ABSTRACT

Placemaking has recently gained popularity as a community based development approach for promoting community sustainability in Sub- Saharan Africa (SSA). The trust of the approach lies in building synergy to manage and improve public spaces for common value. The study aimed to examine the role of placemaking initiatives in building sustainable communities in the SSA.

Using an exploratory desk case study, the researcher considered eight different placemaking initiatives in analysing their development, successes, and in particular, how they promote the themes of community sustainability. The study revealed that, placemaking initiatives were necessary for promoting community sustainability by giving considerations for efforts that actively empower and engage community members to be at helms of finding solutions to their own challenges. Again, the case study cases have promoted community sustainability by way of building synergies to create social capital, social cohesion and local identity that are necessary for balancing economic and environmental aspects of sustainability.

Relevant to both policy and practice, it seemed from the study that children needed active space to experiment ways of solving community challenges. They were considered as effective vehicles for championing the environmental agenda of society. The concept of Sustainability should be integrated into the course syllabus of children and space be provided for them to take up environmental responsibility at tender age. Again, the study recommended that policy makers and practitioners should particular attention for and support for grassroots organisations and groups to champion the course of mobilizing local resources, especially the youth to participate fully in the decision making process. Recommendation was also made for future researchers to concentrate research efforts on finding which specific placemaking strategy is most effective in achieving community sustainability.

Key Words

Placemaking, community sustainability, empowerment, social capital

DECLARATION

I certify that this is my own work and that the materials have not been published before, or presented at any other module, or programme. The materials contained in this thesis are my own work, not a "duplicate" from others. Where the knowledge, ideas and words of others have been drawn upon, whether published or unpublished, due acknowledgements have been given. I understand that the normal consequence of cheating in any element of an examination or assessment, if proven, is that the thesis may be assessed as failed.

28th June 2021, Trondheim, Norway

DEDICATION

To

My dearest sons, Ellis and Evin. It is because of you I have not quitted yet.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

My first and foremost, appreciation goes to the Most High God for the grace he has bestowed on me. I am greatly indebted to my supervisor, Yu Wang, for the sound support and encouragement he gave me in the course of completing this thesis. Sir, I really appreciate your constructive critique, which shaped this work.

Many thanks to all authors, whose work I consulted for my thesis.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATION

ICUN- International Union for Conservation of Nature

DTL -Dandora Transformation League

SSA – Sub-Saharan Africa

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

In recent years, the global challenges to sustainable development have been propelled by a broad cluster of issues such as changing demographic profiles, changing economic and social dynamics, advancements in technology and trends in the direction of environmental deterioration (UN, 2013). As cities continue to grow rapidly in the midst of these issues, people's survival and their quality of life, which are dependent on the natural environment in which they reside, are threatened.

To offset the threats, the search for a sustainable equilibrium between the social and economic needs of people and the capacity of the natural resources in their environment has become imperative. However, the development approaches adopted in achieving sustainability have not been people centered enough. There have been rather over reliance on economic and scientific issues. Consequently, much sustainable results have not been realized (Adams, 2006).

In this regard, the complex and diverse composition of communities has necessitated ingenious planning approaches (Schlebusch, 2015). Placemaking, which is more participatory and human centered, has attracted attention as an effective approach for achieving sustainability goals (Marsden, 2013). This has led to global implementation of different placemaking initiatives with the goal of building sustainable communities, which encompasses healthy living, supportive environment, social wellbeing and economic viability. Over the last decade, countries of Sub-Saharan Africa have witnessed emerging wave of community groups endeavouring to improve their neighbourhoods in response to Governments' inability to meet their obligations as far as public space upgrading and maintenance are concerned.

In an attempt to answer whether placemaking can contribute to the building of sustainable communities, this thesis adopts the case study approach to investigate eight placemaking initiatives in Africa.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

This work was prompted by need for uncovering and understanding indigenous strategies that are helpful in building sustainable communities in the Sub-Saharan Africa. Thus, this study was geared towards analyzing the role placemaking approaches play building sustainable communities or neighbourhoods in the SSA. The study tends to fill gap in clarity of facts that exist as far as promoting community sustainability is concerned. It tends to fill the gap by providing insight into the kinds of placemaking strategies that are productive for promoting community sustainability.

1. 3 Aim of the Study

The aim of this was to examine the role of placemaking approaches in building sustainable communities, and to analyse how placemaking strategies promote community sustainability in the SSA

1.4 Research Questions

Generally, the research seeks to answer the question what role do placemaking approaches play in building sustainable communities?

Specifically, it seeks to answer the following questions:

1. What are the processes and strategies involved in placemaking and how do they promote community sustainability?
2. What defining features of sustainable development does placemaking promote?

1.5 Thesis Organization

This paper contains seven chapters. The first chapter introduces the research study. It covered background to the study, problem statement, research questions significance of the study. The next chapter discusses the place concept, placemaking and sustainability, which provide the framework for theorising and analysing the role of placemaking in building community sustainability. Chapter three contains the research methodology which deals with the methods and instruments used for the study. Analysis of case studies and sustainability outcomes are presented in chapters four and five respectively. The sixth chapter presents findings and implications of the study. In the very last chapter, recommendations and conclusions are presented.

CHAPTER TWO
# CONCEPTS AND ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK

2.0 Introduction

This chapter discusses the major concepts underlying the study of role of placemaking initiatives in building sustainable communities. These include the concepts of place, placemaking and sustainability. It also discusses the nexus between placemaking and sustainability, and tries to link the three major concepts together to provide the analytical framework for the study.

2.1 The Concept of Place

Place is a socio-physical construct which composes of buildings, streets, spaces and landscape, various land uses and a community of users (Carmona, 2018). To Stewart (2010), place has been used to connote local areas and the qualities that make them livable with both 'space' related qualities as well as the relationships people have with the area and the social interaction it affords them. Considering the two meanings put forward, place could mean a constituent of the environment, group of people and the back and forth interactions that exist between these group and the environment. These interactions eventually help reshape both the environment and the people who live there.

Canter (1977) modelled place with three circles of tangible and intangible attributes of activity, form (physical setting), and image or meaning working together in creating a sense of place. He pointed that place is the result of balanced connection between these three attributes of place. Inferring from this, the kind of connection that exist among the three attributes of place, must achieve a balance for the place two be sustainable.

Hence, a place transcends geographical limits of space and location to include such attributes such as the people, culture, and any other distinctive features that one associates with the space. In simple terms, a place is more than just a place and location but rather includes all the phenomena that make up the memories that remind us of the place.
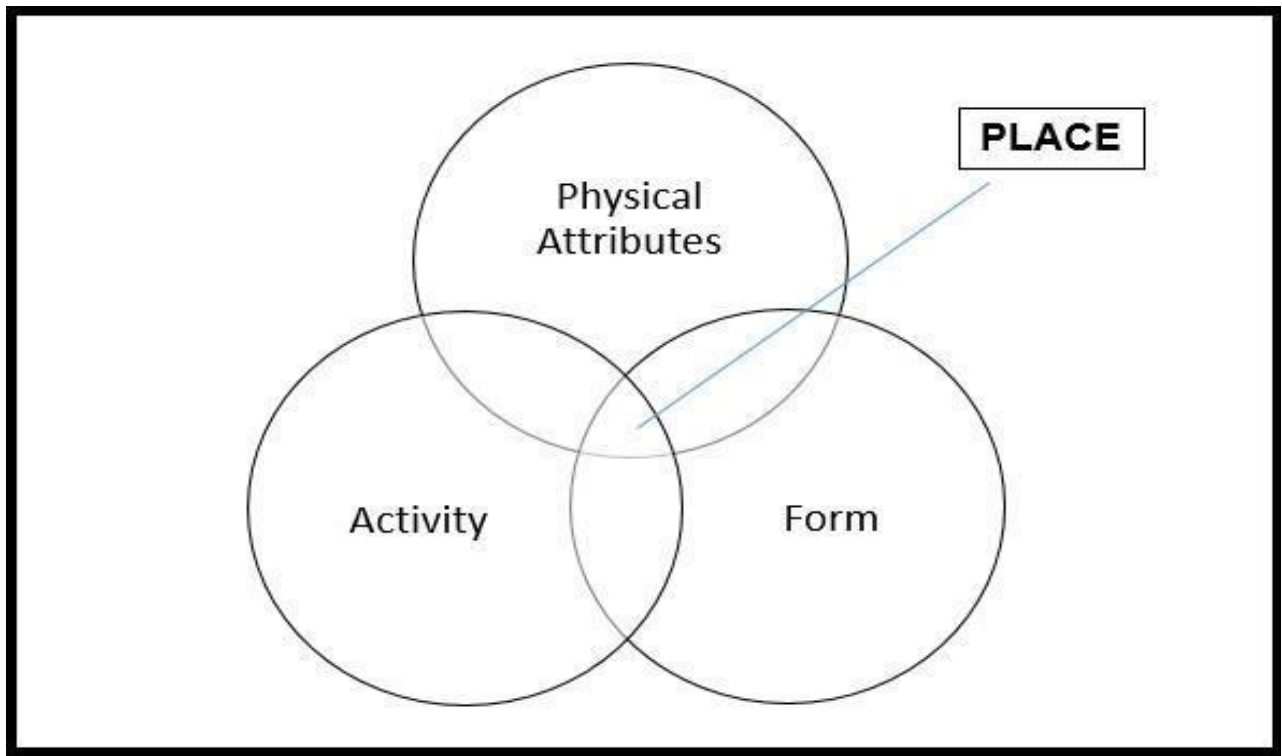
Source: Canter (1977)

2.2 Placemaking

Placemaking as a concept cannot be defined without prior discourse about public spaces and their relevance to urban communal life. Public spaces among other things are common areas that residents and neighbours in a community all have access to and utilize in a communal or individual level for the satisfaction of an underlying good.

''*What defines a character of a city is its public space, not its private space. What define the value of the private assets of the space are not the assets by themselves but the common assets. The value of the public good affects the value of the private good. We need to show every day that public spaces are an asset to a city.''* -- UN-HABITAT Executive Director Joan Clos I Mathieu.

Placemaking is simply an approach of planning and design of urban and spaces where emphasis is placed on the humans and their needs in the design process. According to Gehl & Matan

(2009), placemaking seeks to bridge the hard aspects of the city being the buildings and static objects with the soft and transient aspects of the urban lives being human interactions and the cultivation of social capital. Placemaking thus aims to create quality living areas and improve social interaction at the same time. The quality or ideal public space can be judged based on the following criteria as espoused by Wyckoff (2014), they are; multiple transportation options, multiple housing options, preservation of historic structures, community heritage, arts, culture and creativity, recreation, and green spaces. Though all these attributes contribute to the living experience in communities, the interventions in the case studies analysed in this work were rather biased towards the improvement in communities in terms of recreation, transportation, green spaces, arts and culture.

Placemaking, hence, places value on the people and their interaction and attempts to deliberately design and augment communities and neighbourhoods in such a way that will foster human interaction and a nurse a collective sense of togetherness and community among residents. Policy makers and practitioners thus place a particular emphasis on social interaction and regard it as a means to spur community life and improve the general quality of life among residents. Inclusivity in community life as well as security, visual appeal, effective design could be said to be prerequisite for inclusive communities that promote placemaking (Carmona et al., 2010).

The role of social interaction and social capital formation in the quality of life of residents has been scientifically proven. Communal life and activities which usually occurs in public spaces has been showed to be of much importance in the quality of life of residents, sense of belonging and inclusivity as well as quality of the community life (Sanga & Mbisso, 2020).

Placemaking is therefore making public space better in terms of the space and the functions of the space itself as well as improving the living experience of the residents of the space by spurring interactions among community members, which should ultimately lead to the formation of social capital. Lately, placemaking has also taken a new object of nurturing and sustaining a community life that lingers around shared public spaces and manages the public spaces by the community members. In that sense, placemaking encompasses spatial, economic, social and political management of public spaces.

2.2.1 Placemaking in the Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)

It is not in doubt that the Global South and Africa are culturally distinct from one another and from the Europe and North America specifically. It is therefore not surprising that concepts and practices will manifest differently on the continent of Africa with equally different consequences. Generally, African societies are more closely knit as compared to other societies even with the gradual breakdown of the extended family systems especially in urban settlements. However, the cosmopolitan nature of urban areas has created a need for re-integration community members, as they would otherwise not have met people of other ethnic and geographical backgrounds in the setting of their traditional homes and regions (Idang, 2015).

Africa and its lagged development pose a further strain on its citizens, urban dwellers and local governments. This resource scarcity exacerbates the quality or lack thereof of urban public spaces available for use by African urban settlers. In the Sub-Region, over 50 per cent of urban residents are said to be living in informal and unplanned slum settlements. This doubling with many residents lacking access to rather basic amenities such as water and sanitation, an inference can be made to public spaces due to factors such as the lack of public spaces, lack of planning for public spaces as well as the limited nature of participation in the planning process of public space development (Project for Public Places).

