

Piloting CLTS in an urban setting: Diary of progress in Mathare 10, Nairobi Kenya

By Samuel Musyoki, Plan Kenya

26th May 2010

I am having a go at Urban CLTS next week. I will be training a group of young people involved in Community Cleaning Services Business who have been to the office to request. It is demand led. We had a planning meeting to see how best to adapt CLTS to fit. There are real challenges but we will try and keep you posted.

26th May

Yes this will be in Nairobi (Mathare10). The groups are enthusiastic and I am personally scared. One challenge we are dealing with is when best to do the actual triggering. As you know in an urban area people are away during the day and only come back in the evening. The lady mobilizing the communities has just called asking me if we can capitalize and trigger on Tuesday which is a public holiday as most people will be at home. But what that means is an early start and late finish on Monday and half day on Tuesday then they trigger in the late afternoon.

During the planning meeting it also came out clearly that the difference is that there are sanitation facilities in most places so the challenge is use and keeping them in hygienic conditions. The group that approached me has been doing business in cleaning toilets for almost a year now. When I met them last year they said CLTS was too radical and was likely to have backlash effect with their clients. This time round they said their clients were reverting back and becoming comfortable with dirty toilets. Now they feel that people need to see the link between the dirty toilets and ill health. I told them the focus should be on transforming mind sets to appreciate clean living conditions and then people will decide how to achieve that and this may not necessarily buying their services but actually doing the cleaning themselves. So they know this is not about increasing sales of their services and product. If people choose to buy their services well and good.

We have also had to tell them they cannot be part of the team doing the actual triggering as people will misunderstand that to mean they have a new marketing strategy. So we are working with a Youth network which has identified community facilitators, government officials working in this area. The Community Cleaning Service Entrepreneurs will only participate in their respective neighbourhood as community members during the triggering. We will start with 5 neighbourhoods and monitor how this goes.

On the last day 4th June we will have a roundtable meeting with Nairobi sanitation stakeholders where the communities will share their experiences and present action plans. I suspect this will raise a lot issues on the politics and governance of sanitation in Nairobi. We will continue this work through the CLTS/SLTS/ULTS Netherlands funding (In a new five-year programme, development organisation Plan International will expand its existing self-help sanitation programme in six African countries (Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Zambia and Malawi) and introduce it in two other countries (Ghana and Niger). The programme aims to implement and promote the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach as it was originally intended: the community is triggered to act by itself towards its development by stopping open defecation and improving hygiene behaviour. There are no toilet subsidies and no financial rewards for eliminating open defecation. Plan and its local partners will carry out CLTS activities in

805 rural communities. Adapted versions of the approach will be used in 36 peri-urban communities and 742 schools.)

1st June

Today 1st June 2010 (public holiday), we celebrated our independence day in style. The participants we are training were able to successfully trigger in 4 sites. As one facilitator put it, we triggered them from the onset during the mapping they said they did not know they were living in the midst of so much shit. The triggering was today later afternoon and the groups will be presenting the experiences mid morning. Today Frank Marita our WATSAN officer had to step in as I was taken ill. I see now the need for preparing with the hosting team. The two ladies who are part of the core team and whom we prepared with (I had walked them through the entire process) came in handy but thank God my colleague Frank was available and stepped in to facilitate them go through the dry runs and preparation for the fieldwork.

Unfortunately we are not able to do two rounds of triggering as it is not possible to get the residents during week days. We have, however secured the commitment of the natural leaders to participate in a roundtable meeting with the Nairobi City Council and other players in the sanitation sector. Tomorrow will be the sharing and Thursday a joint session between the natural leaders and the facilitators to prepare for the round table. Most of the participants are residents of Mathare and are keen to present a strong agenda during the roundtable.

Generally the response has been very good though the issues emerging are more complex than in rural areas. I will share more as the process unfolds. We see this as the beginning of a long process of citizen engagement in the politics of shit management in the city of Nairobi.

6th June

We just concluded the triggering for 4 sites in Mathare and it is clear that the context is different from rural. Reflecting on the process with the participants it is clear that mobilization will have to be done differently. We had chosen a part of Mathare where the communities are more settled and triggered during a public holiday so as to ensure participation by large numbers of the community. However, I must say that even though the participation was very good, the numbers were much lower than we expected. Also there was a challenge to sustain the same number of participants from the mapping to the action planning. Some passed and stayed for a few minutes and moved on.

Having said this we had very positive results with all the 4 sites triggered and natural leaders emerging. While the natural leaders and the participants we trained are committed to take immediate action, it was clear that this is beginning of a long complex process involving many powerful actors. It is the politics/governance of urban sanitation. We had a very good engagement forum with the urban sanitation stakeholder on Friday. The natural leaders shared their experiences and the action plans and we secured short term and long-term commitment from those who were in attendance.

There will be a series of thematic forums between the natural leaders and different actors who were considered to be important to the realization of the collective action plans developed. These include the "Land Lords" or structure holders, the civic leaders and provincial administration, Government Ministries (Ministry of lands, Local Government, City Council of Nairobi, Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation, and

Ministry of Housing). The MoPH was well represented in the forum however they expressed their frustration working with the city council of Nairobi to secure land for putting up commercial public toilets in spite of having the resources for doing this.

We had a few human rights advocacy groups in the round table who also committed to work with the communities and build a strong advocacy agenda around the identified issues. The University of Nairobi Environmental Health Department was also represented and committed to initiate a research process to gather evidence which can be used to engage the relevant players. We will share the documentation once this is ready.

Mathare will be part of the 5 year Dutch funded project. We have chosen it as the urban pilot. We have a start-up workshop for this project starting tomorrow and we will be developing a detailed plan for the project. In Mathare there are groups of entrepreneurs for both commercial toilets and solid waste management. So the focus will be not just on eradicating OD but other forms waste.

9th June

I was in Mathare 10 today with a large team of around 20 participants from Nyanza, Coast and Nairobi who are in the CLTS start-up workshop. It is amazing the passion and the energy the natural leaders and the facilitators we trained last week have. I personally thought the challenges they presented were too big that they will be slow in effecting the immediate action plans. I was very wrong. Though we thought the numbers of those who participated were low it seems there has been ripple effects and people have been talking about it since the 1st of June and those who were not there have been infected with the passion.

In the site we visited the tenants have already taken action. They first met and cleaned the street between their block. They removed the piles of waste that had piled there and the streets were very clean; they have already entered an agreement with the community cleaning services (a youth enterprise) to have their garbage collected on Sundays at the afternoon. All the sixteen households in the block had trash bags at the door. They also agreed that they stop open defecation immediately and negotiated with a private toilet owner to pay 50 KSH per month per household (instead of 2 shillings per use per person) and 8 households out of the 16 have already paid. So for both the garbage services and toilet use it will be 90KSH a month (just under a pound) per household. They have already had a meeting with the landlord and are discussing with him to construct a toilet to be connected to the sewer line which is less than 4 metres from the block.

We managed to bring 2 senior MoPH with us to Mathare 10 and they could not believe the magnitude of the problem. They were also amazed at how effective the triggering was. All the four groups who went to the 4 sites triggered last week came back with amazing stories. Tomorrow morning we will hear the feedback. The natural leaders and the facilitators were so motivated and were really glad that we came and promised we will be coming again and again.

The grant is a great opportunity as we are going to plan specific thematic meetings with different players to ensure that all the relevant players get on board. The biggest challenge is the city council of Nairobi but we are determined to get them to the table.

Maybe it is better they came in at a later stage. Though we invited them for the round table last week and this start-up workshop, they did not show up.

11th June

It is now official we will be partnering with the [Community Cleaning Services and SC Johnson](#) in the Urban CLTS in Mathare 10.

It is amazing that today morning we got a call from a natural leader to visit one of the sites we triggered and witness them open a toilet that has been constructed by a landlord after the triggering. The tenants convened a meeting with him and triggered him by telling him that they had learnt they were eating shit and they did not want to continue this way anymore. He was touched and acted immediately and as you can see it is hardly 2 weeks since we triggered (1st June) and there is a lot happening.

