

# Spatial Models for *Slum Area* Mapping

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UN-GGIM, Nairobi

# Expert slum mapping meeting

Bellagio



# Surveys for Urban Equity Project

Kathmandu, Dhaka, Hanoi



# GRID3

DRC, Nigeria, S. Sudan, Mozambique, Zambia

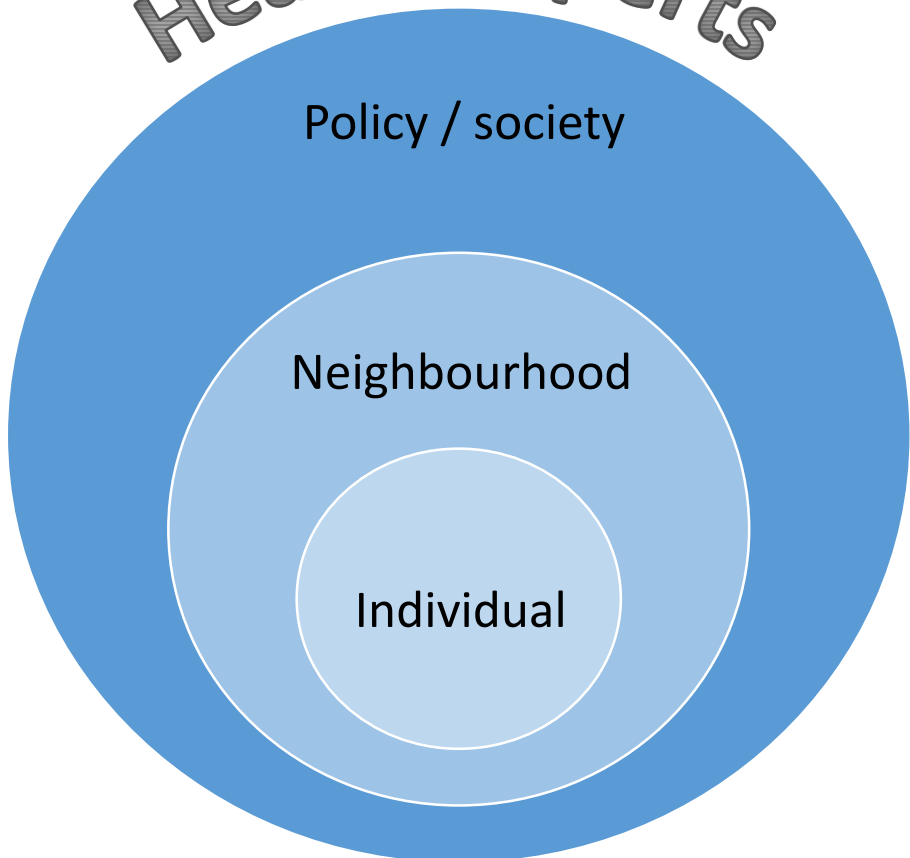


# Area-level health determinant indicators paper

LMICs



# Health experts



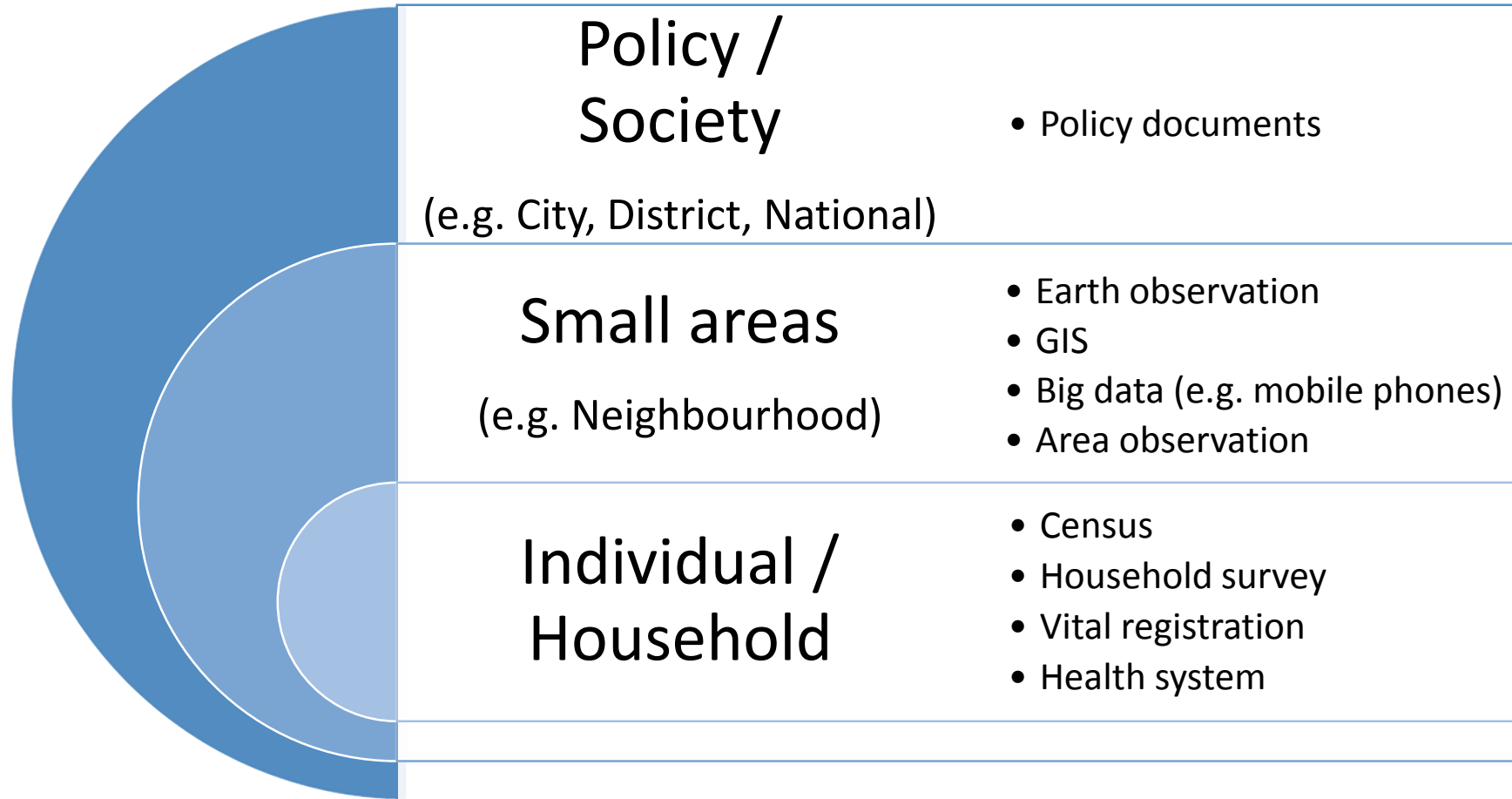
Data users



Credit: Public domain pictures

Data producers

# Joint framework



Slum areas  
Safe recreational spaces  
Open, blocked drainage



Unimproved toilet  
High BMI  
HH poverty

# Area-level data: Earth Observation

UAV (0.04 meters)



0 10 20 Meters

- High Resolution imagery
- Very High Resolution imagery
- Aerial photographs
- Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (“drones”)
- Sensors

Credit: Digital Globe, Royal Museum of Central Africa, Tanzania Open Data Initiative

