



NATIONAL SLUM UPGRADING AND PREVENTION STRATEGY 2024-2034

MESSAGE FROM THE CABINET SECRETARY

The Strategy offers a plan for addressing underlying factors that contribute to slum formation

It gives me great pleasure to introduce this National Slum Upgrading and Prevention Strategy (NSUPS) document, which lays out a responsive framework to address the challenge of slums and informal settlements in Kenya over the next 10-year period.

The existence of slums and informal settlements has been a global phenomenon that has affected millions of people throughout the history of urbanization. Slums and informal settlements frequently result from a complex confluence of elements, such as rapid urbanization, population expansion, poverty, inequality, inefficiencies in planning and non-responsive urban governance. Thus, their creation persists and, in many cases, even grow despite efforts to address the underlying causes.

Continued proliferation of slums and informal settlements within our urban areas in Kenya poses a serious obstacle to the accomplishment of human rights and sustainable urban development. This is because they are characterized by lack of access to clean water and sanitary facilities, crowding, substandard housing, and restricted access to healthcare and education. These difficulties compromise not only the health of individuals and families but also the resiliency and productivity of our cities and urban areas.

A slum or informal settlement means different things to different people and places. The rural migrant moves in search of a more decent life, and the urban poor without secure livelihood chooses survival in the slums. The logical reasoning is that urban areas have their own magnets to target migrants to use as economic areas in search of hope to try their luck at improving their livelihood status. But, in most cases, this rationale is not supported by either requisite skills required

in the job market or, where skills are available, the jobs are not in adequate supply.

Hence, the slum area ends up being the only available location to be used as a residence for migrants and the urban poor because it has a low economic value to facilitate use as a residence.

This underscores the importance of this NSUPS, as it offers a plan for addressing the underlying factors that contribute to slum formation and enhancing the living conditions of slum residents.

Recognizing that upgrading slums alone is insufficient, it adopts a holistic approach that combines upgrading and prevention measures.

Owing to the magnitude of the problem and existence of very low levels of income, the NSUPS aims to complement the Government's *Affordable Housing Program* and specifically, the *Social Housing Component* which targets those in slums and informal settlements.

I note that by addressing the underlying social, economic, and institutional factors that fuel urban poverty and inequality, we will also prevent the emergence of new slums.

The strategy adopts a participatory slum upgrading approach that includes facilitating secure land tenure, in-situ upgrading, social housing, enhancing social inclusion and community involvement, and expanding access to basic services like energy, water, and sanitation.

The strategy also underscores the crucial



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need for the public sector, private sector, civil society, and international development partners to work together. Importantly, this strategy lays the responsibility for slum upgrading with both national and county governments who must work within a collaborative framework to deliver sustained slum upgrading and prevention interventions in all our urban areas.

I urge all stakeholders to collaborate in making sure this Strategy is implemented successfully and to use it as a roadmap for sustained action. Let us create a future where all people can live with dignity and opportunity.

In conclusion, I thank all those who have contributed to the development of this Strategy.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

Strategy will contribute to creation of inclusive, resilient, and sustainable cities and urban areas

The National Slum Upgrading and Prevention Strategy is a product of the strong dedication of many stakeholders, whose knowledge and expertise helped produce it.

The Strategy is a step in the right direction in alleviating the plight of slums and slum dwellers in all our urban areas across Kenya.

The development of this Strategy was supported by the Government of Kenya through a credit from the World Bank and the International Development Association (IDA) and spearheaded by the Second Kenya Informal Settlements Improvement Project (KISIP2).

The drafting of National Slum upgrading and Prevention Policy was a reaction to the implementation of the National Slum upgrading and Prevention Policy, Session Paper No. 2 of 2016. This intervention at National level is designed to be replicated in all 47 counties through County Specific Strategies.

The process of developing this National strategy was done through a rigorous review of literature both local and international; an assessment of international best practices in the global south; County based stakeholder engagements; and interviews with local and international experts. This has ensured that it is a strategy that meets international scrutiny, while sufficiently contextual to local circumstances.

Special appreciation goes to the national government agencies for their involvement in supporting the process of preparation of this Strategy, county government technical teams and county officials who contributed to providing recommendations for practical slum upgrading and prevention interventions.

Similarly, key specialists within and without the government scope who shared their knowledge, experience, and perspectives and offered insightful



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comments have our sincere gratitude. We would like to express our gratitude to the international development partners who have backed this initiative and offered technical, advisory and knowledge support.

We also acknowledge the participation of the slum residents themselves, whose contribution and engagement were crucial to the preparation of this Strategy. They shared their experiences, aspirations, and solutions for a responsive upgrading and prevention of slums and informal settlements in Kenya.

