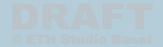


CONCEPT ETH Studio Basel , Ralf Figi und Karin Wegmann

THE NAIROBI STUDIO

ETHZ Studio Basel Contemporary City Institute Prof. Jaques Herzog Prof. Pierre de Meuron Manuel Herz Ligia Nobre Shadi Rahbaran

IN COLLABORATION WITH Harward University Graduate School of Design and University of Nairobi School of Built Environment

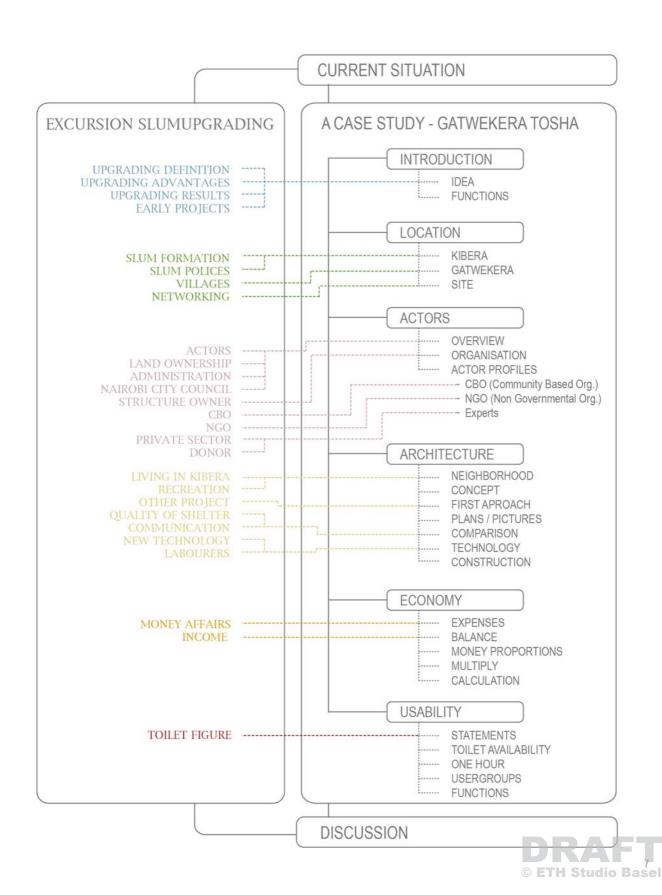


SLUM UPGRADING IN KIBERA

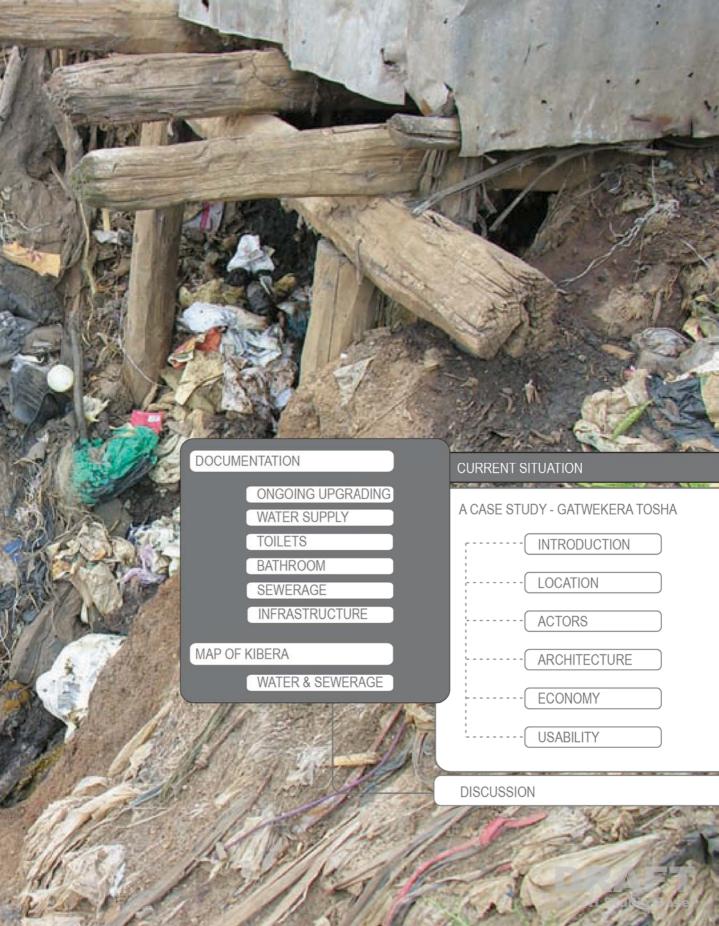
THE GATWEKERA TOSHA CASE

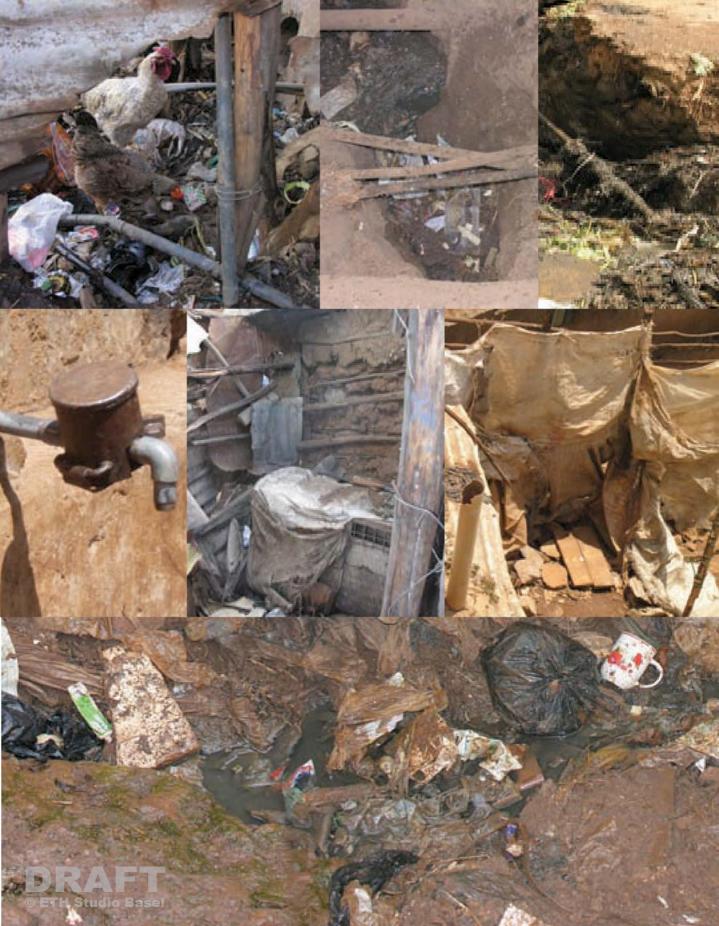




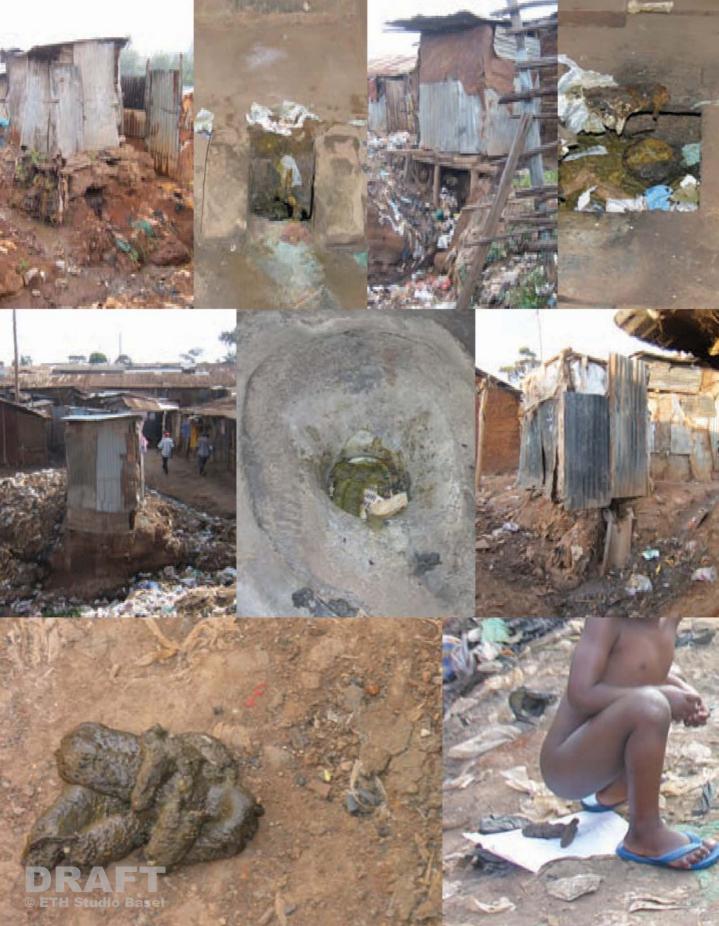














CURRENT SITUATION DOCUMENTATION ONGOING UPGRADING

Many NGO's are concerned about the situation and try to intervene with projects. The biggest attempt to upgrade whole Kibera is the Kenya Slum Upgrading Programme.

KENSUP is the result of a meeting in November 2000 between the then President of Kenya and the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT at which the Executive Director offered to spearhead a slum upgrading programme for Kenya starting with Nairobi's largest slum, Kibera. The objective of the programme is to improve the overall livelihoods of people living and working in slums through targeted interventions to address shelter, infrastructure services, land tenure and employment issues, as well as the impact of HIV/AIDS in slum settlements. Implementations started with establishment Institutional arrangements at the National level and at the Community level. To start the process, social, economic and physical mapping of the 12 villages were made. Later on a layout of development for the twelve villages was made. Starting with one village, the whole informal settlement will be displaced by six storey houses.

At the moment some of the six storey houses have almost been built but no one could move in by now. The sanitation structures within the slum are still the same.

« THE BIGGEST ATTEMPT TO UPGRADE KIBERA IS KENSUP »





CURRENT SITUATION_DOCUMENTATION_WATER

Only about 24% of the households in the slum have access to piped water as compared to 92% in whole Nairobi. Private in-house piped connections do not exist. Most people have to buy water form private water vendors. 20 litres of water cost between 2 Ksh and 20 Ksh. The average price is about ten times higher than in the higher income housing areas where standard pipes into their houses are installed.

