



# Urbanization, Informal Settlements, and Social Welfare Dynamics in Tanzanian Cities,

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## Abstract

Urbanization in Tanzania has been rapid, particularly in urban centers such as Dar es Salaam and Mwanza, leading to significant challenges in managing informal settlements and social welfare. The research employs a mixed-methods approach combining quantitative data analysis of census records and qualitative interviews with community leaders and residents to assess the impact of urbanization on informal settlements and social welfare delivery mechanisms. A notable finding from our study is that approximately 60% of the population in surveyed informal settlements relies heavily on informal social welfare networks for basic needs, highlighting a significant gap between formal and informal provision. The research underscores the urgent need to integrate informal social welfare systems into formal urban planning frameworks to ensure equitable service delivery across all residents. Recommendations include developing comprehensive policies that recognise and support informal settlements, alongside increasing public awareness campaigns about available welfare services for vulnerable populations.

**Keywords:** *Sub-Saharan, peri-urbanization, social stratification, neoliberal policies, community mobilization, participatory development, urban planning*

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