By 2050, 70% of the world’s population will live in urban areas. Currently, over 1/3 of people living in urban areas live in low-income urban settlements. Living conditions are inadequate and there are multiple barriers to access to health for women and girls.

What are the key challenges?

- Inadequate living conditions:
  - Gender inequality
  - Poor sanitation
  - Fragmented social support
  - Crime and violence
- Access to services:
  - Distance to clinic
  - Lack of time
  - Treatment costs
  - Lack of voice

What is needed to improve access to health?

Policymakers, governments, and donors should:

- Ensure policies and programmes work towards addressing the barriers to access to health.
- Acknowledge and realise the rights to basic services, including health, of residents in low-income urban settlements.
- Focus on community involvement in interventions, with genuine gender inclusivity.
- Ensure health policies and programmes are seen in conjunction with other sectoral concerns, e.g., water & sanitation.