

# Kasubi Market Improvement Project



### Impact

In 2022-2023 Advocates for Public Spaces (APS) replaced 21 vendors' stalls at Kasubi Market in Kampala Uganda with new and improved stalls. These new stalls provided better storage space, organization, and uniformity. This resulted in increased hygiene and easier accessibility for the customers. This improved the effectiveness and sustainability of the food market, ultimately ensuring continued access to fresh produce for community members.

### Background

Communities must have access to fresh produce locally and at a low cost, such as through fresh food markets. Food markets ensure food security and they act as open public spaces, which provide many community benefits including community cohesion and improved community trust. However, for a fresh food market to remain viable it needs to be a healthy, secure, and clean space that meets both customer and vendor needs.

In collaboration with HealthBridge, APS conducted research in 2019 on the quality of markets in Kampala, to better understand the location and quality of the markets and the policies that protect (or destroy) the markets. The study used both quantitative and qualitative methods and included surveying a sample of 21 markets, across the 5 divisions of Kampala, to better understand the quality of the markets themselves. The study showed that improving the hygiene in the markets was important, especially to customers who indicated that this would encourage them to visit the markets more often.

The new Kasubi market was commissioned in 2020 and hosts over 1400 vendors. The market sells only food and sits on 1.2 acres of land. It comprises seven sections with open shelters, modern sanitary facilities, a police booth, a perimeter wall, garbage collection points, and a daycare centre. However, despite being a new facility, the market has accommodated vendors operating in shelters without proper stalls to vend their commodities, making both buying and selling challenging.

In response to this challenge, APS initiated a pilot project that would upgrade vendors' stalls in Kasubi Market. The project goals were to improve the working environment of the vendors, address hygiene issues, and ensure that the products the vendors sell are visible and easily accessible to customers. This would, in turn, ensure the continued viability of the market.

## Activities

APS organized several meetings about improving vendor stalls with the Kasubi Market Management Committee and market managers at Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) and Lubaga Division. It was decided that the project would test the new stalls in Shelter A, as this was the face of the market. The vendors in Shelter A were then consulted about the project. After pretesting a metallic stall prototype in the market, the vendors indicated that they liked the stall design but preferred wood for the boxes. This was important information during the initial testing phase and resulted in the final prototype being made of wood.



## Results

There were 21 vendors operating within Kasubi Market registered to have their stalls replaced and upgraded to new and improved stalls. The primary improvement to the stalls included creating a wooden box that would allow vendors to display their products for maximum visibility. The improved stalls achieved many important things for customers and vendors including:

- Increasing the space within the stall (while keeping the stall the same size), which improved hygiene as it allowed vendors to separate waste from non-waste.
- Increasing space for customers to comfortably browse/shop.
- Improving product organization.
- Creating lockable storage for vendors.

Following the replacement of the stalls, a survey was conducted with vendors and customers, and many results were discussed, including vendors reporting an increase in the number of customers purchasing from the improved stalls and an increase in business opportunities for the vendors because of the increased space from the new stalls. When surveyed, 95.3% of customers responded that they liked the new stalls.

Following a visit, staff from KCCA pledged to raise awareness about the project and expressed interest in expanding the project to other city-run markets. APS is currently working on phase 2, which will improve more vendors' stalls in the same Kasubi Market.

## Conclusion

The improvements in the Kasubi Market create a healthier market environment, which will ultimately support the viability of the market and ensure continued access to fresh, healthy food to community members. The food market functions in a cleaner, more organized, and ultimately more efficient manner. This will help support the market's role as a key public space in the community and will help preserve, protect, and enhance these important community assets.

# Food Markets in Kampala

## FRESH FOOD MARKETS:

- Sustainable and accessible
- Healthy produce at an equitable price
- Public space for physical activity and socializing
- Improves health and community cohesion
- Work opportunities
- Rural & urban linkages
- Reduced inequality in accessing healthy food

In 2022 - 2023, APS replaced the stalls of vendors in Kasubi Market in Kampala:



**21** STALLS  
UPGRADED



### IMPROVEMENTS:

- More space
- Storage space
- Increased access for customers
- Uniformity
- Increased hygiene

### RESULTS:

- Increased number of customers
- More business opportunity for vendors