Placemaking thus has fallen into the domain of non- and quasi-governmental organizations leading the effort in placemaking in most African cities. Most of the projects compared and cited in the study for instance stem from the collaborations between non- governmental organizations and community organizations and groups. In most urban areas in Ghana, the urban sprawl has crossed many city boundaries and it is leading to the agglomeration of many smaller towns close to the cities. An example can be made of cities such as Kasoa, Ejisu, Amasaman, Ashiaman, etc. This sprawl is mostly private individual led and the new spaces lack very basic amenities. Thus, community members come together to provide basic amenities and *placemake* the new community in which they find themselves.

2.2.2 History of placemaking

Human interaction has always been at the centre of human civilizations and has been the distinguishing factor among communities. References can be made to the ancient Greece where there were Agoras that served as market centres and community meeting places where public discourse and human interactions flourished. All societies had some aspects of this public space and they used these spaces as their own societies demanded. The era of industrialization also brought with a certain level of 'mechanization' of urban areas which placed very little emphasis on avenues for human interaction but rather design cities as efficient systems without adequate consideration for human interactions in these plans. The result was communities losing their 'soul' and identity and residents having no connection whatsoever with the communities they live in (Silberberg, 2013). The sanctity of the 'poorly' designed urban spaces, which were rather visually appealing, lacked community involvement and the denigration of the urban fabric because functionality, visual appeal among others could not readily be reconciled with the chaos observed by scholars (Silberberg, 2013).

Placemaking first appeared in the literature in 1960's when Jacobs and Whyte introduced the concept to urban sociologists and planners. The concept did not become popular until the 1970's where it gained prominence among industry players who eventually started employed the approach to revitalize communities and make them better for their residents. It was a response to the dominating approach of planning cities to be efficient rather than inculcating the needs of human and making the whole city a human centred one- with humans occupying the central focus of the plans. Whyte took an analytical approach to reiterate how human behaviour is modified by the design of spaces around them and the interaction between man and space (Alzahrani et al., 2016).

The concept of placemaking has taken on various dimensions now as awareness has been created on climate change and its effects. The process of placemaking now involves a lot of other variables and considerations that all come together to build better communities for people. Considerations such as walkability, sustainability, pet-friendliness, cultural sensitivities, adaptability to varied uses among others all have to be considered before in the process of placemaking.

2.2.3 Types of placemaking

Wyckoff (2014) details three main types of placemaking in his work based on the goals that the process of placemaking seeks to achieve. It must be noted that the ultimate purpose of all placemaking efforts is to improve the quality of life of residents in a community and increase the choices available to them as a people. He grouped placemaking the (i) Standard Placemaking (ii) strategic placemaking (iii) Tactical placemaking.

Standard placemaking refers to the general spontaneous community effort to improve common areas in their communities. He argued that this category of placemaking was a never-ending process, which was always running once there were members in a community. He noted that the goals of these efforts may be relatively smaller at a go although the cumulative effect is enormous and a driver of change. For example, efforts including street painting, cleans-ups, etc. may all be projects under placemaking. Events may also be held in street corners, open places, gyms, etc. in such standard placemaking efforts.

Strategic placemaking on the other hand is comparatively larger in scale and is used to achieve a specific goal in the community. Usually, they are more nigger in scope as compared to the standard placemaking and as such, the stakeholders are more diverse. It usually includes a collaboration between local governments, non-governmental organizations and in some cases private entities for the investment of capital. These may strategically try to spur economic development by attracting some young talents, or by making a market or an already existing industry more attractive to incomers to attract new residents. Most of the cases that will be discussed in this work will be strategic in nature.

Creative placemaking tends to also spur development in the local sense and improve the quality of life of people of a community. The distinguishing factor in this method is that arts and culture is used a tool to organize residents and to spur the improvement that the communities so desires. Examples can be made of the Chale Wote Art festival as well as other festivals such as the December Street Art Festival all in Accra, Ghana.

All these types of placemaking all have a goal of making communities better and building social capital by providing opportunities for interaction among community members. Of course, many

overlaps exist that even threaten this sort of categorization, but they also marked areas of distinction form one another.

2.2.4 The placemaking Process

Form earlier discussions, it is evident that placemaking is a never-ending process that requires constant adjustments not only to realize the aspirations of the community but also to keep the harmony that exist between various stakeholders in the community. Perrault et al. (2020) were quite succinct by grouping the processes involved in placemaking into three main categories. Before we go on to name and discuss these categories, it must be noted that a plethora of tools have been developed and some adapted from other disciplines for the sole purpose of gathering and analyzing data from community members to draw a more representative image of the situation for a better appreciation of the situation by all stakeholders. These tools range from focus group discussions, transect walks, community mapping, problem trees, resource mapping among others.

Unlike formal planning process, the focus of placemaking has changed as reported by (Silderberg et al.2013), the new efforts of placemaking places a lot more emphasis on the process rather the final product or project. This has changed the emphasis to embrace the community action and interaction as a goal of the process rather a mean to an end situation. In other words, placemaking is now more of a concept and practice that infuses life and vibrancy into a community rather than just a means to solve communal problems. As such, they report a surge in such placemaking activities that celebrates community members and creates a festival like atmosphere that encourages interaction regardless of the prevailing quality of available community spaces. They assert that this process edifies the communities and makes members realize the inherent power they had ultimately leaving the communities better than they were before the process. It could quickly be said here that placemaking process departs from the traditional planning process, which is mainly focused on prescribing solutions to problems which could have been solved right at the grassroots level by capitalizing on community richness.

Placemaking is a community-based process, as such; the process begins with the mobilization of all stakeholders. Although it may sound simple, it might turn out to be a Herculean task that

requires a negotiation to find a date, time and venue that will be suitable to most stakeholders. Throughout the process, there will be the consistent need to mobilize although it is the prerequisite hence, listing it as the initial process. A very vital aspect of this process is the identification of stakeholders and involving them in the process a lot of effort goes into consensus building and setting the terms of reference for the whole process. The stakeholders will have to be defined spatially and by interest even though it might appear that some interests conflict.

The process of stakeholder identification usually starts with identifying and involving the local residents and those in adjourning urban spaces. These people will form the core of the process, as they tend to be the primary beneficiaries of the process. Sub groups will have to identified and efforts made to duly get representation from them e.g. There could be kids, the aged, women etc. Power brokers will also have to be included in the process namely politicians, property owners and anyone who wields power in any form. Further knowledge organizations if any should be added to the process. They could be community organizations, university professors or people with technical knowledge about the intervention or problem yet to be solved. Example, architects, economists, urban planners, etc.

The next process is to create and although it a be a misnomer, it is imperative that all involved develop options for the goals of the placemaking process and choose effectively which options to go with. In practice, there are always conflicting options since there is rarely one way to go about an issue. The goal here is to collectively arrive at a choice that will be acceptable to all parties involved considering the other factors such as cost, funding and the merits and otherwise inherent in the options themselves.

The next and perhaps final step is to manage the interventions. In this case, it has become increasingly popular to formalize the rather informal setting that we may tend to see ourselves occupying. Example, an informal resident's association may want to start a committee with representation from various stakeholder with a fixed tenure to manage the affairs of the public space. Such structured governance mechanisms go a long way to the sustainability of the project. Included in the management phase of the process is means of assessment of the project

to know whether there will be any need for intervention to be adjusted in any way or manner (Perrault et al., 2020).

2.3 Sustainability and Placemaking

Although the subject of sustainability has become popular recently, its use in the work is rather encompassing in scope thus involves some areas that will readily not be thought of when the issue of sustainability is mentioned. Generally, it tends to relate to the environment and making sure there is enough if not more environmental resources and quality for future generations to depend upon for their survival (Borowy, 2014). For Todorov & Marinova (2009), sustainable development is the kind of development that synchronises and harmonises economic, social, and ecological processes. Finding strategies and processes to integrate these variables has been the major focus of International Union for Conservation of Nature (ICUN) since 1969.

In the case of this work, sustainability was used to mean the ability of a project or intervention to be able to carry on its own, after its development, to integrate the social, economic and environmental processes of a community without further interventions from someone or some people. In other words, all that is done should be able to take up a life on its own and not needed to be adjusted by the entirety of the stakeholders every single time. Example, a governing committee could be constituted for a refurbished community garden. In that way, the day-to-day running of the garden does not need a general meeting of stakeholders to take very little decisions that will affect the garden. Further, the intervention in itself, especially, should not compromise on the sanctity of the environment in which it is situated, while producing desired social and economic outcomes.

The sustainability of community interventions has also been of interest to policy makers and practitioners. Some community-based programs tend to have short shelf-life before they dissipate. The bottom-up approach was hence noted to remedy this situation, as community has a better sense of ownership in such interventions. Walter et al., (2017) noted in their paper that sustainability tended to high in such interventions where community members are involved in the initial stages of the process and included throughout the process.

From the above submissions the aspects of placemaking approaches, including main features and strategies or processes are key in determining the extent of sustainability impacts that could

be realized. Therefore sustainability outcomes produced by placemaking approaches are dependent on dynamism of strategies and nature of activities that define them.

2.4 Assessing the Impacts of Placemaking Approaches on Community Sustainability

In recent years, there have been several attempts to understand the impacts of placemaking initiatives on community sustainability. This has led to development of different but complementing indicators, as summarized in Table 1, to measure placemaking approaches. Instrumental in this regard includes Stewart (2010) who is associated with developing social indicators for the UK forestry commission. The Institute of Sustainable Communities (2015) also developed measuring indicators for social, economic and environmental aspects of placemaking approaches. Other contributors such as Gajendran (2018) and Carmona (2018) also emphasised health indicators as being separate variable for measuring sustainability aspect of placemaking. The social focus of the contributors mainly concerned strengthening the social fabric of places, thus advancing the benefits created by placemaking approaches in empowering community, creating social capital and promoting local identity of place. Crime prevention and health of the people. For a proper balance of forces of place, economic and environmental processes (employment, entrepreneurship, and ecosystem and pollution management) that promote place quality and sustain people that dwell must have their place in counting the benefits of placemaking. These indicators have been found to be very comprehensive when assessed collectively. When adapted to suit this study, they will provide a rather holistic means of assessing the projects and the impacts they are having on local residents, organizations, and cities. Further, the indicators that are to be used can be categorized into three: social, economic and environmental appeal. By definition these are the very goals of placemaking, therefore by including all of these variables in the analysis, the researcher is making sure that the projects under the study have satisfied all the criteria for the placemaking process.

Table 2.1 Indicators for Assessing the Impacts of Placemaking Approaches on Community Sustainability

Source	Outcome/Indicator				Scope of Application
	Social	**Economic**	**Environment**	**Health**	
Stewart (2010)- for UK Forest Commission	Community Empowerment Social Capital Community Cohesion	-	-	-	UK
Institute of Sustainable Communities (2015)	Respect for basic human Quality education (formal/informal)	Meaningful job opportunities Re-investment of resources in local economy Job training and educational programs Local ownership of businesses	Protection and enhancement of ecosystems Utilization of Technology that minimizes pollution Use of renewable resources Conservation of natural resources	Enhancing clean air, water and food	Global
Gajendran (2018)	Civic participation Health and wellbeing Place attachment Reduced crime	Education and skill development Increased investment in infrastructure Increased local businesses Tourism and place-brand value	Upgrades and investment Walkability Environmental benefits		

2.5 Summary and Framework for Analyzing the Role of Placemaking Approaches towards Building Sustainable Communities

So far, review of concepts relevant for studying the role of placemaking in building sustainable communities has set out that people have the choice of transformation the place where they find themselves. When they organize activities and capitalize on assets embedded in these environments, current conditions of the area are transformed to form a quality place, which in turn shapes the lives of the people. Mobilizing all groups and utilising existing assets of the locality are substantially helpful in finding lasting solutions to challenges communities are facing. Thus, placemaking is perhaps the answer to building sustainable communities and keeping the environment in check. It has been shown, through the literature review, to be useful in administration of spaces economically viable and keeping the public spaces functional to create synergies necessary for harnessing the social fabric of a place. The relationships that characterise the presumed link between placemaking and community sustainability are presented in Figure 2.2.

