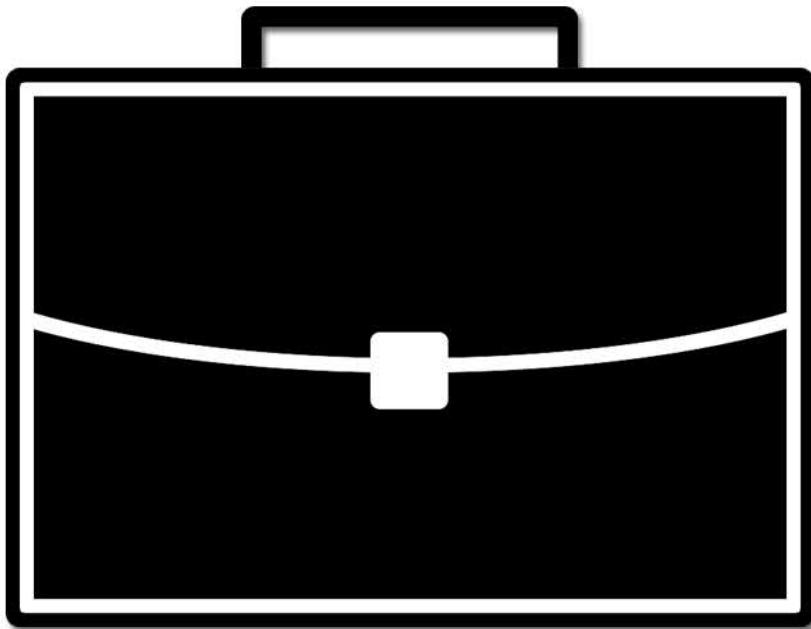


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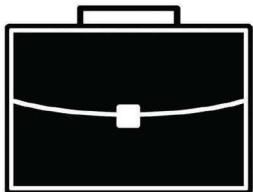
Public Forum Brief



Resolved: On balance, the benefits of urbanization in West Africa outweigh the harms.

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Letter from the Editor

The resolution for Public Forum Debate for February 2021 will be, “Resolved: On balance, the benefits of urbanization in West Africa outweigh the harms.” This topic, while not exactly “ripped from the headlines,” should prove to be an exciting one for debaters to research and strategically analyze. The urbanization of West Africa is not a uniquely 2021 concern, as many have questioned the impacts of the migration of rural residents to cities for years now. That being said, many of the issues that we do see today can be related to urbanization, in one way or another. For that reason, I’m very excited about the ground of this topic – there are a massive number of things that debaters have access to on each side, which should make this one a fun topic to prepare for and discuss.

I particularly appreciate this topic because it forces debaters to consider impacts to West Africa without using the lens of benefits to the United States. Too often, we as Public Forum debaters analyze international impacts through the lens of impacts to ourselves, which ignores the enormous impacts that are often present in the region itself. This topic should be a great briefing on urbanization, but it should also provide an excellent chance for students to learn about a region of the world that they may not hear as much about in their textbooks or everyday life. I encourage all of you to do thorough research on the history of the region before diving into your preparation, to ensure you fully grasp the nuance of the topic.

Personally, I’m very jealous – I’d love to have the chance to research and compete on this topic, but sadly I am well past my prime as a competitor at this point. This sort of topic has huge amounts of ground and lets competitors choose whatever angle they find most persuasive, which is my favorite type of topic to debate. As always, I wish you the best of luck, and happy researching.

Michael Norton
Editor-in-Chief

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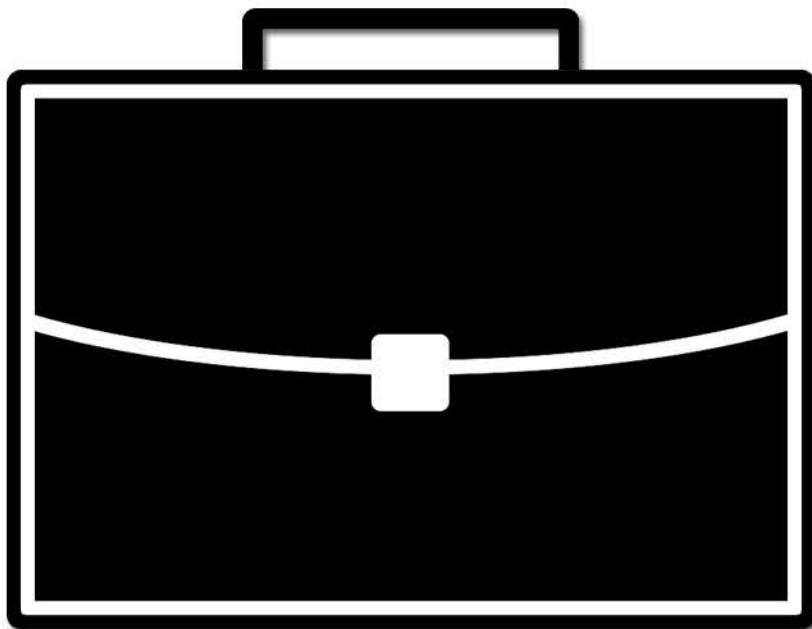
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Public Forum Brief



Topic Analyses

Topic Analysis by Sara Catherine Cook

Resolved: On balance, the benefits of urbanization in West Africa outweigh the harms.

Introduction

Today we are tackling a topic that has been happening for the past fifty years: urbanization in West Africa. Just that fact makes this topic quite different from most of the resolutions we have discussed this year; this resolution carries historical aspects that carry weight in the round past just serving as examples. To understand this, let's discuss the type of resolution this is: a value resolution. While a policy resolution implores us to act as policymakers in the round and discuss whether we should make some change, i.e. passing Medicare-for-All, ending NSA domestic surveillance, etc., value resolutions instead ask us to analyze a specific situation that has already happened and assess whether it has been on net beneficial or on net harmful. This means that teams will be challenged to analyze different problems and benefits related to urbanization over the past fifty years and debate their influence. It creates one separate challenge: trying to estimate or speculate about a world where urbanization did not happen. Teams do not necessarily carry the burden of saying that urbanization was on net good or bad, but rather that urbanization was better than the alternative, or lack of urbanization. We will discuss this idea further when breaking down some of the arguments for either side.

Let's break down some of the key wording in the resolution now that we have established the type of resolution we are dealing with. Urbanization refers to a population shift

from rural to urban areas and the results of those changes. While your mind may immediately go to the idea of cities being built, keep in mind that this is rather a result of the population shift that urbanization directly refers to. As mentioned earlier, West Africa has been experiencing intense urbanization for the past fifty years, mainly in coastal states as they have endured comparatively less socio-political conflict. West Africa includes the following countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo. To understand how urbanization affects and has affected West Africa, we first need to talk about some of the problems the region faces.

What's Happening in West Africa?

The first issue many countries in West Africa face involves a lack of national unity. This is inherently a problem caused by colonialism, as borders were drawn by Europeans with no consideration of regional or ethnic differences. Unfortunately, many West African leaders have been unsuccessful in uniting people within their respective states; many people are more loyal to their ethnic group rather than their state. This bleeds into political issues within each nation, where political groups are largely correlated with different ethnic groups allowing often a majority ethnic group to make policy, sometimes at the expense of a minority group's wishes. One example of this problem is in Nigeria, where the Hausa-Fulani in the North have larger control over policy and fight to take oil from the ethnic minority states near the Niger Delta, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, and Rivers.

Despite having abundant natural resources, most West African countries remain poor and underdeveloped. This is often traced back to the history of colonialism in the region and

neo-colonialist efforts that persist today. Even when countries tap into their natural resources, trade policies often benefit larger and wealthier nations at the expense of African countries, leaving them somewhat unable to develop further. Even more so, the prices of agricultural goods in the international market have been falling since the 70s, which has wrecked West African economies. For example, changes in the prices of cocoa in the 70s and 80s nearly ruined the Ghanaian economy. At the same time, the prices of imported goods have continuously risen, leaving nations with a double whammy of more expenses and less revenue. Avenues for wealth like mining have been relatively untapped, as resources are often mined by international companies who pay little taxes to West African governments.

As we have learned from many topics dealing with the national debt, West African nations also struggle with debt related issues as they must heavily borrow with high-interest rates to provide needed services and initiate projects. This often leads to economic disaster whenever investors shift away or their debt to GDP ratio becomes too high. A result of economic disaster in many cases has been military coups on the governments. For example, a 1981 coup was staged in Ghana due to severe social and economic conditions. Many governments like the one resulting from this coup have failed to solve underlying governmental and economic problems and have been quick to forget many of their promises made to the people.

All West African countries have struggled with unemployment. The majority of the population in West African countries is young, but many are unskilled and jobless, living in slum conditions in the vastly expanding cities described earlier. Many young people have been successful in recruiting troops to fight in civil wars that have plagued West Africa since the

1970s. These wars have massively destroyed property, displaced people, led to further poverty, and exacerbated issues relating to the exploitation of natural resources. Unfortunately, these conflicts though relating to a regional or ethno-nationalist conflict are often spurred by poor economic conditions. Recent examples include the civil wars in Sierra Leone and Liberia, which ended in the early 2000s.

Amidst all of these longstanding issues, West Africa has also been experiencing uncontrolled population growth, which is one of the factors leading to urbanization in the first place. Cities have spread with little planning and have often lacked expanding industrial sectors to meet the employment demands of migrants. Another serious impediment to growth and prosperity in West Africa is disease. Tropical diseases like malaria and yellow fever have especially impacted rural and poor people, and in the 1980s, AIDS was added to the list of diseases that created widespread issues. Finally, West Africa has encountered some dire environmental circumstances as well, including drought in the Sahel countries beginning in the 1960s. Long periods of drought devastated Senegal, Mali, Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Nigeria. This drought led to famine and diverted what resources were available for relief.

Ultimately, even absent urbanization, West Africa already has faced and continues to face considerable struggles politically, economically, and otherwise. Each team's job in the round is to incorporate how urbanization affected those situations: whether it mitigated or exacerbated many of the challenges we see in the region today. At the same time, keep in mind that this section means to highlight many of the past and recurring issues faced by these nations, rather than to tell the full story. Please keep this in mind while making arguments on this topic: The story of West Africa is not limited to the story of its struggles.

Affirmative Argumentation

Let's begin by tackling some of the basic ways urbanization can be beneficial. The first thing to understand is that urbanization will increase the consolidation of people in one place. This not only means that people are living in closer proximity to each other but also that as cities expand outwards over time due to more people moving into them, the distance between rural and urban areas decreases. This allows for a much efficient distribution of resources. Let's look at the example of a hospital. First and foremost, a hospital set up in an urban environment will be accessible to more patients than a hospital in a rural area just by sheer population size. Accessibility in this sense can just be thought of as the distance one has to travel to get to the hospital. More people living in closer proximity to a hospital means they can access that care. This is not only great for people needing medical care but also good for the hospital, as more demand for care will likely provide jobs for doctors, nurses, etc. Even more so, this hospital is a great investment for a country that is making the best of a small number of resources; though building the hospital requires an upfront investment, it is likely beneficial for the economy by reducing the number of people who have to stay home from work because they are sick. A hospital in a rural area serves fewer patients and thus provides less benefit to society, but likely costs the same or a similar amount to build. Even more so, a lack of urbanization would require the government to build more hospitals because a citizen in one community is not able to access a hospital in another community. Ultimately, the government saves money and helps more people when they build a hospital in an urban area, at least ideally.

This analogy can be applied to other sectors of the economy or other projects as well. The consolidation of people in one area allows for the government to more efficiently distribute

resources and means that resources put in place are accessible to more people. The one critical part of this argument is to prove that those resources are sufficient. Let's go back to the hospital example because I'm starting to quite like it. In this case, the Aff has to prove that urbanization increases access to healthcare. This means they need to prove that this urban hospital provides better healthcare than people would have gotten absent urbanization, i.e. if they were still living in somewhat spread out rural communities. The challenge here is limited resources. What if the urban hospital is unable to serve all of the patients that need medical care? Is it better to have to travel farther to reach care or to wait until a hospital bed opens up? Obviously, this is not an all encompassing analogy, but it should at least start to show some of the complexities of this topic, past just the theoretical ideas that distributing resources is always easier when more people are near them. You can apply this same line of thinking to things like education, infrastructure, housing, etc.

The next sort of category of arguments on the Aff regards the economy. I want to break this down by starting with individuals and then eventually branching more into what this could mean for a country as a whole. Living in a rural area, I have limited career opportunities. There is no large group of people for me to sell things to unless I branch into other communities, and there are only so many things that people around me want or need dependent on their lifestyle. This is not to say that this is necessarily a bad thing. My expenses are also probably limited to things that are necessary or things that I have access to purchase. When I move into a largely populated area, the demand for the clothing I make may increase, which means that I can grow a larger business, make more money, and possibly employ other people. On the flip side, maybe I can be employed by another business that provides more opportunities than I

would find in my rural community. Ultimately, with more people comes more demand for goods like food, clothing, and various types of services, at a very basic level. This allows for more businesses to thrive, which increases both the amount and variety of jobs available. Successful businesses attract foreign direct investment, which is an investment from one person or company from one country into a business in another country. Economic growth often attracts more foreign direct investment into a country which often has the effect of reducing poverty and just furthering already positive economic trends. I would highly recommend looking into statistical analyses of foreign direct investment on poverty reduction.

Both of these arguments also tend to go hand in hand. Economic growth and infrastructure often feed off of one another to produce better outcomes for everyone. One last topic I want to discuss in this section is the idea of urban poverty as compared to rural poverty. This will also be an important discussion when looking at the other side of the topic. The first main difference is highlighted earlier: access to resources based on proximity. Many would argue that urban poverty is somewhat less severe because people in urban areas still have basic access to things like healthcare, infrastructure, transportation, etc., and also have more opportunities to get out of poverty because of larger job availability. This could also go the opposite way when talking about the cost of living or the quality of life below the poverty line. Rural areas often have a lower cost of living meaning that people can obtain necessities for lower prices. For example, one could argue that living in rural poverty is preferable to experiencing the slums in major cities in West Africa because there is a lower likelihood of contracting a disease or just living in very poor conditions. Essentially, poverty affects different people in different areas in different ways. The argument to be made on the Aff is that

urbanization has somehow alleviated poverty as even urban poverty is less severe than rural poverty.

Negative Argumentation

The Neg side on this topic is particularly interesting because it often draws in larger issues relating to urbanization, while the Aff can tend to be more singularly focused. I want to start by talking about ethno-nationalist conflict and the distribution of resources. While urbanization in other areas of the world has often been largely based on industrialization, urbanization in West Africa has largely been entangled with resource extraction and exploitation. As mentioned earlier, West African nations have rich natural resources like oil that are some of the main economic resources in the country. It is worth noting that many West African countries are divided into different ethnic groups geographically. For example, in Nigeria, many of the rural areas are inhabited by ethnic minority groups while the cities are mainly inhabited by ethnic majorities. I will be continuing to use Nigeria as an example because of familiarity to explain how urbanization could have worsened or caused some of the ethno-nationalist conflicts in the region.

Urbanization often controls or influences the distribution of resources, which can sometimes fuel conflict when the resources are being taken from one group and given to another. In the case of Nigeria, oil resources are found in the Niger Delta, but groups living in urban areas have larger political control over them and get the majority of the resource revenue because of population size. This not only takes away the autonomy of groups in the Niger Delta region over their natural resources but also means that poor rural areas remain poor. The root of the conflict is this economic and political issue of uneven distribution linked to

urbanization. To clarify, this conflict is not limited to tensions but has also led to violent moves toward secession from the Niger Delta region. This also reveals a dire reality of the arguments we talked about on the Aff side. When it comes to limited resources, giving to one group of people means taking away from another, which means that urbanization often leads to rural issues being ignored both politically and resource-wise.

This topic also invokes questions around infrastructure. First is the age-old debate about environmental concerns and development. Urbanization has led to further development and often resource extraction, which often means environmental degradation, sometimes against the wishes of those living in areas rich with natural resources. This brings in issues of environmental justice; people living in areas with natural resources often face the burdens of environmental degradation while those in other areas reap all of the benefits of development. Infrastructure development also brings environmental issues into question as to the development of infrastructure often exacerbates emissions and the building of cities has led to increased energy production and consumption. Development is often at odds with environmental consciousness so it makes sense that there are many ways in which Neg teams can explain many of the environmental issues in the region as an effect of urbanization. It is also worth noting that poorer countries are expected to bear the brunt of the effects of climate change, which means that the region discussed in this topic has less of an ability to prepare for and handle the adverse impacts of climate change compared to Western countries who can continue to balloon their debt and also have more robust services in place to handle migration and economic disaster. When making environmental arguments, do keep in mind that low-income countries are not the ones who have exacerbated climate change to the point that

other nations like the U.S. and China have, so enforcing stricter climate regulations against them can seem unjust.

Finally, let's talk about Neg's arguments regarding the economy. As mentioned in the section on Affirmative Argumentation, urbanization is only good at providing resources more efficiently and to more people if those resources exist in the first place. With the case of limited resources, you can actually have the opposite effect. From this, you can see results like thousands of people living in extremely close quarters, which risks larger public health issues. The fact is that when population size increases, the city and its resources also have to increase to support those people. Failure to do so is disastrous. This would be one example of how absent urbanization, poverty could be reduced. When the poor are spread over multiple communities, it is easier for each community to help them. Imagine if every single person went to one hospital; the hospital would be massively overcrowded and be unable to treat everyone. If instead, we split everyone up between seven hospitals, there might be better care overall. The same arguments about consolidating things in one area can also work on the Negative side when the things you are consolidating are things like poverty, disease, etc.

Final Thoughts

Some of the most important advice I can give on this topic is the most simple: this topic is about interpreting history and current events. You should aim to trace how urbanization changed things in West Africa rather than looking at the overall effects of how things are right now. This topic is fundamentally about resources: how and if they are used, where they are used, and how effective they are. You should aim to link your arguments to these general ideas

to control how the debate plays out. Finally, there is a lot of ground to cover on this topic as different countries in West Africa have different issues they have faced and continue to face over the past 50 years; the best arguments will be the ones that can apply to the region as a whole, but you should seek to be nuanced in your analysis and give specific examples from specific topics. Good luck this month!

Sara Catherine Cook is from Birmingham, Alabama, and competed for The Altamont School for three years in Public Forum Debate. She was one of the first teams from her school to qualify for the Tournament of Champions and NSDA Nationals, being the only team from her state to qualify to the TOC in the 2018-2019 season. She now attends Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, where she plans to study Mathematics.

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About Sara Catherine Cook

Sara Catherine Cook grew up in Birmingham, Alabama, and competed for The Altamont School for three years in Public Forum Debate. She was one of the first teams from her school to qualify for the Tournament of Champions and NSDA Nationals, being the only team from her state to qualify for the TOC in the 2018-2019 season. She now attends Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH where she plans to study Mathematics and competes with the Dartmouth Parliamentary Debate Team.

Topic Analysis by Jakob Urda

Resolved: On balance, the benefits of urbanization in West Africa outweigh the harms.

Introduction

West Africa is an area of 16 countries, home to over 300 million people, and 700 billion dollars in annual economic activity. The region hosts a diverse set of languages, cultures, and geographies, which make it often difficult to discuss in a single issue. Appreciating the nuance and diversity of the West African region is an essential prerequisite for debaters who want to discuss public policy in the region. Those who understand the particulars of the different countries and peoples of West Africa will be able to debate with a superior command of the topic to their peers.

By some measures, West Africa is the fastest-growing region of the world. This fact has created substantial interest in West African public policy, and debates over what constitutes effective development. This resolution focuses on urbanization, one of the most important areas of discussion. As West Africa grows, its population is rapidly urbanizing. In Nigeria especially, sprawling cities dominate the landscape and pose important political, economic, and social questions to the local population.

This topic will reward debaters for thorough research and understanding nuance. Urbanization is a topic that intersects all manner of issues, from public transportation to economic policy to natural resource management. Debaters should be wary of arguments that overly generalize and claim to apply to the entirety of West Africa. What is true for Benin is not

necessarily true for Nigeria. Research and understanding will be rewarded. Do not shy away from complexity, embrace it.

Strategic Considerations/Framing of the Debate

For a topic this broad and wide-ranging, debaters need a way of quickly identifying strong arguments. Making this distinction is important for two reasons – debaters must find strong arguments for themselves to run, and be able to spot the strongest argument their opponents are running. Being able to quickly sift through and sort the giant mountain of content on this topic will give debaters a comparative advantage which will make the difference in complex rounds

The two dimensions which will allow debaters to sort good arguments from poor ones are impact weighability and reasonableness. The first of these criteria should be familiar to most debaters. Weighability is when an argument can easily outweigh other points on the resolution. Usually, this means having a greater magnitude or scope compared to other commonly run points. It can also mean being a prerequisite to other common arguments. When the debate comes down to two arguments, one on each side, it is the weighable one that will most often win.

Reasonableness may be less familiar to debaters, but it matters to most to judges. Reasonableness is the quality of an argument to be perceived as intuitively true – if you asked a random person on the street about your argument, they would say that it “seems reasonable.” Reasonableness is different than the warrant for the argument because reasonableness exists on the *claim* level. It is the quality of an argument to be intuitive *without* explaining the

warrants or mechanics. Debaters often convince themselves that complex warrants and intricate links are strong, even if the claims that they support are unreasonable. This is not advisable, especially on a complex topic like this one, because it puts the debater in an uphill battle where they need to argue against the judge's intuition. By contrast, debaters who make reasonable arguments will find judges agreeing with them more often and inclined to intervene on their behalf.

The best arguments are those that are reasonable and weighable. These are arguments which an average bystander would say "that seems intuitively true" and "that seems important." On a topic such as this one, with its sprawling ground and many possible arguments. Judges will have difficulty managing the complexity of the debate. They will hear many new arguments and have to keep track of complex ideas. Debaters who avoid this dilemma by opting for reasonable and weighable arguments will be at a serious advantage against their peers who do not. In the rest of this section, we will discuss a few arguments on this topic which are both reasonable and weighable.

Arguments that center around economic growth fit the criteria of reasonableness and weigh ability. These are arguments such as "urbanization brings manufacturing jobs" or "urbanization allows for economic exploitation." There are economic arguments on both sides, but both can be reasonable and weighable. These arguments are reasonable because most judges already associate urbanization with economic development and industrialism. This is because of the history of urbanization in Western countries, where the phenomenon has typically been tied to the industrial revolution and manufacturing boom. These arguments are

also very weighable because economic arguments link to poverty reduction and saving lives.

Because of the scope of these arguments, the degree of poverty reduction is substantial.

Another set of arguments that pass both tests are arguments about healthcare and health outcomes. Again, these arguments can be made on both sides: "Urbanization improves health infrastructure" and "urbanization creates sanitation and public health problems." These arguments are reasonable because changes in population health are often associated with the lived-environment, such as urbanization. Judges will intuitively agree that urban density creates a host of changes for public health. The arguments are also weighable because they impact out millions of lives, and create cycles of poverty or upward mobility for those impacted.

When approaching a topic as complex and intricate as this one, debaters need a way of finding the signal in the noise. They can do this by sorting arguments by weighability and reasonableness.

Affirmative Argumentation

The affirmative should start by considering stock arguments about economic growth and poverty reduction. The best way to go about this is to delve deeply into the warrants of these arguments and find nuanced ways of arguing them. Most debaters will have pre-planned responses to a common point such as economic growth and poverty reduction. Therefore to win on these arguments, debaters must outclass their opponents in their knowledge of specific warranting.

Urbanization brings economic growth for several reasons. One is that it allows for growth in higher-value employment such as manufacturing and services. These sectors rely on

scale and easily accessible labor and customer pool that only cities can provide. These economic sectors are far more economically productive than agriculture and form the backbone of a strong middle class. Almost all countries with strong middle classes have transitioned away from agricultural production and into manufacturing and services. Over time, this transition allows countries to move up the value chain and create higher and higher quality goods, lifting countries into higher levels of national wealth.

Another reason is by decreasing the cost of living. Urbanization allows people to share resources and infrastructure, allowing them to better meet their basic needs. Urbanization means that people can access nearby supermarkets instead of making long and expensive journeys for supplies. It also decreases the cost of transporting resources like food and home goods, because they can be consolidated and shipped to a few central locations in a city. Debaters should think about the many different ways in which urbanization brings economic growth.

Negative Argumentation

The negative should begin by considering arguments about health outcomes. This is because health outcomes are intuitively important and there are many warrants for how they flow from urbanization. Health outcomes are incredibly diverse, so debaters should think about all their possible options before committing to any single avenue. For health arguments, it is important to focus on high scope contentions because these arguments will have to be weighed against the impacts of economic growth.

One way that urbanization hurts public health is through reduced sanitation outcomes.

Urbanization clusters people together in high-density situations which can reduce cleanliness and fester disease. This can also overburden sanitation infrastructure such as sewers, as people often move to cities faster than new sanitation infrastructure can be constructed. This can lead to heightened unsanitary living conditions such as lack of running water, decreased handwashing, and difficulty bathing. All of this is only worsened by cramped living conditions which make it far easier to spread illness than in more spread-out suburban or rural living conditions.

Urbanization can also lead to hospital overcrowding, which can reduce hospital effectiveness and act as a vector for disease transmission within hospitals. Hospitals are a crucial part of the healthcare landscape and are essential for stopping disease outbreaks and for harm mitigation. However, hospitals can often not be constructed fast enough to keep up with urbanization because they take a long time to create and need highly specific medical supplies, employees, and building specifications. Overcrowding means that many ill people will be sent home and may spread the disease to their neighbors or family. It also means that hospitals will have to operate over capacity and may therefore take on unsanitary practices which can, in turn, spread disease. This is a problem all over the world in countries that are experiencing rapid urbanization. The impact is devastating, as increased mortality from disease can decimate communities and also lower rates of economic growth.

This topic is vast and offers a wide range of debates on topics ranging from economic issues to political and social ones. Debaters will be forced to research deeply and cover a breadth of issues they might not already be familiar with. The topic will reward those who

diligently research and think creatively. Concentrate on well thought out research and simple but high impact contentions. Good luck and have fun!

About Jakob Urda

Jakob grew up in Brooklyn, New York. He attends the University of Chicago, where he will receive a BA in Political Science, and is interested in security studies and political economy. Jakob debate for Stuyvesant High School where he won Blake, GMU, Ridge, Scarsdale, Columbia, the NCFL national championship, and amassed 11 bids. He coached the winners of the NCFL national tournament, Harvard, and Blake.

Topic Analysis by Tucker Wilke

Resolved: On balance, the benefits of urbanization in West Africa outweigh the harms.

Introduction

The month of February is always one of the most unique months of the season for Public Forum debate. For some, the month is a time to wind down a bit and start preparing for the postseason tournaments that dominate the rest of the year. Other teams work really hard to make a final push to qualify for those postseason tournaments. Many others spend the month focusing on the Harvard tournament, the largest and most prestigious tournament before the postseason, and one that promises to be even larger than normal this year. Luckily, this month provides an impressive topic that should intrigue everyone, regardless of their goals for the month, as it is "Resolved: On balance, the benefits of urbanization in West Africa outweigh the harms." Public Forum topics most frequently deal with domestic US issues, and if they look internationally they usually do it from the perspective of the US government, and if not, they often take on the role of a specific foreign government. This resolution bucks all of those trends, and looks descriptively at an economic and social trend in a part of the globe scarcely examined in Public Forum debate rounds. As such, I highly recommend people dive into the research for this topic regardless of how much they plan to debate, if for no other reason than the fact that you will learn a lot about the history and political economy of a part of the world that is under-discussed.

Strategic Considerations

As intriguing and exciting as this topic is, it will also take lots of work to effectively communicate to judges, as while many PF topics are at least somewhat accessible to anyone who follows the mainstream news, this topic will not be. The good news is that the wording of the resolution is "on balance the benefits... outweigh the harms" which means that the debate will be determined by a simple cost-benefit or utilitarian calculus – no need for fancy principles arguments are debates about the moral obligations of states. Instead, debaters can focus all of their time on concrete arguments about the benefits and harms of urbanization in West Africa. Thus, while giving good background information and worldbuilding in a case is always important, it is especially critical here for a few reasons. First, since judges are likely unfamiliar with the arguments, not giving them proper background will often leave them confused and therefore make their decision less predictable. Second, since judges likely do not have a lot of predetermined beliefs about the topic, they are likely to be effectively persuaded by a good contextualization of the issue. Third, if nothing else, given the complex nature of the hand, judges are likely to be sympathetic to the team that can just explain the arguments more clearly, which can help boost speaker points and even make or break close rounds. As has been the case throughout the year, all of this is heightened by the online environment. Wifi glitches and connection issues make judges more likely to miss things, and as any student taking online classes can attest to, no matter how hard the judges try to concentrate, brief moments of zoning out are inevitable when spending hours upon hours on soon. Speaking clearly, giving proper context and warranting for arguments, and in general, trying to make the round as accessible as possible for judges will be at a premium, no matter what circuit debaters are on.

Debaters should also be intentional and creative in their weighing strategies for this topic. As mentioned above, the "on balance" condition of the resolution simplifies things a great deal, but there's still lots of room for debaters to strategize about what kind of impacts they want to prioritize. After all, "On balance" just means the total of the impacts, rather than the raw number of people it helps or harms. So, for example, if urbanization harms a lot of people a little bit, but helps a certain group of vulnerable people a lot, then it can still be "on balance" beneficial. As such, debaters may want to consider the round in reverse. After doing some preliminary research and getting a feel for the arguments/impacts, think about how you would give a final focus and which impacts you think will be most effective in proving on balance benefits/harms and design the case from there. In a similar vein, the "on balance" condition in the resolution should serve as a reminder that the debate is not just whether life in urban areas is good or bad, but is instead all about the comparison to the alternative. For example, critics will point out the often poor living conditions in urban slums, but child health is actually comparatively better in urban slums than rural areas, which is the likely alternative.¹ Keeping in mind what the counterfactual to urbanization is will be key to building an effective case.

Before we get into the core arguments for each side, I want to give a couple of pieces of advice on researching this topic. I've already alluded to why having a strong grounding of the information on this topic is going to be especially critical, and why it will also be a very

¹ <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2016/09/07/can-rapid-urbanization-in-africa-reduce-poverty-causes-opportunities-and-policy-recommendations/#:~:text=The%20economic%20benefits%20of%20urbanization.goods%2C%20and%20lower%20transaction%20costs.>

rewarding endeavor. That said, research on this topic is likely to prove challenging for a couple of reasons. First, there is just a ton of content and information on this topic, since it is such a dense and complicated issue. It may be overwhelming at first, as debaters may struggle to even get a footing in research. In light of this, I would recommend debaters break up the research for this topic into a few clear categories, such as "Economics," "Migration," and "Politics," and try to attack those buckets one by one. Obviously, keen debaters will soon discover the intersectionality of these issues, so they ought not to think about them exclusively in isolation, but that kind of division can be very helpful in breaking down the core components of the topic in the initial phases of research. The second wrinkle is that, as mentioned earlier, West Africa as a region is frequently overlooked and underreported in mainstream news (that is part of why researching this topic will be so rewarding, but also what makes it difficult). Instead, lots of information for this topic will come from smaller niche publications and academic papers from organizations like the World Bank or the National Bureau of Economic Research that study these trends. In terms of the former, debaters should be sure to examine any smaller niche organizations to make sure they are legitimate and trustworthy, but they should not dismiss them out of hand just because they have not heard of them. Some publications debaters may want to look at are *African Arguments*, *the New African*, *The Continent*, and *the South African Institute for Security Studies*. Academic papers are a different beast, and learning how to read them efficiently and effectively is one of the most important research skills students will learn from debate. For those, reading abstracts and conclusions are quite useful for understanding the highlights of the paper. Debaters should also try to read the methodology and limitations of any papers they lean on heavily in their case, as there are few phenomena more embarrassing

than an opposing team exposing key errors in the methodology of a study you cite or explaining why it does not actually apply to the round. Engaging with coaches, parents, and teachers is also very helpful for this kind of research!

One final note on research regards the lumping of the different regions and the use of comparisons. The comparative lack of literature regarding urbanization in West Africa will likely to lead debaters to rely heavily on case studies or comparisons to other regions that have gone through urbanization such as China and Latin America, as well as academic papers that look at tons of different regions simultaneously, as opposed to focusing specifically on West Africa. These comparisons can be very useful, since urbanization in West Africa is a bit behind other regions that have been rigorously studied, and can also just give debaters an understanding of the broader impacts at play. That being said, having your opponents point out to the judge that your key evidence is about an entirely different region and not relevant to West Africa. As such, when using these big studies or regional comparisons, teams should be clear about what region they are speaking and have good warranting as to *why* that comparison is valuable and applicable. Conversely, teams should be on the lookout for their opponents making those broad strokes comparisons and be ready to point out some of what makes West Africa different. West African Urbanization was, for example, unlike East African Urbanization, was rapid and relatively unplanned. Additionally, some studies have shown that urbanization in sub-Saharan African urbanization has shown fewer benefits in poverty reduction than in other regions, which should give con teams some ammunition against the wave of studies extolling the

benefits of global urbanization.² Those kinds of little particularities about the region come from doing deep research, and while they seem small, can often make or break rounds. With all of that out of the way, let's dive into the core arguments to be made for both sides!

Affirmative Argumentation

Pro teams have a cornucopia of rigorous academic research on their side extolling the benefits of global urbanization over the past few decades. Indeed, when the World Bank held a conference to discuss urbanization in Africa, Harvard University Professor of Economics Edward Glaeser affirmed at the outset that "Cities are the best path we know out of poverty."³ Of course, it won't be enough to declare that and call it a day; pro teams will need to break down exactly how urbanization does this, and there is no shortage of reasons. Urban centers often have more opportunities for employment than rural areas, and they allow people to more easily access those open jobs since they now concentrate in the city. Bringing together large numbers of people, including people of different cultures and ethnicities, also has the benefit of boosting innovation and growth as new ideas flow in the air. That further increases productivity and creates employment opportunities. As mentioned earlier, cities can also have comparatively better health outcomes than rural areas since they better connect people to

²Ravallion, M, S Chen and P Sangraula (2007), "New evidence on the urbanization of global poverty", World Bank Policy Research Working Paper, World Bank Washington, 46 pages.

³ <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2016/09/07/can-rapid-urbanization-in-africa-reduce-poverty-causes-opportunities-and-policy-recommendations/#:~:text=The%20economic%20benefits%20of%20urbanization.goods%2C%20and%20over%20transaction%20costs.>

resources they need. For example, just based on numbers, one is more likely to be near a hospital and a qualified doctor in an urban center than a rural area. The same applies to just about every other public good or service one can think of, including schools. Indeed, even if these resources are lacking in some urban centers, any future schools or hospitals that governments build will likely be in places where they will benefit the most people: cities. These are just a few of the warrants pro teams can employ to create a compelling narrative for how urbanization concretely benefits people's lives. Indeed, research published by the World Bank found that living standards increase in near lockstep with population density.⁴ Another reason why this argument is so effective is that it opens the door for a litany of weighable impacts. In addition to massively benefiting an individual's life, bringing someone out of poverty also has intergenerational impacts, raising the living standard of that person's children and grandchildren. The same can be said for access to education, a key driver of social mobility for generations which also has massive spillover benefits to the society at large through increased innovation. Very similar logic applies to access to health resources. All of these impacts are potentially round-winning, as they show concrete, short-term and long-term benefits to the most vulnerable groups in West Africa. Affirmative teams should strongly consider an argument along these lines.

In addition to the basic economics of the matter, urbanization provides many other side benefits that pro teams should consider when designing their case. One such argument concerns political movements. This is yet another area where different parts of the globe, and

⁴ <https://blogs.worldbank.org/impactevaluations/abca-2016-round-25-papers-urbanization-africa>

even different parts of Africa, have seen massive differences in impact, so teams should try to find as many examples as they can. That said, the upshot for pro teams is that urbanization produces a middle class who have more access to information and political participation. News outlets reporting on politics are more likely to be found in large urban centers, and politicians are more likely to visit, creating a more informed population. This informed population also has a much more effective route to political organization, as it is just easier to find people who share a cause in a large urban center, and are more likely to be able to translate that organization into political participation since cities are more likely to rural areas to have ballot boxes. One example of such a movement is the #EndSARS protests in major cities of Nigeria which I would encourage teams considering this argument to check out. Of course, political information and participation are good impacts, but likely will not be round-winning unless the team can prove some more tangible benefit that comes from them. Teams should therefore be sure to dive into some of these protest movements to see what they have accomplished, and look at urbanization tends more broadly to see how they interact with increased rights and overall democratization. If done successfully, this argument could be a refreshing take on the resolution, and one that judges would be sympathetic to.

A final argument worth discussing, due to its likelihood to come up in rounds, is also one that promises to be quite messy: environmental impacts. The conventional wisdom is that urbanization is beneficial from an environmental perspective. This makes a fair amount of intuitive sense. As population density increases, it is easier to distribute resources to a larger number of people, fewer emissions are expended transporting those resources across large distances. Space is generally used more efficiently, so fewer natural land is degraded and, in

general, there are fewer emissions per person.⁵ All of this seems like a slam dunk for teams looking to make impacts on the environment and climate change, an impact that is often very desirable to link into. Yet, as will become a common theme for this topic, this conventional wisdom does not quite apply to West Africa. Much of the conventional wisdom is more about countries that are already more developed than many of the countries in West Africa, and so moving to the cities concentrates the emissions but decreases them overall. In contrast, in West Africa, urbanization often coincides with industrialization and therefore has murkier environmental impacts. That does not mean that this is a categorically bad argument from the pro side, just that (as has become a theme) it will take extra work to dive into the particulars of the West African particularities as opposed to citing general think pieces about urbanization and environmentalism. Overall, the pro side has a range of potentially effective arguments, which should allow teams to build a compelling case that fits their strengths and interests. With that, let's take a look at the con side!

Negative Argumentation

In light of the significant number of studies linking urbanization to higher living standards, it may seem as though the con team has their work cut out for them. That being said, a deeper dive into the specifics of the situation in West Africa complicates that conventional narrative, as the piece of evidence cited above found that the normal benefits of urbanization have not been as evident in West Africa. Why might that be the case? Well, as

⁵ <https://www.cato.org/blog/urbanization-good-environment>

Brookings explains “If city populations continue to grow without economic transformation, a vicious and persistent cycle of high fertility, low wages, and persistent poverty could result.”⁶ In other words, if the massive populations moving to cities do not find jobs, or the growth/productivity do not increase at a pace that creates more jobs, massive amounts of people end up unemployed. When there are far more people looking for jobs than jobs available, companies are more likely to hire people who are willing to work for a lower wage, causing wages to fall across the board. All of this puts a huge damper on the economic benefits of urbanization and disrupts what would otherwise be a very compelling narrative for the pro side. These economic arguments are fashioned into con arguments in their own right, but can also just be used as an excellent defense to pro arguments, arguing that the impacts of urbanization on poverty are very murky, thereby opening the door for the other corollary harms of urbanization (a strategy often employed on con teams). In other words, con teams can shed sufficient doubt on the conventional narrative of poverty reduction through urbanization, and thereby open space for a host of other harms that urbanization contributes to.

The first of these issues surround the impacts of mass migration generally. Urbanization in West Africa has had the effect of (1) significant population outflows from rural areas, and (2) more ethnically and religiously diverse population centers. Intuitively, one might assume that megacities become segregated by ethnicity or class, and while that is not universally true, there are certainly examples of that happening. Teams interested in running this argument should

⁶ <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2016/09/07/can-rapid-urbanization-in-africa-reduce-poverty-causes-opportunities-and-policy-recommendations/#:~:text=The%20economic%20benefits%20of%20urbanization.goods%2C%20and%20lower%20transaction%20costs.>

look into the migration of Yoruba and Igbo migration to Lagos, Nigeria, as a starting point for this way of thinking. Obviously, cultural and economic segregation mitigates the benefits of cross-culture innovation and idea-sharing in cities but also has numerous cultural and political harms for those involved that con teams can certainly use to build a compelling narrative. Additionally, while westerners often think of Africa as homogenous, the continent is home to an immense amount of ethic, religious, and cultural diversity and as has been seen all around the globe, the rapid migration of diverse groups into singular spaces frequently causes instability and discrimination as government scramble to keep different groups happy. Looking to Nigeria, David Ehrhardt in *African Affairs* explains that "Nigerians have to be 'indigenes' to access certain economic and political opportunities at the federal as well as state and local government levels. However, what makes a person indigenous is not formally defined, leaving street-level officials free to decide how to allocate indigeneship certificates."⁷ This is but one example but shows how migration causes instability and often the denial of political and economic rights to certain groups. This is important, as it further disrupts the conventional pro-urbanization world view: it does not matter if you're closer to public resources if you're barred from taking advantage of them! Instead, these policies, which largely come as a result of this mass migration, create a massive divide between the cultures on economic lines in these megacities. In addition to this cultural and ethnic divide, these megacities also give way to economic segregation. One interesting angle on economic segregation comes from the rise of privatized areas of cities, such as the Eko Atlantic in Nigeria, which one critic writes "exemplify

⁷ <https://academic.oup.com/afraf/article/116/464/462/3769252>

the most financially, socially, and environmentally costly aspects to global capitalism."⁸

Privatized cities will likely be a rather niche argument, but provide yet another route for conservation teams to show the concrete costs of massive migration and urbanization.

In addition to the more concrete economic and social harms caused by urbanization mentioned above, the mass migration to urban centers also causes immense instability. This instability takes many forms, but here are three to get started. First, in the cities themselves, the economic and cultural segregation/class divides give way to unrest and instability, as massive amounts of the population find themselves unsatisfied. This can happen even without explicit policies by the government that determine citizenship and access to resources, as a significant portion of people moving to cities do so because of a promise of finding a job. When large amounts of them arrive and cannot find one, they are likely to be angry, breeding instability. Second, teams should look to what may well be a very overlooked group in this round: those "left behind" in rural communities, who may not have had the ability to migrate to an urban center. Those people suffer the reverse of the benefits accrued from moving to a city, and urbanization will likely make it worse. Since rural communities will likely become even more sparse, governments are even less likely to build schools and hospitals in them since an alternative hospital in a city can be used by far more people. Accessing resources become harder. The simple fact is that not everyone can migrate to an urban center, and those that are left behind will likely suffer the most, causing massive discontent over a large swath of the population. This leads to the third kind of instability, that of a national divide. National politics

⁸ <https://www.currentaffairs.org/2020/05/a-private-city-the-rise-of-eko-atlantic>

in these countries promises to become incredibly polarized along regional lines, creating a sharp divide between rural and urban political groups. Since both want resources and energy devoted to their region, massive political gridlock and polarization ensue, hampering the government's ability to accomplish tasks at best, and causing instability and upheaval at worst. Thus, by looking at the major groups/stakeholders at play in the resolution, con teams can design a compelling case around instability.

Conclusion

It should be clear by now that this topic is challenging yet rewarding, and will give way to many close, thought-provoking debates. Good luck!

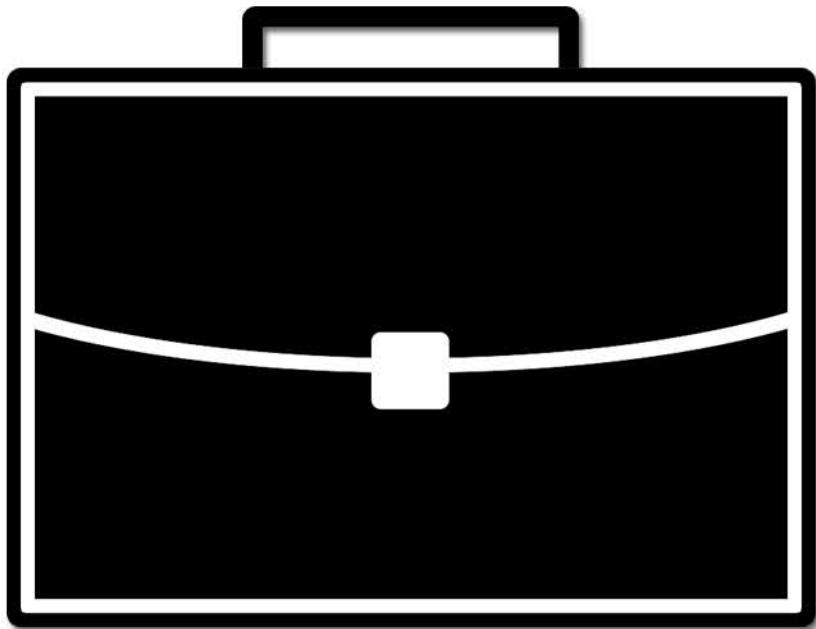
About Tucker Wilke

Tucker is from Westchester, New York, where he attended the Hackley School. He is now attending Brown University, where he debates for the Brown Debating Union and studies English and Economics. Over the course of his career, Tucker amassed 8 bids to the Tournament of Champions. In addition, he reached the Quarterfinals at Bronx, Glenbrooks, UK, Ridge and Princeton, Semifinals at Penn and Columbia, and championed the Scarsdale Invitational. He was ranked as high as 7th in the country in his senior year. As a coach for Hackley, his students have reached semifinals at Blake and Quarters at Penn.

Champion Briefs

February 2021

Public Forum Brief



General Information

General Information

Resolved: On balance, the benefits of urbanization in West Africa outweigh the harms.

Foreword: We, at Champion Briefs, feel that having deep knowledge about a topic is just as valuable as formulating the right arguments. Having general background knowledge about the topic area helps debaters form more coherent arguments from their breadth of knowledge. As such, we have compiled general information on the key concepts and general areas that we feel will best suit you for in- and out-of-round use. Any strong strategy or argument must be built from a strong foundation of information; we hope that you will utilize this section to help build that foundation.

