

# Mathare Settlements

## Profiling Data Findings

*"Making the invisible visible"*



Prepared by: **Rogers Abala**  
**Kilion Nyambuga**  
**Jane Wairutu**  
**Milka Kori**  
**(SDI-Kenya)**

## About SDI-K/Muongano Wa Wanavijiji

SDI-Kenya is a non-profit organization providing technical support to Muungano wa Wanavijiji, the National Movement of the urban poor in Kenya. Formed in 1996, the movement brings together local groups from cities and towns to improve the quality of life of slum dwellers and urban poor people in Kenya through a process of policy advocacy and dialogue. SDI Kenya and Muungano Wa Wanavijiji is currently working in 21 counties in Kenya, partnering with different county governments and other Civil Society Organizations.

Muongano wa Wanavijiji is a social movement of residents of informal settlements and markets. Currently, it is constituted by over 1,000 slum-based community groups, spread across urban centres in 21 of Kenya & 47 counties. This includes the cities of Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu and Nakuru. These community groups, which share the methodology and federate to form Muungano, are individually autonomous. Typically, they seek formal registration, either as self-help groups or community-based organizations.

Muongano groups, within close proximity of each other, form local networks. These networks enable peer learning between the groups and are the first line of support for the individual groups. The networks also federate at the city level. These city networks are a platform to engage city authorities and advocate on issues of common interest.



*Muongano Wa Wanavijiji training community on mapping*



*Youths participating in mapping activity in Mathare*

## Settlement Profiling

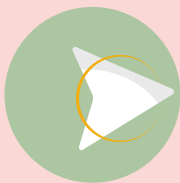
A settlement profile is a tool that is used to provide a concise and thorough assessment of data that highlights important physical, socioeconomic, and administrative aspects that affect a specific settlement through a geographical view. The tool allows for the gathering/collection of data/information about a certain settlement at the settlement level without having to acquire the same information at the household level.

Settlement profiling is mainly done by the community in which the community leads the process of data collection. The urban poor communities have been at the forefront of collecting data and producing more knowledge about their settlements as well as their everyday lives. The data obtained has assisted the residents of the settlement in establishing better ties with the government and allowing them to interact with various agencies that work on the land, housing infrastructure, and other urban-related concerns. The evidence generated by the community through this tool has influenced decisions and priority projects in most communities.

The profiling process is important since it offers a glimpse of baseline information on the scale and nature of informality, assets, and the conditions of poverty. It also provides a detailed overview of a settlement, its inhabitants, brief history, land tenure, quality of housing, extent of provision of infrastructure and services, and the residents' main problems and priorities. The process of collecting information through settlement profiling offers an effective tool for mobilization at the community and settlement levels. It also allows community members to open dialogues with city authorities and development partners around informal settlement upgrading, ensuring community participation in planning design and implementation.

The main purpose of the settlement profile is to collect verifiable demographic information that can be used to plan for the settlement to be declared as a special planning area. The settlement profiling process is mainly aimed at collecting data in relation to:

- Access to land (eviction threats)
- Access to services (water and sanitation, electricity, health, education, etc)
- Livelihood opportunities
- Demand for planning and housing
- As a tool for advocacy.



## Methodology

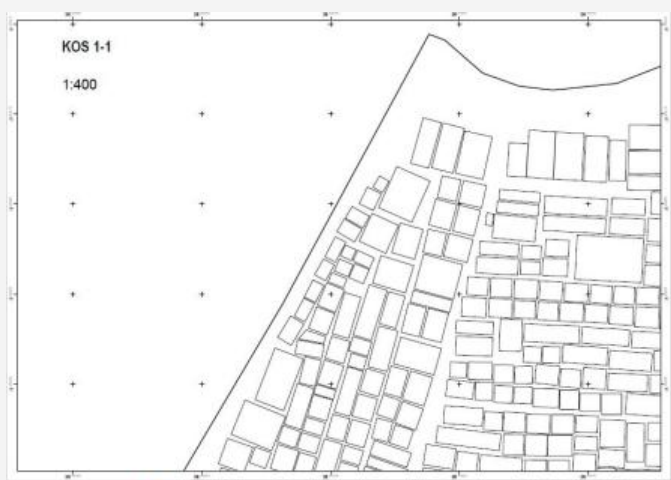
Informal settlements present regions that have different partners, including service providers, housing providers (structure owners), health providers, county governments, local administration, and other institutions that provide various interventions aimed at improving the livelihoods of the urban poor.

