



Urbanization and Informal Settlements in Central African Republic: Implications for Social Welfare Policies

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Abstract

Urbanization in Central African Republic has accelerated rapidly over recent decades, leading to significant growth in both formal and informal settlements. The country's diverse geography, combined with political instability, has influenced settlement patterns and urban development strategies. The research employs a mixed-methods approach combining qualitative interviews with quantitative data analysis from existing administrative records and satellite imagery studies. A notable proportion, approximately 45%, of the urban population resides in informal settlements. These settlements often lack basic infrastructure and services such as water supply and sanitation facilities, posing significant challenges to social welfare delivery. The findings highlight a critical need for integrated urban planning policies that prioritise informal settlements alongside formal areas to ensure equitable access to essential services and improve overall living standards. Policymakers should advocate for inclusive urban development strategies that include investments in infrastructure, education, healthcare, and social welfare programmes tailored specifically to the needs of residents in informal settlements. These initiatives are crucial for fostering sustainable and inclusive urban growth in Central African Republic.

Keywords: *Geographic, Urbanization, Informal Settlements, Social Policy, Community Development, Spatial Analysis, Migration Studies*

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