Figure 2.1 Analytical Role of Placemaking Approaches towards Building Sustainable Communities
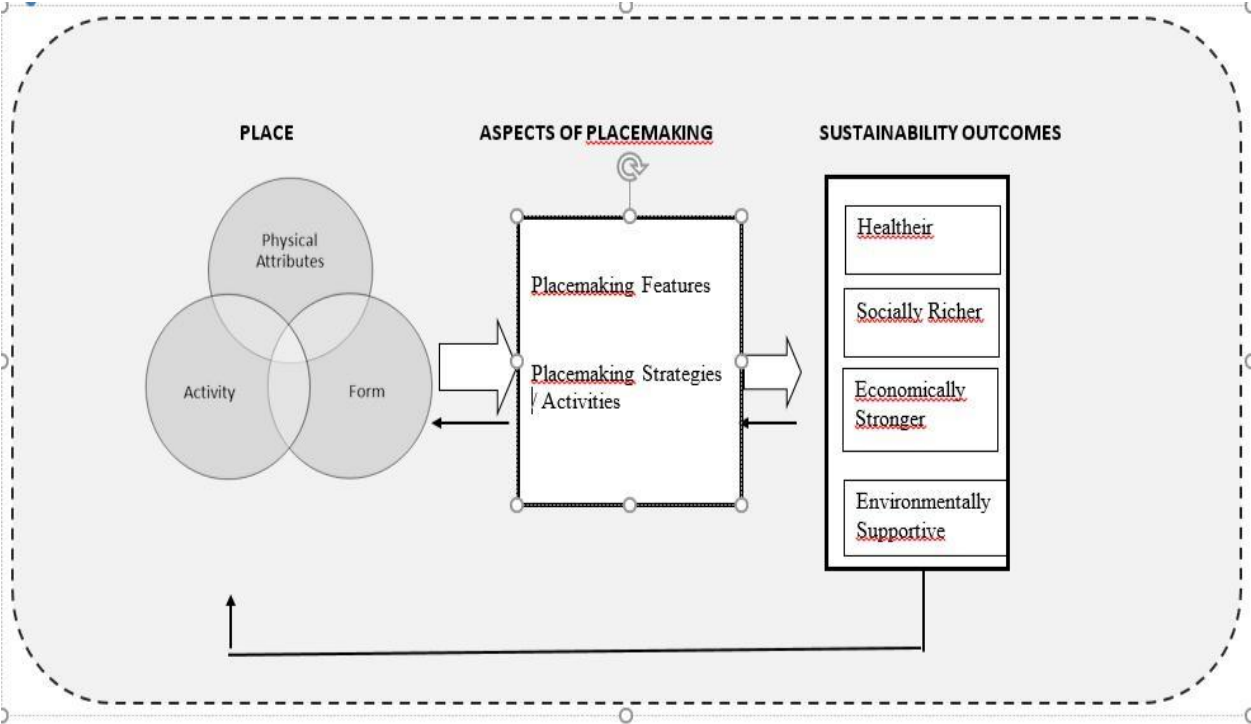
Source: Author, 2021

What is interesting is that placemaking if done properly can create a system of sustenance where the community itself runs and keeps public spaces to the betterment of all. Therefore, the approaches are, in the first place, needed to be sustainable themselves before they could achieve desired level of sustainability in communities. The extent of sustainable impacts made by placemaking approaches is also dependent on dynamism of strategies and nature of activities that define the approaches. Furthermore, placemaking involves non-linear processes, which make their approaches more participatory in nature.

CHAPTER THREE
METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This section describes the research design and specific techniques used in this study to gather, analyse and present relevant data on the role of placemaking initiatives in building sustainable communities.

3.2 Study Design and Methods

This study chose qualitative research design to give in-depth description of how placemaking initiatives promote community sustainability. This design was chosen due to the varied number of variables, which were compared across cases, and the scarcity of quantitative data on most projects under scrutiny. Again, since the aim of this study was to gain a deeper understanding of community sustainability and placemaking initiatives in the SSA, qualitative research was the most suitable method. Lastly, the nature of the research questions was such that answers on the kinds of placemaking strategies that intersect with community sustainability were required. In this instance, qualitative analysis was appropriate.

In this study, an exploratory desk case study was conducted to analyze eight different placemaking initiatives across the SSA to have a compressive understanding of the role placemaking initiatives played towards building sustainable communities. This gave the researcher the latitude to compare various interventions and make inferences from them to develop best practices and to know what works best in various situations. More specifically, this methodology helped the research to describe the various initiatives, processes and strategies involved and their contributions to community sustainability at each case site. Since the study contained more than a single case, the multiple-case study was undertaken. This choice enabled the researcher to offer intra and inter contextual case analysis. Even though undertaking multiple case analysis is time consuming, reliability of reported evidence seemed to be high (Baxter and Jack, 2008).

The use of case study method to compare urban placemaking interventions is not new, there has been used in various studies although with variations for scholarly purposes. Alzahrani et al (2016) used a similar method for the analysis of two projects in London though they employed a mixed method including collecting primary data. Sanga and Mbiso (2020) studied

public urban spaces in the city of Dar el Salaam in Ethiopia though in their case they also used observation and in-depth interviews to gather primary data. Akbar and Edelenbos (2020) also studied two informal settlements using the survey method and it made the comparison possible. In all these studies, primary data collection was employed whereas in it would not be possible in this study. It was for this reason that researcher scrutinized the cases selected for this study thus ensuring that even in the absence of primary data, there should be accessible verifiable data on these cases to be able to successfully complete the study.

3.3 Data Collection and Analysis

Actually, the researchers planned to embark on a field trip to collect primary data necessary for answering the research questions posed in this study. However, this planned abruptly changed considering the exigencies of COVID-19 that limited international travel and face-to-face meetings for the purposes of data gathering. The study therefore conducted a desk type of data collection that involved collection and analyses of data from secondary source. Using this method as the main data collection tool, the researcher was able to save time to cover multiple geographical cases in space of time in lieu of waiting for the aftermath of the pandemic to realise the research objectives. Again, the method saved money as most of the materials for the study were available online without any additional cost, thus avoiding cost of travelling abroad to conduct interviews in eight different case sites. As core component of this desk-based case studies, document analysis was carried out to improve comprehensiveness of the nature of placemaking initiatives in the SSA, processes involved in their development and the kind of contributions such initiatives make towards building sustainable communities. In this approach, electronic documents such as project reports, journals, placemaking blogs, online event programmes and technical reports were interpreted and assessed to get better understanding of the study topic. For purposes of triangulation (Goven, 2009) and reliable results, the study should have used other data sources such interviews and focus group discussion to complement the document analysis carried out. However, due to inconvenience created by COVID-19, as touched on earlier, document analysis was used as a standalone approach, which became appropriate for studying multicultural cases.

3.4 Sampling

In this study, the purposive sampling technique was chosen to select eight cases of placemaking initiatives in the Sub-Saharan Africa that met at least four of six specified criteria. The criteria for the selection of cases were that the cases:

i.   Aim to improve informal neighborhoods through incremental efforts that focus on locally available assets

ii.   Have to be community led as opposed be being led by the government

iii.   Should be located in the Sub-Saharan Africa

iv.   Should have appreciable data available on the project

v.   Could be verified independently

vi.   Must involve varied stakeholders such as NGOs, community members, etc.

The eight placemaking cases that were included in the study exhibited at least four of the characteristic criteria that was set out before the study. Two cases were chosen from West Africa, three from East Africa, one from Central-East Africa and two were chosen from South Africa.

3.5 Measuring Sustainability Outcomes

The variable outcomes analysed in this study are adapted from the works of researchers that were touched on in the preceding chapter. To suit the topic under study and nature of selected case studies, the three main themes of sustainability, social economic and environmental sustainability, were reframed as and socially healthier and richer, economically stronger and environmentally supportive communities. Table 3.1 sheds light on sustainable outcomes considered for each theme and their respective indicators for examining the role of placemaking initiatives in building sustainable communities. For easy comparative analysis a 4-point Likert scale ranging from 0 to 3 (0= No consideration, 1= Low consideration, 2= High consideration and 3=Very high consideration) was used to determine the extent of considerations the eight selected cases had for the various sustainability outcomes. Score for individual cases and outcomes were summed up and ranked.

Table 3.1 Guide for measuring sustainability outcomes

Outcome	Meaning	Indicator
Community empowerment	Equipping communities with power and capacity to influence matters concerning them	Involvement decision making

Capacity building |
| Social capital | Networks, interactions, shared values and understanding people have in a community | Diversity of community partnership

Connections and opportunity to meet new people |
| Cohesion | Integration, mutual understanding, respect, shared values and equal access to public services | Shared vision and integration |
| Quality of life | Wellbeing people gain | Security /crime prevention

Health of the people |
| Local identity | Preservation of social, cultural and physical uniqueness | Cultural regeneration |
| Job creation and Local Business Promotion | Opportunities for employment, new business formation and local business growth | Job avenues

Patronage in local businesses |
Skill Training	Imparting employable skills	Entrepreneurial trainings
Clean Environment	Environment free from pollution	Practices that minimise waste in public spaces
Ecosystem Protection& Preservation	Maintaining biodiversity	Greening
Material Recycling	Reusing discarded objects and waste plastics	Reuse of materials

Adapted from Stewart (2010), Institute of Sustainable Communities (2015)

CHAPTER FOUR
CASE ANALYSIS

4.0 Introduction

The eight cases selected have implemented inclusive strategies that improve socio-economic and environmental conditions in communities in which they are located. The initiatives are usually placed and area-based and their strategies involve neighbourhood upgrading, child recreation, festivals and active transportation.   The selected initiatives also are the results of grassroots mobilization, which have leads and intermediaries being community or area-based organisations spearheading the transformation processes.   In this section, each placemaking initiative was analysed and organised under description of the project, its context, and development process and stakeholder involvement.

Table 4.1 below presents general overview of the placemaking cases considered in this study:

Case	Approach	Scale	Strategies/Activities	Source
Dandora Neighbourhood Upgrading and Model Street	Neighbourhood improvement	Place specific-based	Waste management Cleaning competition Building parties Entrepreneurial workshops	Center for Frugal Innovation in Africa-CFIA, 2020
Kilimani Street Festival	Public art and culture promotion	Place specific-based	Cultural events Organic farmers' market Entrepreneurial workshops entertainment	
Kibebe Tsebay Playground, Addis Ababa	Recreational service provision	Place specific-based	Recycling Child play	
Open Street Cape Town	Public space reclamation and active transportation	Area-based	Street art Non-motorised transportation Entertainment	
Khayelitsha Slum Upgrading, Cape Town	Infrastructure provision	Place specific-based	Social service provision Street lightening Recreation	
Mmofra Place Accra	Recreational service provision	Place specific-based	Child play Greening Minecraft workshops	
Chale Wote Street Art Festival, Accra	Public art and culture promotion	Area-based	Cultural events Exhibitions Entertainment Public art	
Street Angels Slum Upgrading, Kampala	Neighbourhood improvement	Place specific-based	Social service provision workshops	

Table 4.1 Overview of the Placemaking Cases Study

Case 1: Courtyards Upgrading &Model Street in Dandora, Nairobi, Kenya

The Courtyard upgrading and Model Street in Dandora was initiated in 2015 to transform dirty and crime filled neighbourhoods into clean and safe places. The initiative was birthed from the strong collaboration and mobilization effort of grassroot organisations and groups, with the Dandora Development League (DTL) serving as an intermediary between community and partners.

Case Context

Dandora is an informal corridor located in the Eastern part of Nairobi, Kenya (Figure 4.1). With population of about 14, 000, the suburb, which was characterized by low-income levels, pollution, spate of youth crime, unemployment and neglected streets and spaces. This is the city where the largest dumping site in Nairobi is located. Even though the site provides livelihoods for residents, its poor management has caused unpleasant environmental and health issues in the area. Previously, Dandora was a dormitory town serving the housing needs of workers who worked in industries outside the community. The challenges facing the community sprang from the collapse of the industries, which caused unemployment and the accompanied effects. The community fell to a state where living there became unattractive people.

