



Urbanization and Informal Settlements in Sierra Leone: Implications for Social Welfare in African Cities

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Abstract

Urbanization in Sierra Leone has accelerated rapidly over the past two decades, with significant implications for informal settlements and social welfare. Data were collected through a combination of household surveys and focus group discussions across different regions of Sierra Leone. Statistical analysis was used to interpret the findings. The study identified that approximately 45% of urban residents in Sierra Leone live in informal settlements, which often lack basic infrastructure and social services. Informal settlements pose significant challenges for effective delivery of social welfare programmes in Sierra Leone, necessitating targeted interventions to improve living conditions and service provision. Policy makers should prioritise the development of comprehensive urban planning and social welfare strategies that address the specific needs of informal settlement residents.

Keywords: *African Geography, Urbanization, Informal Settlements, Social Welfare Systems, Housing Policy Analysis*

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

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