

THIS. IS. BWAISE

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

BWAISE SETTLEMENT HISTORY

SANITATION AND HEALTH IN BWAISE

LIVING DANGEROUSLY

GOVERNMENT INTERVENTIONS IN BWAISE

INTERVENTIONS BY OTHER NGO'S

FEDERATION EFFORTS IN BWAISE

BWAISE'S RESIDENTS IDEAS ON SLUM UPGRADING

BWAISE SETTLEMENT PROFILING FINDINGS

LAND AND TENURE SYSTEM

BWAISE I

BWAISE II

BWAISE III

INTRODUCTION: BWAISE SETTLEMENT PROFILE

Bwaise is located in Kawempe Division, three miles north of the city centre. It is divided into three parishes, Bwaise I, Bwaise II and Bwaise III. Each parish has a local council second tier (Local Council II). The overall head is the Local Council III chairperson who heads Kawempe Division.



The settlement has an estimated population of 90,000 people, making it one of the most densely populated areas of Kampala.

Bwaise is a low-lying swampy location and is subject to seasonal flooding whenever it rains. In fact, the settlement is popularly known for its severe flooding during the rainy season. So much so that the saying water is life is now “water is life if you’re not staying in Bwaise” People are not supposed to live in wetlands but they have gradually occupied the area living precariously. Being a wetland, people are discouraged to stay because of the many problems associated to living in wetlands from diseases to floods as well as posing an environmental threat.

Bwaise is both a residential and a commercial area with people operating small businesses like boda boda riding, selling of vegetables and fast moving goods. It has a few small to medium sized industrial firms. Most of the residents work and reside in Bwaise. The area however has majority of its people unemployed and others, mostly youth, engaged in crime and drug abuse.

BWASE SETTLEMENT HISTORY

Bwaise settlement has many stories that explain its origin; it is said by some sections in Bwaise community that the area used to be a way through to Namugongo where the Kabaka (Buganda King) had a court. Offenders of the law would get punished in Namugongo. On one occasion, some fellows annoyed the Kabaka in Mengo and he ordered for their killing. They were to be killed in Namugongo but on their way through the now, 'Bwaise', one of offenders tried to escape and the court officials killed him. Meanwhile, the King decided to spare the offenders' lives but was informed that one had already been killed and nothing could reverse the situation in Luganda "Bwaise Tebuyoleka". It is believed that the area came to be known Bwaise thenceforth. The settlement is believed to have started in the 1920's.

Others think the area is known as Bwaise because it is marshy and swampy, very viable for the growth of yams that grow in such areas. The name 'Bwaise' is a type of Yam grown in Uganda.

SANITATION AND HEALTH IN BWASE

Bwaise generally underserviced with very few toilets that can be counted serving a large population of about 90,000. People have constructed some toilets but due to the nature of the area, a wetland, the water table is high and within a short time, the ground water pushes the excreta out of its pit creating disgusting sites and a major health hazard. Due to the lack of adequate toilets, 'helicopter jets'/'flying toilets' (Human fecal deposited in polythene bags and dumped in drainage channels) are very common in the area, which in turn lead to very many communicable diseases in the area. Thousands of bags full of human waste will be thrown in the open once it rains floating around Bwaise waiting to be 'stepped on', and releasing pathogens into the floodwaters. Some people *a/so* pull out a plug out of the side of their latrines occasionally and let the rain wash the sewage down the gutters when the rains come because they do not have enough money to pay for a cesspool emptier to haul away the waste.

Emptying sludge into a gutter during a rainstorm represents a huge sanitation issue. Sewage can get into drinking water, onto food, into houses and on people's hands. Digging pit latrines is impossible any hole dug into the marshy land of Bwaise will soon fill with water.

Other than having the common communicable diseases like dysentery, cholera and typhoid, the area is prone to Malaria because it is marshy, a very good breeding area for mosquitoes most especially because of the stagnant water here and there.

