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Imagining cultures of cooperation: universities networking to face the new development challenges

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***Mapping Map Kibera:* What is behind the map?**

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The Project

A participatory mapping activity in
Kibera slum



Where?

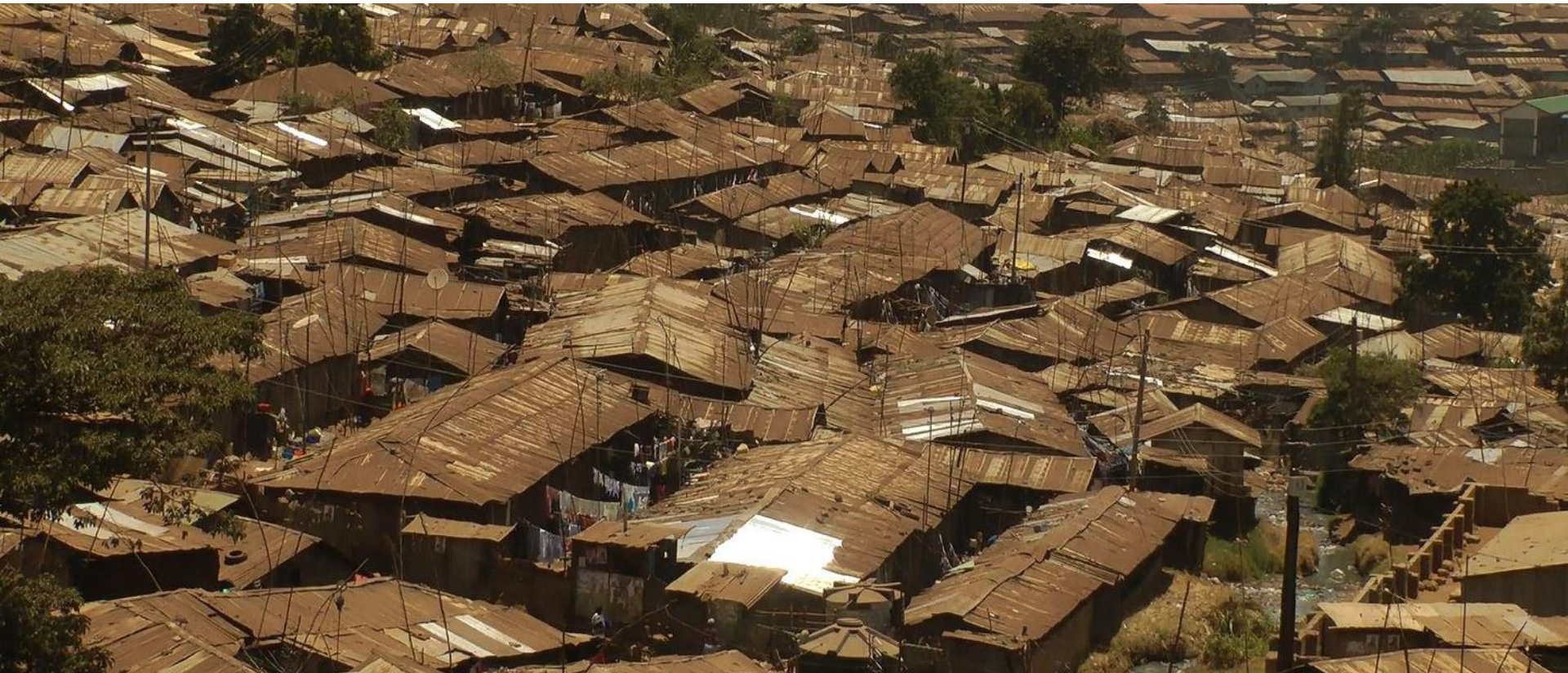
In Kibera slum, Nairobi (Kenya).



Kibera: the second largest African slum

- Home to a population ranging from 235.000 to 1.200.000, depending on the sources and on the period
- Are represented almost all Kenya tribes but Luos are the main ethnic group
- Despite the lack of public services, the slum is a big recipient of NGOs and international organizations

