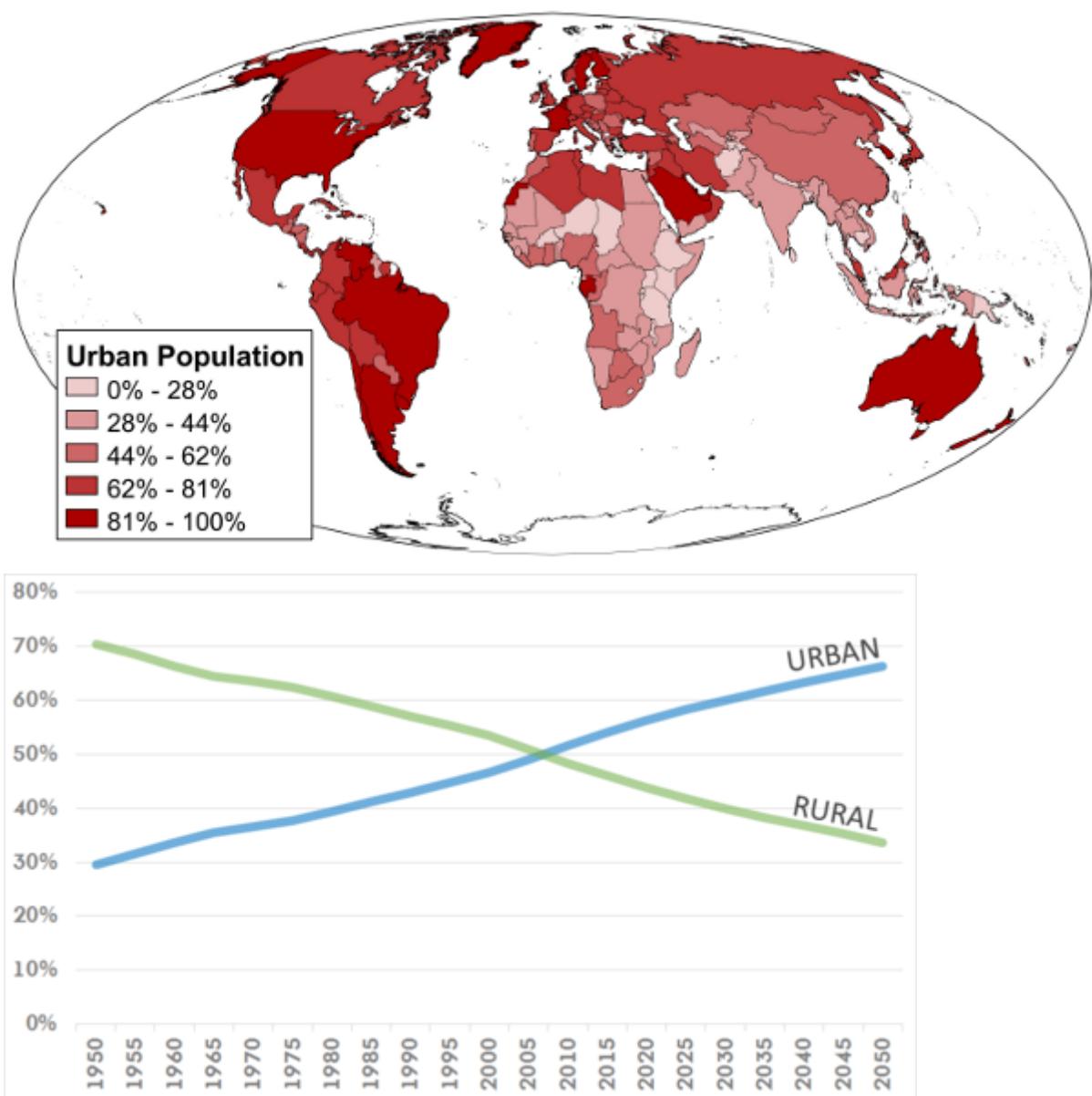


# 6. Urban Environments

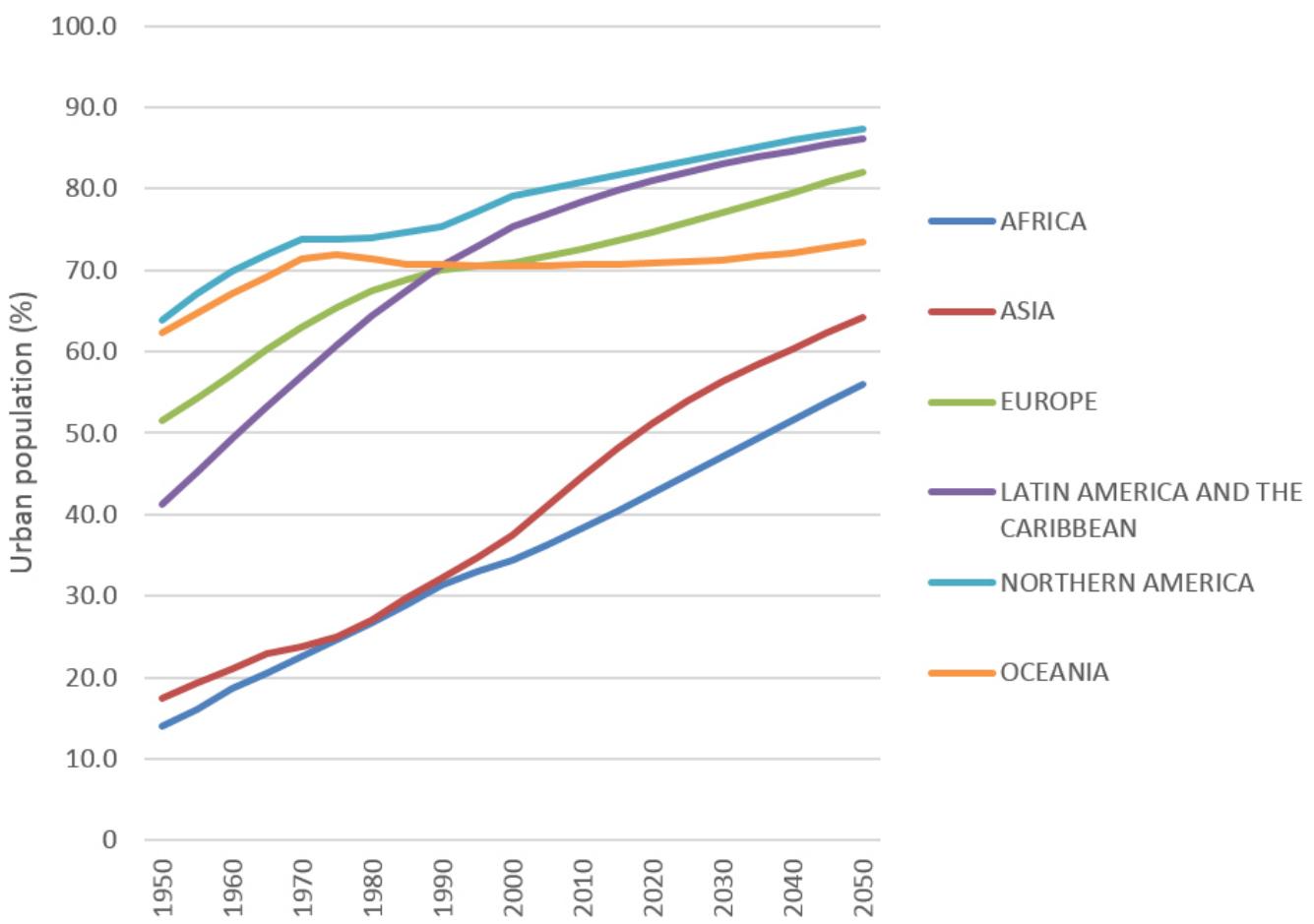
## 6.1 Urbanization and its processes

Difference of Urban areas from rural areas:

- economy: residents make a living from manufacturing and services rather than agriculture
- size: much larger in population
- density of people and buildings: generally higher
- their way of life



As the world population is increasing, the urban population is increasing at a much faster rate



High rates of urbanization occur in developing and emerging countries due to:

- Most economic development is concentrated in the big cities
- push-pull factors leading to high rates of rural to urban migration
- cities are experiencing high rates of natural increase in population

In developed countries, rates of urbanization is slower as much of the population already live in big cities. As transportation and internet allow for an urban life in rural areas, county sides are experiencing rural dilution and counter urbanization.

def

- agglomeration: concentration of people and their activities at particular locations
- suburbanization: outward spread of the urban area, often at lower densities compared with the older parts of a town or city
- urban re-imaging: changing the image of an urban area and the way people view it
- urban re-branding: developing a town or city to re-image it and change people's idea of it; prompting a town or city to a target audience or market

## Processes

- Urban settlements are result of agglomeration

- describes the concentration of people and economic activities at favorable locations such as river crossing points, estuary or close to mineral resource
- creation of new suburbs is encouraged by:
  - improvements in transport that allow people to move easily between the new suburbs and the town center
  - overcrowding, congestion and rising land prices in the older parts of the town
  - general decline in the quality of residential environments near the center
  - arrival of more people (mainly rural areas) and new businesses