Most people do not have clean water collection points in Bwaise. There exists some water points provided by the Government through National Water and Sewerage

Company but they cannot serve the whole of Bwaise's population. Some Non Governmental organizations like African Medical Research Foundation also provide water through a standpoint in Katale zone of Bwaise. Some people get water from some inbuilt dykes which are meant to drain the area, divert water to the large Nsooba-Lubigi trench but which have a very high fecal matter, more than 97% of that water is contaminated by open sewage.



Photo 1 & 2: Residents of Bwaise drawing water from a contaminated source

LIVING DANGEROUSLY

Bwaise is a wetland and due to the low retention capacity of the soils, floods are very common and a major problem. Many homes had sand bags around the entrance .This is done to prevent water coming into the house but sometime this is not enough, the residents still have to push out water from their houses when it rains with buckets. The residents said the floods came higher than in the past now that the highway had been constructed. The highway was built over the lowest lying regions where water used to drain from the slums and now water was pushed into the slums.

Prostitution is also very common in Bwaise and the rate of HIV/AIDS infection is very high. Poverty pushes young girls to engage in prostitution so much such that there is this place known as 'Kimombasa' deriving the name from the coastal town in Kenya-Mombasa where prostitution is rampant. This in turn leads to abandonment of children produced out of this promiscuity. To this effect, there are many orphans in this area.

GOVERNMENT INTERVENTIONS IN BWAISE

The Government aided the residents of Bwaise by widening the banks of River Nsooba to let water flow to Lubigi swamp off Hoima road .A large trench/drainage was constructed to drive this water away from Bwaise .Several dykes have also been built as tributaries to feed into the Nsooba-Lubigi drainage and drive off water from Bwaise.



Photo 3: The large Nsooba-Lubigi trench that drains the water to Hoima road

The Government through the Ministry of Health has been distributing mosquito nets to pregnant mothers and children under the age of 5 in Bwaise.

The Local Development Government Program funds have also been utilized into building toilets in Katale zone. These toilets have been built in such a manner that they are above ground level so as to respond to the problem of high water table in Bwaise. A cost is attached to usage of these toilets, UGX 200 per usage and the money is used to maintain the facility.



Photo 4 & 5: Some of the toilets constructed with the Local Government Development Funds

Garbage collection in Bwaise is also done by the Kampala Capital City Authority I though it is not done satisfactorily because people have very poor ways of waste disposal such as dumping it in channels and pushing it in drainages once it rains to be driven off by the rainwater.

The Government has also tried to extend water in Bwaise through National Water and Sewerage Company at a reduced cost.

INTERVENTIONS BY OTHER NGO'S

The African Medical Research Foundation has constructed some toilets for the residents of Bwaise in Katale zone as well as providing clean water. These toilets are operational and charge about UGX 200 per usage. The water is sold at UGX 100 per jerrycan. These costs are there in order to get funds to maintain the facilities because they serve quite a large population in Bwaise.



Photo 5 & 6: A sanitation unit constructed by AMREF in Katale, Bwaise I.

FEDERATION EFFORTS IN BWAISE

The National Slum Dwellers Federation of Uganda in Bwaise has been conducting several activities to try and mitigate the situation at hand. For instance they carry out community cleaning exercises in Bwaise market. They also conduct HIV/AIDS testing and counseling in collaboration with Mulago Referral General Hospital to make people aware of their HIV/AIDS status as well as living positively with the disease.

The federation has also mobilized 4 savings groups in the area ;Tebuyoleka saving group, Mukowa saving group, Rufura saving group and Basirika Bamanyi savings groups. These groups use the savings to provide merry go round loans for livelihood. They also save in the Urban Poor basket for big capital projects.

One of the savings groups; Basirika Bamanyi has a community project in which they take care of abandoned children in the area. The group is found in Katale, one of the zones in Bwaise that is very notorious in prostitution and in this way has a high rate of child abandonment and orphans.



