"Solutions to Urban Slums: Building on Communities Knowledge & Heritage"
Historical Perspective and Factors

- Colonial plans covered only a small portion of the City.
- Presence of privately owned land (Mailo) adjacent to planned areas.
- Decades of political strife, bad governance and economic decline soon after independence.
- Plans prepared were not enforced as a non-planning culture took root hence a lot of unguided development.
Historical Perspective and Factors

- Complex Multiplicity of land holding systems in the city with many private landlords
- Risk of incoherence and inconsistence in planning decision making as city planning process still ongoing!
- So which part of Kampala is a slum? Rather talk of informal settlements.
Historical Perspective and Factors

Slum or Not?
So How Did Kampala’s Informal Settlements Come About?

- Rapid Urban Population Growth propelled to a great extent by rural-urban migration catalysed by the prospects of a better life (60% GDP)
- Vacant/Underutilised land (both public and private) in the vicinity of established employment centres
- Insecurity of tenure
- Weak development control
Current perspective of Kampala’s Informal Settlements

- 62 informal settlements
- 49% to 64% of the total urban population live in slums
- Estimated population of 560,000 families
- 70% temporary buildings
- Minimum humanitarian standards set for access to water, shelter and sanitation
- Mostly high risk areas to environmental hazards, communicable diseases among others
- Characterised by high rates/levels of noise, crime, drug abuse, immorality, alcoholism and high HIV/AIDS prevalence.
Spatial Distribution & Popn. Density of Informal Settlements

Source: www.actogether.org
Kampala’s Experience in resolving Informal Settlements

Namuwongo

Significant effort at slum eradication in Kampala.

The solution did not address the real needs of the population so they sold out and set up along the nearby railway line.
Kampala’s Experience in resolving Informal Settlements

✓ Several players (CBO’s & NGOs) continue to assist in this area with specialised areas of expertise/service*

✓ KCCA efforts to date have focussed on critical services:
  Å Access to clean water
  Å Garbage collection
  Å Health services
  Å Improved roads

Source: KCCA

Source: www.bukedde.co.ug
Kampala’s Experience in resolving Informal Settlements

Now moving on to a more holistic approach

Partnership with CBO’s started to deal with one informal settlement

More collaboration with all stakeholders ongoing
Some Constraints to solving slum problems

- Land ownership/ tenure insecurity
- Financing
- Absence of land banks
- Political manipulation
- Imbalance in Regional Development
Proposed Interventions by KCCA

- Creation of a Slum Upgrading Fund
- Developing of an integrated human settlement plan that includes not just houses, but all the ingredients of a community.
- Creation of land banks;
- Development and implementation of relocation program for slum improvement.
- Promotion of joint ventures in upgrading informal settlements
- Identifying areas where urban low cost housing estates can be constructed
- Proper Engagement of all stakeholders in the process
A GOOD LEARNING OPPORTUNITY FOR KAMPALA!

• Listen and share the experiences of those who have better experience in reducing the burden of slums in their towns and cities.

• Eager to learn how heritage may inform solutions to the life of the underprivileged in a complex community.
Addressing the Challenge of Slums

- Developing City plans and regulatory mechanisms that are cognisant of the **local dynamics** of land development;
- Developing plans that **improve** informal and slum settlements and support social housing;
- Developing plans to **provide basic services** and ensure human safety;
- Developing of **all inclusive city**, ensuring urban equity and elimination of spatial exclusion;
- Developing of City plans that take into account **climate change issues** including restoration of forests and wetlands;