

THE STATUS OF HUMAN SECURITY IN KAMPALA SLUMS: THE VULNERABILITY OF OUR PEOPLE (1990–2015)¹

Jimmy Alemiga²

Introduction

Almost 1 billion people globally live in slums.³ Unfortunately, this number is projected to double to 2 billion in the year 2030. The slum problem has continued to be neglected by all the concerned stakeholders.⁴ This has exposed many slum dwellers to much vulnerability which has persistently threatened their human security hence a violation of their fundamental rights and freedoms. Across the globe, the problem of slum development is increasingly resulting into human insecurity ranging from political, socio-economical to environmental something that has put the lives of millions of slum dwellers at the risk of high poverty, unemployment, poor health and education facilities, infectious diseases, low life expectancy and death among others. This is in violation of human rights and freedoms of slum dwellers, neglecting their human dignity.⁵

¹There is very little documentation about the state of human security and vulnerabilities slum dwellers face in Uganda and Kampala in specific. The slums continue to mushroom despite all legal frameworks put in place. They suffer human insecurities not limited to political, economic, socio and environmental among others.

² Jimmy Alemiga is a lecturer of international relations and diplomatic studies in the faculty of socio-economic sciences at Cavendish University, Uganda since 2011. He also previously work for the Uganda Media Center (Office of the President (Public Affairs-Radio) from 2011-2012. He has passion of defending and fighting for the most subordinate and marginalized people across the world. He has Bachelor of Urban Planning (MUK); Post-graduate in Project Planning and Management (UMI); Master of Art in International Relation and Diplomatic Studies (MUK); Master of Management Studies (PMM)-specialization in Quality Teaching and Learning Processes and Post-graduate Certificate in Monitoring and Evaluation (MUK).

³ Jarrett Murphy. (2003). 1 Billion Live In Slums. CBS News. Available at: <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/1-billion-live-in-slums/>

⁴ United Nations Human Settlements Programme.(2003). The challenge of slums: global report on human settlements. London: Earthscan Publications.

⁵ Shoji Sato. (2004).The 292nd UN Lecture Series. United Nations Association. Mr. Shoji SATO Former SN Coordinator, United Nations Administration Division Foreign Policy Bureau, MoFA Fukuoka.

In addition, the slums in Kampala City are packed with people (faced with severe and pathetic) living conditions despite the fact that the population continues to soar faster than the city's capacity to handle due to weak legal instruments that has so far failed to eliminate, stop or plan for slum development. As a result, this negligence on the part of government continues to expose slum dwellers to many vulnerabilities and human insecurity. For example, Womakuyu Frederick a journalist reported in (2008) that "there was an overflowing pit latrine emptying its contents into a worm-infested drainage channel in front of Catherine Namubiru's home in Kisenyi, a Kampala slum. Less than 10 such latrines serve a population of 3,000 people living in this area".⁶ In November 2014, Kampala City Council Authority (KCCA) opted not to approve plans concerning the construction of one and two-roomed houses (locally called mizigo) in and around Kampala and Wakiso districts. This was based on the exceedingly pathetic experiences slum dwellers go through daily.⁷ The concept of human security gained increasing popularity both in academia and non-academia at the end of the cold war in 1990s. This has created unending debate emphasizing human security as opposed to states security. This is aimed at eliminating severe (harsh) and widespread non-military threats (ranging from political, socio-economic and environmental issues). Much emphasis has been put on the practice of democracy and good governance especially developing and less developed states that suffer from high rates of poverty that increases slums and slum development.⁸

In essence, the papers argued that the security of a state does not necessary mean the security of its people (citizens) although state security and the level of development count in securing the people. The true measure of the quality of life remains the level of development of that state measured by the level of freedom from fear and freedom from want that can reduce vulnerabilities and insecurities in Kampala slums.⁹ In so far, it is the responsibility of the state to upgrade slums to ensure that they have (modern urban infrastructural development and public housing) through strategies like: destruction, resettlement, and eviction (slum removal) to reduce

⁶ Womakuyu Frederick. (2008). Uganda: Kampala Slum Dwellers Turn to 'Flying Toilets. Available at: Newvision <http://allafrica.com/stories/200807071116.html>.

⁷ Muhumuza. Mark Keith (2015). Housing shortage leading Kampala to big slum. Daily Monitor. At <http://www.monitor.co.ug/Magazines/HomesandProperty/Housing-shortage-leading-Kampala-to-big-slum/-/689858/2656390/-/np6sst/-/index.html>

⁸ Kenneth Waltz (1979). Theory of International Politics. New York, Random House.

⁹ United Nations Development Programme (1994): Human Development Report

the high insecurity levels in these slums. However, critics argue that human security has been vaguely (too ambiguously) defined which undermines the effectiveness of its intension. This explains why many people across the world continue to face acute (severe) human threats. For example, the Canadian government puts emphasis on three Ds (defense, diplomacy and development) as a measure to attain human security but puts much emphasis on defense more than development.¹⁰

The main objective of this paper, is to gain key insights and inform key stakeholders about the human threats that slum dwellers face in Kampala City through the implementation (quick fix) of strategies and solutions adopted to reduce vulnerability that cause human insecurities. This will help and create a more secure living condition (basic level of human dignity) for slum dwellers. The papers ask the following questions: What are the global trends of insecurity in slums, is the problem of slums only in Uganda?; What is the methodology and theoretical approaches to human security?; What is the overview of human insecurity in Kampala slums despite legal instruments?; How and why do slums increasingly form in Kampala City?; What are the counter strategies to the slum problem?; and finally, what is the conclusion?.

I ask the above set of questions to show that high rates of urbanization continues to attract more people in Kampala despite the millions of slum dwellers facing (appalling living condition) in the face of all the legal instruments in place. Slum people indeed face high levels of poverty, unemployment, disease organized crime (drug trafficking, human trafficking, environmental crimes) and extra. Worse still, they lack the capacity to improve this condition and the government has done very little to support them out of such human insecurity.

Global Trends of insecurity in slums: Is the problem only in Uganda?

A slum is an urban informal settlement that is deeply populated with severely poor social facilities not limited to: poor housing, water, electricity, drainage and sewerage systems, poor waste management and generally poor sanitation services. This is coupled with poor social

¹⁰ Shahrbanou Tadjbakhsh & Anuradha Chenoy. (2006). Human Security: Concepts and Implications, London: Routledge.

services like: schools, health facilities, dumping sites, houses, and road access among others¹¹. In addition, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UNHABITAT) further adds that, a slum is an urban area with a lack of basic services (sanitation, potable water, and electricity), substandard housing, overcrowding, unhealthy and sometimes located in hazardous places. These slum dwellers face insecure land tenure, social exclusion and much other human insecurity.¹² In sum, these are low-income settlements that are densely populated with extremely poor human living conditions for any human being (human insecurity) hence (unfit for human habitation).¹³

Slums are found in many countries around the world but they simply vary in size, composition and location. They are fast becoming a global phenomenon amidst the high population growth rates particularly in less developed countries, promoting human insecurities ranging from political, socio-economic and environmental among others. The high poverty levels have gradually forced many people into urban centers community security. In reality, slum dwellers are faced with freedom of want, freedom of fear and poor pathetic living conditions which is an abuse to their fundamental rights and freedoms. This is because their governments focus on state security than human security hence abandoning their primary responsibility of promotion and protection of their people from severe human insecurity. Such states lack strong democratic and governance structures and cannot stir sustainable development.¹⁴

Generally, many states including developed states have no clear plans of dealing with slum elimination, upgrading, removal or resettlement and development. For example, the United States of America has no practical measures in reducing or even eliminating poverty and the spread of slums. Historically, slum development had started in the United States of America and Europe as early as the 19th century and early 20 century. It is further believed that the first slum in the world was in New York City named the Five Points in 1825 at the time when the city was

¹¹ Shoji Sato. (2004)

¹² United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2003). The challenge of slums: global report on human settlements. London: Earthscan Publications.

