



# Access to Justice in Urban Slums: An Ethnographic Study of Vulnerable Populations in Republic of Congo

Mokoko Ndongbé<sup>1,2</sup>, Luma Mbulu<sup>3</sup>, Aimbo Banga<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Marien Ngouabi University, Brazzaville

<sup>2</sup> Department of Advanced Studies, Marien Ngouabi University, Brazzaville

<sup>3</sup> Marien Ngouabi University, Brazzaville

**Published:** 17 January 2000 | **Received:** 23 October 1999 | **Accepted:** 31 December 1999

**Correspondence:** [mndongb@gmail.com](mailto:mndongb@gmail.com)

**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18723913](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18723913)

## Author notes

*Mokoko Ndongbé is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Marien Ngouabi University, Brazzaville and focuses on Law research in Africa.*

*Luma Mbulu is affiliated with Marien Ngouabi University, Brazzaville and focuses on Law research in Africa.*

*Aimbo Banga is affiliated with Marien Ngouabi University, Brazzaville and focuses on Law research in Africa.*

## Abstract

Urban slums in the Republic of Congo are characterized by high levels of vulnerability among residents due to poverty, lack of access to formal services, and socio-economic marginalization. An ethnographic approach was employed, involving participant observation and interviews with community members, legal service providers, and local authorities, to capture nuanced insights into access to justice challenges. A notable theme emerged regarding the lack of awareness about available legal services among urban slum residents, particularly in relation to land disputes and housing rights violations. The study highlights significant disparities in accessing formal legal avenues for marginalized communities in urban settings, necessitating targeted interventions by both public and private sectors. Public education campaigns should be implemented to increase awareness about available legal services, and partnerships between government agencies and non-governmental organizations are recommended to enhance service delivery.

**Keywords:** *Urban Geography, Slum Dynamics, Legal Pluralism, Community Law, Anthropology of Law, Indigenous Justice Systems, Fieldwork Methodology*

## ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

✉ **REQUEST FULL PAPER**

**Email:** [info@parj.africa](mailto:info@parj.africa)

Request your copy of the full paper today!

## SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

**Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!**

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

**Submit at:** [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)



Scan to visit [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)

**Open Access Scholarship from PARJ**

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge