ARUSHA

STRENGTHENING MARKET GOVERNANCE AND FOOD SAFETY

Kilombero Market is Arusha's largest wholesale and retail fresh produce market, serving around 15,000 consumers daily and approximately 5,500 traders, yet it faces deteriorating infrastructure, poor drainage, fragmented waste management, weak coordination and inconsistent food safety enforcement. The pilot therefore tested whether infrastructure improvements combined with participatory governance reform could create a more sustainable market management model.

The intervention began with an assessment of the Market Management Committee, followed by a participatory process involving vendors, City Council officers and Rikolto to develop practical Standard Operating Procedures and design low cost market infrastructure to support food safety and waste management. The market's vegetable section was upgraded through multistakeholder collaboration with improved infrastructure alongside awareness activities on food safety. Food safety compliance increased from 35% to 65%, while the functionality of the Market Management Committee improved by approximately 40%.

At handover, the upgraded infrastructure and waste-management facilities were transferred to Arusha City Council, with responsibilities divided between the Council, Market Management Committee, vendors and the private waste company Chanzi. The pilot recommends extending the model through institutionalised governance tools, peer training and public-private partnerships on infrastructure improvement.

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