« PEOPLE HAVE TO BUY THEIR WATER AT WATER KIOSKS »





CURRENT SITUATION_DOCUMENTATION_TOILETS

The Pit latrines are the most common toilets within Kibera. They are often inadequate and overflowing.

Another way to go to the toilet is to use the so called flying toilet. They dispose their excreta in a plastic bag and throw it away.

The third toilet type is a latrine built by NGO's and maintained by the CBO's or employees. People have to pay for those toilets 2-3 Ksh per usage.

« DEJECTION POLLUTES THE SETTLEMENT »





CURRENT SITUATION_DOCUMENTATION_BATHROOM

Most households lack proper sanitary facilities. They wash themselves without showers. Most of the inhabitants wash in their rooms where they also sleep, live and cook. Others have a small space outside, constructed in wood and iron sheets to have some privacy. Residents call these spaces their bathrooms.

« PEOPLE CALL THESE SPACES THEIR BATHROOMS »





CURRENT SITUATION_DOCUMENTATION_SEWAGE

In Kibera no real sewerage system exists. Only two lines are constructed in pre-fabricated concrete elements. All drainages flows through open and often congested trenches. Mostly they are just part of the path.

Due to lack and/or poor drainage around nearly every structure, there are stagnant smelly waters, which provides an optimal breeding ground for mosquitoes and houseflies.

The adjacent Ngong river and Nairobi dam are heavily polluted by silt, solid wastes, overflowing pit latrines, waste waters and all forms of dumping including medical wastes from upstream and the surrounding areas. Nairobi dam is heavily clogged by so much pollution to a point where the colour of water has turned sewer-like and smells foul.

« SEWAGE IS PART OF THE TRACK »





CURRENT SITUATION_DOCUMENTATION_LACK OF INFRASTRUCTURE

Due to the general absence of infrastructure in Kibera quality of the environment continues to deteriorate at an alarming rate. This is manifested in the loss of bio diversity, accumulation of solid waste and faecal matter, overcrowding dust miscellaneous smells, high disease prevalence. BThe issues to be addressed under environmental aspects will include solid wastes, land and water pollution and atmospheric pollution.

During the rainy season, runoff water in open drains collects garbage, including human wastes, and poses a real health hazard and general environmental disaster.

Having seen these living conditions in which people have to manage their lives no one can shut his eyes. It is obvious that someone has to change this miserable situation.

« THE ENVIRONMENT IS IN ALARMING CONDITION »



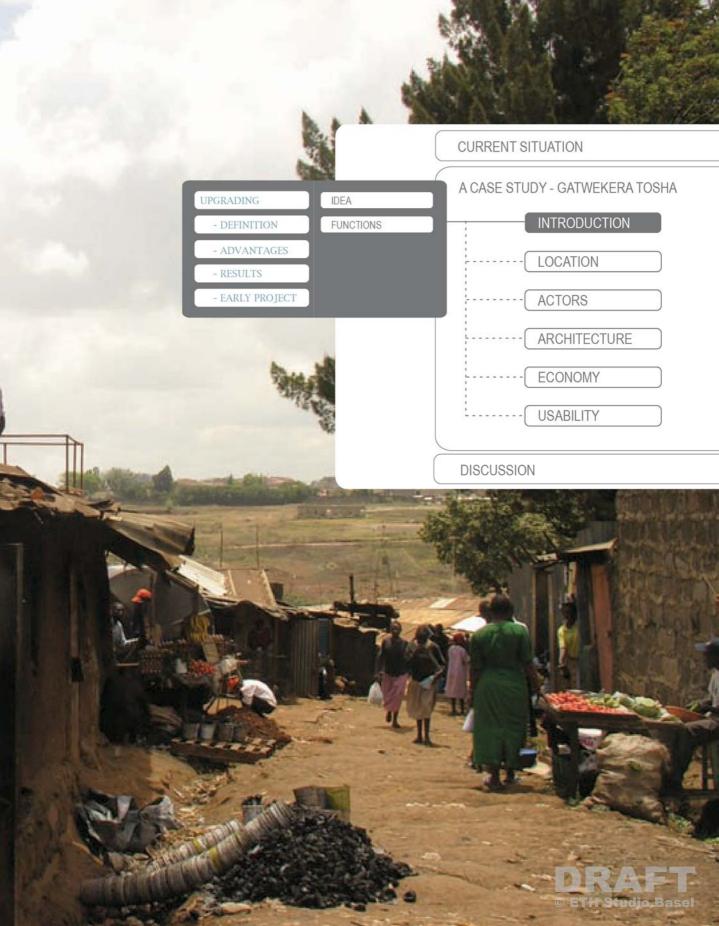


« ONLY TWO SEWERAGE TRACKS FOR OVER ONE MILLION PEOPLE »











The main objective of slum upgrading is to alleviate the poor living standards of slum dwellers, and to reduce their state of disadvantageousness. The aim is not to replace an informal settlement by something completely different, but to improve an existing condition.

Upgrading has significant advantages. It is not only an affordable alternative to clearance and relocation (which costs up to ten times as much as upgrading), but it is also to minimize the disturbance to the social and economic life of the community.

The results of upgrading should be immediate, highly visible and should make life of the urban poor a significant difference.

Early slum upgrading projects tended to be carried out in isolation. Governments often did not follow through with services, communities did not maintain the facilities and governance structures disappeared once the international experts involved were gone.



GATWEKERA TOSHA

Gatwekera: name of the village Tosha: Total Sanitation Hygiene Access

The community initiated the project. After saving some money within the CBO's (Community Based Organisations), the group asked the NGO Umande Trust for advice. Therefore the community had convince several structure owners to make room for the project by demolishing some of their structures.

After three month of planning, the 3 storey building concept was finished and they started constructing. It is the result of a teamwork between the community, the NGO with technicians and the planning team, the external experts and the donors. The community members helped constructing.

The Biocentre embodies toilets, showers, offices and a community roof and is planned as a community meeting centre. The Biocentre is pilot project because of a new toilet technology, which is borrowed from India and China. The System produces gas which is planned to be used for cooking.

The facility opened in June, 5th, 2007. Today the whole building is still not finished. The gas production of the bio-digester is not aligned yet and around the building the community is still working on the overflow basin and the surrounding. A reed bed for a natural clarification plant is still on planning status.

≪ THE COMMUNITY
INITIATED THE PROJECT ≫

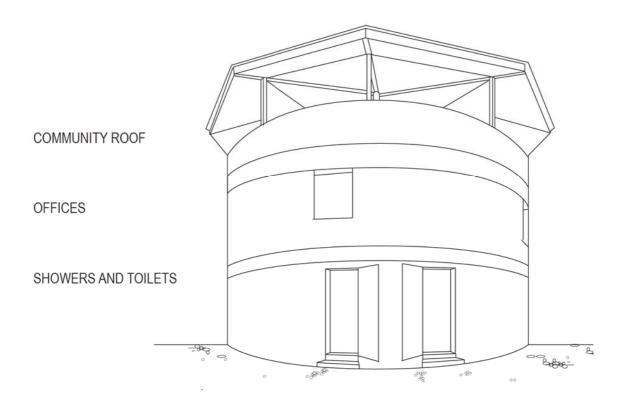




CASE STUDY - GATWEKERA TOSHA_INTRODUCTION_FUNCTION

The Biocentre is planned as a multi functional building. On the ground floor 9 toilets and 5 shower cabins are placed. There is a gas removal station for cooking which has not been installed in November 2007.

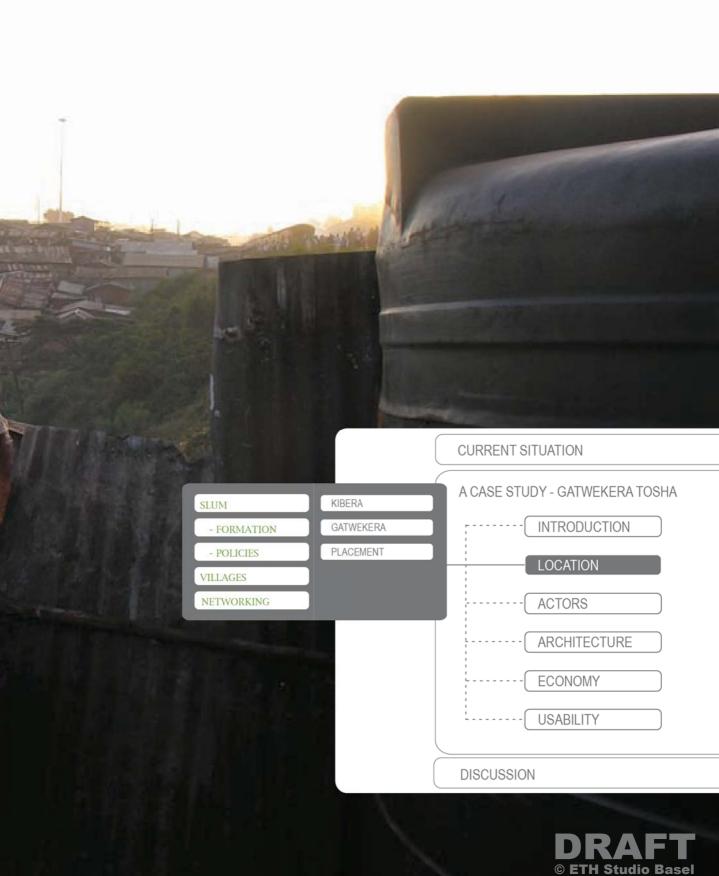
Three offices are to be found on the first floor and on the top there is a terrace for the community.



« A TOP FLOOR WITH OPEN SIDES AND A SIMPLE THATCHED (MAKUTI) ROOF FOR COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND FUNCTIONS » SOURCE: NGO, UMANDE TRUST









Estimations indicate that more than half of Kenya's urban population now live in slums and informal settlements with deficient housing and infrastructure.

