

SOCIAL AND SPATIAL CHALLENGES FACING SANITATION

International IWA conference: Sanitation challenge conference – New sanitation concepts and models of governance.

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A household is considered to have ACCESS TO IMPROVED SANITATION

if:

- **An excreta disposal system, either in the form of a private toilet or a public toilet**
- **Shared with a reasonable number of people (maximum of two households)**

Is available for household members!

Why Improved Sanitation

- Supporting sanitation is key to social development, particularly for women and children – Consider all aspects of sanitation (at household, community, national level ...).
- Social issues affecting sanitation governance are hugely influenced by the structures that organize the community's understanding of available sanitation – which includes all processes of access, use, disposal, treatment, re-use etc.
- Poor sanitation and the changing environment – Discussions on climate hugely focus on the impacts on the environment – ecosystems, land use planning and the linkages with other sectors and how this affects social-economic structures and wider development.
- Ironically, at the moment poor sanitation (SWM) is a BIG Business opportunity

Social Issues

- Socio-cultural organizing principles e.g. culture on sharing or not-sharing bathrooms/toilet facilities – privacy/issues of modesty; location of the toilet; etc
- Taboos related to handling of waste and the impact of this on the possible innovations e.g. re-use in agriculture; use of bio-gas etc.
- Households/communal set-up and sizes – changing attitudes on numbers regarding sharing of toilet facilities and what makes adequate sanitation.

PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE, BUT....

- What is the proportion of people using an improved sanitation?
- 'New Concepts/models'? We still have the same recommendations year in year out for several decades!
- Governance issues surrounding sanitation still need to be addressed within the existing different constraints (social, economic, institutional, technical contexts).
- The link and existing gaps between research, training planning and practice is not effectively addressed. How are we imparting information on best expectations, best practices and current situations/data?
- Without this linkage, how do we ensure integrated planning for adequate sanitation given the diverse social and spatial conditions and the fast growing small cities, unplanned settlements and poverty levels?

RESPONDING TO SUPPLY OR DEMAND

- **Balancing the act** : development priority or social, economic, financial costs involved in making choices. Whatever the choice, remain demand driven, and have targeted application of technology.
- **A question of Scale**: Sanitation issues are **context specific** and developing countries face challenges that are remarkably different – it is therefore a question of scale!
- **The role of Planning**: **Rapid urban growth and planning** for basic infrastructure services – Most cities in developing countries still use inflexible and sometimes outmoded town/city plans

Apart from the challenges of informal settlements, developing countries planning need to focus on the emerging needs/demands of small urban towns and rural towns.
- **Demand-driven designs and interventions**: In most situations, the problem of inadequate sanitation is one of choice of **appropriate and demand-driven technology, management & governance**.
- Consider all the sanitation variables!