The settlement profiling adopted a community participatory method approach in the collection of data. The approach was mainly used as it appreciates and involves the different partners the settlement has.

It involved a series of activities which includes;

### 1. Preparation of data collection tools

- Structure tallying sheet—a tally sheet developed to help capture information on community structures.
- Mapping sheets— This was produced after the digitization of structures from google earth.



Mapping sheet

- Satellite images— Images of each village were produced from google earth and printed to guide mappers in the identification of community landmarks.



SDI Informal settlement/slum profile questionnaire –Helped in capturing the history of settlements. This tool enabled the collection of data on the land tenure system, eviction threats, leadership/organization within the settlements, community priorities, etc.

Date of Profile		D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y	A2	Profiled by	A3	Profiler contact details
A1													
Contact Person(s) in village	A4	Name	Name	Surname	A5	Telephone Number							
	1	Female Leader			<input type="checkbox"/>								
	2	Female Leader			<input type="checkbox"/>								
	3	Male Leader			<input type="checkbox"/>								
4	Male Leader				<input type="checkbox"/>								
<b>A. WHERE IS THE VILLAGE LOCATED AND HOW DID IT COME TO BE HERE?</b>													
<b>INTERVIEWERS PLEASE NOTE</b>													
Questions B1, B3, B4, B5 and B6 can be completed before going to the village if the information is available. Where ever possible try to engage community members in a conversation about their village and not just go through the list of questions. Where possible, please record any additional observations or comments in the spaces provided to give a more holistic picture of the village, its conditions and experiences of daily life.													
When checking a box please use a X to fill the box as this is easier to read after													
B1	If possible, please collect the GPS coordinates for the village. Try to collect this point as close to the centre of the village as possible.										Square Meters		Acres
B2	What is the total size of the land the Village is located on?												
B3	Country	KENYA				B4	County						
B5	City					B6	Municipality						
B7	Ward												
B8	Constituency												
B7	What name does the community have for this village?												
B8	How did this village get this name?												
B9	In what year was this village established?												
B10	What name does the municipality have for this village?												
B11	What landmarks are nearby that could help me find this village again?												

Focused Group Discussion Guide

**MUUNGANO WA WANAVIJIJI – STRUCTURE AND HOUSEHOLD TALLYING SHEET.**

No.	Structure No.	STRUCTURE USE 1. Residential 2. Business 3. Residential/Bus 4. School 5. Religious Instit. 6. Other (Specify)	Type of Structure 1. Permanent 2. Temporary	Building Materials			Storey Building 1. G. floor 2. G + 1 3. G + 2 4. G + 3 5. G + 4 6. G + 5	No. of Room	Idadi ya familia (No. of H/Hs)	Idadi ya watu. (No of Persons)	Wangapi ni wenye jumba/wakaaji (How many are Structure Owners/Tenant)		Kodi ni Pesa ngapi? (Amount of rent paid)	Jina la jingo (Building/School Name)
				Floor	Wall	Roof					SOs	Tenant		
1.														
2.														
3.														
4.														
5.														
6.														
7.														
8.														
9.														
10.														
11.														
12.														
13.														
14.														
15.														
16.														
17.														
18.														
19.														
20.														
21.														
22.														
23.														
24.														
25.														
26.														
27.														

Write Name of Settlement; Names of Mappers and their Contacts and the back of this Sheet.

*Structure Tallying Sheet*



Ongoing community training on structure numbering and mapping



Mathare youth conducting numbering of structures



## 2. Training of Data Collection team.

Community members were mobilized to help collect data from their settlements. This team was first trained on the various tools that were used in data collection. The training forum helped in expressing the importance of the data collection process. Community members were assigned duties of collecting data in a settlement where they reside for the purposes of data accuracy/clarity. The history of the settlements was provided by the elderly members of the community through an FGD.