The Government of Kenya recognised the political and financial realities, and the inevitability of informal settlements as early as 1970. Since then, the evolution of policies and interventions dealing with informal settlements in Kenya fits in four chronological stages:

- Provision of minimum services
- Extension of tenure security and physical upgrading
- Recognition of the legitimate role of the low-income earners in urban development
- Current Initiatives

CASE STUDY - GATWEKERA TOSHA_LOCATION_KIBERA





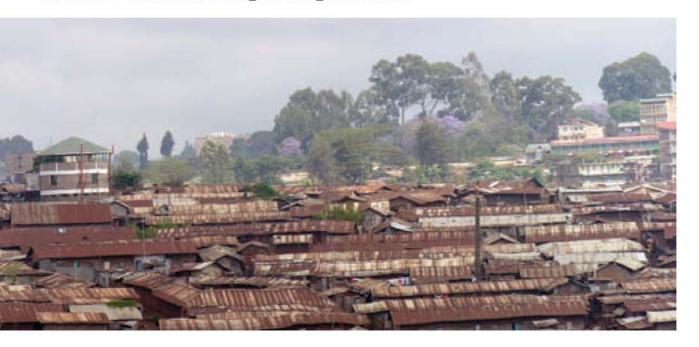


VILLAGE GATWEKERA

Within Kibera there are 11 villages. Each village is unique in terms of actor presence and service provision. All villages have at least one motorable road that leads across it. There are various rivers running across the villages and the railway runs through the settlement. Some actors, especially NGO's are present only in specific villages. This has implications in service provision and for slum upgrading. Notable actors in the village providing services in health, are Missionaries of Christ and Medecins Sans Fron-

SOURCE: UN-HABITAT, Analytical Repor

CASE STUDY - GATWEKERA TOSHA_LOCATION_**GATWEKERA**









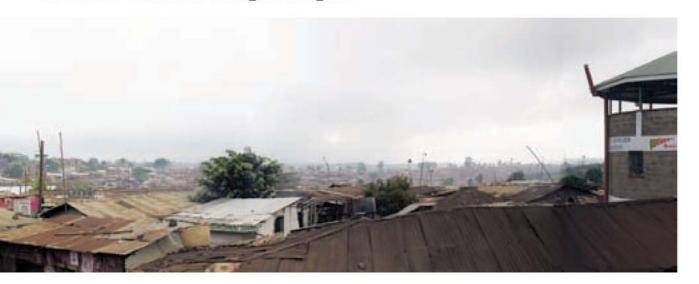


GRASS ROOT ORGANIZATIONS

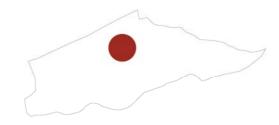
The grass root organizations (community based organizations, religious organizations, NGOs, and micro-enterprises) participate in policy advocacy and networking sessions, often they do not appear to be integrating their activities effectively in design and implementation of development programs and projects.

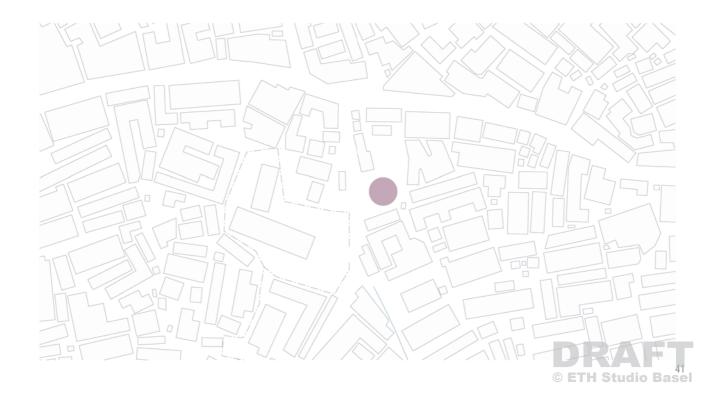


CASE STUDY - GATWEKERA TOSHA_LOCATION_SITE



« THE BIOCENTER IS LOCATED ON A HILL »









ACTORS IN KIBERA

There are various interests and actors within an informal settlement. These must be pointed out to understand the intricacy of slum upgrading.

Initially informal settlements are often located on public land. As the settlement develops investment interests are attracted. As a result, individuals and firms seek to buy parcels for this purpose of land.

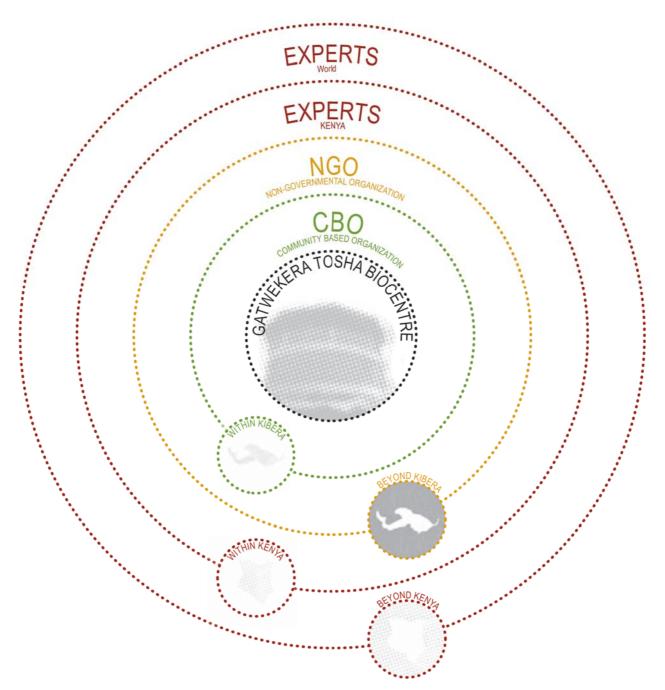
At the moment land ownership in Nairobi's slums is largely informal. This occurs either through land grabbing or informal sale as a consequence of complicated land transfer processes. Those who own the housing structures are often neither the owners of the land nor renters. Unlike the dominance of owner-occupation in informal settlements of Southern Africa, in Nairobi, as in many East and West African cities, a situation has evolved whereby most slum residents are

ADMINISTRATION

The Nairobi City Council NCC is charged with the provision and management of services within the city. However due to economic situation, rapid population growth, limited resources and poor management, services are far from serving the whole population.



The actors at the Gatwekera TOSHA Biocentre as introduced below are divided mainly in three different groups. Their activities, the level within the hierarchy, their capacity, the background of origin and their locations are different.



DRAFT
© ETH Studio Base

STRUCTURE OWNERS

The rented houses are owned by so called Structure owners. They range from those who have invested their life's savings in constructing some shacks to rent, to those who make a comfortable living in formal Nairobi by renting out many units in the slums.

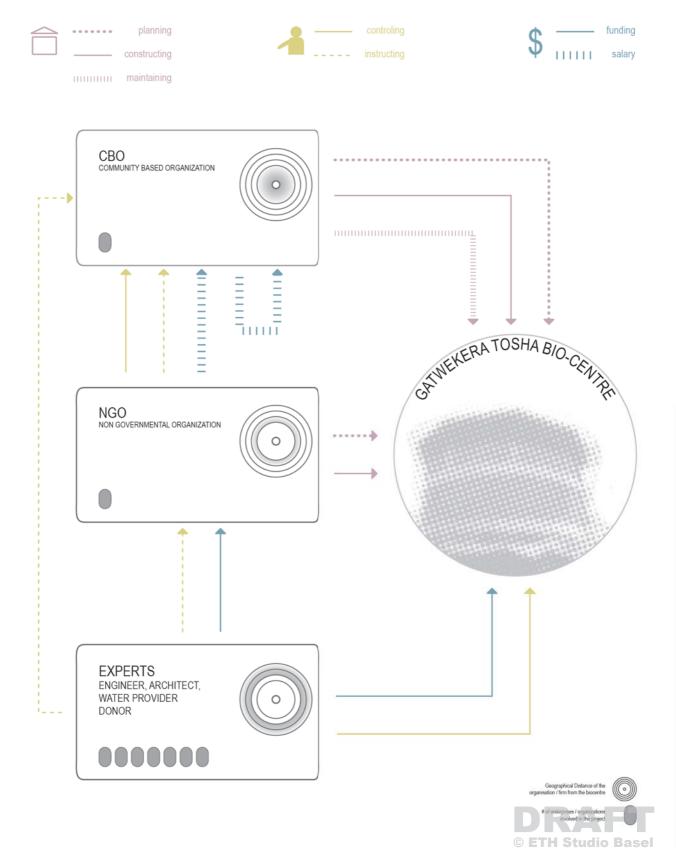
Resident owners of housing structures are often not so different from tenants in term of incomes they receive. In addition they are exposed to poor sanitation, and lack of toilet facilities and water, no less than their tenants.

The non-resident structure owners have contributed significantly to the commer cialization of informal settlements. Although they remain little known they are forceful behind the scenes. Most of them have structure managers who kept them constantly informed about their investment.

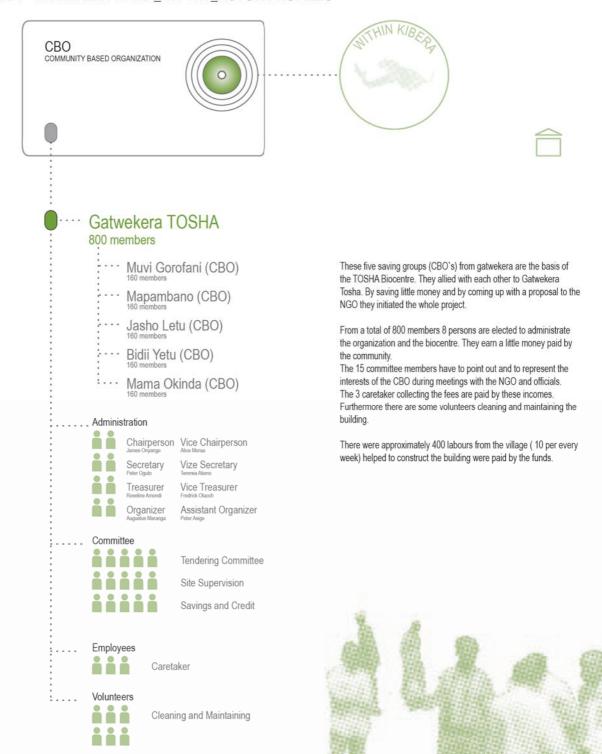
Most of the structure owners do not bother to provide the basic services, like toilet facility.