Project Description

In this project, the spate of youth crime, escalated unemployment, unsafety and deplorable infrastructure served as impetus for community-led transformation of public spaces. The Courtyard Upgrading and Model Street sought to redress these challenges by transformation neighbourhoods and public spaces to improve conditions of life in the community. This was done through cleaning competitions that empowered community members, especially the you to take up responsibility. Another focus of the project was to create a model street that would provide space to connect residents. Some aspects of the transformation include installation of trash bins, street paving, tree planting and cleaning up of courtyards.
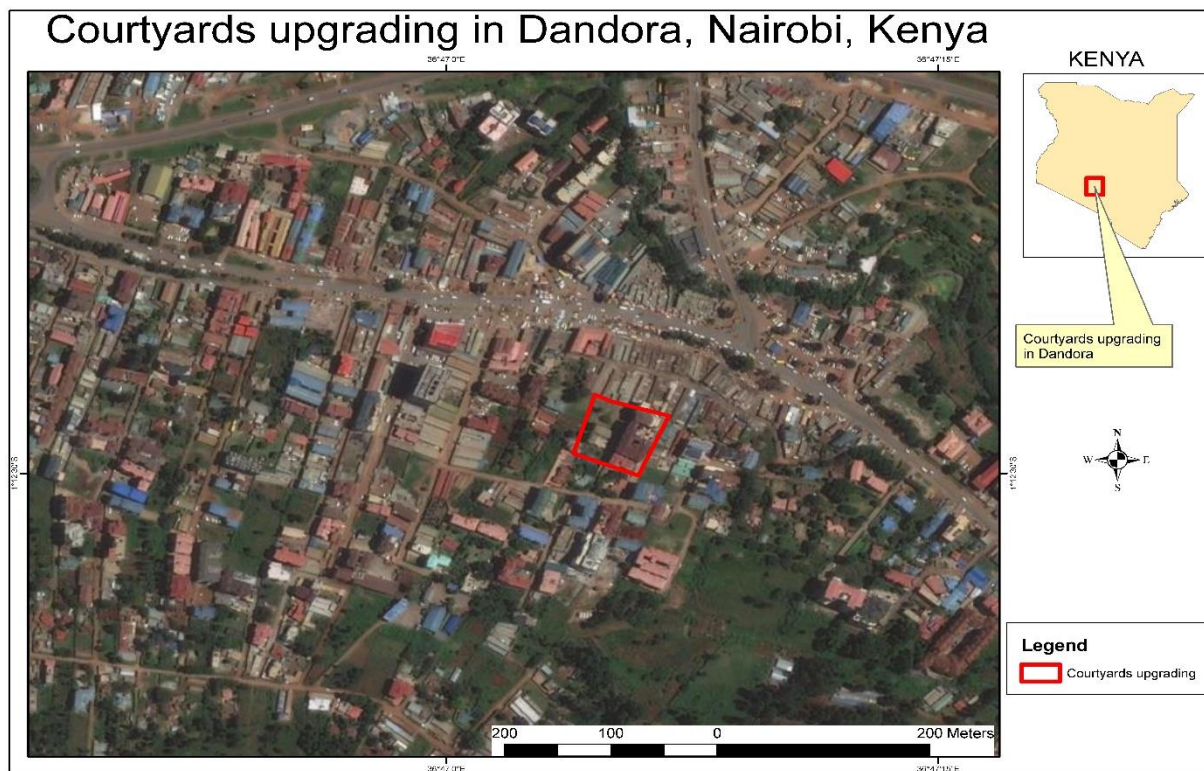
Figure 4.1 Location of Courtyards and Street Upgrading in Dandora (Obtained Google Street Map)

Placemaking Process and Stakeholder Involvement

By applying gamification approach, DTL mobilized youths and placemaking groups across Nairobi together for a common goal of revitalizing public space upgrading through the Changing Faces Competition (CFC). In the CFC, youths are motivated to take up the responsibility of transforming neglected open spaces into clean and safer spaces, by using Lighter, Quicker and Cheaper (LQC) materials that are available locally. Groups are primarily required to register formally with the government and CFC in order to participate in the competition. These grassroots groups are supposed to identify any neglected public space as a project area for transformation, after which they group source funds and materials to execute their neighbourhood transformation plan. Residents of the neighbourhoods take active participation by funding groups through monthly contributions, purposely meant for maintenance of courtyards and streets (Center for Frugal Innovation in Africa-CFIA, 2020). Jury comprising urban experts selects and award-winning teams based on the innovative and creative transformation strategies and approaches used in revitalizing their neighbourhoods. Some of the transformation activities include clean-up exercises, painting, public education on public spaces maintenance, street lightening, and creation of playground equipment and benches for community parks.

The competition attracts and strengthens collaboration between citizen groups and partners (UN-Habitat, university students, businesses, NGOs, experts in urban planning, architecture and design) that empowers and supports the former with resources and expertise to take charge of public spaces through placemaking initiatives. Community groups leverage partnership by applying the Block-by-Block Minecraft methodology, developed by UN-Habitat to design public space and the Dandora street model.

Figure 4.2 The Model Street after and before Upgrading (Obtained from UN-Habitat, 2019)

Figure 4.3 Public Sitting Places Made by Youth Using LQC (Obtained from CFIA, 2020)

Building alliances with partners, which support the grassroots movement with expertise, materials, equipment, financial and technical resources, was key to scaling the potential impact and ensuring long-term sustainability. Analysis of stakeholders involved the initiative is presented in Table 3.2.

Table4.1 Stake holder analysis for Dandora Neighbourhood Upgrading and Model Street

Stakeholder	Interest in The Project	Responsibility to The Project	Potential Resource Offered
Community members	Improved neighbourhoods	Planning, implementing, funding cleaning and maintaining the project	Local skills, manpower, funds
Youth	Improved neighbourhoods	Courtyard cleaning	Skills, manpower
Local authorities	Improved neighbourhoods	Endorsement of youth proposed activities, setting rules for facility use	Local knowledge, land
DTL	Improved neighbourhoods	Resources mobilization, Organising competitions, leading and guiding the project	Expertise, funds, manpower
Nairobi City County	Sustainable use of projects	Approving permits	Funds, manpower, policies
Technical University of Kenya	Providing baseline data	Volunteering in research	Expertise
Village Market	Safe environment for business	Paint sponsoring	Funds
Urban Bites	Safe environment for business	Providing refreshment	Funds
Experts	Improved neighbourhoods	Providing technical advice	Expertise, skills
UN-Habitat	Sustainable neighbourhoods	Providing access to Minecraft software, funding	Funds, expertise
NGOs, private sector	Improved neighbourhoods	Collaborating in resource mobilisation	Funds, expertise

The competition also serves as a platform to connect the community groups with key stakeholders. During the first Nairobi-wide competition, interested experts (architects, urban planners, and urban designers) volunteered their time to advice teams on inclusive designs using the available materials. Private businesses donated materials for transformations as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts and local public authorities started to support the initiatives by facilitating the approval process and providing material and tools. The competition facilitates collaboration and synergy, bringing together stakeholders and partners and raising awareness and increasing visibility of participating partners. This increases the sustainability of the initiatives far beyond the competition and

its framework, allowing it to empower, influence other areas, and unite communities around placemaking movements.

Case 2: Kilimani Street Festival

The project started as community members realized that commercial and urban activities were taking over their communities, especially public spaces for which residents had built their lives around. The area also faced other issues including lack of information on civil rights and responsibilities, insecurity, shrinking of small businesses, lack of entrepreneurial skill training, disunity and low community spirit (Houghton and Cap, 2016). Local citizens consolidated their efforts into creating an organization called the Kilimani Project Foundation that will adequately protect the interest of community members. Through consensus, the community was able to institute street festivals, farmer's exhibition, and photo exhibition, among other events that were able to stitch a community that was becoming increasingly mechanical.
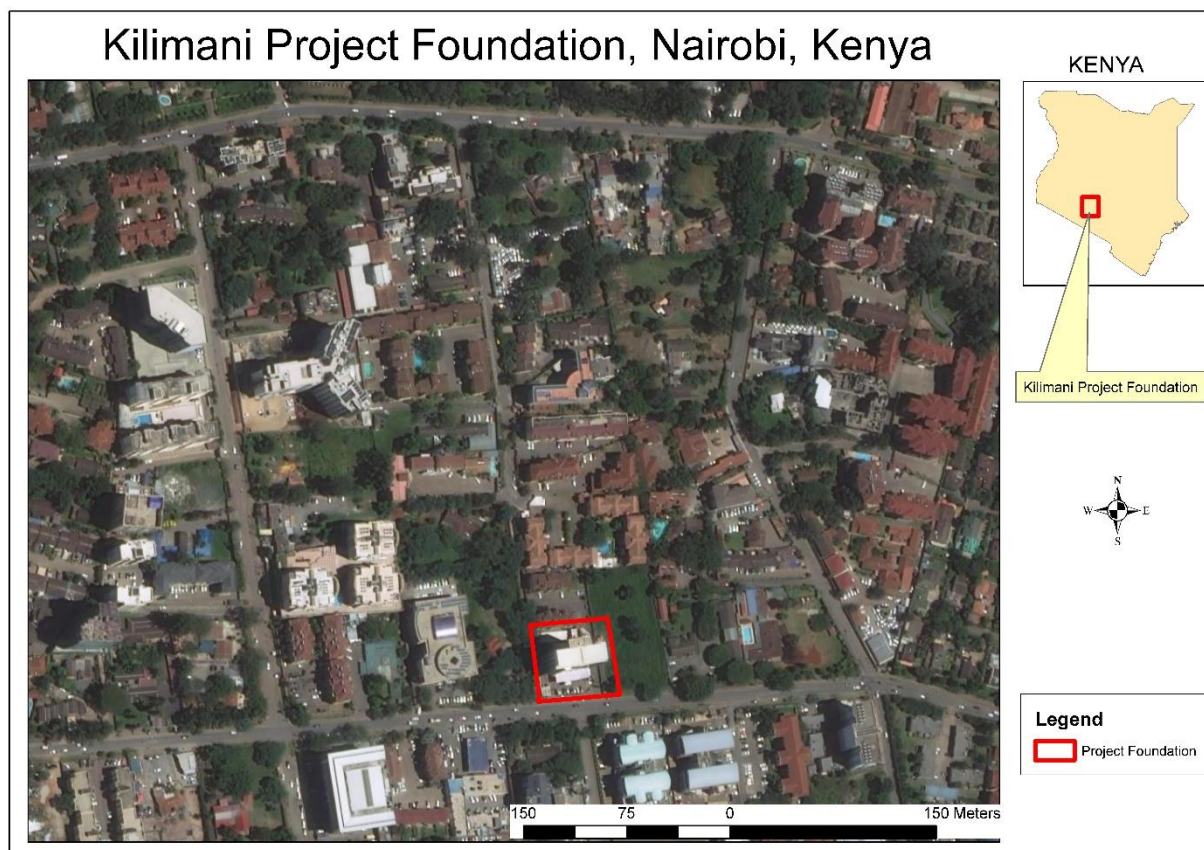

Figure 4.4 Location of Kilimani Street Festival, Kenya

Placemaking Process and Stakeholder Involvement

The Kilimani Street Fesitval is an event-based placemaking that the Kilimani Project Foundation adopts by the use of arts and cultural festivals to engage community members and other stakeholders in solving inequality in society. The wakeup call has led to formation of different community groups focusing on wider community issues including safety, recovery of public open spaces, waste management, water and sewerage management. Kilimani Street Festival. Every quarter, the community closes one street in Kilimani and temporary convert into a public meeting point to celebrate community diversity through cultural activities. The event is preceded by communal labour and marked with music, fashion, entertainment, exhibitions, public education, games, capacity building as well as community dialogue. The street festival is also complemented by a fortnight organic farmer's market, which brings together sellers and buyers UN-Habitat (2017). So far, the Foundation collaborated with twenty organisations among them local businesses, NGOs, local public schools and the Nairobi County Government to organise six events.

Figure 4.5 Biweekly Street Market and Festival Organized by Kilmani Community (obtained from Houghton and Cap, 2016)

Case 3: Kibebe Tsehay Playground, Addis Ababa-Ethiopia

Successes chalked in embracing ''Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper'' solutions to challenges engulfing cities have been evident in the SSA. The Kibebe Tsehay Playground in Addis Ababa**,** Ethiopia, is one of the colourful and vibrant play space projects made from recycled and abandoned materials. The Kibebe Tsehay is a governmental orphanage home and education center for children aged 0-8 years old. In the face of large outdoor space, children in the orphanage could not satisfy their play needs as the available space had no trees and facilities were not maintained. Civic engagement was evoked to rehabilitate the place when a collaboration was established between Basurama (Spanish design group), University of

Addis Ababa, Spanish aid workers, and students from Cervantes Institute. Considering the need for safety, inclusiveness and vibrancy in kids play, a playground was designed and constructed in the span of ten (10) days for the Kibebe Tsehay, using readily available materials and re-cycled discarded materials.

Figure 4.6 Location of Kibebe Tsehay Playground, Kampala (From Google Street Map)

Placemaking Process and Stakeholder Involvement

The project processes involved identifying challenges in the orphanage, planning for solution, implementing the plan and evaluation of the project. The following protocols were observed for successful implementation of the project.

- Initial meeting with Basurama Mission seeking their concern for project establishment.
- How the children play was observed for easy design of the playground
- The next activity was the planning of the play grounds
- The design of the actual playground was then developed

The project involved several stakeholders including: Spanish Embassy, Basurama mission, children, youth, NGOs, professionals, producers and community leaders. The Spanish Embassy sponsored and initiated the whole project as well as designing and offering labour for the project. The Basurama Mission also provided mobilised materials and executed designs made. The children also assisted the workers in snapping pictures, and they formed core beneficiaries of the project. The NGOs also provided the desk professionals, producers Community leaders also assisted in designing the playground. Other people also expressed the challenges orphanage centres go through and therefore decided to help in their free time. After the project, other communities also implemented similar project due to the simplicity, culturally friendly and using reuse local materials.

Case 4: Open Streets Cape Town

The main purpose behind the organization of Open Streets in Cape Town was to help eliminate the imaginary line that separated the people from one another. It was a way to allow the citizenry engage in various activities that would bring the people together to have fun and generate income for the individuals and the communities. Cape Town is one of the richest cities in Africa. However, the majority of its people live in "townships" and in poorer areas such as Mitchells Plain, which was built during the 1970s for non-white people who had been displaced after being forcibly removed from the city center and suburbs deemed "white only." Registered as a non-profit organization in 2013, Open Streets Cape Town was founded in 2012 by a group of volunteers who were fed up with the status quo. The concept of the Open Street Day programme is all about shutting down streets for recreation and the promotion of active mobility in South Africa. The programme has been organised in such a way that people freely come together to interact, exercise, discover new ideas from other community members through the enjoyment of open spaces.