In our start-up workshop we had two very senior MoPH officers and today talking with them they said all we need to do is get the technocrats out of their offices to see the situation and that way they will be prompted to take action. When I asked them if they had any plans for urban sanitation in Nairobi- the answer was yes but they said the cities were in the hands of the Municipalities/Councils. Though they had responded to the City Council request to second 200 MoPH public health officers to support with hygiene promotion and education, they were shocked to see what was happening on the ground and to learn that most of the public health officers had been turned into revenue collectors from vendors and retailers.

I am now thinking of organizing structured day immersions for technocrats to Mathare 10 and then having reflections after that to share on what they have seen, smelled and felt and what they would do within their sphere of influence to work with the communities in changing the situation. The problem in the Nairobi is enormous and will require many players to address.

In the 4 sites we visited there are informal primary schools and community cleaning services as been working with them. We will also be working in and with the schools on urban sanitation. There are also nursery schools in the churches there and we triggered some churches which did not even have sanitation facilities for their congregation and the church compound itself was an OD area. The youth we trained and the natural leaders are following-up and we are waiting to hear from them what happens.

8th July

I have been unwell and on leave. It has not been possible for me to do regular follow-up to my fellow shit cleaners in Mathare 10. However, it has been in my mind and heart every day. I have been in touch with Tatiana and Rose Nyawira the two ladies I worked with during the Mathare 10 CLTS training. There is a note from Tatiana after she visited our colleagues in Homa Bay during the ODF celebrations in Rambusi which I will post soon. By the way as I write this e-mail, I have just seen another one from our colleagues in Kisumu about ODF celebration that took place today. It seems the shit fire is burning bright in Nyanza.

Though I might have been slow in following-up in Mathare 10 it is part of my strategy not to seem to be on the drivers' seat. As you will see from Rosie's e-mail below she is becoming a real champion for urban CLTS. She is so passionate and has not stopped since she was touched.

It seems the Constituency Fund Manager who came to the round table meeting has remained true to the commitments he made. He had indicated that they had fund for public toilets and no one had approached them. I see the search for land is being headed by the community natural leaders themselves. I will ask Rosie to share with us the letter they wrote and hear from her if they have got some response.

Now it seems there is demand for more triggering in nearby villages. Will have a meeting with the core UCLTS (Urban CLTS) team to plan about it and see how to move forward. I am hesitant to do more triggering before we follow-up and have some more quick wins in the 4 sites. However, I am sure I cannot stop anything if the youth we trained in Mathare and the natural leaders want to do more triggering. Maybe that is what is needed to create a critical mass of citizens to move the struggle forward.

We are finally recruiting a CLTS coordinator/trainer in Plan Kenya. The interviews are scheduled for tomorrow and will let you know the outcomes. This will help with coordination and follow-ups and with Rosie being in charge of the urban CLTS I see an explosion of CLTS in Nairobi informal settlements. The energy is so high and that is happens when young people put their passion and commitment behind something. The challenges are huge but they do not seem scared as I am. Of course I can't tell them how scared I am as they think I am their hero!

Rosie's letter of 6th July

Dear ULTS Stakeholders

Greetings to all of you and am hoping that you are fine.

I know it has been a while since we have communicated after our meeting at Panafric Hotel on 4th June 2010. The delay has been contributed by the need to capture some of the emerging issues from the community after our meeting. We have as well been reflecting and planning for the with Plan Kenya as they committed to facilitate the implementation of this project.

We remember that we all made commitments to what we could do to actualize the plans from the 4 Mathare 10 villages. So far there has been a number of emerging issues and some of the stakeholders have started processing their commitments. Here are the updates:

- The toilet that where the triggering happened in Mathare 10 village at the plot was renovated by the landlord after a series of negotiations between the landlord and tenants. This so far has not attracted an increment on rent as was our fear.
- CDF in Starehe who committed to constructed toilets in some of the Villages like Gumba and Mabatini which lacked public toilet have already started the processes of making this a reality. The community has written a request letter and they are currently in the process of looking for land/space where the construction of these toilets can be done.
- Community members have been organizing random clean ups to clear the OD areas.
- There has been requests for more triggering from the community members especially the elders.

Due to the issues there are some issues that are emerging and the demand for more triggering, we have outlined a plan for this month which we shall be implementing this month. Here is our plan for the month of JULY 2010 and I hope that you can attend the triggering sessions.

- We shall be conducting Household interviews to better understand indicators of health in relation to sanitation.
- Focus Group Discussion – To raise the expectations of people on sanitation and therefore change the need to a demand.
- Triggering sessions – To enhance the understanding and capacity of people on implications of poor sanitation as well as move people to act on their situation. These sessions shall commence from the 3rd week of July and shall be conducted every Saturday from 3rd week July to Mid August.

I hope to hear from you regarding your participation and shall be sharing with you more detailed plan and notes of your commitments at Panafric by end of this week.

Wish you a good week.

Regards

Rose

13th July

The UCLTS core team from Mathare 10 has been in my office since 9.00am. I had to call and tell them I was running late as I had a strategy document that I needed to finalize before we start the meeting. I knew they would have a lot to share as we have not had an opportunity to catch up since the week we were in the UCLTS start-up workshop in June.

I finally made it to my office around 9.30, I found Justin, Njenga and Nyawira there. The three gentlemen and Rosie welcomed me and we exchanged warm greetings. I was really looking forward to meeting them and could not wait to hear all about it. Who called the meeting, I asked, and the response by the two gentlemen was 'Rosie did'.

Quickly, staring at her laptop screen, Rosie introduced the agenda. They wanted to update me on what has been happening since we met last and to know when we would start our partnership on urban CLTS. I tell them they are attempting to turn a huge bureaucratic wheel which takes a lot of time to move but I assure them everything is in the pipeline and remind them they had already made a detailed implementation plan during the start-up workshop. I ask them if some of the activities are due and the answer is yes. I start scratching my head. You see Frank our WATSAN advisor is on leave and I cannot even remember when he is coming back. I take the phone and call a colleague to find out. You see I have the passion for CLTS and I will take care of the ideas and ensure that we have a good process running but someone else takes care of all the administrative issues. I assure them, though it may take a few weeks or a month before we can formalize the partnership, this should not stop us from undertaking the activities they had put in the plan and which they have already agreed with the natural leaders in July and August. My colleague (Frank), who is our point person will take care of this! So the agenda was three fold: updates, plans and CCS/ Plan Kenya UCLTS partnership formalization.

Rosie's Update on the Progress Made so Far

After the sanitation stakeholders' roundtable meeting on 4th June, people/institution committed to undertake some activities to propel the struggle towards better sanitation in the four neighborhood/sites triggered on 1st June 2010. The communities at Mathare 10 have been undertaking weekly clean-ups which they want to invite us to on 20th July 2010. They are working very closely with the City Council of Nairobi (CCN)-mainly with one of the CCN staff who became an institutional champion for CLTS after the training. She was also one of those who triggered the community. We need to see how we can work with her to influence her colleagues to join the movement.

The landlord (who had been approached by his tenants) has completed constructing the toilet and is waiting for the connection to the main sewer line. Rosie and Njenga are of the opinion we make a big deal of that achievement (celebrate and make a lot of noise). In Ngumba and Mashinani neighborhoods, they have been cleaning the Open Defecation areas. But Rosie says for now they clean and more shit comes in the morning! So cleaning OD areas is not the answer. But if these neighbourhoods have not even a single public toilet - just imagine - there is no way they can keep the shit inside. It has to come out somehow?

Prof. Michieka from the University of Nairobi who is the former National Environment Authority boss and who has been advising the Ministry of Local Government and City Council of Nairobi wants to come and witness a triggering session. The core team in Mathare has invited him whenever he is ready and most likely he will come with his students.

[Umande Trust](#) (a charity that works in informal settlements) has started completion of a public toilet that has been stalled for long. They are using their reserve funds. They have a major challenge with funding though they have started mobilizing resources to complete. I suggested that they link with Water Service Trust Fund –a government facility (with basket funding arrangement with big donors) that is working in partnership with K-Rural Enterprise Programme Bank to provide credit to entrepreneurs interested in doing business in water and sanitation.

