Review

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Food Safety Regulation for Small Food Businesses in Southern Africa Development Communities: An Integrated Review of Public Health Laws, Informal Food Markets, and Risk-Based Regional Frameworks

Funke T. Adedeji * and Elma van der Lingen

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Review

Food Safety Regulation for Small Food Businesses in Southern Africa Development Communities: An Integrated Review of Public Health Laws, Informal Food Markets, and Risk-Based Regional Frameworks

Funke T. Adedeji [1,2,*] and Elma van der Lingen [1]

1 Department of Engineering and Technology Management, University of Pretoria, South Africa

2 African Institute for Science, Policy and Innovation, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria

* Correspondence: tf.adedeji@up.ac.za; tfadedeji@oauife.edu.ng, Tel.: +270716396707

Highlights

Public health relevance—How does this work relate to a public health issue?

- Unsafe food from small food businesses contributes to foodborne illness, diarrhoeal disease and under nutrition, especially among low-income consumers who rely on street food and informal outlets for daily meals.
- By exposing gaps in SADC food safety laws and enforcement for these businesses and proposing a stronger regional framework, the study offers concrete ways to reduce contamination, improve hygiene and protect population health at scale.

Public health significance—Why is this work of significance to public health?

- This review shows that small food businesses provide a large share of daily meals in SADC yet operate under fragmented, outdated and weakly enforced food safety laws, which drives foodborne disease, diarrhoeal illness and avoidable mortality, especially among poor and immunocompromised populations.
- By mapping ten national health related food laws across sixteen SADC states, documenting compliance gaps and proposing a coordinated regional food safety agency and modern Food Act that reflects small food business realities and uses innovation and risk-based assessment, the work offers a concrete pathway to reduce contamination, strengthen surveillance and protect public health at scale in Southern Africa.

Public health implications—What are the key implications or messages for practitioners, policy makers and/or researchers in public health?

- Practitioners and local authorities should strengthen hygiene support, inspection, and training for small food businesses using clear, practical standards and simple digital tools, to reduce contamination and foodborne disease in communities.
- Policymakers and researchers should use the regional evidence to modernise and harmonise food safety legislation for small food businesses across SADC and evaluate how new regulatory models improve health outcomes and equity.

Abstract

Introduction: The African Union and regional initiatives, such as the African Food Safety Agency and the Southern African Development Community's (SADC) food safety guidelines, introduced interventions to reduce the burden of foodborne disease. However, progress in strengthening food safety regulations for small food businesses (SFBs) across SADC remains limited. **Objective:** to investigate the existing food safety regulations for SFBs and their compliance levels to achieve a sustainable local food system across SADC. **Methodology:** The PRISMA Protocol was used to review thirty-one articles collected from online databases between 2018 and 2025. Screened with inclusion and exclusion criteria. **Result:** Ten national health-related food laws, acts, and regulations were identified across the 16 member states of the region; all the countries have Public Health Law except

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for Comoros, 87% have Animal Health Law, and 69% have the Standard Quality Act, Consumer Protection Law, Livestock and Meat Law, and Plant-Related Law. South Africa and other countries have the highest number of food-related laws, which also include the most explicit law for SFBs, known as the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972, revised in 2018. Conditions like poor hygienic practices, inadequate cooling and storage methods, cultural beliefs, a lack of potable water, limited consumer awareness, low technology adoption, and outdated laws for SFBs, potable water, limited consumer awareness, low technology adoption, technical know-how, old, and fragmented laws affected their compliance level, the review identified better coordination, capacity building for vendors and regulators, collaborative efforts, and digital technology adoption emerged as best. **Conclusion:** An autonomous Food Safety Agency situated under the member state's Ministry of Health with a multisectoral board for coordination. The Food Act should be aligned with SFBs' complexities, integrating innovations and a risk-based assessment.

Keywords: food safety; compliance; regulation; street food vendors; informal food sector; SADC; consumers.

1. Introduction

Foodborne diseases (FBD) continue to pose a significant global burden within the context of food security and national economic growth. The report of (Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 2023; Henson et al., 2023) states that 600 million people worldwide fall ill after consuming unsafe food, resulting in an estimated 480,000 deaths, with 40% children under 5 years annually. This has led to US$115 billion loss in productivity and medical expenses for eating unsafe food, mostly exacerbated in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)(Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 2023; Henson et al., 2023). A country that can assure safe food would benefit from international trade opportunities, thereby increasing its Gross Domestic Product GDP (FAO, 2007), directly addressing Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 3, also aligning with the Africa 2063 agenda of the "Africa we want". Asian and African regions are more severely burdened with 53% of infectious diseases, and 72% of global disability adjusted life years (DALYs) lost to FBD are attributed to the region, which collectively comprises 41% of the global population (Gibb et al., 2019).

Figure 1. Graphical Abstract.

In the SADC region, small and micro food businesses (SFBs) constitute up to 65% which accounts for over 2.5 million jobs in South Africa alone Nyathi *et al*., (2025), providing domestic markets for fish, meat, fruit, milk, and vegetables in LMICs, which are all nutrient-dense foods that simultaneously serve as primary vectors of FBD (Ayalew et al., 2023; Henson et al., 2023).

The scope of their businesses encompasses informal street food operators, street food vendors, small-scale processors, caterers, spaza shops, and family-owned restaurants (Gallo et al., 2020). They

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serve as critical entry points for women and adolescents into the economy, generating employment opportunities.

Despite the importance of this sector, it comes with uniquely intricate challenges because of its complex nature and mostly burden on the consumers, as found by many authors this includes but not limited to inconsistent enforcement, inadequate infrastructure, low knowledge, attitude and practice of operators, poor data management, limited consumer awareness, poor hygiene, lack of finance and technological capabilities across LMICs including SADC (Dama et al., 2024; Leahy et al., 2022; Mbombo-Dweba et al., 2022; Rugji et al., 2025; Sosah & Donkor, 2025).

The assurance of safe food is essential to improving the quality of life for those already affected by diseases like HIV, malaria, and Tuberculosis because their immune system is already compromised (Mwanza, 2024).

Food safety, as defined by WHO (2024), is the assurance that food will not cause harm to the consumer when prepared and/ or eaten according to its intended use, and further describes food hygiene as all the measures taken to ensure the wholesomeness of food from farm to fork (WHO, 2024). The food safety regulation forms the bedrock on which food security and economic prosperity can be achieved, most especially in Africa (Jaffee et al., 2018). The responsibility to achieve food safety is shared among different national authorities and requires a multisectoral approach FAO/ WHO, 2024; Codex Alimentarius Commission,(Büthe et al., 2011; Piližota, 2023). The international consensus to achieve food safety is through a risk-based, farm-to-fork approach that focuses on cost-effective prevention integrated with innovative technologies (Arimi & Adebayo, 2024). Governments are obligated to safeguard the health of consumers, which encompasses the prevention of infectious illnesses. Consequently, food standards are essential to aid governments in protecting public health (Mphaga et al., 2024). An efficient food control system is essential for the effective enforcement of the standards (Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 2007). To achieve an effective food control system, the food regulators, particularly in the case of small food business regulation, the environmental health practitioners (EHPs) must be adequately trained and have access to updated resources to discharge their responsibilities, supported by a strong institutional and political component (Alemu et al., 2023; Battersby & Miles, 2025).

The SADC is a regional economic community that is composed of 16 member states in Figure 2 with a mission to foster sustainable, equitable economic growth and socio-economic development by fostering efficient, productive systems, deeper cooperation and integration, good governance, and durable peace and security. This will enable the region to become a competitive and effective player in international relations and the global economy, just like the European Union (www.sadc.int/memberstate, 2025.10.03). The region has an estimated 254 million people with a mean age of 15 years old, about 76% of the entire population is below the age of 35 years (Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 2014). If this population is well harnessed, it could translate into economic prosperity for the region. It has been identified that South Africa and other SADC states' food safety regulations are either incomplete or fragmented, lacking in communication, coordination, and confidence (Grace et al., 2019; Hunter-Adams et al., 2018; S. B. Kushitor et al., 2022; Mkhwanazi et al., 2024; Mwamakamba et al., 2012). South Africa's food control and safety system plays, or should be playing, a vital role in protecting public health. However, recent food poisoning scandals and the listeriosis outbreak have underscored the need for improvements (Sithole, 2023a, 2023b).