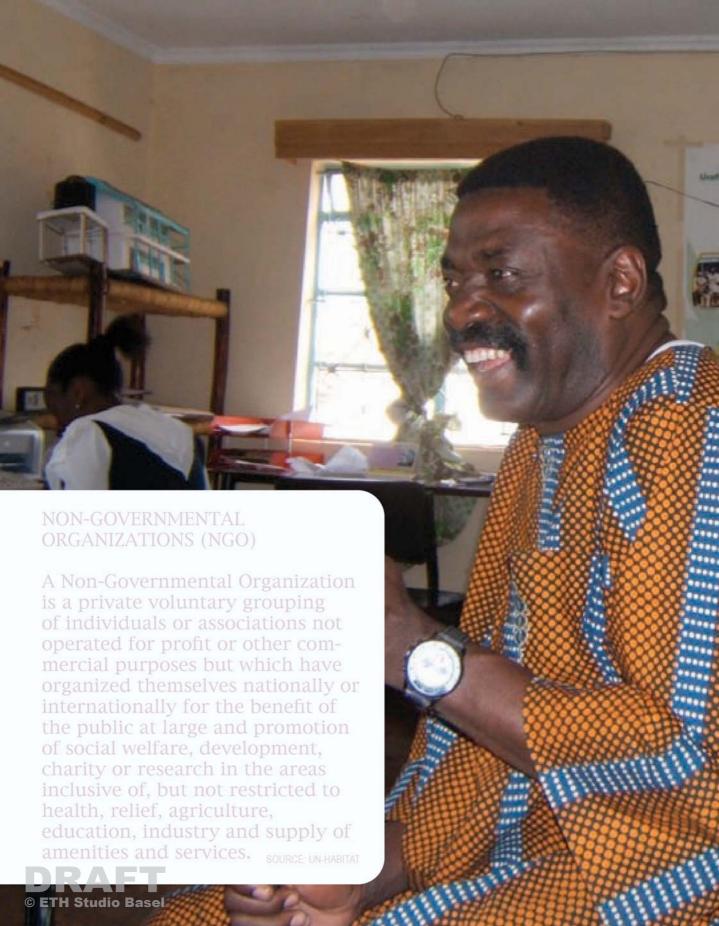
CASE STUDY - GATWEKERA TOSHA_ACTORS_ORGANISATION

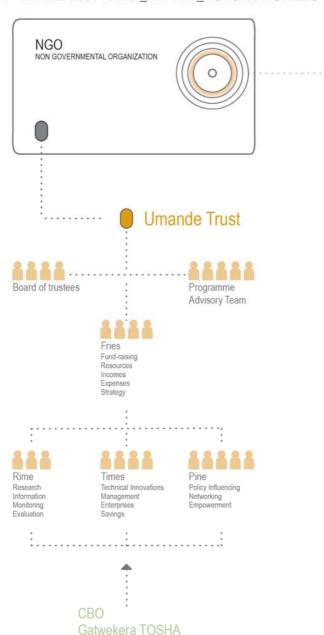






« WE ARE SO MUCH COMMITTED. WE ARE NOT LAZY IN FACT »





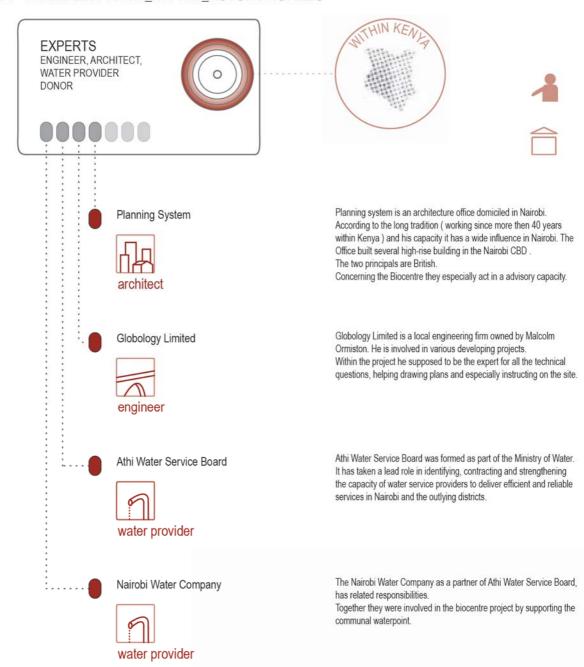
The NGO Umande Trust is specialized in transforming water and sanitation services. They try to work closely with the community. The Staff operate in four complementary teams. (Fries, Rime, Times, Pine) Within the team there is one architect and one technician. The Board of Trustees goal is to provide overall leadership through policy guidelines and oversight functions. The board is also responsible for the recruitment of the Managing Trust and on a regular basis, reviewing all the governance, operational and strategic development aspects of the organization.

The Programme Advisory Team provides the much needed quality assurance function in ensuring that programme initiatives result in positive impacts.

« WE HELP THE COMMUNITY WHERE EVER WE CAN »

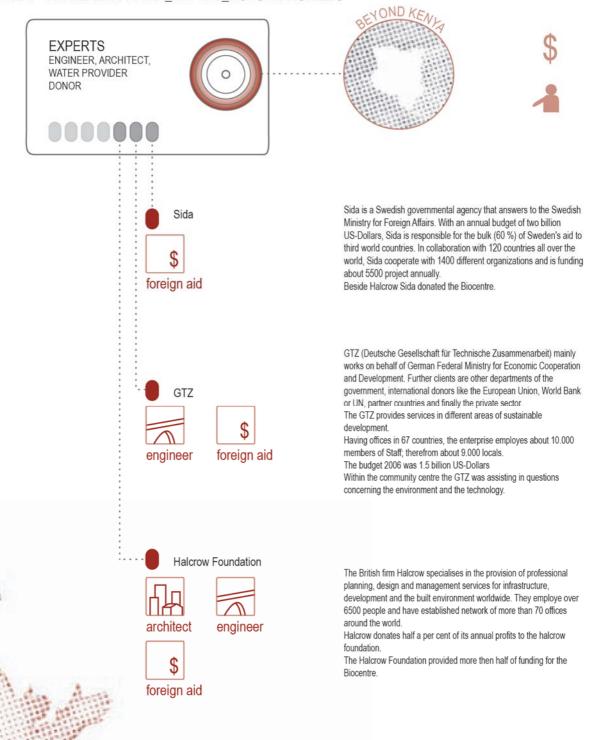






« FIRST OF ALL PROJECTS HAVE TO GENERATE MONEY »





« NO ONE HAS A CLUE HOW TO DEAL WITH THIS TECHNOLOGY »









LIVING IN KIBERA

A majority of inhabitants of Kibera report that they live there not by their own choice. The main reason that forced them to live in Kibera is cheap rent.



CASE STUDY - GATWEKERA TOSHA_ARCHITECTURE_NEIGHBORHOOD



« A shack is per definition a small crude shelter used as a dwelling. »

The Biocentre is situated on a hill, well accessible next to the street. On the other side of the street there is a school and in the neighbourhood, three more two storey houses are located. The buildings belonging to schools or church missionaries are mostly constructed different than the dwelling houses. The dwelling houses are called shacks.



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RECREATION

Hardly any recreation facilities among other public utilities exist in Kibera.

In a former research of UN-Habitat, the residents mentioned knowledge of bars and video show rooms. In addition some people identified community halls, sports grounds and open spaces. A physical inspection of those facilities revealed that they are inadequate, are poorly located, are in a deplorable physical state and are not properly used.

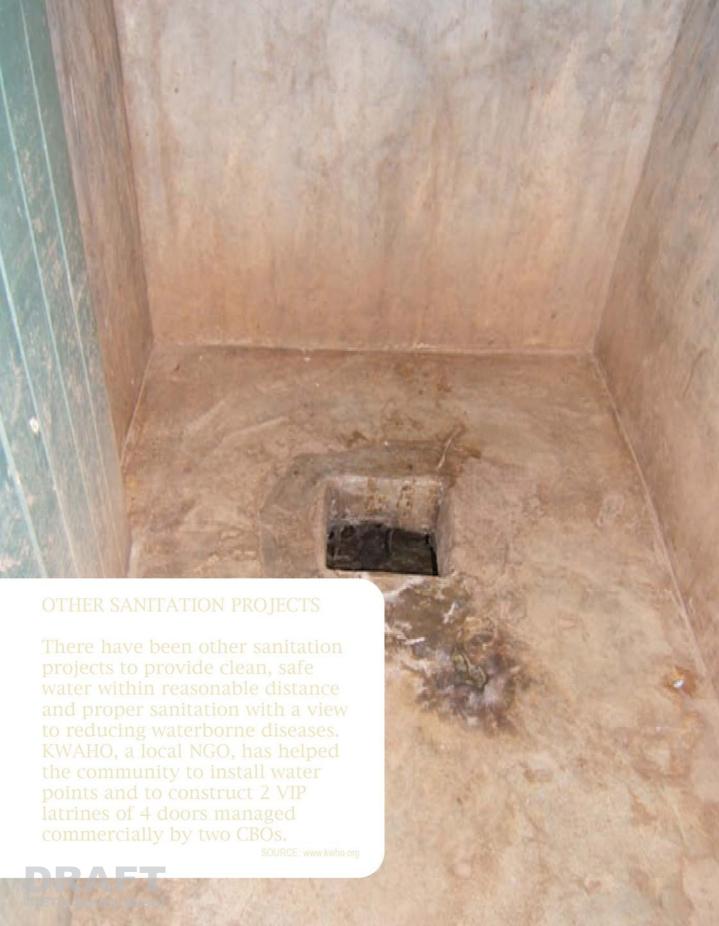


CASE STUDY - GATWEKERA TOSHA_ARCHITECTURE_**NEIGHBORHOOD**









CASE STUDY - GATWEKERA TOSHA_ARCHITECTURE_FIRST APPROACH

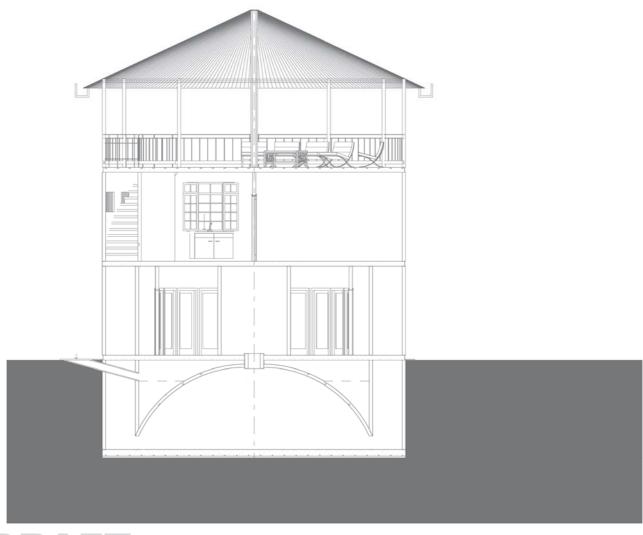
The first approach of the community was this model. The idea to place the offices on the second floor and the toilets on the ground floor is remaining in the new facility.