[Constituency Development Fund](#) The manager of Starehe Constituency, where Mathare 10 is located, told the communities during the round table they had a budget earmarked for constructing public toilets. The natural leaders have had meetings with him and his team and have confirmed this is true. The CDF is willing to finance the construction of public toilets. But land has been the challenge. The natural leaders are engaged in the process of finding a space so that they can move to the next step to apply for the funds. Someone had promised to offer land but the story has changed; now they want to be paid. Dialogue is going on between the natural leaders and structure owners in Mathare 10 to avail land but this is a big challenge that we will have to see how best we can facilitate a meeting with the key players. An eco-toilet entrepreneur who has been running toilet business in other informal settlements in Nairobi has also committed to build one toilet if land is made available.

The Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation, during the round table meeting, had also indicated that they had money for public toilets but their challenge has been the inability of the City Council of Nairobi to avail land. We need to hold a meeting with the key players. Justine say there is need for Umande Trust and the Local Authority to prepare a detailed budget and a business plan that they can use to mobilize resources to finalize

the stalled toilets blocks which they want to complete as a response to the demand created after the triggering. They could be linked with Water Service Trust Fund and K-REP. There is a church that has land and is in the middle of open defecation area. The church itself has a blocked toilet. It may be a good idea to organize a meeting between the church leadership and natural leaders to see if they would be willing to partner and provide their land to the communities so that they can access the resources.

Njenga says CDF will not build on private land so the land has to be yielded to the government/community before they can construct and even after constructing they will only hand the toilet to the City Council of Nairobi who then decides whom to lease the toilet block to. The challenge is that the city council is not best placed to operate and maintain public utilities.

Kenyatta, Plan Kenya Governance Advisor, who was also in the roundtable at this point, joined our meeting. He had promised that through our youth and governance work we could support the Mathare team to come up with a good advocacy strategy to engage the relevant authorities. Kenyatta articulates that land for public utility in urban areas has become a huge problem because most of it has been grabbed. What is needed is therefore for community to negotiate with land owners. They then sign a contract or memorandum of understanding. Then after this they can present the papers to CDF and other agencies wanting to put up or finance public toilets. We (CCS/Plan/ and Natural Leaders) need to initiate this process of negotiation between the key players. The community needs to be provided with all the information needed and stimulated to start negotiating with the land or structure holders.

At this point I remember that during the community mapping exercise, as we walked in Mathare 10, we saw many churches -the church leadership would therefore be a potential group that we should get in touch with to initiate discussions with. At this point I ask Rosie how many churches are indicated in the map and she immediately checks in her laptop. There are 25 churches of which 11 have informal schools. I immediately suggest that we should have a targeted triggering of the church leadership and the congregation. Some of the churches do not even have toilets for their congregation! We will draw on the verse in Deuteronomy (lessons from Plan Zimbabwe) to trigger them. We also hope with the help of CCS social enterprise skills they will see the business side and the need for putting up latrines for income generation.

Rosie then shared the immediate plans they have put together with the Natural Leaders. Undertaking action research to explore understanding of sanitation and hygiene at household level. The action research will also be used as trigger and raise expectations to aspire for better hygiene. It is targeting 200 households (50 from each of the 4 neighbourhoods triggered in June).

A follow-up reflection, with all the participants who were trained during the hands on training in June, will be held the week of 19th July 2010. The reflection will be vital for sharing what has been happening, challenges, lessons and planning ways forward.

There has been invitation also to train in neighbouring village in Mlango Kubwa (still part of Mathare) in a place called Kamutisya. Njanga shares that in this area, five people died of cholera this year. The CDF reacted immediately and decided to put up public toilets. However, Njanga argues, unless mindsets of the people in Kamutisya are addressed, this problem will not end. That is why going there to trigger the communities in

anticipation of these public toilets becoming operational is essential. The triggering will focus more on how best to use the toilets. Njenga further argues refurbishing toilets is one thing and getting people to use them well is another. We have seen toilets under our cleaning services in this area (Kamutisya) - until we started doing business with the people the toilets were terrible!

Philip Otieno another colleague of mine (a CLTS champion) was around. Rosie says Philip went with them to the Ministry Of Public Health and Sanitation and linked them up with some key people there. They were also able to collect useful materials for hygiene promotion and education. These are being distributed in schools and Njenga says the children love them and they are responding very well to the messages. The schools have expressed the need to have more.

The natural leaders and the UCLTS core team in Mathare have also planned for a series of focus group discussions. These, as Rosie put it, have the aim of raising the capacity to aspire for better hygiene. The focus group discussions (FGD) are targeting new people who were not involved in the initial triggering. They will be used as a tool to mobilize more people and will be culminating to a triggering session to galvanize more collective action. They will be done weekly and the triggerings every Saturday in the months of July and August. The triggering will culminate in a second stakeholder's round table meeting in August. We agreed with Rosie and the team that we should use the new round of triggering to immerse senior key actors in the sanitation sector who only plan from their offices and have never been to the ground. The plan is to have the stakeholders meeting in Mathare 10 this time round.

At this point I shared with them the forth-coming planning workshop on CLTS in schools we will be organizing in partnership with the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex and the fact that we would like to visit Mathare 10 one of the days. This idea was more that welcome and they proposed the 25th August 2010. They said it will be good to celebrate with the communities on whatever achievements they will have made by then even if they are not ODF. I suggested beyond walking round and seeing the situation in Mathare 10 we should use our presence there to expose key people in the urban sanitation to Mathare and trigger them.

Also we will have to find way of getting media to Mathare 10 to trigger action by covering what will be happening that day. It will be a public seminar or lecture with a difference. Not in a 5 star hotel but in the narrow streets of Mathare 10. I will be talking with my colleagues at IDS and our regional office and our communication managers to get the media interested in advance. The natural leaders and children from Mathare 10 who are CLTS champions will share their stories. We will usher Kenyan CSO and government sanitation actors in to share their reflections and resolutions for joining the struggle for better sanitation in Mathare 10 and other Nairobi informal settlements. And participants from the School-led Total Sanitation workshop, Robert Chambers and other participants from the workshop can also share their reflections based on the visit and experiences from other parts of the world.

Kenyatta, Plan Kenya Governance Advisor, told the Mathare 10 UCLTS core team about the forthcoming International Youth Day in August and wondered if the youth in Mathare 10 (basically the natural leaders there) can come and share through an exhibition the good work they are doing. The offer was taken immediately and Rosie will be talking with them to prepare for the event.

As I had feared the meeting took long and no one seemed to realize. At this point Justin told me he had visited my blog. He thought it will be good for me to provide a link to CCS and SC Johnson so that those who want to learn more can know exactly who they are and why they are interested in sanitation. I will discuss with Laura and possibly post these. At this point I got a call from my next visitor Laura who works on ECOSAN toilets with GTZ and who had seen my blog on the CLTS website. It is late and I am tired. I do not have the key to lock up so I have to leave. I will share with you our discussions and my thoughts on ecosan toilets next time.

15th July

I remember there have been some questions about the role of fear in CLTS which I refer to in one of my forthcoming articles to be published in the "special issue of Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) on CLTS in Africa":<http://www.planotes.org/forthcoming.html> (due out in late August 2010). I think beyond the fear of getting faecal oral contamination related diseases, being bedridden for some days and possibly dying, the dimension of sexual violence articulated through the [Amnesty International Report Insecurity and Indignity: Women's Experiences in the Slums of Nairobi, Kenya](#) further supports this.

As the [press release](#) summarises, women and girls in Nairobi's slums are afraid to leave their houses to use communal toilets and bathrooms because they face a constant threat of sexual violence. This already emerged as an issue during the triggering in June: women children and even men were at risk of being attacked if they went to defecate in the open at night. Of course the article assumes there are public toilets in all the neighbourhoods but that is not the case. I remember in the maps the groups included the floodlights that had been installed in parts of Mathare 10 had contributed to increased security and they were actually thinking of lobbying for more to be put up in the neighbourhoods where there was none. However, those who supported the initiative of lighting up Mathare were thinking of security generally and the idea of where people go to shit or whether people go to shit outside their houses at night might not have been anywhere in their thoughts.

