

Public Open Space (POS) and Living Conditions

“Open space is a critical component of cities as it defines the public realm by framing development within a network of parks, squares, boulevards, trails, recreation areas and other open spaces that accommodate everyday social interaction. [...] Many parts of East Amman, where the population density is the highest, do not have open space except within scattered, private vacant lots.”

The Amman Plan - Metropolitan Growth Plan, GAM, 2008

The partially unplanned infrastructure of East Amman's neighbourhoods has created scarcity of open spaces, lack of greenery and inadequate connectivity of sidewalks, stair networks and streets.

Access to public facilities and basic urban services (e.g. public transport, waste management, water and energy supply, health care, education and public security) is bound to long distances or sometimes completely cut off. Due to the housing density, construction, rehabilitation or maintenance of POS is challenging.

In some places, incomplete waste removal and inadequate urban infrastructure has led to deteriorated social interaction and environmental hazards, like flooding and soil pollution.

Green spaces mitigate heat and air pollution in the city and contribute to urban wellbeing. Access to community gardens and recreational facilities is also strongly linked to reductions in crime and in particular to reduced juvenile delinquency. As the world's cities densify, continuing to value green space in cities is vital, but also a challenge; particularly where there is pressure for space, resources and development. Despite these challenges, cities need to revive and invest in POS to harvest the environmental and social benefits they can provide and build attractive cities for all.

Green Infrastructure

Several pilot sites in East Amman are selected to implement practical examples of green urban design and thereby illustrate different elements of green infrastructure. The participatory small projects focus on greening and rehabilitation, walkability and access to transport, sustainable urban drainage systems and improvement of existing infrastructure. On the neighbourhood level the aim is to counteract the degradation of urban spaces, improve social cohesion and foster interaction between different population groups. On a higher level, the infrastructure networks contribute to filtering air and water pollutants, preserving local biodiversity, decreasing the impact of urban heat waves and stabilising soil to reduce erosion.

Project

Improving Living Conditions in poverty-stricken Areas in Amman via the implementation of green infrastructure (ILCA)

Improving Living Conditions in poverty-stricken Areas in Amman is a pilot project set up to develop and improve existing elements of green infrastructure in selected sites in East Amman. The project aims to create ownership and enhance quality of life of the residents through community participatory involvement in the design, planning and management processes of the newly created or revived public open spaces. Improving the connection to public transport plays a prominent role, as well as increasing the accessibility of public spaces for all with a particular attention to women and girls' specific needs. The project also intends to raise awareness on the potential of green infrastructure to mitigate/adapt to climate change, and support Jordan in the achievement of their commitments to global and national agendas such as SDGs and NDCs

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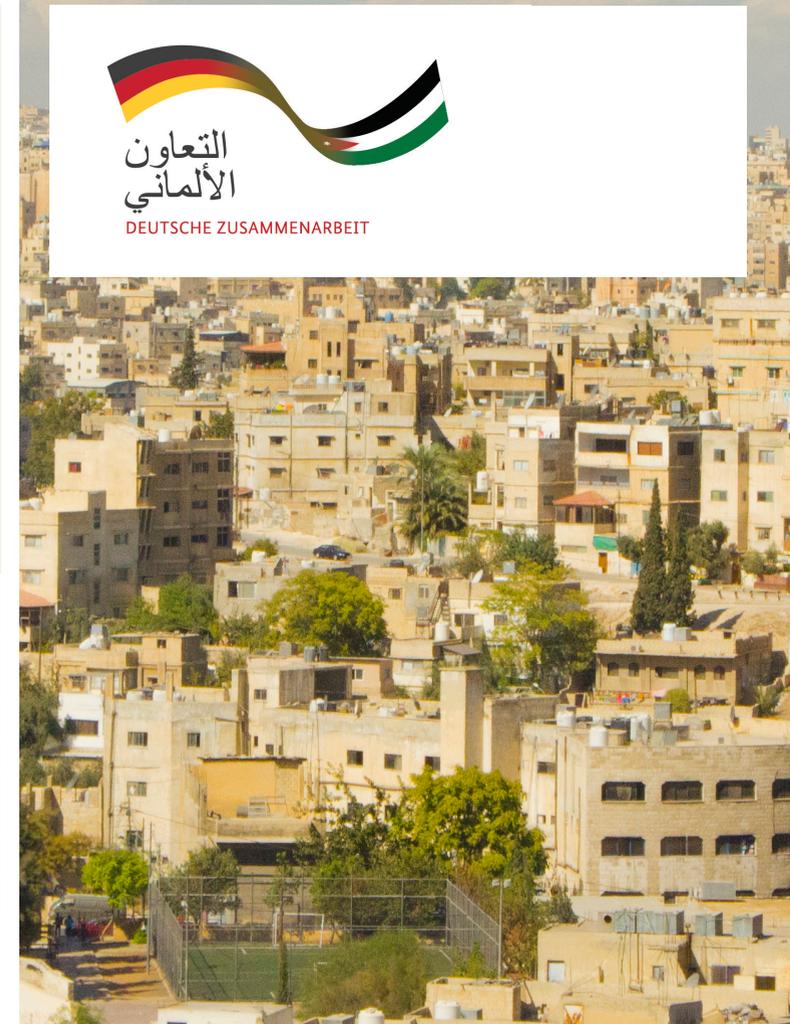
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Green Infrastructure in Amman