- Due to agglomeration and suburbanization some towns grow into cities and join together into one vast continuous build up of conurbation.
- dormitory housing: people move out of the town or city altogether and live instead in smaller, often rural settlements. only normally used for sleeping and people commute from there
- urban regeneration: involves re-using areas in the old parts of cities abandoned as people and businesses have moved to the suburbs or beyond
  - allows urban re-imaging or urban re-branding, not just of city centers, but whole cities
- Urbanization of suburbs: typically areas of low density development. Ex. Vacant building plots and open spaces are being developed and large detached house are replaced by flats and maisonettes

## 6.2

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### Rate of Urbanization

Main factors affecting the rate of urbanization:

- pace of economic development: economic growth that drives urbanization. When the growth of the secondary and tertiary sector is fast, so is the pace of urbanization
- rate of population growth: economic growth needs an increasing supply of labor. Demand for more workers can be met in two ways: by either natural increase in urban population or by rural-urban migration

There is a multiplier effect with economic growth encouraging population growth and population growth makes labor available and more people need more services

### Megacities

Megacity: city with population over 10 million

\* in the 1970s, there were only four

- but there is now 35, over half in asia
- factors encouraging megacities:

- economies of scale: advantages from cramming as much as possible into one megacity rather than into a number of smaller cities. There are financial savings due to the crammed distance and communication is easier
- multiplier effect: economic growth encouraging population growth and population growth makes labor available and more people need more services

Megacities create many problems. They tend to become powerful cores that create large peripheries around them.

