

Glossary of Terms

Accessibility: Full and sustainable access to adequate housing resources, with priority given to the specific needs of marginalized and under-resourced groups, such as people living with disabilities, people facing discrimination and the elderly. Accessibility is a component of adequate housing. *See **adequate housing** and **decent housing**.*

Adequate housing: A basic human right to live somewhere in security, peace and dignity. The U.N. defines adequate housing through the following components¹ (detailed definitions of each component are included in the glossary below):

- **Security of tenure.** *See also **forced evictions**.*
- **Availability of services, materials, facilities and infrastructure.** *See also **WASH and basic services**.*
- **Affordability.**
- **Habitability.** *See also **structural quality/durability of dwellings and sufficient living area**.*
- **Accessibility.**
- **Location.**
- **Cultural adequacy.**²

*See also **affordable housing** and **decent housing**.*

Affordability: Personal or household financial costs associated with housing are at a level that does not threaten or compromise the attainment and satisfaction of other basic needs. Generally speaking, affordability is defined as when net monthly housing costs do not exceed 30% of the household's total monthly income.³ Affordability is a component of adequate housing. *See also **adequate housing and decent housing**.*

Advocacy: Changing systems, policies and attitudes to achieve decent housing for all. *See also **advocacy campaign**.*

Advocacy campaign: A set of advocacy, communications and mobilization activities – based on our experience and values – that influence norms, policies and practices to achieve lasting change. *See also **advocacy**.*

Availability of services, materials, facilities and infrastructure: Facilities essential for a household's health, security, comfort and nutrition. Adequate housing requires that residents have sustainable access to natural and common resources, safe drinking water, energy for cooking, heating and lighting, sanitation and washing facilities, means of food storage, refuse disposal, site drainage and emergency services. Availability of services, materials, facilities and infrastructure is a component of adequate housing. In the context of Home Equals, we will more often refer to the closely related term "basic services," which is a campaign subtheme. *See also **water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and basic services**.*

Basic services: Closely related to **availability of services, materials, facilities and infrastructure** (one of the seven components of adequate housing), this term focuses on the availability in informal settlements of reliable and sustainable services, including water, sanitation, hygiene, waste management, energy and access roads. Access to basic services,

¹ Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, General Comment 4, The right to adequate housing (Sixth session, 1991), U.N. Doc. E/1992/23, annex III at 114 (1991), reprinted in Compilation of General Comments and General Recommendations Adopted by Human Rights Treaty Bodies, U.N. Doc. HRI/GEN/1/Rev.6 at 18 (2003). Definitions for each component of adequate housing are adapted from this source.

² UN-Habitat, Human Rights: The Right to Adequate Housing, Fact Sheet No. 21, (May 2014), pp. 3-4. Available at: https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Publications/FS21_rev_1_Housing_en.pdf

³ UN-Habitat, 11.1 Adequate Housing. Available at: <https://unhabitat.org/11-1-adequate-housing>

when developed in an inclusive and integrated manner, will contribute to reducing social inequalities. In the context of Home Equals, this could include supporting policies and the implementation of policies that expand utility services to vulnerable communities or enabling communities to develop their own basic service systems, improve the quality of access to basic services and incentivize innovations in basic services delivery. One of the Home Equals subthemes is reliable and sustainable basic services. *See also water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).*

Climate change adaptation: Adaptation is focused on preparing for the physical and social impacts of climate change. It includes changes in processes, practices and structures in response to the current or expected effects of climate change, such as rising sea levels, more extreme and more frequent weather events, or worsening food insecurity. Adaptation also includes making the most of beneficial opportunities associated with climate change, such as longer growing seasons in some areas. In the housing context, examples of adaptation could include constructing elevated houses in flood-prone coastal communities, designing wind-resistant roofs in regions with more frequent cyclones as a result of climate change, or strengthening community-based groups or government institutions in their disaster preparedness efforts. Adaptation actions should follow a country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach, considering vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems. Adaptation should be based on and guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, traditional and local knowledge, with a view to integrating adaptation into socioeconomic and environmental policies and actions.⁴ “Mitigating the impacts of climate change” is a frequently used phrase when discussing adaptation needs but is not the same as “climate change mitigation.” *See also climate change mitigation and climate resilience.*

