

# INFORMAL SETTLEMENT - EXAMPLES OF DEFINITIONS (METRO CORE)

## Hari Srinivas

### 2. Informal

Developed without legal claims to the land and/or permission from the building authorities concerned; as a result their status is illegal or semi-legal.



Infrastructure and services are usually inadequate.



### a) physical

"Non-legal" status, services and infrastructure below the "adequate" or minimum levels. Such services are both network and social infrastructure, like water supply, sanitation, electricity, roads and drainage; schools, health centres, market places etc.



Informal networks for the supply of water may also be in place.



### b) social

Most belong to the lower income group, either working as wage labourers or in various informal sector enterprises.



On average, most earn wages at or near the minimum wage level. But household income levels can also be high due to many income earners and part-time jobs. Squatters are predominantly migrants, either rural-urban or urban-urban.

### c) legal characteristics

Lack of ownership of the land parcels on which houses have been built. Plots could be found on vacant government or public land or on marginal land parcels like railway setbacks or "undesirable" marshy land. Thus when the land is not under "productive" use by the owner, it is appropriated by a squatter for building a house.



## University of Witwaterand

### 1. Formal

Permanent structure on invaded land, formal house in an official subdivision.



### 2. Informal

The land use is unauthorised;



the settlement pattern is unauthorised, or not approved. Residential density is often high.

The construction of houses is unauthorised and not meeting prescribed standards;



the occupation originates from a land invasion (there are many different processes of invasion).

## Cities Alliance Action Plan

### 2. Informal

Slums are neglected parts of cities where housing and living conditions are appallingly poor. Slums range from high-density, squalid central-city tenements to spontaneous squatter settlements without legal recognition or rights, sprawling at the edge of cities.



## Mike Davis

### 1. Formal

Tenements  
-hand-me-downs  
-built for poor  
Public housing  
hostels, flophouses, etc.



### 2. Informal

Squatters (Hausbesetzer)  
-authorized  
-unauthorized  
Pavement-dwellers (clochard)



## Encyclopedia Britannica

### 2. Informal

Physically and socially deteriorated, making satisfactory family life impossible.

Bad housing is a major index of slum conditions. Bad housing means dwellings that have inadequate light, air, toilet and bathing facilities; that are in bad repair and improperly heated; that do not afford opportunity for family privacy; that are subject to fire hazard and that overcrowd the land, leaving no space for recreational use.



### Different names for informal settlements

- \* Low-income settlements
- \* Semi-permanent settlements
- \* Shanty towns
- \* Spontaneous settlements
- \* Unauthorized settlements
- \* Unplanned settlements
- \* Uncontrolled settlements

## Matrix 1993

### 2. Informal

Structure owners  
-have either a quasi-legal right of occupation  
-or no rights at all



Structures are constructed largely of temporary materials and do not conform to minimum standards.



## National & local governments

### 2. Informal

Lack of basic services, lack of access to sanitation facilities and water are the most important characteristics;



Substandard housing or illegal and inadequate building structures; buildings constructed are not meeting building standards.



Overcrowding and high density; unhealthy living conditions and hazardous locations.



Insecure tenure; irregular or informal settlements.

Poverty and social exclusion due to income or capability. Poverty is considered a central characteristic of a slum.



## UN-HABITAT

### 2. Informal

A contiguous settlement where the inhabitants are characterized as having inadequate housing and basic services.



Often not recognized and addressed by the public authorities as an integral or equal part of the city.



## OECD

### 2. Informal

Areas where groups of housing units have been constructed on land that the occupants have no legal claim to, or occupy illegally;



unplanned settlements and areas where housing is not in compliance with current planning and building regulations (unauthorized housing).



## Merriam-Webster dictionary

### 2. Informal

Substandard housing and squalor



Illegal and unauthorized



High density



Low density



Not adequate infrastructure



Substandard housing and squalor



Socially deteriorated



Poverty and social exclusion

# INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IN NAIROBI

The history of slums and informal settlements in Kenya can be traced through three essential periods; namely the colonial period, the post independence period up to 1974, and the time from the mid 1970s up to now. The evolution of policies and interventions dealing with informal settlements in Kenya can be divided into five stages:

- Clearance and forced migration,
- Clearance and public housing,
- Provision of minimum services,
- Extension of tenure security and physical upgrading,
- Recognition of the legitimate role of low income settlers and other stakeholders in urban development.

These periods and interventions have introduced shifts in the housing policy that have in turn immensely contributed to the nature and extent of informal settlements today.