Placemaking Process and Stakeholder Involvement

During the programme a temporal network was created for free car street for people centred activities. The idea came about because of city congestion with traffic, road risks, air pollution social disparity that prevented people from enjoying safe movement. The initiators of Open Street Day at Cape Town saw that many streets of Cape Town could be used for more effective activities that would help connect the social and spatial divisions and improve people understanding of how streets could be designed suit all users fairly. Having these in mind, Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative (TUMI) with consultation with local government established Open Streets Cape Town (OSCT) by first showing practical examples of tactical urbanism and later extended to other African cities. The success of the

Open Streets Day programme has hinged on varied and innovative activities planned for the day. First, the programme was scheduled to be hosted every last Sunday of every month. It started in Indaba Street in town of the Langa with the theme placing Children at the centre. After the Inbada Open Street Day programme, TUMI gained a lot of experiences that helped them to extend the initiatives to other African cities

Case 5: Mmofra Place

Mmofra Place was created by Mmofra Foundation Initiative to aim at converting unsafe land which was undeveloped to make it a public playground to enhance the public interaction among children and to improve community life. The project is located in Teshie-Nungua Estate in the Ledzokuku-Krowor Consistency in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana. The project was one of the three pilot projects initiated in the Africa Continent. The project was necessitated by the lack of public space for commercial purposes. It was also realised that lack of public spaces also affects the life of the people. It was also initiated to relieve the pressure that has been mounted on the city of Accra as a result of the cutting of trees and taking of parks, waterways for urban development. From this perspective, Mmofra Foundation in partnership with Health Bridge and UN-Habitat enrolled the project called innovative solution.

Figure 4.7 . Proposed Land use Map of the Mmofra Park (Source: Playtime in Africa)

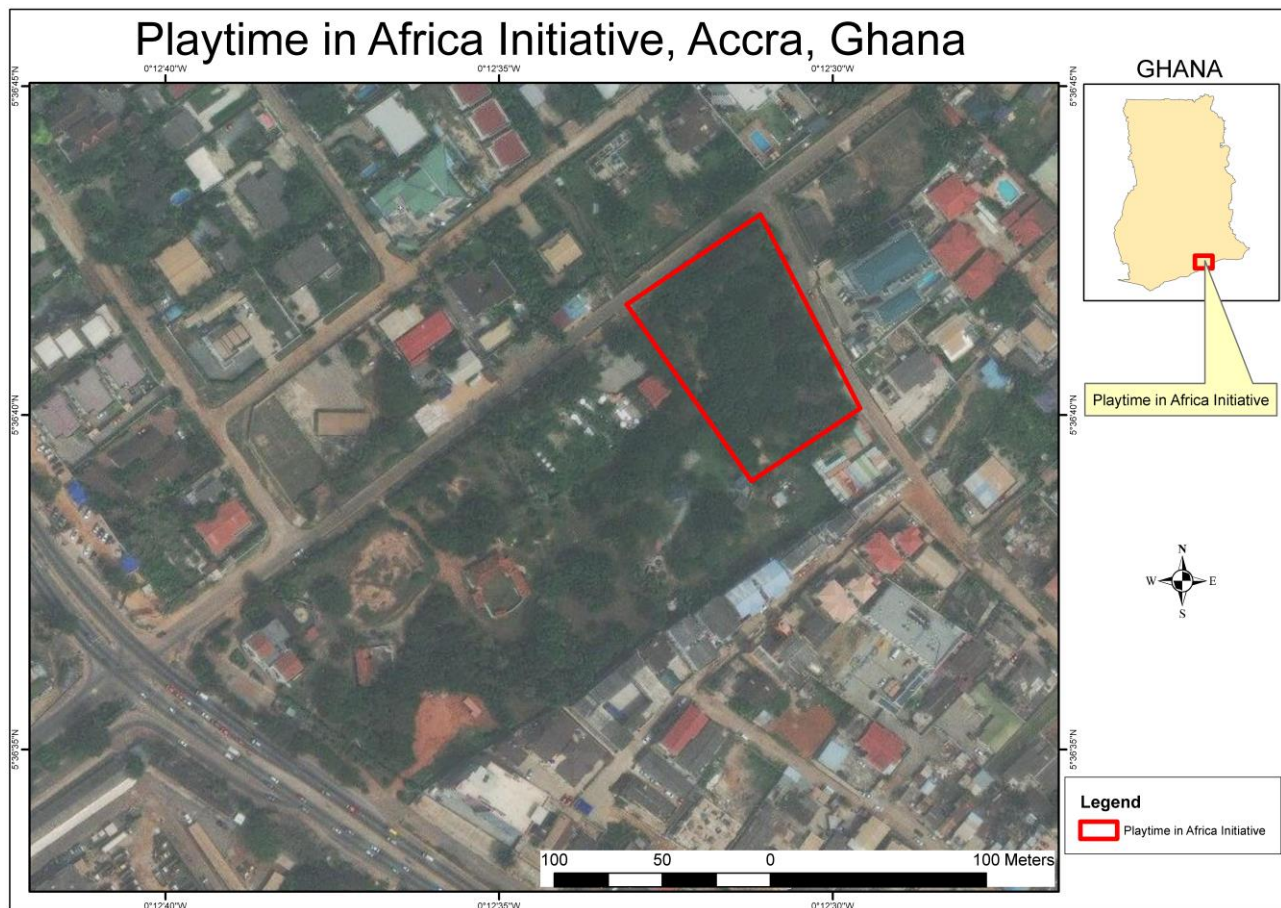*Placemaking Process and Stakeholder Involvement*

Figure 4.8. Mmofra Place (from Google Street Map)

For the success of the project, several activities were taken before the commencement of the project and during implementation, as well as the aftermath. First, there were stakeholder's meetings. Mmofra Foundation had series of meetings with community on the project development to stimulate public discourse. There were meetings with residents Associations like Teshie-Nungua Residents Association who made a proposal to the Municipal Assembly office for redevelopment of the place. Another meeting was held with the Youth for them to understand the importance of the project because the place serves as a training ground for the local youth football team, the fitness associations and praying ground for Teshie United Muslims Associations. Community leaders also had several meetings of key personalities for instance meeting with the Member of Parliament and permission was also sought from the State Housing Cooperation and the Municipal Building Council for the construction of the project.

Awareness creation was another important activity that took place. Mmofra Foundation mounted many activities as part of the awareness creation on the project. The foundation through his numerus programmes such as climate change exhibition and using social media such as Facebook, twitter to

engage the public to be aware of the projects. Again, they also created internet platform that promote global advocacy for them. Throughout all these activities opportunities were given to them to have discussions and presentations on various themes by some experts. They also had a press discussion which helped them to create awareness among the beneficial community and beyond.

Other important activities were infrastructure changes. These activities were done to change the original state of the land to the new project. To achieve this a lot of activities were done including clearing of the site, digger labourers were employed, provision of stormwater drainage and water supply, construction of fences, play components, etc.

The last activities that took place were establishment of policies for the maintenance of the project. This led the Mmofra Foundation to engage the policy makers in talk party and dialogue. The team of Mmofra agreed with the stakeholder to manage the project for three months after which was handed over to the management committee. At the end the Residents' Association, and the stakeholders such as the MP, local assembly staff were agreed to manage the project.

Throughout the project implementation, the following stakeholders including the Mmofra Foundation who initiated the project, the HealthBridge who partnered with Mmofra foundation, UN-Habitat who provided the needed funds. The residents Associations, the Muslims Associations, Municipal Council who handed the site for the project, the MP of Ledzokuku-Krowor Consistency also supported financially, the State Housing Cooperation who served as consultant to the project. Media also play significant role during the awareness creation. Students and all other members of the community were involved in this project.

The success of the project was due to the effective collaboration between the Mmofra Team and the community members. Again, the success of the project became possible due to the transparency of Mmofra Foundation.

Case 6: Street Angels Slum Festival

Project Context

Slums are areas where people with inferior living conditions or poverty live. Kampala in Uganda has greater population living in slums that is more than 50% of the population living in Kampala. These people feel bad that they have been denied their basic needs ie. Water, cloth, accommodation, education, good health conditions, security and so on. What made it more terrible was that such

communities have been engulfed with social vices, low development, overly populated, unemployment etc. These made people contemplate that they have been socially excluded from the sharing of the national development and therefore not recognized. The people at Kampala slums lost self-confidence, lack basic skills and knowledge and even proper way of trading, hence felt neglected and rejected.

Project Description

The problems above prompted Street Angels to organize Slum Festival Project at Kampala in Uganda. The project was to enhance peace, ensure secured environment, developing communalism and revive the lost hope in the people at area. The slum festival was to encourage and gather participants to become more active in the process discharging their duties as community members.

Placemaking Process

In the slum festival project there were a lot of activities that made the entire programme successful. By the assistance of artisans and other organizations they put up structures/ objects, painting, trading the young ones with handy work, addressing the issue of low self-confidence, reshaping the community public space, and other things just to ensure that the people develop the sense of social inclusion. The idea of changing people thinking not only individually or community but also authorities and organizations was accomplished. The street angel's slum festival had processes to be able to achieve the desired project goals. They involved the use of performance and media, art and fun learning, music, painting, racing and others. Before the actual activities were commenced women there were taken through handy work or crafty work, paper beads and decoration art and even selling the product they made at the programme.

Case 7: Khayelitsha Urban Upgrading Project

Case Context

Khayelitsha is a dormitory town of about 600,000-800,000 inhabitants located about 28 km away from Cape Town city centre.It was noted for high crime rates, poverty, high unemployment and high HIV rates. Community members felt unsafe to walk alone in the streets due to the activities of criminals. T

Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrading in Khayelitsha, Cape Town, has a pronounced focus on integrated urban design and planning which impact on safety and living conditions in township settlements.

In some areas of Khayelitsha, it is perilous, particularly for women, to walk along the dark paths and unlit streets at night. 'Safe nodes' or 'Spazas' are vitally important. Numerous unemployed persons in Khayelitsha have in effect no way to become self-employed as tradesmen. For women: the risk of being assaulted and robbed is too great. Through the safe nodes, safe commercial premises are made available.

Case 8: Chale Wote Street Art Festival

The choice of the project centering on Jamestown in Ghana and Chale Wote
Street Art Festival was influenced by a bid to research on the tourism experience of Ghana from another perspective other than heritage and ecotourism. In addition, considering scanty knowledge on the role of events and festivals in placemaking was also of utmost concern.

Place branding is associated with application of business strategies to promote destinations and its assets for competition and profit motivation. Placemaking on the contrary is not always backed by business motives but more focused on community, people and building a better place for all.

Contrary to this critique of events and festivals as avenues for commercialization of culture and places, events such as grassroot festivals for example have been found to contribute to placemaking because of the impacts it has on communities and locals.

The Chale wote festival originated from within the grassroot community of
Jamestown and thus are place based. This sense of belongingness is a key contributing factor to the success of the festival. The items and artefacts used for the numerous art works are mainly locally made which helps to bring the sense of togetherness.

A number of issues necessitated the organization this all-important event. These included; firstly, Festivals and events have been critiqued as not having positive impacts on destinations and residents beyond "festivalisation" of urban space.

Due to this, past literature has approached and associated events and festival to place branding- leading to scanty literature that approach festivals from a placemaking perspective.

By using Chale Wote Street Art Festival as an example of a place-based event, theresearch reveals that beyond place branding, events have place making outcomes.

The Chale Wote Street Art Festival contributes to placemaking because, the festival creates a positive image for Ga Mashie on one hand. On the other hand, through fusion of arts, culture and history, the festival provides space for socialisation and networking between locals and visitors.

In extension, the festival also helps in social construction of the place by redocumenting history through re-appropriation of historical buildings; adding value to community assets; promoting community participation which leads to economic gains and diversifying tourist experiences in the country.

Jamestown was chosen as a location for the festival because of the problems they

that were identified in the place; bad public image, poor publicity due to lack of promotion of cultural and historical assets. And relative to this problem, a lot of people did not go to this place because the possibilities were hidden from public view.

