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CAMA Newsletter

"kama twende" Swahili "let's go"

Collaboration for Activie Mobility in Africa (CAMA)

Project Overview

The Collaboration for Active Mobility in Africa is a Partnership for Sustainable Solutions initiative in Sub-Saharan Africa funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research Germany (DAAD) and the German Academic Exchange Service (BMBF).

The project that started in June 2021 to run until May 2025 is a consortium between five (5) universities namely Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences (Karlsruhe, Germany), University of Kassel (Kassel, Germany), Makerere University (Kampala, Uganda), University of Nairobi (Nairobi, Kenya), Mekelle University (Mekelle, Ethiopia).

Walking and cycling provide personal benefits that include good local accessibility as well as low costs. Walking also offers social benefits since is free of emission, it is efficient and space-saving. The health benefits can be realised through its effect on reduced effect of rising non communicable diseases which benefits are essential for sustainable mobility.
Walking and cycling as forms of active mobility have frequently been overlooked in research and planning in Sub-Saharan Africa, and it is only in recent years that national and local governments as well as international agencies, have focused more attention on this topic and provided infrastructure.

Problems persist because most of these new infrastructure projects are of limited scope, have design flaws that render them unusable or unappealing, for example, they are not wide enough to meet walking space standards, and are located in areas that do not serve the majority of those who require access to them.

In order to expand on existing activities and promote active mobility in Sub-Saharan Africa, combined efforts of applied research and continuing education are required to better understand walking and cycling needs.

Project goal

The project goal is to Promote walking and cycling through;

- Data collection
- Development and uptake of tailor-made solutions
- Real-life experiments (living labs)
- Continuing Education for active mobility

Research Goals

The goal of the project is to convince more people to shift to active mobility to boost health and body fitness among different socio-economic groups. Rapid urbanization comes with changes in lifestyle coupled with high pressure on the transportation system of many cities in sub-Saharan Africa. Walking and cycling have personal and societal benefits and are in line with the Sustainable development goals. They reduce costs and can be used by people from all social groups.

The project comes in the wake of the realization that Walking and cycling as Active mobility have often been forgotten in research and planning in sub-Saharan Africa. It is recent that national and local authorities, as well as international agencies, are putting more effort into this topic.

There are efforts to develop walking and cycling policies and infrastructure in cities like Nairobi and Kampala. However, these new infrastructure projects or pilots are minimal in scope, have design flaws that make them unusable or unattractive and are in places that do not serve the majority of the people who need to access them.

In order to realise the objectives of the project, a number of activities are lined up and these include Data Collection to better capture the requirements of the pedestrians and cyclists and to illustrate their needs using digital surveys, qualitative interviews and crowd mapping approaches. This will take into consideration the needs of special population groups including women, persons with disability, children, and the elderly.

The project will also Develop and uptake of tailor-made solutions to promote walking and cycling by building learning alliances combining researchers, community representatives, decision makers and experts preparing real-life experiments otherwise called living labs and testing innovative solutions. The local learning alliances will be developed in Nairobi, Kampala and Mekelle and ensure that the research will be steered by the everyday challenges of traffic planning. This could help to speed up the implementation of innovative solutions on the ground.

The real-life experiments will focus on small, tangible, partly digital and innovative solutions at community level for example the creation of small car-free oases, building temporary closure of roads to car traffic, development of safe crossings, upgrading of roadside areas and many more, rather than focusing on big infrastructure and national policy development. These solutions can serve as a first step towards the promotion of active mobility and provide the foundation for more comprehensive activities.

Work packages:

WP1: Survey on walking and cycling behaviour.
WP2: Digital Crowd Mapping Tool
WP3: Learning Alliances Active Mobility
WP4: Documentation and Outreach

Motivation

The promotion of active mobility in sub-Saharan Africa while building on existing activities, coupled with combined efforts of applied research and continuing education are required to better understand that Walking and cycling as active mobility have often been forgotten in research and planning in sub-Saharan Africa. It is only in recent years that national and local authorities as well as international agencies are putting more effort on this topic.