≪ THE FIRST MODEL WAS
MADE BY THE COMMUNITY ≫



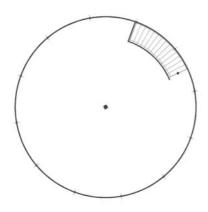


\ll AFTERWARDS DRAWINGS WERE MADE BY THE PLANNING TEAM \gg

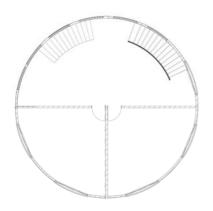




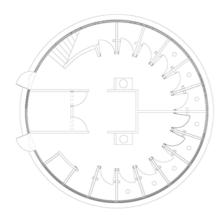
CASE STUDY - GATWEKERA TOSHA_ARCHITECTURE_PLANS AND PICTURES



Second floor, Community roof



First floor, Offices



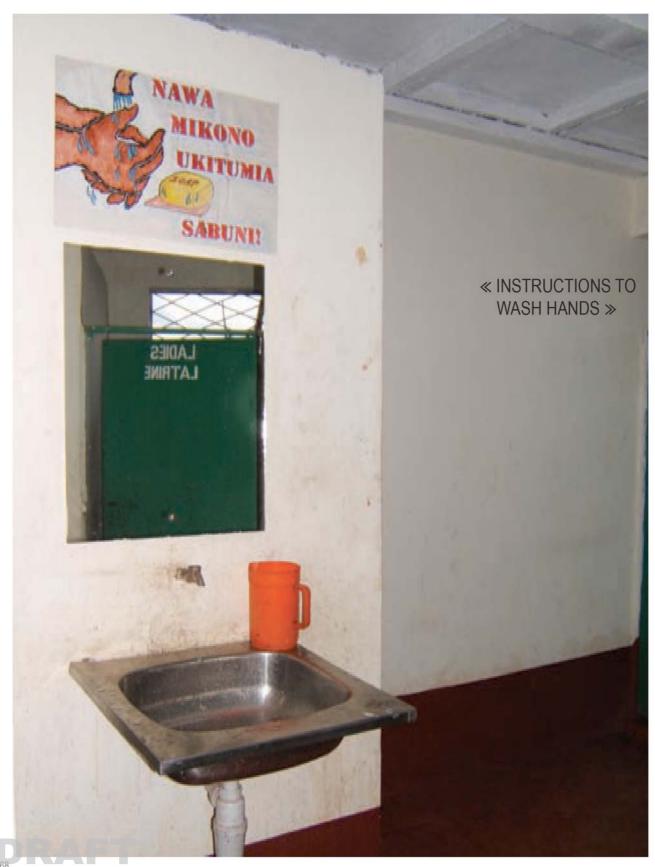
Ground floor, toilets and showers







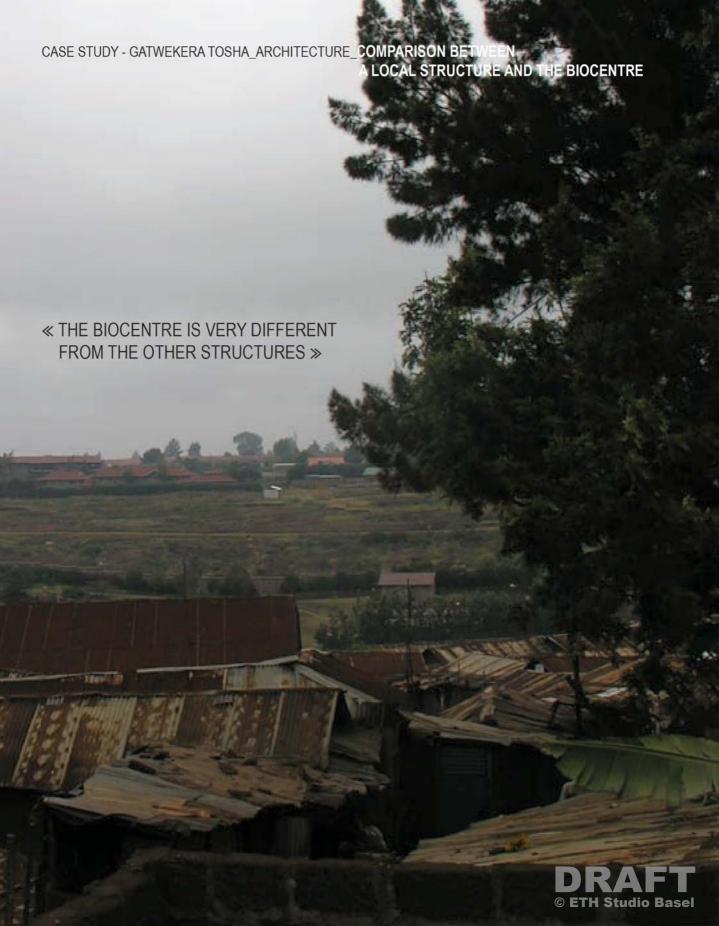






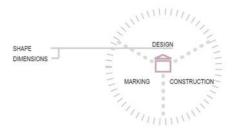
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CASE STUDY - GATWEKERA TOSHA ARCHITECTURE COMPARISON BETWEEN A LOCAL STRUCTURE AND THE BIOCENTRE

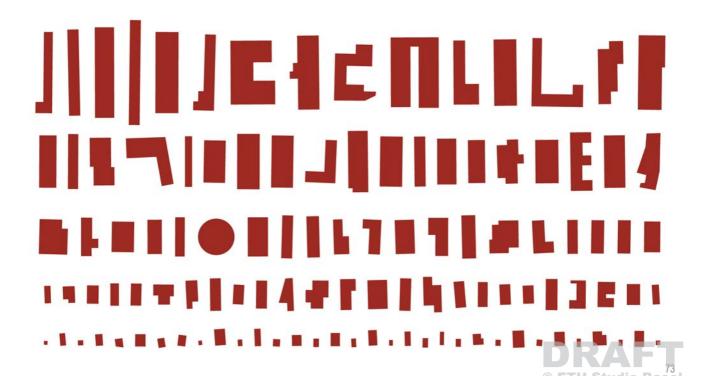


No other structure has a round floor plan, 2.85 m

The Biocentre is much taller and has an underground basement consisting of the biogas plant.

as shown on the bottom of the page. These shapes are the tidies up structures in the neighbourhood of the Biocentre.

« THE BIOCENTRE IS THE ONLY ROUND BUILDING IN THIS AREA »



QUALITY OF SHELTER

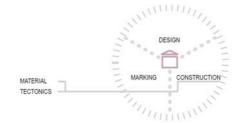
Quality of shelter in Kibera is obviously poor. Most of the houses are built of rudimentary materials such as mud (88%), timber (4%,) polyxthene paper and corrugated iron sheets (5%) among other poor quality building materials. 57% of the units have cement floors; the remaining 43 % were made of natural earth.

Only 1% of the units are made of stone

Further all the roofing materials in the area are made of corrugated iron sheet in different stages of rusting. Of course the residents are aware of the poor quality at the houses and rated them appropriately. This suggest that they would most likely support any initiative to improve the quality of their shelter provided the improved units are affordable.

CASE STUDY - GATWEKERA TOSHA_ARCHITECTURE_COMPARISON BETWEEN A LOCAL STRUCTURE AND THE BIOCENTRE

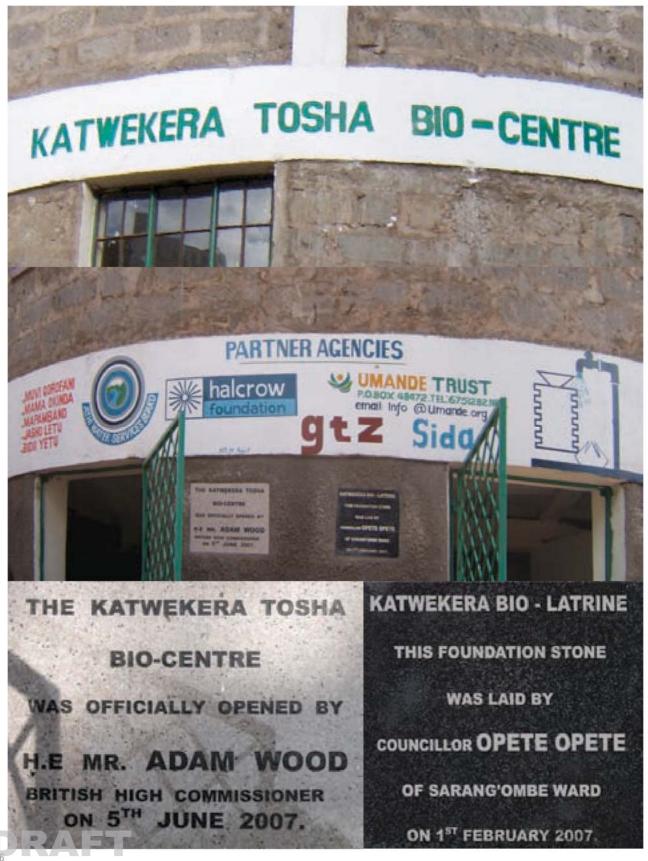
« THERE ARE NO OTHER BUILDINGS WITH GLASS WINDOWS»





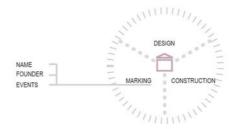


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CASE STUDY - GATWEKERA TOSHA_ARCHITECTURE_COMPARISON BETWEEN A LOCAL STRUCTURE AND THE BIOCENTRE

« INSCRIPTIONS ON THE BUILDINGS TELL STORIES »



© ETH Studio Basel



COMMUNICATION

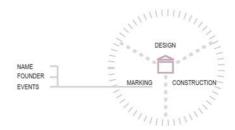
Both private and public sectors are not enough involved in the provision of communication infrastructure.

