



# Urbanization and Informal Settlements in Liberian Cities: A Social Welfare Analysis

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**Published:** 21 June 2005 | **Received:** 03 March 2005 | **Accepted:** 02 June 2005

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**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18818718](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18818718)

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## Abstract

Urbanization in Liberia has led to rapid growth of cities, particularly in informal settlements where a significant proportion of the Liberian population resides. Qualitative research methods were employed, including semi-structured interviews with community leaders, focus group discussions among residents, and observations at key service delivery points. Data collection was conducted through a structured questionnaire survey targeting urban dwellers, supplemented by secondary data analysis of official government reports and academic literature on urban development in Liberia. The findings indicate that while the provision of basic services such as water supply and sanitation is generally adequate, there are significant gaps in healthcare access and education infrastructure within informal settlements compared to formal areas. This study highlights disparities in social welfare between urbanites living in formal and informal sectors. Recommendations for policy makers include targeted investments in health and education facilities in underserved areas of Liberian cities. Develop and implement comprehensive community-led development projects focusing on healthcare and educational infrastructure improvements, particularly in informal settlements.

**Keywords:** *Urbanization, Informal Settlements, Geography, Social Welfare, Anthropology, Qualitative Research, Development Studies*

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