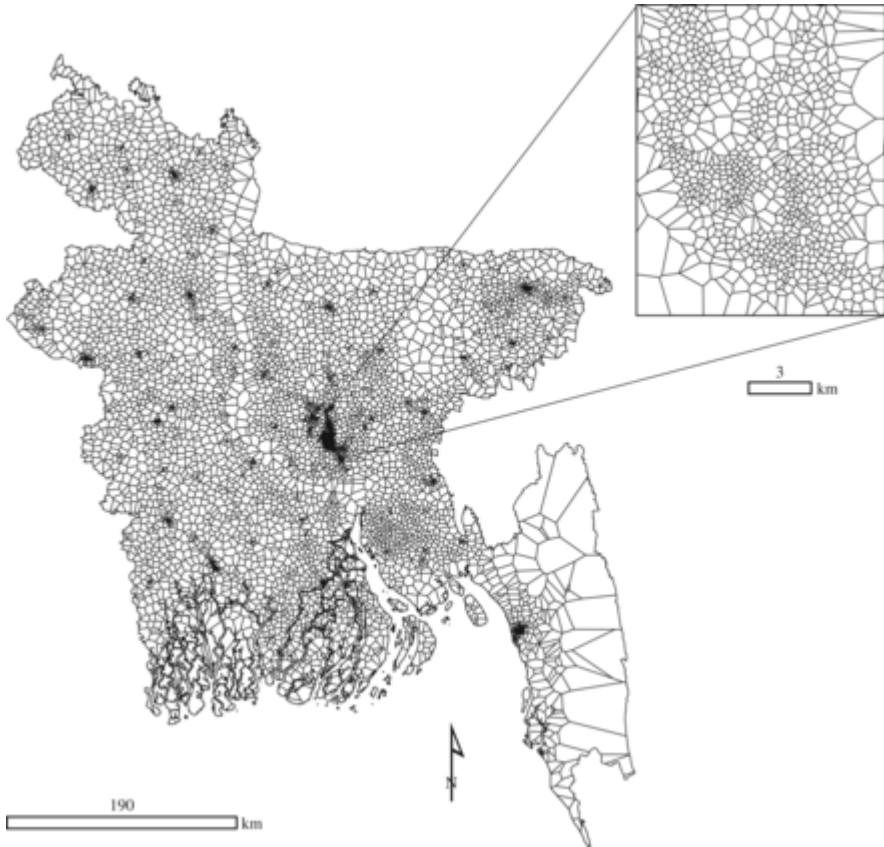
# Area-level data: GIS



Credit: Wikimedia Commons, OpenStreetMap, Tais Grippa

- GPS points / traces
- Manually digitize imagery (e.g. OpenStreetMap)
- Automated feature extraction from satellite imagery

# Area-level data: Big Data



- Geo-tagged tweets
- Geo-tagged Flickr images
- Aggregated, anonymized mobile phone call detail records (CDRs)

Credit: Wikimedia Commons, Jessica Steele

# Area-level data: Field Observation



Credit: HERD International

- Gold standard, laborious, expensive
- Most examples
  - Small scale studies
  - Participatory mapping exercises
- Urban health experts suggest rural, urban slum, urban non-slum
  - Classify survey clusters
  - Classify census EAs
  - Area observation form (Urban Inequities Survey & Surveys for Urban Equity)