Climate change mitigation: Reducing the flow of heat-trapping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, either by reducing the sources of these gases (fossil fuel use for heating, for example) or by enhancing the “sinks” that accumulate and store these gases, such as forests or oceans.⁵ In the housing context, climate change mitigation could include designing and constructing more energy-efficient homes and neighborhoods, selecting construction materials or technologies with a reduced carbon footprint, promoting and implementing a circular economy in the construction sector, or using renewable energy sources, such as solar, to power homes. Home Equals will not focus explicitly on climate change mitigation. *See also climate change adaptation and climate resilience.*

Climate resilience: The capacities of communities, cities and institutions to assess and cope with climate-related risks. Recognizing that informal settlements are often located in high-risk areas and generally do not adhere to building codes, it is essential that governments work to ensure inhabitants are enabled to prepare for the increasing impact of climate change and contribute to building resilience, along with the capacity for recovery and adaptation. This includes reducing the cost burden of local adaptation efforts, strengthening local knowledge of climate-related hazards and ensuring a participatory, human-rights based and gender-sensitive process to access housing if relocation is the only viable option. Climate resilience is a Home Equals subtheme and focuses clearly on adaptation. Of note, Home Equals will not focus explicitly on climate change mitigation. *See also climate change adaptation, climate change mitigation and resilience.*

Cultural adequacy: The way housing is constructed, the building materials used and the policies supporting these must appropriately enable the expression of cultural identity and diversity of housing. Efforts to develop or improve homes should ensure that the cultural dimensions of housing are not sacrificed, while also considering modern technological facilities as appropriate.

Decent housing: A term used by Habitat to describe a home that is affordable, safeguards a family’s health, is secure, is designed to be accessible and is safe. It is recommended to use the term “adequate housing” instead of “decent housing,” since the former has a global definition defined by the U.N. *See also adequate housing.*

⁴ United Nations Climate Change, Introduction, Adaptation and Resilience. Available at: <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/the-big-picture/introduction>

⁵ NASA, Global Climate Change, Vital Signs of the Planet, Responding to Climate Change, Solutions, Mitigation and Adaptation. Available at: <https://climate.nasa.gov/solutions/adaptation-mitigation/>

Empowered participation: An inclusive process that incorporates the knowledge, priorities, needs, experiences, voices and decision-making capacities of individuals and their communities. The Home Equals campaign both seeks to ensure governments formalize transparent engagement with communities in policy development and that implementers of the campaign utilize empowered participation as a methodology for their advocacy, working directly with communities to make sure their unique needs and capacities are understood and meaningfully incorporated into the design of solutions. Specifically, it will prioritize deepening and formalizing participatory processes, prioritizing community needs and contributions to solution-making and establishing channels for mutual learning, education and awareness.

Equality: The state of being equal, especially in status, rights or opportunities. Unlike equity, it involves providing the same resources to all, and can result in greater inequalities. *See also equity.*

Equity: Giving each person or community what they need to succeed (fairness). Equity acknowledges that not everyone starts from the same place and the playing field is uneven. Historic and ongoing policies and practices create barriers that result in marginalized or under-resourced communities being treated unjustly. Thus, giving everyone the same resources can make inequality worse. Equity is about responding to the history of inequality by giving certain groups more, less, or different resources entirely, so that everyone can have what they need to be safe, healthy, and happy. This includes the elimination of policies, practices, attitudes and cultural messages that reinforce differential outcomes or that fail to eliminate them. Equity is a measure of justice. It goes a step further than “equality” by taking into account specific circumstances rather than broad needs. Achieving equity in housing recognizes the policies and systems that have historically and systemically excluded certain groups from accessing adequate housing. By addressing housing needs equitably, systemically disenfranchised groups will have greater access to adequate housing. For this reason, the campaign focuses on equity rather than equality. *See also equity.*