This creative initiative was away to help eliminate the negative tag that outsiders associate with the area as a place of poverty and unfriendly people. It is also believed that this will create opportunities for the people beyond what they are used to, that is, boxing and fishing. In Ga Mashie, boxing, schooling or football is not enough. Various stakeholders including the ACCRA team (produces of the annual Chale Wote Street Art Festival which is an amalgamation of four (4) independent organisations – Redd Katt Pictures, Chaka Orleans Heritage Foundation, Dan Dano, and Mambo, and a local state agency Ga Mashie Development Agency (GAMADA) helped to put this festival together. Additionally, the NGLESHIE ALATA PALACE (which represents one of the seven clans in Ga Mashie) and other research participants whose views were needed included residents, tour guides, tourists, artists and other participants that attended the festival. The Ministry of

Tourism Arts and Culture, Ghana (MOTAC) also plays a major contributory role in the organization of the festival.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUSTAINABILITY ANALYSIS

5.0 Introduction

The analysis of the placemaking case studies against the elements of sustainability criteria, as displayed in the sustainability framework developed in chapter of this study reveals that each of the case studies has substantially contributed to the promotion of sustainability outcomes in the Sub-Saharan Africa. The main outcomes focused by the initiatives in relation to placemaking's impact on community sustainability had varied consideration. They mainly focused on building socially richer and healthier, economically stronger and environmentally supportive communities (Figure 5.1). Over all, two place-specific based placemaking initiatives had the highest considerations for promoting community sustainability. The cases include Dandora Courtyard Upgrading and Model Street in Kenya and the South African's Khayelitsha Urban Upgrading in Cape Town. For event-based cases, Kilimani Street Festival, Street Angels Slum Festival and the Chale Wote Street ranked 3rd, 4th and 6th, respectively in the sustainability scoring in as far as placemaking initiatives are concerned. Although, the study found children focused cases be making low impact on community sustainability, Mmofra place in Ghana chalked one sustainability score higher than the counterpart the even-based Chale Wote Street Art Festival from the same country. Interestingly, the Kibebe Tsehay Playground initiative found in Ethiopia, which has the lowest sustainability considerations, had a very high impact on the environment using recycle materials. It has also made a considerable contribution to the promotion of stronger economy of Kampala. On the other hand, the Dandora case had low consideration for community cohesion; however, the initiative produced the highest sustainability outcomes, put together.

The variation here, to greater extent, hinges on the pressing needs of communities, the scope of and dynamism in strategies adopted in solving local challenges using bottom-up approaches. Regarding sustainable outcomes, in broader terms, all the placemaking cases collectively had the strongest considerations for social sustainability, followed by environmental outcomes. Indicators pointing to stronger local economy scored the least among the three themes. This could be an indication of broader scope of social outcomes and the keen attention given to the call to strengthen the social fabrics of society to manage other components of sustainability.

Table 5.1 Sustainability Outcomes of Placemaking Cases

Case	Richer and Healthier Society Outcome					Stronger Economy Outcome		Supportive Environment Outcome			Total Score	Rank
	Community Empowerment	Cohesion	Social Capital	Quality of Life	Local Identity	Job creation and Local Business Promotion	Skill Training	Clean Environment	Ecosystem Protection& Preservation	Material Recycling		
Dandora Courtyard Upgrading and Model Street-*Kenya*	3	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	**27**	*1st*
Khayelitsha Urban Upgrading-*S.Africa*	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	1	**26**	*2nd*
Kilimani Street Festival-*Kenya*	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	2	1	1	**24**	*3rd*
Street Angels Slum Festival-*Uganda*	3	3	3	1	3	3	3	2	1	1	**23**	*4th*
Mmofra Place-*Ghana*	3	2	2	3	0	1	1	2	3	3	**20**	*5th*
Chalewote Street Art Festival-*Ghana*	2	3	3	0	3	3	3	2	0	0	**19**	*6th*
Open Street Cape Town-*S.Africa*	2	3	3	3	1	2	0	3	1	0	**18**	*7th*
Kibebe Tsehay Playground-*Ethiopia*	1	1	1	2	0	2	2	2	2	3	**16**	*8th*
Total Score	**20**	**18**	**20**	**17**	**16**	**20**	**18**	**19**	**12**	**10**	**173**	
Rank	*1st*	*3rd*	*1st*	*4th*	*5th*	*1st*	*3rd*	*2nd*	*6th*	*7th*		

Scale: No Consideration (0), Low Consideration (1), High Consideration (2), Very High Consideration (3)

The rest of this section contains analysis the various ways in which the case studies have created sustainability outcomes under the three main themes of community sustainability considered in this study.

5.1 Building Socially Richer and Healthier Communities

Due to Governments inability to solve the numerous challenges facing communities and neighbourhoods in the SSA, grassroots movements have emerged to mobilise resources and community members to take up control over and responsibility for improving socio-cultural wellbeing of their neigbourhoods. Some case communities in the sub-region have experienced protracted ethnic and racial divides, discrimination, insecurity, weak civic participation and low communal spirit, among others. As a response to these, community members have built partnership with relevant stakeholders at different levels to plan and execute people collective strategies to achieve community cohesion, empowerment, and improved quality of life as well as preserved local identity.

5.1.1 Community Empowerment

All the placemaking initiatives analysed in this study aimed at equipping communities with power and capacity to influence decisions and processes involved in solving issues affecting their lives. Community empowerment was among the top three initiatives that had the highest sustainability score. However, the extent of consideration given to the outcome by the various cases differs. Very high considerations were given by project-based cases except Kibebe Tsehay Playground, which had high low score. On the other hand, all the event-based initiatives, but Chale Wote Street Art Festival, had very high consideration for community empowerment. The Ghana based Chale Wote Street Art had high consideration for empowerment, though. Just like other outcomes, the variations in community empowerment across the case studies could be explained by the different strategies utilized to engage community members at the various stages of the placemaking process, while at the same time building their capacity for action.

For instance, the Courtyard Upgrading and Model Street project has been instrumental in inspiring the local authority community members, especially the youth as key transforming agents in their respective courtyards. The community-led upgrading project allowed local members to come together to take decisions and actions to improve courtyards in the informal community. The community-based organization, Dandora Transformation League (DTL),

through innovative ways, became a vehicle for mobilizing different groups and residents in the community to participate the various stages of the placemaking process. Series of meetings and consultations organised on the Courtyard Upgrading and Model Street initiative created awareness of potential opportunities that could be harnessed to solve the challenges bedeviling the community and the need to take up collective responsibility of creating the kind of community they wished to see.

The competition set by DTL the Competition for Change (CFC), created a platform for youth and other community members to engage in public discourses aiming at enhancing active participation. Again, the platform encouraged group involvement, as only youth in local groups were giving the node to participate in the transformation process of courtyards. The opportunity to participate inspired and boosted the confidence of the youth as being capable of transforming their neighbourhoods. Moreover, the CFC was innovative in soliciting active participation of local authorities and creating awareness them. Placed in the position to endorse interventions proposed by the winning team of the completion, local authorities gained the control and recognition over decisions and processes that involved in building their community. Not only was the Dondora initiative innovative in involving local authorities and other community members, it also adapted mix of strategies in engaging local members who would have been excluded in the process. For instance, the use of Minecraft workshop created an opportunity for children, the elderly and disable people to participate in the design of the Model Street. The multifaceted and participatory nature of the workshop ensured that design of the street and courtyard improvements were tailored to the needs the various groups of the people in the community. The weekend building parties organised during construction phase, upsurge involvement and awareness about the project, while at same time arousing people interest to embrace the responsibility of transforming their environment. Furthermore, the invitation for creative volunteering adopted by the Model Street initiative attracted talented youth to participate in the process. For instance, the opportunity to volunteer in creativity invited youth artists to paints sections of the streets and walls. It also enticed some passive women, who were already beads makers, to design flags for beautification of the street on special events. Overall, the participatory processes that characterized Dandora Courtyard Upgrading and Model Street initiative, has given local residents the impression that their voice were being heard and that they were making input to contributing to discourses concerning the improvement of their own community. This way, the initiative has involved, motivated and enhanced the confidence of the local people to have control over the creation of the kind of city they envisioned. Eventually,

local members have willingly taken it upon themselves to make monthly contributions towards maintenance of neighbourhoods.

Active community participation in decision-making and action has been spearheaded by the Khayelitsha Urban Upgrading case study. Like in other case studies analysed, formation of community and citizen groups in the likes of Violence Prevention through Urban Ugrading (VPUU) Khayelitsha Development Forum (KDF), Grassroot Soccer and Mosaic in Khayelitsha have helped in mobililising and organising local residents. Moreover, institution of Safe Node Area Committee (SNAC), a community representative committee, was necessary for identifying capable leadership for coordinating community activities. It has also galvanized citizen participation and enabled community to take ownership of collective activities for improving livelihoods.

The active nature of citizen involvement has raised necessary platforms for amplifying the voices of the people in matters concerning crime prevention through neighbourhood upgrade. The opportunity has encouraged active participation in the placemaking process, especially in site selection, implementation, evaluation and maintenance of crime prevention projects. By utilising these participatory avenues, community members have been empowered to effect the social and political changes necessary for exercising power over local governance.

Actively, the Kilimani Street Festival has created congenial environment and platforms to engage local citizens in improving condition in the Kilimani community. The presence of organized community group, Kilimani Foundation Project, has stimulated encouraging participation by various groups and individuals in the community through the guidance and directions it offered. Community dialogue pursued by the organization promoted discursive arguments that led to selection of street festival and farmers' market as major strategies for change in the community. Involving community members in the decision-making process has created sense of ownership and responsibility of matters that concern their wellbeing. Different activities and actions identified with the street festival that foundation organised, being inputs from community members, ensured greater turn out of both residents and emigrated citizens. Games and entertainment were carefully selected to align with different interest groups, which tended to attract different sections of community. Again, the formation of residents' associations such as the fortnight organic farmers' market has promoted more community involvement in processes intended for solving community challenges. The promotion of culture

and vibrancy created in streets during the festival has attracted a number of local businesses, artists and local media groups.

Similarly, these participating strategies and opportunities have been effectively harnessed in event based placemaking initiatives such as Street Angels Slum Festival, Chale Wote Street Art Festival and Open Streets in Kampala, GA Mashie Accra and Cape Town respectively. Existence of Street Angels Uganda in slum communities in Kampala has offered the platform for mobilizing slum dwellers, who are often excluded from decision processes, to take charge of improving conditions in the slums. Stakeholder meetings held at initial stage of the festival enhanced knowledge of local citizens about realities of slum dwelling and possibilities for improving their conditions. Again, involving community members in the action research undertaken by the organization produced an avenue for slum dwellers community their visions, expectations and experiences towards problem solving. The creative labs, organised by the Street Angels ahead of the festival, attracted both artists and slum communities. This has helped to experiment and co-create pragmatic models for improving slum livelihoods. Furthermore, creating enjoyable experiences through socially engaging activities such painting, music drama and comedy brought together many people and groups.

Engaging activities, workshops and meetings applied by Chale Wote Street Art Festival corresponded with those that filled the Street Angels Street Festivals. However, the creative labs organised by the former had some modifications regarding admittance of artists. The labs engaged slum members and only artists whose interests and designs had bearings on the themes of the festivals were allowed to participate. This change enabled slum dwellers to master pragmatism in designing solutions to their own challenges. The labs as well as other engaging activities facilitated co-creation among community members and artists based on their experiences, knowledge and expectations. This opportunity has instilled in participants the feeling of satisfaction, self-worth and acceptance in effort to championing community development agendas.

In the case of Open Street Cape Town, there has been an experimental arrangement of different non-motorised mobility, which has inspired skaters, walkers, cyclists and wheel chair users to come out to enjoy safer space. Conversion of streets into safer and neutral space has helped in engaging people of all races and ethnicity in realising available potentials for unifying the post-apartheid city of Cape Town. The initiative has capitalized on people inclusivism and active

participation to promote awareness of prevailing urban issues especially those concerning mobility and division of all kinds. This way, Open Streets has attracted more people to participate in reshaping Cape Town through collective efforts. Again creation of inclusive public space that connect different races, has offered opportunities for citizens to express themselves and to share ideas, which has helped transform the divides created by the gruesome apartheid. For instance, *Talking Streets* programme like 'walk and talk' has engaged diverse groups of people to discuss transportation and cultural issues in Mitchells Plain area. Knowledge and understanding gained from the discussions served to streamline inputs of the participants, which eventually influenced city projects.

Case studies concerning child play have also demonstrated high of level of end-user participation in design and execution of projects that enhance the wellbeing of children. Both Tsehay Playground for orphanages and Mmofra place in Kibebe-Ethiopia and Accra-Ghana respectively, put children at the center in decision-making. Providing children with state of the art technology like digital camera enabled them to capture favorite corners, activities and their preferred locations. This enhanced understanding of the children needs, daily experiences, place attachment and outdoor activities, which consequently shaped the design of the playground. The playground initiative attracted volunteered students, artists, local businesses and aid workers who provided support for the construction of the facility.

Likewise, Mmofra place, the Minecraft workshop organised by Mmofra Foundation put children at the forefront of design and experimentation of solutions to take over public spaces.

5.1.2 Social Capital

Of all the ten sustainability outcomes analysed in this study, the eight case studies highly considered social capital as part of efforts to promote community sustainability. This social outcome was among the first three arears of focus that the various strategies of the placemaking initiatives directed attention. As indicated on Table 5.1, with exception of the two child-focused cases studies, namely the Mmofra Place and Kibebe Tsehay Playground, all the initiatives analysed had a very high attention for building social capital in their respective communities. Based on the indicators used for analyzing this outcome, two main reasons could explain the picture painted here: dynamism of opportunities created to forge connections within the community and creation of environment to meet new people. The former measures the number and diversity of community-based organisations or groups that were involved the placemaking processes.

