

# UN-HABITAT

STATE OF THE WORLD'S CITIES 2006/7

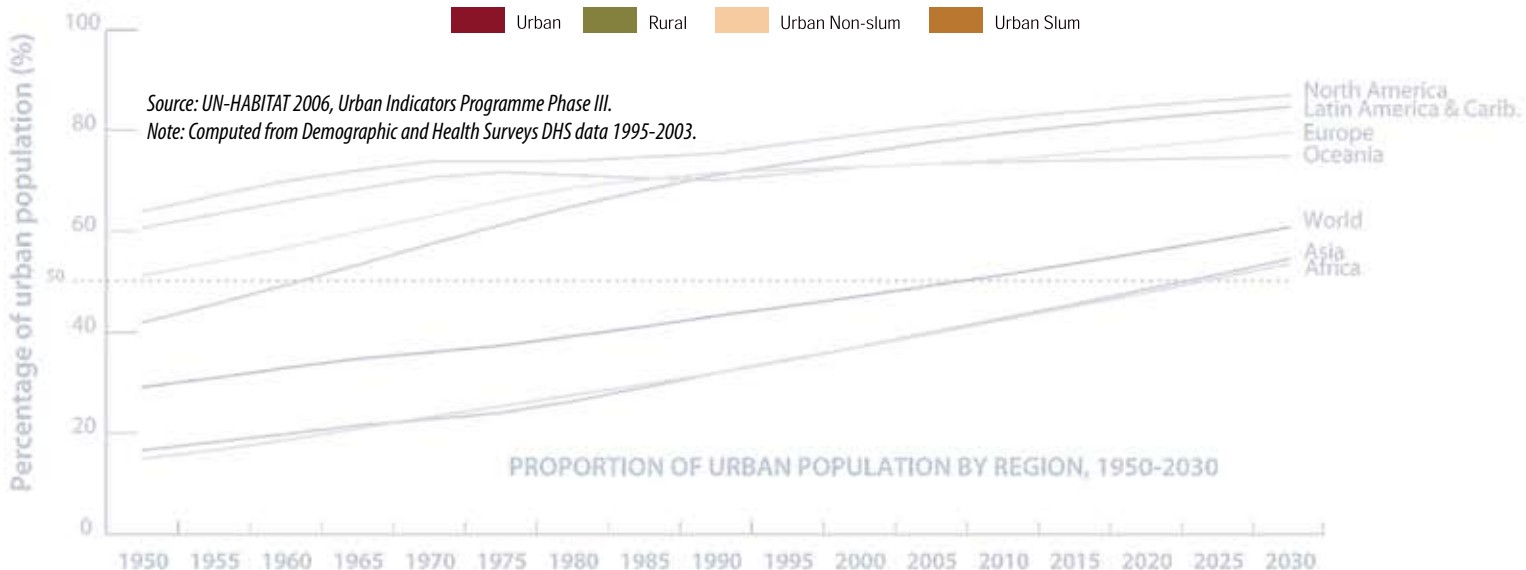
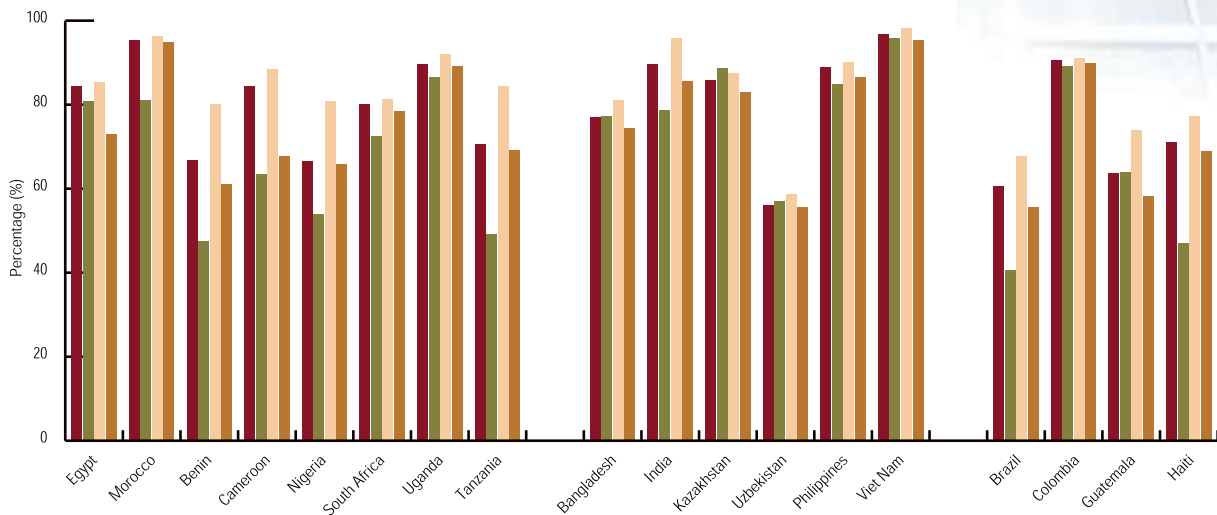


## The Urban Penalty: Education

Poor rural families migrate to cities seeking greater opportunity. However, the urban advantage of better access to education remains a myth for the majority of slum dwellers. Even if schooling is available, slum families sacrifice the education of their children, particularly girls, so that they can meet the costs of food, rent and transport. Often, there simply are not enough schools within easy reach of slum settlements.