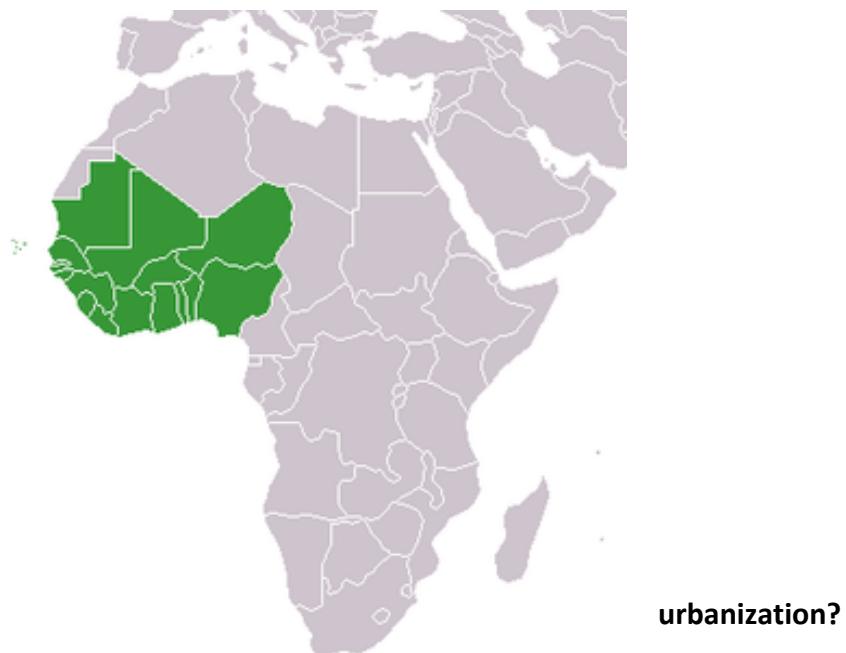
Which countries are in West Africa?

According to the T.C. McCaskie, Senior Research Fellow, Department of African Studies and Anthropology, University of Birmingham; Professor of African History, SOAS University of London:

Western Africa, region of the western African continent comprising the countries of Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo. Western Africa is a term used in the Encyclopædia Britannica to designate a geographic region within the continent of Africa. The term West Africa is also often used to refer to this part of the continent. As conventionally understood, however, West Africa is primarily a political and economic designation and comprises all the areas considered here except Cameroon, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, and the Saharan parts of Mali, Mauritania, and Niger



Map of West Africa:



According to Science Daily:

Urbanization refers to the increasing number of people that live in urban areas.

It predominantly results in the physical growth of urban areas, be it horizontal or vertical. The United Nations projected that half of the world's population would live in urban areas at the end of 2008.

By 2050 it is predicted that 64.1% and 85.9% of the developing and developed world respectively will be urbanized. Urbanization is closely linked to modernization, industrialization, and the sociological process of rationalization.

Urbanization can describe a specific condition at a set time, i.e. the proportion of total population or area in cities or towns, or the term can describe the increase of this proportion over time.

So the term urbanization can represent the level of urban development relative to overall population, or it can represent the rate at which the urban proportion is increasing.

Urbanization is not merely a modern phenomenon, but a rapid and historic transformation of human social roots on a global scale, whereby predominantly rural culture is being rapidly replaced by predominantly urban culture.

How is urbanization changing?

According to the UN:

More than 4 billion people – more than half of the world – live in urban areas

For most of human history, most people across the world lived in small communities. Over the past few centuries – and particularly in recent decades – this has shifted dramatically. There has been a mass migration of populations from rural to urban areas. How many people live in urban

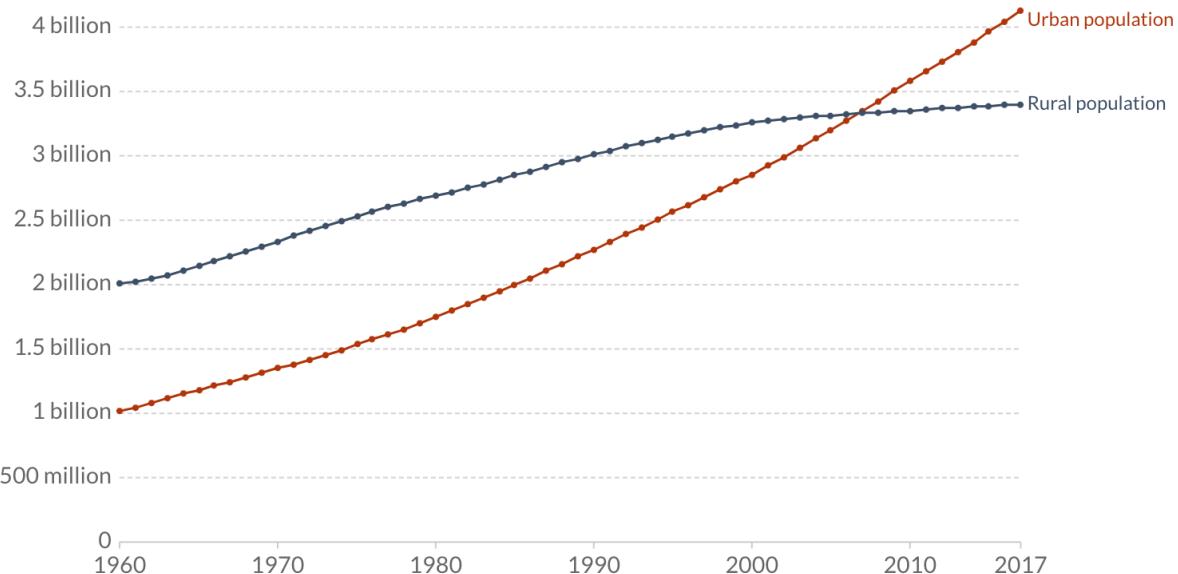
areas today? In the visualization we see estimates from the UN World Urbanization Prospects on the number of people globally who live in urban and rural areas. In 2017, 4.1 billion people were living in urban areas. This means over half of the world (55%) live in urban settings. The UN estimates this milestone event – when the number of people in urban areas overtook the number in rural settings – occurred in 2007.

Trends in Urbanization:

Number of people living in urban and rural areas, World, 1960 to 2017

Our World
in Data

⇄ Change country

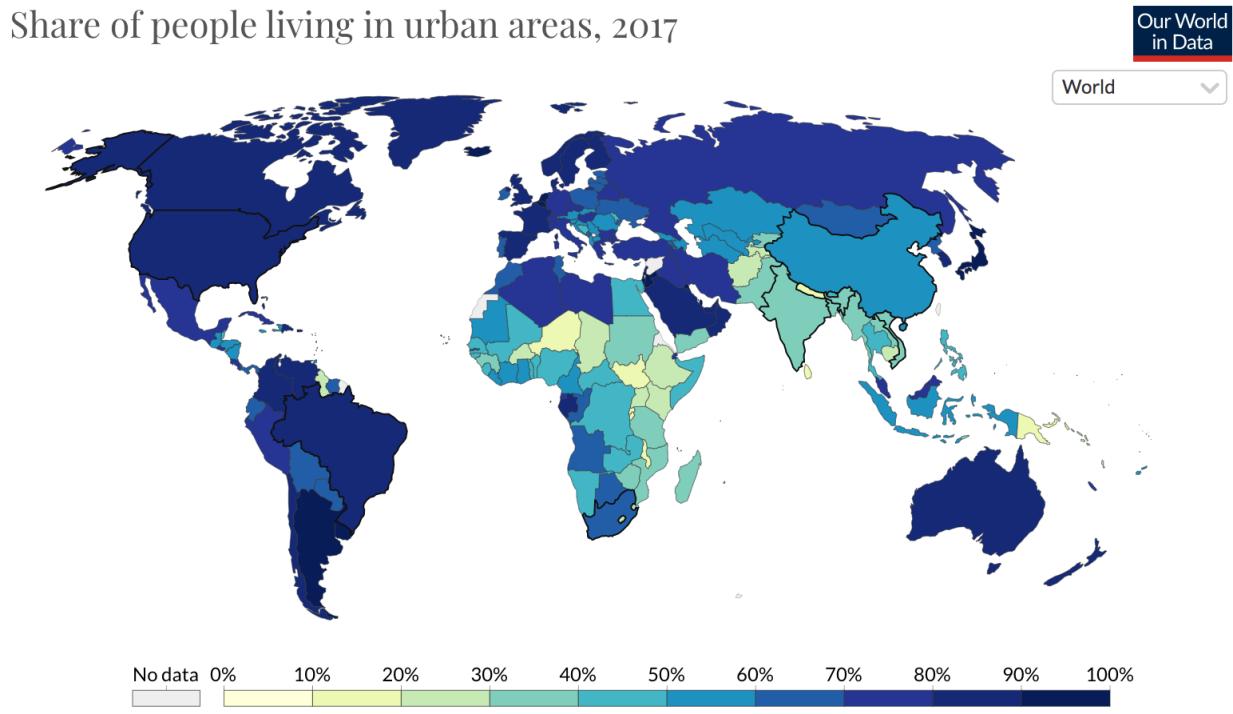


Source: UN World Urbanization Prospects (2018)

Note: Urban populations are defined based on the definition of urban areas by national statistical offices.

CC BY

How urbanized is the world by region?



Source: UN World Urbanization Prospects (2018)

Note: Urban populations are defined based on the definition of urban areas by national statistical offices.

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What is unique about urbanization in West Africa?

According to the OECD:

West Africa has been experiencing intensive urbanisation for more than fifty years. This urbanisation has affected the region's largest towns and small urban centres alike. The average distance between agglomerations has declined from 111 km to 33 km. However, urbanisation rates vary widely across countries. They are highest in coastal countries that have not been threatened by major socio-political crises. This raises some interesting questions such as: Why has Nigeria's urbanisation rate changed so little? Is the slowdown in the rate of urbanisation since 1980 structural or cyclical?

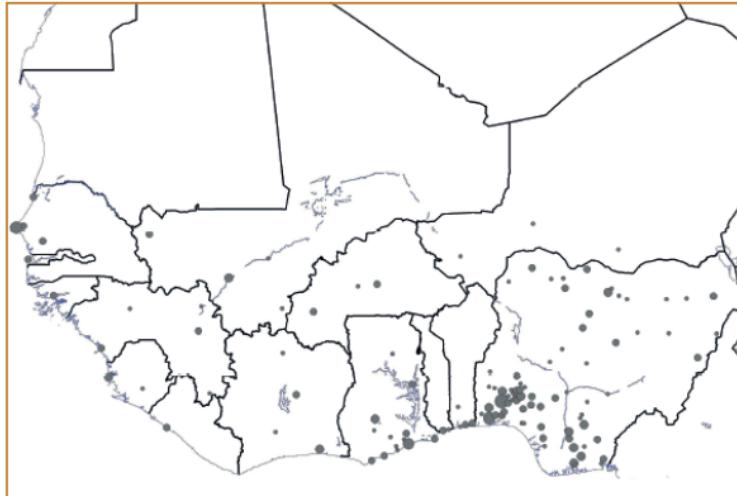
Map of Urbanization in West Africa:

URBANISATION RATE

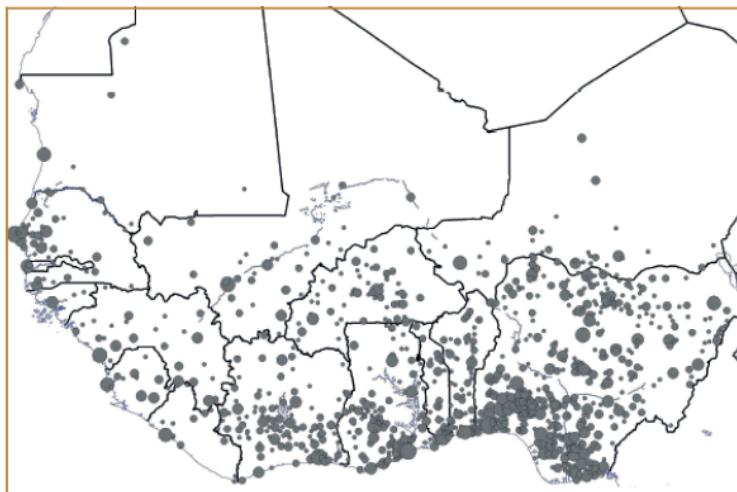
Based on the same definitions for urban population, the population data are comparable between countries and have been integrated into an international urban database (e-geopolis).

in 1950: 7.5 %
→ 125 urban agglomerations
→ 4 million urban dwellers

**Urban population trends in West Africa
(centres with population over 10 000 inhabitants)**



in 2000: 31 %
→ 992 urban agglomerations
→ 78 million urban dwellers



Source: Africapolis 2009

© Sahel and West Africa Club Secretariat (SWAC/OECD), 2011

What are common effects of urbanization?

According to National Geographic:

The promise of jobs and prosperity, among other factors, pulls people to cities. Half of the global population already lives in cities, and by 2050 two-thirds of the world's people are expected to live in urban areas. But in cities two of the most pressing problems facing the world today also come together: poverty and environmental degradation.

Poor air and water quality, insufficient water availability, waste-disposal problems, and high energy consumption are exacerbated by the increasing population density and demands of urban environments. Strong city planning will be essential in managing these and other difficulties as the world's urban areas swell.

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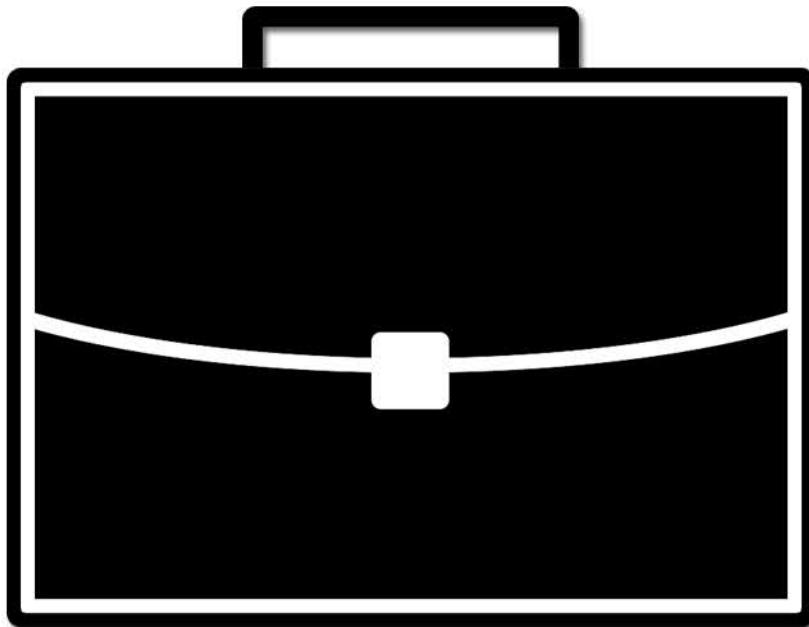
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Champion Briefs

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Pro Arguments

PRO: Urbanization leads to improved healthcare

Argument: Urbanization leads to healthier citizens, leading to longer and healthier lives

Warrant: Rural areas have worse health care than cities

Adams, Rebecca. 07-27-2011. "Rural areas have lower quality healthcare than suburbs and cities." Commonwealth Fund. 27 Jul. 2011. Web. 7 Jan. 2021.

<https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/newsletter-article/report-rural-areas-have-lower-quality-health-care-suburbs-and>

Rural physicians and consumers rate the quality of care in their towns lower than people in urban and suburban areas, and their impressions are validated by data in a new report released early Wednesday by UnitedHealth Group. In the 84-page report, researchers found that in 70 percent of insurance markets, using a set of objective measurements, the quality of care scored lower in rural areas than in cities. The report also found that there are only 65 primary care doctors per 100,000 rural Americans, as compared with 105 primary care physicians per 100,000 urban and suburban Americans. Rural areas have fewer than half the number of surgeons and other specialists per capita than are in urban and suburban areas. As part of the report, Harris Interactive surveyed 2,000 patients and 1,006 primary physicians nationwide. The survey found that doctors in rural areas were more likely than their urban and suburban counterparts to say diabetes, hypertension, heart problems, cancer, drug abuse, and teen pregnancy are major health problems affecting their communities.

Warrant: Thailand demonstrates improved healthcare conditions when moving to cities

Prachakon, Warason. "Urbanization and its implications for health services" .. 1998 Jul;7(1):21-52. PMID: 12294262.

According to this study, living conditions and access to health services have improved in Thailand. However, improvements have been greater in urban areas, and migration from rural to urban areas has been responsive to the unequal distribution of economic opportunities. The health service needs vary between urban and rural populations.

Migrants to cities are in good health. Disadvantaged populations in rural areas need the same opportunities as those available in cities. Cities need to strengthen health services targeted to the young, and especially females. Urbanization is likely to increase throughout Southeast Asia over the coming years. Southeast Asia is well advanced in the fertility and mortality transitions, but less advanced in the urbanization transition. The urban transition has implications for the supply and demand for health services.

Described are the variation in demographic structures of urban and rural areas, the concentration of resources in urban areas, the patterns of urbanization, and the potential paths through which urbanization is related to the distribution of health services in Thailand. A broad overview is given for Southeast Asia. Demand for services is a function of the age and sex composition of population, resources available, and preferences for particular types of services. Supply of services is related to government health allocation decisions and private health supplier's locations of services.

Urbanization affects the distribution of health services mainly through demand, and is an outcome of economic development. Migration is the main contributor to Thai urbanization.

Historical Precedent: Other urbanized countries enact laws that function as healthcare by discouraging certain unhealthy behavior

Vize, Richard. 2-24-2017, "How can health services keep pace with the rapid growth of

cities?," Guardian. 24 Feb, 2017. Web. 2 Jan 2021.

<https://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2017/feb/24/how-can-health-services-keep-pace-with-the-rapid-growth-of-cities>

But while developing countries are increasing the proportion of their wealth spent on healthcare, urban populations are expanding so quickly that it is all but impossible to provide the health infrastructure and staff to keep pace. **Faster progress can be made, however, in improving the environment, such as providing cleaner air and water.** For this reason, the WHO believes local government – and particularly executive mayors – are central to improving city health. Beijing and Shanghai, for example, have introduced tough anti-smoking laws. **In 2013 Mexico City became the first in the world to levy a tax on sugary drinks, which had been a factor in Mexico having among the world's highest obesity and diabetes rates.** Kuwait City has reduced salt content in bread to tackle high blood pressure. London and Paris were among the first cities to attempt to cut traffic pollution and increase exercise by offering free bicycle use.

Warrant: Africa is in need of an improved healthcare system

Clausen, Lily. 6-16-2015, "Taking on the Challenges of Health Care in Africa," Stanford Graduate School of Business. 16 Jun. 2015. Web. 6 Jan. 2021.

<https://www.gsb.stanford.edu/insights/taking-challenges-health-care-africa>

The health care professionals on the ground in Africa know the frustrations firsthand: counterfeit pharmaceuticals; shopping malls equipped with air-conditioning, while sweltering medical clinics limp along without it; much-needed medical equipment such as MRI machines getting caught up in the gridlock of international customs. **Africa, too, is confronting an increased demand beyond the treatment of AIDS, malaria, and other communicable diseases to address the noncommunicable ones such as hypertension,**

which are growing as the middle class increases. Three health professionals — Abayomi Ajayi, Letitia Adu-Ampoma, and Azure Tariro Makadzange — recently discussed these hurdles on a panel about health care in Africa at the Stanford Africa Business Forum at Stanford GSB. They shared their thoughts about scaling health care businesses in Africa during an interview with Stanford Business.

Impact: Current poor health situations in Africa cause high child mortality

Pheage, Tefo. 03-2017. "Dying from lack of medicines," Africa Renewal. Mar. 2017. Web. 7 Jan. 2021. <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2016-march-2017/dying-lack-medicines>

Approximately 1.6 million Africans died of malaria, tuberculosis and HIV-related illnesses in 2015. These diseases can be prevented or treated with timely access to appropriate and affordable medicines, vaccines and other health services. But less than 2% of drugs consumed in Africa are produced on the continent, meaning that **many sick patients do not have access to locally produced drugs** and may not afford to buy the imported ones. Without access to medicines, Africans are susceptible to the three big killer diseases on the continent: malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. **Globally, 50% of children under five who die of pneumonia, diarrhoea, measles, HIV, tuberculosis and malaria are in Africa**, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO). The organisation defines having access to medicine as having medicines continuously available and affordable at health facilities that are within one hour's walk of the population. In some parts of Zimbabwe, for example, some nurses give painkillers to sick patients as a "treat-all drug," says Charles Ndlovu, a Zimbabwean living in Botswana. Some of his family members have been treated in hospitals in Zimbabwe. With most medicines unavailable, the nurses have little choice.

Analysis: One of the largest problems that Africa faces is their public health situation, which is deeply connected to the percentage of Africans who live in rural areas. Urbanization leads to more people residing in cities, which means more people have access to the infrastructure and services of the city. Teams running this argument should see if they can find specific evidence on already urbanized cities in Africa and looks into their healthcare rates.

PRO: Urbanization increases job opportunities

Argument: Because urbanization increases population and therefore demand in various sectors within cities, it leads to more job opportunities for citizens.

Warrant: Africa is growing which puts pressure on the need for jobs

Abi, Samir. 03-20-2020. , "Africa needs 450 million new jobs to benefit from the demographic dividend," D+C. 20 Mar. 2020. Web. 5 Jan 2021.

<https://www.dandc.eu/en/article/africa-needs-450-million-new-jobs-benefit-demographic-dividend>

When the countries of Africa started to gain independence in the 1950s, the continent had a population of around 280 million. That was seven percent of the world population. In the next 60 years, the absolute number rose by more than a billion. Today, there are 1.3 billion people in Africa, accounting for 14 % of the world population. Their numbers are still rising. According to the 2019 revision of the UN World Population Prospects, **the population of sub-Saharan Africa will increase by more than a billion people by the middle of this century and will continue to grow beyond the year 2100 in contrast to population figures in the other regions.** They are forecast to peak before the end of the 21th century. The question for African countries is what impact demographic change will have on their medium and long-term development. In the past two decades, vigorous economic growth averaged about five percent. That trend has led to the belief that economies will keep gaining strength through to 2030. The problem, however, is that, with population growth at 2.5 % a year since the end of the colonial era, the economic performance has been too modest to really shift African economies into a higher gear. At the same time, governments need the increased revenues that high growth makes possible in order to rise to the social challenges population growth presents. **More people, especially more young people,**

mean fast growing demand for education, good jobs and homes. Many countries cannot meet that demand on their own. Therefore, many African governments simply rely on the private sector meeting the majority of people's needs. In both the health and education sectors, for example, extensive privatisation is common.

Warrant: Job creation is crucial to the outcome of Africa's future

World Bank, 2017, "Creating Jobs for Africa's Growing Population," The World Bank.

2017. Web, 5 Jan. 2021.

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/competitiveness/publication/creating-jobs-for-africas-growing-population>

Africa's population is growing faster than jobs are created, and whether the trend continues or can be reversed will have much to do with whether the continent generates prosperity or instability in the coming decades. This is a conclusion of The Africa Competitiveness Report 2017, released today by the World Economic Forum, the African Development Bank, and the World Bank Group. With the right combination of policies implemented speedily and effectively, Africa can turn its growing working-age population into a "demographic dividend" in which incomes rise, families can save and invest, cities offer affordable housing, productivity rises, and more investments can take place. Failure to strengthen government institutions, improve infrastructure, and promote near- and long-term job creation will lead to a widening gap between the rising population and available employment. The report projects that Africa's working age population should grow by 450 million people but that the continent's economies, without significant policy reform, will likely produce only 100 million new jobs. Despite challenging trends, the report offers a positive outlook, grounded in Africa's economic

performance over the past decade and the growing awareness among governments of the need for reform.

Warrant: Urbanization creates demand for more jobs

Investopedia, 12-20-2020, "How Does Industrialization Lead to Urbanization?,"

Investopedia. 20 Dec. 2020. Web. 5 Jan 2021.

<https://www.investopedia.com/ask/answers/041515/how-does-industrialization-lead-urbanization.asp>

Industrialization has historically led to urbanization by creating economic growth and job opportunities that draw people to cities. Urbanization typically begins when a factory or multiple factories are established within a region, thus creating a high demand for factory labor. Other businesses such as building manufacturers, retailers, and service providers then follow the factories to meet the product demands of the workers. This creates even more jobs and demands for housing, thus establishing an urban area. In the modern era, manufacturing facilities like factories are often replaced by technology-industry hubs. These technological hubs draw workers from other areas in the same way factories used to, contributing to urbanization. Throughout the history of human civilization, urbanization patterns have been the strongest near large bodies of water. Initially, this was just to meet the water and food needs of large populations. However, since the Industrial Revolution, the trend of urbanization along waterways has continued because large bodies of water are needed to sustain the industry. Not only do many businesses require large quantities of water to manufacture products, but they also depend on oceans and rivers for the transportation of goods. This is partially why 75% of the world's largest urban areas are in coastal regions.

Warrant: Not only does urbanization create jobs, but it creates better jobs

Miranda, 10-31-2019. "The Impact of Urbanization" Flash Parking. 31 Oct. 2019. Web. 4 Jan. 2021. <https://www.flashparking.com/blog/the-impact-of-urbanization/>

Economic, political, and social issues merge with circumstances of modernization to make people want to migrate from rural to urban areas. Causes of urbanization include: **Industrial Growth:** The explosion of industrialization and manufacturing enterprises within a certain urban area gives rise to more employment opportunities — which is another factor of urbanization. **Employment:** Rural areas commonly are agricultural. **Urbanization and industrial growth create opportunities for jobs that pay more, are more diverse, and may be less physically demanding.** **Social Factors:** Many urban areas allow for better living standards, including superior educational facilities, better access to healthcare, modern housing, and more recreational activities.

Impact: Employment is linked to mortality rates

McKechnie, Alex. 7-24-2014. "How is it Possible that Joblessness Could Kill You, But Recessions Could Be Good For Your Health?" DrexelNow. 24 Jul. 2014. Web. 5 Jan. 2021. <https://drexel.edu/now/archive/2014/July/Unemployment-Study/#:~:text=Researchers%20thought%20so%20too.&text=The%20researchers%20found%20that%20each,a%20person%20one%20year%20younger.>

Using a nationally representative panel of individuals across the United States, the researchers studied both processes concurrently, and found for the first time in the same dataset these two facts that had previously been seen as inconsistent. The investigators concluded that the two effects do co-occur and are consistent with studies that examine them separately. **The findings reveal that job loss is associated with a 73 percent increase in the probability of death – the equivalent of adding 10 years to a person's age.** However, this increased risk affects only the minority of people who are

unemployed and is outweighed by health-promoting effects of an economic slowdown that affect the entire population, such as a drop in traffic fatalities and reduced atmospheric pollution. **The researchers found that each percentage-point increase in the individual's state unemployment rate reduces the hazard of death by approximately 9 percent, which is about the equivalent of making a person one year younger.**

Analysis: The benefit of this case is there is a very clear link chain that will be easy to explain and weigh in front of judges. There are strong links between job growth and urbanization, and strong impacts for why having a job is largely positive. Teams running this argument should look specifically into how employment uniquely impacts people living in West Africa (ie are there any specific benefits that can be incorporated into your case).

PRO: Urbanization is good for the environment

Argument: Urbanization has many impacts on both behaviors of society and government, some of which may benefit the environment.

Warrant: Urbanization leads to a condensed living space that benefits the environment

Marian L., 10-12-2015, "Urbanization Is Good for the Environment," Cato Institute. 12 Oct. 2015. Web. 5 Jan. 2021. <https://www.cato.org/blog/urbanization-good-environment>

Urbanization is on the rise around the world. By 2050, some 70 percent of humanity will live in the cities and that is good news for the environment. Many of the environmental advantages are derived from living spaces being condensed. For example, electricity use per person in cities is lower than electricity use per person in the suburbs and rural areas. Condensed living space that creates reduction in energy use also allows for more of the natural environment to be preserved. In a suburban or rural environment, private properties are spread out, because land values are relatively low. So, more of the natural environment is destroyed. In cities, property values are higher and space is used more efficiently. That means that more people live in the same square mile of land than in the rural areas. Another environmental advantage of cities compared to rural areas is a decrease in carbon emissions per person. In a rural or suburban area people normally use their own vehicles to drive to work or anywhere else. **Due to congestion, the use of personal cars in the city is much less attractive. More people use public transportation instead and that means that less carbon dioxide gets released into the atmosphere.**

Warrant: Urbanization drives higher productivity, reducing harmful waste

Wan, Guanghua. 2-26-2018, "Why urbanization may benefit the environment," Asian Development Bank. 26 Feb. 2018. Web. 5 Jan. 2021.
<https://www.adb.org/news/op-ed/why-urbanization-may-benefit-environment-guanghua-wan>

Urbanization degrades the environment, according to conventional wisdom. This view has led many developing countries to limit rural - urban migration and curb urban expansion. But this view is incorrect. There are a number of reasons urbanization can be good for the environment, if managed properly. **First, urbanization brings higher productivity because of its positive externalities and economies of scale. Asian urban productivity is more than 5.5 times that of rural areas. The same output can be produced using fewer resources with urban agglomeration than without. In this sense, urbanization reduces the ecological footprint. The service sector requires urbanization because it needs a concentration of clients. As services generally pollute less than manufacturing, this aspect of urbanization is also beneficial to the environment.** Second, for any given population, the high urban density is benign for the environment. The urban economics literature shows that compactness is a key determinant of energy use. High density can make public transport more viable and reduce the length of trips. Urban living encourages walking and cycling rather than driving

Warrant: Urbanization drives green tech

Wan, Guanghua. 2-26-2018, "Why urbanization may benefit the environment," Asian Development Bank. 26 Feb. 2018. Web. 5 Jan. 2021.
<https://www.adb.org/news/op-ed/why-urbanization-may-benefit-environment-guanghua-wan>

Fourth, urbanization drives innovation, including green technologies. In the long term, environment-friendly equipment, machines, vehicles, and utilities will determine the future of the green economy. Green innovations in Asia's cities will be supported by the region's vast market as the billions of people who will be buying energy-efficient products will create opportunities and incentives for entrepreneurs to invest in developing such products. Finally, the higher standard of living associated with urbanization provides people with better food, education, housing, and health care. Urban growth generates revenues that fund infrastructure projects, reducing congestion and improving public health. **Urbanization fosters a pro-environment stance among property owners and the middle class, which is crucial for the introduction and enforcement of environmental laws and regulations.** Of course, urbanization also comes with costs. Millions of people are migrating to Asian cities and companies are locating there to employ them. Urban sprawl and industrial activities, such as power generation, transportation, construction, garbage and waste disposal, harm the environment. An assessment of the impact of urbanization on the environment must balance its benign and adverse effects. The first priority is to improve energy efficiency and conservation through appropriate pricing, regulations, and public sector support. It is vital to get prices right so that they incorporate the full social costs and benefits, and ensure the efficient allocation of resources.

Warrant: In Asia urbanization has contributed to eco friendly developments

Leong, Tommy. 02-27-2017. "Urbanisation can be good for the environment," Eco-Business. 27 Feb. 2017. Web. 6 Jan. 2021. <https://www.eco-business.com/opinion/urbanisation-can-be-good-for-the-environment/>

Energy demand in Asia looks set to double in the next 15 years, with the growth in demand largely concentrated in the region's cities. Since fossil fuels remain the main

source of Asian cities' power, generating electricity in a sustainable way poses a great challenge. Thankfully, the growth in alternative sources of energy has created new opportunities for governments and companies in Asia to integrate renewable energy sources such as solar and wind with smarter upgrade projects across the region. One such example is the **San Lorenzo Wind Farm**, which is part of an effort to give greater emphasis to the use of more sustainable energy sources in the Philippines. It adopted an end-to-end solution that protects the wind farm from many system faults and ensures reliable production all-year round, especially as it is projected to generate over 120 GWh of electricity annually and be capable of sustaining the energy demands of **48,000 households**. Smart grid solutions are also playing a central role in transforming the power industry. By letting businesses know how much power they are using, the machines involved and the costs every minute of the day, you provide them with the necessary tools to measure and reduce energy consumption. Companies are leveraging the use of Internet of Things (IoT) and smart grids to build more efficient energy infrastructure in cities. When electrical systems of buildings are connected to smart grids, the grids detect power usage in different parts of the city and divert power to places where it is needed most. As urbanisation rapidly transforms the face of Asia and the lives of its citizens, everyone from policy makers to companies and residents have an important role to play in ensuring that the benefits that urban expansion brings is efficient, inclusive and sustainable – that Life is On for everyone, everywhere at every moment.

Impact: Climate action is important to keeping people out of poverty and to reducing Africa's vulnerability

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, 1-8-2020, "Africa can play a leading role in the fight against climate change," Brookings, <https://www.brookings.edu/research/africa-can-play-a-leading-role-in-the-fight-against-climate-change/>

Delivering the benefits of a new climate economy requires ambitious action across key economic systems, creating the conditions for the phaseout of coal and rapid scale-up of renewables in the energy sector; investing in shared, electric, and low-carbon transport in cities; scaling up sustainable food and land use systems, including forest landscape restoration; targeting investment to resilient water infrastructure; and reducing emissions from key industrial value chains, such as plastic. **However, if the world fails to step up climate action, continuing on our current climate trajectory could force 100 million people into extreme poverty by 2030.**^[2] Africa is the most-exposed region to the adverse effects of climate change despite contributing the least to global warming. The region is already disproportionately feeling the impacts related to a changing climate. Devastating cyclones affected 3 million people in Mozambique, Malawi, and Zimbabwe in the spring of 2018.^[3] GDP exposure in African nations vulnerable to extreme climate patterns is projected to grow from \$895 billion in 2018 to about \$1.4 trillion in 2023—nearly half of the continent’s GDP.^[4]

Analysis: The impact of saving the environment is huge, especially because there is a lot of urgency surrounding the issue currently. That automatically gives a team running this argument clear weighing mechanisms to use in round. However, teams running this argument should proceed with caution for a few reasons. First, the struggle within this case is proving that there are more environmental benefits than harms from urbanization. Second, teams should be prepared for mitigation and should learn how to respond to questions about how much of an actual impact African urbanization will have on overall climate change.

PRO: Urbanization reduces inequalities

Argument: Urbanization has the potential to reduce inequalities by giving occupants access to resources and opportunities.

Warrant: Rural areas have higher inequality

Brian Thiede, 4-14-2020, "Income inequality is getting worse in US urban areas," Conversation. 14 Apr. 2020. Web. 7 Jan. 2021.
<https://theconversation.com/income-inequality-is-getting-worse-in-us-urban-areas-132417>

Our work focuses specifically on differences in income inequality between rural counties and their urban counterparts. Using U.S. Census Bureau data, we looked at the Gini coefficient, a common measure of income inequality. This measurement ranges from 0, where everyone earns exactly the same amount and there is complete equality, to 1, or complete inequality, where all resources are held by one individual or household. Values above 0.4 are often considered high, and values near or below 0.3 very low. **For most of the past five decades, income inequality has been higher in rural counties than in urban areas. The most rural counties – those with the smallest, least dense populations – suffer the highest levels of income inequality.** Meanwhile, the most urban areas tend to have the lowest levels of inequality.

Warrant: Urbanization has the capacity to lift people from poverty

Burton, Jacqueline. 7-25-2016, "Urbanization Can Be a Force for Tackling Inequality,"

Next City. 25 Jul. 2016. Web. 7 Jan. 2021,
<https://nextcity.org/daily/entry/urbanization-can-be-a-force-for-tackling-inequality>

The stakes are high. As the world's urban population grows by hundreds of millions of people, trillions of dollars will be spent on building roads, sewers, homes, and parks to accommodate new residents. Indeed, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development estimates that it will cost \$71 trillion by 2030 to provide cities across the world with adequate infrastructure for electricity, road and rail transport, telecommunications, and water—and that doesn't even include housing. **Urbanization can and should be a driving force in tackling inequality. Cities are engines of economic growth. They are responsible for producing 80 percent of the world's GDP and can help pull people out of poverty. Thanks to their greater access to health care infrastructure, sanitation facilities, clean water, and higher literacy rates, cities have lower infant mortality rates. They are places of opportunity where innovations are sparked and scaled.** But in order to reap the benefits of urbanization, countries must plan for, execute, and manage it properly. Without proper planning, countries are susceptible to being locked into patterns of inequitable and unsustainable development.

Historical Precedent: Ghana has seen inequalities decrease from urbanization

Quitzon, Kimberly. 05-27-2015. "Does Urbanization Reduce Poverty?" Borgen Project. 27 May, 2015. Web. 7 Jan. 2021. <https://borgenproject.org/does-urbanization-reduce-poverty/>

Urbanization is the process of moving people from rural areas into urban areas. Organizations like the World Bank have found success in this process all over the world. However, there can be some disadvantages to relocating people from slums to cities.

Regardless of the cons, urbanization has improved the lives of many in China, Ghana and Latin America. One benefit of urbanization is increased access to resources like clean water and food. In African rural areas, mothers walk miles for clean water. **The World Bank has directly improved lives in Ghana with labor reallocation; the idea of increasing productivity by managing human capital. Moving people to jobs requiring more productivity has contributed to economic growth in Ghana, as well as increases in income for families who typically work in agriculture.** However, without proper monitoring, urbanization does not always work. According to the World Bank, “if not managed well, [it] can also lead to [the] burgeoning growth of slums, pollution, and crime.” This then raises the question of whether urbanization is really a good idea. Much of the world is becoming more urbanized and the U.N. believes this is a good way to reduce poverty.

Warrant: Urbanization can decrease income inequality

Nguyen, Min Ha. 9-10-2019, "The Impact of Urbanization on Income Inequality: A Study in Vietnam," MDPI. 10 Aug. 2019. Web. 7 Jan. 2021.
<https://www.mdpi.com/1911-8074/12/3/146/htm>

This study analyzed and evaluated the impact of urbanization on income inequality in Vietnam in the period 2006–2016. We used the following econometric techniques and methods: the estimation methods with static panel data regression used are OLS, FE, RE, and Driscoll and Kraay. The method used for estimating dynamic panel data regression is PMG, enabling us to consider the impact of urbanization on income inequality in the short and long term. **Our research results lead us to draw the following conclusions. Urbanization helps reduce income inequality in Vietnam, including in the long term. We confirm the inverted-U-shaped relationship between urbanization and income inequality in Vietnam, where economic growth reduces income inequality.** The impact

of economic growth on income inequality is not affected by the initial level of inequality. The hypothesis on an inverted-U-shaped relationship between economic growth and income inequality is not confirmed during the study period. The share of exports has a negligible effect on income inequality in Vietnam. Public spending does not significantly affect income inequality in Vietnam. The high school enrollment rate and the proportion of agriculture influence reductions in income inequality. Because urbanization has the effect of reducing income inequality, even in the long term, Vietnam needs to continue to promote urbanization. Economic growth has the effect of reducing income inequality, therefore policies to increase economic growth and social welfare should be maintained to reduce the gap between rich and poor. As improving intellectual standards will help reduce inequality, more supportive policies are needed to improve education. Because high value agricultural development will contribute to reducing inequality, appropriate policies are needed to support and develop agriculture, farmers, and rural areas.

Impact: Inequality fuels poverty

Naschold, Felix. 03-2002. "Why Inequality Matters for Poverty." Overseas Development Institute. Mar 2002. Web. 7 Jan. 2021.
<https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/3876.pdf>

Poverty and inequality are intrinsically linked. Poverty reduction - especially for the poorest - can be greatly enhanced through distributional policies. All the evidence confirms that distribution is central to fighting poverty. Distribution objectives, particularly for assets, should be an integral part of the poverty reduction agenda. • There is no inevitable trade-off between equity and efficiency. On the contrary growth and better distribution are complementary, rather than competing objectives in the fight against poverty. **More equal distribution of income and assets can foster growth,**

whereas high inequality can retard it. Thus, reducing inequalities can be doubly beneficial for the poor. • Distribution policies should be pursued (a) where they remove redundant/dysfunctional inequalities, and (b) in countries where the inequality effect on poverty is greater than the growth effect.

Analysis: This argument is one of the clearest to explain on the topic. Rural areas fuel inequality, while cities tend to see decreases in inequality. Teams running this argument should make sure to add the comparative between rural inequality vs urban inequality to set up a strong narrative. From there, there are many potential impacts all of which have large implications for health and quality of life.

PRO: Urbanization improves housing

Argument: Urbanization creates better and safer living conditions for the residents

Warrant: With the demands of urbanization, governments increase efforts to produce affordable housing

UN DESA , 2-21-2020, "Urbanization: expanding opportunities, but deeper divides," United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. 21 Feb. 2020. Web. 7 Jan. 2021. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/social/urbanization-expanding-opportunities-but-deeper-divides.html>

The uncontrolled growth of many cities has resulted in inadequate provision of public services and a failure to guarantee a minimum quality of life for all urban residents. The current speed of urbanization in developing countries makes urban governance and adequate planning increasingly urgent. As cities grow, inequality is likely to increase unless we implement policies to address it. **While there is no one-size-fits-all solution to reducing urban inequality, some Governments have been able to address the spatial, economic and social aspects of the urban divide and promote inclusive urbanization, including in rapidly growing cities.** Their successful strategies have four elements in common. First, they have established land and property rights, paying particular attention to security of tenure for people living in poverty. **Second, they have improved the availability of affordable housing, infrastructure and basic services and access to these services, since good transport networks, including between residential and commercial areas, are key to spatial connectivity and economic inclusion.** Third, they have facilitated access to education and decent employment for all urban residents.

Fourth, they have introduced mechanisms to allow participation in decision-making, encouraging input from all stakeholders on the allocation of public funds and on the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of all policies.

Warrant: While there may be too much demand for housing, governments attempt to meet demand

Alice Charles, 6-6-2019, "10 ways cities are tackling the global affordable housing crisis,"

World Economic Forum, 6 Jun. 2019. Web. 7 Jan. 2021.

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/06/10-ways-cities-are-tackling-the-global-affordable-housing-crisis/>

Addressing the housing affordability challenge requires systematic changes. City governments must streamline their regulatory landscapes and enable transparent land acquisition, emphasize property rights over title, develop a rental regulatory framework to protect tenants as well as landlords, encourage mixed-income and mixed-use housing developments, enable more innovative financing models in developing new homes or upgrading existing homes and encourage skill-building in the construction industry. The private sector must embrace innovative mechanisms to finance development and help establish the creditworthiness of those looking to improve their housing situation. Employers need to work with communities to provide affordable housing for employees, or help with housing costs through loans, subsidies or mortgage deals. Private developers need to invest in sustainable design concepts to create energy-efficient housing, and improve productivity by mainstreaming 3D Printing, prefabricating components, and using alternative materials and advanced automated equipment. The non-profit sector also has a key role to play in working with housing providers to implement alternative tenure models, while supporting advocacy efforts,

formulating policy and providing technical support, information and know-how to developers and homeowners.

Historical precedent: Many countries that have felt an increased demand for housing due to urbanization

Alice Charles, 6-6-2019, "10 ways cities are tackling the global affordable housing crisis," World Economic Forum, 6 Jun. 2019. Web. 7 Jan. 2021.

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/06/10-ways-cities-are-tackling-the-global-affordable-housing-crisis/>

6. Design: **Green Roof Initiative – Denver** Denver's “Green Roof initiative” requires buildings taller than 25,000 square feet to have green roofs or solar panels – including affordable housing projects. While upfront costs will increase, **lower-income communities should benefit in the long term from lower levels of air- and water pollution, as well as cheaper energy bills.** 7. Construction Material: **Glass Fibre Reinforced Gypsum – India** After a decade of research, the Indian Institute of Technology in Madras has proposed a building system using Glass Fibre Reinforced Gypsum (GFRG) panels – low-cost, prefabricated panels made using gypsum waste from fertilizer plants – using minimal concrete and steel, and no bricks. **The Indian government has approved standards for structures of up to 10 storeys high.** Thermal resistance reduces the need for air conditioning. GFRG has been dubbed a green material by the United Nations Framework on Climate Change. 8. Eligibility: **Criteria for Social Housing – Dupnitsa, Bulgaria** Dupnitsa, Bulgaria, constructed 150 social housing units with eligibility restricted to those who own no property and earn an income under a specified limit. Applicants were ranked based on their employment status, education level, age and number of children

Warrant: With policy reform, West African countries can meet housing needs

Temi Oni-Jimoh and Champika Liyanage (November 28th 2018). Urbanization and Meeting the Need for Affordable Housing in Nigeria, Housing, Amjad Almusaeed and Asaad Almssad, IntechOpen, DOI: 10.5772/intechopen.78576. Available from: <https://www.intechopen.com/books/housing/urbanization-and-meeting-the-need-for-affordable-housing-in-nigeria>

Urbanization is an ongoing trend in developed and developing countries. With particular reference to Nigeria, studies have shown that many urban centres have been experiencing rapid and continuous growth over the years, as people tend to migrate from rural areas to urban centres in order to better their living conditions. However, there has been an inadequacy of the necessary infrastructures to meet the needs of the increasing urban populace. Empirical studies have also shown that about 75% of the urban settlers live in slums and improper housing, which is antithetical to human dignity. Therefore, this study aims at exploring the causes, advantages, and disadvantages of urban slum dwelling in Nigeria, and similarly proper possible solutions to the prevailing urbanization challenges in the country. **The authors agree that the policy can bring about an effective provision of affordable housing, thereby meeting the needs of housing and helping to solve most of the problems of urbanization in Nigeria. It is recommended that each element of an effective housing policy, as entrenched in the National Housing Policy 2012, should be critically explored towards the delivery of affordable housing, which would in turn go a long way in solving urbanization problems in Nigeria.**

Impact: Affordable living has numerous benefits

Collier, Paul, 05-2014, "Housing and Urbanization in Africa : Unleashing a Formal Market Process," Open Knowledge. May 2014. Web. 7 Jan. 2021.
<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/18745>

The accumulation of decent housing matters both because of the difference it makes to living standards and because of its centrality to economic development. The consequences for living standards are far-reaching. In addition to directly conferring utility, decent housing improves health and enables children to do homework. It frees up women's time and enables them to participate in the labor market. More subtly, a home and its environs affect identity and self-respect. Commentary on the emergence of an African middle class has become common, but it is being defined in terms of discretionary spending and potential for consumer markets. A politically more salient definition of a middle class will be in terms of home ownership and the consequent stake in economic stability. This paper examines why such a process has not happened in Africa. The hypothesis is that the peculiarity of housing exposes it to multiple points of vulnerability not found together either in private consumer goods or in other capital goods. Each point of vulnerability can be addressed by appropriate government policies, but addressing only one or two of them has little payoff if the others remain unresolved. Further, the vulnerabilities faced by housing are the responsibility of distinct branches of government, with little natural collaboration.

