# Monotonous diets high in ultra-processed foods call for policy change in Indonesia

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#### **Sustainable Diets for All**

### Reframing the Food System Debate

https://www.iied.org/dietary-indicators-need-overhauling-food-diary-study-finds

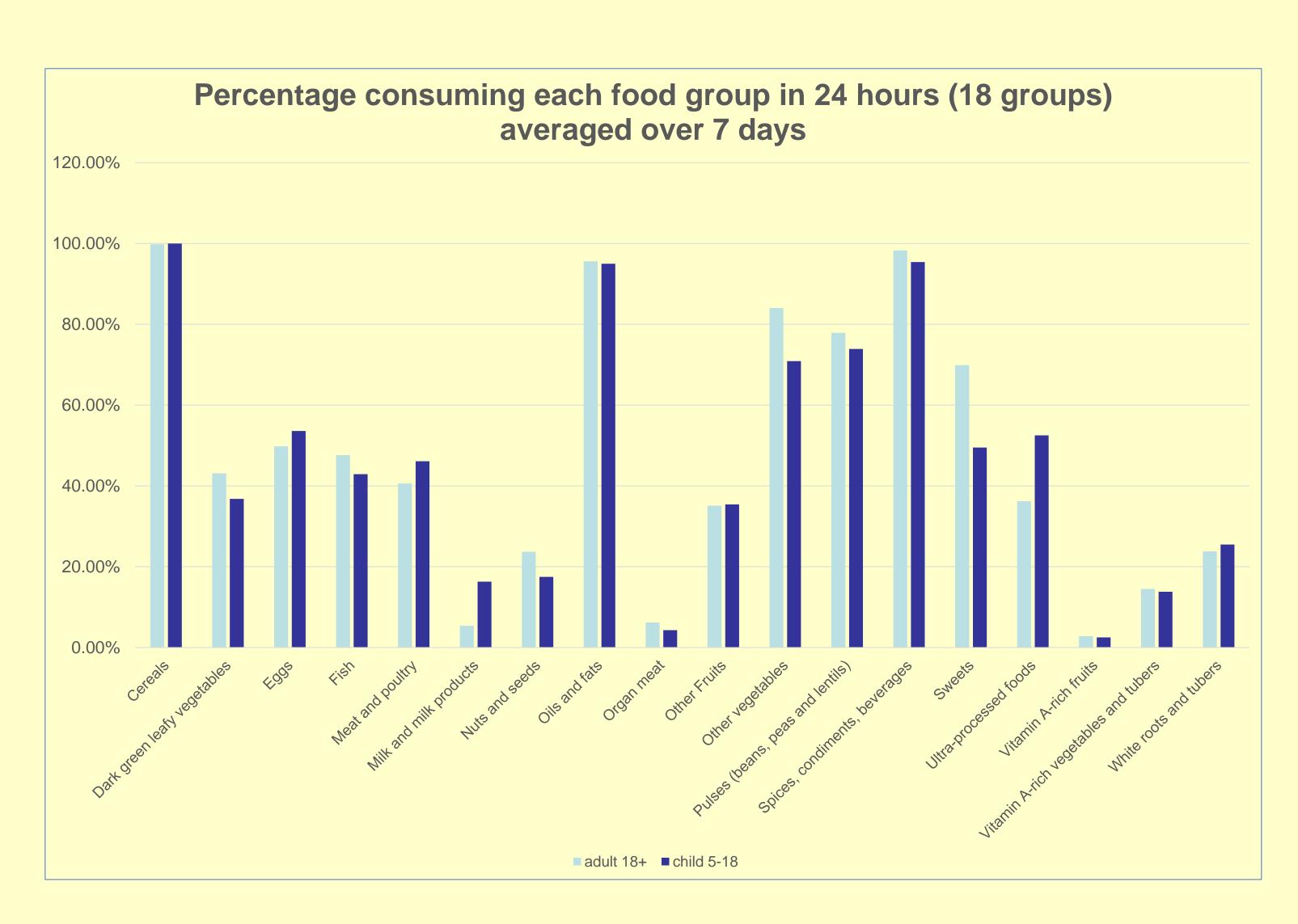
# Objectives of Food Diaries Research

- Documenting & analyzing local diets through active community participation
- Promoting diverse, healthy, equitable & environmentally-friendly diets
- Influencing traders, schools and other stakeholders in the food system

