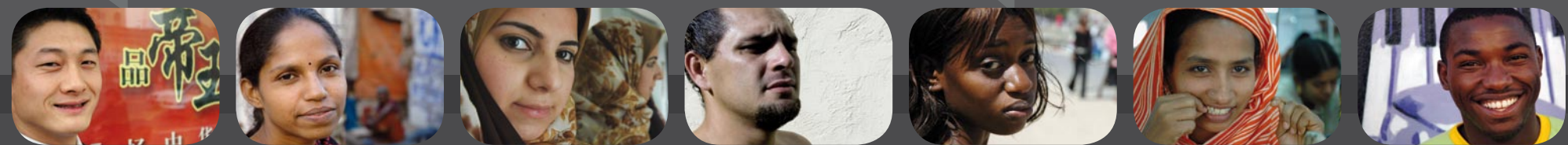


GROWING UP URBAN



state of world population 2007

youth supplement

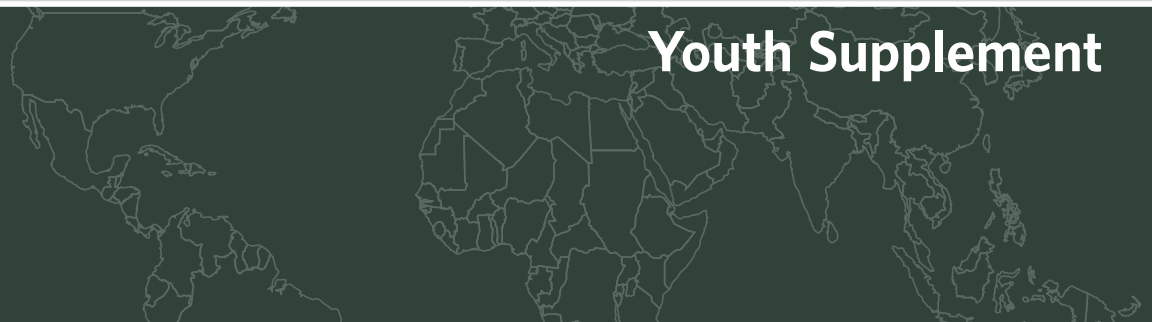


GROWING UP URBAN



state of world population 2007

Youth Supplement



Editorial Team

The State of World Population 2007 Youth Supplement

Life Stories:

Martin Caparros

Context:

Dr. Laura Laski/Saskia Schellekens

Final Editing:

Alex Marshall/Amy Singer

Research Assistance:

Anjali Kaur

Administrative Assistance:

Wioleta Pienkowska/Malak Khatib-Maleh/Sandra Barron

Acknowledgements

Sincere gratitude goes to the numerous UNFPA colleagues in Country Offices and UNFPA Headquarters, as well as UNFPA partners for their inputs provided and information shared, with particular appreciation for Country Offices and UNFPA partners in Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, El Salvador, India, Senegal and Argentina that assisted in the facilitation of the interviews of the young people portrayed in this publication.

Special appreciation goes to Martin Caparros for the moving, evocative reports he contributed from around the world, to Rogelio Fernandez-Castilla for his indispensable inputs and guidance, to George Martine and Lydia Leon for the collaboration to ensure alignment with the 2007 State of World Population report, to the members of UNFPA's Global Youth Advisory Panel for their inputs and support, to M&M for their valuable editorial comments and to Bing, Reham, Geeta, Freddy, Maty, Shimu and Angelo for sharing with us their life stories.

Contents

	Preface	iii
	Introduction	iv
Bing	ESCAPING RURAL POVERTY, EARNING A LIVING IN THE CITY — TIANJIN, CHINA	1
Geeta	FROM PAVEMENT DWELLER TO COMMUNITY MOBILIZER — MUMBAI, INDIA	7
Reham	AN ESCAPE FROM URBAN VIOLENCE — CAIRO, EGYPT	13
Freddy	FORMER GANG MEMBER FINDS IT HARD TO ADJUST — SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR	19
Maty	FIGHTING AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE: HELPING GIRLS PROTECT THEIR HEALTH — RUFISQUE, DAKAR METROPOLITAN REGION, SENEGAL	25
Shimu	FLEEING FROM CHILD MARRIAGE, FINDING FREEDOM IN THE CITY — DHAKA, BANGLADESH	31
Angelo	FINDING THE RIGHT BEAT: A MATTER OF URBAN SURVIVAL — RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL	37
	Conclusion	42
	Endnotes	47

Preface

This is the second edition of the Youth Supplement to UNFPA's *State of World Population Report*. The 2007 Report focuses on urbanization; the Youth Supplement addresses the challenges and promises of urbanization as they affect young people.

In 2008, for the first time, more than half of the world's population will live in urban areas. By 2030, towns and cities will be home to almost 5 billion people. The urban population of Africa and Asia will double in less than a generation.

This will greatly increase the number and proportion of young people in the urban population. Most will be born into poor families, where fertility tends to be higher. The wave of urban population growth calls for policymakers to consult young people and reflect on their needs, both to realize individual potential and to stimulate urban economies. The challenges will include increasing the number and quality of schools; attracting

new investments to create jobs and economic vitality; and providing health services, including sexual and reproductive health, so that young people can live fulfilling lives and make their own decisions on marriage and family formation.

The Youth Supplement profiles the lives of young men and women from seven cities – Tianjin, China; San Salvador, El Salvador; Mumbai, India; Dhaka, Bangladesh; Cairo, Egypt; Rufisque, Senegal; and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Their stories give a sense of the lives of young women and men and the opportunities, pressures, and risks of modern urban living: as migrants who have left the countryside to work and make their home in the cities; as community organizers fighting for better housing and services in the margins of cities; as victims of sexual abuse and violence; sometimes even as perpetrators of violence themselves; as young women freed from traditional gender roles and discrimination; and

as urbanites involved in music and culture to escape from urban poverty and insecurity, and to celebrate their lives.

