

WHD FEATURE



Background information

The cost of *improving* the life of a slum dweller.

The total cost of improving the lives of 100 million slum dwellers has been estimated by Task Force 8 at USD 67 billion, i.e. an average of \$670 per person. Notwithstanding differences between regions, and based on the assumption that the cost per person for adequate alternatives to slum formation is in the same range, the cost of decent settlements for the estimated 400 million new poor who will be added to the urban population during 2005-2020 will be in the order of USD 300 billion. According to a joint UN-HABITAT/World Bank publication in 2005 entitled, *Reviewing the Millennium Declaration from the Urban Perspective*, this may look like a lot, but over a 15-year period the required investment would come to less than USD 25 billion a year. It is understood that residents themselves, supported by local and central governments could provide about 80% of the required resources. This would leave 20% to international aid, or roughly US\$5 billion a year – less than one tenth of the additional international assistance (US\$ 55 billion) recommended for achieving the MDGs. In addition, Task Force 8, UN-HABITAT, and many member States propose that the definition of the target be interpreted in a broader sense. Task Force 8 suggests that in addition to the 100 million, efforts be made to offer adequate alternatives to the formation of new slums. UN-HABITAT proposed that the slum target be re-interpreted and put in percentage terms so as to be consistent with the other MDG targets. The reformulated target, on which these calculations are based, would *be to reduce by half, between 1990 and 2020, the proportion of slum dwellers in the urban population.*



To assist Member States achieve the objectives of the Millennium Declaration, the United Nations system has devised a set of eight Millennium Development Goals. These are:

Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Target 1 – Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day

Target 2 - Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education

Target 3 - Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling

Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women

Target 4 – Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015

Goal 4. Reduce child mortality

Target 5 – Reduce by two-thirds the mortality rate among children under five

Goal 5. Improve maternal health

Target 6 – Reduce by three-quarters the maternal mortality ratio

Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Target 7 – Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

Target 8 – Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

Goal 7. Ensure environmental sustainability

Target 9 – Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources

Target 10 – Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water

Target 11 – Achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020.

Goal 8. Develop a global partnership for development.

Target 12 – Develop further an open trading and financial system that is rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory. Includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction—nationally and internationally

Target 13 – Address the least developed countries' special needs. This includes tariff- and quota-free access for their exports; enhanced debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries; cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous official development assistance for countries committed to poverty reduction

Target 14 – Address the special needs of landlocked and small island developing States

Target 15 – Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt problems through national and international measures to make debt sustainable in the long term

Target 16 – In cooperation with the developing countries, develop decent and productive work for youth

Target 17 – In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries

Target 18 – In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies—especially information and communications technologies

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Measuring MDGs Target 11 – key results of global monitoring

The United Nations System assigned UN-HABITAT the responsibility to assist Members States monitor and gradually attain the “Cities without Slums” target for a *significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers*, by 2020. The number of slum-dwellers worldwide has increased by 200 million, from approximately 700 to 900 million, between 1990 and 2000. In 2005, they are estimated to represent about 945 million people worldwide, about 30 percent of the world urban population. Currently, the highest numbers of slum-dwellers are found in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. If slum formation continues, the number of slum dwellers will reach 1.265 billion in 2015. Current declining proportions of slum dwellers in North Africa, Southeast Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as East Asia, show that the goals can be met in more regions if effective slum policies were implemented. Unfortunately, the present “Cities without Slum” target of 100 million slum dwellers is too modest, as it represents only 10 percent of the total slum dwellers in 2000. India and China alone, cover more than 100 million slum dwellers. The sum of slum population in Nigeria, Brazil and Indonesia, is also close to 100 million.

Estimated urban slum population (1990, 2005, 2015)

	1990	2005	2015	2020
DEVELOPING regions:	660,929	946,529	1,202,597	1,355,543
Northern Africa	21,719	21,224	20,901	20,741
Sub-Saharan Africa	100,973	199,231	313,419	393,105
Latin America and the Caribbean	110,837	134,257	152,559	162,626
Eastern Asia	150,761	212,368	266,863	299,150
Eastern Asia excluding China	12,831	16,702	19,911	21,739
South Asia	198,663	276,432	344,537	384,644
South-eastern Asia	48,986	59,913	68,521	73,279
Western Asia	28,641	46,288	63,747	74,808
Oceania	350	568	786	924
WORLD	721,608	1,010,898	1,265,644	1,416,164

Source: UN-HABITAT, *Global Urban Observatory*, 2005. Figures are expressed in thousands.



Urban slum dwellers to reach 1.4 billion by 2020