Critical questions

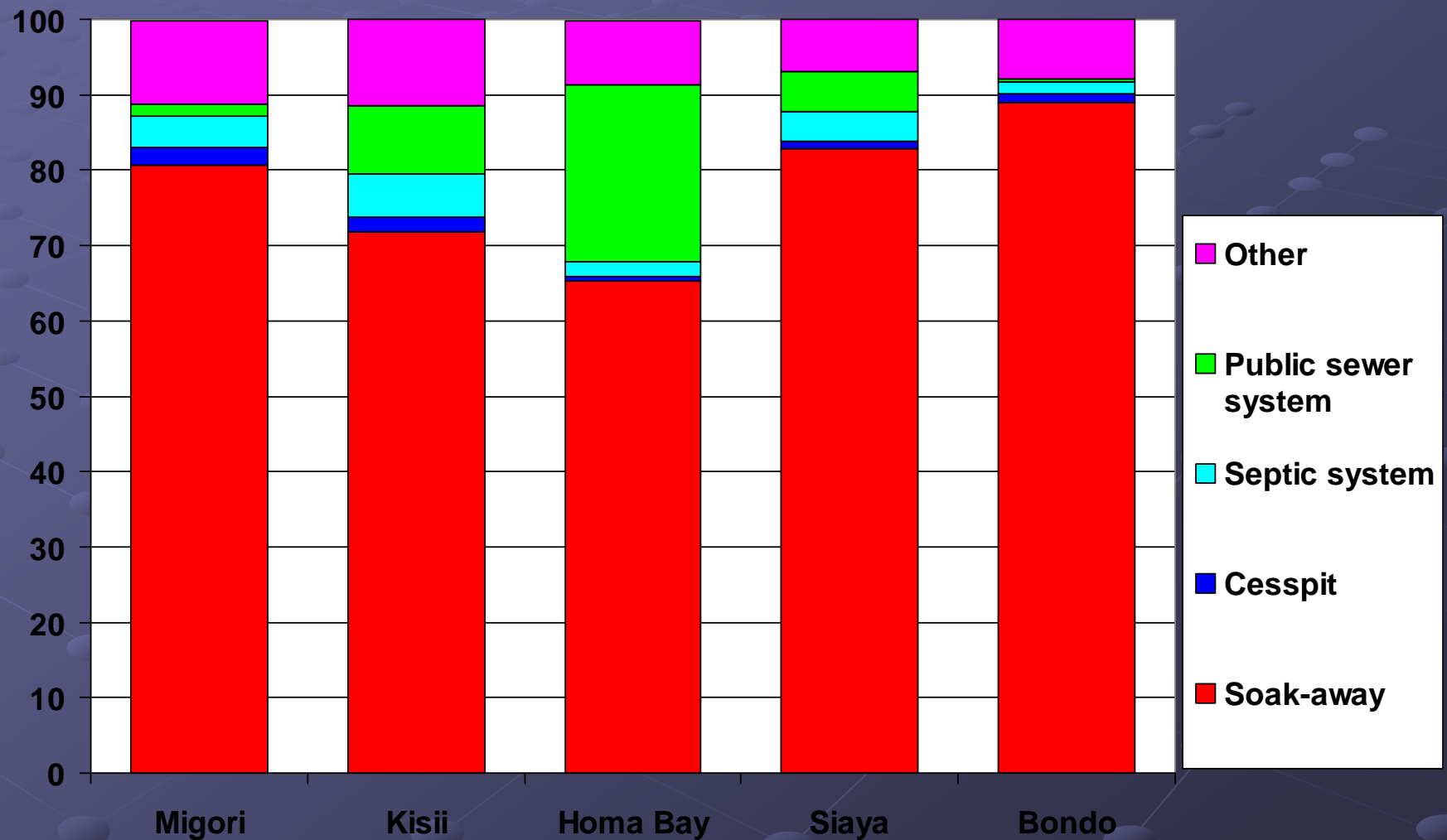
- Can we come up with local level sanitation solutions specific to areas and situations by moving away from generic or policy-making statements/expectations without the social economic data?
- How do country level interventions promote sanitation? Are there specific indicators for monitoring coverage targeting different groups and areas?
- What does sanitation mean to the different social groups? What is acceptable sanitation access and habits?
- Why are there many roadblocks impeding the progress in meeting the MDG target for sanitation?