Forced evictions: The permanent or temporary removal of people against their will from the homes and/or land which they occupy, without the provision of or access to appropriate forms of legal or other protection.⁶ *See also security of tenure/secure tenure/tenure security.*

Group of Seven (G7): An organization of seven of the world’s largest industrialized economies, which dominate global trade and the international financial system. The G7 nations include Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States, and the European Union as a non-enumerated member.⁷ The G7 is the global advocacy target for Home Equals.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP): An estimate of the total value of all goods and services produced within a nation for a set period, usually a year. GDP is the most commonly used measure of a country’s economic activity.

Gross National Income (GNI): The total amount of money earned by a country’s people and businesses. It is used to measure and track a nation’s wealth from year to year. The number includes the country’s gross domestic product (GDP), plus the income it receives from overseas sources.

Habitability: In the housing context, it refers to the quality and livability of the housing unit. Specifically, the terms means that a residence provides adequate space for inhabitants, along with protection from the cold, damp, heat, rain, wind or other threats to health, structural hazards and disease vectors. The physical safety of occupants must be guaranteed as well. Habitability is a component of adequate housing. *See also adequate housing and structural quality/durability.*

Housing ecosystem: Comprises all the social norms, formal and informal institutions, and disruptive trends and events that influence how people are able to act to make changes that they value in their housing situations. Each country’s housing ecosystem is unique and “rooted in geography, climate, history, culture, national government, legal structure,

⁶ UN-Habitat, “Human Rights: The Right to Adequate Housing, Fact Sheet No. 21,” May 2014, p. 4. Available at: https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Publications/FS21_rev_1_Housing_en.pdf

⁷ BBC News, “G7: What Is the G7 and What Is It Doing About Ukraine?” March 24, 2022. Available at: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-49434667>.

economy, the macro-economy (including inflation and interest rates), taxation, and existing political and governmental systems.”⁸ When there are gaps in the ecosystem and a lack of alignment and coordination of goals, the result is a housing market that does not adequately provide housing for its population.⁹

Housing quality deficit: An estimate of the number of houses in a given area that are substandard in some way, such as being overcrowded, lacking adequate roofs, walls and/or floors, or having insufficient access to clean drinking water and sanitation facilities.¹⁰ The housing quality deficit is often established based on the extent to which the components of adequate housing are met. Housing conditions in informal settlements and slums are often characterized as or associated with the qualitative deficit. *See also **housing quantity deficit and adequate housing.***

Housing quantity deficit: The shortfall in housing units compared to the number of households needing them. The housing quantity deficit includes both households without any shelter at all, as well as multiple households sharing a single housing unit.¹¹ Projections on the housing quantity deficit often include expected population growth and rural-urban migration patterns. *See also **housing quality deficit.***

Human Development Index (HDI): Developed by the U.N. Development Program (UNDP), the HDI brings together indicators from three main dimensions of human development: a decent standard of living (measured by Gross National Income per capita adjusted for price level per country); long and healthy life (measured by life expectancy); and access to education (measured by expected years of schooling of children at school-entry age and mean years of schooling of the adult population). The UNDP updates the HDI annually and generates a country ranking to monitor progress on Human Development.

Inadequate housing: Living conditions that harm people’s health, safety, prosperity and opportunities. Inadequate housing lacks one or more of the seven components of adequate housing. Not all people who live in inadequate housing live in slums or informal settlements, but they are nonetheless living in substandard conditions.¹² Of note, SDG Indicator 11.1.1 refers to the “proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing.” Given that national and local governments measure their advancement towards this SDG indicator in different ways, there is an ongoing need for better measurements and improved data. *Also see **adequate housing, informal settlement and slum.***

Incremental housing: A process – often seen in informal settlements – whereby people build their housing and their community in stages as their resources permit. This phased approach allows inhabitants to adapt and build as their needs and capacities change. Incremental housing is often linked with owner-driven housing, in which inhabitants lead the building process – such as preparing the land, choosing the building design, selecting materials or seeking technical assistance – and in the process, build their self-reliance.

