

## **Ghetto Research Lab and Uganda Permaculture Consortium joined project.**

### **Key Questions and Objectives:**

1. *Sustainable Social Technical Experimentation*: How can we harness the power of social technical experimentation to effect lasting change in our communities while ensuring the sustainability of these efforts?
2. *Design and Upscale Community Projects*: What methodologies and strategies can we employ to design and scale up community projects, ensuring their reach and impact extend far beyond their origins?
3. *Immediate Action*: Recognizing the urgency of the challenges we face, we understand the need to initiate this project without delay. Our goal is to take action and bring positive transformation to communities swiftly.
4. *Global Mindset*: In a globalized world, it is imperative to adopt a global mindset. We aim to bridge geographic and cultural divides, tapping into the collective wisdom and resources of a global network.
5. *Local Solutions to Global Challenges*: The heart of our endeavor lies in empowering communities to develop their own solutions to global problems, ensuring that these solutions are tailored to their unique needs and circumstances.
6. *Building Supportive Networks*: By fostering strong networks of like-minded individuals and organizations, we will create a robust support system that facilitates sharing experiences and knowledge, opening doors to numerous opportunities.
7. *Mindset Transformation*: A significant challenge we embrace is the need for a shift in mindset to disrupt the status quo. We believe that transformation begins within ourselves.
8. *Expression and Engagement*: Our project encourages open expression, enabling all participants to contribute as much as they can, harnessing the power of diversity and inclusion.
9. *Leveraging Tools and Technology*: In this age of advanced technology, we are committed to using cutting-edge tools and platforms such as Hylo, Seeds, and ACT to amplify the impact of our initiatives.
10. *Defining the Problem Statement*: The first step in our journey is to collaboratively identify and define the problem statement. Through co-creation, co-designing, and collaboration, we aim to pinpoint the core issues and challenges that need addressing.
11. *Community-Centric Problem Solving*: We recognize that to truly understand and tackle the issues faced by our communities, we must work hand in hand with them. Our approach involves engaging the community in the process of problem-solving.

### **Problem Statement**

The problem statement data was collected through a comprehensive research approach involving semi-structured, reflexive dissensus interviews with a diverse group of participants, including members from the Ghetto Research Lab and residents of the slums, encompassing individuals of various age groups and genders.

### **Data Collection Method:**

1. **Semi-Structured Interviews:** The research team conducted semi-structured interviews. These interviews involved open-ended questions that allowed participants to share their perspectives, experiences, and insights freely. The semi-structured format provided flexibility for participants to elaborate on key issues as they emerged.
2. **Reflexive Dissensus Interviews:** These interviews were designed to encourage participants to express their differing viewpoints, experiences, and disagreements. This approach aimed to capture diverse opinions and foster constructive dialogue, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the issues at hand.

### **Participant Diversity:**

1. **Members from the Ghetto Research Lab:** Interviews were conducted with members of the Ghetto Research Lab who brought their expertise and research perspective to the discussions.
2. **Slum Dwellers:** The research team engaged with residents of the slums, which included individuals from various demographics, such as children, men, and women. This diversity ensured a well-rounded and representative sample of the community's voices.

### **1st. Problem Statement: Addressing Fragmentation and Promoting Unity in Communities**

*The community, encompassing a diverse range of individuals from various backgrounds, exhibits a pronounced lack of unity and cooperation. This disunity is manifested through a myriad of factors:*

1. **Social Trauma and Background Differences:** The historical context and personal backgrounds of community members have given rise to social traumas and stark differences in perspectives and experiences. These differences often hinder collaboration and unity.
2. **Lack of a Sharing Culture:** A prevailing issue is the absence of a culture of sharing, both in terms of resources and ideas. This reluctance to share ideas and knowledge results in missed opportunities for collective growth and problem-solving.
3. **Resistance to Implementing Shared Ideas:** Even when ideas are shared, there is a resistance to implementing them, as they may be viewed as a challenge to individual independence.
4. **Social and Economic Class Disparities:** Differences in social and economic class further divide the community, exacerbating inequalities and limiting collective progress.
5. **Diverse Backgrounds, Religions, Tribes, Societies, and Political Viewpoints:** The community comprises individuals with diverse backgrounds, religions, tribes, societal affiliations, and political viewpoints. These differences often lead to friction and prevent the sharing of emotions, innovations, and solutions among group members.
6. **Unity Restricted to Superficial Characteristics:** Unity, when present, is often confined to superficial characteristics like color, while underlying divisions persist.

7. **Zone-Based Fragmentation:** The community's division into distinct zones exacerbates disunity. While unity may exist within individual zones, it does not extend to encompass the community as a whole.

