

What is Urbanisation?

This is an increase in the amount of people living in urban areas such as towns or cities. In 2007, the UN announced that for the first time, more than 50 % of the world's population live in urban areas.



Settlement Hierarchies

If we group and classify a number of settlements according to their size and shape, the result is settlement hierarchy.

Key Characteristics of Settlement Hierarchy.

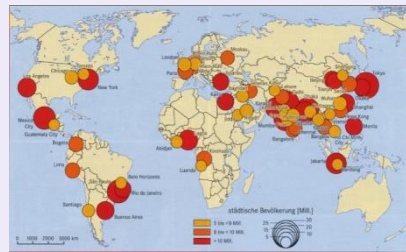
- The number of services that a settlement provides increases with settlement size.
- Small settlements will only provide low-order services such as a post offices.
- Larger settlements and conurbations have a much larger sphere of influence than smaller ones.
- The range of a service or product is the maximum distance people are prepared to travel to purchase it.



Types of Cities

Megacity

An urban area which over 10 million people living there.



More than two thirds of current megacities are located in either EDCs and LIDCs). The amount of megacities are predicted to increase from 28 to 41 by 2030.

World City

Cities that are centres for trade and business. They hold global influence.



Key 'world cities' include London, New York, Tokyo and Paris. Most are located within ACs but are now gradually expanding into EDCs, for example Moscow.

Causes of Urbanisation

The movement of people from rural to urban areas.

Push

- Natural disasters
- War and Conflict
- Mechanisation
- Drought

Pull

- More Jobs
- Better education & healthcare
- Increased quality of life.
- Following family members.

Consequences of Rapid Urbanisation in LIDCs

Although there are lots of opportunities in urban areas, the rapid growth can place many pressures that causes various problems.

Social Consequences

- Little official housing available.
- Infrastructure struggles to support growing population.
- Increase in crime rates.

Environmental Consequences

- Rubbish may not be collected.
- Sewage and toxic waste pollutes river environments.
- Increased congestion produces more pollution.

Economic Consequences

- May not be enough jobs – increased unemployment.
- Informal sector increases Little access to education and healthcare.

Counter-Urbanisation in ACs

This is the movement of people from city centres to rural areas or smaller towns.



Push

- Overcrowding and pollution.
- Unemployment increases.
- Deindustrialisation of centre.
- Traffic congestion increases CO².



Pull

- Green spaces & family friendly.
- New modern housing estates.
- Improved public transport.
- Rents cheaper on outskirts.



Urban Futures

Suburbanisation

This is the movement of people from city centres to the outskirts.



Push

- Overcrowding and pollution.
- Unemployment increases.
- Deindustrialisation of centre.
- Traffic congestion.



Pull

- Green spaces & family friendly.
- New modern housing estates.
- Improved public transport.
- Rents cheaper on outskirts.



Consequences of Suburbanisation

Environmental Consequences

- New housing damages countryside and habitats.
- Increase of cars adds air pollution.

Economic Consequences

- People leaves centres and they become deserted.
- Unemployment increases, which leads to poverty.

Social Consequences

- Offices and businesses are abandoned.
- Economic and ethnic segregation.

Rapid Urbanisation: Life in Lagos, Nigeria



Background

Lagos is a port on the coast of Nigeria. Recently the city has experienced rapid population growth with 3.4 million extra people coming it home between 2000 and 2010.

Effects of Urbanisation

Social

- Many live without electricity.
- High diseases rate and life expectancy low.

Economic

- High rate of corruption to officials.
- Business is limited due to poor infrastructure.

Environmental

- Large scale traffic issues.
- Slums such as Makoko are heavily polluted with poor sanitation.

Management

- Authorities removed many dwellings in slums such as Makoko.
- A loan of \$200 from the World Bank to improve drainage and solid waste.
- New ideas such as the 'floating homes and school' have been suggested.

Re-urbanisation in ACs

This is the movement of people back into urban areas.



Push

- Lack of jobs in rural and suburban areas.
- Less leisure and entertainment in rural areas.
- Counter-urbanisation may have increased house prices.



Pull

- Redevelopment of brownfield sites with improved housing.
- Young people are attracted to the Universities.
- People are attracted to entertainment facilities available.



Consequences of Re-urbanisation

Social Consequences

- Shops and services benefit from the additional residents.
- Increase in tension between new and older residents.
- House prices in redeveloped areas increase.
- Schools benefit from the increase of students.
- More jobs and less employment within the area.



Environmental Consequences

- Redevelopment of brownfield sites improves old industrial and polluted areas
- Decreases pressures on greenfield areas.
- Could destroy urban wildlife.

Economic Consequences

- New shops and services will improve local economy.
- Jobs available may not be accessible to original residents.
- Urban tourism may increase.