Def. Periphery: area remote or isolated from the center/core of a country, it generally lags in terms of development and influence

## **Global or world cities**

Global and world cities can be any size

Global cities: recognized worldwide as places of great prestige, status, power and influence

## **6.3**

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Problems:

- Housing:
  - When people arrive, there are nowhere for them to live, especially as many are looking for low-cost housing.
  - Millions live in temporary shanty towns or squatter settlements.
  - Even for people with money, the housing market might exceed supply.
  - Most sought out housing is in the center due to the lack of transport links.
- Access to water and electricity:
  - often the provision of basic services does not keep up with the growth of population.
  - Hence, not all parts of a build-up area will be provided with running water, sanitation or electricity.
  - Many rely on fire for cooking and lighting and on polluted streams for water and sewage disposal
- Traffic congestion and transport:
  - Provision of proper roads and public transport is another aspect of city life that lags behind the growth in population.
  - Transport systems become overloaded and overcrowded, and traffic congestion becomes a major problem for everyone.
  - High number of automobiles also cause air pollution with many suffering regularly from smog.
- Health:

- not enough doctors, clinics or hospitals to deal with the rapid increase in population.
- Large parts of mushrooming city have little or no access leading to infections to spread quickly.
- Atmospheric pollution leads to widespread breathing problems
- Education:
  - lack of schools. most cities manage to provide some primary education but not all children go to secondary schools due to cost and having to work
- Employment:
  - many are unable to find proper paid work
  - they are then either unemployed or become part of the massive informal sector
    - including selling goods, working as a cleaner, cooking and selling food
- Social problems:
  - high crime rates
    - murder, rape and robbery are three common crimes
  - poorest areas are often inhabited by violent street gangs involved in drug trafficking
- Environment:
  - traffic, industry and housing are among the worst polluter of air and water
  - also noise and visual pollution might occur
  - cities produce large quantities of waste and waste disposal is another cause of environmental pollution

## 6.4

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### Land values

- main cause of segregation is the urban land market
- particular site within the built-up area will normally be sold to the highest bidder
- highest bidder will be that activity that can make best use of a site
- usually retail shops can make the best financial use of land and property
- depends on land value and locational needs
  - land values vary within the urban areas
    - value decline outwards from the center, from the peak land value intersection
    - relatively high land values found along major roads leading from the center and around ring roads
    - small land value peaks occur where radial and ring roads cross each other

- businesses will pay extra for sites in these locations, because they are locations enjoying good accessibility

## **Locational needs and accessibility**

- Similar activities or land uses come together:
  - same locational needs: these may be large amounts of space or being accessible to customers and employees
  - can afford the same general level of land values
- retailing and other commercial businesses will cluster in and around the center
  - most accessible part of the built-up area
  - as a result of clustering, they help define a central business district
- manufacturing also needs accessible locations for the assembly of raw materials and dispatch
  - less capital intensive use of space than shops or offices
  - less buying power
  - found outside of CBD and most often along major roads that provide good accessibility and transport links
- Housing is even less competitive on the urban land market
  - pushed away from the center
  - land becomes cheaper towards the urban fringe, so houses become more spacious
- cities show concentric zoning because they grow outwards
  - def. concentric zoning: series of rings wrapping around the historic nucleus or core
  - core: oldest part of the city which normally contains the CBD and some of the earliest buildings
  - inner city ring: early suburbs so this has old housing and often some non-residential land uses
  - suburban ring: present suburbs with housing as the dominant land use
  - urban fringe: countryside being 'eroded' by the outward spread of the built-up area to provide space for housing and some non-residential uses
- Generalization for as the cities move outwards:
  - general age of the build up area decreases
  - style of architecture and urban design changes
  - overall density of development decreases

## **Residential pattern**

- people, like land uses, also become sorted within the urban areas
- they become segregated into groups within residential areas on the basis of social class, type of occupation and ethnicity

- people prefer to live close to those who they think are of the same status
- wealthiest people are able to buy smart and large homes in the best locations
- poorest people have to live in crammed or sub-standard housing in the worst residential areas
  - many are unable to buy a home
  - instead, they have to rent
  - they don't have space so lead to crowded and dense residences

## 6.5

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- many cities in developed countries face challenges which threaten both general prosperity and quality of urban living.

