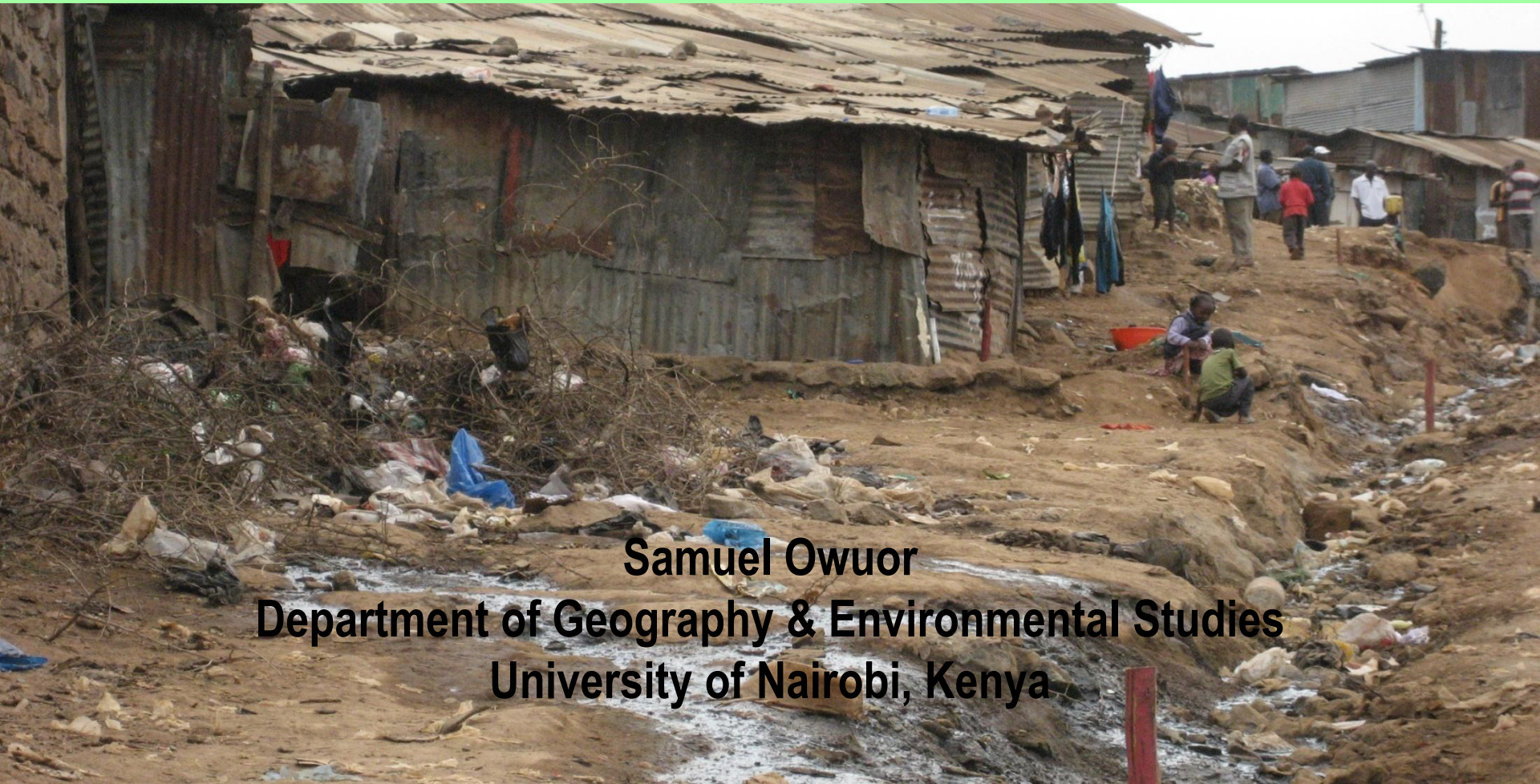


URBANISATION, POVERTY AND SPATIAL INJUSTICE IN KENYA



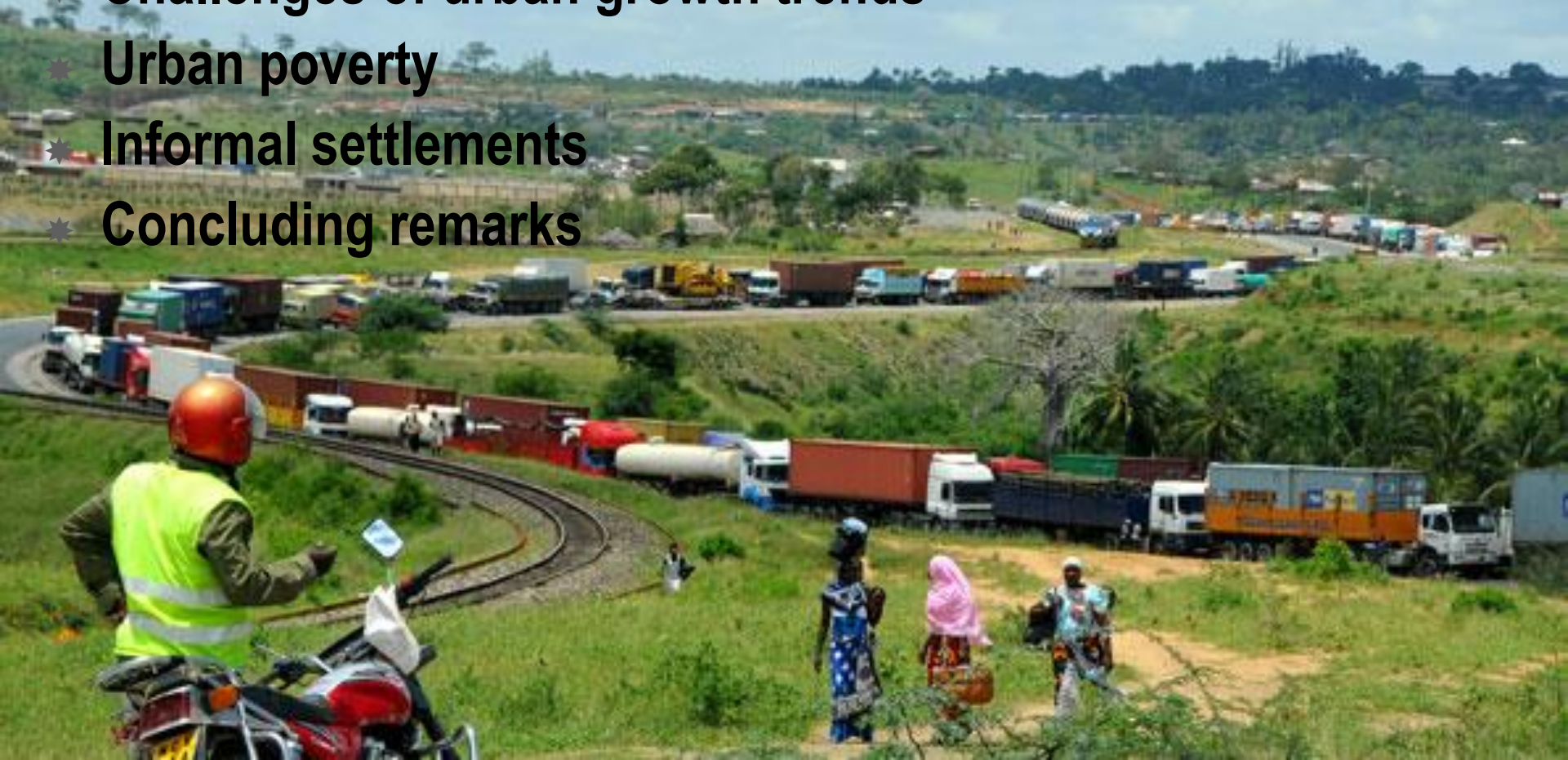
Samuel Owuor
Department of Geography & Environmental Studies
University of Nairobi, Kenya

Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) DTC Workshop
Royal Holloway, University of London
September 17, 2014