¹³ The Republic of Uganda. (2008). National Slum Upgrading Strategy and Action Plan: A Situation Analysis of Slums in Uganda and national Slum Upgrading Strategy and Action Plan. Department of Human Settlements- Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development/UNDP

¹⁴ UNDP report (1994)

sprouting into a large urban settlement. Today slum development is more concentrated in urban areas of developing and less developed countries across the globe with some few slums found in developed countries.¹⁵ Although Mexico City's (Neza-Chalco-Itza) slum is the world's largest slum city with many poor people majorly settled in shantytowns on the edge of Mexico City, other biggest slum cities in the world include: Khayeltisha, (Cape Town, South Africa) with around 400,000 people with (about 40 percentage) of these below 19 years of age; Kibera slum (Nairobi, Kenya) is the largest slum in Africa estimated to have between 200,000 to one million people; located in the heart of Mumbai is Dharavi (Mumbai, India) alone is home to between 600,000 to one million people; and Orangi Town (Karachi, Pakistan) is now becoming the largest slum in Asia with over one million dwellers.¹⁶

The UN-Habitat¹⁷ publication on Urban Development and Management (November, 2013) estimated that the number of people living in a slum like condition in developing countries was 863 million in the year 2012 as compared to about 760 million and 650 million in the years 2000 and 1990 respectively and the numbers continues to grow.¹⁸ The rates of slum development in Africa and others parts of the world is linked to the high rates of urbanization and poverty.¹⁹ This problem has become so big that in September 2011, African housing ministers including the Ugandan one met in Rabat (Morocco) held under the umbrella of the African Ministers Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD). The ministers drew out new policies for housing and urban development for Africa, in line with the "cities without slums" initiative they originally adopted in 2005 in an effort to reduce slums and human insecurity.²⁰

¹⁵ Kevin Baker. (2001). The First Slum in America. The New York Times, September 30.

¹⁶ Daniel. Tovrov (2011). 5 Biggest Slums in the World. International Business Times. Available at: <http://www.ibtimes.com/5-biggest-slums-world-381338>

¹⁷ The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is the United Nations agency for human settlements and sustainable urban development. It was established in 1978 as an outcome of the First UN Conference on Human Settlements and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat I) held in Vancouver, Canada in 1976. UN-Habitat maintains its headquarters at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, Kenya. It is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. It is a member of the United Nations Development Group.

¹⁸ Cordaid. (2014) UN-Habitat: Number of slum dwellers grows to 863 million. Available at: <https://www.cordaid.org/en/news/un-habitat-number-slum-dwellers-grows-863-million/>. On 29th April, 2016

¹⁹ United Nations Human Settlements Programme (2008). The state of Africa's cities. Nairobi:

²⁰ Kaci, Racelma. (2012). Towards African cities without slums: Governments set course towards improving poor urban areas. Rabat, Morocco. From Africa Renewal: April. Africa Renewal. See more at: <http://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/april-2012/towards-african-cities-without-slums#sthash.ie5VH1mX.dpuf>

According to the UNHABITAT publication (2006), Sub-Sahara Africa had (more than 71.8%), the highest population composed of urban dwellers living in slums.²¹ These numbers face high human insecurities caused by the squalid slum conditions (mainly severe poverty) forcing many to engage in risky acts of prostitution, trafficking in arms, human and drug consumption among others. The insecurities in slums have a spillover effect to non-slum dwellers inform of pick-pocketing, robbery, rape, burglary, urban violence and killings.²²

In Uganda (Kampala City's) population is rapidly soaring mainly because of the high levels of urbanization (rural-urban migration) with high hopes of getting a job and improved standards of living and also be able to support their families back in the rural areas.²³ However, many people end up not getting the desired jobs or (not finding any at all) which frustrates many ending up in slums for survival. A report by the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (2008) stated that 49% to 64% of the total urban population in Uganda lives in slums. This reflects that a total of 1.58 million people to 2.1 million people are slum residents in Uganda.²⁴ Despite the National Slum Dwellers Federation (NSDF) of Uganda, an umbrella organization for protecting slum dwellers in the country has not adequately helped (paid very little attention) to human security of its members (slum dwellers). Many factors may account for this misfortune ranging from political interference, to poor laws and corruption among others.²⁵

Methodology and theoretical approaches to human security

The paper was written based on desktop research that heavily depended on analysis of key content related to the subject of the paper. Some of them are; human rights instruments, national legislations and policies, news papers as well as scholarly works found in (books, journals articles, government reports and internet sources among others. These materials were important as they helped in providing insights on the subject key issues of the paper.

²¹ United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2006). State of the world's cities 2006/7. London: Earthscan Publications

²² See: UNHABITAT publication (2006). At: <http://unhabitat.org/year/2006/>

²³ Dimanin. Patrick. (2002). Exploring livelihoods of the urban poor in Kampala, Uganda. December, ACF

²⁴ See more at: http://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1309482/kampala-slum#sthash.62ylqFTw.dpuf

²⁵ Human Development Report Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report (1994)

The concept of human security has continuously gained increasing popularity both in the academia and non-academia since the end of the cold war in 1990s. Security alone is perceived to mean any harm, threat or danger to humans. It is also the degree of resistance to (or) protection from, any harm, threat or danger that humans can face (vulnerability) and protection of valuable assets.²⁶ The concept has been broadened from the realist tradition thinking of state security (absence of war) to now include a range of non-military threats namely: political, economic, socio and environmental among others focused on securing citizens. According to United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report (1994), security must ensure "freedom from want" and "freedom from fear" for all persons to deal with the problem of global human insecurity.²⁷ The emphasis is for poor states of the world to practice democracy and good governance which are central for the provision and protection human security.²⁸

Indeed, there are many theories and approaches to the study and conceptualization of human security. However, this paper focused on using the leading contemporary theories of international relations for explaining human security. First, the arguments based on a neo-realist thinking (new security thinking) which stresses the primacy of the state within a broadened conceptualization of (human) security. The second theory is the postmodernist (critical human security) approach entrenched within the pluralist theory of international politics that makes the debate on the other side. It strongly focuses on the assumption that security remains state centric and not human centric, but at the same time not ignoring the importance of interdependency among states and the emergency of non-states actors as key in international relations.

