been given stalls and are struggling to make ends meet because they are also not permitted to be on the streets". Corroborating this statement, Buningwire (2022) reports that only 3977 of the 12,197 street vendors who were present in Kigali have been relocated to the mini markets. To critically understand the context of the challenges facing the formalization of street vending in Kigali, there is a need to learn from the lived experiences of street vendors. Few research studies have critically and theoretically examined such experiences, and this creates a research gap. To aid the filling of this gap, my study aims to contribute to a more critical understanding of the implications of the street vending formalization process in Kigali by examining the lived experiences of vendors operating both in and outside the mini markets.

1.3 Research Aim and Questions

The main aim of this research is to explore the challenges faced by street vendors in Kigali because of the trade's formalization, evaluate the implications of the process on the vendors' livelihoods and examine the coping strategies of the street vendors.

1.4 Research Questions

1. How do Kigali's Street vendors perceive the formalization process?
2. What are the challenges faced by vendors in and outside the mini markets due to the formalization process?
3. How are both groups of vendors coping with the bureaucratic and regulatory challenges of the formalization process?
4. What roles do economic and social networks play in supporting Kigali's Street vendors during the formalization process?

1.5 Significance of the Study

Academic significance: By exploring the experiences of street vendors in interacting with the government in terms of regulations to formalize street vending, the current study contributes to the discourse on the significance of the informal economy for countries. A focus on Kigali, Rwanda means that the current study provides crucial insights into the informal economy and formalization of this sector for developing nations. Moreover, the study also enriches information on how sub-Saharan countries, in particular, are seeking economic growth.

Furthermore, the study also provides crucial insights into the perceptions of people in the informal economy with regard to formalization efforts by their governments. As many sub-Saharan nations strive to adopt formalization of their informal sectors to boost tax collection and reinvestment of the funds to development projects, understanding the perceptions of informal workers is important. The current study adds to the existing literature on the coping strategies that these informal workers employ to tackle this formalization trend.

Social significance: This study will provide important insights and recommendations on developing inclusive urban policies that consider impacts on all people; including workers in the informal sector. Investigating the formalization of street vending in Rwanda, the study explores crucial social issues

including challenges faced by these street vendors, their coping strategies, and issues with adopted policies. The results of this study provide important recommendations for dealing with the unintended consequences of formalization of street vending. By shedding light on areas for improvement, the study aims to promote social inclusion by ensuring that the needs of street vendors and other workers in the informal sectors are considered.

1.6 Structure of the Paper

The current study is structured in 7 chapters namely Introduction; Literature Review; Theoretical Framework; Methodology; Findings/Results; Discussion; and Conclusion. The introduction chapter sets the stage for the paper by providing a background on the topic highlighting the problem or issue it wants to investigate. This culminates in outlining the research questions and objectives as well as the significance of conducting this study. Chapter 2 is the Literature Review which presents an exploration of the available literature related to the topic under investigation. Chapter 3 presents a theoretical framework which is a set of perspectives used to explain, view, and conceptualize the phenomenon. The theoretical framework sets a scope for the study as well as provides context for understanding the findings. Chapter 4, Methodology, provides a description of the research design/philosophy, and methods of sampling, data collection, and data analysis. Chapter 5, Results/Findings, presents the findings of the data analysis followed by the Discussion chapter which provides an interpretation of these findings. The Discussion chapter deliberates the implications as related to the research questions and objectives. The final chapter is the Conclusion and it provides a summary of the findings of the study and recommendations for practice.

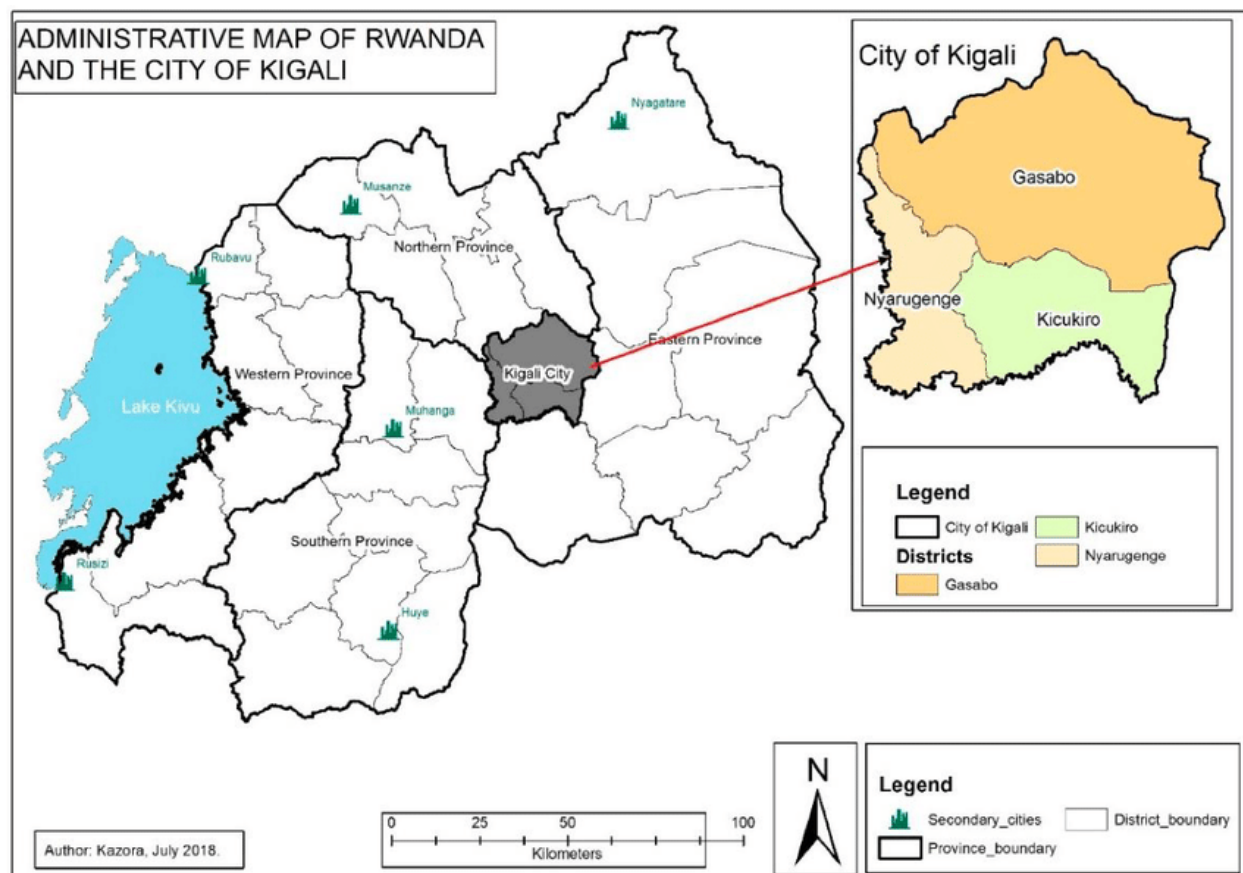
Chapter 2: Literature Review

This section presents an exploration of existing literature related to the phenomenon under investigation.

2.1 Study Context: Kigali-Nyarungenge

Available literature highlights how Kigali is strategically situated at the central part of Rwanda and is the capital city of the country. It is located on green hills and valleys and occupies a space of about 730 kilometer square and is situated between an altitudes of 1,300m to 1,600m above the sea level (Julian, 2018). This specific geography offers challenges as well as opportunities Kigali for ecological sustainability. Kigali is made up of three Districts: These include Nyarugenge, Kicukiro and Gasabo as depicted in figure 2 below. Nyarugenge has the smallest area of 134 km², Kicukiro comes next with 166.7 km² while Gasabo occupies the largest area of 429.3 km². These three districts are split into thirty five administrative sectors, and these sectors are further split into one hundred and sixty one cells. Kigali is bordered by Kamonyi district of the Southern Province, districts of Rwamagana and Bugesera of Eastern Province, Rulindo and Gicumbi in the Northern Province.

Figure 1: Administrative Map of Rwanda and Kigali



Source: Baffoe et al. (2020)

2.2 The Concept of Informality

According to George (2022), there are different meanings for the term informality and other related terms include extra-legal economy, unregistered economic activities, informal sector, and irregular economy. The concept was advanced in the early 20th century initially used to refer to economic activities such as petty trade, small-scale production, and a broad range of casual jobs. However, as unemployment became rife across the globe, it was realized that there were various enterprises in this sector that were quite profitable (Kappel & Ishengoma, 2006). This led to the International Labour Organization (ILO) popularizing the concept of the informal sector defining it as the unregistered, unrecognized, unregulated, or unprotected economic activities. Lewis (1954) adds that while economists initially predicted that the informal sector would collapse quickly, it continued to grow across the globe as people engaged in it for a livelihood.

The term ‘informal sector’ was created in 1971 by Keith Hart, a British anthropologist, who was studying the low-income works of unskilled migrants from Ghana. The study determined that these migrants enjoyed autonomous income generation. Hart (1973) noted that there was a significant increase in the informal sector because of factors such as insufficient wages, price inflation, and a large number of workers who did not fulfil formality requirements. From this, his initial definition of the informal sector was a peripheral, trivial, sector that had no association with the formal sector. This is because the informal sector employs people outside the formal sector.

Over time, there was a change in terminology from the informal sector to the informal economy. This covered the wide range of economic enterprises and individuals in different areas and across both urban and rural settings that are especially insecure and vulnerable. These people face difficulties in getting decent work and hence are confined to low productivity and poverty activities (ILO, 2007). ILO also explained that there are individuals who work in the informal sector who are workers in the informal economy as it encompasses all economic activities that are not covered by formal arrangements in practice or law (George, 2022). Moreover, it also includes enterprises in the formal sector employing informal workers who are not on formal contracts and not under formal safety nets.

An important argument on the issue of the informal sector is whether or not it should be promoted as it is a significant employer of many people to be included under social protection and

regulations according to the formal sector (Omwe, 2013). The dilemma here is that such a move could probably reduce the capacity of this sector to provide employment for millions of people. This is also related to the notion that the informal sector is only for poor jobs with small incomes. On the contrary, a study by Castel & To (2012) noted that there were some informal jobs with high incomes compared to salaried employees in the formal sector. As such, there are some people who willingly venture into the informal sector while others enter into informal work to survive. From this discussion, it is seen that informality is mixed and involves diverse situations including huge registered formal enterprises, small unregistered enterprises, and even individuals.

2.3 Development and Informality in Africa

In the period following the independence of most African states, after the 1960s, most of their economies experienced modest growth rates and increasing GDP. Important services such as education and health were introduced and expanded as the countries grew their economies. However, as noted by Shivji (2006), this development and growth were not sustainable for various reasons. For one, growth in the agricultural sector was spurred by extensive cultivation and not an increase in productivity through irrigation, mechanization, and the use of chemicals. On the other hand, growth in the manufacturing industry was driven by import substitution whilst there were few internal connections. Investments made in the countries were mostly public ones with private capital hidden in overseas banks ultimately leading to hemorrhaging of the economy and lower net growth (Mkandawire, 1999).

The period in the 1980s was characterized by a decline in development due to the spread of globalization and the consequent adoption of the Washington Consensus” economic development model by African states (Kiaga & Leung, 2020). This resulted in these nations adopting tight monetary policies aimed at keeping inflation low along with the introduction of free markets and less government involvement in the market. Sparks & Banett (2010) remark that as explained by the developmental approach, this contributed significantly to the expansion of the informal sector in the African continent. The structural adjustment programmes (SAPs) led to the development of free markets, market deregulation, privatization, and financial deregulation all of which led to the outsourcing of production and, in turn, the development of casualized and temporary labour (Fenwick et al., 2017). These findings were echoed by a study by the international monetary fund (IMF) which noted that insufficient formal work leads to the growth of informal activities for the populace. These people eagerly take informal jobs to help fight poverty.

The explanation above highlights how poverty contributes to the expansion of the informal segment in Africa. However, many other studies have investigated the 'real' cause of the informal economy (Maloney, 2004; Soto, 1989; Gomez, 2016). The study by Maloney (2004) focusing on Latin American countries determined that the informal economy is created and sustained by entrepreneurs who willingly operate them as a means of circumventing the bureaucracies and regulations present in the formal sector. Similarly, a study by Gomez (2016) studying informal sectors in Colombia and South Africa explained that the root causes of the rise of the informal sector can be classified into voluntary, induced, and subsistence informality.

- Voluntary informality: This is made up of people who knowingly choose to work in the informal sector because the advantages outweigh those of being in the informal sector. This considers monetary factors such as taxes and incomes as well as other factors including flexibility and time management (Gomez, 2016).
- Subsistence informality: This relates to individuals who do not necessarily want to work in the informal sector and who are willing to work in the formal segment but do not have the required formal skills (Gomez, 2016). For this group, reducing barriers to entry into the formal market does not result in an increase in people's formal employment.
- Induced informality: This describes people employed in the informal sector but possess the required proficiency and level of productivity to work in the formal sector. They remain in the informal sector due to reasons such as implicit laws in society (including discrimination in employment or extreme and unnecessary labour protection).

In the case of Africa, as described above, it is seen that many people are engaged in the informal sector because of a lack of sufficient opportunities in the formal market. Kiaga & Leung (2020) note that the informal sector in Africa is the main source of employment with about 85.8% of the total employment. Not considering agriculture, the figure for informal employment is 71.9%. Sparks & Barnett (2010) note that the majority of the agricultural sector in Africa is in the informal sector. It should be noted that informal employment also disproportionately affects people of different gender, age, and socioeconomic status. For instance, informal employment is a greater source of employment for females (89.7%) compared to males (82.7%) (Kiaga & Leung, 2020). Moreover, the level of education in Africa is directly linked to informal employment whereby 94.0% of people who are not educated are in the informal sector. In the same manner, the likelihood of people being involved in the informal sector decreases with their level of education with those with primary

education having a rate of 88.6%, those with secondary education having a figure of 68.1%, and those with tertiary education having 27.0% (Kiaga & Leung, 2020). Considering the areas of residence, urban areas have a rate of 76.3% while rural areas have 88.3%.