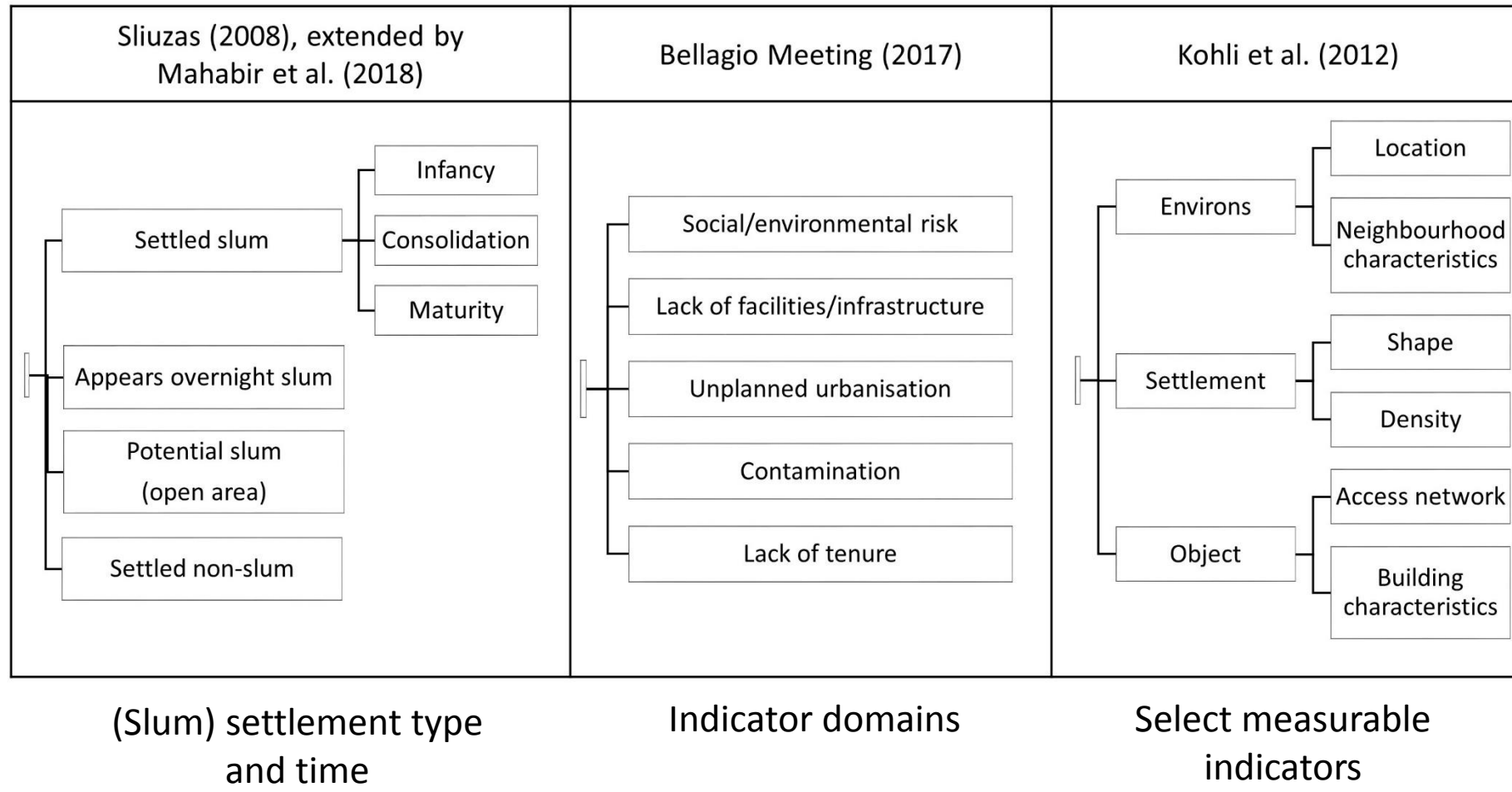
# Slum definitions

- Slum “household”: UN-Habitat
  - Lack any: durable housing, sufficient space, safe water, adequate sanitation, security of tenure
  - Measurement: household survey, census
- Slum area: NONE
  - Area physical characteristics
  - Area social characteristics
  - Context dependent, local knowledge is essential
  - Comparable across cities and countries



Credit: Wikimedia Commons

# Slum area mapping taxonomies



# Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh



**Infancy:** few dwellings have been built on the land

# Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso



**Consolidation:** dwellings grow in number, settlement boundary takes shape, more services are introduced, improvements to dwelling conditions

