

UN-HABITAT

STATE OF THE WORLD'S CITIES 2006/7



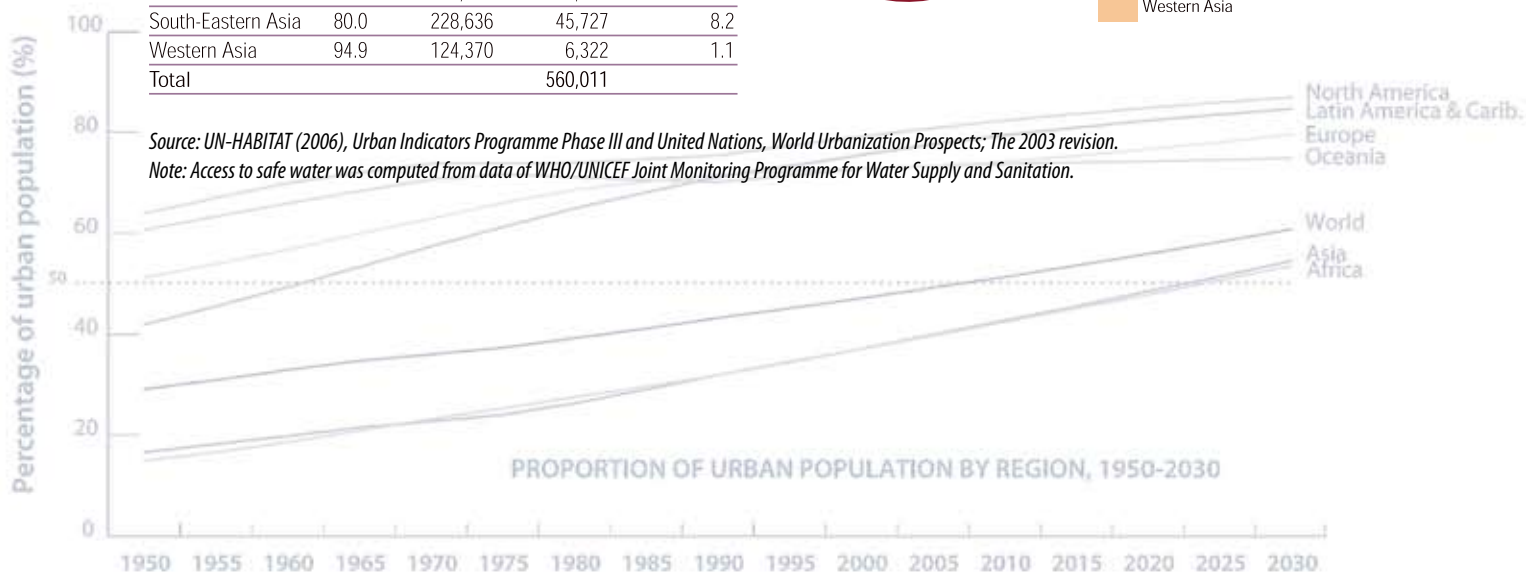
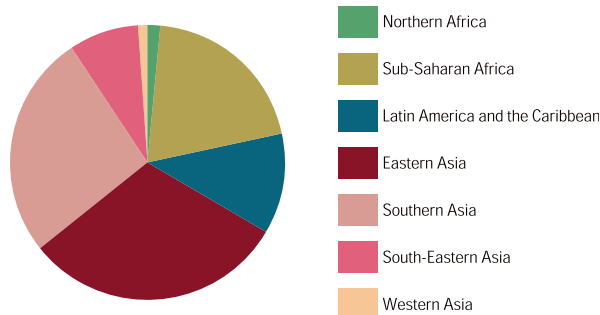
Slums: Inadequate Sanitation & the Silent Tsunami

- Sanitation and health are interlinked. As many as 1.6 million people die annually as a result of poor sanitation and hygiene – a number 5 times greater than the deaths in the 2004 **Indian Ocean** tsunami.
- The absence of decent toilets in poor neighbourhoods violates a person's right to privacy and is an affront to his or her dignity yet more than 25% of city dwellers (2.6 billion) suffer this condition.
- In 2002, nearly half the developing world (2.5 billion) had no access to proper sanitation – **Asia** (1.98 billion), **Africa** (470 million), **Latin America and the Caribbean** (130 million).
- In the **Mbare** neighbourhood of **Zimbabwe's Harare**, up to 1,300 people share one communal toilet with only 6 squatting holes.
- In **Nepal**, two-thirds of the population defecates in the open because they consider their existing latrines to be unsanitary and unsafe.
- Women bear the brunt of the consequences of inadequate sanitation, but this has not been a development priority on the UN agenda.