SOURCE: [www.wits.ac.za/informalsettlements/Cassius%20Kusienya.pdf](http://www.wits.ac.za/informalsettlements/Cassius%20Kusienya.pdf)



1920

1930

1940

1950

1960

Independence

Independence, with the consequent relaxation in policies and laws that prohibited movement of Africans to Nairobi, resulted in an increasing shift in population in Nairobi, without a concomitant rise in housing provision. In fact, as Shihembetsa (1989) pointed out, the independence government allowed new immigrants to put up shacks within the city as long as they were not located near the Central Business District (CBD). This was accompanied by state action that protected some settlements while demolishing others (Syagga et. al. 2001:34).

SOURCE: Winnie Mitullah-UN Report 2003

1970

1980

1990

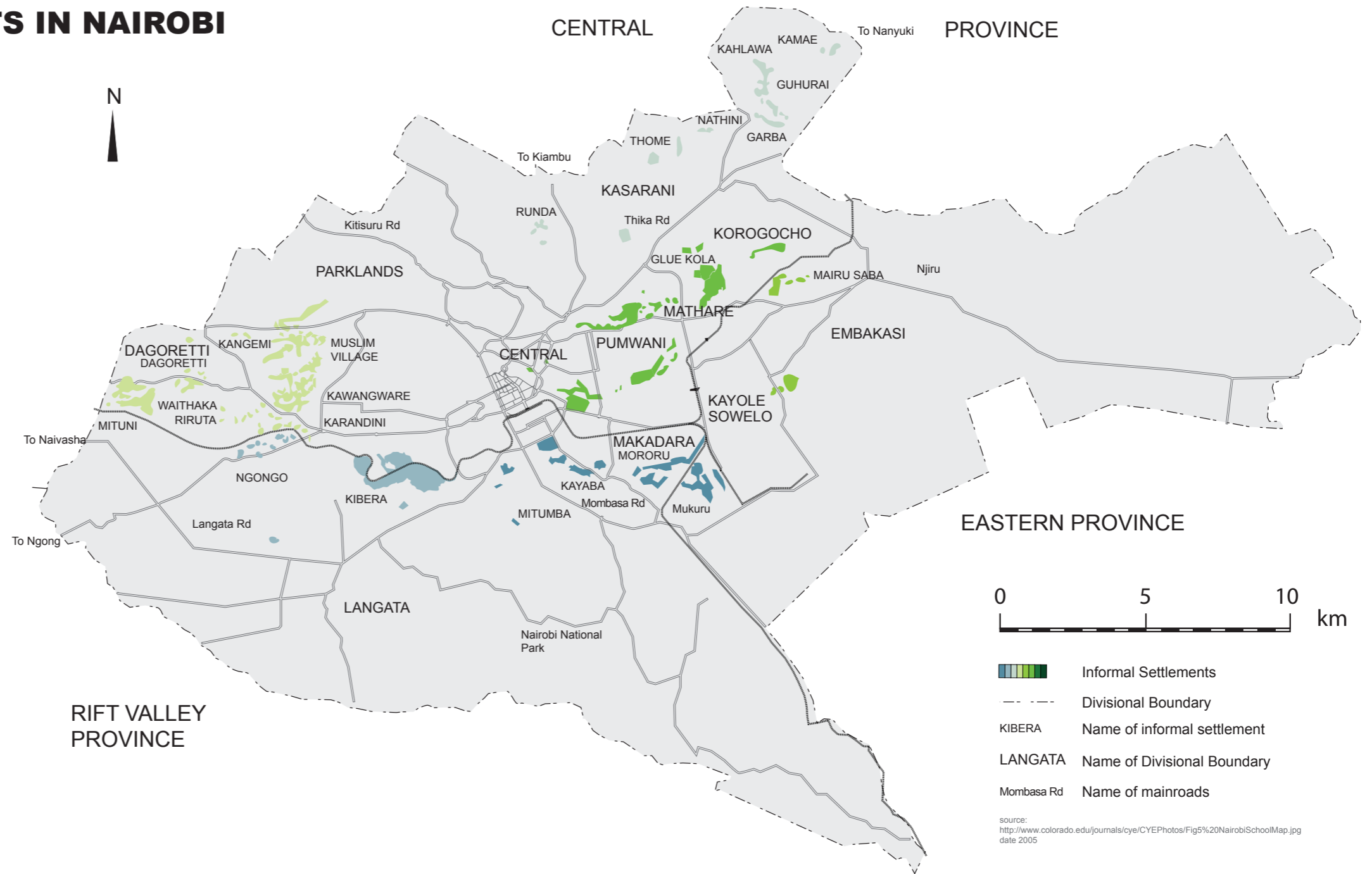
2000

Situation today

As shown in tables, the informal settlements in Nairobi have continued to grow in number as well as in population due to rural-urban migration and urban population growth without corresponding housing provision, resettlement due to new developments, upgrading or relocating, and the extension of city boundaries.