We will seek out Amnesty International Kenya to bring them to Mathare. Women's Rights and Human Rights and I dare say Children's Rights and Human Rights. Everyone has the rights to shit in a secure environment and where they can enjoy their right to shitting with dignity. While there is no direct UN convention on this I am sure further such will lead us to find clauses we can quote to support our work. At least in the proposed constitution the bill of rights includes the right to live in a clean environment, access to sanitation and water. If or dare I say when Kenya votes GREEN (the colour for yes) during the referendum on August 4th, this will open unlimited opportunities to engage the state departments mandate to ensure that Kenyans live in a clean and sanitized environment.

I know from where I stopped in my last blog, I was to continue with the ECOSAN toilets discussions but my urge now seems to have been triggered this direction by the Amnesty Report I just shared. While I do not buy into the [PeePoo](#) (ECOSAN) toilet bag that made some [news on the BBC](#) and KTN (Kenya Television Network) recently, when it comes to women and children safety even the black juala or Kasuku tin will be a preferred option. You see the Mathare people have bigger aspiration for a well planned neighbourhood with all the services that are needed to make them realize their right to the highest attainable standards of health. They seem to be determined to go for that

higher goal no matter how long it takes. Of course they have won the battle of being recognised as there are no more evictions after decades of struggle. They have seen water connected, and by and by electricity is coming. It is these victories, no matter how small, that give them the determination to keep up the struggle and this will not be over until their dreams are realized.

I will still come back to my ECOSAN toilets discussions. There were some nuggets there that I feel I must type up and share.

27th July

This week I am busy attending our Extended Country Management Team (ECMT) meeting. These quarterly meetings are very important for Plan Kenya. They provide us with space to update each other on what is happening in the 8 regions where Plan Kenya works. They not only contribute to the enhancement of our management practices but also provide us with space for reflections and learning from our work. It is in the ECMT where decisions to try innovative projects/programs and approaches such as CLTS are reached. Three years ago one such meeting decided that Plan Kenya should adopt CLTS as the main approach to our sanitation work. The meetings last for five days (Monday to Friday) this year we have been able to cover all our agenda with four days.

The third day of these meetings is committed to learning from outside Plan Kenya. We invite organizations doing innovative work to share with us. I always look forward to this day as it stimulates us to reflect based on what we are learning. This week we have invited our partners, Community Cleaning Services (CCS) in Mathare 10 to share what we have been doing with Urban CLTS. You see, although I have been in the frontline training and supporting the core team and the communities in Mathare 10, my colleagues (all very senior staff in Plan Kenya!) have not had an opportunity to hear it from the horse's mouth. I have not even managed to get them out to Mathare 10 to see, feel and appreciate what is happening there. I am on a mission to trigger them – we (I myself and the core team from Mathare 10) want to bring the shit experience to the boardroom and ensure that we make them appreciate and support the struggles the communities are engaged in. This way I am also hoping that my colleagues will adopt a leadership role in creating an organizational environment that supports partners and communities to effectively undertake CLTS both in Urban and Rural Areas.

But I am not just bringing in the Mathare team alone. Lately we've made contacts with the [MapKibera](#) team of young people involved in GIS mapping using Open Street Mapping online tools. They have been able to bring Kibera to the World Map within only 6 months. You can now see all the streets of Kibera and hear the community's voices online. We are discussing with them the possibilities of digitizing maps generated by communities showing open defecation areas, toilet facilities etc. They will be in our meeting tomorrow and will have an opportunity to present after the Mathare 10 team. After that we will explore modalities for working together to strengthen the work we are doing on Urban CLTS. Interestingly I have also been involved in participatory GIS work since 2005 and I have just authored a chapter, "Community Ground Work and Processes", to be published in an online PGIS Training Kit that will be released in October 2010 by CTA Wageningen University.

The meeting tomorrow has also attracted the WSP colleagues at the World Bank. Frank Marita, the Country Lead WATSAN Advisor of Plan Kenya had a discussion with our

Regional WATSAN advisor who brought to our attention that WSP had expressed interest in collaborating with Plan Kenya and, specifically in scaling-up of CLTS/SANMARK (Sanitation Marketing). This to me was a welcome request as we have already been discussing this since 2008. I thought tomorrow's meeting would be the most appropriate entry point as it has been clear in my mind that the urban setting provides enormous opportunities for CLTS and SANMARK to converge. I would like to hear their take on this. The Mathare 10 team will be delighted as they have been hoping to meet the WSP for a while. I understand they have been doing some water WATSAN initiative in the informal settlements in Nairobi.

By the way Philip Otieno is moving to the Country Office to take up the CLTS Coordinator Position. He will be a great addition to the team and will play a critical role in providing support through capacity building, networking and partnership building. He will be starting from 1st August 2010.

20th September

It has been really long since I had a chance to write my reflections to update my blog of Urban CLTS in Mathare 10. This is partly because I have been very busy doing a lot of work but also because I needed time to be with family after a brother of mine who had been sick passed on. The long break does not mean that nothing has been happening with UCLTS initiative. In fact there is so much to catch up and I am still getting information bit by bit.

The last time I wrote (July 2010), we were at a Country Management Team Meeting and we had invited the Map Kibera team to share what they had been doing with GIS mapping with youth people in Kibera. The WSP team in Nairobi had indicated they would join us but unfortunately they got tied up with other commitments and could not make it. The presentation from the Map Kibera team was highly appreciated and it created interest among the members of the management team. Discussions which have followed after that have focused on building closer collaboration with them and we are now working towards a Map Mathare Initiative to take place in October. The process will start with hands-on training in Participatory GIS to equip the youth with knowledge and skills that will enable them to map sanitation and other issues affecting and put them in the global map using Open Street Mapping. The simple one-dimensional sketch maps developed by communities during the CLTS triggering will be digitized and more visual aspects captured through use of multimedia tools including digital photography, video SMS frontline and ushahidi. It is interesting is that some of these tools have been developed in Kenya which has become a hub of ICT and Mobile technologies.

During this period there have been major developments in Kenya that provide an opportunity for the urban informal settlement to engage in the struggle for better sanitation with hope. The new Constitution which was passed by Kenyans in August recognizes Sanitation as a Right. This means that there is room to hold state actors to account as to why they have failed to meet their duties and obligations in promoting, protecting and ensuring that people of Mathare and other informal settlement realize this right. According the constitution of Kenya which was promulgated on 27th August 2010, every person has the right to a clean and healthy environment. This includes the right to accessible and adequate housing and to reasonable standards on Sanitation.

In a breakfast TV talk show, 2 days before the promulgation of the constitution, Rose Nyawira (UCLTS, Facilitator), Robert Chambers and I had a chance to talk to over 4

million Kenyan's and make the links between the constitution and urban sanitation. The constitution also guarantees people in Kenya the Right to the Highest Attainable Standards –there is no way this right can be realized when people are forced to practice open defecation and continue ingesting each other's faeces (sh!t). In the talk show we had a short window opportunity to use the crude language of sh!t but before long a caller who was having breakfast with his son asked us not to use it as it is a swear word and children will pick bad manners from us. The presenter did not give us a chance to explain why. He passed a note warning us not to use the word. We had another chance when Robert displayed an A3 printout of the [International Glossary of Shit](#) which contained a few Kenyan names of sh!t and requested the viewers to share more names.

A lot has been happening in Mathare 10. We had an opportunity for the second urban CLTS stakeholders meeting. This time round it was not in a posh hotel in town but in Mathare 10. It was an opportunity to celebrate what they have achieved so far. This coincided with a workshop on [School-Led Total Sanitation and children's involvement in CLTS](#) and it was a great opportunity to have practitioners from South East Asia (Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal) and other African Countries (Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Uganda, Zambia) visiting and sharing their insights. ([see photos from the visit](#))

The media whom we had triggered during the TV talk show also came in and collected stories from the communities. Watch a [short news reportage on Mathare 10](#). They mainly wanted to hear what connections the communities were making between the new constitution and their poor sanitation conditions. The big question was what difference the new constitution would make for the inhabitants of Mathare.

