

# The Nairobi Urbani Health and Demographic Surveillance System (NUHDSS): platform for monitoring health outcomes Behavioural Risk Factor Surveillance

**T**he rapid and uncontrolled growth of African cities has forced the poor to live in informal settlements characterized by unsafe water supply, poor sanitation, high drug and alcohol abuse and risky sexual behaviours. Approximately 60% of people in Nairobi Kenya live within such environment. This exposes these inhabitants to health risks which need to be monitored as well as demographic outcomes and impacts resulting from intervention programs. The NUHDSS implemented by the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) which started in year 2000, covers two slums with about 60,000 people living in 22,000 households (APHRC 2002). It offers rich longitudinal data characterised by tri-annual follow-ups which reflects the date of occurrence for most events. Under this platform various studies have been launched. This is the case with HIV serological survey, studies on malaria, poverty and health dynamics. The system has also supported maternal health assessment, monitoring of intervention programs meant to reduce infant and child mortality rates and launching comprehensive care projects for people living with AIDS. With the availability of up-to-date information about population, the system can conveniently support launching of studies on behavioural risk factors linked to other chronic diseases. Such initiatives would easily be extended to other DSS sites in Africa and Asia under the INDEPTH network.

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