





A normal day for Gaudensia begins between 4.30am and 5:00am, when she wakes up and gets ready for school. She lives in a one-room apartment with her mother, Rose (pictured here) and two older sisters. The family all wakes at around the same time.

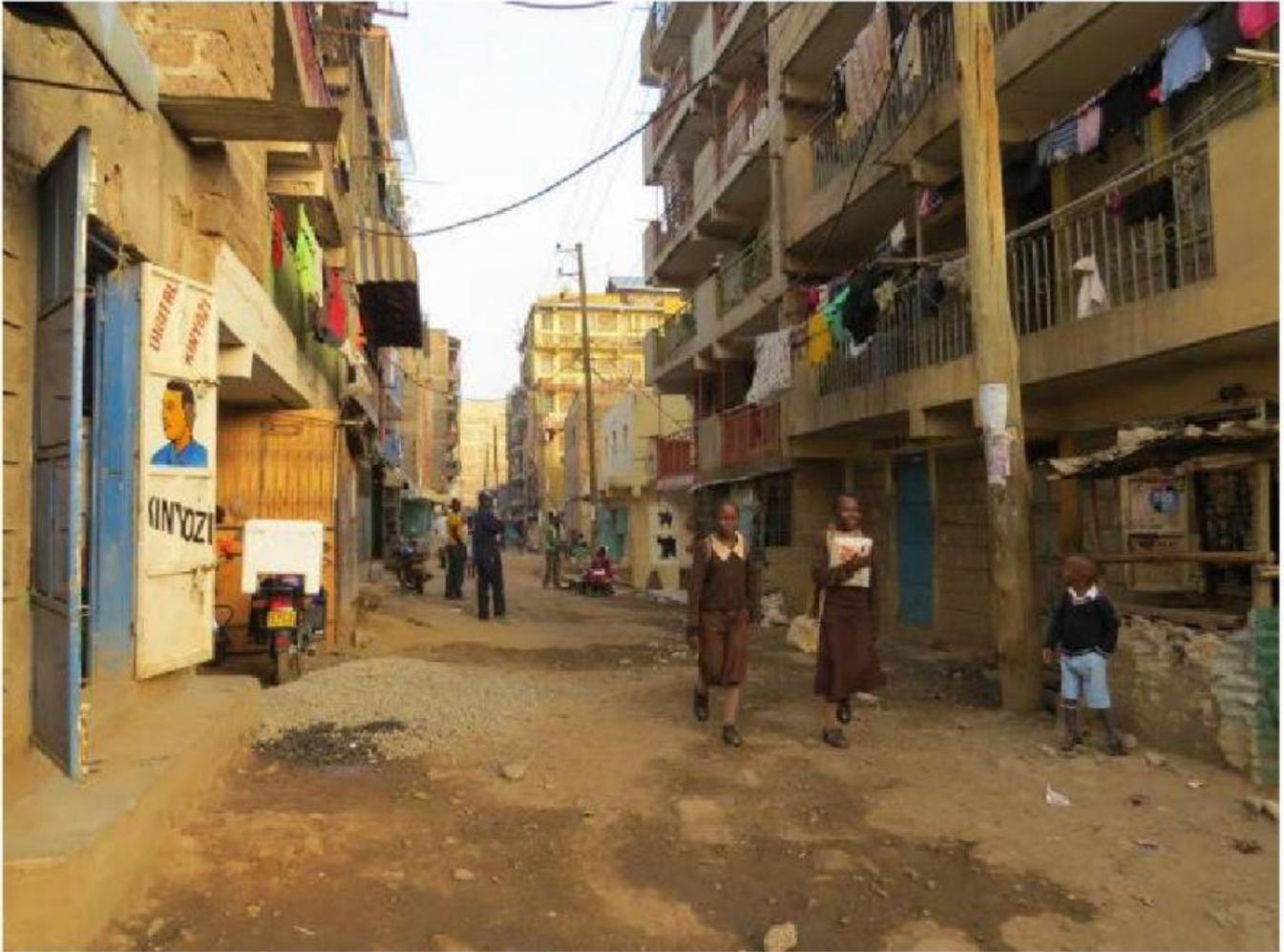


As the youngest child, Gaudensia shares a bed with her mother. There is one bathroom just outside the building, which serves all 40 people who live in the building. Rose cleans the latrine every day to earn some extra money.



A normal breakfast for Gaudensia and her sisters includes tea and the girls shared ugali (boiled maize meal and water, pictured above).

Guests are often treated to boiled sweet potatoes and a bean mixture, as well as ugali and strong tea.



Even though school does not begin until after 8:00am, Gaudensia and her sister Yunia leave the house at around 6.30am for the 30-minute walk to school.

On their 30-minute walk to school Gaudensia and Yunia must cross a major street, traverse dirt roads, follow small pathways, and pass isolated housing estates.



Students are expected to arrive at school early, even before the teachers! They use this time to pray, sing songs, and get organized for the day.

Throughout the day students study math, health, art, and 3 languages: French, English, and Swahili.

There are usually three, 20-minute breaks for recess. Kids can play tag, soccer, or basketball. When it rains the playground quickly turns to mud and students can't play on it.



There are four bathrooms for the girls, two for the boys, and one for the teachers.

There are tanks outside the toilets for the children to wash their hands. The water in the tanks is mostly rainwater, collected from the gutters. It's used for hand washing, flushing the toilets, and even for drinking.



The school does not have a cafeteria or provide food to students. Some days a local church supplies food for the pupils, but they must pay 50 cents for the meal.

Many students bring food from home, because they cannot afford the cost, while others go hungry because they have neither food nor money. On this day, the church brings lunch to the school – beef stew, cooked cabbage and ugali.



Students finish school at 3:10. Once the teacher assigns homework, they are free to go home!