Today as I write this mail the communities in Starehe Constituency where Mathare falls are casting their votes as there is a by-election after the election results for 2007 were nullified. Sanitation and open defecation were for the first time on the election agenda. There was a lot of [coverage by the media](#) on the poor sanitation conditions in Mathare. I am looking forward to hearing the results of the elections this evening and I am have to leave now so that I can catch-up with the news.

1st October

About 2 weeks ago (17th September 2010) I had an opportunity to catch-up with our colleagues at the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation (MOPHS). In the meeting were also a UNICEF Consultant and a representative from SNV (the Netherlands Development Organization). It is official now that the MOPHS has adopted CLTS as an appropriate and high impact sanitation and hygiene promotion tool in all the districts that meet the favourable conditions. In order to spearhead and coordinate effective implementation of CLTS the MOPHS has formed a CLTS unit and designated a lead person at the Ministry headquarters. The unit works with a core team of which Plan Kenya UNICEF and SNV are members. This is likely to expand to include representatives from other agencies including those working on urban CLTS too. The unit and the core team are working towards:

- Coming up with common/shared guidelines for CLTS training to ensure good practice among practitioners;
- Customizing and if need be develop Kenya specific CLTS training tool kit;
- Developing trainers notes to guide CLTS trainers;

- Developing a vetting/certification mechanism to identify potential facilitators from those trained.

The immediate plan is to train and re-trigger and trigger in 5 districts namely; Busia 320 villages; Nyanza 600 villages. Isiolo 600 village; Garissa 600 villages; and Mandera 400 villages. My view was that is a very ambitious plan -triggering 2,520 village between September and December 2010. I was encouraged when the coordinator argued that we aim to the sun to get to the moon and that attention will be paid to adequate preparation and ensuring that there is capacity for follow-up and support before any triggering is done. The MOPHS in their performance contract have committed to increase sanitation coverage and use by 10% annually. This is as an effort to accelerate the process towards achieving the MDGs in 2015.

I was amazed that they had gone ahead and developed some tools for village selection, household register, and weekly progress monitoring tools for use at village and district level which will feed to the national level. This is to ensure that what is happening is adequately tracked. Given these tools were quite manual, I sought to know if they would give ICT (specifically GIS and mobile phone technology). The idea went down well and we will enlist the involvement of the ministry in the upcoming initiative we will be doing in Mathare 10 with Map Kibera but also the Mobile phone GIS (M-GESA) initiative in Kilifi.

It is rather strange that the MOPHS is focusing more on rural sanitation. I raised the issue of urban sanitation but they told me while they do know that there are challenges with urban sanitation, they were not yet prepared to engage in urban areas. They, however said, they were in support of what we are doing in Mathare 10 and would like to learn from it. This is an area we (Plan Kenya) will continue pursuing with MOPHS because their involvement as the key line Ministry will go along way in strengthening what the communities and CSO are doing. Also their involvement will draw other key ministries-mainly Local Government, Lands and Planning and then the City Council of Nairobi.

Surely these are key developments in GOK. When we started CLTS 3 years ago our hope was to get MOPHS to take the lead as they are the major duty bearers for sanitation. To see these great attempts in mainstreaming CLTS in the Ministry is encouraging. The plan is to have District CLTS coordinators and this will contribute a great deal in-terms of implementation as well as tracking what is happening across the country. Adam the MOPHS coordinator is passionate and committed to see us move forward.

This meeting concluded by us agreeing to for a CLTS learning group that will regularly meet, share and reflect on what is happening and continue advocating and profiling CLTS. Further we agreed on documenting through a news letter dubbed, " The Sh!t Issue" . This will be basically a collection of stories on what is happening and what we are learning.

26th November 2010

I have been really busy and have lagged behind on my urban CLTS blog. Last week I was in Lusaka Zambia for an [Anglophone Africa CLTS sharing and Learning](#) workshop and now I am preparing to travel to Bangkok Thailand for a Plan global conference on program effectiveness. There has been a lot happening in Mathare since I last updated my blog. New relationships and partnerships have emerged all with the purpose of

enhancing the struggle towards better sanitation and living conditions in Mathare. Some of the key events that that have taken place are listed below:

Partnership with KBC: *Vitimbi* a local Kenya Broad Casting TV comedy show with an audience of about 4 million moves to Mathare10: *Mzee Ojwang* (the main character) moves to Mathare 10 and opens a new makeshift hotel-he does not inform his wife *Mama Kayai*. His hotel has no toilet facilities so he gives his customers plastic bags to use as their toilet. His workers shit in the open, do not wash their hands with soap. Some of his workers do not like the new establishment. The makeshift hotel chosen by the *vitimbi* crew belongs to a woman who makes lovely chapatis near Manygro Youth group which has been involved in the CLTS triggering in Mathare 10. The shooting sessions have been attracting huge crowds as the residents make their way to see the *Vitimbi*. Some of the residents joined the cast as customers in the new hotel. The CLTS capitalized the opportunity to engage the crowds on sanitation issues as they undertook a transect walk in the open defecation areas. According to Rose Nyawira (our Urban CLTS facilitator) the capacity of the *Vitimbi* crew to draw and sustain huge crowds is something we will need to capitalize in the future;

Partnership [Map Kibera](#)/GroundTruth: The purpose for the partnership is to undertake hands-on training of the youth in Mathare in Open Street Map GIS tools and social media (Ushahidi/SMS reporting, video and internet). The outcomes (data/voices) will be used to engage in influencing policy makers and service providers for better services in informal urban settlements;

Preparation for the [World Toilet Day](#): The CLTS facilitators and the natural leaders in Mathare tool the preparation for the WTD very seriously. They had as series of meetings to deliberate on what activities to undertake. They settled at cleaning household toilets and hand washing with soap. It was amazing that in the attempt to count the number of the toilets they discovered there were over 200 toilets. In the actual day they cleaned 249 toilets. They had also agreed to do a procession on the highway to highlight the poor sanitation conditions and also make slogans on dangers of open defecation. It seems they succeeded in attracting the media. I was lucky to catch the news that evening and I saw the procession. I have been promised the news video clips by someone in KBC. Some of the natural leaders from Mathare joined communities in Homa Bay County in Nyanza region to celebrate the WTD to mark ODF in some villages. I will plan to meet them when am back from Bangkok to hear their stories; *You can also read about their activities and see photos on their [Facebook page](#)*

Goal Ireland Considering UCLTS: Just today I got a call from a Mr Owino of Goal that they are interested in learning more about the UCLTS work we are piloting in Mathare. They are working in Mukuru and Korokocho informal settlements and they have been following keenly the pilot in Mathare;

Meeting so many practitioners of CLTS in Zambia gave me a lot of energy. The one thing that excites me as I write this is that two of my colleagues are in the Democratic Republic of Congo (possibly the largest open defecating country in Africa!) in a Tear Fund UK commissioned training and that somewhere in Mali another [CLTS sharing and learning workshop](#) is happening. The CLTS Learning Unit in Plan Kenya is becoming part of a large movement of CLTS practitioner and gaining momentum here at home and within the region. All these developments excites me. I am really hopeful that our vision of open defecation free Kenya and Africa is not unrealistic!

Also, check out this [video about sanitation in schools in Mathare](#)

31st January 2011

It feels like I have been out of circulation for a year. We have been going through an internal structure review in Plan Kenya and this has come with a lot of demands for the Country Management Team of which I am a member. Many balls in the UCLTS front have been in the air. The Banda (temporary structure) in the Garden has experienced a lot of “shit talk” reflection meetings. Most of these have been for reviewing progress on the GIS Mapping of the wider Mathare that we started in December. The launch of the Map Mathare was such a success and as I write now the base-map for Mathare is done and this week the team will be meeting to plan for the thematic mapping. The Map Kibera and Ground Truth Team (all of them youth) have done an amazing job of passing on the Open Street Mapping technology and also to trigger passion to participate in the entire process. I think lessons they learned from the challenges they had faced in Kibera are informing the approach being used in Mathare. It is evident that more time was invested in identifying appropriate entry points and mobilizing the communities to participate. More people (70 plus) have been actively participating in the process. We were anticipating the numbers would be much lower after the schools opened but this seems not to be the case.

