

ULTS IN MATHARE 10 INFORMAL SETTLEMENT AND BEYOND UCLTS.

Progress:

Plan Kenya is implementing Urban – Led Total Sanitation (ULTS) in informal settlement in Mathare, Nairobi. From initiation in May 2010 in Mathare 10, ULTS has scaled up to other informal areas in Nairobi County. These areas include Starehe (Mathare 10), Embakasi, Makadara, Kamukunji and Kasarani sub counties. Scaling up in these sub counties was catalysed by natural leaders who initially were residents of Mathare 10, but later shifted base to these particular localities. Implementation of ULTS is mainly coordinated by Community Development Officers (social services department of Nairobi County Council) and Natural leaders. Currently, there are 10 and 40 active CDOs and Natural leaders respectively leading this process.

Achievements

ULTS approach has successfully reduced open defecation (OD) and the famous “flying toilet” practices in informal settlement. Through behaviour change, most families can now use pay public toilets (which also have shower services) by paying a subsidized monthly fee. As a result of reduced OD, all ODF sites have been transformed into human use for instance, small kitchen and commercial gardens which grow vegetables, tomatoes and sugarcane. Some sites have also been commercialized and have become yards for selling building materials like sand, timber, stones and concrete. Most important is one site that has been improved with concrete cement slab, for a playground for two neighbouring primary schools in Mathare 10.

A recent achievement is the formation of a sanitation movement, which has brought together youth groups from different Sub-Counties across Nairobi County. The group meets once on monthly basis to deliberate on sanitation issues experienced in Nairobi County and how a sanitation initiative can be replicated. The movement, whose vision is “A clean and healthy Nairobi City” was involved in pre and post-World Toilet Day clean- up activities in various areas in the five sub counties.

ULTS approach has attracted local partnership with Banza Technology in Mathare. Banza is a new mobile toilet technology used at household level. Faeces are deposited in a biodegradable paper bag collected each morning by the Banza team for disposal. A bout 150 toilets are already in use and further innovations to develop another technology is underway. Banza rides on our UCLTS successes to introduce the technology to the households.

To date, 105 toilets (Pour flush and ordinary pit) have been built in both Kangurue and Mathare 10 areas. In recognition of these achievements, WTD and GHD national celebrations 2014 were held in Kosovo area of Mathare and Kangurue in Embakasi respectively, where Plan Kenya is implementing UCLTS.

To promote learning and knowledge sharing, a team of 35 Public health officers, District Officer, Community Development officers and natural leaders implementing ULTS recently visited Nakuru County. The team visited areas where practical Action is implementing ULTS.

New developments in informal settlement:

There is a government initiatives for upgrading sections of the informal settlement. For instance, a sewer line is under construction in Mathare 10 and once completed, all nearby households will be required to connect to the sewer line. Second, there is opening up the slums for infrastructure development. Roads are coming up, installation of power line to start, and there is a plan to put up two (2) public pay toilets next year in Mathare.

To sustain the ODF gains in informal settlement, Plan intends to involve the Nairobi County Public health department in UCLTS issues as a step towards ownership, continuity and sustainability. This will be preceded by a training of CLTS targeting frontline workers especially, the Public health officers. Separately, sanitation movement youths will also be trained on the same and Public health managers and County leaders to secure their buy in for the approach.