



Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Capacity building for participatory and inclusive management of organic waste

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What challenge has the project addressed?

Rapid economic growth and urbanization coupled with changes in lifestyle have contributed to increased quantities of uncollected waste, uncontrolled dumping and open waste burning in Dar es Salaam..

Current practices contribute to high levels of methane emissions, and pose a significant health and environmental risk through increased flooding and air pollution, affecting both the local population – particularly vulnerable demographics such as children and older people – and surrounding fragile ecosystems. The situation is worse in informal settlements, which incorporate 75% of the city's housing, due to inadequate infrastructure and irregular service provision. Informal waste sector workers contribute significantly to waste collection in these areas, yet they face poor working conditions and significant health risks.

C40's Inclusive Climate Action (ICA) Cities Fund project supports the implementation of Dar es Salaam's [Climate Action Plan \(CAP\) 2020-2050](#), particularly around actions that call for investment in solid waste disposal, waste reduction interventions and promoting sustainable livelihoods. By bringing together key community-level waste actors and city departments, the project aims to improve the quality of life in

informal settlements, turning organic waste challenges into stable-income generating opportunities, whilst simultaneously providing solutions that reduce GHG emissions and the likelihood of flooding.

What has the city achieved?

Through a series of field visits and stakeholder engagements, the project mapped key actors working in the waste value chain, assessed current waste management practices, and identified key knowledge gaps and training needs among community members and informal waste sector workers to ensure more effective waste management. This exercise helped the City identify areas of intervention for co-creating sustainable waste management practices with informal communities across the city.

The City has developed standard training packages and provided training to strengthen the capacity of informal waste sector workers on improved solid waste collection, sorting and treatment, occupational health and safety, group cohesion and leadership for effective waste management. This has also contributed to better livelihoods and working conditions for workers. The City is also co-developing technical organic waste entrepreneurship activities with waste workers in informal communities, ensuring increased conversion of organic waste to compost or animal feed. Beneficiaries have developed improved knowledge and skills to sort and convert solid and organic waste, providing new income opportunities through value chain linkages. These efforts are reducing the amount of waste going to dumpsites or being burned, contributing to lower methane emissions, improved air quality and reduced risk of flooding.

City Health and Environmental officers received training on essential skills to address knowledge gaps among informal waste operators, and to design and deliver high-quality training to solid waste stakeholders. With the additional support of a new systematic community mobilisation field guide toolkit,

city officials can mobilise and support informal waste actors, enabling them to effectively shape and implement inclusive waste management practices in informal settlements in the medium and long term.

The training initiatives have expanded beyond Vingunguti to include other wards under the Dar es Salaam City Council (DCC) and other Local Authorities (DLAs), fostering broader participation and peer-to-peer learning for health officers. The exchange of knowledge allows the city to expand and replicate best waste management practices and emission reduction solutions.

What has the city learned?

The project has demonstrated the value of an inclusive approach to the implementation of climate resilience projects in the city of Dar es Salaam. Through consultation with community-based organisations, community leaders and waste pickers, all stakeholders involved have a stronger understanding of why community engagement is critical for inclusive decision-making, inclusive project delivery, and equitable distribution of impacts from climate action. By understanding the needs of communities and waste sector stakeholders at all levels, sustainable waste management solutions can be developed that combine strengthening livelihoods and reducing GHG emissions.

Engaging grassroots leaders and residents enhances the project's relevance and ensures a localised approach to waste management. The process used to identify knowledge gaps and training needs of waste pickers and informal waste workers in the project area will help inform the city's future efforts to engage waste pickers and promote their agency to co-create climate solutions with the city.



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Through the ICA Fund project, Dar es Salaam City Council has managed to strengthen its collaboration with informal organic waste workers to promote ownership of climate action and enhance access to working equipment such as push-carts, wheelbarrows, forage chopper, weighing scale, composting bins and PPEs. Moreover, the project has boosted skills for city and municipal officials as well as key actors in the organic waste management value chain while empowering and mobilising informal waste workers to co-create and institutionalise sustainable waste management strategies and practices.

— Monica A. Mosha, Principal Environmental Management Officer, Natural Resources and Environment Conservation Unit, Dar es Salaam City Council

What's next?

Waste pickers, sorters, and community-based organisations will receive equipment and further training sessions to enhance efficiency and safety in waste collection efforts. Specific initiatives on the horizon include piloting composting activities and increasing household waste collection rates by deploying additional transport equipment.

The new field guide toolkit for informal settlement community mobilisation and organic waste recovery will be a resource that can be used by the city in the future when replicating the project in other communities to ensure others benefit from the same approach.

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Visit [C40's website](#) for more information about the Inclusive Climate Action (ICA) Cities Fund.