

# Dar es Salaam

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## LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

### April 2012

Produced By:

Sustainable Cities International Network-Africa Programme  
(SCINAP)



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Welcome to SCINAP`s first monthly newsletter on livelihood improvement projects and local economic development in Dar es Salaam. This newsletter will provide updates on the progress of our projects, let you know about any upcoming events, and inform you of other local economic development news in Dar.

As you may already know, SCINAP has been funding to a number of small organizations in Dar. These groups are engaged in activities that improve the livelihoods of many Dar es Salaam residents. These innovative local economic development projects include a cycle messenger co-op, a tour operator dispensing microloans, and community-based waste management organizations.

## Fasta Cycle Messengers

[Fasta](#) is a co-operative of cyclists who deliver packages and letters around Dar es Salaam by bicycle. All Fasta members also members of [Umma Wa Wapenda Baisikeli Dar es Salaam \(UWABA\)](#), an organization that promotes cycling in Dar es Salaam and advocates for increased safety and awareness of cyclists. Fasta is an energetic and organized group of young people who are building their capacity and gaining the skills needed to run an effective and sustainable business. Fasta members recently completed a marketing training course that gave them the skills and understanding needed to generate an effective and realistic marketing plan. It is our hope that with increased promotion and marketing, Fasta will soon be a trusted name in package delivery in Dar es Salaam. Fasta currently has 12 customers and is looking for more, so if you need to send packages door-to-door in Dar, why not choose Fasta.



## Investours

[Investours](#) is an innovative project combining micro-financing and tourism. The flagship operations for the project are in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico and the Dar es Salaam office has been running tours since late 2010. Participants of an Investour meet with two groups of local entrepreneurs in the Mwenge area and collectively decide which group will receive an interest-free loan. Loan funds are derived from tour fees and are typically equal to \$200 USD. Investours is partnered with Maisha Finance, a local micro-finance provider. Maisha and Investours are now delivering financial management courses to loan recipients, so that they are better able to manage their loans and repay them within the allotted three month period. To date, Investours has distributed more than \$7000 in interest-free loans to local entrepreneurs in Dar es Salaam.



## Community-based Waste Management

More than 70 percent of Dar es Salaam's residents live in unplanned settlements. Waste collection in these areas is difficult and many residents simply burn their household garbage or dump it along roadsides or rivers. However, much of the household waste in unplanned areas is collected by small-scale community-based organizations. These groups consist mainly of youth who collect waste by push cart. More than half of the household waste produced in Dar is organic, so there is a largely untapped resource being trucked to the dump every day. This waste has the potential to be turned into high quality compost that can be sold locally to Dar's urban farming community.

SCINAP and Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association ([BORDA](#)) are working closely with Kisiwani Environmental Group, in cooperation with the Ilala Municipal Council, and Vijana Mazingiri Ubungu, in cooperation with Kinondoni Municipal Council, to build the capacity of these groups through training, procurement of equipment and protective clothing and



expansion of their activities to include recycling and composting activities. It is expected that with these additional revenue generating activities, the groups will be able to improve the livelihoods of their members and make their operations more economically viable. As an added bonus these activities will decrease the amount of waste going to the dump site, as transportation is the single largest cost for waste collection.

## **In Closing**

We hope to make these newsletters informative and insightful. If you have any suggestions for ways in which the newsletter could be improved, or have any information about local economic development or livelihood projects that you would like to share, please feel free to contact us. Thank you for your continued interest in and support of local economic development in Dar es Salaam. We are grateful for the opportunity to engage with you.

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