Analysis: The narrative of this contention should be that the increased demand for housing puts strain on governments who then usually move to make policy that expands affordable housing. Once again, it is important to put a comparative within the contention in regard to housing in urban vs rural settings for easy analysis against rebuttals and within the later speeches of the round. Teams running this argument should look more specifically into the policies that have already been created within West Africa to benefit affordable housing.

PRO: Urbanization improves social outcomes

Argument: Cities are melting pots of different ideologies and backgrounds. They allow for people to exchange perspectives and learn to understand and respect one another. Over time, contact theory leads to a better social body politic.

Warrant: Cities bring diverse peoples together, allowing different ethnic groups to interact and exchange ideas.

Urbanization, Culture and Innovation". World Urban Forum. 2020.

<https://wuf.unhabitat.org/wuf10-programme/dialogues/dialogue-1-urbanization-culture-and-innovation>

"With the continuous flow of contemporary global populations including migrants and refugees, cities all over the world have become much more heterogeneous and multicultural. People from different cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds now live together. Cities such as San Francisco, Toronto, Abu Dhabi and Brussels are among the most culturally, linguistically and ethnically diverse with 35 to 58 percent of their populations being foreign born. While cities have always been melting pots of cultural diversity, certain features of contemporary cultural diversity are novel. **First, cultural diversity in cities is both wider and deeper than ever before. Second, it is far more affirmative as minorities and immigrant groups demand equal rights, access to urban opportunities, and the right to participate in decisions that affect their collective life."**

Warrant: Urban diversity stems from a variety of macro trends including social and cultural globalization.

Urbanization, Culture and Innovation". World Urban Forum. 2020.

<https://wuf.unhabitat.org/wuf10-programme/dialogues/dialogue-1-urbanization-culture-and-innovation>

"Third, **the forces of globalization, which drive new international migratory patterns entail sustained flows of ideas, symbols and meanings which permanently link places of origin of culturally diverse urban populations and their current places of residence.** Fourth, **innovation and culture are two sides of the same coin. Cultural heritage — both tangible and intangible — and innovation can be both drivers and enablers of achieving the SDGs.** This dialogue explores links between urbanization, culture and innovation and how urbanization affects and is in turn affected by culture and innovation. Drawing on perspectives from different parts of the world, it will focus on the projection that by 2050, 70 percent of the world's population will live in cities, and the impact of that trend on the socio-economic dynamics of urban areas which are rapidly becoming more heterogeneous and multicultural."

Warrant: Urban diversity brings immense cultural capital

Michael McAdams. "Global Cities as Centers of Cultural Influence" Journal of Global Cultural Studies. 2007. <https://journals.openedition.org/transtexts/149>

"Cities for over three thousand years have been the centers of culture and creativity. They have been the foci where the human and material resources of civilizations have been concentrated. Artists, musicians, architects, philosophers, scientists and writers have gravitated toward certain cities due to numerous forces such as patrons, community of artists, universities, clients, and a skilled workforce. The elusive environment of certain cities also seem to play a significant factor in drawing creative individuals to them. The urban centers of culture have changed throughout the centuries mostly based on their economic/political strength with the outside world. The

cultural impact of Athens, Amsterdam, Rome, Vienna, London, Paris, Madrid, Istanbul (Constantinople), Florence, Venice, Milan, Budapest, Barcelona, Prague and Berlin still resonate in our present world culture..”

Impact: Global cities dominate the economy

Michael McAdams. “Global Cities as Centers of Cultural Influence” Journal of Global Cultural Studies. 2007. <https://journals.openedition.org/transtexts/149>

“Culture is innately geographical. It emanates from one place or another. Culture may be based in a peripheral area, but is packaged or reformulated by cultural centers for distribution into the global culture. Cities have always been the place where artisans, intellectuals, writers, musicians and philosophers gravitate. Lewis Mumford states that «The city is both a physical utility for collective living and a symbol of those collective purposes and unanimities that arise under favoring circumstances. **Hall was one of the first to speculate that certain cities or «global cities» dominate the global economy.**5 If we consider that economy includes cultural goods, then these would also be the ones that dominate in this field also. The connection between capital accumulation in certain key cities can be linked with the dissemination of cultural goods such music, clothes, film and food.”

Analysis: This argument is strong because it is intuitive. When judges think of the benefits of cities, they think of the immense cultural capital which stems from their scale and diversity. It is only by bringing together many peoples that humanity can create things which are new and innovative.

PRO: Urbanization improves food security

Argument: Urbanization allows for governments to more efficiently disperse food and creates favorable logistical conditions for cheap food to be available to large populations. Density drives down costs and allows for better outcomes.

Warrant: Rural food security is a big problem

Michael D. Smith and Birgit Meade. "Who Are the World's Food Insecure? Identifying the Risk Factors of Food Insecurity Around the World?". USDA. 2016.
<https://www.ers.usda.gov/amber-waves/2019/june/who-are-the-world-s-food-insecure-identifying-the-risk-factors-of-food-insecurity-around-the-world/>

"The ERS researchers uncovered significant heterogeneity in the determinants of food insecurity across countries with different levels of economic development. The associations between food insecurity and gender, the number of adults in the household, living in a rural area, and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita were all found to vary by development ranking. For example, **living in a rural area puts an individual at a greater risk of food insecurity (than living in an urban area) in low- and middle-income countries such as Rwanda and Honduras** but is associated with a lower risk of food insecurity in a high-income country like France. Women are more likely to experience food insecurity than men in middle-income countries, but gender is statistically insignificant in low- and high-income countries. An increase in GDP per capita is associated with a decrease in the likelihood of experiencing food insecurity in low- and high-income countries but is statistically insignificant in middle-income countries."

Warrant: Food security is a major problem in Africa

Michael D. Smith and Birgit Meade. "Who Are the World's Food Insecure? Identifying the Risk Factors of Food Insecurity Around the World?". USDA. 2016.

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/amber-waves/2019/june/who-are-the-world-s-food-insecure-identifying-the-risk-factors-of-food-insecurity-around-the-world/>

"Data from the 2017 FIES show significant variation across global regions and economic development in the prevalence of food insecurity and severe food insecurity. Food insecurity represents the sum of the share of people facing either moderate or severe food insecurity. Severe food insecurity captures individuals experiencing the most extreme range of food insecurity per the FIES and is commonly associated with individuals reporting experiences related to hunger. In 2017, Sub-Saharan Africa had the highest prevalence of food insecurity (55 percent) and severe food insecurity (28 percent), followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (32 percent food insecure and 12 percent severely food insecure), and South Asia (30 percent and 13 percent). Food insecurity and severe food insecurity were lowest in North America and Eastern Europe and Central Asia."

Warrant: Urbanization lowers costs for vital goods such as food

Turok I, McGranahan G. Urbanization and economic growth: the arguments and evidence for Africa and Asia. *Environment and Urbanization*. 2013;25(2):465-482.

doi:10.1177/0956247813490908

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0956247813490908#articleCitationDownloadContainer>

"First, cities help firms to match their unique requirements for labour, material inputs and premises better than towns, because markets are larger and there is more choice available. **A bigger pool of providers also lowers costs and improves variety through competition and specialization. In volatile market conditions there is a premium on**

being adaptable, and companies tend to be leaner, more focused on core competences, and more reliant on buying-in goods and services than in-house production.(10) Agglomerations assist firms to “mix and match” their resources more easily..”

Impact: Urbanization lowers transactions costs which lowers the real price of goods

Turok I, McGranahan G. Urbanization and economic growth: the arguments and evidence for Africa and Asia. Environment and Urbanization. 2013;25(2):465-482. doi:10.1177/0956247813490908
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0956247813490908#articleCitationDownloadContainer>

“Firms organize themselves around particular products or tasks, which yields efficiencies and enhanced skills. Specialization also applies at the city level, meaning there are benefits of focusing on a function, or group of functions, for which places inherit or build a distinct advantage. Specialization becomes more important as external trade grows and competition intensifies. Economies of scale have two aspects. **Internal economies of scale are internal to the firm and relate to the lower unit costs or efficiencies that result from larger-scale production.** External economies of scale (or “agglomeration economies”) are the benefits firms obtain from being close to other firms in order to reduce transaction costs (such as transport and communication) and to gain from network effects, such as shared information. The bigger the network, the more knowledge and intelligence are available to learn from. Agglomeration economies include proximity to a large labour pool, suppliers, customers and competitors within the same industry (localization economies), and firms in other industries (urbanization economies).”

Analysis: This argument is compelling because it is grounded in strong economic theory and a substantial real world impact. Use the economic theory of economies of scale to convince the judge that the logic of the contention is sound, and weigh the lives impacts of food insecurity to win the round.

PRO: Urbanization improves public safety

Argument: Urbanization allows for governments to effectively provide services because of more concentrated populations. This includes public safety personnel who would otherwise have difficulties policing rural areas.

Warrant: Rural crime is a problem in developing regions

Ulrike Grote. "Rural crime in developing countries?". Center for Development Research.
2016. <https://www.econstor.eu/bitstream/10419/144855/1/85620739X.pdf>

"Anecdotal evidence and selected information from the International Crime Victims Survey suggest that crime is higher in developing countries than in developed countries and that there are regionally big differences. Explanations and solutions to the persistence and prevalence of rural crime in many developing countries are needed as rural crime undermines sustainable development to a large extent and may even affect social cohesiveness in rural communities. This discussion paper therefore calls for research which helps to shed light on this phenomenon in support of improved policies. For this, representative and good-quality data is needed. It is suggested to disentangle the complex research topic and allow for a more systematic approach by focusing on a certain type of crime."

Warrant: Rural crime in developing countries impedes human development

Ulrike Grote. "Rural crime in developing countries?". Center for Development Re-search.
2016. <https://www.econstor.eu/bitstream/10419/144855/1/85620739X.pdf>

"Fafchamps and Minten (2004) find for Madagascar that crime and insecurity result in a significant reduction in income and access to public infrastructure such as health

care centers and schools. Ceccato (2016, p.8) points out that “crime and safety are important dimensions of sustainable rural development”. Also Gerasimova (2008, p.231) notes that corruption alone “is a serious obstacle in the development process of developing countries”. In other words, **persisting crime in rural areas is likely to result in unsustainable development, depriving even more people of their livelihoods** and promoting outmigration of often younger household members to urban centers.”

Warrant: Lack of urban resources creates permissive conditions for rural crime

Ulrike Grote. “Rural crime in developing countries?”. Center for Development Re-search. 2016. <https://www.econstor.eu/bitstream/10419/144855/1/85620739X.pdf>

“There are some opportunities for crime which are only present in rural areas. Theft of livestock or crops but also environmental and wildlife crimes have been mentioned as examples for crime on property. But at the same time, **rural areas are often characterized by low population densities and the remoteness of fields and forests or fishing grounds so that poor surveillance and the absence of people increase opportunities for crimes.**”

Impact: Crime can prevent the accumulation of wealth

“Crime and Development in Africa” United Nations. 2000.
https://www.unodc.org/pdf/African_report.pdf

“In addition to the high-level effects mentioned above, crime also impedes economic development at the grass roots. Vulnerable groups may find many of basic transactions essential for small business to be too risky. Starting a business may not be worth the trouble if it increases the visibility of the entrepreneur as a possible target, or if capital is likely to be pillaged. Speaking specifically about poverty reduction in Malawi, the IMF

says, “insecurity makes it too risky for the poor to accumulate assets and wealth, particularly in a rural setting, as any assets or wealth are likely to be stolen.”

Warrant: Crime can fuel political strife and insurgency

“Crime and Development in Africa” United Nations. 2000.

https://www.unodc.org/pdf/African_report.pdf

“This Report has asserted that crime and conflict exist along a continuum today, and thus need to be treated as two aspects of the same phenomenon. The violence, whatever its justification, must end, and approaches to peacekeeping must be based on alleviating the social tensions that lead to both rebellion and crime. **Many of the associates of crime are also associated with insurrection – social inequalities and injustice, widespread youth unemployment and alienation, unmanaged urban or rural spaces, displaced populations, proliferation of firearms, vigilantism.** Thus, the two issues need to be considered together, and crime prevention made part of programmes aimed at conflict more generally. For a start, crime levels should be seen as indicators of instability, and thus built into conflict early warning systems.”

Analysis: This argument is compelling because it can be framed as a prerequisite to many negative arguments. Being able to live in safety and without fear of theft allows people to save money and engage in more productive activities. Judges will intuitively understand this impact and be motivated to vote for you.

PRO: Urbanization improves access to high quality medical specialists

Argument: Urbanization allows for people to more rapidly access health infrastructure such as hospitals. It also allows for the government to cheaply and effectively target health interventions to the people.

Warrant: Individuals living outside urban areas have worse healthcare

Roger Strasser. "Rural Health Care Access and Policy in Developing Countries?". North Ontario University. 2013.

<https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/pdf/10.1146/annurev-publhealth-032315-021507>

"Compared to their urban counterparts, rural and remote inhabitants experience lower life expectancy and poorer health status. Nowhere is the worldwide shortage of health professionals more pronounced than in rural areas of developing countries.

Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) includes a disproportionately large number of developing countries; therefore, this article explores SSA in depth as an example. Using the conceptual framework of access to primary health care, sustainable rural health service models, rural health workforce supply, and policy implications, this article presents a review of the academic and gray literature as the basis for recommendations designed to achieve greater health equity."

Warrant: Healthcare is concentrated in cities

Roger Strasser. "Rural Health Care Access and Policy in Developing Countries?". North Ontario University. 2013.

<https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/pdf/10.1146/annurev-publhealth-032315-021507>

"When developing a rural health policy, countries face major challenges in service delivery, human resources, governance, transportation, financing, communication, and in some regions corruption. In every country, the health status of rural dwellers is worse than that of their urban counterparts (6, 9, 15, 76, 79). Limitation in access to health care is a major contributor to this situation, particularly in low-income or developing countries (15, 46, 61, 71, 76, 95). Even in countries where the majority of the population lives in rural areas, the resources are concentrated in the cities (2, 9, 30, 51, 61, 76, 79, 88, 91, 95, 100, 101). All countries experience difficulties with transport and communication between rural areas and large population centers, and they all face the challenge of shortages of doctors and other health professionals in rural and remote areas."

Warrant: Rural communities lack medical specialists

Roger Strasser. "Rural Health Care Access and Policy in Developing Countries?". North Ontario University. 2013.

<https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/pdf/10.1146/annurev-publhealth-032315-021507>

"The health workforce maldistribution is exacerbated by "skill mix imbalances" (70). Some countries seemingly have adequate ratios of health providers to population, but still they are unable to meet basic health care needs. For example, a country or a region therein may have a sufficient number of some types of health providers (i.e., physicians, nurses, midwives) but an insufficient number of other health providers (i.e., pharmacists, lab technicians); this hinders the ability of health workers with varying scopes of practice to provide effective care (32). As a general statement, rural

health practitioners are extended generalists, whereas much of the training, especially that which is obtained abroad, is specialization oriented.”

Impact: FDI reduces poverty in Africa

“Health care quality in Africa” Aetna. 2020.

<https://www.aetnainternational.com/en/about-us/explore/living-abroad/culture-lifestyle/health-care-quality-in-africa.html>

“With differing economies, governments and approaches to public health care, it's impossible to summarise the standard of health care across the continent. But there are a number of common-sense guidelines every newcomer would do well to consider: **Poor infrastructure may mean provision in rural and remote areas is sparse or non-existent. Major cities and tourist areas are more likely to have good medical facilities, university hospitals, and specialist cardiac care centres. Where there is a shortage of doctors, you may find they are mainly located in the major hospitals, with satellite clinics being staffed by nurses or medically trained community personnel.** Private facilities may provide better services and care, but some may require a deposit before treatment starts — even in an emergency. It's important you have enough funds available and talk to your insurance provider as soon as you can.

Analysis: This argument is compelling because of its large impact. Everyone needs healthcare to survive and judges will agree with it on an intuitive level. Weigh lives heavily to draw a contrast between your tangible impacts and those of your opponents.

PRO: Urbanization increases FDI

Argument: Urbanization creates zones of economic investment, where capital from all around the world comes to grow business and innovation. Investing in urbanization increases the amount of foreign direct investment in an economy, and in turn the economic growth.

Warrant: Urbanization incentivizes increased investment in cities

Kabita Kumari Sahu. "Does Urbanization Promote Foreign Direct Investment?". North Orissa University. 2013.

https://ijac.org.uk/images/frontImages/gallery/Vol._2_No._3/2.pdf

"Henderson (2000) in his study mentioned that as engines of growth, cities are becoming the focal points of global and national economies. The evolution of the economic geography of developing countries in the process of urbanization has followed an urban growth pattern that differs from that of earlier industrializing countries, which urbanized much slowly. **Yusuf, Wu, and Evenett, (2000)** stated that the prominent contributors to successful urbanization include specialization in innovative or income elastic economic sectors, favorable national government policies in such areas as investment and infrastructure, economic development leadership from either local public or private sectors, flexibility and openness toward new and emerging industrial ensembles."

Warrant: FDI has grown in China as urbanization has grown

Kabita Kumari Sahu. "Does Urbanization Promote Foreign Direct Investment?". North Orissa University. 2013.

https://ijac.org.uk/images/frontImages/gallery/Vol._2_No._3/2.pdf

"The urban population was only 184.98 million in 1979 which increased to 665.57 million in 2010 with average growth rate of urban population of 4.32 % per year. The total FDI in China was only 109 million USD in 1979 which increased significantly to 114734 million USD in 2010. The average FDI growth rate was 45.25 which contributed significantly to industrialization and urbanization. FDI had negative growth in 1999 and 2009. The average real per capita growth rate was 9.64 which is highest compared to all countries of the world during the same period. The time series data of urbanization and FDI are stationary and stable."

Warrant: FDI reduces poverty

Stéphane Mbiankeu Nguea, Issidor Noumba, Armand Gilbert Noula. Does Foreign Direct Investment Contribute to Poverty Reduction in Cameroon? An ARDL-Bounds Testing Approach. 2020. <https://halshs.archives-ouvertes.fr/halshs-02570072/document>

"FDI may have also a direct or indirect impact on poverty reduction. The FDI can have direct impacts on poverty reduction via spillovers effects. The spillovers effect on private sector is stronger through "Vertical" and "Horizontal" linkages with local suppliers and local companies in the same industry in developing countries (Gorg and Greenaway, 2004; Sumner, 2005). Multinational Enterprises (MNEs) provide technical assistance, training and other information to improve the quality of the supplier's products, and transfer the modern technology to the local companies in the host country. At the end of this integrated movement, total factor productivity and economic growth increase and contribute to improving on individual and national welfare. Another channel of the direct impact of FDI consists of job creation, infrastructural and human capital development, increasing investment in basic social amenities of host country like better sanitation services and effective water provision systems."

Impact: FDI reduces poverty in Africa

Stéphane Mbiankeu Nguea, Issidor Noumba, Armand Gilbert Noula. Does Foreign Direct Investment Contribute to Poverty Reduction in Cameroon? An ARDL-Bounds Test-ing Approach. 2020. <https://halshs.archives-ouvertes.fr/halshs-02570072/document>

“Using the fixed effect regression, Sharma and Gani (2004) found that FDI has a positive impact on Human Development Index (HDI) in low and middle countries. **Gohou and Soumaré (2012) have investigated this link on a sample of 52 African countries from 1990 to 2007. The two authors used the panel regression techniques to show that FDI has a positive impact on poverty reduction through her positive and significant impact on HDI and GDP per capital.** The authors also showed that the results appear stronger in poor countries than in less poor countries. Fowowe and Shuaibu (2014) re-examined this relationship and found a significant contribution of FDI inflows to poverty reduction in selected African countries comforting the Gohou and Soumaré (2012) results. Likewise, Israel (2014) and Anigbogu and al. (2016) **investigated the impact of FDI on poverty reduction in Nigeria and found a positive relationship between FDI and poverty reduction.**”

Analysis: This argument is a nuanced take on the standard “urbanization is good for the economy” point. It is strong because it circumvents many responses about the deficiencies of local economic planning.

PRO: Urbanization increases economic growth

Argument: Moving to cities brings more economic opportunity. This comes from a combination of higher value / higher wage jobs and lower costs of logistics and production. The combination is to alleviate poverty.

Warrant: Urbanization brings more modern industries to countries

Mingxing Chen. "The Global Pattern of Urbanization and Economic Growth: Evidence from the Last Three Decades". PMC National Institute of Health. Aug 6. 2014.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4123908/>

"Numerous studies have previously found that the level of urbanization is closely correlated with the level of GDP per capita. It is generally accepted that economic growth promotes the expansion of modern industries and an increase in the urban population; in turn, urbanization also promotes economic growth to some extent. Various programs of accelerated urbanization and rapid economic growth have, therefore, been embarked upon in many developing countries. Policies pursuing positive urbanization, with the goal of boosting economic growth, are widely found in the developing world"

Warrant: Urbanization is historically correlated with economic growth

Mingxing Chen. "The Global Pattern of Urbanization and Economic Growth: Evidence from the Last Three Decades". PMC National Institute of Health. Aug 6. 2014.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4123908/>

"If the transformation of human society since the Industrial Revolution were to be summarized in no more than three words, there would be few better alternatives than

industrialization, urbanization, and globalization. These three dimensions have close relations with each other. Industrialization leads to the direct output of economic growth, which further gives impetus to a vigorous process of urbanization in both developed countries and newly industrialized ones, mainly via a specialization of labor and the unprecedented development of non-agricultural **sectors. Undoubtedly, the historical facts and statistics reveal that almost all of the developed countries have a higher level of GDP per capita and also a higher level of urbanization.”**

Warrant: Urbanization can change the structure of the economy to be more productive

Ivan Turok. “Urbanization and economic growth: the arguments and evidence for Africa and Asia.” SagePub Journals. March 2014.

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0956247813490908>

“Two concepts underpin our understanding of the advantages of economic concentration – the division of labour and economies of scale. The former explains the gains for productivity, and therefore growth, from specialization. Firms organize themselves around particular products or tasks, which yields efficiencies and enhanced skills. **Specialization also applies at the city level, meaning there are benefits of focusing on a function, or group of functions, for which places inherit or build a distinct advantage.** Specialization becomes more important as external trade grows and competition intensifies. **Economies of scale have two aspects. Internal economies of scale are internal to the firm and relate to the lower unit costs or efficiencies that result from larger-scale production.** External economies of scale (or “agglomeration economies”) are the benefits firms obtain from being close to other firms in order to reduce transaction costs (such as transport and communication) and to gain from network effects, such as shared information”

Warrant: Urbanization brings scale resources which allow for economic efficiency

Ivan Turok. "Urbanization and economic growth: the arguments and evidence for Africa and Asia." SagePub Journals. March 2014.

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0956247813490908>

"Second, **cities afford firms access to a wider range of shared services and infrastructure because of the scale of activity. Cities offer better external connectivity to customers and suppliers through more frequent transport links to more destinations and more efficient logistics systems to handle imports and exports.** They tend to have higher-capacity telecommunications systems for electronic connectivity and marketing. **There is more extensive professional expertise, financial know-how and specialized research available to help companies stay up-to-date with changes in technology.** Third, **firms gain from the superior flow of information in cities, which promotes more learning and innovation, and results in more valuable products and processes.**(11) Proximity allows face-to-face communication and sharing of complex ideas between companies and support organizations.(12) It enables people and firms to compare, compete and collaborate, which can establish a self-reinforcing virtuous circle."

Analysis: This argument is strong because it is simple – urbanization brings consolidation and scale to the economy. In turn this increases high paying jobs and creates cheaper goods. This brings economic growth which lifts people out of poverty.

PRO: Urbanization in West Africa increases economic opportunities.

Warrant: Urbanization can improve employment opportunities and transform development.

United Nations. "Urbanization: expanding opportunities, but deeper divides." United Nations: Department of Economic and Social Affairs. 21 Feb 2020.
<https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/social/urbanization-expanding-opportunities-but-deeper-divides.html#:~:text=When%20properly%20planned%20and%20managed,through%20better%20education%20and%20health.&text=Inequality%20within%20cities%20has%20economic%2C%20spatial%20and%20social%20dimensions>.

Like some other megatrends, **urbanization has the potential to become a positive transformative force for every aspect of sustainable development**, including the reduction of inequality. When properly planned and managed, **urbanization can reduce poverty and inequality by improving employment opportunities** and quality of life, including through better education and health. But when poorly planned, urbanization can lead to congestion, higher crime rates, pollution, increased levels of inequality and social exclusion.

Warrant: Nothing else will create as many opportunities as urbanization.

Fuller, Brandon; Romer, Paul. 2013. Urbanization as Opportunity. World Bank, Washington, DC. © World Bank.
<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/17594>

Urbanization deserves urgent attention from policy makers, academics, entrepreneurs, and social reformers of all stripes. **Nothing else will create as many opportunities for**

social and economic progress. The urbanization project began roughly 1,000 years after the transition from the Pleistocene to the milder and more stable Holocene interglacial. In 2010, the urban population in developing countries stood at 2.5 billion. The developing world can accommodate the urban population growth and declining urban density in many ways. **The most important citywide projects - successes like New York and Shenzhen show even more clearly how influential human intention can be.** The developing world can accommodate the urban population growth and declining urban density in many ways. One is to have a threefold increase in the average population of its existing cities and a six fold increase in their average built-out area. Another, which will leave the built-out area of existing cities unchanged, will be to develop 625 new cities of 10 million people - 500 new cities to accommodate the net increase in the urban population and another 125 to accommodate the 1.25 billion people who will have to leave existing cities as average density falls by half.

Warrant: Urbanization economic opportunities are of a wide variety.

Marcotullio, Peter J; Seto, Karen C. "Urbanization in the 21st century: Challenges and opportunities for environmental sustainability.". National Academies. 2021.
https://sites.nationalacademies.org/cs/groups/dbassesite/documents/webpage/dbasse_085250.pdf

- **Opportunities of urbanization – Agglomeration economies in production and consumption – Low carbon transportation and energy consumption – Scaling benefits of increasing urban populations**
- **Labor productivity increases by ~ 6 percent with a doubling of employment density.**
- **Inventions/person increase by ~20 percent with a doubling of density**

Impact: Economic Opportunities in West Africa have led to stabilized growth and increased trade.

African Development Bank Group: Editorial Staff. "African Economic Outlook 2020: Developing Africa's workforce for the future". AFDB.org. 2021.
<https://www.afdb.org/en/knowledge/publications/african-economic-outlook>

Africa's economic growth has stabilized at 3.4 percent in 2019 and is expected to pick up to 3.9 percent in 2020 and 4.1 percent in 2021 but to remain below historical highs. **Growth's fundamentals are also improving, with a gradual shift from private consumption toward investment and exports.** For the first time in a decade, **investment accounted for more than half the continent's growth, with private consumption accounting for less than one third.**

Impact: West Africa has already become an international trading hub.

Hasaan, N. "West Africa: The Growing Market". Africa Business. 2021.
<https://www.africa-business.com/features/west-africa-business-trade.html>

As the oil boom in West Africa swells, many international businesses are making a beeline for the West coast of Africa where many new business and investments opportunities are providing excellent return on investments as well as profitable trading opportunities. We bring you an analysis of the latest developments in the West African markets...**There are several export opportunities that West Africa offers to international businesses.** As a result, **the West African region is being taken seriously by many international businesses.** If you look at Europe, it is forecasted that the continent will have zero per cent economic growth over the next two years. If you look at the United States, it is quite clear from the data that is coming out that the US economy is soft and the world's biggest consumer market, is going to slow global exports and trade volumes. On the other hand, Europe, traditionally a significant export market, is going to bring new challenges because people are going to start buying cheaper products to compensate for their weakening spending power. **In Africa,** on the

other hand, there is a new economic growth happening. In Cameroon, for instance, during 2009 when the global financial crisis hit, imports into the country actually increased. Moreover, there is an oil boom happening on the west coast of Africa. There is also a commodity boom that is developing where primary goods are being exported out of the continent, mostly into India and China. All these developments, coupled with the democratic dividend, make doing business with West African countries a win-win proposition.

Analysis: Urbanization in West Africa is necessary for the expansion and further development of the region. It has already spurred international trade, opened up sectors, and increased many of the individual countries' GDPs. With this, and continued plans to improve, innovation, productivity, quality of life, and even environmental considerations will improve as the region moves forward.

PRO: Urbanization of West Africa improves quality of life

Definition: Quality of life is not just GDP.

Pettinger, Tejvan. "Quality of Life Indicators". Economics Help. 6 Nov 2017.

<https://www.economicshelp.org/blog/2445/economics/quality-of-life-indicators/>

Measuring economic welfare is not an exact science. Often in economics, we focus on GDP statistics (measuring national output). **However, quality of life depends on many other factors apart from just GDP. GDP – the total output of an economy.** This is a guide to national output and influences the level of consumption. **Higher GDP enables a country to alleviate levels of absolute poverty.** Distribution of Income in society. e.g. looking at the Gini Co-efficient. and how income is distributed. Some countries have high GDP per capita, but some people still live in poverty. **Employment / Unemployment. Unemployment is one of the main economic causes of poor life changes.** Also, quality of employment, e.g. widespread part-time/temporary contracts may suggest underemployment in the economy. **Life Expectancy.** Dependent on health care standards, environmental factors and cultural factors. **Education Standards.** One simple measure is **the rate of literacy** in an economy. For example, Sri Lanka has a higher rate of literacy than Saudi Arabia, despite a lower GDP per capita. **Housing. The standard and quality of housing and related amenities. Also, include the rate of homelessness.**

Inherency: West Africa's Quality of Life still needs improvement despite advances.

Leith, Bryan; et all. "How good is life in Africa?" kpmg.com

September 2016.

<https://assets.kpmg/content/dam/kpmg/za/pdf/2016/10/How-good-is-life-in-Africa.pdf>

West Africa also performs poorly in two of the five topics, namely housing and education. They have by far the **highest illiteracy rate from all the African regions.** UNESCO reported in 2015 that almost half of the people in West Africa are illiterate. Indeed, seven of the 10 countries in the world with the highest recorded adult illiteracy rates are in West Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone. Africa's socio-economic conditions poses various developmental challenges.

Warrant: Quality of Life indicators have improved throughout the urbanization of West Africa.

Ilesanmi, Felix Aromo. "DEVELOPMENT INDEX FOR WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND THE NEED FOR ECOWAS INTERVENTION" FUTY Journal of the Environment, Vol. 2, No. 1, 2007. 1 <https://www.ajol.info/index.php/fje/article/view/50783/39470>

The Tables show the constant land area of all the countries as boundary adjustments were rare within the region in the years under review. The population had continued to be on the increase except in Guinea Bissau as the population growth rate oscillated between 6.8% in Mali in 1960 and -0.1% in Guinea Bissau in 1970. The average has been around 2.6%. Birth rate exceeded death rate in most countries except in Senegal and Sierra Leone in 1995 where infant mortality was high too. **It could be observed however that infant mortality declined from an average of 202 in 1960 to 96 in 2000. Life expectancy has also improved generally as the average of 37 turned to 50 between 1960 and 2000.** Individual cases of increase and decrease occurred owing to different factors. **GDP growth rate reduced from an average of 4 in 1960 to 2.6 in 2000. The other four indicators increased between 1960 and 2000 as follows: labour force (2.1% to 4.9%), GDP (111 to 4896), Population density (19 to 56), primary school enrolment**

rate (22% to 68%) and urban population rate (9% to 37%) on the average. Trend of Development Indicators: Generally, certain indicators improved overtime, particularly factors of population which health-care delivery influenced. Death-rate reduced as well as infant mortality rate while urbanization, school enrolment, labour force and GDP increased between 1960 and 2000.

Impact: Urbanization has shown quality of life improvement in all indices.

Lufumpa, Charles Leyeka. "The Africa Infrastructure Development Index 2018."

AFDB.org July 2018

https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/Economic_Brief_-_The_Africa_Infrastructure_Development_Index_July_2018.pdf

In general, AIDI scores improved for virtually all countries between 2016 and 2018. The global index imputed for the entire continent has risen from 27.12 to 28.44. The range of performance for the top ten countries, including Seychelles, Egypt, Libya, South Africa, Mauritius, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Cabo Verde and Botswana improved from 35.63-93.92 in 2016 to 36.79-94.32 in 2018 (Table I.1 and Figure 1) . However, the range of performance of the bottom ten countries remains almost unchanged. Generally, the progress is more evenly correlated with improvements in the sectoral indices of water and sanitation and ICT in the various countries. However, the improvement in the indices for the electricity and transport sectors is more pronounced in the top ten performing countries.

According to the AfDB report "African Telecom Infrastructure Investment Needs, April 2015", **2005-2010 was a period of very high growth for mobile telephony, marked by the emergence of new operators in the market, massive growth in coverage extensions, higher broadband speeds, as well as the increase in subscriptions.** The period 2010-2015 also witnessed the development of new submarine and regional overland cables, which provided huge new capacity around coastal Africa, as well as facilitating mobile operator consolidation. This period also saw large investments by

the private sector and the emergence of public-private partnerships (PPPs) in some countries, which has been a major factor behind the growth. On the other hand, West Africa performs well in fixed line phone subscriptions, the number of internet users, paved road density and, to a lesser degree, electricity generation.

Impact: Growth has inspired optimism for the future quality of life.

Zamfir, Ionel. "Africa's Economic Growth". EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service January 2016.

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2016/573891/EPRS_IDA\(2016\)573891_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2016/573891/EPRS_IDA(2016)573891_EN.pdf)

Over the past 15 years, most countries in Africa experienced sustained economic growth, with growth rates often exceeding 5% per year. This has inspired much optimism about the region's prospects to finally leave poverty and under-development behind. However, the general economic context is now turning less favourable, with growth slowing down, especially in oil and mineral exporting countries. **On the whole, overall growth is expected to continue, but at a slower pace.** In this changing climate, it is important to look at the drivers of growth, in order to distinguish those that can sustain further growth.

Impact: Urbanization has led to improved economic opportunities which have led to better health.

Ncube, Mthuli. "Health in Africa over the next 50 years." AFDB.org. Mar 2013.

https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/Economic_Brief_-_Health_in_Africa_Over_the_Next_50_Years.pdf

Over the last three decades, **Africa has been experiencing its longest period of uninterrupted economic growth** and it has shown remarkable resilience in the face of the global financial crisis of 2008/9 and its aftermath. **Income per capita has more than doubled in 23 African nations since 1990, and GDP growth rates have averaged 5% per year over the last ten years.** By 2015, it is projected that Sub-Saharan Africa will host seven of the world's ten fastest-growing economies. **This rapid economic growth has boosted the amount of resources allocated to health infrastructure and to survival-enhancing social services.**

The increasing life expectancy in Africa is being partly driven by improved economic opportunities. Countries with higher GDP per capita tend to report higher life expectancy, as evidenced by the upward sloping trend line (see Figure 4). The reverse is also true, with poverty associated with lower life expectancy.

Impact: Urbanization is now seen as something that is necessary for quality of life improvement.

Turok, Ivan; McGranahan, Gordon . "Urbanisation and Economic Growth: The Arguments and Evidence for Africa and Asia". The Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), Cape Town, South Africa. Volume: 4 issue: 2 , page(s): 109-125. 1 Nov 2019. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/2455747119890450>

Over the last decade, **many influential global development organisations have shifted their perspective on this issue by advocating the view that urbanisation supports growth and development and should be encouraged** (OECD, 2006; UN-Habitat, 2008, 2010; UNFPA, 2007; World Bank, 2009). For example: **No country has grown to middle income without industrializing and urbanizing. None has grown to high income without vibrant cities.** The rush to cities in developing countries seems chaotic, but it is necessary. (World Bank, 2009, p. 24) Similarly: The city is one of the highest pinnacles of human creation.... **Through agglomeration, cities have the power to innovate, generate**

wealth, enhance quality of life and accommodate more people within a smaller footprint at lower per capita resource use and emissions than any other settlement pattern. (Robinson & Swilling, 2012, p. iii)

Analysis: Quality of Life indicators indicate an improvement for the citizens of West Africa, throughout the rapid urbanization. Also, studies are showing that continued well led urbanization can continue to contribute to quality of life indicators through economic opportunities and employment, economic growth, education, health services, life expectancy, and the environment. In fact, it is now coming to light that urbanization is a necessary process to go through to grow and develop nations and their quality of life.

PRO: Urbanization in West Africa improves Public Health

Inherency: Public health concerns in West Africa are of grave concern:

Fenollar, F, and O Mediannikov. "Emerging infectious diseases in Africa in the 21st century." *New microbes and new infections* vol. 26 S10-S18. 21 Sep. 2018, doi:10.1016/j.nmni.2018.09.004
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6205565/>

In conclusion, increasing efforts targeting infectious disease studies in Africa have identified new infectious agents. It concerns not only bacterial and viral diseases but also protozoal and helminthic ones. For instance, a new genetic variant of *Mansonella* associated with fever in children was recently reported from Gabon [55]. **It is evident that Africa is characterized by the greatest infectious disease burden as well as by the weakest public health infrastructure in the world; further, efforts to establish public health infrastructures that are actually effective may take a period of years, even decades.** Emerging infectious diseases should be identified as priority diseases. The challenge will be to combine surveillance and epidemic preparedness and response activities for these priority diseases. Evidently this task is quite difficult because the **infrastructure and level of support for surveillance, research and training on emerging infectious diseases in Africa are limited. Laboratory-based surveillance and targeted research surveys to identify common sources of infection in different community types would allow a unified approach to target this enormous challenge.** We are persuaded that the most important step towards the elimination of existing burden of infectious diseases in Africa is a massive increase in the number of qualified personnel, including both physicians and scientists.

Harms: Rural areas suffer more from lack of medical care than those in urban areas in West Africa.

Mahama Saaka, Jones Akuamoah-Boateng, "Prevalence and Determinants of Rural-Urban Utilization of Skilled Delivery Services in Northern Ghana", Scientifica, vol. 2020, Article ID 9373476, 13 pages, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2020/9373476>
<https://www.hindawi.com/journals/scientifica/2020/9373476/>

It is estimated that, **if there were skilled birth attendants (SBAs) at all deliveries, maternal mortality could be reduced by 13–33%** [7]. SBA rate therefore serves as an indicator of progress towards reducing maternal mortality worldwide [8, 9].

Though skilled assistance during childbirth is a critical strategy for reducing maternal mortality [6, 10, 11], **the proportion of deliveries taking place within health facilities is below expectations especially in Northern Ghana, with huge disparity between urban and rural women.** For example, in the year 2012, **the annual report of Ghana Health Service showed that uptake of skilled delivery services in the Tamale Metropolis (urban area) and the Nanumba North District (rural setting) was 67% and 36%, respectively.**

Warrant: Many public health organizations are advocating for better infrastructure to address these public health concerns.

USAID Editorial Staff. "Global Health." USAID.gov. 10 Sept 2020.

<https://www.usaid.gov/west-africa-regiona/lglobal-health>

To address policy barriers and support advocacy efforts at regional, national and sub-national levels, USAID focuses on developing the capacity of regional, government, civil society, and other partners around policy issues related to FP/RH, HIV, maternal and child health, nutrition and infectious diseases. At the regional level, USAID partners with the WAHO to strengthen their capacity in order to fully execute its

mandate of harmonizing health policies, pooling resources, and fostering collaboration and integration to address regional health priorities. **This includes strengthening organizational structures to ensure that leadership, management and governance principles are incorporated in the organization's culture; developing regional strategies in health; and engaging the private sector to mobilize resources.** In addition, USAID supports the ECOWAS Best Practices in Health Forum, which provides an opportunity for south-to-south exchange by bringing together key stakeholders in the region to review best practices and share lessons learned.

Warrant: Coalitions of West African leaders of urban areas work together and with advocates to improve public health.

Lenzi, Andrea. "Why urbanisation and health?." *Acta bio-medica : Atenei Parmensis* vol. 90,2 181-183. 23 May. 2019, doi:10.23750/abm.v90i2.8354
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6776222/>

Today Cities are not only economic engines but also innovation centres which have to manage and face dramatic demographic and epidemiological transitions.

In 2014, a group of mayors and leaders of the world's largest cities met and committed to tackle global climate change, thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This initiative has been launched and promoted by United Nations (UN) through a network made up by Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40), United Cities and Local Governments Network (UCLG) and International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI).

Through this agreement 206 cities with a total population of 270 million people, were able to commit to a specific programme in order to reduce the level of fine dust emissions in urban areas, thereby reducing the vulnerability of their territories.

On 15 October 2015 at EXPO, mayors from 115 metropolitan cities with a total of 400 million inhabitants, signed the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact. This commitment involves a series of local actions in order to face global emergencies as hunger,

malnutrition and food waste. The cities signed the agreement and committed to develop sustainable food systems and healthy food at affordable prices, in order to reduce food waste.

Impact: Urbanization in West Africa increases potential access to better health care.

Vearey, Jo; Luginaah, Issac, et all. "Urban health in Africa: a critical global public health priority." BMC Public Health. 25 Mar 2019.

<https://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-019-6674-8>

Between 2015 and 2050, over half of the expected global population growth will be in Africa [5], highlighting the importance of addressing population health on this continent for improving global public health. This increase in population growth in Africa is characterised by two distinct features. Firstly, while Africa is currently the least urbanised region of the world, it represents the fastest urbanising continent, with 56% of the population of the African continent projected to be living in urban areas by 2050 [6]. **Secondly, this population growth is characterised by a demographic youth bulge with 35–40% of children and adolescents globally projected to be living in Africa by 2050 [7].** These features represent an opportunity for improving health in the urban setting. Urbanisation can result in an “urban advantage” with improved access to healthcare services, education and employment opportunities, and strengthened social connections (compared to their rural counterparts), while the youth demographic dividend represents an opportunity for economic growth through a growing skilled workforce.

Impact: Urbanized areas with manufacturing and growth in critical infrastructure will enable progress in improving public health.

Feldscher , Karen . "Africa CDC head is driving a new public health agenda on the continent." Harvard. 12 Mar 2020.

<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/features/africa-cdc-head-is-driving-a-new-public-health-agenda-on-the-continent/>

Nkengasong said that the Africa CDC's overall goals are to improve disease surveillance, emergency preparedness and response, laboratory systems and networks, information systems, and national public health institutions. One important way to improve public health across Africa is to increase local manufacturing of medications and diagnostics, Nkengasong said. At present, Africa relies heavily on drugs imported from countries such as China and India, but locally manufactured drugs could cost far less. As for diagnostics, he said they're badly needed for endemic diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV. Africa also needs to significantly boost its public health workforce, according to Nkengasong. For example, there are only 1,400 epidemiologists for the entire continent, but 6,000 are needed.

Impact: Urbanization can actually lead to decline in public health issues and research for treatments.

Bickler, Stephen W et al. "Urbanization in Sub-Saharan Africa: Declining Rates of Chronic and Recurrent Infection and Their Possible Role in the Origins of Non-communicable Diseases." World journal of surgery vol. 42,6 (2018): 1617-1628. doi:10.1007/s00268-017-4389-5
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5935558/>

Declining rates of chronic and recurrent infection are the hallmark of urbanization in sub-Saharan Africa. Gene profiling studies show urbanization results in complex molecular changes, with almost one-third of the peripheral blood leukocyte

transcriptome altered. The current NCD determinant model could be improved by including a possible effect from declining rates of infection and expanding the spectrum of diseases that increase with urbanization. Urbanization in sub-Saharan Africa provides a unique opportunity to investigate the mechanism by which the environment influences disease epidemiology. Research priorities include: 1) studies to define the relationship between infection and risk factors for NCDs, 2) explaining the observed differences in the inflammatory response between rural and urban populations, and 3) identification of animal models that simulate the biological changes that occurs with urbanization. A better understanding of the biological changes that occur with urbanization could lead to new prevention and treatment strategies for some of the most common surgical diseases in high-income countries.

Analysis: Public health issues are still critical in West Africa. However, urbanization brings with it the development of critical infrastructure, resources, and opportunities for West Africa to solve and treat these illnesses without reliance on other nations while developing and growing their own countries. Not only that, but their unique situation and research, can lead to further break throughs and understanding that could help other urbanized high income nations facing similar issues.

PRO: Urbanization of West Africa improves critical infrastructure.

Warrant: Critical Infrastructure includes vital services and operations for society.

Sandholz, Simone. "Five things you need to know about critical infrastructures." United Nations University: Institute for Environment and Human Security. 5 Oct 2015
<https://ehs.unu.edu/blog/5-facts/5-things-about-critical-infrastructures.html>

Critical infrastructures are generally understood as facilities and services vital to the basic operations of a society. Sectors that are considered as “critical infrastructure” vary among different countries, but most would comprise: energy, water, food, transport, telecommunications, healthcare, as well as banking and finance. However there is no universally agreed definition in place – **each country defines it based on national priorities. Many countries have national strategies for protecting their critical infrastructure from and natural and man-made risks.** Increasingly, cyber-security is of concern in protecting any of these infrastructures.

Warrant: Critical Infrastructure is key to progress and development of West Africa.

Bank Editorial Staff. "Infrastructure Development". African Development Bank. 2021.
<https://www.afdb.org/en/knowledge/publications/tracking-africa%E2%80%99s-progress-in-figures/infrastructure-development>

Infrastructure development is a key driver for progress across the African continent and a critical enabler for productivity and sustainable economic growth. It contributes significantly to human development, poverty reduction, and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Investment in infrastructure accounts for

over half of the recent improvement in economic growth in Africa and has the potential to achieve even more. For Africa, the need for adequate infrastructure—secure energy, efficient transport, reliable communication systems, resilient sanitation, and affordable housing—is particularly apparent. Africa's vast infrastructure deficit is a constraint on its growth, but also an opportunity to leapfrog to new, more efficient technologies. As Africa becomes more urbanized, public goods will become easier and cheaper to deliver to a more geographically concentrated population. Key challenges will be to supply the burgeoning population with reliable electricity, affordable housing, and transport infrastructure, though these industries will also create new jobs.

