

Partnership Approach & Framing

Accelerating the use of evidence to
address nutrition and WASH
inequities among poor urban
children and adolescents in East
Africa



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USAID'S HEALTH EVALUATION AND APPLIED RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT (HEARD) PROJECT



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IFAKARA HEALTH INSTITUTE
research | training | services



**African Population and
Health Research Center**



Overview

- Globally: 60% of the world will live in cities by 2030 and the “urban advantage” does not apply to all
- Sub-Saharan Africa: more than half (56%) of urban population lives in slums, compared to an average of 29% across developing regions (UN Habitat, 2016)
- Nutrition and WASH implications for the Urban Poor in SSA

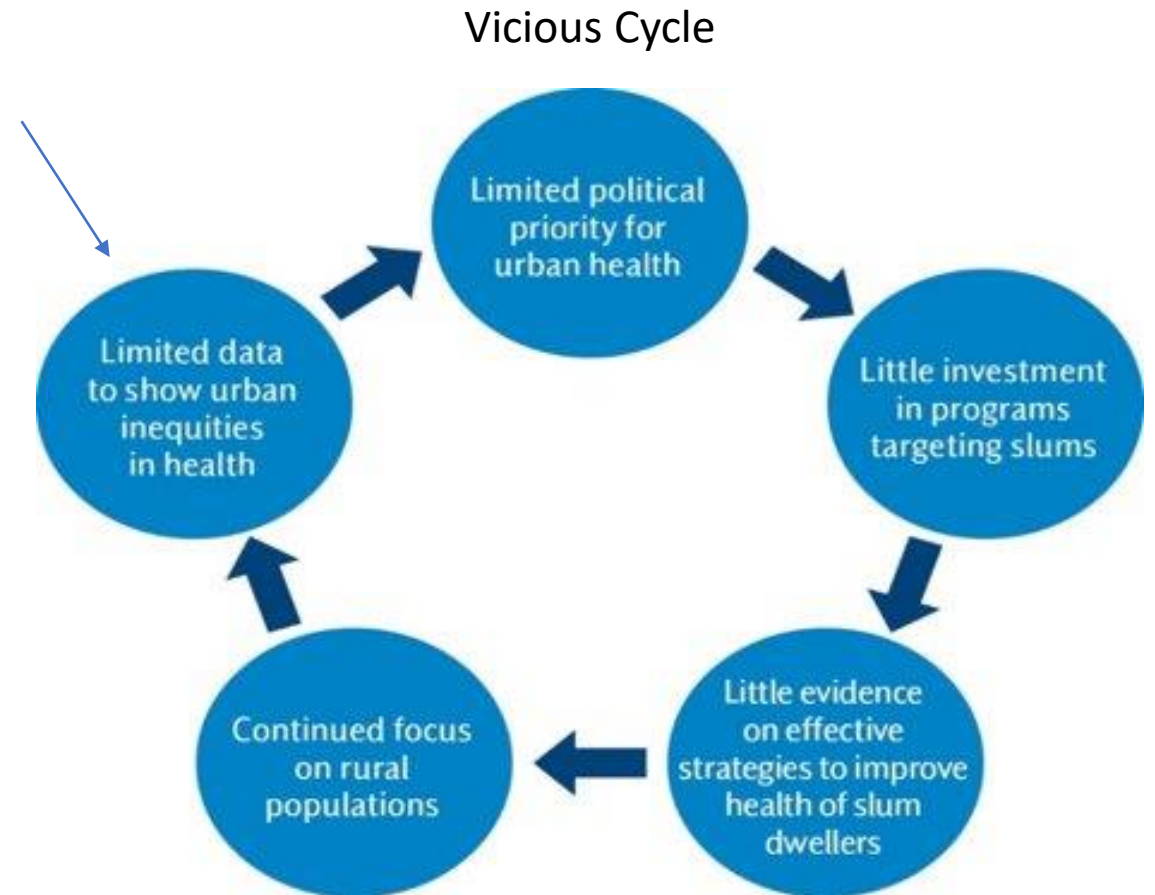
What is a “slum”?