Finally, we thank everyone who put in so much effort to make this Strategy a reality. Your commitment, hard work, and dedication have made it possible to create a comprehensive document that considers the needs of informal settlements and slums while fostering sustainable urban development.

Together, we can improve the lives of slum residents and contribute to the creation of more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable cities and urban areas.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSING SECRETARY

Cascading this Strategy to Counties will accelerate sustainable growth of urban slums

Following the successful stakeholder validation and approval of the National Slum Upgrading and Prevention Strategy, the State Department for Housing and Urban Development, through the Second Kenya Informal Settlements Improvement Project (KISIP2) has also embarked on a roll-out of County Specific Slum Upgrading and Prevention Strategies in at least 20 devolved units.

Consulting firms that will undertake development of these strategies with the key objective of aligning them with the provisions set in the National Slum Upgrading and Prevention Policy (Sessional Paper No. 2 of 2016) are already undertaking this venture.

The State Department and KISIP2 are conducting this to ensure that slum upgrading is adopted by the county governments. We want to mainstream this activity in the counties to improve informal settlements and this assignment will be critical for counties since it will ensure slum upgrading strategies



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are adopted by the devolved units.

The essence of developing these strategies will assist in giving a glimpse of what can be referred to as a "slum or informal settlement" since they will play a key role in development of County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) in

order to attract funding for upgrading informal settlements.

Our aim is to create comprehensive, practical, and contextually relevant strategies that address the unique challenges faced by different Counties in Kenya regarding slum upgrading and prevention. The need for these County Specific Slum Upgrading and Prevention Strategies arises from the recognition that the challenges posed by slums and informal settlements are multifaceted and often require localized interventions.

The documents once developed by the firms, will subsequently be forwarded to the County Assemblies for discussion and possible adoption and implementation.

The exercise is being spearheaded by KISIP2 Institutional Capacity Development for Slum Upgrading Component, which also finances institutional and policy development at national and county levels as well as financing development

of county-specific slum upgrading and prevention strategies.

The firms to undertake the exercise showcase a pool of different experts ranging from legal, environmental, land surveyors, land economists, urban planners, sociologists and physical planners.

In recent years, rapid urbanization has brought about significant challenges related to slums and informal settlements in Kenya. The growth of these settlements has been accompanied by issues such as inadequate housing, poor infrastructure, lack of basic services, and a plethora of social and environmental concerns.

While the National Slum Upgrading and Prevention Policy provides a broad framework, it is essential to tailor strategies to the specific circumstances of each county. This involves a comprehensive assessment of the existing policy landscape, institutional frameworks, resource availability, and local stakeholders' perspectives.



Upgrading of Upper Kariokor-Aseko-Mlekenyi road to bitumen standards in Taita Taveta County by KISIP2



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ABOUT SECOND KENYA INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (KISIP2)

The Second Kenya Informal Settlements Improvement Project (KISIP 2) is a State project being implemented by the Government of Kenya (GOK) through the State Department for Housing and Urban Development, in collaboration with county governments through funding by the World Bank, the Agence Française de Development (AFD) and the European Union (EU).

It is a key Vision 2030 enabler project anchored in the Government's agenda of enabling residents in participating urban informal settlements within selected counties benefit by having access to basic infrastructure services and land tenure security.

The project development objective is "to improve access to basic services and land tenure security of residents in participating urban informal settlements and strengthen institutional capacity for slum upgrading in Kenya". KISIP2 is anchored in the Government's agenda of enabling residents benefit by having access to basic infrastructure services and land tenure security. KISIP not only supports the achievement of the country's urban development agenda, but also international goals such as Sustainable Development Goals and contributes to the goals of Kenya Vision 2030, whose objective for urban areas is to achieve "a well housed population living in environmentally secure urban environment".

THE COMPONENTS

Component 1: Integrated Settlement Upgrading

This component has two sub-components namely;

Sub-Component 1.1: Land Tenure Regularization; Core objective is to coordinate regularization of tenure for people living on uncontested public lands. This is achieved through preparation of Local Physical and Land Use Development Plans (LP&LUDP) for the settlements which lays out land parcels and wayleaves for infrastructure like roads, drainage, walkways; Surveying with physical placement of beacons to demarcate the parcels as per the plan; preparation of lists of beneficiaries and letters of allotment based on the survey plans; and Preparation of titles.

Sub-Component 1.2: Infrastructure Upgrading. Activities include overseeing investments in services and infrastructure works such as roads, bicycle paths, pedestrian walkways, street and security lighting, vending platforms, solid waste collection and sorting, storm water drainage, water and sanitation systems, public parks and green spaces.