Communication is essential for information flow including information pertaining to development programmes. This includes awareness enhancement to the population. Information flow is essential for public education on issues such as HIV/AIDS, public health, sanitation, civic education among others

The modes of communications and informations flow identified in the area were: mobile phones, public phones, telephone bureaux, radio and television, loudspeakers, posters, public barazas, announcements and word of mouth.

CASE STUDY - GATWEKERA TOSHA_ARCHITECTURE_COMPARISON BETWEEN A LOCAL STRUCTURE AND THE BIOCENTRE

« ADVERTISED TOILET FACILITY »





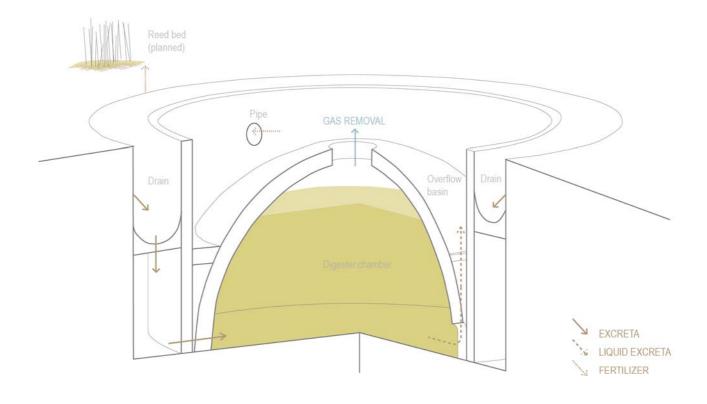
INDIAN TECHNOLOGY

animals, crops and/or domestic food waste.
This demonstrates the potential of biogas technology and its applications.

LABOURER

Most of the self-help builders in squatter upgrading/slum improvement and its sites and services areas were not involved in construction. They assiste the experts in minor building activities. Most of them were engaged in organising building materials. This supports the general opinion that in these categories of housing, self-help means self-management and not self construction.

CASE STUDY - GATWEKERA TOSHA_ARCHITECTURE_TECHNOLOGY



« THE BIOGAS TECHNOLOGY IS SUPPOSED TO PRODUCE GAS AND DUNG »

BIOGAS TECHNOLOGY

Biogas is a proven anaerobic digestion technology which transforms human waste into biogas and liquid fertilizer. The Biocentre prototypes are circular towers comprising a ground floor with toilets and showers. The excreta and waste water flows through the drain into the digester chamber, where gas is produced. Because of the pressure of the gas, the liquid fertilizer flows into the overflow basin and further out of the building. It takes about two years until the digester chamber is full and fertiliser is produced. They have planned to construct a reed bed around the building to clarify the liquid fertilizer.

REASONS FOR THE BIOGAS SYSTEM

"Dry" toilet system need no sewerage system, which would anyway not be available. Hence there is no danger of waste leaching into the ground water and polluting water supplies, causing disease. In comparison to the usual pit latrine, which fill up quite quickly, the digester chamber regenerates himself and in addition fertilizer and gas is produced. The gas is planned to be used for cooking and the fertilizer is useful for agriculture. After the extraction of the dung particles through clarification, the water can be reused.

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CASE STUDY - GATWEKERA TOSHA_ARCHITECTURE_CONSTRUCTION



« HELPING TO BUILD UP THE STRUCTURES IMPLICATES A FEELING OF OWNERSHIP»

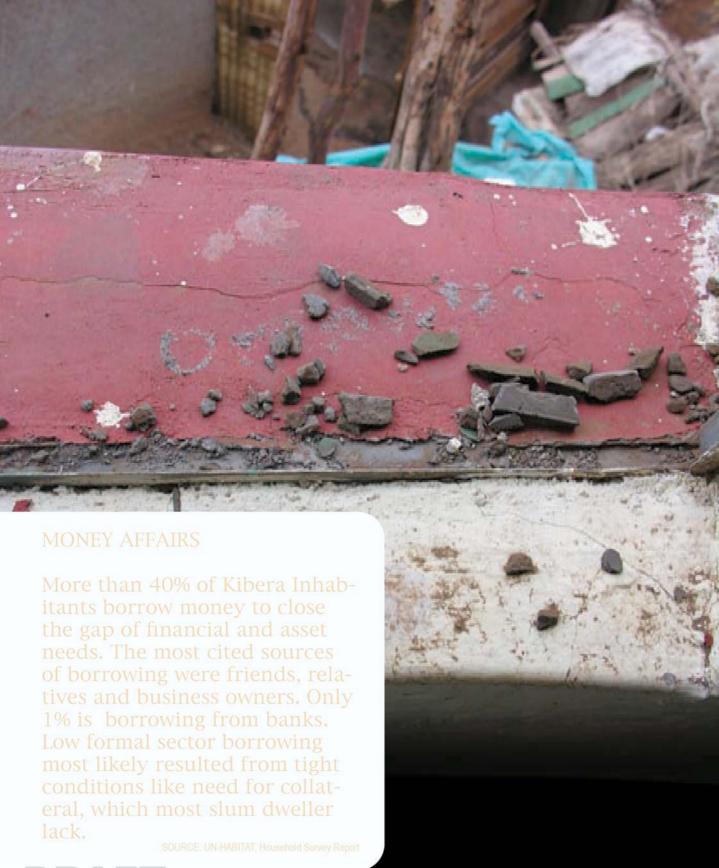
Bricks are produced by the labourers on the sight. Cement is being produced in Thika. Iron and timber is bought at the local market in Nairobi.



© ETH Studio Basel





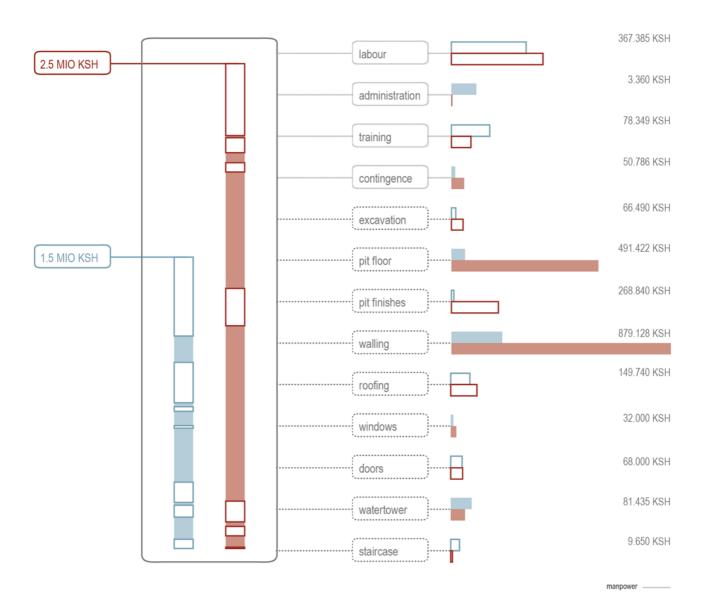


CASE STUDY - GATWEKERA TOSHA_ECONOMY_EXPENSES

The budget of 1.5 million KSH could not be kept. The expense increased to more than 2.5 million KSH.

The budget was calculated apparently only with one floor, as told by Umande Trust.

Administration and Training costs were less than budgeted.





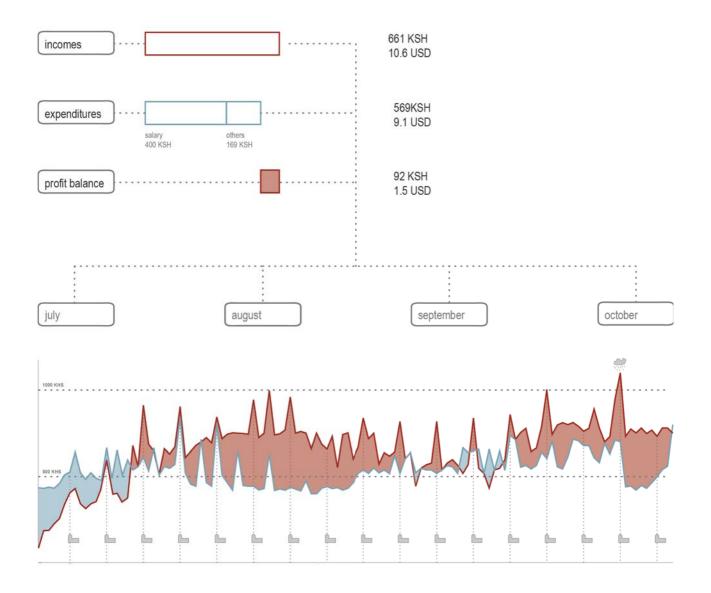


CASE STUDY - GATWEKERA TOSHA_ECONOMY_BALANCE

use the toilets. The average daily income of the centre as far as the offices are not rented is limited on this revenues.

On the expenses side there is the wage for the caretakers and ependitures for operating and maintaing, like toiletpaper or cleaning agent.

The daily income balance is 92 KSH.

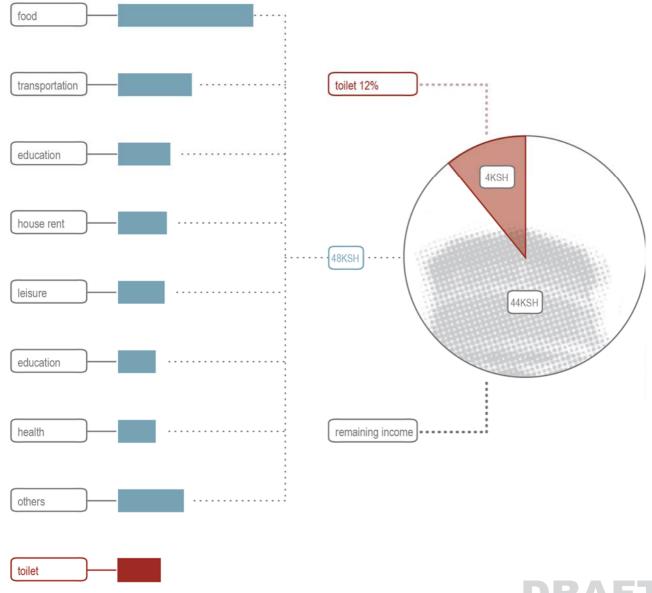




CASE STUDY - GATWEKERA TOSHA_ECONOMY_MONEY PROPORTIONS

The average expenditure of a household in Kibera is spreaded as shown below.