Socio-Economic data – Monitoring coverage

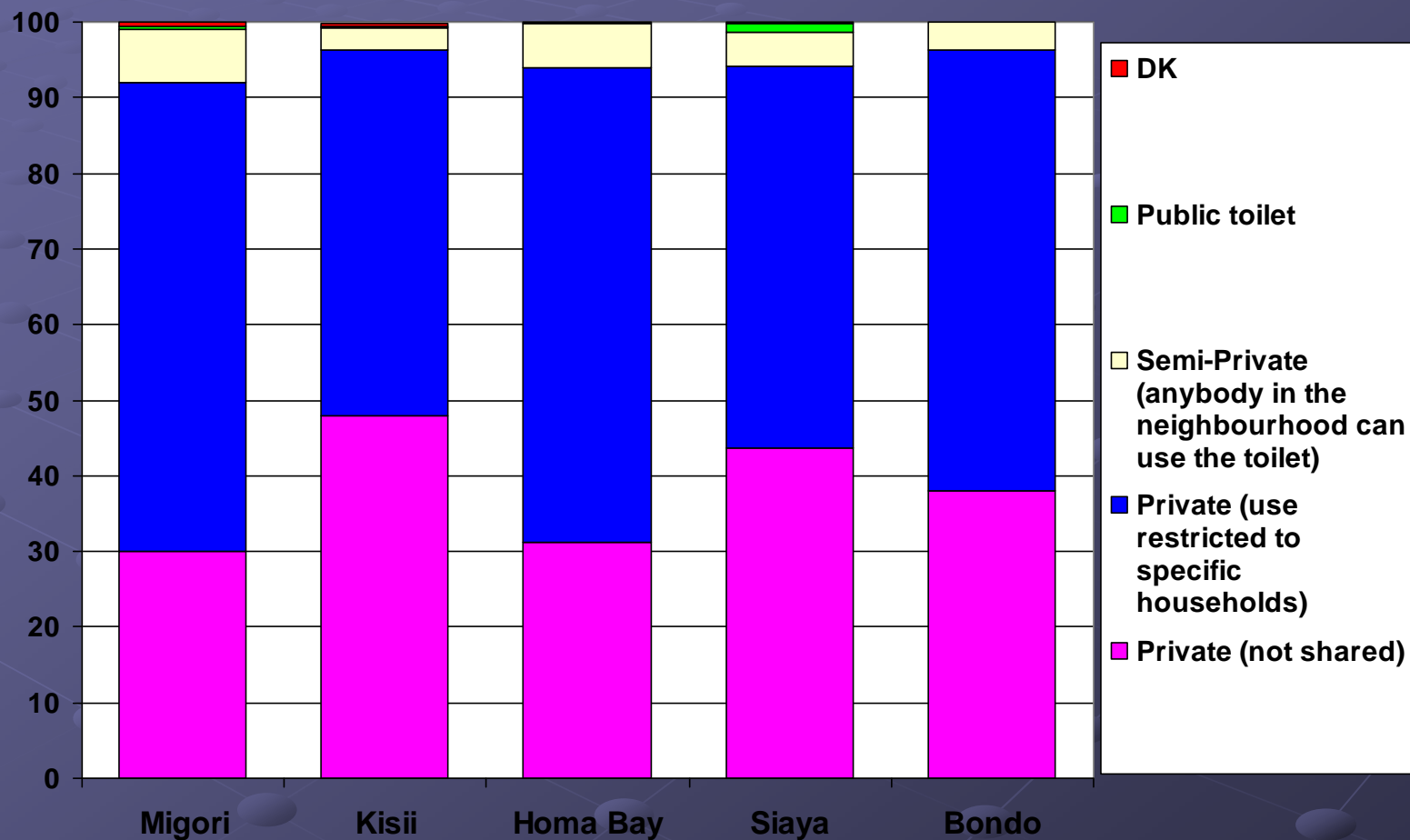
Distribution of households by type of toilet facility, Kenya 2006

Kind of toilet facility	Migori	Kisii	Homa Bay	Siaya	Bondo
Flush to piped sewer system	1.9	10.3	17.7	4.6	0.6
Flush to septic tank	2.7	6.8	1.1	3.6	0.9
Flush to pit (latrine)	5.6	4.9	1.2	0.2	0.1
Ventilated Improved Pit latrine (VIP)	10.1	6.9	6.2	4.2	7.0
Pit latrine with slab	45.2	41.9	33.0	45.7	42.3
Composting toilet	0.1	-	0.9	0.1	-
Flush to somewhere else	0.1	0.2	0.3	-	-
Flush to unknown place/not sure/DK where	-	0.3	0.3	-	-
Pit latrine without slab/open pit	23.1	27.6	14.3	22.7	19.7
Hanging toilet/hanging latrine	0.8	0.2		0.8	1.3
No facilities or bush or field	10.8	1.2	26.2	18.8	29.1
Other	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of households	1,499	1,490	1,496	1,455	1,498