2010

SOURCE: <http://ww2.uninhabitat.org/campaigns/tenure/cws.asp>



- Informal Settlements
- Divisional Boundary
- KIBERA Name of informal settlement
- LANGATA Name of Divisional Boundary
- Mombasa Rd Name of mainroads

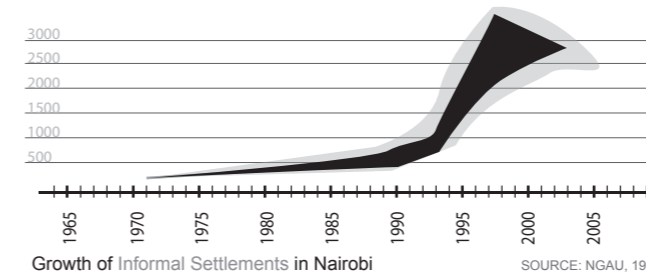
source: <http://www.colorado.edu/journals/cye/CYEPhotos/Fig5%20NairobiSchoolMap.jpg>  
date 2005

Year	No. of Informal Settlement Villages	Population	% of Population
1971	50	167 000	33
1990	78	500 000	40-50
1993	36	748 991	55
1995	134	1 886 000	60

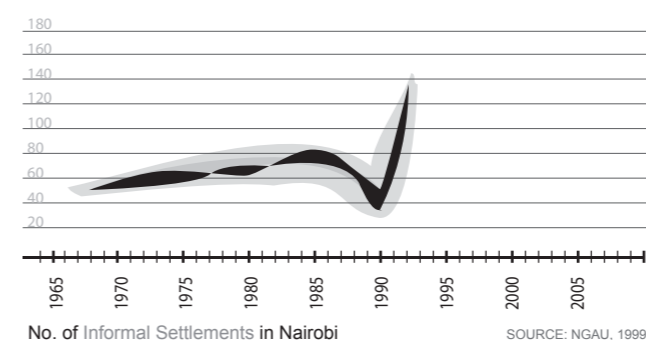
SOURCE: NGAU, 1999

Settlement	Area covered by Informal Settlements (hectares)	Informal Settlements Population	Density (Persons per km <sup>2</sup> )
Makadara	0.854	155 943	182 600
Langata	2.292	382 006	166 700
Kasarani	2.150	217 383	101 300
Dagoretti	3.735	283 416	75 900
Embakasi	0.730	48 527	66 500
Pumwani	0.145	18 093	124 800
Parklands	0.244	11 148	45 700

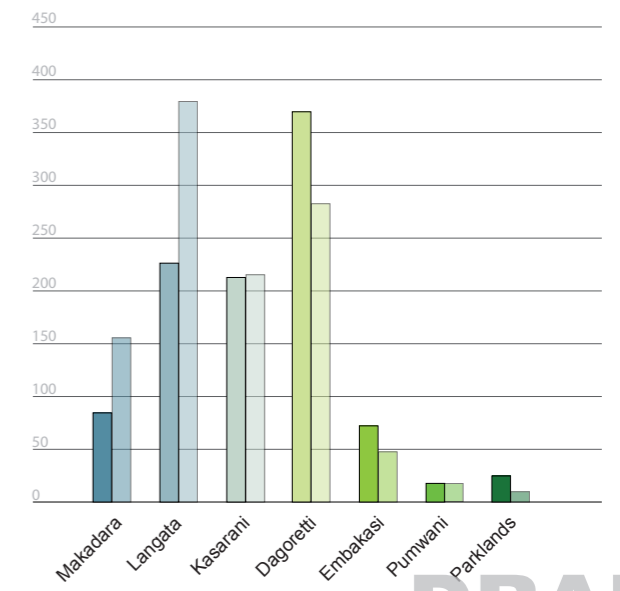
SOURCE: NGAU, 1999



Growth of Informal Settlements in Nairobi SOURCE: NGAU, 1999



No. of Informal Settlements in Nairobi SOURCE: NGAU, 1999



Area covered by Informal Settlements (hectares) Informal Settlements Population SOURCE: NGAU, 1999