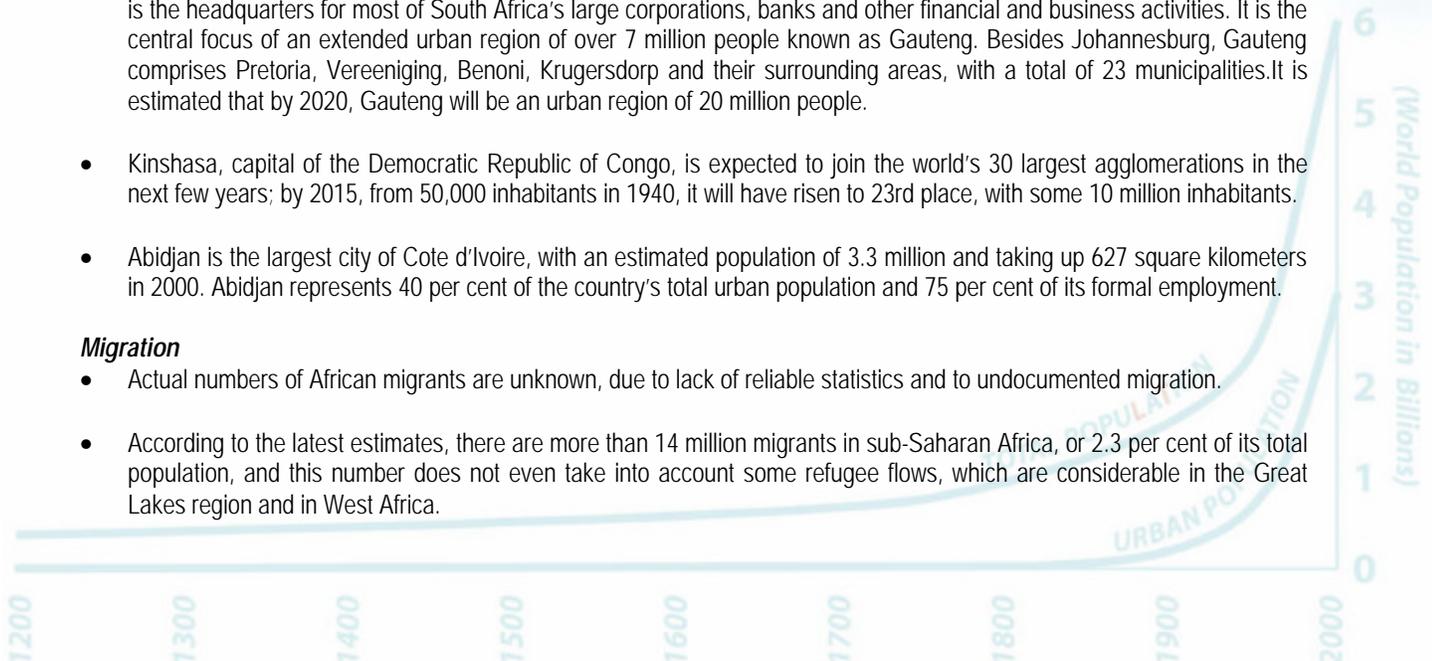


State of the World's Cities: Trends in Sub-Saharan Africa *Urbanization & Metropolitanization*

- Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is urbanizing faster than any other continent. Though SSA has only recently started its urban transition, the pace is such that it can expect an urban majority by around 2030. In 2001, only Congo, Djibouti, Gabon, Mauritania and South Africa had urban majorities; but by the end of the current decade, no less than nine SSA nations will pass the 50 per cent urban mark.
- In some countries in sub-Saharan Africa, rates of urbanization exceed 4 to 5 per cent per annum. These rates 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.
- The average SSA main city typically experienced persistent annual urban growth rates of 5 to 6 per cent, while some cities saw annual growth rates in excess of 10 per cent, implying population doubling every decade.
- In 1960 Johannesburg was the sole SSA city exceeding 1 million inhabitants, in 1970 there were four (Cape Town, Johannesburg, Kinshasa and Lagos). By the late 1980s, the list also included Abidjan, Accra, Addis Ababa, Dakar, Dar es Salaam, Durban, East Rand, Harare, Ibadan, Khartoum, Luanda and Nairobi. By 2010, SSA will have at least 33 cities of more than 1 million inhabitants, with 2 exceeding 5 million and 1 (Lagos) having more than 13 million inhabitants.
- In 1995, Lagos became the world's 29th largest urban agglomeration, with 6.5 million inhabitants. In 2000, it was the 23rd largest, with 8.8 million people. Lagos became one of SSA's first mega-urban regions when its metropolitan population reached 10 million inhabitants around 2002. Lagos continues to grow and by 2015 it is envisaged to become the world's 11th largest urban system, with 16 million inhabitants.
- South Africa is host to SSA's second largest mega-urban region. Metropolitan Johannesburg, with its 3 million inhabitants, is the headquarters for most of South Africa's large corporations, banks and other financial and business activities. It is the central focus of an extended urban region of over 7 million people known as Gauteng. Besides Johannesburg, Gauteng comprises Pretoria, Vereeniging, Benoni, Krugersdorp and their surrounding areas, with a total of 23 municipalities. It is estimated that by 2020, Gauteng will be an urban region of 20 million people.
- Kinshasa, capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo, is expected to join the world's 30 largest agglomerations in the next few years; by 2015, from 50,000 inhabitants in 1940, it will have risen to 23rd place, with some 10 million inhabitants.
- Abidjan is the largest city of Cote d'Ivoire, with an estimated population of 3.3 million and taking up 627 square kilometers in 2000. Abidjan represents 40 per cent of the country's total urban population and 75 per cent of its formal employment.

