

# Mbale Municipality

Enumeration Report  
2012



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## FORWARD

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The National Slum Dwellers Federation of Uganda (NSDFU) thanks you for your interest in this enumeration report. NSDFU is one of 34 national slum dweller federations in the Shack/Slum Dwellers International (SDI) network. NSDFU is active in the five divisions of Kampala, as well as the secondary cities Jinja, Mbale, Mbarara, Kabale, and Arua. It has a membership of approximately 38,000 slum dwellers.

The SDI network of urban poor federations spans Africa, Asia, and South America and central to the work of each federation is the process of community-driven information gathering. Enumeration and profiling are SDI rituals that allow communities of the urban poor to gather information on the settlements in which they live to support informed negotiation with local authorities, efficient planning, and increased awareness for the reality of life in slums. Federations administer household surveys to gather information on a range of urban attributes such as land tenure, access to services, and livelihoods.

In 2011 NSDFU and ACTogether Uganda embarked upon citywide enumerations in 5 Ugandan secondary cities as part of the Government of Uganda's Transforming Settlements of the Urban Poor in Uganda (TSUPU) program. The information gathered is already being used by NSDFU to target projects and programs to the most vulnerable and we hope that with the publication of these reports local authorities can do the same.

We would like to thank ACTogether Uganda, Mbale Federation, the students of Makerere University's Urban and Regional Planning Program (Politics of Planning), Dr. Steven Mukiibi (Head of Architecture and Physical Planning), Mr. Peter Kassaija (Lecturer), and students from the New School Graduate Program in International Affairs International Field Program who helped us to produce these final reports as part of an Urban Studio funded by the African Association of Planning Schools (AAPS) and SDI.

Thank you,  
National Slum Dwellers Federation of Uganda (NSDFU)  
Okwegatta Gemanyi

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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In 2011 The National Slum Dwellers Federation of (NSDFU) embarked upon citywide enumerations in five Ugandan secondary cities as part of the Government of Uganda's Transforming Settlements of the Urban Poor in Uganda (TSUPU) program. Enumeration and profiling are SDI rituals that allow communities of the urban poor to gather information on the settlements in which they live to support informed negotiation with local authorities, efficient planning, and increased awareness for the reality of life in slums. Federations administer household surveys to gather information on a range of urban attributes such as land tenure, access to services, and livelihoods.

Mbale Municipality, the district headquarters, central town and commercial center of Mbale District, is located in Eastern Uganda. Mbale Municipality is home to six informal settlements that were examined through the enumeration exercise: Busamaga, Mooni, Nabuyonga, Namakwekwe, Namataala, and Nkoma. These settlements face serious challenges related to education, savings, housing, sanitation, solid waste management, water access, and transportation accessibility within the settlements. These challenges are increasing in severity because Mbale municipality is growing and urbanizing rapidly, placing increasing strain on infrastructure and services.

The lack of information on informal settlements is a major barrier to the realization of citizenship rights and increased service delivery in communities of the urban poor. It is critical to understand that each settlement has a unique set of circumstances and to design interventions that recognize the differences between settlements in the same city. Slum upgrading interventions need to be cognizant of existing land use and the corresponding social and economic realities. The enumeration exercise can assist in organizing communities, forging partnerships, ensure that development plans, strategies and budgets reflect the true needs of the urban poor, build cohesion and capacity, and generate an enumeration database that can be used to negotiate with authorities and guide project planning.

<b>Key Findings</b>	
Demographic Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3 people per household on average</li><li>• 56% earn below 50,000 shillings per month, 32% earn between 25,000-50,000 shillings per month</li></ul>
Security of Tenure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 13% own both the land and structure where they live, 7% own just the structure, 79% are tenants, and 1% are sub-tenants</li></ul>

Type of Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 77% pay less than 25,000 shillings per month in rent, with 45% paying between 10,001-25,000 shillings per month.</li> <li>• Buildings are typically constructed with a roof made from iron sheets (95%), and walls made from mud and wattle (39%), bricks (34%), or cement/concrete (18%)</li> </ul>
Basic Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 36% of households have access to a toilet</li> <li>• 17% of households have easy access to water</li> </ul>

Mbale Municipality faces some significant challenges, as the enumeration report findings demonstrate. However, through the partnerships involved in the generation of this information, between community members, local leaders, government representatives, NGOs and academia, there is an extraordinary opportunity to use the findings of this enumeration to begin processes of change that will transform the Mbale slum settlements and improve lives and livelihoods for residents.

## OBJECTIVES

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The dearth of information on informal settlements is a major barrier to the realization of citizenship rights and increased service delivery in communities of the urban poor. Uganda's cities and towns are no exception. The objectives of the enumeration exercise conducted by the National Slum Dwellers Federation of Uganda in 2011 were thus to:

- Organize communities to collect information about the settlements in which they live.
- Forge partnerships with local authorities around information gathering and planning.
- Ensure City Development Strategies and Municipal Development Plans and budgets reflect the true needs of the urban poor as determined by the enumeration.
- Build cohesion and capacity amongst organized communities of the urban poor to promote collective action.
- Generate an enumeration database that can be used by the federation to negotiate with local and national authorities as well as guide federation project planning frameworks.

## METHODOLOGY

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During the data collection process, several steps were undertaken to ensure quality data was collected. Data collection and management was the responsibility of community members themselves, who were trained and supported by ACTogether Uganda (the support-NGO to the National Slum Dwellers Federation of Uganda) and Slum Dwellers International (the international umbrella organization to which the National Slum Dwellers Federation belongs). The following steps were taken:

1. **Preparation meetings** were held with community members, the local municipal authority and local leadership. Such meetings are critical to identify community challenges and other issues that should be included in the enumeration tool (questionnaire) as well as to discuss the purpose and importance of the enumeration exercise itself.
2. **Mobilization/sensitization** activities were conducted to inform community members about the need for the enumeration exercise. A team of community members, mainly federation leaders, community opinion leaders, and well known

and respected elders were selected to carry out a door-to-door mobilization of community members creating awareness about the enumeration exercise.

3. **Identification of enumeration teams** is the next step in the preparatory phase. A team of people, again mainly federation members, from each settlement were selected to be part of the enumeration team. This team was divided into five smaller sub-teams, namely: mobilization team, data collection team, data management team, finance team, and the mapping team. Each of these teams had its own specific duty to fulfill during the enumeration. The enumeration teams were supported by fellow federation members from Uganda and abroad who had prior experience carrying out enumerations.

4. **Training of the enumeration team** is principally the responsibility of federation members. These trainings involve two phases: the first training, a workshop, involves members being guided through interpretation of the questionnaire. The second phase involves practical learning through participatory field training. During this training, community members are able to identify their settlement boundaries and come up with settlement maps, which guide questionnaire administration.

5. **Numbering structures in the settlement:** Each and every physical structure in a settlement is assigned a unique code/number that is reflected on enumeration and mapping sheets. All structures including households, business structures, toilets, and community centers are numbered. This exercise helps the community to better understand the services available to residents in their settlement. The data management team summarizes the numbering data at the end of each day and this helps the community monitor and evaluate the process on a daily basis.

6. **Administration of the questionnaires** involves every household and business within the settlement being given the questionnaire. Information is then gathered on structure numbers, household details, occupancy details, population and available services.

7. **Data management and entry** is the next step in the process. For the community to understand and process information easily, a chart is put up in each tallying center and updated on a daily basis. This helps the community members to understand and appreciate the ongoing exercise. Community registers are created in which each settlement records each data - these registers are available to community members to use while lobbying for services in their settlements. Data entry is later undertaken by community members with the help and supervision of professionals from the support-NGO.