Warrant: Urbanization is key to rural and urban sustainability in West Africa.

Mubila, M. "An Integrated Approach to Statistics Department Infrastructure Provision in Africa Statistics Department Infrastructure Provision in Africa Africa Infrastructure Knowledge Program April 2013" Statistics Department Africa Infrastructure Knowledge Program .
April2013.https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/Economic_Brief_-_An_Integrated_Approach_to_Infrastructure_Provision_in_Africa.pdf

Cities represent the engine of a nation's growth. Their productivity is at least three times greater than that of rural areas. Rural areas contribute less than 20 percent of Africa's GDP while accounting for more than 60 percent of its population (World Bank, 2008b). There is though a synergistic relationship between rural and urban areas, as urban centers consume rural products and provide inputs for rural production, while rural areas serve as markets for goods and services produced in urban areas. The expansion of urban markets is a key factor in raising the rural incomes in the hinterland. In addition, cities create growth spillovers in their hinterlands. Ensuring

access to basic services for households in both urban and rural areas can improve sustainable urbanization and social equity, enhance living conditions, and prevent disproportionate flows of rural people to cities. It should be acknowledged, however, that **labor mobility can be a positive force when it responds to the needs of market forces**, rather than to a lack of security and/or basic services. Moreover, **labor mobility can prompt convergence in living standards, as migration to denser and more productive areas balances income levels and exploits the benefits of knowledge clusters in both rural and urban locations.** As rural and urban development are mutually dependent, **the economic integration of rural and urban areas is the best way to produce growth and inclusive development.**

Impact: Critical Infrastructure is a global public good in West Africa as it moves forward.

Security General of OECD/ACET. "Quality Infrastructure in 21st Century Africa: Prioritising, Accelerating and Scaling up in the Context of Pida (2021-30)". OECD and African Center for Economic Transformation. 2020.
<https://www.oecd.org/dev/Africa-Quality-infrastructure-21st-century.pdf>

Investment in African infrastructure is a global public good in the context of the worldwide significance of Africa's demographic evolution and its necessary productive transformation. The largest addition to the workforce in the 21st century will be in the African continent, which is set to experience a 40% increase in its working age population in just the 12 years from 2018 to 2030. In 25 years from now, Africa's population will be 70% larger, adding nearly as much as the entire current population of the Americas, which is 1 billion. By 2050, Africa's population will reach 2.4 billion, the share of African people increasing from 17% of the global population in 2018 to 26% in 2050, that is, one quarter of the world's total. Population in subSaharan Africa will more than double by above 1 billion in just these 30 years.**1 Urban population is projected to increase from 472 million or 40% of the total in 2015 to 1.3 billion or 56% in 2050.**

There will be some 120 cities of more than 1 million people, including several megacities and a significant number of other very large cities, although two-thirds of the urban transition will take place in smaller intermediary cities and towns, alongside new kinds of rural agglomerations. Digitalisation is creating leapfrogging opportunities in communications, design, production and marketing. Africa counts almost 500 million mobile banking accounts, with 181 million of them active users, more than all other developing regions. Transformational impacts are evident on both private business models and social investment models, with interactive opportunities across renewable energy, public health – including water and sanitation –, education, housing, agriculture and industry. They promise employment creation and poverty reduction as part of the transition to a green and digitalised economy.

Impact: Urbanization helps to drive governments to develop and implement critical infrastructure projects

Saghir, Jamal. "Urbanization in Sub-Saharan Africa:Meeting Challenges by Bridging Stakeholders". Center for Strategic and International Studies. 12 April 2018.
<https://www.csis.org/analysis/urbanization-sub-saharan-africa>

Many governments in Africa, in collaboration with international financial institutions, have made strides toward implementing projects to address flooding risks and associated consequences in urban areas, particularly in informal settlements. In 2012, the Senegalese government instituted the Ten-Year Flood Management Plan (PDGI), which aims to establish proper storm-water drainage and wastewater treatment systems, build capacity in the National Sanitation Office (ONSO), and institute a resettlement plan for high-risk residents. In addition to this, the government established a ministerial department for the restructuring and future planning of flood risk areas. The World Bank, continuing these efforts, established the Storm-water

Management and Climate Change Adaptation Project (PROGEP) in 2013 to improve drainage and flood prevention systems in Dakar.

Impact: West African's Mali shows how Critical Infrastructures will improve rural as well as urban communities.

Briceno-Garmendia, Cecilia M; Dominguez, Carolina; Pushak, Nataliya. 2011. Mali Infrastructure : A Continental Perspective. Africa Infrastructure Country Diagnostic (AICD) country report;. World Bank, Washington, DC. © World Bank. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/27311> License: CC BY 3.0 IGO."

The country's strategic focus on the regional agenda has paid off to date, and critical institutional decisions are bringing many positive developments. **More than 80 percent of Mali's segments of the West Africa road corridors are maintained in good or fair condition**, giving the principal production areas of the south alternative access to the deep-water ports of Dakar, Adidjan, Takoradi, Tema, and Lome. **Air transport security has improved**, supported by the refurbishment of local airports, including Bamako airport, **and the restructuring of Mali's Civil Aviation Authority to increase its autonomy and guarantee harmonization of air transportation rules across West Africa**. **Mali has also successfully liberalized its mobile telephone markets**, with access approaching 40 percent in 2008. **Roaming agreements and cross country competition have kept mobile prices low**. **Access to electricity in Mali more than doubled in the last decade, helped by the introduction of an apparently successful program for rural electrification (AMADER) that widened access to more than 36,000 rural households**.

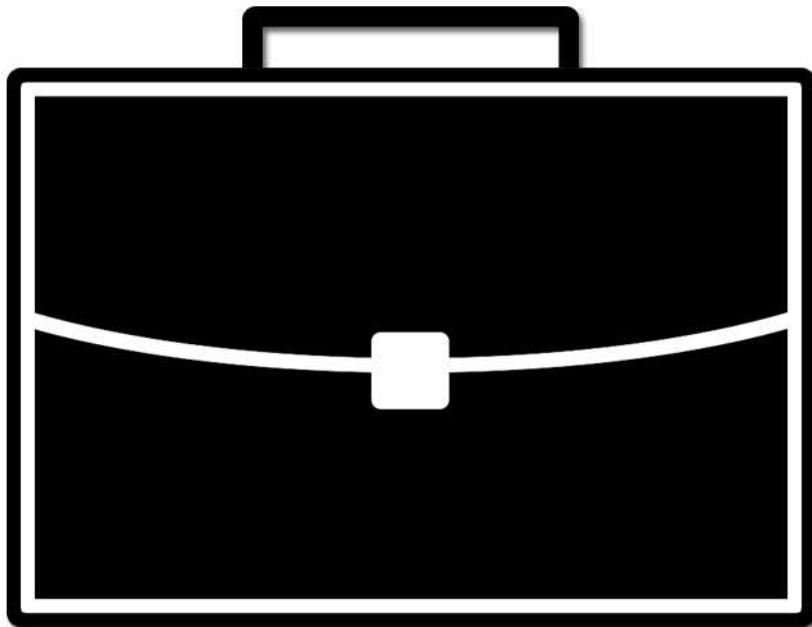
Analysis: Urbanization has propelled West Africa into the world workforce and global economy. Continued urbanization will also provide critical infrastructure for its populations as well as the

necessary tools to assist its expansion and survival in the global markets and landscape. These critical infrastructures will enable services to support not only urban areas, but also help rural communities, and the ability to manage urban growth and development.

Champion Briefs

February 2021

Public Forum Brief



Pro Responses to Con Arguments

A/2: Urbanization leads to neocolonialism

Warrant: China's influence in Africa is not inherently bad

Yun Sun, 2-7-2014, "China's Aid to Africa: Monster or Messiah?", Brookings. 7 Feb, 2014. Web. 7 Jan. 2021. <https://www.brookings.edu/opinions/chinas-aid-to-africa-monster-or-messiah/>

How to understand Chinese aid to Africa? With a few exceptions, there is a strong tendency among observers to assert moral judgments in the assessment of Chinese aid and development finance to Africa: China's activities are either "evil" because they represent China's selfish quest for natural resources and damage Africa's fragile efforts to improve governance and build a sustainable future; or they are "virtuous" because they contribute to a foundation for long-term economic development, through infrastructure projects and revenue creation. This polarization reveals the two sides of the same coin. On the positive side, China's aid and development financing fills a void left by the West and promotes the development of African countries. Many Chinese projects require large investment and long pay-back terms that traditional donors are reluctant to provide. On the other hand, however, these short-term benefits should not form a cover-up for the potential long-term negative consequences associated with neglecting issues of governance, fairness and sustainability. For example, when the "tied aid" is linked to the profitability of Chinese companies, it becomes questionable whether China would prioritize Africa's interests or its own.

Turn: China's influence in Africa is positive- health impact

Tambo, Ernest et al. "China-Africa Health Development Initiatives: Benefits and Implications for Shaping Innovative and Evidence-informed National Health Policies and Programs in Sub-Saharan African Countries." International journal of MCH and AIDS vol. 5,2 (2016): 119-133. doi:10.21106/ijma.100

New and advanced health diplomacy, and foreign health policy in public health systems is an important point of entry and worth pursuing by the joint China and Africa interests and values.[23,26,30,31] Health as an instrument of foreign diplomacy and policy presents several mutual gains both for community and its populations' protection. Safety and security are health priorities that can be improved through further public health development cooperation. International multilateralism in health development under China-Africa partnership holds great promise in increasing opportunities and businesses and diminishing traditional unilateralism over time.[27-29] Nurturing sustainable joint institutional projects that promote community-based programs could be vital for active engagement in policy discourse, participation and community empowerment. The UN's sustainable development policy functions and goals coordination will be overtaken by global partnerships or other agencies to develop new international health norms and standards.[27,28,30,31,34,35] Ultimately, the quality and effectiveness of China-Africa health development initiatives and programs, when channeled through government and institutions partnerships, have the potential strengths in improving good governance and accountability in global health security.

China's economic importance in improving China-Africa health development initiatives in strengthening contextual health priorities and programs is imperative. Fostering China-Africa innovative Evidence: based national health policies and health operational joint solutions and strategies is critical in advancing healthcare delivery access to, availability and effective implementation. Moreover, in shaping programs and interventions benefits in further improving UHC, SDGs in attaining global health and economic prosperity in Africa.

Warrant: Africa benefits from China's finance

Maru, Mehari. 01-06-2019. "Why Africa Loves China". AlJazeera News. 6 Jan. 2019. 7 Jan. 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2019/1/6/why-africa-loves-china>

First, China's unconditional cooperation has allowed African governments to enjoy access to finance, expertise and development aid. In 2016, the trade between China and Africa reached \$128bn, a drastic surge from \$1bn in 1980. At FOCAC in Beijing this year, China offered \$60bn for development financing until 2021. While the financial crises in the US and EU limited their investments in Africa, China committed to investing more in the continent. **Chinese soft loans have enabled many African governments to avoid pressure from global governance institutions such as IMF and World Bank to meet Western norms of accountability and conditionality related to political and economic reforms, such as the infamous structural adjustment that does not always serve the interest of Africans.**

Warrant: Africa benefits from China- resources for development and peace

Maru, Mehari. 01-06-2019. "Why Africa Loves China". AlJazeera News. 6 Jan. 2019. 7 Jan. 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2019/1/6/why-africa-loves-china>

Second, China has aided African governments to meet their people's rapidly growing demands for services and infrastructure more quickly. Many people in Africa are now used to quick delivery of services – such as transportation, education, health and telecommunication – by Chinese companies. This has created, and will continue to create, more appetite for Chinese business in Africa. **Third, China is now also engaged in peace and security projects in Africa. Chinese troops participate in eight UN peacekeeping missions of which five are in Africa.** Moreover, China is the second largest financial contributor to UN peacekeeping missions and it also contributed

funding to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the IGAD South Sudan mediation.

Warrant: China's programs in Africa develop tangible benefits to African economies

Xinhua. 11-23-2019. "China to help Africa realize "African dream" early: Chinese state councilor,"Xinhua Net. 23 Nov. 2019. Web. 7 Jan. 2021

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-11/23/c_138578140.htm

According to him, lack of fund is the biggest challenge to Africa's development, with an annual infrastructure investment of about \$60 billion U.S. dollars. **China's infrastructure projects in Africa generate more than 50 billion U.S. dollars in annual economic output**, Wang said. For example, the **Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway has created nearly 50,000 local jobs and contributed to 1.5 percent economic growth by about 1.5 percent**, Wang said, adding that China-Africa cooperation is part of South-South cooperation between friends and brothers. China attaches great importance to the debt issue, actively helps African countries improve their debt management capacity and provides necessary support when they encounter difficulties, Wang said. He also noted positive progress in jointly building the Belt and Road with high quality, he added. The Belt and Road Initiative is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the African Union's Agenda 2063 and

Analysis: Teams who hit this argument should attempt to argue about the potential benefits Africa gains from Chinese presence and influence. By looking to these positives of China's influence in Africa, teams can directly counter the idea that China is an inherently negative presence. Teams should attempt to weigh the more materialized benefits of Chinese impact on infrastructure and other programs against the more nebulous impact of harms to sovereignty. Another path of argumentation could be that if Africa is so profitable for China, then urbanization will not largely affect the influence they possess in the region: Chinese influence happens either way.

A/2: Urbanization leads to Urban Poverty

Answer: Poverty is always devastating but rural poverty at a particularly destructive level of deprivation. Because of a lack of urban resources, the rural poor are far more likely to suffer death and other extreme effects from poverty.

Warrant: Rural poverty is worse on almost every dimension than urban poverty

Mahmood Hasan Khan. "Rural Poverty in Developing Countries." International Monetary Fund. 2000.

<https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2000/12/khan.htm>

"Rural poverty accounts for nearly 63 percent of poverty worldwide, reaching 90 percent in China and Bangladesh and between 65 and 90 percent in sub-Saharan Africa. (Exceptions to this pattern are seen in several Latin American countries in which poverty is concentrated in urban areas.) In almost all countries, the conditions—in terms of personal consumption and access to education, health care, potable water and sanitation, housing, transport, and communications—faced by the rural poor are far worse than those faced by the urban poor. Persistently high levels of rural poverty, with or without overall economic growth, have contributed to rapid population growth and migration to urban areas. In fact, much urban poverty is created by the rural poor's efforts to get out of poverty by moving to cities."

Warrant: Insurgency stems from the permissive capacity allowed by rural conditions

Mahmood Hasan Khan. "Rural Poverty in Developing Countries." International Monetary Fund. 2000.

<https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2000/12/khan.htm>

“These workers depend on seasonal demand for labor in agriculture and in rural informal, small-scale industries and services. **The landless rural workers are vulnerable to fluctuations in the demand for labor, wage rates, and food prices. They find it even more difficult than small landowners and tenants to gain access to public infrastructure and services.** In addition, unlike their counterparts in urban areas, they are often excluded from public sector safety nets (food rations, for example). Rural women tend to suffer far more than rural men. Their poverty and low social status in most societies is one of the most important reasons for chronic poverty. Substantial evidence from numerous countries shows that focusing on the needs and empowerment of women is one of the keys to human development.”

Warrant: Rural poverty is particularly cyclical and unstable

Mahmood Hasan Khan. “Rural Poverty in Developing Countries.” International Monetary Fund. 2000. <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2000/12/khan.htm>

“**They have only limited access to financial capital and acquire it largely through informal agents or institutions, except for tenants, who can use their landlords as conduits to formal credit.** Borrowed capital is often costly and is used to maintain consumption during hard times or to buy supplies and equipment needed for farming. Households' labor is used both within the family—for work done by unpaid family members—and to earn the wages paid to landless, unskilled workers in farm and nonfarm activities. **All groups of the rural poor are vulnerable to serious risk owing to changes in weather, health, markets, investment, and public policy.** The resulting fluctuations in the prices and quantities of their assets and of what they produce can either deepen their poverty or give them opportunities to escape from it. The main reason is that the rural poor are ill equipped to absorb shocks. In addition, economic crises and natural disasters can bring about sharp increases in poverty and make it more difficult for the poor to escape it.”

Impact: The urban poor have crucial resources available to them that the rural poor do not have for themselves.

Bridget Tobin. "RURAL POVERTY AND URBAN POVERTY" Tobin Project. 2014.

<https://borgenproject.org/rural-poverty-urban-poverty/>

"The IMF reports that 63 percent of the world's impoverished live in rural areas. Education, health care and sanitation are all lacking in rural environments. This causes many of the rural poor to move to cities, which often leads to a rise in urban poverty. **The rural poor are divided into further subsets based on profession: typically, cultivators who own land and noncultivators who do not. Cultivators are slightly better off, as they are able to make some money operating farms and charging tenants for using their land. Noncultivators, however, are extremely poor, working as seasonal laborers on farms. Their pay is both low and erratic, as it is based on the schedules of farm owners and the other few employers available. The rural poor often suffer more than the urban poor because public services and charities are not available to them.** Several factors tend to perpetuate rural poverty. For example, political instability and corruption, customs of discrimination, unregulated landlord/tenant arrangements and outdated economic policies often make it impossible for the rural poor to rise above poverty lines. While generally considered less severe, urban poverty provides the poor with a host of separate issues."

Analysis: This is a very strong argument because it is impossible to contest the link. The resolution assumes that urbanization has happened. Therefor, many of West Africa's rural poor have moved to the city. Then it becomes a simple matter of arguing how and why the conditions of rural poverty are more difficult than urban poverty.

A/2: Urbanization leads to violence and tension

Answer: Rural areas make it easier to launch and sustain civil wars. They also create political instability by shifting power into traditional parochial elites who can retain control of natural resources.

Warrant: Insurgency is a serious problem in the developing world

Fearon, James and Laitin, David. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War." American Political Science Review. 2003. <https://fsi-live.s3.us-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/fearlait.pdf>

"If many post-1945 civil wars have been "ethnic" or "nationalist" as these terms are usually understood, then even more have been fought as insurgencies. Insurgency is a technology of military conflict characterized by small, lightly armed bands practicing guerrilla warfare from rural base areas. To explain why some countries have experienced civil wars in this period one needs to understand the conditions that favor insurgency, which are largely independent of cultural differences between groups and even group grievances. These conditions are best summarized by way of a brief statement of the logic of insurgency."

Warrant: Insurgency stems from the permissive capacity allowed by rural conditions

Fearon, James and Laitin, David. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War." American Political Science Review. 2003. <https://fsi-live.s3.us-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/fearlait.pdf>

""Having a rural base should greatly favor insurgency. In the city, anonymous denunciation is easier to get away with, giving the government an advantage in its

counterinsurgent efforts. Given the basic constraints posed by numerical weakness—the need to hide and not be denounced various factors determine insurgents' ability to wage war. To survive, rebels need arms and materiel, money to buy them, or smugglable goods to trade for them. They need a supply of recruits to the insurgent way of life. A "second-order" mechanism by which ethnicity may favor insurgency is that ethnic minorities are sometimes marked by dense social networks that are isolated from dominant group networks, thus giving an informational advantage to local rebels (Fearon and Laitin 1996). But such an advantage does not require ethnic distinctiveness. life, and they may also need information and instruction in the practical details of running an insurgency."

Warrant: Moving political power out of rural areas reduces insurgency

Fearon, James and Laitin, David. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War." American Political Science Review. 2003. <https://fsi-live.s3.us-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/fearlait.pdf>

"Using the Phase III Minorities at Risk (MAR) data, Fearon and Laitin (1999) found that groups without a rural base area were far less likely to be engaged in violent conflict with the state, even after controlling for various country- and group-specific factors. Toft (1996) was the first to note and examine the strong bivariate relationship in the MAR data. U.S. support to rightist regimes in Latin America during the Cold War might also qualify, although this was perhaps more offset by support for armed insurgency in this area from the Soviet Union and Cuba. The presence of valuable minerals or the suitability of land for the cultivation of narcotics is also codable in principle, but at present we lack such measures (H10e). Nor do we have measures for the comparative disadvantage of governments in access to village-level information (Hs)."

Impact: Conflict and insurgency hurts the economy by disrupting economic activity and killing people

Michael McAdams. "Global Cities as Centers of Cultural Influence" Journal of Global Cultural Studies. 2007. <https://journals.openedition.org/transtexts/149>

"The economic consequences of conflict are devastating. At the aggregate level, violent conflict is associated with lower output (Cerra and Saxena 2008, Chen et al. 2008), lower investment (Eckstein and Tsiddon 2004) and lower growth (Alesina et al. 1996). The incidence of conflict is also several times higher in poor countries than in rich countries (Blattman and Miguel 2010). Understanding the specific mechanisms through which aggregate negative effects materialise is critical for the design of effective policies that can unlock the potential for economic growth in the conflict-ridden regions of the world. Disentangling and identifying the many different ways in which conflict affects the economy is challenging for several reasons. First, collecting micro-level data during conflict is problematic. The few studies on the firm-level effects of conflict look at stock prices (Guidolin and La Ferrara 2007), investment (Singh 2013), probability of exit (Camacho and Rodriguez 2013), and employment (Collier and Duponchel 2013). Second, the possible mechanisms at play interact and magnify each other."

Analysis: This argument is strong because preventing insurgency is a prerequisite to economic and social development. The human toll of conflict is high and severely disrupts developing countries. Moving to urbanization helps end this deadly cycle.

A/2: Urbanization creates political problems

Turn: Urbanization is good for politics

Warrant: Urbanization improves democracy by empowering collective action

Edward L. Glaeser. "Transforming Cities" NBER Working Paper. 2016.

https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/glaeser/files/transforming_cities_does_urbaniz_promote_dem_change_nberwp.pdf

"First, urbanization may enable uprisings and revolution by facilitating coordination and enhancing the power of organized action. A crowd in Cairo's Tahrir Square packs far more political punch than a group of farmers in a remote farming village. Wallace (2014) provides compelling empirical work showing that dictatorships face a far higher risk of regime change in urbanized societies.."

Warrant: Urbanization facilitates the drive for democracy

Edward L. Glaeser. "Transforming Cities" NBER Working Paper. 2016.

https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/glaeser/files/transforming_cities_does_urbaniz_promote_dem_change_nberwp.pdf

"Second, urbanization may increase the demand for democracy. To understand why populations may favor democracy or dictatorship, one can follow the framework of Djankov et al. (2003) which emphasizes that different systems offer a tradeoff between losses from overly strong governments, termed "dictatorship," and losses from overly weak governments, termed "disorder." Cities enable trade and facilitate innovation, both of which can be stifled by dictatorial regimes. These upsides of urban existence should push residents to favor more democracy. Yet cities also facilitate

negative social interactions, including crime and the spread of contagious disease. The need to reduce those threats should increase the demand for dictatorship.”

Analysis: This response is strong because it shows that there are strong positive effects of urbanization for political change. This is a unique advantage – even if what your opponent says is true, urbanization still drives crucial political progress.

Answer: Urbanization creates diversity and understanding

Warrant: Cities bring many different types of peoples together, allowing different groups to interact and exchange ideas.

“Urbanization, Culture and Innovation”. World Urban Forum. 2020.

<https://wuf.unhabitat.org/wuf10-programme/dialogues/dialogue-1-urbanization-culture-and-innovation>

“Cities such as San Francisco, Toronto, Abu Dhabi and Brussels are among the most culturally, linguistically and ethnically diverse with 35 to 58 percent of their populations being foreign born. **While cities have always been melting pots of cultural diversity, certain features of contemporary cultural diversity are novel.** First, **cultural diversity in cities is both wider and deeper than ever before.** Second, **it is far more affirmative as minorities and immigrant groups demand equal rights, access to urban opportunities, and the right to participate in decisions that affect their collective life.”**

Warrant: Urbanization fuses different perspectives and backgrounds to create new cultural achievements.

Michael McAdams. "Global Cities as Centers of Cultural Influence" Journal of Global Cultural Studies. 2007. <https://journals.openedition.org/transtexts/149>

"The elusive environment of certain cities also seem to play a significant factor in drawing creative individuals to them. The urban centers of culture have changed throughout the centuries mostly based on their economic/political strength with the outside world. The cultural impact of Athens, Amsterdam, Rome, Vienna, London, Paris, Madrid, Istanbul (Constantinople), Florence, Venice, Milan, Budapest, Barcelona, Prague and Berlin still resonate in our present world culture."

Analysis: This argument shows that urbanization creates distinct cultural advantages from diversity. This response appeals to your judge's intuition of cities as places of mixing and the exchange of ideas.

A/2: Urbanization causes brain drain

Turn: Brain drain is good

Warrant: Brain drain helps rural communities through remittances

Chukwuedozie K. Ajaero. "The Effects of Rural-Urban Migration on Rural Communities of Southeastern Nigeria" International Journal of Population Research. 2013.
<https://www.hindawi.com/journals/ijpr/2013/610193/>

"Multiple regression and hierarchical cluster analyses were used to estimate and categorize the effects of rural-urban migration due to remittances and community projects executed by the rural-urban migrants, respectively. In addition, the Chi-square and Kruskal-Wallis tests were utilized in prioritizing areas for development interventions in the rural communities. **The regression analysis shows that rural-urban migration contributes significantly towards the development of their rural communities through monetary remittances and the involvement of the rural-urban migrants in community development projects. Based on the findings, recommendations such as initiation of development projects based on the identified needs of each of the rural communities to augment the effects of migration in the study area are made.**"

Warrant: Rural-urban migration in Nigeria is especially helpful

Chukwuedozie K. Ajaero. "The Effects of Rural-Urban Migration on Rural Communities of Southeastern Nigeria" International Journal of Population Research. 2013.
<https://www.hindawi.com/journals/ijpr/2013/610193/>

"Consequently, the effects of rural-urban migration in the rural places of origin of migrants may be manifest in two ways. **First, the rural-urban migrants send**

remittances to their relatives in the rural areas and these remittance-receiving households use the remittances for various purposes. Secondly, these rural-urban migrants execute various rural developmental projects in their rural areas of origin. In Nigeria, most migrants coming from a particular rural community to live in an urban area usually form rural community associations in the urban area.”

Analysis: This response is strong because it shows that there are strong positive effects of brain drain. This is a unique advantage – even if what your opponent says is true, remittances still lift communities out of poverty.

Answer: The net effect of urban rural migration is good

Warrant: There are many positive effects of migration

Ricardo Grau. “Are Rural–Urban Migration and Sustainable Development Compatible in Mountain Systems?.” Mountain Research and Development Journal. 2007.

<https://bioone.org/journals/mountain-research-and-development/volume-27/issue-2/mrd.0906/Are-RuralUrban-Migration-and-Sustainable-Development-Compatible-in-Mountain-Systems/10.1659/mrd.0906.full#:~:text=However%2C%20rural%E2%80%93urban%20migration%20generally,in%20the%20Caribbean%20and%20South>

“Rural–urban migration is having a considerable socioeconomic and environmental effect in mountain regions. In response, most rural development programs discourage outmigration on the grounds that it has negative social consequences and compromises ecological sustainability. However, **rural–urban migration generally improves the living standards of migrants and leads to the disintensification of land use in fragile ecosystems with low productivity, thus stimulating ecosystem recovery and improving watershed and biodiversity protection—as shown by experience in the Caribbean and**

South America. These advantages have emerged even in the absence of any planning and could be maximized if international funding agencies, NGOs, and local governments re-evaluated rural development strategies.”

Warrant: Rural urban migration is clearly beneficial for the migrants

Ricardo Grau. “Are Rural–Urban Migration and Sustainable Development Compatible in Mountain Systems?.” Mountain Research and Development Journal. 2007.

<https://bioone.org/journals/mountain-research-and-development/volume-27/issue-2/mrd.0906/Are-RuralUrban-Migration-and-Sustainable-Development-Compatible-in-Mountain-Sys-tems/10.1659/mrd.0906.full#:~:text=However%2C%20rural%E2%80%93urban%20migration%20generally,in%20the%20Caribbean%20and%20South>

“The decision to migrate often results in improved conditions for migrants, and surveys conducted around the world reveal that the vast majority of migrants are satisfied with their decision. For example, in Bolivia, even though migrants have a low level of education, they are able to find jobs which pay similar to jobs held by other urban workers, with salaries at least 4 times higher than those of rural workers. Other positive effects of rural migration in Latin America include a decrease in infant mortality (half the rate in urban areas) and an increase in life expectancy (4 to 5 years longer in urban areas). Teenage pregnancy is lower in urban areas, where primary school attendance and literacy are higher. The urban poor have much better access to water and electricity. A major contributor to these differences is the economy of scale. Providing basic services, food, clothing, health, and education in urban areas, where people are aggregated, is much cheaper than in rural areas, where people live at much lower densities in poorly accessible areas, as is often the case in mountains.”

Analysis: This argument is strong because it forces the judge to evaluate the scope of the impact. Maybe brain drain hurts some groups, but it certainly helps migrants and other groups. This should outweigh the harms.

A/2: Urbanization increases greenhouse gas emissions

Answer: Rural life releases more carbon per person

Warrant: Public transit reduces green house gasses in urban areas

National Express Transit. Why Is Public Transportation Good for the Environment? 3 Jan. 2018, <https://www.nationalexpresstransit.com/blog/why-is-public-transportation-good-for-the-environment/>.

Public transportation is not only a great way to get to work, to school, or to go shopping, it's also an environmentally friendly mode of getting around. Even though many public transit options include diesel-powered buses, which are not known for being the cleanest vehicles on the road, the difference is made up for in both the fuel efficiency (as measured in Person-Miles Per Gallon (PMPG)) and the fact that they take up far less space than the number of single-occupancy vehicles needed to transport the same amount of people. **Because public transit carries many passengers on a single vehicle, it can reduce the number of vehicles, the level of traffic noise, and the amount of tailpipe emissions associated with those vehicles.** By reducing the amount of emissions from transportation in dense urban areas, public transportation can help cities to reduce smog, to meet air quality standards, and to decrease the health risks of poor air quality to their residents.

Warrant: Rural livers have a larger carbon footprint

Ala-Mantila, Sanna, et al. "Relationship between Urbanization, Direct and Indirect Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Expenditures: A Multivariate Analysis." Ecological Economics, vol. 104, Aug. 2014, pp. 129–39. ScienceDirect, doi:10.1016/j.ecolecon.2014.04.019.

In this paper, we analyze the relationships between Finnish household types and their consumption-based carbon footprints. We calculate footprints by combining expenditure data with life-cycle greenhouse gas emission intensities derived from an environmentally extended input–output model. By applying regression analysis, we explore the effects of expenditure, urbanity, and household size on total, direct, and indirect emissions. The separate analyses for direct and indirect GHGs provide insights, not previously found in the literature, on the relationship between urbanity and carbon footprints. **Holding expenditure constant, a rural lifestyle seems to be related to the highest GHG emissions. However, keeping in mind that the absolute amount of indirect emissions is major to direct emissions from home energy and private driving, the less prominent or even reversed relationship between indirect emissions and urbanity is also worth noting.** The existence of household size scale effects depends whether direct or indirect GHGs are explained. We demonstrate that in order to gain a comprehensive understanding of mitigation policies and their effects, not only the averages but the various patterns of direct and indirect emissions must be kept in mind. This paper complements the earlier carbon footprint assessments from the same authors by providing a comprehensive statistical analysis.

Analysis: This is a good response because it shows that even if cities are responsible for most carbon emissions, this is just because more people are in cities. Comparatively, it is better to have people in cities since rural areas use more fossil fuels per person. This makes this response into a turn on the con's argument and actually makes the impact a reason to vote for the pro.

Answer: Global warming is already inevitable

Warrant: Permafrost will continue to thaw for years after emissions stop

Rosane, Olivia. "Are We Really Past the Point of No Return on Climate? Scientists Respond To Controversial New Study." EcoWatch, 13 Nov. 2020,
<https://www.ecowatch.com/climate-study-greenhouse-gas-emissions-2648886531.html>.

A controversial new climate study has found that, even if greenhouse gas emissions were halted tomorrow, it might not be enough to stop temperatures from continuing to rise. The study, published in Scientific Reports Thursday, was conducted by two researchers at the BI Norwegian Business School. They used the ESCIMO climate model to determine that, even if emissions ceased tomorrow, the permafrost would continue to thaw for hundreds of years. "According to our models, humanity is beyond the point-of-no-return when it comes to halting the melting of permafrost using greenhouse gas cuts as the single tool," lead author and professor emeritus of climate strategy Jorgen Randers told AFP. "If we want to stop this melting process we must do something in addition – for example, suck CO₂ out of the atmosphere and store it underground, and make Earth's surface brighter."

Warrant: Even if we stopped emissions, global warming would continue

Rice, Doyle. "'Past a Point of No Return': Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions to Zero Still Won't Stop Global Warming, Study Says." USA TODAY, 12 Nov. 2020,
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/11/12/reducing-greenhouse-gas-emissions-stop-climate-change-study/3761882001/>.

Even if human-caused greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced to zero, global temperatures may continue to rise for centuries afterward, according to a scientific study published Thursday. "The world is already past a point of no return for global warming," the study authors report in the British journal Scientific Reports. The only way to stop the warming, they say, is that "enormous amounts of carbon dioxide have

to be extracted from the atmosphere." The burning of fossil fuels such as oil, coal and gas release greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane into the atmosphere, causing global temperatures to increase and sea levels to rise. The scientists modeled the effect of greenhouse gas emission reductions on changes in the Earth's climate from 1850 to 2500 and created projections of global temperature and sea level rises.

Analysis: This is a good response because it makes the argument entirely nonunique. If global warming is already at a point where it is irreversible, this means that even if urbanization were stopped, global warming would continue. This means this argument cannot be a unique reason to vote for the con.

A/2: Urbanization increases deforestation

Answer: Deforestation is currently being fought by other methods

Warrant: Brazil has successfully reduced deforestation of the Amazon

Union of Concerned Scientists Staff. Brazil's Success in Reducing Deforestation | Union of Concerned Scientists. 10 Feb. 2011,
<https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/brazils-success-reducing-deforestation>.

While national efforts to reduce global warming emissions in the United States have flagged, one tropical developing nation, Brazil, has made dramatic strides—without receiving much attention for its success. Detailed analyses of publicly available satellite photos show that Brazil has reduced deforestation in the Amazon enough over the past five years to lower heat-trapping emissions more than any other country on Earth. This success demonstrates the enormous potential of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation as well as conserving and re-growing tropical forests (the international effort known as REDD+). **REDD+ was proposed by developing countries in 2005 as an international strategy by which tropical countries would reduce deforestation (which is responsible for about 10 percent of all global warming pollution) and be compensated by wealthy nations for any resulting economic losses.** Two of the strongest initial supporters of the concept were Norway, which pledged \$2.5 billion for the effort, and Brazil, which announced a national plan to reduce its deforestation rate 80 percent by 2020 (compared with its average rate over the decade 1996–2005) and later made this commitment part of its national law.

Warrant: Expanding forests can stop climate change

Tollefson, Jeff. "Stopping Deforestation: Battle for the Amazon." *Nature News*, vol. 520, no. 7545, Apr. 2015, p. 20. www.nature.com, doi:10.1038/520020a.

Over the past decade, while the world has been busy haggling over future commitments to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, Brazil has lowered its carbon dioxide output more than any other country through a historic effort to slow forest loss. The deforestation rate here last year was roughly 75% below the average for 1996 to 2005 — just shy of Brazil's pledge to achieve an 80% reduction by 2020. The country has managed this feat while increasing the amount of food it produces, much of it for export to a growing and hungry world. Brazil's experience suggests that humanity has a chance to control agricultural expansion and preserve the planet's most diverse ecosystems. If other countries follow suit by protecting and expanding forests, which lock carbon up in trees and soils, they could slow the growth of global CO₂ emissions and buy the world some time to solve the thornier problem of curbing emissions from cars, power plants and industrial facilities.

Analysis: This is a good response because it shows that efforts to stop deforestation are already underway. This means that the impact of deforestation is reversible and does not have the huge, far-reaching impacts that the con claims. This acts as significant mitigation on the con's argument and makes it easy for the judge to discount it.

Answer: Global warming has passed the point of no return

Warrant: The sea-level has risen to irreversible levels

Yulsman, Tom. "With Sea Level Rise, We've Already Hurtled Past a Point of No Return." *Discover Magazine*, 6 Dec. 2019,
<https://www.discovermagazine.com/environment/with-sea-level-rise-weve-already-hurtled-past-a-point-of-no-return>.

As 25,000 people from 200 countries were converging on Madrid this week for the start of climate change talks, U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres voiced this stern warning: **When it comes to climate change, “the point of no return is no longer over the horizon. It is in sight and hurtling toward us.”** As sobering as it was, Guterres's statement had a hopeful flip side: We can still avoid crossing that Rubicon into the realm of dangerous climate change — if only we get more serious at cutting emissions of climate-altering carbon dioxide. That's ultimately the whole point of these annual Conference of the Parties meetings, or COPs — finding ways to galvanize global action on climate change. **But there's just one problem: Research on past climates suggests we've already hurtled past one significant point of no return, one that should prompt us to pay more attention to adapting to climate change.** The research has focused on sea level during past times when carbon dioxide in the atmosphere was as high as today. The work suggests that we've already committed ourselves to sea level rise far higher than the 2 or so meters that climate negotiators are trying to avoid with CO₂ cuts.

Warrant: No amount of reduction in emissions will stop climate change

EarthTalk. "Have We Passed the Point of No Return on Climate Change?" Scientific American, 13 Apr. 2015, <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/have-we-passed-the-point-of-no-return-on-climate-change/>.

While we may not yet have reached the “point of no return”—when no amount of cutbacks on greenhouse gas emissions will save us from potentially catastrophic global warming—climate scientists warn we may be getting awfully close. Since the dawn of the Industrial Revolution a century ago, the average global temperature has risen some 1.6 degrees Fahrenheit. Most climatologists agree that, while the warming to date is already causing environmental problems, another 0.4 degree Fahrenheit rise

in temperature, representing a global average atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide (CO₂) of 450 parts per million (ppm), could set in motion unprecedented changes in global climate and a significant increase in the severity of natural disasters—and as such could represent the dreaded point of no return. Currently the atmospheric concentration of CO₂ (the leading greenhouse gas) is approximately 398.55 parts per million (ppm). According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the federal scientific agency tasked with monitoring the health of our oceans and atmosphere, the current average annual rate of increase of 1.92 ppm means we could reach the point of no return by 2042.

Analysis: This is a good response because it indicates that even if the entire con argument is true, the impact is nonunique. If global warming is going to happen anyway, then it doesn't matter if cities will continue to emit carbon fuels. This means that there is no way for the judge to vote con on this argument.

A/2: Urbanization pollutes water supplies

Answer: Urban areas have the potential to use water more efficiently

Warrant: Urban infrastructure and policy planning can use water more efficiently

UN-Water. "Urbanization." UN, 2017, <https://www.unwater.org/water-facts/urbanization/>.

However, cities provide significant opportunities for more integrated and sustainable water use and waste management. The positive impacts of these services, particularly for public health, spread rapidly and cost-effectively among densely populated unplanned settlements. Furthermore, more efficient use of water within cities and the safe reuse of more waste will put less strain on the surrounding ecosystems. **In December 2016, world leaders adopted the New Urban Agenda, which sets a global standard for sustainable urban development, and will help rethink planning, management and life in cities. The New Urban Agenda is roadmap for building cities that can serve as engines of prosperity and centres of cultural and social well-being while protecting the environment.** The Agenda also provides guidance for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and provides the underpinning for actions to address climate change.

Warrant: Urban planning has empirically improved water access

Bao, Chao, and Dongmei He. "Scenario Modeling of Urbanization Development and Water Scarcity Based on System Dynamics: A Case Study of Beijing–Tianjin–Hebei Urban Agglomeration, China." International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, vol. 16, no. 20, Oct. 2019. PubMed Central, doi:10.3390/ijerph16203834.

In this paper, a system dynamics model was constructed to simulate the current conditions and future scenarios of urbanization development and water scarcity in the Beijing–Tianjin–Hebei (BTH) urban agglomeration in 2000–2030, by examining the interaction and feedback between the six major subsystems: water supply, water demand, water pollution, population urbanization, economic urbanization, and land urbanization. **It is found that the South-to-North Water Diversion Project and the improved Reclaimed Water Reuse System may greatly increase the water supply.** However, **the speed of population urbanization and economic growth, the spatial structure of urban agglomeration and the water consumption pattern may determine the water demand.** Although all scenarios may risk water scarcity in the future at some point, we could detect a comprehensive and relatively rational scenario to balance water scarcity, regional equity, and efficiency

Analysis: This is a good response because it can actually function as a turn to the con's argument, making it a reason to vote for the pro. Since cities can centralize populations, this can limit damage to water supplies and actually make for more sustainable water down the road. This is an easy way to generate offense off of the con's arguments.

Answer: Water sanitation policies are spreading

Warrant: Water sanitation is one of the UN's development goals funded by the World Bank

UN. "Water Supply." World Bank, 2017,
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/watersupply>.

Water is at the center of economic and social development; it is vital to maintain health, grow food, manage the environment, and create jobs. Despite water's importance, over 663 million people in the world still lack access to improved drinking

water sources. However, increasing access is not enough. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on Water and Sanitation proposes a broader agenda: By 2030, universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all, and access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations. This new goal reflects the growing importance of water and sanitation as a human right. Additional targets that go beyond access are also being considered, such as improving water quality by reducing pollution, and substantially increasing water-use efficiency. The World Bank Group (WBG) — the largest multilateral source of financing for water supply and sanitation (WSS) in developing countries — currently supervises a WSS lending portfolio of approximately US\$13.5 billion which represents more than half of all its water-related operations.

Warrant: New effective approaches to water sanitation are being developed right now

Institute of Medicine (US) Roundtable on Environmental Health Sciences.
“Achieving Water and Sanitation Services for Health in Developing Countries.”
Global Environmental Health: Research Gaps and Barriers for Providing Sustainable Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Services: Workshop Summary,
National Academies Press (US), 2009. www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov,
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK50770/>.

In summary, a number of challenges remain, including important research needs for sanitation. In the past, many water and sanitation intervention programs took their own designs and implemented them in areas with need. This led to some unsustainable, culturally inappropriate, or irrelevant installations that were not always effective. **New concepts focus on smaller, community-based projects that are chosen by the household and implemented through microcredit. The major research areas mirror these approaches, leading to more social marketing research, health behavior**

research, technical and microbiological investigation, and health outcomes and impacts research. The future of sanitation improvement lies in trying new approaches—creative approaches to technology and delivery, greater dissemination of information on what works and what does not, providing greater training and building capacity in human resources, and greater political and financial commitment.

Analysis: This is a good response because it can take the con's argument at its best, and show that still it is short term. Even if there is more pollution of water supplies in urban areas, this will stop in the near future when better sanitation techniques expand. This means that in the long run, the con's impact will be negligible.

A/2: Urbanization increases rural poverty

Answer: Urbanization provides jobs to people in rural areas

Warrant: Cities provide non-agricultural jobs to the rural poor

Satterthwaite, David, et al. "Urbanization and Its Implications for Food and Farming."

Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences, vol. 365, no. 1554, Sept. 2010, pp. 2809–20. PubMed Central, doi:10.1098/rstb.2010.0136.

A high proportion of households have rural and urban components to their incomes and livelihoods—so they are better understood as multilocal, as individual members engage in different activities in different locations while sharing resources and assets. Incomes from non-agricultural activities and remittances have proved important for reducing rural poverty in many places (see Deshingkar 2006). Earnings from non-farm activities are estimated to account for 30–50% of rural household income in Africa, about 60 per cent in Asia (Ellis 1998) and around 40 per cent in Latin America (Reardon et al. 2001). Remittances from urban household members and earnings from non-farm activities also have a major role in financing innovation and intensification of farming in Africa (Tiffen 2003) and in Asia (Hoang et al. 2005, 2008). This is best documented in rural areas with relatively good access to urban markets and infrastructure. In many cases, local traders also contribute to the creation of non-farm jobs through the local processing of agricultural produce, and this helps diversify the economic base of large villages and helps in their gradual transformation into small urban centres (Hoang et al. 2008).

Warrant: Cities provide more jobs, higher incomes, and opportunities for entrepreneurship

Hart, Tom. "10 Things to Know about the Impacts of Urbanisation." ODI, Oct. 2018,
<https://www.odи.org/publications/11218-10-things-know-about-impacts-urbanisation>.

Most cities are growing quickly, with the majority of growth projected to be in low-income countries in Africa and Asia. By 2050, 6.5 billion people will live in urban centres – two-thirds of the projected world population. **Urban living offers many benefits to residents including more job opportunities and higher incomes, and to businesses including lower input costs, greater collaboration and innovation opportunities. But urbanisation – especially if it is rapid – also brings challenges.** City governments and policy-makers must plan for and manage the impacts of urbanisation on poverty, inequality, employment, services, transport, climate change and politics. Only by addressing these interconnected issues, and both the technical and political barriers to change, can they ensure a good quality of life for millions of urban dwellers.

Analysis: This is a good response because even if it is true that it becomes worse to live in rural areas, this will only be a problem for few people who remain. For those who leave, job opportunities abound in cities, which improves their lives dramatically. This will only incentivize more people to leave rural areas and get these jobs as more are created, ultimately making the con's argument short term at best.

Answer: Externalities of urbanization helps the rural poor

Warrant: Those who move into cities for better jobs can send money back to their families

Vale, Richmond. Effects of Urbanization On Poverty. 14 July 2016,
<https://richmondvale.org/en/blog/effects-of-urbanization-on-poverty>.