2.4 Conceptualizing Formalization

For business enterprises and individual entrepreneurs, formalization entails bringing them under formal regulations. This means that these enterprises are able to enjoy the obligations and advantages that come with being in the formal system. Some of these obligations and advantages include compliance with legal requirements and the lawful registration and recognition of these enterprises; and the extension of the scope of social, labour, and fiscal regulation to the enterprises notwithstanding sector, size, or any other characteristic. For people working independently, they are classified into the formal or informal economy depending on whether their businesses are in the informal or formal sector. The transition to formality entails providing workers with sufficient social and labour protection. The ILO (2021) reports that this depends on the particular context but generally involves satisfying one of the following conditions: ensuring they receive sufficient legal protection (for instance, they are not excluded from social insurance based on factors such as working time); ensuring people that are inadequately covered or excluded get legal protection; and also making sure that there is overall effective adherence to regulations and laws. Moreover, Kiaga & Leung (2020) add that moving economic activities from the informal to the formal sector entails fully declaring them, and covering them with appropriate legislation hence ensuring effective protection.

Viaar (2006) explains that formalization should not be the end goal but rather an imperative condition that facilitates the attainment of other objectives. For instance, it should be used as a means to access decent work. Another important objective that can be achieved is the reduction of poverty and, in turn, alleviation of inequality in society. Furthermore, the formalization of businesses helps enhance productivity and improve market access which fosters fair competition and contributes to their overall sustainability (Ramani et al., 2013). Formalization also helps create fairer societies as it equitably distributes obligations and rights among the populace. The formalization of businesses is also a prerequisite for sufficient social and labour protection of the employees. Generally, it benefits society at large as it increases the government's scope of action allows for greater public revenues and reinforces the rule of law. A report by ILO (2017) explains that formalization also helps achieve various sustainable development goals particularly SDG 1, 5, 8, 10, and 17.

As noted in ILO's Recommendation 204, formalization is best sought through three complementary channels namely transitioning businesses and individuals from the informal to the formal sector; providing decent jobs and sustainable businesses for society; and averting future reinformalization of jobs (ILO, 2017). Decreasing deficits in getting decent work in the informal economy is one of the outcomes of formalization and is also considered a facilitator of the shift from an informal to a formal economy. For this reason, it should be regarded as part of the formalization process. Because some businesses and workers need a long time to formalize, it is important to address deficits in getting decent work so as to reduce their vulnerabilities and enhance the chances of these businesses and workers to achieve formalizations (Viaar, 2006). For instance, ensuring workers get basic social protection helps create an enabling environment for transitioning to formality. It enhances their access to healthcare and reduces their exposure to poverty; which helps them grab economic opportunities.

2.5 Efforts of Formalization in Africa

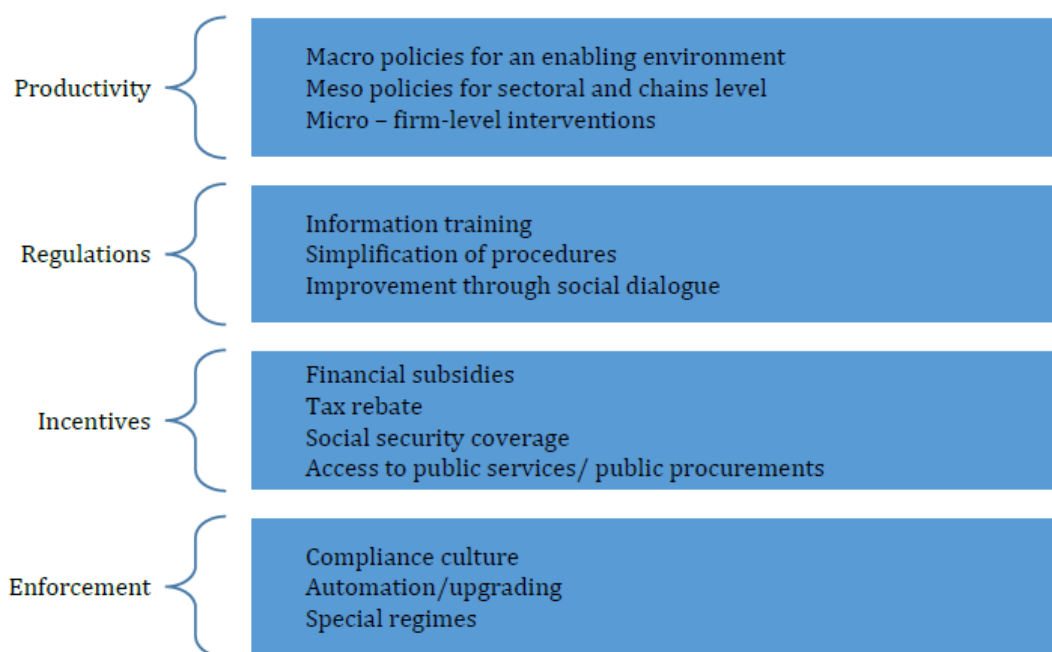
As noted by Kiaga & Leung (2020), the informal sector continues to dominate most regions of the world with Africa having the highest number. A report by the ILO (2018) concurs with this assertion explaining that every 8 out of 10 workers in Africa are employed in the informal economy. With the numerous negative impacts associated with working in the informal sector such as lack of inclusivity under the sustainable development agenda, d'Alencon et al. (2018) explain that many nations across the globe are seeking to transition to formality. This has occupied a crucial space in the policy agenda of such nations. Being the region with the largest informal sector, African nations have stepped up efforts to formalize their economies. This is an important way of absorbing the significant youth population which is projected to rise to 94 million by the year 2030 (ILO, 2017). Kiaga & Leung (2020) add that some African countries have already witnessed a reduced share of informal employment in the past few years even though there is a growing trend of informal employment in the continent.

According to Kiaga & Leung (2020), the shift to formality is happening on a global scale led by international organizations such as The World Bank and the International Labour Organization. This gained traction in the year 2015 when the ILO championed the adoption of Recommendation 204 which is a labour standard that focuses entirely on providing guidelines for the operation of the informal sector (Gore, 2021). Some of the practical guidelines provided include "facilitating the shift of economic units and individuals from the informal to the formal sector, whilst ensuring respect of

the fundamental rights of individuals. This entailed safeguarding their livelihood and guaranteeing income security. Another guideline in recommendation 204 entailed ensuring there is a coherent macroeconomic, social protection, and viable employment policies as well as promoting the generation, sustainability, and preservation of business entities and decent work in the formal sector. Lastly, the recommendation also included the prevention of the informalization of already formal sectors.

On the efforts of ILO to formalize the informal sectors in the world, Salazar-Xirinachs et al. (2018) add that the institutional policies and structural transformation in line with recommendation 204 have enabled nations to enhance the transition and realize sustained economic growth. Similarly, Chacaltana et al. (2018) note that most nations and regions have pursued the policy path of formalizing their economies which involves improving regulations and overall regulatory environment, enhancing productivity, enhancing enforcement measures and mechanisms, and offering appropriate incentives to individuals and enterprises. This is captured in Figure 1 below as outlined by the study by Chacaltana et al. (2018).

Figure 2: Major strategies of formalization



Source: Chacaltana et al. (2018)

2.6 Overview of the Concept of Street Vending

The phrase street vending is usually used as a synonym for peddling, hawking, and street trading among others. It is a practice that has existed since the development of cities as some individuals aimed to satisfy the need to provide goods to people walking in the streets, avenues, and alleyways. In underdeveloped and developing nations, the formal sector offers people formal employment leaving a majority of the population to engage in informal employment to make a living (Gunther & Launoy, 2012). As noted by Ndhlovu (2011), street vending emerged as one of the most common informal occupations. The definition of street vending centres on the location at this activity is carried out; which is the streets. It might include trading outside formally-designated sites for trading, trading with no permit, and not subscribing to taxation regulations. Similarly, Roever (2014) defined street vendors as self-employed individuals working in the informal sector by trading on the street by offering goods to the public and who are either mobile or stationary. George (2022) adds that most of them do not have a permanently built structure. Some of the vendors just carry the goods on themselves and show them to people as they walk by. Meneses-Reyes (2018) defines street vending as the sale of legal products and services by individuals with no legal permits, and who violate zoning zones and other labour governing contracts. Another definition includes people who sale from semi-fixed stalls such as collapsible stands, crates, folding tables, or wheeled pushcarts. All these things are usually removed from the streets during the night and stored at secure locations. Mramba (2015) explains that street vending gives a lot of people an option to earn a living in the face of widespread poverty and also has an enormous capacity to alleviate poverty and address urban unemployment. For other people, it is a cushion against inflation, a second source of income, or a survival strategy.

From the exploration above, it is seen that street vendors are not a homogeneous group but rather a diverse set with different characteristics. One way of classifying street vendors is based on the location of their operations. For instance, we have street vendors with fixed locations while others are mobile. Here, we have vendors who are stationary and work from a particular space and others who walk around with bicycles, pushcarts, or carrying baskets on their hands or heads (Mittal et al. (2021). Another classification is based on the purpose of engaging in this occupation with the two main categories as survivalist and growth-oriented vendors. For the survivalists, venturing into street vending is because they could not find formal employment and needed a source of livelihood (George, 2022). This group of people focus on earning an income rather than maximizing profits. They are most likely to diversify their activities just to increase their income. On the other hand, growth-

oriented entrepreneurs specialize in one activity as they seek to maximize profits and usually use external sources of funding and even hire external labour.

2.7 The Formalization of Street Vending

As noted by Dua & Cuervo-Cazurra (2014), the term formalization has different meanings for different contexts. In business, formalization generally refers to a situation where people register their business enterprises. George (2022) adds that there are two main definitions of formalization in the business context namely the capital view and the labour view. Whereas the labour view considers formalization as the inclusion of workers in the social protection system, the capital view regards it as the inclusion of businesses in the formal financial and taxation systems. Scholars and people who take the capital perspective reason that enterprises should transact via formal banking channels which have traceable and accountable systems. The labour perspective explains that workers should be included in the social security system which helps in tackling vulnerability, inequality, and poverty through redistribution of wealth.

In the context of street vending, formalization can entail having a secure area for setting up their businesses (Xue & Huang, 2015). This is also related to bringing the businesses into an organized structure with formal arrangements. Lyons et al. (2012) add that it may also entail registering the business and paying fees, licenses, and taxes. Street vending formalization can also simply entail operating in designated premises, being economically and socially acknowledged and protected, and adhering to regulations and laws. In this paper, the formalization of street vending refers to a state of being identifiable and recognized by local authorities, operating in permitted premises, being licensed, and following required regulations and laws such as complying with taxation regulations.

As noted by Recchi (2021), achieving the formalization of street vending can be a difficult task for the people involved. For one, the process needs to consider both benefits and costs for all actors involved. For instance, if some form of payment is imposed on the vendors as a strategy for the government to collect money to benefit the city, then the formalization may fail. On the other hand, if the vendors also benefit from the formalization initiative, then it can be sustained over time. George (2022) adds that when formalization only entails moving vendors from the street, they will not be able to earn adequate income to set up stalls in the designated areas. Likewise, Awasthi & Engelschalk (2018) explain that a successful formalization initiative should not only focus on collecting taxes and other levies from the vendors but also examine how the vendors benefit in return. The vendors should

be offered support such as being provided with safe, legal places for operating in and better infrastructure.

Formalization of street vending is also not a one-step process and there is no single, smooth way of implementing it. On the contrary, it is a gradual incremental process that incorporates informal enterprises into formal systems. This involves extending the rights and benefits received by formal business operators to the informal workers. The street vendors should be actively involved in the formalization process, for it to be successful. According to Steller & Nyirenda (2021), an approach to fair and sustainable formalization of street vending should also take into account the implications in the livelihoods of the vendors. For instance, it should reflect the peoples' capacity to meet the monetized needs together with their operational capacity.

Another consideration is the involvement of the organizations of the street vendors adopting strategies like, permanent forums for collective bargaining. Since street vendors are workers who perform important services of supplying city inhabitants with needed products, their rights should be protected. Like other businesses, street vendors also need stable environments for their operations to thrive. George (2022) notes that another important principle for the formalization of street vending to be successful is to design transparent and fair regulations related to the governance of public spaces. This means that the street vendors who would opt to formalize should receive sufficient legal protection from abuse of authority by municipality officials and arbitrary evictions. Moreover, as noted by Nelson & De Bruijn (2005), these vendors should also be able to get adequate income after incurring the costs of formalization.

2.8 Formalization of Street Vending in Kigali

As noted by Ndikubwimana (2020), the adoption of structural adjustment programmes (SAPs) in the African continent resulted in the retrenchment of many civil servants. This coupled with population growth has contributed to the increased number of people moving to cities in search of livelihood. The same has been the same for the city of Kigali in Rwanda. Bizoza (2022) explains that Rwanda has a population growth rate of 2% with cities being densely populated as people strive to earn a living. This has seen a rapid increase in the number of people engaging in street vending in Kigali. Street vending in Rwanda is classified under the small and micro enterprises (SMEs) which Ndikubwimana (2020) reports employs more than 98% of people in the country. As per recent surveys, there are an estimated 12,197 street vendors operating in Kigali (Buningwire, 2022).