Presentation outline

- ★ Introduction
- ★ Trends of urban growth (1948-2009)
- ★ Urban hierarchy
- ★ Challenges of urban growth trends
- ★ Urban poverty
- ★ Informal settlements
- ★ Concluding remarks



Introduction: Urbanization is inevitable

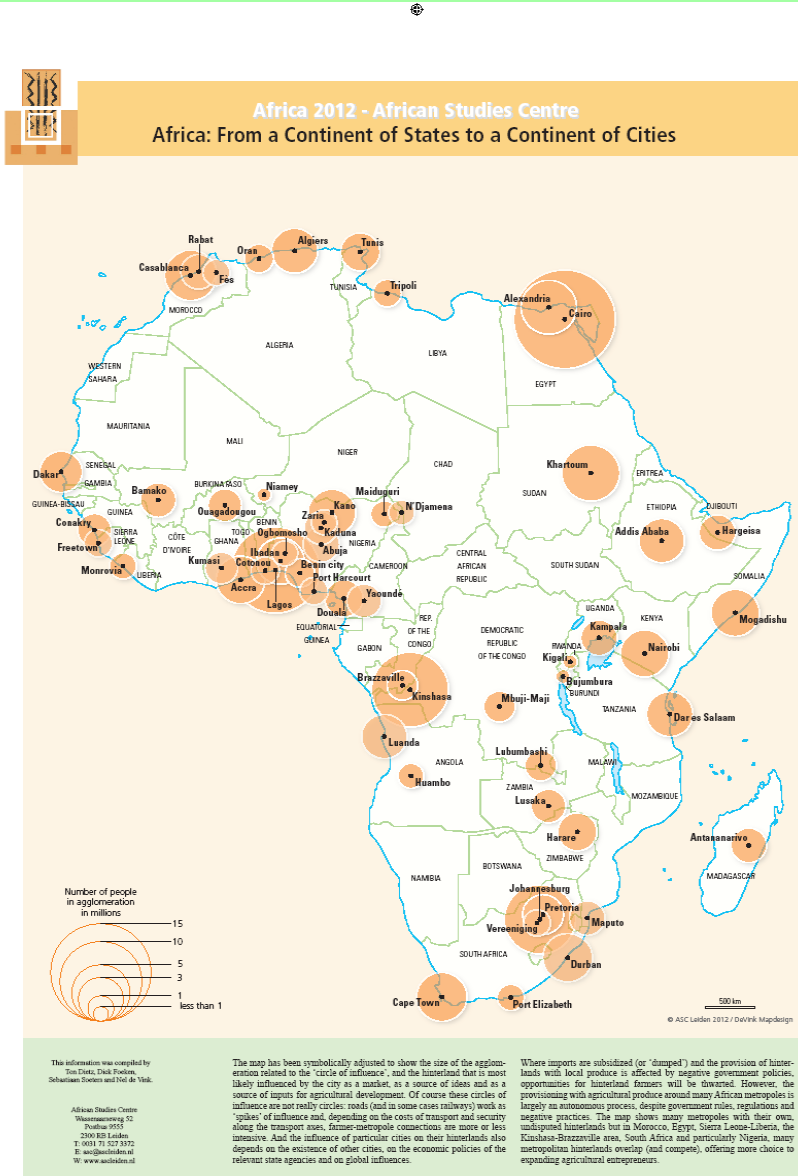
Percentage Urban and Urban Growth Rate by Major Areas, 2011

| Region | % urban | Average annual urban growth rate (2005-2010) |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---|
| World | 52.1 | 2.14 |
| Africa | 39.6 | 3.27 |
| Asia | 45.0 | 2.70 |
| Europe | 72.9 | 0.50 |
| Latin America & the Caribbean | 79.1 | 1.56 |
| North America | 82.2 | 1.23 |
| Oceania | 70.7 | 1.81 |

Source: United Nations (2012)

- Half of world's population lives in urban areas
- Europe, Latin America/Caribbean & North America are highly urbanized
- Africa and Asia are least urbanized but have highest growth rates
- Urbanization levels and urban growth rates are not uniform in Africa

Introduction: From a continent of states to a continent of cities



% Urban and Urban Growth Rate in Africa, 2011

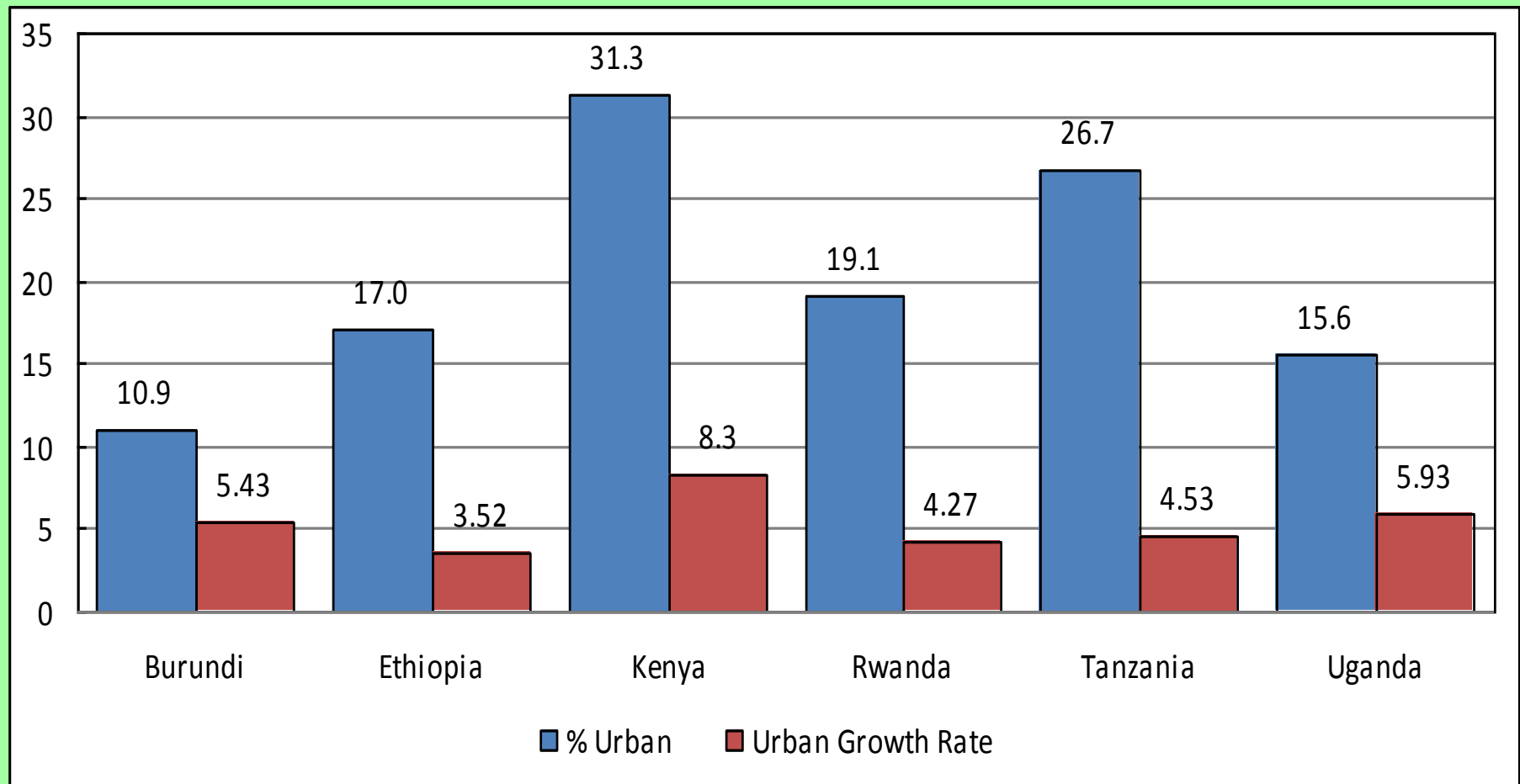
| Region | % urban | Average annual urban growth rate (2005-2010) |
|-----------------|---------|--|
| SS-Africa | 36.7 | 3.67 |
| Africa | 39.6 | 3.27 |
| Eastern Africa | 23.7 | 3.90 |
| Middle Africa | 41.5 | 3.94 |
| Northern Africa | 51.5 | 2.14 |
| Southern Africa | 58.9 | 1.82 |
| Western Africa | 44.9 | 3.92 |

Source: United Nations (2012)

Introduction: Kenya leading the pack in Eastern Africa?