Urbanization directly affects rural poverty, as it generates new opportunities for rural workers, who shift out of agriculture and into more remunerative, non-farm activities in the city. This causes an influx of money into the rural areas, mainly in the shape of remittances. Furthermore, the migration of agriculture workers into the city reduces the rural labor supply, thereby increasing rural wages. But urbanization also entails indirect positive effects in rural communities. The rapid growth of cities also means an increase in the demand of agricultural goods and other products from rural areas, which fosters economic growth and alleviates poverty. The effects of urbanization on poverty at the urban level are drastically different. As cities develop, dramatic increases in property prices are commonplace, which often displaces poorer city-dwellers who cannot afford to live in the area anymore.

Warrant: Urbanization increases demand for rural products

Cali, Massimiliano, and Carlo Menon. "Does Urbanization Affect Rural Poverty? Evidence from Indian Districts." *The World Bank Economic Review*, vol. 27, no. 2, 2013, pp. 171–201., www.jstor.org/stable/43774105. Accessed 4 Jan. 2021.

Although a high rate of urbanization and a high incidence of rural poverty are two distinct features of many developing countries, there is little knowledge of the effects of the former on the latter. **Using a large sample of Indian districts from the 1983-1999 period, we find that urbanization has a substantial and systematic poverty-reducing effect in the surrounding rural areas. The results obtained through an instrumental variable estimation suggest that this effect is causal in nature and is largely attributable to the positive spillovers of urbanization on the rural economy rather than to the movement of the rural poor to urban areas. This rural poverty-reducing effect of urbanization is primarily explained by increased demand for local agricultural products and, to a lesser extent, by urban-rural remittances, the rural land/population ratio, and rural nonfarm employment.**

Analysis: This is a good response because it implies that cities actually help rural areas grow more. This means that you can turn the con's argument against them. The warrants are very simple and easy to argue: first: there will be more money flowing into rural areas from increased demand from growing cities for their food, and second: people who leave rural areas for jobs can send some of their income back to their family in the form of remittances to help out.

A/2: Urbanization creates inequality

Answer: Urbanization increases economic opportunities in the long term

Warrant: Urbanization creates more jobs

Hoel, Arn. "Looking at Urbanization through a Jobs Lens." World Bank, 17 June 2016,
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2016/06/17/looking-at-urbanization-through-a-jobs-lens>.

Eugenio Zeca Soares, works as a security guard in Maputo, Mozambique. He left his home province of Zambezia three years ago and moved to Maputo looking for better living conditions. "Finding a job is very difficult, the most one can find are temporary jobs," he said. "Like me right now I am replacing someone for a month, after that I have to start looking for another job." **Cities have always been the nexus of prosperity, job creation, and poverty reduction. Workers, like Eugenio, move to cities looking for jobs. It is an age-old story. In theory, jobs are created in cities when firms are located closer to other firms, the labor market, and potential clients. Productivity increases, revenues come in and new jobs are created. In other words, agglomeration economics takes advantage of the possibilities of scale. Such productivity gains then lead to better jobs through wage premia.** In practice, however, this process is not always as seamless as it should be.

Warrant: Urbanization decreases inequality in the long run

Ha, Nguyen Minh, et al. "The Impact of Urbanization on Income Inequality: A Study in Vietnam." Journal of Risk and Financial Management, vol. 12, no. 3, 3, Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute, Sept. 2019, p. 146. www.mdpi.com, doi:10.3390/jrfm12030146.

Industrialization and urbanization are closely related to economic development. The process of industrialization and urbanization affects income distribution, causing income inequality. In the short term, urbanization can increase income inequality because wages are higher for urban jobs than rural work. However, in the long term, when urbanization is highly developed, the difference in income distribution in the two regions may decrease, and income inequality will decrease. In Vietnam today, urbanization and industrialization have progressed considerably. Vietnam's urbanization level is still low compared to the global average but, in recent years, higher than the average in other developing countries as well as countries in Southeast Asia. In terms of Gini data, income inequality in Vietnam increased until 2008 and then decreased, and in 2014 began to increase again. So, does urbanization increase income inequality? This is the question that we address in this study.

Analysis: This response provides a longer term look at the problem. This is good because it allows you to turn the con's argument, while also agreeing it is true. While in the short term inequality goes up because poor and rich people move into cities, as the poor take the jobs available to them, inequality goes back down.

Answer: Urbanization provides better schooling, which promotes economic mobility

Warrant: Cities create access to schools

Bokova, Irina. "Place: Cities and Human Settlements." Unesco, 9 Aug. 2016, <https://gem-report-2016.unesco.org/en/chapter/place-cities-and-human-settlements/>.

Globally, about half of urban growth is due to natural population growth and half to migration from rural areas. Such growth raises demand for basic education, lifelong learning, skills development and teachers, and increases the need to foster social

cohesion and tolerance of cultural diversity through education, including for slum dwellers, migrants and refugees. More than one-third of urban residents in lower income countries live in slums or shanty towns in city centres or urban peripheries. Slums' conditions vary greatly, but many are characterized by poor access to basic services, including education. **Data compiled from 130 slum settlement profiles from 12 cities and towns in Uganda found that while most settlements had access to schooling,** the respondents highlighted the need to increase the number of accessible public schools.

Warrant: Schooling impacts child development and economic opportunities

Oure, Geoffrey Oyugi Nyagol. Impact of Urbanization on Access to Education in Public Primary Schools in Homabay Municipality of Homa-Bay County. Kenyatta University, 2014. ir-library.ku.ac.ke, <https://ir-library.ku.ac.ke/handle/123456789/12015>.

The government of Kenya is committed to the goal of Education for All. However, the problem of access to Primary school education undermines this achievement. Any factor that interferes with the learning not only undermines the education goal but also hampers the growth and development of children. For this reason, there is a need to identify the factors that contribute to low enrolment in Primary schools in Kenya. The purpose of this study was to find out the impact of urbanization on access to education in Public Primary Schools in Homa-bay Municipality. It was justified by the fact that educational situation in Kenya for slum children is poor as has been documented in several studies and the Kenyan government. The independent variable for the study was urbanization and was measured by cultural diversity, income disparity and high population density. The dependent variable of the study was access measured by enrolment and retention. The objectives of the study were to find out ways in which income disparity affects school enrolment, determine how cultural diversity affects

enrolment in primary schools, to determine how population density affects pupils' enrolment and to determine ways through which enrolment in public primary schools can be improved in order to minimize the negative impact on education development.

Analysis: This is a good response because it turns the con's argument with a new link altogether. If people are able to get more access to schooling in cities, it does not matter if they were poorer when they entered the city since they are able to outcompete those with a financial advantage once they have a better education.

A/2: Urbanization leads to food insecurity

Answer: urban cities have different food than rural ones

Leopold Ghins, 4-27-2020, "Food production systems in West African towns and cities," Willagri

- Comprendre les enjeux de l'agriculture, <https://www.willagri.com/2020/04/27/food-production-systems-in-west-african-towns-and-cities/?lang=en>

Urbanisation and the intensification of urban-rural links have directly led to the modification of both demand and supply for food. On the demand side, **change is not due to differences in food preferences between urban and rural consumers** – these are very similar, as several studies have shown (see here, here and here) – **but rather growth in income and changes in lifestyle connected to urban environments. Urban consumers are, on average, wealthier and therefore purchase more products which are more expensive (such as meat and fish).** They consume a smaller proportion of carbohydrates, care more about quality, and eat out more (including fast food and street food). The spatial concentration of consumers in towns and cities has made it necessary to develop transport, storage and distribution infrastructure for food. Food delivery is one of the main reasons for congestion in towns and cities in developing countries.

Analysis: this specifically answers the claim that urban environments take food from rural communities. Do not use this to generically attack food insecurity cases.

Answer: Urbanization has increased food production

Warrant: Urbanization has encouraged increase investment in agriculture

Meybeck, Alexandre, Elizabeth Laval, Rachel Lévesque, and Geneviève Parent. "Food security and nutrition in the age of climate change." FAO: Rome (2018).
<http://www.fao.org/3/CA1334EN/ca1334en.pdf>

Increased urbanization and the need to feed megacities and provide opportunities for diversification products make it mandatory to take the importance of processing and marketing into account. In this regard, the mobilization of stakeholders in the private sector is particularly encouraging as evidenced by such projects as Coop-Carbone. Similarly, examples provided by the food service industry have much to offer, both in and of themselves and with respect to mobilizing consumers.

Quantification: increases in urbanization have increased food production and agricultural areas

Leopold Ghins, 4-27-2020, "Food production systems in West African towns and cities," Willagri
- Comprendre les enjeux de l'agriculture, <https://www.willagri.com/2020/04/27/food-production-systems-in-west-african-towns-and-cities/?lang=en>

The supply side is evolving too, because of the commercial opportunities offered by urban markets and generally high prices, which are also driving growing investment in the agri-food sector. New towns are appearing in rural zones which are already more densely populated and therefore often have better agricultural potential. This potential stands to be unleashed by the proximity of urban markets. Transport, storage and distribution activities are particularly dynamic in rural zones close to growing cities. Market gardening has seen considerable growth. **In Senegal, the production of fruit and vegetables grew by 140% between 2000 and 2018.** The coastal region of Niayes, which supplies Dakar with fresh produce, is responsible for the majority of this production. Attracted by expectations of profits, a new category of agricultural investors is emerging. They are investing in land, irrigation, seeds, fertilisers and digital technologies. **Their activity is leading to the intensification of farming and higher yields. This phenomenon goes hand-in-hand with growth in land markets and, in certain countries, an**

increase in the average size of farms. In Ghana, the share of farmland occupied by farms greater than 5 Ha in size went from 39 to 56% between 1992 and 2013.

Warrant: Urban agriculture increases food production while decreasing environmental issues

Burak Güneralp Et Al, 12-20-2017, "Urbanization in Africa: challenges and opportunities for conservation," IOP Publishing Ltd,
<https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/aa94fe>

Therefore, valuation of services provided by these ecosystems need to be given due attention in urban development initiatives [55]. The potential value of biodiversity and ecosystem services as foundations for a green infrastructure to meet the demands of urban residents has been showcased in a study on Johannesburg [52]. In this sense, **urban agricultural plots can be used to increase green cover and enrich biodiversity in urban areas while improving food security and overall socio-economic condition of urban residents** [56]. For this to happen though, more attention needs to be given to the extent urban agriculture contributes to enhanced biodiversity in African cities and towns [57, 58], which has been a relatively lesser studied aspect of urban agriculture [59].

Analysis: This provides a powerful turn to refute the pro's argument. As the topic is “on balance” rather than a “should” statement, you can provide your own link generically to prove why urbanization decreases food scarcity.

Answer: Capitalism, not urbanization, is to blame for food insecurity

Ozden, K. and C. Enwere. 2012. “Urbanization and its Political Challenges in Developing Countries” <https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Urbanization-and-its->

Political-Challenges-in-Ozden-
[Enwere/ad61f7c77a63b0a588e43cd43ca13b52b92ed41a?p2df](https://enwere.ad61f7c77a63b0a588e43cd43ca13b52b92ed41a?p2df)

Today, **the widespread shortage of food in Africa is a product of capitalist contradictions evident in the economic management of agriculture and the food system in the urban centres.** Common goods such as water, seeds and land which for centuries have belonged to the communities for the common good of all, have now been privatized converted into exchange currency at the mercy of the highest bidder, thereby deprive the farmers of their land. In most capital cities in Africa, **especially in Nigeria the emerging domestic capitalists introduce a feudalist approach in the management of land and agriculture.** Through the use of state power, **these pseudo capitalists convert the communal lands into private estates, which has adverse consequences on food production in the cities.** For this reason, the food production system in the urban areas are based on a model rooted in a capitalist logic of seeking maximum profit, optimizing of costs, and exploitation of the labour force in each of its productive sectors. **Such capitalist control and exploitation in food production is the catalyst that stimulate either extreme or protracted food crisis in African urban settlement**

Analysis: This response may be a gray area for several debaters in distinguishing if capitalism is separable from urbanization. However, if the con can prove that urbanization is unique from capitalism, that may be an effective strategy to avoid several pro arguments that attack the profit motivations behind urbanization.

A/2: Urbanization increases risk to natural disasters

Answer: Increased rainfall is to blame for flooding

S. Ta, K. Y. Kouadio, K. E. Ali, E. Toualy, A. Aman, F. Yoroba, "West Africa Extreme Rainfall Events and Large-Scale Ocean Surface and Atmospheric Conditions in the Tropical Atlantic", *Advances in Meteorology*, vol. 2016, Article ID 1940456, 14 pages, 2016. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2016/1940456>

Rainfall is one of the most usable weather parameters that allows determining climate variability, particularly in West Africa [1, 2]. Its quantification is a great concern in the tropics as it plays a significant role in hydrological and climate studies. Furthermore, **the social and economic development of West Africa countries is strongly linked to agricultural and water resources** [3]. In the last several decades, alteration of periods with extreme rainfall events with dry conditions has led to a succession of flood/drought years [4]. These extreme events constitute the primary impact of the climate change on society [5] since their frequencies have more impact compared to changes in mean climate [6].

Mitigation: More rain over less time is coming to West Africa

Dunning, Caroline M., Emily Black, and Richard P. Allan. "Later Wet Seasons with More Intense Rainfall over Africa under Future Climate Change", *Journal of Climate* 31, 23 (2018): 9719-9738, accessed Jan 13, 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1175/JCLI-D-18-0102.1>

Over the Horn of Africa rainfall during the “short rains” season is projected to increase by over 100 mm on average by the end of the twenty-first century under the RCP8.5 scenario. Average rainfall per rainy day is projected to increase, while the number of rainy days in the wet season declines in regions of stable or declining rainfall (western and southern Africa) and remains constant in central Africa, where rainfall is projected to increase. Adaptation

strategies should account for shorter wet seasons, increasing rainfall intensity, and decreasing rainfall frequency, which will have implications for crop yields and surface water supplies.

Warrant: Sea level is to blame for floods

Ahmadou Aly Mbaye, 9-20-2019, "Africa's climate crisis, conflict, and migration challenges," Brookings, <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2019/09/20/africas-climate-crisis-conflict-and-migration-challenges/>

West African coastal areas, which have long provided livelihoods for fishermen and tend to be more densely populated, are also under threat. Coastal ecosystems used to provide a range of essential services, including a huge fishery resource. Productive fishery ecosystems (mangroves, deltas and estuaries) are essential to the fishing, agriculture and tourism sectors. **They are being hit by rising sea levels, which triggers floods,** erosion, increased salinity, the disappearance of certain species, and disruption of species' natural migration patterns, and so on. During the twentieth century, **the sea level rose in West Africa, on average by 1.7 mm per year, or 17 cm in 100 years. This trend is quickening, with current estimates projecting around a 30 to 50 cm rise between 1990 and 2100.** Beyond causing major losses in coastal infrastructure, this would also expose many human settlements to the risk of inundation.

Analysis: This is a “correlation not causation” argument. As rainfall and sea level have increased at the same time as urbanization, con teams can say that it’s the rain, not the urbanization, that increased floods.

Answer: Rural communities are equally vulnerable due to their reliance on agriculture

Asare-Kyei D, Renaud FG, Kloos J, Walz Y, Rhyner J (2017) Development and validation of risk profiles of West African rural communities facing multiple natural hazards. PLoS ONE 12(3): e0171921. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0171921>

The study found that exposed elements are directly related to the pattern of flood and drought hazard intensities and consequently are key determinants of vulnerability. **Besides the proximity to hazards, a major driving factor influencing community exposure is the indicator measuring the share of the population engaged in agriculture.** This finding confirms the assertions by Adger et al. [56] and O'Brien et al. [57] that high Agricultural Dependent Population (ADP) means that **a higher percentage of people are exposed to a climate sensitive sector of agriculture.** In the study areas, rain-fed agriculture predominates [13] further aggravating people's exposure to irregular rainfall. **High ADP suggest lack of other employment options and therefore in the event of crop failures, farmers and their dependents have few opportunities to earn additional income** [56,57].

Warrant: Lack of services increases risks of floods in rural communities

Komi, Kossi; Amisigo, Barnabas A.; Diekkrüger, Bernd. 2016. "Integrated Flood Risk Assessment of Rural Communities in the Oti River Basin, West Africa" Hydrology 3, no. 4: 42. <https://www.mdpi.com/2306-5338/3/4/42#cite>

Flood damage in West Africa has increased appreciably during the last two decades. Poor communities are more at risk due to the vulnerability of their livelihoods, especially in rural areas where access to services and infrastructures is limited. The aim of this paper is to identify the main factors that contribute to flood risk of rural communities in the Oti River Basin, Togo. A community-based disaster risk index model is applied. The analyses use primary data collected through questionnaires during fieldwork, the analytic hierarchy process (AHP) method, population and housing census data and flood hazard mapping of the study area. **The results showed a moderate level**

of flood risk despite a high level of hazard and vulnerability for all investigated communities

Analysis: This offers a two world analysis that pushes back against the idea that urbanization is uniquely to blame for floods, rather the same problem is found in rural environments for different reasons. This should be included with strong weighing.

Answer: focus on urban flooding pulls resources from rural flooding

World Bank Independent Evaluation Group, 11-15-2010, "Responding to Floods in West Africa: Lessons from Evaluation," <https://www.alnap.org/help-library/responding-to-floods-in-west-africa-lessons-from-evaluation>

Urban dwellers tend to be more politically powerful and vocal in pursuing emergency allocations, even when the damage is more severe in rural areas and poverty is also concentrated there. Care needs to be taken in Benin and neighboring flood-affected countries 4 **not to over-prioritize attention to the urban areas. It is often the case that the impacts of disaster are uneven, and marginalized groups need special attention.** This arises from differences in income status, culture, gender, location and type of home, and land tenure. A common inequity occurs when the immediate needs of the poor are ignored in the immediate post-disaster period and they have to sell their productive assets, including especially their land to the better-off, as happened following the tsunami in Indonesia, for example. This is less of a problem in rural areas where communal land tenure is still the rule.

Analysis: this could be an interesting link into the idea that the topic/affirmative overemphasize urbanization in their case and may offer an explanation why there is so much focus on urban flooding but not as much focus on rural flooding. While some progressive tournaments may let you expand this into a critique of the topic/pro discourse, it may be easier to just use previous responses to mitigate and weigh.

A/2: Urbanization causes unemployment

Answer: As the urban environment concentrates workers and jobs, urban centers can provide key job opportunities.

Link turn: Urbanization provides job opportunities

Page, John, Jeffrey Gutman, Payce Madden, and Dhruv Gandhi. "Urban Economic Growth in Africa: A Framework for Analyzing Constraints to Agglomeration." (2020).

Urban labor markets expand the range of skills available to employers and facilitate better matching of skills to employers' needs. Workers with skills specialized to a sector will be attracted to areas where employment in the sector is high, relative to the total labor force. The density of employment reduces search costs and provides a measure of insurance against unemployment. Similarly, firms will be attracted to areas where there are a large number of workers with skills relevant to their industry.

Location in a large labor market also makes it easier to find specialized labor, such as designers, engineers, and consultants. Improvements in transport infrastructure and services as well as land use are critical to linking workers to jobs. Roads and transit systems have an important impact on commuting costs and times and strongly influence labor market outcomes. Roads take up only around 10 percent of the land area of several large African cities; in a well-connected, large city this figure is generally closer to 30 percent (Collier and Venables 2017)

Quantification: Urbanization is negatively associated with unemployment

Anyanwu, John C. "Does intra-African trade reduce youth unemployment in Africa?."

African Development Review 26, no. 2 (2014): 286-309.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/1467-8268.12082>

To increase economic growth, African countries must deepen macroeconomic and structural reforms for economic transformation of their economies. Eight, **increasing urbanization rates are found to be negatively and significantly associated with youth unemployment, especially for female youth unemployment. If the urban share of the population increases by one percent, overall youth unemployment rate falls by 1.08 percent while that of female youth falls by a larger level of 1.59 percent**

Analysis: This provides the con with a solid link turn to address pro arguments by addressing the claim of the pro and giving unique warrants

Answer: As people who migrate into urban cities are unemployed when they come, urbanization isn't to blame for unemployment rather unemployment leads to urbanization.

Crankshaw O, Borel-Saladin J. Causes of urbanisation and counter-urbanisation in Zambia: Natural population increase or migration? Urban Studies.

2019;56(10):2005-2020. doi:10.1177/0042098018787964

These results indicate that **economic decline during the 1990s resulted in decreased urban employment and a dramatic rise in urban unemployment, which in turn caused migration from urban to rural areas. Conversely, during the 2000s, absolute employment grew and unemployment decreased, which corresponded with increased rural-urban migration (resulting in net urbanisation)**. Our findings also show that even during the period of net out-migration from urban areas and high urban unemployment levels, the resident urban-born workforce continued to grow strongly through natural increase.

Analysis: this is a traditional alt cause argument that can show that urbanization is a byproduct of unemployment.

Answer: People work in the informal market which is not included in the affirmative's statistics

Raleigh, Clionadh. "Migration, Urbanization, and Political Power in Africa". Climate Change and African Political Stability, July 2013.

https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/166553/research%20brief%20no14_final.pdf

Illegality is best represented by livelihood choice: increasing numbers of urban residents are participating in the workforce in ways that are generally insecure and have lowered returns. **While unemployment is high in developing states, the informal employment market (including day labor) takes in both the young and new migrants. While there is no verifiable information on the extent of this sector, best estimates suggest that over 50% of the urban laborers are employed in informal livelihoods** and are disproportionately young.⁶³ Informal work is 'illegal' and traders face official discrimination.

Analysis: most judges will buy the argument that unemployment leads to urbanization and that urbanization may be able to decrease unemployment especially with the statistic. In addition, smart negatives can primary use non-carded responses as pros throw statistics of unemployment in West Africa at them due to the difficulty in producing causal evidence.

A/2: Urbanization Leads to Health Problems

Answer: urbanization decreases diseases and mortality

Link Turn: Urbanization is associated with declining rates of childhood diseases

Bickler, S. W., Wang, A., Amin, S., Halbach, J., Lizardo, R., Cauvi, D. M., & De Maio, A. (2018). Urbanization in Sub-Saharan Africa: Declining Rates of Chronic and Recurrent Infection and Their Possible Role in the Origins of Non-communicable Diseases. *World journal of surgery*, 42(6), 1617–1628.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00268-017-4389-5>

In summary, **a variety of environmental factors change with urbanization in sub-Saharan Africa, of which declining rates of infectious diseases may be the most prominent. Infection is also a leading cause of childhood deaths in rural areas, and thus is a strong evolutionary force in terms of natural selection.** Chronic and recurrent infection is also intrinsically linked to nutritional status via its effect on the gut (i.e., environmental enteropathy). Underscoring the profound biological differences that exist in children living in the least developed areas, are the poorer outcomes of children with surgical diseases, the proclivity to develop poverty related surgical diseases, and the previously mentioned neurobiological phenotypes

Link Turn: urbanization decreases malaria rates and mortality

Hay, Simon I et al. "Urbanization, malaria transmission and disease burden in Africa." *Nature reviews. Microbiology* vol. 3,1 (2005): 81-90. doi:10.1038/nrmicro1069

We have quantified the extent by which urbanization reduces transmission through an objective categorization of urban populations — a comprehensive meta-analysis of

APfEIR data and have related this to PR markers of endemicity, thereby recalculating Africa's malaria burden in 2000. **These estimates account for urbanization so that the total population at malaria risk has decreased by 2.2% and mortality by 6.7% compared with previous estimates⁸³.** The revised best estimate is for 1,068,505 (IQR 625,500, 1,416,947) malaria deaths in Africa in 2000 (TABLE 3). We have attempted to dispel some 'urban myths' in relation to urbanization and malaria in Africa. **Urbanization has marked entomological, parasitological and behavioural effects on malaria risks, which would in turn have profound consequences on the public-health burden.** Perhaps one of the most striking empirical demonstrations of the temporal impact of urbanization on malaria burden is a reconstruction of a historical, clinical and demographic time-series for Nairobi, Kenya, over thirty years prior to independence (BOX 1).

Link Turn: urbanization has broadly improved health

Jeremy Barofsky, Eyerusalem Siba, and Jonathan Grabinsky, 9-7-2016, "Can rapid urbanization in Africa reduce poverty? Causes, opportunities, and policy recommendations," Brookings, <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2016/09/07/can-rapid-urbanization-in-africa-reduce-poverty-causes-opportunities-and-policy-recommendations/>

Since 2000, a remarkable health transition has transformed mortality in sub-Saharan Africa. **Infant mortality in the region has declined by 40 percent, while the dissemination of antiretroviral therapy reduced HIV-related mortality in the region by 48 percent between 2004 and 2014.** Meanwhile, **malaria control efforts such as distribution of insecticide-treated bed nets, indoor residual spraying, and malaria drug prophylaxis have decreased malaria-related mortality by over 50 percent.** Over the same period, the World Bank estimates **that sub-Saharan Africa's total fertility rate has decreased by 14 percent.** Urban fertility rates in the region are 1-3 children per woman

lower than in rural areas, but still double replacement in eastern and western Africa. Southern Africa and select nations in east Africa exhibit urban fertility rates trending toward replacement, but the fertility transition has progressed slowly overall. In the past, **mortality decline has played an important role in decreasing fertility, as parents adjust their desired fertility to fewer infant deaths. Thus, the recent mortality declines without an equivalent fertility transition have increased city population growth, pressured rural economies, and spurred rural to urban migration.**

Link Turn: urbanization decreases diseases through improvements in services

Sophie Eckert and Stefan Kohler, 1-7-2014, "Urbanization and Health in Developing Countries: A Systematic Review ;," Longwoods Publication,
<https://www.longwoods.com/content/23722/urbanization-and-health-in-developing-countries-a-systematic-review>

Others argue **that infrastructure improvements such as better access to health services, education, sanitation and safe water supply through urbanization improve health** (McDade and Adair 2001). Increased **urbanization has been associated with greater malaria transmission reductions across countries and continents** (Tatem et al. 2013). **Access to information and communications technology, which is not yet widespread but fast-growing in developing countries, may increasingly influence disease prevention and health promotion opportunities in developing countries** (Kohler 2013). However, the prior required increase in access to information and communications technology through urbanization in the developing world is already subject to debate (Chinn and Fairlie 2006, 2010).

Analysis: the con has an easy path to a link turn by explaining the services urbanization provides that reduces diseases and provides for the treatment of diseases. However, smart cons will also point out that it is difficult to count ever person in a rural environment with a

disease, while cities make that quantification easier. Slums can be explained as growing pains before the city offers its full potential. Link turn the argument, mitigate their evidence, then move on.

A/2: Urbanization causes environmental damages

Answer: urbanization is good for the environment

Turn: urbanization can increase conservation

Burak Güneralp Et Al, 12-20-2017, "Urbanization in Africa: challenges and opportunities for conservation," IOP Publishing Ltd,
<https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/aa94fe>

Still, urbanization in Africa, if well managed, can act as a catalyst to move the local, regional, national, and international governance mechanisms in the continent towards more effective conservation of biodiversity. The continent, having several regions with exceptional biodiversity, has much to offer to its urban populations in terms of recreation, a legacy of natural history, and a source of national pride. **Its biodiversity and ecosystems can also serve as foundations for green infrastructure that can meet the needs of burgeoning urban populations while not ravaging these very ecosystems on which both rural and urban livelihoods ultimately depend.**

Warrant: Urbanization reduces air pollutants

Effiong, Ekpeno, 7-31-2016, "Urbanization and Environmental Quality in Africa," Mpra Paper, <https://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/73224/>

Using the STIRPAT model as its analytical framework and the semiparametric panel fixed effects estimator of Baltagi and Li (2002) which mitigates against functional form misspecification, **the paper investigates the impact of and characterized the true relationship between urbanization and two environmental air pollutants, namely carbon emissions and ambient particulate matter (PM10) emissions.** It also considered

the possibility of the Kuznets' hypothesis existing for the urbanization-pollution nexus in Africa. The result indicates that **urbanization has a negative impact on environmental pollution**. In other words, **urbanization supports the improvement in environmental quality by reducing atmospheric air pollutants through economies of scale in the provision of adequate and efficient public infrastructure**. This declining effect is weak in the case of carbon emissions but strong for PM10 emission which is more localized in the context of African countries. On the other hand, the evidence does not support the EKC hypothesis for the urbanization-environment nexus. Following from the empirical evidence, the implication is that urbanization could form part of the solution to the environmental challenges in the African continent. However, in the absence of socio-economic and environmental benefits, higher urbanization will only serve to heighten environmental pollution.

Warrant: two world analysis shows rural areas have the same problems

Shaddick, G., Thomas, M.L., Mudu, P. et al. Half the world's population are exposed to increasing air pollution. *npj Clim Atmos Sci* 3, 23 (2020).
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41612-020-0124-2>

Although there are differences when considering urban and rural areas in North America and Europe, in the vast majority of the world populations living in both urban and rural areas are exposed to levels that are above the AQGs. However, in other regions the story is very different (see Supplementary Information Fig. 7.1 and Supplementary Information Sections 7 and 8), for example **population-weighted concentrations in rural areas** in the Central and Southern Asia (55.5 µg/m³), **Sub-Saharan Africa** (39.1 µg/m³), Western Asia **and Northern Africa** (42.7 µg/m³) and Eastern Asia and South-Eastern Asia (34.3 µg/m³) regions (in 2016) **were all considerably above the AQG**

Answer: other factors and regions are to blame

Mitigation: Europe is to blame for poor air quality

Duncan, B. N., West, J. J., Yoshida, Y., Fiore, A. M., and Ziemke, J. R.: The influence of European pollution on ozone in the Near East and northern Africa, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 8, 2267–2283, <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-8-2267-2008>, 2008.

We present a modeling study of the long-range transport of pollution from Europe, showing that European emissions regularly elevate surface ozone by as much as 20 ppbv in summer in northern Africa and the Near East. European emissions cause 50–150 additional violations per year (i.e. above those that would occur without European pollution) of the European health standard for ozone (8-h average $>120 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ or $\sim 60 \text{ ppbv}$) in northern Africa and the Near East. We estimate that **European ozone pollution is responsible for 50 000 premature mortalities globally each year, of which the majority occurs outside of Europe itself, including 37% (19 000) in northern Africa and the Near East.** Much of the pollution from Europe is exported southward at low altitudes in summer to the Mediterranean Sea, northern Africa and the Near East, regions with favorable photochemical environments for ozone production. Our results suggest that assessments of the human health benefits of reducing ozone precursor emissions in Europe should include effects outside of Europe, and that comprehensive planning to improve air quality in northern Africa and the Near East likely needs to address European emissions.

Answer: external program can assist conservation

USAID, 9-10-2020, "ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE," USAID,
<https://www.usaid.gov/west-africa-regional/environment>

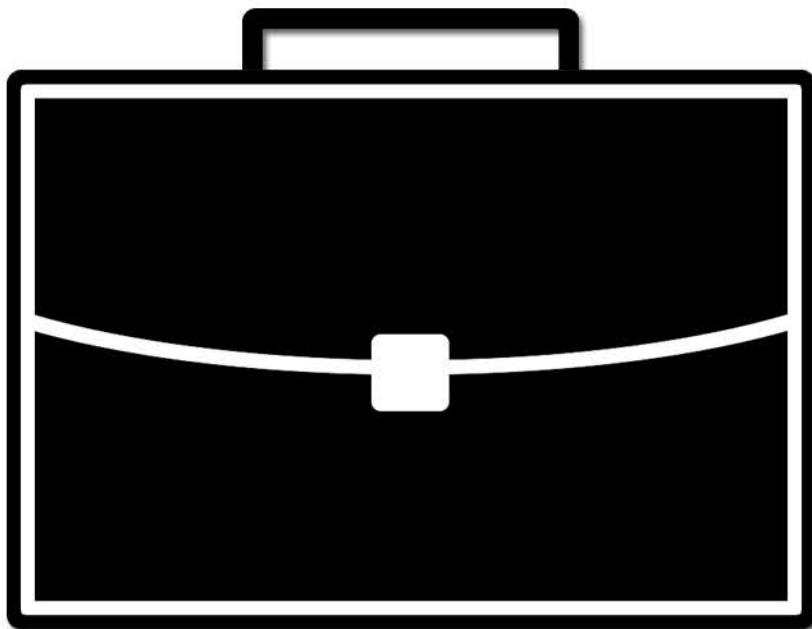
West Africa's natural and human systems are at serious risk from human-caused stresses. Direct drivers of natural resource degradation - conversion of land for agriculture, industrial mining, overharvesting, trafficking of wild animal and plant species, illegal logging, urbanization, and infrastructure development - are visible on the landscapes of West Africa. **To be sustainable, effective, and impactful, natural resource management interventions must address both direct and indirect drivers of degradation, including changes in policy** and enabling environments that produce tangible, on-the-ground results, as well as building capacity at all levels to fight wildlife crime. **Through the West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change Project (WA BiCC), USAID West Africa works to improve conservation and climate-resilient, low emission growth across West Africa.** This project targets geographical areas within the region to improve governance and policy on critical natural and human systems. By working through regional partners, such as ECOWAS and the Mano River Union, and with targeted national and sub-national institutions, this activity increases the capacity of institutions at all levels in order to reduce wildlife trafficking, deforestation and forest degradation, as well as promote climate-resilient growth in coastal areas. SERVIR West Africa([link is external](#)), a USAID-NASA partnership, provides support to institutions across West Africa to use earth observations and geospatial analysis to **1) help improve the region's resilience, 2) ensure that land use management is sustainable, and 3) reduce greenhouse gas emissions.** The program aims to assist governments and other key decision-makers to make more informed decisions and address development challenges in four areas: food security and agriculture; water and hydro-climatic disasters; weather and climate; and land cover, land use change, and ecosystems services.

Analysis: this argument should be easy to straight turn, don't give opponents the advantage of conceding to defense and dropping the argument. Hijack their impact stories and use link turns to get the Debate on your terms.

Champion Briefs

February 2021

Public Forum Brief



Con Arguments

CON: Urbanization leads to neocolonialism

Warrant: Africa is a profitable region which incentivizes countries to invest in them

Wade Shepard, 10-3-2019, "What China Is Really Up To In Africa," Forbes. 3 Oct. 2019.

Web. 7 Jan. 2021.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/wadeshepard/2019/10/03/what-china-is-really-up-to-in-africa/>

Africa has become the fastest urbanizing region of the world, with rural migrants moving into cities at a clip that has even surpassed that of China and India, as the continent becomes one of the final frontiers of the forth industrial revolution. This rapid transition presents big challenges but also offers big rewards for countries willing to risk billions in an infrastructure building revolution unlike anything the world has seen before – and no country has answered Africa's call quite like China. By 2050, Africa's 1.1 billion person population is slated to double, with 80% of this growth happening in cities, bringing the continent's urban headcount up to more than 1.3 billion. The population of Lagos alone is growing by 77 people per hour. According to McKinsey, by 2025 more than 100 cities in Africa will contain over a million people. With this breakneck pace of urbanization comes many unprecedented economic opportunities. The IMF recently declared Africa the world's second-fastest growing region, and many are predicting that it is well on its way to becoming a \$5 trillion economy, as household consumption is expected to increase at a 3.8% yearly clip to \$2.1 trillion by 2025. The attention of the world is now drifting towards Africa, with comparisons to 1990s-era China are no longer coming off as radical projections.

Warrant: China is the most exploitative country currently in Africa

Wade Shepard, 10-3-2019, "What China Is Really Up To In Africa," Forbes. 3 Oct. 2019.

Web. 7 Jan. 2021.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/wadeshepard/2019/10/03/what-china-is-really-up-to-in-africa/>

China has likewise become a central player in Africa's urbanization push, as a huge percentage of the continent's infrastructure initiatives are being driven by Chinese companies and/or backed by Chinese funding. "Right now you could say that **any big project in African cities that is higher than three floors or roads that are longer than three kilometers are most likely being built and engineered by the Chinese.** It is ubiquitous," spoke Daan Roggeveen, the founder of MORE Architecture and author of many works on urbanization in China and Africa.

Warrant: China's Belt and Road has consolidated influence in Africa

Wade Shepard, 10-3-2019, "What China Is Really Up To In Africa," Forbes. 3 Oct. 2019.

Web. 7 Jan. 2021.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/wadeshepard/2019/10/03/what-china-is-really-up-to-in-africa/>

Even before the Belt and Road was formally announced in 2013, China was making major strides into Africa's urban development sphere. When the Communist Party of China first came to power in 1949, it was virtually completely unrecognized by pretty much every other country in the world — most of whom favored the Republic of China, the former government that the Red Army chased away to Taiwan. But China began lobbying Africa extensively, getting the People's Republic recognized one country at a

time. Before long, these political commitments were being repaid in concrete and steel, as China started building railroads, hospitals, universities, and stadiums throughout the continent. However, there were other reasons for China's early partnerships with Africa: **even though the colonial powers were largely gone or on the way out, the continent was still the same stockpile of natural resources it's always been**, and China wasted no time stepping into the power vacuum, laying the political and economic inroads that have given Beijing the advanced position it has there today. **China is now Africa's biggest trade partner, with Sino-African trade topping \$200 billion per year.** According to McKinsey, **over 10,000 Chinese-owned firms are currently operating throughout the African continent, and the value of Chinese business there since 2005 amounts to more than \$2 trillion**, with \$300 billion in investment currently on the table. Africa has also eclipsed Asia as the largest market for China's overseas construction contracts. To keep this momentum building, Beijing recently announced a \$1 billion Belt and Road Africa infrastructure development fund and, in 2018, a whopping \$60 billion African aid package, so expect Africa to continue swaying to the east as economic ties with China become more numerous and robust.

Warrant: Africa's urbanization and China development are linked

Wade Shepard, 10-3-2019, "What China Is Really Up To In Africa," Forbes. 3 Oct. 2019.

Web. 7 Jan. 2021.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/wadeshepard/2019/10/03/what-china-is-really-up-to-in-africa/>

It is precisely this kind of infrastructure-induced economic growth that Africa is looking for right now, and many African leaders are looking to China to bring their experience to their countries. The central players in many of Africa's biggest ticket infrastructure projects — including the \$12 billion Coastal Railway in Nigeria, the \$4.5 billion Addis Ababa–Djibouti Railway, and the \$11 billion megaport and economic zone at Bagamoyo

— are being developed via Chinese partnerships. **Since 2011, China has been the biggest player in Africa's infrastructure boom, claiming a 40% share that continues to rise. Meanwhile**, the shares of other players are falling precipitously: Europe declined from 44% to 34%, while the presence of US contractors fell from 24% to just 6.7%. "The Chinese SOEs they are really taking over the market of infrastructure projects in Africa. It's true to say that everywhere you go in East Africa you see Chinese construction teams," said Zhengli Huang, a research associate at the University of Sheffield who has carried out extensive case studies on urbanization in Nairobi

Impact: Neo-colonialism sets up problematic power dynamics between China and Africa

Mary Madeleine, 12-2-2018, "China in Africa: A Form of Neo-Colonialism?", E-International Relations, <https://www.e-ir.info/2018/12/02/china-in-africa-a-form-of-neo-colonialism/>

Scholars who view China's involvement in Africa as negative have generally described such relations in terms of power asymmetry between the economic giant and the politically vulnerable African governments. Indeed, the concepts of neo-colonialism or neo-imperialism have been often used to describe Chinese interest in Africa. In his critique of the under-theorisation of Sino-African relations, A'Zami (2015, p. 725) exposes the contradictions in the concept of equal partnership propagandised by the CCP (unequal equal). Clearly, such rhetoric contrasts starkly with the power asymmetry between China and African states, calling for attention on the ability of African governments to maintain their sovereignty upon domestic and foreign policies. In this light, Mark Langan (2017) offers a convincing and enlightening analysis of China in Africa through the neo-colonialist approach of Nkrumah. **According to Nkrumah, neo-colonialism can be interpreted as the diminution of African states' sovereignty through asymmetric economic relations and inequitable trade and investment between the parties** (Langan 2017, p. 89)

Analysis: One of the most problematic aspects of African urbanization is the influence that it opens up to other countries to assert influence in African nations. The country who has seized upon that opportunity the most is China. There is lots of literature available about the harms of this “neo-colonialism” and what it could mean in terms of exploitation of African resources. This argument is a bit bigger (in terms of it applying to society and the health of a country’s autonomy rather than individual health) so teams should consider and possibly map out how they plan to weigh against more individual and quantified impacts.

CON: Urbanization leads to Urban Poverty

Argument: Urban insurgencies are also deadly

Warrant: Urban poverty creates problems relating to persistent unemployment

Bridget Tobin. "RURAL POVERTY AND URBAN POVERTY" Tobin Project. 2014.

<https://borgenproject.org/rural-poverty-urban-poverty/>

"Compared to rural villages, there are indeed more job opportunities in urban areas. However, many migrants lack the skillset to take on many jobs, and positions for unskilled laborers fill up quickly. This shortage of jobs leaves new residents without a steady income, which creates a series of new problems in the city. Without an income, the urban poor often find themselves in inadequate housing with poor safety and sanitation. Additionally, health and education packages are limited. Crime and violence are also much more rampant in urban settings than in rural ones, threatening the authority of law enforcement and the peace of mind of city dwellers."

Warrant: Urban conditions can often create poor health outcomes for the poor

Bridget Tobin. "RURAL POVERTY AND URBAN POVERTY" Tobin Project. 2014.

<https://borgenproject.org/rural-poverty-urban-poverty/>

"Health is quite variable throughout rural and urban settings. While the rural poor lack access to urban health care programs, they sometimes benefit from the distance between the country and the city. In the close quarters that characterize city living, it is easy for disease to spread. Additionally, communal resources in cities can actually lead to health problems. According to The Guardian, families usually have their own personal latrine, so if a health problem starts among the family, the latrine can be

closed off and the health risk minimized. However, **in cities where many people on a daily basis use public restrooms, disease can spread rapidly and tracking down the source can be nearly impossible.**"

Analysis: This response is strong because it shows that there are unique disadvantages to urban poverty. Tell the judge that your opponents cannot win off of decreasing rural poverty because urban poverty is bad too.

Argument: Urbanization has not solved the problem of rural poverty

Warrant: Rural poverty is still a persistent problem

Mahmood Hasan Khan. "Rural Poverty in Developing Countries." International Monetary Fund. 2000.

<https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2000/12/khan.htm>

"Finally, sharp drops in growth—resulting from shocks and adjustments—may increase the incidence of poverty; and even when growth resumes, its incidence may not decrease if inequality has been increased by the crisis. **Rural poverty accounts for nearly 63 percent of poverty worldwide, reaching 90 percent in China and Bangladesh and between 65 and 90 percent in sub-Saharan Africa. (Exceptions to this pattern are seen in several Latin American countries in which poverty is concentrated in urban areas).**"

Warrant: Rural poverty still accounts for more poverty than urban poverty

Kala Seetharam Sridhar. "Is Urban Poverty More Challenging than Rural Poverty?", 2015.
SAGE Publications,
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0975425315589159>

"When we examine data on rural and urban poverty rates for different countries of the world data on which are available from the World Bank (in 2010, data from 30 countries were available for rural poverty and for 31 countries on urban poverty), on average, the magnitude of rural poverty was higher (42 per cent in 2010) compared with urban poverty (23 per cent for the same year).¹ Possibly because of this, poverty reduction has almost always referred to rural poverty. While decades of focus on rural poverty programmes, policy and research mean that international aid architecture, NGOs and civil society are well versed in designing and implementing programmes and policies for rural poverty reduction, this is not the case for urban poverty (Banks, Roy & Hulme, 2011)."

Analysis: This argument is persuasive because it shows that the status quo of urbanization has not solved the problem. If rural poverty still exists, urbanization cannot have solved it. At minimum this is a massive impact mitigation

CON: Urbanization leads to violence and tension

Argument: Urban insurgencies are also deadly

Warrant: Urbanization can create tensions between demographic groups

Jennifer Taw, Bruce Hoffman. "The Urbanization of Insurgency" RAND Corporation.

1994. https://www.rand.org/pubs/monograph_reports/MR398.html

"This report evaluates the effects of urbanization and population growth on the conduct of insurgency/counterinsurgency operations and assesses the U.S.'s ability to effectively support foreign nations' counterinsurgency activities. **The report argues that as the dual demographic trends of rapid population growth and urbanization continue to change the face of the developing world, the likelihood of urban insurgency is increasing. It also argues that although urban insurgencies have traditionally been the easiest kind to defeat, that may no longer be the case.**"

Warrant: Urban insurgencies pose different challenges and issues for developing nations than rural insurgencies

Jennifer Taw, Bruce Hoffman. "The Urbanization of Insurgency" RAND Corporation.

1994. https://www.rand.org/pubs/monograph_reports/MR398.html

"Governments, no longer able to simply rely on their urban counterterrorism or rural counterinsurgency strategies, will have to develop a hybrid strategy that prepares them to fight a broad-based insurgency across rural and urban environments. The report concludes that the United States can provide only limited support in these efforts, because it has neither the resources nor the will to become directly involved. The United States must realize that there are factors over which it has no control and

that before committing its support to a counterinsurgency effort, it must determine how much it is willing to spend, how much it can control, how its efforts will be perceived, and the minimum outcome it will accept.”

Analysis: This response is strong because it proves that the impacts of rural insurgency are nonunique. Urban insurgencies are also very real and deadly.

Argument: Urbanization has not solved the problem of insurgency

Warrant: West Africa is in the grips of ongoing insurgencies

Louis Dewast. “How West Africa is under threat from Islamist militants”, 2020. BBC,

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-51061229>

“The Sahel region, a semi-arid stretch of land just south of the Sahara Desert, has been a frontline in the war against Islamist militancy for almost a decade.

However, it is increasingly clear that the problem facing Chad, Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso and Mauritania (known as the G5 Sahel) is not just the presence of armed groups, and that more than military action is urgently needed to address a worsening humanitarian crisis, climate change and development challenges. **The overarching worry is that the crisis could spread further across West Africa.”**

Warrant: There are several vectors of insurgency, creating deep seeded problems.