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Figure 2. SADC Map Source: (Southern African Development Community (SADC), 2011).

Historically, in SADC states, food safety regulation has been developed with formal businesses and export markets in mind, largely disregarding the realities of micro and small food business operators (Grace, 2015; Kasapila, 2023). In the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system, risk management was emphasized as a global benchmark for the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and WHO in the general principles of Food Hygiene CXC 1-1969, revised 2020, of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Büthe et al., 2011). The hygiene requirements for food premises and transport in South Africa are exhaustive, as presented in Regulation R638 of 2018, according to the Department of Health, and were consistent with the principles of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) (Lang, 2024). Nevertheless, the implementation within the broader SADC region is uneven, with small food businesses facing high compliance costs, inadequate laboratory infrastructure, and limited inspector capability (Chilenga et al., 2024).

A rigorous examination of the existing food safety regulations of the SADC states could assist in creating a robust regional food safety regulation that can address the complexities in the small food business within the region, thereby safeguarding public health and maintaining standards within the SADC. This will help to answer the following questions.

RQ1: Framework. What food safety regulatory framework exists for SFB within the SADC states?

RQ2: Compliance. How well do these regulations address the identified challenges of SFBs?

RQ3: Best Practices. What best practices emerge for improving food safety regulation in the SADC states?

RQ4: **Limitations:** What are the limitations to addressing food safety regulation among the SFBs?

Objective: to assess available food safety regulation for small food businesses and their compliance level to attain a sustainable local food system in the SADC states.

2. Materials and Methods

This systematic review was conducted following the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis (PRISMA) guidelines (Page et al., 2021). The literature search was done across various online databases, like Scopus, Web of Science, Google Scholar, and ProQuest, to identify articles related to food safety regulation and compliance in the SADC regions. Search strings used are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Research question and search string.

Research Question	Search String
RQ 1:	("food safety" OR "food hygiene") AND ("regulatory framework" OR "regulation" OR "policy" OR "legislation") AND ("small food business*" OR "small and medium enterprise*" OR "informal sector" OR "street vendor*") AND ("SADC" OR "Southern Africa" OR "South Africa" OR "Botswana" OR "Namibia" OR

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RQ 2:	"Zambia" OR "Zimbabwe" OR "Mozambique" OR "Tanzania" OR "Angola" OR "Lesotho" OR "Eswatini" OR "DRC" OR "Malawi" OR " Mauritius" OR "Seychelles" OR "Madagascar" OR "Comoros") ("food safety" OR "food hygiene") AND ("compliance" OR "adherence" OR "implementation" OR "assessment") AND ("small food business*" OR "small and medium enterprise*" OR "informal sector" OR "street vendor*") AND ("SADC" OR "Southern Africa" OR "South Africa" OR "Botswana" OR "Namibia" OR "Zambia" OR "Zimbabwe" OR "Mozambique" OR "Tanzania" OR "Angola" OR "Lesotho" OR "Eswatini" OR "DRC" OR "Malawi" OR " Mauritius" OR "Seychelles" OR "Madagascar" OR "Comoros")
RQ3:	("food safety" OR "food hygiene") AND ("regulator*" OR "authority" OR "enforcement" OR "inspection") AND ("challenge*" OR "barrier*" OR "constraint*" OR "difficulty") AND ("informal sector" OR "street vendor*" OR "small food business*") AND ("SADC" OR "Southern Africa" OR "South Africa" OR "Botswana" OR "Namibia" OR "Zambia" OR "Zimbabwe" OR "Mozambique" OR "Tanzania" OR "Angola" OR "Lesotho" OR "Eswatini" OR "DRC" OR "Malawi" OR " Mauritius" OR "Seychelles" OR "Madagascar" OR "Comoros")
RQ4:	("best practices" OR "standard") AND ("good practice*" OR "criterion" OR "metric" OR "best guide") AND ("benchmark*" OR "best method*" OR "baseline*" OR "difficulty") AND ("informal sector" OR "street vendor*" OR "small food business*") AND ("SADC" OR "Southern Africa" OR "South Africa" OR "Botswana" OR "Namibia" OR "Zambia" OR "Zimbabwe" OR "Mozambique" OR "Tanzania" OR "Angola" OR "Lesotho" OR "Eswatini" OR "DRC" OR "Malawi" OR " Mauritius" OR "Seychelles" OR "Madagascar" OR "Comoros")

We also searched for the reference list of articles included to identify other relevant articles that were published between 2018 and 2025. The inclusion and exclusion criteria followed the Population, Interventions, Comparator, Outcomes PICOS framework as explained in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1. Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria.

Criteria	Inclusion	Exclusion
Database	Scopus Google Scholar Web of Science ProQuest	Thesis and dissertations
P - Population	Small food businesses (SFBs), small and medium enterprises (SMEs), or informal food sector actors such as street vendors and small processors, spaza shops, and environmental health practitioners	Exclusively on large-scale food manufacturers, multinational corporations, or formal retail chains.
I- Intervention	Only study that addresses food safety Regulations, Policies, Frameworks, or Interventions such as HACCP, hygiene training, and regulatory enforcement.	Solely on food quality, food security, or nutritional value, without a direct link to safety/hygiene regulations.
O - Outcome	Studies reporting any of these: Level of Regulatory Compliance, Challenges to Compliance, either for businesses or regulators, and effectiveness of regulatory interventions.	Opinion pieces, editorials, commentaries, or theoretical models that do not report empirical data on compliance or challenges.
S - Study Design	Empirical studies, Systematic Reviews for background/context only, but not for primary data extraction.	Non-research articles such as book chapters, conference abstracts without a full paper, dissertations not published in a peer-reviewed journal.
G - Geography	Studies conducted in one or more SADC member states: South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, etc.	Studies were conducted in non-SADC African countries like West Africa, North Africa, or outside of Africa.
L - Language	Articles published in English.	Articles not published in English
T - Timeframe	Articles published from January 2018 to the present	Articles published before January 1, 2018.

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2.1. Study Selection and Data Extraction

The selection of articles for this review involved a three-phased screening process to retrieve relevant articles. All duplicates were initially removed from the initial pool of studies using Covidence, a digital tool for systematic reviews. The titles and abstracts of the remaining studies were then screened to align with predefined inclusion criteria. Articles with full text were transferred to the next phase for data extraction. The included articles were then downloaded into EndNote 2025, a referencing tool to enhance the review process. Each article was completely read, and essential data was extracted into Microsoft Excel 365 software to manage the data from the studies included. The data were independently extracted from each study through the data extraction format prepared in Microsoft Excel 365. The extracted information was added to the relevant category of the question raised. In addition, information such as the author's name, publication year, research methods, key findings, and specific insights related to the research questions were identified accordingly. ATLAS.Ti was used to code and analyze the findings in each article. Tables and Sankey diagrams were used to categorize each theme of the question to achieve the objective of the research. This approach enabled the review to provide comprehensive insight into the research questions by synthesizing and analyzing the literature systematically.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Search Result

After screening during the initial search of the online databases identified a total of 783 publications from various databases, including Scopus (n = 238), Web of Science (n = 76), Google Scholar (n = 209), ProQuest (n = 215), citation search (n=24) and search result from other online sources (n=21) consisting of grey literature (n=15), six studies were identified through snowballing of interested articles. We identified duplicates (n =379), ineligible text (n=53), we screened (n=351) after going through the abstracts and titles. Among these, (n=295) articles were excluded because they did not meet the established inclusion criteria for the already set research question. A total of (n=56) articles were sorted for retrieval, (n=37) were assessed for eligibility, quality check removed 6, out of which 31 articles and grey literature met the inclusion criteria for the review, as shown in Figure 3.

