

Live in the mountains

More than 1 billion people inhabit mountain ranges across the globe. According to studies, it represents 12 to 15% of the world population. While the ratio has remained almost constant since 1975, the mountain population has doubled in number over the same period.

This population is predominantly urban: 66% of mountain dwellers live in the city. But it remains more rural than the rest of the population, 78% of which is concentrated in cities. These general figures hide a disparity in situations depending on the region. Urbanization rates vary considerably from one mountain range to another. Unlike the Himalayas and Europe, Andean mountains have larger cities with denser populations.

The living conditions are also very heterogeneous depending on the country. The relative affluence of the inhabitants of the European and North

American mountains is contrasted by the deterioration of the living conditions of a majority of the world's mountain inhabitants.

Mountain dwellers are more vulnerable than other populations because of their isolation, precarious access to care, employment and facilities, especially in developing countries. Their vulnerability is also rising because of global warming and its consequences, such as the increase of natural risks. Above all, food insecurity has remained an issue. A growing number of people living in mountains are affected by hunger. Between 2000 and 2017, 44% more people have been in need of food. Nowadays, 39% of mountain dwellers in developing countries are vulnerable to food insecurity. This number rises to 50% in rural areas. In total, food insecurity affects 350 million people living in the mountains. Precariousness also affects a growing proportion of mountain residents.

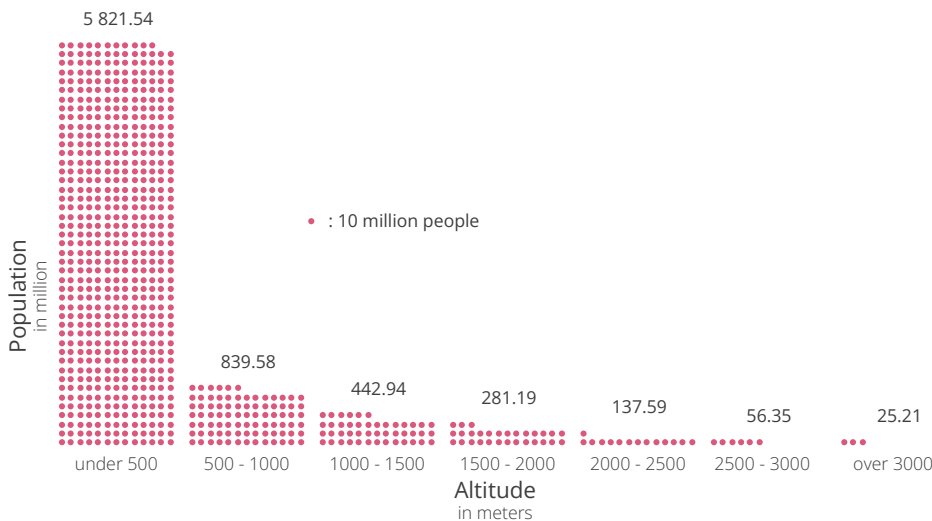
15 %
of world population
live in mountains

From 1945
188,000,000

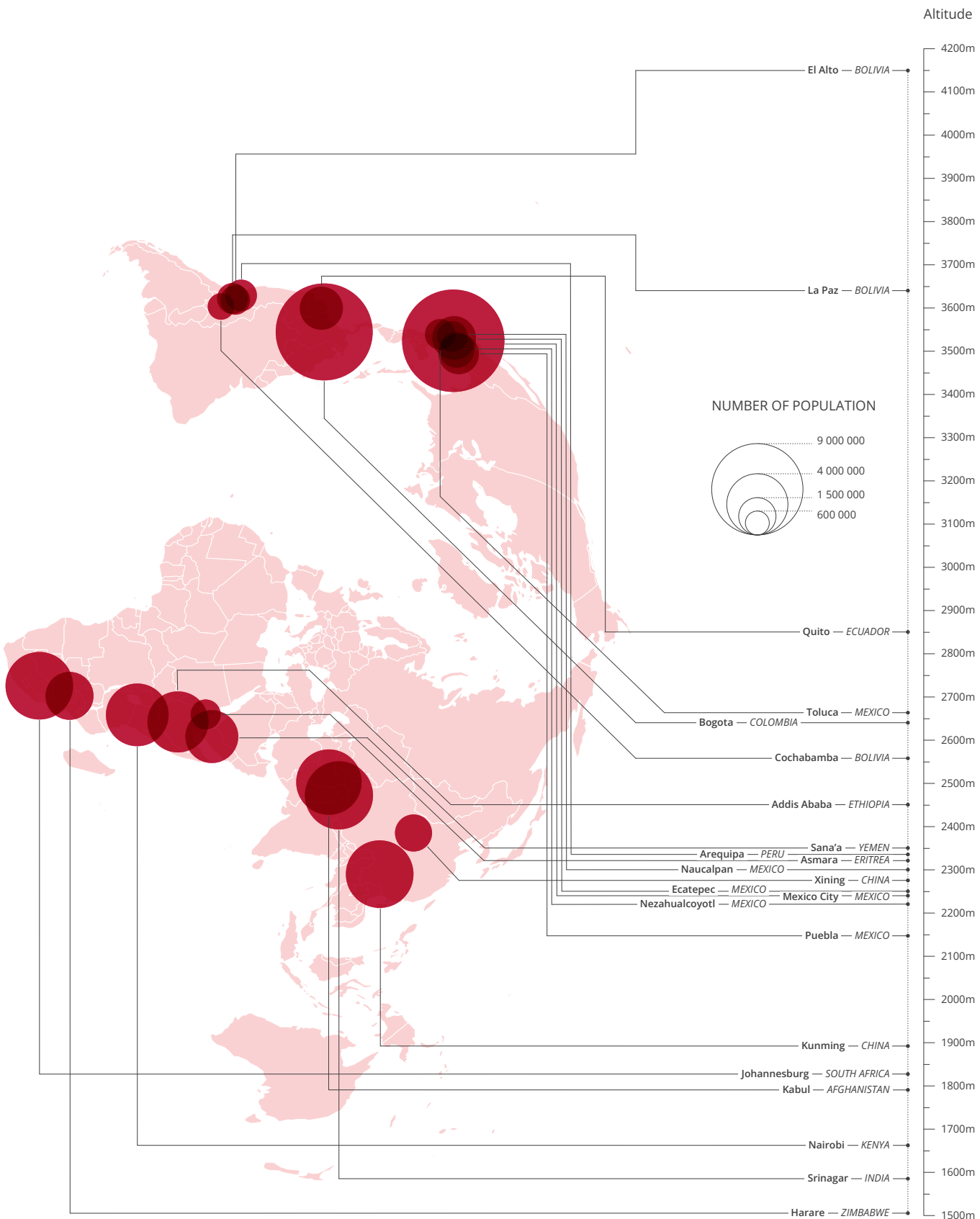
In 1990
792,000,000

To 2020
1,200,000,000

sources : Laurent Rieutort, 2003.



Source: Tremblay, Ainslie, Global and country-level estimates of human population at high altitude, 2021.



Source : Various National Statistics, Grid Arendal.