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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

5th International Carers Conference

-New Frontiers in Caring: 2010 and Beyond-

8-11 July 2010

Design, Technology and the Built Environment

Session Four: Supporting Care and Caring in Settlements and Cities

by

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UN-HABITAT's Mission and Vision

Sustainable urban development

Adequate shelter for all

History - Milestones

1978 - United Nations Center for Human Settlements (UNCHS) established after 1976 Habitat I meeting in Vancouver

1996 – The Habitat Agenda – political document result of the Habitat II conference in Istanbul, Turkey

2000 – Millennium Declaration – governments commit to Millennium Development Goals targets on slum dwellers, access to water and sanitation

2002 – Center upgraded to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Habitat I, Vancouver 1976

Habitat II, Istanbul 1996 - Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali

Position in Development Arena

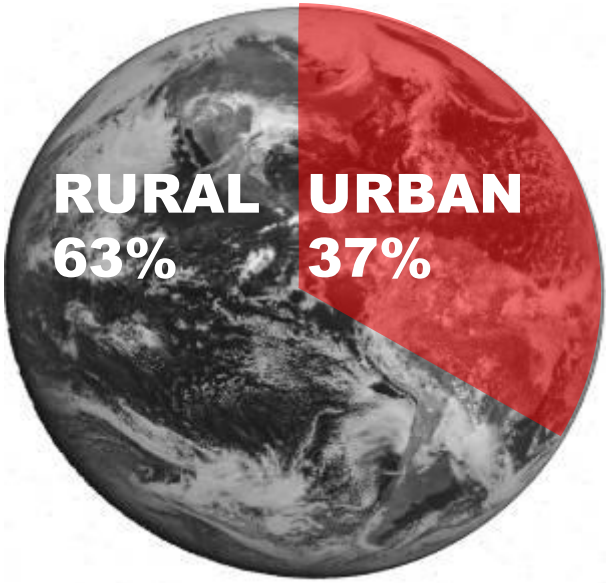
United Nations agency for the built environment focusing on inclusive, greener, safer cities

Lead agency for MDG 7 target on improving living conditions of slum dwellers

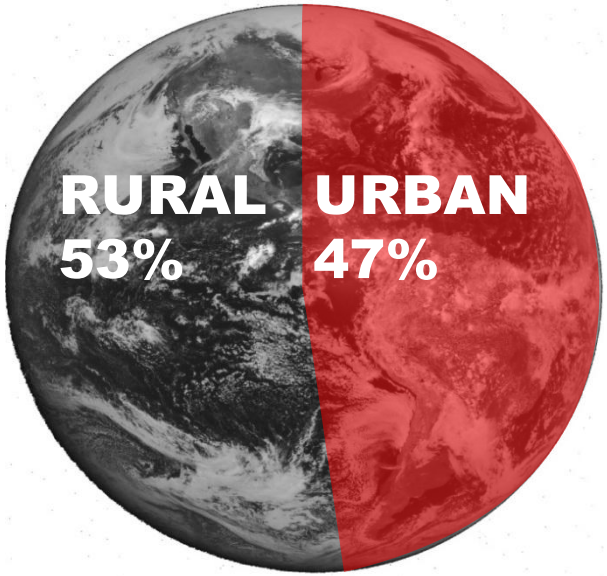
Lead agency on shelter cluster for post disaster reconstruction

Urban Growth

GLOBAL POPULATION
RURAL/URBAN



1970



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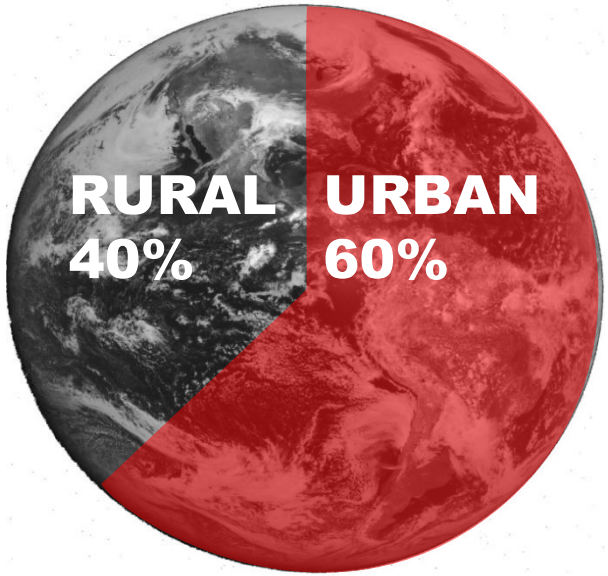
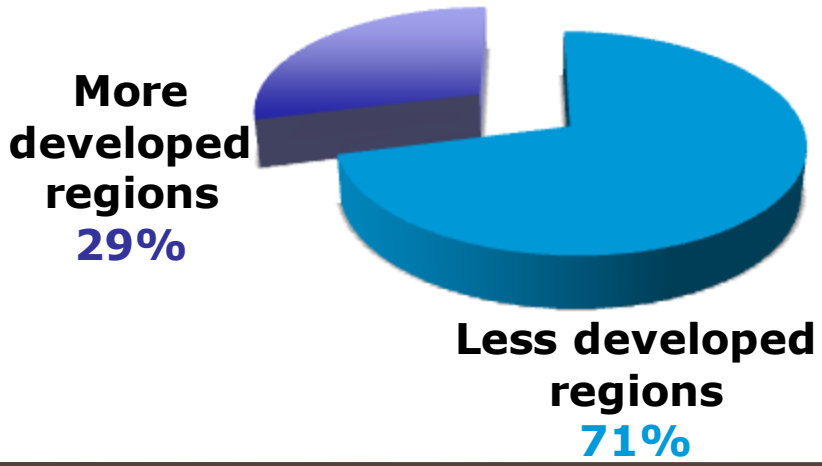