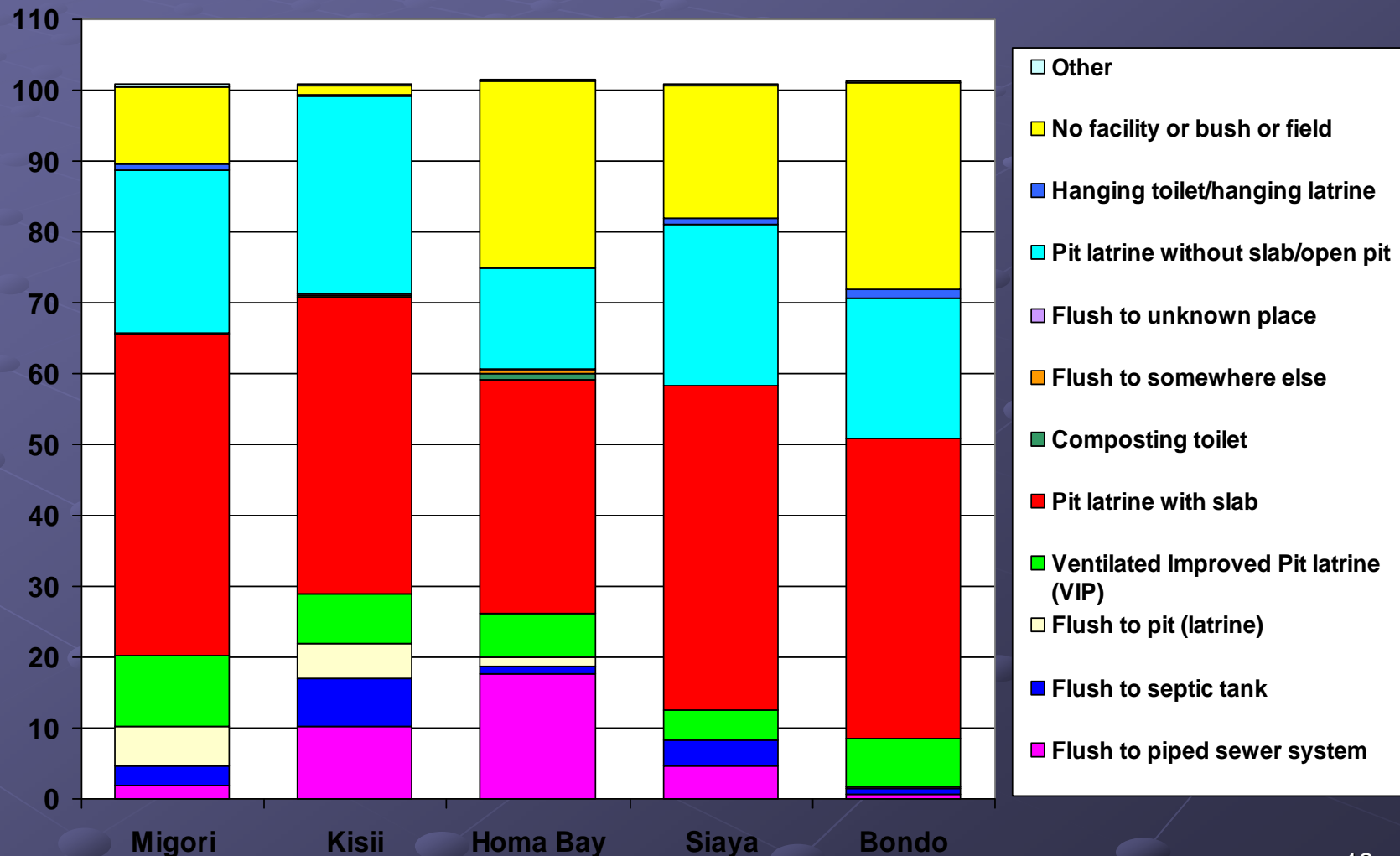
Distribution of households by type of sewage disposal system, Kenya 2006