# Kuala Bandar, Mumbai, India



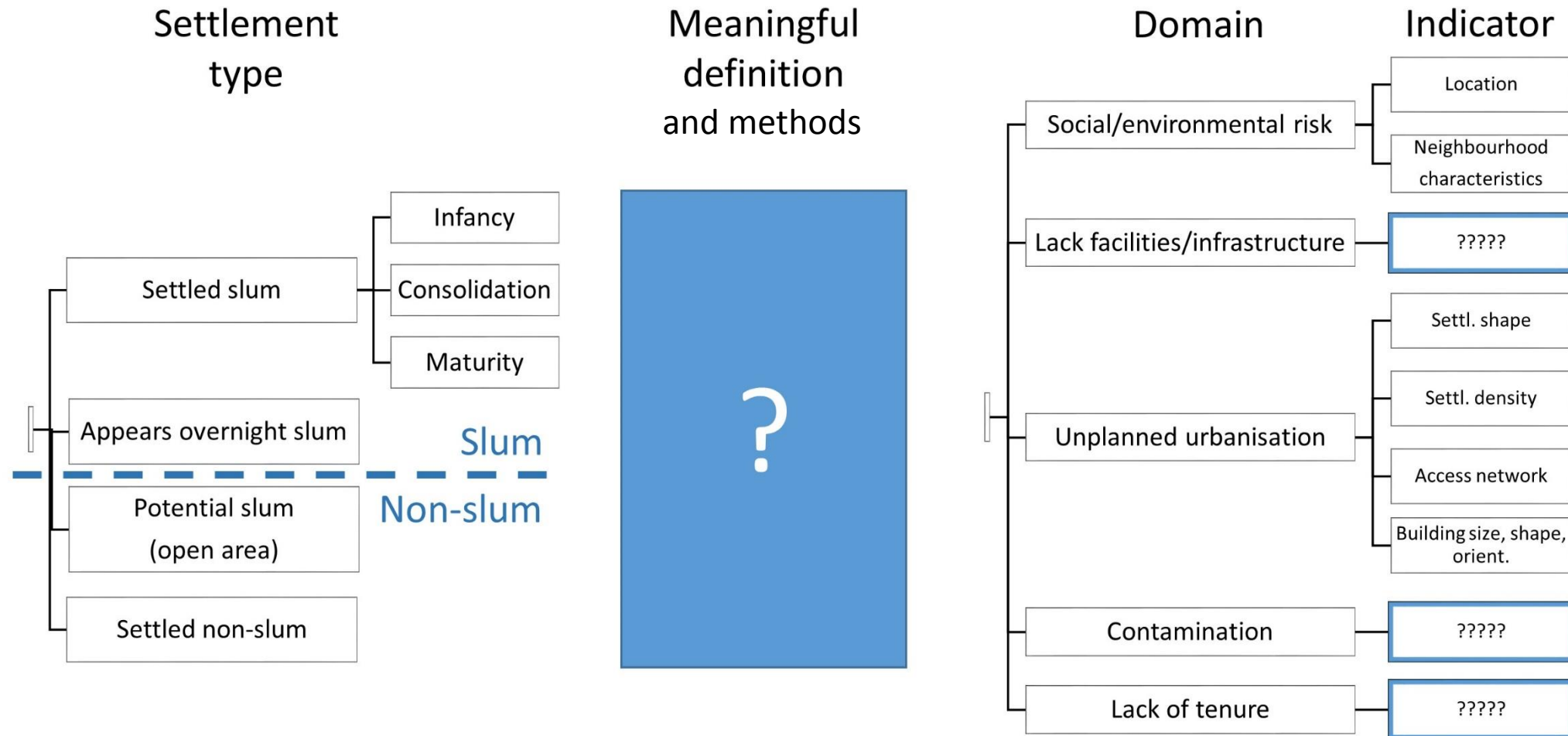
**Maturity:** vertical densification and demolition of dwellings may occur

# Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh



**Overnight:** land is occupied by residents rapidly, legally or illegally

# Combined slum area mapping taxonomies



# Slum area mapping methods

## Aggregated census slum households

Fink et al (2014), Patel et al (2014),  
Snyder et al (2014)

- X** Area physical characteristics
- ?** Area social characteristics
- X** Context dependent
- ✓** Comparable across cities / countries



# Slum area mapping methods

## *Apriori* satellite imagery classification

Kohli et al (2012), Kuffer et al (2016)

- ✓ Area physical characteristics
- ✗ Area social characteristics
- ✗ Context dependent
- ✓ Comparable across cities / countries

# Slum area mapping methods

## Field classification

Urban Inequities  
Surveys (2006),  
Surveys for Urban  
Equity (2018)

- ✓ Area physical characteristics
- ✓ Area social characteristics
- ✓ Context dependent
- ✗ Comparable across cities / countries

# Slum area mapping methods

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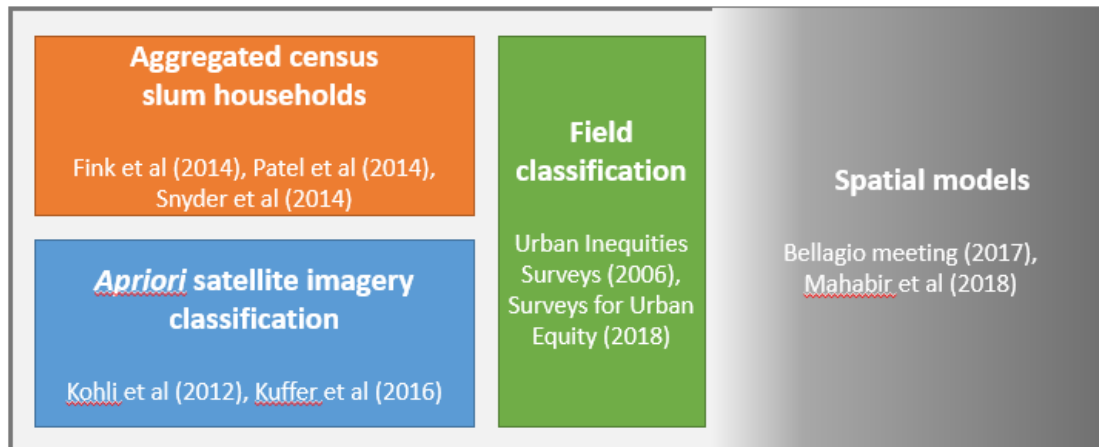
## Field classification

