

# Case Study of a Squatter Settlement - Kibera Shanty Town in Nairobi, Kenya



# Characteristics of the squatter settlement and living conditions

- Homes are made of mud, plastered over boards, wood or corrugated iron sheeting.
- The paths between the houses are irregular, narrow and often have a ditch running down the middle that has sewage in it.
- Rubbish litters the area as it is not collected. The area smells of the charcoal used to provide fuel and of human waste.
- A standpipe may supply water for up to 40 families: private operators run hosepipes into the area and charge double the going rate for water.



**KIBERA**

**PROBLEMS**

**&**

**SOLUTIONS**

**PROBLEMS**

# Kibera's People

- Between 800,000 and 1 million people live in the shanty town in an area of only 255 hectares, meaning that population density is so high that people have only  $1\text{m}^3$  of space each.
- Over 100,000 children are believed to be orphans due to the high incidence of HIV/Aids.



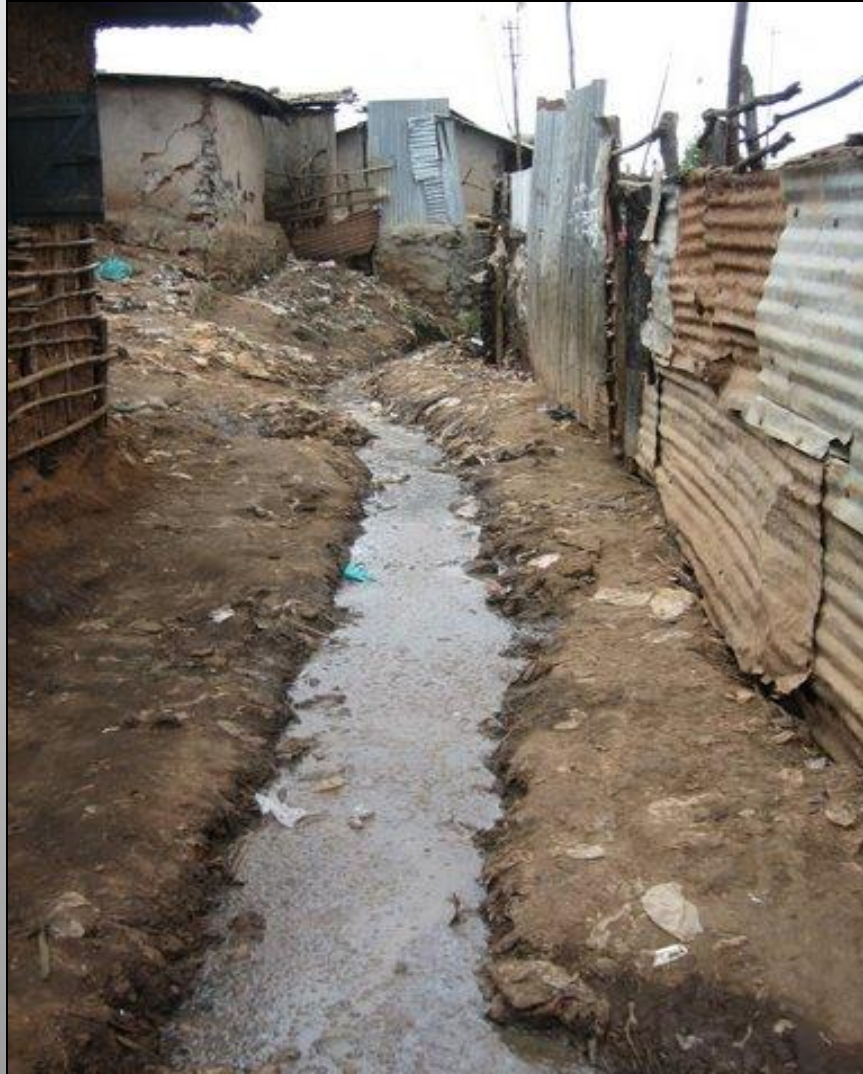
# homelessness



rubbish



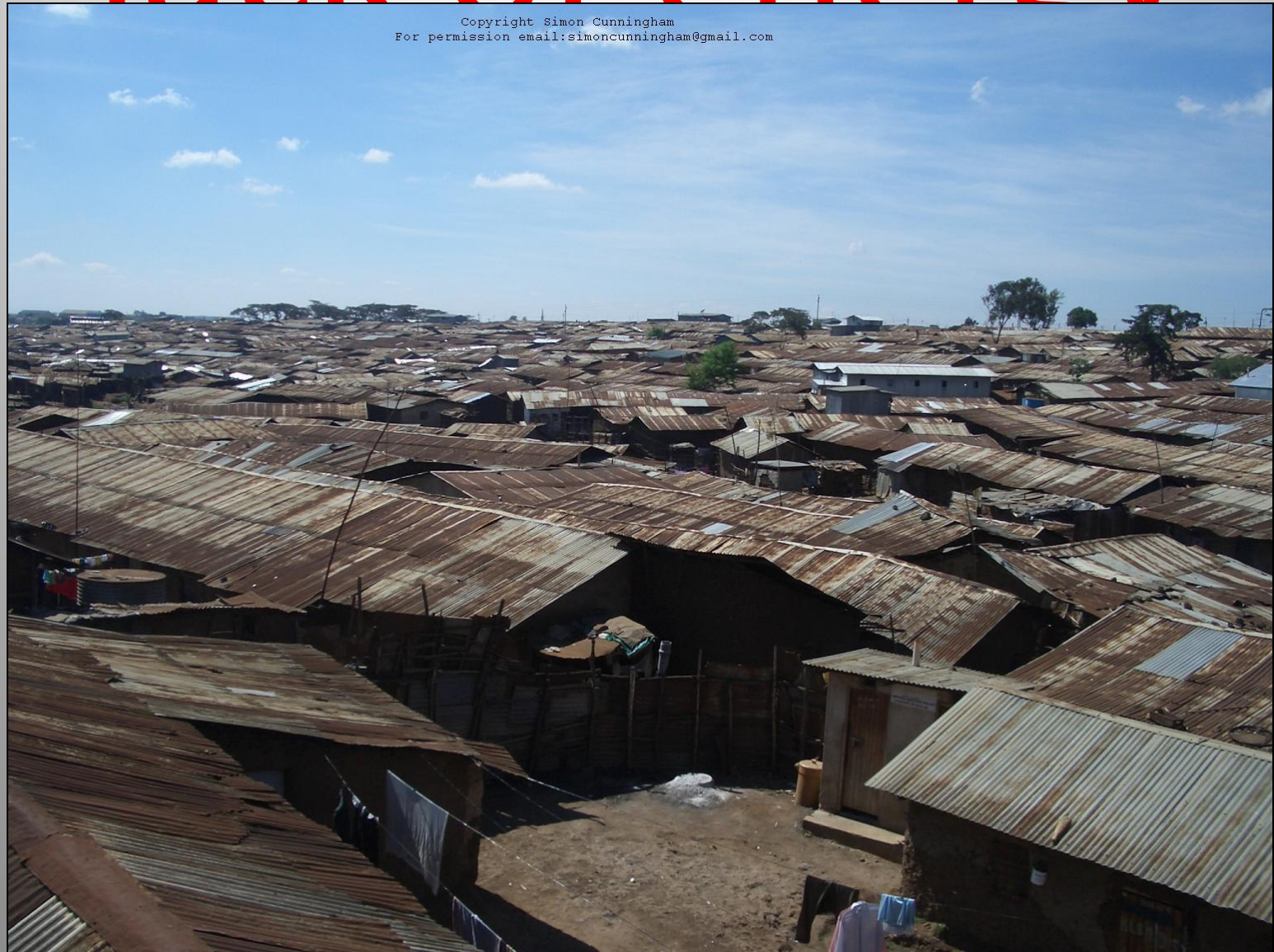
# open sewers





# lack of energy

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# Kibera's Problems (continued)

- Crime is rife and vigilante groups offer protection – at a price. The police are reluctant to enter the slum.
- However, there is a community spirit: homes are kept clean and the residents welcome visitors.



# aids



# unemployment



# SOLUTIONS

what people can do for improvement Kibera

Grants given to set up small scale businesses.



Cheap better quality housing  
built away from Kibera.