8. **Data verification** follows data entry. This helps to clarify the information prior collected as well as to fill in the gaps that could have been left during the data collection stage.

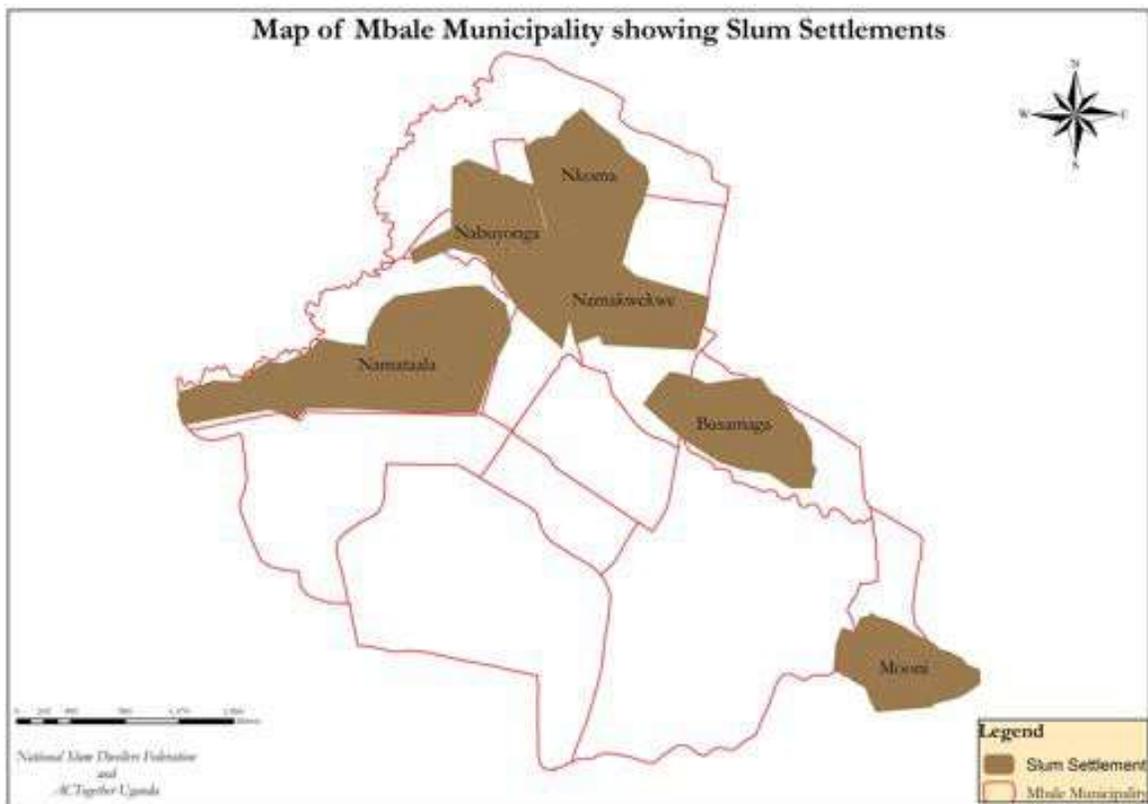
## MBALE MUNICIPALITY

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Mbale Municipality, the district headquarters, central town and commercial center of Mbale District, is located in Eastern Uganda 245 kilometers (152 miles) from Kampala and 52 kilometers (32 miles) from the Kenyan border. The municipality's gentle hills and valleys cover an area 24 square km (10 square miles) at an altitude of 3,600-4,040 feet above sea level. Mbale Municipality lies in the eastern part of Mbale District, 45 kilometers north of Tororo Town, 56 kilometers southeast of Kumi Town, 57 kilometers east of Pallisa Town, and 55 kilometers southwest of Kapchorwa Town. The 2002 census estimated the population of Mbale Municipality at 71,130 inhabitants. In 2011 the Ugandan Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) estimated the population of Mbale Municipality at 91,800.

The Mbale enumeration covered six informal settlements: Busamaga, Mooni, Nabuyonga, Namakwekwe, Namataala, and Nkoma. This report covers information gathered on these six informal settlements within Mbale Municipality.

**Picture 1: Map of Uganda showing the location of Mbale Municipality**



## NUMBERING

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A critical aspect of the information gathering process is the acknowledgement that each settlement has a unique set of circumstances. The interests on the use of land will be different between settlements in the same city. Slum upgrading interventions need to be cognizant of existing land use and the corresponding social and economic realities. One tool for capturing existing land use is structure numbering. This process is also integral to the community mapping process, which typically follows enumeration. During community mapping the enumeration data can be represented spatially. The table below captures the variance in land use between settlements.

**Table 1: Structures Numbered in Each Settlement**

**Structure Key:**

<b>R</b>	Residential	<b>T</b>	Toilet
<b>B</b>	Business	<b>I</b>	Institution
<b>B/R</b>	Business cum Residential		

Settlement	R	B	B/R	T	I	TOTAL
Busamaga	342	14	17	50	4	427
Mooni	597	63	8	121	8	797
Namakwekwe	1,264	159	71	30	8	1,532
Namataala	2,080	219	45	694	16	3,054
Nkoma	483	71	20	392	3	969
<b>5 Settlements</b>	<b>4,766</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>1,287</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>6,779</b>

*Total does not include Nabuyonga settlement.*

The numbering exercise is valuable because it shows the great variation in size and composition of the informal settlements in Mbale Municipality.

## **FINDINGS**

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The enumeration exercise documented information that is essential for urban planning and for providing necessary services for the urban poor. The findings from the enumeration exercise will help to identify critical needs in the community. This section presents a data-driven analysis of demographics, income and savings behavior, tenure status, living conditions, and access to services for slum settlement community members in Mbale Municipality.

For the sake of clarity, all of the graphs in the following sections omit missing data.

### **DEMOGRAPHICS**

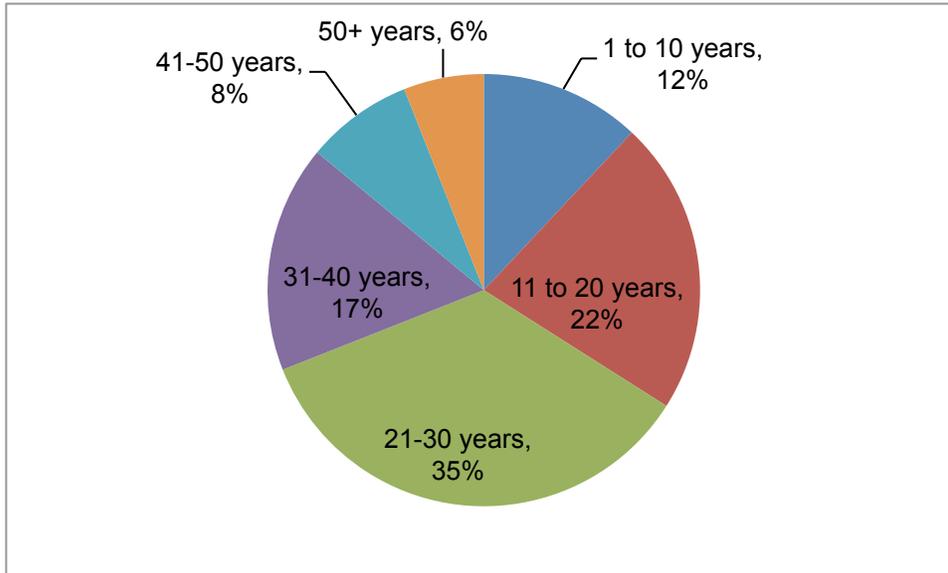
The demographic profile articulates the structure of the population in terms of age, household size, gender, and level of education. This information presents a foundation for further analysis of the slum settlements.