Economic	Social	Environmental
deindustrialization	social services and housing	ecological footprint
globalization	poverty and deprivation	pollution and waste disposal
food supply	ethnic segregation	resources: energy, land, water
transport and traffic	quality of life	green space
energy supply	ageing population	hazard risk
service provision	terrorism and crime	sustainability

## 6.6 Urban challenges in the developing and emerging worlds

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### Squatter settlements

- no houses for poor people coming from rural areas in search of work so they build homes on the only land available
  - usually in areas of no economic value, on the edge of town, along main roads or non steep slopes
- shanty towns: makeshift housing
- people build on land that they do not own or build on land without permission to build
  - such areas are also known as squatter settlements (same as **slums**)
- Many of the areas where shanty towns are built are unsafe
  - may be prone to flooding or landslides or are in heavily polluted locations
  - hazards include fire, crime and spread of disease which are often linked to overcrowding
  - not serviced with pipe water and waste disposal

- actual dwellings are made out of scrap materials such as packaging boxes, metal and plastic sheeting
- But shanty towns are better than the life being left behind in rural areas for many

## **Informal economy**

- informal sector provides jobs for the people in slums
- particularly the case in cities such as Mexico City and Nairobi, where there is both unemployment and underemployment

## **Urban Population**

- Sources
  - lack of piped water, proper sanitation and waste disposal
  - burning of fuel-wood pollutes the air
  - sources of pollution outside the slums
    - manufacturers exploit lax controls and pollute both air and rivers
  - visual pollution including graffiti, unsightly buildings and garbage in streets

## **Low quality of life**

- deprivation: low quality of life, standard of living below that of the majority of people in a particular city, region or country
- involves poor and congested housing, lack of secure employment, polluted environment, access to proper diet, schooling, medical treatment, leisure and recreation
- Quality of life index (QLI) takes into account eight different variables (safety, healthcare, cost of living and pollution, etc)
- two questions:
  - how would city values compare with national values: higher or lower?
  - would the differences between Mexico City and Nairobi be roughly the same as the difference between their national values?

## **6.7**

Def.

greenfields: land that has not been developed on

brownfields: land that has been previously built on

- greenfield sites are normally open land around the edge of cities in demand for housing, industry, shopping, recreation and the needs of public utilities
- push factors (dissatisfaction of the urban city to move people to fringe):
  - housing is old, congested and relatively expensive

- various forms of environmental pollution: air quality is poor, and noise levels are high
- companies find that there is a shortage of land for building new shops, offices and factories.  
Unused land is costly
- Pull factors on the urban fringe
  - land is cheaper so houses are larger
  - factories can be more spacious and have plenty of room for workers to park their cars
  - closeness to main roads and motorways allows for quicker and easier customer contacts
  - new developments on the outskirts are favored by the personal mobility allowed by car drivers
- Four significant non housing developments:
  - Retail Parks
    - large increase in out-of-town retailing, with large purpose-built superstores and shopping centers located at or just beyond the urban fringe
    - number of superstores has increased dramatically
    - access is easy because the shopping centers are located next to main roads and motorway junctions
    - compared to city center shoppers don't face traffic and congestion
    - other facilities are located nearby most of the time
  - Industrial estates
    - modern light industries and service industries with a planned layout and purpose built road networks
  - Business Parks
    - areas created by property developers to attract firms needing office accommodation, rather than industrial units. Often include leisure activities such as bowling alleys, ice rinks and cinemas
  - Science parks
    - usually located close to a university or research center with the aim of encouraging and developing high-tech industries and quaternary activities

## Greenfields versus brownfield debate

site	advantages	disadvantages
Brownfield		
	reduces the loss of countryside and land that might be put to agricultural or recreational use	often more expensive because old buildings have to be cleared and land made free of pollution

site	advantages	disadvantages
	helps to revive old and disused urban areas	often surrounded by rundown areas so does not appeal to more wealthy people as residential locations
	services already in place	higher levels of pollution, less healthy
	located near to main areas of employment	may not have good access by road
Greenfield		
	Relatively cheap and rates of house building are faster	valuable farmland, recreational space and attractive scenery lost
	layout is not hampered by previous development so can easily be made efficient and pleasant	development causes noise and light pollution in the surrounding countryside
	healthier environment	wildlife and their habitats lost
	proximity of countryside, leisure and recreation	encourages further suburban sprawl

## 6.8 making Urban Living More Sustainable

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activities to make more sustainable cities:

- use renewable rather than non renewable resources
- using energy more efficiently
- relying on public rather than private transport
- improving the physical infrastructure: clean water and proper sanitation
- improving social services and access to them
- improving the quality of life, particularly of the urban poor

most of this adds up to single challenge: to reduce the ecological footprints of towns and cities. added to that is the aim of reducing social inequalities

## Case Studies

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People like land uses, also become sorted within the urban area. They become segregated into groups on the basis of their social class, race or education and **ethnicity**. However, the reason for most of these who they think, are of the same status. The wealthiest people are able to buy these other houses is personal wealth. The poorest people have to live in cramped or sub-standard housing in the worst residential areas. Many are unable to buy a home instead, they have to rent. Due to their limited means, they are forced to occupy only a small amount of space, and therefore live at high densities. This sorting within the residential parts of a city is an important aspect of the urban pattern.