Component 2: Socio-Economic Inclusion Planning:

This component constitutes carrying out socio-economic surveys to identify community needs and developing community led plans to address such needs; identification and prioritization of vulnerable populations in the community to existing World Bank and GOK safety net programs; raising awareness on utilization of green zones and public spaces; exploring community level Solid Waste Management (SWM) mechanisms aimed at raising awareness on a settlement level solid waste management including refuse collection. The component also undertakes activities such as crime and violence prevention through participatory crime and violence mapping to identify hotspots, investments in infrastructure to make these hotspots safer and investments in facilities such as community centers where projects for youth skills and conflict resolution can be undertaken.

Component 3: Institutional Capacity Development for Slum Upgrading:

This component undertakes activities designed to strengthen the capacity of counties and national government institutions carry out slum upgrading and prevention. It assists national government institutions and counties review existing slum upgrading policies and strategies, supporting the development of county-specific slum upgrading and prevention policy and strategies; developing and carrying out activities to build capacities of national and county teams to implement such policies and strategies through trainings, workshops.

Component 4: Program Management and Coordination:

This component's work entails carrying out activities to support project management and coordination activities of both national and county governments implementing agencies, such as the National Project Coordination Team (NPCT) and the County Project Coordination Teams (CPCTs)



A tarmaked road by KISIP2 in Nakuru's Kiamurogi Informal Settlement



KISIP2 undertaking Slum Upgrading Works in Nakuru's London - Hilton informal settlement



Ongoing Slum Upgrading Works in Kilifi County



Ongoing development of modern vendor platforms in Mosoriot, Nandi County



Ongoing roads improvement works in Manyatta A informal settlement in Kisumu County

MESSAGE FROM KISIP 2 NATIONAL COORDINATOR

The National Slum Upgrading and Prevention Strategy will propel Affordable Housing Program

Even as the Affordable Housing Plan is being rolled-out in the country, Land is indeed central to achieving adequate housing. Access to land is the first step towards obtaining a home for every Kenyan.

However, several conditions still affect access to well-located, serviced land, and therefore the availability of affordable housing. In many cities in Africa and globally, the ability to buy and own housing or land has become the dominant factor in perpetuating inequality.

This why the State Department for Housing and Urban Development, through Second Kenya Informal Settlements Improvement Project (KISIP2), have developed a comprehensive National Slum Upgrading and Prevention Strategy which will be a boost and a game-changer in the National Affordable Housing Debate and Urban Settlement in the country.

This strategy will be a conduit upon which the National and County Governments, stakeholders and the agencies involved in land ownership, shall provide sustainable settlements as provided by Section 134 of the Land Act 2012.

Access to land is the first step towards obtaining a home for every Kenyan.

However, several conditions still affect access to well-located, serviced land, and therefore the availability of affordable housing.

Affordable Houses can never be adequate if there's no guaranteed physical safety or adequate space. Affordable Houses can never be sufficient if the specific needs of disadvantaged and marginalized groups residing in our informal settlements are not considered by provision of adequate land through titles.

Acknowledging the need to directly tackle the problem of poor living conditions in slums, the government started working on a national slum-upgrading program in 2005 - the Kenya Slum Upgrading Program (KENSUP).

This included participatory planning and development, strengthening of tenure security for residents, and provision of housing and infrastructure services.

In 2011, through the support of the World Bank, the government further rolled out the Kenya Informal Settlements Improvement Project (KISIP 1) to complement KENSUP.

KISIP 1 built on KENSUP experiences, scaling up its most-successful interventions and lessons learnt. The key focus for KISIP 1 was on tenure regularization, infrastructure investments, urban and land institutions capacity building and planning for urban growth. Although KISIP 1 made tremendous progress in improving living conditions in Kenya's informal settlements, the State saw it wise to continue with the interventions through another entity.

Towards this end, the Government of Kenya requested support from the World Bank and other development partners to facilitate systematic scale up of informal settlements and slum upgrading by financing a second phase of KISIP hereby referred to as KISIP2.

This second phase was established to scale up the work of KISIP 1 to reach more settlements and populations. KISIP 2 also supports the national and county governments to develop long-term slum upgrading strategies, aimed at improving living conditions in most informal settlements in Kenya by 2025. It also supports activities to strengthen the Ministry and Counties' slum upgrading departments, with the key aim of developing and implementing slum upgrading strategies and policies.

The activities in KISIP2 directly contributes to the government's Affordable Housing program - one of the **Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA)** priorities under the Kenya Kwanza administration.