The Mbale settlements are densely populated. The high population density can be attributed to prevailing factors like rural-urban migration, high fertility and birth rates, and business activities which attract people from areas neighboring the municipality.

#### ***Age and Household Size***

The population of Mbale Municipality is generally young, with close to 34% under age 20 and nearly 70% under age 30. In each of the settlements age groups were compared by range, i.e. the percentage of respondents ages 0-10, 11-20, 20-30, 30-40, 40-50, and above 50 years. The largest group in each settlement on average was the 21-30 age group, which made up 35% of the total population. The next largest group was 11-20 years old, making up 22% of the total.

**Figure 1: Age of Residents in Mbale Municipality**



**Busamaga** had the smallest population recorded in the enumeration exercise, with just 518 residents. The largest percentage fell into the 21-30 year range (28%), however the age trend is older in this settlement than average. 41% of the population is over 30 compared to 31% overall, with 10% over 50 years and just 9% under 10 years.

**Nabuyonga** is the youngest settlement by population. Out of 3,524 residents, fully 74% were under 30 years of age. It has the largest percentage of 21-30 year olds, at 39%, while 23% fall into the 11-20 age group and 21% are under 10 years. Just 6% fall within the 41-50 age group and only 4% are over 50 years of age.

**Namataala**, the largest settlement, with 3,677 residents recorded in the enumeration, has almost the exact same age distribution as the average noted in the graph above.

### **Gender**

There is an essentially equal number of males and females in the Mbale settlements overall. Based on the occupant data collected in the enumeration exercise, there are 50% males and 50% females. Some settlements had slightly more males or females, with the extremes at 52% males to 48% females in Namataala and Nkoma, and 47% males to 53% females in Mooni. The other settlements fell in-between these ranges.

## Education

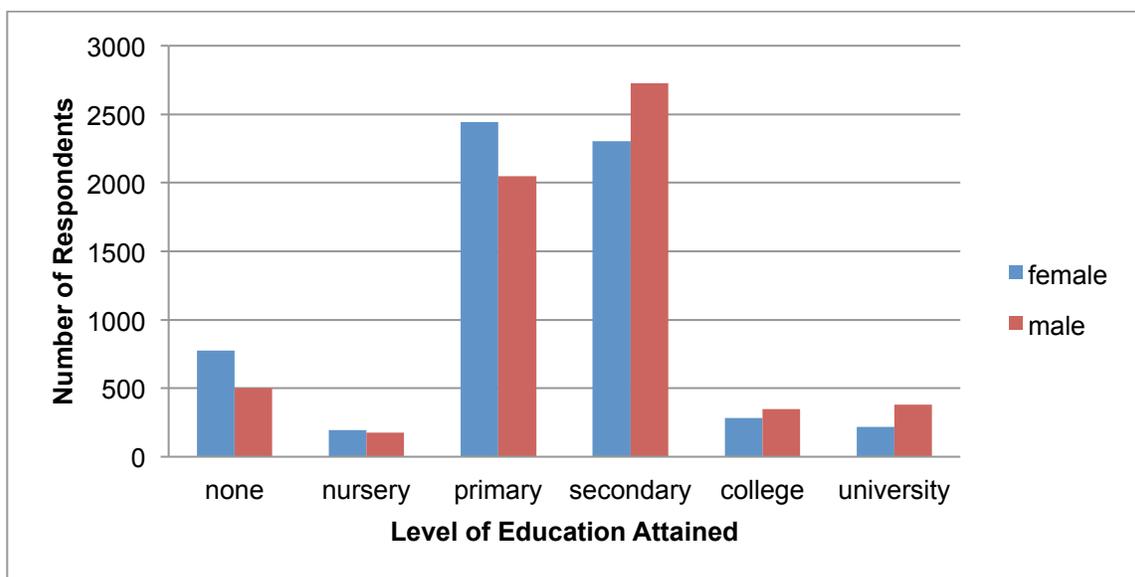
There are two main challenges to education in the settlements. First, there are too few schools, especially primary and secondary schools, to meet the needs within the settlements. Residents must often travel far to receive the education they desire. Second, the gender imbalance favoring males diminishes the opportunities and potential advancement for females, which has a negative effect on the community as a whole.

Education is a key driver in the development of every settlement, city or country. The enumeration exercise showed that 39% of Mbale residents have attained a minimum of a primary education. An additional 41% have attained a secondary education. Ten percent have attained a tertiary education, while another ten percent have no education at all.

The difference between male and female levels of educational attainment is relatively small but favors males once the level of education increases beyond primary school. The same number of males and females receive a Nursery education (3%). Thirty-nine percent of women receive up to a primary education, compared to 33% of men. More males receive up to a secondary education (44%) than do women (37%). More males receive up to a tertiary education (12%) than females (9%). A greater number of women report that they received no education at all. These patterns are consistent across all of the settlements.

A larger number of females tend to drop out of school. The retention of girls in schools is low, especially during the teenage years, because of factors such as early marriages, teenage pregnancies, peer pressure, and child labor.

**Figure 2: Gender and Education Level**



There are significant differences in the number of educational structures between settlements. The most notable fact about education in all of the settlements is that there are very few educational facilities. In order to access well-equipped schools, students often must travel long distances. For example, some students travel as far as 4km to Bujoloto to access its high-quality secondary school.

**Community Voices** – *“The state of education in our settlement is so terrible, we have got only two nursery schools which are private and hence expensive, this means that our children have to walk long distances on dangerous roads outside our settlement to access education, you people we are badly off.”*

—Mr. Wandoba of Mission Cell settlement

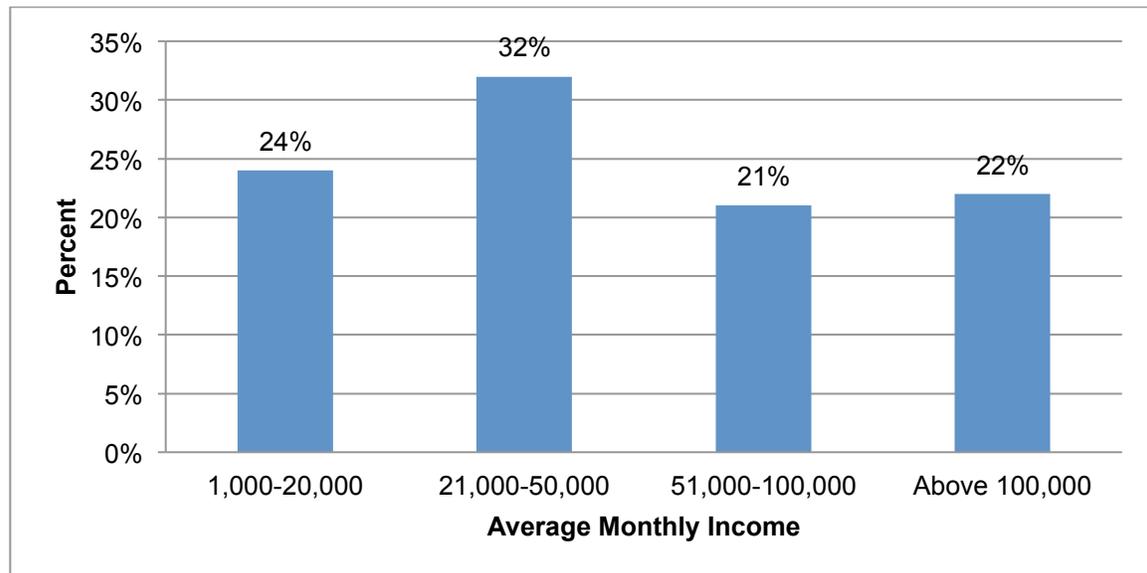
## INCOME AND SAVINGS

Many residents within the Mbale settlements are low-income earners, earning an average daily income of 3,000-5,000 shillings. The majority of residents are employed as casual laborers who work in the town area. Others are businessmen and businesswomen with small-scale enterprises such as grocery shops and kiosks.