Percentage Urban and Urban Growth Rate for Selected Eastern African Countries

Source: Kenya (forthcoming) for Kenya; United Nations (2012) for others



In 2009, Kenya's population was 31.3% urban with 8.3% annual growth rate

Trends of urban growth in Kenya (1948-2009)

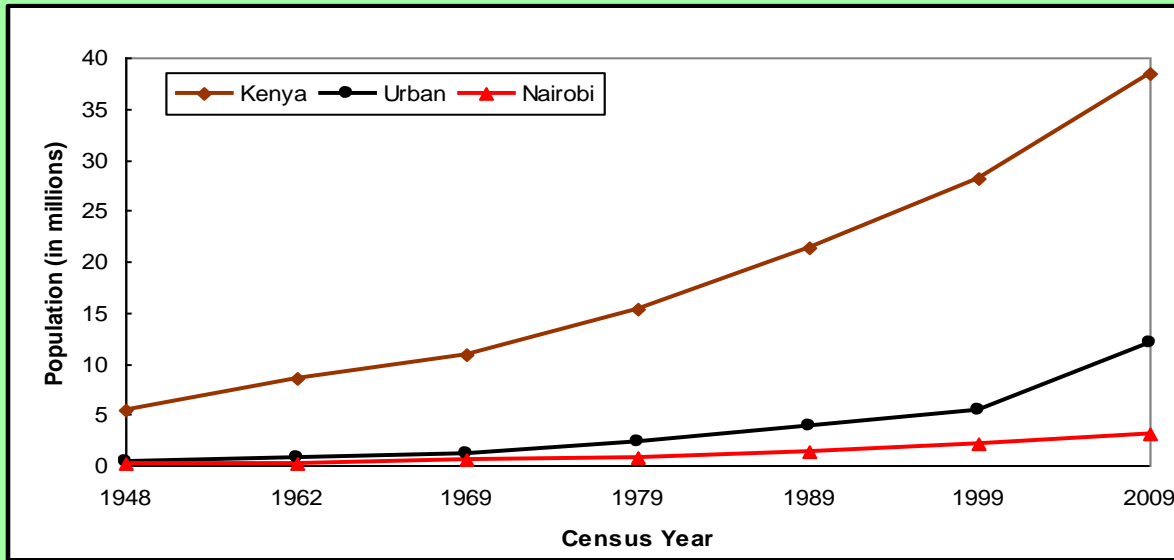
Urbanization Trends in Kenya, 1948-2009

| Year | Total population | No. of urban centres | Urban population | % of urban to total population | Intercensal growth rate (%) |
|------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1948 | 5,407,599 | 17 | 285,000 | 5.3 | - |
| 1962 | 8,636,263 | 34 | 747,651 | 8.7 | 6.3 |
| 1969 | 10,956,501 | 47 | 1,076,908 | 9.8 | 7.1 |
| 1979 | 15,327,061 | 91 | 2,315,696 | 15.1 | 7.7 |
| 1989 | 21,448,774 | 139 | 3,878,697 | 18.1 | 5.2 |
| 1999 | 28,159,922 | 180 | 5,429,790 | 19.3 | 3.4 |
| 2009 | 38,412,088 | 230 | 12,023,570 | 31.3 | 8.3 |

Source: Kenya (forthcoming)

- Urbanization is a product of British colonial administration
- Urban population and number of urban centres is increasing since 1948
- High growth rates after independence but declining from 1989 and up again in 2009
- Dominance of Nairobi (% urban) but declined in 2009
- The emergence of small and medium-sized urban centres
- However, there exists regional variation in urbanization levels, trends & patterns

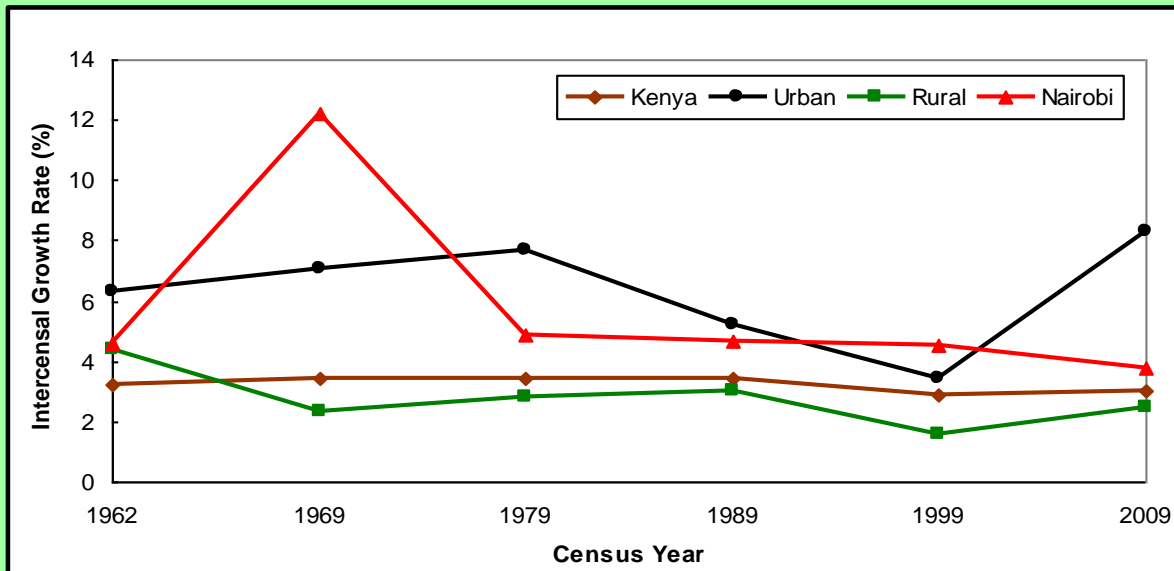
Trends of urban growth in Kenya (1948-2009)



Kenya's Population Growth Trends, 1948-2009

Source: Kenya (forthcoming)

- Declining dominance of Nairobi?



Kenya's Population Growth Rate Trends, 1948-2009

Source: Kenya (forthcoming)

Urban hierarchy: Major urban centres (2009)

Population by Major Urban Centres, 2009

| Urban centre | Total population | Core urban population | Peri-urban population | % of total urban population |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| KENYA | 12,023,570 | 9,090,412 | 2,933,158 | |
| 1. Nairobi | 3,109,861 | 3,109,861 | 0 | 25.9 |
| 2. Mombasa | 925,137 | 905,627 | 19,510 | 7.7 |
| 3. Kisumu | 383,444 | 254,016 | 129,428 | 3.2 |
| 4. Nakuru | 367,183 | 343,395 | 23,788 | 3.1 |
| 5. Eldoret | 312,351 | 247,500 | 64,851 | 2.6 |
| 6. Kikuyu | 264,714 | 200,285 | 64,429 | 2.2 |
| 7. Ruiru | 240,226 | 238,329 | 1,897 | 2.0 |
| 8. Kangundo-Tala | 218,722 | 13,119 | 205,603 | 1.8 |
| 9. Naivasha | 170,551 | 91,898 | 78,653 | 1.4 |
| 10. Thika | 151,225 | 136,386 | 14,839 | 1.3 |
| 11. Machakos | 150,467 | 40,819 | 109,648 | 1.3 |

Source: Kenya (forthcoming)

- Definition problem? Core Vs peri-urban?
- Proximity to Nairobi matters? Role of current devolved governance?

