

*Wahke*  
Urban slums are settlements, neighborhoods, or city regions that cannot provide the basic living conditions necessary for its inhabitants, or slum dwellers, to live in a safe and healthy environment. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) defines a slum settlement as a household that cannot provide one of the following basic living characteristics:

- Durable housing of a permanent nature that protects against extreme climate conditions.
- Sufficient living space, which means not more than three people sharing the same room.
- Easy access to safe water in sufficient amounts at an affordable price.
- Access to adequate sanitation in the form of a private or public toilet shared by a reasonable number of people.
- Security of tenure that prevents forced evictions.

The inaccessibility to one, or more, of the above basic living conditions results in a "slum lifestyle" modeled by several characteristics. Poor housing units are vulnerable to natural disaster and destruction because affordable building materials cannot withstand earthquakes, landslides, excessive wind, or heavy rainstorms. Slum dwellers are at greater risk to disaster because of their vulnerability to Mother Nature. Slums compounded the severity of the Haiti Earthquake of 2010.

Dense and overcrowded living quarters creates a breeding ground for transmittable diseases, which can lead to the rise of an epidemic. Slum dwellers that do not have access to clean and affordable drinking water are at risk of waterborne diseases and malnutrition, especially amongst children.

According to UN-HABITAT, around 33% of the urban population in the developing world in 2012, or about 863 million people, lived in slums. The proportion of urban population living in slums was highest in

Sub-Saharan Africa (61.7%) 62  
South Asia (35%)  
Southeast Asia (31%)  
East Asia (28.2%),  
West Asia (24.6%)  
Oceania (24.1%),  
Latin America and the Caribbean (23.5%),  
North Africa (13.3%).

- Orangi Town, (Pilot Project initiated in 1980), 4<sup>th</sup> largest slum 2.0million
- Parts of Machar Colony
- Parts of Lyari Town
- 47% of total urban population of Pakistan in 2007: (UN)
- Mexico city 4 million, Nairobi, 2.5 million. Dharavi, 1 million. Maharashtra, 19 million.

- Causes that create and expand slums
  - Rural-urban migration
  - Urbanization
  - Poor housing planning
  - Colonialism and segregation
  - Poor infrastructure, social exclusion and economic stagnation
  - Informal economy
  - Poverty
  - Politics
  - Social conflicts
  - Natural disasters
- Characteristics of slums
  - Location and growth
  - Insecure tenure
  - Substandard housing and overcrowding
  - Inadequate or no infrastructure
- Risks
  - Vulnerability to natural and unnatural hazards
  - Unemployment and informal economy
  - Violence
  - Disease
  - Child Malnutrition
  - Epidemics
- Countermeasures
  - Slum removal
  - Slum relocation
  - Slum upgrading
  - Urban infrastructure development and public housing
- Prevalence