Opportunities to meet new people and to forge connection and interaction within community in both project and event based case studies have been remarkable, considering formation and participation of diverse grass root organisations in mobilizing local resources and willpower to transform places. In the case place-specific projects, civic groups and community-based organisations actively collaborated with other stakeholders in understanding their challenges and co-creating solutions to them. For instance, in the citizen-led Dandora Courtyard Upgrading and Model Street project, Dandora Transformation League (DTL) spearheaded the neighbourhood transformation processes and became an arena to organise youth, children and the old together to take responsibility of neighborhood cleanliness with assistance from partners. The engagement strategies, already discussed under empowerment, including Minecraft workshops, stakeholder meetings and the Competition for Change (CFC) organised by DTL stimulated interactions and connections among participants. These helped won the trust and will of local residents for co-operation in co-creation. The competition also invited about 114 community groups from outside Dandora, which nurtured networking among groups and individuals. Again, the Model Street at Dandora has become a space to connect different group people in the community to interact, play and organised businesses. Similarly, the Khayelitsha Slum Upgrading also witnessed active participation of community members, a number of community associations and local NGOs, which were organised and mediated by the community-based Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrading (VPUU). The dynamic role played by VUU in coordinating the various community groups and activities has fostered strong collaboration pertinent for sustainability. Resulted forums that enhanced networking and connection such as the Khayelitsha Development Forum and Local ward development forum have promoted common understanding and share value around the slum-upgrading project. The satellite center, playgrounds, streetlights and public spaces created through the collaboration has ensure connection and interaction among community members. Regular cultural activities and events organised to celebrate the change in the community has improved networking and interactions among residents and foreigners are attracted to the events.

Unlike the quite similar upgrading projects discussed above, regarding social capital results, the two child-focused case studies differ from each other regarding the extent concentration of networking and interaction among community members. Distinct from the former, the later, in most cases through volunteerism, engaged community members, students, and businesses. There were no other formidable community organisations to serve as intermediaries between

the community and the designing group, Basurama Collective. Based on the available data gathered, this initiative (with lowest consideration for sustainability) could not affect the larger community as was seen in other place-based projects which generated spontaneous formation of grassroots organization for the agendas. It only enhanced interaction among children in the orphanage and other stakeholder who get involved. However, children were the focus of the Mmofra place in Ghana yielded rather results that are quite similar to the other place-based projects, except the Tsebay case. Championed on the wheels of community-based Mmofra Foundation, the Mmofra place witnessed opportunities for social capital creation. The foundation became active in organising community members, groups, and other partners building safer place for children. The playground created has established connection and interactions among parents, wards and others who accompany children to the place. These conditions have also been improved among children themselves. The kind of social capital realized goes a long way to sustain the initiative and improve the community in general.

To greater extent, the event-based initiatives including Open Streets, Kilimani Street Festival, Chalewoate Street Art Festival and Street Angels Slum Festival have been instrumental in creating a cultural space that connect community members to new people and promote networking among participants. The high score that these cases achieved were due to the strong partnership established among diverse local organisations, groups, local artists, civil society groups and community-based organisations. For instance, in Kilimani, people glued to their phones, felt lonely, confined to their houses and did not want to go out due to absence of public spaces. The Kilimani Project Foundation, community-based, consciously embarked on grassroots mobilization to create cultural space to connect people and improve interactions them. These cultural spaces created are no different form those created in the cases of Chale Wote Street Art and Sweet Angels Slum Festivals. Quite different from cultural spaces created by the above cases, the Open Streets, Cape Town, frequently converted motorized streets into unmortised space to provide both spatial and social connection to unite people who have been divided by the apartheid. This has provided the opportunity people to form common understanding, unity and necessary network for uniting Cape Town.

Not only have diverse community partnership created social capital in the case studies, innovative brands of activities such as organic farmers' market in Kilimani, street art and festivals in all the event-based cases has also helped in forming networks, connections and making of new friends.

5.1.3 Cohesion

All the case studies had considerations for Cohesion as an aspect of social sustainability in communities. It was among the third groups of initiatives that focus attention creating the opportunities to unite groups of people in communities. This social outcome of sustainability was highly considered by all the four event-based initiatives and two project-based types, including Khayelitsha Urban Upgrading and Dandora Courtyard Upgrading and Model Street. However, considerations for the outcome were found to be low in the two child-focused case studies. Creating cultural spaces has been necessary at the center of efforts by the event-based initiatives to provide place of neutrality necessary for creating common vision, sense of belonging and equal opportunities for all irrespective of race, colour or class. The Open Streets Initiative in Cape Town for instance, has been converting motorized streets into meeting and playing spaces for both young and old as a way of bridging the spatial and social divisions created by apartheid. The vibrancy created by Open Days' activities such as recreation, shared cycling and walks have helped in creating sense of belonging and ensuring equal opportunities for all to use public spaces created. Again, Open Streets created a rule where business colours and banners were not supposed to overshadow those of the programme itself. This was to promote a shared a united front for promoting cohesion among participants. In the rest of the event-based cases, Festivals and other preceding activities organised in communities have created the arena where people meet to resolve differences and conflicts. For instance, street festivals and organic farmers' market organised by the Kilimani Project created cultural space for people to come together in such a community where public spaces were taken over by businesses.

In project-based initiatives such as Khayelitsha Slum Upgrading, playgrounds and other public spaces created connect people to place to foster unity and sense of belonging.

5.1.4. Quality of Life

Designing public spaces to improve security and health have been core vehicles for driving quality of life in placemaking communities. Many initiatives scored low concerning this sustainability outcome largely due to imbalance attention given to the two sub-indicators. For instance, Kibebe Tsehay tend to score very high for attention given to child physical and mental health, however its consideration for improving security or crime prevention was rated low. Even though most of the case studies had low considerations for quality of life, initiatives that were located in crime prone communities tend to focused greatly on improving security. For instance in Khayelitsha, where crime was prevalent in places due to deplorable state of

infrastructure coupled with darkness. The slum upgrading facilities such as street lightening, accommodation for neighborhood patrol team and job opportunities for unemployed youth has led to sharp fall in crime in Khayelitsha community. Through Dandora Courtyard Upgrading and Model Street, most unemployed youth found jobs in courtyard cleaning. This has also reduced youth crime in the community. Moreover, the vibrancy created in streets by the two upgrading initiatives has created an 'eye on street'. This third eye phenomenon was also seen in the Open Streets case where Open Street Days has created potent vibrancy that put away criminals, drug addicts and gangs whose activities created danger and fear in people during odd hours. Moreover, active presence of children and parents in Mmofra Place also creates watch in the vicinity. The recreational activities of the children in this playground, as well as Kibebe Tsehay Playground, have focused on improving both physical and mental health children and other community members who patronize the space. In case communities such Accra and Kampala, focus of placemaking activities (Chale Wote Street Art and Kibebe Tsehay Playground respectively) were not focused on crime prevention, probably other outcomes were more pressing to them.

5.2 Building Economically Stronger Communities

Placemaking initiatives supported in producing certain activities and opportunities that could create avenues for creating strong local economies by promoting local businesses, job creation and employment in case communities. As benchmarks for strong local economies, these three economic outcomes, in addition to employable skills, were greatly considered by most of the placemaking case studies. Most of the attention focused more on local business promotion and job creation aspects than employable skill trainings, as the first group was among the highest sustainability scored outcomes. Skill training was also considered among the third scoring groups.

5.2.1 Job Creation and Local Business Promotion

With very high consideration for these outcomes, all the cases, except one child focused placemaking initiative, have created markets and conducive atmosphere for promoting local business, thereby creating job opportunities and employment for community members. The kind of attractive and safe spaces created by the Dandora Neighbourhood Upgrading and Model Street for instance, has ensured continuous and uninterrupted business operation of businesses, which used to close early due to rain and activities of criminals in the night. With increased street vibrancy in the night coupled with paved spaces offered by the initiatives, new stores have opened

and existing businesses operating for longer hours. Again, courtyard cleaning and waste collection introduced by the initiative has become a major source of livelihood for youth paid from contributions made by community members. Similarly in Khyayelitsha, integrated public space design with adequate lightening that formed core components of the Khyayelitsha Urban Upgrading created safe environments for collapsed women businesses to resume activity. Unlike in previous time, additional stores created as part of the safe nodes designed by the initiative has increased income generating activities in the community. Moreover, police patrols and street lightening has contributed to augmented business activities because of increased street life and street surveillance that their presence bring about. Lastly, an opportunity to work in maintaining public spaces has provided employment avenues for community members.

Nature of business opportunities created by project-based placemaking initiatives was quite different in the cases of their counterpart event-based initiatives. In most cases, opportunities created under these initiatives tend to focus on providing a widened market base for businesses only during events. For instance in Open streets, local licensed businesses and vendors registered in advance to get temporary allocations to operate only on Open Streets Days. Notwithstanding, by providing cultural spaces to connect people promoted patronage in businesses. In Kilimani, the farmers' market brought together both farmers and customers where organic products received greater number of patronage, thus a mechanism for promoting urban agriculture. In the Kilimani Street Festival, as well as Chale Wote Street Art and Street Angels Slum festivals, supplementary jobs have been created through the sales of edibles, local dresses, paintings and all kinds of souvenirs. Again, the festivals themselves together with other activities have been instrumental in promoting local tourism by displaying interesting features of communities to participants, especially, non-residents. For the two child-focused placemaking initiatives, some opportunities created during project execution and operation stages for Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Playground and Mmofra Place respectively, provided opportunities for local income generation. Whereas increased activity in the later has attracted food vendors, the former has offered self-employment for participants who acquired entrepreneurship in recycling.

5.2.2 Skill Training

Transfer of employable and entrepreneurial skills have formed major components of most of the placemaking case studies. Skill training has become a strong machinery for promoting stronger

local economy in case communities. No wonder this economic outcome rated third in terms of consideration given to it by the case studies. With exception of Open Streets, event-based cases considered skill training very high in their approach towards place improvement, thus created varied opportunities train community members to champion the economic fiber of their communities. For instance, the art salon organised by the Chale Wote Street Art Festival offered participants the opportunity to learn basic skills in photography and video making, with the aim of promoting entrepreneurship in the city. Similarly, the training in creative art offered by Street Angels equipped deprived slum dwellers skill development in areas of photo shooting, video recordings, fine arts and handicrafts, purposed that participants to prepare them for jobs in creativity. As part of pre-festival activity, youth skill building and employment workshops have been used by Kilimani Street Festival to prepare the youth to engage in income generating activities essential for promoting local economic development in the community. The very high considerations for the skill training outcome by project-based placemaking initiatives, such as Dandora Neighbourhood Upgrading and Model Street, and Khayelitsha Urban Upgrading, reflect in dynamism of their approaches to engage the youth in sustainable employment. For instance, the Dandora case sought to reduce crime by training unemployed youth in waste management and community vigilante. The training has helped youth gangs, a registered a youth group, to secure meaning jobs and sustainable source of income.

Even though trainings sessions offered to volunteers and other participants by both Mmofra Place and Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Playgrounds, were meant to build capacity to assist in constructing outdoor facilities for children, the later consciously offered real value of labour. With the help of Basurama group, the initiative has imbued local artisans with skills in converting waste resources into meaningful products, which has helped in providing alternation source of livelihoods.

5.3 Environmentally Supportive Communities

The sustainability theme of supportive community environment, in the context of the case study initiatives, emphases on producing clean and green environment to improve quality living in communities. Generally, the level of considerations given to this aspect of sustainability in the selected placemaking initiatives has been moderate, compared to social and economic aspects. However, the clean outcome of supportive environment was highly promoted by the placemaking cases. Significant ways in which the case study initiatives represent the supportive environment

theme are the various ways in which they have incorporated activities to clean and green the environment, and to reduce pollution. Interestingly, it is under this theme that the two child-focused initiatives simultaneously had high sustainability scores of consideration.

5.3.1 Clean Environment

This environmental outcome of community sustainability has stood high under the scope of the case study initiatives. The outcome was among the top four outcomes, which were significantly considered under the various strategies and activities of the studied initiatives. The considerations given for the outcome by the two upgrading initiatives in Dandora and Khayelithsa and the event-based Open Streets were very high as compare to the other case studies. The remaining cases also had high considerations in their approaches. For Dandora Courtyard Upgrading and Model Street, a major focus of the transformation process was to create clean environment through competition. The Changing Face Completion organise by DTL attracted youth and other community members to clean their courtyards. In addition to the construction of neighbourhood waste bins that have helped check open lithering, community members has also converted the once muddy street into a clean and attractive shared space with pavements. In Khayelitsha, the upgrading programme has created clean environment through environmental design that integrate urban facilities such as trash containers and public toilets. The active transportation agenda of Open Streets has increased the usage of non-motorised means of transport especially on Open days. This indirectly has the potential of creating quality air by reduction in green gas emissions from motorized transports that contribute to climate change. Other event-based initiatives have considered clean environment outcomes through the organization of pre-festival activities such as clean-up exercises, which bring participants together to clean public spaces. The outcome has also been considered by the two child-focused cases by installing waste collection bins in parks as well as frequent cleaning by children.