The huge number of street vendors has caught the eye of the government in recent times as it strives to enhance the outlook of the city. On the negative side, street vending is considered problematic as it causes environmental pollution, poor hygiene and aesthetics, and congestion in traffic lanes. In order to address such issues, the Rwandan Government has enacted policies that prohibit people from conducting vending activities in the Central Business Nyarugenge District. The Nyarugenge District authority has emphasized the complete eradication of street vending as it strives to develop a smart, green city. In its efforts, the government has adopted formalization of street vending requiring vendors to operate from designated markets and not just anywhere on the streets. According to a gazette issued by the City Council, any person caught selling goods on the streets will be fined Rwf 10,000 (USD 13). Likewise, any citizen found purchasing items on the streets will be fined a similar amount of Rwf 10,000. Moreover, in December 2022, the Council of the City of Kigali approved directive No. 475/02.12.2022 of 02.12.2022 aimed at preventing street vending which is considered an illegal trade of goods on streets by the directive.

These formalization efforts on street vending in Kigali, Rwanda have been met with resistance from many people in the city. For instance, some of the traders complain that the designated municipality markets are too small to hold the huge number of street vendors in the city (Buningwire, 2022). Moreover, Ndikubwimana (2020) noted that other vendors lamented how the designated markets receive few customers compared to selling on the streets where there is a huge traffic flow. This is the reason some of these markets have already been closed. Another challenge is that the markets are not huge enough to hold all street vendors in Kigali with only 3,977 of 12,197 getting authorization to operate in the markets (Buningwire, 2022). This leaves a large proportion of vendors to continue operations on the streets whilst risking arrest by authorities.

Chapter 3: Theoretical Framework

This chapter presents the theoretical frameworks used in the study. According to Tseng (2018), a theoretical framework is the structure that defines and supports a theory. On the other hand, a theory is a set of interrelated definitions and concepts that give a systematic view of a topic by defining the association among variables related to the topic under investigation. The theoretical framework provides guidance to the study serving as a roadmap that guides the interpretation of findings. It sets the scope and limits of the study. For this research, the main theoretical frameworks adopted were the institutional theory and the dual economy theory.

3.1 The Institutional Theory

Lammers & Barbour (2006) explain that as with many organizational concepts, the term 'institution' is described in different ways. One of the initial and most common definitions was that it is a constellation of established practices that are guided by rational, formalized, and enduring beliefs that go beyond particular situations and organizations. This definition presents a number of chief features that scholars use in developing the institutional theory. For one, the theory posits that institutions are enduring social phenomena that persist across space and time when compared to conventions and organizations that are observed in a particular period. Another tenet of the theory that is derived from the definition is that institutions take on a life of their own and have social meaning that transcends the stringent functional requirements. The institutions also influence social life through and across organizations. Janicijevic (2015) adds that under the theory, institutions are seen as manifesting in a wide range of social phenomena such as regulative, normative, and cultural-cognitive elements.

Institutions are also considered subtle as they are usually taken for granted and considered simple repetitive social behaviours supported by cognitive understandings and normative systems that provide meaning to social interactions and hence lead to the creation of self-reproducing social order. Institutions reflect a rational function that influences behaviours towards achieving particular outcomes. Lammers et al. (2014) add that the institutional theory is often summarized in terms of four interrelated constructs namely attenuated consciousness, external environments, functionalism and limited rationality, and symbolic life of organizations.

From the description given above, it is seen that the institutional theory focuses on understanding how routines, rules, norms, and structures in society influence the actions and behaviours of organizations and individuals. In economics, institutional theory is used to explain how

informal and formal institutions impact and impede actors in a given system. As social structures, institutions comprise established rules, policies, laws, and societal norms that create frameworks within which individuals and organizations operate (Hodgson, 2006). These include economic policies, cultural norms, and legal regulations. These organizations and individuals often seek to conform to institutional expectations as a means of gaining legitimacy and ensuring their survival and success. As they seek legitimacy, institutions also follow isomorphism which is a process of becoming more alike. There are different types of isomorphism namely coercive isomorphism, mimetic isomorphism, and normative isomorphism (Martinez-Ferrero & Garcia-Sanchez, 2017). Normative isomorphism happens when conformation is influenced by professional values and standards found in professional or education networks. Mimetic isomorphism occurs when individuals and organizations imitate the strategies and structures of similar entities with the aim of enhancing their competitiveness. On the other hand, Coercive isomorphism occurs in situations whereby individuals or organizations strive to conform to practices due to pressures from laws, regulations, and government mandates.

3.2 The Dual Economy Theory

The dual economy theory is used to explain the fact that certain economic nation possesses two distinct economies. According to Clement (2015), the idea was introduced by Julius Herman Boeke in his investigations of the colonial civilization in Dutch East Indies. He noted that there are two sectors for every country institutions and this leads to different economic subsystems. This assertion has been employed to explain why even to date the trend of informal sector remains present all over the world. Centeno & Portes (2006) explain that during the twentieth century there was a belief that all economic activities would automatically and spontaneously make a transition to the formal economy and the informal economy would not persist. Nevertheless, the informal sector is still around, despite its being considered as backwardness and under-development. This necessitated a rethinking of the claim that informal sector is a passing thing. Starting from Boeke's dual economy theory, there have been various other scholars whose works form this discourse on why the informal sector is still rampant in most places of the globe.

Based on the dual economy theory, scholars explored the different reasons for individuals taking part in the informal sector. In this endeavour, the scholars have adopted two broad perspectives namely exclusion-driven and exit-driven (Williams et al., 2017). Under the exclusion-driven explanation, it is seen that the pervasiveness of the informal sector is due to the advent of de-regularization of the global economy (Slavnic, 2010). It is considered a direct result of employers

seeking to minimize operation costs by sub-contracting to other entities and hence have to let go of part of their labour force. As such, the informal sector is seen as an absorber of surplus labour for the people excluded from the formal sector. From this explanation, it is seen that the informal sector employs people who are in need of earning an income and cannot get employment in the formal sector. Williams et al. (2017) note that the opportunities in this informal sector are for the people at the lowest level of the hierarchy of jobs and hence have low wages, minimal benefits, and deprived working conditions.

The other perspective on the pervasiveness of the informal sector, the exit-driven perspective, explains that people voluntarily exit the formal economy and venture into the informal sector. Workers in the informal sector make a rational decision to enter the informal sector and not simply as a result of exclusion (Perry, 2007). Some of them hate the state-imposed institutional regulations and seek the freedom found in the informal sector. According to Packard (2007), some of the benefits of people moving from the formal economy to the informal sector include flexible working hours, opportunity for independence, ease of entry, avoidance of government regulation and taxes, and better income.

Chapter 4: Methodology

This chapter presents the methodology and steps adopted in conducting the research including research design, instrumentation, sampling, data collection, and data analysis methods.

4.1 Research Design

As explained by Abutabenjeh & Jaradat (2018), research design is the strategy that a researcher adopts to answer the research question using empirical data. A well-planned research design ensures that these methods will enhance the ease of attaining the research objectives. Opoku et al. (2016) further add that an appropriate research design should be selected based on the overall research objectives, the type of data to be collected, selected sampling criteria, and methods of data collection. This also entails having the right type of analysis for the data collected. There are two main research designs namely qualitative and quantitative research. The current study used a qualitative research approach which according to Sven-Baden & Akotia (2016) is a style of research that describes and provides in-depth understandings to events or phenomena in real life (Tenny et al., 2022). This research design is helpful in collecting the behaviour, perception and experience of the people.

In its simplest definition, qualitative research is a method of data collection that employs question types that cannot be quantified, and types that start with 'how' and 'why' (Tenny et al., 2022). The main aim of the current research was to investigate the challenges faced by street vendors in Kigali because of the trade's formalization, the implications of this transition on the livelihoods of the street vendors, and the coping strategies they have adopted to deal with this situation. From this, qualitative research is seen as the most suitable as it is used to explain phenomena such as experiences, opinions, feelings, attitudes, and behaviours. The research design helped accomplish this as it allowed for the exploration of the lived experiences of the street vendors in Kigali.

There are diverse approaches to qualitative research design. This study employed the phenomenology approach which Qutoshi (2018) describes as the study of the particular or the study of the meaning of phenomena. Phenomenology, at its core, aims to examine the experiences of people from their own perspective. The approach posits that there is no single objective reality and that every individual experiences things differently (Ehrich, 2003). It basically examines the lived experiences of people with the aim of understanding their perspective, reasons for behaving in a certain way, and opinions about the topic under investigation. The outcome of using this approach is described from the viewpoint of the different respondents. In this study, the participants included street vendors in the designated marketplaces, vendors that do not reside in the marketplaces, and vendors for city

municipality officials who plan and enforce the formalization of street vending. The phenomenology approach allowed the researchers to collect insights (experiences, feelings, and opinions) from these three groups of people.

4.2 Sampling

As has been explained above, qualitative research aims to understand phenomena from the viewpoint of the people experiencing it. For qualitative research to give nuanced and rich insights into the phenomenon under study, it needs to have appropriate sampling procedures. Gobo (2004) explains that the generalizability and accuracy of the results of such a study rely on the quality of the sampling procedure. Sampling involves selecting a number of respondents to give information about the phenomenon representing a larger population. For qualitative research, the common types of sampling techniques used include purposive sampling, convenience sampling, and snowball sampling. The current study employed a purposive sampling technique, described as a method where the researcher intentionally selects respondents that have specific features relevant to the topic under investigation (Mweshi & Sakyi, 2020).

In investigating the impact of the formalization of street vending on vendors in Kigali, the research required selecting vendors operating in the Rwandan capital as well as municipality (City council) officials charged with planning and enforcing the formalization process. From this, I used an assistant in Rwanda during the time of collecting data to help me gather to identify and recruit these groups of people as they would provide insights into the experiences and coping strategies adopted to deal with the changes (Most of them have no phones, so here comes the role of an assistant to help me reach out to them). As such, the purposive sampling technique was the most appropriate for this study. It required having vendors operating in the new designated markets under the government's formalization efforts, vendors who have not gotten the opportunity to start operating in these markets, and the municipality officials planning and enforcing the formalization of street vending. This leverages the main advantage of purposive sampling which is that it enhances the accuracy and quality of data gathered by using the respondents that are most relevant in relation to the research objectives and questions.

4.3 Data Collection

4.3.1 Types of Data Collected

As explained by Omwuegbuzie & Leech (2006), data collection in research entails gathering and measuring information relating to variables of the phenomenon under investigation ultimately helping answer the research questions. Data collection is an important phase of any study and accurate data collection ensures that the findings of the particular research are viable and true. In this phase, it is crucial to identify the different data types relevant to the research, the sources of data, and the relevant methods that can be used in data collection. For the current study, two types of data were used: secondary and primary data. Secondary data is the existing data that is collected by other researchers and for a different aims (Daas & Arends-Toth, 2012). Secondary data can be collected from diverse sources such as published sources, online databases, past research studies, institutional and governmental records, and publicly available data. For this research, secondary data was mainly collected from past studies relating to the formalization of street vending in Kigali as well as institutional and government records on the efforts, policies, and initiatives to formalize street vending. The use of secondary data in this study had several advantages including enhancing time-efficiency by using easily available information. Secondary data also supported the analysis and helped contextualize the findings.

The other type of data used in this research is primary data. Primary data collection entails the collection of original data via interaction with respondents. It allows for the collection of firsthand information tailored to the specific research aims and questions. There are different techniques of collecting primary data such as questionnaires and surveys, interviews, observations, focus group discussions, and experiments. This study adopted interviews, particularly semi-structured interviews, and focus group discussions as the main techniques of primary data collection.

4.3.2 Instrumentation

As noted by Brenner (2012), interviews entail direct interaction between the researcher and the research participants. It is mainly adopted in qualitative research where the respondents are asked questions aimed at eliciting information on their experiences, feelings, opinions, and behaviour. In this study, the use of interviews allowed for the collection of information on the feelings, opinions, and attitudes of the municipality officers mandated with enforcing the formalization of street vending