UN-HABITAT defines a slum household as a group of individuals living under the same roof in an urban area who lack one or more of the following:

1. Durable housing of a permanent nature
Sufficient living space
2. Easy access to safe water in sufficient amounts at an affordable price
3. Access to adequate sanitation
4. Security of tenure that prevents forced eviction

Opportunity

- Establish a multi-country, multi-stakeholder partnership
- Leverage existing evidence in combination with voices from poor urban areas to create a basis for action
- Use the research activity as a vehicle for change



IS Collaboration on Urban Health in East Africa

Policy & Program Platform Collaborators



East Africa Research & Community Collaborators



Donor and Technical Collaborators



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PUBLIC HEALTH & HEALTH POLICY



Three-country urban assessment design and methods

1. Review of available:

- Literature
- Datasets
- Policies/ strategies
- Stakeholders and interventions

2. Community case studies



Assessment Domains of Focus



Using Research as a Vehicle for Change: Approach



Timeline



High Level Results



- Policy
- Program/Practice
- Research
- IS Capacity



Decision-maker Reflections

"We needed this report for a long time, now we have something on hand."

**-Canadian Embassy colleague
in Tanzania**

"IHI should incorporate all proposed changes and share the report as soon as possible for action. We need to consider this during our coming financial year."

-MoHCGDEC (Tanzania)

"This report is very useful, should be shared with all development partners."

-UNICEF/Tz colleague

"This is an eye opener especially to us urban planners, we must begin to pay special attention to the urban poor."

-Urban Planner Kampala

"Gone are the days of medicalization of health, we need to involve all stakeholders in order to address health problems."

**-Urban City Authority
Implementer in Kampala**



Reflections from the Collaboration

“Involvement of policy makers from various departments enabled enrichment of discussions with regards to policy and how best to synergize between the ministries in implementation for better outcomes in nutrition and health.”

—APHRC Team, Kenya

“Unlike conventional clinical research, the process began with sector-wide stakeholder engagement to identify the most pressing needs. Uptake of findings is high because of involving policy and decision makers in the whole process.”