Besides wealth, what else underlies the spatial sorting of people in residential areas?

## 6.5 URBAN CHALLENGES IN THE DEVELOPED WORLD

Many cities in developed countries face challenges which threaten both their general prosperity and the quality of urban living. Those challenges fall under three broad headings (Table 6.1).

▲ Table 6.1: Some challenges facing cities in the developed world

ECONOMIC	SOCIAL	ENVIRONMENTAL
Deindustrialisation	Social services and housing	Ecological footprint
Globalisation	Poverty and deprivation	Pollution and waste disposal
Food supply	Ethnic segregation	Resources: energy, land, water
Transport and traffic	Quality of life	Green space
Energy supply	Ageing population	Hazard risk
<b>Service provision</b>	Terrorism and crime	Sustainability

Clearly, the mix of challenges shown in Table 6.1 varies from city to city as each city is unique. Let us look at one of the world's leading cities – Hong Kong.

### CASE STUDY: HONG KONG

Hong Kong has a land area of just over 1000 square km and a population of over 7 million. Although it has been a part of China since 1997, it is allowed to operate as an autonomous territory (Figure 6.18). This means that it has some political independence. Given its status as one of the world's top financial and business centres, it is not just a global city but a 'developed country' within an 'emerging' one.

#### ECONOMIC

Undoubtedly Hong Kong has benefited from globalisation. With its economic development based on trade and financial services, manufacturing has never been a major part of the economy. For this reason, it has not been much affected by de-industrialisation. Hong Kong is the world's eleventh largest trading 'country'. It is the world's largest re-export centre.

► Figure 6.16: Map of Hong Kong



### Describe the site of Hong Kong.

These re-exports are products made outside the territory, especially in mainland China, which are distributed via Hong Kong. Hong Kong has few natural resources.

#### FOOD

The territory of Hong Kong has little arable land, so agriculture is a relatively unimportant part of the economy and contributes only 0.1 per cent of its GDP. Inevitably, it has to import most of its food. For reasons explained in Part 5.8 (page 148), most of that food comes from outside China.

#### ENERGY

All cities need a cheap and reliable supply of energy. The energy supply in Hong Kong is mainly in the form of electricity. Around 75 per cent of this is generated by the burning of fossil fuels (coal much more than natural gas). Nearly a quarter of the electricity is generated by nuclear power, but this is imported from mainland China.

#### TRANSPORT

In so many cities, traffic congestion is a major issue. Fortunately, Hong Kong has a well-developed transport network and movement around this densely populated territory is relatively easy. Over 90 percent of the 11 million journeys made every day are on public transport. This is a remarkably high percentage. Public transport is provided by an integrated network of railways, buses and ferries.

**SOCIAL**  
Hong Kong provides good social services, particularly education and healthcare.

**HOUSING**  
As one of the world's most densely packed places, the only way Hong Kong can grow is upwards. It has become a 'vertical city' (Figure 6.19).

About half of Hong Kong's residents live in public housing, which is rented from the government. This housing is mainly in very high-rise apartment blocks. With regard to private housing, Hong Kong is ranked as the third most expensive city in the world. The effect of this is to reduce social mobility. It is extremely difficult for people to move from the public to the private sector. This also underlines another feature of Hong Kong's population – its *social polarisation*. Extreme wealth, as well as poverty and deprivation, are found in the compact urban area.

Ethnic segregation is a factor contributing to social polarisation. About 94 per cent of Hong Kong's population is of Chinese descent. The remaining 6 per cent is made up mainly of people from the Philippines, Indonesia, Nepal and India. Most of them are employed by the wealthy as domestic servants. They are concentrated in the Central and Western districts, as well as Kowloon City, Yau Tsim Mong and Yuen Long.

There are also Britons, Americans, Canadians, Japanese and Koreans living in Hong Kong. They work in the city's commercial and financial sector and live in the wealthier districts.

#### POVERTY AND DEPRIVATION

Despite its overall prosperity, Hong Kong contains pockets of poverty and deprivation. The most obvious symptoms are the slums. There used to be many slums



▲ Figure 6.19: A vertical city

in Kowloon City, but these were cleared away in the 1990s. Today, the slums are found on rooftops (Figure 6.21). They are known as the 'penthouse slums' or the 'rooftop shanty towns'. They are illegal and are thought to be unique to Hong Kong.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL

Hong Kong has a fairly deep ecological footprint. The main contributors are:

- the burning of large amounts of fossil fuels
- the need to reclaim large amounts of land from the sea to create new space for urban growth (Figure 6.20); this has damaged the marine environment
- the smog that drifts across the territory from industrial developments on the other side of the Pearl River delta
- the disposal of waste (see right).

Water supply – Providing an adequate water supply

for Hong Kong has always been difficult because the territory has few rivers and lakes. Groundwater sources are difficult to access. A large population and seasonal variations in rainfall mean that Hong Kong has to import 70 per cent of its water supply from Dongjiang River in mainland China.

