



# TURNING HUMAN FAECES INTO RESOURCE IN KENYA INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

**BY:  
Aidah Binale-Ebrahim**

**Umande Trust**



“Innovative Solutions: Sustainable Communities”



# Back ground

- Kenya population is 46Million, with 12Million residing in urban areas
- 60% of the population live in the informal settlements
- Limited sewerage coverage
- Unhygienic practices (80% pit latrines)
- Unclear regulations, bureaucracies and inflexibility on FSM

# Our Approach

- Community owned and managed facilities
- A toilet is more than a sanitation facility: information, energy, carbon reducing, water conserving, social, economic and democracy
- Human waste is an investment
- Sanitation financing for local development initiatives for sustainability
- Partnerships to scale up urban sanitation services

# Bio-centres Model

- Bio-centres apply bio-digesters that convert human waste into bio gas and bio-slurry
- Based on a build transfer model
- Community groups are trained how to operate, manage and invest from proceeds
- The facilities stimulate economic development through other enterprises (60:30:10)



## DESIGNING, MODELLING AND CONSTRUCTION



Site selection, designs,  
excavation and  
foundations +  
Training of community  
artisans

Community professionals and UT



Dome and super structure  
construction

Community professionals and UT

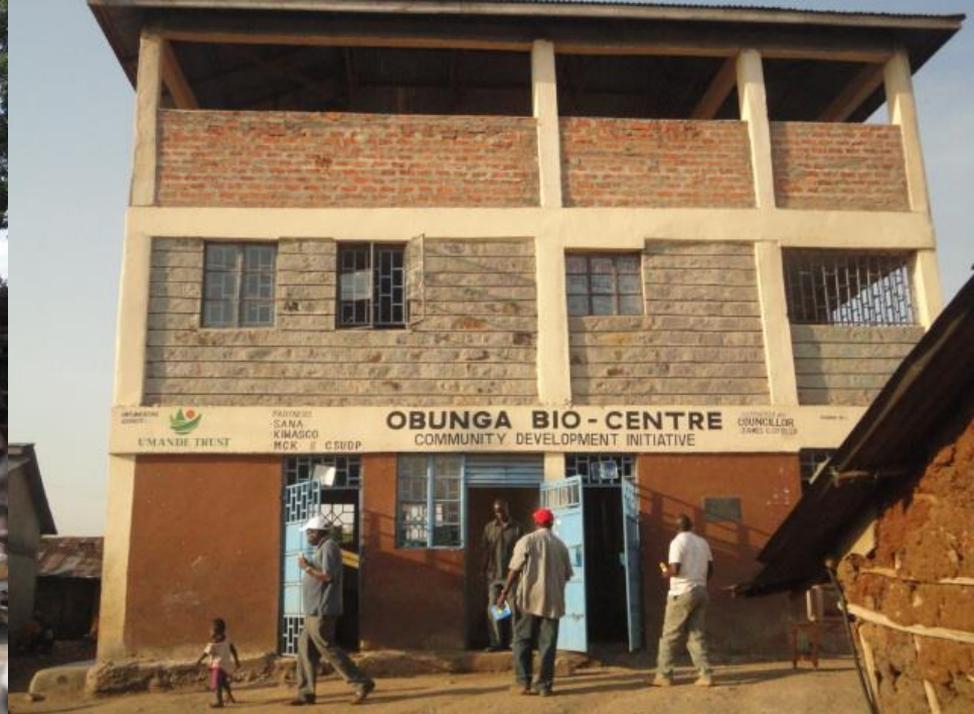


Complete structure and  
use of biogas

Community and UT







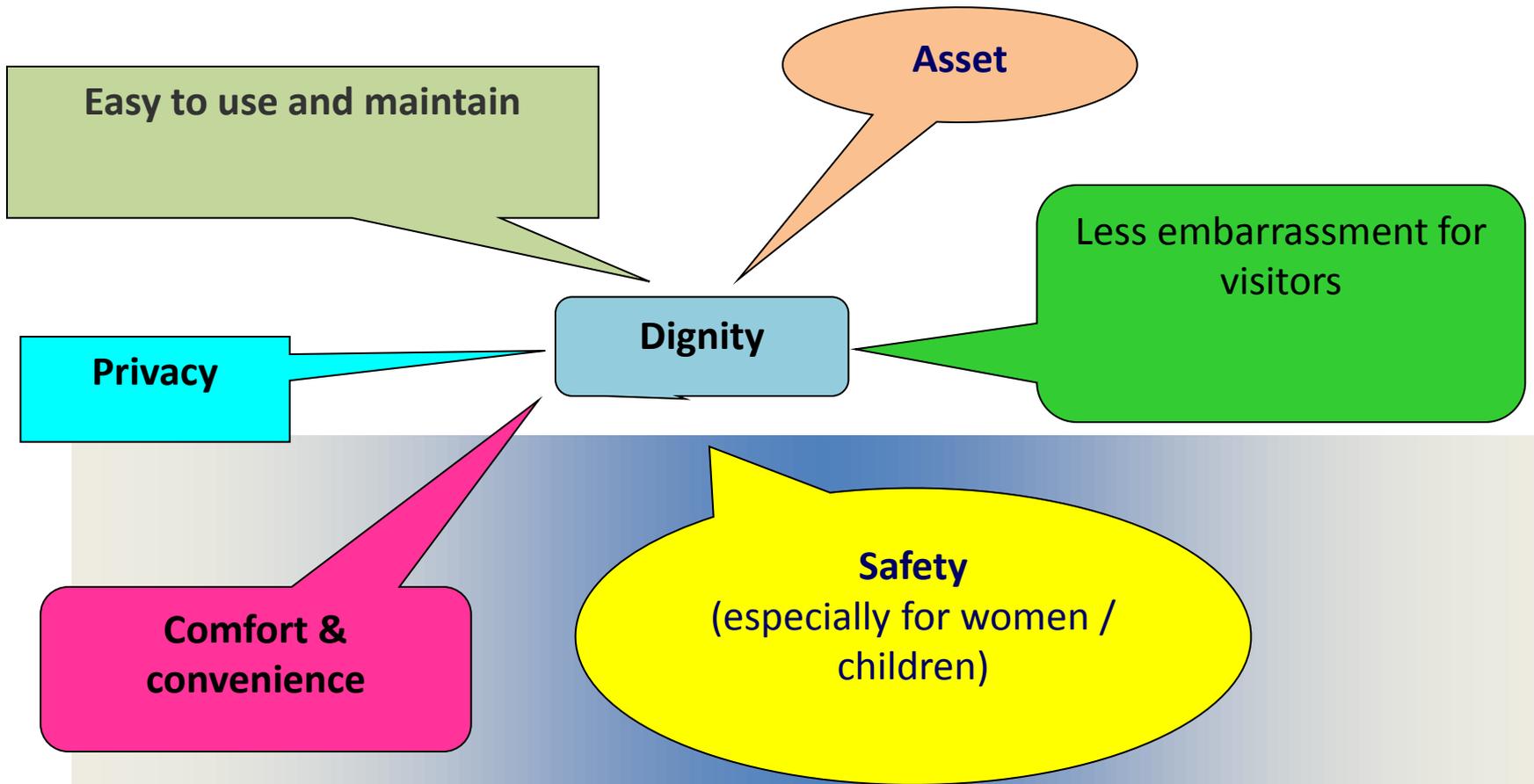


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# 88 Facilities serving 44,000 people p/d (5,000 HH toilets in Nakuru)



# The Bio-Centre Benefits







Biogas Bunsen burner



# The Bio-Centre and Climate Change



Bio-centres convert Human waste into bio-gas and organic fertilizer.