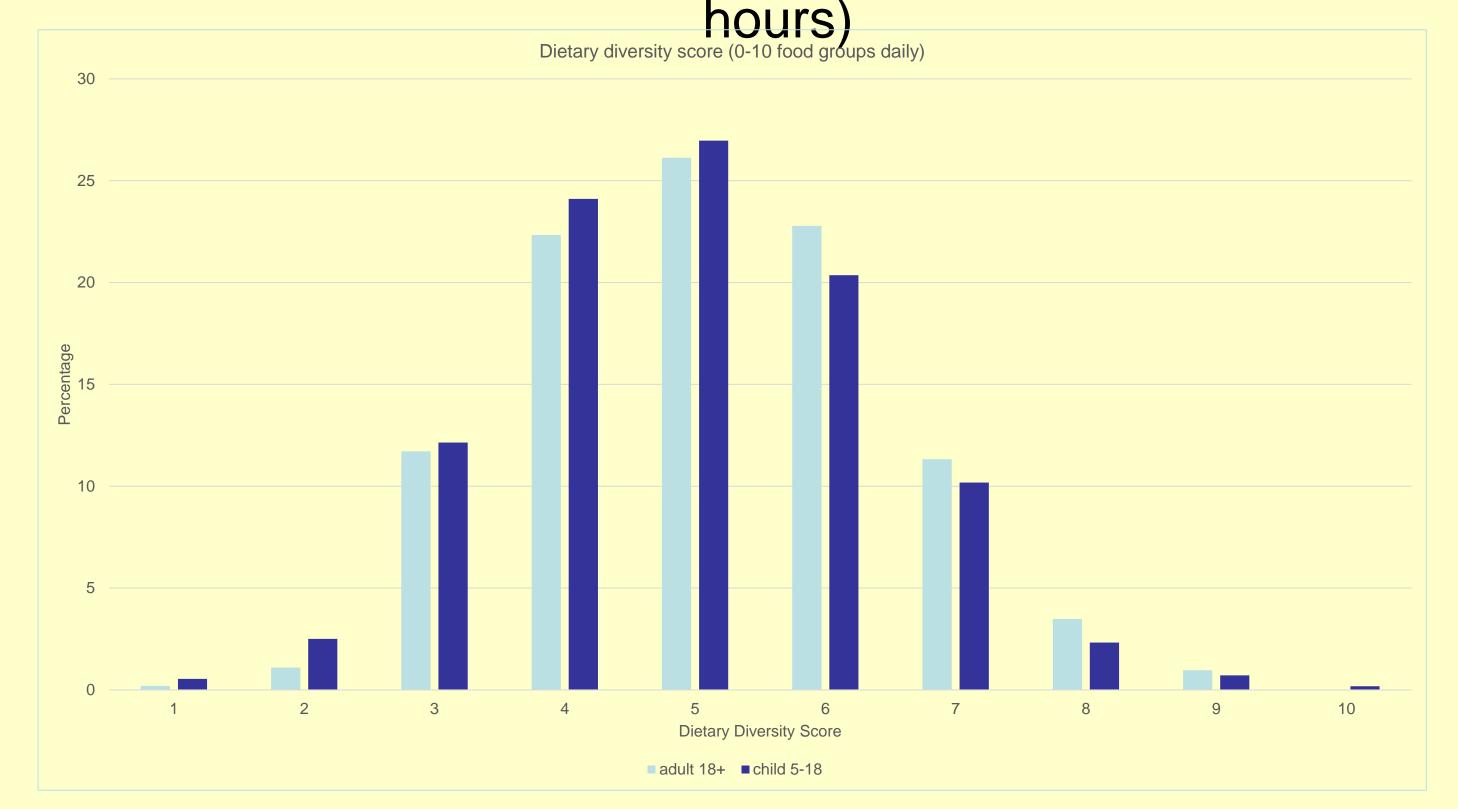
#### Methods

- Supported by University of Jember and Tanoker (NGO)
- Two stage random sampling of communities; 98 households, 328 individuals
- Foods and beverages consumed over 7 days (Jan-Feb 2018) were recorded by participants
- Followed up with in-depth interviews with 40 people food diary participants + community leaders
- Data computerized and analysed by U of Jember; with follow-up analysis by IIED
- Each food categorized into 18 food groups (healthy and unhealthy foods) and 10 groups for calculation of Dietary Diversity Scores
- Unhealthy foods are reported separately because they are not included in Dietary Diversity Scores
- Dietary Species Richness was calculated as the total of food species consumed WITHIN the 18 food groups