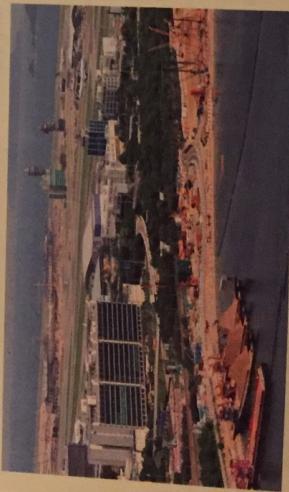
Waste disposal – Hong Kong's 11 million residents produce an estimated 6.4 million tonnes of waste a year. Until recently, this was dumped in landfill and land reclamation sites. Attempts are being made to increase the recycling of waste, as well as converting waste into energy.

Inevitably, because of its size and economic success, Hong Kong is a huge and concentrated consumer of resources. These resources range from land and water to energy and recreational space.

All this adds to the deepness of Hong Kong's ecological footprint. Hong Kong's challenge lies in becoming sustainable.



▲ Figure 6.21: Penthouse slums are built on the top of high-rise buildings.



▲ Figure 6.20: Reclaiming land in Hong Kong for further expansion

## 6.6 URBAN CHALLENGES IN THE DEVELOPING AND EMERGING WORLDS

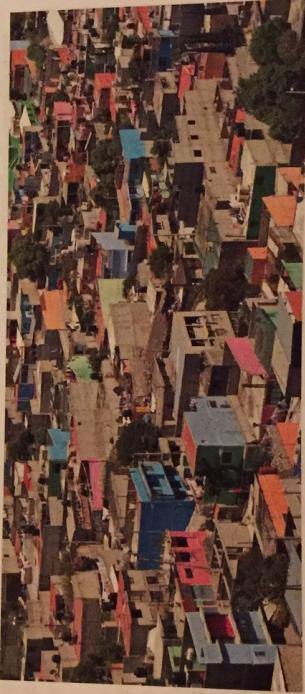
Many of the challenges listed in Table 6.1 also apply to cities in emerging and developing countries. In this section, we focus on four 'emerging cities': Mexico City, São Paulo, Mumbai and Dhaka.

The speed of urbanisation in emerging and some developing countries is fast and accelerating. Most people who migrate to cities come from poor rural areas in search of work. There are no houses for them, so they build homes on the only land available. This is usually in areas of no economic value, on the edge of town, along main roads or on steep slopes. These makeshift housing areas are known as shanty towns. In many instances, people build on land that they do not own, or build on land without permission to build. As a result, such areas are also known as squatter settlements. Another worldwide term for these are slums. Table 6.2 shows just how important these developments are in providing basic shelter for the urban poor. Remember, too, that some people are so poor that they live out in the open on the streets.

city	% OF CITY POPULATION
Nairobi, Kenya	est. 55
Mexico City	46
Lima, Peru	36
Caracas, Venezuela	35
Kolkata, India	33
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	27
Jakarta, Indonesia	25
Santiago, Chile	25

Many of the areas where shanty towns are built are unsafe. They may be prone to flooding or landslides or are in heavily polluted locations. Other hazards include fire, crime and the spread of disease, which are often linked to the overcrowding.

Usually, shanty towns are not serviced with pipe water and waste disposal. The actual dwellings are made out of scrap materials such as packing boxes, metal and plastic sheeting. However, for many people, even living in a shanty town and working in the informal economy can be better and offer greater opportunities than the life they left behind in rural areas.



6.22: A shanty town in Mexico City

How many cities in Table 6.2 are located in emerging countries?

Table 6.2: Percentage living in squatter settlements and slums in selected cities

### SQUATTER SETTLEMENTS

#### SKILLS INTERPRETATION

#### ACTIVITY

How many cities in Table 6.2 are located in emerging countries?

### REASONING

#### ACTIVITY

Explain the link between overcrowding and hazards.

### DO YOU KNOW?

Squatter settlements are known by different names around the world:

favelas (Brazil)

barriadas (Latin America)

bidonville (North Africa)

bustees (Indian subcontinent).

Squatter settlements offer the urban poor, particularly rural-urban migrants, some form of shelter. As explained in Part 4.5, the informal economy offers those people a means of survival. This is particularly the case in cities such as Mexico City and Nairobi, where there is both unemployment and underemployment. Here people face a simple but grim choice. Either do something that will earn you and your family just enough to survive on, or slowly die of starvation.

### FORMAL ECONOMY

#### U KNOW?

On informal employment, see

## CASE STUDY: MASDAR CITY, ABU DHABI (UAE)

Masdar City claims to be one of the world's most sustainable cities. Building of this eco-city started in 2008 (Figure 6.25). Now nearing completion, it will house 40 000 people, and 5000 people will commute there every day, either to work or study.

The sustainability of the project is based on reducing the consumption of energy and water, and reducing the production of waste. All of the energy supply is renewable. Nearly all comes from solar power. It is generated by rooftop solar panels and one of the largest photovoltaic plants in the Middle East. The design of the streets makes good use of the coolness provided by the prevailing winds. The buildings combine traditional Arabic architectural techniques with modern technology. The orientation of buildings and their design minimises the need for air conditioning, heating and artificial light (Figure 6.26). So, the city's carbon footprint is a small one.