Louis Dewast. “How West Africa is under threat from Islamist militants”, 2020. BBC,

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-51061229>

“Ethnic tensions and economic rivalries have become mixed up with the Islamist insurgency, with accusations that members of the mainly Muslim Fulani ethnic group are linked to Islamists, which their representatives deny. In addition, expanding deserts and climate change have magnified long-standing conflicts between mainly Fulani herders and pastoralists. All this has led to the creation of ethnic militias on both sides, which have also been responsible for a horrific cycle of tit-for-tat mass killings.”

Analysis: This argument is persuasive because it shows that the status quo of urbanization has not solved the problem. If insurgency still exists, urbanization cannot have solved it.

CON: Urbanization creates political problems

Argument: Urbanization brings many different groups together in a hyper concentrated environment. This can create political tensions and fissures over issues such as resource scarcity and control over local governments.

Warrant: Oversaturation of urban areas creates problems related to the scarcity of resources and needs

“Migration, Urbanization, and Social Adjustment” Wilson Center. 2014.

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/publication/migration-urbanization-and-social-adjustment>

“Migration is the demographic process that links rural to urban areas, generating or spurring the growth of cities. **The resultant urbanization is linked to a variety of policy issues, spanning demographic, economic, and environmental concerns. Growing cities are often seen as the agents of environmental degradation. Urbanization can place stress on the land through sprawl; coincident industrial development may threaten air and water quality. In the eyes of many observers, rapid urbanization is also linked to problems of unemployment and the social adaptation of migrants in their new urban setting.** Cities advertise society's inequalities in income, housing, and other social resources, whether these problems are new or just newly manifest in urban settings.”

Warrant: Migration often requires social adaptation of the migrants

“Migration, Urbanization, and Social Adjustment” Wilson Center. 2014.

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/publication/migration-urbanization-and-social-adjustment>

“The evidence from Ghana indicates that the country's pursuit of structural adjustment has resulted in substantial shifts in regional activity, even as the overall growth of economic activity outpaces other sub-Saharan African nations. In the age-old way this induced movement, directed differentially to some urban areas. **Migration from rural to urban areas generates a series of concerns, including worries about environmental stress and social adaptation of the migrants themselves. Since migration feeds urbanization, and since urban growth is associated with industrial development (pollution) and land consumption, migration is often held culpable in environmental degradation.** Although the link is there, it is not clear how strong that link is. Direct public policies regarding environmental conditions, the underlying infrastructure for transportation, and the national level of income may have much more to say about the amount of insult visited upon the environment than the amount of rural-urban migration per se. As income rises, so does consumption of consumer goods, transportation, and land. These all can lead to more pollution and sprawl in any country. But as the level of income rises so does the demand for a cleaner local environment, and so there is an element of feedback in all of this.”

Warrant: Competition over scarce resources drives conflict

“The risks of rapid urbanization in developing countries” Zurich Insurance Group. 2016.

<https://www.zurich.com/en/knowledge/topics/global-risks/the-risks-of-rapid-urbanization-in-developing-countries>

“However, even when cities are successful, the process of absorbing migrants into urban economies is not necessarily smooth. While moving to a city offers individuals more opportunities to improve their living conditions, the high cost of living and competition for livelihoods can also trap people in poverty. **Rapid and unplanned urbanization can also quickly lead to urban violence and social unrest.** Widening inequalities also tend to be more starkly visible in urban than rural areas. The

combination of inequality, competition for scarce resources such as land, impunity from the law and weak city governance increases the risk of violence and potential breakdowns in law and order. Some cities in developing countries are already extremely dangerous, for example San Pedro Sula in Honduras suffered 169 killings per 100,000 residents in 2011..”

Impact: Urbanization creates spillovers of political instability which can be difficult for governments to handle

“The risks of rapid urbanization in developing countries” Zurich Insurance Group. 2016.

<https://www.zurich.com/en/knowledge/topics/global-risks/the-risks-of-rapid-urbanization-in-developing-countries>

“Urbanization can also create connected and cascading effects. For example, high population density fuels property bubbles while a shortage of affordable housing contributes to social exclusion, with this combination threatening to destabilize the wider economy and increase social instability. Ultimately, urbanization creates opportunities but also exacerbates risks, and the speed at which it is happening challenges our capacity to plan and adapt. This is particularly true in developing economies. For rapid urbanization to provide opportunities to all, carefully considered urban planning and good governance with effective regulatory frameworks are required. The inability of governments to provide appropriate infrastructure and public services is at the core of many urban challenges in developing countries. What is more, as the world continues to urbanize, power will increasingly be concentrated in cities. This power – ranging from economic to social – not only makes cities the center of gravity, but offers greater scope to find practical solutions to the most pressing challenges. Indeed, many observers and organizations are now focusing on cities and the connections between them rather than directing their attention at the national level.”

Analysis: This argument demonstrates that urbanization, while good in theory, can have practical political consequences which short circuit its theoretical benefits. If urbanization results in political problems, governments will not be able to access its supposed benefits.

CON: Urbanization causes brain drain

Argument: Urbanization draws the best and the brightest away from rural areas. This leads to a dearth of specialized talent which in turn creates shortages of essential services such as healthcare.

Warrant: Young people move away from rural areas because of heightened levels of urbanization.

Devon Reeser. "How Rapid Urbanization Threatens Human Populations: Three Effects of a Moving World" Geography Realm. 2014.

<https://www.geographyrealm.com/rapid-urbanization-threatens-human-populations-three-effects-moving-world/>

"A comprehensive study by Ambady Ramachandran and medical colleagues (2008) in India, where urbanization is happening faster than anywhere else in the world, linked urbanization as the direct cause of a 6% increase of diabetes over 6 years as well as a significant rise in heart disease. **What happens to the rural populations left behind as people move? Youth are the ones moving, and they leave their ageing relatives behind. Cities are young – 60% of the global urban population by 2030 will be under 18.**[v] Those who stay in rural areas are mostly older populations. Youth that can leave do, for education and the hope of employment. The UNPD's Aging Profiles (2013) predicts a five percent increase in rural aging populations from 1980 to 2015 (8-13%), with a 25:100 dependency ratio of older people to working people by 2050 (currently 12:100). "

Warrant: Brain drain hurts the older rural people that are left behind as the young people leave for cities

Devon Reeser. "How Rapid Urbanization Threatens Human Populations: Three Effects of a Moving World" Geography Realm. 2014.

<https://www.geographyrealm.com/rapid-urbanization-threatens-human-populations-three-effects-moving-world/>

"What that means is that older populations are increasing and staying in their rural homes, and they do not have adequate support to care for them now or in the future. When youth leave, the educated class leaves – and along with it leadership and a sustainable future for the rural villages and families left behind.."

Warrant: The youth are ultimately hurt as well because they are not integrated into urban life effectively.

Devon Reeser. "How Rapid Urbanization Threatens Human Populations: Three Effects of a Moving World" Geography Realm. 2014.

<https://www.geographyrealm.com/rapid-urbanization-threatens-human-populations-three-effects-moving-world/>

"What is more, there are not nearly enough jobs for all of these youth, creating what scholars coin not only brain drain from rural areas, but also "brain waste". [vi] Talented youth move to cities, receive an education even in many cases, and then cannot find work. About 13% of urban global youth are unemployed, according to the UN-Habitat project. So, not only are they not helping their aging parents and grandparents back home, but they are not producing in their best years. While urbanization is hailed as the modern savior of a growing global populations and its associated strain on the earth's finite resources, and it very well could be, problems resulting from the quick shift in human geography, most notably to the land itself and food production, to health of urban dwellers, and to youth migration and rural culture, need to be considered when hailing urbanization in and of itself a solution."

Impact: The net effect of urban rural migration is to increase the unemployment rate.

Jan K. Brueckner. "Cities in Developing Countries: Fueled by Rural-Urban Migration" UC Irvine. 2014. http://real-faculty.wharton.upenn.edu/wp-content/uploads/~duranton/Duranton_Papers/Handbook/Cities_in_developing_countries_fueled_by_rural_urban_migration_lacking_in_tenure_security_and_short_of_affordable_housing.pdf

"The model generates a potential paradox, namely, that one extra minimum-wage job could induce more than one agricultural worker to migrate to the urban area, hence increasing the unemployment rate. Todaro (1976) asks whether the conditions leading to this paradox hold empirically. To this end, he analyzes developing-country data and estimates rural-urban migration elasticities, finding that their values are in a range where the paradoxical result seems to hold. **Based on this evidence, Todaro (1976) concludes that "there would thus appear to be no strictly urban solution to the urban unemployment problem. Rural development is essential."** Fields (1982) and Schultz (1982), like other migration researchers, incorporate the main insight of Harris and Todaro (1970) by including employment rates at both the origin and destination as determinants of migration along with a host of other variables, finding confirmation of their importance. These papers also reflect the variety of empirical specifications used in migration research, with Fields estimating a linear regression explaining migration flows and Shultz estimating a multinomial logit model."

Analysis: This argument shows that urban development comes at the price of rural development. Because rural poverty is often worse than urban poverty, these people can often afford to be hurt less than their urban counterparts. Use this weighing to provide your judge with a compelling comparative analysis.

CON: Urbanization increases greenhouse gas emissions

Argument: Cities use more fossil fuels than rural areas, which means that more people living in cities will only increase green house gas emissions in the atmosphere.

Warrant: Urban areas account for most of carbon emissions

Churkina, Galina. "The Role of Urbanization in the Global Carbon Cycle." *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, vol. 3, Frontiers, 2016. Frontiers, doi:10.3389/fevo.2015.00144.

Urban areas account for more than 70% of CO₂ emissions from burning fossil fuels.

Urban expansion in tropics is responsible for 5% of the annual emissions from land use change. Here, I show that the effect of urbanization on the global carbon cycle extends beyond these emissions. I quantify the contribution of urbanization to the major carbon fluxes and pools globally and identify gaps crucial for predicting the evolution of the carbon cycle in the future. **Urban residents currently control ~22 (12–40)% of the land carbon uptake (112 PgC/yr) and ~24 (15–39)% of the carbon emissions (117 PgC/year) from land globally.** Urbanization resulted in the creation of new carbon pools on land such as buildings (~6.7 PgC) and landfills (~30 PgC). Together these pools store 1.6 ($\pm 0.3\%$) of the total vegetation and soil carbon pools globally. The creation and maintenance of these new pools has been associated with high emissions of CO₂, which are currently better understood than the processes associated with the dynamics of these pools and accompanying uptake of carbon. Predictions of the future trajectories of the global carbon cycle will require a much better understanding of how urban development affects the carbon cycle over the long term.

Warrant: Urbanization in Asia has already seen an increase in greenhouse gas emissions

Yazdi, Soheila Khoshnevis, and Anahita Golestani Dariani. "CO2 Emissions, Urbanisation and Economic Growth: Evidence from Asian Countries." *Economic Research-Ekonomska Istraživanja*, vol. 32, no. 1, Routledge, Jan. 2019, pp. 510–30. Taylor and Francis+NEJM, doi:10.1080/1331677X.2018.1556107.

With the acceleration of urbanisation, urban areas play a major role in energy consumption and CO2 emissions in Asian countries. The impact of urbanisation on energy use of fossil fuels has unequivocally disturbed and increased the carbon levels in the atmosphere, causing warming. This process leads to global warming and climate change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (I.P.C.C.) report of 2007 reveals that there is a strong link between global average temperature and greenhouse gas (G.H.G.) emissions. For instance, G.H.G. emissions have increased about 1.6% per year, with CO2 emissions from fossil fuels at about 1.9% per year over the last three decades. The I.P.C.C. also reported that the global average temperature is expected to increase between 1.1 and 6.4 °C over the next 100 years. CO2 emissions from energy consumption have increased significantly in newly industrialised countries since the 1990s compared with industrialised countries. The environmental deterioration has reached alarming levels and has raised concerns about global warming and climate change. As a result, understanding of the reasons for environmental degradation and its relationship with economic growth has become increasingly important in recent years. **The effects of economic growth on the environment have become a common area of research among economists. Two parallel literatures on the relationship between economic growth and environmental pollution have emerged.**

Warrant: Urban population growth is projected to increase carbon emissions even more

Live Science Staff and 2010. "Urbanization, Aging Will Affect Greenhouse Gas Emissions." Livescience.Com, <https://www.livescience.com/8772-urbanization-aging-affect-greenhouse-gas-emissions.html>. Accessed 7 Jan. 2021.

As the number of humans already on Earth has resources bursting at the seams, researchers are now finding it's not just population size that impacts the planet's health. The composition of that population and where they live also play huge roles in the release of greenhouse gases. Aging and urbanization, in particular, could significantly affect global emissions of carbon dioxide over the next 40 years, according to new research published this week in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. "By examining the relationship between population dynamics and greenhouse gas emissions, this groundbreaking research increases our understanding of how human behaviors, decisions and lifestyles will determine the path of future climate change," said Sarah Ruth, program director in the National Science Foundation (NSF), which funded the study, along with a European Young Investigator's Award, and the Hewlett Foundation. **By mid-century it is estimated that the global population could rise by more than 3 billion people, with most of that increase occurring in urban areas, the researchers say.**

Impact: Climate change can push millions into poverty

Work Bank Writers. "Climate Change- Understanding Poverty." World Bank, 2020,
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/climatechange/overview>.

Climate change is a threat multiplier, with the potential to push millions into poverty in the coming years and undo hard-won development gains. The threat of climate change remains critical for countries – forcing people to evacuate homes, grapple with food insecurity or the impacts of deforestation and biodiversity loss – even as they also deal with the health and economic impacts of COVID-19. Natural disasters cost about \$18 billion a year in low- and middle-income countries through damage to power generation and transport infrastructure alone. They also trigger wider disruptions for households and firms costing at least \$390 billion a year. The most vulnerable countries

are at particularly high risk of seeing their existing health systems overloaded or wiped out; having emergency funds depleted and replenishment more challenging in a constrained fiscal space; and, facing rising economic vulnerabilities of people and communities.

Analysis: This is a good argument because the impact is gigantic and easily weighable on scope and magnitude. Global warming not only affects cities in Africa, but every person who lives on earth by reducing access to food supplies and making areas of land uninhabitable. This means it will be easy to outweigh any pro argument that only pertains to West African cities themselves.

CON: Urbanization increases deforestation

Argument: In order to make room for more cities, forests must be destroyed, which harms the environment and everyone in the area.

Warrant: Urbanization destroys farm land

Groumellon, Gaele. How Urban Consumption Lies at the Root of Deforestation |

Greenbiz. 29 July 2016, <https://www.greenbiz.com/article/how-urban-consumption-lies-root-deforestation>.

Even in relatively highly productive European agriculture, it takes an estimated 3.2 square feet of farmland to produce 2.2 edible pounds of vegetables, but 78.5 for chicken, 95.8 for pork and 225 for beef. A second, and likely lesser, factor **linking urban growth to deforestation is that cities are often expanding into areas of farmland and natural habitat, including forests. Cities worldwide are growing by 1.4 million new inhabitants every week. Urban land area is expanding, on average, twice as fast as urban populations. The area covered by urban zones is projected to expand by more than 740,000 square miles between 2000 and 2030.** "Ironically, even as urban expansion drives forest clearance for agriculture, it simultaneously consumes existing farmland," writes Prugh. **"By one estimate, urbanization may cause the loss of up to [7.4 million acres] of prime agricultural land each year."** "The impact of urban expansion can, in principle, be attenuated by focusing on proven methods of shaping urban form to emphasize compact development and higher densities," writes Prugh. Reducing consumption, however, is more complicated.

Warrant: The largest driver of deforestation is urbanization and trade

Jones, Tristan. "Urbanization, Deforestation, Reforestation." State of the Planet, 11 Feb. 2010, <https://blogs.ei.columbia.edu/2010/02/11/urbanization-deforestation-reforestation/>.

But in a new study published in Nature Geoscience by scientists at Columbia's E3B department, researchers found that deforestation is now driven largely by urbanization and trade. As lead author Ruth Defries explained: "The main drivers of tropical deforestation have shifted from small-scale landholders to domestic and international markets that are distant from the forests." An extensive analysis of satellite, demographic, and economic data found strong and significant correlations between urban growth, agricultural exports, and deforestation. The authors invoked two primary reasons: as there are fewer persons farming the land, more mechanized, or industrial, agriculture takes its place. **Additionally, as more people move to the city — where incomes and rates of consumption are generally higher — more pressure is put onto forests to produce more animal and processed food products, which require more clearing.** Some non-food agricultural items, like sugarcane or palm oil plantations grown for biofuels which are frequently geared for international markets, significantly increase pressures on forest areas, as demand for those products in developed countries grows.

Warrant: Urbanization is empirically correlated with deforestation

Asin, Dan. "Urbanization and Deforestation." New Security Beat, 5 Mar. 2010, <https://www.newsecuritybeat.org/2010/03/urbanization-and-deforestation/>.

The journal Nature Geoscience recently published a study comparing the impacts of rural and urban population growth on deforestation. "Deforestation Driven by Urban Population Growth and Agricultural Trade in the Twenty-First Century" finds deforestation is positively correlated with urban population growth and agricultural

exports to international markets. In rural areas, however, the link between deforestation and population growth was absent, indicating that urbanization and agricultural export-oriented economies were the primary drivers for forest loss. The study concludes that, rather than focusing on the activities of rural populations, deforestation reduction efforts should target “industrial-scale, export-oriented agricultural production, concomitant with efforts to increase yields in non-forested lands.” “The Population, Agriculture, and Environment Nexus in Latin America: Country-Level Evidence from the Latter Half of the Twentieth Century,” a study published in the journal *Population & Environment*, examines the relationship between land use and population shifts in Latin America between 1961 and 2001. The paper focuses on deforestation, which was found to be spurred by both Malthusian and Boserupian demographic drivers. **It concludes that population growth, urban consumption patterns, and land-use constraints will continue to pose challenges for Latin American policymakers trying to achieve a sustainable equilibrium.**

Impact: Deforestation is responsible for 10 percent of global warming

Union of Concerned Scientists Staff. Tropical Deforestation and Global Warming | Union of Concerned Scientists. 27 July 2008,
<https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/tropical-deforestation-and-global-warming>.

When trees are cut down and burned or allowed to rot, their stored carbon is released into the air as carbon dioxide. And this is how deforestation and forest degradation contribute to global warming. According to the best current estimate, deforestation is responsible for about 10 percent of all global warming emissions. (Where did that 10 percent figure come from?) Why does deforestation occur? Forests are cleared to make way for any of a long list of agricultural products and other human activities. But UCS analysis shows that a majority of tropical deforestation occurring today can be traced to just four globally traded commodities: beef, soybeans, palm oil, and wood products.

Analysis: This is a good argument because it is more long term than most economic impacts that the pro might raise. Even if it is true that cities create more jobs for people, this will not matter if the land becomes uninhabitable due to a loss of biodiversity and a lack of food. This means that this argument can outweigh on timeframe and reversibility.

CON: Urbanization pollutes water supplies

Argument: Cities pollute water supplies with industrial waste, which makes it more difficult for people to find clean water to survive.

Warrant: Cities increase the number of people who rely on a given water supply

US EPA. "Why Urban Waters?" US EPA, 25 Feb. 2013,
<https://www.epa.gov/urbanwaters/why-urban-waters>.

Cities share one key characteristic: they're full of people, buildings and businesses. Because everyone shares the same relative space, air and water, environmental impacts are concentrated in smaller areas, including waterways. Urban waters take on large amounts of pollution from a variety of sources, including industrial discharges, mobile sources (e.g., cars/trucks), residential/commercial wastewater, trash and polluted stormwater runoff from urban landscapes. As urban populations often share centralized water sources, this pollution creates public and environmental health hazards like lowered drinking water quality and water bodies that aren't safe to swim in. Also, urban patterns of development often make waterways inaccessible to adjacent neighborhoods. Lack of access limits a community's ability to reap the benefits of living so close to the water, whether through recreation, fishing or access to real estate.

Warrant: Urbanization disrupts the water cycle

United States Geological Survey. Urbanization and Water Quality. 2019,
https://www.usgs.gov/special-topic/water-science-school/science/urbanization-and-water-quality?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects.

Urbanization is finished by the addition of more roads, houses, and commercial and industrial buildings. More wastewater is discharged into local streams. **New water-supply and distribution systems are built to supply the growing population. Reservoirs may be built to supply water. Some stream channels are changed to accommodate building construction.** Industries might drill some deep, large-capacity wells. Effect on Water System: **More pavement means less water will soak into the ground, meaning that the underground water table will have less water to recharge it. This will lower the water table. Some existing wells will not be deep enough to get water and might run dry. The runoff from the increased pavement goes into storm sewers, which then goes into streams. This runoff, which used to soak into the ground, now goes into streams, causing flooding. Changing a stream channel can cause flooding and erosion along the stream banks. More sewage is discharged into streams that weren't "designed by nature" to handle that much water.** The use of too many large wells can lower the underground water table. This can cause other wells to run dry, can cause saltwater to be drawn into drinking-water wells, and can cause land that was formerly "held up" by underground water to subside, resulting in sinkholes and land subsidence.

Warrant: Urban areas lack sufficient sanitation services and infrastructure

UN-Water. "Urbanization." UN, 2017, <https://www.unwater.org/water-facts/urbanization/>.

For the first time in history, more than half of the global population live in towns and cities. By 2050, that proportion is expected to rise to two-thirds. Population growth is happening fastest in urban areas of less developed regions, with the urban population estimated to grow from 3.9 billion people today to 6.3 billion in 2050 **Even though water and sanitation access rates are generally higher in urban areas than rural, planning and infrastructure have been unable to keep pace in many regions. Today, 700 million urbanites live without improved sanitation, contributing to poor health**

conditions and heavy pollution loads in wastewater, and 156 million live without improved water sources.

Impact: Billions of people lack access to clean water

WHO. 1 in 3 People Globally Do Not Have Access to Safe Drinking Water – UNICEF,

WHO. 18 June 2019, <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/18-06-2019-1-in-3-people-globally-do-not-have-access-to-safe-drinking-water-unicef-who>.

Billions of people around the world are continuing to suffer from poor access to water, sanitation and hygiene, according to a new report by UNICEF and the World Health Organization. Some 2.2 billion people around the world do not have safely managed* drinking water services, 4.2 billion people do not have safely managed sanitation services, and 3 billion lack basic handwashing facilities.** The Joint Monitoring Programme report, Progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene: 2000-2017: Special focus on inequalities finds that, while significant progress has been made toward achieving universal access to basic water, sanitation and hygiene, there are huge gaps in the quality of services provided. “Mere access is not enough. If the water isn’t clean, isn’t safe to drink or is far away, and if toilet access is unsafe or limited, then we’re not delivering for the world’s children,” said Kelly Ann Naylor, Associate Director of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, UNICEF. **“Children and their families in poor and rural communities are most at risk of being left behind. Governments must invest in their communities if we are going to bridge these economic and geographic divides and deliver this essential human right.”**

Analysis: This is a good argument because the impact is very easy to weigh on reversibility and scope. Polluting and contaminating water supplies can have irreversible effects on the environment, which will mean that it is impossible to get clean water in that area ever again.

This affects not just people in the cities, like many pro arguments, but anyone in the area that depends on water near cities.

CON: Urbanization increases rural poverty

Argument: Urbanization leaves rural areas worse off by taking away their best workers and finding places to buy food elsewhere.

Warrant: Large cities can buy food from other nations, making them buy less from local farms

Lee, John. "Has Rising Urbanisation around the World Increased Poverty Rates?" The Yale Tribune, 2 Sept. 2017, <https://campuspress.yale.edu/tribune/has-rising-urbanisation-around-the-world-increased-poverty-rates/>.

Urban cities thrived on the labour, food and surplus resources that rural regions provided, leading to their rapid growth of mega-cities with booming industries and affluence. World trade markets are today hugely interconnected in a global food supply chain, meaning that cities no longer dependent on the their neighbouring rural population for food and resources. Resource-exporting countries are thus urbanising without acquiring the industrial sectors that we typically associate with development. **Ultimately, urbanization creates opportunities but also increases risks, and the speed at which it is happening challenges our capacity to plan and adapt.** This is particularly true in developing economies. Urbanization can also create cascading effects such as high population density fuelling property bubbles. One consequence of increasing urban poverty is unplanned urban expansion, caused by lack of affordable housing, planning and infrastructure.

Warrant: Urbanization creates rural brain drain

Reeser, Devon. "How Rapid Urbanization Threatens Human Populations: Three Effects of a Moving World." Geography Realm, 14 Dec. 2014,

[https://www.geographyrealm.com/rapid-urbanization-threatens-human-populations-three-effects-moving-world/.](https://www.geographyrealm.com/rapid-urbanization-threatens-human-populations-three-effects-moving-world/)

What happens to the rural populations left behind as people move? Youth are the ones moving, and they leave their ageing relatives behind. Cities are young – 60% of the global urban population by 2030 will be under 18.[v] Those who stay in rural areas are mostly older populations. Youth that can leave do, for education and the hope of employment. The UNPD's Aging Profiles (2013) predicts a five percent increase in rural aging populations from 1980 to 2015 (8-13%), with a 25:100 dependency ratio of older people to working people by 2050 (currently 12:100). **What that means is that older populations are increasing and staying in their rural homes, and they do not have adequate support to care for them now or in the future. When youth leave, the educated class leaves – and along with it leadership and a sustainable future for the rural villages and families left behind. What is more, there are not nearly enough jobs for all of these youth, creating what scholars coin not only brain drain from rural areas, but also “brain waste”.** [vi] Talented youth move to cities, receive an education even in many cases, and then cannot find work. About 13% of urban global youth are unemployed, according to the UN-Habitat project. So, not only are they not helping their aging parents and grandparents back home, but they are not producing in their best years.

Warrant: Rural brain drain has been detrimental in America

Artz, Georgeanne. Rural Area Brain Drain: Is It a Reality? American Agricultural Economics Association, 15 Dec. 2003, <https://www.choicesmagazine.org/2003-4/2003-4-03.htm>.

Brain drain, the out-migration of young, college-educated workers from the nation's rural areas, poses a serious threat to the social and economic vitality of rural America.

Anecdotal accounts from the Midwest to Maine describe an exodus of young college graduates, lured away by big-city living and better-paying jobs. Yet, nationwide the number of college graduates has steadily increased over the past few decades. In fact, between 1970 and 2000, the share of the population over age 25 with a college education rose in every US county but five. The rising level of human capital, reflected in the increased share of the US population with a college education, is an important trend. Recent studies have shown that capital and skilled labor are complements, so as advances in technology reduce the cost of capital, the demand for skilled workers increases. Other research suggests that the clustering of college-educated workers may have spillover effects, enhancing a region's productivity and the potential for economic growth. **The trend has also implications for income inequality, because the wage gap between those with a college degree and those without is widening.**

Impact: Most of the world's poor live in rural areas

Khan, Mamood. Economic Issues No. 26--Rural Poverty in Developing Countries:

Implications for Public Policy. Mar. 2001,

<https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/issues/issues26/>.

Rural poverty accounts for nearly 63 percent of poverty worldwide, reaching 90 percent in some countries like Bangladesh and between 65 and 90 percent in sub-Saharan Africa. (Exceptions to this pattern are several Latin American countries in which poverty is concentrated in urban areas.) **In almost all countries, the conditions—in terms of personal consumption and access to education, health care, potable water and sanitation, housing, transport, and communications—faced by the rural poor are far worse than those faced by the urban poor.** Persistently high levels of rural poverty, with or without overall economic growth, have contributed to rapid population growth and migration to urban areas. In fact, much urban poverty is created by the rural poor's efforts to get out of poverty by moving to cities. Distorted government policies, such as

penalizing the agriculture sector and neglecting rural (social and physical) infrastructure, have been major contributors to both rural and urban poverty.

Analysis: This is a good argument because while it is true that the pro team can argue that lives in cities are much better than lives in rural areas, for people who remain in rural areas, their life becomes significantly worse. This is a good opportunity to weigh using magnitude. Even if more people live in cities, the better life they get is only marginally better, while people in rural areas wind up significantly worse off.

CON: Urbanization increases inequality

Argument: Urbanization increases inequality because it centralizes jobs in cities, which are expensive to live in. This means that only people who already have a certain degree of wealth get access to new economic opportunities.

Warrant: Cities host economic opportunities that attract the rich and the poor to one place

Behrens, Kristian. "Do Cities Widen the Gap between Rich and Poor?" World Economic Forum, 24 July 2014, <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2014/07/cities-urbanization-rich-poor-inequality/>.

First, large cities may differ systematically in their industrial structure and the functions they perform. Large cities host, for example, more business services and the higher-order functions of finance and research and development (R&D), whereas small and medium-size cities host larger shares of lower-order services and manufacturing. Consequently, larger cities are more skilled. However, industry composition explains only about one-fifth of the observed skill variation across cities (Hendricks 2011). Furthermore, that variation cannot fully account for observed income inequality. **Second, large cities attract a disproportionate fraction of households at the bottom and at the top of the income distribution** (Eeckhout et al 2014). Central cities of US MSAs attract, for example, poor households because they offer better access to public transportation (Glaeser et al. 2008). Large cities also attract rich households because they reward their skills more highly than smaller cities – a “superstar effect” in “superstar cities” (Behrens et al. 2014, Gyourko et al. 2013, Rosen 1981).

Warrant: Cities are more unequal than the rest of the country on average

Behrens, Kristian. "Do Cities Widen the Gap between Rich and Poor?" World Economic Forum, 24 July 2014, <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2014/07/cities-urbanization-rich-poor-inequality/>.

Large cities are more unequal than the nations that host them. For example, income inequality in the New York Metro Area (MSA) is considerably higher than the US average and similar to that of Rwanda or Costa Rica. Large cities are also more unequal than smaller towns. Figure 1 plots the relationship between population size and the Gini index of income inequality for a 2007 cross-section of US MSAs (solid line). The relationship is clearly positive. This holds true even when considering that large cities host more educated people on average (dashed line); income inequality cannot be entirely explained by higher educational attainment in large cities.

Warrant: Cities empirically have higher inequality

United Nations Staff Writer. Urbanization: Expanding Opportunities, but Deeper Divides | UN DESA | United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. 21 Feb. 2020, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/social/urbanization-expanding-opportunities-but-deeper-divides.html>.

Like some other megatrends, urbanization has the potential to become a positive transformative force for every aspect of sustainable development, including the reduction of inequality. When properly planned and managed, urbanization can reduce poverty and inequality by improving employment opportunities and quality of life, including through better education and health. **But when poorly planned, urbanization can lead to congestion, higher crime rates, pollution, increased levels of inequality and social exclusion. Inequality within cities has economic, spatial and social dimensions.** Economically, inequality is generally greater in urban than in rural areas: the Gini coefficient of income inequality is higher in urban areas than in rural areas in 36 out of

42 countries with data. Larger cities are generally richer but more unequal than smaller cities. **The opportunities that cities bring are unevenly distributed in space, preventing entire neighbourhoods and groups of population from accessing proper health care, good schools, sanitation, piped water, employment opportunities and adequate housing among others.** Slums are the most notable extreme of the spatial concentration of urban poverty and disadvantage.

Impact: Inequality creates poverty traps

Rohwerder, Brigitte. "The Impact of Inequality." GSDRC, June 2016,
<https://gsdrc.org/topic-guides/poverty-and-inequality/understanding-and-addressing-extreme-poverty-and-inequality/the-Impact-of-inequality/>.

There is a lot of overlap between those affected by poverty and those negatively affected by inequality. **Lack of political power can be both the cause and result of these inequalities** (UNDESA, 2013). It is important to recognise and address these group inequalities because they make up a large part of overall and persistent inequalities within countries (UNDESA, 2013). **Research by the UN Secretariat's Division for Social Policy and Development (2013) suggests that income inequality leads to uneven access to health and education. This is particularly the case for children (Ortiz & Cummins, 2011).** This in turn leads to 'the intergenerational transmission of unequal economic and social opportunities, creating poverty traps, wasting human potential, and resulting in less dynamic, less creative societies' (UNDESA, 2013, p. 22).

Inequalities can also have a negative impact on almost all in society. Evidence gathered by Wilkinson and Pickett (2009) shows that more unequal societies experience more social and environmental problems across the whole population than more equal societies.

Analysis: This is a good argument because even if the pro can prove that there are more jobs and thus economic growth from urbanization, this does not mean that there will actually be a reduction in poverty. These benefits will only be enjoyed by those who are already rich. This means that you can set yourself up to easily outweigh the most common pro arguments.

CON: Urbanization leads to food insecurity

Argument: Urbanization reduces the amount of stable food people have access to.

Warrant: Urban areas often take farmland

McGregor, Duncan FM, Andrew Adam-Bradford, Donald A. Thompson, and David Simon.

"Resource management and agriculture in the periurban interface of Kumasi, Ghana: Problems and prospects." Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography 32, no. 3 (2011): 382-398. http://urban-agriculture-europe.org/files/adam-bradford_2011_resource_management_and_agriculture_in_peri-urban_interface.pdf

The periurban interface of cities in developing country contexts has received growing attention in recent years (e.g. Simon et al., 2004; Lynch, 2005; McGregor et al., 2006; Tacoli, 2006; DST, 2008), and was the focus of significant research effort by the UK Department for International Development's (DFID) Natural Resources Systems Programme from 1995 to **2006**. **Principal among effects of rapid urbanization has been conflict over land use in the periurban interface, between traditional forms of agriculture and the ever growing demand for housing and commercial premises. Loss of land for building has frequently marginalized periurban farmers, whose livelihoods are often prejudiced by insecure tenure. Short-term planning in this pressurized environment typically leads to agricultural intensification on remaining accessible land and insufficient attention to declining soil status. Significant challenges have emerged in terms of access to land, soil ameliorants, water and water quality (increasingly polluted by periurban waste, urban waste disposal and industrial activities)** (Douglas, 2006).

Warrant: Urban areas take food from rural ones

Agnes Andersson Djurfeldt, Urbanization and linkages to smallholder farming in sub-Saharan Africa: Implications for food security, Global Food Security, Volume 4, 2015, Pages 1-7,

ISSN 2211-9124, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gfs.2014.08.002>.

(<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2211912414000303>)

For rural household members, effects of food transfers on the food security for remitting households have been shown to be predominantly negative. Using data from nine African countries, Andersson Djurfeldt (2014) shows that roughly **40% of smallholder households transferred maize to relatives either in rural or urban areas, with the share of remitting households varying with the level of urbanization in the countries.** The effect of transfers on the food security of the rural household was the most severe among the lowest income quintile. **Only in the top income quintile did transfers not compromise the food security of the sending household.** Food transfers could be reciprocated through cash remittances from urban relatives, but this was not the case, and there is little evidence of this relationship in the literature, despite its intuitive logic. The same data set shows that cash remittances on average comprised only 4.2% of cash income for households that reported earning any cash income (Djurfeldt et al., 2011).

Warrant: Food production has not met urban population demands

Ekpenyong, Alfred S. "Urbanization: Its Implication for Sustainable Food Security, Health and Nutritional Nexus in Developing Economies-A Case Study of Nigeria." *Journal of Studies in Social Sciences* 11, no. 1 (2015).

<https://www.infinitypress.info/index.php/jsss/article/view/569>

The dramatic effects of rapid urbanization on food security in Nigeria are very clear in the cities and peri-urban areas. Food production, no-doubt has been on the increase, the pace however, has not been proportionate to the rapid urban population growth. The consequence is that **more urban Nigerians live below the poverty line and are food insecure.** These have attendant implications on health status of many Nigerians with high prevalence of under-nutrition and malnutrition.

Warrant: reliance on purchased food increases food insecurity

Ekpenyong, Alfred S. "Urbanization: Its Implication for Sustainable Food Security, Health and Nutritional Nexus in Developing Economies-A Case Study of Nigeria." *Journal of Studies in Social Sciences* 11, no. 1 (2015).

<https://www.infinitypress.info/index.php/jsss/article/view/569>

The population of the developing countries including Nigeria, is becoming increasingly urbanized as a result of both natural increase and rural-urban migration. The percent of urban residents in Nigeria as in other developing economies has risen rapidly in recent years. This rapid increase in urbanization poses new and different challenges for food security in the country. Reliance on purchased food is a leading factor in household food insecurity of poor urban populations, who lacked a fixed income. Inspite of the availability of a wider variety of food, the food consumed in urban areas is not necessary of superior nutritional quality and food safety is a growing concern in many urban environments.

Impact: food insecurity is a major challenge in Africa

Isaac B Oluwatayo, March 2018, "(PDF) Food Insecurity and the Rising Urbanisation in Africa: Can ICT Revolution Bridge the GAP?," ResearchGate,
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/323791749 Food Insecurity and the Rising Urbanisation in Africa Can ICT Revolution Bridge the GAP](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/323791749_Food_Insecurity_and_the_Rising_Urbanisation_in_Africa_CanICT_Revolution_Bridge_the_GAP)

Abstract: **The task of reducing food insecurity in Africa is very challenging.** This is because of the changing conditions such as adverse climate change impacts. This study examined food insecurity, urbanization and ICT in Africa. The paper employed a combination of both secondary and historical information obtained from different sources (UNHCR, FAO, Mo Ibrahim Foundation etc). Analytical method used include descriptive statistics such as charts. **Food security indices in Africa is alarming and disturbing. One in four people in Africa do not have**

access to food in adequate quantities and one in five African children are underweight. African agriculture is rendered unattractive by low productivity hence the exodus of labour from rural to urban areas.

Impact: 43 million people in West Africa need food assistance

Emmanuel Akinwotu, 5-15-2020, "West Africa facing food crisis as coronavirus spreads,"
Guardian, <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2020/may/15/west-africa-facing-food-crisis-as-coronavirus-spreads>

More than 43 million people in west Africa are likely to be in urgent need of food assistance in the coming months – double the initial estimates – as the Covid-19 outbreak accelerates, the World Food Programme has said. **Food insecurity could also double this year to affect 265 million people across the continent; west Africa**, where the outbreak of the virus is most severe, is of increasing concern. The region faces the three-pronged threat of surging jihadi attacks across the Sahel and Lake Chad area, climate change harming vital food supply chains, and now the pandemic. **The WFP had estimated a 70% rise in food insecurity to 21 million people in west Africa this year before the outbreak, but now anticipates a further 22 million becoming reliant on food aid by August, unless major steps are taken.**

Analysis: food insecurity offers clear offense for the pro that judges are likely familiar with. The weighing is also good in scope to drive the issue home. In order to avoid generic turns, teams should specify a warrant for food insecurity (soil, sprawl, etc.).

CON: Urbanization increases risk to natural disasters

Argument: Urbanization increases the risk of people to natural disasters

Warrant: Urbanization increases flood risk

Douglas, Ian, Kurshid Alam, Maryanne Maghenda, Yasmin McDonnell, Louise McLean, and Jack Campbell. "Unjust waters: climate change, flooding and the urban poor in Africa." Environment and urbanization 20, no. 1 (2008): 187-205.
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0956247808089156>

Flooding in urban areas is not just related to heavy rainfall and extreme climatic events; it is also related to changes in the built-up areas themselves. **Urbanization restricts where floodwaters can go by covering large parts of the ground with roofs, roads and pavements, thus obstructing natural channels, and by building drains that ensure that water moves to rivers more rapidly than it did under natural conditions. Large-scale urbanization and population increases have led to large numbers of people, especially the poor, settling and living in floodplains in and around urban areas.** In South Africa, for instance, Soweto-on-Sea near Port Elizabeth and Alexandra in Johannesburg illustrate this point.(4) **As people crowd into African cities, human impacts on urban land surfaces and drainage intensify. Even moderate storms now produce quite high flows in rivers because of surface runoff from hard surfaces and drains.** Water flowing through a series of culverts and concrete channels cannot adjust to changes in the frequency of heavy rain, as natural streams do. They are often obstructed by silt and urban debris, particularly when houses are built close to the channels. Such situations frequently arise when poor people build on low-lying floodplains, over swamps or above the tidewater level on the coast.(5) The effects of climate change are superimposed on these people-driven local land surface modifications.

Warrant: Poor governance increases flood risk

Salami, Rafiu O et al. "Urban settlements' vulnerability to flood risks in African cities: A conceptual framework." *Jamba* (Potchefstroom, South Africa) vol. 9,1 370. 27 Feb. 2017, doi:10.4102/jamba.v9i1.370

Most cities and urban centres in Africa are regarded as flood disaster risk hotspots (Baker 2012) because of rapid urbanisation, human activities and their vulnerability to the impacts of multiple hazards (Adelekan et al. 2015; Pelling & Wisner 2012; Vojinović 2015). These cities are increasingly overstretched to cater for high-density populations with inadequate infrastructure and basic services. Given the high percentage of informal settlements with corresponding substandard houses, inadequate protection of assets and development of unhealthy urban growth in African cities, flood mortality may continue to rise. Meanwhile, most urban residents have less capacity and few resources to mitigate or recover from shocks. In order to reduce the flood disaster risk and increase resilience, there is a need to develop an effective flood vulnerability assessment framework for deeper understanding of dominant root causes of flood hazards.

Quantification: Poor urbanization is the second largest cause of floods (the first is rainfall)

ASIEDU, Joel Bernard. "REVIEWING THE ARGUMENT ON FLOODS IN URBAN AREAS: A LOOK AT THE CAUSES." *Theoretical and Empirical Researches in Urban Management* 15, no. 1 (2020): 24-41. Accessed January 13, 2021. Doi:10.2307/26868293.

Causes of Floods - The **45 literature sources reviewed identified 24 factors which causes floods**, out of which 12 scored more than 10%. The frequency of occurrence of these causes in the 45 literature sources is summarized in Figure 2. **Among the causes of floods, heavy rains were the most frequently cited, representing 62%. Increased imperviousness caused by urbanization came next with 40%** followed by inadequate or poor drains 33%, poor waste management which led to blockage of drains 31%, unplanned and haphazard development

24%. Luck of drainage facilities was the least cited as a cause of floods (2%). Climate change was considered by only 9% of the literature sources as a direct cause of floods.

Impact: Flooding brings death and displacement

Kingsley Ighobor, no date given, "Floods: Stemming the tide in West Africa," Africa Renewal,
<https://www.un.org/africarenewal/web-features/floods-stemming-tide-west-africa>

Every year **West African citizens experience heavy downpours, which often result in flooding. The floods in turn bring death, destruction to property and crops and outbreaks of disease.** In 2012, the situation worsened dramatically. And the United Nations warns that climate change, **increasing urbanization and population growth will further exacerbate the impact of floods in the future.** In Nigeria, 363 people died by the end of October in the worst flooding in that country in 50 years. Some 2 million people were displaced and 618,000 houses were destroyed. In neighbouring Niger, floods killed 65 people and 125,000 others were rendered homeless. Deaths and destruction were reported in Senegal and other West African countries as well. According to the World Meteorological Organization total rainfall in 2012 was 150 per cent above normal levels in Mali, Senegal, northern Burkina Faso and the Lake Chad basin countries of Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon. Rheat Drisdalle of Plan International, a children's development organization, says that the floods burst the banks of the Niger River, which reached levels "not seen since the 1920s." To their credit, soon after the flooding began, authorities in West Africa promptly made appeals and led relief efforts. To supplement the efforts of local and international relief agencies, **the Nigerian government allocated \$110 million out of its own resources, while that of Niger delivered 1,400 tonnes of food supplies.** Observers commended those efforts, but criticized the poor state of flood preparedness.

Impact: There is an upward trend of deaths due to natural disasters

Ouikotan, R. B., J. Vand Der Kwast, Aa Mynett, and Ab Afouda. "Gaps and challenges of flood risk management in west African coastal cities." In Proceedings of the XVI World Water Congress, Cancun Quintana Roo. 2017.

https://iwra.org/member/congress/resource/ABSID329_ABSID329_full_paper.pdf

Flood in West Africa is a growing issue. According to the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters, **the number of disaster flood events has evolved during the past four decades from 4 to 19, 42 and 105. Accordingly, the number of fatalities also, evolved from 0 to 252, 586 and 1155 respectively. From 2010 to 2015, 57 disastrous flood events were already recorded with 1169 fatalities.** The present trend of flood frequency and the huge magnitude of the damage induced testify that flood management measures implemented are not adequate and efficient.

Analysis: given the region, floods are the main issue for West Africa. Urbanization has clear links to an increase in floods and a compelling impact scenario. While not a flashy argument, this offers some offense that is difficult for the con to attack without conceding and weighing.

CON: Urbanization increases unemployment

Argument- Urbanization increases unemployment leading to development problems

Burak Güneralp Et Al, 12-20-2017, "Urbanization in Africa: challenges and opportunities for conservation," Iop Publishing Ltd, <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/aa94fe>

Although Africa's high urbanization rates make it similar to other rapidly urbanizing places, it is important to underscore that **the underlying processes that shape urbanization in Africa are vastly different from those experienced elsewhere. Much of urban expansion in Africa is characterized by unplanned and unregulated growth, exacerbated by the legacy of colonialism, structural adjustment, and neo liberalism that spawned weak urban planning institutions [10]. In urban areas, unemployment rates are high and about 60 percent of jobs are in the informal or grey economy, neither taxed nor monitored by the government**

Warrant: a lack of growth in the job market has led to a lack of jobs in the formal market

Bello-Schünemann, Julia, and Ciara Aucoin. "African urban futures." Institute for Security Studies Papers 2016, no. 20 (2016): 1-36.
<https://media.africaportal.org/documents/af20.pdf>

Unemployment statistics for Africa are problematic for two main reasons. First, **quality data on unemployment is rare.** Second, often it misses the point. On average, **up to 60% of the urban job market in sub-Saharan Africa is estimated to be informal.**⁸² Usually that means that people work but under precarious conditions. In Africa young people, particularly women, are more likely to work in the informal sector than older adults.⁸³ Food and housing prices in sub-Saharan African cities are 33% and 57% higher respectively than in other developing countries. In Africa rapid population growth is

happening in the context of slow structural economic transformation, poverty and inequalities The African Economic Outlook argues that in Africa, '**the steady economic growth and rapid urbanisation of the last decade and a half have not been matched by proportional formal employment creation' but contributed to a growing informal sector.**⁸⁴

Impact: Africa has seen an increase in poverty

UN, September 2005 "Economic Report on Africa 2005", Economic Commission for Africa, <https://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/pdf/pubs/2005era-uneaca.pdf>

Meeting the challenges of unemployment and poverty in Africa **Poverty in Africa is substantially higher than in other developing regions. More enigmatic is that poverty in Africa is chronic and rising. The share of the total population living below the \$1 a day threshold of 46 per cent is higher today than in the 1980s and 1990s**—this despite significant improvements in the growth of African GDP in recent years. The implication: poverty has been unresponsive to economic growth. **Underlying this trend is the fact that the majority of people have no jobs or secure sources of income.**

Impact: unemployment leads to the formation of gangs

Bello-Schünemann, Julia, and Ciara Aucoin. "African urban futures." Institute for Security Studies Papers 2016, no. 20 (2016): 1-36.
<https://media.africaportal.org/documents/af20.pdf>

Population density, on the other hand, could be associated with higher rates of violence. A 2007 report by **UN-Habitat found a correlation between living in overcrowded settlements and engaging in violent behaviour.**¹³⁴ The youth bulge is also often associated with higher levels of (urban) violence.¹³⁵ However, increases in violence seem to be driven by the

exclusion of youth, in particular from employment opportunities but also from political participation. High levels of youth unemployment grow the pool of recruitable young men by gangs or rebel groups.¹³⁶ In contexts in which young people are relatively well educated but marginalised economically and/or politically, the risk of violence increases.¹³⁷ This became evident, for example, in the socalled Arab Spring uprisings in 2011.