## 3. Data Collection.

The actual data collection started on 5th February 2022 – 30th February 2022 where 12 settlements in Mathare were profiled.

## 4. Data Analysis.

Spatial data were analyzed with the help of Google Earth which enabled the identification of settlement locations within the county boundary. Arc GIS analysis enabled the presentation of the distribution of wards and villages in Mathare.

## Summary of methodology used

- 1 Preparation of tools
- 2 Training of data collection team
- 3 Actual data collection
- 4 Data entry and analysis
- 5 Data presentation



*Mathare community leader creating awareness on settlement profiling*

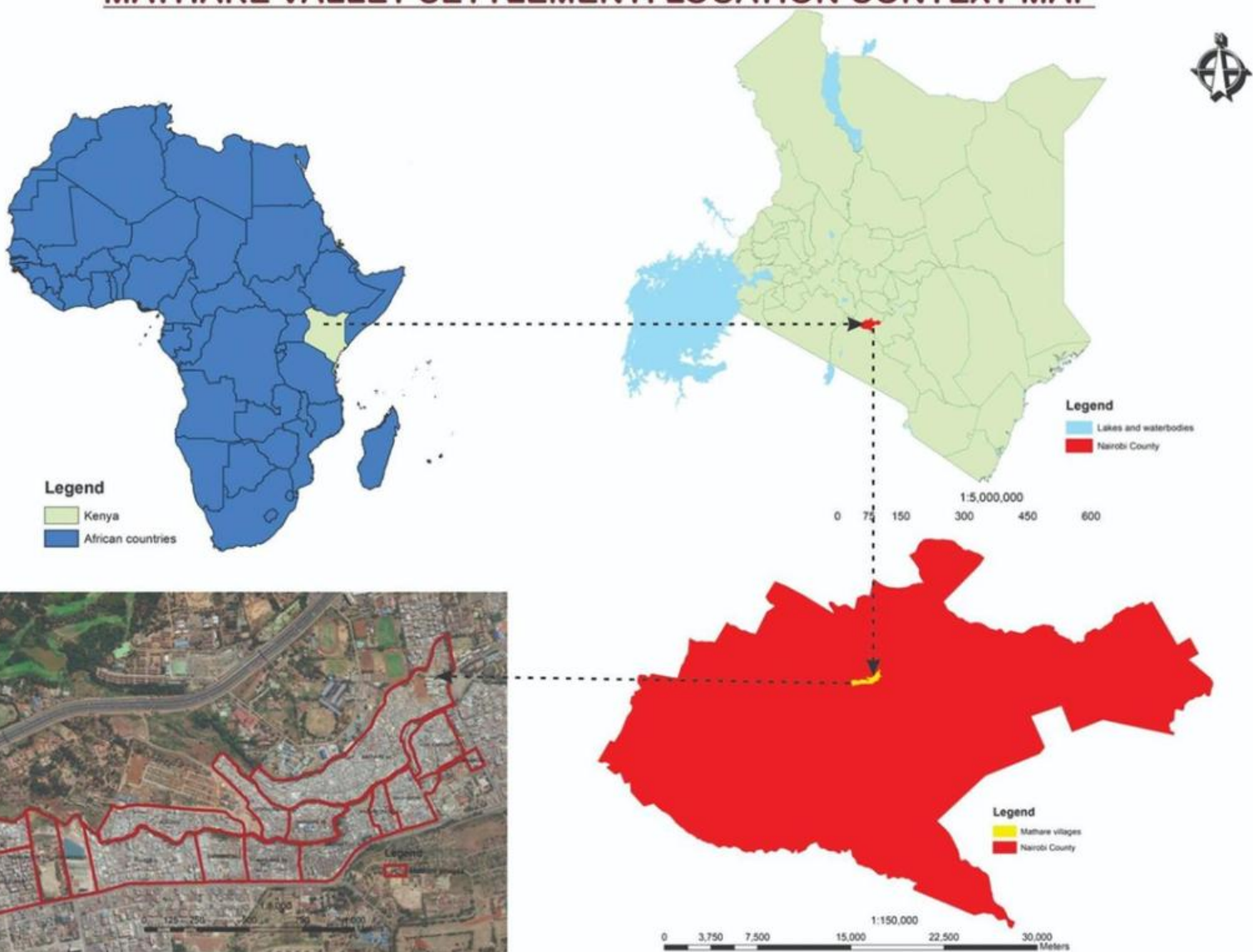
## Mathare Valley: Location

Mathare Informal settlement is located approximately 6 kilometers northwest of Nairobi CBD. Mathare settlements are within the Mathare constituency and four administrative wards mainly Hospital, Mabatini, Utalii, and Mlango Kubwa wards. There are a total of 6 villages in the Mabatini ward (Kwa Kariuki, Mathare 3C, Mathare 3A, Mathare No. 10, and Mashimoni). Mlango Kubwa ward is made up of Kiamutisya, Village 2, and Mathare 3B villages. Additionally, Hospital ward is made up of Mathare 4B, Kosovo, and Gitathuru villages while Utalii ward has only one village i.e. Mathare 4A village.

Mathare community is centered between two major city roads; Thika road and Juja road. In addition, It is next to high-income residential estates (Muthaiga), and middle-income; Pangani. Just across the Juja, there is a business hub; Eastleigh which is known for its business prowess.