In many of the settlements, such as Namataala, Namakwekwe, and Nabuyonga, income is generated through small business enterprises like retail shops and local brewing. A few members of this community are employed as casual laborers who work as wheel-cart pushers. This is not the case with other settlements, however. For example in Mooni settlement, the men perform casual labor such as bricklaying. The average income for people in this area varies from 3,000 shillings per day.

The enumeration exercise considered monthly income in each settlement in the ranges of those earning between 1,000-20,000, 21,000-50,000, 50,000-100,000, and above 100,000 shillings per month. Income was consistently distributed around these ranges, with similar percentages earning in the 1,000-20,000 range as earned above 100,000, as the chart below demonstrates. On average a greater percentage of respondents earned 50,000 shillings or below (56%). In some of the settlements income was distributed quite differently.

**Figure 3: Average Monthly Income (UGX)**



**Busamaga & Mooni** settlements have the highest percentage of respondents in the lowest income category, with 41% and 44%, respectively, earning less than 20,000 shillings per month. Busamaga has the lowest percentage of respondents reporting incomes above 100,000 shillings, at 14%. Namataala was the only other settlement to report such a low percentage of high earners, at 15%. Mooni has an especially low number of earners in the 51,000-100,000 range, at just 11%.

**Nabuyonga** settlement's income distribution was very similar to the average.

**Namakwekwe** has the lowest percentage of earners in the lowest income bracket, at 18%, and among the highest percentage in the highest income bracket (26%, a level which only Nabuyonga settlement exceeded, at 28%).

**Nkoma** settlement has a higher percentage than average within the middle part of the income distribution with 61% earning between 21,000-100,000 shillings, compared to an overall 53%. Mooni has the lowest percentage in the middle of the income distribution, with 34% earning within this range.

### **Savings**

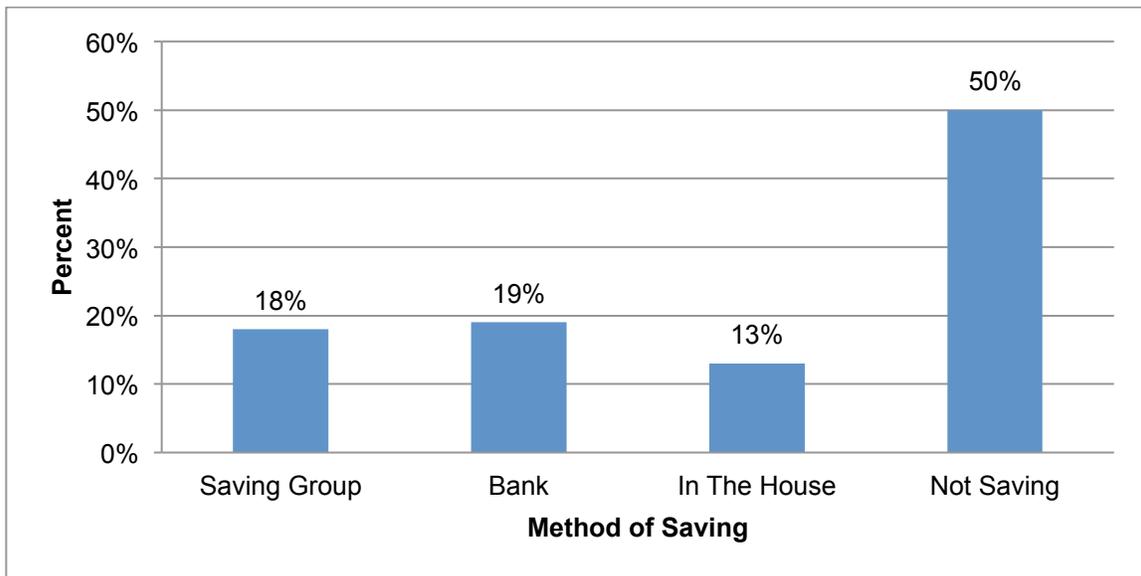
The enumeration exercise collected information on whether and how people save money within the settlements. Banks are the most popular method for saving money in Mbale Municipality (19%), although nearly as many people use savings groups (18%). A smaller but still significant number of people save their money at home (13%). The percentage of people not saving at all (50%) is equal to the percentage of all types of savers across all categories.

**Picture 2: Savings Group Meeting**



**Community Voices** –  
“Savings is the main activity in the community. We use savings as a mobilization tool so we are in a position to fix our problems.” —Semanda Twaha-Bin-Musa

**Figure 4: Savings Patterns**



**Busamaga** has the highest overall percentage of people saving money, at 61%. More respondents save their money in a bank (30%) than in any other settlement. The rest save equally in savings groups (15%) as in their houses (16%).

**Mooni** has the highest number of respondents using savings groups, at 23%. The same number use banks as used their own houses to keep savings (14%). Half of all respondents are not saving.

**Nabuyonga** has the second-highest percentage of savers after Busamaga (54%) and more of them used banks (23%) than savings groups or their homes (17% and 15% respectively).

**Namakwekwe** uses both savings groups and banks (21% and 19% respectively) out of an overall 53% of respondents who are saving money.

**Namataala** has the highest percentage of respondents not saving, 56%. The remaining savers preferred banks (16%) and savings groups (15%) over saving in the house (13%).

**Nkoma** has a high percentage not saving (53%) and the rest strongly prefer banks (21%) and savings groups (17%). Nkoma has the lowest percentage of respondents saving at home (10%).

## SECURITY OF TENURE

The Mbale settlements occupy about 335 acres of land and the majority of the people are tenants paying rent ranging between 10,000-80,000 shillings per month. Land tenure in Mbale municipality falls under freehold and communal land ownership. Most land owners have no titles thus their ownership is deemed illegal or informal.

**Community Voices** – *“Most of us do not have land of our own and yet the available rentable land is extremely expensive.”* —Mbale Federation Member

### **Tenure Status**

The great majority of residents in the Mbale settlements are tenants (79%). They do not own the land upon which they reside or the structure in which they live, as can be seen in the graph below. Thirteen percent of residents own both the structure in which they live and the land upon which it sits, while another seven percent own the structure but not the land.