Initial brainstorming last week on the possible themes and how to involve a wider representation of the potential users of the information generated through this Mapping process got me excited. My passion and interest is getting all the shit on the digital map through mapping the open defecation areas, open drains, garbage sites, public and private toilets, water points and if possible the flying toilets that dot rooftops for houses in Mathare. One of the things I shared with the core Map Kibera team that is supporting us with this process is the possibility of including the houses/structures on the map (3-D). I know communities have been able to do 3-D modeling manually through Participatory GIS work in the past. The recently launched [Training Kit on Participatory Spatial Information Management and Communication](#) does provide tips on how this works.

On a different front I still continue to *deliberately* play a passive role in UCLTS in Mathare 10. In a recent meeting I had with the CCS team (Rosie, Njenaga and Niana), I had to step into my devil's advocate role and provoke them. I expressed my frustration at not getting enough information on what was happening and if we had hit a dead end with our aspiration of working with the Mathare 10 community to end Open Defecation. I had been waiting for an update in form of a report and this seemed to have taken long to come by. To a point I felt like they were on a go slow. They seemed not to have a clue that I was under pressure to report to our well wishers and donors who are funding our UCLTS initiative. Njenga being the peace maker and such a diplomat was the first one to calm me down and assure me that a report would land on my desk within a week.

What I picked from my meeting with the CCS team was that, though there are real challenges, a lot of lobbying was happening underground. There is no giving up and the enthusiasm is still there. They have been organizing targeted lobbying meetings with the ‘who's who’ in the community -the structure owners, landlords, influential business people, City Council of Nairobi, Pastors, Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation Officials- to ensure that they have a critical mass of committed people who can help to find a solution to the land tenure issues. It is clear that land tenure will remain the most important challenge that anyone working in informal settlement in big cities will face. I also learned that the CCS team and UCLTS facilitators had been exploring affordable

technological options for toilet facilities in urban areas as well as financing opportunities. Through this they have come across a group called [Sanergy](#) who is promoting different latrine technologies in other informal settlements in Nairobi. In December, together with the CCS team, we were also able to meet with a team from the Netherlands called Aqua for All who are keen to demonstrate that nutrient reuse in agriculture provides a viable solution for urban sanitation. They want to create a market for shit fertilizer in the Agricultural Sector before they can link entrepreneurs with financing opportunities for establishing technologies that will utilize shit as a raw material for making fertilizer. They are starting discussions on a pilot program with UNEP and with Dutch and UK partners (donors). We are waiting to hear more what becomes of their talks.

I sought to know from the team if the communities in Mathare 10 were still defecating in the open and ingesting each others' shit even after being triggered more than 6 months ago (June 2010). The answer was yes with a *but*. There have been many developments and changes of behaviour. Rose outlined that there were regular clean-ups and meetings among the natural leaders to ensure that OD comes to an end. There are also more regular clean-ups by the communities than before. I think what tickled me is the news that residents of Mathare are now using *potties* at night instead of the plastic bags and emptying them to the private toilets in the morning. This was reported by toilet attendants in Mathare 10. They had observed a new trend of adults coming with potties containing large quantities of shit and upon investigating they discovered that adults were now resorting to using potties. This to me is just a step up from the method used in rural areas as triggered communities wait to attain ODF. This I had to tell Njenga and Rosie to gather more information and collect some stories from potty users in Mathare 10. They indicated that most were women. If the push for this is not shame and disgust it is certainly fear (not of ingesting shit) but of being attacked at night while defecating in the open. Rosie told me the natural leaders were talking to the toilet attendants to lower the rates for emptying potties to 1 KSH as opposed to 3 KSH charged per use.

The CLTS integrated media campaign partnership with Kenya Broadcasting Cooperation has been received very well by the public. Through Radio and TV the programs are reaching over 7 million Kenyans across the country. Five of the "Vitimbi" (comedy) episodes were done in Mathare 10 and some communities were able to be part of the cast. In the last episode done in Mathare 10 workers in Mzee Onjwang (the hotel owner) were seen giving the hotel customers plastic bags to use as the hotel did not have a toilet. My challenge has been to get the KBC team to post the video clips on Youtube. I will keep on pushing them and maybe next time links will be available on this blog.

7th March 2011

What a week it has been-away from my usual home and work environment. The weather a bit chilly though not as grey as Sussex weather can be. It is really good to be back to IDS, Sussex University, Brighton after almost 4 years since I left to join Plan International Kenya. Though a lot of changes have taken place quite a few people moving on, decorations here and there, some things have not changed. My favourite room, the [Participation Resource Centre](#), is still there. A few former colleagues-Jane Stevens, John Gaventa, Jethro Pettit are still around. There are many new faces in the Participation Power and Social Change Team-all very warm and welcoming.

Thanks to Robert, Petra and Naomi who hosted me during my visit. My agenda was packed –starting with Robert and Petra to catch up on what has been happening since

the [Lusaka CLTS sharing and learning event](#) in November 2010. Both had just arrived back from the Plan International [Pan African CLTS Project](#) Annual Review Meeting in Ethiopia. As I learnt from them the workshop was a great success and in particular the School-Led Total Sanitation component which they visited in the field where Plan Ethiopia is working with children and teachers to trigger, follow-up and monitor progress in a [new model of SLTS](#). I also updated them on what was happening in Kenya. The discussions on a partnership with Plan Southern Sudan and UNICEF to introduce CLTS and provide support through training and setting up of an M&E mechanism and a planned Regional CLTS introductory workshop for Goal. Luckily I had also made a call to Adam Mohammed the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation CLTS coordinator to check the latest progress. So I was happy to share with Robert and Petra that 640 villages in Kenya are now ODF- that is 60,000 Households from 6 Districts all in Western Kenya. These numbers seem to have excited Robert and I tell him there could be more only that we can't keep track of all the efforts being done in different parts of the country.

Then I turned to the exciting Participatory GIS mapping and social media work we are doing in Mathare. Phase one is done and we now have base map for Mathare. We have now entered Phase two which focuses on thematic mapping. Sanitation, Health and Water and the priority themes we have decided to map. Beyond mapping sanitation facilities and classifying them, the thematic mapping will enable us to capture and have a satellite image showing density of the settlements and also indicate the size of land or space used as Open Defecation Areas known as *Adhara* in local slang.

I had requested the team to see it will be at all possible to estimate the number of people going to *Adhara* every day and the quantities of *shonde* (shit) generated every day. This would mean they take a tally of the piles they can see in every OD area. At the end of day one I was eager to hear what happened. It seems it all worked well but as the mappers did not know what expected them: they were surprised at the magnitude of OD in the areas they were mapping. As a matter of fact, they realized they did not have the right shoes to go deep into the OD areas to see and capture the kind of data we were hoping they would. Nevertheless they did a good job and they were able to capture good close-up of the *shonde*. [You can see and read more about the mapping here](#) This information will be useful not just for planning but as evidence for engaging in advocacy with the duty bearers. End users (stakeholders) of the data and information being generated have been involved.

On Friday 4th March 201 I was joined by Tatiana Thieme who is doing her PhD at Cambridge and with whom we have been working since the initial CLTS training and triggering at Mathare 10. We gave a seminar on our CLTS experiences in rural and urban Kenya. I did not know what to expect –all I knew was that the seminar had been well publicized and expectations were high. To me it was a big coincidence that the last seminar I gave at IDS in April 2007 (before I left for Plan) was on CLTS and I was back giving a seminar on CLTS. Back then, as one of the IDS fellows commented, [I was a skeptic and now it seemed I am more of an evangelist](#).