Urban hierarchy: Small and medium-size urban centres

| Urban Population by Size Category of Urban Centres, 1962-2009 | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Year | Category of urban centres by population size | | | | | | | |
| | 1 million and over | | 100,000-999,999 | | 10,000-99,999 | | 2,000-9,999 | |
| | No. | % urban population | No. | % urban Population | No. | % urban Population | No. | % urban population |
| 1962 | 0 | - | 2 | 70 | 5 | 14.1 | 27 | 15.9 |
| 1969 | 0 | - | 2 | 78.4 | 9 | 7.4 | 36 | 14.2 |
| 1979 | 0 | - | 6 | 57.1 | 24 | 40.0 | 64 | 11.9 |
| 1989 | 1 | 34.1 | 5 | 27.0 | 40 | 27.9 | 93 | 11.0 |
| 1999 | 1 | 38.4 | 4 | 22.4 | 62 | 27.8 | 113 | 11.5 |
| 2009 | 1 | 25.9 | 22 | 38.4 | 97 | 30.5 | 110 | 5.2 |

No.= Number of urban centres / *Source: Kenya (forthcoming)*

- An upward trend in their numbers and population over time
- They are expected to dominate the urban hierarchy in future
- Need more emphasis in terms of planning and governance issues
- **In 2009:** 207 in number; 4.3 million people; & 36% of urban population
- The importance of small and medium-size urban centres

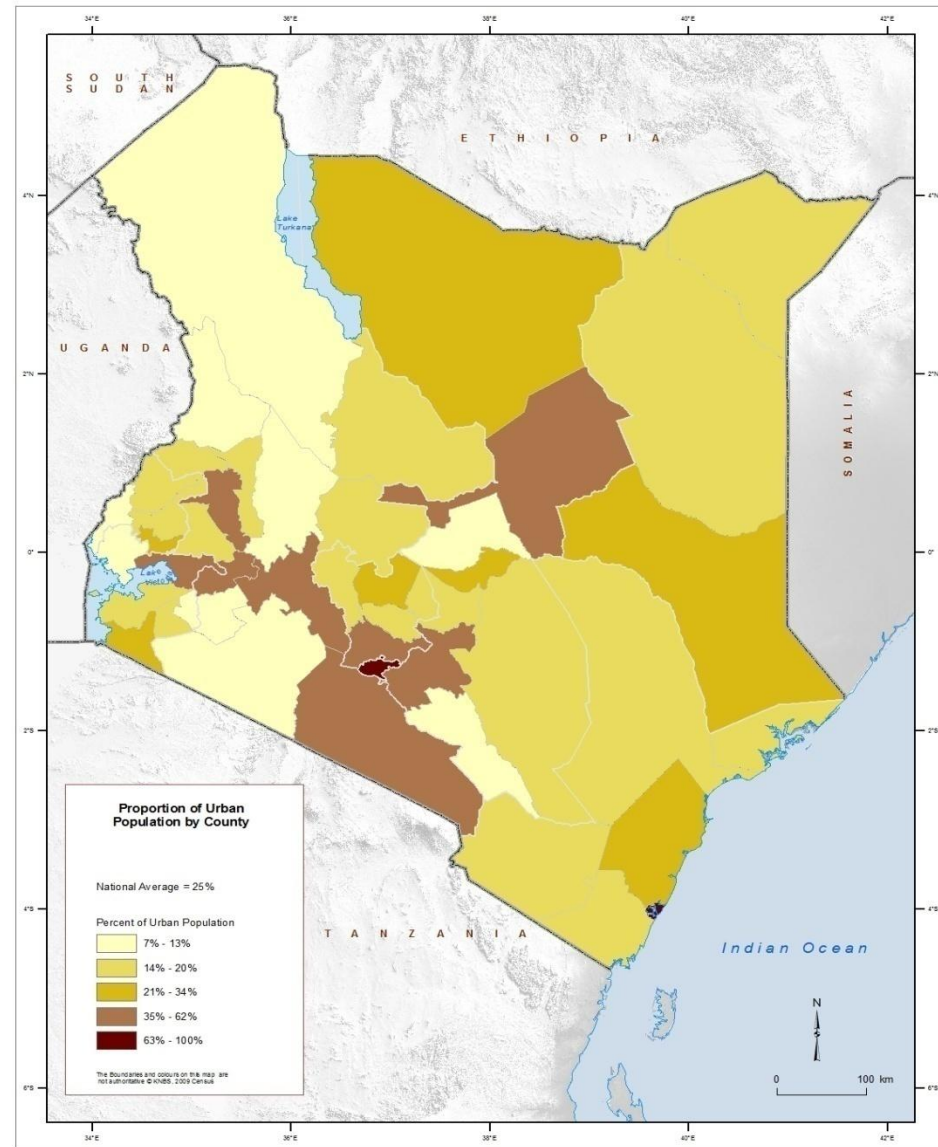
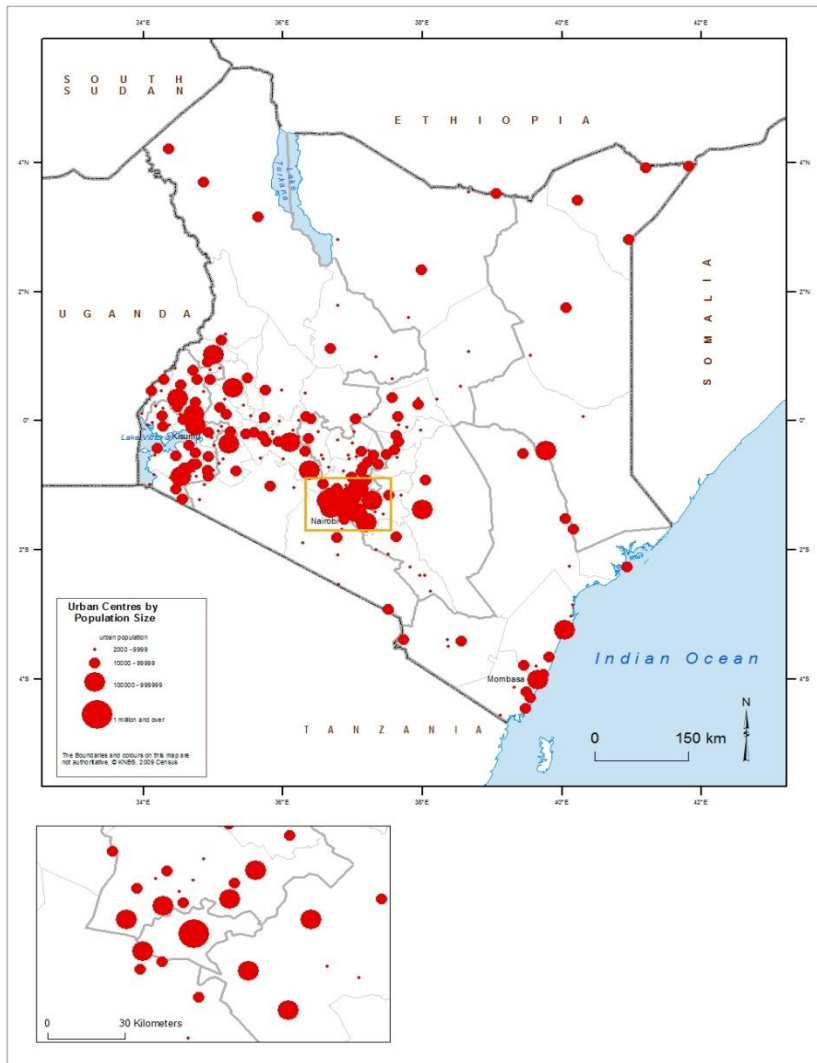
Urban hierarchy: Regional variation

| Urbanization Trends by Province, 1969-2009 | | | | | | |
|---|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---|
| Province | % share of total urban population | | | | | % of urban population in province (2009) |
| | 1969 | 1979 | 1989 | 1999 | 2009 | |
| Nairobi | 47.0 | 35.7 | 34.1 | 38.4 | 25.9 | 100 |
| Central | 4.3 | 5.6 | 8.0 | 6.7 | 12.5 | 34.4 |
| Coast | 26.3 | 17.6 | 15.2 | 16.5 | 11.8 | 43.2 |
| Eastern | 3.5 | 10.1 | 9.2 | 5.3 | 9.9 | 21.1 |
| North Eastern | - | 2.7 | 2.3 | 2.7 | 3.4 | 17.8 |
| Nyanza | 4.1 | 9.0 | 9.1 | 7.9 | 11.1 | 24.6 |
| Rift Valley | 13.8 | 14.8 | 17.3 | 17.4 | 19.6 | 23.7 |
| Western | 1.0 | 4.6 | 4.8 | 5.2 | 5.8 | 16.2 |

