

Urbanization

MEETING THE CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES OF AN URBAN FUTURE



By 2030,
60% of the world's
population will live in
urban areas, up from
30% in 1950.

What is urbanization?

An increase in the proportion of people living in urban areas. Urban areas span a wide range of sizes and forms: central cities, peri-urban areas, city-regions, traditional suburbs, megacities, towns, metropolitan and micropolitan areas, and small- and intermediate-sized cities.

THE PACE OF URBANIZATION IS INCREASING

AFRICA AND ASIA—currently home to 90% of world's rural population—are urbanizing faster than any other regions and will be 56% and 64% urban, respectively, by 2050.

40% urban



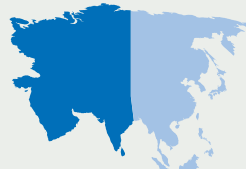
2014

54% urban



2050

48% urban



2014

64% urban



2050

Every country where USAID has a presence is experiencing urban population growth.



Close to half of the world's urban dwellers reside in relatively small settlements of less than 500,000 inhabitants.



The fastest growing urban agglomerations are medium-sized cities and cities with less than 1 million inhabitants located in Asia and Africa.

Too often, urban growth is accompanied by increasing urban poverty.

But it does not have to be this way. Cities can and should be places that catalyze inclusive economic growth, reduce poverty and hunger, and build resilience to shocks and stresses while protecting ecosystems and combating climate change.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

URBANIZATION MATTERS TO USAID

Recognizing that urbanization offers unparalleled opportunities for eradicating extreme poverty and fostering innovation, USAID is entering a new era of sustainable urban programming. A central Urban unit—E3/Urban—will provide leadership and technical guidance.

OUR SUCCESS AS AN AGENCY IN ACHIEVING OUR CORE DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES WILL GREATLY DEPEND ON HOW WE RESPOND TO URBANIZATION.



EXTREME POVERTY

By 2040, cities will account for the majority of people who live on less than \$1 a day.



CLIMATE CHANGE

70% of greenhouse gas emissions come from cities. Cities consume 2/3 of the world's energy, even though city residents have a smaller carbon footprint per capita than rural people.



FOOD SECURITY

The urban poor spend a larger share of household budgets, 50-75%, on food, making them particularly vulnerable to food insecurity during food price spikes.



FRAGILITY/SECURITY

With 863 million people living in slums as of 2014, the urban poor are especially vulnerable to risky events, such as crime, forced eviction, or disasters.



HEALTH

Nearly 50% of city dwellers in Africa, Asia and Latin America suffer from at least one disease caused by lack of safe water and sanitation.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESILIENCE

Improving resilience to shocks and disasters is key to reducing fragility. Nearly 80% of big cities are vulnerable to earthquakes; 60% are at risk from storm surges and tsunamis.

SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION IS CENTRAL TO MEETING CRITICAL GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITMENTS.



THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development

2030 Agenda



PARIS 2015
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
COP21 • CMP11

Paris Agreement



FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT
13-16 JULY 2015 • ADDIS ABABA • ETHIOPIA
TIME FOR GLOBAL ACTION

Addis Action Agenda



New Urban Agenda

USAID'S APPROACH

USAID's new era of urbanization will focus on systems-based, holistic approaches to development that integrate food security, economic growth, health, education, climate change, and resilience programming in a context of urbanization. Partnerships, access to financing, local capacity building at the municipal government level, good data and technology will be central to our efforts. Together, we can help the cities of today become vibrant centers of the future with opportunity for all.

Contact USAID's E3/Urban team at urban@usaid.gov, visit www.urban-links.org, or follow us at @USAIDUrban.