All in the seminar was well received and we had a constructive engagement. Most of the questions asked were for clarification or shedding more light on areas people found interesting. The rest were reflective responses and affirmations that the work we were doing was amazing. Someone wanted to know if the 'no subsidy stance' of CLTS was not in contradiction with the right to sanitation. My response was simple - not all rights have to be provided for by the state directly. In the case of urban sanitation all that was

needed is the state to ensure that laws are enforced to ensure that tenancy standards are complied with. The state need not take the role of the landlords rather all that is needed is to promote and protect tenants from exploitative landlords who continue to collect rent and not providing standard services. While it may not be the duty of the state to provide household sanitation facilities, the state may be held to account for not respecting and protecting the right of tenants to live in a clean environment in Mathare and other informal settlements in Kenya.

According to the new constitution (Article 42) all people have the right to live in a clean environment. Article 72 further states that, if a person alleges that the right to a clean and healthy environment has been, is being or is likely to be denied, violated, infringed or threatened, the person may apply to a court for redress in addition to other legal remedies that are available in respect to the same matter. No doubt this provides an opportunity for citizens and CSOs to put into test the new law through Strategic Litigation with a focus on the right to live in a clean and healthy environment. This is a discussion we have had with our colleague Kenyatta who leads our Right to Just and Democratic Governance Country Program.

From IDS Brighton I am proceeding to London for a Plan UK convened workshop that will bring together colleagues from Africa, Latin America and Asia together to share experiences and learn from each other on the work we are doing in the area of governance. I will keep you posted as the thematic mapping evolves.

28th April 2011

Greetings from Denmark.

It has been quite a while since I updated my urban CLTS blog. It would seem that the only time I get to do a post is when I am out of the country for a mission. The last time I did it I was in Brighton (UK) and now I am in Copenhagen on a mission with Plan Denmark to review Plan Kenya's Urban Strategy for Nairobi within which the Urban CLTS work we are doing in Mathare will be accommodated. Since my last update in (early March) quite a number of significant events have taken place.

First is the Urban Hygiene and Sanitation Workshop organized by IRC in Rwanda.

Though I was not able to attend, a background paper I had co-authored with Grace Lubaale was shared. This highlighted UCLTS as an opportunity for enhancing citizen participation in demanding better sanitation services. The revised version will be available soon. Rosie Nyawira from CCS our UCLTS partner made a picture presentation on the work we are doing in Mathare 10.

Second is the completion of the Open Street Mapping process Mathare. Following the completion of the [base map](#) the thematic mapping for Mathare 10 (UCLTS pilot) area has also been completed. You can [take a look here](#). The team did a brilliant job in digitally mapping the Open Defecation Area in spite of the initial fears they had when I requested them to do so. They also managed to do building extractions of Mathare 10 as we needed to have a digital visual of how the place is congested. [See more here](#). They will be including population data too. The data being collected through this process will provide evidence that will be used for engaging key stakeholders including City Planning Department, Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation among others. I am excited about what the team has done and I am looking forward to a

session with them in early May where they will share what has been achieved so far and the next steps.

Third, Philip Otieno (CLTS Advisor Plan Kenya) and I did a Regional CLTS induction workshop for Goal Ireland. Participants were WASH heads from Eastern, Southern and West Africa. As indicated in my earlier posts Goal has taken interest in CLTS. Of interest here is their commitment to collaborate with us in the work we are doing in Mathare. Of course there was great interest and commitment to start CLTS in the rural areas where they are working. I will keep you posted on how our collaboration with Goal on UCLTS evolves.

Fourth, before I left Kenya, I had an opportunity to meet with Kamal Kar who is on a mission in Kenya to review the CLTS work Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation and UNICEF are doing. Within 24 hours of his arrival he had managed to meet with the Minister MOPHS and she has been retriggered and made a commitment to go full throttle with CLTS in Kenya. Kamal was able to enlist my participation and facilitation of a session with the MOPHS and key stakeholders in sanitation. In the session we had on 21st April 2011 in the Ministries board room we were able (within 2 hours) to map where and who is doing CLTS in Kenya, identify where activities are concentrated and the gaps. The MOPHS has now committed to have an Open Defecation Free Rural Kenya by 2013.

A few participants raised questions as to why urban was excluded and MOPHS response was that a larger majority of Kenyan population is rural. However they said they were waiting to learn from the UCLTS work we were doing and were fully in support of our efforts. A nationwide CLTS campaign will be launched on the 11th May. While in Kenya, Kamal will be holding a learning workshop with CLTS facilitators to discuss and develop an action plan for scaling-up CLTS and to ensure that the ODF rural Kenya is attained by 2013. I am looking forward to having a drink with Kamal and to catch-up when I go back next week. For sure the pilot phase for CLTS is over and we cannot keep on counting ODF villages. We need to start counting ODF districts and not villages any more.

Fifth, is the Urban Strategy review and planning meeting I am attending in Copenhagen. It is providing a great opportunity to review the strategy and share our experiences and aspiration for the urban program we are doing in Nairobi. It is a small meeting with 4 of us from Plan Kenya and 3 colleagues from Plan Denmark so we have the time to go really deep. We started with an exercise that helped us map urban trends at global and local level and analysing how these impacts on the well-being and rights of children. It was clear that the trends cause stress on accessing urban resources and services such as education, water, sanitation among others. The one important aspect that stood out is the infringement on the right to play for children. With diminishing spaces as a result of land grabbing, poor planning, indiscriminate dumping of waste etc has left children with limited option to play which is a vital part of their growth. A presentation "Child Friendly Cities" by Anton, an architect from [Architecture Sans Frontieres](#), was revealing and pointed that most cities in the world today lack the key ingredients that would make them enjoyable places for children and adults to live in. The planners have not taken into account easy access to play and recreation facilities and safety for children in highly compromised. In our case in Nairobi informal settlements the situation is worse as children are forced to play on dump sites as there is no much space left and garbage

collection services are not available. The Mathare valley bloggers have [highlighted these issues](#).

I am almost missing my breakfast so I will have to dash out now.

16th May 2011

Last week marked a new chapter and push for Community Led Total Sanitation in Kenya. The launch of a CLTS campaign for Open Defecation Free (ODF) Rural Kenya by 2013 was like music to my ears. This coincided with a Plan International AUSAID-funded Water & Sanitation Initiative Workshop hosted by Plan Kenya which drew 40 participants from 10 countries (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, India, Plan Australia, Plan Netherlands and Plan UK). The launch brought together over 200 participants most of whom were from the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation (MOPHS) (national, provincial and county levels) and Civil Society organizations, UN bodies and natural leaders. It marked the climax of Dr. Kamal Kar's visit to Kenya, hosted by UNICEF/MOPHS. The launch was presided over by the Permanent Secretary MOPHS on behalf of the Minister.

It is almost 4 year now since the first village in Kenya, Jaribuni in Kilifi District (Kenyan Coast Region) celebrated ODF status (19th November 2007) and the CLTS fire is still burning and bright. Results from the earlier pilots in Kilifi (see [Dr. Tsafa's powerpoint and review report 2010](#)) and Homa Bay Districts where Plan Kenya works were key in sparking institutional buy-in for CLTS. To see CLTS come this far does motivate and inspire us to continue championing for the approach, not only in Kenya but also regionally and globally. As this launch went on, Philip Otieno (CLTS champion and Trainer and Plan Kenya Colleague) was busy in Southern Sudan where Plan Kenya is training WASH practitioners from NGOs and Government in a Plan South Sudan/UNICEF Partnership.

Since these early (2007/2008) pilots in Kilifi and Homa Bay, the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation and other key players have taken keen interest in CLTS. Plan Kenya heeded to requests to partner with them and UNICEF to train Public Health Officers in Coast, Nyanza and Western Kenya. Subsequently MOPHS successfully tested CLTS in 6 districts in Nyanza and Western Provinces. Results coming out of these tests demonstrated beyond doubt that [CLTS has everything it takes to accelerate sanitation coverage and use](#)

During the launch it was evident that the concept of CLTS, its principles and methods have been internalized. From the opening prayer by the Nairobi Provincial Public Health Officer "...4000 years ago God you told the children of Israel not to defecate in the open...we are gathered here today to declare an ODF Kenya by 2013", to the natural leader "... never again should mothers shed their tears because they are losing their children due to something as basic as open defecation".