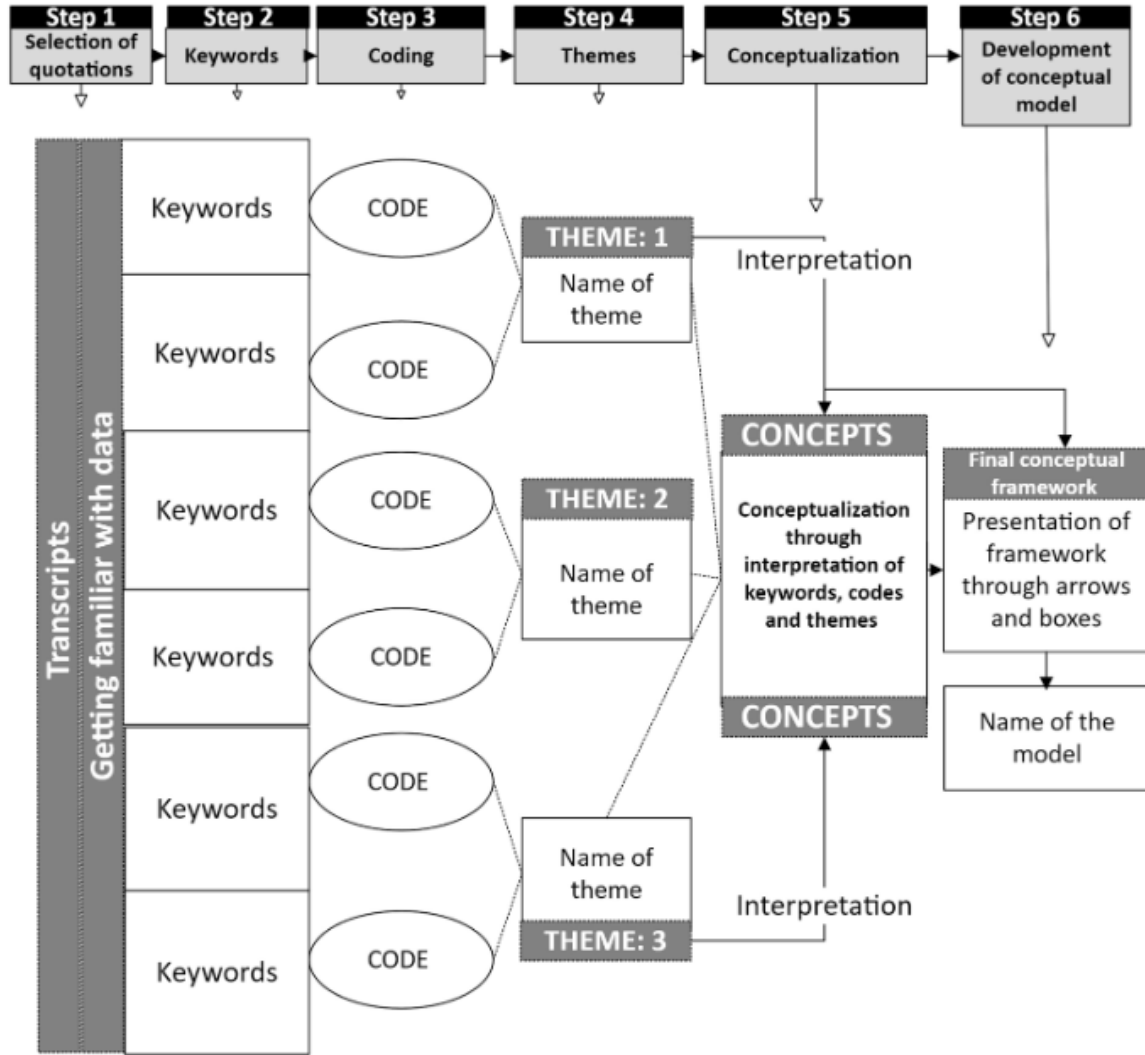
in Rwanda. The key participants that were interviewed included 3 officials from the Kigali City Council and 1 urban planning expert. In this endeavour, the study employed semi-structured interviews described as interviews that involve asking questions within a predetermined set of themes (Naz et al., 2022). Semi-structured interview methodology was seen as ideal as it allows for the collection of detailed and rich data as participants can be requested to elaborate, clarify, or rephrase answers till the researcher gets pertinent information that answers the main research question. In this study, it helped the researcher obtain detailed information on the progress, challenges, and opportunities in the formalization of street vending in Kigali. Appendix 3 presents an interview guide that was used when interviewing the municipality officials.

The other method of primary data collection adopted in the study was focus group discussions. This is described as a qualitative method of collecting primary data whereby a selected group of people take part in an in-depth discussion of a particular topic facilitated by the researcher (Moser & Korstjens, 2018). This method is adopted when collecting data from a sample of people that statistically represents the population under study. For the current study, the focus group discussion was used to gather information on the experiences of street vendors in Nyarugenge-Kigali regarding the formalization of street vending from individuals who are operating in the marketplaces like Nyarugenge City Market & Biryogo car-free zone as well as those who have not yet gotten the opportunity to operate in these markets. For these two groups, there were two different focus group discussions made up and 15 respondents each. After designing the focus group discussion guide, I sent it to a research assistant I hired to act as a facilitator for only the discussions so that I could be able to reach out to my interviewees via Zoom and WhatsApp video call. Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 present the focus group discussion guide used for these two groups of respondents.

4.4 Data Analysis

Thematic analysis was used in the analysis the qualitative data got from interviews, focus group discussions, and other documents. This data analysis method involved the identification, analysis, and reporting patterns (themes) within the data to help obtain a complete understanding of the research phenomenon and specific questions. The thematic analysis has six steps namely creating transcript and data familiarization; identifying keywords; selecting code; developing themes; conceptualization via interpretation of themes, codes, and keywords; and lastly developing a conceptual model (Naeem et al., 2023). These steps are highlighted in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3: The Systematic Thematic Analysis Process



Source: Naeem et al. (2023)

The thematic analysis process followed in this study is deemed as systematic since it followed an orderly and logical approach to interpreting research data. In this process all steps are cumulative in the sense that you achieve the ultimate goal of getting an overall understanding of the data. This approach of the study was structured and sequential thus making the results more consistent and replicable because there was a clear relation between the data, analysis and the derived findings. Besides, it also minimized the probability of some bias in the research. The general processes involved in the thematic analysis include transcribing data, familiarizing with the data, choosing keywords;

coding; defining themes; and interpreting-theory building processes, which involves formulating concepts from the themes, codes, and keywords and establishing a conceptual framework.

4.5 Research ethics

It is important to include consideration of ethical issues in any research study. Informed consent ethics were taken into consideration for this investigation. This meant that before the participants took part, the researcher provided them with all pertinent information about the study (Fouka & Mantzorou, 2011). Moreover, I also contacted the municipal council of Kigali and asked for approval to conduct the study in the city. Appendix 4 presents and approval letter I got from the municipality. The participant's freedom to withdraw from the study at any time without cause was communicated to them before the start, through the informed consent form, and they were guaranteed that their choices would not be punished. Confidentiality and anonymity concerns were also taken into consideration in order to safeguard the participants from physical and psychological harm. As a result, I had to refrain from gathering and disclosing private information like names, phone numbers, and addresses. I also used passwords to secure the data, and personal data was not published in my draft of the research paper. We also demonstrated social responsibility which as Halej (2017) explains encompasses enhancing the benefits of the study to the general public and eradicating possible harm to respondents and fellow researchers.

Chapter 5: Results/Findings

This chapter presents the findings from the analysis of the data collected from the focus group discussions with the street vendors and the interviews with Kigali city (municipality) officials. The main objective of the study as to investigate the challenges faced by street vendors in Nyarugenge-Kigali because of the trade's formalization, as well as evaluate the implications of this formalization on the vendors' livelihoods and examine the coping strategies of the street vendors. Specifically, the chapter presents findings related to the identified research questions. It starts with an analysis of the participants and follows with the exploration of the formalization process.

5.1 Overview of Respondents

It is important to understand the profile of participants used in the study so as to situate the analysis and inform what is expected in the analysis. Identifying the demographic characteristics of the respondents helps give insights into how these impact the distinct type of business and the decisions each individual makes with regard to the formalization process. The demographic characteristics of these street vendors are based on four variables namely gender, age, marital status, and education level. Each of these variables is analyzed in the following sub-sections.

5.1.1 Age

The participants were asked to state their ages and this was recorded in categories of below 24 years, 25-35, 35-45, and above 45 years. It was important to conduct an analysis of the different age groups of the vendors in order to understand the intricacies involved in street vending as a livelihood. For instance, it sheds light on whether or not street vending is used as a stepping stone for youths before venturing into other careers or if it is a lifetime career for people in Kigali. As highlighted in Table 1 below, it is seen that street vending is practised by people from all age groups. The highest proportion was people between 25-35 years who are considered youthful. However, there were also people from the 35-45 and below 24 categories. The findings also indicate that a small proportion of people still practice street vending into old age of above 45 years. The reduced number highlights how most people move to other occupations after some years as street vendors.

Table 1: Focus Group Participants' Profiles and Characteristics (N=30)

Participants' Characteristics	Variable	N	Percentage
Age Group	Below 24	3	10.00
	25 – 35	15	50.00

	35 – 45	10	33.33
	Over 45	2	6.67
	Total	30	100
Gender	Male	18	60.00
	Female	12	40.00
	Total	30	100
Marital Status	Single	7	23.33
	Married	16	53.33
	Widowed	2	6.67
	Separated	3	10.00
	Divorced	0	0
	Total	30	100
Education Level	No formal schooling	2	6.67
	Primary education	15	50.00
	Secondary education	9	30.00
	Tertiary education	4	13.33
	Total	30	100

Table 2: Municipality Officials' Profiles and Characteristics (N=5)

Participants' Characteristics	Variable	N	Percentage
Age Group	Below 24	0	0.00
	25 – 35	1	20.00
	35 – 45	2	40.00
	Over 45	2	40.00
	Total	5	100
Gender	Male	3	56.67
	Female	2	43.33
	Total	5	100
Marital Status	Single	1	20.00
	Married	3	60.00
	Widowed	0	0.00
	Separated	1	20.00
	Divorced	0	0
	Total	5	100
Education Level	No formal schooling	0	0.00
	Primary education	0	0.00
	Secondary education	0	0.00
	Tertiary education	5	100.00
	Total	5	100

5.1.2 Gender

The street vendors and City council (Municipality) officials used in this study comprised both male and female members. Street vendors in Kigali, specifically Nyarugenge as our research focus, are comprised of both genders and analysis of gender composition helps understand how the formalization of street vending affects the two differently. Table 1 above indicates that of the 30 respondents who took part in the focus group discussions, there were 18 males and 12 females. Table 2 above also shows that of the 5 key informants from the City council (Municipality), 3 were males with 2 females

5.1.3 Marital Status

Concerning marital status, the results show that most of the respondents are married. As a variable, marital status is important as it helps establish the level of responsibility that these vendors have in terms of supporting their families. It is seen that family as an institution influences the type of work individuals are willing to pursue. Vending jobs are considered entry-level occupations that people with minimal capital can venture into. It is a source of livelihood for many people with no formal employment. According to these findings, it is clear that most of the sampled respondents are married and that street vending is the main source of income for their households.

5.1.4 Education Level

The level of educational attainment was also a crucial characteristic of the participants. The vendors were asked about the level of education they reached and how that has helped in their work. Education is an important variable as it explains how individuals have distinct knowledge and networks that impact their capacity to empower themselves. According to the results presented in Table 1, there is a varied education attainment level among the respondents. However, most of them have some form of education with only 2 vendors not having any formal education. It was also surprising that there were a few of the respondents with tertiary level education (4 people). Education is still seen as a major determinant of employment in the formal sector as is reflected in the level of education for Kigali City officials shown in Table 2 above. All the 5 officials interviewed in the study had a tertiary level of education (100.00%).

5.2 Business Information on the Street Vendors

This section provides information on the street vending businesses of the participants. In this findings section, 9 variables were considered namely experience, type of products sold, and occupation status (full-time/part-time and self-employed/employed). Table 3 below shows that foods and drinks were the most common types of products sold by the street vendors interviewed for the study.

Table 3: Street Vendors' Business Information (N = 30)

Participants' Characteristics	Variable	N	Percentage
Type of product sold	Foods and drinks	14	46.67
	Household Items	3	10.00
	Electronics	3	10.00
	Clothes & accessories	10	33.33
	Others	0	0
	Total	30	100
Occupation Status	Self-employed	22	73.33
	Paid workers	8	26.67
	Total	30	100
Full-time or Part-time Status	Full-time employment	20	66.67
	Part-time employment	10	33.33
	Total	30	100
Experience	Below 1 year	5	16.67
	1 – 3 years	14	46.67
	4 – 7 years	8	26.67
	Over 7 years	3	10.00
	Total	30	100

The findings also showed that the majority of the employees were self-employed with 22 of the respondents reporting that they worked for themselves. Only 8 respondents stated that they are employed by other entrepreneurs. Similarly, the majority of the respondents also stated that they work as vendors on a full-time basis. Concerning business experience, the results show that most respondents have worked as street vendors for a long time.

5.3 Awareness of the Formalization Initiatives and Policies by Street Vendors

All the participants in this study are aware of the government's formalization of street vending as shown in Table 4 below. Most reported that they are aware that it is illegal to sell any type of goods on the streets of Kigali as the government wants them to use official marketplaces. During the focus group discussion, one respondent explained:

“Yes, we know that we are not allowed to conduct our businesses on any streets of Kigali. The City Council passed this law a few years back and most of us were informed about it. I first got this information from our local radio station. It was also in the news of major television stations and city council officials also placed posters in major streets of Kigali detailing that we should register to be allocated spaces in some of the newly constructed city markets.”

Another respondent said that the government approached some leaders of their community (Nyamirambo) to help groups and churches pass information on its intended formalization of street vending in Kigali city.

“I learned about the ban on selling on the streets of Kigali city through our community organization ‘Dusasirane’. In one of the meetings, the chairman informed us of the pending ban on street vending by the local government. Indeed, he invited an official from the government to talk to us and explain the situation. This official talked at length about how this move will help grow the city and how we as hawkers will benefit a great deal from it. He explained that we should embrace the changes without complaints as it was done with us in mind”

Similarly, one municipality official interviewed in the study also spoke about the massive efforts they put in place to ensure every person in the city was aware of the government's plans to formalize street vending in Kigali.

“Before we passed the law and the subsequent directives making street vending illegal, we ensured that all vendors and other relevant people understood it. In our case, we employed a group of youths to conduct teachings with the public explaining the importance of the law. These youths were trained for two weeks on the aspects of this regulation. They were then sent to the streets and homes to pass along the information. This helped in popularizing the policy as vendors were made to understand its importance and overall benefit for the city of Kigali.”

Overall, it is seen that there was efficient dissemination of information regarding the formalization of street vending in Kigali. As the targeted group, street vendors were reached through numerous convenient channels which ensured they knew about the new laws.

Table 4: Awareness of the Formalization Initiative by Street Vendors (N=30)

Participants' Awareness	Number of people (N)	Percentage
Yes	30	100.00
No	0	0

5.4 Organization of Kigali's Street Vendors Towards Formalization

The focus group discussions and interviews conducted in the study revealed that many street vendors have not yet secured a place in the designated markets. Of the 30 vendors recruited for the study, only 9 were operating in these marketplaces. 21 explained that they were not working in these markets for diverse reasons including lack of space, not receiving authorization from the municipality offices, and lack of customers in these areas. One of the respondents explained that:

“Allocation of spaces in the government-constructed markets is not a fair process. There are even allegations of corruption with some people favoured over others. I know of somebody who applied for a space in one of the markets but has never got it yet others who are just applying have already by given one. Getting verification to operate in the markets depends on who you know at the municipality offices. If you know an officer or can bribe one, then you can easily secure a space. The vendors without such connections are left to suffer and hence forced to continue operating in the streets.”