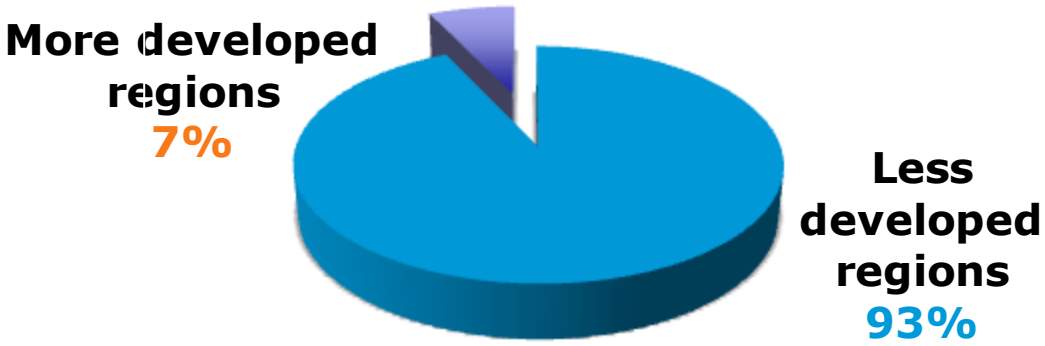
2030

Urbanization in the World

URBAN POPULATION BY REGION (2005)



PERCENTAGE GROWTH OF URBAN POPULATION BY REGION (2005-2020)



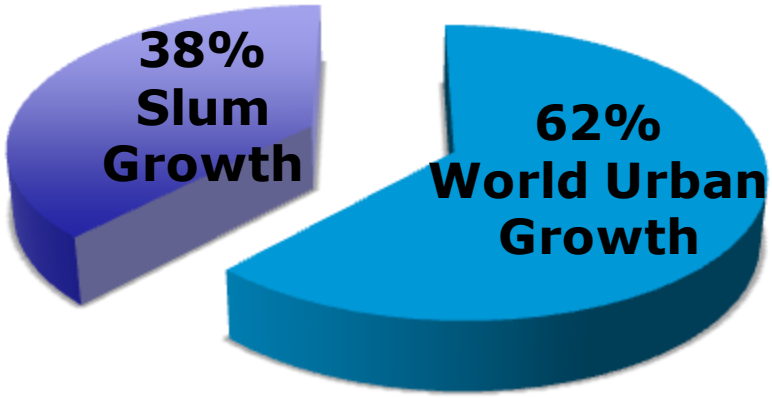
- Today, one in two people on the planet is an urban dweller
- Urbanization is happening mostly in developing countries **(93%)**
- Cities are growing because of:
  - natural increase in urban population **(50%)**
  - reclassification of rural areas as urban areas **(25%)**
  - rural-to-urban migration **(25%)**

Cities – Challenges and Opportunities

- **Slum growth**
- **Pockets of poverty**
- **Exclusion and marginalization**
- **Environmental degradation**
- **Decay**

- **Enhance social Development**
- **General wealth**
- **Provide employment**
- **Incubators of innovation and creativity**

The Slum Challenge: Past, Present, Future



Unprecedented slum growth: **18 million** new slum dwellers per year during 1990-2001

Projected growth: **27 million** people a year (2005/20)

Slum growth = **38%** of the world's urban growth

Urban Health Factors in Developed Countries

- Socioeconomic inequalities/ social disparities
- Risk groups: migration, marginalized populations (homeless people, sexual minority groups)
- Lifestyle: overweight, physical exercise, smoking
- Environmental issues: pollution, population density, green space, noise annoyance
- Health insurance
- Mental health

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Urban Health Factors in Developing Countries (i)