The structural realist theory (neo-realists) such as Bury Buzan (1992) in his works "People, States and Fear" argues that the meaning of security during the cold war period (1947-1990) was defined vaguely (focused on military threats) which led to undermining the effectiveness of the concept. Buzan expanded the concept of security to include non-military threats (political, economic, social and environmental threats), but agrees that the state remains the primary actor

²⁶ Bruce Schneier. (2003). *Beyond Fear: Thinking about Security in an Uncertain World*, Copernicus Books

²⁷ United Nations Development Programme (1994): *Human Development Report*

²⁸ See: www.unocha.org/humansecurity

in international relations.²⁹ He uses three levels of analysis to explain that is; the international system, the state and the individual to scrutinize and analyze security. He however sums up the debate by agreeing that nation states remain the most main and effective provider of security. This conclusion provides the most extensive explanation in modern assessment available of human security from a state-combined view.³⁰

Among the writers on critical approach to human security is Ken Booth (1994) who argues for expansion of the concept of security from state to human centric for purposes of securing people. However, critical theorists clearly disqualify the state as the primary referent of human security replacing them with a variety of non-state actors (multinational corporations, groups, individuals and non-governmental organizations among others). The expansion of the concept of security in all aspects must focus therefore on human security and not state security.³¹ Booth was trying to argue that weak states like Uganda violent human security causing a total lack of “Freedom from Fear” (protection of human beings from violent conflicts) while defending that these violent threats are strongly associated with poverty, lack of state capacity and other forms of inequities and yet they are supposed to be the warden (guarantor) of citizens security. This approach is important because it attempts to limit violence through emergency assistance; conflict prevention and resolution and peace-building. In addition, the approach protects people from “Freedom from Want” (hunger, poverty, disease and natural disasters among others). Freedom from want and fear are inseparable concepts in addressing the root of human insecurity because these kill more people than a combination of war, genocide and terrorism combined.³²

Although Bury Buzan and Ken Booth both advance the need for human security as centric, they approach the concept from seemingly different angles which have generated contemporary debates on the subject. The beginning point to understanding their works requires asking key

²⁹ Buzan, Buzan. (1992). *People, States and Fear: An Agenda for International Security Studies in the Post-Cold War Era*. New York: Harvester Wheatsheaf

³⁰ Sagaren Naidoo. (2001). *A Theoretical Conceptualization of Human Security*. Researcher, Institute for Global Dialogue, Johannesburg, South Africa

³¹ Booth, Ken. (1994). *A Security Regime in Southern Africa: Theoretical Considerations*. Southern African Perspectives No.30, CSAS.

³² UNDP. (1994). *Human Development Report*. New York: United Nations Development Programme.

questions: what is it that needs to be secured and from what? This key question helps to answer who or what should be the key focus of security (the state or the people).

However, the argument that the state is the primary actor (referent) of security does not denote maintaining the state as the sole or unitary referent of security. Rather, it means that the security of the state, chiefly weak states like Uganda should in essence remain the primary actor in international relations until they build their capacity, to be able to grant and maintain security for its people.³³ On the other hand, the paper firmly agrees that the security of the people is supreme than that of the state, though, human security cannot be present without the same state being secure from external aggression. This is what has forced states to rely on building more power and wealth to be able to survive in an anarchical system which has high possibility of violence. The security of state either a (weak or strong) is the determinate of the level of human security, making state power and wealth key in providing human security. Unfortunately, Uganda is a weak state and hence it cannot adequately provide human security even if it so wished.³⁴

Nevertheless, Buzan defends that weak states found in less developed parts of the world highly expose their people to a ray of insecurities caused by among others; colonial legacy and other historical factors which has forever shaped their destiny (human insecurity) given the weak economies that were weakened unclearly explained development concept of the structural adjustment policies (SAPs) of the Brettonwoods institutions. This further twisted the National Resistance Movement's poverty eradication and alleviation policies (PEAP), and the governments ten point programe among others that have been inadequate in promoting development hence continued human insecurities. Unfortunately, Buzan does not make clear (stipulate) policies of how a weak state can be built to become a strong state so that it is able to eliminate severe human insecurities. However, he clearly argues for interdependence and regional integration among others as a way forward. He seems to suggest that poor states can only build a strong economy through engagement in free international trade to down play the role of anarchy that puts emphasis on power and wealth. In addition, the neo-realists like

³³ Van Aardt, M. 1997. 'The emerging security framework for Southern Africa: Regime or Community'. Strategic Review for Southern Africa. XIX.

³⁴ Sagaren Naidoo. (2001)

Kenneth Waltz (1979) consider both states and people to be the referent of security.³⁵ On the other hand, Bury Buzan insists that the state bears the burden of providing human security to its citizens at no cost and condition.³⁶

The study supports that state security leads to development and sets a ground for human security. At a larger extent, this lacks in Uganda hence exposing the people to severe human security. The fact that Uganda is a weak state is to suggest that slum dwellers will continue to suffer pathetic human living conditions, unless efforts to build a strong state are adopted. Nonetheless, critics argue that, the concept of human security is too encompassing and too ambiguously (vaguely) defined, undermining its ineffectiveness for improving human security in weak states like Uganda.³⁷ Interdependence and cooperation as a way of building the capacity of weak states among others is “simple politics among nations” used as a vehicle for exploitation of weak states³⁸ for purposes of dumping, securing markets, supplying of raw material, cheap and threatened with sanctions which has turned weak states (at the periphery) into dependents on the developed states putting emphasis on defense and diplomacy than development for weak states.³⁹

Overview of human insecurity in Kampala slums despite legal instruments

Kampala District hosts the Capital City of Uganda. In 2002, Kampala’s population was estimated by national population census to be at (1,189,150). The Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) estimated the population in 2010 at (1,597,900) and in 2011 UBOS estimated the population at approximately (1,659,600).⁴⁰ The city’s population more than doubled between 2002 and 2014, currently standing at about two million (2 million) people. Surprisingly, the population is still sprawling at a very high rate of 5.6% annually, ranking Kampala City the fastest growing African city. This rate of growth however, is not only natural (birth-death), but

³⁵ Kenneth Waltz (1979). *Theory of International Politics*. New York, Random House.

³⁶ Ibid

³⁷ see Tadjbakhsh, Shahrbanou & Chenoy, Anuradha M. 92006). *Human Security: Concepts and Implications*, London: Routledge.

³⁸ Morgenthau, H.J. (1966), *Politics Among Nations*, 4th edition. New York: Knopf

³⁹ Andre Gunder Frank (1972). “The Development of Underdevelopment,” in James D. Cockcroft, Andre Gunder Frank, and Dale Johnson, eds., *Dependence and Underdevelopment*. Garden City, New York: Anchor Books,

⁴⁰ UBOS. (2014). *Estimated Population of Kampala In 2002, 2010 & 2011*.

mainly caused by rural-urban migration to the city hence expanding the city to its neighboring areas. The district has an approximate area of 189 km² and composed of five administrative divisions including; Nakawa, Makindye, Kawempe, Kampala central and Lubaga.⁴¹

Slums in Kampala City widely differ in characteristics, although, they all face similar human insecurity and equally create the some human insecurity for non-slum dwellers in and around the City. Kampala slums are not professionally built, but have emerged naturally (high rates of urbanization). The famous slums include; Mengo-Kisenyi, Makerere-Kivulu, Kamwokya, Bwaise, Katanga and Namuwongo among others with nearly one million people living in such slums and informal settlements. The poor economic status they face is a reflection of the bad living condition which makes them vulnerable to human insecurities.⁴²

