

Kigali, Rwanda:

Imbuga City Walk Car-Free Zone:

Model:
Public-Private Partnerships

Imbuga City Walk, a **520 metre corridor**, is Kigali's largest car-free zone. Developed by the city government, and managed by a private company, the street is **breathing life into public space**.



THE CHALLENGE

The city sought to **reduce traffic and emissions** in the city centre by removing vehicles and creating **greener public space**, a scarce commodity in the Rwandan capital.



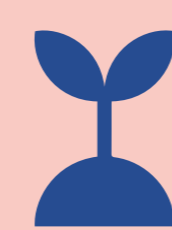
HOW IT WORKS

Completed in 2021 by the city's Urban Planning Department, Imbuga City Walk has green spaces, event areas, small business kiosks, benches, and other pedestrian-friendly infrastructure.

The city collaborated with the University of Rwanda's School of Architecture on the concept, and then contracted and worked closely with two companies for the design and construction. Using a **participatory approach**, the city sought the inputs and ideas of local businesses and discussed their concerns about the potential impact of reduced street parking on their business.

Once operational, the city formulated an **innovative management contract** with a private company, Mopas, to manage and increase activity in the space, such as concerts.

Mopas does not pay a fee or rental. Rather, the company uses the profits from the space - advertising, events, and rentals - to maintain it. The city expects to receive a percentage of the profits in subsequent years.



LESSONS

Participatory approaches in infrastructure projects not only help to **generate buy-in**, but also **improve design and implementation**. The project ultimately benefits local enterprises since their inputs were heard throughout, while the **increase in pedestrians is good for business**.

An innovative management contract of public space can also allow for all parties to **bring their resources and capacities together** in a way that makes a project viable and impactful.