Urbanization in Developing Countries and Developed Countries
Introduction

For a lot of countries, moderate population growth reflects:

- A healthy economy
- A functional society

But, for other nations (particularly less developed), a growing population brings an entirely new set of challenges.

Since, more people means a high demand for:

- Resources
- Infrastructure
- Jobs
- Housing

As, the global population continues to grow,

- The economic and social problems will only become larger in regions that are ill-equipped to handle them.

Experts say that the global population will reach 10 billion by 2060.

Population growth in countries like China and the US

- has decreased over the last few decades.
Main Trends

- Developing countries have dramatically **urbanized** over the past **60 years**.

- While their urbanization process **shares** many **similarities** with the urbanization process of **developed countries** in the 19th century,
  - the two processes also **differ** in several dimensions.

1. **Urban growth has been faster in today’s developing world.**

The Industrial Revolution led to a dramatic acceleration of urbanization. Europe’s urbanization rate increased from about **15%** in 1800 to **40%** in 1910.
In 1950, Africa and Asia were made up of predominantly low-income, rural countries (urbanization rate around 15%).

In 2010, their urbanization rate was around 40%. African and Asian countries have thus experienced the same growth in urbanization as Europe, in half the time.

2. While income growth remains the main driver of urbanization, the world is becoming more and more urbanized at a constant income level.

In 1960, the 35 countries whose income per capita was less than $2 a day had an average urbanization rate of 15%. In 2010, those countries with similar incomes had an average rate of 30%.

The cities of today’s developing world are also much larger.

E.g.,

Mumbai, Lagos and Jakarta have the same population as New York, Paris and London respectively, at a much lower income level.

Dhaka, Kinshasa and Manila are urban super-giants located in very poor countries.
Which countries actually have the fastest growing population?

Population in impoverished countries tend to grow faster than their developed counterparts.

- In fact, most of the fastest growing countries are in Africa (Niger, Angola, Uganda, Congo), which has an overall population that is expected to double over the next 40 years.
Population Growth in Egypt and MENA (excluding High income)

Case Studies
Case Study_1: South Sudan

Since 2000, the country’s population has grown by more than 4% percent every year. compared to a global growth rate 1.2% a year

Why?

1. One explanation for that high growth rate is partially reflects South Sudan’s effort to rebuild their population after more than 50 years of conflict with the North.

2. Another explanation is the high fertility rate of more than 5 births per woman, compared to the global average of almost 2.5.

3. Lack of use of methods of contraception, due to lack of access and cultural norms that discourage birth control.

Case Study_2: Oman

• One of the fastest growing population in the Middle East.
• The country’s population has nearly doubled in the last 25 years, and grown by nearly more than 8% every year since 2011.
• However, these numbers don’t reflect high fertility rates

3 child per woman (Oman Rate) compared to 2.5 child per woman (the world rate).

✓ Oman’s growth rate is largely a result of immigration.

Out of a population of four million, nearly half are immigrants (coming from India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh).
Case Study_3: Lebanon

- Similar to Oman, Lebanon is one of the fastest growing population in the Middle East.
- Since 2011, it showed a population growth rate above 5.5%.
  
  1.7 child per woman (Lebanon Rate) compared to 2.5 child per woman (the world rate).

- Considering the country’s extremely low fertility rate, Lebanon’s sudden growth can almost entirely be attributed to:
  
  The increasing number of refugees from neighboring Syria, Palestine, and Iraq.

- Refugees account for about 30% of Lebanon’s population in 2014
- This has placed a huge burden on Lebanon’s relatively weak economy and unstable infrastructure.

This raises several questions.

- Where do these cities come from?
- Did they grow as a result of migration?
- Did they grow too fast?

In models of urbanization,

- there is rural-to-urban migration as long as the expected urban real wage is higher than the rural real wage.

- This wage gap could be the result of a rural push or an urban pull.
Migration and Urbanization

**Types of Migration**

- **Gross migration**
  - Total number of people coming in and out of an area.
  - Level of population turnover.

- **Net Migration**
  - Difference between immigration (in-migration) and emigration (out-migration).
  - Positive value:
    - More people coming in.
    - Population growth.
    - 44% of North America and 88% of Europe.
  - Negative value:
    - More people coming out.
    - Population decline.
Thank you