KISIP2 is already contributing to the goals of **Kenya Vision 2030**, whose goal for urban areas is to achieve "a well housed population living in environmentally secure urban environment". This will be achieved by ensuring installation of basic infrastructure and provision of services that include - settlement access roads, high mast security lighting, water and sanitation facilities, storm water drainage, footpaths and others in the informal settlements and slums in the country.



MR. GEORGE ARWA, SECOND KENYA INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (KISIP2)

Implementation of several infrastructure upgrading projects (roads, drainage, street lights, high mast flood lights) in Twenty-Three (23) participating counties is ongoing. These interventions will spur economic and social development to the residents of the informal settlements and champion Government's Affordable/Social Housing Agenda as pillared under the state's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

KISIP2 is undertaking activities (tenure regularization and infrastructure upgrading) in 38 counties including Mombasa, Kwale, Kilifi, Tana River, Lamu, Taita Taveta, Wajir, Meru, Tharaka Nithi, Machakos, Makeni, Nyandarua, Nyeri, Kisumu, Kirinyaga, Kiambu, Turkana, West Pokot, Trans Nzoia, Uasin Gishu, Elgeyo Marakwet, Nandi, Baringo, Nakuru, Kajiado, Kakamega, Bungoma, Homa Bay, Migori, Nyamira, Nairobi, Embu, Marsabit, Laikipia, Kisii, Mandera, Bomet, Samburu

Already, tenure regularization intervention is ongoing in 33 Counties and more than 120 informal settlements.

Infrastructure improvement works for Phase 1 and 2 Counties are also ongoing and implementation of Community Development Plans in progress with linkage of more than 2000 vulnerable persons to the Government's social safety net programmes.



NATIONAL SLUM UPGRADING AND PREVENTION STRATEGY 2024-2034

THE STRATEGY OVERVIEW

The National Slum Upgrading and Prevention Strategy is a comprehensive framework developed by the Kenyan government to address the challenges posed by slums in the country. Slums are characterized by inadequate housing, poor sanitation, and limited access to basic services, affecting the lives of millions of Kenyan citizens. The strategy is built upon various policy and legislative frameworks, including the Constitution of Kenya 2010, which guarantees the right to adequate housing and reasonable standards of sanitation for all citizens. Other relevant policies include the National Land Policy and the National Housing Policy, which provide guidelines for land management, security of tenure, and the improvement of housing conditions. The Strategy builds upon the National Slum Upgrading and Prevention Policy 2016 and directly responds to the slum challenge in Kenya. It outlines a vision, objectives, and principles to guide slum upgrading and prevention efforts. It encompasses strategic interventions, institutional frameworks, partnership requirements, capacity building, financing mechanisms, and monitoring and evaluation processes.

VISION, OBJECTIVES & PRINCIPLES

This Strategy is envisioned to guide slum upgrading and prevention in Kenya. It outlines the vision, objectives, and the principles to be adopted, the strategic interventions necessary for the achievement of the slum upgrading and prevention objectives, institutional framework and partnership requirements, capacity building, financing, and monitoring and evaluation processes. The strategy adopts a two-pronged approach by providing specific measures for slum upgrading and those for slum prevention.

VISION

Secure and Dignified Human Settlements

THE STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

- o Inculcate a culture of land use and development planning
- o Provide appropriate security of tenure
- o Provide improved infrastructure and social amenities
- o Facilitate provision of adequate social housing
- o Mainstream climate change and environmental stewardship
- o Promote participatory and collaborative approaches/practices
- o Promote sustainable livelihoods for persons living in slums
- o Establish an effective multi-stakeholder institutional framework for slum upgrading and prevention.

THE STRATEGY PURPOSE

The National Slum Upgrading and Prevention Strategy provides a comprehensive framework for addressing slum challenges in Kenya for the next 10 years. It aims to promote equity, inclusivity, sustainability, and resilience while fostering transparency, accountability, and active participation. The government has also committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda, emphasizing inclusive and sustainable urban growth. The Strategy focuses on improving slums through resettlement, In-Situ upgrading, and participatory approaches. It also addresses infrastructure, basic services, and financing through partnerships with the private and public sectors. Slum prevention is another crucial aspect, targeting urban planning, affordable land provision, social housing, and socio-economic inclusion. It emphasizes the need for sustainable income-generating activities, microfinance systems and social inclusion measures. The efficacy of this strategy in slum upgrading and prevention will depend on a commitment to implementation by not only national and county governments, but also other stakeholders and development partners including the slum communities.