Improving Living Conditions in poverty-stricken
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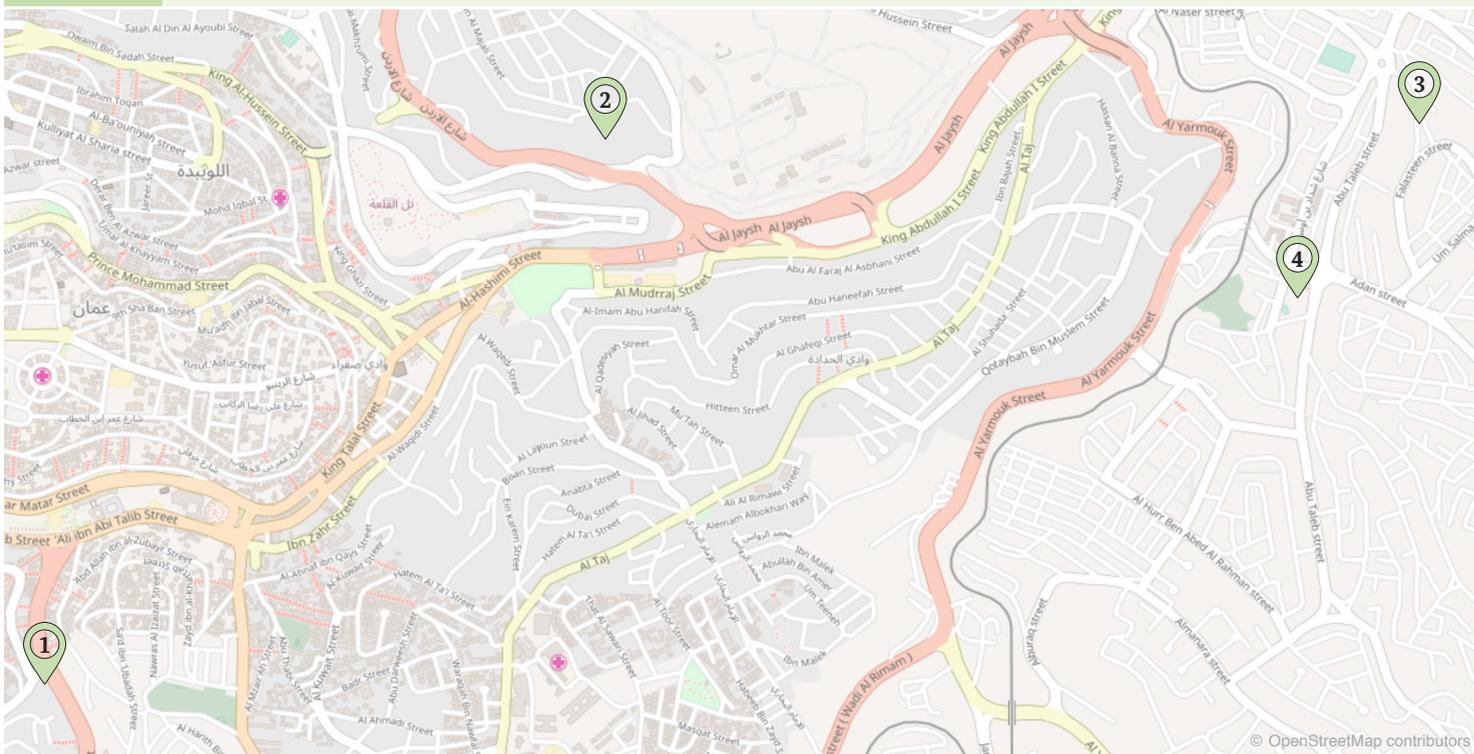
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ILCA Project Sites in East Amman



Site name Stairs within Al Quds Street



Location	Badr 31°56'11.1"N 35°55'22.4"E
Measures	Stair rehabilitation, connection to BRT
Current Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hazardous walking situation for inhabitants (narrow sidewalks and footpaths, insufficiently maintained construction, stairs partially blocked) Existing open space is unusable, no green or play areas Limited access for public services Not suited for children, elderly people, or physically disabled people
Proposed Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehabilitating the stair network Greening and sustainable drainage solution Access to public transport

Site name Stairs between Qusoor Neighbourhood and Urdun Street



Location	Basman 31°57'24.7"N 35°56'22.7"E
Measures	Stair rehabilitation, greening and accessibility
Current Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amenities on stair sets, e.g. existing drainage and street lights are mostly broken / in bad condition, impacting safety and resulting in drainage overflow Limited access to waste collection services and rodent control Not suited for elderly people, or physically disabled people
Proposed Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved accessibility, connectivity to Abu Ala Al Maari Park Greening and sustainable drainage solution

Site name Left-over Land in Palestine Street



Location	Nasr 31°57'26.1"N 35°58'12.6"E
Measures	Community park design and construction
Current Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empty land in triangle shape, used as parking for trucks In the vicinity of a predominantly Palestinian refugee area and only empty land nearby,
Proposed Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of a small community garden Improve walkability and access in direction of Palestinian refugee area Possible network with Mahmoud Al Qudah park

Site name UNRWA School Access and Connection to Mahmoud Al Qda Park & Park Rehabilitation



Location	Nasr 31°57'07.6"N 35°57'57.2"E
Measures	Park rehabilitation, improved walkability
Current Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of benches and recreational areas that offer shade are insufficient Missing drainage solutions, resulting in water accumulation in playground areas Existing streetlights are broken and waste collection service is insufficient
Proposed Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehabilitating the existing amenities and increasing the use of natural shading from trees Establishing a walkable connection between Mahmoud Al Quda Park, its bus stop and UNRWA school