

# REPORT ON SLUMS IN UGANDA

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## 1 Abstract

The urban poor in kampala, Uganda represent a large portion of the population of the capital city yet little is documented about their livelihoods. The main objective of this study was to gain a general understanding of the livelihoods present amongst the population of the urban poor and the context in which they exist, so as to form foundation for the future programming.

Three groups of the urban poor in the city were identified through qualitative interviews: street children, squatters and slum dwellers. Slum dwellers became the principal interest upon considering the context, aims and limits of the study. Qualitative interviews with the key actors at community and household levels, questionnaires at a household level and several other supplementary investigations formed the remainder of the study. Ultimately, six different livelihood strategies were identified and described: non-poor labourers, poor casual labourers, non-qualified salary, qualified salary, vocation or services, and petty traders and street vendors. Each of the livelihood strategies identified held vulnerabilities, though the severity of these varies between both the type of vulnerability and group.

Vulnerabilities of the entire slum population of kampala include land tenure issues, malnutrition monitoring and enumeration information. Those at a community and area level include the risk of persistent flooding, unhygienic and unsanitary practices and full realization of benefits of social networks. Finally, major household vulnerabilities include lack of urban agriculture and lack of credit.

## 2 Introduction

Kampala's urban population is nearing 1.7 million people and is growing at a rate higher than the natural population growth, suggesting migration into the city as well as expansion of the urbanised areas surrounding the delimited district. Alongside ACF's current programming structure which is focused in the north and the north-east of the country, Uganda is presently scaling up their capacities and programming urban areas specifically in kampala.

Urban livelihoods are fundamentally different from their rural counterparts as the types of the income activities vary widely , goods and services are principally exchanged for cash, basic services such as infrastructure and transport are most widely available and the areas within the city are more densely populated. To further develop an understanding of the people and the circumstances in which they live, ACF Uganda had commissioned a four-month project to uncover and characterize the main issues affecting the sustainability of the livelihoods of the poor in urban kampala.

This study was conducted at institutional, community and household levels with the aim of uncovering the key forces that act upon the targeted populations. This report will describe and present justification of the methods chosen to accomplish this goal, the resultant findings of the study, followed by a synthesis of final ideas and suggestion of areas for further investigation.

### **3 Conclusion**

A comprehensive livelihood analysis had not before been completed in the slums of kampala. With the realization of this study, issues have been identified that can affect slum residents throughout the district, within the communities that were investigated and within the households that were surveyed. This research paints a picture of what successes and failures urban life has om the poorer population of kampala city. The capacities for development within the slums are great, though without proper understanding of the people within, that potential is limited. This said, one can now ascertain that there is a need for improved recognition of the population at an institution and policy level, there is a need for surveillance and monitoring of the vulnerabilities of these population and there is a need for intervention to give the help they require.

### **4 Methodology**

The first methods used were measures of relative poverty, that is, to define poverty by where a specific income falls within a certain group, In this case, the poverty threshold was determined by considering the group as all respondents who provided income information. For this, income level and income position poverty were calculated..