



# UN-HABITAT

WATER & SANITATION IN THE WORLD'S CITIES



## Flying Toilets in Every Direction

There are flying toilets everywhere in Kibera. Considered the largest slum in East and Central Africa, people live in shacks with no basic services. Each pit latrine is shared by hundreds of others. Rarely cleaned, the toilets are a health hazard. Instead, most people prefer to defecate on polythene paper inside their houses and hurl the wrapped faeces, or flying toilets in any direction.

Kibera is located in Nairobi, where 60% of the population lives in informal settlements without adequate shelter or basic services. Less than half the population in urban centres of Africa, Asia and Latin America have water piped into their homes. Less than one third of them have adequate sanitation.

The amount of water needed to meet the drinking, washing and sanitation needs of the poor in urban areas in the developing world is relatively small compared to the amount of freshwater used in industry and agriculture. Inadequate provision of water and sanitation in many cities and towns therefore has nothing to do with water shortages, even though the supply of freshwater on a global level is declining.

Corruption and poor governance are the major reasons cited by most aid agencies and development banks for withdrawing from large-scale capital projects in urban areas in the developing world in the 1980s.

UN-HABITAT's report **Water and Sanitation in the World's Cities: Local Action for Global Goals** argues that many local authorities still underestimate the importance of good governance practices in the delivery of services at the local government level.

This influential publication by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme sets out in detail the scale of inadequate provision of water and sanitation. It describes the impacts on health and economic performance, showing the potential gains of remedial action; it analyses the proximate and underlying causes of poor provision and identifies information gaps affecting resource allocation. It outlines the consequences of further deterioration; and it explains how resources and institutional capacities – public, private and community – can be used to deliver proper services through integrated water resource management.

This book will be essential reading for urban planners, municipal authorities, water and sanitation engineers, development professionals, economists, environmental scientists and students.

**Water and Sanitation in the World's Cities: Local Action for Global Goals** is Published by Earthscan and available from bookshops or direct from our website [www.earthscan.co.uk](http://www.earthscan.co.uk). Hardback ISBN: 1-84407-003-4; Paperback ISBN: 1-84407-004-2

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