Source: Kenya (forthcoming)

- Nairobi continues to dominate the urban landscape
 - North Eastern least urbanised
 - However, further variation at county level & dominance of one or two urban centres
- = The interplay of economic, social, political and historical/colonial factors

Urban hierarchy: Regional variation



Challenges of urban growth

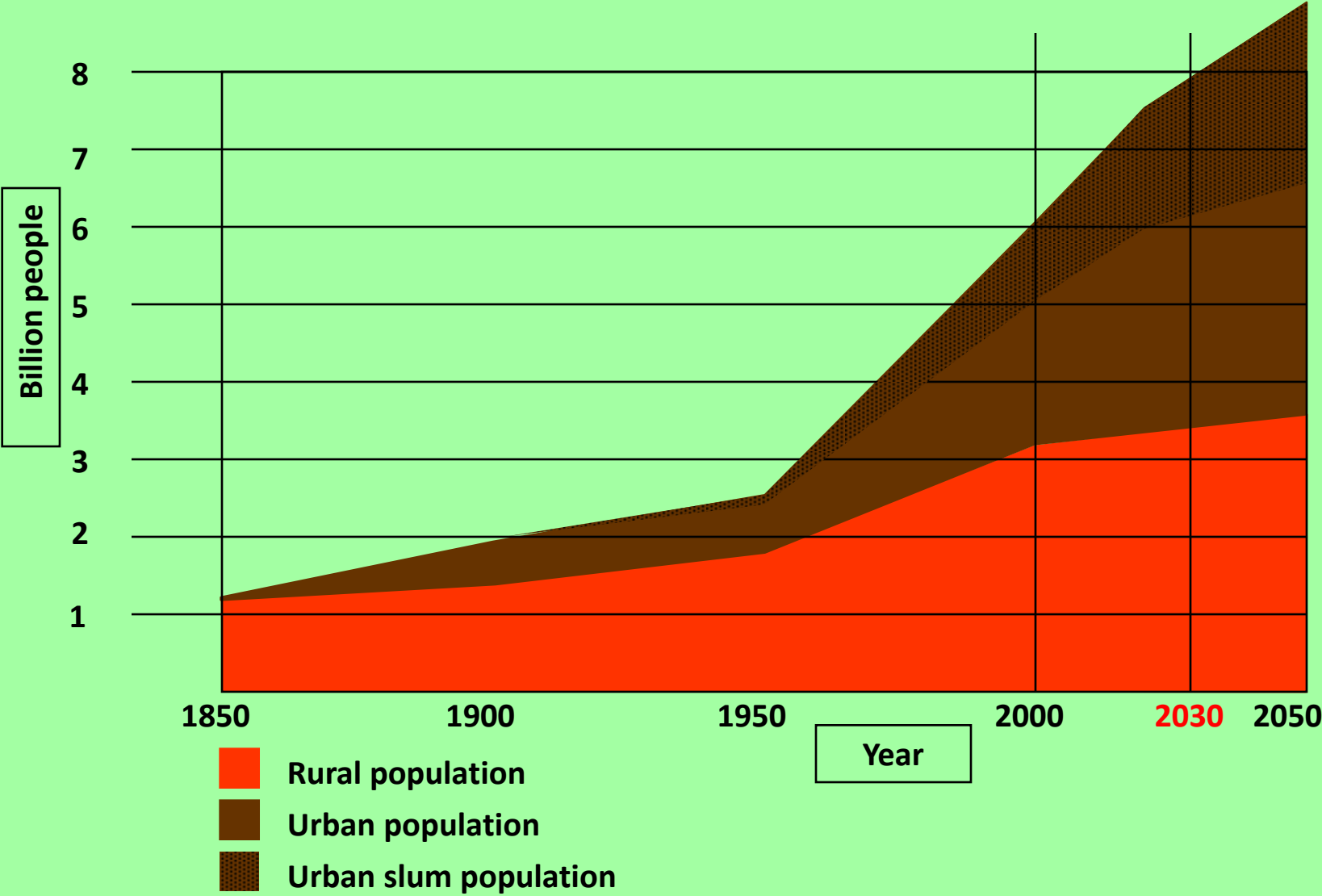
Social, economic, environmental and spatial development challenges and injustices that must be addressed...

- ★ Increased levels of urban poverty, vulnerability, social differentiation, inequity, segregation, exclusion and fragmentation
- ★ Inadequate and poor provision of services, especially to the urban poor
- ★ Unemployment (urban youth) and related crime
- ★ Housing/slum incidence
- ★ Food insecurity
- ★ Transportation/circulation
- ★ Informalization/informality
- ★ Environmental concerns
- ★ Urban planning, development, management and governance concerns

Why urban poverty?

- ✦ Poverty is a multi-dimensional and multi-faceted phenomenon
- ✦ Poverty is not only a state but also a process
- ✦ In the urban context, income remains a central component of poverty
- ✦ The number/proportion of urban poor is increasing
- ✦ The negative impacts of global economic crises and reforms have been felt more severely in urban areas and by the urban poor
- ✦ Majority of the urban poor stay in informal settlements

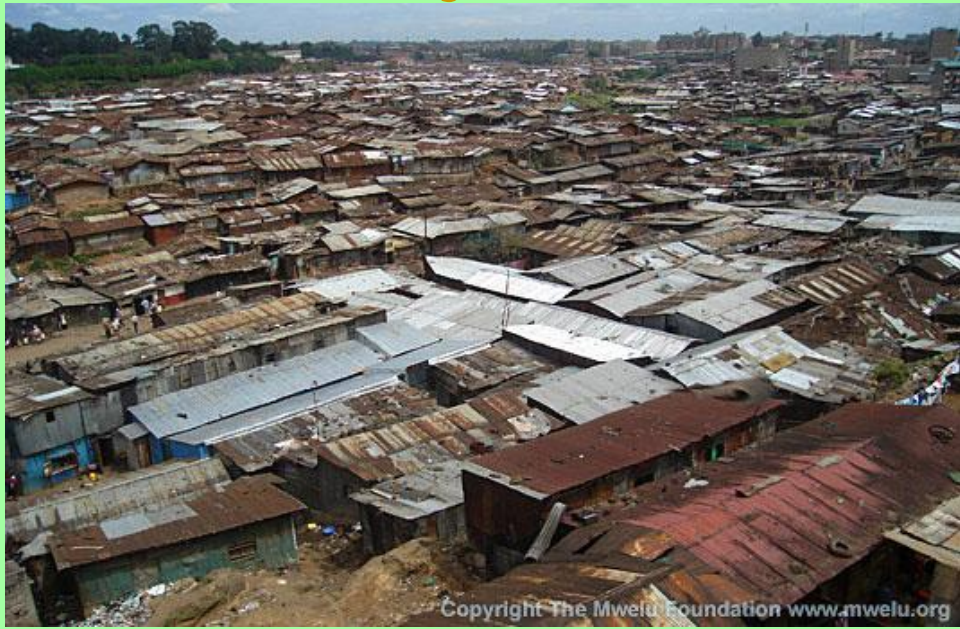
Global growth of informal/slum settlements