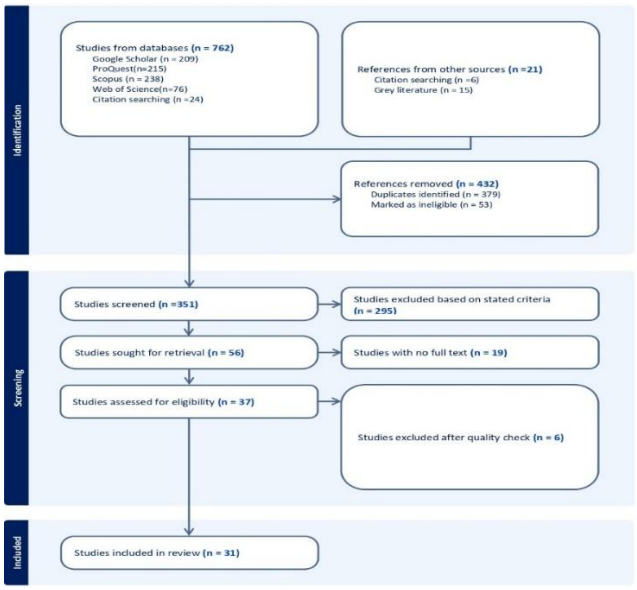

Figure 3. 1. PRISMA DIAGRAM Source: (Page et al., 2021).

Figure 3. 2 shows the frequency of research from 2018 to 2025; the highest number of papers was published in 2024, and the least in 2019, which implies that there is a growing interest in the field of

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food safety regulation within SADC state. Most of the research focuses on the compliance of South Africa's food safety regulations and small food businesses.

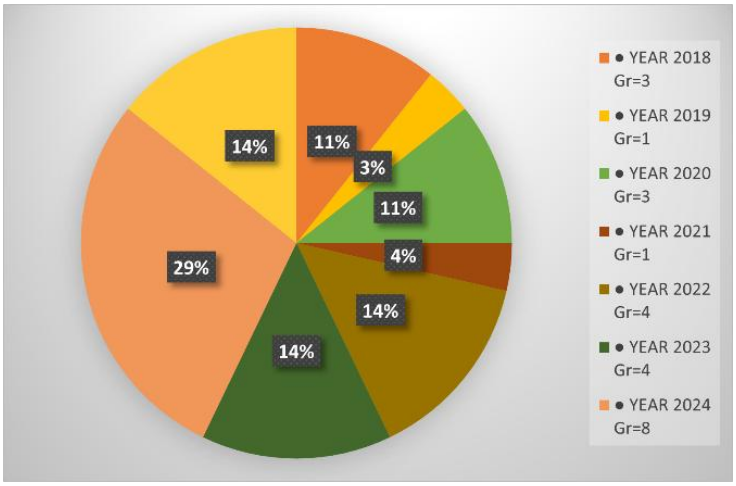

Figure 3. 2. Frequency of Research between 2018 and 2025.

3.2. What Food Safety Regulatory Framework Exists for SFB Within the SADC States?

The term framework, food safety regulations were found in Kasapila, 2023 where existing food laws were represented in the form of a table for the sixteen (16) SADC states as contained in Appendix 2. Figure 3. 3 shows the countries and the respective food laws available there. It was found that all countries had a Public Health Law, except for Comoros; South Africa, and seven other countries had a Food Control or Standard Law. The analysis of the extracted data shows that 41% of the articles indicated that the laws were fragmented, as illustrated in Figure 3. 4 study mentioned that food safety regulations were an integrated framework, and the other 39% were uncategorized.

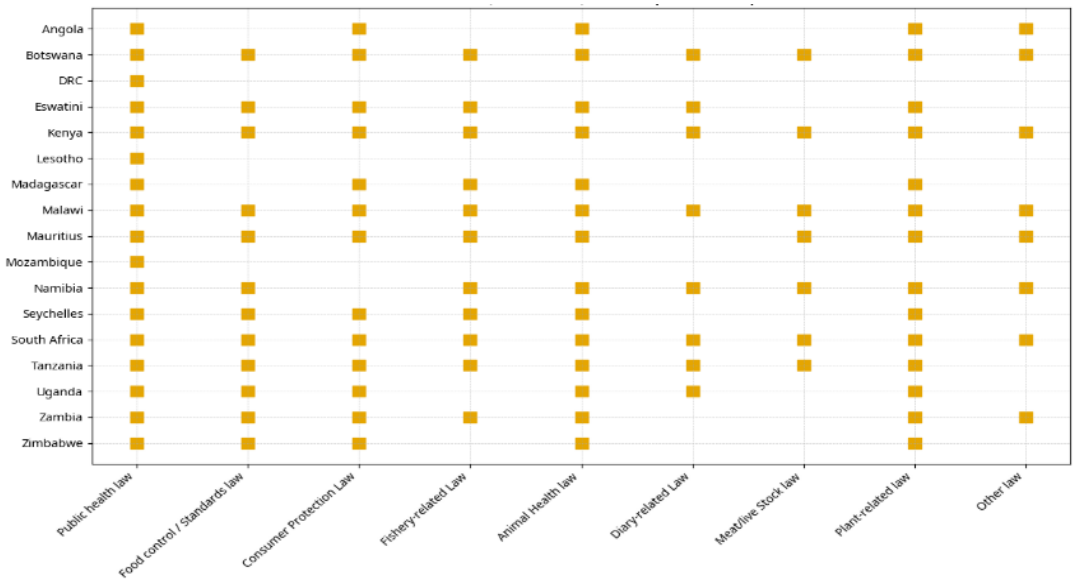

Figure 3. 3. Countries and their respective food laws.

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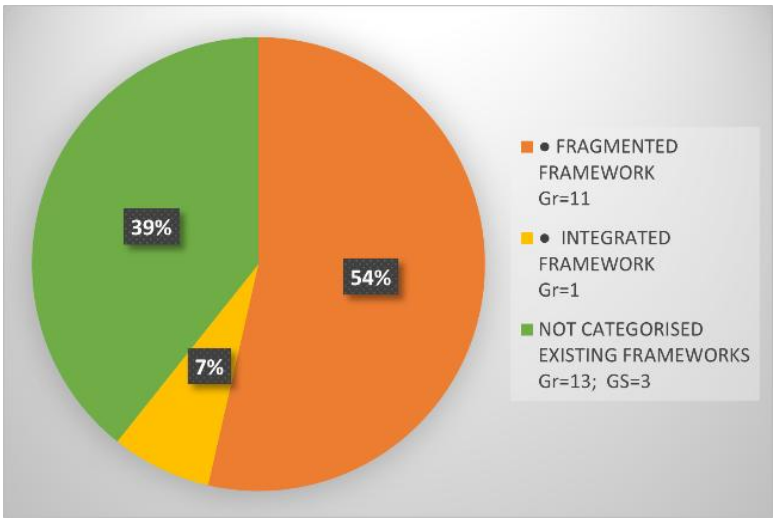

Figure 3. 4. Existing Framework type.

Ten different national health-related food laws, acts, and regulations were identified, with year enacted ranging from 1937 to 2022, the latest being the Food Act, 2022, Act no 12 of 2022 in Mauritius. According to (Ayalew et al., 2023) it concluded that Africa must prioritize establishing the Africa Food Safety Agency AFSA, developing and funding national risk-based strategies, implementing the AU food safety framework, strengthening surveillance, and conducting national burden studies. In the same vein, (Gordon et al., 2020) also mentioned that A centralized food control system is mandatory to ensure safe food within SFB, the study advocates for an autonomous national food safety agency to be hosted by the Ministry of Health, and gives power to the multisectoral boards in each country (Kimanya, 2024). The extensive work by Kasapila (2023) indicated that out of the sixteen SADC states, only South Africa, shown in Figure 3. 5, has all the necessary food laws and regulations in accordance with the global standards of Adaku *et al*., (2024), followed by Malawi, Mauritius, Tanzania, and Zambia, while Comoros has no available food-related laws, not to mention laws for SFBs.

