



# RESILIENCE OF WOMEN FOOD VENDORS IN TANZANIA

Nandera Ernest Mhando, University of Dar es Salaam

Nasibu Rajabu Mramba, College of Business Education Tanzania

## Research Problem:

In Tanzania, street food vending is dominated by women and is very popular and crucial to the poor women's economy. It creates employment and generates income, and supply food to the poor and youth who can't afford the price in formal restaurants.

Women food vendors (WFOVs) face a number of challenges in their day-to-day business operations, nevertheless women enter to food vending and others are graduating from informal to formal food business (restaurants) (Milanzi, 2011).

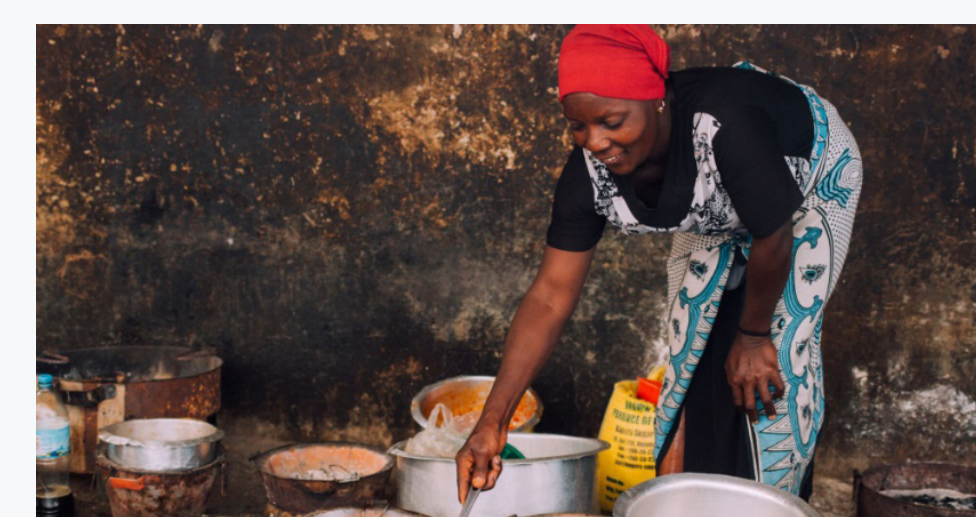
Our research look into inhibitors and enablers strategies facilitating the resilience of WFOVs in Tanzania. The term resilience is used to refer WFOVs who overcome the challenges related to their business and prosper by using different coping strategies.

## Methodology

Used previous research in Dar es Salaam (Mramba, 2018) and additional data was collected for our two projects in Mwanza and Mbeya using a survey questionnaire, interviews and focus group discussions.

Respondents were WFOVs, other street vendors, government officers responsible for street vendors, politicians, academicians and formal business owners.

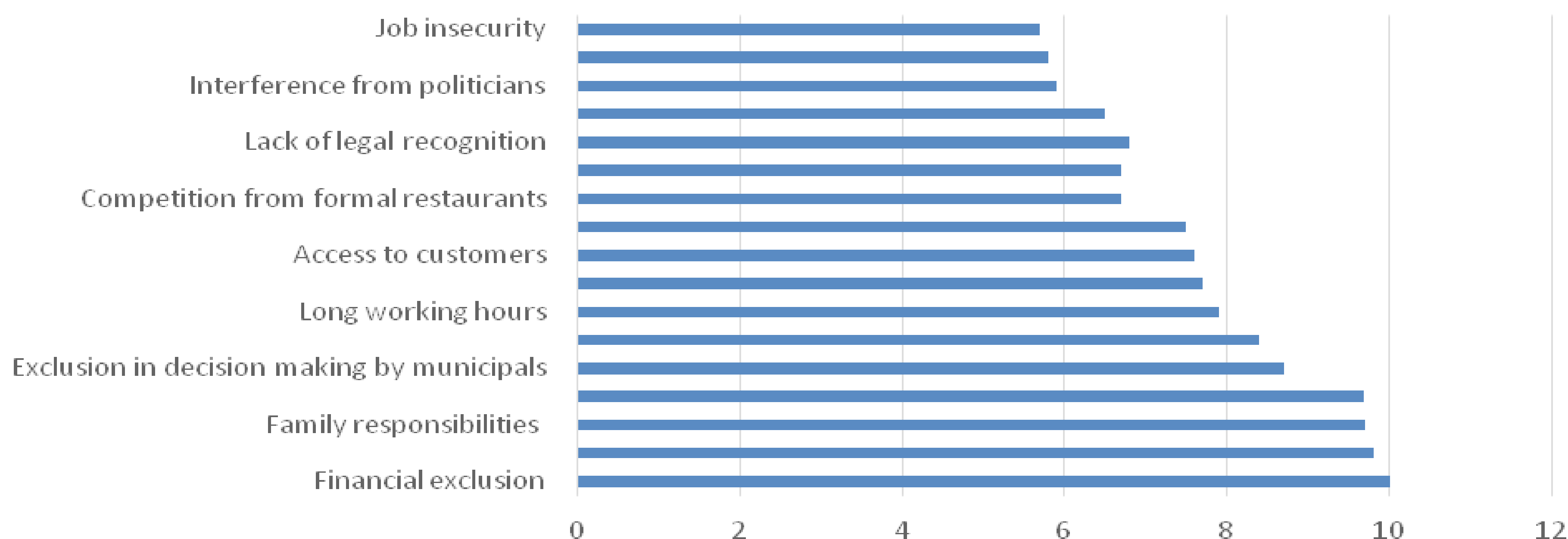
Data was collected between January 2015 and January 2019



## Findings

### Inhibitors:

MEAN SCORE



### Enablers:

- Supportive family - majority of WFOVs (65%) get capital from their family members;
- Overcome human capital through copying from others, learning by experience, trial and error;
- Employ cheap labour;
- Get education from information, communication and technology devices like radio, TV, and mobile phones;
- Have saving, credit, and social groups that allow to borrow money (for small interest), rotational money giving, self-help (sickness, death or accident and any other social problems). These associations serve as final institution (accept deposit, give credit, share dividend), and are meeting point to share and discuss their own development.

## Conclusion

- We used the concept of resilience to look at WFOVs ways of overcoming challenges and surviving by doing business in precarious environment in urban Tanzania.
- Though WFOVs are affected negatively by the lack of rules and regulations, the current political regime is supportive.
- WFOVs encounter specific challenges linking to gender and social-cultural due to type of service provision, and thus develop certain strategies to sustaining their business.
- Well-connected social networks is an important source of social capital and entrepreneurial networks.

This research project was funded by the Institution for **Inclusive Development**