

STREET VENDING

Threat to Social Order or Employment Opportunity?

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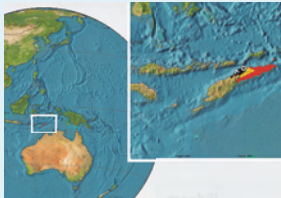
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Context

- Timor-Leste is heavily dependent on oil and gas, but petroleum revenues have fallen by more than 66% since 2012.
- Rapid annual population growth rate at 3.8 %
- Half of the Timorese population lives on less than US\$1.33 per day (2011).
- 58% of children under age 5 are moderately or severely stunted (2011).



Four sub-districts of Dili, the capital of Timor-Leste

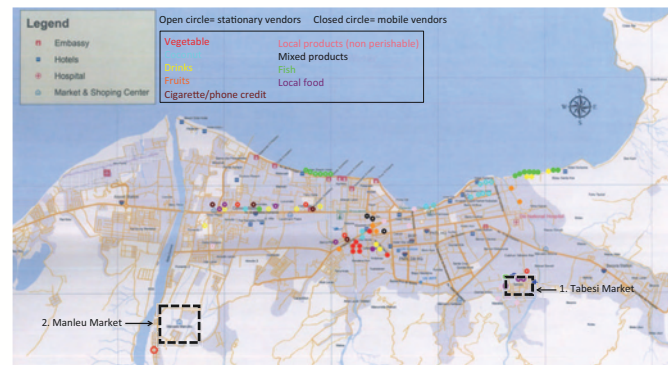
Objective

1. Identify why street vendors choose to work in the informal market instead of government sanctioned marketplaces.
2. How can the Timorese government improve the lives of workers who lack job security and legal protection?

Methodology

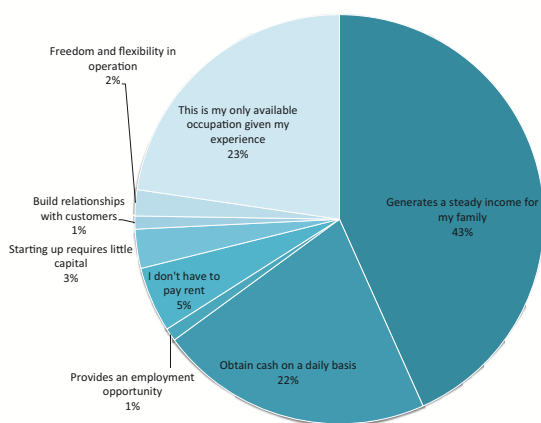
1. Surveyed 85 street vendors to gather baseline data on the **demographics**, **income-levels**, **source of goods**, **work strategies**, and perceived **challenges** and **prospects** of informal street vendors.
2. Collected 203 surveys from expatriates who lived in/are living in Dili to learn about their perception on street vendors.
3. Interviewed the Ministry of Tourism and Market Department on the city's regulations on street vending, the establishment and conditions of marketplaces, and previous attempts and outcomes of relocating street vendors

The migration of vendors from the marketplace towards the town center suggests a great demand for goods in the untapped informal sector.



This map tracks the types and locations of the 85 surveyed vendors

What are your top reasons for choosing to become a street vendor?



Findings

Daily profits	Average working hours per day	Education level	Income spending	Job security
35% of participants earn less than \$5 per day	12 hours	50% of participants have never attended school	45% of participants use their income to pay for education for self or family	19% of participants pay authorities daily in order to ensure job security

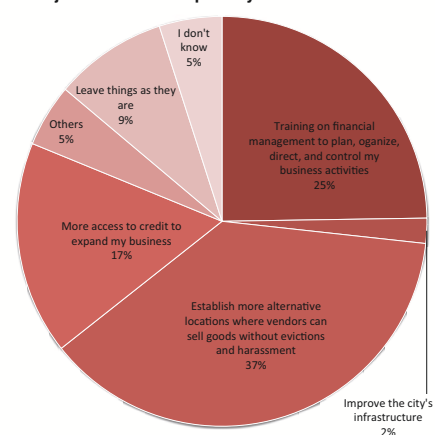
96% of vendors work the same routes everyday.

82% of surveyed foreigners hope to see street vending continue in the future.

Modes of Vending



What can the government do to make your job easier and improve your business?



Policy Recommendations

1. Allow street vendors and consumers to determine the location of future marketplaces.
2. Improve working conditions for vendors (e.g. repair wooden carts, supply water and electricity consistently in marketplaces, and improve the city's infrastructure).
3. Provide training opportunities for vendors without schooling to acquire new skills.
4. Consider legalizing street vending and implement some regulations such as vending times, location, and hygiene protocols to benefit sellers and consumers.