The *State of World Population Report* points out that the urban wave of the 21st century presents an opportunity to enhance development and promote sustainability; if the opportunity is missed, the urban wave could deepen poverty and accelerate environmental degradation. This Youth Supplement is a voice on behalf of the right of young people in the world's cities to lives of opportunity, free of poverty, violence, and abuse.

Introduction

The world is undergoing the largest wave of urban growth in its history. The 3 billion population of towns and cities in 2005 will increase by 1.8 billion by 2030.¹ The urban population of Asia and sub-Saharan Africa will double in less than a generation.

The fastest growth will be in the poorer urban areas. For example, the slum population of Dhaka has more than doubled in a decade, from 1.5 million in 1996 to 3.4 million in 2006.

Most urban growth comes from natural increase (more births than deaths). The urban poor have higher fertility rates than other urbanites: women have less education and less autonomy; they know little about sexual and reproductive health services, and have little access to them.² Rural-urban migration also contributes to urban growth.

Young people under 25 already make up half the urban population and young people

from poor families will be a big part of the urban wave. The future of cities depends on what cities do now to help them, in particular to exercise their rights to education, health, employment, and civic participation.

Investment in young people is the key to ending generations of poverty. In particular it is the key to reaching the Millennium Development Goals and halving poverty by 2015.

Young People in the Cities Today

Most urban young people were born in the cities. Others arrive on packed buses or trains, bringing with them few possessions, great expectations, and an eagerness to engage fully in a better life. They come with the hope of a good education, adequate health services, and a society with plenty of jobs to choose from: a plan for escaping the poverty in which their parents are trapped.

Urban centres attract economic investments, and offer a high concentration of jobs and public services. Political power is concentrated in national, state or district capitals, and secondary schools, higher education institutions, and health care centres are better and more accessible in urban areas. The high disparity in the rates of school attendance among urban and rural youth illustrates the “urban advantage”: rural boys’ and girls’ school attendance rates are, respectively 26 and 38 per cent lower than their urban counterparts’.³

A vanishing dream?

At the beginning of the 21st century, the best recipe for a life without poverty is still to grow up urban; but young people’s dream of moving beyond their parents’ poverty is quickly vanishing. Although cities offer better jobs, housing,

GROWING UP URBAN

education, health care, and opportunities are unevenly distributed. Most people in the poorest countries, including the young, have little access to the amenities of urban life.

Although school attendance is higher in cities than in rural areas, many young people in poor areas, especially girls, *never start school, or drop out* before finishing secondary level.

In urban centres, young people are faced with higher *unemployment* rates than adults; work is more likely to be in the unregulated “informal sector” where they are often exposed to abuse and exploitation.

Housing for the urban poor is most likely to be in *slums* – crowded homes and poorly-built neighbourhoods with *little or no infrastructure* like paved roads, electricity, gas, piped water or sanitation. In some cities this applies to more than half the population.⁴ In most African cities, for instance, only ten per cent

of the population is connected to sewers, and many have no sewers at all. Many young women and men grow up resenting their exclusion from the promise of city life.

Extreme poverty, family conflict, violence and neglect, alcoholism or drug abuse in the home, or the illness and death of parents, may drive young people to *live on their own*. In some countries a high proportion of urban adolescents do not live with their parents, for instance 30 per cent of Ethiopian girls aged 10 to 14.⁶ In Benin 14.3 per cent of a sample of children up to age 14 in urban areas lived with neither parent, though both were alive, compared with 8.9 per cent of rural children. Some children live in the streets.

For young people brought up in poverty with low-quality education, health care and housing, and few prospects for steady work, things can go very wrong. Young people are often the risk takers

and experimenters: they are regularly reminded of their *unequal state* and lack of opportunities – luxury cars in the streets; smart houses in safe neighbourhoods; opulent lifestyles in the mass media and on the Internet. Exclusion and frustration can lead to *crime and violence*.

Many young women leave their villages to avoid marrying young or dropping out of school early. But slum life can be particularly dangerous for young women. Pervasive *gender discrimination* puts them at risk of sexual exploitation and violence. Poverty may force them to work long hours in unsafe and distant places, returning home alone on dark and dangerous streets. Having no knowledge or power to protect themselves, and *poor health services*, they are at increased risk of unwanted pregnancy, and childbirth without skilled care. Many teenage mothers have no support from their families or the fathers

of their children. They may have to turn to transactional sex work to survive.

Positive signs

The creation of safe spaces for adolescent girls and young women can help turn urban life into a positive experience through which they may find *autonomy, access to resources, and self-control*.

By design, the city brings people closer. *Youth urban culture* adds music, dance, and sports shaped by global and local issues. Information and communication technologies such as the Internet and mobile

The future of young people in the cities

The future of cities depends on the future of young people. In particular, it depends on what policymakers can do to equip young people to break the cycle of poverty. This in turn depends on involving young people in the decisions that affect them. This report draws attention to some challenges and possibilities, and suggests some actions that will help young people live up to their potential.

The wave of urban growth, and the consequent increase in the supply of

essential elements in the formation of human capital.

Governments must do four key things over the next 25 years to cope with change, reduce poverty, and create a stable environment for young people's active participation in the urban transformation:

- **Support young people to stay in school longer**, so they are better educated and have access to technological innovations, information, and the life skills needed to enter changing labour markets.

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_20492