Major slums in Nairobi: Kibera



Major slums in Nairobi: Mathare



Major slums in Nairobi: Mukuru

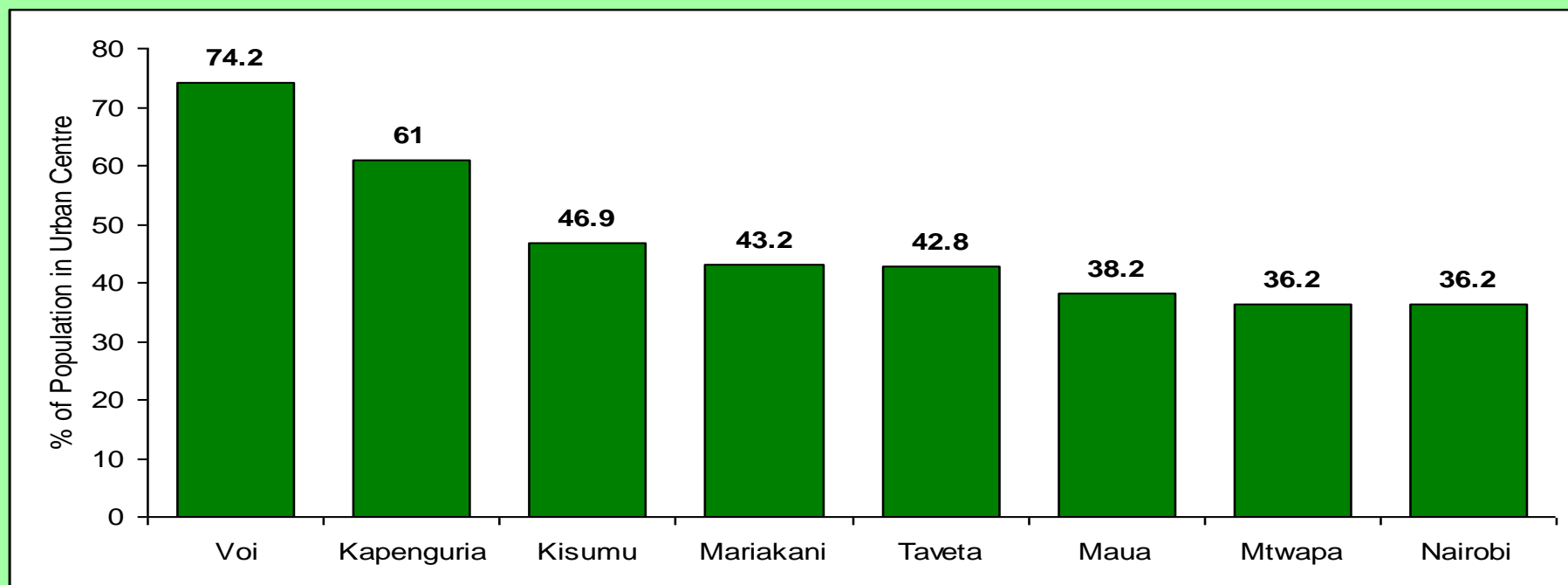


Major slums in Nairobi: Korogocho



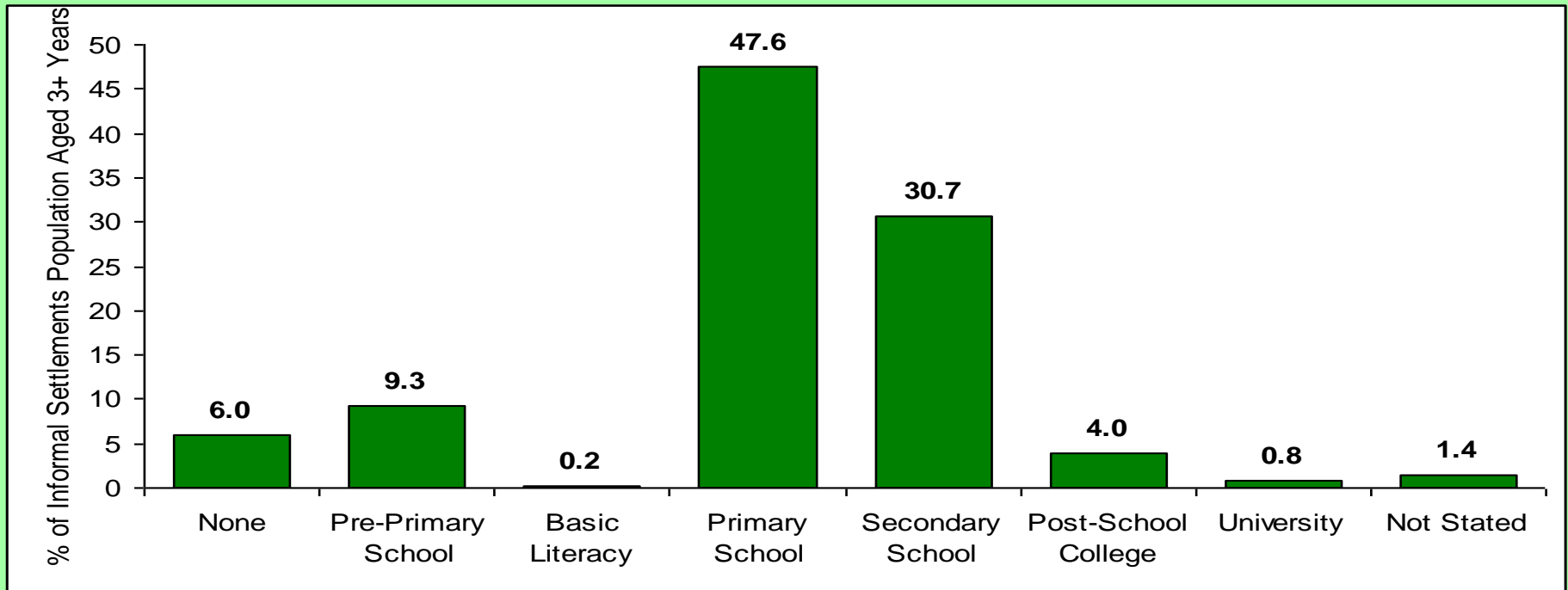
Informal Settlements Population (2009)

| Urban centre | Urban population | Formal settlements (% of popn) | Informal settlements (% of popn) | % of total informal settlements population |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| KENYA | 12,023,570 | 85 | 15 | |
| Nairobi | 3,109,861 | 63.8 | 36.2 | 62.4 |
| Mombasa | 925,137 | 76.5 | 23.5 | 12.1 |
| Kisumu | 383,444 | 53.1 | 46.9 | 10.0 |



Socio-Economic Characteristics (2009)

(Education status & Economic activity)