| | Level of Government | Expected Commitments |
|---|---------------------|--|
| 1 | National | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The national government to contribute 0.05% of annual national budget. o 50% of Housing Levy to contribute towards Social Housing o Formulate the grant framework regulating the transfer of upgrading funds from the National to county level. o Prepare a countrywide inventory of slums o Carry out a capacity needs assessment and support capacity building for county governments o Support county governments develop county slum upgrading strategies and toolkits o Facilitate coordination of slum upgrading and prevention approaches, guidelines and knowledge sharing across counties |
| 2 | County | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o County government to contribute 0.05% of own source revenue o Develop county specific upgrading and prevention toolkits o Build capacity of communities o Build capacity of county governments o Settlement identification, categorization, and prioritization for upgrading o Prepare, approve and implement county slum upgrading plans o Coordinate community-based, participatory mapping, profiling, and planning of informal settlements |

WHAT THE STRATEGY ENTAILS

The National Slum Upgrading and Prevention Policy 2016 is a direct policy response on the slum challenge in Kenya. It identifies land tenure and administration in slums as the greatest challenge in tackling the slums problem. The policy further recommends the strengthening of the capacity of urban community groups to enable them meaningfully to participate in upgrading processes. It also roots for the enactment of comprehensive slum upgrading and prevention legislation to deal with all the key areas of slum upgrading and prevention. In addition, the government has committed itself to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda, both of which emphasize the link between urbanization and development and the crucial need for inclusive and sustainable urban growth, with a primary commitment to “leaving no-one behind”.

Upgrading strategies will focus on improving the current state of slums through resettlement/relocation and in-situ upgrading, depending on the typology. These approaches will be based on a participatory slum upgrading framework and will include aspects such as providing secure tenure, basic services, and housing access. The government’s efforts to provide affordable housing mainly to those in wage employment will be supplemented by concerted measures for slum prevention and in-situ slum upgrading for majority of those in very low income, informal employment, and self-employment. The strategy will focus on incremental in-situ housing improvement through use of locally produced or available but appropriate and affordable building materials and technologies; providing access to housing finance; supporting self-help building activities and co-operative development; and engaging the private sector to invest in housing development. The strategy underscores that the continued proliferation of slums is a clear indicator of inadequate and ineffective application of preventive measures. Current slum upgrading initiatives taken without measures to address the wider development of urban areas, including housing development programs, are not likely to succeed in solving the problem and deter the future development of other slums. Thus, the strategy provides measures that will see slum prevention focusing on four sectors including urban planning and development control, provision of affordable land, provision of social housing and socio-economic inclusion.

STRATEGY RATIONALE

Slum upgrading as a concept is aimed at improving the lives of Kenyan citizens. It is predicated on the Bill of Rights Under the Constitution and commitments under international human rights instruments to which Kenya is a party. The Bill of Rights seeks to ensure that every person’s dignity is protected and that there is equal treatment and benefits of the law. All Kenyans are guaranteed a set of rights that they are to enjoy and for which the state has a responsibility to respect, protect and fulfil. The foundational right is that of life and which links to all other rights. The basis of slum upgrading is the linkages between the right to life and the related rights to property and socio-economic rights. The key right that underpins addressing the challenge of slums is that of housing. Article 43 of the Kenyan Constitution guarantees everybody the right to accessible and adequate housing. The obligation to ensure that the living conditions of those in slums meet this constitutional standard is vested in the state and has been reaffirmed by several court decisions. The Constitution protects the right to property, prevents its arbitrary deprivation and provides for compensation to landowners in instances when the right is interfered with.

STRATEGY FORMULATION PROCESS

This Strategy was developed through a participatory and co-production approach that sought to involve all relevant stakeholders. This approach was supported by review and analysis of available literature. The output from the review of literature formed the basis for stakeholder engagement which occurred at the settlement, county, and national levels. Different stakeholder engagement approaches used included conducting joint reconnaissance visits with county government teams in sampled settlements, undertaking focus group discussions, conducting household survey in the sampled settlements, key informant interviews, and conducting regional and national stakeholder forums. Figure 1 presents the phases and steps of the strategy formulation process.



The Principal Secretary, State Department for Housing and Urban Development, Mr. Charles Hinga, issuing a Title Deed to an elderly lady in Muhoroni town, Kisumu County.

The State Department, through KISIP with assistance from development partners has ensured that land tenure regularization has succeeded enabling thousands of residents across participating counties own land.



Completed high Mast Security Lights at one of the informal settlements in Bungoma town.



Mr. Nicodemus Mbwika (standing) from the Council of Governors, addressing delegates during the National Stakeholders' Validation Workshop.



Director, Slum Upgrading Department Ms. Mary Ndung'u addressing delegates during the National Stakeholders' Validation Workshop for the Strategy.