### **Summary Problem Statement: Addressing Fragmentation and Promoting Unity in Communities**

*The community is characterized by a lack of unity and cooperation, stemming from a combination of factors, including social trauma, background differences, the absence of a sharing culture, resistance to implementing shared ideas, disparities in social and economic class, and divisions based on diverse backgrounds, religions, tribes, societies, and political viewpoints. Even when some unity exists, it often remains superficial and confined to certain zones within the community. These challenges hinder collective growth, collaboration, and the ability to address community issues effectively.*

### **2nd Problem Statement: Inadequate Waste Management and Sanitation, Particularly During Rainfall**

*The community faces critical challenges related to waste management and sanitation, particularly during the rainy season. These challenges manifest through various factors:*

1. **Poor Quality of Drinking Water:** Access to clean and safe drinking water remains a pressing concern, with water sources often contaminated due to poor sanitation practices.
2. **Floods and Disease Outbreaks:** Seasonal floods, triggered by heavy rainfall, lead to stagnant water, providing breeding grounds for disease-carrying mosquitoes and promoting the spread of waterborne illnesses.
3. **Lack of Toilets in Swampy Areas:** Constructing toilets in swampy regions is expensive and, as a result, the community often lacks access to proper sanitation facilities.
4. **Drainage Issues:** Inadequate drainage infrastructure exacerbates flooding and waterlogging problems, further compromising community health and safety.
5. **Open Defecation:** Due to the shortage of toilets and sanitation facilities, open defecation becomes a common practice, leading to unsanitary conditions.
6. **Plastic Waste Clogging Drainage:** Improper waste disposal results in plastics clogging drainage trenches, which exacerbate flooding and pollution.
7. **Intrusion of Water into Homes:** As a consequence of poor drainage and floodwater management, water often infiltrates homes, causing damage and health risks.
8. **"Flying Toilets" Phenomenon:** A lack of proper sanitation leads to a practice where individuals dispose of waste by throwing it on the streets, occasionally endangering others.
9. **Low Spring Water Table:** The high groundwater table in swampy areas requires toilets to be built only a few feet deep, posing risks of contamination and toxins.
10. **Lack of Dumping Sites and Infrastructure:** There is a notable absence of proper waste disposal sites and infrastructure, contributing to waste accumulation throughout the community.
11. **Lack of Education and Awareness:** The community lacks the necessary education and knowledge regarding effective waste management practices and sanitation.

12. **Sewer Line Blockages:** Sewer lines are often clogged with garbage and plastic waste, further complicating sanitation issues.
13. **Unsafe Manipulation of Pipes:** Children sometimes interfere with sewage pipes, unscrewing or tampering with them, leading to potential contamination.
14. **Contaminated and Toxic Water Sources:** In the community, multiple spring wells provide water contaminated with sewage, posing significant health risks.
15. **Absence of Proper Dumping Sites:** The lack of designated dumping sites results in garbage accumulating in and around homes and compounds, making waste disposal a pervasive issue.
16. **External Facilities Contributing to Trash:** Hotels and other external facilities often discard their waste in the slum areas, overwhelming local efforts to keep the environment clean.
17. **Limited Space for Waste Management:** There is inadequate space left for drainage and waste disposal, leading to logistical challenges in waste removal. A solution may involve establishing a small team of cleaners and creating employment opportunities.

### **Summary Problem Statement: Waste Management and Sanitation Challenges**

*The community grapples with multifaceted waste management and sanitation issues, particularly during the rainy season. Challenges include inadequate access to clean water, floods, open defecation, the intrusion of water into homes, and poor waste disposal practices. These issues are compounded by a lack of education and infrastructure, endangering community health and well-being. The need for effective waste management and sanitation solutions is critical to enhance living conditions and minimize health risks in the community.*

### **3rd Problem Statement: Crime and Conflict**

*The community faces a range of challenges related to crime and conflict, stemming from various factors:*

1. **Economic Necessity for Some Crimes:** Some individuals turn to crime as a means of survival due to a lack of legitimate economic opportunities.
2. **Unemployment:** High levels of unemployment exacerbate the vulnerability of community members to engage in criminal activities.
3. **Lack of Access to Resources and Networking:** A lack of connections to resources and key contacts hampers community members' ability to access opportunities for growth and development.
4. **Inadequate Security and Trust Issues:** The community experiences insecurity issues, where both security guards and law enforcement may be untrustworthy or corrupt. People fear arbitrary arrests during the night.
5. **Security and Police Exploitation:** Instances of security forces exploiting community members by arresting them for profit-seeking motives are prevalent.
6. **Resource Scarcity and Congestion:** The overcrowded nature of the community leads to resource scarcity, including limited access to housing and basic necessities.
7. **Resource Access Barriers:** Many community members lack the knowledge and guidance required to access available resources and support.

8. **Associating with Wrong Groups:** Negative social associations and a lack of trustworthy connections limit the ability to share concerns, thoughts, and emotions.
9. **Gender and Social Conflicts:** Gender-based and social conflicts impede community development and harmony.
10. **Financial Constraints for Entrepreneurship:** Limited financial resources and lack of access to funding hinder entrepreneurial endeavors.
11. **Inadequate Entrepreneurship Skills:** The absence of business ideas and entrepreneurial skills prevents community members from engaging in sustainable economic activities.
12. **Organized Crime Groups:** The presence of organized crime gangs, often led by youth, provides an easy but harmful way for individuals to make money.
13. **Political Insecurity:** Instability in the political environment contributes to community tensions and conflicts.
14. **Mob Justice and Gang-Related Crimes:** Mob justice and gang-related criminal activities, primarily involving youth, are prevalent in the community.
15. **Inadvertent Involvement in Crime:** Some community members may become involved in criminal activities without full awareness of the consequences.
16. **Violence:** The community faces violence issues, including child abuse, gender-based violence, school bullying, and online harassment.