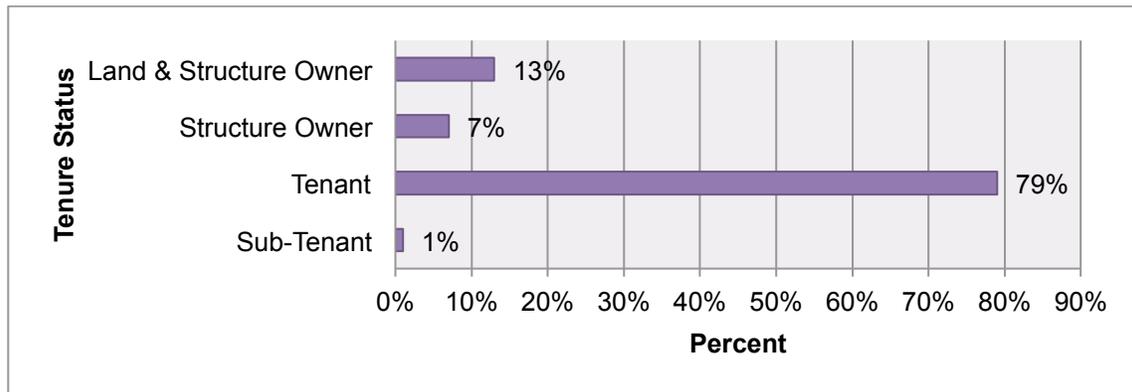
Residents' living situations are characterized by uncertainty. Many live in fear of being evicted, which is why many do not construct better-quality, more permanent houses. Some structure owners are reluctant to develop permanent structures, because most believe that the slum dwellers would be too poor to pay higher rent if the structures were improved. Those who live in the structures they own are apprehensive about the uncertainty of government plans.

Low income levels contribute to the pattern of land tenure, as residents paying a high proportion of their income to rent costs cannot save enough to afford buying

a residence; consequently most residents must be tenants. This reality is evidenced by the income levels, rent costs and savings rates detailed elsewhere in this report.

Among those who own property, twice as many own both the structure and land as own just the structure itself. This reflects the risk inherent in building on another's land; in a context of uncertain land tenure a resident might fear that the structure built on another's land, or on government land, might be lost to repossession, seizure, or other actions.

**Figure 5: Tenure Status of Residents**



**Busamaga** settlement is the exception to the trend in Mbale settlements, as there are far more respondents who own either the structure (18%) or both the land and structure (29%) in which they live. Only 50% of respondents in this settlement were tenants. Busamaga has the highest percentage of sub-tenants, but at 2% the number was still quite low.

**Mooni** respondents were less likely than average to be tenants (67%) and more likely to own both the land and structure in which they live (27%). Only 5% own just the structure and not the land.

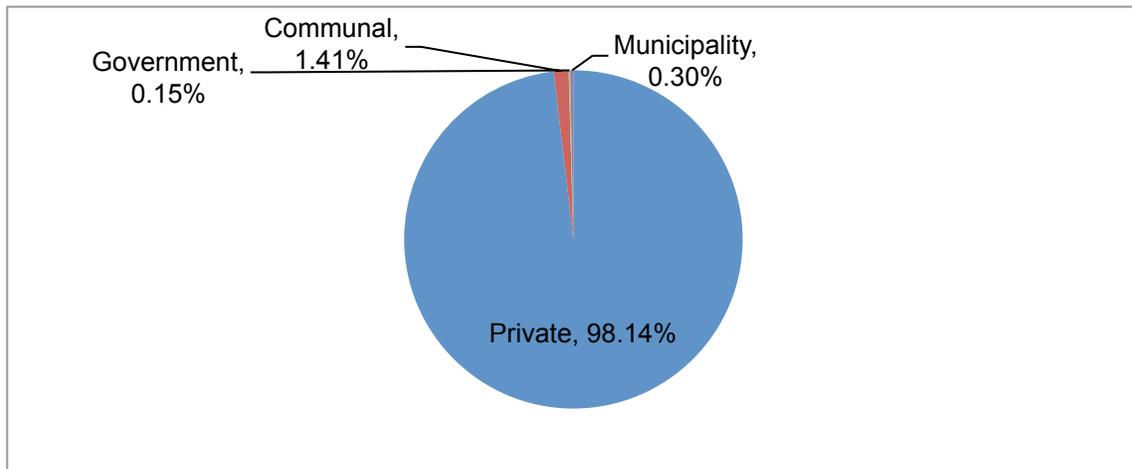
**Nabuyonga** has the highest percentage of tenants compared to other forms of land tenure than all other settlements. Eighty-seven percent of respondents were tenants, while a combined 12% were owners.

**Namataala, Namakwekwe & Nkoma** Patterns of land tenure in these three settlements were very similar to the average, with high percentages of tenants (77-80%), and low percentages of ownership. Land and structure owners made up 11-13% of respondents, and structure owners made up 8-9%. As in most settlements, sub-tenants accounted for 1% or less of the total.

## **Land Ownership**

Most of the structures in the Mbale informal settlements are situated on privately owned land (98%), as seen in the chart below. Only a tiny fraction of land is owned by the government, municipality or communally.

**Figure 6: Land Ownership in Settlements**



**Mooni & Namataala** Only two settlements had any appreciable percentage of non-private ownership: in Mooni, just over 6% of structures are owned communally, and in Namataala fewer than 3% are owned communally. All other ownership types, across all settlements, accounted for less than 1% of the total.

## **Settlement History**

Settlements in Mbale Municipality date back as far as 1900. Development of the settlements can be attributed to factors of rural-urban migration, urbanization, natural disasters, and civil wars and other conflicts occurring within and outside of the Mbale region.

**Namakwekwe** settlement is located in the Northern division of Mbale municipality. Settlers came to the area around the 1950s and have since been engaged in brewing the local brew known as Malwa. A part of the settlement known as Mission cell was started in the 1960s by people who had been sent away from a missionary farm and mission.

**Namataala** settlement is located in the Industrial division of Mbale municipality. Cells within the settlement were established in 1900 in the 1930s. The original inhabitants came to the area fleeing from war and conflicts in their areas of origin, and subsequent settlers came looking for employment (in the Nyanza textile industries in the 1970's, for example) and to take advantage of the area's agricultural potential.

**Nkoma** settlement is located in the Northern division of Mbale municipality. Cells in Nkoma date from the 1950's and 1980's; in 1986 the NRM came to power and started designating areas into cells for administrative purposes.

## **HOUSING**

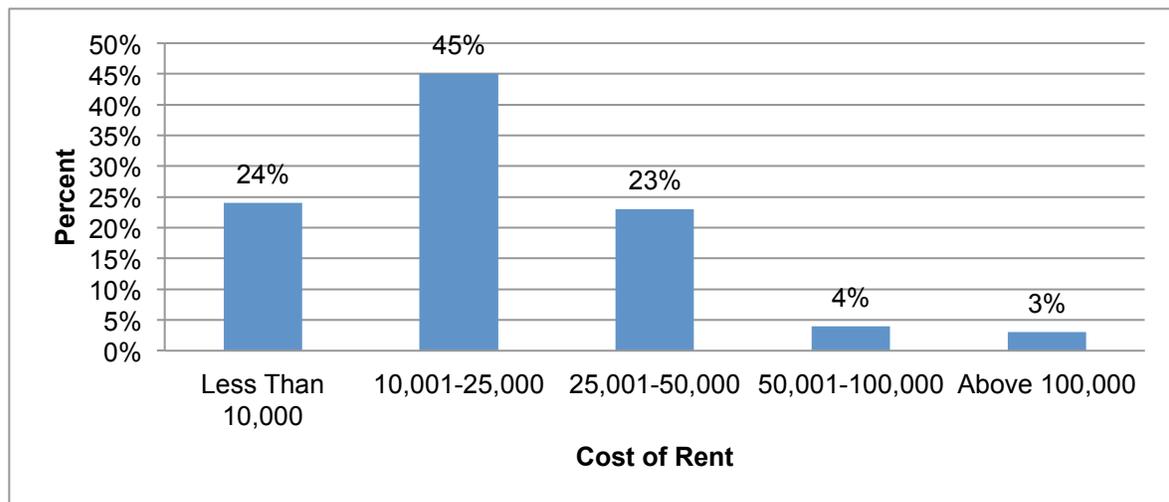
It is hard to overstate the critical role housing plays in people's well being. Beyond its obvious functionality as a shelter from the elements, the house – the home – is highly valued at an individual and societal level. In informal settlements residents often live in housing that is made from impermanent materials, is overcrowded, and that provides inadequate security or shelter from the elements.

