



SOWETO SLUM PROFILE

Soweto is situated in Embakasi East Constituency, Nairobi County, Kenya, and has over 200,000 people within the area. This is an area with high poverty rate as seen in the kind of lifestyle lived. Most people have a small business which does not support their family. Housing is poor and the majority are not connected to a wastewater system, something that has deteriorated hygienic conditions in this slum area. There is no piped water into the houses, a situation that makes women travel long distances in search for water, which is mostly dirty, and therefore a source of sickness and diseases. With no garbage collection system, wastes are thrown everywhere, making the estate dirty and impassable after the rains. Due to the prevalent poverty in this area, the majority of parents are unable to take their children to school as they do not have either school fee or are ignorant of the need for education. Most youths are disillusioned and mostly engage in crime to make ends meet, while girls engage in prostitution.

POVERTY continues to be the biggest problem in Kenya with many people having to survive on less than a dollar per day. The WHO 2010 report on guidelines for the treatment of HIV, indicate that 1.5 million people are infected with HIV, but almost half of them do not receive the anti-retroviral therapy. An increased rural-urban migration in search for job opportunities has led to increased slum establishments. Nairobi was originally planned to contain 600,000, however, the current number of people within Nairobi are about 3,000,000. As a result, the available social amenities are not able to accommodate such a population leading to the expansion of dwellings towards unplanned parts of the city. The increasing levels of poverty and lack of employment opportunities has led to a number of social problems like prostitution by young girls. Boys can end up joining criminal gangs creating security threat to the society. Furthermore, most of the families are not able to provide primary education even though it costs so little in Kenya. The Nairobi Water Company is not able to supply enough water to every household within the cosmopolitan area with those living in the slums affected the most. Lack of clean water supply and the unhygienic conditions are the main causes of the certain water borne diseases like cholera. There is a need to provide clean water to the people to help deal with water related sicknesses.

