Child Poverty Grows As Cities Expand

A new report from the United Nations Children's Fund warns that hundreds of millions of children in the world's cities are living in poverty. UNICEF's "State of the World's Children Report" says a staggering proportion of children lack the most basic of services, including clean water, education, health, proper toilets. "Urbanization leaves hundreds of millions of children in cities and towns excluded from vital services," the Children's Fund said. The Fund also says these children are among the most disadvantaged and vulnerable in the world because they live in fear of violence and exploitation on a daily basis. Millions of children are forced into child labour and the sex industry.

The report explains how the slums where children live have diseases such as pneumonia and diarrhoea, two of the biggest killers of children under five in the world. UNICEF spokeswoman, Marixie Mercado, says many children are disadvantaged from birth and are excluded from "normal" society in which richer children can thrive. She says: "One-third of children in urban areas are not registered at birth [and that] makes them much more vulnerable to exploitation throughout their lives." UNICEF executive director Anthony Lake added: "Children are vulnerable to….the injuries, illnesses and death that result from living in crowded settlements atop hazardous rubbish dumps or alongside railroad tracks."

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

proportion	absence
poverty	dangerous
lack	hovels
proper	impoverishment
exploitation	denied access to
slums	abuse
excluded	built-up
thrive	amount
urban	real
hazardous	do well

PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

lack the most basic	from vital services
proper	in urban areas
excluded	into child labour
they live in fear	birth
Millions of children are forced	children under five
the biggest killers of	to exploitation
disadvantaged from	of violence
One-third of children	toilets
much more vulnerable	settlements
living in crowded	of services