### ***Cost of Rent***

The amounts paid in rent each month by residents of the Mbale settlements, as detailed in the chart below, reflect the average incomes outlined above. The income data show that 24% of respondents earn less than 20,000 shillings per month, and the same percentage spend 10,000 shillings or less on rent each month. 32% of respondents earn from 21,000-50,000 shillings per month, and 45% of respondents pay from 10,000-20,000 shillings per month for housing. These data suggest that for many residents, housing costs total up to half of monthly income. As income levels rise, demand for more expensive housing appears to reach a limit at approximately 50,000 shillings per month: even though 22% of respondents reported incomes above 100,000 shillings per month, only 7% reported paying more than 50,000 shillings per month for housing.

High housing costs, low earnings, and low savings rates tie into patterns of land tenure. Residents who pay a large proportion of their income for rental housing and who save little or none of their income may find it difficult to afford their own land or structure.

**Figure 7: Cost of Rent (UGX)**



**Busamaga** 77% of respondents pay under 25,000 shillings in rent, while just 9% pay over 50,000 shillings. This reflects the distribution of income in Busamaga, which along with Mooni showed the greatest number of people reporting earnings in the two lowest brackets.

**Mooni** settlement has the highest percentage of respondents paying less than 10,000 shillings in rent, (38%), as well as the highest percentage paying less than 25,000 shillings (78%). This settlement also has the lowest number paying above 100,000 shillings (1%). This reflects the income data which show that Mooni, along with Busamaga, have among the highest percentage of people earning in the two lowest income brackets.

**Nabuyonga** housing costs were clustered towards the middle of the distribution, with 79% of respondents paying between 10,000-50,000 shillings in rent per month. Only 15% pay less than 10,000 shillings per month, the lowest of any settlement. This is consistent with the average income levels within this settlement noted above.

**Namakwekwe** 77% of respondents paid less than 25,000 shillings per month in rent, despite having a high percentage of people earning above 100,000 shillings per month. The number paying between 25,000-50,000 was among the lowest (16%), and the percentage paying above 50,000 was exactly average (7%).

**Namataala's** housing costs followed a very similar pattern to the overall average.

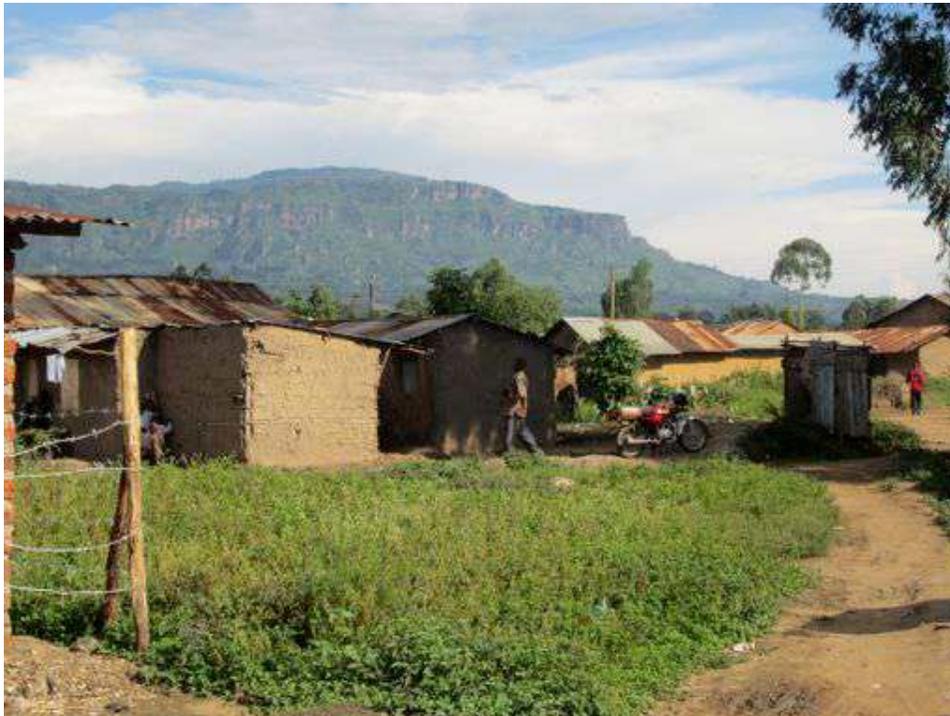
**Nkoma** settlement has the highest percentage of respondents paying more than 50,000 shillings per month, with 3% paying 50,000-100,000, and 6% paying above 100,000 shillings. This pattern is not particularly reflective of its income

data, as Nkoma has a high proportion of people earning middle-range incomes between 21,000-100,000 shillings per month.

### ***Housing Materials***

The enumeration exercise looked at the materials used to construct houses in the Mbale settlements, in particular what was used to construct the roof and walls. Houses in Mbale most commonly have a roof made from iron sheets (95%), while just two percent each used grass or mud and wattle. Walls were typically constructed from a wider range of materials, including: mud and wattle (39%), bricks (34%), cement/concrete (18%), wood (8%) or tile (1%).

**Picture 3: Typical Household**



**Table 2: Types of Walls and Roofs**

<b>Type of House</b>	<b>Cement/Concrete</b>	<b>Mud and Wattle</b>	<b>Iron Sheets</b>	<b>Wood</b>	<b>Tiles</b>	<b>Bricks</b>	<b>Plastic</b>	<b>Grass</b>
Roof	0%	2%	95%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%
Wall	18%	39%	0%	8%	1%	34%	0%	0%

Houses sizes are small, with a median area of 200 square feet (20 feet long by 10 feet wide). Busamaga settlement had the largest median house size, at 288 square feet (24' X 12'), while Mooni had the smallest, at 84 square feet (14' X 6'). Poor ventilation is common, characterized by the lack of or insufficient window space.

## ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES

### *Access to Water*

Access to water is very limited in most of the settlements within Mbale Municipality. There are few water points and residents must travel long distances to use them. The alternative sources of water are not safe for human use because they are unprotected open springs and wells, such as Namakwekwe spring. In some instances, residents collect water from open drainage channels which contain refuse and human waste.

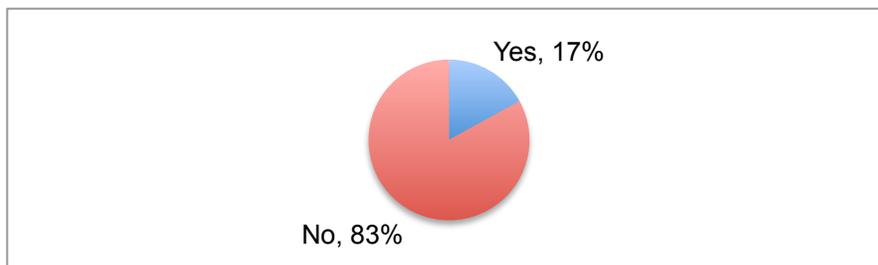
The most common sources of water include: privately-owned standpipes/water taps, open wells, protected springs, streams, and boreholes that are owned and managed by the community.