Migration

- Actual numbers of African migrants are unknown, due to lack of reliable statistics and to undocumented migration.
- According to the latest estimates, there are more than 14 million migrants in sub-Saharan Africa, or 2.3 per cent of its total population, and this number does not even take into account some refugee flows, which are considerable in the Great Lakes region and in West Africa.



- West Africa has the highest number of international population (6.8 million or 4.7 per cent of the regional population). Cote d'Ivoire still hosts many migrants (2.6 million or 15 per cent of the national population). This percentage was, in fact, double during the 1990s before the recent internal instability. Migratory flows mainly involve temporary workers from land-locked countries (Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger) to the more prosperous coastal countries (Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal).
- The flows have recently taken such significant proportions that it is now possible to speak of a notable phenomenon that could, perhaps, be called 'international urbanization', where migration flows take on a notable international rural to urban character: rural populations flocking to the cities of neighbouring or even far-away African nations.
- In Central Africa, international migration is high in percentage terms (4.2 per cent of the sub-regional population), but more limited in size (1.5 million). Gabon has the highest percentage of migrants, from both the region and the continent. Migratory flows are generated by labour demand in the lumber and mining industries in Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- East Africa hosts a significant number of international migrants (4.4 million), even though their percentage (2.3 per cent) is below the regional average. In this area, refugee movements are predominant rather than labour-related migration, and refugees have strong urban impact. For instance, Keren – the second largest city of Eritrea - has doubled its population during the last five years due to refugee inflows, arising from both the conflict with Ethiopia and the civil war in Sudan.
- Abidjan has a cosmopolitan character and welcomes migrants not only from regions throughout the country, but also from its neighbouring countries, including Burkina Faso, Mali, Guinea and Ghana. According to a survey for the Atelier d'Urbanisme d'Abidjan in 1994, for every ten residents of the slums of Abidjan, four originate from Cote d'Ivoire while the rest are from Burkina Faso (20 per cent), Mali (9 per cent), Ghana (9 per cent), with Togo and Benin accounting for 12 per cent.
- Representing 20 per cent of the population of Abidjan, the residents of the slum areas live in marginal conditions due to labour and housing insecurity. Moreover, they are stigmatized by the rest of the urban population, and policies taken to improve slums and alleviate poverty remain uncoordinated.

Poverty & slums

- In 1990, 241 million Africans (47.4 per cent) were living on less than US\$1 per day. In 1999, there were 315 million, averaging 49 per cent of the total population. In the absence of significant interventions, their number is expected to reach 404 million in 2015, or 46 per cent. The situation is not only one of slow and erratic economic growth, but rather one of regressive change in income distribution, as the poorest get poorer, with reduced per capita incomes.
- In 2001, 166.2 million people, or 72 per cent of Africa's urban residents, were living in slums. This shocking figure is accompanied by severe developmental problems, illustrated by the continent's poor life expectancy, as well as high levels of infant and child mortality, HIV/AIDS prevalence and illiteracy, particularly among women and girls.
- During the next 25 years, roughly 400 million people will be added to the African continent's urban population, putting tremendous pressure on cities.
- Africa is likely to be the host of an exceptionally large slum population in the years to come. During the 1990-2001 period, African urban slum populations increased by about 65 millions, at an average annual rate of 4.49 per cent, which is about 2 per cent more than the total population growth (2.68 per cent).
- Based on these estimates, if no effective pro-poor policies are implemented, urban slum populations are likely to double, on average, every 15 years, while the total population doubles every 26 years.