Masdar City has installed smart water consumption systems in all the city's buildings. They are designed to consume 54 per cent less water than the United Arab Emirates' average building. In addition, 75 per cent of hot water is provided via thermal receptors fixed on top of the buildings. Water comes from desalination plants using renewable energy.

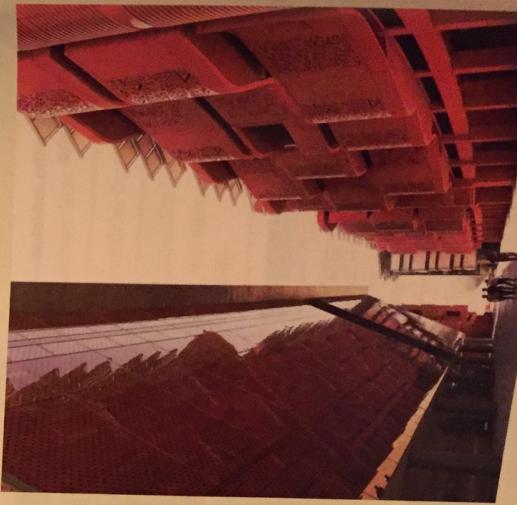
Waste is reduced as near as possible to zero, through encouraging changes in behaviour (stressing the need for recycling), and controlling the types of material that can be used within the city (maintaining a war on plastic and polythene).

Citizens are required to attend five hours of sustainability education each year. Much of this education aims to change lifestyles and make them more environmentally-friendly.

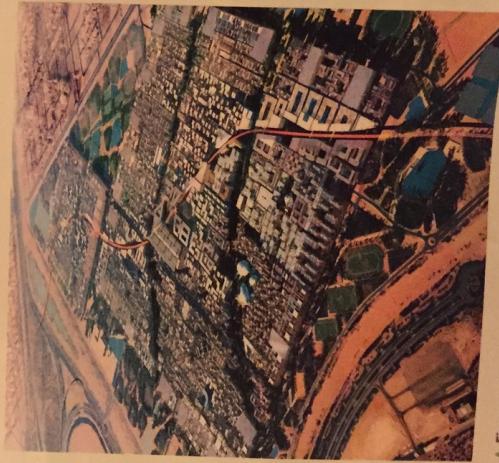
Masdar City has become a leader in research and education in sustainable and clean technologies. This has attracted an increasing number of businesses keen to market new clean technological discoveries. The achievements of Masdar City are impressive. But there are two limitations:

- the large sums of capital needed to set it up
- it is only suitable for those parts of the world with access to plentiful supplies of renewable energy.

**CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING**  
What is 'green' about Masdar City?



▲ Figure 6.26: Some of Masdar's energy-efficient housing



▲ Figure 6.25: An aerial view of Masdar City

## CASE STUDY: CURITIBA, BRAZIL

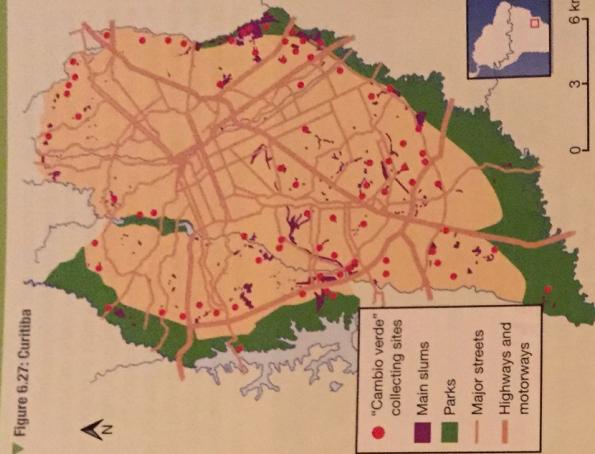
Curitiba in south-west Brazil is now a city with a population of well over 2 million (Figure 6.27). It is widely recognised as a good example of urban planning. The planning started in 1968 when the city's population was already 430 000.

The Curitiba Master Plan was first aimed at improving transport. Five main roads converging on the city centre were converted into dual carriageways separated by a central two-lane carriage-way for exclusive use by express buses (Figure 6.28). Triple-articulated buses provide fast, efficient and cheap transport and this has persuaded people to leave their cars at home. During the rush hours, buses run every 60 seconds and are always full. The network is now used by 70 per cent of the city's inhabitants. One fare allows passengers to travel anywhere on the network. Buses now use biofuels and this has reduced pollution.

But there is more to eco-friendly Curitiba than just its transport network.

The town is virtually surrounded by parks for public recreation. These parks also stop favelas (shanty towns) being established on the urban fringe, although they have not been completely successful in preventing the growth of favelas. Flooding is a regular hazard in Curitiba. However, lakes created within the parks are now providing an effective flood control service. There are also parks within the city. The grass here is controlled by grazing sheep.

