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## **Over 50 million more children in sub-Saharan Africa to live in slums by 2030 will have critical education needs**

The new Global Education Monitoring Report analyses the impact of the movement of people on education systems around the world. Entitled *Building bridges not walls*, it shows that there will be 80 million more children living in slums by 2030, 50 million of which in sub-Saharan Africa. Many of those settling in slums are not just internal migrants but also refugees from other countries. And yet the provision of education in slums is poor.

The largest increase of children in slums (62% of the global increase) are expected in sub-Saharan Africa – equivalent to 1.8 million more classrooms of children by 2030. The largest increases are expected in Nigeria (400,000 classrooms), the Democratic Republic of Congo (290,000 classrooms), Ethiopia (120,000 classrooms) and the United Republic of Tanzania (116,000 classrooms).

Manos Antoninis, Director of the GEM Report said: *“As the number of people living in and around cities continues to grow in poorer countries, we need a systematic handle on the education needs of those in slums. Without this information, governments can easily just turn a blind eye. If we want to leave no-one behind, this should be the starting point, not an after-thought.”*

While scarce, data tend to show that education in slums is far worse than in other urban areas. Two Nairobi slum surveys showed that the percentage of women with at least some secondary education increased from 32% in 2000 to 51% in 2012, but the city average was 68%.

Migrants in slums are unable to benefit from governments' efforts to expand social programmes, including education, to urban areas, as they often require proof of residence. In Kenya, the urban social protection programme required national identification, thus precluding the 5% of preselected slum dwellers who were refugees.

The lack of sufficient government schools in slums has led to provision by non-government organizations and private actors. Private schools in four low income areas of Kampala accounted for 84% of pre-primary to secondary enrolment. More than 40% of migrants and other residents in two informal settlements in Nairobi were enrolled in private schools between 2003 and 2010.

National estimates say that less than half the population in Africa lives in urban areas, whereas new estimates based on improved methodology, including scanning by satellite, suggest that more than 80% do, increasing the urgency of education planning and provision.

Inconsistency in methodologies means governments end up underestimating demand for education. The census undercounted the population in Kibera, the largest slum in Nairobi, by at least 18%, compared to a door-to-door household mapping exercise.

The Report says there is an acute shortage of urban planning professionals in Africa able to make the move towards sustainable urbanization that protects the poorest and includes education as part of the regeneration package. There is only one urban planner for every

200,000 people in Kenya and one for every 400,000 in Uganda.

**Recommendations:**

1. Governments must protect migrants' and refugees' right to education irrespective of identification documents or residence status and apply laws without exception.
2. Collect data and build advocacy networks to promote good-quality education in slums.
3. Planning authorities should ensure that public schools are within reach of informal settlements and that they are not neglected in urban regeneration plans.

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**Notes to editors**

*Visit the [#EducationOnTheMove campaign](#) page to see the stories of people on the move around the world in real time, showing their challenges, and successes in accessing an inclusive education.*

*Visit the Report's [electronic press kit](#)*