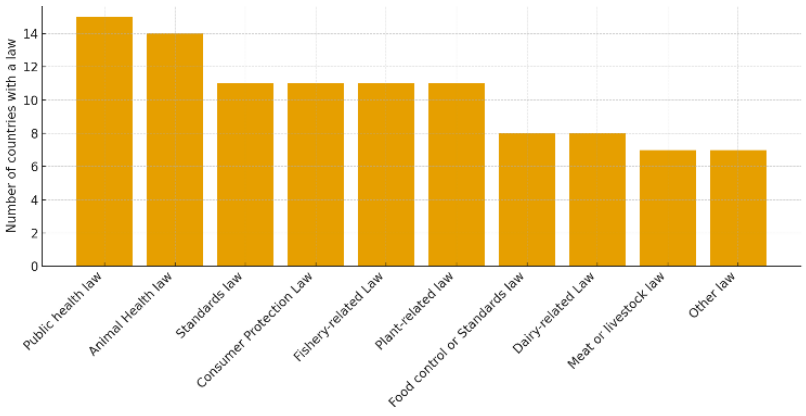

Figure 3. 5. Number of food-related laws by country.

The Food and Nutrition Security Strategy, 2015 – 2025, Food and Agriculture Organization (2014) looks good on paper, but at the time of this review, the objectives highlighted have not been achieved based on evidence.

Government initiatives to reduce the incidence of FBD outbreaks have been put into place, and various strategies to implement food safety regulation, especially for the region, have been hampered by different countries within the SADC failing to cooperate, a lack of funding, technical expertise, and uncoordinated efforts (Arias-Granada et al., 2021). The R638 of South Africa (Department of

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Health (DoH), 2018) and Public Health Act (CAP 15-17 No 11/2018) are the most recent documents that address food safety, which is quite old and does not take into consideration the advent of technology to facilitate food product traceability and safety issues.

3.3. What Is the Compliance Level

The food safety compliance has two dimensions to it the vendor compliance and regulatory compliance to standards, which are mentioned in the reviewed articles.

3.3.1. Vendor Compliance:

A study indicated that street food vendors often exhibit poor hygiene practices, inadequate storage, and handling methods. The infrastructure and sanitary systems are generally inadequate, which raises significant concerns regarding food safety (Letuka et al., 2021). In a survey of street food vendors in Maseru, Lesotho, it was found that; 60% of vendors were female, safety knowledge scored an average of 49%, 95% had a positive attitude towards food safety, none of the vendors used gloves, while 64% wore aprons, 98% prepared meals in advance, and 84% checked expiry dates, 62% protected their meals from pests, and 60% had access to potable water, 10% of consumers reported illness after consuming street food, this was represented in Figure 3. 6 showing that vendor practices compliance issue was highly reported, while infrastructure inadequacy to meet SFB realities was reported in a lower proportion.

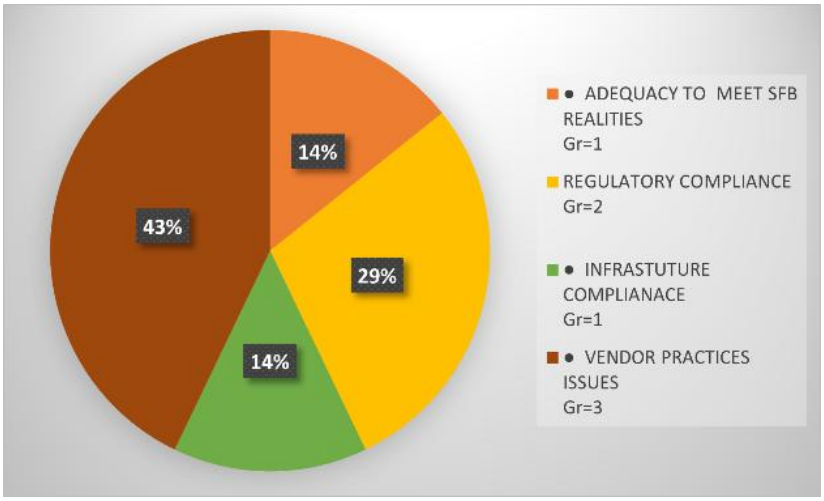

Figure 3. 6. Compliance with existing food safety regulations.

There was a distinct gap between what vendors know about food safety, their beliefs, and their actual practices. Frequent practical training and tailored health education are recommended to improve compliance and reduce food safety risks Desye *et al*., (2023). In a cross-sectional study of 2,989 vendors, it was indicated that secondary education significantly increases food safety practices among vendors, with those having higher education showing six times higher odds of better practices (Desye et al., 2023).

3.3.2. Regulatory Compliance:

The regulatory environment was found to be grossly fragmented, with different responsibilities divided among various ministries. This has led to inconsistent enforcement of food safety regulations. Many countries lack comprehensive food safety laws, and existing regulations are often outdated (Chilenga et al., 2024; Dama et al., 2024; Gordon et al., 2020; Mphaga et al., 2024). There was a noticeable non-synergized role between the vendors' association and the regulators (Cook et al., 2024). The regulators were found to be weak in terms of technical capacity (Dama et al., 2024). The

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report of Sithole, 2023b suggested that South Africa falls short of EHP by 28% meaning that 1 EHP serves over 30,000 inhabitants, as against the United Nations standard of 1 to every 10,000 inhabitants. The study on the responsiveness of EHP to foodborne outbreaks showed that most SADC member states could not perform in-country testing and only relied on awareness and recall of food products (Gadaga & Mutukumira, 2020).

3.4. Emergence of Best Practices for Improving Food Safety Regulation in SADC.

A rapid evidence assessment to improve food safety culture using video observation to evaluate the effectiveness of newly developed hand washing pictograms on employees' hand washing behaviour, which included the use of signage with handwashing pictograms with explanations in English in high traffic areas concluded that while knowledge training can lead to improvements in handwashing practices and some behaviors among food handlers, it is often insufficient on its own to sustain long-term changes in food safety practices. Interventions, like signage, provision of thermometers, and incentives, are necessary to enhance compliance with food safety behaviors, but are inadequate. Thereby, suggesting that training should be complemented with strategies aimed at improving management styles and staff oversight to achieve desired outcomes in food safety(McCallion et al., 2025).

Kasapila, (2023), in a desk review of all publicly available legal text and food standards in SADC states that the laws are sometimes unavailable or fragmented and calls for the creation of Food Acts where it is absent, that integrate risk assessment along the food value chain. It also recommends moving HACCP from voluntary to legal grounds and implementing more regulations in the informal food sector.

Another study identified multilevel governance with no policy that synergizes SFBs' association and regulator responsibilities; it recognizes that street food is a social part of Sub-Saharan Africa SSA urban centres, but its potential is affected by food safety problems, inadequate infrastructure, gender inequalities, and uncoordinated regulation. It therefore proposed an investment in market infrastructure, stronger nutrition-focused programs, and expanded access to finance to improve food safety metrics (Cook et al., 2024). To describe the study appropriately, a bar chart representation was generated in Figure 3. 7 which indicates that only Rugji et al., (2025) discussed the use of artificial intelligence AI to ensure compliance with food safety regulations within the SFBs.

A qualitative and multistage study by (Dama et al., 2024; Oladipo-Adekeye & Tabit, 2021), indicated low technology adoption in enforcement and traceability in the event of an outbreak, an under-regulated informal food sector, and recommended research and technology-led actions towards enhancing safer food in South Africa. Collaborative research should be conducted to simplify the regulation of SFBs. Data-driven enforcement and continuous surveillance with modern traceability, practical training, public communication, and reliable infrastructure will enhance sustainable informal food systems (Agunyai & Ojakorotu, 2024). The study of Rugji et al., (2025) calls out the need for digital infrastructure, secure data sharing, and training in the workforce.

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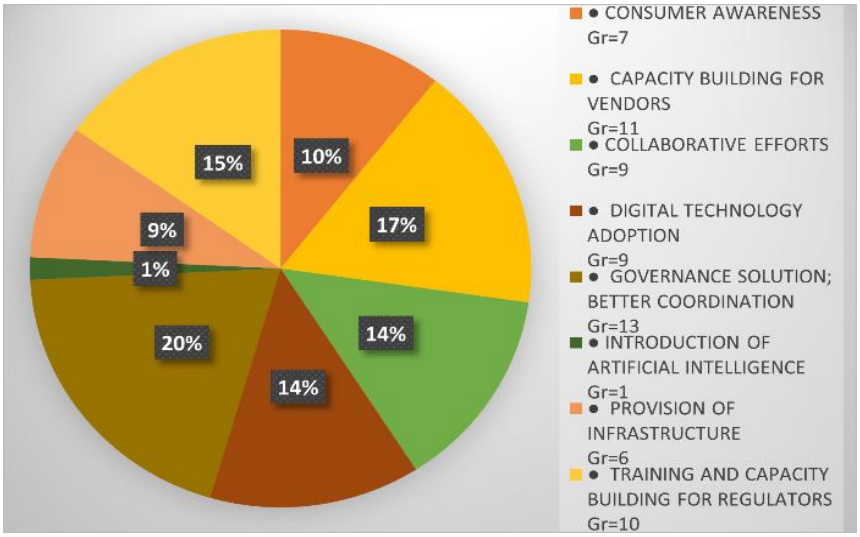

Figure 3. 7. Best practice for food safety regulation.