# What attempts have been made to improve Kibera?

Practical Action, a British Charity, has been responsible for low cost roofing tiles made from sand and clay and adding lime and natural fibre to soil to create blocks used for building that are cheaper than concrete. These allow self help schemes to progress.

The United Nations' Human Settlement Programme (UN Habitat) has provided affordable electricity to some parts of the slum at 300 Kenyan shillings per shack.

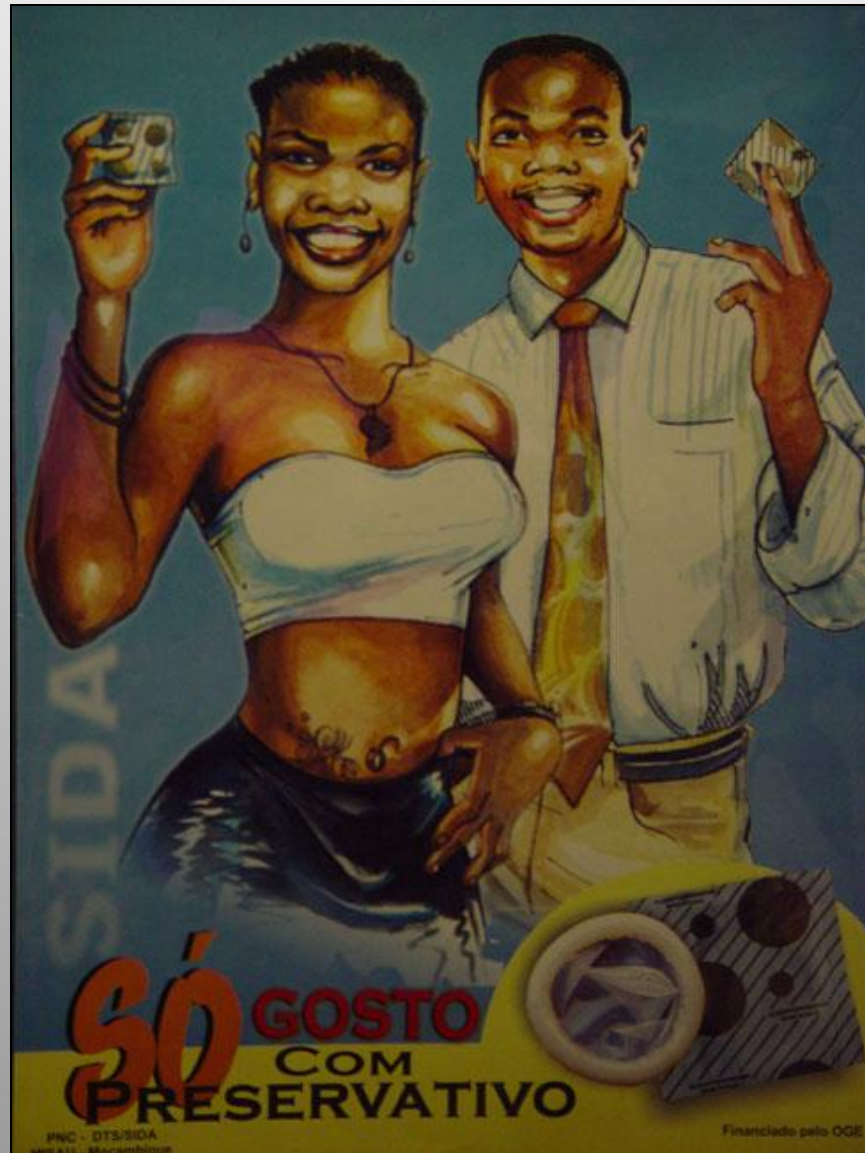
There are two main water pipes - one provided by the council and the other by the World Bank - at a cost of 3 Kenyan Shillings per 20 litres.

Improving sanitation is more difficult and progress is slow. Charities such as the Red Cross are supporting the improvements. Gap year students are encouraged to go to Kibera to oversee the spending and to help





Provide condoms and educate people.





toilet  
and wash  
blocks were  
built and cess  
pits are  
regularly  
emptied.

# Recycling and clean up projects introduced.



# Bio gas created from human toilet waste.