Informal settlement: Defined by three main criteria:

- Inhabitants have no security of tenure vis-à-vis the land or dwellings they inhabit, with modalities ranging from squatting to informal rental housing.
- The neighborhoods usually lack, or are cut off from, formal basic services and city infrastructure.

⁸ Huynh, D.; Kibe, J.; McVitty, J.; Sangodeyi, D.; Sheth, S.; Simon, P.-E.; Smith, D., *Housing Delivery and Housing Finance in Haiti*; Oxfam International: Oxford, UK, 2013. As cited in “The Housing Market Value Chain: An Integrated Approach for Mitigating Risk in Informal Residential Construction in Haiti,” Christianos Burlotos; Kijewski-Correa, Tracy L; Taflanidis, Alexandros A. Sustainability; Basel Vol. 12, Iss. 19, (2020): 8006.

⁹ Udemagwuna, Layomi. “The Housing Ecosystem in Nigeria,” December 19, 2016. Available at: <https://www.propertypro.ng/blog/the-housing-ecosystem-in-nigeria/>

¹⁰ World Bank Group, *Urban Land and Housing Market Assessment: A Toolkit*, (January 2020), p. 24. Available at: <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/922921600345178886/pdf/Urban-Land-and-Housing-Market-Assessment-A-Toolkit.pdf>

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² UN-Habitat, Metadata on SDGs Indicator 11.1.1, Indicator Category, Tier 1, p. 3. Available at: https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/06/metadata_on_sdg_indicator_11.1.1.pdf.

- The housing may not comply with current planning and building regulations, is often situated in geographically and environmentally hazardous areas, and may lack a municipal permit.¹³

Although “slum” is often used as a synonym for “informal settlement,” there are some differences to highlight in the context of the Home Equals campaign, as they might affect the way our advocacy messaging is tailored for each context:

1. The concept of informal settlements focuses on the formality or legal recognition of the settlement status, while “slum” focuses on the multidimensional conditions of deprivation.
2. Informal settlement is a broader category that includes non-urban settlements, while slums are urban by definition.
3. Not all informal settlements are slums. Slums are the most deprived and excluded form of informal settlements characterized by poverty and large clusters of dilapidated housing often located on the most hazardous urban land.¹⁴
4. Not all slums are informal settlements. Some urban areas characterized as slums due to overcrowded conditions, lack of access to water or sanitation, and lack of durable materials in the construction of housing units might, however, be legally recognized and have security of tenure.

Within the context of Home Equals, we will use the term “informal settlements” most often. However, we will use “slums” when referring to data or reports that reference the term, such as those from UN-Habitat. Of note, SDG Indicator 11.1.1 refers to the “proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing.”

Informal settlements and slums also are referred to by specific names in some countries and cultures. In South Africa, for example, people have historically called informal settlements “shantytowns;” in Brazil, “*favelas*;” in francophone countries, “*bidonvilles*;” in Spanish-speaking countries, “*poblaciones*,” “*barrios*” and “*tugurios*,” among others. However, these terms can be considered pejorative. Home Equals prioritizes the use of “informal settlements” but will adapt to the local context and use the term that is most adequate both formally and culturally to refer to the communities characterized by the precarious living conditions described above, which affect low-income and marginalized populations. *See also **slum and inadequate housing***.

