



Access to Justice in Urban Slums: A Qualitative Study of Vulnerable Populations in Ethiopia

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Published: 21 May 2011 | **Received:** 07 January 2011 | **Accepted:** 30 March 2011

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DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18938923](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18938923)

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Abstract

Urban slums in Ethiopia are characterized by high levels of poverty, inadequate infrastructure, and limited access to justice services. A qualitative study employing semi-structured interviews with 50 randomly selected residents from four major urban slums in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The majority of participants reported facing significant challenges such as lack of awareness about available legal services (78%) and financial barriers to accessing justice (62%). Vulnerable populations in Ethiopian urban slums face substantial obstacles in navigating the justice system, highlighting a critical need for targeted interventions. The establishment of community-based legal aid centers and enhanced public awareness campaigns are recommended as key strategies to improve access to justice.

Keywords: *Urbanization, Slums, Vulnerability, Qualitative Research, Legal Empowerment, Law Reform, Community Engagement*

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