- A 2003 study conducted in the **Nairobi** slum of **Kibera** showed that while there were 14 primary schools within walking distance, they could only accommodate 20,000 of the 100,000 primary-age youngsters living in the area. UN-HABITAT's urban survey data confirms that similar situations exist in other **African** and in **Latin American** countries. Around the world, 113 million children are not enrolled in school while 130 million young people have grown up illiterate.

FIGURE 3.5.1 NET ENROLMENT RATE (PRIMARY) BY TYPE OF RESIDENCE IN SELECTED COUNTRIES



## The Urban Penalty: HIV/AIDS

An analysis of the spread of HIV/AIDS shows that the disease manifests itself in cities then moves into the countryside along trucking routes, spread by the risky sexual behaviour of truckers and commercial sex workers. In **Southern Africa**, the disease travelled south along highways from **Zambia** to **South Africa** via **Zimbabwe**, **Malawi** and **Mozambique**. It has been carried from the **Kenyan** port of **Mombasa** to landlocked **Uganda** and **Rwanda**. As long ago as 1994, a study revealed that 50% of truck drivers who plied this route were HIV positive.

Cities and their poor are disproportionately affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic in both the developed and developing regions of the world. In **Burundi**, the least urbanised country in **Eastern Africa**, infections are four times higher in urban areas than in the countryside. In the **United States** and **Canada** HIV prevalence is closely linked to urban poverty.

Unlike the early days of the pandemic, women have emerged as being particularly vulnerable for a variety of reasons. These include the risky sexual behaviour of their regular heterosexual partners. In poor urban communities worldwide, women's sexual rights are often disregarded within the context of non-consensual and unprotected sex.

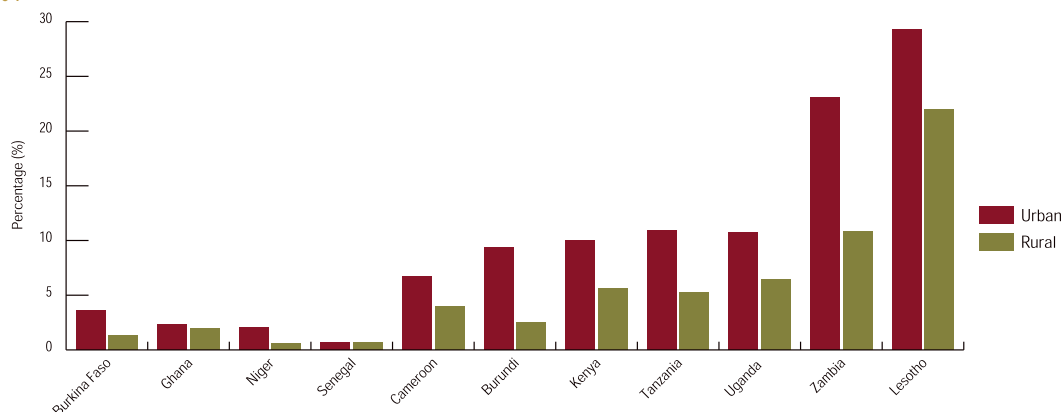
- Recent research in a low-income section of **New York** City revealed that women are twice as likely to be infected by their husband or steady partner than by casual sex.
- Similarly, in the **Chinese** city of **Guangzhou** more than 70% of women with sexually transmitted diseases said that they had confined sex to their husband or regular partner.
- Women now account for more than one quarter of the new HIV infections in **India**. Most of those tested said they were in long-term relationships.

The liberalisation of economies in **Eastern Europe** and **Central Asia** has engendered stark income inequalities that have unleashed a rapid growth in the HIV infection rate. Intravenous drug use is more to blame than commercial sex. The **Russian Federation** accounts for more than 70% of all HIV diagnoses in the region.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic's demographic impact on **Africa** is profound.

- By 2010, more than 18 million **African** children will have been orphaned by AIDS.
- Given the current prevalence of HIV, 60% of **African** 15-year-olds may die before 60.
- The labour force in 34 **African** countries will shrink by between 5% and 35% by 2020.

FIGURE 3.4.1 HIV PREVALENCE AMONG MEN AND WOMEN AGED 15-49 IN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS IN SELECTED SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRIES 2000-2004



Source: MEASURE DHS, various surveys 2000-2004.

**This is a UN-HABITAT Feature/Backgrounder, please feel free to publish or quote from this article provided UN-HABITAT is given credit. Suitable photographs are available on our website. For further information, please contact: Mr. Sharad Shankardass, Spokesperson, or Ms. Zahra Hassan, Press & Media Liaison, Press & Media Relations Unit, Tel: (254 2) 7623153/7623151, Fax: (254 2) 7624060, E-mail: [habitat.press@unhabitat.org](mailto:habitat.press@unhabitat.org), Website: [www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org). SOWC/06/07/B/Penalty4**