

Policy Brief

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Towards #ZeroFoodWaste Sleman: What Can be Done?

Urgency, recommendations, and tactical strategies to combat food waste issue with community-based intervention



POLICY BRIEF: TOWARDS #ZEROWASTE SLEMAN: What Can be Done?

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■ Summary

Sleman Regency is grappling with a critical food waste challenge, prompting the declaration of a waste emergency in 2022. Daily waste production in Sleman nears 700 tons, with food waste and organic matter constituting a substantial 60%, primarily from households. Present policies allow organic waste disposal at designated sites, despite efforts to promote waste segregation.

This crisis was underscored by a second waste emergency declaration in July 2023, coupled with the temporary closure of the Piyungan landfill until September 2023. The Sleman Government faces the urgent need to address this escalating problem, particularly concerning food waste.

This policy brief advocates a streamlined approach: evidence-based decisions, community engagement, responsible public-private partnerships, and innovative cross-sectoral strategies to combat the pressing waste emergency and strive for #ZeroFoodWaste in Sleman.



■ Why Change is Essential

01

Emerging challenges demand innovation:

Recurrent waste emergencies have hinted at the urge of novel, ground-breaking solutions rather than conventional approaches.

02

Inefficient resource allocation:

Failing to base any policies on food waste data introduces avoidably waste of spending and resources utilization. If not treated effectively, government might be spending 20 - 50 percent of their budgets for waste management, including food waste.

03

Targeted education matters:

Generic community engagement at fixed points is less effective than personalized education, like door-to-door initiatives, for effective waste reduction.

04

Governments' responsibility:

Government has the role to ensure that private sector goals are achieved without harming the public and planet. Pushing environmental security is imperative as the market shares and profitability increase.



■ Recommendations for Sleman Government

In response to the pressing waste emergency, the following recommendations are fundamental:

01

Embrace innovative and multi-sectoral interventions

Sleman's diverse regions demand tailored, evidence-based solutions. Mama4Planet is one example of an intervention delivered in Central Sleman that showcases the efficacy of educational programs led by local leaders, gamification, real-time feedback, and eco-friendly incentives (**See Figure 1**). Emphasis should be placed on behavioral insights, contextual messaging, and active engagement, instead of punitive measures.

02

Leverage evidence-based decision making

Informed policy decisions hinge on robust data. For instance, by utilizing data from 298 regencies and cities nationwide, the Ministry of Environment and Forest gauged waste management performance in Indonesia. Mama4Planet's quantitative household waste assessment demonstrated a 61% reduction of waste production, highlighting the essential role of data collection to measure program's effectiveness.

03

Empower communities

The heart of food waste transformation lies within communities. Mama4Planet is a model of intergenerational behavior transformation, which was based on empowering women to lead changes within families and neighborhoods through a series of trainings, education, and gamification.

04

Foster responsible public-private partnership

Synergistic collaboration between the public and private sectors, bolstered by academia and NGOs, is crucial for sustainable food waste management. Local example of a successful partnership can be learnt from the Integrated Waste Management Facility Mutiara Bogor Raya which utilizes organic waste for catfish and BSF maggot farming. Another example of a successful partnership to manage household food waste is how the United Kingdom has achieved 27% food waste reduction using innovative public-private partnerships.

■ Appendix

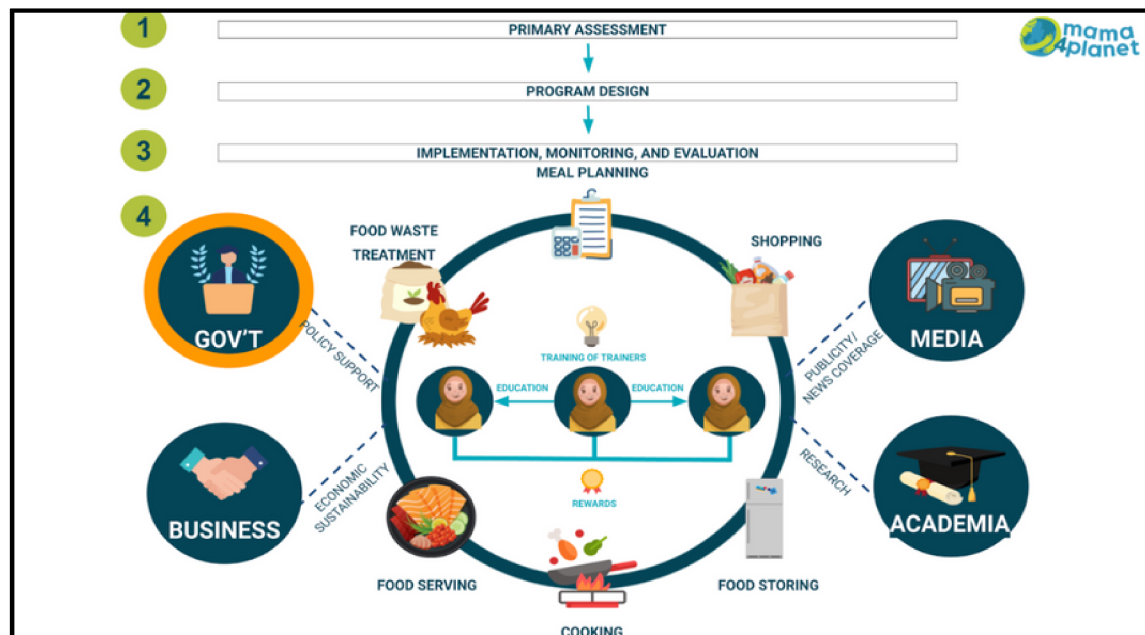


Figure 1. Diagram of Mama4Planet's implementation. This diagram shows how the recommendations can be done by 4 steps: (1) assess local conditions, including degree of awareness, existing programs, and demographic characteristics, (2) foster community empowerment by training of trainers, education, and locally-adapted gamification or other related program designs, (3) use mixed-method evaluation before and after the program to measure the impact, (4) build penta-helix collaboration between government, media, business, academia, and the community to support sustainability of the program.

**“Preventing
food waste is an
easy way to
save money,
food, and our
beloved planet.”**

*– Rustiningsih
Mama4Planet Trained Cadre*



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