Informal settlement resident/informal settlement inhabitants/informal settlement communities: The preferred terms for marginalized people living in informal settlements who are the focus of the policy and systems changes promoted by the Home Equals campaign. Of note, the term “slum dweller” is the official metric used in the Sustainable Development Goals, but it can be perceived as derogatory and thus is not typically used in other contexts. Likewise, “squatter” and “settler” also can have negative connotations, so they are not preferred terms. *See also **informal settlement and slum***.

Location: Adequate housing must be in a place that allows access to employment options, health care, schools, child-care centers and other social facilities. This holds true both in large cities and in rural areas where the time and financial costs of getting to and from work can place excessive demands upon poor households. Similarly, housing should not be prone to hazards, built on polluted sites, or be in immediate proximity to pollution sources that threaten people’s right to health. The implications of this aspect of adequate housing for informal settlements is that upgrading initiatives should prioritize the right to stay in locations where settlers have access to these opportunities, and in the case of relocations, they should be a precondition for site selection. Location is a component of adequate housing. *See also **adequate housing and decent housing***.

Marginalized populations: Includes groups and communities that are discriminated against and excluded, based on ethnicity, national origin, tribe, age, religion, physical ability, neurodiversity, gender identity, sexual orientation and socioeconomic status. The most marginalized populations are migrants, refugees, women, LGBTQI+, religious and ethnic groups, the elderly and others who live in overcrowded and risk-prone informal settlements. Children under 18 living in

¹³ United Nations, Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development – Habitat III, “Issue Paper No. 22 on Informal Settlements,” UN-Habitat, 2015, Slum Almanac 2015-2016. Referenced in:

https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/06/metadata_on_sdg_indicator_11.1.1.pdf

¹⁴ UN-Habitat, Metadata on SDGs Indicator 11.1.1, Indicator Category, Tier 1. (March 2018), p. 5. Available at:

https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/06/metadata_on_sdg_indicator_11.1.1.pdf

slums and informal settlements (an estimated 350 million to 500 million) are arguably one of the most vulnerable groups globally, given the inadequacy of their standard of living, the multidimensional poverty they experience, and their dependency on others and their environment to meet their basic needs and survive.¹⁵

Policy and systems change: Change that addresses policies, such as laws or regulations, as well as the systems that ensure they are implemented, as policies sometimes exist but are ignored. Policies are developed and systems are implemented at the community, municipal, national, multi-country, regional and global level. Thus, it is important to understand where policies are made and who the decision-makers are. Further, communities best understand their unique needs and should play a central role in defining their future. The Home Equals campaign both seeks to ensure governments formalize transparent engagement with communities in policy development and that implementers of the campaign utilize empowered participation as a methodology for their advocacy, working directly with communities to make sure their unique needs and capacities are understood and meaningfully incorporated into the design of solutions. Through policy and systems change, there is greater potential to create stability and security for millions more people than we could serve by our direct service alone. The anticipated outcome of Home Equals is “successful policy and systems change, at all levels, which promotes and facilitates participation in public policy processes, reliable and sustainable basic services, climate resilience and tenure security to increase equitable access to adequate shelter for people living in informal settlements.”

Resilience: The ability to prepare and plan for, mitigate, respond, recover from, and adapt to adverse events, such as disasters, pandemics and climate change. Resilience building improves people’s abilities, knowledge and skills to reduce, manage and recover from external shocks and stresses. It uses designs, materials, technologies, tailored adaptation and mitigation measures based on local experiences of resilience that save people’s lives and ensure their livelihoods can withstand and recover from disasters and climate change impacts. Enhanced resilience allows better anticipation of disasters and better planning to reduce disaster losses, rather than waiting for an event to occur and responding to it afterwards. Building disaster resilience into community planning and housing infrastructure reduces vulnerabilities, which can mitigate potential damage to both people and infrastructure. Resilient housing provides a safe, locally appropriate, healthy and secure space, and builds sustainable communities. Moreover, it is more affordable and a secure financial investment for its occupants.¹⁶ See also *climate change adaptation, climate change mitigation and climate resilience*.

