



FAR FAR AWAY...

Time	60–90 minutes
Level	intermediate
Skills	reading, speaking
Knowledge goal	raising awareness of slums
Materials	Ss' worksheet: p. S1 – "My hometown" form, Ex. 1 (one copy per student) p. S2 – p. S4 – worksheets A–C

1 Lead-in

- Ask Ss to fill in the form about their hometowns (p. S1). They can use dictionaries.
- After Ss have finished, they make pairs and tell their partner about their hometowns. Encourage them to ask each other further questions such as:
Is there a museum in your hometown? How many times have you been there?
- Ss speak in pairs or small groups. Set a time limit of 3 minutes to answer the question:
What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in your hometown?
- After they have discussed the advantages and disadvantages, divide the board into two parts or use two large sheets of flipchart paper. Ask all pairs/groups to choose a representative to come to the front and write a few advantages and disadvantages in points form. The name of towns are not important at this point. All the representatives can be writing at the same time.
- Class discussion:
*What kind of town would you **not** like to live in? And why?*

2 Main activity

- Tell Ss you are going to show them a picture of a place where they probably would not like to live. Show them a photo of a slum. You can download them on www.globalissues.eu/additional.html without telling them what it is. If you have a data projector in the classroom, you can also use some photos/slide shows from www.slum survivor.org/photos/. Ask them if they know what these areas are called. If they do not know, give them the information from the Infobox on slums below.

INFOBOX – Slums

Slums are poor and overpopulated parts of cities. They usually lack most basic services, infrastructure and access to safe water. The living standard is very low. Slums are often characterized by extreme poverty, bad housing conditions, and social disorganization. They are found mainly in developing countries. The residents of slums are called slum dwellers.

- Now ask Ss to suggest what a slum dweller would write into the Hometown form.
- Preteach vocab. Ss do Ex. 1 (p. S1). Check as a class.
- Form three groups. In large classes you can form six groups with two groups getting the same information. Tell Ss that they will get three different texts:
 - A. general information about slums
 - B. a script of a radio programme about Kibera, a slum in Kenya
 - C. a script of a radio programme about slums in Mumbai (India).

Hand out the three worksheets. Ask Ss to read them and complete the tasks below the texts. You can find some photos for the texts on the websites below each text, or at www.globalissues.eu.

- Then instruct the groups to prepare posters that they will use when they give short presentations to the whole class. Their posters should represent their ideas with diagrams and pictures – with words used sparingly.
- When the groups are ready, they give their presentations one by one. They should start by issuing or displaying the true/false statements they have prepared. Recommend they base at least one of the T/F statements on info that they will present near the end of their presentation.

3 Follow-up – discussion

Ss discuss the following questions in small groups or as a class:

- What would be the worst thing about living in a slum for you?*
- How do you think such situations could be improved?*
- What can slum dwellers do about their situation?*
- What can local authorities and governments do?*
- What can governments and politicians do?*
- Is there anything we can do?*

Examples of what can be done:

- investment in basic infrastructure (e.g. water, sanitation, garbage disposal, energy)
- better urban planning to prevent new slums
- legal protection of the poor (e.g. property rights to their housing, land)
- better social services for the poor by local authorities
- new employment opportunities

Recommendations by Millennium Project
(www.unimillenniumproject.org)

KEY

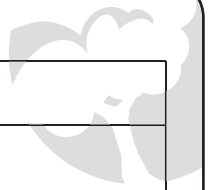
Exercise 1:

1. crowded, 2. sewage, 3. to contribute to sth, 4. shack, 5. dump, 6. growth, 7. credit, 8. sanitation, 9. force, 10. garbage

4 Ideas for Homework

- A. **Writing.** Ss write an essay or newspaper article using the following quotation by Jacob Riis (American newspaper reporter and photographer) *The slum is the measure of civilization* as a title.
- B. **Film.** Ask Ss to watch a documentary on the Kibera slum in Kenya: "Slum Survivors" (IRIN). Ss can write a summary of it.
- C. **Project.** Ask Ss to work in groups and invent a special afternoon program (or longer) during which their classmates/schoolmates could experience what it is like to live in a slum. Ss should be as creative as possible. You as a teacher can get ideas from "Slum Survivor Kit – Simulation Experience" on http://www.slum survivor.org/images/slum survivor_download_final.pdf and then help your Ss. Encourage those with particularly promising ideas and activities to realise them.