#### **Summary Problem Statement: Crime and Conflict**

*The community faces multifaceted challenges related to crime and conflict, driven by various factors including economic necessity, unemployment, lack of access to resources and networking, inadequate security and trust issues, security and police exploitation, resource scarcity and congestion, resource access barriers, negative social associations, gender and social conflicts, financial constraints for entrepreneurship, inadequate entrepreneurship skills, presence of organized crime groups, political insecurity, mob justice, and violence, including child abuse, gender-based violence, school bullying, and online harassment. These issues contribute to instability, harm community development, and hinder personal and economic growth. The community seeks solutions to promote safety, economic empowerment, trust, and conflict resolution.*

#### **4th Problem Statement: Housing**

*In the community, housing-related challenges are prevalent, marked by several issues, including:*

1. **High Population Density in Slums:** The community experiences a severe population density, with slums such as Kamwojka being among the most densely populated areas.
2. **Space Constraints:** A lack of adequate living spaces often results in entire families confined to a single room.
3. **Arrests during Night Patrolling:** Police patrolling from 8 pm to 6 am frequently leads to arrests, particularly of youth and adults, when five or more people are found sharing a room overnight. These arrests are often unwarranted and contribute to mistrust in the police force.

4. **Corruption and Extortion:** Instances of corruption and extortion within the housing sector create additional hardships for residents.
5. **Land Ownership Disputes:** Land ownership disputes abound, with individuals claiming to be landlords and demanding money from occupants. This ambiguity around land ownership and usage exacerbates housing issues.
6. **Buildings at Own Risk:** Many residents construct homes at their own risk, often without proper legal authorization.
7. **Challenges in Gazetted Areas:** The area is not intended for residential purposes, as it is designated for national utility spaces, contributing to legal and housing complications.
8. **Population Density Challenges:** The rapid growth in population density places additional strain on housing resources and infrastructure.
9. **Limited Funds for Permanent Housing:** Residents face financial constraints that hinder their ability to build permanent and secure housing structures.
10. **Lack of Knowledge about Rights and Resources:** A lack of awareness and information about housing rights and available resources further complicates housing-related challenges.
11. **Inadequate Necessities:** Housing in areas with steep slopes and poor infrastructure results in a lack of proper necessities, making daily living difficult.
12. **Flooding in Slum Areas:** The community also grapples with flooding issues, as fake water floods the slum areas, further affecting housing conditions.

#### **Summary Problem Statement: Housing Challenges**

*The community confronts a series of housing-related challenges, characterized by overcrowding, space constraints, arbitrary arrests during night patrolling, corruption, land ownership disputes, difficulties in gazetted areas, rapid population growth, limited funds for secure housing, lack of awareness about rights and resources, inadequate necessities, and flooding. These issues contribute to substandard living conditions and undermine residents' sense of security and well-being.*

#### **5th Problem Statement: Economic / Business Challenges**

*In the community, various economic and business-related challenges prevail, encompassing the following issues:*

1. **Transition from Informal to Formal Jobs:** Residents face difficulties in transitioning from informal to formal employment, often limiting opportunities for financial growth and stability.
2. **Debt Burden:** Many individuals grapple with debt, hindering their financial well-being and quality of life.
3. **High Cost of Living:** The community contends with high prices and living standards, placing financial strain on residents.
4. **Challenges of Financial Balances:** Residents face challenges in maintaining balanced finances, often living paycheck to paycheck.
5. **High Rent Costs:** High rent prices create financial pressure for residents, impacting their economic security.

6. **Profitability of Small Businesses:** Small businesses in the area often struggle to generate sufficient profits to sustain growth and development.
7. **Stagnant Businesses:** The local business environment may be stagnant, with businesses struggling to expand and flourish.
8. **Limited Market for Products:** Local entrepreneurs face challenges in finding markets for their products and services.
9. **Networking and Collaboration Challenges:** There is a lack of effective networking, collaboration, and cooperation among community members and businesses within the slum.
10. **High Taxation:** High taxes, particularly city taxes from KCCA, lead to systemic overexploitation, with individuals paying taxes repeatedly due to mismanagement.
11. **Lack of Legal Assistance:** The absence of legal help and advice creates difficulties for residents, particularly after unwarranted arrests, making it hard to defend themselves and contributing to bribery.
12. **Competition with Investors:** Would-be investors engage in petty jobs that could be opportunities for local residents, posing competition and limiting economic growth.
13. **Child Labor:** The community faces issues of child labor, affecting the well-being and education of young members.
14. **Gender Transition Challenges:** Transitioning from traditional gender roles presents difficulties, with disparities in payment and gender-based favoritism affecting economic opportunities.
15. **Sexual Abuse Challenges:** Instances of sexual abuse, particularly in workplaces, further contribute to the community's economic and social challenges.

