

Global Inequality (Including Slums)

Should slums around the world be shut down or improved?



slum	*A crowded urban area with poor housing and limited services.*
favela	*A type of slum commonly found in Brazil.*
inequality	*When people do not have the same access to resources, opportunities or living conditions.*
urbanisation	*The process of more people moving into cities to live and work.*
settlement	*A place where people live such as a village, town or city.*
informal housing	*Homes built without proper planning or legal permission.*
development	*The process of improving people's quality of life.*
infrastructure	*Basic services like roads, electricity, water and schools.*
overcrowding	*Too many people living in a small space.*
access	*The ability to get things you need, like clean water, education or healthcare.*

Over 900 million people in the world live in slums today (and 1.6 billion people live in informal housing).

Homes in slums are often built close together, sometimes using materials such as wood, metal sheets and plastic.

People living in slums often do not have access to clean drinking water. Sanitation systems (like sewers and toilets) might be of poor quality or non-existent.

Despite its challenges, many people living in slums report benefits including cheaper living costs, more job opportunities and a stronger sense of community.

Slums develop due to rapid urbanisation.

Organisations like the United Nations (UN) help countries plan inclusive cities with better housing, whilst WaterAid installs clean water and toilets.

5 largest slums in the world:

Place	Population	Information
Orangi Town Karachi, Pakistan	2,400,000	Considered the largest slum in the world. Locals built their own sewers and houses without government help – an example of community action.
Neza Mexico City, Mexico	1,200,000	Originally a drained lakebed where migrants built makeshift cardboard and wooden shelters in the mid-20th century. Over the decades, it has gradually modernised more than other global slums.
Dharavi Mumbai, India	1,000,000	One of the most famous slums in the world. Known for its small factories, recycling and strong community spirit. Very crowded – about 270,000 per square kilometre!
Kibera Nairobi, Kenya	700,000	Africa's largest slum. Many people line in tin-roofed huts. Community projects help provide schools, clean water and health care.
Khayelitsha Cape Town, South Africa	400,000	Built during apartheid when people were forced out of cities. Still faces challenges like poor housing and limited services but has a growing sense of community.