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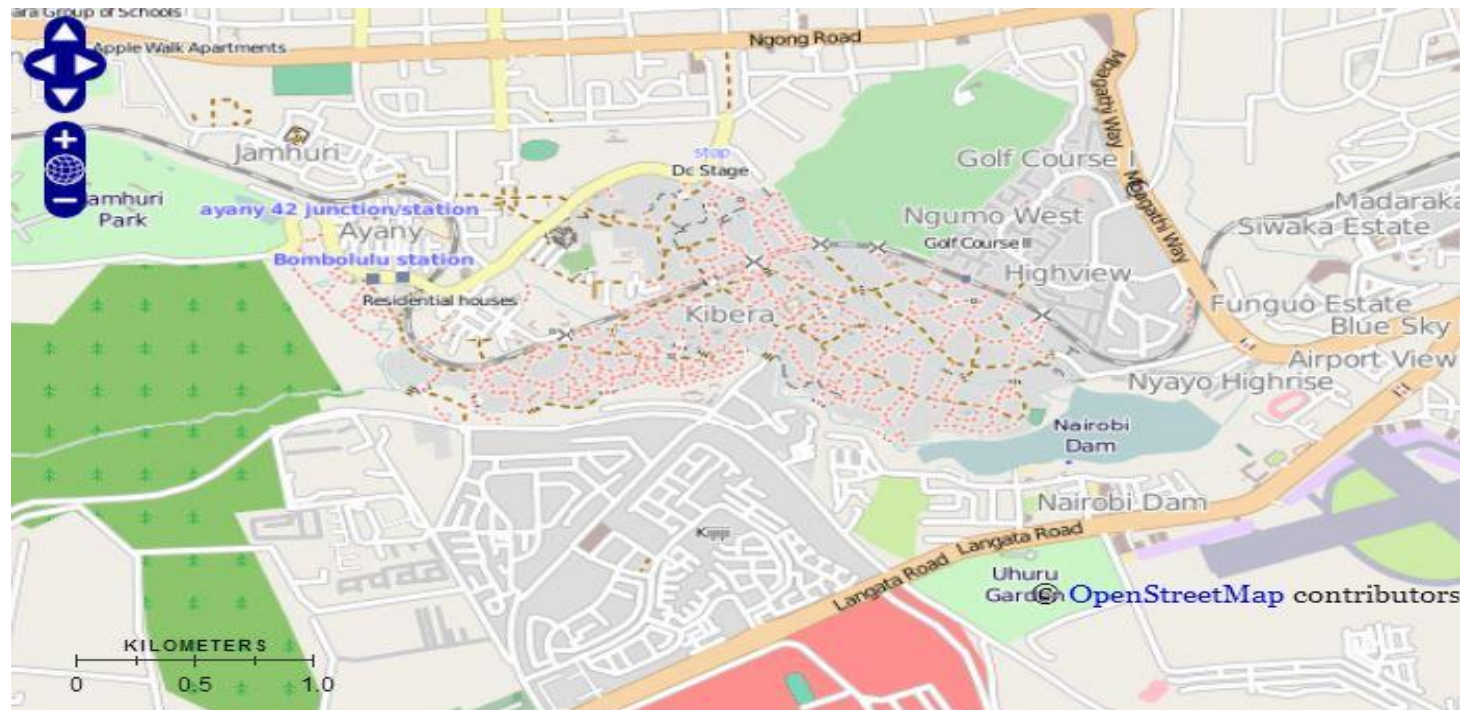


The participatory mapping software: Open-Street Map

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- An opensource GPS, the Wikipedia of the maps
- Thanks to a small grant from Jump start International, a group of Kibera youth was trained to use OSM by the two founders Mikel Maron and Erica Hagen and they produced the **first public digital map of Kibera**



Map Kibera



The initiative started in 2009 with Ground Truth Initiative, with a small grant from Jumpstart International that allowed them to create **the first digital map of Kibera**

How? Training a group of local youths in the use of an open source GPS tool: Open Street Map

Projects

- **Mappers:** mapping project that uses Open Street Map
- **Voice of Kibera:** blogger and SMS reporting team that uses the Ushahidi platform to enable residents to text in reports on events in Kibera
- **Kibera News Network:** video maker who create documentaries about Kibera enhancing citizen journalism



The Research

- What is behind the map?
- What are the relationship between local actors and the mappers using a technology?
- Do the Kibera stakeholders have influence in acting community project like mapping activities?

Framework

- Make a contribution to the broader theme of ICT4D
- Analyze what make possible the creation of a map in an informal settlement
- Actor Network Theory



Metodology

Three focus groups and interviews aimed to:

1. Get the general understanding of the **mapping process** in a slum
2. Know the **implication of the mapping process** into the community environment and discover the social background of the mappers
3. **Draft a map** of the slum to underline the networks and relationships between the mappers and the slum local actors

I Meeting



Objective?

Get the general understanding of the mapping processes

Findings?

Eight mapping processes



Mapping processes

1. Finding the point of interests for the entire community
2. Getting in touch with the community stakeholders
3. Organizing general stakeholder meetings
4. Participatory mapping: involving the community in the process
5. Editing data in the office
6. The practical work: to the field
7. The sharing process: sharing the results with the community
8. Using the maps for a common interest

I Meeting



Challenges?

- “They see the mappers like a spy”
- In some not really safe areas they have to **hide the GPS** while they work, also if they can recognize “tricky people, thief or dangerous situations”
- “To map Kibera we have to be from Kibera”
- Problems related to the weather conditions



IN THE FIELD



IN USING THE
EQUIPMENT

II Meeting



Objective?

What is the mapper background and relationship with Kibera community and institutions?

Findings?

- They identified every important connection they have in the slum as a community **person** and Map Kibera **mappers**
- Participant's **recognition** of their social relations in Kibera community

A mapper hanging their social relationship stickers on the wall

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Mappers hanging their social relationship stickers on the wall

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III Meeting



Objective?

- The construction of a **social relations map**
- Understand what type of local actor they deal with

Findings?

