

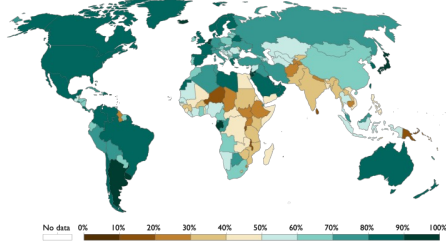
# Urban Issues and Challenges

## 1. Global Pattern of Urban Change

### Urbanisation

An increase in the proportion of people living in towns and cities.

Share of the population living in urban areas, 2025



- Over half of the world's population now lives in urban areas.
- Urbanisation is happening fastest in LICs and NEEs.
- HICs are mostly already urbanised with slower rates of growth.

- urban growth is creating more megacities and increasing pressure on infrastructure and services.

## 6. The Growth of Lagos

### Rural-urban migration: →

- Over the past 50 years, rural-urban migration has been the main driver of Lagos's growth.
- Push factors include lack of jobs and low wages in rural areas.
- Pull factors include the prospect of well-paid work and the attraction of an urban lifestyle.
- By 2015, just over half the population lived in rural areas, but as rural-urban migration continues, the majority will be urban within the next few years.

### Natural increase: ☺ > ☹

- The city has a youthful population since most migrants to the city are young.
- This leads to a high birth rate, contributing to the natural increase in population.

## 7. Opportunities of Urban Growth in Lagos



Social



Economic

- **Healthcare:** Lagos offers better healthcare services compared to rural areas, with more hospitals and clinics available.
- **Education:** The city provides greater access to education, featuring numerous schools and universities that attract students from across Nigeria.
- **Employment:** Lagos has a high demand for services and retail, leading to employment opportunities in the service (tertiary) sector.
- **Industry:** Excellent transport links have fostered industrial growth, creating 100s of thousands of jobs in manufacturing etc.
- **Entrepreneurship:** The growing population provides a workforce and market for goods and services, encouraging industry to locate here.

## 2. Urban Trends in HICs and LICs



**HICs** - Urban growth is slower; more focus on regeneration and sustainability.

- Urban decline in some inner-city areas (deindustrialisation).
- Growth of commuter settlements and urban sprawl.

**LICs/NEEs** - Rapid urban growth due to rural-urban migration and high natural increase.

- Urban areas often lack adequate housing, sanitation, and services.
- Informal employment and slum settlements are common.

## 5. The Location and Importance of Lagos



**Location:** Located in SW Nigeria on the coast of the Gulf of Guinea.



**Regional importance: LICs:** Lagos is West Africa's leading city for trade, services, and employment, attracting migrants from across the region.



**National importance:** Nigeria's largest city and economic hub, contributing over 30% of GDP, with key industries, banks, and a major port.



**International importance:** A global centre for oil exports, home to an international airport, and plays a major role in film and music industries.

## 8. Challenges of Urban Growth - Informal Settlements



- Over 60% of Lagos's population lives in informal settlements like Makoko.
- Homes are overcrowded, self-built, and lack basic sanitation—sewage often ends up in the lagoon.
- Clean water and electricity are unreliable and expensive.
- Waste collection is rare, leading to pollution and blocked drains.
- Despite poor conditions, communities are economically active and socially resilient.
- Evictions and demolitions have caused conflict.

## 3. Factors Affecting the Urbanisation



☹ **Push Factors (rural):** poverty, poor education and healthcare, limited job opportunities, conflict or natural disasters.



**Pull Factors (urban):** better jobs, education, healthcare, higher living standards.



**Natural increase:** Birth rates higher than death rates, especially in younger populations.

## 4. The Emergence of Megacities



### Megacity

An urban area with over 10 million people.

- Growth is driven by rural-urban migration and natural increase.
- Examples include Lagos, Mumbai, and São Paulo.
- Megacities face challenges such as overcrowding, pollution, and inadequate infrastructure.

## 9. Other Urban Challenges



### Water, Sanitation and Energy

- Many rely on wells or boreholes for water, often contaminated.
- Only a small proportion of waste is formally collected.
- Electricity supply is unreliable, with frequent power cuts.

### Health and Education

- Hospitals are overstretched, limiting access to care.
- Schools are overcrowded, and many children miss out on education.

### Unemployment and Crime

- Youth unemployment is high, increasing poverty and social tensions.
- Crime, including theft and gang activity, is a serious issue in some areas.

### Environmental Issues

- Air and water pollution from traffic and poor waste management.
- Flooding and environmental degradation are common in low-lying areas.



