



Urbanization Challenges in Sub-Saharan Africa



UN-HABITAT

This publication was prepared by Christine Auclair, Global Urban Observatory, UN-HABITAT, in preparation of the European Commission/UN-HABITAT Regional Workshop on Urbanization Challenges in Africa, to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 26-28 January 2005. Substantive comments and inputs were made by the UN-HABITAT Regional Office for Africa and the Arab States, in particular Alioune Badiane, Joseph Guiebo and Mohamed El Sioufi. The conclusion of this document is largely inspired from the background paper prepared by David Kithakye for the Regional Workshop on Urbanization Challenges in Africa.

The views expressed in this paper are those of the author and not necessarily those of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT).

ISBN: 92-1-131714-2
HS/ 730/05E

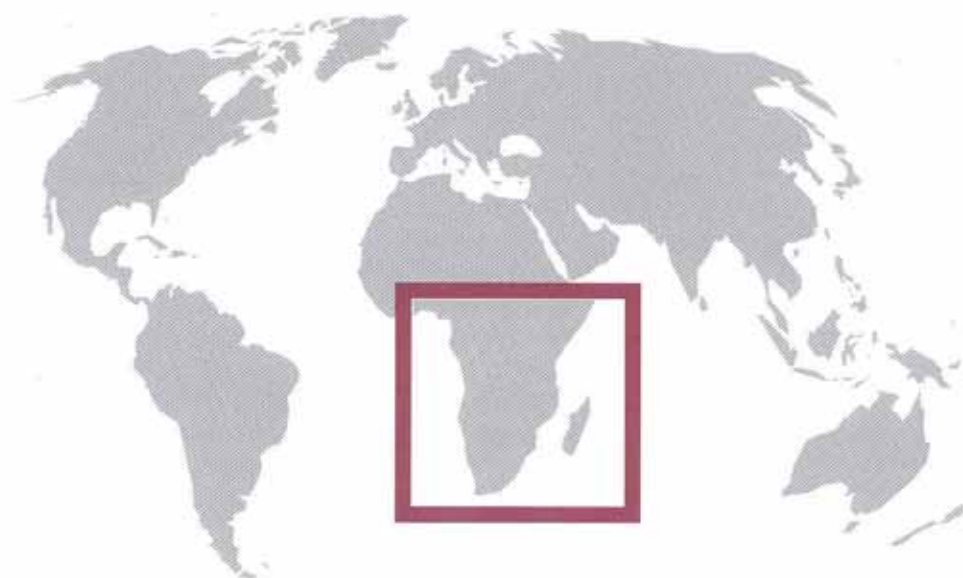
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) publications can be obtained from UN-HABITAT Regional and Information Offices or directly from:
P.O. Box 30030
Nairobi, Kenya

Urbanization Challenges in Sub-Saharan Africa

URBANIZATION CHALLENGES

IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Urbanization Challenges in Sub-Saharan Africa



Foreword



The Urbanization Challenges in Sub-Saharan Africa report is timely as the evidence indicates that urban challenges include rapid urbanization, endemic poverty and life-threatening conditions in ever-growing slums, lack of potable water and sanitation, the high incidence of HIV/AIDS and large number of displaced persons.

Africa is currently growing at a rate of 250,000 new children every week contributing to a rate of urbanization that exceeds 4 to 5 percent.

But it is in city slums where poverty reigns that population growth is most felt as they absorb 190,000 new born and migrants every week. As such, urban slums absorb about three quarters of the population growth in African cities. Today at least one third of African urban residents live under life-threatening conditions. Refugee and internally displaced camps in the region are also areas of extreme human

suffering. The number of poor is expected to reach 404 million in 2015 or 46 percent of the continent's total population. The situation is not only one of slow and erratic economic growth but rather of regressive change in income distribution. In 2001, 166.2 million people or 72 percent of the African urban residents were living in slums. In 2015, the urban slum population of Africa should reach 332 million.

To add to the challenge, Africa, the world's most affected region, is now home to an estimated 29.4 million people infected with HIV/AIDS. More than 17 million have already died from HIV/AIDS-related diseases in the region. The pandemic may currently shave off up to two percent of annual economic growth in the worst affected countries.

Also, there are about 40 million Africans in danger of dying from starvation, most of them women and children. The causes of Africa's food crises remain a lethal combination of recurring droughts, failed economic policies, civil war, and the widening impact of AIDS, which has damaged the food sector and the capacity of governments to respond to need.

The report concludes that in an increasingly urbanizing Africa, the promotion of sustainable urbanization, encompassing the issue of economic growth, social equity and poverty reduction, cultural and ethnic cohesion, infrastructure provision and environmental protection, require more than ever, strategic, forward looking planning, consensus building and conflict resolution. Decentralisation, good governance and the empowerment of local authorities as well as the adoption of inclusive processes of resources allocation and decision making are fundamental to this task.

Mrs. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka
Executive Director
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)

Urbanization Challenges in Sub-Saharan Africa

More urban poor in life-threatening conditions



"Poverty in Africa should be at the top of the global security agenda"

Barbara Stockin
Director of Oxfam

Poverty in Sub-Saharan African cities is seen in a variety of forms. The striking images of beggars in the centre of Abidjan, pavement dwellers or street children in down-town Nairobi are well-known. There are, however, also less-visible forms of poverty, such as the countless thousands in overcrowded peripheral urban slums across Africa. Another less-visible and more temporary form are refugee camps, generated by conflict or natural disaster, generally located near country borders or other remote rural areas.

These invisible cities, ignored by official statistics and omitted from maps, are often excluded from formal governance structures and are highly deprived in terms of the resources and powers normally available in the visible parts of the city. Visible or not, high poverty levels such as, for instance, in the slums of Addis Ababa, Bobodioulasso or Kinshasa, make poverty a dismal reality calling for urgent action.