### **Summary: Economic and Business Challenges**

*Economic and business-related challenges significantly impact the community, encompassing issues of employment transition, debt, high living costs, financial stability, rent prices, small business profitability, stagnant business growth, limited market access, networking and collaboration gaps, high taxation, lack of legal assistance, competition with investors, child labor, gender transition challenges, and sexual abuse. These challenges hinder the financial well-being and progress of community members and businesses within the slum.*

### **6th Problem Statement Food Insecurity**

*Food insecurity is a pressing issue in the community, characterized by a range of challenges, including:*

1. **Organized Crime and Hunger:** The desperation to alleviate hunger has led to organized crime, with individuals resorting to robbery to acquire funds for basic sustenance.
2. **Hidden Hunger:** Some community members go hungry for extended periods, often resorting to unhealthier alternatives like alcohol to fill their stomachs.
3. **Limited Food Access:** Residents face difficulties in accessing an adequate and consistent food supply.

4. **Lack of Agricultural Knowledge:** There's a shortage of innovative agricultural knowledge, as urban environments are typically not associated with farming. Vertical farming is suggested as a space-saving solution.
5. **High Population Density:** The community's high population density strains available resources and access to food.
6. **Limited Space:** Scarce space for agriculture compounds the food insecurity problem.
7. **Climate Change Impacts:** The community grapples with climate change challenges, including droughts, floods, and erosion, which affect agricultural practices.
8. **Farming Attitudes and Changes:** Attitudes toward farming and traditional farming practices may be insufficient for addressing food insecurity.
9. **Unstable Government Policies:** The government's inconsistent policies and implementation failures contribute to the community's food insecurity.
10. **Government Food Rations:** Government-provided food rations, while well-intentioned, are sometimes of substandard quality, leading to nutritional deficiencies.
11. **Malnutrition and Deficiency Diseases:** Inaccessibility to fresh, organic, and nutritious foods results in malnutrition and deficiency diseases among community members.
12. **Poverty:** Widespread poverty further exacerbates food insecurity issues.
13. **Floods and Water Quality:** Fake and dirty water flooding the slum area demotivates residents from farming. Floods also impede farming activities and create stagnant water that serves as breeding grounds for mosquitoes.
14. **Proposed Solution:** A potential solution involves creating a restaurant with a minimum wage to prioritize addressing hunger issues within the community.

### **Summary: Food Insecurity**

*The community faces significant challenges related to food insecurity, driven by organized crime for survival, hidden hunger, limited food access, lack of agricultural knowledge, high population density, space limitations, climate change impacts, traditional farming attitudes, unstable government policies, substandard food rations, malnutrition, poverty, floods, and water quality issues. Addressing food insecurity is essential to ensure the well-being of community members.*

### **Problem Statement 7: Lack of Funding**

*Within the community, the challenge of insufficient funding is prominent, marked by several issues, including:*

1. **Limited Capital Sources:** Residents struggle to find sources of capital to initiate and sustain businesses, hindering economic opportunities.
2. **Lack of Fundraising Knowledge:** There is a lack of awareness and knowledge regarding effective fundraising methods and techniques.
3. **Poor Proposal Presentation:** Community members often face difficulties in presenting proposals and problem statements effectively, impacting their ability to secure financial support.

## Summary: Funding Challenges

*The community grapples with the issue of inadequate funding, characterized by limitations in accessing capital, a lack of fundraising knowledge, and challenges in presenting proposals and problem statements. Addressing these challenges is vital for promoting economic growth and development within the community.*

## 8th Problem Statement : Mental Health

*The community faces a series of mental health challenges, encompassing various factors, including:*

1. **HIV Stigma and Sexual Diseases:** Stigma related to HIV and other sexual diseases contributes to mental health issues, affecting individuals and families.
2. **Mental Health Impact of Education:** The educational system may lead to mental health problems among students and young community members.
3. **Loss of Family Background and Connection:** Disconnection from family background and culture often results in a lack of support from family members, impacting mental health.
4. **Genocide-Affected Victims:** Orphans and victims of past genocides face challenges, including a loss of family connection and support.
5. **Youth-Friendly Culture:** The development of a youth-friendly culture within the slum is suggested to address specific mental health issues.
6. **Lack of Confidants:** Community members lack real friends and confidants with whom they can share personal stories, creating a sense of isolation.
7. **Overcoming Family Discrimination:** The challenge of disclosing oneself due to family discrimination requires attention to address mental health issues.
8. **Community Circles:** The proposal suggests intergenerational community circles, men's circles, and women's circles as solutions to promote mental health and emotional well-being within the community.

## Summary: Mental Health Challenges

*The community faces significant mental health challenges related to HIV stigma, educational pressures, family disconnection, past traumas, lack of confidants, and family discrimination. Implementing solutions that foster a supportive, understanding community environment is essential for addressing these challenges.*

## 9th Problem Statement : Lack of Social Protection and Empowerment

*The community experiences a range of issues related to social protection and empowerment, including:*

1. **Early Sexual Exposure:** Young children are exposed to sexual content and activities due to shared living arrangements within the community, leading to early pregnancies and potential health risks as people may share condoms.
2. **Limited Access to Authorities:** Community members face challenges in finding appropriate authorities to address urgent problems and violations, leaving them vulnerable.