Slums in Kampala require a critical description based on the types of housing conditions. There are basically three types: the poorest of the poor houses made of very light material and located on high risk areas like; flood prone area, next or above stagnant water, near highways and railway lines of high voltage power points among others. For example, Soweto part of the Namuwongo slum is sited on the north of the railway line making the people vulnerable to insecurities. Further, many of such houses are constructed using materials like; leaves, sack clothes and plywood, all of which are highly flammable, coupled with very poor people. These people have limited access to water, electricity, sanitation, basic services and infrastructure; elements which put them at a high risk of contracting diseases. The other class of housing in slums is that of the majority of the poor people with houses made of rusted iron sheets and other materials like; hard wood, wattle and mud, with some of these houses tilted due to poor foundation and construction. There are also houses of somewhat better off people who at times can afford to pay for electricity and piped water in their houses although the houses are built using minimal cement and mud (semi-permanent) with better toilet and drainage facilities. The risk is, some people have bought or built on land that has no clear ownership or land tenure

⁴¹ Karolien Vermeirena et al. (2012). Urban growth of Kampala, Uganda: Pattern analysis and scenario development. Volume 106, Issue 2, 30 May 2012, Pages 199–206. At <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S016920461200093X>

⁴² Ibid

hence, they risk being evicted by developers. Others have some form of written agreement of sale from fake owners. A factor which exposes them to becoming homeless, in addition to losing their savings, which they used to purchase such property.⁴³

The living conditions of these people fall far below the basic requirement of a minimum human living. For example, houses are exposed to fires given the flammable materials used for building these houses, which houses also are not well spaced and lack road access. Again, most Kampala slums generally lack access to clean water, poor drainage of dirty water mixed with sewerage and floods caused by rain, all of which act as a perfect breeding place for mosquitoes. This is also coupled with poor aeration, electricity access, sanitation (use of flying toilets), overcrowding and other basic sanitary services/facilities exposing them to infectious diseases (typhoid, typhus, malaria, cholera and others). Worse still, the slums have poor health services which are expensive hence many die of treatable and avoidable diseases.⁴⁴

Most of the slum dwellers can only afford tiny housing units of one room which acts as the bedroom, living room, store, kitchen and dining. Others share these rooms with domestic birds or animals that they keep for different purposes as something of valuable.⁴⁵ These people end up contracting diseases from these (birds and animals) as a result of stuffing and poor ventilation, smell and filth caused by these (risk of public health). Many others also live in crowded small rooms (5 or more people) taking turns to sleep. For example, during the day, others are sleeping (taking over beds of sleeping space) while their colleagues are working in the night and vice-versa. This situation is inhuman and an abuse of human rights and freedom to a decent housing despite being citizens who are supposed to be protected from such pathetic human treating. This makes the slum dwellers vulnerable to frequent sickness, with no money for proper treatment coupled with shortage of drugs from government supplies (due to high population growth)

⁴³ See Shoji SATO. (2004).

⁴⁴ Avuni Alfred. (2011). Living In Kampala Slum: A Socio-economic Analysis in ten informal settlements of Kampala. John Paul II Justice and Peace Centre, Kampala, Uganda, No. 3.

⁴⁵ See: The Republic of Uganda. (2008).

making them unproductive; shorten their lives and at times dying from very simple and treatable diseases majorly because of poverty and illiteracy.⁴⁶

The high level of poverty (absolute/extreme) measured by general scarcity of basic needs of life (at least food, shelter, education, clothing and medicine) due to poor socio-economic and political situation exposes slum dwellers to Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS). This poverty, illiteracy and disease suffered by slum dwellers deny them the fundamental rights and freedoms to access a basic human dignity and living condition. They cannot have access to effective society participation, no access to simple credit for starting up businesses (form of employment), they are powerless, insecure and socially excluded.⁴⁷ This forces or drives them to commit criminal activities like; urban violence, robbery and murder; given the severe deprivation of basic needs, ending up in prisons or even being killed in the process.⁴⁸

These slums are further characterized by squalid conditions, scattered dirty-black rubbish, pieces of leftover food lying on the tarmac-patched road, chapatti makers next to flammable kiosks auto parts, and small children playing in the dirt during school times creating a very offending sight, purely of people living in severe poverty. There is also uncontrolled rubbish dumping grounds full of human scavengers picking all sorts of things they find valuable to them, and others searching for left over thrown food. They compete with animals and birds, all of which put these people in danger of contracting infectious diseases like; cholera, typhoid and other diseases despite the fact that they cannot afford expensive/even if it was cheap treatment fees hence risk death.⁴⁹ In addition, others are involved in many dangerous trades like pick-pocketing, drug-selling and selling sex among others. Such behavior exposes these people to all sorts of human

⁴⁶ Sabates, Ricardo (2008). The Impact of Lifelong Learning on Poverty Reduction. IFLL Public Value Paper 1 . Latimer Trend, Plymouth, UK

⁴⁷ Ben C. Arimah. (n.d). Slums as expressions of Social Exclusion: Explaining: The Prevalence of Slums in African Countries. Chief, State of Cities Section City Monitoring Branch United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) Nairobi, Kenya, Email: ben.arimah@unhabitat.org

⁴⁸ United Nations. (2013). Urban violence. Newsletter issue No.9, Available at: [https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/HSU/Publications and Products/Newsletter](https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/HSU/Publications%20and%20Products/Newsletter)

⁴⁹ Ninsiima, Racheal. (2015). Uganda: Typhoid Always Lurking in Kampala Slums. The Observer, 27 February. Available at: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201502271023.html>.

insecurity including HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, drug addiction and organized crime among many.⁵⁰

In addition, Kampala slums face severe food insecurity with many of the slum dwellers having only one meal and others going days without any decent food despite Uganda being called a “food basket”. Some of these are children, the elderly, the sick, poorest, the landless and the weak who are the most vulnerable in these Kampala slums given legal instruments to help in slum upgrading, resettlement or removal among others. Slum people in Kampala continue to suffer high rates of hunger, famine and malnutrition with some suffering life time effects of food deficiencies and death among others.⁵¹ The issue of food insecurity therefore is a very complex in slums.⁵² Food prices continue to hike coupled with poor agricultural policies, attitude towards agriculture and climatic change undermining human security and dignity. Slum dwellers have to make serious tradeoffs and hence spending less for other basic essentials (healthcare, education, housing and clothing) among others for food. This proves that food security must be a priority for all governments than military armament using taxpayers’ money.⁵³

Many of these slum dwellers are also characterized by the kind of work they do since they are majorly illiterate and lack skills and knowledge in decent jobs. Therefore the majority work as casual laborers, domestic workers, security guards, hawkers, taxi drivers, boda-boda riders (motor bike transporters) and construction among others. These people normally work in the city center and few others are lucky to get jobs and work in middle- class areas. Several of these people walk to work give n their very little pay coupled with an absence of a law on the minimum wage. They are exploited with long working hours, no contract, no socio-security, no job titles and poor working conditions which is not only risking their lives to diseases and other body injuries but they are being subjected to abuse and neglect of human rights.⁵⁴

⁵⁰ Ibid

⁵² Kimani-Murage. (2014). Vulnerability to Food Insecurity in Urban Slums: Experiences from Nairobi, Kenya. *Journal of Urban Health*, December 2014, Volume 91, Issue 6, pp 1098-1113

