

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.

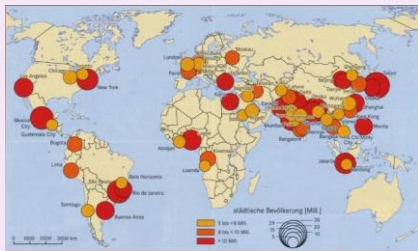
- The number of services that a settlement provides increases with settlement size.
- Small settlements will only provide low-order services such as a post offices.
- Larger settlements and conurbations have a much larger sphere of influence than smaller ones.
- The range of a service or product is the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

Types of Cities



Megacity

An urban area with over 10 million people living there.



More than two thirds of current megacities are located in either EDCs and LDCs. 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 LDCs

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

The movement of people from cities into the countryside.



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.



Topic 5 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

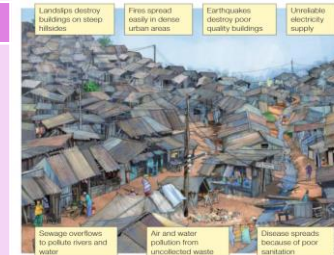
- High rate of corruption to officials.
- Business is limited due to poor infrastructure.

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 LDCs.

Greenbelt Area



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

EDC: Challenges & Opportunities for Cities: LAGOS Case Study



Location and Background

Lagos is located on the South West coast of Nigeria on the Pacific Ocean. The city was originally a small fishing. In the early twentieth century it became the capital city of Nigeria until 1991 when the government moved to Abuja.



City's Importance

- Lagos is a major financial centre for all of Africa and is the economic hub of Lagos State.
- The megacity has the fourth-highest GDP in Africa and houses one of the largest and busiest seaports on the continent.
- It is one of the fastest growing cities in the world.

Migration to Lagos

The population of Lagos increases by approximately 600,000 each year. The Lagos State Government estimates the population of Lagos to be 17.5 million. Lagos has the highest population of any city in Africa.

Pull Factors:

- 1) There are more healthcare centres and hospitals and a better range of medicines in Lagos.
- 2) 68% of the population of Lagos has a secondary education.

Push Factors:

- 1) The oil industry has caused heavy pollution in the Niger Delta region.
- 2) The terrorist group, Boko Haram, is active in the north of Nigeria. This insecurity has been caused by political unrest.

Lagos Opportunities

- Lagos makes a significant contribution to the Nigerian economy. It contributes 30% to Nigeria's GDP. This is remarkable considering Lagos is home to only 10% of the population of Nigeria. The majority of Nigeria's manufacturing is based in Lagos as well as many service industries such as finance.
- The rate of unemployment in Lagos is lower than the rest of Nigeria. The rate was 9.9% in 2015. Most people who are not formally employed work in the informal economy to get by. This includes jobs such as shoe shining, waste recycling or street vending.

Lagos Challenges

The major problem in Lagos is the growth of squatter settlements also known as SLUMS. These slums come with many issues for people including the lack of planned access to clean water and sanitation systems, poor health, lack of education, unemployment and the prospect of crime.

- 65 percent of the people living in Lagos are urban poor who live in slums

Water pollution is a major problem in Lagos. Uncontrolled disposal of raw sewage, sediment carrying runoff and effluents into the Lagoon system has created serious health concerns. Deadly waterborne diseases like cholera & diarrhoea are affecting people as a result.

- Only 10% of the population in Lagos have piped water.

Floating School – Sustainable Management

Before it was built, the children of Makoko only had access to one primary school which was inadequate, built on reclaimed land and was frequently threatened by recurrent flooding. In 2013, Kunté Adeyemi with several NGOs proposed to create a functional building prototype for the school.

Sustainability

- The materials used were local such as bamboo, timber and other resources. This was to make a building that meets the physical, social needs of people and reflects the culture of the community.
- The use of solar cells to the roof is sustainable, as are rainwater catchment systems and composting toilets. 250 plastic barrels were used to float on the waters and be naturally ventilated and aerated.



AC: Challenges & Opportunities for Cities: BIRMINGHAM Case Study



Location and Background

Birmingham is the UK's second largest city, after London. Its population is about 1,100,000 and growing. It grew into a city during the Industrial Revolution however now there has been industrial decline.



City's Importance

- Birmingham has a population of 1,101,360, which again is the largest population outside of London.
- Birmingham has the second largest GDP (between London's \$731.2 and Manchester's \$88.3) of \$114.3bn.
- Birmingham has a range of cultural hotspots, e.g. the City of Birmingham's symphony Orchestra and 5-top universities which attracts many tourists, making it the fourth-most visited UK city.

Migration to Birmingham

- Migration from Eastern Europe increased after the EU enlarged in 2004. Most migrants from the EU enter the UK for work (have a job/are looking for one).
- Migration from Asia and the West Indies began in the 1950s and 1960s when people were recruited to work here. Today most migrants from non-EU countries enter for their studies or for family who live in the UK.
- Outside London, Birmingham is the UK's most diverse city.

Birmingham Challenges

- Urban decline - Birmingham used to have a large manufacturing industry. Due to competition from abroad, most of Birmingham's manufacturing industry has now gone. This has led to urban decline as manufacturing buildings were left empty and became derelict.
- Deprivation - With the closure of the manufacturing industry and high unemployment, parts of Birmingham experienced a spiral of social and economic decline leading to deprivation.
- Inequalities in housing - Birmingham's high population has resulted in pressures on housing. There is not enough good quality and affordable housing for people in the city.

Birmingham Opportunities

- Ethnic and cultural diversity allows people to experience different religions and foods. The Balti Triangle is an area of Birmingham famous for its restaurants and curry houses.
- The Bullring shopping centre includes 140 shops generating employment and income for the local economy.
- Canals in Birmingham have been cleaned up. The towpaths have been upgraded to encourage people to walk and cycle along the canals in the city.

Sustainable Developments – Birmingham Library

The Library of Birmingham, opened in 2013, was built on a brownfield site that was once a multi-storey car park.

The design of the metal exterior is a reminder of the city's industrial past.

As part of Birmingham's plan to be a leading green city, the library:

- Recycled 95% of waste materials from the site during construction.
- Employed over 250 people during construction to reduce local unemployment.
- Uses less water by harvesting rainwater and recycling water.
- Has a green roof to attract wildlife.