## **Summary: Social Protection and Empowerment Challenges**

*The community grapples with challenges related to social protection and empowerment, marked by early sexual exposure among children and a lack of accessible authorities to address pressing issues and violations. Addressing these challenges is vital to safeguard the well-being and rights of community members.*

### **10th Problem Statement : Lack of Social Services**

*The community faces a range of challenges related to the absence of essential social services, including:*

1. **Limited Access to Quality Schools, Hospitals, Daycares, and Orphanages:** The community has very few good schools, hospitals, daycare centers, and orphanages, impacting access to quality services.
2. **Educational Challenges and Disconnection:** Challenges within the educational system include a lack of schools, high dropout rates, unaffordable school fees, a lack of inspiration and motivation for education, and the emergence of mental health issues among individuals who struggle to find employment after completing their education.
3. **University Students Engaging in Sex Work:** Some university students resort to sex work to afford their tuition fees, highlighting financial challenges within the education system.

## **Summary: Lack of Social Services**

*The community confronts substantial challenges related to the insufficiency of critical social services, encompassing limited access to quality educational institutions, healthcare facilities, daycare centers, and orphanages. Addressing these challenges is pivotal for enhancing the overall well-being and prospects of community members.*

### **11th Problem Statement : Dense Infrastructure**

*The community faces challenges related to dense infrastructure, marked by a range of issues, including:*

1. **Increased Accidents in Narrow Streets:** The high population density and narrow streets contribute to a significant number of accidents, especially among cyclists who navigate the challenges of transitioning from one-way streets to two-way traffic in confined spaces.
2. **Diverse Infrastructures in Ghettos:** Each ghetto within the community may have different infrastructure designs and configurations, which can lead to inconsistencies and challenges.

## **Summary: Dense Infrastructure**

*High population density and narrow streets have led to a significant number of accidents. Furthermore, the community experiences inconsistencies in infrastructure designs across different ghettos, adding to the complexities of urban planning and development.*

## 12th Problem Statement : Drug Abuse

*The community grapples with issues associated with drug abuse, encompassing factors such as:*

1. **Alcohol Abuse:** Alcohol is a pervasive issue, with its widespread sale and consumption.
2. **Promiscuity:** Promiscuous behaviors are prevalent, contributing to social issues.
3. **Lack of Control:** The widespread availability of alcohol and promiscuity results in a lack of control over personal choices and behaviors.
4. **Consequences of Drug Abuse:** Drug abuse, including alcohol, leads to a range of negative consequences, such as rape, violence, and accidents.
5. **Cultural Implications:** The community faces challenges related to the normalization of drug abuse and its negative cultural impact, which may be perpetuated without shame.

### Summary: Substance Abuse

*The widespread availability of alcohol, combined with promiscuous behaviors, has led to a lack of personal control, contributing to negative consequences such as violence, rape, and accidents. These issues not only affect individual well-being but also have broader cultural implications, as the community grapples with the normalization of substance abuse without shame.*

## 13th Problem Statement : Poor Resource Allocation

*The community grapples with the challenges of poor resource allocation, with specific issues including:*

1. **Non-Implementation of Environmental and Plastic Laws:** Existing environmental and plastic laws are not effectively enforced or implemented, leading to issues related to waste management and environmental sustainability.
2. **Lack of Policy Implementation:** The community experiences difficulties in translating policies into effective, on-the-ground actions, which can hinder overall development and the well-being of residents.

### Summary: Resource Allocation Challenges

*The community faces difficulties in resource allocation, with problems arising from the non-implementation of environmental and plastic laws and challenges in effectively implementing policies. Addressing these issues is crucial for promoting a cleaner and more sustainable environment and ensuring the proper execution of policies for the benefit of the community.*

## Ghetto Research Lab Problems

## **Problem Statement: Comprehensive Food and Agriculture Challenges**

***The Ghetto Research Lab faces an array of interconnected challenges in the domain of food and agriculture, encompassing diverse issues, including:***

- 1. Lack of Space:** Inadequate space for farming and training facilities, limiting agricultural activities.
- 2. Resource Overlap:** Overlapping activities related to soil, plants, food, and waste management in the same space, impacting efficiency.
- 3. Shortage of Equipment and Machinery:** Scarcity of essential tools such as garden hoes and garden tools hinders agricultural productivity.
- 4. Seed and Crop Challenges:** Insufficient access to resilient, non-genetically modified seeds and crops, relying on first-generation and mutated seeds.
- 5. Language Barrier:** Language disparities affect training and capacity-building efforts, making it challenging to educate some community members.
- 6. Lack of Awareness:** A considerable portion of the community remains unaware of the Ghetto Research Lab's existence and offerings.
- 7. Diverse Plant Shortage:** Limited cultivation of diverse plant varieties affects food diversity and nutrition.
- 8. Ground Toxins:** Soil contamination due to plastic waste, flooding, and trenches introduces toxins.
- 9. Funding Shortfall:** Inadequate financial resources hinder agricultural expansion and development.
- 10. Food Waste:** A substantial portion of waste in Kampala consists of food waste, which could be repurposed for composting and value addition.
- 11. Limited Household Kitchens:** The absence of kitchens in households restricts food preparation and cooking capabilities.
- 12. Expensive Organic Farming:** High costs associated with organic farming, particularly for those receiving education.
- 13. Organic Foods:** Challenges related to the production of organic foods.
- 14. Local Herb Pesticides:** The need for local herbs to create pesticides for organic farming.
- 15. Access to Seeds:** Difficulties in accessing resilient, non-genetically modified seeds and crops.
- 16. Food Waste in Kampala:** Approximately 75% of waste in Kampala is food waste, presenting a significant challenge and an opportunity for resource recycling.
- 17. Food Shelves Solution:** Implementing food shelves as a solution to store food safely, especially during challenging seasons.