3.5. Limitations to Addressing Food Safety Regulation Among the SFBs?

Factors such as poor financing on the part of governments and low technology adoption were briefly mentioned as limitations in the articles reviewed, while inadequate infrastructure, informal sector neglect, and overlapping governance were identified as prominent limitations to address food safety regulations, as indicated in Figure 3. 8.

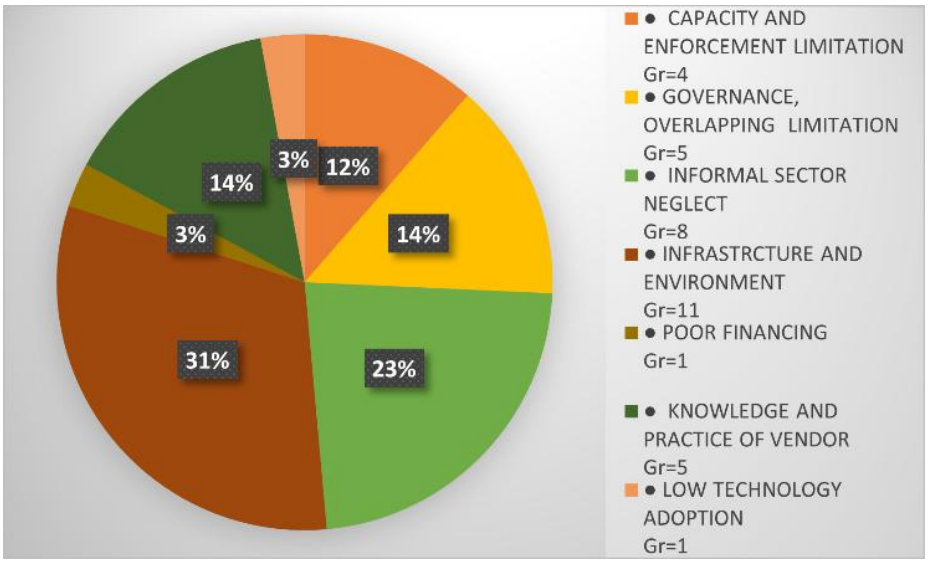

Figure 3. 8. Limitations to addressing food safety regulations.

4. Conclusion and Recommendation:

SADC member states face a fragmented and underdeveloped regulatory environment characterized by the low capability of both regulators and operators of the SFBs. This weak enforcement mechanism, due to a lack of sufficient scientific expertise, will impact risk assessment and regulatory compliance. The study noted a non-exploration of local dynamics and their effect on regulatory acceptance and compliance. Emerging technologies such as blockchain, Internet of Things (IoT), and Artificial Intelligence (AI) offer potential tools to enhance transparency, traceability, and regulatory compliance across food safety systems, particularly among SFBs with complex intricacies, yet their adoption remains low in SADC, partly due to political, financial, and infrastructural limitations. Capacity building emerges as a critical push for advancing harmonization efforts in

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SADC, with international collaboration, regional centres of expertise, and public-private partnerships identified as key mechanisms to bridge expertise and resource gaps. However, the effectiveness of such initiatives is constrained by uneven institutional coordination and infrastructural deficits.

SADC has a very youthful population with a mean age of 15 years. SFBs could help create jobs for this population, which can be supported by a strong Food Act that considers the uniqueness of the SFBs in serving affordable, safe, and nutritious food, and helps them scale to operate at an international trade level. We therefore recommend building the capacity of both regulators and operators, considering local dynamics such as political, social, and economic realities of the SADC community. A study on the investigation of multidimensional barriers to adopting technologies in SADC food safety governance and developing context-specific technology transfer models is equally important.

By fostering collaboration among stakeholders and utilizing technology for real-time monitoring and traceability, SADC states can enhance food safety compliance and public health protection. It is worth noting to revise the environmental health curriculum should be revised to integrate a data-driven course in preparation for new processes involved in ensuring food safety from farm to fork. A study that designs and implements impact assessments of capacity-building initiatives, focusing on scientific expertise development, enforcement efficiency, and stakeholder engagement in SADC.

5. Limitations of the Study

Nine of the SADC states are Anglophone, Angola and Mozambique are Lusophone (Portuguese), while DRC, Madagascar, Seychelles, and Comoros are francophone; the food policies were not written in the same language and translated by Kasapila (2023), making the study dependent on the researcher. Most of the studies have not taken into cognizance the hazard posed by pests and the incorrect use of pesticides on food safety. Some of the policies are very old, e.g., the Eswatini Fresh Fish Related Law, which has not considered the realities of the day.

The table of data extracted is in Appendix 1 while Appendix 2 shows the National food health-related food laws.

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Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in this manuscript:

Abbreviations	Full meaning
CAC	Codex Alimentarius Commission
DoH	Department of Health
FBD	Foodborne Diseases
HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point
LMICs	Low- Middle-Income Countries
PRISMA	Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis
SADC	Southern Africa Development Communities
SFBs	Small Food Businesses

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Appendix 1

S/N	Author, Year	Type of Source	Title of Article	Method	Analysis and Result	Conclusion
1.	(Kasapila, 2023)	Discussion Paper	A review of public health-related food laws in East and Southern Africa, EQUINET, Discussion Paper	A desk-based review of public domain legal text and standards that includes international, regional, national, and local documents. Extracted provisions for 17 East and Southern African countries. From September to December 2022. It translated a document into English.	The instruments were mapped, which include the World Health Organization International Health Regulations, Codex guidance, FAO, and WHO food laws, and ISO food safety systems, WTO SPS and TBT rules, SADC food safety guidelines, and AU NEPAD harmonization efforts. The principles identified include prevention across the farm-to-fork continuum. National laws across the 17 countries prohibit adulteration, set standards for labelling, premises requirements, empower inspectors, testing, seizure, or recall. Coverage varies across countries. Processed foods, fortified foods, supplements, and detailed microbial standards have low regulations. Governance is fragmented, led by Health ministries, yet responsibilities sit in Trade, industry, agriculture, and parastatal boards, making harmonization a problem. Many countries do not have biosafety and GMO Acts. Consumer protection is not in-depth.	The SADC has a very good number of food-related laws in text, but very inconsistent, fragmented, and often incomplete in addressing modern reality. It calls for the creation of Food Acts where it is absent, that integrate risk assessment along the food value chain. It also recommends moving HACCP from voluntary to legal grounds, and more regulations in the informal food sector.
2.	(Southern African Development Community (SADC), 2011)	Online Report	Regional Guidelines for the regulation of Food Safety in SADC Member State.	Consultation with Member state Stakeholders endorsed by Ministers focusing on Codex Standards. It I documented as a model law to be adopted by Member State.	It was identified that the existing policies were fragmented, multiagency food safety responsibilities, non-uniform concept and methods of implementation. There should be a Food Safety Expert Working Group, ad hoc committee to handle technicalities, then constitute a National food Safety coordinating forum.	Clear Objectives must be set with three key parts: terms, policy and a model law. Risk analysis must be the basis with strong alignment with Codex in terms of traceability, inspection, certification, scientific and technical capacity like a regional rapid alert system.
3.	(Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 2014)	Grey Literature	Food and Nutrition Security Strategy, 2015 to 2025	a Regional Policy Strategy consultation and Ministerial approvals.	To facilitate the development of food safety policies, legislative, and institutional framework and mechanisms to strengthen the coordination of food safety management. Harmonize and monitor the enforcement of food safety	Facilitate the accreditation of all food testing laboratories in the region to international or regional food safety institutions: and

