Enhancing social inclusion and safety through investing in urban services and infrastructure

Examples from the Kenya Informal Settlements Improvement Project

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The challenge

*Physical exclusion*

Over 60 percent of people living in Kenya’s cities live in areas that would be defined as slums under the Millennium Development Goals.
The challenge

**Social exclusion**

- People living in informal settlements have much less access to basic services than those in formal areas. For example:
  - In Nairobi, only about 36 percent of households in informal settlements have access to piped water in the house or the compound, while 84 percent of households in formal areas do.
  - The disparity holds for access to in-house electricity, access to solid waste collection services, and quality of internal access roads.
- Residents also suffer from high rates of interpersonal violence and violent crime.
The challenge

**Economic exclusion**

Many residents work in low-wage jobs and in the informal sector, and suffer from high volatility and insecurity of income.
Helping to address the challenge:

The Kenya Informal Settlements Improvement Project (KISIP)

- KISIP’s Objective: To improve living conditions of the people living and working in informal settlements in selected urban centers in selected counties in Kenya.

- KISIP’s approach reflects lessons learned from decades of experience with slum upgrading initiatives. These include:
  - Combining efforts to enhance the security of tenure with investments in infrastructure and urban services.
  - Developing settlement upgrading plans with the full participation of the community.
  - Facilitating preparation of maps showing crime and violence and hotspots, and identification of interventions to create safer neighborhoods.

- Through investments in tenure security, infrastructure and services, KISIP aims to create safer and more livable neighborhoods, while reducing the disparities in access to infrastructure, basic services.
Crime and violence mapping

Men’s perceptions of the unsafe areas in Kayole Soweto, Nairobi
Crime and violence mapping

Women’s perceptions of the unsafe areas in Kayole Soweto, Nairobi
Investments in community infrastructure and services

• **Menu of potential investments**
  
  • Through a participatory process led by the SEC, community members come together to identify their investment priorities part of which will enhance security.
  
  • Menu includes: roads and drainage, pedestrian and bicycle paths, water and sanitation services, high-mast security lights, solid waste services and secure public spaces.
Investments in community infrastructure and services

Communities *always* choose lights, roads and drainage, and pedestrian and bicycle paths. They regard these as most important to enhance the safety of the community.
• High impact, according to a recently completed beneficiary assessment
  • Interviewees mentioned that KISIP-financed investments have led to the integration of their neighborhoods into the urban fabric, stimulating much new investment in housing and businesses.
  • New paved roads have increased access to jobs, schools, and services in the rest of the city.
  • Lights are noted as significantly improving security in the settlements, in addition to allowing businesses to operate for many more hours than in the past.
  • Pedestrian walkways are mentioned as greatly increasing safety, by separating pedestrians from vehicle traffic.
  • New household water connections are noted as improving security of women and children, who no longer have to travel outside the home to obtain water.
  • People who have obtained tenure security state that they are no longer afraid of eviction, and plan to invest in their homes and community-based businesses.
Lessons learned

- A follow-on project to KISIP will reflect lessons learned.
  - Continue to invest in infrastructure, with specific interventions identified by the residents through a participatory approach.
  - Consider expanding the menu of potential investments to other facilities under the mandate of the county administrations, such as early childhood education centers and health clinics.
  - Consider including activities aimed at assisting unemployed youth develop skills for jobs, and other forms of social support
  - Continue with activities to regularize tenure, making sure displacement is minimized, even if that means adopting special planning standards.