With a twice daily employment of the Biolatrine, they spent 12% of the average daily income (48 Ksh) of a kibera inhabitant.

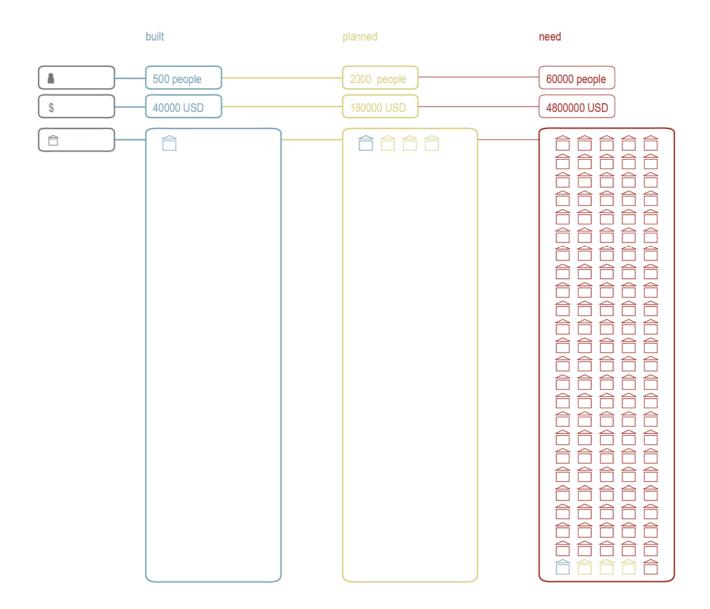




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CASE STUDY - GATWEKERA TOSHA_ECONOMY_MULTIPLY

There are three more projects planned within the village. If the project would be scale up to the whole village to reach all people of Gatwekera, there should be built 120 biolatrines.

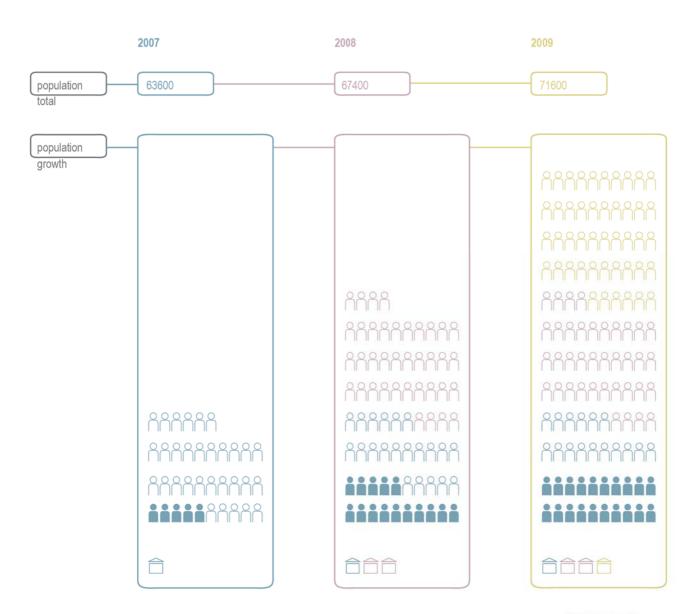






CASE STUDY - GATWEKERA TOSHA_ECONOMY_GROWTH CALCULATION

Untill all 4 projects will have been built in 2 years, the population of the village will grow so fast (6% per year) that not even the new population part will can be served by the facilities.











« ONLY 20 FAMILIES POSSESS A MONTHLY CARD »

With the user card every familymenber is alloud to go to the toilet. One card costs 80 Ksh.



Community member:

"My friends in the surrounding are impressed by the utility, they want to have some more because one is not enough!"

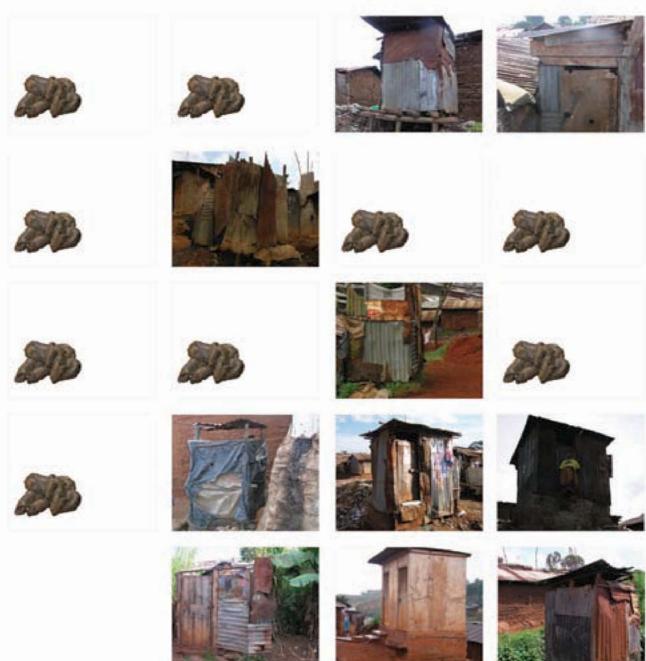


Toilet user:

"this toilet improved the situation very much. There are not so many flying toilets any more."











Interviews with people living in the surrounding, asking whether they have a toilet near their shacks or not.

Some of them use the biolatrines and some don't. The main reason for not using the toilet is the distance between their shacks and the Biocentre. People who have own toilets prefer their own pit-latrines because they don't want to pay.









































« 93 PEOPLE USED THE TOILETS DURING 70 MINUTES »





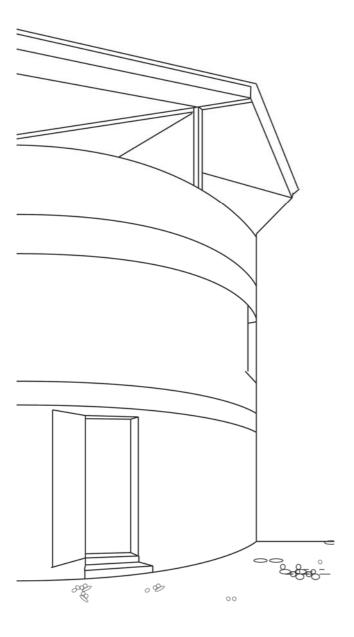


CASE STUDY - GATWEKERA TOSHA_ECONOMY_USERGROUPS AND FUNCTION

There are two different user groups at the Biocentre:

- KIBERA RESIDENTS
- INTERESTED FOREIGNERS (TOURISTS)





ROOF TERRACE

Anyone of the COMMUNITY has been on the terrace. Many TOURISTS come to see the view over Kibera. Sometimes there are meetings, or information arrangements for foreign companies or technicians which are interested of the technology of the Biocentre.

OFFICE

Fee per month: 6000 Ksh

At the time of the studies in Nairobi, NO ONE rented the offices.

The COMMUNITY administration work is done at other places, for example at their home, because the rent of the offices is too high. These three rooms are meant to generate money for the community.

SHOWER

Fee per usage: 2 Ksh

Until the beginning of November 2007 the showers were not in use because the pressure in the pipe was not high enough to use the showers.

The water tank was then removed on a platform some meters above the floor level.

During the installation of the tank the Nairobi Water and Sewerage Company stopped the water supply in Gatwekera because of illegal connections at the pipeline of the government.

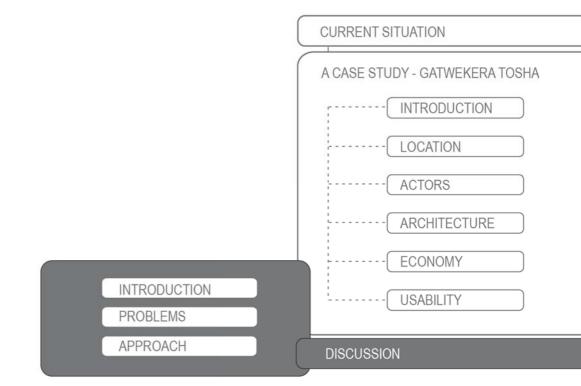
TOILETS

Fee per usage: 2 Ksh

The toilets are the main and only function in use at the moment of the studies in Nairobi.

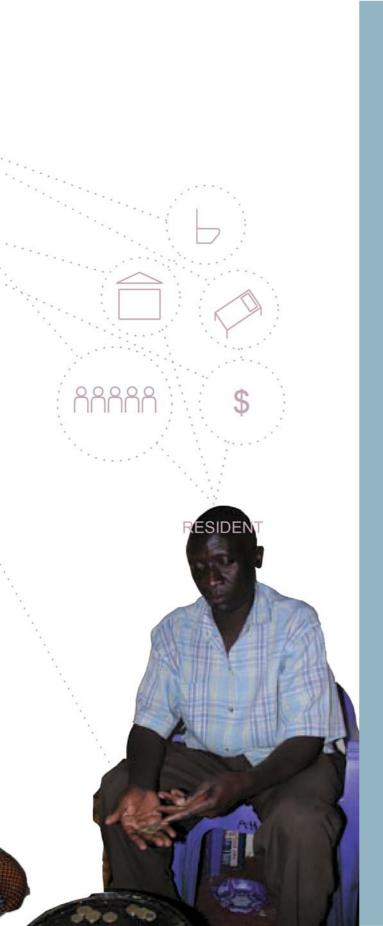
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DISCUSSION

The research about the Biocentre was an exceptional experience, even though we both have been to other slums in the world. People face similar problems but we never came across such conditions. Researching a pilot project in this area, Kibera, was very telling for our live experience. Despite the insight into the lives within this informal settlement, many asked questions are still not answered and new questions arouse.

We are still wondering what the aim of such researches is. Within two weeks time, no one is able to catch the whole complexity of this huge informal settlement and all the actors involved. What does this project tell us in terms of planning slum upgrading projects?

