

APPENDIX C: INDIA: URBAN POVERTY REPORT 2009 FACTSHEET

Key Messages:

▣ **The urban population of India is increasing at a faster rate than its total population but not as fast as other Asian countries** . Currently urban population is at 28%, but the absolute number of people in urban cities and towns has gone up substantially to 286 million. With projections for 2030 over 575 million people, India will have 41% of its population living in cities and towns.

▣ **This growth in urban population has meant economic growth for the country**. In India, cities contribute over 55% to the country Gross Domestic Product and urbanization has been recognized as an important component of economic growth.

▣ **Urban growth is accompanied by poverty in urban areas**. Urban poverty in India remains high, at over 25%. Over 80 million poor people live in the cities and town of India, roughly the population of Egypt.

▣ **Urbanization of Poverty**. While the rural areas of India have traditionally been poor, and nationally the rural poor still outnumber the urban poor, a large number of India's states report poverty figures in urban areas much above that in rural areas. Males migrating for work have made up a substantial portion of this increase.

▣ **The nature of Urban Poverty poses different problems**. This increase in urban population is creating needs for more housing and shelter, water, sanitation, health, education, social security and livelihoods along with special needs of vulnerable groups like women, children and aged people.

▣ **An increase in slum population is one example**

11.2 million of the total slum population of the country is in Maharashtra where Mumbai is located followed by Andhra Pradesh (5.2 million), and Uttar Pradesh (4.4 million). Although the slum population has increased the number of slums is lower which makes them more dense. There is higher concentration of slum population in the large urban centers.

▣ **Poor in slums do not have access to basic services like sanitation or water**. Poor people live in slums, which are overcrowded, often polluted and lack basic civic amenities like clean drinking water, sanitation and health facilities. Most of them are involved in the life of the community where there is constant threat of eviction, removal, confiscation of goods and almost non-existent social security cover. 54.71% of urban slums have no toilet facility. Most free community toilets built by state government or local bodies are rendered unusable because of the lack of maintenance.

▣ **The homeless live a more precarious life**. While some cities like Delhi run shelter, they serve only 3% of the homeless population. In 2001 the census said 8 million people were homeless. It is very likely that number is much higher now.