

Availability and access to sanitation facilities in slum areas: the case study of Ubungo district in Dar es Salaam city.

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The aim of this study was to assess availability and access to sanitation facilities in slum areas. The objectives of study were: to assess knowledge, attitudes and practices of families towards, water, sanitation and hygiene in Ubungo district; to identify types of sanitation facilities used and to identify challenges encountered in provision of sanitation services. Mixed methods design was used in this study. Data for this study were gathered using questionnaires, Observation checklist and interviews with key informants. Data were analyzed using SPSS version 20.0. The findings revealed that majority of respondents 65(54%) had flash toilets available in their residences while 55(46%) of respondents had pit toilets. Of 65(54%) respondents reported to be aware of diarrhea as the prime disease that may be caused by poor sanitation facilities at houses. Scabies took 32(26.4%) of the mass knowledge and intestinal worms had 24(20%) of public knowledge. Other common diseases mentioned by the respondents were cholera, bilharzias, malaria and Urinary Tract Infection UTI. Main challenges identified regarding availability and access to sanitation facilities in slums areas were; inadequate toilets 8(80%), poor sewage system 6(60%), poor arrangement of houses 7(70%), insufficient financial support 6(60%), outbreak of diseases due to poor sanitation 6(60%) and cost of emptying 7(70%). The study underlines the importance of the local government authorities to enforce laws and regulations for improvement of latrine and sanitation services. Local government authorities should consistently and effectively monitor sanitation conditions in their respective settlement areas and they should formulate standards that should be adhered to by the households. Disciplinary measures should be taken to households with poor latrines. Furthermore, the focus of the sanitation initiative should go beyond latrines to include improving access to safe and clean water, solid waste management and flood mitigation measures. There is also strong need to focus on personal hygiene.