Project Goal

CAMA will focus on three scientific project goals namely Data Collection; Development and uptake of tailor-made solutions; and The real-life experiments that will focus on small, tangible, and innovative solutions on community

The promotion of active mobility can build on existing applied research activities in sub-Saharan Africa as well as transferable research activities in Germany. Nevertheless, there is still a need to better capture the requirements of the pedestrians and cyclists and to illustrate their needs.

The Principal Investigators(PIs)

Prof. Dr. Jochen Eckart

Professorship of Transport Ecology: PI, University of Applied Sciences Karlsruhe (Germany).

"The CAMA project is about joint learning of how to promote active mobility. The solutions on how to facilitate walking and cycling have to be adapted to the local conditions and will be different in all participating cities.

The method of how to overcome the barriers for the implementation of innovative solutions will be comparable. The key to foster the transition towards active mobility are learning alliances, bringing together stakeholders from government, consultancy, citizen groups and research, in order to implement living labs, temporary and visual interventions in the urban space to pilot and monitor new solutions."

Prof. Angela Francke

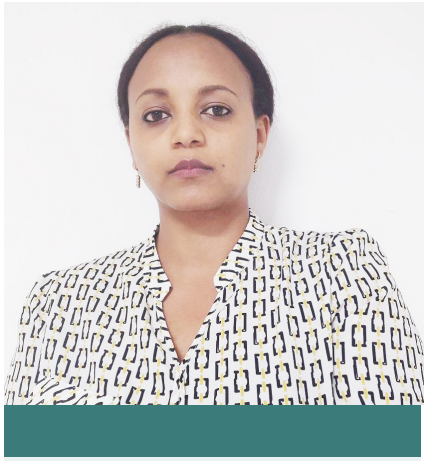
PI, Professor for Cycling and Sustainable Mobility at the University of Kassel

Prof. Winnie Mitullah

Lead PI for the CAMA project in Kenya: University of Nairobi (Kenya)

Dr. Jotham Sempewo

Lead PI for the CAMA project in Uganda: Makerere University (Uganda)



Ms. Azeb Tesfaye Legese

Lead PI for the CAMA project in Ethiopia: Mekelle University/Ethiopian Institute of technology-Mekelle (EIT-MU) (Ethiopia)

OBITUARY

Dr. Godfrey Mwesige

In the summer of 2021 (5th July 2021), Dr. Godfrey Mwesige succumbed to COVID 19. He was a traffic engineer and road safety expert and a lecturer at the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology (CEDAT) Makerere University since 2005. At just 43, he had achieved among others, the following academic qualifications: PhDBSc (Civil Eng, Mak); MSc (Civil Eng, Illinois); Dip (Road Traffic Safety, Lund); PhD (Transport Science, KTH) Member UIPE and a Registered Engineer.

Dr. Mwesige was the PI of the Ugandan team, so the internal organization of the project team at Makerere University had to be reorganized. The two other consortium members from Makerere University Dr. Jotham Sempewo and Mrs. Amanda Ngabirano were able to fill the gap. Our deepest condolences to his family, friends, colleagues and students.

Activities engaged in during year one:

The Summer school

International student exchange for sustainable mobility at the HKA.

The online student workshop on the topic "Hands-on Sustainable Mobility - Active Mobility around the World" was held from October 25th to 29th, 2021. It was attended by 75 students drawn from 11 Universities in nine countries.
The Transport System Management course at the Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences (Die HKA) focused on the exchange of experiences and the development of concepts for sustainable and active mobility. It was aimed at sensitizing students, young scientists and lecturers on the topic of sustainable mobility and to promote international dialogue. The processing of traffic issues was found not only technical, but also designed for cultural understanding and social norms.

Cyclists and pedestrians were the focus of the lectures, specialist discussions and concept developments. In the course of the deliberations, potential for improvement and obstacles to implementation were centred on.

In their working groups, the students exchanged experiences, compared different approaches, learned from each other and developed sustainable solutions to practical problems in a wide variety of countries. The group work was based on sections of commercial streets from different partner countries, which were documented for the students on plans as well as in videos and photos.

The successful conclusion of the "Hands on Sustainable Mobility" workshop showed once again how successful and profitable the concept was for students from different countries. The workshop and the conference were co- financed by the projects: "Sustainable Urban Mobility in Manila" a project within the framework of the Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM for students - BWS plus, a program of the Baden-Württemberg Foundation, and the project "Collaboration for Active Mobility in Africa" (CAMA), funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the German Academic Exchange Service.

