

# UNITY IS A WEAPON OF THE POOR

## NAIROBI SLUM DWELLERS COOPERATIVELY SAVE FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

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### COMMUNITY UPGRADING

KAMBI MOTO , KIBERA , GREENFIELD

### GOVERNMENT UPGRADING

SOWETO EAST

#### Sustained improvement in quality of life

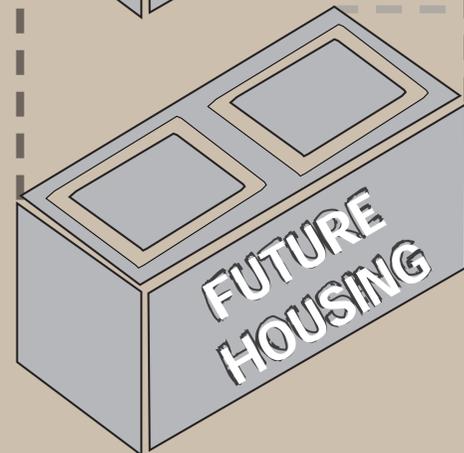
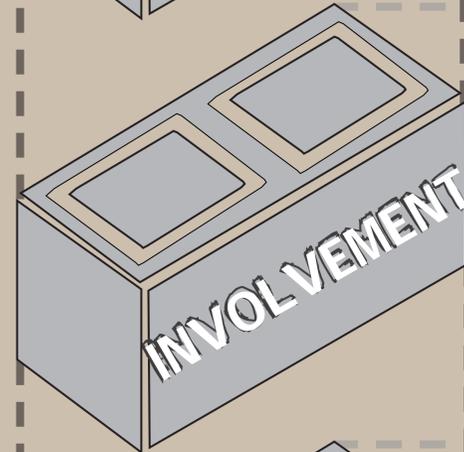
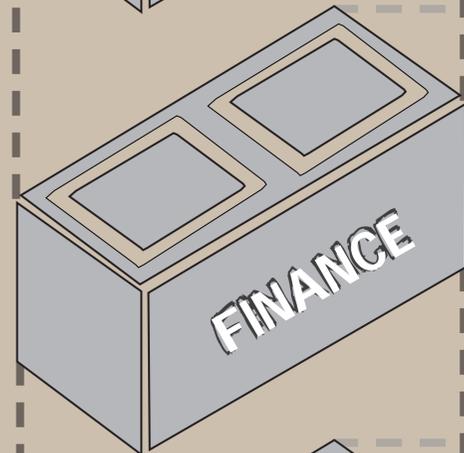
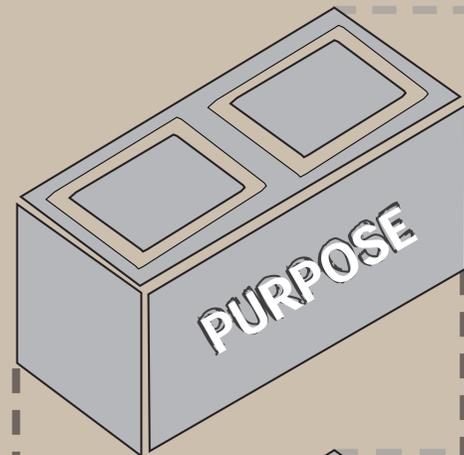
“The purpose of slum upgrading is to ensure that even the [poorest of the poor] have access to the basic services like water, like sewerage, good sanitation, proper infrastructure, good access roads, and better housing, cheap but better housing that is affordable to them.”



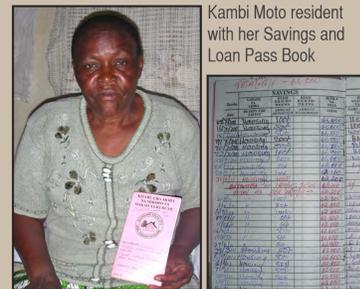
Access to all basic rights



Poverty reduction



#### Microfinance Savings Schemes



Kambi Moto resident with her Savings and Loan Pass Book

Call	Response
Muungano (Alliance)	Nguvu Yetu (Our Strength)
Ardhi na Makao (Land and Homes)	Haki Yetu (Our Right)
Pesa Zetu (Our money)	Uamuzi Wetu (Our Decision)
Shilingi (Shilling)	Chingli (Sound of Payment)
Akiba (Savings)	Mashinani (Grassroots)
Umoja (Unity)	Silaha ya Maskini (Weapon of the Poor)
Uwoga (Fear)	Umaskini Milele (Poor Forever)

#### Cooperative Banks

##### Resident perspective

“I was hearing people are saying that your money once it is in the cooperative, it is non-refundable. So that’s why people are fearing to enter...When people heard that it’s not refundable, people lost trust in it.”

VS

##### Government official perspective

“...because you need now to get these communities on board and then see how they can start saving and from the little bit they have saved you can deliver it for more funding.”

#### “Part and Parcel”



Kibera residents in the toilet block (toilets, showers, clean water) they themselves constructed for income generation.

The revenue is re-invested for future housing upgrading.

“But if they are painfully set on that project, they feel it. It’s part and parcel of them. That’s what keeps them good—solidarity together.”

#### “Participatory Processes”



The government and UN-HABITAT proceeded with a model that influenced the Settlement Executive Committee members, representative of stakeholders in the Soweto East slum, to passively accept the designs the administration produced in exchange for maintaining the peace in the community (with bribes dispensed on the side).

#### Optimism for *In Situ* & Relocation Projects



prefer *in situ* (in place) projects for reasons relating to sentimentality of the place, business, family, and friends.

“It’s the best solution...We can make a wonderful slum upgrading.”

BUT

Members of savings schemes agreed that if *in situ* upgrading could not be arranged, relocation was a viable and attractive alternative.

“...we are used to staying in this area. When you move, you change your mind to another area and you change your idea of living in a slum. That’s an advantage.”

#### Uncertain Futures in *In Situ* Project



Langata Decanting Site (Relocation site during construction on Soweto East upgrading).



Soweto East Zone A upgrading during construction phase

“You know, the government of Kenya today it tells you this, tomorrow it tells you this. So we are not sure on what will happen exactly. Even saving for that cooperative houses, there is no clear information that will enable you to say that surely this one is something that is really open to [slum dwellers].”