Urban Inequities  
Surveys (2006),  
Surveys for Urban  
Equity (2018)

## Spatial models

Bellagio meeting (2017),  
Mahabir et al (2018)

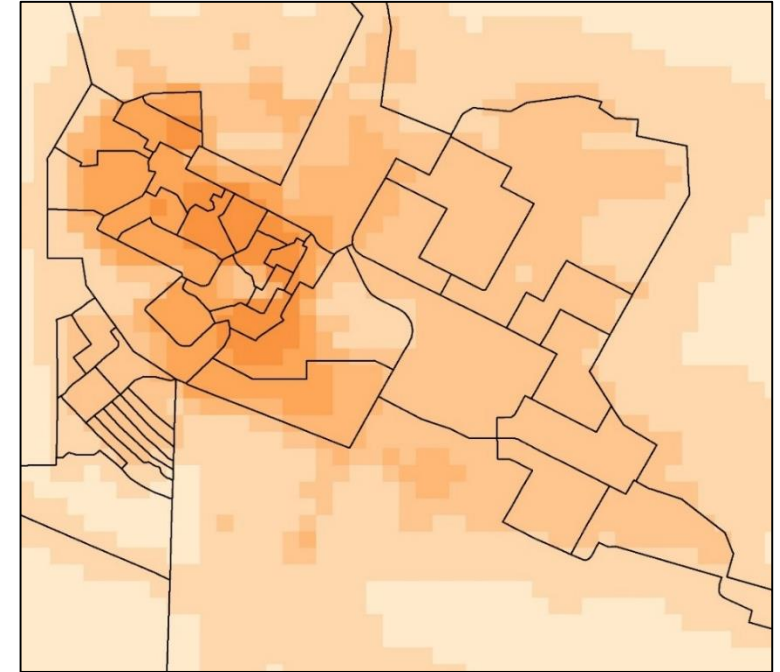
# Slum area mapping methods



- ✓ Area physical characteristics
- ✓ Area social characteristics
- ✓ Context dependent
- ✓ Comparable across cities / countries

# Spatial models

- Methods
  - Decision trees (e.g. Random Forest)
  - Deep learning (e.g. pattern recognition)
  - Geostatistical modelling
- Strengths
  - Accommodate multiple covariates with different resolutions and formats
  - Models trained with ground-referenced input data reflecting local context
  - Possible to extrapolate into unmeasured similar cities, countries, years
  - Leverage each of our strengths
    - Health experts – define model inputs and outputs
    - Data scientists – apply specialized data infrastructure, methods



# Considerations

- Requires sizable funding and complex collaborations – e.g. Gates / DIFD
- Slum area outputs may need to be further “packaged” for users
- NSA involvement end-to-end is key for accuracy and usability
- Address VERY common concern among users: privacy in EO & big data
  - Transparency in methods
  - Caution mapping vulnerable areas (e.g. resolution, vector vs raster boundaries)

# Thank-you!

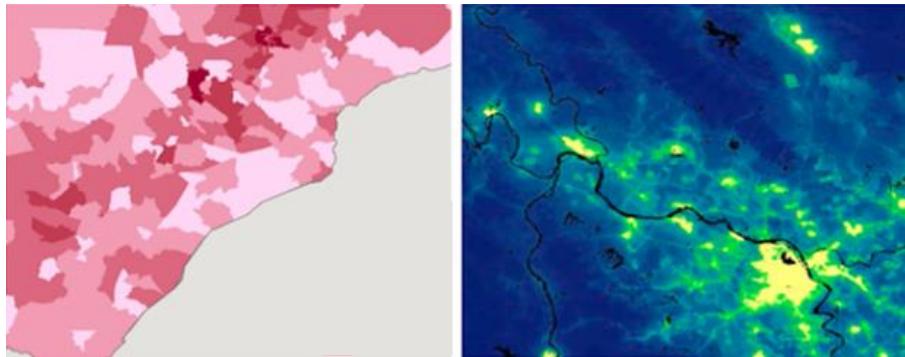
Dana R. Thomson

[dana.r.thomson@gmail.com](mailto:dana.r.thomson@gmail.com)