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					standards including updating and implementing national legislation and regulations to meet the international food safety standards such as the Codex Alimentarius	Facilitate the establishment of a regional network of food testing laboratories. This must be achieved by 2025
4.	(McCallion et al., 2025)	Journal article	"Interventions in food business organizations to improve food safety culture: a rapid evidence assessment"	A video observation to evaluate the effectiveness of newly developed hand washing pictograms on employees' hand washing behavior, which included the use of signage with handwashing pictograms with explanations in English and Spanish in high traffic areas, and the habits of employees were measured before and after the intervention.	Microbial analysis was conducted on food contact surfaces, equipment, and hand hygiene before training, four weeks after training, and six months after training. Questionnaires were used to assess changes in food handlers' behavior concerning handwashing at the same time points. The results indicated an increase in knowledge and improvement in behavior surrounding handwashing four weeks after training. It was observed that food handlers relaxed after six months of training and did not maintain the improved behavior over time.	It concluded that while knowledge training can lead to improvements in handwashing practice and some behaviors among food handlers, it is often insufficient on its own to sustain long-term changes in food safety practices. Interventions, like signage, provision of thermometers, and incentives, are necessary to enhance compliance with food safety behaviors like handwashing, thermometer use, and surface cleaning, but it's inadequate. Thereby, suggesting that training should be complemented with strategies aimed at improving management styles and staff oversight to achieve desired outcomes in food safety
5.	(Leahy et al., 2022)	Review article	"Foodborne zoonoses control in LMICs: Identifying aspects of interventions relevant to traditional markets which act as hurdles when mitigating disease transmission."	It conducted a review of selected case studies drawn from two prior bodies of work, then complemented it with a non-systematic literature search focused on market infrastructure, vendors, consumers, and governance at traditional markets, intending to understand how interventions to reduce foodborne zoonoses have been applied at the market level and to identify barriers and enablers to implementation.	Analysed different case studies such as Infrastructure interventions in Uganda and Nigeria. Vendor-focused education to see if it aligns with their beliefs. Cultural and practical constraints, consumer side, and government interventions.	The review concluded that to achieve sustainable food safety gains, interventions tailored to local cultural, social, and economic contexts, with additional government regulations that work with them. Effective strategies should combine and synergize measures across vendors, consumers, and regulators.
6.	(Sosah & Donkor, 2025)	Review article	Microbial foodborne outbreaks in Africa: a systematic review	An SLR following PRISMA guidelines, capturing foodborne	31 papers covering 42 countries across Africa. Covering 877,067 infections 2, 064 hospitalizations,	The study concluded that Africa faces a heavy preventable burden from

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				outbreak data, hospitalizations, deaths, country, and year.	and 2,061 deaths. Food vehicles most implicated are processed, raw meats, cereals, legumes, tubers, and vegetables. Deadliest agents *Clostridium botulinum* and *Listeria monocytogenes*.	foodborne outbreaks exacerbated by poor hygiene, inadequate infrastructure, and limited compliance. It is suggested that to reduce this burden, investment should be made in regulations, surveillance, practical hygiene training and retraining, and strong public enlightenment programs
7.	(Thow et al., 2018)	Policy analysis	Improving policy coherence for food security and nutrition in South Africa: a qualitative policy analysis	Content review across nutrition, agriculture, and economic policy documents. 14 interviews with 22 actors from Cape Town, Pretoria, and Johannesburg. Data was analyzed using NVivo.	Three coalitions emerged within the policy system: Economic Growth, Food Security, and Health Coalition.	Priority opportunities were identified as target changes to economic policy that meet both nutrition and economic objectives. Stronger links between producers and consumers through fiscal incentives that make fresh and healthy foods more accessible and affordable.
8.	(Saxena & Saini, 2019)	Narrative review article	Hygiene and Sanitary Practices of Street Food Vendors: A Review.	It reviewed studies on street food hygiene, personal practices, microbial quality, and risk factors. It aggregates its findings rather than launching new research	Analysis showed that vendors across all locations show poor hygienic practices, storage practices, and handling. Poor infrastructure, sanitary systems, and waste management.	It concluded that SFVs widely follow poor hygienic practices, calling for interventions.
9.	(Dama et al., 2024)	Journal article	Food policy analyses and prioritization of food systems to achieve safer food for South Africa	It's a qualitative and multi-stage design. First, did SLR using PRISMA principles to map challenges and solutions on food safety in South Africa. It then conducted a semi-structured stakeholder interview using a purposive sampling method across all nine provinces. It later did a content analysis using Atlas.Ti to synthesize both the literature review and interview data. Finally, ranked Best Worst scaling with a standardized interval score gotten from best versus worst frequencies.	The results showed 34 distinct challenges, prominent amongst them include weak training and capacity amongst regulators, fragmented institutions and mandates, limited infrastructure, low technology adoption, under regulation of the informal food sector. After the interview and content analysis, the highly rated items include collaborative research to design proactive strategies, mandatory screening of food handlers, tighter enforcement of existing policies, a campaign against food fraud, stronger surveillance, a coordinated communication strategy, and clear consumer-facing information strategies to address complexities, identify priority areas.	Research and technology-led actions are central to transforming South Africa's food system towards safer food. It recommends collaborative research to curb complexities in the system, stronger and smarter enforcement, continuous surveillance with modern traceability, practical training, public communication, and reliable infrastructure. It also emphasized a harmonised and coordinated framework across multiple agencies.

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10.	(Agunyai & Ojakorotu, 2024)	Journal article	Data-driven innovations and sustainability of Food Security: Can Asymmetric Information Be Blamed for Food Insecurity in Africa	It conducted a multistage qualitative systematic review and meta-ethnography, with explicit screening criteria of 108 studies.	Africa's growing internet and mobile uptake have not translated into food security because of a lack of timely information along the food chain. The review maps structural drivers of asymmetric information, which include skill gaps, weak electrification and connectivity, prevalence of middlemen along the food chain.	Smartphones and digital platforms have high potential to improve food access and usage if the government and stakeholders fix the information gap. It calls for rural electrification, low-cost internet, and dissemination of accurate, practical food and nutrition information
11.	(Asiegbu et al., 2020)	Journal article	Microbial Quality of RTE Street-vended food Groups sold in Johannesburg metropolis, South Africa.	A cross-sectional study with stratified random sampling in Johannesburg, 205 RTE was collected. Microbial testing was done using ISO standards.	85.37% has aerobic microbial growth, 46.36% Listeria growth, and 78.18% Enterobacteriaceae.	RTE represented a public health concern with large aerobic growth. it calls for vendor education and enforcement of food safety legislation.
12.	(Letuka et al., 2021)	Journal article	Street food handler food safety knowledge, attitudes, and self-reported practices, and consumer perception about street food vending in Maseru, Lesotho	The survey was cross cross-sectional descriptive on-site survey using semi semi-structured questionnaire for 50 SFVs and 93 consumers, with an observational checklist. Data was analysed using statistical tools	Vendors were mostly female 60%, safety knowledge was scored 49%, 95% had a positive attitude, zero vendors used gloves, 64% wore aprons, 98% prepared meals in advance, 84% reported checking of expiry dates.62% protect their meals from pests, 60% had access to potable water. 74% of consumers ate occasionally, and 10% reported illness after consumption.	There is a hygiene and infrastructure gap knowledge is low despite positive attitudes towards food safety. It recommends compulsory food safety training with frequent inspection, practical use of protective clothing, and adequate infrastructure.
13.	(Boatemaa et al., 2019)	Journal article	Awakening from Listeriosis Crisis: food safety challenges, practices, and governance in the food retail sector in South Africa	SLR process across three pieces of evidence, national food safety policies and regulations, and company reports between 2013 to 2018. Thematic analysis guided by FAO food safety risk analysis.	74 documents total; 13 policies, 47 media articles	Food safety requires shared responsibility among all stakeholders, backed by stronger government synergised enforcement across government parastatals
14.	(Cook et al., 2024)	Journal article	Nutritional, economic, social, and governance implications of traditional food markets for vulnerable populations in Sub-Saharan Africa: a systematic review	Web search was done between March to April 2023 for articles between 2015 – 2023. The 73 study was examined using PRISMA guidelines.	Geographic locations examined are East and Southern Africa, with South Africa 8, Zambia 8. The nutrition theme dominates with 47, and governance with 27and other work on food safety regulations. The result showed a rough and multilevel governance. Regulators and the informal trader association divide responsibilities but have non-synergized policies.	It concluded by advocating that traditional markets are indispensable for low-cost and nutritious meals. It is social part of SSA urban centres but its potential is affected by food safety problems, inadequate infrastructure, gender inequalities, and uncoordinated regulation. It therefore proposed an investment in market infrastructure, stronger nutrition-focused programs, and expanded access to

