

# Tanzania Livable Cities Summary Report 2021-2022

In 2021, Urban Planning for Community Change (UPC) in Arusha, Tanzania was focused primarily on their public spaces program. In 2016, UPC mapped the distribution of open public spaces and found that there is spatial inequality in the distribution of public spaces in Arusha. In particular there are few open public spaces in the informal settlements, which is where those living in poverty reside. In order to rectify this situation, UPC has been focused on community engagement strategies and bringing government onboard in order to generate interest and support for public spaces. As a result, UPC received approval to construct an open public space in the Lemara neighbourhood with the help of the community.



Lemara open space before our intervention

Approximately 80,000 residents from Lemara and the adjacent neighbourhood of Terrat will benefit from the project. The two neighbourhoods are mostly unplanned/informal settlements with a mixture of formal and informal houses accommodating both low and middle-income residents. The area selected to build the new model community public space is located along a road where individuals coming from town are dropped off by local taxi (Arusha's form of transit) and is a short 500 metres walk from the informal settlement area. The open space is located close to a secondary school and it is expected that students and schools will regularly use the open space.

UPC held many one-on-one meetings with city and ward officials to explain the intended purpose of the pilot project and get consent to develop the open public space in Lemara. In addition to meetings, UPC discussed drawings of the public space with the local Lemara community and a small committee of seven individuals was chosen to oversee the whole process. The community expressed their wishes to have facilities for children, water, electricity, kiosks, and a photo tourism location within the open public space. On December 31st, 2021 UPC received approval from the town planning department on behalf of the city council to move forward with the project. However, they have submitted an application for a construction permit and approval of the final drawings. Construction on the open public space is anticipated to begin in June 2022.

It is hoped that this project in the Lemara neighbourhood will serve as a model for governments to see and understand the benefits of developing open public spaces in Tanzania. As UPC continues to advocate and engage the government, we are becoming more recognized by city officials, which will result in faster project approvals in the future.

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Lemara open space project design

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