The permanent secretary who started with a joke made my day when he shared a story of an accident that had happened in a village when a hunter threw his spear when he thought he had seen an antelope only to realize that his spear landed on his neighbour. He reiterated that such accidents were still happening in Kenya today as open defecation was still rampant.

I can confidently say that within this period (2007-2011) capacity has been developed, institutional champions and natural leaders at different level have emerged and we do now have a critical mass for propelling CLTS to the next level. This is a key moment and we cannot continue counting and celebrating a few (1000) villages attaining ODF, while 13-15 million Kenyans continue to defecate in the open. To date not a single district has been declared ODF. It is evident that efforts that went into hands-on training for CLTS facilitators are a strong foundation for accelerating the move towards attaining the MDGs on sanitation. There are [opportunities and challenges for scaling CLTS in Kenya](#). While MOPHS sees CLTS as complementing both the Government of Kenya policy on Environmental Sanitation and Hygiene (2007) and the [Community Health Strategy](#), the task of going to scale and delivering an ODF Rural Kenya by 2013 is nevertheless enormous and requires investment in a process that will support the 4000 Public Health Officers, local and natural leaders.

Prior to the Launch the ODF Kenya Campaign, the Permanent Secretary MOPHS inaugurated a National CLTS Coordination and Knowledge Management Hub which will be hosted at the Ministry headquarter. This hub, once operational, will work with partners to ensure that no parts of the country are Left behind. It will

- serve as a focal point for all CLTS activities:
- oversee quality capacity building of ministry's and partners staff,
- provide technical backstopping of Provincial/ County governments,
- mobilise resources for the campaign,
- coordinate and harmonize to avoid duplication,
- ensure regular availability of quality data for evidence based planning and monitoring, knowledge creation/ packaging and dissemination.

The hub will also have a website, a library and a database.

While I do celebrate the launch of the campaign as a milestone by MOPHS, I am sad that this campaign excludes urban areas, even though it is clear that [in future a larger majority of the Kenyan population will live in urban areas](#). I raised questions about this but I must say the response was not adequate. There is a clear indication that the Government of Kenya has a rural bias simply because currently about 80% of the Kenyan population is rural.

However, in 2010 it was estimated that over 12 million of the 38 million Kenyans lived in urban areas. A larger proportion (about 60%) of these are living in low income and informal settlements where access to sanitation is very poor. To me this is enough reason to focus more on the Pilot Urban CLTS work we are doing in Mathare 10. Just a day (12th May 2011) after the CLTS campaign launch ODF rural Kenya, I was privileged to be among 40 participants who visited Mathare 10 to see and learn from the UCLTS pilot project supported by Plan Kenya and Community Cleaning Services. It will be a year on June 1st 2011 since we triggered the communities in Mathare 10. It was amazing to see what has been achieved within such a short period.

Walking through Mathare 10 and not having to jump or skip over shit is a big miracle I would say. I still remember vividly how it was last year. This time round it was great that we had colleagues from Kilifi, Australia and Bangladesh who had previously visited Mathare 10 in June and August 2010 and could make the comparison. I asked them to give us their assessment. They testified that Mathare 10 had undergone drastic

transformation-they literally looked for shit but they did not find it. Open Defecation Areas have been transformed to different use, e.g. for market stalls, kiosks, vegetable gardens and in some areas toilets have been constructed. The efforts the communities have put are evident: drains are regularly cleaned.

The Mathare mappers had their gadgets as we walked and they were taking points to update the maps. Some key achievements include the formation of a market security committee in Ngumba village that monitors to ensure that no one defecates in the open; construction of 2 one-door model sanergy toilets one outside an informal school and the other near Ngumba Market which did not have a single toilet when we triggered last year. They charge 3 shillings per use. I had an opportunity to pee in one after it had been inaugurated during our visit. The toilets are ecosan-separating urine and faecal matter. They cost about 16,000 KSH (200 US\$). The barrels have airtight covers and once they are full the operators will be emptying the shit into a nearby Umande Toilet bio-digester which will be producing bio-gas and running a cooking and water boiling business for the residents of Mathare 10. If not able to cope with the quantities of shit generated the operators have an option of emptying to the manholes in the main sewer line. The idea is for the landlords/structure owners to see that there are affordable options which they can construct for their tenants so as to eradicate open defecation. The provincial administration and the city council of Nairobi will be issuing official notice to all the structure owners to have sanitation facilities in their buildings. There are still a few toilets emptying to the river and they will also be served with notice to replace them with environmentally friendly ones. Failing that, they will have to demolish all of them.

As demand grows, [technological and financing options are emerging](#) Earlier on in this process I remember there was anxiety as to whether ending open defecation was not an unrealistic goal as some of us did not even have a clue what technological options would be needed and how much they would cost. The anxiety is being put to rest here as there is every sign that with collective commitment by the natural/local leaders, community and key institutions OD will be history. The public health officer who initially was suspicious and sceptical at the onset of UCLTS has now become a straight shit talker. No doubt he is an institutional champion.

This time round there were quite a number of senior staff from the city council of Nairobi. We will capitalize on this emerging interest and commitment to penetrate the key departments in the city council of Nairobi and begin exploring more long-term solutions to the sanitation challenges in the informal settlements. With the small victories and the data collected through the participatory GIS mapping and social media the next round table meeting will be carefully targeted to enlist commitment from key departments and stakeholders. On the ground, the natural leaders and UCLTS facilitators are obtaining breakthroughs with the wider community and the landlords. We anticipate a planned documentary shoot which will bring the Kenya Broadcasting Team back into Mathare 10. This will generate new enthusiasm and passion in the community as they move toward better sanitation and hygiene in Mathare 10.

2nd June 2011

Yesterday 1st June 2011 was the 1st Anniversary since the CLTS triggering in Mathare 10. It is great and significant that the Anniversary coincides with Madaraka (Independence) day. So are the Mathare residents liberated from the shit menace? Has the situation improved? What is cooking?

As I am on leave and far from Nairobi or Kenya for that matter, I decided to call Rosie to find out if there were any key events to mark this day. Unfortunately Rosie was not picking her phone so I decided to call Njenga. These two have done an amazing job and have remained passionate and very positive in the UCLTS process.

Well I asked Njenga what they did on the 1st June 2011. His response was easy- it was holiday so we took a break. Then I follow- a year ago we triggered CLTS in Mathare 10 so what would you say has changed? Njenga brightens up and he outlines some major changes he has seen since the triggering.

- * First is a community that is aware of the dangers of open defecation, dirty environment and how this affects their health and well being.

- * Second, is a community that has begun to take action to police itself and ensure that the environment is kept clean.

- * Third is landlords who are aware and are triggered to construct toilets for their tenants.

- * Fourth, is government, local administration and public health officers from the City Council of Nairobi who are beginning to enforce environmental sanitation laws and wants to leave a legacy of good sanitation in Mathare.

- * Fifth and last are emerging technological options that entrepreneurs and landlords can choose from to address the sanitation needs.

And by the way as Njenga added-some two (additional) helicopter toilets which were emptying to the river directly have been destroyed by the communities. These points seems to flow from Njenga's mind without any struggle.

As I spoke with him he told me he was in Plan Kenya offices with Frank Marita (my colleague) preparing a presentation on UCLTS for the AfricaSan 3 to be held in Rwanda in July. One year down the line since I started this blog may not seem like a long time- but a lot has happened. Pioneering UCLTS has been quite and exciting journey. To see what we have achieved, the interests generated and the new horizons that are emerging gives me a lot of joy. In the coming weeks we will be reflecting with the UCLTS and Map Mathare team, to draw lessons and chat our next steps. As I am on leave let me resist the temptation of making this entry long.