5.3.2 Ecosystem Protection& Preservation

The environmental outcome of ecosystem protection and preservation centres on efforts to green public spaces or adopting technologies that seek to achieve balance in biodiversity of communities. Even though most case study initiatives did not have very high considerations for the outcome, there were efforts in individual cases to integrate greening into their scope of activities. Of all the eight case studies, as far as consideration for this outcome, Mmofra Place had the highest score. The case followed by its counterpart child-focused Kibebe Tsehay Playground and the remaining project- based upgrading initiatives. As parts of its effort in

ensuring urban sustainability and resource management, Mmofra Place has encouraged children and the youth to utilise plastic waste and other rejected materials to build benches, walls, and other infrastructure in the playground. They have been glued to the tenets of balancing biodiversity by establishing community and rain gardens in the children park at Dzorwulu in Accra. In Dandora, DTL has mobilized youth to undertake tree planting to green courtyards in the community. Similarly, the approach taken for the Khayelitsha urban upgrading integrated tree planting into urban space making. However, considering their nature, event-based initiatives had considerations for space greening and conservation. These initiatives give attention to the outcome by mobilizing community members for tree planting as part of pre-event activities.

5.3.3 Material Recycling

This criteria classified under the theme of supportive community environment fell less under the focus of strategies that formed part of the case study initiatives. In fact, this sustainability ranked last in the scoring of the ten indicators analysed in this study. Out of the eight case study initiatives, only three had the highest considerations for material recycling. These cases include Dandora Courtyard Upgrading and Model Street, Mmofra Place and Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Playground. Possibly, the most significant approach adopted by these three cases to promote supportive environment focused on reducing and reusing waste in executing projects. This was unique about the two child-focused initiatives. In building the playground in Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage, the Basurama design group utilized abandoned advertisement canvas, wooden pallets, beds as well as blackboard and plastic waste were recycled and reused. Children, youth and volunteers in Mmofra also recycled and used tire rubber in building seats for the swings in the park. In Dandora, university students helped construct waste bins from discarded materials. Again, some the youth made utilized rejected vehicle tires in making furniture for public spaces. Moreover, the Dandora recycling plant connected to the courtyard upgrading initiative put the case study at helm of promoting environmental sustainability in the community. In the cases of event-based initiatives, community members recycle materials for creative works. The Street Angels Slum Festival offered youth the avenue to build artistic storey structure in Kampala by using waste plastic bottles and tires. Wording of the wooden structure, *''Bush 4 Trush, Recycle or Die''* looked self-promoting. The Kilimani Street Festival considered environmental sustainability by organising waste collection activity, which has encouraged community members to deliver solid waste to recycling companies in the community.

5.4 Summary

The sections above have shared light how placemaking initiatives promote community sustainability. Social outcomes have been rated high followed by environmental aspects and economic components of sustainability as far initiatives have considered them in their scope of activities. Summary of how the cases contributed to sustainability are displayed below.

Table 5.2 Ways in which Placemaking Cases have Created Social Benefits for Communities

Social Outcome	Strategy	Major Case	Source
Community Empowerment	Creating opportunities for active citizen involvement in decision making	All	World Habitat (2017), UN-Habitat (2020, 2019&2017), Houghton and Cap (2016)
	Building capacity of local residents for action	All	
Cohesion	Reclaiming public spaces to bridge racial, ethnic and spatial divides	Open Street Cape Town Kilimani Street Festival	UN-Habitat (2017 &2020) Houghton and Cap (2016)
Social Capital	Forging connection within community	All	World Habitat (2017), UN-Habitat (2020, 2019&2017), Houghton and Cap (2016) Tuferu (2020)
	Creating the environment to meet new people	Open Street Cape Town, Kilimani Street Festival, Chalewoate Street Festival Accra,	
Local Identity	Creation of opportunities for cultural regeneration and community identity	Open Street Cape Town, Kilimani Street Festival, Chalewoate Street Festival Accra	UN-Habitat (2020, &2017), Houghton and Cap (2016) Tuferu (2020)
Quality of Life	Designing public spaces to improve security	Khayelitsha Urban Upgrading, Open Street Cape Town, Dandora Courtyard Upgrading and Model Street	Global Designing Cities Initiatives (Undated) World Habitat (2017), UN-Habitat (2020, 2019&2017)
	Creation of opportunities for mental and physical health		

	Mmofra Place Accra. Kibebe Tsehay, Open Street Cape Town	PPS (2015)

CHAPTER SIX

FINDINGS AND IMPLICATION

6.0 Introduction

This section presents the study findings in line with the research questions developed for this study, which sought to determine the processes and strategies involved in placemaking and

ways in which they promote community sustainability. The study also sought to examine defining features of sustainable development that placemaking promote.

6.1 Processes and Strategies Involved in Placemaking in Sub-Saharan Africa

As shown in the case analysis chapter, the case study placemaking initiatives relied on participatory processes as major means of engaging community members and all stakeholders in decision-making. All the case studies used various participatory methods to ensure active participation in the decision-making process especially in issue identification, development of goals and design of possible solutions. Consultations, meetings, workshops, street chat and community dialogues have the major participatory method employed the study cases to promote public discourse and shared vision relevant for tackling community challenges. Mmofra Place and Dandora Courtyard Upgrading and Model Street employed Minecraft workshops to engage children and youth in making innovative design for recreation activities and street neighbourhood upgrading. Open Streets also was identified with street chat that sought to engage community members to discuss transportation and cultural issues. The rest of the case studies dwelt on using meetings, consultation and community workshops to get people involve in decision-making. The study also revealed strong collaboration among project partners and community members in both project-based placemaking and event-based type. With exception of the Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Playground project, all the study cases had formidable community based organisations and other grassroots associations that managed collaboration and mobilized local resource for action. In effect, community participation and inclusivess were found to be high among case studies that have active grassroots organization to mobilise both material and financial resource for positive change and project sustainability. Consequently, considerable project responsivess and patronage from community members have been driven by their active involvement in the placemaking process. This affirms the observation made by Silberberg (2013) that projects were poorly designed in the cases he reflected due to absence of community involvement in those projects.

For placemaking strategies, results of the case analysis revealed that environmental design and upgrading, child recreation, recycling waste management, cultural promotion and space reclamation were the major strategies adopted by the case studies in building sustainable communities. The Dandora Courtyard Upgrading and Model Street focused on creating cleaner and safer community through waste management. This was done through competitions. The Khayelitsha Urban Upgrading, through environmental design, built urban infrastructure and

services to reduce crime in the Khayelitsha Township. In the case Open Streets, the initiative adopted active transportation as a strategy to reclaim public space for bridging the social, economic and spatial divide the characterized Apartheid Cape Town, while creating safer space for non-motorised vehicles to have equal share in public spaces. Two child-focused placemaking initiatives, on the other hand, focused on creating recreational parks and service for children by using LQC. Lastly, the remaining initiatives, which were mainly event-based, created cultural spaces to connect people to public place for community improvement. These cases mainly undertake street festival, public art, exhibition, photography and recreation.

6.2 Placemaking Case Study Outcomes in Relation to Community Sustainability promotion

As shown in Table 5.1, the case study placemaking initiatives contributed to the three main themes of community sustainability by the extent of considerations the cases had for the ten outcomes categorized under the three sustainability themes, regarding richer and healthier society, stronger local economy and supportive environment. Results of the analysis revealed that the richer and healthier society theme was the highest promoted sustainability outcome followed by supportive environment and stronger local economy, respectively. This reiterates the importance of relying on social processes in finding solutions to challenges communities are facing. This is because empowering communities members to own processes that enhance their own lives is capable of achieving sustainability more than in instances where formal planning has focused more on the outcomes and has left many projects unpatronised. This rightly cements Silderberg et al. (2013) placemaking embraces the community action and interaction as a goal of the process rather a mean to an end situation.

Under richer and healthier society theme, the placemaking cases contributed to the promotion of social aspect of sustainability through the level of consideration given to community empowerment, cohesion, social capital, quality of life and local identity. However, the levels of consideration for some outcomes under the theme were low, especially in Kibebe Tsehay Playground, which did not have a vibrant community-based organization to champion active participation. This could point to the necessity of existence of having grassroots organisations, groups and associations to mobilise the needed local labor, skills and funds to ensure community sustainability. Again, community empowerment had a very high consideration from the initiatives due to innovative avenues created to build and enhance capacity of

community members. In creative and event-based initiatives, wide range of cultural activities have been powerful in involving and building capacity of community members.

Placemaking initiatives have also promoted social sustainability through opportunities created to produce social capital in communities. The outcome was found to be very highly considered in both project-based and event-based initiatives, except the Kibebe Orphanage Playground. The analysis pointed that the dynamism of opportunities created to forge connections within the community and diversity of community-based organisations or groups that were involved the placemaking processes have accounted for the very high sustainability score. The two criteria were present in all the cases; however, the level was low in the Kibebe case. Again, just as in the empowerment outcome, grassroots groups are necessary for creating strong social capital necessary ensuring sustainability of both community and project itself. Another way in which the case studies have contributed to community sustainability is through opportunities created to improve quality of life through enhancement of health and crime prevention. Health was very highly promoted by project-based placemaking than event-based initiatives. In the former, place upgrading has been instrumental in reducing crime, through environmental design, provision of social service and improvement in surveillance and lighting. Health outcomes were also highly considered by child-focused initiatives and the tactical initiative, Open Streets, which increase physical activity and active modes of transport like walking and cycling.

Regarding environmental outcomes, the cases were found to have contributed to environmental sustainability through activities that conserve ecosystem, greening and recycling. The study has revealed that sustainability efforts were very high in child-focused placemaking initiatives. It is only on this outcome that the two child-focused initiatives performed best concurrently. This signifies that children should be core part of efforts to achieve community sustainability. The outcome score was also high in project-based initiatives than event-based projects. Probably, scope of activities for these initiatives was focused on other aspects of sustainability they were found very high in advancing cultural regeneration.

Placemaking initiatives have also promoted sustainability design and execution of activities to in the area of skill training, direct employment and local business promotion. Even though the sustainability analysis ranked the local economic component of sustainability as the least, consideration given by project-based initiatives were very high comparing to the other forms

of placemaking. The former was found to have wider range of activities geared towards creating conducive environments for businesses to function. Again, the improvement in the business environment leads to increase in business formation, which has offered job opportunities for community members. Results of the study have indicated that although event-based initiatives create job opportunities and promote local businesses, the outcomes were not sustainable. This was due to the short life span or untimely organization of these vents.

CHAPTER SEVEN
CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.0 Introduction

This chapter presents conclusions founded on findings discussed. It also presents recommendations to inform policy, practice and future research.

6.1 Conclusion

This desk case study has presented results of studying the role of placemaking initiatives in building sustainable communities in the Sub-Saharan Africa. The study indicates that, largely, placemaking initiatives are necessary in promoting community sustainability by giving considerations for efforts that actively empower and engage community members to be at helms of finding solutions to their own challenges. Again, the initiatives have promoted community sustainability by way of building synergies to build social capital, social cohesion, local identity that are necessary for balancing economic and environmental aspects of sustainability. Moreover, the study cases have contributed in building sustainable communities by integrating the practice of greening, conservation and recycling of waste products. Furthermore, the placemaking initiatives have helped implementing strategies to mobilise local resource for job creation, improving business environment and offering employable skill creation. Lastly, participatory design of community hard infrastructure and neighbourhood improvements has led to crime reduction, thereby promoting safety and comfort in communities. Relevant to both policy and practice, it seems from the study that children need a space to experiment ways of solving community challenges. They show promising aura of walking effectively in the environmental agenda of society.

Nevertheless, limitations of the study may possibly influence results of desk study, it shares valuable information on the evidence of placemaking initiative in the SSA. The study therefore recommends that attention be given to the shared insights in future search for sustainable ways of promoting community sustainability.

6.2. Recommendations

Sequel to the findings from the desk case studies, this study wishes to make the following recommendations, which are relevant for policy makers and practitioners, and researchers.

❖ Considering the wide and broader range of components covering the social theme of sustainability, synergy must be built with all stakeholders to improve social fabric of communities for driving sustainable community development.

- ❖ Particular attention and support should be given to grassroots organisations and groups to champion the course of mobilizing local resources, especially the youth to participate fully in the decision making process.

- ❖ There is the need to diversify entrepreneurial skill training for the youth to engage in meaningful employment activities.

- ❖ The concept of Sustainability should be integrated into the course syllabus of children and space be provide for them to take up environmental responsibility at younger age.

- ❖ Future researchers should concentrate research efforts on which specific placemaking strategy is most effective achieving community sustainability. This is necessary for practitioners and policy makers to know the areas to focus commitment and resources.

- ❖ Lastly, the current research could not consider any quantitative analysis on the impacts of placemaking initiatives on community sustainability, future researchers could adopt the mixed method approach to make evidence more clearer.

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