—IDI Team, Uganda

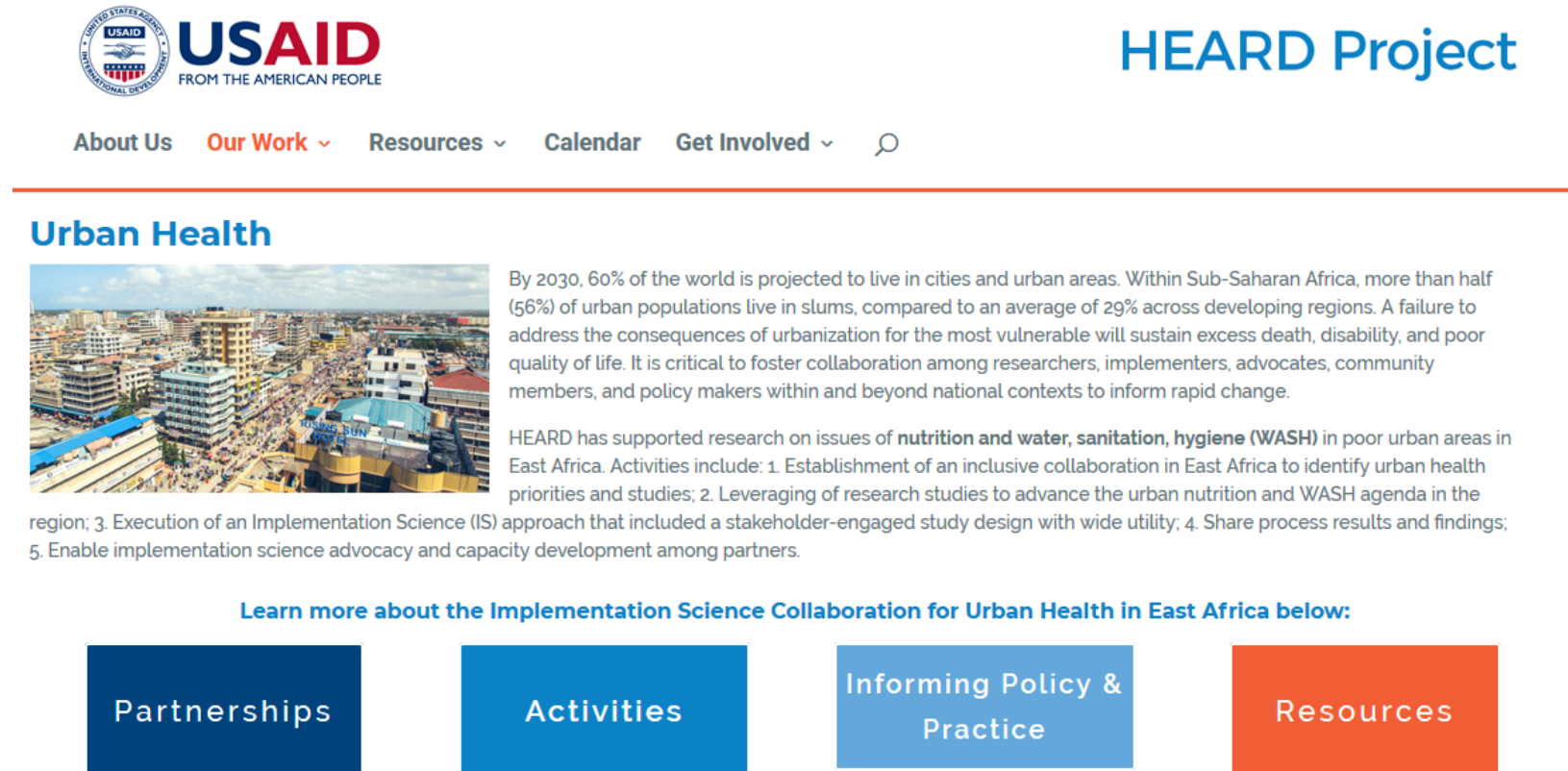
“The IHI team has learned a lot about the need to include stakeholders in each step of research and on issues related to data liberation [use of existing info/data]. Our inherent approach of thinking about the needs of people while seated in our offices has proven less effective in getting a full commitment from stakeholders. It was great having a high level of engagement at local and international level.”

—IHI Team, Tanzania



For More Information

To learn more about the **Implementation Science Collaboration on Urban Health in East Africa** and access our resources visit heardproject.org or contact Emily Peca at epeca@urc-chs.com.



The screenshot shows the USAID HEARD Project website. At the top is the USAID logo with the tagline 'FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE'. Below the logo is a navigation bar with links: 'About Us', 'Our Work' (highlighted in red), 'Resources', 'Calendar', and 'Get Involved'. A search icon is also present. The main content area is titled 'Urban Health' and features a photograph of a dense urban area. To the right of the photo is a paragraph about urbanization projections and the importance of collaboration. Below this is a list of activities supported by HEARD. At the bottom of the screenshot is a section titled 'Learn more about the Implementation Science Collaboration for Urban Health in East Africa below:' with four buttons: 'Partnerships', 'Activities', 'Informing Policy & Practice', and 'Resources'.

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About Us Our Work Resources Calendar Get Involved

Urban Health

By 2030, 60% of the world is projected to live in cities and urban areas. Within Sub-Saharan Africa, more than half (56%) of urban populations live in slums, compared to an average of 29% across developing regions. A failure to address the consequences of urbanization for the most vulnerable will sustain excess death, disability, and poor quality of life. It is critical to foster collaboration among researchers, implementers, advocates, community members, and policy makers within and beyond national contexts to inform rapid change.

HEARD has supported research on issues of **nutrition and water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH)** in poor urban areas in East Africa. Activities include: 1. Establishment of an inclusive collaboration in East Africa to identify urban health priorities and studies; 2. Leveraging of research studies to advance the urban nutrition and WASH agenda in the region; 3. Execution of an Implementation Science (IS) approach that included a stakeholder-engaged study design with wide utility; 4. Share process results and findings; 5. Enable implementation science advocacy and capacity development among partners.

Learn more about the Implementation Science Collaboration for Urban Health in East Africa below:

Partnerships Activities Informing Policy & Practice Resources

