

Call for case studies: Scaling up promising practice to promote healthy urban people and ecosystems in east and southern Africa

Regional Network for Equity in Health in East and Southern Africa (EQUINET)
Call closes 5pm April 30th 2025



Background

Urbanisation and the expansion of commercial activities in east and southern Africa (ESA) brings rising opportunities and wealth for some, and stress, poverty and ill health for others. Urban areas are experiencing many new commercial and environmental health risks, that also make urban communities more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. There are, however, many examples of healthy, equitable, climate-adapted urban food, waste management, energy and climate adapted practices underway in the region. These practices demonstrate holistic, multi-sector, multi-actor and circular economy approaches, involving collaborative planning, informed by disaggregated evidence of different forms, building coalitions that share goals, ideas and ownership, and bring diverse resources and skills to processes. In iterative steps, they integrate equity, and assess, review and improve practice, and in so doing strengthen social respect for healthy ecosystems as a source of economic and social benefit and reduced ill health.

In 2024, as a regional community of practice on urban health in EQUINET, we proposed 10 recommendations on areas of practice and policy to advance climate-responsive integrated healthy urban food, waste and ecosystems in ESA, organised within 3 main areas:

1. **Build** healthy circular economy food, waste and urban ecosystems.
2. **Enable** (and institutionalise) healthy food, waste and urban ecosystems; and
3. **Amplify** (scale-up in and across ESA countries) healthy food, waste and urban ecosystems

The ten specific recommendations are presented with examples of practice in the brief: “EQUINET (2024) Scaling up promising practice to promote healthy urban people and ecosystems in east and southern Africa, EQUINET, Harare” at <https://equinetafrica.org/sites/default/files/uploads/documents/UH%20Recommendations%20brief%202024.pdf> . We recommend that all interested in this call read the brief and follow the links to the briefs on some of the examples of promising practice.

The brief indicates that we already have many examples of practices that **BUILD** health, climate-adapted urban systems, particularly in terms of designing, planning for, incentivising, capacitating and reclaiming urban spaces for urban resident food producers to implement various forms of innovative urban agriculture and 3R (reduce, recycle, reuse) waste management systems, linking these systems to interventions for improved access to quality healthy urban food, as an alternative to harmful foods. There are examples of measures to **ENABLE** these practices, including capacitating and institutionalising the regular generation, analysis and communication of multiple forms of disaggregated evidence and perspectives from multiple stake-holders and affected communities, using this evidence in decision making, monitoring and review by inclusive, sustained, multi-stakeholder forums, with local government as a key convenor. To **AMPLIFY** these practices, we have examples of practices that organise and connect in networks and link across local, national, regional and international actors to exchange of knowledge and ideas.

The call

This call is seeking case study examples of promising practice from east and southern Africa in selected areas within our recommendations in one of the following five areas that we have less information on of practice within the region. These five areas are listed below:

1. For **‘BUILD’** on investing domestically in technology research and development (R&D), supported by regional investment and technology transfer and establishing a supportive technology ecosystem for locally appropriate, climate-sensitive technologies and infrastructures that build and enable links between food, waste and energy systems.

2. For **'ENABLE'**, in one of the three areas below:
 - a. Institutionalising health impact assessment (HIA), linking where relevant with environment impact assessment, particularly for commercial activities and policies that have high health impact in urban areas.
 - b. Implementing 'policy 3Rs', to Relook, Realign and Revise local, national policies and laws, and harmonise law and guidance regionally, to enable these key elements of healthy integrated urban food, waste, eco-systems, and to build implementer capacities and stakeholder literacy to regularly monitor and review/revise laws and to engage in policy processes at local, national and regional levels.
 - c. Developing frameworks that mobilise, harmonize and coordinate the allocation of budgets, pooled and blended funding, and other resources towards addressing risks, strengthening assets, and managing assessed costs, drawn from multi-stakeholder evidence and review.

3. For **'AMPLIFY'** on establishing or engaging existing regional and national research and development and training / academic centres to generate new knowledge and strengthen integration of existing knowledge focused on innovative, relevant, climate responsive approaches to healthy urban food, waste management and ecosystems.

The case studies

We are calling for case study examples of sustained practice, policy or measures within urban and peri-urban areas in ESA countries or if relevant at regional level relevant to water, energy, green spaces, climate and local economies that show innovation in one or more of the five areas noted in 'The Call' above.

The selected case studies should provide evidence showing the learning in a 5-6 page brief with photographs written in an accessible style on the specific practice(s) underway that demonstrate one or more of the five areas above. After selection the case study brief should include brief information with url hyperlinks to relevant documents for further information on their purpose, key context features (including legal and policy), location and communities involved, the time frame, the specific practices implemented, processes for the design, implementation and monitoring of the intervention. The case studies will note what inputs, capacities and resources were applied, any challenges faced, and how these were tackled, the outcomes achieved, and any future plans for expanding or developing the practices. EQUINET will provide further guidance for selected case studies.

Selected case studies will receive an EQUINET honorarium grant of US\$500. The case studies will be drafted between May 8 and June 30 2025. EQUINET will provide review, copy edit and layout and publishing of the case study in July 2025 for wider dissemination on the EQUINET website and in the recommendations brief. The authors will be integrated into activities and partnerships of the regional community of practice on urban health.

Applicants for the call are asked to email to admin@equinetafrica.org before 5pm Southern Africa time April 30, 2025 with URBAN HEALTH CASE STUDY in the subject line

- A maximum one page concept note outlining brief information on the proposed case study with the lead institution, the practice(s) underway, clearly stating which of the 5 key areas noted in the call that they address and the outcomes they achieved.
- a CV of the lead author, their institution, contact information for follow up and confirmation of availability in May-July for interaction on/ drafting.

Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application before or by May 8th 2025.

Please send any queries on the call to the EQUINET secretariat at admin@equinetafrica.org