

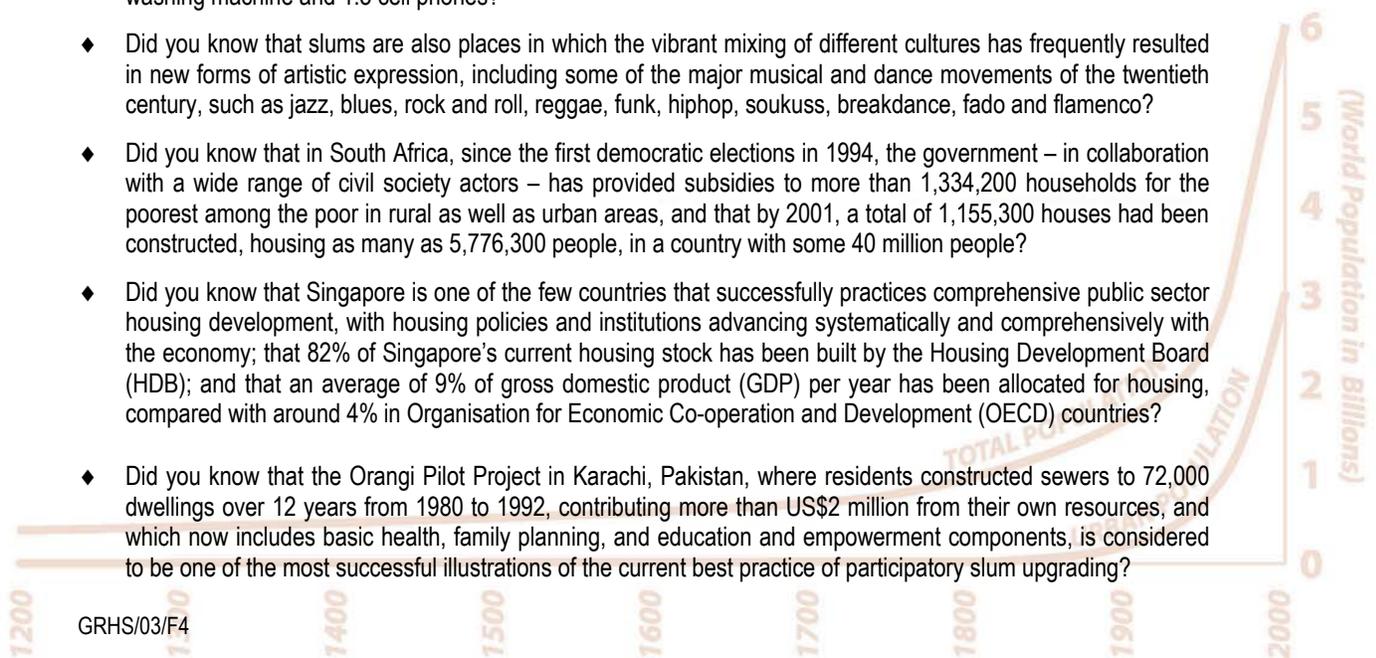
# UN-HABITAT

THE CHALLENGE OF SLUMS



## DID YOU KNOW?

- ◆ Did you know that that 923,986,000 people, or 31.6 per cent of the world's total urban population, live in slums; that 43 per cent of the urban population of all Developing Regions combined live in slums; that 78.2 per cent of the urban population in the Least Developed Countries live in slums; or that 6 per cent of the urban population in Developed Regions live in slum-like conditions?
- ◆ Did you know that the total number of slum dwellers in the world increased by about 36% during the 1990s and that, in the next thirty years, the global number of slum dwellers will increase to about two billion if no concerted action to address the challenge of slums is taken?
- ◆ Did you know that more than 41% of Kolkata's slum households have lived in slums for more than 30 years; that more than 70% of the households have lived in slums for more than 15 years; that 16% of the population has been living in slums for 6 to 15 years; and that new entrants into slums, with duration of stay of up to 5 years, constitute only 4 % of the slum population?
- ◆ Did you know that in most African cities between 40% and 70% of the city's population lives in slums or squatter settlements. Many African cities are doubling their population within two decades. In a city like Nairobi, 60% of the population lives in slums which occupy about 5% of the land.
- ◆ Did you know that while most slum dwellers are dependent on the informal sector for their livelihoods, slum populations in many parts of the world (for example in Pune, India and Ibadan, Nigeria) quite often include university lecturers, university students, government civil servants and formal private sector employees?
- ◆ Did you know that about one out of every four countries in the developing world has a constitution or national laws that contain clauses that impede women owning land and taking mortgages in their own names; that women (and the children that they care for) are the worst victims of infectious diseases in slums; and that in some African cities, slums are a refuge for women who are fleeing difficult situations created by divorce or marriage and property inheritance disputes?
- ◆ Did you know that all slum households in Bangkok have a colour television; that the average number of TVs per household is 1.6; that almost all of the households have a refrigerator; that two-thirds of the households have a washing machine and 1.5 cell phones?
- ◆ Did you know that slums are also places in which the vibrant mixing of different cultures has frequently resulted in new forms of artistic expression, including some of the major musical and dance movements of the twentieth century, such as jazz, blues, rock and roll, reggae, funk, hip-hop, soukuss, breakdance, fado and flamenco?
- ◆ Did you know that in South Africa, since the first democratic elections in 1994, the government – in collaboration with a wide range of civil society actors – has provided subsidies to more than 1,334,200 households for the poorest among the poor in rural as well as urban areas, and that by 2001, a total of 1,155,300 houses had been constructed, housing as many as 5,776,300 people, in a country with some 40 million people?
- ◆ Did you know that Singapore is one of the few countries that successfully practices comprehensive public sector housing development, with housing policies and institutions advancing systematically and comprehensively with the economy; that 82% of Singapore's current housing stock has been built by the Housing Development Board (HDB); and that an average of 9% of gross domestic product (GDP) per year has been allocated for housing, compared with around 4% in Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries?
- ◆ Did you know that the Orangi Pilot Project in Karachi, Pakistan, where residents constructed sewers to 72,000 dwellings over 12 years from 1980 to 1992, contributing more than US\$2 million from their own resources, and which now includes basic health, family planning, and education and empowerment components, is considered to be one of the most successful illustrations of the current best practice of participatory slum upgrading?



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