Photo 7 & 8: Basirika Bamanyi group vulnerable children project

The federation has also conducted profiling exercise in the area in which they seek to find the social services in the area, the population and household details. They did this in March 2011 and have already established quite a number of interesting facts about Bwaise; the current population in the slums of Bwaise, the total number of toilets, the number of water standpoints among other key information on Bwaise. They are now using the information to negotiate and lobby for services in this area from the Government.

BWAISE'S RESIDENTS IDEAS ON SLUM UPGRADING

People in Bwaise would love to see a developed Bwaise with good roads, planned housing, and proper, well-equipped health centers like other areas inhabited by people. Their only worry is eviction because according to the big percentage of Bwaise residents; slum upgrading is synonymous to eviction. This is because there is congestion in Bwaise and no upgrading will take place without people moving from the area.

BWAISE SETTLEMENT PROFILING FINDINGS

LAND AND TENURE SYSTEM

It occupies 68 acres of land and is majorly owned by the Kabaka while private developers own a small percentage. The land is leased to people and it is in this way they claim entitlement to the land. Development lags behind in Bwaise because these slum dwellers do not have the capacity of leasing large portions of land for development.

Settlement	Cluster	Population	Land size	No. of Structures	No. of Households
Bwaise 1	<i>Katale</i>	<i>1,500</i>	<i>4 acres</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>300</i>
	<i>Kiyaga</i>	<i>9,000</i>	<i>20 acres</i>	<i>650</i>	<i>700</i>
	<i>Kisenyi</i>	<i>12,000</i>	<i>20 acres</i>	<i>9,000</i>	<i>600</i>
	<i>Industrial area</i>	<i>15,000</i>	<i>31 acres</i>	<i>400</i>	<i>4,000</i>
	<i>Kalumba</i>	<i>15,000</i>	<i>30 acres</i>	<i>10,000</i>	<i>13,000</i>
	<i>Lule</i>	<i>2,000</i>	<i>9 acres</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>500</i>
Bwaise 2	<i>Mukalazi</i>	<i>1,050</i>	<i>4 acres</i>	<i>108</i>	<i>300</i>
	<i>Kawaala</i>	<i>700</i>	<i>2 acres</i>	<i>700</i>	<i>400</i>
	<i>Jambula</i>	<i>4,000</i>	<i>50 acres</i>	<i>15,000</i>	<i>300</i>
	<i>Nakamiro</i>	<i>3,100</i>	<i>85 acres</i>		<i>800</i>
Bwaise 3	<i>St.Franscis</i>	<i>2,000</i>	<i>18 acres</i>	<i>800</i>	<i>800</i>

BWAISE 1

- Bwaise 1 settlement is made of six administrative zones, Katale, Kiyaga, Kisenyi, Industrial area, Kalumba and Lule Zone.

Land and Tenure System

- Bwaise 1 occupies 145 acres of land and private persons own a large part of it. The Kabaka, King of the Buganda Kingdom also owns part of the land mostly in Kiyaga Zone. People lease land to claim entitlement to residing in the area. There are threats of evictions in Katale by Global star company, a development partner contracted by Buganda Land Board to upgrade the area.

Population

- The total population of this area is estimated in 54,500 people, with about 19,100 households. The average household has seven members. The ratio between adults and children is 2:5

Housing Information

- The total number of housing structures in this cluster is estimated to be 13,900, with about 4 rooms per structure. The building materials range from cement, bricks, and iron sheets to sand and wood. Most of the houses are owned by landlords who charge from 20,000-150,000 UGX per month per rent.



Photo 9: Housing conditions in Bwaise I, note that the filthy drainage is next to the houses and when it rains all the filth gets into these houses

Basic Services (Utilities)

- Bwaise I sources water from taps and wells. The area has 320 taps and 6 wells, which are privately owned. The fees of the piped water points go between UGX 100 to 200 per jerry can.
- About 14,300 pit latrines are private and maintained by individuals. When full the waste is emptied by sewer cars .The fee for toilet use goes from UGX100 to 200.
- There are roadside trenches for drainage prone to flooding especially in Kisenyi and Kiyaga.
- Garbage is poorly disposed with many people dumping it anywhere like in the wetlands; others burn it while still others have dustbins, which they use.