The Mathare river and Gitathuru river flow within the settlement and with almost no access to free public toilets, people use flying toilets and then throw them into the river, which has caused pollution and thus leads to an outbreak of some diseases.

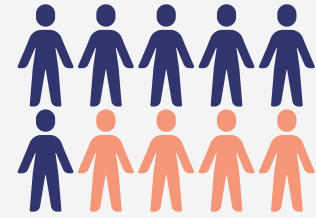
### MATHARE VALLEY SETTLEMENT: LOCATION CONTEXT MAP



# Profiling Data Findings

## Population

Kenya's population has been growing since independence with the 2019 census enumerating a population of 47,564,296 people. According to conventional estimates, Nairobi's population growth has been over four per cent for decades but somewhat falling. In 2020, the urban population amounted to 28% of the total population. Further 60% of the urban population is considered to dwell in informal settlements.



## Gender



51%



49%

The settlement has a total population of **245,468** people.

The average household size in Mathare is **4**.

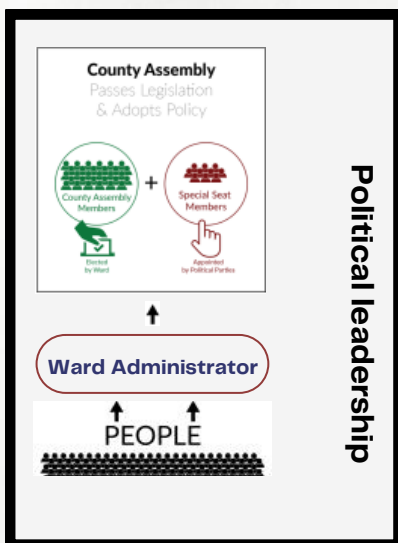
**61,367** is the total number of households.

An estimated 45.4% of HHs are single female-headed, and 40.1% are single male-headed HHs.

Averagely 14% of HHs reported both parents present

The majority of the population (70.8%) in Mathare are youths aged between 14–45 years. An estimated 2.5% are aged between 46–50 years, and 1.6% are aged above 60 years.

## Leadership & Governance



Mathare valley has four Members of the County Assembly (MCAs) each representing one ward. They are key components of the county governments and sustain the counties' existence. Mathare sub-county administration is headed by Deputy County Commissioner who is appointed by Minister for interior and coordination. He works closely with the Assistant County Commissioner, chiefs, village elders, and nyumba kumi elders.