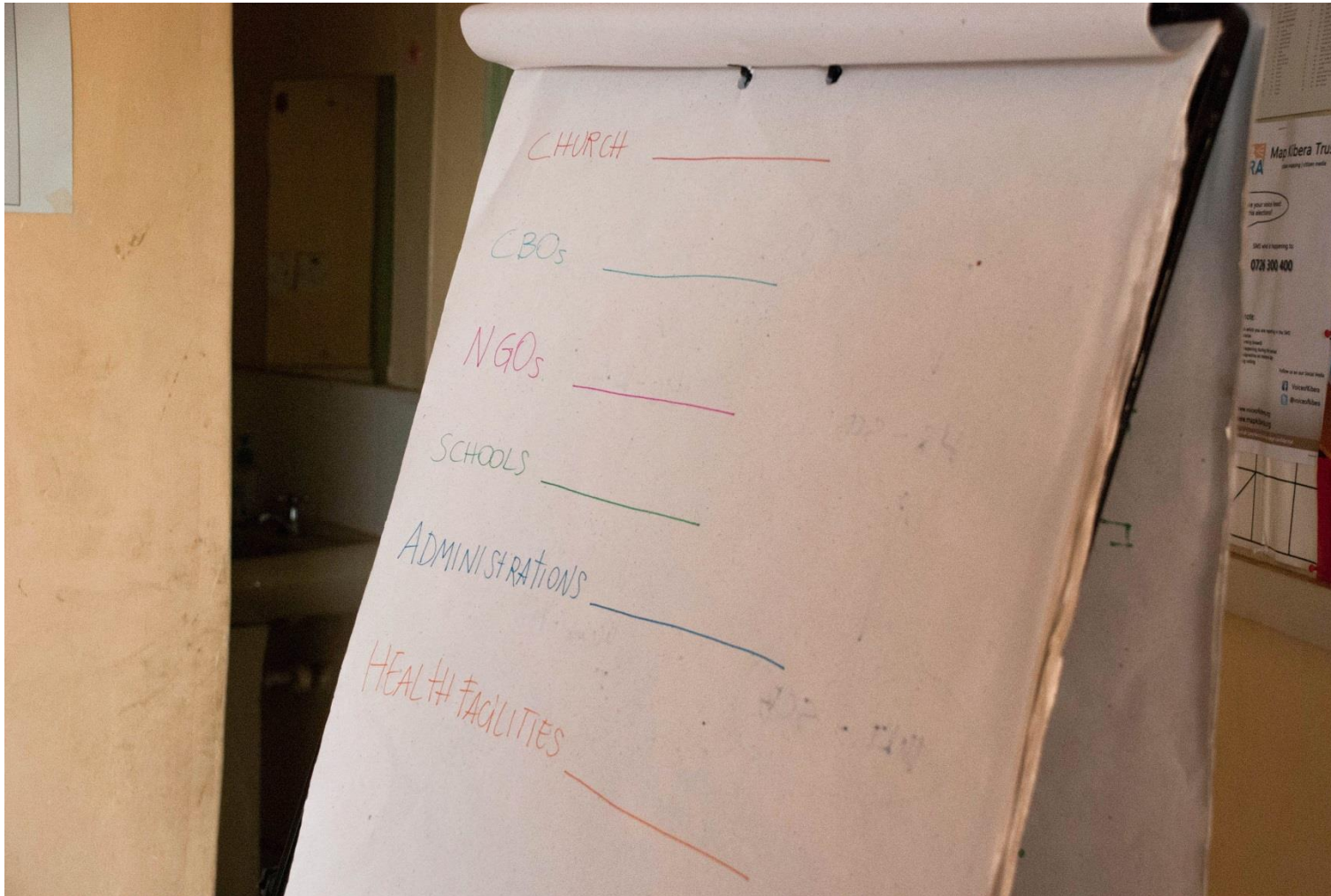
- **Six categories**, reproducing both the personal and professional relationship
- A final map representing the mapper social relations in Kibera community



Categories

1. church
2. NGOs
3. CBOs
4. school
5. administrations
6. health facilities

Some actor categories identified during the meeting



A mapper tracing the border of Kibera in a Transparent sheet

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Working on the map

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Working on the map

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Summarizing...



I Meeting

We identified eight mapping processes: what they do before to map a zone, during the project and in the sharing preocess with Kibera community



II Meeting

They identified the connections they have in the slum as a mapper and as a citizen



III Meeting

Creation of a social relation map and six categories of local actor that are essential to implement mapping projects



Conclusion

- Have a perfect **knowledge of the zone** as a necessary prerequisite to be a mapper (all the mappers live, or used to live, in Kibera)
- In Map Kibera case behind the use of the ICTs and technology, there are a range of **relationships** between people, places, workplaces and institutions



Fundamental to maintaining **confidence** among the community and implement participatory mapping activities



Hidden power that affects social relations and collective action in Kibera?

Starting point for further research?



Social dynamics

- Who are the most influential stakeholders in the slums?
- What tribe and which political party they belong to?
- What relationships have with other local actors and with the same slum community?

ICT4D

- Can a participatory GPS programme work in every kind of slum?
- How can an open source software affect the success of a participatory mapping project?
- How do the technology influence the relationship among local actors in Kibera slum?

THANK YOU!

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