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						finance to improve food safety metrics.
15.	(Sepadi & Hutton, 2025)	Journal article	Health and Safety Practices as Drivers of Business performance in Informal Street Food Economies: An integrative Review of Global and Southern African Evidence	A review was done using Atlas Ti, narrative synthesis with vote counting, findings were mapped to the Health Belief Model construct and Balanced Scorecard dimensions. Used 76 articles.	70% of the article was moderate to high. Most of the study was quantitative research and had a cross-sectional design, with qualitative case studies. 73% reported a positive link between hygiene and food safety compliance and outcomes of business performance like consumer trust, revenue and inspection outcomes.	It is finalized by reporting that health and safety practices are not only a compliance responsibility but are an important strategy that improves vendor performance because it earns the consumer trust and operational benefits. This strategy will improve if there is adequate infrastructure to support them, well-trained vendors, and if irregular enforcement is eliminated. This would help build models that match vendor realities to build a sustainable food system.
16.	(Desye et al., 2023)	Journal Article	Food safety knowledge, attitude and practice of street food vendors and associated factors in low and middle-income countries LMICs: a systematic review and meta-analysis	Review with registered protocol called PROSPERO data was analysed using STATA 14 with random effects models, meta prop. It identified bias via funnel plots and Egger's test, sensitivity, and subgroups by country.	14 cross-sectional studies of 2,989 vendors across LMICs, Lesotho ranked high in food safety practice. Secondary education has six times higher odds.	There was a distinct gap between what the vendors know, their beliefs, and their actions. Frequent practical training and tailored health education, coupled with the provision of low-cost hygiene materials and supportive oversight, are used to improve practice and reduce food safety risk. It therefore seeks coordinated NGO and local governments' implementation and requests future evidence that includes broader designs using simple language and pictograms.
17.	(Kimanya, 2024)	Journal article	Contextual interlinkages and authority levels for strengthening coordination of national food safety control in Africa	FAO and WHO guidelines were synthesized with CODEX text to contextualize all stakeholders all the African food chain.	There are interlinkages of how food safety measures intersect with health, agriculture, trade, and standards in relation to food business operators, consumers, and regulators have a responsibility in the adoption of Good Manufacturing Practices, hygiene, standards, and consumer information. The weighed multi-agency, single agency, and integrated coordination.	The study advocates for autonomous national food safety agency to be hosted by the Ministry of Health and gives power to the multisectoral board. With specific job responsibility well spelt out, separate risk assessment from risk management and raise consumer awareness. It must align all the sector policies with food safety along the farm-to-fork continuum.
18.	(Mphaga et al., 2024)	Journal article	"Unlocking food safety, a comprehensive review	Narrative review of South Africa's food	The synthesis of legislative and practice evidence to diagnose.	The study concluded that South Africa's food safety

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			of South Africa's food control and safety landscape from an environmental health perspective"	control and safety system, drawing from different sources from 2000 to 2023, using 27 studies; 17 ARTICLES, 8 legislative documents, 2 government guidelines.	Findings: inadequate penalties, fragmented multi-agency governance that affects enforcement, a limited number of inspectors and laboratories, complex labelling, and emerging e-commerce risks.	network is complex, defragmented, and vulnerable the existing Act R638 needs to be backed with stricter penalties. A more centralized National food control authority it should be complimented with adequate capacity building. It also recommended modern detection technologies and system consolidation.
19.	(Kinyua & Thebe, 2023)	Journal article	Driver of Scale and sustainability of Food Safety Interventions in informal Markets: Lessons from the Tanzanian Dairy Sector.	Mixed method design anchored on the theory of change framework. Data was sourced from reviews, surveys, and key informant interviews with stakeholders. Data was analysed with STATA.	The results showed reach was limited in terms of training of stakeholders. There was a weak enabling environment, an inconsistent policy, limited financing and staffing; trader association support was absent. Sensitization of the public vanished after the donor support stage.	The study argues that there is need for a clear policy, financing, and staff upgrade. Training of vendors should be valuable for them which accommodates lifelong learning methods, engages technologies with practical refresher courses.
20.	(Madilo et al., 2024)	Journal article	"Challenges with food safety adoption: A review"			
21.	(Makhunga & Hlongwana, 2024)	Scientific report	Food handling practices and sanitary conditions of charitable food assistance programs in eThekwini district, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa	Descriptive cross-sectional study of 196 charitable food assistance programs across five municipalities, with onsite observation with 37 standardized list	94% female, 60.7% had more than 10 years of experience in food service, and 87.7% had never attended formal food safety training in the last five years.	Personal hygiene, staff facilities, product information, food hygiene, storage, and pest control were scored poorly.
22.	(Mbombo-Dweba et al., 2022)	Journal article	A descriptive cross-sectional study of food hygiene practices among informal ethnic food vendors in Gauteng, South Africa	Immigrant-led ethnic food shops in Gauteng province were surveyed using the snowball sampling technique. A total of 40 respondents were collected. A checklist to assess compliance with the WHO 5 Keys to Safer Food was used.	95% operated in permanent structures and had access to running water, 0% had a thermometer, 65% do not own a freezer, 55% had a microwave. 65% were not aware of the holding temperature.	Hygiene practices were grossly inadequate, with weak cold storage, and poor hot holding, raising high risk of contamination.
23.	(Gadaga & Mutukumira , 2020)	Journal article	Responsiveness of Food safety emergencies in Eswatini: The case of Listeriosis Outbreak in South Africa	Descriptive review and case study analysis. A review of the food control system, legislation, institutions, laboratory capacity, and emergency procedure following a Listeriosis outbreak in Eswatini from 2017 to 2018	1049 confirmed with 209 death cases from the consumption of processed meat, exported to 15 African countries, including the study area. Regulatory instruments in existence were few, and outdated sampling and testing procedures were not specified; punishments were not deterrent. There is no accredited	The country must strengthen its food control system, modernize its legislation and food safety regulations, set up accredited food laboratories with molecular capacity, and delegate clear responsibility to government parastatals.

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					national food testing laboratory; Eswatini could not perform in-country testing and only relied on awareness and recall of food products.	
24.	(Mkhwanazi et al., 2024)	Journal article	Food safety governance in South Africa	Review and report and grey literature from different databases.	Lack of coordination among national departments, limited industry partnership, and general inefficiency linked to overlapping mandates	Recommends a centralized, transparent, and collaborative government food control system to manage complexities and improve public health protection.
26.	(Oladipo-Adekeye & Tabit, 2021)					
27.	Gordon et al.,2020	White paper	Technical considerations for the implementation of food safety and quality systems in developing countries	It is a narrative chapter to synthesize regulatory, technical, and market requirements	Inconsistent and fragmented standards and regulations	A centralized food control system is mandatory.
28.	(Sandra Boatemaa Kushitor et al., 2022)	Journal article	The complex challenge of governing food systems: the case of South African food policy	97 policies were gathered, 91 were analysed and coded against 7 domains: agriculture, environment, social protection, health, land, education, and rural development.	The result was assessed through the lens of independence from other sectors, the presence of coordination mechanisms, and evidence of a learning ethos.	They identified that policy making and implementation operate independently and fail to share information which limits learning and weakens impact. It was recommended that South Africa needs a tangible implementation plan supported by effective coordination, consolidated monitoring, and an evaluation approach.
29.	(Unnevehr, 2022)	Journal article	Addressing food safety challenges in rapidly developing food systems	Narrative, state-of-the-art economic review with specific illustration. Focusing on: rising cost, market incentives, and suitable policies using the listeriosis crisis of South Africa.	From 2017 – 2018, 1060 cases of Listeriosis were confirmed, with 216 deaths, resulting in an economic impact of $260 million in mortality costs, $10.4 million in hospitalization, and $15 million in productivity and export losses	A risk assessment shift can guide public action, using emerging technologies to sharpen incentives and detection. The investment is not commensurate with the level of challenge. We have to build strong surveillance, management capacity, and use technologies smartly.
30.	(Ayalew et al., 2023)	Book Chapter	A Paradigm Shift in Food Safety for Africa.	Policy synthesis to consolidate African Union frameworks and initiatives to propose a continental shift in food safety regulation	Fragmented mandates, weak surveillance and labs, hazard-based rather than risk-based control, bias toward export chains, while domestic and informal markets dominate actual consumption. Africa sits in a "transitioning" risk zone where demand and supply chain complexity outpace public and private control capacity.	Africa must prioritize establishing the Africa Food Safety Agency, developing and funding national risk-based strategies, implementing the AU food safety framework, strengthening surveillance, and conducting national burden studies. Innovations such as whole genome sequencing, big data,