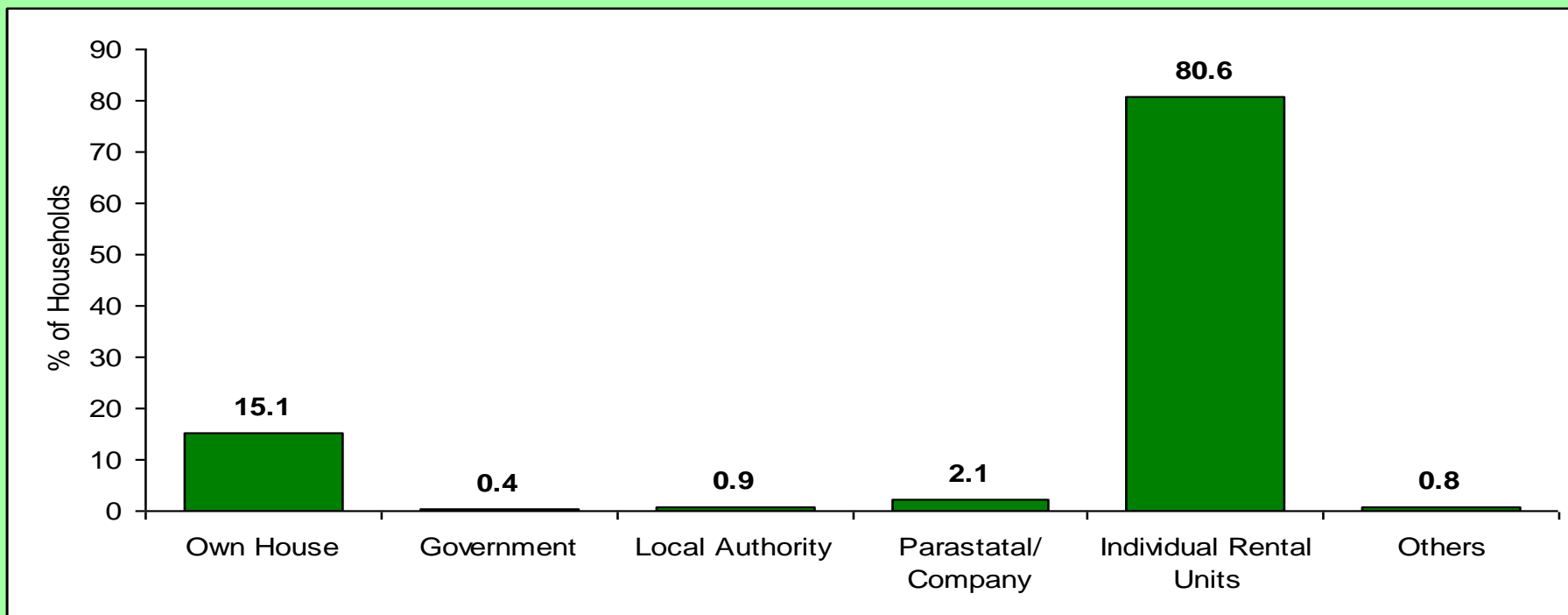


| Economic Activity (% of population aged 5 years and above) | | Main employer by Sector (% of population aged 5 years and above) | |
|---|------|---|------|
| Working | 54.7 | Public | 4.0 |
| Unemployed | 9.1 | Private | 40.4 |
| Inactive | 36.2 | Informal | 55.5 |

Note: The analysis excludes the “not stated” and “not applicable” categories

Housing Characteristics (2009)

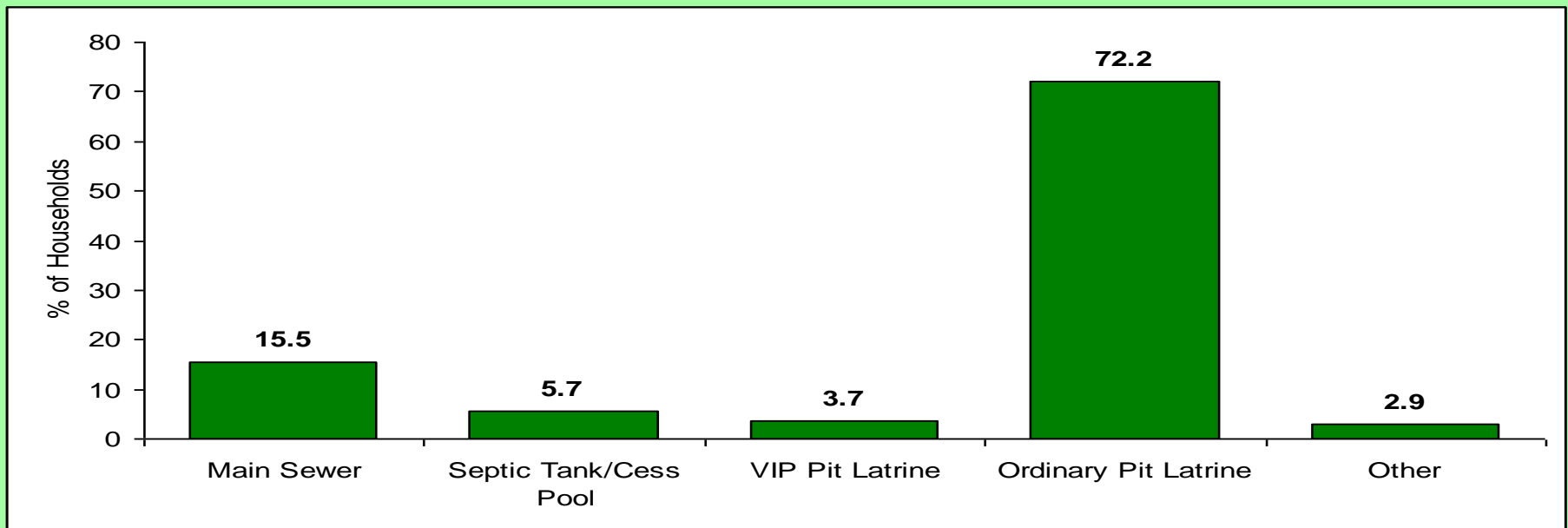
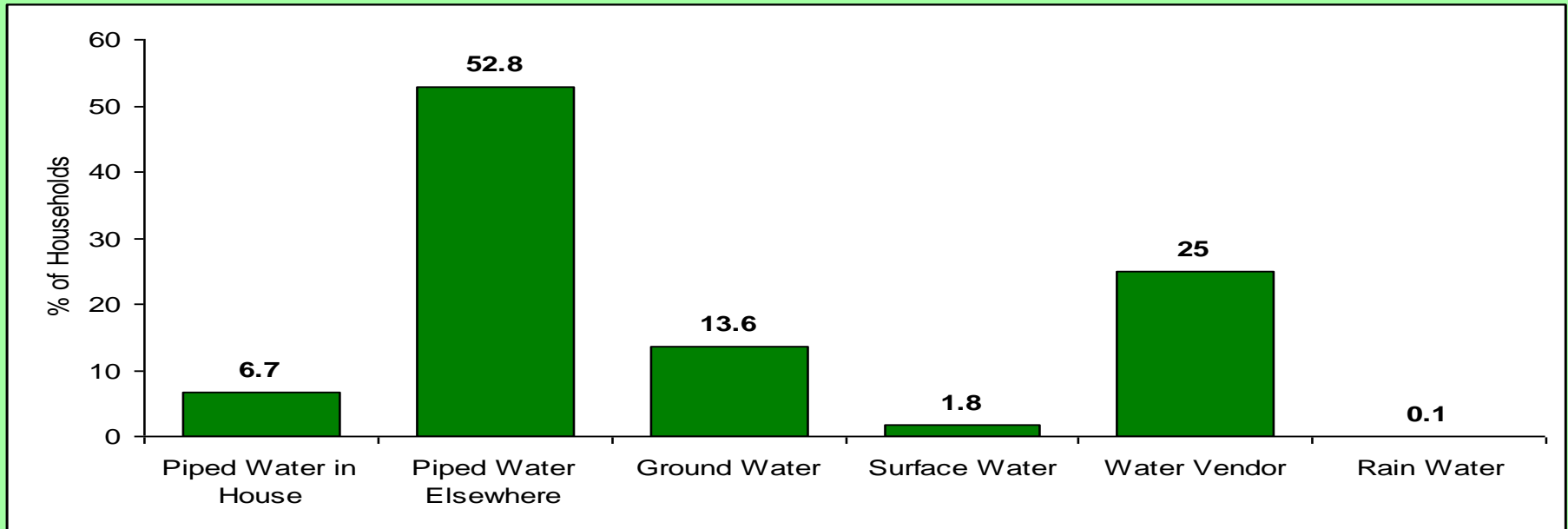
(Tenure status & Housing Condition)