The cost of water in all the settlements is around 50-100 shillings per twenty-liter container of water at the standpoints. Water from streams, open wells and boreholes is usually free but, as open sources of water, are usually contaminated and thus unsafe for human consumption.

Contamination from underground seepage of pit latrines (commonly used in the settlements) to the various alternative water sources is a challenge. The non-piped water supplies are prone to contamination from human waste, sewage and construction of pit latrines on upper slopes.

As the chart below shows, few Mbale residents have immediate access to water.

**Figure 8: Access to Water on the Compound**



**Picture 4: Toilet in Namataala Settlement**



**Community Voices** – “To be point blank, surely we are facing a huge problem in matters concerning water; access to water points is so poor because water points are very few.” —Mbale Federation Member

### **Sanitation**

As one of the fastest-growing towns in Uganda, and like many other major towns in Uganda, Mbale faces rapid urbanization and its existing infrastructure is extremely strained. The solid waste generated in Mbale comes from diverse sources including both residential and commercial establishments. Poor solid waste management poses serious health challenges to the people of Mbale.

Only 11% of households in Mbale Municipality dispose of their garbage in communal dumping areas such as municipal garbage skips, and other collection centers.

Poor solid waste management as the result of an inadequate supply of skips and trucks has left most residents with limited garbage disposal options. This leads to the accumulation of garbage as well as illegal dumping sites. Unconventional methods of waste disposal include: pits within backyards where garbage is burned, and polythene bags that are dumped in streams and water drainage channels along the road (and which are left unattended to and thus add to the solid waste disposal challenges within Mbale). This has led to the blocking of water drainage channels and streams and causes flooding in low-lying areas during the rainy season. The practice contributes to unpleasant odors and the spread of disease.

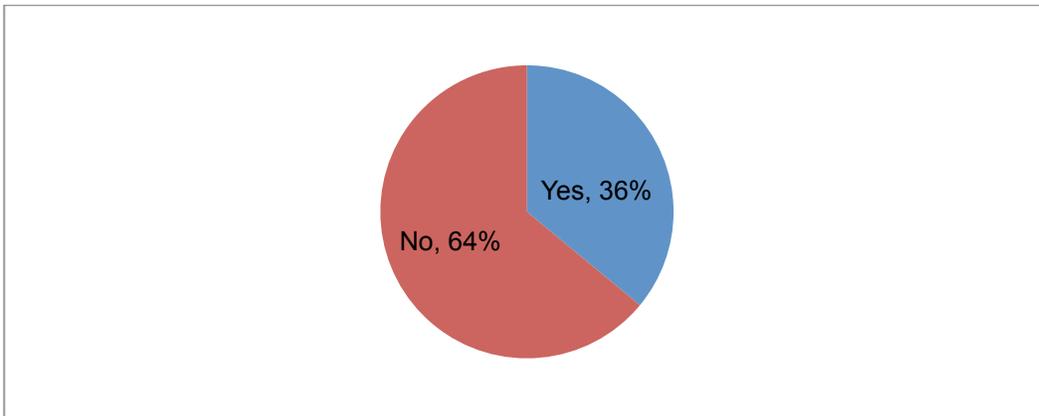
### **Sewer system**

There is no sewer system in the area. The absence of a sewer system has left the community with limited options aside from pit latrines and septic tanks. Very few households can afford flush toilets in their houses. People often rely on shared pit latrines. In most cases, several households share a single pit latrine. However, these latrines are in very poor conditions.

Out of the 10,773 structures enumerated in the Mbale settlements, only 3,859 (36%) of households have access to a toilet on the compound of their home.

The Soroti road market area has a public toilet that can be used for a fee of 100 shillings.

**Figure 9: Access to Toilets on the Compound**



**Picture 5: Drainage in Namataala Settlement**



**Table 3: Number of Residences with Access to Water Points and Toilets**

Settlement	Residences	Toilets	Water Points
Busamaga	446	46%	26%
Mooni	743	42%	25%
Nabuyonga	2,576	42%	16%
Namakwekwe	2,560	16%	7%
Namataala	3,118	44%	21%
Nkoma	1,332	38%	17%
<b>Settlement Total</b>	<b>10,773</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>17%</b>

*\*Number of residences refers to those enumerated, not the total number of residences.*

**Busamaga & Mooni** both have the highest percentage with access to toilets (46%) and the highest percentage with access to a water point (26%). This may be related to the higher percentage of people who own the structure or the land and structure in which they live. Not far behind, in Mooni 42% had access to a toilet and 25% had access to a water point. Mooni also has a higher than average percentage of land and structure owners.

**Nabuyonga** settlement has the same level of access to toilets as Mooni, 25%, but much lower access to water points, just 16%.

**Namakwekwe** settlement has the lowest percentage of those with access to a toilet or water point, just 16% had access to a toilet and 7% had access to a water point. To put in perspective how much lower the levels of access are in Namakwekwe settlement, consider that in all of the other settlements between 36-46% respondents had access to toilets and 16-26% had access to water points.

**Namataala**, the largest settlement by number of structures, has good access to toilets (44%) and water points (21%) slightly above settlement averages.

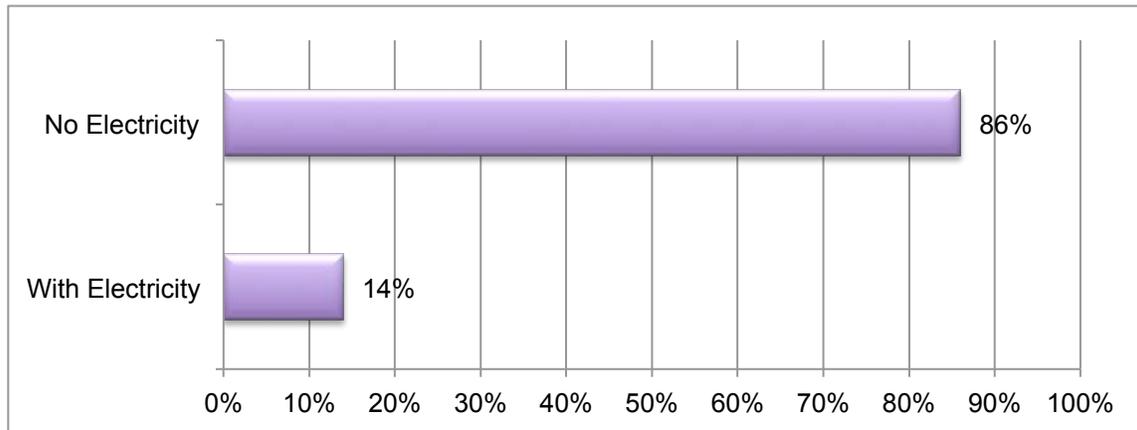
## **ACCESS TO OTHER SERVICES**

### ***Electricity and Fuel***

All of the Mbale settlements are connected to the national electrical grid to some extent. However, most households with access to electricity use it only for lighting. Charcoal and firewood are the major sources of energy, especially for

cooking. These are more readily available and cheaper than hydro-generated electricity. Where electricity is not used, kerosene (paraffin) lamps provide light. Aside from lighting, electricity is used for small-scale businesses such as welding or carpentry workshops, and in food kiosks.

**Figure 10: Households with Electricity**



**Busamaga & Mooni** settlements have the highest percentage of residents with access to electricity of all settlements in Mbale, with 23% in Busamaga and 20% in Mooni.