Informal Housing

This is housing that is built on land which does not belong to those who are building it. This may be on land that is unsuitable due to its surroundings.



Internal Growth

Internal growth occurs when urban areas experience rapid rates of population growth. This comes as a result of a large amount of arrival of people in cities, who after finding a job, house and partner will have children. This occurs mostly in LIDCs.

AC: Challenges & Opportunities for Cities: Birmingham Case Study



Location and Background

Birmingham is the UK's second largest city. It is part of the West Midlands region which also includes Coventry.



City's Importance

- Is a centre of culture and shopping.
- Has 2 Jaguar Land Rover factories and Cadbury's.
- Has largest working jewellery centre in Europe.
- Has major transport links that connect effectively to the UK and the world.
- 12000 students attend Birmingham's universities.

Migration to Birmingham

Birmingham began in Saxon times but developed into a major manufacturing location during the Victorian era of the 1800s. Now it is a multicultural city with 47% being from black and minorities communities.



- Polish, Ukrainian & Hungarian refugees arrived after WWII.
- Many commonwealth populations, such as India, moved in during the 1950s.
- Since 2000, migrants came from Eastern Europe, Africa and Middle East.

City Challenges

- There is a lack of affordable housing, especially for the young generation.
- Social inequality including deprivation and poverty is a problem for young people, especially in Sparkbrook area with 24.5% unemployment and average income of £21000. This compares to Sutton Four Oaks in the suburbs with only 3.1% unemployed and income of £40000 on average.
- Some communities are being replaced by students (studentification) which then require different services.

Birmingham's way of Life

- The city benefits by the diversity of many different cultures, e.g. Food and music.
- The population benefits from redevelopment of city centre, e.g. offices at Brindley Place and Bullring shopping centre in centre.
- Good entertainment centres and night life.



Sustainable development - Summerfield Eco-neighbourhood project

- Solar panels & low-energy heating installed into 329 homes. Installed free to families with less than £21,000 income.
- Project works with 6 local schools to educate children about eco-friendly housing.
- Fuel bills reduced by £150 per year
- Residents' behaviour changed for the positive in choosing more eco-friendly lifestyles.
- 5 large Victorian homes have been gentrified (improved) into eco-homes with solar panels and kitchens made from 100% recycled materials.
- 20 trainee placements for local unemployed created to gain work experience

Greenbelt Area

This is a zone of land surrounding a city where new building is strictly controlled to try to prevent cities growing too much and too fast.



Conurbation

A conurbation is a region comprising a number of cities, large towns, and other urban areas that, through population growth have merged to form one continuous urban or industrially developed area. For example: Greater Manchester includes Manchester, Bolton, Oldham, Bury and Rochdale.

LIDC: Challenges & Opportunities for Cities: Lagos Case Study



Location and Background

Lagos is located on the coast in south west Nigeria. It is a port located around the western shore of a large lagoon. It has grown a result of rural-to-urban migration.



City's Importance

- Biggest city in Africa
- Main financial centre for whole of west Africa
- It was the capital while under British rule until 1991.
- Location of 80% of Nigeria's industry
- Has an international port and airport
- An important trade centre for Africa and globally.
- Location of many trans national companies

Migration to Lagos

Urbanisation growth rate in Lagos is 18.6%. 96% people arriving in Lagos come from within Nigeria = internal migration. Migrate due to push factors from rural areas such as food shortages, floods and droughts, few jobs, lack of social services and civil war. International migration makes up 0.7% due to TNCs like Shell and Mobil linked to Nigeria's oil industry.



Lagos's way of Life

- Wealthy people live on Banana Island in gated communities. Poor live in slums like Makoko where most people do informal jobs.
- 250 ethnic groups. Mixed culture reflected in music, festivals, street markets and food.
- 'Nollywood' film industry popular

City Challenges - Makoko slum conditions

- Illegal wooden huts built on stilts over lagoon.
- Communal toilets shared by 15 families. Sewage goes into lagoon creating pollution and health problems like cholera.
- Malaria also major health problem due to stagnant lagoon water.
- Only one primary school for Makoko on a floating boat. Recently burnt so major issue.
- Crime rate very high. Slum patrolled by gangs called 'area boys' who commit crimes as well as being informers.
- Lack of social services, e.g. no hospitals.
- Government sees it as eyesore and wants to demolish it creating more homeless people as no affordable alternative housing.

Sustainable development - integrated waste management

Issue is 10000 tones waste produced per day. Large rubbish dumps such as Olususun contain toxic waste.

- Sustainable strategies include:-
- Kosi food market collects waste food and burns the methane as it rots to generate electricity.
 - The World Bank is funding turning waste market food into compost so less waste goes to landfill sites reducing methane production. Compost used by farmers to make soil more fertile.
 - Olususun landfill is having pipes built into waste to collect methane, take it to generators to make electricity.