Communities cook using the bio gas,



A bio Gas burner in a bio center

# Summary

- Timeframe for the facilities is between 3-6months
- The bio-centers pay 12,000 KES and HH pay KES. 6000 per evacuation (full and KES 300 per bucket)
- Households willing invest upto KES.500 to use biogas for cooking and lighting
- Tenants will pay more for good services
- Farmers shy from using manure from human waste
- Local hotel businesses and schools are more receptive to using biogas

# Challenges/Lessons Learnt

- Bio-centres face challenges caused by high pressure for sanitation services
- The socio-cultural acceptance of use of the bi-products continues to be a challenge
- Packing the biogas into user friendly containers has been a technology challenge
- Resources required to pressurize and containerize biogas and palletization into fertilizer is very expensive

Partnerships are key for greater impact

# Cont.

- Gulper and rammer solution for some areas in different counties
- The costs of sludge transportation are often a barrier thus it is desirable to optimize travel time from source to treatment
- Lack of goodwill from policy makers/service providers to promote onsite technologies
- Policies that promote use of biogas and bio-slurry from human faeces

# Prototypes in Nakuru

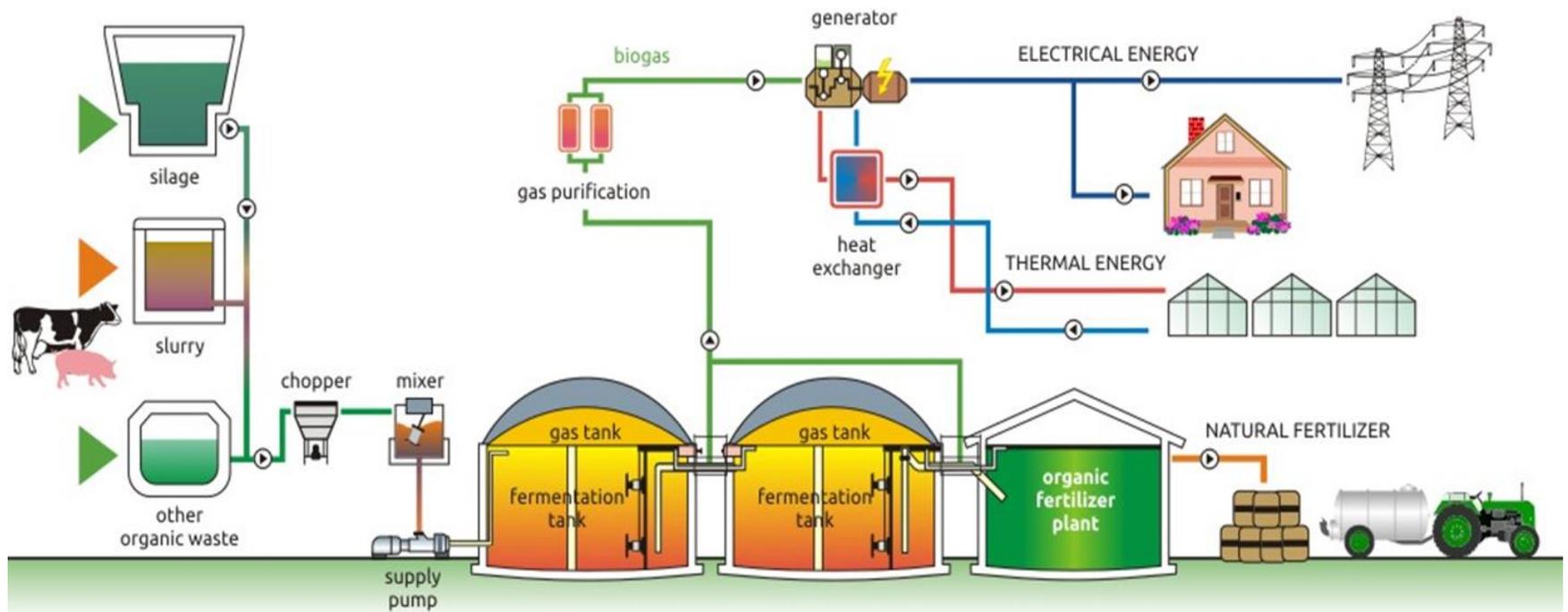


# Future Plans

- Partnerships to have more household options and products
- Research and pilot containerisation of biogas
- Approved transfer points for sludge operators
- Standardization of products
- Approval and adoption of technologies by Governments (Scaling up)
- Approval of sanitation tariffs

# Can we make this a reality?

Diagram of a biogas plant





**Umande Trust**

New Dawn, Nascent Start

Website: [www.umande.org](http://www.umande.org)

Email: [info@umande.org](mailto:info@umande.org)

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