⁵³ Ibid

⁵⁴ Ibid

Worst still, Kampala slums have poor solid waste management (SWM) methods since they lack clearly gazetted areas for dumping. This coupled with poor terrain and road access for possibilities of collecting the waste and high cost of private collectors has been given inadequate attention by policy. Despite such conditions, slum dwellers continue to dump and dispose solid waste in open drainage channels and open spaces. This is offending in terms of odor and sight together with blockages to the drainage systems in the city when it rains causes a nuisance. Slum dwellers dump non-degradable materials (plastics) and degradable like (food stuffs and dead animals and birds) among others which is a risk to the environment. The environment has already been badly depleted causing the washing of ozen layers hence global warming and climatic changes. This continues to increase the risk of skin diseases and cancers among others. As if that is not enough, food stuffs dumped attracts rodents, plague and flies which carry disease vectors to humans. Some slum people live with animals and birds in their tiny rooms which increase the chances of filthy and diseases.⁵⁵ Poor SWM is caused by increasing and uncontrolled dumping, delay in collection as a result of poor road access and hence many slum dwellers dump in open grounds, roadsides drainage systems and wetlands within the slums due to poverty, illiteracy, ignorance and poor cultural attitude.⁵⁶

All the above mentioned human insecurities and others not mentioned are indeed real in slums and continue to raise given the very high rates of urbanization in Kampala City. This highly contributes to slum development and expansion, as if to suggest that the problem has been ignored by all stakeholders given the above overview of all the vulnerabilities.⁵⁷ To be honest, the situation in all the slums in and around Kampala City is alarming (inhuman) despite laws and regulations. These people need help from all stakeholders as a matter of basic rights and freedoms they are entitled to as human beings despite the severe poverty they face.

⁵⁵ Glynn Henry and Gary,Heinke. (1996). Environmental Science and Engineering. Prentice Hall

⁵⁶ Auditor General Report. (2010) value for money audit: solid waste management in Kampala.

⁵⁷ Kamara Tumwebazea, Innocent et al. (2013). Sanitation facilities in Kampala slums, Uganda: users' satisfaction and determinant factors. International Journal of Environmental Health Research

Volume 23, Issue 3, 2013. Available at:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/09603123.2012.713095?journalCode=cije20>

Surprisingly, the law on slums did not even allow the then Kampala City Council (KCC) to development slums.⁵⁸ Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) has been promising to upgrade Kampala slums and construct low cost and affordable housing units without success⁵⁹ as contained in the Kampala Physical Development Plan (KPDP) a development document (2012 to 2040). Kampala alone has a housing shortage of 100,000 units. The project is estimated to cost worth \$20 billion that will see 550,000 housing units of both reasonably high and basic standard houses constructed by 2021 to meet the projected high population growth in the city.⁶⁰

This paper strongly believes that slum dwellers anywhere in the world have the right to an adequate housing and shelter as of part of their economic, social and cultural rights. Many National and international instruments for example, chapter four of the Ugandan Constitution (1995) is dedicated to the protection and promotion of fundamental and other human rights including, housing to stimulate socio-economic development. Many other international instruments that protect and promote basic rights and freedoms are; the (1966) International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) of which Uganda is a member and signed an accession was on 21 January 1987 with emphasis on the right of adequate and decent housing.⁶¹ Another key instrument is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) of 1948 which is a fundamental human rights document binding all states.⁶² For example Article (25) of the UDHR recognizes the right to housing as basis of ensuring a basic standard of living for all people. It further states that;

“Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, and housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control”

⁵⁸ Womakuyu Frederick.(2008). Uganda: Kampala Slum Dwellers Turn to 'Flying Toilets. New Vision, Kampala, 6 July. Available at: <http://allafrica.com/stories/200807071116.html>

⁵⁹ KCCA. (2008). City Council Of Kampala: Ovc Strategic Plan, Kampala.

⁶⁰ Ssenyonga. Andrew. (2016). KCCA to upgrade slums in Kampala. Added 2nd April 2016. At: http://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1421141/kcca-upgrade-slums-kampala#sthash.k5AvXSRb.dpuf. Retrieved on 3rd June 2016.

⁶¹ See: International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. New York, 16 December 1966.

⁶² See: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), 1948.

The ICESCR further states and guarantees in Article 11(1) that, the right to housing is a part of human rights as a measure to an adequate standard of living for all people. Other international instruments that aim to promote and guarantee adequate and decent housing is the international human rights law (freestanding right) which is the UN Committee on ICESCR codified in the 1991 General Comment no 4 on Adequate Housing. It provides for general comments (solid interpretation) of the right to housing in an authoritative legal meaning.

The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (also called the Banjul Charter) which Uganda signed 18th August, 1986, ratified on 10th May, 1986 and deposited on 27th May, is an international legal instrument mandated to promote and protect human rights and basic freedoms like that of housing and employment among others on the African continent. This is through the Commission on Human and People Rights set up in (1987) with headquarters at Banjul in Gambia. Another protocol to the Charter was adopted in 1998 demanding that an African court on Human and Peoples' Rights was created and come into force on 25 January 2005.⁶³ The Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPDs)-2006, a UN document of which Uganda is (a party and signed on 30 Mar 2007 and then ratified on 25 Sep 2008) clearly stresses in Article (28) and Article (16) the need to promote, protect and ensure they full enjoyment to adequate and decent housing for such people with disabilities as part of their rights and dignity to attain equality under the law.⁶⁴

Again, the UN Habitat meeting held in (1996) in Istanbul themed on adequate housing for all people in the world in paragraph (61), identified the key steps that all government must take to promote, protect and ensure full and progressive attainment of this right (housing) as central to any person. In addition, the UN Habitat in (2001) now called the Istanbul (+5) further reechoes the (1996) Istanbul Agreement and Habitatant hence producing the UN Human Settlements Programme that aims to promote the rights to housing in partnership with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to promote housing rights through among others sensitization

⁶³ See: African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. Available at: <http://www.achpr.org/instruments/achpr/>. Retrieved on 3rd June, 2016.

⁶⁴ See: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. New York, 13 December 2006 Available at: <http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/conventionfull.shtml>

and awareness campaigns, develop a yardstick for effective and efficient continuous monitoring and periodic evaluation systems for better housing for all. On the African continent, South Africa stands out as the promoter and protector of housing rights seen in section (26) chapter (2) of the Constitution that stresses that “*everyone has the right to have access to adequate housing*” to be effected by the Department of Human Settlement.⁶⁵

In addition to the right to decent housing, everyone has a right to a decent working condition. Kampala City slum people are forced to work in very indecent and inhuman work places witnessed by poor drainages, water access and inadequate space among others be able to make ends meet. According to the UN agency on labor issues, the International Labor Organization (1919), all states including (Uganda) has to protect labor standards, social protection, and work opportunities for all through a set of legal and claimed human rights related to labor relations between workers and their employees. This law in Uganda was contained in the labor policies that was changed from Amin’s decree of 1970 that was recently (2000) changed to an Act (all decrees changed) by the Government of Uganda with no debate. This was aimed to ensure decent work and working conditions for all. The focus was to be put on negotiation of better pay for workers, benefits, safety and health security among others.⁶⁶