#### Results



Dietary Diversity Scores over 7 days (0 to 10 food groups per 24





## Ultra processed foods, sweets

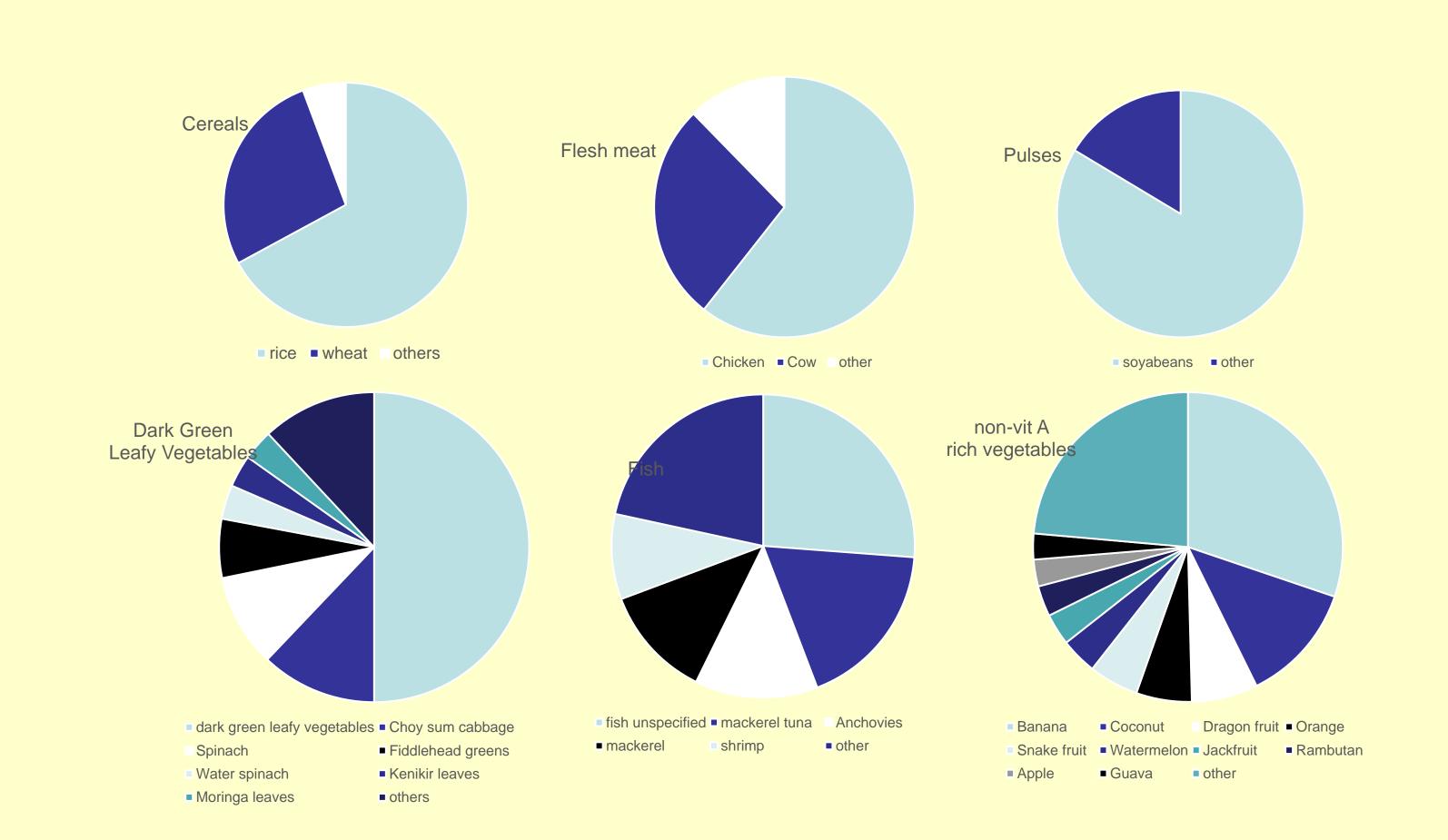
## Ultra-processed foods

- 51% of adults, 71% of children 5-18 and 73% of children under 5 consume at least 3 times per week.

#### Sweet foods

 87% of adults, 69% of children 5-18 and 54% of children under 5 consume at least 3 times per week.

Within Food Group Diversity in Jember, Indonesia



## **Evaluation and impact**

Participants' experience: Diaries easy to complete, informative, draw attention to aspects of diet which could be improved

Researchers' experience: Research process was complex, resource intensive, not owned by local researchers. Desire for food quantities to be included in future

Advocacy outcomes: Dietary data used to design educational and public health programmes and to strengthen collaborations between university and community such as the promotion of sustainable, healthy diets with a kindergarten and a grandparents' group.

#### Conclusions

- Dietary diversity was poor (40% children not meeting requirements)
- Wide availability of foods, but accessibility related to cost and convenience and choice.
- Meals concentrate on a few species, particularly cereals, pulses, and nuts. Non-vitamin A rich fruits and vegetables, DGLV are more diverse and fish is more varied than meat.
- Diets are high in oils, sugar, ultra-processed ingredients
- A new diet indicator is badly needed to account unhealthy foods and to include all ages and male as well as female adults
- More research is needed to link diets and the total food system using simple and participatory methods
  - The triple burden of malnutrition needs to be addressed in Indonesia with policies to tackle all forms of malnutrition



https://sustainablediets4all.org/document/indonesias-triple-burden-of-malnutrition/