PROBLEM OF COMMODIFICATION

Kibera is an outcome of diverse factors that include segregation policies in the colonial era, a post–in-dependence policy of slum clearance, a sluggish growth in the economy of Nairobi, lack of land policies to enhance equitable distribution of land as well as unsuitable urban development policies. Decades of poorly functioning local government in Kenya has led to commodification of water, shelter, refuse collection and sanitation. The process of commodification have resulted in a complex structure of economic stakeholders, who have acquired a degree of social legitimacy to extract profit out of the trade of inadequate basic necessities to the poor.

The motivation of the private sector to provide the settlement with services is profit. Which leads to the absurd fact that people living in slums have to pay many times higher prices for water and that they even have to pay for the access to adequate toilets.

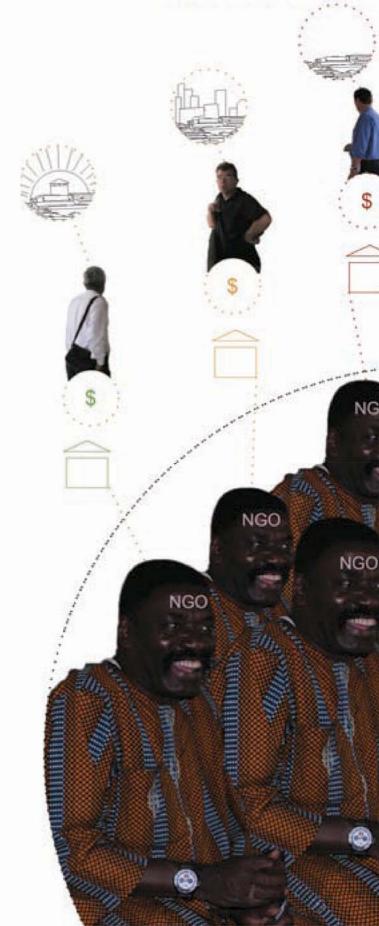
PROBLEM OF AFFORDABILITY

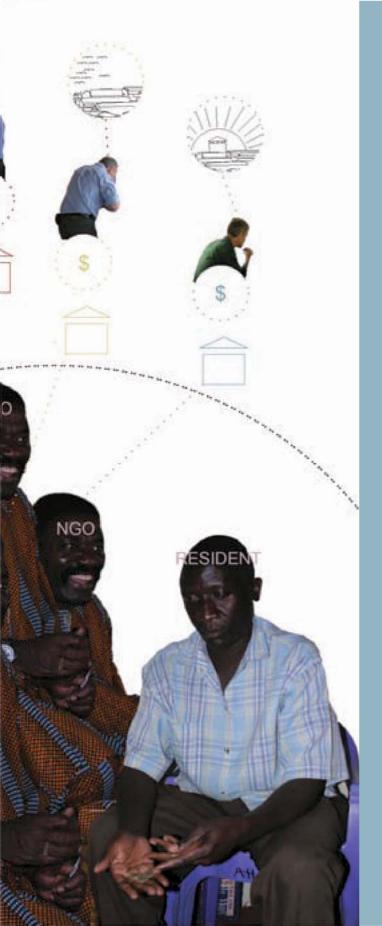
In 1990 the Kibera High Rise project of the National Housing Corporation (NHC) in which all units, originally intended for Kibera's slum dwellers, were allocated and/ or traded to the middle class. The targeting problem in this project was due to high-level corruption beyond the control of the NHC. However what enabled this corruption was the fact that the housing units were planned to middle class standards from the outset. In the past such large-scale projects have also failed to understand the needs of the many different ethnic groups within the different villages that comprise Kibera.

One can assume that also in the ongoing KENSUP upgrading project (see page 14) one fatal mistake is being made. The rent of the multi storey houses will be up to three times higher than the existing rents. Slum dwellers will be forced to form new slums because the new rooms won't be affordable for most of them. Richer people from other pats of the city will be attracted by moderate housing prices.

DRAFT
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PROBLEM OF THE INTERVENTIONS OF THE NGO'S

NGO's and private investors try to intervene with small-scale project. In cooperation with the CBO's they help founding projects in different fields.

Most of the NGOs working in Kibera continue to be involved in service provision, mostly single projects, rather than engaging with more fundamental socioeconomic rights of the individuals living in the slums. Among other things the reason for not doing bigger-scale interventions is the lack of capacity and competence. This represents one fundamental challenge of the NGOs.

With their commitment they are also part of the problematic commodified system and support indirect the withdrawal of the state or the local government.

PROBLEM OF COORDINATION

Furthermore the NGOs, in fact not having real income sources, are constantly on the run for funds, leaving inadequate time for proper planning and setting of strategies.

This results in lose of synergy and valuable experiences and lessons, ending in duplication of efforts and poor utilisation of scarce resources.

The lack of coordination includes also donors. The international donor priorities unfortunately do not always fit together with real needs. Some of the agencies implement programmes and projects without adequate information on the setting.

PROBLEM OF TIME AND SPACE

Thinking about the actual population distribution and the population growth within the settlement the whole situation seemed to be anymore desperate. If the population growth of 6% per year will stay on this high level the number of residents will be doubled in 15 years.





APPROACH

There are many more problems, which could be listed. It is apparent that the reduction of commodification seams to be the main condition precedent to upgrade successfully. Encouraging social landlords and moderating the tenement market through large-scale public housing could be regarded as necessary steps in correcting the distorted urban housing market in Kenya, but it will take several years if not decades before they have a noticeable effect for the current slum population. In the interim, water, sanitation and shelter needs in Nairobi's slums are urgent and therefore call for immediate intervention. These interferences have to be adequate in time and money management and be sustainable.

Reproducing interventions is much more difficult as it seem to be. As we have seen at the researched pilot project a series of fundamental problems are not solved.

The amount of money invested for such a project affecting only 500 people per unit is proportionally very high, also regarding that a big amount was spent for space which is neighter a real need nor just not affordable.

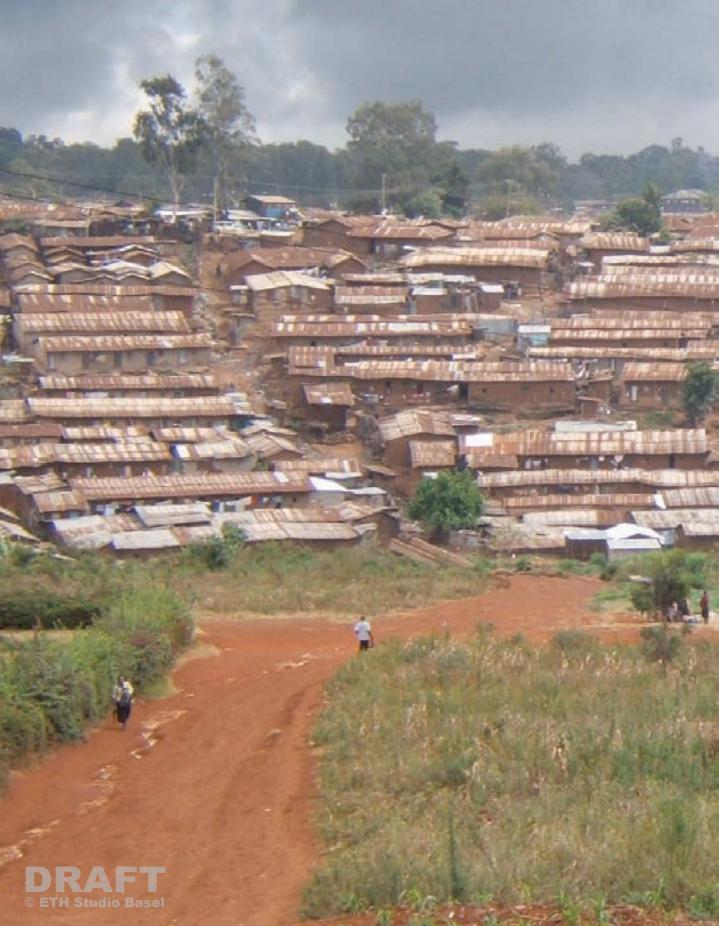
At the same time of researching in Kibera two more Biolatrines were in construction stage. They started building even though it is not sure if the pilot project itself is sustainable. It also shows the challenge of lacking land within the slum while the two available sites are smaller than planned. Accordingly there will not be any space for the reed bed.

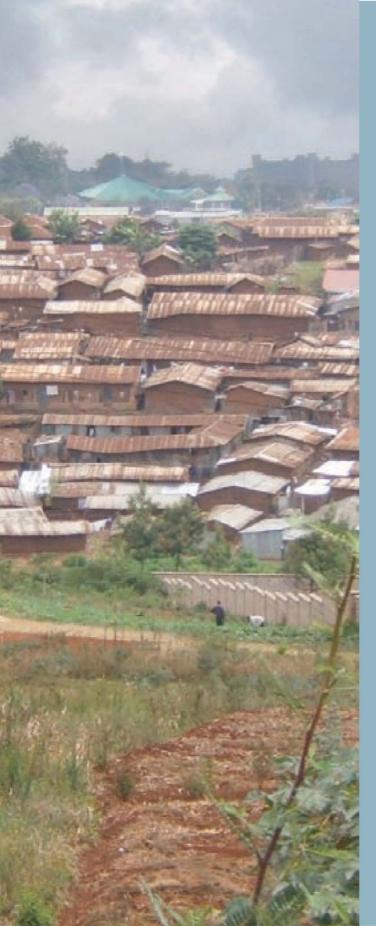
Regarding the given circumstances the question arises if such projects should be done in the future. The community involved in those upgrading projects have many vantages. Jobs are being created during the construction and after at the maintaining status. Another positive aspect is the improved situation for people who can afford these toilets.

Summed up these projects help a small number of people to have an improved surrounding. But in the wider context it is only a drop in the bucket and the situation is still miserable.

Having now the awareness of the intricacy and huge problems of the whole system, we are still not able to really get the point.

To act within such a different social surrounding it is apparent to reflect about the role of an architect? How should an actor from outside react? How can skilled staff intervene with a proportional higher positive result? Should foreign experts just assist with professional advice and let the Locals plan their own villages? Should we adopt such a challenge by having doubts about the whole System?





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