Table 5: Street Vendors Operating in and out of the Municipal Markets

Operating in the Municipal Markets	Number of people (N)	Percentage
Yes	9	30.00
No	21	70.00

Another vendor explained that even though the markets have been opened, most traders do not want to go there as customers are few.

“The vending and hawking business requires one to move around so as to get customers. Take me for example, I sell coffee and buns for a living. It is difficult for customers to come to a designated place to buy these goods. Most of our clients are shopkeepers and people doing their activities on the streets. Perhaps waiting for a car, meeting friends, or simply getting from one place to another. Such people tend to purchase the coffee when they see you with it. They won't enter the markets to come look for coffee. Shopkeepers and other business persons work in fixed locations and hence they cannot come to the markets to purchase foodstuffs. You need to move around in order to access these customers”

Another trader lamented of significant costs involved in the formalization process and shift to official markets. He explained that:

“For one to be allocated a space in the municipal markets, he/she needs to register with the council and pay a license fee. The set amount is more than most of us can afford. As shoe vendors, we are not assured of making sales every single day and hence income is erratic. It is not feasible for us to pay for registration and license as it cuts into our profit and ability to restock our merchandise. Moreover, we have minimal capital as we don’t get support such as loans from financial institutions. Adding extra costs to our operations will make it more difficult and many vendors will be forced to shut down operations.”

One municipality official interviewed also confirmed that it has been a great challenge to ensure all traders get spaces in the designated markets. He explained that:

“There have been challenges with securing places for all street vendors in Kigali. According to our statistics, there are way more traders compared to the spaces available in the markets. This means that we have to give priority to those who have their items in order including registration and licenses as well as those who applied on time.”

Another official explained that the challenge in getting vendors off the street stems from their unwillingness.

“We have experienced some negative responses from some groups of vendors who do not want to move to the official markets. There are some rebellious people who are influencing others to reject the formalization efforts. These people do not understand the importance of having designated marketplaces in the city in general. I believe that with more civic education we can change this trend and get more traders to buy into the formalization agenda.”

5.5 Interaction with authorities

The findings of the study highlighted that most of the street vendors in Kigali have interacted with authorities regarding their operations in the city. For one, almost all the traders have gone to the municipality offices to register their businesses, renew licenses, and apply for allocation in the official markets. One respondent explains that:

“We interact with all district officials on a regular basis. All of the registration and renewal of licenses are done in the municipal offices.”

Other forms of interaction involve being arrested for operating in undesignated areas. As noted by one respondent:

“A lot of street vendors who have not gotten the opportunity to get stalls in the marketplaces have been arrested by city council officials for selling on the streets. In such cases, the vendors are required to pay Rwf 10,000 to the government. Nevertheless, most of the time the vendors pay just a small amount of this money. I have also heard stories of people who bribe county officials if they have proper connections. These officials turn a blind eye on their operations.”

Another respondent had similar sentiments about interactions between street vendors and authorities.

“In this city, the lives of street vendors and the officials are intertwined. It is like a game of cat and mouse. The city officers are the cats while we are the mice. Since the banning of street vending, it has been difficult to conduct our business. Nevertheless, we have to risk arrest so that our children do not sleep hungry. We continue our operations in the streets and when we see municipality officers we quickly run away to avoid arrest”

This finding was corroborated by interviews by Kigali city officials (Municipality) who explained that most of their work entails offering services to traders and hence they have regular interactions. Interactions are also encountered during the enforcement of the set laws.

“We work with traders all the time. In my case, I have been in charge of allocating spaces in one of the markets that was constructed in the city. I received and reviewed submissions from traders before approving those that were in order. In enforcing the rules, we also interact with traders who continue to break the law and conduct illegal selling. Normally, we arrest them and lock them up until they pay the required fine.”

5.6 Conclusion

This chapter has presented the findings of the efforts to formalize street vending in Kigali. The main aim was to understand the situation of the street vendors and their reception and perception of the government’s efforts to formalize street vending and ensure it happens only in designated market areas and not on the streets. The chapter has revealed that street vendors of all types do not support the formalization efforts. They feel like it has many negative impacts on their sales, and in turn, their overall income and livelihood.

Chapter 6: Discussion

This chapter presents an interpretation of the findings presented above and discusses their implications by providing a comparison with existing literature. The discussion addresses the research aim and questions.

6.1 Emergent themes

The issue of formalization of street vending in Nyarugenge- and Kigali City as a whole is one that elicits different sentiments from different groups of people. While the government has good intentions about enhancing operations and aesthetics by removing vendors from the streets of the city, the vendors are not on the same page and have not fully accepted the move. The findings show that most vendors are against the formalization while the Kigali City officials seem to support the transition and want vendors to buy into it. From the findings explored above, various themes have emerged as discussed below:

6.1.1 Vendors' Perception of Formalization of Street Vending in Kigali – RQ 1

Involvement and participation in policy formulation

A common theme that emerged from the analysis of the interviews and focus group discussions is the lack of approval of the formalization process on the vendors' side. *“For instance, one respondent explains that they only heard about the directive on the prohibition of street vending on the local radio station. Another one explained that they were informed about the policy by their local leader.”* None reported having heard about it or being involved in the pre-formulation stage of the policy. As such, it highlights a situation of lack of public participation in policymaking in Kigali and Rwanda at large. Because of this, it is seen that most respondents are against the initiative. In a similar study, George (2022) determined that not including people in the informal sector in making decisions about policy changes that affect them often results in rejection of the intended change. This study supports this finding whereby it is noted that most street vendors in Kigali are against vacating the streets and moving to the designated marketplaces. The involvement and participation of vendors may entail negotiations and dialogue between them and the government during the policy formulation process. Just like any other type of worker, street vendors have a right to be organized and represented in such processes. Structured dialogue would enable the vendors to provide important insights into matters that affect them and changes that would be beneficial for them.

The findings of this study also reveal that the government was the main actor in the enactment of the formalization of street vending in Kigali and vendors were only informed about it once the regulations and directives had been passed. In such a situation, the resultant change can be considered ineffective because of a lack of input from the affected populations (in this case, the street vendors). For instance, as has been noted above, the policy change did not reflect views on the flow of customers as highlighted by the interviewed street vendors. *One of the street vendors has explained that streets, walkways, and avenues have more flow of customers compared to fixed market spaces which are only visited by people who want to buy something.* Selling on the streets enables the traders to access people who did not have the explicit intention of making purchases but could be convinced to do so. This is seen as a crucial insight that the government did not consider in enacting the formalization process. Relatedly, the decision to formalize street vending in Kigali did not also consider the ability of individual vendors to register their businesses and get licenses for operating which is a requirement to be allocated space in the designated markets. As explained by the institutional theory, the formalization initiative creates new formal structures that the vendors need to adopt. In turn, this creates institutional barriers for some vendors who are unable to satisfy the new requirements. *While one vendor has reported that the high cost of registration is a challenge, another explained that the allocation of spaces is not a fair process.* Such input could best be provided by the street vendors further highlighting how their lack of involvement in the policy formulation process contributed to the inefficient and rejected formalization efforts. This finding supports the exclusion-driven explanation of the persistence of the informal sector whereby it is seen that some of the vendors are excluded from formalization.

Numerous studies have explored the significance of the involvement of the public and other stakeholders in the planning and decision-making processes of civic matters. For instance, Svava & Denhardt (2010) explain that it is necessary to have the dynamic engagement of individuals, community collectives, and civic bodies in the formulation and implementation of initiatives that impact the lives of citizens. Rijal (2023) adds that this should start from the initial creation of the plans up to the implementation and monitoring of the formulated initiatives or policies. This, he explains has important advantages including enhancing accountability and legitimacy and effectiveness and efficiency of the initiative. In terms of accountability and legitimacy involvement of stakeholders enhances the legitimacy of the initiative or policy as it is seen to reflect the actual interests, aspirations, and needs of the affected groups. It also offers the government or other body taking charge of formulating the initiative an opportunity to be directly accountable to the affected groups as it makes

the process open and transparent (Rijal, 2023). On the aspect of effectiveness and efficiency participation helps in the identification of challenges and potential problems that might not be ascertained if some stakeholders are not involved. The current study contributes to this discourse, reinforcing the importance of engaging all relevant stakeholders in decision-making processes.

Understanding of the Formalization Process

Another emergent theme is the understanding of the formalization process with a focus on how well they understand requirements, benefits, and implications on their lives. While all the interviewed vendors were aware of the requirement to move their operations away from the streets, it is highly likely that they were not fully knowledgeable about this formalization process. *The responses given by the vendors highlight that they simply heard about the directive after it was issued by the government.* This is so because they still do not fully appreciate what the formalization efforts entails, thus they resist it. There is one probable cause of this; they lack sufficient enough information regarding the process of formalization and thus they may not fully understand the process. Presumably, they may not understand why licenses, permits and other various formalities are necessary in order for them to be permitted to conduct business in the formal markets. The other possible explanation might be that there is misinformation where vendors get information from people that it is unclear or contradictory. This has been witnessed in other situations as mentioned in this study by Ndikubwimana (2020) who surveyed reasons why street vending was still rife in Kigali, Rwanda. The study established that as much as there has been an endeavor to formalize trade policy, the loss of street vending has had insignificant results since there is inadequate appreciation for such structural changes. The findings of this study corroborate this one's highlighting a lack of a proper appreciation as a reason why the formalization of street vending in Kigali was rejected.

It can be argued that there is a disconnect between the perceived purpose of formalization among the vendors and the government. The findings of this study highlight how government officials support the formalization efforts whereas street vendors are against it. One of the interviewed municipality officials proclaims that the move is meant to help the city grow and vendors will also benefit from smooth operations from the designated markets. While the government presents formalization as a means to enhance public order, augment the aesthetics of the city, protect small businesses, and increase revenues, the street vendors perceive it as an attack on their autonomy and livelihood. *One of the vendors explains that the high costs involved in undertaking the formalization will lead to most of them quitting this economic activity.* As noted by Marsh & McConnell (2010), when there is a lack of

understanding of the intended outcomes of a policy change among the target group, then the initiative is likely to fail. This is seen in the findings of this study. Some street vendors consider the formalization initiative as a way for the municipality to curtail their operations and collect fees and taxes instead of an initiative to support their economic activity. Again as explained by the institutional theory, the street vending formalization efforts have created institutional barriers that exclude some vendors from continuing their trading activities.

Advantages of formalization

As highlighted in the findings, there are some vendors who have embraced the efforts of formalization by the government. Indeed majority of the respondents explained that they are eager to get allocations in the designated markets if not for the financial and logistic challenges. Indeed, as reported by one vendor, *people are willing to bribe or use social connections to get space in these markets*. As a matter of fact, the vendors with no social networks or money to bribe are the ones who are excluded from operating in the markets. This is tied to the element of legitimacy as explained by the institutional theory. The vendors seek to legitimize their operations in line with the requirements of the municipality council. This would allow them to gain advantages such as job security. *One respondent operating a food stall noted that the designated markets have proper stands with spaces where customers can sit down properly and enjoy their food*. This is a better working environment that customers seeking meals prefer over selling on the streets where they are exposed to elements such as dust, hot sun, and rain. Moreover, the municipal markets also have latrines and this contributes to hygiene which is an important aspect for food businesses.

Job security is also related to having a designated stall where one operates. The vendors who are up to date with the formalization and have been granted permission and space in the markets are sure of a place to work. This is unlike those operating on the streets whereby they are not sure they would be allowed to conduct their business on some specific days. As noted by one of the street vendors, *they have to play a game of cat and mouse with the officials running away from the streets they are present*. If the officials spend a day enforcing laws on a particular street the vendors will have to operate from other streets. Overall, the main advantage of the formalization of street vending is that it leads to better sales. Most of the vendors operating in the designated municipal markets explained that they have experienced growth in income. Some even plan to expand their businesses with the hope of further enhancing their income. This highlights why it is important for the government to enhance efforts in developing more mini-markets to satisfy the large number of street vendors in Kigali. Several

respondents still operating in the streets noted that *they would be glad to move into markets if there were enough and there was minimal bureaucracy involved in getting spaces.*

6.1.2 Challenges to Formalization – RQ 2

Another important theme derived from the analysis relates to challenges encountered in the formalization process in general. The challenges basically stem from institutional barriers created by the new regulations and norms as described by institutional theory. These barriers lead to the exclusion of vendors as explained by the exclusion-driven perspective that explains the persistence of the informal sector under the dual economy theory. There are diverse challenges that can impact individual vendors differently as discussed below:

The main challenge encountered by vendors in Kigali-Nyarugenge is the economic costs including higher operational costs, reduced profit margins, and capital constraints. This presents an institutional barrier as vendors are now required to register their operations and pay license fees and taxes, and it is seen that the costs of running a business increase. These higher costs in the newly established economic, regulatory, and social structure in Kigali can be particularly overwhelming for small-scale vendors. As noted by one of the respondents, *street vendors often have a small capital to start their business and installing more financial requirements cuts into this capital.* As such, most of the street vendors will be forced to quit work. This finding is reflected by many similar studies such as one by George (2022) examining the formalization of street vending in Tanzania. The study noted that street vendors have minimal capital and introducing new financial obligations significantly cuts into their profit margins. Moreover, as noted by one of the respondents, *the high costs translate to higher costs for the products and services they offer to customers.* The price of the vendors in municipal markets is higher compared to vendors operating on the streets because this group does not incur the costs of formalization and hence can sell products/services at a lower cost.

