Sites and Services in Tanzania — Long-Run Evidence That Planning Greenfield Plots Beats Upgrading Squatter Areas

City Innovation Library · Good practice · Tanzania

Quality score: 62/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

World Bank-backed Sites and Services projects surveyed and serviced plots in seven Tanzanian cities in the 1970s–80s. A spatial RD study in the JPE finds planned greenfield areas grew into far better neighbourhoods than upgraded squatter areas.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured results	3/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	2/3
Scalability	2/3
Sustainability / continuity	2/3
Innovation	1/3
Inclusiveness / equity	1/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-11-22

Government of Tanzania with the World Bank (Sites and Services projects) — accessed 2026-11-22

Journal of Political Economy article (2021) — accessed 2026-11-22

IZA Discussion Paper 11036 — accessed 2026-11-22

LSE Research Online record — accessed 2026-11-22

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