TABLE 2.4.1 IMPROVED SANITATION COVERAGE AMONG URBAN POPULATION BY REGION, 2003

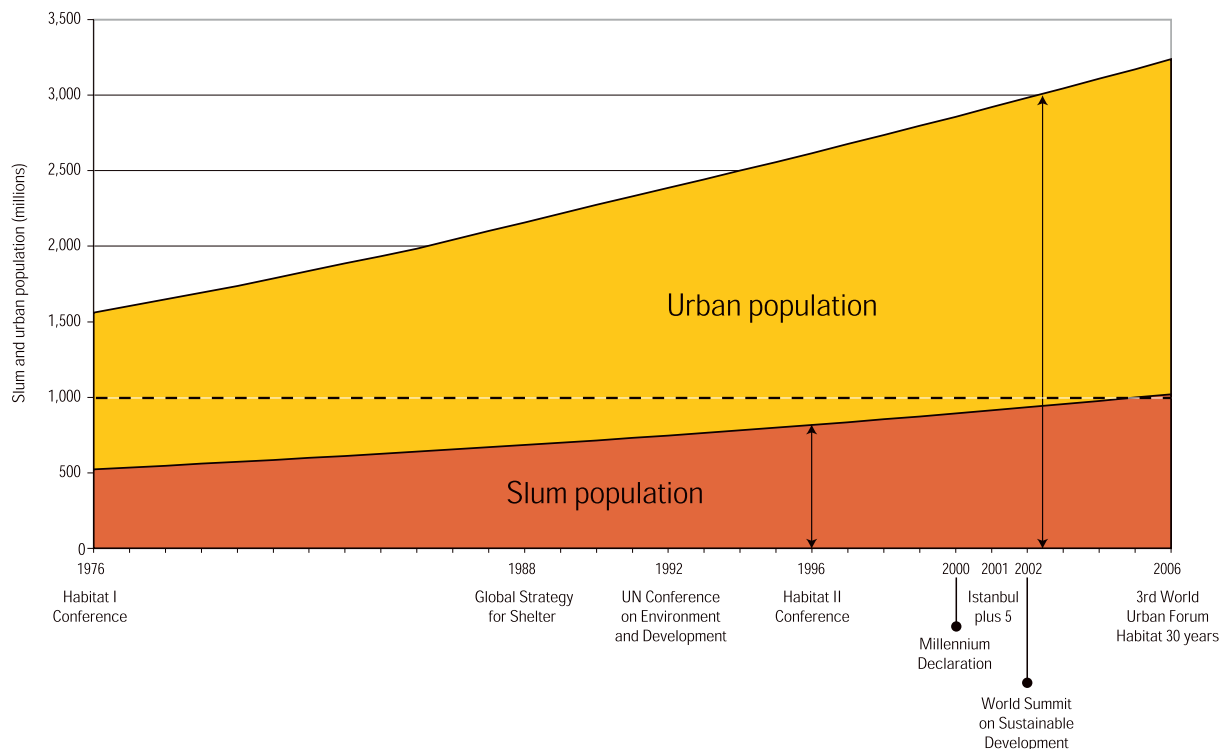
	Access to improved sanitation, 2003 (%)	Urban Population 2003 (thousands)	Population lacking improved sanitation (thousands)	Distribution of urban population lacking improved sanitation in developing world (%)
Northern Africa	89.4	77,910	8,245	1.5
Sub-Saharan Africa	55.1	251,166	112,815	20.1
Latin America and the Caribbean	84.2	417,229	66,061	11.8
Eastern Asia	69.4	564,871	172,756	30.8
Southern Asia	67.0	448,738	148,084	26.4
South-Eastern Asia	80.0	228,636	45,727	8.2
Western Asia	94.9	124,370	6,322	1.1
Total			560,011	

TABLE 2.4.1 IMPROVED SANITATION COVERAGE AMONG URBAN POPULATION BY REGION, 2003



Owners without Title: Security of Tenure

- A global survey in 60 countries found that 6.7 million people were forcibly evicted from their homes between 2000 and 2002 compared to 4.2 million between 1998 and 2002.
- Non-empirical evidence indicates that 30-50% of urban residents in the developing world have no legal document such as title deed or a contract to prove tenure security.
- Reports suggest that the magnitude of urban evictions is highest in **Sub-Saharan Africa** which is partially due to the failure to organize politically at community levels.
- In **Asia**, better legislation and strong civil society action has improved tenure for slum dwellers although this trend is in danger of being reversed in industrialising cities.
- In **Latin America**, slum upgrading programs have improved security of tenure although they have not targeted exceptionally vulnerable groups such as **Brazil's** poor blacks and mulattos.



Source: UN-HABITAT Global Urban Observatory 2005 and UN Population Division 2003.

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