Wafula Nabutola, M.Sc.
Kenya

Upgrading Informal Settlements: Kenya Rural & Urban

- Adopt the South African Definition
  - High Dense settlements
  - Comprise communities
  - Housed in self-developed shelters
  - Within an Informal/traditional land tenure
  - Without authority
  - Without formal design

- Characteristics
  - Densely populated
  - Shelters are makeshift
  - Made of diverse materials
  - Local ecosystem degraded
  - Severe social problems
  - Crime
  - Grit
  - Illicit Brew
  - Illicit Drugs

Wafula Nabutola, M.Sc.
Kenya

UN Habitat & ILO

- Horrors of waking up in an informal settlement
  - From a mosquito-disturbed sleep
  - Night spent on a mat on cold floor
  - In a 10’x10’ room
  - Inadequate ventilation
  - Crowded: four/ten others
  - Window too small
  - Bound up for security
  - Burglary as poor preys on poor
  - Earthly flaws
  - Cold
  - Allows dampness to rise
  - Manning Abolition
  - Wash from tepid water in a tin
  - Queue to use the only bathroom shared by 50/100 people
  - Toilet Queue is too long
    - Solution: Visit the rubbish dump to defecate in the morning mist

Wafula Nabutola, M.Sc.
Kenya

Waking up in an informal settlement:

- Working clothes rescued from their place on a string extended above the bed
- The man sets off on the routine of:
  - Queuing for crowded public transport
  - To his place of employment If he is lucky
  - Without breaking his fast.

What about the wife?

- Left to feed the many children
  - On the husband’s left ear
  - In Rice/Maize porridge
  - Cracked in a chilly water
- Then the house chores
  - Fetch water
  - Clear a small place to begin preparation of food for city workers
- Implant family income
  - Sand in co-operation clothes
  - Sand in neighbour’s clothes for pay
- Sand plastic for PLC/Youth to sell
  - Few percent to a manufacturer is expected in Europe
  - At dusk she prepares evening meals
    - Squatting on the floor
  - Then washes her children
  - Be a source both in a small space outside the room

Wafula Nabutola, M.Sc.
Kenya

Physical Environment

- Depends
  - Wet days
    - Whole house is caked in mud
    - Slippery
    - Cold
  - Dry days
    - Dusty - blows into food & water
    - Carries cysts
    - Parasites waiting to enter a human host through bare feet
  - The air carries
    - Hepatitis A
    - Meningitis
    - Fumes from sulphuric acid factory downhill
  - The water
    - Malaria Carrying Breeding mosquitoes
    - Salmonellae
    - Shigellosis
    - E Coli
  - Ezekiel 47:
    - Will these bones rise?

Wafula Nabutola, M.Sc.
Kenya

Urban/Rural Informal Settlement

Comparison

- Rural
  - Crowded inside
  - Lots of air
  - No water
    - maybe river or pond
    - well or bore hole
  - Employment
    - Low & seasonal
  - Electricity
    - Nil in house
    - But could be passing overhead

- Urban
  - Over Crowded inside
  - No air inside
  - Standpipe Water
    - Expensive
  - Clean
  - Employment
    - Some hope
  - Electricity
    - Nil

Wafula Nabutola, M.Sc.
Kenya

Urban/Rural Informal Settlement Infrastructure

comparison Cont’d

- Rural
  - Fewer schools
  - Nil equipment
  - Few teachers
  - Many pupils since
    - Universal Compulsory Primary Education 2003
  - No sanitation
  - No water
  - No sewer
  - No roads
  - No hospitals
  - Few Scattered health centres

- Urban
  - Few schools
  - Badly equipped
  - Few teachers
  - Many pupils since
    - Universal Compulsory Primary Education
  - No sanitation
  - No water
  - No sewer
  - No Roads
  - No Hospitals
  - Family Planning Clinic

Wafula Nabutola, M.Sc.
Kenya
Urban/Rural Informal Settlement Comparison Cont’d - Social Amenities

- **Rural**
  - No movies
  - Mobile cinema/monthly
  - Big field no sports
  - Kids run to school
  - Play in the paths or farms
  - Yes churches
  - Beer clubs

- **Urban**
  - Movies on battery pack
  - Mobile cinema
  - No games fields
  - Walk to school
  - Play in the mud or in “street”
  - Yes spiritual nourishment
  - Beer clubs

How About the Home?

