

# TEAM ONE

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## SMALL BUSINESS, BIG WASTE?

Small street food entrepreneurs in Indonesia find innovative ways to tackle food waste. There are many lessons to be learned when addressing the issue on a nation-wide level.

### NO ACTION TOO SMALL

Street food plays an important role in Indonesian food culture with vendors serving traditional dishes at almost every street corner. Therefore, we look into how street food contributes to the massive food waste problem in Indonesia. Food waste can be defined as food that is fit for consumption but ends up in the bin either in the hands of food retailers or consumers. Indonesia is one of the largest producers of food waste in the world.

We got the opportunity to visit two different street food vendors, and we took the time to have genuine conversations with the owners. What we learned from these conversations is that the vendors in Indonesia are aware of the concept of food waste and try to find ways to avoid food waste and innovatively discard it in sustainable ways. Especially small street food entrepreneurs know their customer base well, so they can purchase the right amount of ingredients for the day and prepare meals that their customers really eat. In addition, vendors reheat meals the following days and sell them as long as they are edible, to avoid food waste. The most common products that are wasted are chicken bones, fish heads and some parts of vegetables.

When it comes to getting rid of food waste, if possible, street food vendors feed animals with it or use it as fertilizer to grow plants. However, we realize that all street food vendors do not necessarily operate as sustainably as our interviewees. For example, in large street food markets it can be more difficult to discard food waste sustainably or predict the demand of food to purchase the right amount of ingredients.

#### Stakeholders involved

- Consumers
- Street food vendors and employees
- Wet market
- Delivery platforms and drivers
- Stray/domesticated animals
- Waste management organizations

#### Main products wasted

- Chicken bones
- Fish heads
- Vegetable roots and heads

