



AN URBANIZING WORLD

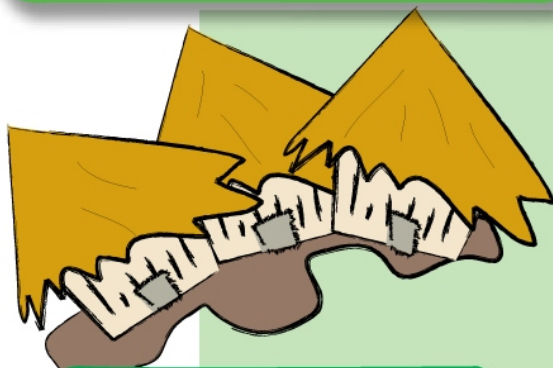
- In **2007**, the world’s urban population outnumbered the rural for the first time.
- Almost **180,000** people are added to the urban population each day.¹
- **95%** of the world population growth in the next decades will occur in the urban areas of developing countries.
- The poor are urbanizing faster than the population as a whole, reflecting a lower than average pace of urban poverty reduction.²
- Latin America has the most urbanized poverty problem; East Asia has the least.³
- It will take **35.1 million new housing** units per year to house the urban population growth between now and 2030. That is **4,000 housing units per hour**. These figures do not include replacements of deteriorated and substandard housing stocks.⁴

Level of urbanization (Share of a country’s total population that lives in urban areas)		
Geographic Region	2000	2030
Africa	37.1	53.5
Asia	37.1	54.5
Oceania	72.7	74.9
Europe	72.7	79.6
Latin America and the Caribbean	75.5	84.6
Northern America	79.1	86.9

Source: UNHSP, Table A.1, 2005.

HOUSING AND POVERTY

- In 2007, the number of slum dwellers in the world reached **1 billion** – with one in every three city residents living in inadequate housing.
- Slum dwellers account for 6% of the city population of developed countries and **78.2%** of urbanites in the least-developed countries.⁵
- Over **70%** of the world’s inadequately housed are women.⁶
- While women do much of home-based and land-based labor, in many countries they are not allowed to own, control, or access land and housing in their own names.
- Over **25%** of city dwellers (2.6 billion) lack a decent toilet.
- A survey in **60** countries found that **6.7** million people were forcibly evicted from their homes between 2000 and 2002; up from 4.2 million in the previous 2 years.



Substandard housing, unsafe water and poor sanitation in densely populated cities are responsible for 10 million deaths worldwide every year.⁷



HOUSING IN THE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

- The 2000 United Nations Millennium Summit set the vision for the 21st century in 8 key areas—the Millennium Development Goals—to end extreme worldwide poverty by the year 2015.
- Habitat for Humanity joins the majority of nations and development organizations in working towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Habitat’s work is most directly related to:

GOAL 7: Target 11, aims to achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.

- Target 11 represents only about 4% of the projected demand for slum improvement by 2030.⁸
- The sheer concentration of people living in cities and slums means that any investment is likely to reap greater benefits *per capita*. As the UN Habitat report *State of the World’s Cities 2006/07* suggests, the struggle to achieve the Millennium Development Goals has to be waged in slums.

“I say that nobody wants to be poor. I don’t want to be poor, I don’t want to live in Capotillo.”

Dulce María Ferreira
Community Leader
Capotillo, informal settlement
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

“Today’s reality is that there are two cities: the city of the haves, and the city of the have nots. The whole community has to participate in the solution. We need to diminish the inequalities, to raise awareness about this ‘other’ city. This is not just the problem of the poor. This is everyone’s problem.”

Rodolfo Ramírez
Housing and Human Settlement Director
Habitat for Humanity International

¹ Unless otherwise noted all statistics are from UN HABITAT’s Report *State of the World’s Cities 2006/07*.

² Ravallion, M., S. Chen and P. Sangraula (2007) “New Evidence on the Urbanization of Global Poverty,” *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 4199*. World Bank, Washington, DC.

³ Ibid.

⁴ United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UNHSP) (2005) *Financing Urban Shelter: Global Report on Human Settlements*. UN HABITAT, Nairobi, Kenya, p. 5.

⁵ Davis, M. (2006) *Planet of Slums*. London, Verso, p. 23.

⁶ Statistics and facts on women and housing are from the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions available at www.cohre.org

⁷ HABITAT II Agenda available at www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/hbagenda.htm

⁸ UNHSP, *Financing Urban Shelter*, 2005, p. 7.