## **Summary: Comprehensive Food and Agriculture Challenges**

*The Ghetto Research Lab encounters an intricate network of challenges in the realm of food and agriculture, including space limitations, equipment shortages, seed and crop issues, language barriers, awareness gaps, environmental concerns, gender stigma, and access to protective gear. Addressing these multifaceted challenges is imperative to enhance agricultural sustainability and food security within the community. The substantial amount of*

*food waste in Kampala further highlights the importance of efficient waste recycling, including the potential solution of food shelves for safer storage.*

## **Problem Statement: Comprehensive Waste Management Challenges**

***The Ghetto Research Lab grapples with a complex web of challenges in waste management, spanning a variety of issues, including:***

- 1. Waste Being Time-Consuming:** The waste management process is time-consuming, adversely impacting the environment within the city. "Waste is a waste of time".
- 2.** "we are innovating a lot but we are also lacking a lot"
- 3. Innovation vs. Lack:** There is a strong focus on innovation in waste management, but shortcomings persist in terms of resource availability and implementation. Being stuck with molding plastic.
- 4. Obsolete Burning Processes:** Traditional burning processes for waste persist, presenting environmental and health concerns, particularly due to toxic gas emissions.
- 5. Resource Limitations:** Limited resources hinder recycling efforts, and knowledge about waste recycling is scarce within the community.
- 6. Stigmatization and Health Risks:** Stigmatization and health risks are associated with waste collection, exacerbated by the hazardous nature of burning plastic waste.
- 7. Lack of Necessary Equipment:** Shortages of essential equipment, including gloves, boots, and gas masks, lead to skin damage and disease risks. Some community members remain unaware of the risks. Girls that are ignorant do not use gloves because they do not feel the trash and don't see it as dangerous. Advice to wear gloves and masks does not go through to the them.
- 8. Common Waste Types:** A variety of waste types, such as e-waste, medical waste, plastic, glass bottles, injections, and "flying toilets" (feces in bags), pose challenges in disposal and recycling.
- 9. Costly Innovative Technologies:** Challenges arise in utilizing innovative technologies like 3D printers and plastic shredders due to their high costs.
- 10. Competition from Chinese Competitors:** Competing with Chinese companies in the plastic recycling sector proves difficult to negotiate with.
- 11. Recycling as a Solution:** Questions arise about the efficacy of recycling as a comprehensive solution for waste management.
- 12. Policy Challenges:** Dormant laws and vague policy implementation, such as the ban on plastic bags and taxing plastic, contribute to policy challenges. High-ranking politicians are involved in large-scale plastic dealings.
- 13. Disposal Infrastructure Gap:** The absence of disposal infrastructure within the slum creates hurdles in effective waste management.
- 14. Transportation Difficulties:** Narrow roads and safety concerns associated with collecting compost from composting toilets create transportation challenges.
- 15. Community Sensitization:** Sensitization and community engagement are essential to promote waste management practices.

- 16. Cleared Areas' Temporality:** Cleared areas revert to waste issues over time, necessitating ongoing management efforts.
- 17. Community Adoption Challenges:** Encouraging the community to adopt waste management practices poses difficulties.
- 18. Sensitization through Dialogue and Art:** Dialogue, art, and entertainment offer potential solutions for community sensitization.
- 19. Educational Resource Shortage:** Shortages of educational resources and practical learning methods hinder waste management education.
- 20. Social and Safety Issues:** Age, gender, insecurity, and stigma present social and safety issues, including concerns related to religious stigma, smoking, rasta and for men to accompany women in certain contexts.

### **Summary: Comprehensive Waste Management Challenges**

*Waste management within the Ghetto Research Lab's purview is a multifaceted challenge, encompassing issues such as outdated waste disposal practices, resource limitations, recycling barriers, health risks, policy issues, and the need for community sensitization. Addressing these complexities is crucial to establish efficient waste management practices and foster a safer and cleaner community environment.*

### **Problem Statement: Comprehensive Energy Challenges**

*The Ghetto Research Lab grapples with a multitude of challenges concerning energy, encompassing a range of issues, including:*

1. **Lack of Tech and Materials:** A shortage of technology and materials hampers energy innovation and access.
2. **Brickets from Food Scrap:** Bricket production from food scraps faces challenges due to the need for malace, which is sourced only from Jinja. Periodic disruptions occur, with entire months passing without bricket production due to resource shortages.
3. **Competitive Price Hikes:** Chinese and Indian competitors have driven up the price of malace, creating a near-monopoly and affecting the affordability of brickets. Charcoal brickets remain more economical than renewable alternatives.
4. **Climatic Challenges:** Unpredictable weather conditions, including dry seasons and floods, pose challenges to reliable energy access.
5. **Loss of Knowledge:** The passing of the individual primarily responsible for the energy department resulted in a knowledge gap.
6. **Seasonal Energy:** Energy access is seasonal rather than consistent, contributing to energy instability.
7. **Wind Turbines:** Wind turbine projects have been halted due to the high costs of equipment and limited resources for implementation.
8. **Device Adoption Challenges:** Low adoption rates of devices like solar washing machines are attributed to a lack of awareness and sensitization.

