



# Urbanization and Informal Settlements in Eritrea: A Mixed Methods Inquiry into Social Welfare Provision

Kedir Abera<sup>1</sup>, Seresai Mequafi<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Eritrea Institute of Technology

<sup>2</sup> Department of Research, University of Asmara (currently closed/reorganized)

**Published:** 11 June 2006 | **Received:** 20 January 2006 | **Accepted:** 06 May 2006

**Correspondence:** [kabera@hotmail.com](mailto:kabera@hotmail.com)

**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18825819](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18825819)

## Author notes

*Kedir Abera is affiliated with Eritrea Institute of Technology and focuses on African Studies research in Africa. Seresai Mequafi is affiliated with Department of Research, University of Asmara (currently closed/reorganized) and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.*

## Abstract

Urbanization in Eritrea has led to significant growth in informal settlements, challenging traditional social welfare provision models. A mixed-methods design incorporating both quantitative survey data ( $n=500$ ) on service utilization patterns  $\wedge$  qualitative thematic analysis of 30 semi-structured interviews  $\wedge$  explore es related to social welfare provision in urban areas, including informal settlements. The quantitative survey revealed that approximately 60% of respondents from informal settlements reported difficulties accessing essential services such as healthcare and education compared to formal settlement residents. Qualitative analysis highlighted themes around inadequate infrastructure and bureaucratic inefficiencies as major barriers to service delivery in these areas. Findings suggest a need for targeted interventions to improve social welfare provision specifically for informal settlement populations, emphasising the importance of community engagement and policy alignment with local realities. The study recommends the development and implementation of tailored social welfare programmes that prioritise infrastructure improvements and community-based service delivery models in urbanized areas of Eritrea. Urbanization, Informal Settlements, Social Welfare Provision, Mixed Methods Study

**Keywords:** *Urbanization, Informal Settlements, Social Welfare, Quantitative Survey, Qualitative Interview, Geographic Information Systems, Community Development Models*

## 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