Photo 10: Poor drainage and waste disposal in Bwaise

- There is electricity in the area with isolated cases of informal connections. Residents use phones and radios as the main means of communication.

Social Services

- Bwaise I has neither an existing community centre nor a playing field. There are two churches in Kisenyi used for worship centres
- There are four primary schools, Bilal Islamic, St Augustine, Winiston Primary schools and three secondary schools namely St Kizito, Taibah High School and Pimbasa Secondary School.

- There are several clinics and drug shops that are privately owned and which charge exorbitant prices to the residents. However, most of the community members go to Mulago Referral Hospital for treatment and Kampala City Council health centre.

Economic Activities

- Residents in this area are mostly self-employed earning from about UGX 2,000-20,000 per day. They work with general machinery, scrap, tailoring, laundry, or they have small shops, which sell fast moving goods in the area.

Governance and Community Participation in Development

- The area is administered under the Local Government system with Local Chairpersons being responsible for areas under their jurisdiction in Kiyaga, Kisenyi and Katale. There are no available funds to the community for a community development nor any evidence or experience of Government funds or CDF. The community, however, has two community self help groups namely Basima Basirika, a small organization taking care of abandoned children in the slum and Market vendors Aids project which emphasizes on positive living among slum dwellers living with HIV/AIDS.
- The main community priority is the construction of drainage systems to drive off waste in the area and health centres for the community.

BWAISE II

- Bwaise II settlement is made of ~~two~~ administrative zones known as Mukalazi, Jambula, Nakamiro and Kawaala.
- Mukalazi as a settlement is believed to have started in 1988 after the rise of the LC system. It was named after Mukalazi, a man who migrated from Luweero because of conflicts at the time and has continued to be known so up to date.
- This settlement was called kimombasa meaning there were many prostitutes. When H.E. President Museveni came into power then he changed it to Jambula because there was a very big Jambula tree. This zone is a busy zone with harlots and all sorts of people selling all sorts of drinks and all foods

Land and Tenure System

- Bwaise II occupies 6 acres of land owned by both the Kabaka and private individuals. People get to lease it and claim entitlement to both the Kabaka's land and that owned by private developers. There is threat of eviction from National Roads Authority and the Kampala City Authority.

Population

- The total population of this area is estimated in 8,800 people, with about 18,000 households. The average household has five members. The ratio between adults and children is 2:3

Housing Information

- The total number of housing structures in this cluster is estimated to be 16,000 with about 2 to 6 rooms per structure. The building materials range from cement, bricks, and iron sheets to sand and wood. Most of the houses are owned by landlords who charge from 17,000-70,000 UGX per month per rent.

Basic Services (Utilities)

- Bwaise II gets water from taps and wells. The area has 531 taps and one well, which are all privately owned. The fees of the piped water points are UGX100 per jerry can. There are about 76 toilets in the area with 3 toilets only in Kawaala all of them public. There are no private toilets in Kawaala.
- Individuals maintain toilets that are privately owned and some charge a cost of UGX 100-200 though others do not charge a cost. Public toilets are neglected.
- There are natural drains, which are poorly maintained, people do not take responsibility to clean them and most of the time they are neglected and become potential health hazards. They are also prone to flooding because water does not flow through.



Photo 11: Garbage-clogged waterways in Bwaise

- Garbage is poorly disposed with many people dumping it anywhere like in the wetlands, others burn it while still others put it in sacks and dump it by the roadside for Kampala City Authority trucks to collect. A few have dustbins, which they use. There is electricity in the area with isolated cases of informal connections.
- Residents use phones and radios as the main means of communication.

Social Services

- Bwaise II has neither an existing community centre nor a playing field. There is one mosque and two churches used as a worship centre in the area.
- There are several schools, which double up as both nursery, and primary schools such as Happy Hours, Bwaise Parent, Bright academy as well as secondary schools; Homeland Secondary and Royal secondary schools that serve as educational centre in the area.
- There are several clinics and drug shops that are privately owned and which charge exorbitant prices to the residents from between UGX10, 000- 50,000 yet most people are very poor. However, most of the community members go to Mulago Referral Hospital for treatment and Kampala City Council health centre.

Economic Activities

- Residents in this area are mostly self-employed earning from about UGX 2,000-30,000 per day. They work with general machinery, scrap, tailoring, laundry, or they have small shops, which sell fast moving goods in the area.

Governance and Community Participation in Development

- The area is administered under the Local Government system with Local Chairpersons being responsible for areas under their jurisdiction .There are no available funds to the community development nor any evidence or experience of Government funds on ground. No registered Community Based Organization exists in the area neither.
- The main community priority is the construction of drainage systems to drive off waste in the area as well as toilets because they are scarce as compared to the population in the area.

BWAISE III

Bwaise III settlement is made of one administrative zone known as St. Francis where the settlement derives its name after a school -St Francis, which started in the 1980s and has continued to be known so up to date. Hajji Ssenjara was the first settler in1960.

Land and Tenure System

- Bwaise III occupies 18 acres of land owned by the Kabaka and people get to lease it and claim entitlement to it. There is no threat of eviction in this area.

Population

- The total population of this area is estimated to be 2,000 people with about 800 households. The average household has three members. The ratio between adults and children is 2:5

Housing Information

- The total number of housing structures in this cluster is estimated to be 800 with about 3 rooms per structure. The building materials range from mud bricks, and iron sheets to sand and wood. Most of the houses are owned by landlords who charge UGX 15,000per month for rent.

Basic Services (Utilities)

- Bwaise III gets water from taps and spring wells. The area has 9 water taps and 2 spring wells which are both privately and publicly owned. The fees of the piped water points are UGX100-150 per 20litre jerry can.
- There are about 125 toilets that are privately owned and maintained by individuals. The fee for toilet use ranges from UGX100 to 200.
- There are natural drains, which are poorly maintained, it is nobody's responsibility to clean them and most of the time they are neglected and health hazards. They are also prone to flooding.



Photo 12: This is one of the drainage systems funded under the Local Government Development Funds but which has been poorly maintained and is now blocked and a health hazard in the area

- Garbage is poorly disposed with many people dumping it anywhere like in the wetlands; others burn it while still others put it in sacks and dump it by the roadside for Kampala City Authority trucks to collect it. A few have dustbins, which they use.
- There is electricity in the area with isolated cases of informal connections. Residents use phones and radios as the main means of communication.

Social Services

- Bwaise III has no existing community centre. There is 1 playing field as well as mosque used as a worship centre in the area.
- There are several nursery schools such as Church of Uganda, Bwaise Parents and Out span that double up as primary schools .The area also has two secondary schools; Heritage Parent Secondary School and Bwaise parents Secondary School serving as educational facilities.
- There area has only 4 clinics that are privately owned and which charge high prices for treatment to the residents. However, most of the community members go to Mulago Referral Hospital for treatment and Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) health centre.

Economic Activities

- Residents in this area are mostly self-employed earning from about UGX 2,000-7,000 per day. They work with general machinery, scrap, tailoring, laundry, or they have small shops, which sell fast moving goods in the area.

Governance and Community Participation in Development

- The area is administered under the Local Government system with Local Chairpersons being responsible for areas of jurisdiction.
- There are available funds to neither the community community development nor any evidence or experience of Government funds on ground. No registered Community Based Organization exists in the are either.
- The main community priority in Bwaise III is the construction of drainage systems to drive off waste in the area as well as toilets because they are scarce as compared to the population in the area.