



Missions of Hope International Standards of Living - Mathare Slum



Kenya is a beautiful country, well known for the many game parks and wild animals that abound throughout the country.

However, Kenya is home to two of the largest slums in Africa, Kibera and Mathare.

It is estimated that 800,000 people live in Mathare in an area of less than a square mile. Most live on an income of less than a dollar per day. Crime and HIV/AIDS are common. Many parents die of AIDS and leave their children to fend for themselves. Missions of Hope tries to care for as many of these orphans as possible, but their resources are limited.

Mathare Facts:

- 70% of Nairobi's population of four million lives on 5% of the of the city's land area.
- Mathare contains a population greater than the cities of Seattle, Denver, or Boston, yet the slum covers an area of less than a square mile. In comparison, Seattle covers 142 square miles, Boston 89 square miles, and Denver 154 square miles.
- 40% are HIV positive.
- The average life expectancy for a person who is HIV positive in Mathare is five years or less.
- Common health problems for children in Mathare include dysentery, malnutrition, malaria, typhoid, cholera, infections, tetanus, and polio.
- Juvenile heads of households are common. (A child or teen is left to care for younger siblings, since both parents have died of AIDS.)
Mathare has no police or fire protection, and no paved roads.
- There are an estimated 70,000 children in the Mathare, with only 3-4 public schools to educate them. Many children do not attend school.
- Without eternal hope, children in the Mathare face a future of crime, prostitution, drug abuse and disease.