9. **Cost-Effective Options:** Cost-effective alternatives for biogas and solar energy are lacking, making these technologies expensive for the community.
10. **Educational Shortcomings:** The absence of proficient instructors and professors hinders energy education and practical knowledge transfer.

### **Summary: Comprehensive Energy Challenges**

*Energy-related challenges faced by the Ghetto Research Lab span various areas, from resource shortages and competitive price hikes for malace to the unpredictability of weather conditions and knowledge loss due to the demise of a key individual. Seasonal energy access and slow device adoption further complicate energy access and sustainability. Addressing these multifaceted challenges is essential to ensure consistent and affordable energy access within the community.*

### **Problem Statement: Comprehensive Conservation and Environmental Challenges**

*The Ghetto Research Lab faces a range of pressing challenges concerning conservation and environmental preservation, with issues including:*

1. **Community Planting Challenges:** Reluctance among community members to engage in planting initiatives, insufficient variety of tree species suitable for the environment (swamp with floods), inadequate maintenance and management, poor seed quality, and concerns over land ownership when neighbors plant trees. Lack of maintenance especially from the government.
2. **Government Policy Implementation:** Challenges in implementing government policies related to conservation, leading to difficulties in keeping the area clean and viewing the Lab as a competitor rather than a partner in solving environmental issues.
3. **Innovation Deficiency:** A lack of innovation surrounding conservation practices, impacting progress and sustainability.
4. **Resource Limitations:** Shortages of machinery, as well as a lack of permaculture tours and transportation options.
5. **Chinese Influence:** Favorable conditions provided to Chinese entities for conservation activities, creating competition and potential conflicts.
6. **Increased Floodings:** Escalation in flooding occurrences, associated with government practices and rising water levels, especially in swamp areas and flow of trash into the slum through floods..
7. **Waste Sorting Challenges:** Difficulties in transitioning to new waste sorting systems and challenges in enforcement due to lack of awareness and sensitization.
8. **Loss of Biodiversity:** A marked decline in biodiversity in swamp areas, affecting various creatures like frogs, fish, mangroves, snakes, and snails are almost non-existent in the slum. Trenches are leading into lake Victoria one of the largest lakes in Africa. Pipirus plant is gone which used to filter the water.

### **Summary: Comprehensive Conservation and Environmental Challenges**

*Conservation and environmental preservation within the Ghetto Research Lab's scope are riddled with various challenges, from community planting reluctance and policy implementation obstacles to innovation gaps and resource shortages. Chinese influence and*

*its effects on floodings, waste sorting, and diminishing biodiversity further complicate environmental preservation efforts. Addressing these multifaceted challenges is crucial for safeguarding and regenerating the natural environment.*

### **Problem Statement: Comprehensive Health Challenges**

*The Ghetto Research Lab grapples with a variety of health-related issues, encompassing multiple concerns, such as:*

1. **Lack of Disease Outbreak Knowledge:** Limited awareness and knowledge among community members regarding disease outbreaks, hampering their ability to respond effectively.
2. **Advocacy and Education Shortages:** Insufficient advocates and educators dedicated to health issues within the community.
3. **Inaccurate Quick Tests:** A reliance on inaccurate quick tests that obscure crucial information.
4. **Policy Implementation Hurdles:** Challenges in implementing health-related policies within the community, exacerbated by corruption. Community members often don't receive feedback or statistics when engaging in projects with high government stakeholders.
5. **Disease Stigma:** The pervasive stigma surrounding diseases, leading to isolation, fear of speaking out, and a reluctance to associate with others, with detrimental effects on mental health. Dying with secrets and the fear of being bullied.
6. **Health Education Gap:** A lack of understanding of human rights and communication difficulties, particularly in reaching and engaging with parents.
7. **Communication is a challenge:** Often only from door to door, where families are not receptive and hard to communicate with.
8. **Testing Tool Shortages:** Scarcity of testing tools and the need for sensitization to ensure accurate disease detection.
9. **Pandemic Outbreaks:** The challenges posed by pandemic outbreaks, leading to community members returning to their villages and complicating sensitization efforts.

### **Summary: Comprehensive Health Challenges**

*Health issues within the Ghetto Research Lab's sphere involve multiple hurdles, including limited knowledge of disease outbreaks, advocacy and education gaps, inaccuracies in quick tests, policy implementation issues due to corruption, and disease stigmatization affecting the mental well-being of community members. Moreover, the lack of understanding of human rights, communication challenges, and testing tool shortages compound the difficulties. Pandemic outbreaks further disrupt health sensitization efforts, emphasizing the need for comprehensive health solutions.*

### **Problem Statement: Entertainment Challenges**

*The Ghetto Research Lab encounters several challenges within the domain of entertainment, reflecting a wide array of concerns, such as:*

1. **Lack of Adequate Management:** Insufficient management capacity to effectively oversee entertainment activities.