Impact: unemployment increases slums and causes multiple issues

Odularu, Gbadebo, 2008. Urbanisation and Economic Performance in West Africa. 22. 33-48.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/294385090_Urbanisation_and_Economic_Performance_in_West_Africa

On the other hand, the urban pull factors include the prevailing educational opportunities which are oriented towards training people in urban occupations, rather than to improving agriculture or animal husbandry in rural areas, improved quality of life, concentration of amenities (such as health care, educational and recreational facilities), minimum wage legislation, among others. Reports have revealed that **the urban growth rates in West Africa exceed the capacities of municipalities to provide adequate housing and services such as water supply, sanitation, waste disposal, communications and transport infrastructure, health services and education.** It is also pertinent to note that **high unemployment in urban areas also contributes to widespread poverty, poor living conditions and other social problems.** Thus, **rapid urban growth** which is complicated by poor urban planning and control of land use, lack of financial resources and inadequate investment in environmental management – **has led to the proliferation of urban slums in West Africa.**

Analysis: the pro has many statistics to provide quantifiable impacts to this argument, however the causality is difficult to prove as many negs will say that unemployed individuals come to urban centers seeking work, increasing urbanization. Smart pros can phrase it as “the high concentration of employed individuals leads to:” to avoid this response.

CON: Urbanization Leads to Health Problems

Argument: Urbanization leads to public health issues, causing a loss of life

Claim: urbanization is a health issue

Aliyu, A. A., & Amadu, L. (2017). Urbanization, cities, and health: The challenges to Nigeria - A review. *Annals of African medicine*, 16(4), 149–158.

https://doi.org/10.4103/aam.aam_1_17

Urbanization is a major public health challenge of the 21st century as urban populations are rapidly increasing, but basic infrastructures are insufficient and social and economic inequities in urban areas have resulted in significant health inequalities.

In this sense, therefore, urbanization in a way is similar to globalization which can be seen as a structural social determinant of health that can challenge the aspirations of equity due to tendency of accumulation of wealth and power among urban elites.

Today, most cities in Nigeria have undergone urban decay because of lack of or breakdown in basic services; potable water supply, electricity, efficient city transport services, affordable housing, and waste disposal systems. This is largely as a result of authorities coming to terms with the “tempo” of rising urban needs. These phenomenal transitions are not without health challenges to the population in urban areas and cities.

Warrant: Poor waste management increases diseases

Boadi, K., Kuitunen, M., Raheem, K. et al. Urbanisation Without Development: Environmental and Health Implications in African Cities. *Environ Dev Sustain* 7,

465–500 (2005). <https://doi-org.srv-proxy1.library.tamu.edu/10.1007/s10668-004-5410-3>

Even where sewers exist they are often blocked with solid waste, and overflow into streets and open spaces, which provide breeding grounds for disease pathogens. The majority of urban residents use pit latrines, bucket toilets or other sub-standard facilities. About 40% of the residents of Accra use pit latrines, 19.5% use bucket latrines, whilst 15.4% of the residents of Port Elizabeth use bucket latrines (Benneh et al., 1993; Thomas et al., 1999). In Nakuru, Kenya, 89% of the urban households use pit latrines in the low income high density areas of the city (Mwangi, 2000). It is estimated that 71% of the urban population in Senegal use pit latrines (Department of Forecasts and Statistics, 1993). **Untreated human excrement and sullage are disposed of in surface drains and water bodies.** In Accra, Ghana, sullage discharge into drainage channels and ditches is estimated at 280 m³ per hectare per day in 1995 and 433 m³ by the year 2000 (Ministry of Works and Housing, 2001; 86).

Warrant: urbanization leads to slums, increasing disease spread

Neiderud, Carl-Johan. "How urbanization affects the epidemiology of emerging infectious diseases." *Infection ecology & epidemiology* vol. 5 27060. 24 Jun. 2015, doi:10.3402/iee.v5.27060

These slums are characterized by poor housing, lack of fresh water, and bad sanitation facilities (2). All of these shortages can be a threat to the residents' health and be a possible breeding ground for infectious diseases. The location of slums are often outside of the city centres, in more hazardous locations and the population feels a lack of social and economic opportunities compared with other residents. **In sub-Saharan Africa, 62% of the urban population in 2012 lived in shanty towns** (2). For example, in 2009, 96% of the urban population in Central African Republic lived in these slums (6). In Kenya's capital Nairobi, 60% of the population lives in slums, and child mortality there is 2.5 times greater than other parts of

the city (9). The community and health care services have great challenges to provide the entire population with equal and adequate service. The collected parties need to be aware of the differences in threats with respect to infectious diseases, both at the local and governmental levels.

Certain infectious diseases have been shown to be more widespread in the slums. An example of this is the diarrhoeal disease cholera. Infections have been linked to slums in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, with high population density and low income (10). In several other countries, **cholera incidence is the highest in urban regions with high population density** (11, 12). Differences in prevalence of asymptomatic carriers of antimicrobial drug-resistant diarrhoeagenic Escherichia coli have also been found in Brazil between slum settlements and more wealthy parts of the community (13)

Quantification: urbanization has led to increases in obesity for women

Pinchoff J, Mills CW, Balk D (2020) Urbanization and health: The effects of the built environment on chronic disease risk factors among women in Tanzania. PLoS ONE 15(11): e0241810. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0241810>

Sub-Saharan Africa is experiencing rapid urban growth. Cities enable greater access to health services and improved water and sanitation infrastructure, leading to some improvements in health. However, **urban settings may also be associated with more sedentary, stressful lifestyles and consumption of less nutritious food.** C-reactive protein (CRP) is a measure of chronic inflammation predictive of cardiovascular disease, and high body mass index (BMI), a ratio of weight to height, indicates overweight or obesity and is associated with an increased risk of many chronic diseases. To explore the association between urbanicity and these two markers, we overlaid data from the 2010 Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) with a satellite-derived measure of built environment. Linear regression models were constructed for the

outcomes of BMI and CRP, by 1) administratively defined urban/rural categorization from the DHS, 2) satellite derived built environment, and 3) built environment stratified by urban/rural. A total of 2,212 women were included; **23% had elevated CRP, 21% were overweight or obese. A third (33%) lived in a highly built up area and 29% lived in an area classified as urban. A strong positive association between both CRP and BMI and built environment was detected; log CRP increased 0.43 in the highest built up areas compared to not built up ($p<0.05$); log BMI increased 0.02 in the most built up areas compared to not built up ($p<0.05$).** However, comparing urban to rural category was only significant in unadjusted models. Models stratified by urban/rural category highlight that the variation in CRP and BMI by built environment is mainly driven by rural areas; within urban areas there is less variation. **Our findings highlight the potential negative effects of urbanicity on chronic disease markers, with potentially more change detected for those transitioning from rural to urban lifestyles.** Satellite-derived urbanicity measures are reproducible and provide more nuanced understanding of effects of built environment on health.

Internal Link: urbanization in West Africa has led to an increase in yellow fever

Reyes R., Ahn R., Thurber K., Burke T.F. (2013) Urbanization and Infectious Diseases: General Principles, Historical Perspectives, and Contemporary Challenges. In: Fong I. (eds) Challenges in Infectious Diseases. Emerging Infectious Diseases of the 21st Century. Springer, New York, NY. https://doi-org.srv-proxy1.library.tamu.edu/10.1007/978-1-4614-4496-1_4

Other vector-borne illnesses such as yellow fever and leishmaniasis have also been affected by urbanization. As discussed earlier, the recent epidemics of yellow fever in West Africa are most likely due to a combination of inadequate vaccination coverage, increasing population density, as well as the environmental factors just described that allow for proliferation of *Aedes spp. mosquitoes*. A combination of shifting population dynamics, deforestation, and

expansion of nonimmune human populations into endemic areas has been correlated with increased transmission of visceral leishmaniasis around the world [51].

Impact: Yellow fever causes 30,000 deaths a year with 90% in Africa

U.S. Department Of Health Human Services, 9-14-2018, "Yellow Fever," CDC,
<https://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/newsroom/topics/yellowfever/index.html>

Yellow fever is vaccine-preventable, but in order to prevent epidemics we must continue to improve vaccination coverage in higher-risk countries. What is the global impact of yellow fever? **Yellow fever virus is estimated to cause 200,000 cases of disease and 30,000 deaths each year, with 90% occurring in Africa. 20% to 50% of infected persons who develop severe disease die.** Yellow fever virus is transmitted to people primarily through the bite of infected Aedes or Haemagogus mosquitoes. People infected with yellow fever virus are infectious to mosquitoes shortly before the onset of fever and up to 5 days after onset. **Outbreaks of yellow fever, which often occur when the disease is introduced to densely populated urban areas, can have disruptive effects on economies and health care systems.**

Impact: diseases associated with urbanization expected to cause 28 million deaths

Sanofi, 6-29-2018, "The Rise and Rise of Chronic Diseases in Africa," Sanofi,
<https://www.sanofi.com/en/your-health/the-rise-and-rise-of-chronic-diseases-in-africa>

Such diseases, known as NCDs, kill 41 million people every year, accounting for 71% of deaths around the world, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). In 2015, communicable conditions in Africa accounted for 5.2 million of deaths (56.4%), down from 5.7 million deaths in 2010 (61.4%). **Non-communicable diseases, traditionally associated with urbanisation and higher standards of living, accounted for 3.1 million deaths (33.5% of all deaths), rising from 29.4% in 2010.** And the situation in Africa is deteriorating. WHO estimates that NCDs will rise

by 27% over the next 10 years in the region, resulting in 28 million additional deaths. That compares with a global rise of 17% over that period. By 2030, deaths from NCDs in Africa “are projected to exceed deaths due to communicable, maternal, perinatal and nutritional diseases combined.”

Analysis: this argument has a ton of cards available making it easy for teams to try to throw several journal articles together. Smart affirmatives will pick specific disease scenarios, then give specific impacts. This decreases the chances the negative can execute a broad turn on a generic health argument. The best part of this argument is that disease are easily quantified and that COVID proves the danger of run-away diseases.

CON: Urbanization causes environmental damages

CON: Urbanization Hurts the Environment

Argument: Urbanization hurt the environment in West Africa

Claim: urbanization in West Africa threatens the environment

Solène Guenat William E. Kunin Andrew J. Dougill Martin Dallimer, 9-16-2018, "Effects of urbanisation and management practices on pollinators in tropical Africa," *besjournals*, <https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/1365-2664.13270>

Urbanisation as a land-use change has the greatest impact on biodiversity (McDonald, Kareiva, & Formana, 2008). **Urban expansion**, however, is not geographically homogenous, taking place mainly in developing countries (United Nations, 2015), where it **frequently encroaches upon biodiversity hot spots** (Seto, Güneralp, & Hutyra, 2012). Urban areas also include green spaces and their potential for biodiversity conservation is increasingly studied (Nilon et al., 2017). The majority of studies are based in the Global North, meaning that we know little about the biodiversity conservation potential of African cities (e.g. Magle, Hunt, Vernon, & Crooks, 2012). However, **urban expansion in Africa differs from that of the Global North by being faster** (Seto et al., 2012), happening mainly in smaller towns (DESA, 2015) and not always being associated with economic growth (Turok & McGranahan, 2013). One group potentially threatened by urbanisation are insect pollinators (Jones & Leather, 2013), which are of particular concern given their importance for food security. The food system is highly reliant on their services, as 35% of crops require animal pollination (Klein et al., 2007), needing both high abundances and diversity for optimal productivity (Garibaldi et al., 2014).

Warrant: urbanization threatens the environment in a myriad of ways

Güneralp B., McDonald R.I., Fragkias M., Goodness J., Marcotullio P.J., Seto K.C. (2013) Urbanization Forecasts, Effects on Land Use, Biodiversity, and Ecosystem Services. In: Elmqvist T. et al. (eds) Urbanization, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: Challenges and Opportunities. Springer, Dordrecht. https://doi-org.srv-proxy1.library.tamu.edu/10.1007/978-94-007-7088-1_22

Urbanization impacts biodiversity both directly through physical expansion over land, and indirectly due to land use and human behaviors within urban areas. Physical expansion changes the composition of the landscape, and can eliminate organisms outright, or may alter or eliminate the conditions within a habitat that a species requires to survive. Urban expansion has the effect of decreasing, fragmenting, and isolating natural patches by altering the size, shape, and interconnectivity of the natural landscape (Ricketts 2001; Alberti 2005). In addition to physical expansion, **human activity within cities can have a myriad of cascading effects that have impacts on biodiversity, including changes in biogeochemistry** (Vitousek et al. 1997; Grimm et al. 2008), **local temperature** (Arnfield 2003; Voogt and Oke 2003), **climate change** (Kalnay and Cai 2003; Sanchez-Rodriguez et al. 2005; Wilby and Perry 2006) (Chap. 25), **and hydrologic systems** (Walsh 2000; Booth et al. 2004). Consequences for biodiversity and ecosystem services are difficult to generalize and depend on the taxonomic groups in question, spatial scale of analysis, and intensity of urbanization, among other factors (McKinney 2008); for example, in some urbanizing areas, local species richness may increase (albeit usually at the cost of native species) while in others it may decrease (McKinney 2002, 2006; Grimm et al. 2008) (see also Chap. 10).

Warrant: urbanization specifically threatens forests

Ola, Oreoluwa, and Emmanuel Benjamin. "Preserving Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in West African Forest, Watersheds, and Wetlands: A Review of Incentives." *Forests* 10, no. 6 (2019): 479. <https://www.mdpi.com/1999-4907/10/6/479>

However, **the integrity of these biodiversity hubs is at serious risk. Agricultural expansion, overexploitation of biological resources, population explosion, urbanization, and climate change is destroying biodiversity ecosystems [4].** The occurrence of invasive species as well as industrial and pesticide discharge are threatening the quality and volume of native flora and fauna species residing in watersheds and wetlands across sub-Saharan Africa [4,5]. Consequently, these have degraded and reduced the size of biodiversity hubs in parts of West Africa [3]. **Close to 90% of West Africa's original forest has disappeared** with small fragments of this natural forest existing in Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria, and Cameroon [6]. Over-exploitation of forest resources, mining, agricultural expansion, hunting **and population growth is fragmenting tropical forests and driving biodiversity losses [7]. These losses threaten both wildlife as well as the current and future livelihoods of those individuals and communities that depend on ESs in West Africa.**

Quantification: there is a substantial decrease in open spaces due to urbanization

White, Roland, Jane Turpie, and Gwyneth Letley Letley. Greening Africa's Cities: Enhancing the Relationship between Urbanization, Environmental Assets, and Ecosystem Services. World Bank, 2017.

http://www.durban.gov.za/City_Services/development_planning_management/environmental_planning_climate_protection/Publications/Documents/GreeningAfricasCities.pdf

There is often very little green open space remaining within African cities, particularly the poorer cities. The amount of all public parks, recreation areas, greenways, water ways and other protected areas accessible to the public is estimated to be below 1 m² per inhabitant in some African cities, such as Luanda, Cairo and Alexandria (African Green City Index 2011). This is well below the 9 and 30 m² per capita recommended by the World Health Organization and United Nations, respectively. In Dakar, Senegal, the amount of green open space within the city decreased by approximately 34% over

a twenty year period between 1988 and 2008 (World Bank 2009). In Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, most of the urban trees have been cleared for housing purposes and it is estimated that vegetation coverage, including trees in private yards, cover 7,900 ha or just less than 15% of the total city land area (Dubbale et al., 2010). **Rapid urbanization has also been identified as the major cause of the depletion of green space in the city of Kumasi in Ghana, once known as the “Garden City of West Africa”** (Mensah 2014a, b). Many of the parks and garden spaces within the city that were once in a good condition have been degraded or encroached, **and green open space now covers only 10% of the total land area** (Mensah 2014a, b). In South Africa, the Durban Bay estuary has been reduced by about 57% and only 14% of the original tidal flats, 3% of the mangrove forest and 4% of the natural shoreline habitat remain (ERM & MER 2011). Other estuaries in Durban have lost more than 70% of their original fish habitat (Forbes & Demetriades 2010). The transformation of open space areas within African cities has come about through both formal and informal development. **Due to the strong demand for housing close to the city centre for access to employment and transport, suitable open space areas tend to be developed in these areas first, leaving only wetlands and river floodplains.** As the alternatives for informal settlement become increasingly distant from the city centre, so the demand for these central floodplain areas increases, in spite of the high risks of flooding. **Examples of this are seen in most African cities, including relatively high income cities such as Durban. This pattern can be expected to radiate outwards over time. Indeed, there are many African cities in which high risk areas are under informal settlement even at some distance from the city centre.**

Impact: Humans depend on biodiversity for life

WHO, 6-3-2015, "Biodiversity and Health," World Health Organization,

<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/biodiversity-and-health>

People depend on biodiversity in their daily lives, in ways that are not always apparent or appreciated. Human health ultimately depends upon ecosystem products and services (such as availability of fresh water, food and fuel sources) which are requisite for good human health and productive livelihoods. **Biodiversity loss can have significant direct human health impacts if ecosystem services are no longer adequate to meet social needs. Indirectly, changes in ecosystem services affect livelihoods, income, local migration and, on occasion, may even cause or exacerbate political conflict.** Additionally, biological diversity of microorganisms, flora and fauna provides extensive benefits for biological, health, and pharmacological sciences. **Significant medical and pharmacological discoveries are made through greater understanding of the earth's biodiversity. Loss in biodiversity may limit discovery of potential treatments for many diseases and health problems.** Threats to biodiversity and health There is growing concern about the health consequences of biodiversity loss. **Biodiversity changes affect ecosystem functioning and significant disruptions of ecosystems can result in life sustaining ecosystem goods and services. Biodiversity loss also means that we are losing, before discovery, many of nature's chemicals and genes, of the kind that have already provided humankind with enormous health benefits**

Link: Urbanization has increased air pollution in West Africa

Fayiga, A.O., Ipinmoroti, M.O. & Chirenje, T. Environmental pollution in Africa. *Environ Dev Sustain* 20, 41–73 (2018). <https://doi-org.srv-proxy1.library.tamu.edu/10.1007/s10668-016-9894-4>

The rapid population growth and urbanization in Africa are accompanied with increased vehicular emissions, which is majorly responsible for air pollution in the region (United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) 2012). By contrast, emissions from road transport are decreasing in Europe because legislations are in place to control vehicular emissions (European commission 2016). There were also large reductions in vehicle emissions in Atlanta, USA, from the late 1990s to 2009, which contributed to a significant improvement in air quality

(Vijayaraghavan et al. 2014). Despite increases in fuel use, vehicle emissions decreased by ~80–90% in Los Angeles, Houston, and New York City, between 1990 and 2010 (McDonald et al. 2013). **The major sources of air pollution in developed countries are traffic and industry** (Eliasson et al. 2009). **In Africa, besides traffic emissions, other major sources of air pollution include use of solid cooking fuel for cooking** (Armah et al. 2015); **re-suspended dust from unpaved roads** (Rooney et al. 2012); **waste incineration and bush burning** (Sam et al. 2015); **use of insecticides to control malaria** (Gaspar et al. 2015); **and the Sahara desert in West Africa.** The Sahara–Sahel desert is the largest source of atmospheric particulate matter in the world with about 300–800 million metric tonnes of Saharan dust eroded from the surface each year, mobilized into the atmosphere (Ridley et al. 2012; Garrison et al. 2014).

Impact: West African air pollution is fatal

Angela Benedetti, Peter Knippertz, 3-12-2019, "The air that West Africa breathes," ECMWF, <https://www.ecmwf.int/en/about/media-centre/science-blog/2019/air-west-africa-breathes>

Explosive population growth, urbanization and a growing economy have put the environment in West Africa under a lot of stress. **The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that each year, around seven million people die from the effects of polluted air. Each time people breathe in, they inhale an average of 500 ml of air.** A healthy adult at rest takes about 8 million breaths per year, hence inhaling 4 million litres of air. Children inhale more air than adults do, relative to body surface area, breathing frequency, and heart rate. Around 21% of the air people breathe is oxygen, 78% is nitrogen. There are also tiny amounts of other gases called trace gases, some of which are poisonous like carbon monoxide. There is also what is called particulate matter, sub-micron particles of various species and composition which can travel undisturbed to the lungs and cause a series of problems such as respiratory, cardiovascular and skin diseases. In **West African cities, the concentrations of small particles are often a lot higher than the WHO recommended limits. Some particles have their origin in human**

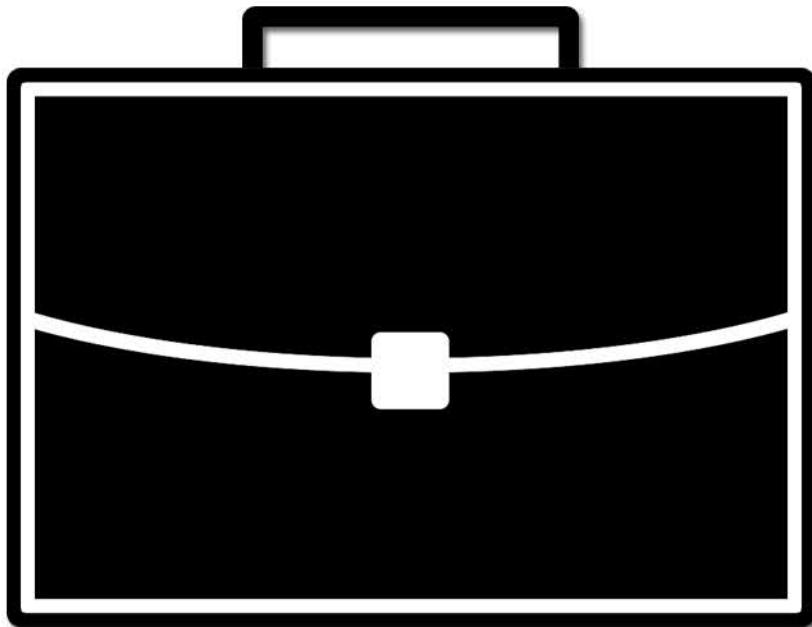
activities: charcoal fires, waste combustion in cities, and savanna fires which emit fine particles into the air. Other particles are of natural origin, for example wind-blown dust from the Sahara Desert.

Analysis: this argument has many different ways to run scenarios (air pollution, human waste, biodiversity, etc.). Smart teams can take advantage of this, but should specify specific regions to avoid generic con responses.

Champion Briefs

February 2021

Public Forum Brief



Con Responses to Pro Arguments

A/2: Urbanization leads to improved healthcare

Warrant: Urbanization itself leads to poor health outcomes

Vize, Richard. 2-24-2017, "How can health services keep pace with the rapid growth of cities?", *Guardian*. 24 Feb, 2017. Web. 2 Jan 2021.

<https://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2017/feb/24/how-can-health-services-keep-pace-with-the-rapid-growth-of-cities>

Rapid, uncontrolled urbanisation strains many aspects of city life that determine health. Traffic, factories, generators and construction poison the air, meanwhile water supplies can become contaminated, poor housing harms the health of children, and food supply and quality can be compromised. Unplanned urban growth drives poverty. About 900 million people worldwide live in urban slums, where overcrowding encourages the spread of infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, dengue fever and cholera. The United Nations estimates that by 2030, roughly 60% of city inhabitants will be under the age of 18, which puts huge numbers of children at risk from illnesses such as diarrhoea and pneumonia, the leading causes of global childhood death.

Warrant: Healthcare data is not usually available in recently urbanized places

Melinda Moore, Philip Gould, Barbara S. Keary, "Global urbanization and impact on Health", *International Journal of Hygiene and Environmental Health*. Volume 206, Issues 4–5, 2003, Pages 269-278. ISSN 1438-4639. <https://doi.org/10.1078/1438-4639-00223>.

Nearly half the world's population now lives in urban settlements. Cities offer the lure of better employment, education, health care, and culture; and they contribute disproportionately to national economies. However, rapid and often unplanned urban growth is often associated with poverty, environmental degradation and population demands that outstrip service capacity. These conditions place human health at risk. Reliable urban health statistics are largely unavailable throughout the world. Disaggregated intra-urban health data, i.e., for different areas within a city, are even more rare. Data that are available indicate a range of urban health hazards and associated health risks: substandard housing, crowding, air pollution, insufficient or contaminated drinking water, inadequate sanitation and solid waste disposal services, vector-borne diseases, industrial waste, increased motor vehicle traffic, stress associated with poverty and unemployment, among others. Local and national governments and multilateral organizations are all grappling with the challenges of urbanization. Urban health risks and concerns involve many different sectors, including health, environment, housing, energy, transportation, urban planning, and others. Two main policy implications are highlighted: the need for systematic and useful urban health statistics on a disaggregated, i.e., intra-urban, basis, and the need for more effective partnering across sectors. The humanitarian and economic imperative to create livable and sustainable cities must drive us to seek and successfully overcome challenges and capitalize on opportunities. Good urban planning and governance,

Warrant: Even if healthcare is provided in urbanized cities, urbanization strains resources

Vize, Richard. 2-24-2017, "How can health services keep pace with the rapid growth of cities?", *Guardian*. 24 Feb, 2017. Web. 2 Jan 2021.
<https://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2017/feb/24/how-can-health-services-keep-pace-with-the-rapid-growth-of-cities>

Health services, particularly in developing countries, are concentrated in cities. As Mark Britnell notes in his study of global healthcare, **many developing countries such as China, Indonesia and India suffer from a chronic shortage of health workers.** This creates big disparities in care between cities and the countryside; doctors are reluctant to work in rural areas because pay is poor, career choices are limited, hospital facilities are often inadequate and primary care tends to be underdeveloped **Meanwhile, in the cities, hospitals become overcrowded because patients know that is where the best doctors, research and technology are found.** The dominance of hospital care in cities often means primary care is neglected, which according to the World Health Organisation (WHO) [pdf] can lead to unregulated, unsafe and ineffective private services. In some African cities, public primary healthcare has almost disappeared.

Warrant: Healthcare is inaccessible to the urban poor, specifically in African countries

Elsey H, Agyepong I, Huque R, et alRethinking health systems in the context of urbanisation: challenges from four rapidly urbanising low-income and middle-income countriesBMJ Global Health 2019;4:e001501.

Responsibility for the provision of primary care varies between the four case studies; unlike Ghana and Nigeria, in Bangladesh and Nepal, the responsibility for primary healthcare and prevention is devolved to local government, with no direct role for ministries of health. This level of devolution has led to some innovative responses to provision of primary care. In Bangladesh, responsibility for primary care is transferred to a public–private partnership, the Urban Primary Health Care Service Delivery Project (UPHCSDP) however, ensuring equitable coverage, continuity of care and referral systems is a major challenge and appropriate gatekeeping to limit the number of patients using tertiary care who could be better served in primary care. In Nepal, with the new federal structures, municipalities have increased decision making and

budgetary powers to deliver healthcare to their populations, but coverage, quality and level of service provided remains a challenge. **In reality, with the growing urban population, ensuring quality and accessible primary care is a major challenge in all four countries. The urban poor can rarely access public health services due to their limited opening times during the long working day of poor daily wage earners. Instead they must rely on tertiary care or unregulated private providers; for example, in Bangladesh, 80% of health providers near slums were found to be private; the majority of whom were pharmacists or traditional doctors, only 37% with formal medical qualification.**²⁹

Non-Unique: Africa is already addressing their lack healthcare

Dare, Lola, and Eric Buch. "The future of health care in Africa." BMJ (Clinical research ed.) vol. 331,7507 (2005): 1-2. doi:10.1136/bmj.331.7507.1

In addition, **many public-private partnerships in Africa are starting—with variable success—to expand access to medicines, health commodities, and services. This expansion includes franchising of health services, outsourcing, and cooperative arrangements for pooled procurement and distribution of medicines and other commodities.** Such models may be useful, but to sustain any initial gains and reverse the continent's poor record on health and development, African institutions will need global support to track achievements; learn lessons; document success; produce and manage knowledge; and share vision and experiences. As the leaders in the industrial world meet this week to focus on Africa and deliberate on its future, they must go beyond the traditional strategy of counting numbers and examine the critical shifts in thinking that are required to make any greater investment succeed and move the continent forward. Increasingly, that success will depend on partners being willing and able to respond to the priorities of national governments and regional institutions in

Africa. The commitments are pouring in, and Africa is once again the focus of global attention. But much still needs to be accomplished.

Analysis: While aff argues that moving to cities necessarily means access to better healthcare infrastructure, just because one moves to a city does not mean that they can automatically access all benefits of the urban setting. Neg teams should look into two pathways to respond to this argument: offensive and defensive. Neg teams have a good shot at turning case by proving urbanization harms public health more so than increased access to healthcare would. They can also look into the ways that social inequalities prevent poor migrants from accessing what wealthier families may be able to.

A/2: Urbanization increases job opportunities

Delink: Urbanization does not necessarily inherently work as a job creator

Hugues, 10-15-2015, "Re-examining the link between urbanization, jobs and economic growth," JustJobs Network. 15 Oct. 2015. Web. 5 Jan. 2020.

<https://www.justjobsnetwork.org/blog/re-examining-the-link-between-urbanization-and-economic-growth-2/>

Economists and policymakers have long assumed urbanization to be a spatial consequence of industrialization, economic growth, and job creation. But mounting evidence tells us that this may not be true. The relationship between urbanization and economic growth may actually be tenuous, and the relationship with formal economy job creation even more so. The latest evidence comes from Africa's Urban Revolution, a groundbreaking new volume, nicely synthesized by Kerwin Datu of The Global Urbanist. **Increasing demand for labor in cities to fill manufacturing jobs can be a driver of urbanization, but it isn't a precondition**, as Sean Fox's chapter in the new volume demonstrates. He shows how demographic changes alone, like declining mortality rates, combined with increasing agricultural productivity can lead to rural-urban migration and the expansion of cities.

Turn: Urbanization creates jobs that perpetuate inequality

Hugues, 10-15-2015, "Re-examining the link between urbanization, jobs and economic growth," JustJobs Network. 15 Oct. 2015. Web. 5 Jan. 2020.

<https://www.justjobsnetwork.org/blog/re-examining-the-link-between-urbanization-and-economic-growth-2/>

One might conclude that India and Ghana have experienced urbanization led by their service sectors rather than manufacturing – which is true. **But the workers migrating to cities in India and Ghana mostly end up in low-value-added, low-paying, service sector jobs – not in information technology or financial services.** After all, the vast majority of workers still labor in the informal economy – 80 percent in Ghana and 86 percent in India. So what's at stake here? **Urbanization that isn't driven by the expansion of formal economy employment runs a high risk of being a dis-equalizing force.** Not only do the urban workers of today's global South earn less than they might in factory floor jobs, they also lack the capacity to organize themselves, create successful labor movements, and negotiate for higher wages and better working conditions. In the industrialized world, the creation of strong labor movements coincided with the cementing of stable, successful, and relatively egalitarian democracies. The Great Recession was a wake-up call: policymakers realized the need to study not only GDP growth rates but also the composition of growth. It's time for a similar shift in the way we think about cities. Urbanization is not a simple proxy for growth, modernization, and more opportunity. **We must understand how and why cities are growing, and what jobs they are and aren't creating.**

Warrant: Towns, not cities, are better for job creation

Luc Christiaensen, 7-6-2016, "Towns, not cities, are best for jobs and poverty reduction,"
World Bank Blogs. 6 Jul. 2016. Web. 5 Jan. 2021.
<https://blogs.worldbank.org/jobs/towns-not-cities-are-best-jobs-and-poverty-reduction>

However, just focusing on mega cities and metropoles also ignores that the majority of the urban population still lives in secondary urban centers, or towns. For instance,

the share of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania's urban population has stayed at about 1/3 since 1950 (Figure 1), despite its rapid growth in absolute number of inhabitants. And despite the rapid increase in global urbanization, the majority of the world's poor still live in rural areas (80 percent in Africa). These people live at great distance from these mega cities, not only physically, but also sociologically and economically. We **believe a focus on employment in secondary towns, rather than just cities, can help create more, better and inclusive jobs. Cross-country evidence suggests that poverty declines faster when people leave agriculture for secondary towns and their rural hinterlands, than when they move to cities.** (In the study cities are defined as centers with more than 1 million inhabitants). A recent study from India using satellite observations of night lights to measure the intensity of urban economic activity, which was presented at a joint Cornell University-World Bank conference on "Secondary Towns, Jobs and Poverty Reduction" points in the same direction. Even more telling is the story of the rural population of Kagera, in Tanzania. They have been tracked over the past two decades (1991-2010), including their migration patterns and the fate of each individual in the original (1991) households. This enabled researchers to examine in detail how many people moved and who fared best. As expected, those who made it to Dar es Salaam, saw their incomes more than triple; they all escaped poverty. Those who remained farmers in the rural areas, also saw their incomes rise, but by only 60 percent. Those who left agriculture for the secondary towns or the rural nonfarm sector experienced a doubling of their income, with the share of people living in poverty declining from 64 percent in 1991-4 to 25 percent in 2010. **Yet, when looking at their contribution to overall consumption growth and poverty reduction, it was those who moved to the towns and their hinterlands who contributed most (42 and 50 percent respectively).** There were simply many more of them who made it to these urban centers (one in three), while only very few made it to Dar es Salaam (one in seven).

Warrant: Urbanization sprawl leads to inaccessible jobs

Good Jobs First. 2021, "Job Opportunity and Sprawl," Good Jobs First. 2021. Web. 5 Jan. 2021. <https://www.goodjobsfirst.org/smart-growth-working-families/job-opportunity-and-sprawl>

The Geography of Job Opportunity Sprawl and its effects on the spatial distribution of jobs have long been bad news for low-income workers in cities, especially for people of color. A “spatial mismatch” has developed between unemployed and underemployed urban workers and job creation in newly developing suburbs. **For example, a 1997 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development report found that 87 percent of the new jobs being created in the lower-paying and lower-skilled service sector and the retail sector were located in the suburbs. Workers living in inner cities and inner-ring suburbs often cannot access those new jobs because they do not own cars and cannot reach the jobs via public transportation. Urban residents often cannot find out about job openings in the suburbs because recruitment often happens through window signs and word of mouth, channels that are largely closed off to urban residents.** The growth of employment at the fringes is another way sprawl makes people auto-dependent. Since mass transit systems were originally designed to reach jobs in the urban core from homes either in the core or in suburban bedroom communities, job growth at the fringe undermines that system and the enormous historical public investments in transit. As a result, urban workers are denied access to many job opportunities. **Job Quality** As the jobs thin out geographically, the quality of many often diminishes. **Without a geographically dense labor market and the higher levels of unionization found in the urban core, suburban employers seek to pay lower wages and provide fewer benefits. At the same time, the movement of jobs to the suburbs can undermine the bargaining ability of urban workers, thus putting downward pressure on wages and benefits in cities as well.** So in addition to creating transportation and housing barriers, by reducing unionization, sprawl perpetuates the cycle of poverty found in most American cities.

Analysis: The most efficient way to attack this argument is by looking specifically at a) what kind of jobs urbanization creates as well as b) who gets these jobs. By asking these two questions and looking into the answers teams opposing this argument may find that the jobs created are not as great as the aff may say in their narrative. Neg teams can turn the argument and talk about how these jobs perpetuate inequalities within society because many are inaccessible to the people who move into cities.

A/2: Urbanization is good for the environment

Turn: Urbanization increases consumption

Torrey, Barbara Boyle. 04-23-2004. "Urbanization: An Environmental Force to be Reckoned With," Populations Reference Bureau. 23 Apr. 2004. Web. 6 Jan. 2021., <https://www.prb.org/urbanization-an-environmental-force-to-be-reckoned-with/>

Urban populations interact with their environment. Urban people change their environment through their consumption of food, energy, water, and land. And in turn, the polluted urban environment affects the health and quality of life of the urban population. **People who live in urban areas have very different consumption patterns than residents in rural areas.¹⁰ For example, urban populations consume much more food, energy, and durable goods than rural populations.** In China during the 1970s, **the urban populations consumed more than twice as much pork as the rural populations who were raising the pigs.¹¹ With economic development, the difference in consumption declined as the rural populations ate better diets. But even a decade later, urban populations had 60 percent more pork in their diets than rural populations.** The increasing consumption of meat is a sign of growing affluence in Beijing; in India where many urban residents are vegetarians, greater prosperity is seen in higher consumption of milk. Urban populations not only consume more food, but they also consume more durable goods. In the early 1990s, **Chinese households in urban areas were two times more likely to have a TV, eight times more likely to have a washing machine, and 25 times more likely to have a refrigerator than rural households.¹² This increased consumption is a function of urban labor markets, wages, and household structure.**

Warrant: Environmental health is critical to wellbeing

Torrey, Barbara Boyle. 04-23-2004. "Urbanization: An Environmental Force to be Reckoned With," Populations Reference Bureau. 23 Apr. 2004. Web. 6 Jan. 2021., <https://www.prb.org/urbanization-an-environmental-force-to-be-reckoned-with/>

The urban environment is an important factor in determining the quality of life in urban areas and the impact of the urban area on the broader environment. Some urban environmental problems include inadequate water and sanitation, lack of rubbish disposal, and industrial pollution.¹⁸ Unfortunately, reducing the problems and ameliorating their effects on the urban population are expensive. The health implications of these environmental problems include respiratory infections and other infectious and parasitic diseases. Capital costs for building improved environmental infrastructure — for example, investments in a cleaner public transportation system such as a subway — and for building more hospitals and clinics are higher in cities, where wages exceed those paid in rural areas. And urban land prices are much higher because of the competition for space. But not all urban areas have the same kinds of environmental conditions or health problems. Some research suggests that indicators of health problems, such as rates of infant mortality, are higher in cities that are growing rapidly than in those where growth is slower.¹⁹

Warrant: Urbanization disrupts biodiverse areas.

Seto Lab. 2021. "Environmental Impacts of Urban Growth," Yale University School of the Environment. 2021. Web. 6 Jan 2021.

<https://urbanization.yale.edu/research/theme-4> on yale.edu/research/theme-4

Recent Findings. The conversion of Earth's land surface to urban uses is one of the most irreversible human impacts on the global biosphere. It hastens the loss of highly

productive farmland, affects energy demand, alters the climate, modifies hydrologic and biogeochemical cycles, fragments habitats, and reduces biodiversity (Seto et al., 2011) We see these effects on multiple levels. Future urbanization will, for example, pose direct threats to high-value ecosystems: the highest rates of land conversion over the next few decades will likely take place in biodiversity hotspots that were relatively undisturbed by urban development in 2000 (Seto et al., 2012). Within cities, the nature of urban growth is also an important determinant of urban dwellers' vulnerability to environmental stress (Güneralp and Seto, 2008).

Warrant: Urbanization puts other regions in environmental

Seto Lab. 2021. "Environmental Impacts of Urban Growth," Yale University School of the Environment. 2021. Web. 6 Jan 2021.
<https://urbanization.yale.edu/research/theme-4> on.yale.ed

The environmental impacts of urban expansion reach far beyond urban areas themselves. In rapidly urbanizing areas, agriculture intensifies on remaining undeveloped land and is likely to expand to new areas, putting pressure on land resources (Jiang et al., 2013). Furthermore, urban areas change precipitation patterns at scales of hundreds of square kilometers (Kaufman et al., 2007) . Urban expansion will affect global climate as well. Direct loss in vegetation biomass from areas with high probability of urban expansion is predicted to contribute about 5% of total emissions from tropical deforestation and land-use change (Seto et al., 2012). The scope and scale of these impacts is yet to be fully researched. Although many studies have described how urbanization affects CO₂ emissions and heat budgets, effects on the circulation of water, aerosols, and nitrogen in the climate system are only beginning to be understood (Seto & Shepherd, 2009).

Warrant: Urbanization leads to poor quality of air

Richmond Vale, 8-1-2017, "6 Major Effects of Urbanization That Will Make you Think!,"

Richmond Vale, 1 Aug, 2017. Web. 6 Jan 2021.

<https://richmondvale.org/en/blog/6-major-effects-of-urbanization-that-will-make-you-think>

Air pollution often plagues industrialized cities, particularly during their early development. Episodes of high levels of sulfurous smog killed or sickened thousands in Donora in 1948, as well as in London in 1952. Other cities—primarily in the industrialized regions of the United States and Europe—also suffered from notoriously bad air quality. These events were the result of very high emissions of sulfur dioxide, smoke, and other particles during stagnant, foggy weather conditions.

Analysis: There are many ways for neg teams to turn this argument. With the development of cities inherently comes more people, more demand, and more waste created. Teams should assemble a concise but convincing block of a few of the most solid ways in which urbanization harms the environment as the primary defense against this argument. Neg teams also have the added benefit of not needing to prove how much worse urbanization makes the environment, whereas they can press off on proving specific harms.

A/2: Urbanization reduces inequalities

Turn: Urbanization widens gaps between classes

Burdett, Ricky. 2016, "Inequality and urban growth," London School of Economics. 2016.
Web. 7 Jan. 2017. , <https://www.oecd.org/social/inequality-urban-growth.htm>

London, for example, has average income levels four times higher than Rio de Janeiro. Yet, it has a marked intra-urban distribution of inequality. The most deprived neighbourhoods are concentrated in the east and south, with more affluent residents concentrated in west London and the periphery of the city (the suburbs on the edge of the Green Belt). In Paris, by contrast, social deprivation is concentrated at the northern edges of the city, and among poorly serviced, predominantly migrant communities living in 1970s' block typologies in the suburban banlieues beyond the périphérique motorway. The reality is that in many parts of the world urbanisation has become more spatially fragmented, less environmentally responsive and more socially divisive. Adaptable and porous urban design, coupled with social mix and density, will not solve social inequality on its own. But they will go a long way in mitigating the negative impacts of exclusionary design and planning. By developing a more open form of urbanism that recognises how the spatial and the social are inextricably linked, cities could help provide solutions, not just exacerbate problems.

Warrant: A study identifies Urbanization as having the potential to directly increase inequalities

Kanbur, Ravi. 2013. "Urbanization and Inequality in Asia." Asian Development Bank.
2013. Web. 7 Jan 2021.
https://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1162/ADEV_a_00006

Let us return to the three questions posed in this paper, in light of the basic stylized facts of inequality and urbanization in Asia. First, how much of the observed increase in inequality in Asia can be attributed to the changing dual economic structure and urbanization? The answer is highly country specific. **Urbanization contributed about 300% of the increase in inequality at the national level in the Philippines, more than 50% in Indonesia, slightly less than 15% in India**, but helped reduce inequality somewhat in the PRC. The change in the urban–rural income gap, on the other hand, contributed about 50% of the increase in inequality at the national level in India, one third in the PRC, but helped reduce national inequality in Indonesia and the Philippines. In the PRC, the most important contributor to rising national inequality was an increase in rural inequality, accounting for 43%, in contrast to what has widely been believed, which emphasizes the importance of a widening urban–rural income gap and rising urban inequality.

Warrant: Large cities prioritize certain kinds of jobs

Kristian Behrens, 7-24-2014, "Do cities widen the gap between rich and poor?", World Economic Forum. 24 Jul. 2014. Web. 7 Jan. 2021.

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2014/07/cities-urbanization-rich-poor-inequality/>

Large cities are more unequal than the nations that host them. For example, income inequality in the New York Metro Area (MSA) is considerably higher than the US average and similar to that of Rwanda or Costa Rica. Large cities are also more unequal than smaller towns. Figure 1 plots the relationship between population size and the Gini index of income inequality for a 2007 cross-section of US MSAs (solid line). The relationship is clearly positive. This holds true even when considering that large cities host more educated people on average (dashed line); income inequality cannot be entirely explained by higher educational attainment in large cities. **First, large cities may**

differ systematically in their industrial structure and the functions they perform. Large cities host, for example, more business services and the higher-order functions of finance and research and development (R&D), whereas small and medium-size cities host larger shares of lower-order services and manufacturing. Consequently, larger cities are more skilled. However, industry composition explains only about one-fifth of the observed skill variation across cities (Hendricks 2011). Furthermore, that variation cannot fully account for observed income inequality.

Warrant: Cities usually attract both poles of income earners

Kristian Behrens, 7-24-2014, "Do cities widen the gap between rich and poor?", World Economic Forum. 24 Jul. 2014. Web. 7 Jan. 2021.
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2014/07/cities-urbanization-rich-poor-inequality/>

Second, large cities attract a disproportionate fraction of households at the bottom and at the top of the income distribution (Eeckhout et al 2014). Central cities of US MSAs attract, for example, poor households because they offer better access to public transportation (Glaeser et al. 2008). **Large cities also attract rich households because they reward their skills more highly than smaller cities – a “superstar effect” in “superstar cities”** (Behrens et al. 2014, Gyourko et al. 2013, Rosen 1981).