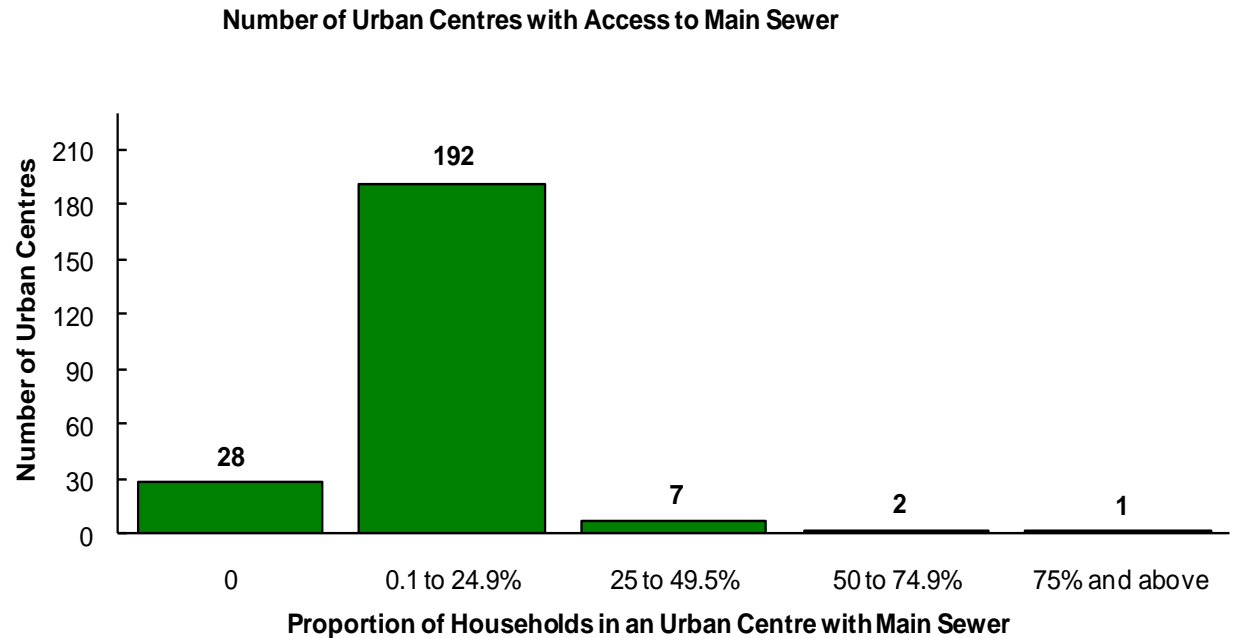
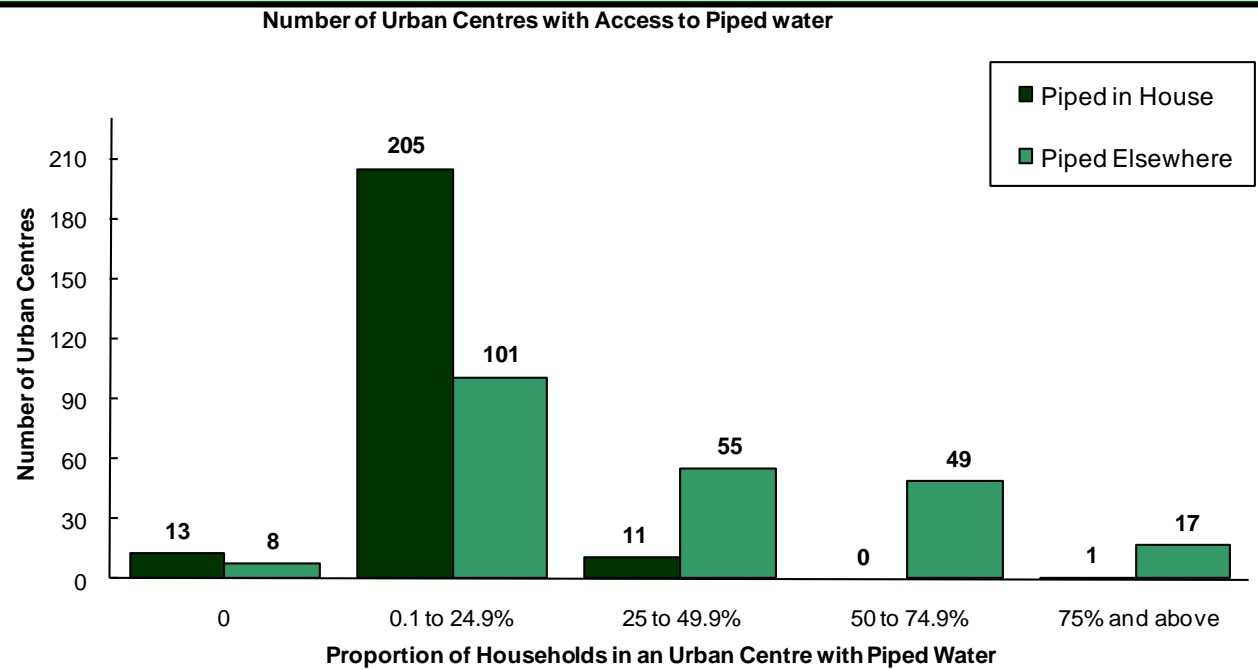
| Dominant Roof Material of Main Dwelling Unit (% of households) | | Dominant Wall Material of Main Dwelling Unit (% of households) | |
|---|------|---|------|
| Iron sheet | 89.4 | Stone/brick/block | 33.1 |
| Titles/concrete/asbestos | 8.6 | Mud | 27.5 |
| Grass/makuti | 1.2 | Wood | 2.9 |
| Tin/mud/dung | 0.6 | Iron sheet | 36.3 |
| Other | 0.2 | Grass/tin/other | 0.2 |

Service Provision (2009)

(Source of water & Human waste disposal)



Water & sanitation situation in urban Kenya is simply pathetic



All is not lost ... there is more life, adaptation and hope in the informal settlements



Responses to increasing urban poverty

- ★ Multiple sourcing of cash incomes
- ★ Own food production
- ★ Reducing expenditure
- ★ Social networks in town
- ★ Urban-rural linkages





KENYA SLUM UPGRADING PROGRAMME (KENSUP)



A COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMME BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF KENYA AND UN-HABITAT

VISION

To have improved and sustainable urban living environments in Kenya.

- ★ The **overall aim** is to improve the livelihoods of people living & working in slums through a multidisciplinary, integrated, decentralized, participatory, all-inclusive and sustainable approach – in the context of MDGs

Watsan interventions in Kibera

| | Soweto East (%) (N=56) | Lindi (%) (N=61) |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Source of water (regular – most of the time) | 82 | 1.6 |
| Cost of water per day (>KES 20) | 21.4 | 85 |
| Time taken to fetch water (>30 minutes) | 7.1 | 32.8 |
| Perception on the current water source's safety for drinking (not safe) | 51.8 | 75.4 |
| Experienced periods of longer than normal water scarcity | 53.6 | 74.6 |
| Prevalence of typhoid, diarrhea and cholera | 70.5 | 76.8 |
| Type of sanitation facility (modern ablution block) | 98.2 | 0 |

Watsan interventions in Kisumu

| | Wandiege Connected (N=29) | Wandiege Un-connected (N=34) | Bandani (N=60) |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Time spent to fetch water | 7 mins | 31 mins | 42 mins |
| Water consumption/hhold/day | 135 litres | 116 litres | 98 litres |
| Water consumption/capita/day | 29 litres | 25 litres | 20 litres |
| Cost of water/month | 512 Shs | 503 Shs | 716 Shs |
| Incidence of water-borne diseases | 14% | 29% | 42% |
| Access to improved sanitation facilities | 43% | 7% | 2% |

In conclusion...

- ✦ Urban population is growing very fast while the economic growth and development transformations necessary to support it and enhance quality of life are not occurring at the same rate.
- ✦ The main challenge is not to slow it down but to learn how to deal with the rapid growth.
- ✦ Any urban development policy should aim at guiding the urbanization process by reducing risks and maximizing opportunities offered by the urbanization process.
- ✦ It is indeed possible to move from chaotic cities to harmonious cities provided good policies and strategies are adopted, investments mobilized, stakeholder participation secured, good governance practiced and human development recognized.



Thank you and welcome to the University of Nairobi