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							blockchain, and Internet of Things can help if SADC and other regions can avoid the divide.
31	(Rugji et al., 2025)	Journal article	Utilization of AI, reshaping the future of food safety, agriculture, and food security: a critical review	It synthesizes recent research on AI methods, machine learning, deep learning, computer vision, predictive modeling, robotics, supply chain tools, and policy development across food safety and security.	AI supports early warning, risk prediction, and rapid detection. It can also predict the accuracy of microbial count under different conditions. Microbiome analytics to classify metagenomic profiles with 90% accuracy have been reported. The are slim digitized food safety data, privacy and data sharing constraints, and limited data literacy within the workforce.	It recognizes fast-evolving AI policy frameworks across regions, like the EU's proposed AI Act and national guidance in several countries, highlighting uneven regulatory readiness for food uses.

Appendix 2

S/N	Countries	Public health law	Food control / Standards law	Standards law	Consumer Protection Law	Fishery-related Law	Animal Health law	Diary-related Law	Meat/livestock law	Plant-related law	Other law
1.	Angola	IHR, 2005	N/A	N/A	Consumer Protection Law, 2003	N/A	Animal Health Act, CAP No. 65 Of 2004	N/A	N/A	Law No. 5/21 Approving the Plant Health Act, 2021	N/A
2.	Botswana	Public Health Act, CAP 63:01 Amended as Act 11 of 2013	Food Control Act 65:05 of 1993	Standards Act CAP 43:07, 1995	Consumer Protection Act, CAP 42:07	Fish Protection Act, CAP 37:01, 1975	Diseases of Animals Act. CAP 37:01, 2008	N/A	Livestock And Meat Industries Act, CAP 36:03, 2007	Plant Protection Act, CAP 35:02, 2007	N/A
3.	Comoros	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
4.	Democratic Republic of Congo	IHR, 2005	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
5.	Eswatini	Public Health Act, 1969	N/A	Standards and Quality Act, 2003		The Protection of Freshwater Fish Act. 1937	The Animal Diseases Act, 1965	Daily Act, 6/1968	Veterinary Public Health Act, 2013 (Act No. 17 of 2013)	The Seeds and Plant Varieties Act, 2000 The Plant Health Protection Act, 2020	N/A
6.	Lesotho	Public Health Order (No. 12 1970).	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Stock Diseases, 1996	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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7.	Madagascar	IHR, 2005	Decree No. 93 -844	N/A	Order No. 8333/2001	N/A	Law No. 2000 – 018.	Decree No. 2011 – 588	N/A	N/A	Order No. 24657/2004
8.	Malawi	Public Health Act, CAP 34:01 of 1948	N/A	Malawi Bureau of Standards Act, CAP 51:02, 2012	Consumer Protection Act, CAP 48:10 Competition and Fair Trading Act, 2000	Fisheries Conservation and Management Act, No.25, 1997	Control and Diseases of Animals Act, CAP 66:02, 1987	Milk and Milk Products Act, CAP 67:05, 1972	Meat and Meat Products Act, CAP 67:02	Seed Act, CAP 67:06 Of 1997 Plant Protection Act, 2018	Biosafety Act CAP 60:03 of 2007
9.	Mauritius	Public Health Act. CAP 277 of 1925	Food Act, 2022, Act No. 12 of 2022	Mauritius Standards Bureau Act, Act 12 0f 1993	Fair Trading Act, 1980	Fisheries and Marine Resources Act. 2007, Act No. 27 of 2007	The Animal Diseases Act, Act 9/ 1925	N/A	Meat Act Act No. 54 of 1974	Seeds Act, 2013 (No. 10 of 2013) Plant Protection Act, 2006	Biosafety Act, Act No. 3 of 2004
10.	Mozambique	IHR, 2005	N/A	Standards Act (Law Decree 02/93)	Decree No. 76/2009	Decree No. 17/2001	Ministerial Order No. 100/87	N/A	N/A	N/A	Ministerial Order No. 80/87 Plant Genetic Resources
11.	Namibia	Public Health Act, Act No. 2 Of 2015	N/A	Standards Act, Act, No. 18 of 2005	N/A	Marine Resources Act, Act, No. 27 of 2000	Animal Health Act No.1 of 2011	Diary Industry Act (Acct 30 0f 1961)	Meat Industry Act, Act No. 12 of 1961	Plant Quarantine Act, No 7, 2008	Biosafety Act No.7 of 2008
12.	Seychelles	Public Health Act 2015, Act 13 of 2015	Food Act, 2014 (Act 8 of 2014)	Seychelles Bureau Of Standards Act. 2014(No. 2 of 2014)	Consumer Protection Act 2010(Act 30 of 2010)	Fisheries Act, 2014 (Act 20 of 2014)	Animals (Diseases And Imports) Act, 1981	N/A	N/A	Plant Protection Act, 1996(Chapter 171. A 1996)	N/A
13.	South Africa	National Health Act, 2003(Act 61 Of 2003)	Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Amendment Act, 2007 (Act 54 of 1972, Amended as Act 39 of 2007)	Standards Act, 2008(Act 08 of 2008)	Consumer Protection Act (Act 68 of 2008)	Sea Fisheries Act, 1998(Act 12 of 1988)	Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act 35 of 1984)	Diary Industry Act (Act 30 0f 1961 as Amended by the Diary Industry Laws Amendment Act, 1972)	Meat safety Act 40 of 2000	Plant Health (Phytosanitary), Bill B14-2021)	Genetically Modified Organisms Act 15 of 1997
14.	Tanzania	Public Health	Tanzania Food,	The Standards	Fair Competit	The Fisheries Act,	The Animal Diseases	Dairy Industry Act,	Meat Industry	The Plant Protection	

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		Act, 2009 (No. 1 of 2010)	Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 2003(No. 1 of 2003).	Act, (Act No. 2 of 2009)	ion Act, 2003	2003, (Act No. 22 of 2003)	Act, 2003 (Act No. 17 Of 2003)	2004(No 8 of 2004)	Act, 2006 (No. 10 of 2006)	And Health Act, 2015	
15.	Zambia	Public Health Act (CAP, 22 of 1995)	Food and Drugs (1972)	Standards Act 2017 (No. 4 of 2017)	Competition and Consumer Protection Act, 2010	Fisheries Act, 2011	Animal Health Act, 2010	Diary Industry Development Act, 2010	N/A	Plants Pests and Diseases Act, 1994 (CAP 233, 1994)	Biosafety Act, 2007
16.	Zimbabwe	Public Health Act (CAP 15-17, No. 11/2018)	Food and Standards Act. 2001	Food and Food Standards Act (CAP 15:04, 2001)	Consumer Protection Act, 2019	Parks and Wildlife Act (CAP 20:14), 1991	Animal Health Act, (CAP 36:02, 1988)	Diary Act (CAP 18:08) Revised Edition of Act No. 28 of 1937 Amended by Act No. 22 of 2001	N/A	Plant Pests and Diseases Act, 2001	N/A

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