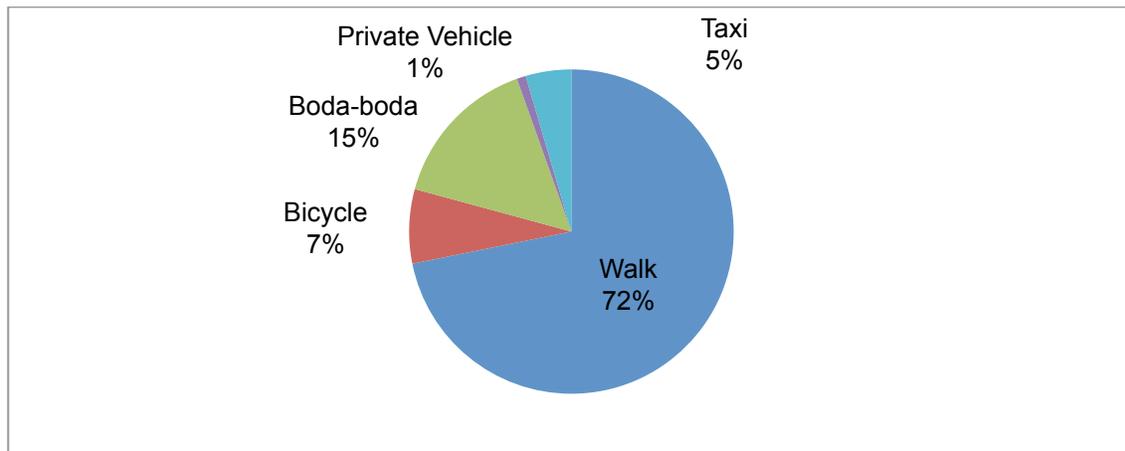
**Nabuyonga, Namataala & Nkoma** have average levels of residential access to electricity, ranging from 14% (Nabuyonga) to 17% (Nkoma).

**Namakwekwe** settlement has the lowest percentage of residential access to electricity. Just eight percent of residences have access.

### ***Accessibility***

Accessibility in Mbale settlements is a major challenge. Although there are roads, they do not reach all areas and their quality is poor. The settlements all have both internal and external roads; the internal roads are not tarred while the external ones are often tarred. People move through the settlements via the internal roads. Most are dirt roads and footpaths, and tend to be impassable during the rainy seasons. In Mbale, 72% of the population walks to work or school. Fifteen percent of the population use boda-boda (bicycle or motorcycle taxis) to get around, as illustrated in the chart below. The rest use bicycles (7%), taxis (5%) or private vehicles (1%).

**Figure 11: Modes of Transport**



**Busamaga & Mooni** settlements have the lowest percentage of people who walk to school or work (57% and 54%), and the highest percentage of people who use boda-boda for transportation (31% and 29%). They have among the lowest percentages of taxi users (3% and 4%), and while Mooni has the highest percentage of people who use bicycles (12%, compared to 7% average) and Busamaga has a higher percentage of private vehicles than other settlements (3%), it is clearly boda-boda are the preferred mode of transportation in these two settlements after walking.

**Nabuyonga, Namataala & Namakwekwe** settlements follow the average transportation preferences, with 73-77% walking, 13-14% using boda-boda, 6-8% on bicycles, and 3-5% in taxis. Namakwekwe has the smallest percentage of private vehicles, with less than half a percent of respondents using this mode of transportation.

**Nkoma** is notable for having the highest percentage of taxi users (9%) and also the lowest percentage of boda-boda users (11%). As all other modes of transportation fall within a percentage point of average, clearly there is a preference for taxis in this settlement.

## CONCLUSION

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Reports such as these are not automatically useful. The data itself cannot improve conditions on the ground. Because the community generated this information for itself, the data is trusted by the urban poor and understood as a tool that can be used for negotiation and problem solving. The National Slum Dwellers Federation of Uganda is already using the information contained within this report to plan projects and programs, but for the enumeration effort to reap the most results it must be incorporated into the planning and budgeting processes of the municipality.

With the publication of this report it is expected that this important aim can be realized. The community-collected information has been presented in a form that is accessible to authorities with thanks to supporting professionals and academics from Uganda's Makerere University and New York's New School University. It is now up to the communities that compiled this information and municipal authorities to ensure this unique, multi-stakeholder endeavor has maximum and lasting impact.

***Community Voices*** – *“We want to see change as a result of the information we have given you people.”* —Mbale Federation Member

# APPENDIX



## INFORMAL SETTLEMENT ENUMERATION FORM

This Enumeration is part of a registration and survey of all households and small businesses located within slum settlements that will be used to:

1. Improve the participation of citizens in urban management
2. To plan for the provision of infrastructure services like water and sanitation in cities
3. To understand and recognize the tenure arrangements in the cities.

This exercise is conducted by the Uganda Slum Dwellers Federation in Collaboration with the Ministry of Lands Housing and Urban Development and the Municipal and City Councils of Kampala, Jinja, Mbale, Mbarara, Arua and Kabale

Date	
Settlement	
Zone	
Cluster	
House Number	
Name of Respondent	
Who is responding	1. House Owner <input type="checkbox"/> ✓ 2. Tenant <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Neighbour <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Relative <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Other (Specify) _____

<b>2. House details</b>	
Whose land is this?	1. Private <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Communal <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Municipal <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Government <input type="checkbox"/>
Name of Structure Owner	<i>Surname</i> _____ <i>Forename</i> _____
Gender of Structure Owner	1. Male <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Female <input type="checkbox"/> ✓
Mobile No. of Structure Owner	
Name of Occupant	<i>Surname</i> _____ <i>Forename</i> _____
Gender of Occupant	1. Male <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Female <input type="checkbox"/> ✓
Mobile No. of Occupant	

<b>2b. Tenure status of occupant</b> ✓	
1.Land and Structure owner	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.Structure owner	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.Tenant	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.Sub Tenant	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>2c. Number of people in the Household</b>	
Males	
Female	

<b>3.Structure Use</b> ✓	Type (e.g.: grocery, mosque, school, etc)	Name (of business, institution etc)
1.Residential <input type="checkbox"/>		
2.Business <input type="checkbox"/>		
3.Business cum Residential <input type="checkbox"/>		
4.Institution <input type="checkbox"/>		
5.Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
6.Public utility <input type="checkbox"/>		

<b>4. Period of stay in this settlement</b>	
1. 1 -5years	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. 6-10 years	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. 11-20 years	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. 21 and above	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>5. Previous residence</b>	
1.Was born here	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.In my rural home	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. In another informal settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.In a formal residential area in this town	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>6. Why did you choose to live here</b>	
1.Eviction	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.To search for a job or to do business	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.Affordable rent	<input type="checkbox"/>

4.Closeness to work	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.Marriage or other domestic reasons	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.Other (specify)	

<b>7. Amount spent on rent every month</b> ✓	
1. Less than 10000	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.10001 to 25000	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.25001 to 50000	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.50001 to 100000	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Above 100000	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>8. Type of house</b> ✓	Cement/ concrete	Mad & wattle	Iron sheets	Wood	Tiles	Bricks	Plastic	Grass
Roof								
Wall								
Floor								

<b>9. House Size</b>	
Length in feet	
Width in feet	

<b>10. Services available in the house</b>			
Water	1. Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	2. No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Toilet	1.Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	2.No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Electricity	1.Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	2No <input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>11. Do you have a communal dumping ground in the area?</b>	
1. Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	2. No <input type="checkbox"/>