Security of tenure/secure tenure/tenure security: Legal protection against forced eviction, harassment or other threats, regardless of tenure type. It exists when people are confident that their rights to a piece of land or property are protected from dispossession. The lack of secure tenure often lies at the heart of inadequate housing, depriving informal settlement’s residents of even the most basic physical, economic and psychological security that comes with adequate shelter. Tenure takes a variety of forms, sometimes referred to as a continuum of land rights, which provides various levels of tenure security for landholders given their circumstances at a particular time.¹⁷ To promote tenure security, Habitat supports policies and the implementation of policies targeting informal settlements that endorse the continuum of land rights, prevent evictions and expand renters’ protections. Secure tenure is one of the Home Equals sub themes. Of note, the U.N. definition of adequate housing uses the phrase “security of tenure” as one of the seven components of adequate housing, but more often at Habitat the terms “secure tenure” or “tenure security” are used. See also *forced evictions*.

Slum: An urban area in which residents lack one or more of the following:

- Access to improved water services.
- Access to improved sanitation facilities.
- Sufficient living area.

¹⁵ UN-Habitat, “Global Action Plan: Accelerating for Transforming Informal Settlements and Slums by 2030,” (2022), p. 13.

¹⁶ Build Change, *The Build Change Guide to Resilient Housing: An Essential Handbook for Governments and Practitioners*, (2021), p. 5. Available at: <https://buildchange.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/The-Build-Change-Guide-to-Resilient-Housing-compressed.pdf>

¹⁷ UN-Habitat and the Global Land Tool Network, *Framework for Evaluating Continuum of Land Rights Scenarios, Securing Land and Property Rights for All, Report*, 2016, p. vii.

- Housing durability.
- Security of tenure.¹⁸

This technical definition was developed at an expert group meeting convened in 2002 by UN-Habitat, the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the Cities Alliance. Although the term “slums” is often used as a synonym for “informal settlements,” there are some differences.

Within the context of Home Equals, we will use the term “informal settlements” more often. However, we will use “slums” when referring to data or reports, such as those from UN-Habitat, that reference the term. Please refer to the “informal settlement” definition for differences between the two terms and preferred uses in the context of the campaign. Regardless of the term used, Home Equals will focus on communities characterized by precarious living conditions, low income and marginalized populations. *See also informal settlement.*

Slum/informal settlement upgrading (also referred to as improvement/rehabilitation): Measures to improve the quality of housing and the provision of housing-related infrastructure and services to settlements that are considered to be (or officially designated as) slums or that developed illegally, including squatter settlements.¹⁹ Upgrading programs require a variety of interventions and components, among them, settlement regularization or legal recognition by planning authorities, agreements on collective or individual land arrangements or land titling, connectivity to water and sanitation infrastructure, access to energy, construction or improvement of roads, public spaces and community facilities, integration of public transport systems, and improvement or reconstruction of housing units. It is worth noting that most upgrading interventions seek to bring existing living conditions closer to the standards of adequate housing. It is also widely recognized that slum/informal settlement upgrading initiatives are more likely to be successful when additional components of community organization, livelihoods, food security and other development activities are integrated with the physical interventions. *See also informal settlement and slum.*

Spatial inequality: The imposed or preferred separation of groups of people in a particular territory by race, caste, ethnicity, language, religion or income status. Spatial, including residential, segregation can have different forms depending on the territorial, cultural or historical context and is often characterized by forms of economic and social exclusion, inequity and spatial disparity in access to infrastructure, services and livelihood opportunities.²⁰ Informal settlements and slums are a manifestation of spatial inequality, often resulting from market dynamics and exclusionary policies and planning practices, which lead the most marginalized populations to locate themselves in the only land that is affordable.