- Insufficient and contaminated water supply for domestic hygiene → cholera, typhoid, diarrhoeal diseases, eye infections, dysentery
- Unequal access to safe food and other basic services
- Poor sanitation and inadequate management of human waste and garbage → malaria and other diseases
- Crowded and poorly ventilated living conditions → risk of contaminaton
- Indoor air pollution → respiratory illnesses and diseases

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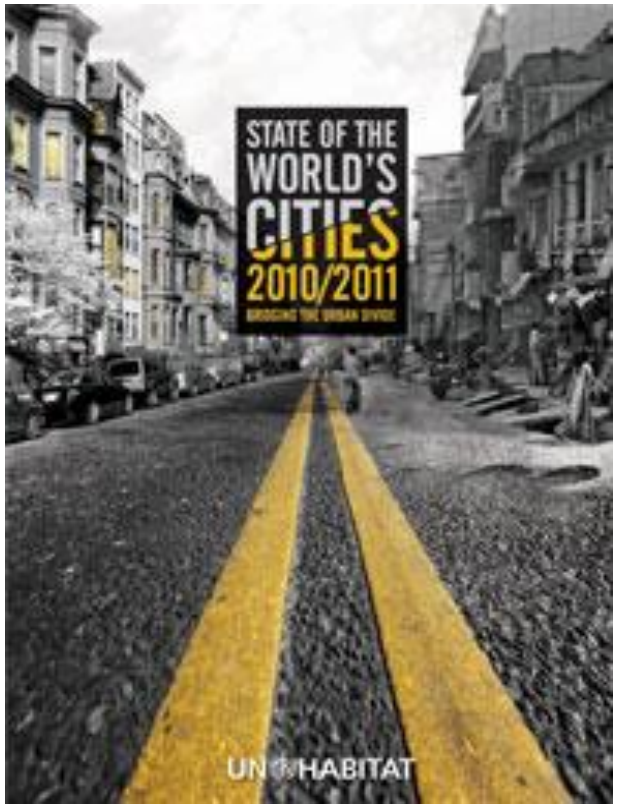
- *The State of the World's Cities Report 2010 / 2011: Bridging the Urban Divide*



Key Facts about Urbanization and Health (i)

Challenges:

- Urbanization: a challenge for public health
- Virtually all population growth over the next 30 years will be in urban areas
- The urban poor suffer disproportionately from a wide range of diseases and other health problems
- Reliable urban health statistics are largely unavailable throughout the world

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Key Facts about Urbanization and Health (ii)

Opportunities:

- Actions and solutions exist to tackle the root causes of urban health challenges
- Build partnerships with multiple sectors of society to make cities healthier
- The major drivers of health in urban settings are beyond the health sector

Overarching Questions of Urban Health

- How to organize and prioritize interventions for better health in the complex urban environment?
- How to ensure better access to health services and outcomes for all?
- How to integrate interventions across sectors to improve the health outcomes of the poor?
- How to find tools and resources to measure the impacts of existing and new interventions?
- How to identify entry points where health components can be viably introduced into urban development projects?

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Tools to Bridge the Urban Health Divide

- The fight against (childhood) ill-health must take into account **the modern environment of disease**, namely, the local neighbourhood and the city as a whole.
- Policymakers can help alleviate health inequalities in poor urban areas with **comprehensive primary care and better access to healthy food**.
- Sanitation and the sustainability of health and nutrition programmes are linked and they should be part of **integrated slum upgrading initiatives**.

UN-HABITAT's Urban Health Strategy (i)

- Effective advocacy, monitoring and partnerships
- Inclusive urban planning, management and governance
- Pro-poor land and housing
- Environmentally sound basic urban infrastructure and services
- Strengthened human settlements financing systems

UN-HABITAT's Urban Health Strategy (ii)

- UN-HABITAT is active in most of these health sectors: *Environmental Health, Water, Sanitation & Hygiene, Urban Solid Waste Management, HIV/AIDS in Urban Areas, Vulnerable Urban Populations …* and is involved in several programmes which aim to improve these sectors within urban areas.

- Programmes are designed to help policy-makers and local communities get to grips with the human settlements and urban issues and find workable, lasting solutions.

UN-HABITAT's Urban Health Strategy (iii)

→ **MDG 7 target 11:** Commitment to improve the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020

→ and **Target 10**: which calls for the reduction by half of the number without sustainable access to safe drinking water.

Conclusions (i)

- Improving urban living conditions in the areas of housing, water and sanitation through effective partnering across sectors
- Building green, inclusive cities that are accessible and age-friendly
- Community participation in the decisions that affect people's lives.
- Systematic and useful urban health statistics on a disaggregated, intra-urban basis

Conclusions (ii)

- Good urban planning and governance
- Exchange of best practice models
- Determination and leadership of stakeholders across disciplines, sectors, communities and countries
- Promote healthy behaviour and urban safety

Thank you

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