Kaddu Joseph,
MSc. Civil Eng.

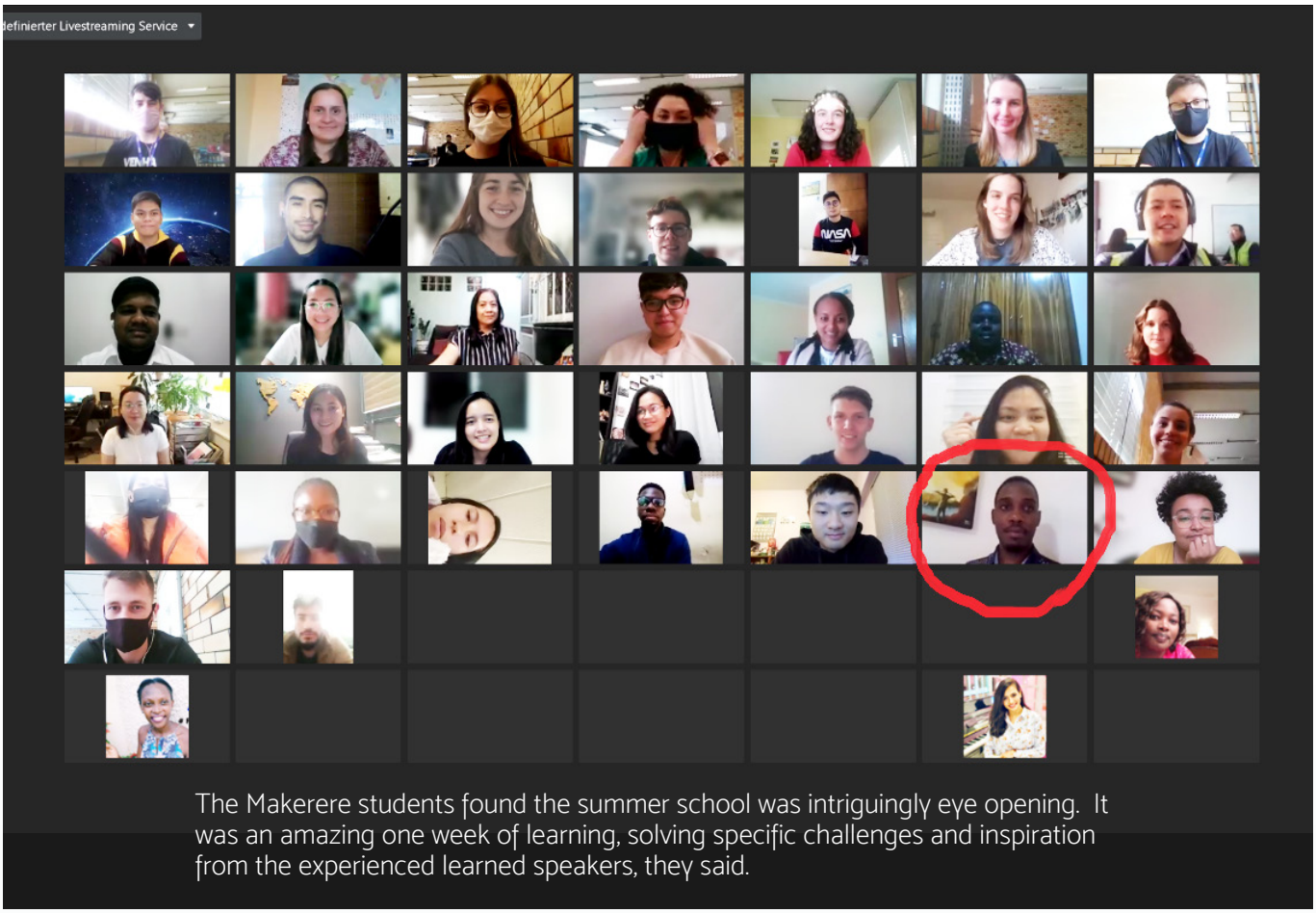
Kisuule Henry Simon,
MSc. Civil Eng.

Nalubowa Belinda,
BSc. Civil Eng.