## Mathare settlement Villages

WARD	VILLAGE	NUMBER OF ROOMs	NUMBER OF HHs	POPULATI ON ESTIMATES	AREA (ACRES)	Population Density
MABATINI WARD	Mabatini/Kwa Kariuki	1037	6249	24,996	32.83	761
	Mathare 3C	3361	3597	14,388	19.77	722
	Mathare No. 10	1852	4375	17,500	4.94	3,542
	Mashimoni	3643	7770	31,080	18	1,726
	Mathare 3A	2416	4421	17,684	12.36	1,431
<b>Total</b>		<b>12,306</b>	<b>26,412</b>	<b>105,648</b>	<b>87.9</b>	<b>1,636.4</b>
MLANGO KUBWA WARD	Kiamutisya	2873	2369	9,476	12.36	767
	Village 2	7381	13045	52,180	22.24	2,346
	Mathare 3B	5006	9945	39,780	19.77	2,012
<b>Total</b>		<b>15,260</b>	<b>25,359</b>	<b>101,436</b>	<b>54.37</b>	<b>1,708.3</b>
HOSPITAL WARD	Mathare 4B	2695	1949	7,796	10	780
	Kosovo	7841	3906	15,624	19.77	790
	Gitathuru	-	-	-	21	
<b>Total</b>		<b>10,536</b>	<b>5,855</b>	<b>23,420</b>	<b>50.77</b>	<b>785</b>
UTALII WARD	Mathare 4A	4192	3741	14,964	56.83	263
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>42,297</b>	<b>61,367</b>	<b>245,468</b>	<b>249.87</b>	<b>Average 1,262</b>

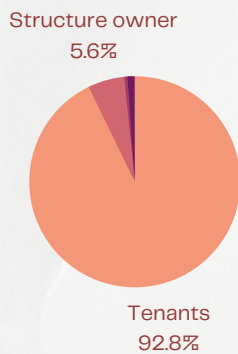
*NOTE: Data collection has not been conducted in Gitathuru village*

## Housing Structure



Mathare settlement is characterized by sub-standard and densely packed housing units, primarily temporary in nature, and the destruction of houses by fire outbreaks is a common occurrence. Housing consists of 87% temporary structures with walls and a roof made of iron sheets, frequently with cemented floors. There is a lot of vertical densification due to the high demand for housing.

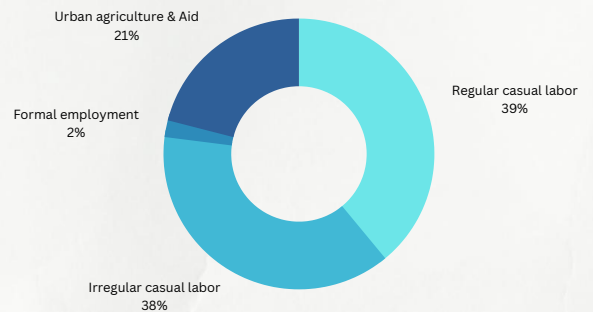
The cost of renting rooms in the Mathare settlement varies from Ksh 200 to Kshs 10,000 with an average monthly rent of Ksh 2,500. The cost of rent is driven by access to water, tenure security and exposure to environmental vulnerabilities such as flooding.



### Status of house occupancy

The majority (**92.8%**) of residents are tenants.

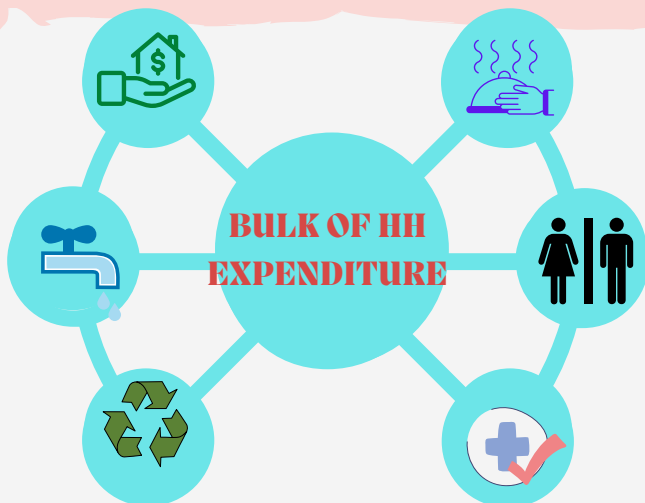
The settlement is characterized by absent structure owners who lives somewhere else outside the settlement.



### Economy and Livelihood

The average HH monthly income is Kshs. 10,000.

Mathare residents rely on regular and irregular casual labor as their primary source of income.



### Household expenditure

The bulk of household expenditure is on rent, food items, and access to basic services e.g Water, sanitation, Health, education e.t.c.

