

KENYA

What future for Kibera ?

Photo by Bruno Zanzottera





Nairobi, Kibera (Kenya) – An overview of the shacks in the Kibera slum or shanty town.

Kibera is one of the largest and most historic slums in Africa. Inside the decay pulsates a world of artistic creativity ready to explode, but today, it faces the risk of gentrification due to the Kenyan government's 'redevelopment' plans.

With its 2.5 million inhabitants, divided into twelve villages, Kibera is probably the oldest and most populous slum in Africa. Founded in the early 20th century as a settlement for the families and soldiers of the King African Rifles, the slum developed informally over the following decades into a full-fledged city located a short distance from the centre of Nairobi. Today it is a symbol of misery, degradation, crime and drug dealing: broken families, street kids, teenage mothers, rampant poverty, exacerbated by the economic crisis and rising prices.

That isn't the whole story, however: Kibera is also home to many projects and an astonishing variety of initiatives which, on the one hand, respond to the need to invent a means of survival while, on the other, they are an expression of extraordinary creativity. Inside Kibera there is a whole world of artists, musicians, dancers, acrobats and performers who, through their art, try to make the slum

more beautiful and livable. Not only that, they often involve children and young people in activities with educational implications.

Today, the inhabitants of Kibera are beginning to feel part of a community of solidarity, but all this is in danger of disappearing because of President William Ruto's intention to transform the slum, which occupies an area particularly attractive for property speculation, into a modern residential area by the end of his term of office. "Within a decade," said Ruto, "Kibera will undergo a remarkable transformation and we are committed to eradicating all slums in the country." The hope is that this will not be another gentrification operation, which has already taken place in many metropolises around the world, where, with the excuse of fighting decay, real cities inhabited by poor people are destroyed by relocating them to increasingly peripheral areas, dismembering their social fabric, to make residential districts for new wealthy inhabitants.



Nairobi, Kibera (Kenya) - A group of former street kids who now live at the Ndugu Ndogo Rescue Centre, which was founded by Father Renato Kizito Sesana, a former Comboni missionary.



Nairobi, Kibera (Kenya) - A male and female member of the Project Elisu classical dance group perform on the streets of the Kibera slum.



Nairobi, Kibera (Kenya) - Young Kibera slum students are frightened by a turkey on their way home from school.



Nairobi, Kibera (Kenya) - Moments of daily life in the Kibera slum.

Nairobi, Kibera (Kenya) - Faith Atieno, a painter and the founder of the Art 360° collective, which is particularly committed to creating civic-minded works with the children of the Kibera slum, in front of a mural. Its title is Imagine Tomorrow and it expresses the hope that one day this shanty town will become a pleasant place to live.





Nairobi, Kibera (Kenya) - An impromptu dancer in the streets of the Kibera slum.



Nairobi, Kibera (Kenya) - Some former street kids who now live at the Ndugu Ndogo Rescue Centre, on the streets of the Kibera slum. The Centre was founded by Father Renato Kizito Sesana, a former Comboni missionary.



Nairobi, Kibera (Kenya) - A dog sleeps among the mountains of trash that dot the Kibera slum.



Kibera (Kenya) - In the Kibera slum many people earn a living by picking through pieces of garbage that can be recycled in some way, such as cardboard boxes or plastic bottles.



Nairobi, Kibera (Kenya) - Shacks in the Kibera slum.



Nairobi, Kibera (Kenya) - Painter Otieno Gomba, founder of the Masai Mbili artist collective, photographed with one of his works in the alleys of the Kibera slum.



Nairobi, Kibera (Kenya) - Used shoes for sale in the Kibera shanty town. Everything is resold in the slum, even items that don't seem to have any value.



Nairobi, Kibera (Kenya) - Used mobile phone cases for sale in the Kibera shanty town. Everything is resold in the slum, even items that don't seem to have any value.



Nairobi, Kibera (Kenya) - Some former street kids, who now live at the Ndugu Mdogo Rescue Centre, among the alleys of the Kibera slum. The Centre was founded by Father Renato Kizito Sesana, a former Comboni missionary.



Nairobi, Kibera (Kenya) - Female students at the mosque school in the Kibera slum.



Nairobi, Kibera (Kenya) - Former street kids who now live at the Ndugu Ndogo Rescue Centre prepare to go to school. The Centre was founded by Father Renato Kizito Sesana, a former Comboni missionary.



Nairobi, Kibera (Kenya) - Residents of the Kibera slum.



Nairobi, Kibera (Kenya) - Evans Mtugi Mutuiri, aka Humble Gagoe, a young rapper and former street kid photographed in the Kibera slum.



Nairobi, Kibera (Kenya) - Young mothers with their children at the Salaama Centre, a facility for single mothers that was founded by Father Renato Kizito Sesana, a former Comboni missionary.



Nairobi, Kibera (Kenya) - A Muslim worshipper waiting for prayer to begin at the mosque in the Kibera slum.



Nairobi, Kibera (Kenya) - Two former street kids who now live at the Ndugu Mdogo Rescue Centre, on the streets of the Kibera slum. The Centre was founded by Father Renato Kizito Sesana, a former Comboni missionary.



Nairobi, Kibera (Kenya) - Former street kids who now live at the Ndugu Mdogo Rescue Centre cleaning its dormitories. The Centre was founded by Father Renato Kizito Sesana, a former Comboni missionary.



Nairobi, Kibera (Kenya) - A former street kid who now lives at the Kivuli Centre walks to school at dawn while protecting himself from the rain with a plastic sheet. The Centre was founded by Father Renato Kizito Sesana, a former Comboni missionary.



Nairobi, Kibera (Kenya) - Shops and daily life in the Kibera slum.



Nairobi, Kibera (Kenya) - Hairstyling on the streets of the Kibera slum.



Nairobi, Kibera (Kenya) - Moments of daily life in the Kibera slum.



Nairobi, Kibera (Kenya) - James Shisia aka Carlos, a choreographer, dancer and founder of the Foundation of Hope group, performs with some percussionists in the alleys of the Kibera slum.



Nairobi, Kibera (Kenya) - A shanty town hotel in the Kibera slum.



Nairobi, Kibera (Kenya) - A mural above a shanty town shack in Kibera depicting a clean and green slum.

parallelzero