Musoke Solomon,
BSc. Civil Eng.

Muhanguzi Davis,
BSc. Civil Eng

Lubega Richard,
BSc. Civil Eng.



The Makerere students found the summer school was intriguingly eye opening. It was an amazing one week of learning, solving specific challenges and inspiration from the experienced learned speakers, they said.

Activities engaged in during year one:

Ms. Hidaya Namakula, PhD. Student at CEDAT Makerere University.

Following her recruitment, this is what she had to say...

"I am very grateful to be part of this project as a Research Assistant. As a PhD student, I believe this project will offer me the opportunity to accomplish my passion for a doctorate study in Non-Motorized Transport. I have always advocated for active mobility by walking and cycling because of associated benefits as compared to the motorized transport systems like good local accessibility, low costs. Environmentally its emission-free, efficient and space-saving. Therefore, Collaboration for Active Mobility in Africa is in conformity with Sustainable Development Goals 2, 6, 11 and 13.

I'm hopeful that by the time I complete my PhD, I will have contributed to the knowledge base as far as Active mobility in Africa is concerned through publications. Thereafter, will be very influential in my home country to advocate for Active mobility through engagement with the policy makers and the different stakeholders as well as interesting my students at Makerere university to carry out more research into the topic based on the findings and recommendations of my Doctorate research.

Visit of the German partners to Kampala

CEDAT Principal, Prof. Henry Alinaitwe(5th from left), Principal Investigator-CEDAT, Dr. Jotham Sempewo (R), Co. Principal Investigator, Assoc. Prof. Umaru Bagampadde, PhD Student Ms. Hidaya Namakula (L) and guests from Germany in a group photo during the internal meeting at CEDAT, Makerere University.

Germany partners' visited to Makerere University, Kampala 7th– 9th April 2022.

The three days visit to Makerere University by the teams from Germany partner Universities, University of Kassel, and Hochschule Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences-HKA was very eventful. The main activities during the visit included an Internal meeting, stakeholder's engagement meeting, a workshop for mapping tool and survey, as well as a Bike tour with local groups/activists and stakeholders.

Internal opening meeting

The internal opening meeting was covnened on Thursday 7th April, 2021 at the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology, Boardroom. The main purpose of this meeting was to get to know each other, have a Project presentation to give a brief to the team about the project, share project progress, challenges faced and way forward.

The host PI of Makerere University welcomed all members to the meeting and thanked them for attending especially the German team for making it to Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda. He also thanked the College Principal for sparing time for the project whenever he was called upon. Also appreciated were the members for the work so far done in as far as the CAMA project was concerned amidst all the challenges through the Covid-19 times specifically the German team.
He hifhtlighted the activities that had been carried out in the year 2021 most of which were conducted online. They included the kick off meeting, the stake holder engagement meeting, and the summer school where some CEDAT students took part.

The Principal Investigators from Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences, Hochschule Karlsruhe – University of Applied Sciences (HKA) and University of Kassel expressed their happiness for the opportunity that enabled them meet the Ugandan team face to face.

They shared their background of the project right from proposal formulation and expressed their pleasure that the project was finally taking shape. They also expressed their appreciation towards the Ugandan team for the cooperation and activities that had been accomplished.

Stakeholder's engagement meeting

The stakeholders engagement meeting was held on Thursday 7th April, 2021 at Acadia suites conference hall, Kira road-Kampala. This event was aimed at engaging local experts, stakeholders and partners in order to get an understanding of the challenges or problems in walking and cycling, their vision about Non-Motorised Transport Systems (NMT), potentials/ solutions for NMT and what would be their possible living lab.

The stakeholders came from different organisations including Makerere University, University of Kassel, CISCOT, NSDFU/ Actogether (SDI), UST- Network, Uganda National Roads Authority, TEENS- UGANDA, PROME Consultants Ltd, UNUF, MoLHUD, Ndejje University, ITDP, National Planning Authority, FABIO, Critical Mass Kampala, Uganda Railways Corporation, Ministry of Works and Transport.