The conditions faced by slum dwellers in Kampala is definitely very poor and makes them highly vulnerable to all human insecurities despite all the above instruments. This violates their human rights including; the right to a safe and healthy environment, the right to attaining the highest standard of health, the right to environmental sustainability for development, share in the benefits of science and technology, safe drinking water, working conditions (including adequate safeguards for pregnant and lactating women), freedom from any type of discrimination, education and information, adequate standard of living (access to basic needs), the child to live in an environment appropriate for physical and mental development, the right to full and equal

⁶⁵ See: The South Africa Constitution (1996) section (26) chapter (2)

⁶⁶See: Karugaba. Mary. (2006). Uganda: New Labour Laws for Uganda. The New Vision. Available at: <http://allafrica.com/stories/200604040345.html>. Retrieved on 3rd June 2016.

participation for all persons in environmental decision, that is, through effective and efficient development planning for easier public administration.⁶⁷

This paper roots on the fact that the increasing rate of slum development despite all legal instrument continuous to be high vulnerable to all sorts of human insecurity in Kampala slum not to ignore even other slums around the city and elsewhere in Uganda.⁶⁸ The causes of slums in the city have not been given due attention that it deserves by all stakeholders. Buzan argued that weak states can reduce or eliminate severe human insecurity by building strong economies through interdependence and regional integration among others to build a peaceful international society grounded on democracy and good governance. Clearly, Uganda has not attain such high standards (building a strong economy) of democracy and good governance because these depend on the level of development of the state in question. Nevertheless, the question of what causes slums in Kampala City may not be new, but constant remainders prove worth securing human security as immediate.⁶⁹ Otherwise, Kampala City slums continue to face many insecurities ranging from fires, drug trafficking, environmental degradation, personal security, societal insecurity, overcrowding, unemployment, land tenure insecurity, poor housing, abortion and urban violence among others. Facts have been presented many times, now action is needed.⁷⁰

How and why do slums increasingly form in Kampala City?

The “million dollar” question is, how and why do people still continue to flock Kampala City slums if they have such pathetic human living conditions leaving the rural places of abode which may be better? And if the reasons are convincing to migrate to urban areas at all, what have the city managers and legal frameworks done anything to prevent these slums from mushrooming at will? This conceptualization of these aspects of “how and when” could give meaningful insights that can be used to find ways of improving human security in slums. Slums form for many reasons; civil conflict, social exclusion and natural disasters among other factors were considered as a foundation of all the other causes which all could not be discussed in this paper.

⁶⁷ See: UDHR, 1948

⁶⁹ See: Shoji SATO (2004).

⁷⁰ See: Dimanin Patrick. (2012).

Uganda was a British colony and got independence on 9th October 1962. The post-independence incidences badly cracked Uganda into long term division a long side tribal and religious lines. This colonial legacy has continued to showcase itself in many ways.⁷¹ In the mid 1980s, Uganda witnessed a civil war⁷² in the north eastern parts of the country led by Alice Lakwena of the Holy Spirit Movement (HSM) which failed to oust President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni out of power. The rebellion was later handed over to Lakwena's Cousin Joseph Kony of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) who conducted widespread destruction of life and property, abduction of children estimated at 30,000 children and displacing about 1.6 million people from Northern Uganda and the death, mutilation and kidnapping of more than 100,000 people from about 1988 until recently in the last decade when Kony was neutralized.⁷³

Another rebel group, the Allied Democratic Front (ADF) also considered a terrorist group led by Jamil Mukulu (a radical Islamist) operating in mountainous areas of western Uganda had the same impacts on the population just like Kony did in the northern Uganda. For example, only in 1998, the ADF abducted 30 children in Mitandi, Kasese district and killed 80 students of the Kichwamba Technical College in Kabarole and another 80 abducted. In 1999, the ADF carried out seven attacks hence killing 11 and 42 others wounded. In 2007, they killed 45 people in Bundibugyo and Mubende districts when the government forces, the Uganda People's defense forces (UPDF) engaged the ADF, another 34 people were killed plus three senior commands in a military engagement with the UPDF. Although Kony has been battled and almost defeated by Uganda, Jamilu Mukaula was arrested in April 2015 in Tanzania and later extradited to Uganda. What they have in common was to oust President Museveni from power and were committing war crimes and crimes against humanity unarmed civilians. This is what forced many people to escape from these areas infested by such barbaric instabilities to Kampala City and other urban

⁷¹ Ann Hironaka.(n.d). *Neverending Wars: The International Community, Weak States, and the Perpetuation of Civil War*, Harvard University Press: Cambridge, Mass

⁷² Edward Wong. (2006). "A Matter of Definition: What Makes a Civil War, and Who Declares It So?" *New York Times* November 26, 2006. At: http://www.nytimes.com/2006/11/26/world/middleeast/26war.html?_r=2&oref=slogin retrieved on 30th June, 2015

⁷³ See: Uganda: Conflict Profile. At: <http://www.insightonconflict.org/conflicts/uganda/conflict-profile/>, retrieved on 30th June, 2016.

areas ending up filling and expanding slums. These people are so poor (cannot afford decent housing). This in itself explains slum formation and expansion.⁷⁴

Another serious (how and why) slums increasingly form is related to grievances that has divided Uganda into classes (the very rich and the very poor) causing a feeling of the haves and donot haves divided along the lines of religion, tribe and social class among others.⁷⁵ This has led people into rebellion and other violent activities caused by a feeling of poor democracy and governance (lifting of term limits and election rigging).⁷⁶ For example the tribal clashes in the post-2016 presidential and parliamentary elections erupted into violent between the locals and government forces leaving 14 widows, more than 64 children without fathers and more than 15 people (civilians, police and army officers) were killed in the clashes in the district.⁷⁷ These conflicts, however, fresh they may look, have roots in 2009 when the government installed Charles Wesley Mumbere as the King of Obusinga bwa Rwenzururu Kingdom, something which was not welcome by the Basongora and Banyabindi in Kasese as well as Bawisi and Bamba in Bundibugyo District. The result was attacks on Muhokya Police Station in Kasese which left 5 people dead.⁷⁸ This social exclusion is a form of marginalization, exploitation and suppression that has caused social disadvantages (lack of basic needs and high level of poverty) in that community is a reflection of the socio-economic dissatisfaction of deeply rooted feelings among the population which has forced many to urban areas, ending up in slums.⁷⁹

⁷⁴ See: Global security.org, Uganda Civil War. At: <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/uganda.htm>, retrieved on 30th June, 2016.

⁷⁵ Collier, Paul; Hoeffler, Anke (2002). Greed and Grievance in Civil War (PDF). The World Bank Policy Research Working Paper No. 2355. Available at: http://www-wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2000/06/17/000094946_00060205420011/Rendered/PDF/multi_page.pdf, Retrieved on 30th June 2016

⁷⁶ Collier, Paul, AnkeHoeffler and Dominic Rohner (2007). Beyond Greed and Grievance: Feasibility and Civil War', CSAE WPS/2006-10, Oxford: University of Oxford.

⁷⁷ Mumbere. Moris. (2016). Uganda: Kasese Clashes - Bereaved Accuse Giso. The Daily Monitor. 23, Apri., At: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201604251140.html>.

⁷⁸ Basiime Felix et al. (2016). What brews conflicts in Rwenzori region?. The Daily Monitor, Tuesday, March 15. At: <http://www.monitor.co.ug/artsculture/Reviews/Brews-conflicts-Rwenzori-region/-/691232/3119766/-/xfw11uz/-/index.html>, retrieved on 30th June, 2016.

