

## 1. Primary Challenges Contributing to Urban Poverty in Cebu City

- **Basic Necessities:** Residents in informal settlements often lack access to basic necessities adequate housing, healthcare, education, and sanitation facilities.
- **Job insecurity and low wages:** Many urban poor are employed in the informal sector, which offers unstable employment and very low wages, continuing the cycle of poverty.
- **Natural disasters:** Cebu City is prone to natural disasters like typhoons and floods, which can exacerbate poverty by destroying homes, livelihoods, and infrastructure.
- **Social inequality:** Social inequality and discrimination can limit opportunities for the urban poor, hindering their ability to escape poverty, while the rich are getting richer, the poor are getting poorer.

These challenges differ from those faced by rural communities in several ways. Poverty in rural areas is often due by limited access to agricultural land, low agricultural productivity, and lack of infrastructure as jobs in these areas are not the main source of sustenance, instead they farm and cultivate the food that they need. In contrast, poverty in urban areas where jobs are the main source of income, is more closely linked to limited access to urban services, job opportunities, and social networks.

## 2. Evaluation of Poverty Alleviation Programs in Cebu City

The effectiveness of various poverty alleviation programs in Cebu City varies. Some programs, such as social housing projects and microfinance initiatives, have shown positive results in providing immediate relief and empowering the urban poor. However, these programs often have limited reach and may not address the root causes of poverty.

Other programs, such as skills training and education programs, have the potential to address the long-term causes of poverty by equipping individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to secure better employment. However, these programs may be hindered by lack of funding, inadequate infrastructure, and limited access to quality education.

## 3. Additional Strategies for Reducing Poverty in Cebu City

1. **Urban renewal and infrastructure development:** Investing in urban renewal projects and infrastructure development can improve living conditions for the urban poor, increase access to basic services, and create job opportunities.
2. **Social protection programs:** Implementing social protection programs, such as conditional cash transfers and social pensions, can provide a safety net for the most vulnerable and help them meet their basic needs.

These strategies would address the root causes of poverty.

#### 4. Impact of Natural Disasters on Poverty in Cebu City

Natural disasters like typhoons and floods have a significant impact on poverty in Cebu City. These events can destroy homes, livelihoods, and infrastructure, leaving the urban poor even more vulnerable than they already are.

To mitigate the impacts of natural disasters, the city can implement disaster risk reduction measures, such as:

- **Hazard mapping and early warning systems:** Identifying areas at risk and developing early warning systems can help communities prepare for and respond to disasters.
- **Disaster-resistant infrastructure:** Building infrastructure that is resilient to natural disasters can reduce damage and disruption such as elevated houses, breakwaters, working drainage systems, earthquake-resistant infrastructures, etc.
- **Disaster preparedness and response plans:** Developing and implementing disaster preparedness and response plans can ensure that communities are equipped to cope with emergencies (e.g., DRRM).

#### 5. Role of Community Involvement in Poverty Alleviation Efforts

Community involvement is essential for the success of poverty reduction programs in Cebu City. Community-led initiatives can help to identify local needs, mobilize resources, and ensure that programs are relevant and effective.

Examples of community-led initiatives that could contribute to achieving SDG 1 include:

- **Community-based organizations:** These organizations can provide support and services to the urban poor, such as skills training, microfinance, and disaster relief.
- **Community-driven development projects:** These projects can involve residents in planning and implementing initiatives to improve their communities.
- **Social enterprises:** These businesses can create job opportunities and generate income for the urban poor.

By empowering communities to take ownership of their development, poverty reduction programs can be more sustainable and effective.