- **Rural**
  - Grass thatch
  - Cool but not vulnerable to fire arson/accident, vermin
  - Silent
  - Mud Walls
  - Mud floors – cow dung
  - One door, two window
  - Bed sheet partition
  - No water, no loo
  - Long drop pit latrines
  - Kerosene lamp, pressure lamp (very seldom maybe at macabre functions - funerals)
  - Relatively crowded

- **Urban**
  - Old Tin roof
  - Hot or cold
  - Vermin
  - Noisy – rain
  - Mud or Old GCI sheets
  - Mud floors – sprinkle, sweep
  - One door, window
  - Partitioned by bed sheet
  - No water, no loo
  - Long drop pit latrines
  - Kerosene lamp (Candle?) pressure lamp occasionally like during weddings
  - Over - crowded!

Upgrading?

- **Improving the facilities**
- **Install a sense of discipline**
- **Introduce standards of hygiene**
  - Through community outreach programmes
  - Churches, mosques
- **Introduce infrastructure**
  - Roads
  - Schools
  - Electric power
  - Sanitation
  - Water – wholesome, potable, clean and handy of course
  - Social halls
- **Introduce health standards**

Breakdown of informal settlements in Nairobi

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Villages</th>
<th>Structures</th>
<th>Rooms</th>
<th>Pop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lang’ata</td>
<td>389,280</td>
<td>97,320</td>
<td>15,240</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dagoretti</td>
<td>37,240</td>
<td>9,310</td>
<td>2,190</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parklands</td>
<td>390,860</td>
<td>97,715</td>
<td>26,530</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kasarani</td>
<td>44,595</td>
<td>14,865</td>
<td>3,865</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embakasi</td>
<td>52,090</td>
<td>10,418</td>
<td>3,134</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makadara</td>
<td>68,976</td>
<td>11,496</td>
<td>5,013</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Challenges if/when upgrading

- **Land tenure**
  - **Who owns the land now?**
    - In Rural Areas Large Scale Farmer or Government
      - Now squatter infested
      - Sold handed out as political favour
  - **In Town Government (Central/Local)**
    - Slum dwellers
  - **For what purpose?**
    - **In Country**
      - For research, Sisal plantation, Seed farm
      - For soil nutrient regeneration
      - For speculative venture
  - **Will there be change in ownership?**
    - Sub-divide and distribute, Sub-let
  - **Political**
    - Main voting block, competition

Challenges Cont’d

- **Social**
  - We have friends here!
  - Spirit of competition assumes
    - level playing field
    - Equal opportunities
    - Fair game and be seen to be fair
  - Access to information
  - Whose responsibility is it anyway?
    - It has to be demand driven
    - Facilitated by partners and other stakeholders
  - Financing
    - South African approach; combined effort - Central/Prov Gover/Loc. Auth/Comm
    - In Costa Rica communities were encouraged/Trained as artisans - skills
  - Planning the process - time frame, liaise with the settlers
  - Organising the process
    - Relocated?
    - Build around them - takes longer, is riskier to all
    - Phases

Source: Ngau 1995

Wafula Nabutola, M.Sc.
Kenya
Opportunity for all Stakeholders

- Executing the project/s
  - Transition/holding zones
- The communities must participate actively/not passively
  - Sweat equity
- People encouraged to contribute their ideas
  - Must be fully informed
  - Must take part in the planning/execution/monitoring
  - Must be sold on the potential benefits
  - Gender balance, for the ladies work but nearer home
  - Hire unskilled/skilled labour from within
- The Local authority to deliver services – Rates are paid!
  - Garbage collection/recycling
  - Street lights installed and maintained
  - Storm water drainage installed and cleared regularly
  - Potable & Reliable Water supplied at reasonable expense
  - Sewerage installed and maintained

Opportunities

- Central Government
  - Security, law and order
  - Education
  - Employment
  - Investment in these areas – Seed money required
  - Roads developed & maintained
  - Electric Power
  - Health Centres
  - Primary Health Care Clinics