The supply of clean water and collection and disposal of waste are mainly done by private contractors.

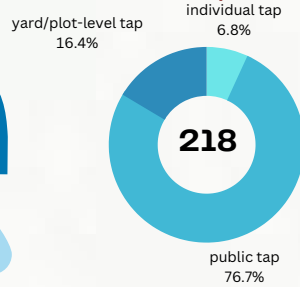
It is evident that the community is facing a heavy poverty penalty to access the basic service provision.

# Access to Services and Facilities

## Water



● 218 water points were found and mapped in Mathare.



26% of water taps are public taps owned by FBOs, 12% are owned by individuals (Business owners) and 5% are owned by the Government. 15% of water taps are yard/plot level taps that are owned by individuals (structure owners)

- An estimated 15% of public water taps are owned by the Government.
- About 76% of the water points in the settlements are connected to the county's main water network.
- Close to 90% of residents do not have access to piped water.
- Access to clean drinking water is mostly via water kiosks which charge per 20l jerrycan.
- These prices can fluctuate from Kshs. 5–20 depending on the availability of water. It also varies depending on whether the kiosk is private or public.
- The most underserved village in terms of accessibility to water points is Kiamutisya with only 2 functional water points serving a total population of 9,426 people.
- Access to improved water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services at the household level remains a good strategy to improve the health and well-being of individuals.

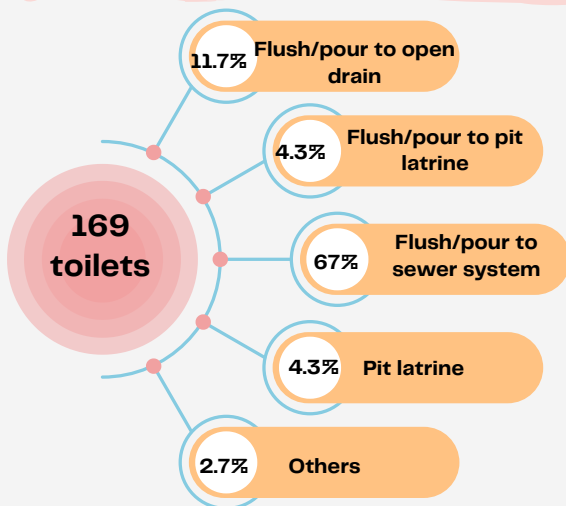


*Water points in Mathare*



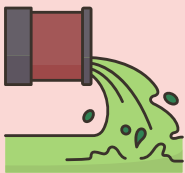
*Water points in Mathare*

# Sanitation



- 69% of the toilets were yard/plot level toilets(shared with members within a structure). 69% of these facilities are shared with more than 10 households; 17% are public toilets(shared with the general public, members outside plots); and 14% of the toilets are individual/private toilets (shared with members within a household).

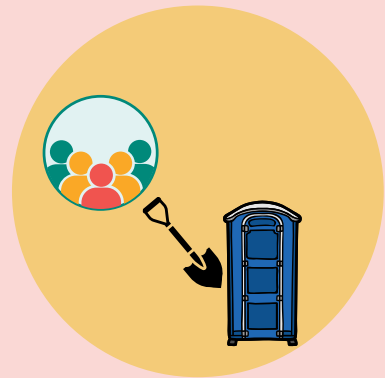
- Residents pay Kshs. 10 to access the sanitation facility per visit.



Sewer-line

The settlement is connected to the main sewer line, only that the sewer line is old and damaged and is prone to blockage due to improper solid waste disposal.

- 14% of these sanitation facilities get emptied on monthly basis. This is done more than once by different individuals, and youth groups.

