

Kiandutu 2010 Family Assessment Report

In July 2010, GCL staff completed detailed assessments of 17 families with children five and under living in the slum of Kiandutu, Kenya. These families were identified by village elders as the most desperately poor with young children. The results were:

Demographics of Parents

The largest number of parents was single (42%), with an equal split between those who were married (29%) or widowed (29%). More than half had never been to school (53%), and only 12% had finished 12th grade. Knowing that many parents sell small items on the street, we asked they could read and do math. Forty-seven percent could read and do math a little; 41% could not at all.

The average weekly income for a parent was 204 shillings or a little more than \$2 US. The highest weekly income was 700 shillings, or a little less than \$9 US.

Basic Needs

Among the essentials needed by every family were fuel and water. Fuel is used primarily for cooking. 59% of the families relied on charcoal; 24% on wood and 17% on kerosene. The families spent from \$1.15 to \$3.85 a week on fuel, with the average spending \$1.94 weekly. Of the 17 households surveyed, only five had electricity. On water, families spent from 27 cents to \$3.57 a week, with the average of \$1.33. All of the families used pit latrines.

Twelve of the 17 families rented their homes. Rents varied from \$3.85 to \$8.97 monthly, with an average of \$5.18. **Of these twelve families, 11 had skipped two or more rent payments in the past 12 months.** Two families had not made any payments.

In sum, average basic expenses are $\$1.94 + \$1.33 = \$3.27$ a week for fuel and water, or \$13.08 a month, plus rent of \$5.18 monthly, for a monthly total of \$18.26. Yet the average monthly income is only \$10.46.

Hunger and Food

The majority of families (N=11) bought their own food. Many turned to neighbors (N=7) or relatives (N=4) for food. When asked how hungry their

children were, parents responded on a 1 to 5 scale, with 1=not at all and 5=a lot. All described their children as hungry. **More than half (53%) described their children as extremely hungry.**

Children's hunger	Number	Percentage
1=not at all	0	
2	0	
3	2	12%
4	6	35%
5= a lot	9	53%
Average=4.4		

The survey asked how many meals the children had eaten the day before. Of the 17 families, only three (18%) ate twice that day. In 12 families (71%), the children had eaten only once. **In two families, the mothers reported that the children had nothing to eat the prior day.**

Breakfast	Lunch	Supper	Other	No. meals
None	None	None	None	0
None	Ugali	None		1
None	None	None	None	0
None	Ugali	None	None	1
None	Ugali& vegetables	None	None	1
None	Ugali & vegetables	None	None	1
None	Rice & beans	None	None	1
None	Ugali & vegetables	Ugali & vegetables	None	2
None	Rice & beans	Ugali & vegetables	None	2
None	Ugali	None	None	1
None	Ugali	None	None	1
None	Rice & beans	Rice	None	2
None	None	Ugali & vegetables	None	1
None	None	Ugali & vegetables	None	1
None	Rice & beans	None	None	1
None	Maize & beans	None	None	1
None	Ugali & vegetables	None	None	1

Made from corn flour and water, ugali is the staple starch of Kenya.

Child Care Conditions

Parents left children at home an average of 3 days a week, usually asking a neighbor to check in on them. None of the children had sufficient toys, books, clothes, food, blankets or medicine when they were sick.

To request the full Kiandutu 2010 Family Assessment report, email info@giveachildlife.org.