Implication of lack of baby changing facilities to Access of spaces in Nairobi

25th November 2020

#2020WTACONFERENCE
Peninah Ndegwa the founder of Wow Mom Kenya a social enterprise that advocates for children friendly cities. She holds a first class honours degree in urban and regional planning from the University of Nairobi. She is currently undertaking her master’s degree in Climate Change Adaptation at the University of Nairobi. She is a passionate urban/ transport Planner and sustainability enthusiast keen on the use of new technologies that build resilient, adaptive and sustainable cities that improve quality of life for all. Her professional experience includes planning and designing of Non-motorised transport (NMT), Transit-oriented Development (TOD), Bus Rapid transit (BRT), Parking management, Transport policies formulation, child-friendly cities, and slum upgrading.
About Wow Mom

Advocate for children-friendly cities as well as offer personalized experiences and guides on Parenting.

#2020WTACONFERENCE
What we do

We participate in policy development in child-friendly city matters.

We undertake research and publications on children and caregivers issues in urban areas.
We strongly believe in the value of the first 1000 days. We educate caregivers on proper nutrition for their children from the first latch, first meal up to 5 years. We also equip them with hands experience on basic First Aid.
Cycling experience with a toddler
Matatu experience with a baby

Ndi Nda 🚴 Kilimani Mums Udaku
Zone🔥KMUZ
Yesterday at 19:24

Hii sitrolla ni smart but pia ni kazi mob, imagine ukiwa stage pale Tao ambassador Kwa mat za embassava lazima utoanishe ntoitosh Kwa mlango ya gari...sasa hapa itabidi utoe mto Kwanza makanga waifunge huko juu ya basi...ama time uko gikomba na vile Barabara huko ni mbaya...mikokoteni all over...time ya kwenda ushago country-bus na vile Huwa congested si mto ataibiwa...na vile sisi huvukaThika road mbio ukiwa na hii sitrolla si kugongwa ni rahisi??😢😢😢

See translation

Shiko Shiks Nduaty
😊😊😊😊😊😊😊hii si yako wewe buy babycarrier ama lesions fungi mtoto Kwanza mgongo
See translation

Peris Miano
Lanes my dear hii kitu ni ya watu Wa gated community sisi wengine ni Wa leso ukibahatika unanua ngoi
See translation

Mouryn Okinyi
Kwani unaenda kuzunguka na mtoy town na stroller how...na unatumia matatu?? Hii iko na wenye
See translation

Roshan Wangari Emmar
45,900 alafu uko kwa embassava.........haigwes
See translation

Lonah Kim
Hii kitu unabay ukiwa na gari yako mum.Lanes

Matatu experience with a baby
Baby Changing Facilities Survey-WOW MOM

http://wowmom.co.ke/

More than 1,000,000 babies are born in Kenya every year. Unfortunately, basic Baby
How often caregivers travel with babies?

**Frequency of travelling with baby**

- Daily: 7.00%
- Once a week: 32.00%
- Once a month: 7%
- Occasionally: 54%
Places they frequent

- Hospitals: 22%
- Supermarket: 21%
- CBD: 14%
- Shopping malls: 21%
- Parks: 7%
- Government offices: 4%
- Markets: 11%

PLACES MOST VISITED
Places they often change their baby

Changing locations

- Car: 31%
- Parks: 22%
- Public bench: 16%
- Public toilet without baby changing station: 15%
- Road side: 12%
- Public toilet with baby changing station: 4%
How many have use baby changing station before

Yes 38%
No 62%
Worst experience-Hospitals

“In a public hospital on the bench and a woman lectured me about it, and I was new in the facility and it was raining outside, worse still, my baby had diarrhea kept mum for respect purposes. I think the changing areas should be available even in churches, hotels, bus stations, anywhere. Because a child will poop anywhere. I have really been wondering how no one talks about this. Thank you for the survey.” Judy

“I was in the hospital and when I went to change my baby at the triage I was told I cannot change him there and yet they have not provided a designated place for us to change the baby” Ann K.
Worst experience- Matatu

1 once changed my loo in a public PSV and almost everyone was like 'what the heck is wrong with this lady? I didn't given a hoot about who was feeling like throwing me out all that mattered that time was my baby's relief.

1 once changed my baby in a public PSV vehicle and was ridiculed by fellow passengers. I also changed my once asthmatic child in an open field and she got an attack that saw us admitted in hospital for 3 weeks. It was horrible” Marion W.

The discomfort for both my baby and I. Having to shield the baby off the eyes of strangers and afterward having to carry poop around for lack of proper disposal facility.
“I always change my baby in the car. So the only challenge is having to carry the soiled diaper home.” Elizabeth C

Mostly its inside the car where the space is small causing you to spear the waste as the baby keeps on playing while changing them. Then carry soiled diaper with poop till I get home! - anonymous

I once forgot to carry a polyethylene paper to carefully put the dirty diaper. The car was smelly all along and there were other passengers on board. Felt an irresponsible mum.
“I once had to change my 2-month-old son’s diaper in a public toilet in Nairobi CBD as there was no other place I could be able to do so. I laid a mackintosh on the water tank and placed my baby on it & quickly changed his diaper, my sister held my baby's neck. I had to use wet wipes to wipe my baby since it was a very unsanitary place to even take my baby to leave alone changing him.” Joyce

In Public toilets in Nairobi CBD, I had to lay the baby on the sink counter top which was risky.

At SGR Mombasa station, I had to use the public toilet to change the baby! So uncomfortable and to imagine the baby exposed to all those germs.
Where they dispose soiled diapers

**DISPOSING SOILED DIAPERS**

- Waste Bin in public toilet: 30%
- Carry soiled diaper home: 63%
- On the roadside: 7%
Facilities needed

Basic facilities needed

- Baby changing station: 30%
- Waste bin: 25%
- Sink: 20%
- Chair: 15%
- Baby products e.g. Daiper, saviettes: 10%
Diani reef hotel-diani
Kisumu International airport
Sarit- center
CJ-Restaurant
Whispers park- Nyeri
Public toilet -
Gee van jee
gardens
Public toilets - NO Baby Changing Units!
Uhuru park
Adequate space to retrofit a baby changing station

Railways

Archives

*All dimensions are in metres
Baby changing station measurements

Accounting for the space that a BCS unit occupies when in the down position and with the caregiver in front whether seated or standing.
Universal access and child protection seat
WOW MOM Baby changing Station Design
Breastfeeding mothers Bill 2017-This bill requires all persons owning, leasing or private building accessible to the public with a maximum occupancy of 30 persons to install a baby changing facility. The baby changing facility should be clean and private; have a baby changing table; a waste bucket; and have signs indicating its location. Further, the bills allow caregivers to use any baby changing facility within a reasonable distance for the purposes of cleaning and changing the baby.

According to UN General Assembly Resolution 70/169, the right to sanitation entitles everyone “to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, and socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.
Why invest?

- Human rights
- Environmental conservation
- Gender equality
- Mental health
- Children rights
What NEXT for 2021?

- Install at least 20 baby changing Unit in public toilets in Nairobi in 2021
- Redesign child-friendly street (Agakhan walk) in Nairobi CBD
- Advocate for priority seats for pregnant women and caregivers in matatus
Your support is welcome!

REACH US OUT!

- Website: https://wowmom.co.ke/
- Email: peninah.ndegwa@wowmom.co.ke
- Facebook: Wow Mom Kenya
- Twitter: wowmomske
- Instagram: Wow Mom Kenya