⁷⁹ Power, Anne & Wilson, William Julius. (2000). *Social Exclusion and the Future of Cities*, Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion, London School of Economics, London, UK.

The other last, but not least factor (how and why) slums form in this paper is natural disasters that have also highly contributed attracting people to city slums. In general terms, a natural disaster is a calamity resulting from natural processes causing earth quakes, floods, typhoons, volcano and landslides among others. The disasters happen unexpectedly at very high speed destroying lives, property and destructing the day to day community operations. It leaves many people injured both physically and emotional, yet the affected population lacks resilience (ability) to recovery.⁸⁰ Heavy rains and floods hit Kasese District and its neighbors since 2013 destroying lives and property worth millions of money. For example, in Kasese (2016), floods hit as a result of heavy winds and rains that caused River Nyamwamba banks bursting resulting into the death of four people and another 432 families badly affected.⁸¹ It also destroyed infrastructure such as; health centers, roads, bridges, schools and farms in various parts of the district.⁸² Again in the same year, heavy rainfall caused River Mubuka to overflow and displaced more than 1000 people living in Kanamba and Kabaka parishes in Karusandara sub-county.⁸³

In 2010, the eastern districts of Budada and Butaleja suffered floods displacing over 6,000 people and destroying social services.⁸⁴ Again in 2011, the districts of (Bulambuli, Kween, Tororo, Butaleja, Bukedea and Amuria) faced floods that displaced many families (knocked down the mud-and-wattle house), causing severe famine and disease in 2011.⁸⁵ According to the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) report (2011), over 70,000 people were affected by floods and related disasters countrywide in 2011. In addition, another 35, 125 in Bulambuli and another 18525 people were affected by disastrous floods, landslides and hailstorm in eastern districts (Bukedea, Sironko, Butaleja, Pallisa, Kween, Mbale and Nakapiripirit).⁸⁶ Landslides also buried

⁸⁰ David. Alexander (2002). *Principles of Emergency planning and Management*. Harpended: Terra publishing

⁸¹ See; Floods in Kasese Report from Uganda Red Cross Published on 02 May 2013. At <http://reliefweb.int/report/uganda/floods-kasese>

⁸² See more at: http://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1422371/vision-floods-hit-kasese#sthash.50K07pIM.dpuf, Retrieved on 30th June 2016.

⁸³ Benard Juma. (2016). At Least 1,000 Displaced After Floods in Kasese and Kampala, 18 April, Africa, News

⁸⁴ See: Uganda. (2010). Bududa landslides: One month down the road, what has been done? Report from Uganda Red Cross At: <http://reliefweb.int/report/uganda/uganda-bududa-landslides-one-month-down-road-what-has-been-done>

⁸⁵ See: Floods hit Eastern Uganda. Vision Reporter, 6th November 2011. At:

http://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1003180/floods-hit-eastern-uganda#sthash.peZHMdmF.dpuf

⁸⁶ By Daniel Edyegu Floods hit Eastern Uganda Report from New Vision Published on 07 Nov 2011. At: <http://reliefweb.int/report/uganda/floods-hit-eastern-uganda>

over 350 people at Nametsi trading centre in Bukalasi sub-county, while another five were buried in Bumayoka sub-county on 1st March in 2011.⁸⁷ On 25th June, 2012, another serious land slide caused by heavy rains hit at Bunakasala parish, Bududa district sweeping through four villages. The URC reported eight people missing, nine injured, seventy two survived and fifteen houses buried.⁸⁸

The central parts and other parts of the country too have not been spared. For example, hailstorms affected 3540 people in the districts of Mpigi, Masaka and Lwengo. Another 951 people in western Uganda too experience the effects of hailstorms in Mitooma and Buhwenju districts. In the districts of Nebbi and Moyo (West Nile), floods affected 4610 in Nebbi and Moyo districts. Floods also affected 1, 820 in Ntoroko and 1, 111 in Kisoro district⁸⁹ Kampala where many people run for safety and better live has also suffered floods as a results of poor planning, destruction of wetlands and poor drainage among others in slum areas of Kyebando, Bwaise, Kamwokya, Mulago and Kalerwe leading to loss of lives and property among others in between 2011 to 2016.⁹⁰ Emergency response by the ministry in charge (Disaster Preparedness, Management and Refugees) is alarming and saddening with poor preparation, prevention, response, mitigation, rehabilitation and recovery from effects of civil war, socio exclusion and natural disasters.⁹¹ These people are end up in slums and face high levels of human insecurity.⁹²

Counter Strategies: Moving from theory to practice

The policies and strategies are aimed at improving the living conditions and economic situation of slum dwellers to secure them from human insecurities that highly risk their lives in slums. This is through the provision of infrastructure among them (roads access, dumping sites, and drainage and sewerage system), utilities including (water and electricity) and social services

⁸⁷ See: Edyegu, Daniel Uganda: Fresh Landslides Hit Bududa District

⁸⁸ See: Wanzusi. Joseph and Paul Watala Another landslide in Bududa. The NewVision. At: See more at: http://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1328705/landslide-bududa#sthash.DH46vz31.dpuf

⁸⁹ Ibid (Edyegu)

⁹⁰ Ninsiima Enid & Basiime Felix. (2013). Kasese Floods: Kilembe Mines Hospital closes. The Daily Monitor At: <http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Floods--Kilembe-Mines-Hospital-closes/-/688334/1799498/-/89f50b/-/index.html>

⁹¹ See: Daniel Edyegu (2011).

⁹² See: Daniel Edyegu (2011).

(education and health) in Kampala City slums. Many, scholars, policy makers and media have repeatedly suggested upgrading of slums as the best strategy to improve slum conditions;

Slum upgrading is an onsite means of improving the slums and other informal settlements without displacing the dwellers in an inexpensive way and respectful way. This approach is participatory involving all stakeholders. Upgrading used in many countries successfully if it is well embedded in the national development plans. Majorly, upgrading also helps to alleviate the pathetic living conditions of slum dwellers. It involves building alternative shelter for dwellers rather than only fixing infrastructure. For Uganda however, critics argue that the process cannot be successful without adequate funds and operational legal instruments. John Turner, a British architect who is widely known for writing about housing and community organization has specifically work experience working after working in the squatter settlements of Peru from (1957-1965). He concentrated on various reconstruction and slum upgrading projects adopted by the government in what was known as a nation-wide community development initiative which were successful.⁹³ Until today, many governments across the world for example in Asia have embarked on slum upgrading as a policy and strategy of improvement of basic infrastructure, living conditions and tenure security in many slums.⁹⁴ Turner's critics argue that most slum upgrading projects, however, have produced mixed results.

In 1992, the government of Uganda adopted the National Shelter Strategy (NSS) in partnership with the National Housing Policy which was a program for the improvement of housing conditions to ensure adequate shelter for all by 2000. Through the NSS, government attempted to identify and removed all challenges that hindered housing development through encouraging private sector participation in the development of the housing industry.⁹⁵ This resulted into the designing of the National Slum Upgrading Strategy which became an important legal instrument for reform of land ownership, tenure and clear housing policies. However, democracy and good

⁹³Bertha Turner, John Turner. (1988). *Building Community: A Third World Case Book*, (eds.).London: Building Community Books.