MESSAGE FROM PROF. JOCHEN ECKART

Prof. Jochen Eckart presentation during the stakeholders' engagement meeting

The Principal Investigator- Prof. Jochen Eckart gave a brief about the project. He mentioned that the research approach living lab was suitable for research on the promotion of walking while making considerations of the reported problems, testing possible solutions and provision of evidence-based advice. He noted that the range of stakeholders could be increased by providing digital participation tools and doing social experiments and space demand. The allocation and redistribution of traffic space and sharing of traffic space, he said, were important to promote walking. He further requested the stakeholders to continue the dissemination of the CAMA project and encouraged them to warm-up, focus and think about the research needs for active mobility, brainstorm on the analysis and development of ideas for living labs, bullet proof ideas for living labs, support implementation of living labs, help in monitoring the impact of living labs and in the process eventually learn from the process.

PRESENTATION FROM PROF. ANGELA FRANCKE

Prof. Dr. Angela Francke, PI, Professor for Cycling and Sustainable Mobility at the University of Kassel

The Principal Investigator- Prof. Dr. Angela Francke from University of Kassel took the meeting through a few activities they had carried out related to Active mobility at the University of Kassel. She steered the meeting in an engagement session where she clustered the stakeholders into groups of about four (4) members to discuss the various issues with regard to Promotion of Active mobility.

The topical discussions were centred around the challenges/ problems in walking and cycling, vision about Non-Motorised Transport Systems (NMT), potentials/solutions for NMT and what would be the possible living lab. Members vigorously participated in the activity and discussions of the feedback and interactions thereafter.

During the discussion, the stakeholders identified challenges faced in non-motorised transport that included safety, security, accidents, Boda-Boda riding on NMT facilities, disrespect of NMT users as well as weather, topology and flooding. It was noted that existing infrastructure was lacking the needed facilities, had many obstacles all attributed to poor planning. Other issues included public perception that NMT was for the poor and those of low social status, limited space, lack of information and political challenges among many others.

Some of the solutions identified included inclusive planning, designing for everyone to own and understand, More training for engineers and designers, increased public awareness and the Implementation of NMT policy

Message from Mekelle University

Mekelle city administration transport experts

Message from PI about the project
Road transport is the only existing type of transport in Mekelle. It composes both motorized and non-motorized transport. The majority use active mobility as a daily mode and this is a good opportunity to promote active mobility in the city. Walking is the most dominant mode for short trips during the day.

The poor quality of infrastructure, however, sends a message that pedestrians and cyclists are not welcome in the urban environment in addition, there are also other challenges to understand such as lack of awareness, and law enforcement. So deep investigation and analysis would help to better understand the perception and preference of active mobility users and the actual barriers and enablers for using active mobility as a daily mode. CAMA project will enable us to explore the existing situation through applied research and continuing education. It aims to better apprehend walking and cycling needs and promote active mobility in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Results/what has been done so far
Due to the siege and ongoing conflict in Tigray region, it was not possible to conduct a field trip to Mekelle. Regardless of the transportation and communication blockage in the city, the team in Mekelle managed to conduct a stockholder briefing and key informant interview. Stockholder briefing was given to officers in Mekelle City Transport Administration, Tigrai Bureau of Transportation and Communication, Mekelle City Municipality, Mekelle city Cycling project team, Mekelle University, Mekelle City Administration, Tigray Road Authority (TRA) , Mekelle city mayor, Tigrai Bureau of Urban Development and Construction, Cyclist of Trans Ethiopia on the overall objective of the CAMA project and the work packages.

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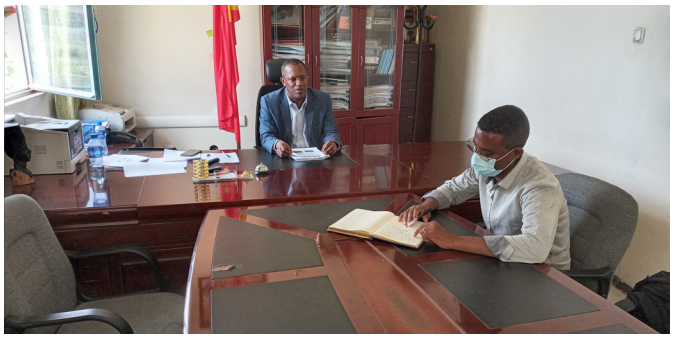
Mekelle university chair of road and transport



Mr. Araaya Mekelle city Mayor

Workshop for mapping tool and survey

BIKE TOUR

The visit was crowned with a bike tour by the team to Kampala Central Business district on Saturday 9th April 2022. The Bike tour with local groups/activists/stakeholders was organised to enable the team have a Site visit to real life experiments like car-free-days, biking on campus and to experience walking and biking in Kampala City. During the tour, the team made several observations on the infrastructure for NMT.