Another significant challenge is the loss of opportune selling locations. One respondent remarks that formalization requires them to move away from high-traffic streets and walkways into official markets that attract fewer potential customers. As noted by the institutional theory, institutional change disrupts established informal practices. In this study, the theory exemplifies how it is difficult to change deeply rooted informal practices in the street vending sector in Kigali as the vendors strive to maintain their flexibility and autonomy. Operating from the designated markets subjects vendors to poor visibility as customers who depend on convenient access to products on the

streets may not visit the markets more often. Many studies corroborate this finding. For instance, Kamunyori (2007) determined that the success of street vending stems from the ease of access to products by customers. Moreover, the findings of the current study have also highlighted how there is limited space in these official marketplaces which cannot accommodate all the vendors in Kigali. Because of this many vendors are left out and forced to continue operating informally.

The formalization process also subjects street vendors to economic and social inequality. The findings highlighted how there is differential access to the designated markets as some vendors are favoured over others. Some of the respondents reported *that people with connections in the county offices or those able to bribe county officials are easily given spaces in the markets leaving the others at a disadvantage*. Furthermore, there may be age and gender disparities with some groups of vendors being disproportionately affected. For one, this study determined that there are more male vendors compared to female vendors because of systematic challenges faced by women traders. This finding reflects the general trend in informal sectors where women face social and systemic barriers that hinder their ability to fully engage in economic activities. For instance, Fonchinging (2015) noted that female vendors are mostly forced to work on a part-time basis because of family responsibilities such as cooking, cleaning, and taking care of the children.

For the vendors operating on the streets, the main challenge they experience is harassment from municipality officials. As explained by one of the vendors, *their day-to-day activities entail running battles with officials who are sent to enforce the formalization policy*. The vendors operate in streets where the officials are not manning and have to be on constant lookout for them so that they can run away and avoid arrests and fines. This challenge relates to a lack of job security as the vendors do not have legitimate areas to conduct their operations. For instance, if municipality officials are present in a street the vendors usually operate in they would have to stop operations on that particular day. Another challenge is exposure to weather elements. *One respondent explained that the disadvantage of working on the streets is that they are exposed to hot sun, dust, and rain. She explains that they have to brave this as it is part of the job and it is the price they have to pay to avoid state-imposed regulations and taxes*.

Both groups of street vendors in Kigali also face regulatory and bureaucratic hurdles such as complicated procedures and paperwork. Again, this is an example of an institutional barrier created by the formalization efforts. The findings highlighted that some people working as vendors do not have formal education. Such people may experience difficulties navigating complex bureaucratic processes such as filling out relevant paperwork in the registration phase and applying for licenses.

These bureaucratic procedures can also be time-consuming which discourages some of the vendors from undertaking formalization.

6.1.3 Coping Strategies Adopted by Vendors – RQ 3

This theme is concerned with how the street vendors in Kigali are adapting to the changes brought about by the formalization efforts. The analysis shows that the strategies adopted by vendors vary from person to person. Firstly, some of the vendors have embraced the change and have already set up operations in the designated markets. These are the vendors that have adhered to all requirements such as registering their operations and paying license fees. In a related study, Igudia (2020) determined that women are most likely to comply with the formalization of street vending as most of them engage in running eateries. Because this needs a place to cook as well as chairs and tables for customers to eat from, they are more likely to accept permanent premises for their work. The findings of this study show that ‘foods and drinks’ are the most common items of trade for street vendors in Kigali and that there is also a significant number of women engaging in this economic activity. As such, the findings may reflect this trend of women having permanent places for their trading activities.

Other vendors operating in the designated markets have also sought more direct ways of addressing the challenges they encounter. For example, one respondent noted that they were coordinating efforts with the municipality council through their cooperative societies to ensure smooth operations in the mini-markets. One such effort includes holding peaceful demonstrations when their concerns are not addressed. Some even refuse to comply with some regulations such as not paying licenses until the municipal council works on their demands. Other vendors also remarked that *they work with municipality officials through the management of the markets to prevent street vendors from operating at the entrances or other places near the mini-markets. A vendor operating in one of the markets explained that this ensures traffic of customers is directed into the markets and hence would guarantee better sales for them. He further explains that this would ensure formalization is adopted by a majority of the vendors in the city.* Another major coping strategy adopted by the vendors in the markets is cooperating amongst themselves. A vendor explained that they have an increased number of customers in the mini markets and they sometimes work together in providing products and services to satisfy this increased demand. For instance, if a vendor does not have enough products required by a customer, he/she can get more from neighbouring vendors.

Vendors operating outside the designated markets have adopted different coping strategies. As noted by one vendor, some of them are willing to risk harassment, arrests, and fines as they continue trading on the streets. These are mainly male vendors who can easily run away with their merchandise when they see municipality officials coming. Relatedly, other vendors have found unscrupulous means by bribing and/or having informal negotiations with county city officials. *One respondent explains that with proper connections or money, one can easily bribe the municipality officials.* This is done in order to secure places in the official markets or to be allowed to trade on the streets. This finding reflects a similar trend in situations where new policies are adopted and then accompanied by increased cases of corruption as people strive to preserve their way of doing things as noted by Alatas (2015).

Some vendors have also leveraged economic and social networks in coping with challenges introduced by the formalization. One of the respondents explained that he belonged to a local community group of vendors. Such community organizations can provide assistance including information and training on how to navigate the formalization process. Indeed, as noted by Cheney et al. (2014), being in associations or cooperatives also offers individuals collective bargaining power which enables them to negotiate for better terms or consideration of their interests. In this case, the vendors can be able to negotiate with the government and other organizations involved in formulating and implementing the formalization process.

6.1.4 Roles of Economic and Social Networks in Supporting Street Vendors – RQ4

As noted in the findings, there is minimal impact of economic and social networks in supporting vendors in the formalization process. *Indeed, only one respondent explained that he was in a local community group of vendors.* Such an economic group is important as it can help its members navigate the complicated formalization process. For instance, it can provide its members with timely information concerning the requirements of the formalization. Moreover, as noted by Dogarawa (2010), being in an economic group such as a traders' cooperative provides the benefits of working together, sharing information, and conducting training. In this case, the vendors can be trained on navigating the formalization process: the steps to follow and how to fill the different forms. Moreover, they can even conduct workshops where they come together to conduct the application process and submit them to the municipality offices as a group. The lack of economic networks in this group of respondents is perhaps one of the reasons for the notable resistance to the formalization efforts among street vendors in Kigali.

Another aspect of the economic network relates to people in the government tasked with ensuring the smooth operations of businesses in the city. The municipal council is in charge of regulating businesses in Kigali ensuring business people are not affected in their operations and collecting revenue for the government. An interview with municipal officials noted how they face the difficult task of formalizing street vending. *One official explained that the process requires significant investment in infrastructure. He explains that there is a Kigali City Master Plan that stipulates the construction of modern markets with set standards and that the city is still mobilizing funds to cater for this.* Another official explains that they have started with a few markets and that there are some challenges in terms of the lack of adoption by some street vendors. *She notes that the municipality is doing its best to address this through conducting civic education to educate the vendors on the importance of formalizing vending and operating in designated markets for the vendors and the city at large.*

In terms of social networks, the findings show that this is crucial in helping vendors deal with challenges in the formalization process. As reported by one respondent, *if an individual knows someone in the municipality offices they are able to get slots in the designated markets while those without connections are put on hold.* Similarly, another respondent explained that *vendors who had networks in the municipality were granted informal permission to continue operating in the streets without fear of arrest.* These instances highlight the importance of social networks in helping individuals in the business sector navigate change.

6.2 Operationalizing the Theoretical Frameworks

A theoretical framework helps demonstrate the empirical foundations of the study and show how the findings fit in the wider context of related discourse. For the current study, the chosen theoretical frameworks are the institutional theory and the dual economy theory.

6.2.1 The Institutional Theory

In the context of examining the formalization of street vending in Kigali as has been discussed above, the institutional theory is seen as highly relevant as it explains how this initiative introduces institutional norms, structures, and laws that have affected the lives of the street vendors. From the responses and discussion, the efforts by the Rwandan government to formalize street vending impose coercive pressures on the traders. The traders are forced to conform to the new formal standards related to licensing, taxation, and permits to operate in the designated markets. As explained by the institutional theory, this is one type of isomorphism whereby individuals and institutions become alike over time as they conform to the same cultural, normative, and regulatory expectations. Failure to

adhere to these new standards leads to severe penalties including arrest, paying fines, and removal from the designated markets. As highlighted by the theory, the vendors also face mimetic isomorphism as they strive to copy the practices of more formal traders to enhance their competitiveness.

Another aspect of institutional theory applicable to this situation relates to legitimacy. The theory explains that legitimacy is necessary for survival. In this context, street vendors need to gain legitimacy with the local government and general public by adopting formalization. As noted in the discussion, this would grant them advantages such as government support, working in secure designated places, and access to formal credit services. Nonetheless, it has been shown that some vendors struggle with achieving legitimacy as they are not able to comply with the institutionalized rules and this leads to their exclusion and marginalization. This highlights how barriers are created for these people with factors such as financial costs and bureaucratic procedures driving them out of business.

6.2.2 The Dual Economy Theory

Developed by Julius Herman Boeke, this theory explains the existence of two distinct economic sectors in a nation, distinguished by different levels of technology, development, and patterns of demand. The theory explains the persistence of the informal economy in all areas of the world despite the initial disregard of this sector as a short-term thing. Under this theory, scholars posited two main reasons for the development of the informal sector: exclusion-driven and exit-driven. As explained in Chapter 3, the exclusion-driven perspective explains that people are forced into the informal sector because of the limited opportunities in the formal sector. In other terms, the informal sector employs people who have been excluded from the formal sector. On the other hand, the exit-driven perspective explains that people willingly move from the formal to the informal sector to avoid state-imposed institutional regulations and also get other benefits associated with the informal sector.

Considering the findings and discussion above, it is seen that while both these perspectives exemplify the situation of street vendors in Rwanda, the exclusion-driven perspective is more relevant in this context. The findings show that only four of the vendors have tertiary-level education. With such an education level, these individuals are expected to be employed in the formal sector. As such, only these four are the ones that can be considered to exemplify the exit-driven perspective. On the other hand, the majority of respondents, 26, have secondary-level, primary-level and even no formal

education. Without the necessary education certification, these individuals are not able to get employment in the formal sector and hence are excluded from it. From the exclusion-driven perspective, it is seen that the street vendors in Kigali are forced into this economic activity because they cannot access the formal sector. As explained by the theory, the informal sector is seen as an absorber of surplus labour for people excluded from the formal labour market.

Moreover, according to the theory, such persons engage in such work out of necessity and as a way of survival. However, the vendors are able to reap on the advantages associated with the informal sector such as; flexibility in working hours, opportunity to be on your own boss, easy to get into business, and no interference from the government or legal charges in form of taxes. From the findings of the study the street vendors for instance have not embraced the formalization process as a means of vending saying that it is an assault on their livelihood. Those doing freelance businesses wish to remain in the informal sector while enjoying such privileges. From this viewpoint, the vendors can be regarded to embody the exit-driven account since they are making a conscious, rational, economically-motivated decision to remain in the informal sphere in order to avoid the stifling state restrictions and controls.

Chapter 7: Conclusion

This chapter presents a summary of the findings of the study, the related recommendations, and the limitations of the current study.

7.1 Summary

The main aim of the current study was to provide insights into the experiences of vendors in Kigali with regard to the formalization of street vending. Specifically, the study examined the perception of formalization efforts by street vendors, the challenges that they encounter, and the coping strategies they employ in addressing these challenges. The exploration has highlighted how street vendors in Kigali have not fully embraced the formalization efforts by the government. This is largely attributed to the lack of involvement of the vendors in the policy formulation process as most explain that they only got to know about the policy when it was already enacted. The findings also highlight how a lack of full comprehension of the intended impacts of the formalization of street vending contributes to a lack of acceptance among vendors. Nonetheless, a notable number of people have finished the process and operate from the designated municipal market places reaping benefits such as job security that comes from having a designated place to operate, working in better conditions without exposure to weather elements, and better income. Still, there are challenges faced by vendors operating in and outside of the mini markets. For vendors in the mini markets, the main challenges are higher operational costs stemming from the formalization process, limited spaces in the designated markets, challenges with the bureaucracy of the formalization process, and loss of opportune selling locations. For those operating on the streets, challenges include exposure to elements, harassment from municipality officials, and lack of job security. In addressing the challenges brought about by the formalization efforts, the street vendors adopt distinct coping strategies. For instance, some vendors have been able to navigate the formalization process with the help of cooperative societies. Others in mini-markets work with municipality officials to prevent street vendors from operating near the markets and hence ‘stealing’ their customers. Those operating on the streets are willing to endure harassment and arrests while others bribe officials to be allowed to continue their operations. Lastly, the findings highlight the important role of social networks in helping vendors secure places in the designated markets. As an economic agent, the municipality ensures a smooth transition in the formalization process helping vendors by providing licensing, taxation, registration, and also education on the importance of the initiative.

The paper has used the institutional and dual economy theory to explain these findings. The institutional theory explains how the formalization initiative introduces institutional norms, structures, and laws that have affected the lives of the street vendors. In some cases, this has created institutional barriers that prevent some vendors from venturing into the municipal markets. For others, they conform to the new normative and regulatory expectations as they seek legitimacy. The dual economy theory explains how vendors willingly choose to remain in the informal sector under the exclusion-driven perspective. These people want to enjoy the advantages of this sector including minimal government regulation and related additional costs as well as flexible working hours, opportunity for independence, and ease of entry. From these analyses, the essay concludes that there are some steps that the government and other relevant stakeholders can adopt to enhance the effectiveness of the formalization of street vending in Kigali. The recommendations are explained in the section below.