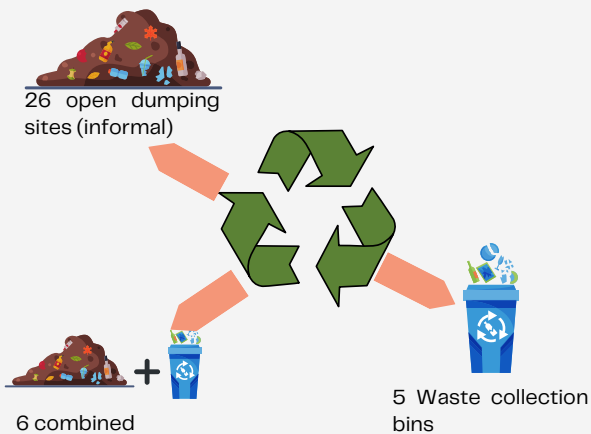


The average distance between 20% of the sanitation facilities

Approximately 80% of the sanitation facilities are located on average distance of less than 200m from the households.

84% of the toilets are shared with unknown households (more than 10) while 16% are shared with know households.

# Solid Waste Management



- Mathare has poor waste management systems ranging; from non-existing collection systems to ineffective disposal along the roads and water body (Mainly Mathare River).
- Through the SAIC project, Muungano Wa Wanavijiji mapped the waste disposal sites as major hotspots for insecurity.
- Waste is mainly dumped in the river which contributes most to the pollution of the environment.

● Through the Voice for Just Climate Action programme, Muungano Wa Wanavijiji profiled and mapped out a total of **128** groups in the Nairobi Eastern region who are active in waste management.

These groups mostly carry out waste collection and engage in community clean-ups within their surroundings.



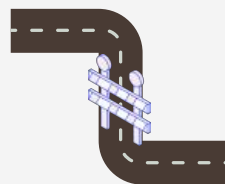
## Challenges of improper waste management in Mathare



The key health problems



Insecurity i.e food, health, education, self



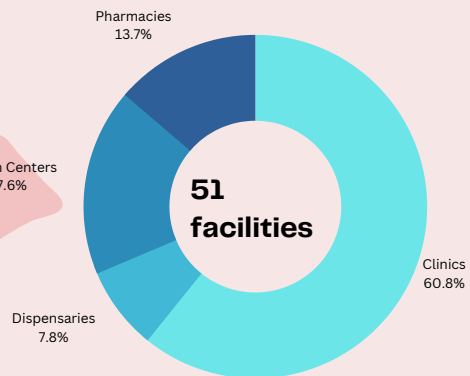
Transport



Economy

## Health

- 51 health facilities were identified within the settlement;
  - out of which 31 are clinics, 4 dispensaries, and 9 are health centers.
  - An estimated 78% of these facilities are run privately by business owners.
- out of all the health facilities, 2 are supported by the community, 5 are mission institutions, 40 are private institutions, 4 public institutions.



The easiest access to health resources in the settlement are via Community Health Volunteers (CHVs), who can refer residents to nearer clinics. Clinics are the most common health facility in the settlement and perform low-level care. For more intensive needs, residents may be brought to a hospital or health center.

The near absence of basic public amenities like hospitals in Mathare has resulted in the mushrooming of several small substandard clinics that are unable to offer integrated primary healthcare yet they serve a huge village population. This has negative implications for access to healthcare services among the residents. Even though private health facilities have attempted to bridge the gap in demand for primary healthcare services in slum areas, previous studies have shown that they lack the capacity and do not guarantee service quality due to their profit-centric nature.

# Social Determinants Of Health (SDOH)

Social determinants of health (SDOH) are non-medical factors that influence health outcomes.