⁹⁴ Werlin, Herbert. (1999). *The Slum Upgrading Myth*. *Urban Studies* 36.9 (1999): 1523-534

⁹⁵ William S Kalema and Duncan Kayiira. (2008). *Access to Housing Finance in Africa. Overview of the housing finance sector in Uganda*, commissioned by the FinMark Trust with support from Habitat for humanity. Available At: http://www.housingfinance.org/uploads/Publicationsmanager/R_HFA_Uganda.pdf

governance remain key determinates for slum upgrading. Uganda still is a growing democracy and hence a less developed state.⁹⁶ However, there have been many successful slums upgrading in Uganda for example in Masese (Jinja), DANIDA built self Help Project with 400 houses. But residents in the Masese-Danida village still complained of poor dumping of garbage (landfill for Jinja Municipality) in their area leading to outbreak of diseases in their area.⁹⁷ In Mbale (Mulukhu) slum upgrading project constructed 460 houses among others.⁹⁸

In Kampala City, the Namuwongo low cost and slum upgrading project was intended to address the slum problem to provide infrastructure (housing, sanitation, safe drinking water, safe electricity distribution, paved roads, rain water drainage system, and taxi stops) that improved the lives of many. Nevertheless, the low-cost houses were sold off due to the high value the area gained. In addition, Namuwongo slum upgrading project did not accommodate all the people nor did it plan for the high rate of urbanization which resulted into human insecurity.⁹⁹ However, the Ministry of Works, Housing and Communications, upgrading resulted into; improved housing conditions, improved access to services, increased opportunities for income generation, increased employment opportunities, increased security of tenure, increased stability of the population and social cohesion, increased sense of belonging, dignity and assertiveness, increased propensity to save and invest, reduced morbidity and mortality rates, improved quality of the urban environment, increased values of land, higher development potential as more developers are attracted to the settlements; and increased market for various products, all securing humans and reducing vulnerability to their lives.¹⁰⁰

Although upgrading so far is the policy and strategy that has been tested in Uganda, the World Bank (2006) suggests slum removal (forced evictions) and slum clearance and relocation. Slum removal is about clearance of slums implemented through the use of force to evict or demolition

⁹⁶ See: Republic of Uganda. (2008). National Slum Upgrading Strategy and Action Plan for Uganda. Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, UNDP.

⁹⁷ Mazige. Joseph. (2004). Uganda: Masese Residents Protest Landfill. The Daily Monitor, 7 February. Available at: <http://allafrica.com/stories/200402060752.html>

⁹⁸ See; National Slum Upgrading Strategy and Action Plan. (2008).

⁹⁹ See; City Information: Minimum Cost Housing Group. Available at: <https://www.mcgill.ca/mchg/pastproject/edible-landscape/kampala/info>

¹⁰⁰ Ibid

slum houses done without the offering of any alternative or choice to the populations displaced which has been a widespread practice globally. Because slums start as illegal informal settlement on a land property not owned by the dwellers, this makes them illegal occupants and have no legal claim to that land. Another strategy is slum removal by use of force which requires to first getting an effective alternative for the people because removing the slums does not necessarily remove the causes and maintenance of slums. People will simply tend to either settle in another nearby slum or opt for informal settlement (slum formation). Slum removal may not be the best for solving the problem in Kampala City unless poverty is also reduced or eliminated.

Slum clearance and relocation for those slums either built on hazardous, public right of way (roads and railway lines) areas or a deliberate strategy of removing slum dwellers from the city center and re-settles them in another low value or free housing area far outside the city. Normally, such land has gained value and is re-developed to high value ventures. This may distort the dwellers social lives of these people by displacing them from their employment due to the new far distance. However, pathetic human conditions may still remain in the new slum or force some to resettle to another slum. It is until the government institutes a comprehensive and inclusive national policy to deal with human insecurity at state level can the insecurities reduce. The paper also identifies effective urban planning as another strategy for eliminating the problem of slums in Kampala by adopting scientific and technical processes among them zoning of land use (industries, parks, transportation and infrastructure). This also involves clear and accurate forecasting of future population growth with the provision of adequate employment opportunities through capacity building efforts and partnerships with all stakeholders. This is possible through democracy and good governance practices that help in (building strong legal frameworks) that are operational to help eliminate human insecurities and vulnerabilities at national level. This is possible through addressing the problem of high population growth rates, reduction of poverty, planning for decent housing, sanitation, health facilities, and dumping sites, waste management can generally reduces and discouraging slum development. It further reduces the appalling conditions (human) insecurities and vulnerabilities in Kampala slums.¹⁰¹

¹⁰¹ Ogata, Sadako. (2002). State Security: Human Security. Brown University Ogden Lecture.

Conclusion

I would like to begin the conclusion by posing a key question: What is it that needs to be secured, from what and by whom? This question remains staggering hence generating unending debates on security in international relations. Globally, two billion people will be living in slums by the year 2030. In Uganda alone, the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (2008) stated that 49% to 64% of the total urban population currently lives in slums (reflecting a total of 1.58 million people to 2.1 million) people as slum residents.¹⁰² Kampala City alone has about a population (2 million) people with a growth rate of 5.6% annually, ranking Kampala City the fastest growing African city. This is a projection that the problem of slum development and expansion in Kampala is not about to end but just beginning.

Buzan (1992) and Booth (1994) both argue that security is people centric and must be expanded to include non-military threats (political, economic, social and environmental threats). Buzan however, maintains the supremacy of the state as the primary actor but adds that only strong states can effectively provide human security to their citizen, although he does not prescribe how weak states like Uganda can build their economies. He seems to suggest interdependence and cooperation of states as a means of building a strong state, unlike Booth who is silent on this issue but is clear on human security as centric. Their critics claim the state must be replaced by a variety of non-state actors to secure people (freedom from want and fear) to clearly knock off Buzan's ideal of state security as key. I believe that the issue of security is complex and has been vaguely defined which undermines its effectiveness. The issue of security to Morgenthau (1966) is simply "politics among nations" while Andre Gunda Frank believes that problems of security is created by strong states aimed at weakening less developed states like Uganda. Such states become dependent and underdeveloped through being exploited, marginalized and suppressed by developed and stronger states as markets, dumping site, suppliers of cheap labor and raw materials.

This is why Kampala slums continuous to have pathetic living conditions faced with insecurity like (disease, poverty, illiteracy and food, environmental, unemployment, organized crimes and

¹⁰² See more at: http://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1309482/kampala-slum#sthash.62ylqfTw.dpuf

urban violence among others despite the local and international instruments in place to protect and promote these basic rights of all people (human dignity). The paper also believes that unless the how and why slums development and expansion is given due attention, slum development will continue to surface. The causes of slums in Kampala require urgent (practical) solution, and in my view, slum upgrading is among the best strategies of dealing with the problem of slums given the current political and economic situations. Slum upgrading involves the dwellers and to a larger extent improves the living conditions of the people without necessarily displacing them. However, the World Bank (2006) recommends other methods like; slum removal (forced evictions), slum clearance and relocation. In addition to upgrading, I also believe effective urban planning through land use zoning can help. Overall, human security in Kampala slums requires a comprehensive approach linking key aspects of development, human rights and national security as the foundation of human security in weak states like Uganda.¹⁰³

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