Cities of Slums

Slum Growth in the Developing World
What is a slum?

According to the United Nations, a slum is defined by the following:

- Poor quality of housing
- Lack of clean water
- Overcrowding
- Inadequate sanitation
- Insecure residential status
Who lives in slums?

• 43% of citizens of developing countries
• 78% in the least developed countries
• 6% in developed countries
Slum Conditions

- Poverty
- Crime and violence
- Forced evictions
- Denial of rights
- Poor access to education
- Lack of police protection
- No sanitation or infrastructure
- Little political representation
Water

• Water is often scarce in urban areas of developing countries
  – Few slums have piped water
  – Water often has to be carried from a distance
  – Poor households spend 5-10% of income to buy water
  – Daily water use is 1/4 as much per person as in developed countries
Sanitation

- Most slums do not have sewer service
  - 57% of urban Africans lack access to **basic sanitation** and in cities like Nairobi the poor must rely on ‘**flying toilets**’ (defecation into a plastic bag)
  - In Mumbai the sanitation problem is defined by ratios of 1 toilet seat per **500** inhabitants in the poorer districts.
  - Only **11%** of poor neighborhoods in Manila and **18%** in Dhaka have formal means to dispose of sewage

- Health and environmental problems
Housing

• One-quarter of all urban housing units in developing countries are temporary structures
• More than one-third do not conform to building regulations
• Many people live “on the streets” or are simply “homeless”
What causes slums?

• Rapid Rural-to-Urban Migration
  – Decline of agricultural jobs
  – Migration to cities in search of wage labor

• Cities are growing rapidly
  – 38% of future urban growth will be in slums
Rapid Urban Growth

• 32% of urban dwellers now live in slums
  – 1 billion people worldwide
  – 2 billion slum dwellers projected for 2040

• Mega-agglomerations of “illegal” squatters
  – Located on the fringes of large cities

• More migrants arriving daily
Urban Expansion

• Urban development unable to keep up with urban growth
  – Lack of resources in developing countries
  – High population growth rate
  – High dependency ratio

Infrastructure cannot accommodate so many people
  – Housing
  – Sanitation
  – Services
Large Cities in Developing Countries: Primate Cities

- 43% of the population of developing countries live in slums
- 72% of Sub-Saharan Africans are slum dwellers
- But 60% of the world’s slums are in Asia
Primate City

• Large city concentrating a high degree of the national population

• The economic, political, and social “center” of a country
  – Paris

• Typical of developing countries where all growth has been centered in one area
  – Mexico City
  – Bangkok
Types of Work

• Most slum dwellers work in the informal sector, maybe 60% or more
  – Street vendors, day labor
  – Cash economy
  – Prostitution, other “illegal” activities

• Globalization and low income employment
  – 1.2 billion people live on less than $1 per day
  – Long hours, hard work, low pay
  – Child labor
Migrant Workers in Slums

• Temporary or migrant workers
  – Temporary housing
  – Large swings in population

• Circular migration: seasonal patterns
  – Return to village during planting or harvest
  – Cities for other work in off-season
  – 1/3 of the slum dwellers in China: “floaters”
South Asia

• Five great metropolises of South Asia alone contain about **15,000** distinct slum communities with a total population of more than **20 million**
  – Karachi, Pakistan
  – Mumbai (Bombay), India
  – Delhi, India
  – Kolkata (Calcutta), India
  – Dhaka, Bangladesh
“Pavement Dwellers”

- Households that occupy space in the streets, either with a tarpaulin stretched out between poles and neighboring structures, or simply open to the sky
  - 250,000 in Mumbai alone are pavement dwellers

- 50% of inhabitants of many large Indian cities live in slums
Africa

- Cairo, Egypt
  - 70% live in squatter settlements
- Lagos, Nigeria
  - 2/3 of Nigeria’s landmass is covered with slums
- Refugee cities
  - Central African civil wars have led to rapid movement of large numbers of people
China

- Highest rural-to-urban migration rate in the world
- 100 million in the last 10 years
  - 7 to 10 million leave rural areas each year
- Projected to reach 500 million by 2020
Latin America

• 10% or more yearly growth in urban populations
• Primate cities due to post-colonial uneven development
• Mexico City is world’s largest city ??
  – Many new arrivals are “illegal” squatters
  – Hard to make an accurate census counts
Favelas

• Infamous slums of Brazil
• Found in most large Brazilian cities
  – Rio de Janeiro
  – Sao Paulo
Southeast Asia

• Jakarta
• Bangkok
• Manila