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7.4. Housing

Most of the population have access to electricity, clean water and housing.[668](#) However, according to the most recent national census, over 1.7 million people lived in urban slums under 'unhygienic and unplanned conditions with very poor-quality housing structures'.[669](#) While this figure could not be corroborated, and other sources suggested larger numbers including UNDP stating in 2020 that about 60 million people lived in urban slums,[670](#) and Iqbal Habib, architect and board of trustee's member of Bangladesh University, stating that 4.4 million people lived in slums in Dhaka alone in 2022.[671](#) Bangladesh is experiencing rapid urbanisation, with the urban population more than doubling from 30 to 70 million in the period 2000–2023. This has created a significant demand for affordable housing, with a current deficit of about 6 million units. Only 31 500 units are built annually, which correspond to 1 % of the demand. As a result, slums have been growing, including the Dhaka slum population which increased by 20 % in 2010–2020.[672](#) According to the Daily Star, around 100 000 new apartments need to be built every year, while the real estate market can only supply 8 % of required units. Meanwhile, most cannot afford homeownership due to high interest rates.[673](#)

- [668](#)

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