



The Lunchbowl Network

KIBERA





Kibera is within the city of Nairobi in Kenya.



Kibera is home to a fifth of Nairobi's population and is the biggest slum or informal settlement in Africa with an estimated 1.5 million people living in a densely populated area.





People from Kibera live in a harsh and challenging environment. However, despite their living conditions, many residents are resourceful, with a strong community identity, a sense of responsibility and care for others, with a tenacity to survive.





The high population density and lack of infrastructure has led to problems of drainage, sanitation and solid waste management.

Most sewage runs downhill in open ditches, resulting in stagnation, breeding insects and environmental pollution.

Many residents resort to using “flying toilets,” using a plastic bag as a toilet and throwing the contents. The unsanitary condition becomes a breeding ground for water and air borne diseases such as typhoid and cholera.





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People live in small, cramped, dark single room huts that mostly comprise mud walls, a corrugated tin roof and a dirt or concrete floor. It is common for 5 or more family members to live in one hut. Children usually will sleep on the hard floor.



Due to the open sewage, large rats come into peoples homes. In the heavy rains many huts leak and some near to the river are washed away. Families will cook using small charcoal stoves within their hut which is a health risk and dangerous for small children.

Sources: BBC NEWS, UN HABITAT



The most vulnerable within Kibera are young children. Sadly, due to lack of medical intervention some children will die. Severe diarrhea can often lead to fatalities.



There are thousands of children in Kibera who through no fault of their own, live in extreme poverty without access to sanitation, electricity, clean water, medication or adequate education; the basic rights of any child.