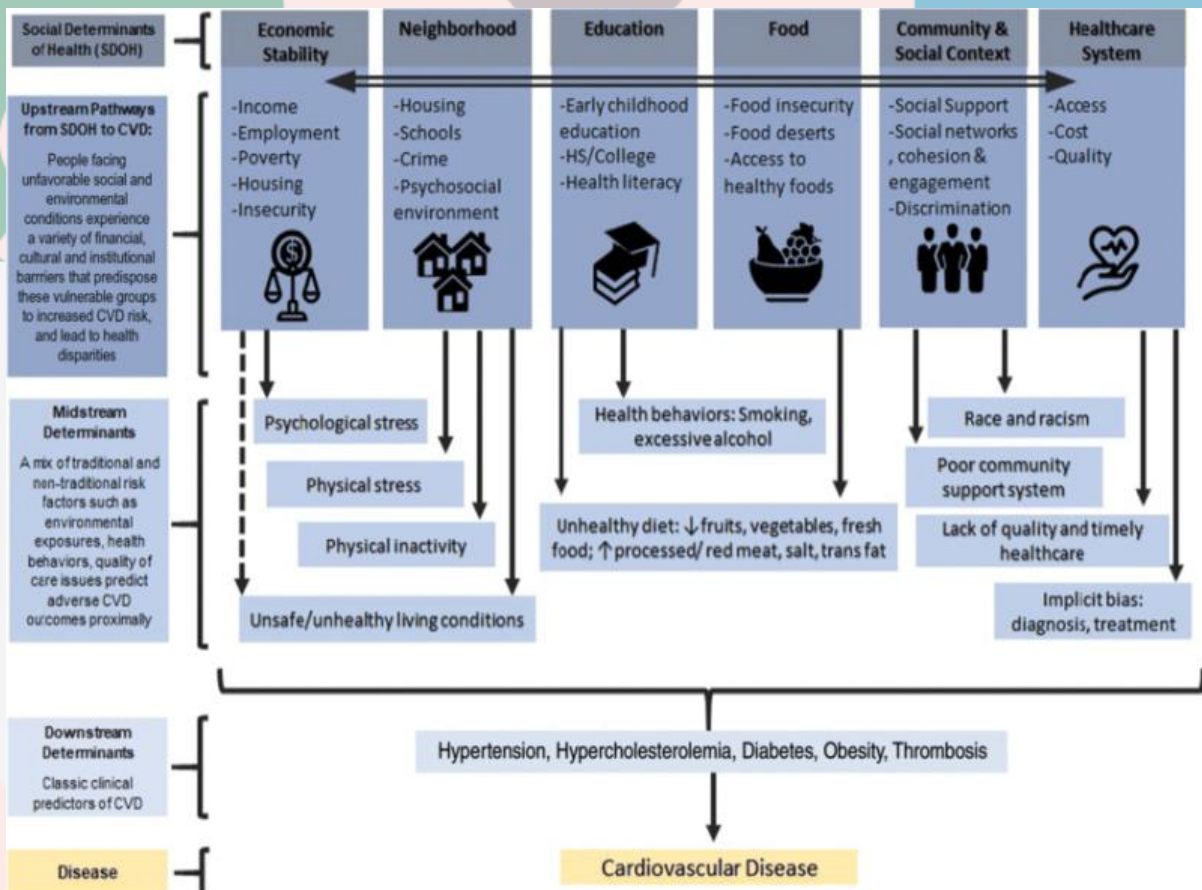
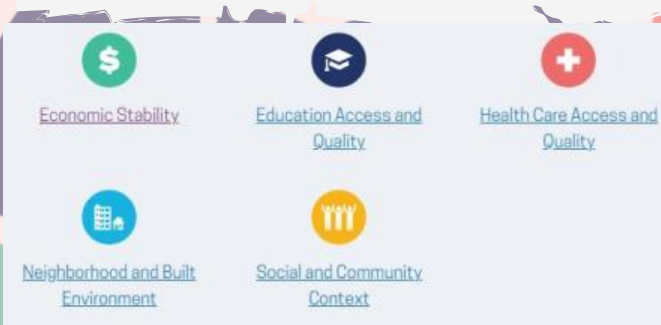
They are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.

In Mathare Settlements, health is affected by several factors arising from the physical and built environment, alongside an array of political, social and economic determinants of health.

The SDOHs is grouped in five domains;

SDOH also contributes to wide health disparities and inequalities. For example, people who do not have to have healthy diets due to affordability are less likely to have good nutrition.

The neighborhoods people live in have a major impact on their health and well-being. Mathare Special Planning Area focuses on creating neighborhoods and environments in Mathare that promote health and safety.



## References

- <https://sdinet.org/publication/kenya-mathare-zonal-plan-collaborative-planning-for-informal-settlement-upgrading/>
- <https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health>
- <https://www.muungano.net/about>
- <https://www.muungano.net/publicationslibrary/2022/1/7/report-mathare-special-planning-area-research-consortium-enumeration-in-kiamutisya>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VU3TkZoSDRY&t=275s>
- <https://youtu.be/3KOYLqvOibA>