7.2 Recommendations

From the analysis and discussion, the paper offers the following recommendations for enhancing the formalization of street vending in Kigali:

- Offer financial support and access to credit: In doing this, the government together with other relevant organizations should help set up microcredit schemes that would offer credit services that specifically target street vendors. This would help them get funds to use for activities in the formalization process including registering their businesses and paying taxes and license fees. The reason for this is because street vendors have little capital which hinders their capacity to pursue formalization. As noted by Berhanu (2021), people often venture into the street vending business as a means to earn a living and such people often do not have sufficient money for capital.
- Simplify the complicated bureaucratic process: The process of formalization should be streamlined to entice vendors to take part in it. As noted in the discussion section, complex processes and paperwork discourage some people from starting the formalization process. A study by George (2022) determined that simplifying registration processes and other bureaucracies would ensure more vendors register their businesses and apply for spaces in the designated markets.
- Enhance infrastructure and accessibility of the designated municipality markets: The government should also set up marketplaces in areas with high traffic of people and increased visibility to ensure that the traders get customers. Furthermore, the vendors should be involved in designing the stalls to ensure their preferences and needs are taken care of.

- Conduct civic education on the importance of formalizing street vending: It is important to offer capacity-building and training programmes to the street vendors which would help enhance their regulatory compliance, business management, and financial literacy. Haigh et al. (2014) explain that civic education is crucial as it allows citizens to own and support the proposed policy changes. The training programmes for the street vendors can be offered in partnership with other relevant agencies including non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations.

7.3 Limitations of the Study

The chosen research methodology is a source of limitation for this study. Qualitative research and thematic analysis inherently rely on the subjective reasoning and decision-making by the researcher. This offers a potential limitation for the study. Nonetheless, I strived to ensure rigour and transparency by giving adequate evidence in the analysis by providing extensive quotes from the respondents. This has enabled the findings to reflect the opinions and perspectives of the street vendors as well as municipality officials.

Another major limitation of the study relates use of a small sample size of only 30 street vendors and 5 municipality officials. Because of this relatively small sample size, the findings and recommendations of the study are not extensively generalizable. Moreover, the findings only portray the situation in Kigali and hence cannot be used as representative of other cities as well as other countries.

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Interview Guide for Vendors not in the market

Introduction Part

Hello everyone, my names are Judith B. Rwibutso and I am a researcher here to engage in a talk with you as I am conducting a research on the impact of street vending in Biryogo Car-free Zone on local development in Kigali. I am curious to know about your experiences as street vendors, how your activities contribute to the local economy as well the challenges you face. Your responses are very valuable to my research, and I appreciate your willingness to contribute to this cause.

Please rest assured that your responses are safe with me and will be kept confidential and will only be used for academic purposes.

Do you give your consent to take part in this research?

- a) Yes, I Consent
- b) No, I don't Consent

i) **Background Information/ Amakuru y' ibanze**

1. Gender (Igitsina)
 - Male (Gabo)
 - Female (Gore)
2. Age/ Imyaka
 - 18-25
 - 25-35
 - 35-45
 - 45-55
 - 55-65
 - 65 plus
3. Types of goods and services they offer/ Ibyo ucuruza cyangwa Serivisi utanga
 - Food and drinks (Ibyokunywa, Ibiribwa)
 - House item shop (Ibikoresho byo munzu)
 - Clothes and accessories (Imyambaro, piyese)
 - Others (Specify) Ibindi (bivuge)
4. How long have you been vending? Igihe umaze utanga izo serivisi
 - Amezi 6 gusbira hasi
 - 1 -2 years Imyaka
 - 3-5 years Imyaka
 - Imyaka 6 kuzamura
5. Why did you choose street vending as your means of livelihood? Kuki wahisemo gucururiza ku muhanda nk' inzira yo kubona imibereho?

ii) **Experience of the policies of street vending formalization**

1. Have you ever been evicted from your vending spot? If so, can you describe what happened? Ese wigeze ukurwa aho ukorera kungufu? Niba byarabaye habaye iki?
2. How did the eviction affect your business and personal life? Byagize izihe ngaruka ku bucuruzi bwawe?
3. Were you given any prior notice or alternative solutions before the eviction? If yes, what were they? Wigeze umenyeshwa mbere cyangwa uhabwa amahirwe yo gushakira umuti ikibazo cyo gucururiza ahatemewe? Ese ayo mahirwe wahawe nayahe bguhaye ubuhe butumwa?

iii) Challenges post-eviction Imbogamizi nyuma yo kwirukanwa

1. What challenges have you faced since being evicted (e.g., financial, social, legal)? Wahuye nizihe mbogamizi kuva wirukanywe mu buryo bw' amafaranga, ubuzima n' iterambere rusange
2. How has the eviction impacted your income and ability to support yourself/your family? Kwirukanwa nk' umuzunguzayi byagize izihe ngaruka ku bukungu bwawe, umuryango wawe.
3. Have you encountered any difficulties in finding a new location to sell your goods? Hari imbogamizi wahuye nazo kuva utangiye gukorera ahantu hashya wahawe gukorera?

iv) Coping Mechanisms and Future Plans

1. How have you managed to continue your business or livelihood after eviction? Washoboye ute gukomeza gucuruza n' ubuzima busanzwe nyuma yo kwirukanwa ku muhanda?
2. What are your plans for the future regarding your vending activities? Nizihe ngamba ufite ahazaza h' ubucuruzi bwawe wakoreraga ku muhanda?
3. Do you see any possible solutions that could help vendors like you continue to operate without facing eviction? Harikindi gisubizo ubona cyafasha abandi bakora ubucuruzi bwo kumuhanda nkawe gukomeza ibikorwa byabo batirukanywe?

v) Interaction with Authorities

1. What has been your experience interacting with local authorities or law enforcement regarding your vending activities? Wadusangiza uko mukorana n' inzego zibanze cyangwa inzego z' umutekano? Aho muherukanira guhura byagenze bite?
2. Have you ever been fined, arrested, or penalized for vending? If yes, can you describe these experiences? Ese wigeze ufatirwa ibihano, ucibwa amande cyangwa ufungirwa gukora ubucuruzi butemewe? Byagenze bite ?

vi) Attitudes towards Urban Planning Policy of Formalizing Street Vending and Recommendations

1. Do you feel that your needs and concerns as a vendor are considered in the planning of public spaces? Ese utekerezako ibibazo byanyu byitabwaho mugihe cyo gukora igenamigambi?
2. What do you think should be done differently by the authorities to support street vendors? Niki gikwiriye gukorwa murwego rwo gushyigikira abacururiza kumuhanda (abazunguzayi)
3. What would you like to say to the municipality or urban planners regarding their treatment of street vendors? Nubuho butumwa waha Umujyi wa Kigali ukurikije uko ubona abazunguzayi bafatwa
4. What changes would you recommend in the way public spaces are managed or in the laws governing street vending? Nizihe mpinduka wifuza ko zakwitabwaho murwego rwo gucunganeza ahantu rusange.

Appendix 2: Interview Guide for Vendors not in the market

Introduction Part

Hello everyone, my names are Judith B. Rwibutso and I am a researcher here to engage in a talk with you as I am conducting a research on the impact of street vending in Biryogo Car-free Zone on local development in Kigali. I am curious to know about your experiences as street vendors, how your activities contribute to the local economy as well the challenges you face. Your responses are very valuable to my research, and I appreciate your willingness to contribute to this cause.

Please rest assured that your responses are safe with me and will be kept confidential and will only be used for academic purposes.

Do you give your consent to take part in this research?

- c) Yes, I Consent
- d) No, I don't Consent

vii) Background Information/ Amakuru y' ibanze

6. Gender (Igitsina)
 - Male (Gabo)
 - Female (Gore)
7. Age/ Imyaka
 - 18-25
 - 25-35
 - 35-45
 - 45-55
 - 55-65

- 65 plus
8. Types of goods and services they offer/ Ibyo ucuruza cyangwa Serivisi utanga
 - Food and drinks (Ibyokunywa, Ibiribwa)
 - House item shop (Ibikoresho byo munzu)
 - Clothes and accessories (Imyambaro, piyese)
 - Others (Specify) Ibindi (bivuge)
 9. How long have you been vending? Igihe umzae utanga izo serivisi
 - Amezi 6 gusbira hasi
 - 1 -2 years Imyaka
 - 3-5 years Imyaka
 - Imyaka 6 kuzamura
 10. Why did you choose street vending as your means of livelihood? Kuki wahisemo gucururiza ku muhanda

viii) Experience of the policies of street vending formalization

4. Have you ever been evicted from your vending spot? If so, can you describe what happened? Ese wigeze ukurwa aho ukorera kungufu? Niba byarabaye habaye iki?
5. How did the eviction affect your business and personal life? Byagize izihe ngaruka ku bucuruzi bwawe?
6. Were you given any prior notice or alternative solutions before the eviction? If yes, what were they? Wigeze umenyeshwa mbere cyangwa uhabwa amahirwe yo gushakira umuti ikibazo cyo gucururiza ahatemewe? Ese ayo mahirwe wahawe nayahe bguhaye ubuhe butumwa?

ix) Challenges post-eviction Imbogamizi nyuma yo kwirukanwa

4. What challenges have you faced since being evicted (e.g., financial, social, legal)? Wahuye nizihe mbogamizi kuva wirukanywe mu buryo bw' amafaranga, ubuzima n' iterambere rusange
5. How has the eviction impacted your income and ability to support yourself/your family? Kwirukanwa nk' umuzunguzayi byagize izihe ngaruka ku bukungu bwawe, umuryango wawe.
6. Have you encountered any difficulties in finding a new location to sell your goods? Hari imbogamizi wahuye nazo kuva utangiye gukorera ahantu hashya wahawe gukorera?

x) Coping Mechanisms and Future Plans

4. How have you managed to continue your business or livelihood after eviction? Washoboye ute gukomeza gucuruza n' ubuzima busanzwe nyuma yo kwirukanwa ku muhanda?
5. What are your plans for the future regarding your vending activities? Nizihe ngamba ufite ahazaza h' ubucuruzi bwawe wakoreraga ku muhanda?

6. Do you see any possible solutions that could help vendors like you continue to operate without facing eviction? Harikindi gisubizo ubona cyafasha abandi bakora ubucuruzi bwo kumuhanda nkawe gukomeza ibikorwa byabo batirukanywe?

xi) Interaction with Authorities

3. What has been your experience interacting with local authorities or law enforcement regarding your vending activities? Wadusangiza uko mukorana n' inzego zibanze cyangwa inzego z' umutekano? Aho muherukanira guhura byagenze bite?
4. Have you ever been fined, arrested, or penalized for vending? If yes, can you describe these experiences? Ese wigeze ufatirwa ibihano, ucibwa amande cyangwa ufungirwa gukora ubucuruzi butemewe? Byagenze bite ?

xii) Attitudes towards Urban Planning Policy of Formalizing Street Vending and Recommendations

5. Do you feel that your needs and concerns as a vendor are considered in the planning of public spaces? Ese utekerezako ibibazo byanyu byitabwaho mugihe cyo gukora igenamigambi?
6. What do you think should be done differently by the authorities to support street vendors?
7. What would you like to say to the municipality or urban planners regarding their treatment of street vendors?
8. What changes would you recommend in the way public spaces are managed or in the laws governing street vending?

Appendix 3: Interview Guide for City Municipality officials

Introduction Part

Hello everyone, my names are Judith B. Rwibutso and I am a researcher here to engage in a talk with you as I am conducting a research on the impact of street vending in Biryogo Car-free Zone on local development in Kigali. I am curious to know about your experiences as street vendors, how your activities contribute to the local economy as well the challenges you face. Your responses are very valuable to my research, and I appreciate your willingness to contribute to this cause. Please rest assured that your responses are safe with me and will be kept confidential and will only be used for academic purposes. Murahoneza! Nitwa Judith .B. RWIBUTSO nkaba ndimo gukora ubushakashatsi kungaruka Ubucuruzi bwo kumuhanda muri Biryogo – Car-free zone bugira kw' iterambere ry' Umugi wa Kigali. Mfite amatsiko yo kumenya ubunararibonye nk' abacururiza ku muhanda, n' imbogamizi muhuranazo. Ibisubizo byanyu ningenzi cyane kubushakashatsi ndimo nkora, Mbashimiye umusanzu wanyu. Amakuru muduha azakoreshwa mu bushakashatsi gusa turabizeza ko ntawundi azasangizwa.

Do you give your consent to take part in this research? Wemeye kugira uruhare mur' ubu bushakashatsi?

- a) Yego

- b) Oya
- c) Yes, I Consent
- d) No, I don't Consent

i. Background Information

1. Can you describe your role within the city municipality and your responsibilities related to urban planning or street vending regulation? Ufite izihe nshingano mu igenamigambi ry' umujyi wa Kigali cyangwa gushyiraho amabwiriza agenga ubucuruzi bwo kumuhanda

ii. Policies of formalizing street vending (evictions and structured marketplace)Politiki igenga ubucuruzi bwo kumuhanda mu mujyi wa Kigali

1. Can you describe the rationale behind the eviction of street vendors from public spaces and creation of the structured marketplaces? Mwatubwira impamvu yatumye abazunguzayi babuzwa gucururiza aho babonye n' ishyirwaho ry' ahantu hemewe (Amasoko bakoreramo)?
2. How were these policies developed, and what factors are considered in the decision-making process?Izi ngamba zashyizweho zite byacye muzihe nzira kugirano cyo cyemezo gifatwe
3. Are there any specific issues related to public health, safety, or urban aesthetics that influenced the decision to evict street vendors?
4. Were there alternative arrangements provided to vendors before or after eviction (e.g., relocation, compensation)?

iii. Eviction Process and Implementation Uko ingamba zo guhangana n' ubuzunguzayi zafashwe

1. How did the city officials implement evictions of street vendors? What procedures were followed? Nizihe ntabwe zakurikijwe kugirango ingamba zifatwe?
2. How did the city officials ensure that evictions were conducted fairly and with respect for the vendors' livelihoods? Ubuyobozi bw' umujyi wa Kigali bwakoze iki ngo inyungu z' abazunguzayi zitabweho?

iv. Challenges in implementing the evictions and structured marketplace Imbogamizi mw' ishyirwa mubikorwa rya gahunda yo kurwanya ubucuruzi butemewe (Ubuzunguzayi)

1. What challenges are the city officials facing in implementing these policies in street vending activities? Nizihe mbogamizi ubuyobozi bw' umujyi buhura nazo mw' ishyirwamubikorwa ry' izi ngamba
2. How do you balance the need for orderly public spaces with the livelihoods of street vendors?

v. Interaction with Street Vendors Imikoranire n' abakora Ubuzunguzayi

1. How does the city municipality engage with street vendors? Are there any formal channels of communication or consultation? Umujyi wa Kigali uvugana ute n' abacururiza kumuhanda, ese haba hari uburyo bwashyizweho bworoshya itumanaho no guhererekanya amakuru.