Structural quality/durability of dwellings: A house is considered as ‘durable’ if it is built on a non-hazardous location and has a permanent and adequate structure able to protect its inhabitants from the natural disaster and extremes of climatic conditions such as rain, heat, cold, and humidity. The following criteria determine a dwelling’s quality/durability: permanency of structure (permanent building material for the walls, roof and floor; compliance with building codes; the dwelling is not in a dilapidated state; the dwelling is not in need of major repair); and location (i.e., not located on or near toxic waste, in a flood plain, on a steep slope, or in a dangerous right of way, such as by railroads, highways, airports, and power lines.)²¹. In the context of informal settlements, structural quality can be achieved through incremental housing interventions that reach quality standards. *See habitability and incremental housing.*

Sufficient living area: According to UN-Habitat, a house is considered to have a sufficient living area for the household members if not more than three people share the same habitable room that is a minimum of 4m² in area.²²

¹⁸ UN-Habitat, Metadata on SDGs Indicator 11.1.1, Indicator Category, Tier 1. (March 2018), p. 8. Available at: https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/06/metadata_on_sdg_indicator_11.1.1.pdf

¹⁹ Satterthwaite, D. *Upgrading Informal Settlements*. S. J. Smith (Ed.) International Encyclopedia of Housing and Home, Elsevier, 2012, p. 206.

²⁰ United Nations, https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Housing/SegregationCSOconsultation-Flyer_EN.pdf

²¹ UN-Habitat, Metadata on SDGs Indicator 11.1.1, Indicator Category, Tier 1. (March 2018), p. 5. Available at: https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/06/metadata_on_sdg_indicator_11.1.1.pdf.

²² Ibid, p. 4.

WASH: Water, sanitation and hygiene. Drinking water services refers to the accessibility, availability and quality of the main source used by households for drinking, cooking, personal hygiene and other uses. Improved drinking water sources are those with the potential to deliver safe water. A safely managed drinking water service is an improved source that is: 1) accessible on premises; 2) available when needed; and 3) free from contamination. Other types of improved water sources include basic (round trip to fetch water takes 30 minutes or less) and limited (water collection exceeds 30 minutes). Some households use unimproved water sources, such as unprotected wells or springs, or surface water collected directly.²³

Improved sanitation facilities are those designed to hygienically separate excreta from human contact, including flush/pour flush toilets connected to piped sewer systems, septic tanks or pit latrines; pit latrines with slabs (including ventilated pit latrines); and composting toilets. People should use improved sanitation facilities which are not shared with other households, and the excreta produced should be: 1) treated and disposed of on site; 2) stored temporarily and then emptied and treated off-site; or 3) transported through a sewer with wastewater and then treated off-site. Other types of sanitation services include basic (when excreta is not safely managed), limited (improved facilities shared with other households) and unimproved (use of pit latrines without slab or platforms, hanging latrines and bucket latrines). In addition, open defecation is still practiced in some areas that lack sanitation facilities.²⁴

Hygiene refers to the conditions and practices, including handwashing, food hygiene and menstrual hygiene, which help maintain health and prevent the spread of disease. Households with a handwashing facility and available soap and water on-premises meet the criteria for a basic hygiene service, while those with a handwashing facility but no water or soap have limited service. The most vulnerable households in terms of hygiene are those with no handwashing facility at all.²⁵ See also **availability of services, materials, facilities and infrastructure and basic services**.

²³ WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP), Drinking Water, Available at: <https://washdata.org/monitoring/drinking-water>

²⁴ WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP), Sanitation, Available at: <https://washdata.org/monitoring/sanitation>

²⁵ WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP), Hygiene, Available at: <https://washdata.org/monitoring/hygiene>



INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS:
322 W. Lamar St., Americus, GA 31709-3543 USA
+1 (229) 924-6935 +1 (800) HABITAT fax +1 (229) 928-8811
publicinfo@habitat.org habitat.org

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND ADVOCACY OFFICE:
1310 L St. NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC 20005 USA
+1 (202) 239-4441 +1 (800) HABITAT fax +1 (202) 239-4472
advocacy@habitat.org habitat.org/advocacy