2. **Sports Affordability Issues:** Accessibility to sports and national sporting events is hindered by financial barriers. Many individuals cannot afford basic sports equipment or subscriptions to watch sports.
3. **Cultural Disconnect:** Difficulty staying up to date with current cultural trends and activities.
4. **Resource Scarcity:** The absence of necessary materials and resources, including studios, instruments, and recording facilities, particularly for artists within the Ghetto Research Lab.
5. **Production Challenges:** Inadequate access to platforms like TV and radio stations, often requiring financial resources, limiting the dissemination of entertainment.
6. **Entertainment as a Communication Medium:** Entertainment, particularly music, serves as a form of communication and message conveyance, unifying target audiences and representing the Ghetto Research Lab's culture and traditions.
7. **Connecting Diverse Communities:** Entertainment acts as a unifying force, bridging various communities and social strata, bringing joy to people from all walks of life.
8. **Lack of Affordable Entertainment Spaces:** Scarcity of affordable entertainment venues due to concerns related to practice, security, and accessibility, which can contribute to the thriving entertainment culture.
9. **Competitive Challenges:** Issues regarding competition and systemic competition, encompassing matters such as copyright concerns and rights disputes.

### **Summary: Entertainment Challenges**

*Entertainment-related challenges within the Ghetto Research Lab's activities involve the absence of effective management, affordability problems in sports participation, challenges in staying culturally current, resource scarcity for artists, difficulties in production and dissemination, the significance of entertainment as a communication tool, the unifying role of entertainment, the need for accessible entertainment spaces, and competitive issues. Addressing these challenges is crucial to nurturing a thriving entertainment culture.*

### **Visions from 7 Members of the Ghetto Research Lab Sept. 2023**

These visions from the members of the Ghetto Research Lab for Kamwoyka in September 2023 reflect a comprehensive and ambitious set of goals. To transform Kamwoyka into a thriving, sustainable, and equitable community, each vision holds a unique place in the overall vision for the area. Here's an elaboration of each vision:

#### **1. Clean City:**

- Striving for a clean and hygienic environment that minimizes waste and promotes public health.

#### **2. Free Waste Management:**

- Ensuring that waste management services are accessible to all residents without cost barriers.

### **3. More Recycling Hubs:**

- Expanding the network of recycling centers to enhance waste reduction and recycling efforts.

### **4. Free Education:**

- Enabling every individual to access education without financial constraints, fostering knowledge and skills development.

### **5. Free Housing:**

- Promoting housing equity and affordability, making decent housing accessible to all community members.

### **6. Public Free Studios:**

- Providing creative spaces for artistic expression, nurturing local talents and innovation.

### **7. Equality:**

- Advocating for a society where all residents enjoy equal rights, opportunities, and resources.

### **8. Access to Well-Paying Jobs:**

- Creating employment opportunities that offer fair wages to improve the livelihoods of community members.

### **9. Access to Technology and Computers:**

- Bridging the digital divide by ensuring that everyone has access to technology and digital resources.

### **10. Sports Tournaments and Teams:**

- Fostering a culture of sports, with regular tournaments and local teams representing Kamwoyka.

### **11. Talent Scouts:**

- Identifying and promoting local talents, helping individuals to realize their potential.

### **12. Access to Travel Services:**

- Facilitating affordable transportation services for community members to explore and connect with the broader region.

### **13. Food Security:**

- Ensuring that all residents have reliable access to nutritious and sufficient food.

#### **14. Urban Food Production Practices:**

- Promoting sustainable urban farming and gardening to enhance food self-sufficiency.

#### **15. More Schools:**

- Expanding educational infrastructure to accommodate the growing population and provide quality learning opportunities.

#### **16. Access to Good Health and Care:**

- Ensuring that healthcare and medical services are accessible and of high quality.

#### **17. More Composting Toilets for Free:**

- Expanding sanitation facilities that promote hygiene and environmental sustainability.

#### **18. Change of Education System:**

- Advocating for reforms in the education system to make it more relevant, inclusive, and empowering.

#### **19. Update of Education Sites:**

- Modernizing educational facilities to provide a conducive learning environment.

#### **20. Music Schools for Free:**

- Establishing music education centers to nurture local talents and enrich the cultural landscape.

#### **21. Decent Housing:**

- Ensuring that residents have access to comfortable, safe, and affordable housing options.

#### **22. Organized Market Empowerment:**

- Supporting local markets to thrive and empowering traders with resources and opportunities.

#### **23. Provision of Free WiFi:**

- Expanding internet connectivity to promote access to information and digital resources.

#### **24. Sports Grounds:**

- Developing sports facilities and fields for recreational activities and community gatherings.

**25. Communication Studios (TV, Radio, etc.):**

- Establishing broadcasting studios for community communication and information dissemination.

**26. Rehabilitation Center:**

- Providing support for rehabilitation and reintegration of community members facing challenges.

**27. Free Medications:**

- Ensuring access to necessary medications without financial constraints.

**28. Improved Transport Systems and Infrastructure:**

- Enhancing transportation networks and infrastructure to facilitate mobility within and beyond Kamwoyka.

**29. Access to Affordable Financial Services:**

- Providing access to financial resources, credit, and banking services for economic empowerment.

**30. Public Library:**

- Establishing a community library as a hub for knowledge, learning, and cultural enrichment.