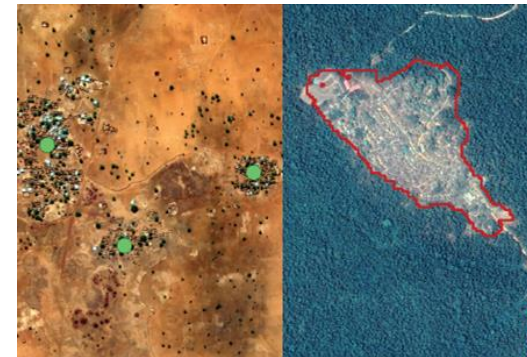


GRID3 provides support to low- and medium-income countries to collect, analyse, integrate, disseminate, and utilise high-resolution geo-referenced data for development and humanitarian decision making.

### High-Resolution Population Maps



### Settlement Locations



BILL & MELINDA  
GATES foundation



world  
pop  
FLOWMINDER.ORG



Center for International Earth  
Science Information Network  
EARTH INSTITUTE | COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



# Making People Who Live in Slums Count

Bellagio, Italy | 20-23 November 2017



**University of Warwick (Chair:  
Richard Lilford)**

**African Population and Health  
Research Center (Chair: Alex Ezeh)**

NSA – Bangladesh, South Africa,  
Brazil

UN-Habitat, UNFPA, USAID, WHO,  
European Commission

Gates Foundation, Flowminder  
Foundation

University of Leeds

Intl Society for Urban Health, IIED



# Area-Level Indicators for Urban Health

## International Conference on Urban Health 2018

**Dana R. Thomson**

*Urban health experts:* Waleska Caiaffa, Megumi Rosenberg, José Siri, Helen Elsey

*Data scientists:* Catherine Linard, Sabine Vanhuysse, Jessica E. Steele, Michal Shimoni, Eléonore Wolff, Taïs Grippa, Stefanos Georganos



# Surveys for Urban Equity Project

## 2017-2019 Kathmandu, Dhaka, Hanoi

### Development & Evaluation of Novel Survey Methods

To more accurately sample poor and vulnerable households in complex urban settings

