



# Urbanization and Informal Settlements in Democratic Republic of Congo: Implications for Social Welfare Systems

Wamfwa Kalala<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Advanced Studies, Université Catholique du Congo

**Published:** 23 June 2012 | **Received:** 31 January 2012 | **Accepted:** 02 May 2012

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

**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18970854](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18970854)

## Author notes

*Wamfwa Kalala is affiliated with Department of Advanced Studies, Université Catholique du Congo and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.*

## Abstract

Urbanization in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has accelerated significantly over recent decades, leading to an increase in informal settlements due to rapid population growth and rural-to-urban migration. These settlements often lack adequate infrastructure and social services. The research employs a qualitative approach, utilising semi-structured interviews with community leaders, local government officials, and residents of informal settlements in Kinshasa and Lubumbashi. Data analysis focuses on thematic content to identify recurring themes and patterns. Interviews revealed that over 70% of residents in informal settlements lack access to basic sanitation facilities such as toilets and running water. This severely impacts their health and hygiene practices, highlighting a significant gap in provision for these essential services. The findings underscore the urgent need for comprehensive social welfare reforms specifically tailored to support informal settlement communities in DRC. Current systems are insufficient to meet the diverse needs of residents. Recommendations include prioritising infrastructure development, enhancing access to healthcare and education within these settlements, and implementing targeted community engagement initiatives to foster inclusive governance models.

**Keywords:** *Congo Basin, Settlement Dynamics, Ethnography, Social Policy, Community Participation, Urban Planning, Housing Policies*

## 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