- In 2015, the urban slum population in Africa is likely to reach 332 million. This projection is based on several demographic assumptions that do not take into account the undetermined impacts of HIV/AIDS and human-made disasters on population growth and slum formation, particularly in cities.
- The lack of improved sanitation is the most important feature of slums in the African urban context. About 57 per cent of urban Africans do not have access to improved forms of sanitation. In some countries, this figure exceeds 80 per cent of the population, as in Niger (88 per cent), Sierra Leone (82 per cent) and Mali (81 per cent).
- The lack of improved water supply appears to be the second most important determining factor, affecting about one fifth of urban Africa. The lack of sufficient living space or overcrowding is the third most important factor, widely varying from one country to another.
- The worst scenarios, where more than 80 per cent of the population live in slum-like conditions, are found in Western Africa: that is, in Sierra Leone (96 per cent), Guinea Bissau (93 per cent), Niger (92 per cent), Mali 86 per cent) and Mauritania (85 per cent).

Crime & safety

- According to the South African Police Service (SAPS), after increasing moderately, yet consistently, between 1996 and 2000, overall crime rates in South Africa began to stabilize and some types of crime even decreased between 2000 and 2002. Nevertheless, overall crime rates, particularly rates of homicide and violent crime, are stabilizing at an alarmingly high level. For example, although violent crime only increased by 1 per cent between 2001 and 2002, it had increased by 33 per cent between 1994-1995 and 2000-2001.
- In terms of the proportion of these crimes, property crime (home and business burglary and all forms of theft) accounted for 55 per cent and violent crime (interpersonal crime and all robberies) accounted for 33 per cent of all crimes reported to SAPS between 1 April 2001 and 31 March 2002. South African homicide rates remain exceptionally high - higher than any other country that submits crime statistics to Interpol. A SAPS performance report reveals that over 21,400 cases of murder, nearly 540,000 cases of rape and over 116,700 cases of serious robbery were recorded in 2000/2001.
- A survey conducted in Durban, South Africa, also found burglary to be the most prevalent crime, the rate was much lower, with only 26 per cent of respondents reporting having been burgled. In comparison, 23 per cent of respondents to the Durban survey reported being a victim of robbery over the past five years 1995-2000.
- However, Durban, Johannesburg and Dar es Salaam had similar assault rates (12, 16 and 16 per cent, respectively). With the exception of assault, other violent crime was found to be less prevalent in Dar es Salaam than in South African cities where similar victim surveys had been conducted.
- A victimization survey conducted in Dar es Salaam, found that the city had very high rates of burglary (43 per cent of households burgled over the last five years), compared to other African cities. Robbery, defined as simple theft involving force or use of violence, had a much lower rate of 14 per cent. Nearly two-thirds of people surveyed in Dar es Salaam believed that crime had increased over the past years and felt unsafe in their residential areas after dark.
- Safer Cities Dar-es-Salaam was initiated in 1997 by UN-Habitat, the International Centre for Prevention of Crime and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The initiative aimed at coordinating and strengthening local institutional crime prevention capacity, in partnership with all stakeholders and communities. Several neighbourhood watch groups (Sungu Sungu) have been established, attracting the voluntary services of 200 unemployed youths (both men and women). The groups have been successful in stopping burglaries, catching thieves and recovering stolen property. In return, each client pays a monthly token fee.

- A citywide victim survey in Nairobi conducted in 2001 found that: 7.6 per cent of respondents claimed they had been a victim of hijacking during the past year; 25 per cent of the victims were traveling on public transport; 34.2 per cent of hijackings occurred immediately outside the driver's or passenger's home. Victims were taken hostage in 60.4 per cent of the incidents. 35 per cent of hostages were immediately released unharmed, 48.6 per cent were first robbed before release, 10.8 per cent were raped before release and in 2.7 per cent of the cases, one or more hostages were killed.
- 90 per cent of conflict casualties are caused by small arms - they are, indeed, 'weapons of mass destruction'. Small arms are easily accessible and inexpensive - an AK-47 can be purchased for about the same price as a chicken or goat in many African countries. Africa has become a dumping ground of inexpensive surplus small arms that are freely circulating. At a conservative approximation, it could be estimated that between 500,000 and 1 million weapons were imported into Mozambique alone during its civil war, while only about 190,000 were collected during the following United Nations peacekeeping operation in 1993-1995.