MY HOMETOWN

MY HOMETOWN	
Name	
Country	
Population	
Schools	
Sights	
Sports facilities	
Cultural events	
Employment	
Hospitals	
Public transport	
Surroundings	



Ex. 1 – Match the words with their definitions. Use a dictionary if necessary.

to contribute to sth credit crowded dump force garbage
 growth sanitation shack sewage

1. full of people
2. waste matter such as water or human urine or excrement
3. to help to cause an event or situation
4. a very simple and small building made from bits of wood, metal or other materials
5. a place where people are allowed to leave their rubbish
6. an increase in the size or the importance of something
7. a method of paying for goods or services at a later time, usually paying interest as well
8. the systems for taking dirty water and other waste products away from buildings in order to protect people's health
9. strength or power
10. rubbish, waste material or unwanted things

Text A

SLUMS

The main features of slums are poor housing conditions, no infrastructure and the great number of people living in them. For example, in Nairobi, Kenya, 60 % of the population lives in slums which occupy only 5 % of the land.

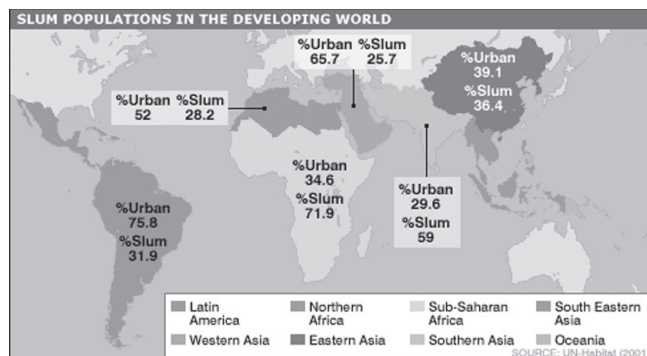
Slum dwellers often lack basic services, especially water and sanitation. Sometimes there is only one latrine for a hundred people. This often leads to diseases such as typhoid and cholera.

Most slum dwellers are unemployed or employed in an informal job market sector. They cannot usually own their land or houses. As a result, crime is typically very high and the women and children are the greatest victims of all.

Why do slums exist?

Since 1950, fewer and fewer people have worked in agriculture in developing countries. A lot of immigrants and poor people have moved from the countryside to the cities to find work. This results in the growth of slums and an informal employment sector. Political conflicts often force people migrate to cities.

Another factor that contributes to the existence of slums is that the slum dwellers can't own land or their housing. There is no motivation for them to change the slum environment.



Did you know?

- Did you know that that 900 million people, or 30 % of the world's total urban population, live in slums?
- Did you know that the total number of slum dwellers in the world increased by about 36 % during the 1990s and that in the next thirty years, the global number of slum dwellers will increase to about two billion if no action is taken?
- Did you know that in most African cities between 40 % and 70 % of the city's population live in slums or squatter settlements? Many African cities are doubling their population within two decades. In a city like Nairobi, 60 % of the population lives in slums which occupy only about 5 % of the land.
- Did you know that while most slum dwellers work in an informal employment sector, even university lecturers, students and government civil servants live in slums in some countries? This is the case in India and Nigeria, for example.
- Did you know that about one out of every four countries in the developing world has a constitution or national laws that says that women cannot own land or take mortgages in their own names? And that in some African cities, slums are a refuge for women who are in difficult situations created by divorce or marriage?

Source: UN report <http://www.unhabitat.org/content.asp?cid=3394&catid=7&typeid=46&subMenuId=0>

1. Prepare a short presentation about slums. Focus on the reasons why they exist. Create a poster to help you present it.
2. Using the information from "Did you know...?" write five TRUE/FALSE statements for other groups to answer during your presentation.

E. g.: Most slum dwellers work for the government or commercial sector. True or False?

Text B

LIFE IN THE SLUMS (KENYA)

Sheri Fink

One billion people now live in third world slums. That's about one out of every six people on the planet. And the number of slum dwellers could double in thirty years.

Reporter Sheri Fink takes us to Kenya, to its capital, Nairobi.

Armstrong O'Brian Ongera, Jr., used to live in Nairobi's slums. Now he's a political activist who focuses on the problems of the poor. And he's going to show me what life is like for Nairobi's almost two million slum dwellers.

Ongera: *We are now in Kibera, the largest slum in Kenya.*

In fact, many say it's the largest slum in Africa. Kibera's true population isn't known, but there are probably as many people living here as there are in San Francisco.

Ongera: *The houses are made of mud and they're very crowded. And the slum is very dirty, you can see.*

And you can smell. We see brown-green water running through an open ditch. There is not just sewage in it, but also chemicals from farms outside the slum.

We meet a woman walking on a dirt path.

Musanga: *My name is Prisca Musanga. I'm 28 years old.*

She lives here with her four children, her husband and her in-laws. All eight of them are in a one-room shack.