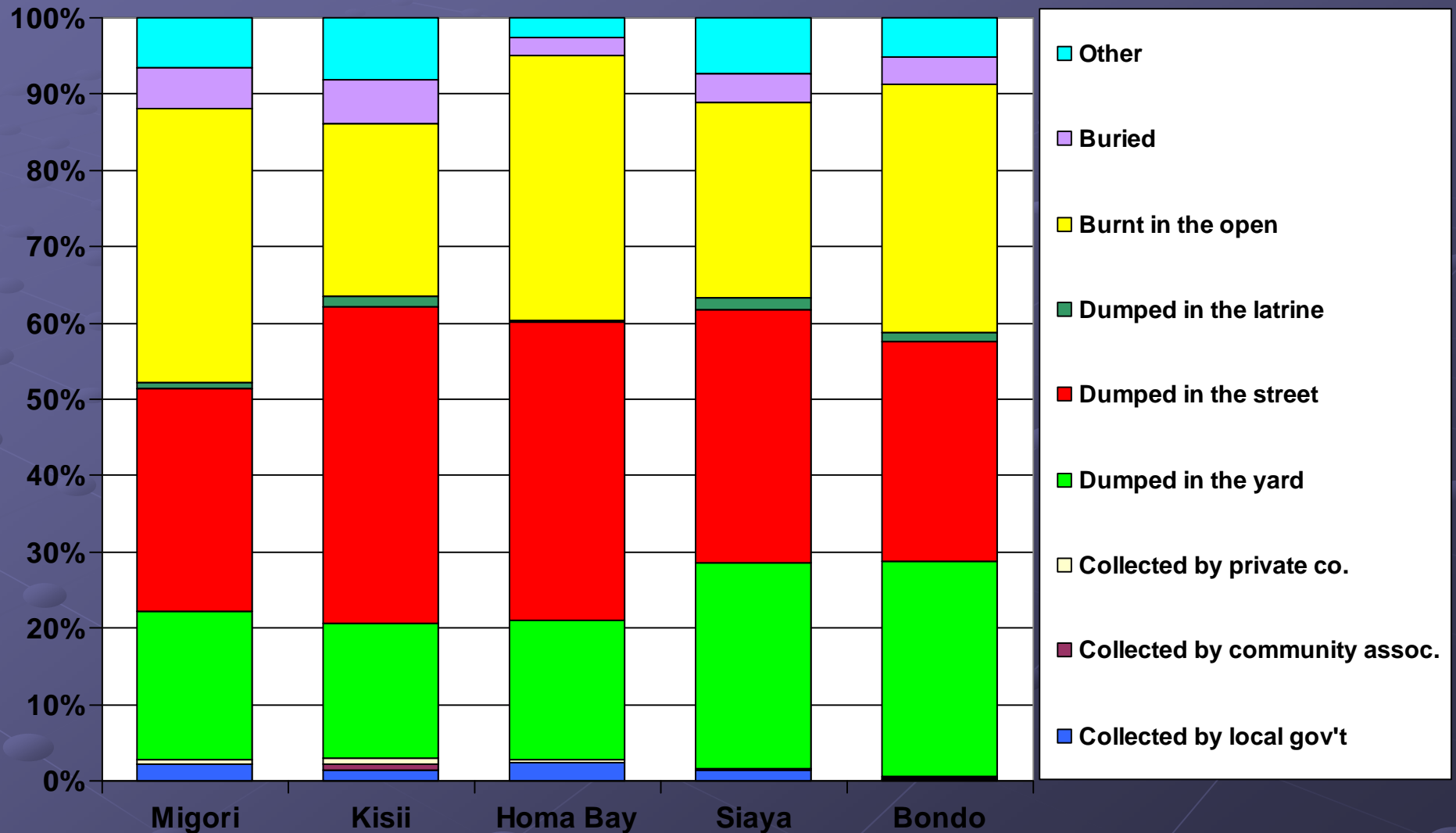
Distribution of households by status of toilet facility (private or public), Kenya 2006



Distribution of households by type of toilet facility, Kenya 2006



Distribution of households by solid waste disposal methods, Kenya 2006



Considerations for geographical locations



Sanitation situations



Sanitation Options

- Conventional sewerage is not usually an option for the urban poor in slums. Use reliable data to define and design technological options and ensure governance structures are set-up - urban planning is part of the processes of change.
- Decide on the mechanisms of involving the community – exploit the available social capital in mobilizing support and in making decisions on designs.
- Understand the social sanctions of each set-up if innovative technologies are to work. Consider all the sanitation variables!

Innovative Technological options
MUST should consider all the social, health
impacts of the processes related to access,
collection, disposal, reuse!



Options for sanitation Interventions?



Social & Spatial Considerations

- Communities and planners at the local levels access to information on current thinking, plans, activities... on sanitation. How do we share crucial reports/data?
- Some innovation can be counter-productive....if it works, institutionalize!
- Give consideration to all sanitation systems – one innovation could bear negatively on another component of sanitation e.g. collection and disposal.
- Let end-users participate in the design and planning process – maximize on existing social capital in planning interventions for communities.
- Include the responsible urban planners in designs!
- Populations are not homogeneous – sanitation therefore has huge social and spatial contexts and challenges we cannot ignore when designing and planning... Don't focus just on use!

THANK YOU!

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