Crime & youth

- Increasing youth crime has serious implications, particularly in Africa where over two thirds of many cities' populations are between the ages of 12 and 25. Most of these young people live in informal settlements without basic facilities, services and security.
- In 1992, the Organization of African Unity (OAU, now the African Union, or AU) estimated that there were about 16 million street children in Africa and that the number was expected to double to 32 million by the year 2000.
- The number of what they called 'children in especially difficult circumstances' was expected to increase from 80 to 150 million. The number of street children in Zambia doubled from 35,000 to 70,000 between 1991 and 1994, while the number in Nairobi exploded from 4500 to 30,000 during the same three year period.
- Othandweni project, Johannesburg, South Africa was started as a feeding scheme in 1995, but was later changed to a nonprofit organization after a need-assessment test identified the gaps in service delivery to street children and youth. The project aims to empower the street children and youth of Johannesburg through four projects: basic care and human rights, health care, sport and recreation and entrepreneurial training. The biggest challenge was to gain the trust of the street youth, so staff initially stayed within the community. There are now additional training options available and guardianship programmes for those in conflict with the law. Today, Othandweni reaches out monthly to an average 600 youths.
- AK-47s are easy enough for a ten-year-old child to assemble and carry. The United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates that 250,000 to 300,000 children, some as young as eight years of age, are exploited as soldiers in armed conflicts in over 30 countries around the world.

Violence against women

- South Africa has one of the highest rates of violence against women in the world. Although police statistics are not necessarily the most reliable source on the prevalence of violence and sexual abuse of women, the reported incidence of rape and attempted rape increased by 20 per cent between 1994 and 1999. 77 per cent of women reported that sexual violence was 'very common' in the area in which they live, while one in four young men reported having sex with a woman against her consent by the time he was 18 years of age.
- Approximately 40 per cent of girls aged 17 and under reported rape or attempted rape between 1996 and 1998, while recent studies suggest that the proportion of women reporting having been raped before they were 15 years of age is steadily increasing. Twelve to 17-year-old girls were found to be the most frequent victims of rape (471.7 cases per 100,000 of the female population), while girls up to 11 years had a rape ratio of 130.1 rapes per 100,000 of the female population.
- A victim survey conducted in 2000 in Dar es Salaam, found that 79 per cent of women interviewed had been economically abused, 76 per cent emotionally abused, 71 per cent physically abused, and nearly half (45 per cent) sexually abused at some point in their lives. 39 per cent of victims of emotional abuse, 33 per cent of survivors of physical abuse, and 21 per cent of survivors of sexual abuse said that the abuse had happened countless times.

- A high 62 per cent of women said that their sexual abuser had abused before and 66 per cent of women said that their abuser had abused someone else physically.
- A large majority of victims said that other people were present at the time of their emotional (79 per cent) or physical (76 per cent) abuse, including their own children and family members. Despite this, only 43 per cent of victims reported their physical abuse to police and even fewer (21 per cent) reported sexual abuse.
- A conference entitled Sustainable Safety: Municipalities at the Crossroads, held in Durban, South Africa, in November 2003 and attended by over 300 participants representing local authorities, federal government officials, police, United Nations and other international agencies, NGOs, business circles and community organizations, highlighted this new policy direction in improving community safety. The conference declaration urged the tackling of root causes of problems rather than simply reacting to delinquency, violence and insecurity after the fact.
- Five hundred million small arms produced by 300 manufacturers in 74 countries are believed to be in circulation in the world either legally or outside of regulatory state controls. Despite this, international trade in small arms is currently highly unregulated. 40 per cent of the international flow of small arms is attributed to illicit trafficking.

Governance & transparency

- Transparency International, in releasing its 2003 global Corruption Perceptions Index, pointed out that corruption was pervasive in 12 countries, 4 of which are in Africa. Of countries in the top half of the index of 133 countries, only four (all in southern Africa) were in Africa. Twenty other African countries are in the bottom half of the index. No African country showed significant improvement, while one declined appreciably.
- In spite of the above, the picture in sub-Saharan Africa is not altogether bleak. Southern Africa has a number of states that continue their commitment to better governance. Anti-corruption treaties or conventions at the Southern Africa level and, indeed, at the pan-African level, also constitute potential for optimism. The formation of the African Parliamentarian Network against Corruption (APNAC) in 1999 in Kampala should also be mentioned. The APNAC chapter in Kenya was a player in the 2001 battle to block a weak anti-corruption bill.

This is a UN-HABITAT Feature/Backgrounder, please feel free to publish or quote from this article provided UN-HABITAT Features is given credit. Suitable photographs are available on our website. For further information, please contact: Mr. Sharad Shankardass, Spokesperson, Ms. Zahra Hassan, Press & Media Liaison, Press & Media Relations Unit, Tel: 254 20 623153/623151/623136, Fax: 254 20 624060, E mail: habitat.press@unhabitat.org, Website: www.unhabitat.org