

MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT & SUSTAINABLE

By 2030, 60% of the world's population is projected to reside in cities, making them a critical focus of compassionate design.

NOTICING

Half of the global population lives in cities, where residents experience stark socioeconomic inequalities and poor environmental conditions. Cities occupy just 3% of Earth's land, but account for 60-80% of energy consumption. Rapid urbanization exerts pressure on fresh water supplies, sewage, and public health. Urban spaces also present safety and discrimination risks for women and other marginalized groups.

INTERPRETING/EMPATHIZING

Many urban residents are dehumanized due to a lack of access to basic services. UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, explains, "Unplanned urban living leaves people vulnerable where access to quality healthcare is uneven, housing inadequate, water and sanitation lacking, transport infrastructure patchy, and jobs precarious." Yet urban development predominantly focuses on economic growth rather than fostering well-being and connectedness.

TAKING ACTION

Compassion-centered solutions for SDG11 require simultaneous action on all other aspects of the SDG agenda. Urban development plans must be gender-responsive and embrace the multifaceted nature of community building. Sustainable urban planning is an act of compassion so that all citizens can live a decent quality of life and contribute to shared prosperity and social stability without harming the environment. Efforts like [Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces](#) demonstrate how participatory, human rights-based approaches both reduce discrimination and violence towards women and girls and increase their access to economic opportunities.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



1.6

BILLION
PEOPLE
GLOBALLY
LIVE IN
SLUMS

9 IN 10

PEOPLE LIVING
IN URBAN
AREAS
BREATHE AIR
THAT DOES NOT
MEET WHO AIR
QUALITY
STANDARDS

70%

OF GLOBAL
CARBON
EMISSIONS
ARE PRODUCED
BY CITIES



“THE GREATNESS OF A
COMMUNITY IS MOST
ACCURATELY MEASURED BY
THE COMPASSIONATE
ACTIONS OF ITS MEMBERS.”

- CORETTA SCOTT KING