Progress realised so far

Todate, the project has realised some yardsticks based on what was set to be done.

- Work package 1: Survey of the walking and cycling behaviour. This was initiated and is ongoing.
- Work package 2: Digital crowd mapping of the walking and cycling Infrastructure (lead HKA).

The promotion of active mobility in sub-Saharan Africa often has been based on the premise of "what do experts think, what users need"? In order to further develop active mobility, an understanding of "what users really need" is required. The goal therefore is to undertake a survey and make an evaluation of the existing infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists in Kampala, Nairobi and Mekelle from a user-centred perspective.

In order to facilitate the participation of the community, a digital crowd-mapping tool was provided. In the project, an Android/Web App for collecting the user feedback of pedestrians and cyclists was developed.

The tool allows pedestrians and cyclists to provide feedback on which characteristics of the infrastructure they like and dislike (categories and free text). All information gathered by digital crowd sensing will be collected and documented on a web-platform. A beta-version of the crowd mapping tool will be available in fall 2022.

Leveraging Partnerships for Advancing Walking and Cycling in Nairobi

Sub Saharan Africa is emerging from a context where development of road infrastructure for motor vehicles has been the norm. This norm has been blind to the healthy and environmentally friendly walking and cycling modes of transport. However, these two modes are currently being promoted as options of access and mobility in the context of climate change, health, and promotion of a 15 minutes' compact city.

The Institute for Development studies (IDS) of the University of Nairobi (UoN), has been undertaking transport research since 2009 and has advanced knowledge in the area through research, development of skills and leveraging stakeholders for knowledge sharing and practical interventions. Therefore, the Collaboration for Active Mobility in Africa (CAMA) neatly fits within the UoN-IDS Public Transport theme, which includes Non-Motorised Transport (NMT), road safety, transport planning, infrastructure, institutions, and governance.

Walking and cycling have been one of our main focuses in NMT studies and stakeholder engagements. It is this interest that attracted the UoN-IDS team to the CAMA partnership. A collaboration that brings together three universities in the Eastern Africa region [Kenya: University of Nairobi, Uganda: Makerere University, and Ethiopia: Mekelle University] and two universities from Germany [University of Karlsruhe and University of Kassel]. The partnership is anchored on applied research and continuing education. These approaches are very appropriate in the current world of sustainable development, where practical solutions to development are being sought.

The CAMA collaboration of several partners with different expertise and skills avails opportunity not only to share ideas but to also leverage stakeholders for testing ideas and implementing practical solutions. The collaboration has been running for one year and some milestones have been made.

The project has had a remarkably successful first year that has witnessed identification of collaborating students, mapping of stakeholders,' convening of researchers and stakeholders, and facilitation of an online summer school in which six students from the University of Nairobi participated. The latter embraced a practical process in which students had practical tasks on walking and cycling to perform in their respective cities prior to the summer school. The outcomes of the tasks in various cities were shared during the summer school that brought together students and scholars drawn from across the globe.

In April 2022, the project had a very fruitful engagement with stakeholders bringing together scholars, policy makers and practitioners. While there were many phases and sessions of engagement with the German collaborators and Kenya stakeholders, of mention is the bike ride across the city and the stakeholder forum.

The two processes were participatory with the German team joining Kenya bike riders who directed the entire exercise. The same case applied to stakeholder forum in which the German team shared their experiences on walking and cycling, while the Kenya stakeholders equally articulated the challenges and proposed how to advance walking and cycling in Nairobi.

The project is in its first year, but we envisage a practical outcome that go beyond doing research and writing reports and journal articles. Many of these have been done, but the gap remains in practical interventions that effectively collaborate with city stakeholders including the city authorities and other transport actors in learning, and supporting applied research, development of appropriate policies and implementation of enabling walking and cycling programmes.

Prof. Winnie Mitullah & Dr. Anne Kamau. July, 2022.