She wants to show me the key problem of her life in Kibera: basic sanitation. Like the majority of people living in Kibera, Musanga and her family have no toilet. They used to go to a neighbour's nearby outhouse but they can't go there anymore. There is a lock and chain.

Musanga's "bathroom"

There is a latrine but Musanga shows me plastic bags which make the entrance to it difficult. It's a collection of what's known as "flying toilets" – bags filled with human waste.

Musanga: *Somebody came with a flying toilet and throw on the door. All the plastic bags are flying toilets.*

Slums in the developing world are – in a sense – giant cesspools. Human waste goes into the water people drink and contaminates the food they eat. It carries typhoid and other diseases that can be deadly, especially to young children. It's hard to understand why people would like to live here, but my tour guide, Ongera, has an answer.

Ongera: *Slum life is cheap. With less than a dollar you can survive.*

Kibera is surrounded by rich people who hire slum dwellers as maids, security guards, drivers. Nairobi's rich also buy products made in the slums. For example, we find here workers making jewelry and buttons from cow bones. Not far away, workers make furniture from metal. Elsewhere, young men sort garbage for recycling.

Slum dwellers here pay rent, often to slum lords or corrupt politicians who enjoy a good profit from a minimal investment. The slums are like small cities, but they operate with little official assistance.

For the World, I'm Sheri Fink. Nairobi, Kenya.

Adapted from: <http://www.theworld.org/?q=node/6669>

1. Prepare a short presentation of the Kibera slum for other groups. Create a poster to help you during the presentation.

Recommended points: geography, population, description, main problems, job opportunities, rents

SLUM DWELLERS AS A POLITICAL FORCE (INDIA)

Sheri Fink

Slums continue to grow around the globe. While experts debate the best way to help the slum dwellers, one group of people is successful – the slumdwellers.

Correspondent Sheri Fink reports from the Indian city Mumbai, formerly known as Bombay. Over half of Mumbai's 13 million residents live in slums. These cover only about 8 % of the city's area.

Mumbai needs modernization but the slums block the city's rapid development. The slums used to be bulldozed and the slum dwellers sent out of town. But the government can no longer do that because of a major change. Slumdwellers in Mumbai became activists and now play an important role in politics and city planning. They use street protests and the power of voting. They are led by a man named Jockin Arputham.

Arputham: *Some of us who were living in slums got together and thought, nobody tells me how to eat, nobody tells me how to dress. I don't think anybody has a right to tell me how to sleep.*

Or where to sleep. Arputham is the founder of India's National Slum Dwellers Federation. And he's a celebrity. He often meets with politicians and appears on TV. He began his career by organizing protests to demand basic city services like garbage pickups.

Later, he and other activists campaigned to stop slum demolitions. And they got legal protection. Now anyone who has lived in a Mumbai slum since 1995 has the right to a new home before being moved out.

Arputham is now building apartments for slumdwellers. The federation has already built housing for 26,000 slum dwellers – on land from the government, and with money from the World Bank. It's one of the largest urban resettlement projects in the world.

A colleague of Arputham's takes me into one of the new buildings to see an apartment.

The apartment is clean. It's painted a cheerful blue. And it has a sleeping loft and a lower level for cooking. I meet the new owner. Until just a few months ago, she and her family were living on the pavement near a railway station.

Yet slumdwellers are not always happy because it is very far from work opportunities, schools and medical facilities. And it's close to the city's garbage dump.

Apartment complex built for slum dwellers

An opponent of the project building apartments is Shaan Mehta, the chief operating officer for a local company that helps the government with slum redevelopment.

Mehta: *You'll see no open space. You'll see no real commercial activity here. These will become what we call "vertical slums". And they're much more dangerous than the regular slums because they're a permanent part of the city's landscape now.*

Mehta's first plan for slum re-development was that the developers who want to demolish a slum must first construct apartments for the slumdwellers. But the slumdwellers were against this plan. They did not want to move out from their places. They protested. The plan today is to build new apartments for 60,000 families in their original neighbourhood. They will also get schools, hospitals, training programs and job opportunities.

Today almost a billion people worldwide live in slums. That means slumdwellers have power – just as soon as they learn to use their collective voice, and when governments and the rest of society learn to listen.

For The World, I'm Sheri Fink, Mumbai, India.

Adapted from: <http://www.theworld.org/?q=node/6780>

1. Prepare a short presentation of the situation in Mumbai. Create a poster to help you.

Recommended points:

- Mumbai
- Jockin Arputham
- Shaan Mehta
- the role of slumdwellers and their potential power

