

Peepoo bags in Kenyan urban slums: experiences, ideas and research

Posted by susanaforum - 24 Aug 2011 09:24

To start a discussion on Peepoo bags (or "peepoo toilets", which is the preferred term by the inventor, Anders Wilhemson) in Kenya, I am starting with some questions from Patrick Onyango (GIZ, Kenya).

I am posting his e-mail below with his kind permission (posted by Elisabeth von Muench).

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Dear Elizabeth,

Thanks for your email. Your concern for women and children especially with regards to use of public toilets in slums at night is right. However, Hagen and I had advised the lady from Sweden [Camilla Wirseen from Peepoople] from the beginning that the Peepoo even as a very temporary solution would raise both Political and environmental concerns:

1. Kibera in the long run has no space for disposal of large quantity of Peepoo bags. No sustainable management of huge quantity is in place.
2. The bags would end up in our rivers the same way as the black polythene bags being used as flying toilets.
3. The Kenyan elite and politicians would see it as looking down at the dignity of the people. So far it is low key and even the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation has not shown any interest.
4. The Ministry of Public Health and sanitation (lead Ministry in Sanitation) is also of the opinion (as expressed by Chief Public Health Officer during the launch of CLTS on 11.5.2011) that some houses in Kibera must be demolished to create space for bringing sustainable services in the area. All short term solutions have failed.

Kenya has to take the example of Zambia. Legalize these settlements, plan them properly and bring in services, facilitated by Government. Otherwise the current game done by many uncontrolled players will continue without any impacts being felt by the slum dwellers.

With kind regards,

Patrick

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And Patrick also pointed out to me today:

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By the way the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation with the other major sector players are working on definition of what should be considered as a basic sanitation in Kenya. Peepoo bags are not even in discussion! But let us wait.

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What do you all think about this?

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