African rates of urbanization, often exceeding 4 to 5 per cent per annum, are close to those of Western cities at the end of the 19th century, with the same associated problems of high child mortality, low life expectancy and low literacy. However, the development of African cities is not associated with the commensurate economic growth and effective redistributive measures required to alleviate poverty.

Today, one of every two or three African city-dwellers lives in life-threatening conditions.

In 1990, 241 million Africans (47.4 per cent of what?? — the urban population) were living on less than US \$1 a day¹. In 1999, there were 315 million, averaging 49 per cent of the total population. **The number of poor is expected to reach 404 million in 2015 or 46 percent².** UNCTAD estimates show an even worse scenario for Least Developed

More urban poor in life-threatening conditions

Countries (LDCs) in Africa. Compared with LDCs elsewhere in the world, poverty in African LDCs is rising markedly. According to the agency, the proportion of people in 29 African LDCs living below \$2 per day increased from 82 per cent in the late 1960s to 87.5 per cent in the late 1990s. For those in extreme poverty under \$1 per day the increase was from 55.8 per cent to 64.9 per cent. The number of Africans living in extreme poverty in these countries rose dramatically from 89.6 million to 233.5 million over the same period.

The situation is not only one of slow and erratic economic growth but rather of regressive change in income distribution³ as the poorest get poorer, with reduced per capita incomes.

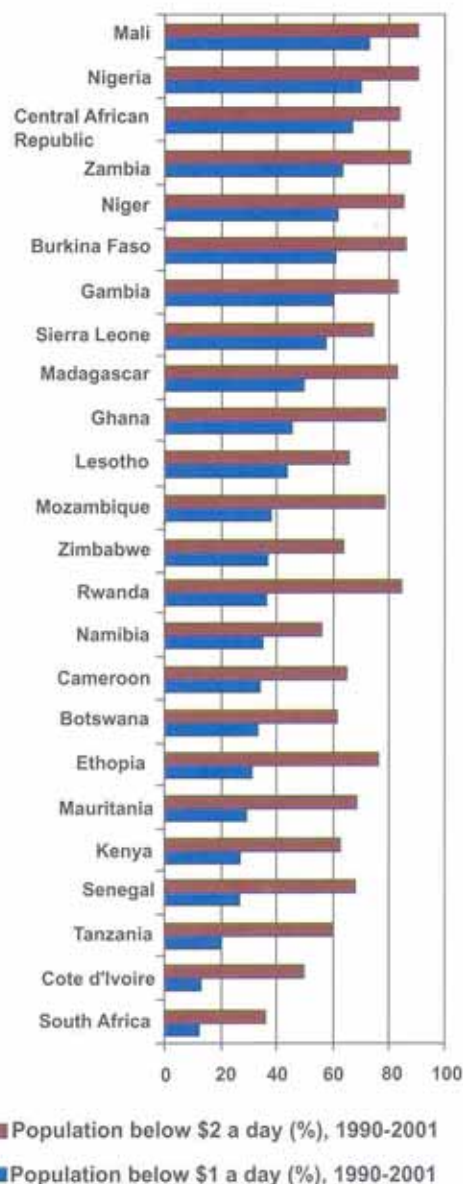
In some African countries, there has been a process of equalizing downwards as real wages have fallen, pushing large numbers of urban workers below the poverty line⁴.

According to UNDP, only five of sub-Saharan Africa's 47 countries are expected to meet the global goal of halving the number of people living in poverty by 2015. This cannot be reversed unless there is a substantial increase of the per-capita income, without increasing inequalities.

Lack of pro-poor policies is not only an impediment to growth; poverty itself hinders economic growth by limiting the domestic resources available for private investment and public goods.

In today's context of globalization, international economic relationships could alleviate poverty. In practice, as argued by many, they reinforce it.

Poverty levels in Africa



Urbanization Challenges in Sub-Saharan Africa

Urbanization prospects

Africa is currently growing by 250,000 new children every week.

But it is in city slums that populations are growing fastest because they absorb 190,000 new-born babies and migrants each week.

As such, urban slums absorb about three-quarters of the population growth in African cities.

The levels of urbanization in Africa today are similar to those industrialized Europe at the end of the 19th century. Sub-Saharan Africa presents some of the highest urbanization rates, often exceeding 5 per cent per annum, twice as high as Latin America and Asia. These current trends on population and human settlement growth defy belief. Indeed, Africa has overtaken Asia with a slight margin⁵. Estimates and projections show that secondary cities continued to grow most rapidly — in nearly all cases much faster than the capitals or other larger cities. It is the small cities and towns that continue to absorb the majority of new urban population.

Over the next two decades, around 87 per cent of the population growth in Africa will be in urban areas.

Urban areas will strongly influence the world of the 21st century, and urban and rural populations will be increasingly interdependent for their economic, social and environmental well-being. Among the economic and social factors influencing this process are population growth, voluntary and involuntary migration, real and perceived employment opportunities, cultural expectations, changing consumption and production patterns and serious imbalances and disparities among regions⁶.

With 35.7 per cent of their populations living in urban areas in 2003, Africa is expected to experience rapid rates of urbanization during 2000-2030, so that by 2030, 51 per cent of its inhabitants will live in urban areas.

The urban transition will be reached around the year 2030, when urban dwellers will start to outnumber rural inhabitants in Sub-Saharan Africa.

However, urbanization patterns show tremendous differences between sub-regions and countries. While the urban transition has already been reached in Southern Africa at the end of the 1990s, due to the large urban population increase in South Africa, Namibia, Swaziland and Lesotho in the same region still had urbanization rates below 20 per cent in 2002. By 2030, while

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_19355