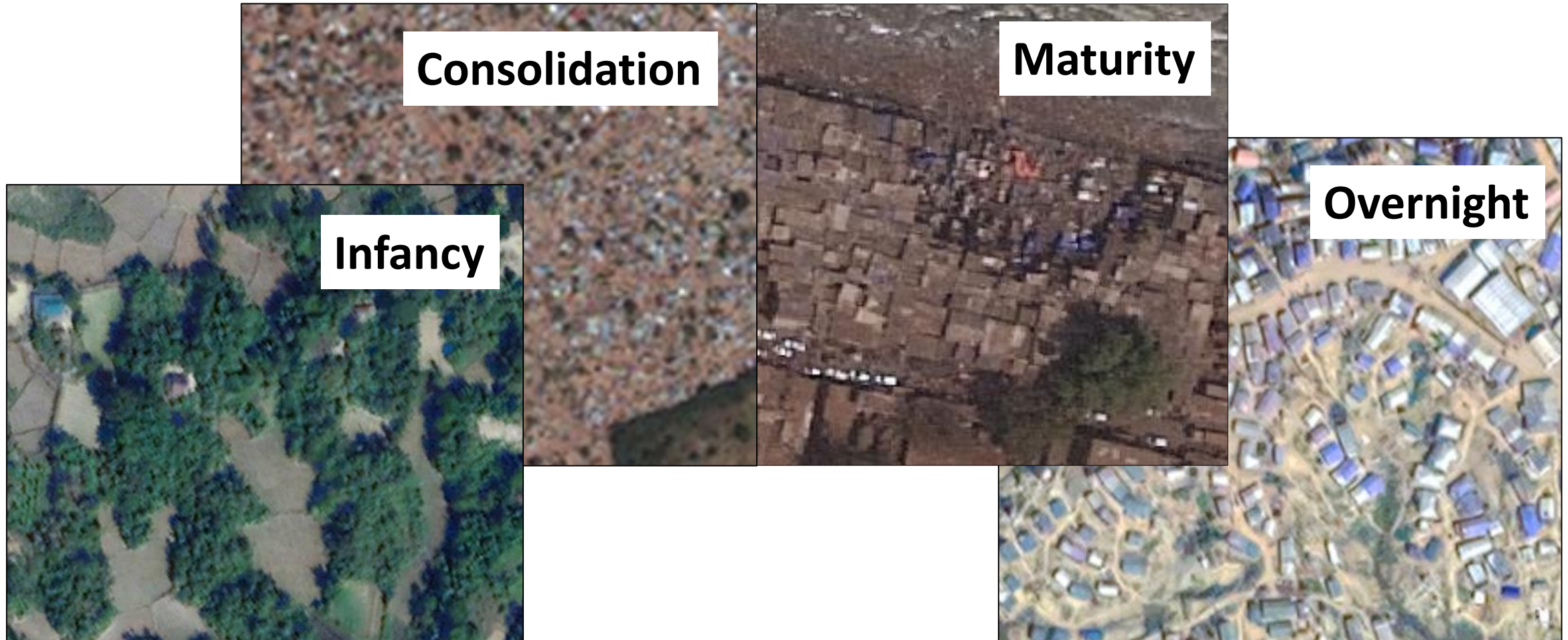
Dana R. Thomson, Sushil Baral, Mashreky Saidur, Hoang Van Minh, Helen Elsey, Radheshyam Bhattarai, Rajeev Dhungel, Subash Gajurel, Sushil Singh, Shraddha Manandhar, Sudeepa Khanal, Silvia Junnatul Ferdoush, Tarana Ferdous, Duong Minh Duc, Nguyen Bao Ngoc, Ak Narayan Poudel



CIPRB



# Discussion 1: Can we train an algorithm to distinguish these slum settlement types? If not, why?



# Discussion 2: Which prominent slum area feature datasets exist, or could be created?

## Social / environmental risk

- No green/open recreational spaces
- Standing grey-water
- Opened and/or blocked drains
- Evidence of flooding or landslides

## Lack facilities / infrastructure

- Few school and health facilities
- Lack functioning street lights

## Unplanned urbanisation

- Non-permanent building materials
- Small, disorganized buildings
- Close proximity of buildings
- Narrow paths with no vehicle access

## Contamination

- Faecal matter in drains, roadside
- Open dumping of garbage
- Smokey, dusty air

## Lack of tenure

- Area not zoned for residence

**Discussion 3:** What minimum area (eg 100m X 100m) & minimum population (eg 50 ppl) define a slum area?

E.G. National Housing Authority of Thailand:  
***minimum of 30 housings units per 1,600 square meters***

# Discussion 4: For what purpose do users need slum area maps?

**National Statistical Agency**

*Disaggregate census/survey*

**Ministries**

*Planning, policy-making, evaluation*

**Municipal Governments**

*Planning, policy-making, evaluation*

**Civil society**

*Local advocacy*

**International organizations**

*Global advocacy*

**NGOs / private / other providers**

*Target interventions, evaluation*

**Academia / research institutions**

*Research*

# References

## Urban indicators

- [Cities Alliance \(2002\)](#)
- [Habitat Agenda \(2006\)](#)
- [Urban HEART \(2010\)](#)
- [SDGs \(2018\)](#)
- [Surveys for Urban Equity \(2018\)](#)
- [Pineo et al. \(2018\)](#)
- [Hoornweg & Bhada-Tata \(2012\)](#)

## Slum mapping

- [Expert meeting \(2002\)](#)
- [Expert meeting \(2008\)](#)
- [Expert meeting \(2017\)](#)
- [Fink et al \(2014\)](#)
- [Patel et al. \(2014\)](#)
- [Snyder et al. \(2014\)](#)
- [Kohli et al. \(2012\)](#)
- [Kuffer et al. \(2016\)](#)
- [Ezeh et al. \(2017\)](#)
- [Steele et al. \(2017\)](#)
- [Mahabir et al. \(2018\)](#)