Warrant: Urban wage gaps lead to high rates of inequality

Wu, Dongjie. Author Information, 1-12-2016, "Urbanization and Income Inequality in China: An Empirical Investigation at Provincial Level," Social Indicators Research. 12 Jan. 2016. Web. 7 Jan. 2021.
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11205-016-1229-1>

Trends in inequality in China suggest that there has been a significant increase in inequality in the distribution of income from around 0.30 in 1980 to 0.55 in 2012.

Research over the last two decades has focused on identifying the main drivers of the increase in inequality. The main objective of this paper is to examine the relationship between urbanization and income inequality in China using provincial level data over the period 1987–2010. Using a panel of data for 20 provinces collected from the Chinese Statistical Yearbooks for five selected years. The empirical analysis based on OLS, fixed and random effects models, show a robust inverted-U relationship between inequality and urbanization. A threshold rate of urbanization of 0.53 has been identified with the implication that provinces with levels of urbanization higher than the threshold will experience reductions in income inequality. The second objective of the paper investigates the role of urbanization and the rural–urban wage differential on provincial inequality. **Based on data from a representative cross-section of six provinces covering the period 1987–2005, we find that well-developed or income rich regions tend to have lower rural–urban inequality and higher migrant inflows and the rural–urban wage gap make significant contributions to income inequality.**

Analysis: Teams going against this argument should look into ways in which classes are stratified in urbanized societies. There are many reasons, lots of which are tied to other common arguments on this topic, that urbanization does not relieve inequality. Housing, health, and environmental damage are just a few examples of things that may perpetuate inequalities within cities. Neg teams should look to turn this argument, or at the very least mitigate it heavily.

A/2: Urbanization improves housing

Warrant: Urbanization puts stress on housing

Eric J., 11-02-2018., "Why Our Growing Cities Matter," US News & World Report, 2 Oct. 2018. Web. 7 Jan. 2021. <https://www.usnews.com/news/cities/articles/2018-10-02/the-urbanization-of-the-globe-what-it-means-for-our-growing-cities>

Indeed, with 65 percent of the U.S. population now living in cities and generating 75 percent of the nation's gross domestic product, such urban life increasingly dominates the national landscape. **This rapid urbanization is not without a cost and it places great stress on our cities. Increased population growths are causing supply and demand constraints**, which in turn are driving pricing pressure. **The demand for available housing exceeds the supply, resulting in higher prices. New housing units have not kept pace with population growth since the end of the great recession.** San Francisco may be the most extreme example of this imbalance among major cities – new jobs there have outpaced additional homes by a ratio of 8 to 1 since 2010. The housing supply is further checked with local activists fighting to keep restrictive zoning laws and worrying about gentrification in the city. Beyond housing, cities are facing myriad other challenges. High on this list are transportation, homelessness and rising inequality.

Turn: Housing in rapidly urbanizing cities are slums

Giok Ling, 05-2007., "Urbanization and Slum Formation," PubMed Central (PMC). May 2007. Web. 7 Jan. 2021.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1891640/>

Rapid urban population growth has outpaced the ability of city authorities to provide for housing and environmental and health infrastructure. This is evident in the

proportion of the population that is living in slums as illustrated in Table 5. Cities such as Dhaka in Bangladesh or Mumbai in India are, realistically speaking, metropolitan or urban regions, spanning large territorial areas. Others like Metro Manila in the Philippines or Jakarta in Indonesia are really megaurban regions. The nature of the governments differs considerably. Jakarta's urban government has the status of a provincial government equal to that of other provinces in Indonesia. The metropolitan government in Manila coordinates among some 17 local authorities, the majority of which are municipalities with a few town councils. Squatter and slum settlements have formed mainly because of the inability of city governments to plan and provide affordable housing for the low-income segments of the urban population. Hence, squatter and slum housing is the housing solution for this low-income urban population. In the megaurban regions or metropolitan areas, part of the problem would lie in the coordination among different authorities that are in charge of economic development, urban planning, and land allocation. Such coordination issues also exist between the city and national governments. The economically more dynamic regions such as Asia have experienced strong growth because the state sector drives development agendas. National and city governments have generally adopted the position that economic development will take care of basic needs such as housing and environmental and health infrastructure. In cities of higher income countries such as Malaysia, private sector developers are more interested in building homes for the middle-income market. **The proliferation of slum and squatter settlements shows, however, that planned economic growth has to be aligned with the planned development of health services, environmental infrastructure, and housing.**

Warrant: Sub-Saharan Africans who live in cities tend to disproportionately live in slums.

Ramin, Brodie. 12-2009. "Slums, climate change, and health in Subsaharan Africa"

World Health Organization. Dec. 2009. Web. 7 Jan. 2021.

<https://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/87/12/09-073445/en/>

Sub-Saharan Africa is the least urbanized region in the world. Only 39.1% of the region's population lives in cities.¹ However, the region's urban population is projected to more than double to 760 million by 2030.¹ The rate of urbanization makes it very challenging to manage. A recent paper in the New England Journal of Medicine argued that urbanization is a "health hazard for certain vulnerable populations, and this demographic shift threatens to create a humanitarian disaster."² **Urbanization in Africa is linked to poverty. Globally, nearly 1 billion people live in slums, and this number is projected to double to 2 billion in the next 30 years.³** The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UNHABITAT) defines a slum as an urban area with a lack of basic services (sanitation, potable water, electricity), substandard housing, overcrowding, unhealthy and hazardous locations, insecure tenure and social exclusion.³ **In sub-Saharan Africa, 71.8% of urban dwellers live in slums, the highest proportion in the world.⁴**

Warrant: Children are the most hurt by living in slums

Ramin, Brodie. 12-2009. "Slums, climate change, and health in Subsaharan Africa"

World Health Organization. Dec. 2009. Web. 7 Jan. 2021.

<https://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/87/12/09-073445/en/>

Across Africa, 45% of the urban population lacked access to improved sanitation in 2000.⁴ In eastern Africa in 2006, open defecation was the only sanitation practice available to 33% of the population.¹ This contributes to the contamination of water and land within cities as well as to many of the waterborne diseases prevalent in slums.⁴ Flooded areas and ditches, latrines and septic tanks are key reservoirs that perpetuate cholera, malaria, dengue and yellow fever in urban areas.⁸ Infectious disease outbreaks are also precipitated by the high population density found in these areas, with overcrowding triggering epidemic-prone infections like pertussis and

influenza.^{2,8} Children bear a disproportionate burden of disease in slums. In Ethiopia and the Niger, rates of child malnutrition in both urban slums and rural areas are around 40%.⁴ Immunization coverage in slums in the Niger is 35% compared with 86% in non-slum urban areas.⁴ In Nairobi, where 60% of the city's population live in slums, child mortality in the slums is 2.5 times greater than in other areas of the city.⁷

Analysis: When responding to this argument, the easiest way to counter it is to look into where people, specifically people in Africa live once they get into the cities. The majority of migrants into cities end up in slums, a phenomenon that is most common in Africa. A strong turn to this argument would be a thorough block explaining the ubiquitousness of slums, the inability to meaningfully diminish them, and then go into the unique harms of slums to public health.

A/2: Urbanization improves social outcomes

Answer: Urbanization leads to social tensions

Warrant: Urbanization can create tensions between demographic groups

“Urbanization” Lumen learning. 2020.

<https://courses.lumenlearning.com/sociology/chapter/urbanization/>

“Cities provide numerous opportunities for their residents and offer significant benefits including access to goods to numerous job opportunities. At the same time, high population areas can lead to tensions between demographic groups, as well as environmental strain. While the population of urban dwellers is continuing to rise, sources of social strain are rising along with it. **The ultimate challenge for today’s urbanites is finding an equitable way to share the city’s resources while reducing the pollution and energy use that negatively impacts the environment..”**

Warrant: Diverse harmony is not guaranteed, there are many factors

“Urbanization” Lumen learning. 2020.

<https://courses.lumenlearning.com/sociology/chapter/urbanization/>

For example, sociologists Feagin and Parker (1990) suggested **three factors** by which political and economic leaders **control urban growth. First, these leaders work alongside each other to influence urban growth and decline, determining where money flows and how land use is regulated. Second, exchange value and use value of land are balanced to favor the middle and upper classes so that, for example, public land in poor neighborhoods may be rezoned for use as industrial land.** Finally, urban development is dependent on both structure (groups such as local government) and

agency (individuals including businessmen and activists), and these groups engage in a push-pull dynamic that determines where and how land is actually used.”

Analysis: This response shows how diversity does not always bring a valuable exchange of ideas and that in the real world the chaotic mix of urbanization can cause strife and chaos.

Answer: Urbanization makes food prices more volatile

Warrant: Urbanization encourages hoarding and insecurity

Kemal Ozden. “Urbanization And Its Political Challenges In Developing Countries”, 2009.

University of Nigeria,

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/315718570_Urbanization_And_Its_Political_Challenges_In_Developing_Countries

“Developing countries in the Twenty-first Century is experiencing rapid urbanization with a high concentration of people in the urban areas while the population of people in the rural areas is decreasing due to the rise in rural-urban push which has adverse consequences on the economic and political development of developing countries’, particularly African, cities. Therefore, this study seeks to analyze the trends and nature of urbanization in Africa from the pre-colonial era to the contemporary period of globalization in order to ascertain the implications of rapid urbanization on the processes of democratic transitions, on the vagaries of food sufficiency and crisis as well as its multiplier effects on the escalating rate of poverty and insurgency in the cities. These problems stem from the lack of good governance, high rate of corruption and the misappropriation of state resources through diverse economic liberalizing reforms and development strategies.”

Warrant: The impact of urbanization can be highly divisive and socially harmful

Kemal Ozden. "Urbanization And Its Political Challenges In Developing Countries", 2009.

University of Nigeria,

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/315718570_Urbanization_And_Its_Political_Challenges_In_Developing_Countries

"Thus, this study affirms that **urbanization is a process that requires objective management and institutional role differentiations** and performance to create the organizational synergy, moderation and frugality necessary for the equitable distribution of the common wealth for the greatest good of all peoples not only in the urban areas but also in the rural areas **which invariably will bring about political and economic development in African cities, and reduce the high incidences of poverty, insurgency and food crisis.**"

Analysis: This argument is persuasive because it shows that there may be social disadvantages to urbanization which may outweigh its positive effects. Use examples of social and political unrest in cities to make this point.

A/2: Urbanization improves food security

Answer: Urban areas can have higher food costs

Warrant: Urban areas are not better off than rural areas

Marie Ruel. "Growing Cities, Growing Food Insecurity" CSIS. 2000.

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/growing-cities-growing-food-insecurity-how-protect-poor-during-rapid-urbanization>

"Urban areas are most afflicted by profound inequalities stemming from differences between socioeconomic groups, ethnicity, migratory status, location of residence (slums or formal settlements), city size, and a host of other factors. In India, we find that the nutritional status of poor slum dwellers is similar to those of rural populations, challenging the myth that urban dwellers are generally better off than their rural counterparts. **In a forthcoming paper, our team shows that child stunting (low height for age), for example, is approximately 40 percent in both urban slums and rural areas of India, whereas adult overweight is worse in urban slums, affecting 21 percent of adults compared to 15 percent in rural areas."**

Warrant: Urban dwellers are often more food insecure than rural people

Marie Ruel. "Growing Cities, Growing Food Insecurity" CSIS. 2000.

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/growing-cities-growing-food-insecurity-how-protect-poor-during-rapid-urbanization>

"In fact, the unique characteristics of life in urban areas makes the urban poor particularly vulnerable to food insecurity. Urban dwellers are almost entirely dependent on the cash economy and therefore need stable employment and

income for their food needs, whereas many rural households have access to land and grow a significant proportion of the food they consume. An analysis of 20 low- and middle-income countries shows that urban households spend on average more than 50 percent of their budget on food and up to 75 percent in the poorest countries.”

Analysis: This is a turn which shows the judge that urban areas often face harsher food related conditions than rural ones. Use it to win your opponents' impacts about food security

Answer: Urbanization makes food prices more volatile

Warrant: Urbanization encourages hoarding and insecurity

Jesper Stage “Is urbanization contributing to higher food prices?”, 2009. IIED
Urbanization and Emerging Population Issues,
<https://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/10573IIED.pdf>

“Urbanization has been mentioned as one possible cause of higher food prices. In this paper we examine some of the links through which urbanization is considered to be contributing to higher food prices and conclude that in most cases urbanization is being conflated with other long-term processes, such as economic growth, population growth and environmental degradation, which can more fruitfully be seen as related but separate processes. We discuss long- and short term factors affecting food prices, and conclude that the one important way in which urbanization in poor countries may affect food prices, at least potentially, is that it increases the number of households who depend on commercial food supplies, rather than own production, as their main source and hence are likely to hoard food if they fear future price increases..”

Warrant: Hoarding leads to price spirals

Jesper Stage “Is urbanization contributing to higher food prices?”, 2009. IIED Urbanization and Emerging Population Issues, <https://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/10573IIED.pdf>

“These urban poor are heavily dependent on commercially traded food as their main source of food supply and – because of the huge share of their budget devoted to food – are highly sensitive to variations in prices. **This can lead them to stockpile food when prices are expected to go up, which can in itself contribute to higher prices. This also makes many governments more likely to attempt to keep prices low through short-run emergency measures that raise prices even further for other countries, and that may also disrupt local food markets.** Government intervention definitely played a role in the recent price spike, and there is some indication that hoarding by households may also have contributed to the spike.”

Analysis: This argument is strong because it provides a unique disadvantage to urban life which an overwhelm marginal changes in food security. Even if food prices are slightly higher, the knock-on effects price volatility may warrant a con ballot.

A/2: Urbanization improves public safety

Answer: Urban areas are unsafe

Warrant: Crime rates are higher in cities

“Crime and Development in Africa” United Nations. 2000.

https://www.unodc.org/pdf/African_report.pdf

“Internationally, crime rates are higher in cities than in rural areas, with the rate generally increasing according to city size. Africa does not seem to be any exception.”

For example, an analysis of risk factors for victimisation based on national victim survey conducted in 2003 in South Africa, illustrates the prevalence of crime in major cities.

Those living outside metropolitan areas were found to be 45% to 50% less at risk of theft. The same trends applied in the case of robbery and assault..”

Warrant: High urban turnover is driving higher crime

“Crime and Development in Africa” United Nations. 2000.

https://www.unodc.org/pdf/African_report.pdf

“This means that as more Africans move to cities, especially large cities, crime rates can be expected to increase. The sizes of the potential offender and victim pools are simply increasing. The growth of mega-cities like Lagos and Kinshasa in the context of negative economic growth has particularly serious implications for crime rates. The rate at which urbanisation occurs is also relevant, as population instability, or the rate at which people change their households, is strongly associated with crime, and urban populations are typically areas of high turnover..”

Analysis: This is a defensive response which makes the arguments that urban crime is a serious problem as well. Use it to deny your opponents access to any unique offense stemming from rural crime.

Answer: Many structural factors make cities more likely to support crime than rural areas

Warrant: Urbanization brings social problems

Ghani, Zubairu Abubakar (2017) : A comparative study of urban crime between Malaysia and Nigeria, Journal of Urban Management, ISSN 2226-5856, Elsevier, Amsterdam, Vol. 6, Iss. 1, pp. 19-29,
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jum.2017.03.001>

"Urbanization has created numerous social problems, among which is crime that became a common phenomenon to all urban areas in both developed and developing nations. Recent unimaginable levels of the world urbanization coincides with rise in urban crimes in many parts of the world, as the rate of unemployment had been on the increase and coupled with increased poverty among the urban poor. Nature of crime is not uniform but varies from one geographical region to another. In some areas, property crime is more common while in others, crime on person (violent) is prevalent. Crime is not being plagued by a singular factor anywhere it occurred, there are variant factors that influence criminal activities. However, key factors that persuade criminal behaviours of potential offenders includes: unemployment, poverty, bad governance and weaknesses in law enforcement or crime-control agencies."

Warrant: Urbanization allows for more crimes of passion to escalate

Ghani, Zubairu Abubakar (2017) : A comparative study of urban crime between Malaysia and Nigeria, Journal of Urban Management, ISSN 2226-5856, Elsevier, Amsterdam, Vol. 6, Iss. 1, pp. 19-29,
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jum.2017.03.001>

“Although, in certain cases, many urban immigrants assumed they will secure employment, when usually it is not the case. Instead, they meet a cost of living that is much higher or rather difficult than that of their experience back in rural areas. **Impulsive crime also takes place in areas where there are high population densities, swift changes in social environments and poor living conditions. For instance, many immigrants in urban areas experience new urban life where relationship is based on momentary, superficial and impersonal interactions. This then produce anonymity among urban dwellers, diabolical socio-economic, high cost of living and socially disorganized, thereby turning some to steal.”**

Analysis: This argument provides a strong warrant for why urbanization increases crime. Use it to show your judge that logically it makes sense that dense urban development is actually the driver of crime.

A/2: Urbanization improves access to high quality medical specialists

Answer: Urbanization hurts health outcomes

Warrant: Urbanization increases air pollution

Chris DePalatis. "The Effects of Urbanization on Humans Physical Health" Medium. 2018. <https://medium.com/the-healthy-city/the-effects-of-urbanization-on-humans-physical-health-e2cd73c91001#:~:text=Another%20way%20that%20urbanization%20affects,is%20people's%20change%20in%20diet.&text=This%20increase%20in%20consumption%20of,that%20affects%20many%20peoples%20lives.>

"One very common and fairly obvious negative aspect of highly congested urban areas is air pollution. Air pollution is defined as any harmful substance being suspended in the air. This could include particulate matter, most commonly attributed to industrial plants and refineries waste, or chemicals like CO₂ or Methane (which are also products of plants and refineries as well as cars and other modes of transportation). Due to a vast number of people in these urbanized cities, the air pollution is known to be very extreme. These conditions can lead to many different health problems such as: Asthma, cardiovascular problems or disease, and different types of cancer (most commonly lung cancer). When exposed to these conditions for a prolonged period of time one can experience even more detrimental health effects like: the acceleration of aging, loss of lung capacity and health, being more susceptible to respiratory diseases, and a shortened life span."

Warrant: Urbanization fosters unhealthy eating habits

Chris DePalatis. "The Effects of Urbanization on Humans Physical Health" Medium. 2018. <https://medium.com/the-healthy-city/the-effects-of-urbanization-on-humans-physical-health-e2cd73c91001#:~:text=Another%20way%20that%20urbanization%20affects,is%20people's%20change%20in%20diet.&text=This%20increase%20in%20consumption%20of,that%20affects%20many%20peoples%20lives.>

"Another way that urbanization affects the populations health is people's change in diet. For instance, urban cities tend to have lots of accessible, quick, and easy to get food. This food is also more than likely not as high quality as well as contains a large amount of sodium and sugar. **Because this food is so accessible, people tend to eat it more. This increase in consumption of low quality food can then lead to diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, obesity, or many other health conditions. Diabetes is one very common health condition that affects many peoples lives.** It is a health condition in which the glucose (sugar) levels in one's blood is too high."

Analysis: This argument is strong because it acts as a prerequisite to your opponent's argument. Even if there is more healthcare infrastructure in cities, people get sick more.

Answer: Urbanization does not result in more access to care

Warrant: Demand outstrips supply

Melinda Moore. "Global urbanization and impact on health." Science Direct. March 2003.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1438463904702230>

"Cities offer the lure of better employment, education, health care, and culture; and they contribute disproportionately to national economies. However, rapid and often

unplanned urban growth is often associated with poverty, environmental degradation and population demands that outstrip service capacity. These conditions place human health at risk. Reliable urban health statistics are largely unavailable throughout the world.”

Warrant: Medical statistics in developing countries are unreliable

Melinda Moore. “Global urbanization and impact on health.” Science Direct. March 2003.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1438463904702230>

“Data that are available indicate a range of urban health hazards and associated health risks: substandard housing, crowding, air pollution, insufficient or contaminated drinking water, inadequate sanitation and solid waste disposal services, vector-borne diseases, industrial waste, increased motor vehicle traffic, stress associated with poverty and unemployment, among others. **Local and national governments and multilateral organizations are all grappling with the challenges of urbanization. Urban health risks and concerns involve many different sectors, including health, environment, housing, energy, transportation, urban planning, and others..”**

Analysis: This is a defensive response which argues that even if in theory urbanization creates more access to healthcare, in practice the demands put on the system are too large. There are simply so many people that no one is able to access the benefits of better healthcare.

A/2: Urbanization increases FDI

Answer: West Africa has not received enough FDI

Warrant: FDI shares have been low because of many factors

Mauzu Ibrahim. "African countries aren't getting as much as they should from foreign direct investment" The Conversation. 2016.

<https://theconversation.com/african-countries-arent-getting-as-much-as-they-should-from-foreign-direct-investment-131856>

"One of the avenues through which countries have sought to attract more foreign direct investment has been investment summits. These are hosted jointly with developed countries. They include the Africa-China Investment Summit, Africa-UK Investment Summit and the Africa-US Investment Summit. Despite these efforts, data shows that Africa has not been a major recipient of these flows. In fact, it attracts a lot less than other developing countries. There's a bigger problem too – the impact on economic growth of the foreign direct investment the continent attracts is lower than other comparable parts of the world. In our research we set out to understand why. To do this, we looked at the financial services sector which is underdeveloped in most African countries."

Warrant: Africa's financial sector is not mature enough to handle FDI inflows

Mauzu Ibrahim. "African countries aren't getting as much as they should from foreign direct investment" The Conversation. 2016.

<https://theconversation.com/african-countries-arent-getting-as-much-as-they-should-from-foreign-direct-investment-131856>

"In Africa's case we found that the continent's underdeveloped financial sector has dampened the impact of foreign direct investment on economic growth. To measure financial sector development we calculated credit provided by the financial sector to the private sector as a percentage of GDP. On this measure, Africa's financial sector fails to allocate financial resources effectively and efficiently to the productive sectors of the economy. When the financial sector does allocate resources, it invests in risky projects. The net effect is that it hurts economic growth and therefore fails to support foreign direct investment."

Analysis: This block allows you to circumvent your opponent's logic. Even if urbanization is good in theory, in practice it has not worked out for West Africa.

Answer: Urbanization has not attracted FDI in Africa

Warrant: Africa experiences little FDI despite high returns on investment

Ayodele Odusola. "Addressing the Foreign Direct Investment Paradox in Africa." Africa Renewal. March 2014. <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/web-features/addressing-foreign-direct-investment-paradox-africa>

"Africa's experience on inward foreign direct investment (FDI) presents a paradox. Conventionally, capital is expected to flow from countries with low to high returns. During 2006-2011, the region experienced the highest rate of return on FDI (11.4%) compared to 9.1% in Asia, 8.9% in Latin America and the Caribbean. The world's average was 7.1%. Yet Africa's share of the global net FDI has been very low over the past decade (Figure 1)."

Warrant: Many barriers to FDI exist

Ayodele Odusola. "Addressing the Foreign Direct Investment Paradox in Africa." Africa Renewal. March 2014. <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/web-features/addressing-foreign-direct-investment-paradox-africa>

"Why is Africa experiencing an FDI paradox? Africa's labour and natural resource endowments are insufficient to attract financial capital. Other endowments count. Critical among these include low public capital (e.g. low infrastructure like energy, roads, rails and airports); low human capital (e.g. absence of skilled, educated and healthy labour force); and low institutional capital (weak security and judicial systems, weak property rights, and poor regulatory and standards). The high quality of these capitals enhances productivity of physical and financial capitals and reduces cost of doing business. **When these are directly provided by investors, they serve as taxes on returns on investment. Other drivers of the FDI paradox include fragmented investment policies; information asymmetry (limited access to investment opportunities by foreign investors); and high sovereign risks (e.g. low absorptive capacity, high corruption, political instability, weak capacity to manage shocks).** All these aspects weaken government capacity to optimize social returns on investments that could complement and catalyze financial capital."

Analysis: This block is strong because it puts the burden on opponents to explain how urbanization can overcome many of these key barriers to FDI. You can also argue that urbanization creates some of these problems, turning the argument

A/2: Urbanization increases economic growth

Answer: Urbanization can be bad for the economy

Warrant: Urbanization is failing in Africa

Payce Madden. "Urban economic growth in Africa: Analyzing constraints to agglomeration" Brookings. October 2020. BBC News.
<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2020/10/30/urban-economic-growth-in-africa-analyzing-constraints-to-agglomeration/>

"Many of the major cities in developing countries, especially in Africa, are failing to reap the economic benefits of urbanization. These cities are not able to drive structural transformation, boost growth, create jobs in tradeable industries, and contribute to national economic growth compared with cities in other countries, such as those in China or most developed countries."

Example: In Africa, many cities actually are bad for the economic prospects of the citizens living there

Payce Madden. "Urban economic growth in Africa: Analyzing constraints to agglomeration" Brookings. October 2020. BBC News.
<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2020/10/30/urban-economic-growth-in-africa-analyzing-constraints-to-agglomeration/>

Recent African urbanization analyses have confirmed the problems of limited job creation, inadequate structural transformation, and poor livability seen in many sub-Saharan African cities today. At an urbanization level of around 40 percent, African cities are relatively poorer than other developing regions when they were at similar

levels of urbanization (Figure 1). Because per capita GDP is low, public and private investments in housing, infrastructure, and other capital are lacking. Issues of limited land management and lack of infrastructure contribute to African cities being fragmented, with low levels of accessibility to jobs and social services. All these factors contribute to African cities having high costs: For example, urban residents pay 55 percent more for housing and 42 percent more for transport in Africa than in other regions.

Analysis: This block is strong because it is specific to the situation in Africa. Even if urbanization is good in theory, in practice many of the benefits fail to materialize.

Answer: Benefits of urbanization may fail to materialize

Warrant: Some factors dampen economy growth

Ivan Turok. "Urbanization and economic growth: the arguments and evidence for Africa and Asia." SagePub Journals. March 2014.

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0956247813490908>

"The existence of agglomeration economies does not mean that urbanization will necessarily cause economic output to increase. The benefits of concentration can be offset by rising congestion, overcrowding, overloaded infrastructure, pressure on ecosystems (such as water courses and air quality), higher costs of living and higher labour and property costs in cities. These negative externalities tend to increase as cities expand, especially if urban development is haphazard and there is insufficient public investment to maintain and expand essential infrastructure. Dysfunctional systems, gridlock, power cuts and insecure water supplies increase business costs, reduce productivity and deter private investment. The balance between the

agglomeration economies and diseconomies may have an important influence on whether city economies continue to grow, stagnate or begin to decline.”

Warrant: The benefits may be spread unevenly

Ivan Turok. “Urbanization and economic growth: the arguments and evidence for Africa and Asia.” SagePub Journals. March 2014.

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0956247813490908>

“The advantages of agglomeration also vary across sectors of the economy, with implications for the relationship between urbanization and growth. Economic success generally involves a progressive shift out of agriculture, even as agricultural productivity grows, and the diversion of resources towards industrial and service sectors. Agriculture is more land intensive and gains from being dispersed across the countryside, while industries and services benefit from concentration. This helps to explain why urbanization is quite closely related to the share of a country’s GDP in industry and services.(16) It does not in itself imply that faster urbanization will lead to accelerated economic growth. **Rather, it suggests a sort of equilibrium or mutually dependent relationship, wherein urbanization helps to sustain growth but could be counter-productive if it outpaces economic restructuring and makes it difficult to absorb the surplus urban labour force”**

Analysis: This block is a good piece of defense which allows you to delink some of the opponent’s main logic. Use it in conjunction with other responses to deny your opponent access to their impact.

A/2: Urbanization hurts economic opportunities

Answer: It is not the Urbanization, but the management and leadership that is the issue.

Mitigate: Well managed urbanization drives economic opportunities.

Runde , Daniel F. "Urbanization, Opportunity, and Development". Center for Strategic and International Studies. 6 Jan 2015.

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/urbanization-opportunity-and-development>

The urbanization phenomenon demands forward leaning and integrated engagement from a cross section of stakeholders—including donors, national and municipal governments, citizen groups and the private sector—as both a policy and business priority. **Mismanaged or unaddressed, massive urban growth in the developing world can serve to create hotbeds of extreme poverty, disease, and radical violence.** Conversely, coordinated urban development and policy can capture population growth to drive economic and social dynamism, market creation, human development and climate change adaptation.

De-Link: Urbanization has not impeded economic opportunities and growth.

Leke, Acha; Signe, Landry. "Spotlighting opportunities for business in Africa and strategies to succeed in the world's next big growth market". Brookings Institute. 11 Jan 2019.
<https://www.brookings.edu/research/spotlighting-opportunities-for-business-in-africa-and-strategies-to-succeed-in-the-worlds-next-big-growth-market/>

Africa's real GDP grew at an average annual rate of 5.4 percent in 2000–2010, driven in nearly equal measures by labor force growth and productivity growth. After a slowdown prompted by the shocks of the Arab Spring in 2011 and the collapse of oil

prices in 2014, Africa's growth has recovered and its future prospects look buoyant. **Two indicators from the World Bank underline the continent's promise. First, of the 10 fastest-growing economies in the world in 2018, six were in Africa—with Ghana at the top of the world ranking. Secondly, in the World Bank's 2019 Doing Business index, five of the 10 most improved countries are in Africa, and one-third of all reforms recorded globally were in sub-Saharan Africa.** The economic acceleration and improving business environment are underpinned by five long-term trends, each of which is unlocking transformative growth in key economic sectors

Answer: Demographics, not just urbanization, has limited opportunities to this point.

Mitigation: Demographics are changing and will now allow economic opportunities to grow further.

Bello-Schünemann, Julia. "Africa's population boom: burden or opportunity?". Institute for Security Studies. 2021. <https://issafrica.org/amp/iss-today/africas-population-boom-burden-or-opportunity>

Sub-Saharan Africa is a latecomer to the demographic transition. High fertility rates, paired with high death rates, mean that the onset of the demographic dividend is delayed in comparison with other regions. **This has negative implications for economic growth and development. Most countries in sub-Saharan Africa have fewer workers supporting a larger proportion of the population (mainly children) than in other developing regions.** Yet, as Africa's population ages, the ratio between working-age individuals and the economically dependent population will change for the better. A larger labour force as a share of total population translates into increased productive capacity and can help to boost savings and investment. **And even though future global economic expansion will probably be driven by technological advances, Africa's lower**

middle-income and low-income economies still have a lot to gain from their expanding labour force over the coming decades.

Impact: Economic Growth in West African is spurring investment from other countries for even greater prosperity.

United States State Department. "The Prosper Africa Initiative Drives U.S. Investment in Africa:

DIPNOTE: ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND TRADE POLICY". STATE.GOV. 15 OCT 2020. [HTTPS://WWW.STATE.GOV/THE-PROSPER-AFRICA-INITIATIVE-DRIVES-U-S-INVESTMENT-IN-AFRICA/](https://www.state.gov/the-prosper-africa-initiative-drives-u-s-investment-in-africa/)

African businesses and American investors are natural partners. **Africa offers incredible growth, innovation, and opportunity; the U.S. offers the largest capital markets in the world** and a commitment to the highest standards of quality and transparency. With some of the world's fastest growing countries, **the African continent will have 100 cities with more than one million inhabitants by 2025**. This urbanization boom will drive investment and unlock new opportunities for U.S. businesses, from construction and transportation to smart city infrastructure and innovations in agriculture. A greater connection between the U.S. and African private sectors will expand shared economic opportunities and contribute to more prosperous, self-reliant, and stable African countries.

Analysis: Despite the negative mismanagement of urbanization, growth in West Africa's economical development, trade, and growing labor market has led the region into greater prosperity. With better management, and greater investment, West Africa will continue to grow, prosper, and increase the economic opportunities for their citizens.

A/2: Urbanization reduces the quality of life

Answer: Urbanization has more positive impacts long term on quality of life.

Mitigate:-Quality of life is improved in urban areas, even for those living in “slums”.

Teye , Joseph. “Urbanisation and Migration in Africa”. Centre for Migration Studies University of Ghana Expert Group Meeting, United Nations Headquarters in New York. 1-2 November, 2018.
https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/events/pdf/expert/28/E_GM_Joseph_Teye_ppt.pdf

Positive effects of rural-urban migration and urbanisation in Africa • **Urban living has, in a few cases, contributed to access to education, health services, lower fertility, improved access to social services.** • **Informal settlements tend to boom with various forms of entrepreneurial businesses and activities mostly in the informal sector.** • Recent studies in Ghana shows that incomes of the migrants were irregular, but higher than at places of origin. **“It is now better for me than before migration to Accra because back home in the North I was not doing any work. I am now happily working, able to save some money and remit money to my family back in the north. ... [In addition] “My son has benefited a lot from my migration to this place because I am now able to provide for all his educational needs”** Over 76% of rural-urban migrants in the slums in Accra save whereas 78% sent remittances within last 12 months prior to the study. • About 88% of the rural-urban migrants assessed their overall household life as ‘improved a lot/somewhat improved’ after moving to Accra. • “Migration has been helpful to me based on the things that I told you I have gotten. And even though migration has not improved my education, **through migration I have been able to continuously support the education of my brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews at home”** • While development policies continue to regard rural-urban migration as

negative and largely leading to an increase in urban poverty, **urban slums are not just places of despair and misery, but also places where migrants are optimistically making the most of their capabilities, despite obvious difficulties and trying to move out of poverty.**

Turn: Urbanization helps rural quality of life.

Chukwuedoie K. Ajaero, Patience C. Onokala, "The Effects of Rural-Urban Migration on Rural Communities of Southeastern Nigeria." International Journal of Population Research. 2013. <https://www.hindawi.com/journals/ijpr/2013/610193/>

One significant source of development for the rural populace as a result of this increasing drift towards the cities is remittances. Recently, migrants' remittances and the income multipliers they create are becoming critical resources for the sustenance strategies of receiving households as well as agents of regional and national development. Households that receive **these remittances** tend to use the proceeds primarily for current consumption (food, clothing) as well as investments in children's education, health care, improvement in household food and security, and water and sanitation. Nevertheless, the ability of remittances to compensate the labour shortage in rural areas is still a function of the amounts and value of remittances received by migrants' households at home, especially in the developing countries.

Warrant: Urbanization can have a positive impact on human development.

Tettey, Christian. "URBANIZATION IN AFRICA IN RELATION TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: A MULTIFACETED QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS". The Graduate Faculty of The University of Akron. Ohio University. August 2005.
https://etd.ohiolink.edu/apexprod/rws_etd/send_file/send?accession=akron1124911124&disposition=attachment

This study also confirmed the study by Njoh (2003) that **there is a positive relationship between urbanization and development, defined as human development.** Using both measures for urbanization on one hand and the HDI computed by UNDP and the one computed specifically for the study, there was a positive relationship between all the combinations, except the relationship between the HDI computed by UNDP and Urbanization index which had a negative relationship. The study, therefore, concludes that: 1) HDI can be used to study degree of urbanization but not urbanization index and 2) in cases where the study involves countries of the same continent, HDI should be computed for that continent and the data used for the analysis. This is because the HDI computed using only African countries explains more variance in degree of urbanization than the one computed by UNDP.

Weigh: Quality of life has improved in West Africa.

Duffin, Erin. "Life expectancy in Africa 2020". 6 Oct 2020.

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/274511/life-expectancy-in-africa/>

Moreover, countries from across the African regions dominate the list of countries with the lowest life expectancy worldwide. The Central African Republic had the lowest life expectancy of any country for those born in 2020. However there is reason for hope despite the low life expectancy rates in many African countries. **Africa's Human Development index rating has increased dramatically from 0.375 to 0.498 between 1980 and 2011, demonstrating an improvement in quality of life and as a result greater access to vital services that allow people to live longer lives. One such improvement has been successful efforts to reduce the rate of aids infection and research into combating its effects. The number of new HIV infections across Africa has decreased from around 1.3 million in 2015 to 970,000 in 2019.**

Analysis: Despite the challenges of urbanization, the improvements to quality of life are apparent. Individuals living in urban areas that are less than ideal report that their quality of life is still vastly improved from life before. Rural areas benefit from urban development, crucially impacting the improvement of their quality of life through trade, infrastructure, education, etc. While it may not be as fast or large of growth so far, the quality of life is getting better and saving lives in the process.

A/2: Urbanization worsens public health

Answer: Urbanization issues are from poor planning and lack of resources, not the growth itself.

Mitigation: While spreading happens in urbanization, it is attributed to lack of immunizations and access to labs and resources.

World Health Organization. "The West African Situation." WHO.int. 2021.

<https://www.who.int/csr/disease/yellowfev/westafrica/en/>

The resurgence of the disease in West Africa mainly affects countries whose populations have gradually lost the protection provided by the mass preventive immunization campaigns carried out between 1933 and 1961, such as Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Senegal and Togo. Although the number of cases is low, **this situation is of great concern given that the number of reported cases underestimates the real magnitude of the problem**. The reported cases are only the severe cases who seek cure in medium size public health care facilities (maximum 1-2 % of the infected people in non epidemic period). Therefore **the underestimation of the number of cases depends on many factors such as access to the health care system, sensitivity of the surveillance system, laboratory capacity to confirm cases and the willingness of the country to report a disease with potential negative impact on travel and tourism**.

Answer: Urbanization helps to bring labs, research and education that will help solve the public health issues.

Warrant: Infrastructure doesn't solve on its own, Treatment is key.

Bollyky, Thomas. "The Future of Global Health is Urban Health." Council on Foreign Relations. 31 Jan 2019. <https://www.cfr.org/article/future-global-health-urban-health>

Today the decline in deaths from the traditional diseases of density—tuberculosis and diarrheal and intestinal infectious diseases—in many large cities is due less to prevention through infrastructure improvements and public health oversight (see below). Instead the **evidence suggests that treatment (e.g., antibiotics, childhood vaccines, oral rehydration solutions), rather than prevention (e.g., clean water, sanitation, and strong urban public health systems), has mattered the most.** For example, deaths from cholera and other diarrheal illnesses in lower-income countries are decreasing much faster than the incidence of these diseases.

Health has shaped the history of cities, but it is cities that will define the future of global health and economic development. The majority of the world's population already lives in urban areas. The population of city dwellers globally is projected to grow by 2.5 billion by 2050, with nearly 90 percent in lower-income nations in Africa and Asia. **Urbanization in lower-income nations could offer billions of people better access to jobs and health-care services, and a gateway to the world economy.** To reap those benefits, those nations will have to confront the looming health and environmental challenges of urban life.

Warrant: West Africa cannot be reliant on other countries for treatment options.

Ogbuajj, Osandu; Bharali, Juchita, et all. "Closing Africa's Health Financing Gap". Brookings Institute. 1 Mar 2019. <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2019/03/01/closing-africas-health-financing-gap/>

Although 44 percent of current health expenditures (meaning “the final consumption of health goods and services”) in Africa was financed through domestic government funds

in 2016, **more than 37 percent of all of Africa's health spending comes from out-of-pocket payments.** This burden has significant implications at the household level. For example, at least 11 percent of Africans experience catastrophic spending for health care every year, while as many as 38 percent delay or forgo health care due to high costs. If the ambitious SDGs are to be reached in Africa, **significant efforts must be made to change the current spending environment. Increased donor funds will not be enough to close this financing gap. External support for health is a tiny share of global health spending—just 0.2 percent of health expenditures in 2016 and, even in Africa, just 9 percent.** Development assistance for health has been more or less stagnant since around 2008 (i.e., in the wake of the global financial crisis). **Although emerging donors such as China are becoming increasingly engaged in health assistance in Africa, these additional funds from new donors are unlikely to be significant enough to be a game changer.**

Warrant: The Best Results for public health comes from within their own communities

de-Graft Aikins, A., Unwin, N., Agyemang, C. et al. Tackling Africa's chronic disease burden: from the local to the global. *Global Health* 6, 5 (2010). H
<https://doi.org/10.1186/1744-8603-6-5>

Furthermore the interaction between well-intentioned policy and health services on the one hand, and patients and their families on the other is seldom a seamless process. **Communities play a key role in shaping the lifestyle decisions that drive chronic illness, and peoples' interpretations of and responses to pain and suffering. Community networks play a key role in determining the success of the diffusion of health-related knowledge from health professionals to vulnerable . Community-level norms and practices shape whether or not people will make best use of medical services when these are available, in terms of appropriate access and optimal adherence to medical advice.**

Warrant: Every country needs to be self reliant for the global public health as well.

Marston, B. J., Dokubo, E., van Steelandt, A., Martel, L., Williams, D., Hersey, S....Redd, J. T. (2017). Ebola Response Impact on Public Health Programs, West Africa, 2014–2017. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, 23(13).
<https://dx.doi.org/10.3201/eid2313.170727>.

Global health security relies on the ability of all countries to prevent, rapidly detect, and respond to public health threats at their source. The West Africa Ebola epidemic highlighted the importance of strong public health systems and the need for local public health systems that include ongoing surveillance, a well-trained workforce, laboratory capacity, and emergency response capabilities. In settings with limited public health capacity or in which the magnitude of a health threat overwhelms local capacity and requires international support, response efforts provide a unique opportunity for strengthening public health systems and can serve as a further catalyst to accelerate progress toward global health security goals.

Analysis: Urbanization is not the root of the issues facing West Africa. Lack of immunization and management are at the source and can be fixed. The infrastructure that comes with urbanization is key to stabilizing West Africa's economy so that they can fund their own needs, as well as build and increase the public health resources that are needed while also providing jobs, and benefits to themselves and the world.

A/2: Urbanization is harming critical infrastructure.

Solvency: Urbanization will help more with developing critical infrastructure.

Arimah, Ben. "Infrastructure as a Catalyst for the Prosperity of African Cities". Urban Transitions Conference, Shanghai. Procedia Engineering 198 (2017) 245 – 266. September 2016. <https://pdf.sciencedirectassets.com/278653/1-s2.0-S1877705817X00313/1-s2.0-S1877705817330060/main.pdf>

Improved infrastructure can deliver major benefits capable of achieving the Sustainable Development Goal to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Despite the importance of infrastructure in the functioning of African cities, there are few attempts at investigating its contribution from a city perspective. This paper investigates how the provision of infrastructure contributes to the prosperity of African cities, using Expert Opinion Survey from a diverse selection of cities. Trends in three components of infrastructure — water supply, road network and telecommunications are examined. Serious water shortage characterizes 79% of the African cities in the study. However, cities such as Gaborone and Algiers located in arid regions of Africa are better able to meet their water supply needs largely due to effective water governance and management. The dysfunctional nature of roads in African cities poses a major challenge to the prosperity of these cities. Compared to other components of infrastructure, **telecommunications is ranked as the most developed form of infrastructure in African cities.** This is attributed to the spectacular growth in the mobile phone industry over the last one and half decades. The mobile phone industry acts a catalyst for growth in African cities. Further analysis of the Expert Opinion Survey shows that if developed and effectively managed, infrastructure can contribute to the prosperity of African cities by: driving economic growth; facilitating urban mobility; ensuring greater access to health and education;

enhancing safety and security; guiding urban growth; enhancing environmental quality; improving slums conditions; and reducing intra-urban disparities.

Solvency: Urbanization issues are being assisted and managed by planners to ensure critical infrastructure is embedded in the growth.

Sachdev, Navanwita. "Mapping Africa's 'high-speed urbanization' to manage growing infrastructure:

Africapolis: 'The future of Africa is urban'" The Sociable. 23 Dec 2019.

<https://sociable.co/technology/mapping-africas-high-speed-urbanization-to-manage-growing-infrastructure-africapolis/>

"The future of Africa's urbanization is not only in large existing cities, but also in tomorrow's secondary agglomerations, which will grow," he says. Data and evidence from Africapolis supports cities and governments to make urban areas more inclusive, productive, and sustainable. Benazeraf says that it's absolutely key to understand the urbanization trends to promote adequate responses and policies in the region.

"Urbanization is a key trend in Africa, which used to be a vastly rural continent, but it's becoming more and more urban. So people are either moving to the cities or even in very densely populated rural cities, urban agglomerations are emerging, so the future of Africa is urban." "Because the situation is changing rapidly. We're talking about high-speed urbanization. **We also want to do modeling and projections of the future.**

So that users can look at the future trends and get an idea of how tomorrow's cities and urbanization will look like. If the smaller African cities, which aren't yet overwhelmed with population, are not taken into account now, they will become difficult to manage in the future in terms of urban facilities and infrastructure.

Africapolis helps in focusing on the hundreds of such smaller African agglomerations to ensure their future urbanization is well-managed.

Outweigh: Removing barriers to rural-urban can enable positive urban impacts to improve rural areas as well.

McGranahan, Gordon ; Turok, Ivan. "Urbanization and economic growth: the arguments and evidence for Africa and Asia Environment & Urbanization". International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). 465 Vol 25(2): 465–482. DOI: 10.1177/0956247813490908. 2013 .
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0956247813490908>

The relationship between urbanization and development is a vital policy concern, especially in Africa and Asia. This paper reviews the arguments and evidence for whether rapid urban population growth can help to raise living standards. The main finding is that the development effects of urbanization and the magnitude of agglomeration economies are very variable. There is no simple linear relationship between urbanization and economic growth, or between city size and productivity. **The potential of urbanization to promote growth is likely to depend on how conducive the infrastructure and institutional settings are. Removing barriers to rural–urban mobility may enable economic growth, but the benefits will be much larger with supportive policies, markets and infrastructure investments.** Cities should use realistic population projections as the basis for investing in public infrastructure and implementing supportive land policies. **Governments should seek out ways of enabling forms of urbanization that contribute to growth, poverty reduction and environmental sustainability, rather than encouraging (or discouraging) urbanization per se.**

Analysis: While the rapid urbanization of West Africa has shown problems in lack of infrastructure, this is not the issue of urbanization itself, but management. There are significant advantages that urbanization has already provided, and that properly managed and developed urbanization can bring to not only the urban areas, but to rural areas as well. These critical infrastructures will help not only West Africa's populations, but their global impact as well.