Reaching the Urban Poor

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A few facts:

- Urban Poverty is substantially lower than rural poverty but some risk factors are higher.
- An estimated 800 million people live in slums.
- The challenge is greatest in lower- and middle-income countries.
- Inequality is often higher within cities, contributes to social tensions.
- These numbers are expected to rise as more people move to cities, deficits in housing, infrastructure, and services will also increase.
Global % of urban population in slums: A shortage of Affordable Housing
Urban Households living in slums
Slum Characteristics

- Often located in unsafe or undesirable parts of the city, often isolated from jobs
- Limited access to basic services, poor quality housing, insecure tenure, often at risk from natural hazards
- Size, location, form vary
Conditions for the urban poor differ
Analytical Framework: Urban Poor & Inclusive Cities

Spatial Inclusion:
Affordable land, housing and services for all

Social Inclusion:
Improving local governance, reaching marginalized

Economic Inclusion:
Job opportunities for all, building resilience

Challenges for the urban poor: Economic Inclusion

• Most urban poor work in the informal sector
  • Domestic work, street vending, waste picking and home-based work
  • Poor conditions can affect home based work
  • Difficult to access credit
• Risks from natural hazards are high. Assets can be wiped out
  • Urban poor are hardest hit by natural disasters & shocks
  • Informal settlements are often located in disaster-prone areas
  • Lack of safety nets and savings leave the urban poor vulnerable to economic disruptions
Challenges: Spatial Inclusion

- Spatial Inclusion
  - Intra-city spatial disparities in housing are often high
  - Low income locations may be isolated or far from jobs, services
  - Land availability and land tenure is a major constraint
    - The poor are priced out of formal land markets
    - Insecurity of tenure makes residents vulnerable and subject to risk of displacement, also less likely to invest in home improvements
  - Access to basic services is low
    - Many rely on services from private providers that are expensive
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Challenges: Social Inclusion

• Integration with the city?

• Some groups are particularly vulnerable: women, disabled, elderly, migrants
  • Children in substandard housing are less likely to attend school, or continue long enough to qualify for formal employment
    • E.g. evidence found growing up in overcrowded housing reduced the high school completion rate by 11 percent for boys and 6 percent for girls

• Participation in decision making?

• Stigma due to ‘address’ can affect access to employment

• Neighborhood effects: social linkages can affect employment and other opportunities
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Source: Adapted from World Bank, World Inclusive Cities Approach Paper, May 2015
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical improvements:</th>
<th>Land tenure:</th>
<th>Home improvements:</th>
<th>Access to social programs:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Water, sanitation, solid waste collection, access roads and footpaths, storm drainage, electricity, public lighting</td>
<td>• Can be of various forms – not always formal title</td>
<td>• Often self financed</td>
<td>• Health, education, child care, training, other municipal services</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Outcomes: Better living conditions, risk reduction, improved health outcomes, better opportunities for livelihoods/home based work</td>
<td>• Outcomes: increased security, collateral for borrowing, increased investments in home improvements, home based industries</td>
<td><strong>Outcomes</strong>: Better living conditions, welfare improvements</td>
<td>• Outcomes: income earning opportunities, mobility, health improvements</td>
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