

Headline	Soaring above the squalor		
MediaTitle	The Star		
Date	31 Dec 2012	Color	Full Color
Section	StarTwo	Circulation	304,904
Page No	10,11	Readership	1,026,812
Language	English	ArticleSize	2013 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 93,745
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 281,234



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Teeming with one million inhabitants, Kibera is Kenya's largest slum.

At the Ushakari Primary School in Kibera, the students have to share textbooks and sit on dirt floors.

A broken bathtub serves as a sink at the Bahma Preschool in Mombasa, with a little imagination, old tyres, empty bottles and stones can be turned into playthings.

The slum dwellers are so poor that they cannot afford to buy shoes for their school-going children.

The Semebe Primary School serves an impoverished community in Kwale county.

Soaring above the squalor

More than 40% of Kenya's population of 42 million is under 14 years of age, so there is an overwhelming need for educational facilities.

The wind sends clouds of dust into bare classrooms.

It is common for students to babysit their younger siblings in school as a large number of children in Kibera are orphans who have lost their parents to HIV/AIDS.

Many bright kids at the Kenyan slums are eager learners.

School's over: Children heading out of the msara Daima Primary School in Mathara, one of Kenya's oldest slums. ... Photos by ADRI CRISTO/The Star

Some children prefer to stay back after school to catch up on homework.