Dar Es Salaam is the largest city in Tanzania and its commercial capital, with GDP growth of 5–6% per annum. But it is also the ninth fastest growing city in the world, and with a population already exceeding 4 million this is causing socioeconomic strain that is contributing to increasing inequality. The local government is highly dependent on funds from central government, which in one of Africa’s poorest countries are proving inadequate, as is its reliance on international donors.

Running in tandem to these growing problems is the issue of poor urban transport and the low rate of households with even a basic connection to water and electricity. With such poor resources and an overall lack of coordinated planning, previous masterplans for regeneration have proved difficult to implement. BuroHappold Engineering was appointed as part of the team tasked with devising a new masterplan that would take into account and rectify these issues, and could thereby be efficiently and effectively realised.

Our work included an assessment of local and regional socioeconomic trends to establish a baseline and possible future growth scenarios for population, employment and economic activity. We examined the interaction of supply and demand for transport, utilities and housing to identify key future challenges. Based on our assessments we were able to develop a sustainable growth strategy for Dar Es Salaam and provide an achievable approach to delivering supporting transport, infrastructure and amenities.

Working alongside the wider project team, we produced a new masterplan for the city that will guide its growth over the next 20 years in accordance with the Urban Planning Act 2007.