The city recycles its waste and has done so since 1980. It has set up a pioneering waste disposal system. Waste is collected through a network of 'cambio verde' sites. Curitiba now recycles over two-thirds of its waste. People are paid for the garbage they collect not in money, but in fruit and vegetables. The scheme has been very effective in improving conditions in the slums. More recently, attention has turned to dealing with the slums. Guided by the city authority, a new self-help suburb is being built to replace demolished slum dwellings.



CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING  
What actions have been involved in the 'greening' of Curitiba?



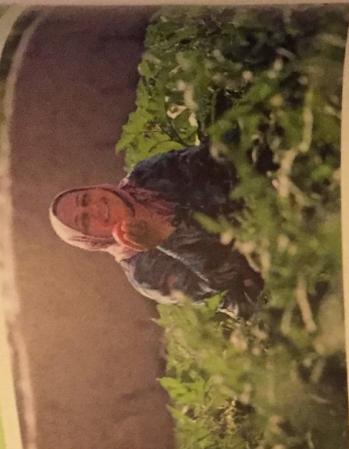
▲ Figure 6.28: In Curitiba, bus lanes are separated from cars.

### ACTIVITY

Find Curitiba in your atlas. Name the nearest major city.

The 'greening' of Curitiba was the idea of Jamie Lerner, a former mayor. It is a model of sustainable urban planning from an emerging country. But its ideas have been taken up mainly in developed countries. The ultimate verdict on Curitiba is provided by a recent survey which found that 99 per cent of Curitiba's residents are happy with their city.

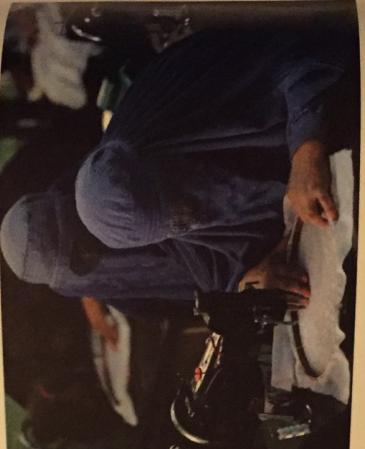
**CASE STUDY URBAN GARDENS, AFGHANISTAN**



The urban areas of Afghanistan often provide a refuge for large numbers of Afghans forced to leave their homes in mainly rural areas. They are being driven by armed conflict, natural disasters and a lack of economic opportunities. But resettling in cities does not bring an end to their poverty and despair. An added problem is adjusting to an unfamiliar environment. So, there is a double challenge here: making a sustainable living for themselves, and ensuring that they do not reduce still further the sustainability of the towns and cities in which they set up their new homes.

A scheme, set up by the charity People in Need and funded by the EU and the Czech Development Agency, is being trialled in Mazar-i-Sharif, a city in northern Afghanistan. The scheme has two components.

- Raising food production from small plots (10 to 15 square metres) attached to most dwellings (Figure 6.29). Training is given in basic crop growing, rainwater harvesting, constructing simple greenhouses and the storage of harvested vegetables. Most of the food is consumed by the family (immediately benefiting diet and health), but any surpluses can be traded for other goods.
- Setting up female self-help groups and training in basic business skills, as well as informing them about nutrition and hygiene. With the help of micro-loans, new businesses are being set up. Examples are shops, spinning and making clothes, and rearing poultry. All this is helping to empower women in society.



The Mazar-i-Sharif project provides a possible model for other urban areas in Afghanistan. It is helping to remedy food insecurity, unemployment and poverty. It is making urban areas less reliant on food from rural areas. It is also making urban areas more self-sufficient and, as a result, a little more sustainable.

**SKILLS**  
REASONING

**ACTIVITY**

Explain the significance of the training in nutrition and hygiene.

## 6.9 Managing Urban Challenges

- slum management options:
  1. bulldoze and clear away
  2. clear away but relocate
  3. redevelop
  4. improve by self-help or site and services schemes
  5. ignore

### Local

- stakeholders:
  - slum residents: support anything that improves their conditions
  - residents living nearby: keen on options to clear or redevelop
  - utility suppliers: provide services and be sure about being payed
  - representatives in parliament or on city councils: keen that city dwellers get a better quality of life
  - city councils: most influence in the choice of option. they can be lobbied

The groups involved in managing any urban challenge will vary according to the specific challenge. The roles of those groups will also vary. So, it is dangerous to generalise. It would be better if we look at one challenge common to so many cities at all levels of development. Certainly, they are a challenge in all.

### 6.9 MANAGING URBAN CHALLENGES

- Landowners and property developers: sites away from the squatter settlements on which replacement high density housing might be built
- employers: interests in the supply chains due to workers working from slums
- planners: vision for future

## National

- stakeholders:
  - Government: financial resources to support a program of action?
  - National charities: most countries have a home grown charities or small charities set up by foreigners to help people living in slums

## International

- stakeholders:
  - international charities: many international charities supporting actions aimed at particular settlement programs. Mainly to improve quality of life to target water, sanitation, health, education, food and child labor
  - inter governmental organizations (IGOs): World Bank, UNESCO and WHO sponsor projects helping the poor. channeled through national governments. Corruption can get in the way
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