

Housing in the Asia-Pacific Region

United Nation
Study

Asia – Pacific Region

- Over 500 m people currently live in slums in the Asia-Pacific region.
- This represents 60% of the world's slum population.
- Only few have access to safe water and sanitation among these people.
- High growth of urban population will worsen this situation in the next 30 yrs.

Rural Poor

- Out of the 2.2 billions people live in rural areas, over 750 m lack access to clean water.
- Over 1.6 billion lack access to improved sanitation.
- Asia has the lowest sanitation coverage in the world.
- Most of them live in housing they build themselves, incrementally.

Sanitation

- Poor housing is the major cause of
 - Diseases
 - Pneumonia
 - Diarrhoea
 - Injury
 - Death
- Poor sanitation is the cause for 4m deaths of children in developing countries per year.

Indicators

Adequate Housing

Habitability

- Minimum – 400 sq ft
- At least 2 bed rooms
- Smoke free kitchen
- At least one exclusive and sanitary toilet

Durability

- Shall last for 25 years
 - Walls
 - Roof
 - Floor

Location

- Avoid Hazardous Zones
 - Land slides
 - flood prone
 - earthquake prone
 - Garbage dumps
 - Industrial pollution

Access to Safe Water

- Potable
- Adequate
- Reliability of supply

Solid Waste Management

- landfill systems
- composting
- recycling/reuse
- municipal waste removal systems

Access to Storm Water Management

- Avoidance of
 - flooding
 - Water logging
 - stagnant water pools

Access to Energy

- Safe lighting
- Safe cooking
- Free of smoke
- Free of fire hazards
- Safe electricity

Access to Community Resources

- Less than 1 km to resource or public transport
 - Markets
 - Schools
 - Hospitals
 - Telecommunication
 - Police
 - Recreation

Affordability

- Housing related services should not cost more than 25% of the total income

Security of Tenure

- Legally enforceable right to ownership
 - Contractual
 - Statutory

Focus – Group Findings

- Urban slums
- Rural poor
- Estate housing
- Internally displaced persons

Urban Slums

More than 80 Participants- five Groups

- **Habitability**
 - Over crowding (2 or 3 families in single house)
- **Affordability**
 - Inability to buy or rent, leading to over crowding

Urban Slums

- Solid Waste Management
 - Unreliable collection
 - Accumulation and rotting
- Security of Tenure
 - Built on railway land
- Durability
 - Frequent breakdown of houses leading to unsafe condition
 - Leaking roofs

Urban Slums

- Access to safe water
 - Un-clean water causing illness
- Access to solid waste management
 - No means of disposing garbage
 - Unhygienic conditions
 - Spread of diseases
- No storm water management
 - No surface drainage system
 - Move out of houses during rainy seasons

Rural Poor

40 Participants – 3 groups

- **Affordability**
 - Most of them live in incomplete houses for nearly 20 years.
- **Habitability**
 - 9 families live in one bedroom houses
- **Access Save Water**
 - Water get muddied at times
- **Access to Electricity**
 - No grid supply
- **Durability**
 - Semi-permanent shelters built of clay and cadjan

Plantation Housing

73 Participants – 3 groups

- Durability
 - Made out of non-durable material
- Access to Community Resources
 - 5 km to hospital
- Affordability
 - Inability to build permanent durable houses
- Habitability
 - 1/3 of the families live in one room houses

Plantation Housing

- Access to safe water
 - Become polluted during draught
- Access to storm water management
 - Poor surface drainage causing floods during rains
- Access to electricity
 - Unreliable power supply
- Access to community resources
 - No access to health care
- Security of tenure
 - Living on state land, risk of election

Plantation Housing

- Habitability
 - Inadequate living space
 - Inadequate toilets
- Access to safe water
 - Unreliable supply of polluted water
- Access to storm water management
 - Inadequate draining system
- Affordability
 - Cannot afford land or construction material

Internally Displaced Persons

63 Participants – 3 groups

- Durability
 - Made of non-durable material such as mud & cadjan
- Access to Safe Water
 - Travel far for fetching water
- Access to Electricity
 - No grid supply
- Access to Community Resources
 - Far from the public roads
 - No postal service
- Affordability
 - Inability to build houses of durable material

Current Status of Adequate Housing in Sri Lanka

Survey conducted by SPARC –
commissioned by Habitat for Humanity Sri
Lanka

and compared with a survey
by the Government of Sri Lanka

The current data suggests that a substantial percentage of housing falls below the indicator requirements of adequacy.

Habitability

- The findings of the 2 surveys have a close agreement for urban slums and estate housing sectors.
- The disagreement of the findings in the rural sector can be explained, as the SPARC study concentrated only the rural poor whereas government study covered the entire rural sector.

Access to Safe Water

Both studies indicate that a significant percentage of the houses do not have access to safe water and or a reliable supply.

All of the data in our findings and comparisons suggests that almost 40% of Sri Lankan families live in inadequate housing.

Thank You