## 10. Urban Planning

### Improving

Launched in 2007 and supported by the World Bank, the LMDGP aimed to improve the quality of life in Lagos's informal settlements. It targeted nine of the city's poorest communities, including parts of Makoko, focusing on access to basic services and infrastructure. Key achievements were:

- Installation of new drainage systems to reduce flooding.
- Provision of clean water supply and improved sanitation facilities.
- Construction of community health centres and schools.
- Upgrading of roads and street lighting to improve safety and accessibility.
- The project also promoted community participation, involving residents in planning and decision-making to ensure the solutions met local needs.
- LMDGP demonstrated how targeted investment can address urban inequality and reduce risks from poor living conditions in rapidly growing cities.

## 15. Urban

### Regeneration

**Why Regeneration was needed in the Lower Lea Valley, Stratford, London:**

- Area had derelict industrial land, pollution, and poor housing.
- High unemployment and limited access to services.
- Poor transport links and infrastructure.

**Main features of the project**

- 2012 Olympics used as a catalyst for redevelopment.
- New housing, including affordable homes.
- Improved green spaces, waterways, and sustainability.
- Investment in transport, jobs, and public services.
- New schools, health centres, and leisure facilities.

## 16. Sustainable

### Urban Living

**Water and Energy Conservation:** Homes are designed to reduce energy use with good insulation and energy-efficient appliances. Water meters encourage reduced water use, and rainwater is collected for irrigation.

**Waste Recycling:** A clear recycling system is in place, helping to minimise landfill waste and promote re-use of materials.


**Green Space:** Almost 50% of East Village is green space, including parks, wetlands, and communal gardens, supporting biodiversity and improving residents' well-being.


# Urban Issues and Challenges

## 11. The Location and Importance


### of London

 **Location:** London is in the southeast of England on the River Thames. The City of London forms the historic core, while Greater London extends across a large metropolitan area.

 **National Importance:** It is the UK's capital and largest city (8.8 million people), a centre for government, finance, culture, and education, and a major contributor to national GDP.

 **International Importance:** London is a leading global city, with top-ranking financial centres like the Square Mile and Canary Wharf. It is also influential in media, arts, and higher education.

## 14. Challenges of Urban Change

-  **Widespread Deprivation:** Over 2 million Londoners experience poverty, lacking access to essential services like quality housing, education, and employment opportunities.
- **Borough Disparities:** Deprivation varies across London's 33 boroughs. For instance, life expectancy for females ranges from 87.86 years in Kensington and Chelsea to 81.66 years in Barking and Dagenham. Areas with higher unemployment often have lower life expectancies.
- **Persistent Inequality:** Wealthier boroughs like Kensington & Chelsea consistently outperform poorer ones like Newham in indicators such as health, education, and employment.
- **Dereliction, Land Use and Waste:** Parts of London contain derelict industrial land. Redevelopment often focuses on brownfield sites, but pressure to build on greenfield land remains. Managing waste is challenging, with over 20 million tonnes produced each year.
- **Urban Sprawl and Commuter Settlements:** London's growth has extended into the rural-urban fringe, increasing demand for housing and transport. This has led to the expansion of commuter towns like Reading and Chelmsford, putting pressure on green space and infrastructure.

## 17. Reducing Traffic Congestion

### - Crossrail (Elizabeth Line)

Crossrail (Elizabeth Line) is a major rail project in London that runs east-west across the city, designed to increase transport capacity and reduce journey times. Features include:

- **Increased Capacity:** Carries up to 200 million passengers a year, easing pressure on other lines.
- **Faster Journeys:** Reduces travel times across London (e.g. Heathrow to Liverpool Street in 35 mins).
- **Accessibility:** Step-free access at all new stations.
- **Integrated Network:** Links with Underground and rail services for smoother journeys.

## 12. The Impact of Migration on London

- **Population Growth:** Migration, especially of young adults, has driven population growth and a rising birth rate in London.
- **Cultural Diversity:** London is the UK's most diverse city, with vibrant communities from many ethnic backgrounds enriching its culture.
- **Economic Impact:** Migrants contribute to key sectors like healthcare, construction, and hospitality, boosting the economy and innovation.
- **Pressure on Services:** Increased demand for housing, healthcare, education, and transport has put pressure on infrastructure.
- **Urban Change:** Migration has shaped neighbourhoods and driven regeneration in some areas.

## 13. Opportunities of Urban Change

- London's population is growing rapidly
- The population is becoming increasingly ethnically diverse
- The population of London is youthful
- The motorways, roads, rail and air connections network has made it more accessible than ever.
- Defunct industrial sites along the Thames and the city's hundred-mile network of canals are being reinvented as new neighbourhoods.
- London is the first National Park City due to urban greening.

**Shoreditch:**

- **Cultural Diversity:** Urban change has created a vibrant, multicultural community.
- **Recreation and Entertainment:** New bars, galleries, and venues have boosted the area's social life and economy.
- **Creative and Tech Industries:** The area has become a hub for start-ups, high-tech firms, and creative businesses, earning the nickname "Silicon Roundabout".



## Notes



## Quizzes