2. Do you think the concerns of street vendors are adequately considered in the policies regarding the eviction of street vendors and the structured marketplaces? Ese utekereza ko ibibazo n' ibyo abakora ubuzunguzayi bitabwaho mu gutegura politike zigenga ubucuruzi bwo kumuhanada?

vi. **Theoretical and Policy Considerations**

1. How does the city municipality view the informal economy, and the role that street vendors play within it? Ubuyobozi bw' Umujiyubona bute ibikorwa byakongera umusoro biramutse byanditswe? Ni uruhe ruhare abazunguzayi babigiramo?

vii. **Recommendations and Future Plans**

1. What do you think could be done to improve the management of street vending in public spaces? Hakorwa iki kugirango imicungire ' abazunguzayi ivugururwe?
2. What advice would you give to policymakers looking to address the challenges associated with street vending? Wagira nama ki abashinzwe gufata ibyemezo murwego rwo gukemura imbogamizi zikigaragara.

Appendix 4: Approval to Conduct Research in Kigali



*Republic of Rwanda
City of Kigali*



Ref. N° *M89*...../07.01.16/24

Kigali, on.....

06 SEP 2024

Mrs. RWIBUTSO BAGWANEZA Judith
Erasmus University
Tel : 0788590818
Email : rwibutsob.judith@gmail.com

Dear Madam,

Re: Your request for permission to conduct research

Reference is made to your letter dated August 29th, 2024 requesting for permission to conduct academic research in Nyarugenge District/ City of Kigali on “ *Navigating urban informality: the impact of street vendors in Biryogo Car-Free Zone on local development in Kigali, Rwanda*”;

We would like to inform you that your request is hereby granted. However, before starting your research, you are kindly requested to introduce you to the **Administration of Nyarugenge Sector** and clarify your research needs.

Sincerely,


ABIYINGOMA Gerard
Director General of Corporate Services



Cc:

- City Manager of the City of Kigali
- District Executive Administrator/ Nyarugenge
- Executive Secretary of Sector/ Nyarugenge

KIGALI

Appendix 5: Ethics Review Form

ISS Research Ethics Review Form for RP research carried out by MA students¹

Aim:

This Form aims to help you identify research ethics issues which may come up in the design and delivery of your Research Paper (RP). It builds on the session on Research Ethics session in course 3105 and subsequent discussions with your peers and RP supervisor/reader. We hope the form encourages you to reflect on the ethics issues which may arise.

The process:

The Ethics Review process consists of answering questions in the following two checklists: B1-Low-sensitivity and B2-High-sensitivity. Depending on the answer to these questions you might need to fill section **C-Statement of Research Ethics** too.

The background document “ISS Research Ethics Guidelines for MA Students” provides advice and detailed information on how to complete this form.

Step 1 - Fill checklists B1 and B2

Step 2 - After answering checklists B1 and B2, the process proceeds as follows:

- **If you answer ‘yes’ to one or more low-sensitivity questions (checklist B1):** please discuss the issues raised with your supervisor and include an overview of the risks, and actions you can take to mitigate them, in the final design of your RP. You can refer to the ISS Research Ethics Guidelines for MA Students for help with this.
- **If you answer ‘yes’ to one or more high-sensitivity questions (checklist B2),** please complete section ‘C’ of the form below describing the risks you have identified and how you plan to mitigate against them. Discuss the material with your supervisor, in most cases the supervisor will provide approval for you to go ahead with your research and attach this form to the RP design when you upload it in canvas. If, after consultation with your supervisor, it is felt that additional reflection is needed, please submit this form (sections B1, B2, and C) to the Research Ethics Committee (REC) for review as follows:

When submitting your form to the REC, please send the following to researchethics@iss.nl:

- 1) the completed checklists B1 and B2 (or equivalent if dealing with an external ethics requirement)
- 2) the completed form C ‘Statement of Research Ethics’
- 3) a copy of the RP design

¹ This checklist and statement is adapted from the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) Research Ethics Committee and informed by the checklists of two Ethics Review Boards at EUR (ESHCC and ERIM) and the [EU H2020 Guidance – How to complete your ethics selfassessment](#).

- 4) any accompanying documentation, for example, consent forms, Data Management Plans (DMP), ethics clearances from other institutions.

Your application will be reviewed by a reviewer who is not part of your supervisory team. The REC aims to respond to ethics approval requests within a period of 15 working days.

Step 3 - Integrating the Ethics Review process into the RP:

- This Ethics Review Form needs to be added as an annex in your final RP Design document to be uploaded in the Canvas page for course 3105.

Project details, Checklists, and Approval Status

A) Project/Proposal details

1. Project/Proposal Title	Navigating Formalization of Street Vending: The Case of Street Vendors in Kigali City, Rwanda
2. Name of MA student (applicant)	Judith Bagwaneza Rwibutso
3. Email address of MA student	641346rb@eur.nl
4. Name of Supervisor	Sunil Tankha
5. Email address of Supervisor	tankha@iss.nl
6. Country/countries where research will take place	Rwanda-Kigali
7. Short description of the proposed research and the context in which it is carried out: To investigate the impact of formalization of street vending policies on local development in Kigali, I will use multi-methods approach where I will combine quantitative and qualitative methods as well as group focus discussions and interview where it is applicable.	

B) Research checklist

The following checklist acts as a guide to help you think through what areas of research ethics you may need to address. For explanations and guidance please refer to the background document 'ISS Research Ethics Guidelines for MA students'. Please complete both sections (B1 and B2)

	Please tick the appropriate box	YES	NO
B1: LOW-SENSITIVITY			
1. Does the research involve the collection and or processing of (primary or secondary) personal data (including personal data in the public domain)?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Does the research involve participants from whom voluntary informed consent needs to be sought?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Will financial or material incentives (other than reasonable expenses and compensation for time) be offered to participants?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Will the research require the co-operation of a gatekeeper for access to the groups, communities or individuals to be recruited (e.g., administrator for a private Facebook group, manager of an institutions, government official)?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Does the research include benefit-sharing measures for research which takes place with people who could be considered vulnerable? – please revise the background document (Guidelines) for more information.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

If you have ticked 'yes' to any of the above boxes (1-5), please discuss with your supervisor and include more information in your RP design describing the issue raised and how you propose to deal with it during your research.

	YES	NO
B2: HIGH SENSITIVITY		
6. Does the research involve the collection or processing of sensitive (primary or secondary) personal data? (e.g. regarding racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, biometric data, data related to health or a person's sex life or sexual orientation)	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
7. Does the research involve participants for whom voluntary and informed consent may require special attention or who can be considered 'vulnerable'? (e.g., children (under 18), people with learning disabilities, undocumented migrants, patients, prisoners)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
8. Will it be necessary for participants to take part in the research without their knowledge and consent (covert observation of people in non-public places)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

9. Will the research be conducted in healthcare institutions, in healthcare settings, or will it involve the recruitment or study of patients or healthcare personnel?	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
10. Could the research induce psychological stress or anxiety or cause harm or negative consequences for research participants, researchers, or persons and institutions connected to them?	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
11. Could the situation in one or several of the countries where research is carried out put the researcher, individuals taking part in the research, or individuals connected to the researcher, at risk? Presence of an infectious disease such as COVID-19 is considered a risk – please provide information as outlined in the background document (Guidelines).	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
12. Does the research require ethical approval or research permission from a local institution or body?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you have ticked ‘Yes’ to one of the above (5-11), please complete section ‘C’ below describing how you propose to mitigate the risks you have identified. After discussion with your supervisor, please submit the form to the Research Ethics Committee. In addition, if you have ticked ‘Yes’ to a question on any kind of personal data, please also complete the privacy questionnaire.

YOU ONLY NEED TO COMPLETE THIS SECTION IF YOU HAVE ANSWERED YES TO ONE OF THE QUESTIONS IN SECTION B2 ABOVE (Questions 5-11)

C) Statement of Research Ethics

Using the background document ‘ISS Research Ethics Guidelines for MA students’, please address how you are going to deal with the ethics concern identified, including prevention measure to avoid them from manifesting, mitigation strategies to reduce their impact, and preparedness and contingency planning if the risks manifest.

Please number each point to correspond with the relevant checklist question above. Expand this section as needed and add any additional documentation which might not be included in your RP design, such as consent forms.

[TO BE COMPLETED BY MA STUDENT AND DISCUSSED WITH THE SUPERVISOR. IF THE SUPERVISOR FINDS IT NECESSARY TO SEEK FURTHER REVIEW, THE STUDENT MUST SUBMIT THE FORM TO THE RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE]

D) Approval from Research Ethics Committee

*To be completed by the Research Ethics Committee only if

Approved by Research Ethics Committee:

Date:

.....

Additional comments for consideration from Research Ethics Committee:

If the REC needs more information before approving, the REC secretary will be in touch with the MA student. If after requesting more information the REC still has concerns, the REC secretary will ask the supervisor to discuss these with the student. In the unlikely event that there is still no resolution, the REC will refer the application to the Institute Board.

Appendix 6: Proof of Ethics Approval

11:57



Sunil Tankha
To You

11 Jul



Dear Judith

This is well-written and interesting. I think you can write a good RP if you keep it up. For now, if you have finished the requirements for the other classes, I suggest you concentrate on the literature review. In particular, you need to think about what kind of information you would need to collect in order to ascertain the impact of street vending in the local economy. See what other authors have written about it and think creatively yourself about the attractiveness of street vending. After that, you need to develop questionnaires for the semistructured interviews with both Kigali officials and the street vendors themselves. Prepare a draft of these interview guides and share them with me once you have done so.

Good luck

Sunil



The sensitivity was cleared

2. Have you ever been fined, arrested, or penalized for vending? If yes, can you describe these experiences? Ese wigeze ufatirwa ibihano, ucibwa amande cyangwa ufungirwa gukora ubucuruzi butemewe? Byagenze bite ?

ya ntabwoyabaye

vi) Attitudes towards Urban Planning Policy of Formalizing Street Vending and Recommendations / Imyitwarire ijyanye 'n' igenamigambi ry' umujyi mu kwemerera abacururiza kumuhanda gukora mu buryo bwemewe n' amategeko

1. Do you feel that your needs and concerns as a vendor are considered in the planning of public spaces? Ese utekerezako ibibazo byanyu byitabwaho mugihe cyo gukora igenamigambi?

Subizi imba byitabwaho

2. What do you think should be done differently by the authorities to support street vendors? Niki gikwiriye gukorwa murwego rwo gushyigikira abacururiza kumuhanda (abazunguzayi)

Kububakira isoko

3. What would you like to say to the municipality or urban planners regarding their treatment of street vendors? Nubuho butumwa waha Umujyi wa Kigali ukurikije uko ubona abazunguzayi bafatwa

Itakurambere babona kuko bama
nabo bafite umujyi ukwanye ku
kiza aho gukora aho kumuhanda

4. What changes would you recommend in the way public spaces are managed or in the laws governing street vending? Nizihe mpinduka wifuza ko zakwitabwaho murwego rwo gucunganeza ahantu rusange.

Umutekano ukwanye ku muhanda
kumuhanda

2. How has the eviction impacted your income and ability to support yourself/your family? Kwirukanwa nk' umuzunguzayi byagize izihe ngaruka ku bukungu bwawe, umuryango wawe.

Atabwo ndumuzunguzayi

3. Have you encountered any difficulties in finding a new location to sell your goods? Hari imbogamizi wahuye nazo kuva utangiye gukorera ahantu hashya wahawe gukorera?

Atayo

iv) Coping Mechanisms and Future Plans/ Ahazaza h' ubucuruzi bwo kumuhanda cyangwa uko ukora ubucuruzi azakomeza ibikorwa bye

1. How have you managed to continue your business or livelihood after eviction? Washoboye ute gukomeza gucuruza n' ubuzima busanzwe nyuma yo kwirukanwa ku muhanda?

Atabwo nigeze nkuruzamuhanda.

2. What are your plans for the future regarding your vending activities? Nizihe ngamba ufite ahazaza h' ubucuruzi bwawe wakoreraga ku muhanda?

Byadufashije kugira ahotebarizwa

3. Do you see any possible solutions that could help vendors like you continue to operate without facing eviction? Harikindi gisubizo ubona cyafasha abandi bakora ubucuruzi bwo kumuhanda nkawe gukomeza ibikorwa byabo batirukanywe?

Atabagira inama yorokora kumuhanda bagakora batuye

v) Interaction with Authorities/ Imikoranire n' ubuyobozi

1. What has been your experience interacting with local authorities or law enforcement regarding your vending activities? Wadusangiza uko mukorana n' inzego zibanze cyangwa inzego z' umutekano? Aho muherukanira guhura byagenze bite?

Baratugira inama yagukomeza kwinzeza imbere.