The Provision of Public Goods in Informal Settlements in Kenya:  
Who provides what and at what cost?

Abstract

As urban populations continue to grow, informal settlements (slums) are growing in size and number in cities around the world. Slums by nature are unplanned neighborhoods in cities, and because they are unplanned, they often lack the government support that most urban neighborhoods receive including public goods like sanitation, trash collection and health services. This has lead to previous research on how urban poor populations living in informal settlements get access to public goods and on the relationship between politicians and urban voters. Although there has been previous research, this project examines both the relationship between urban voters and politicians and citizen responses to public goods deficiencies in the largest slum in Africa, Kibera, Kenya. The project also examines citizen’s reliance on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in goods’ delivery and the relationship between NGOs and citizens in Kibera.