



# URBANIZATION IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

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# Urbanization As A Significant Contemporary Global Phenomenon

- Affects:
  - Socio-demographic trends
  - Health
  - Natural resources
  - Environmental trends



# What Is Urbanization?

- Number of inhabitants combined with:
  - Population density
  - Built up areas
  - Commuting density
  - Travel distance
  - Number of individuals not engaged in agricultural economic activities

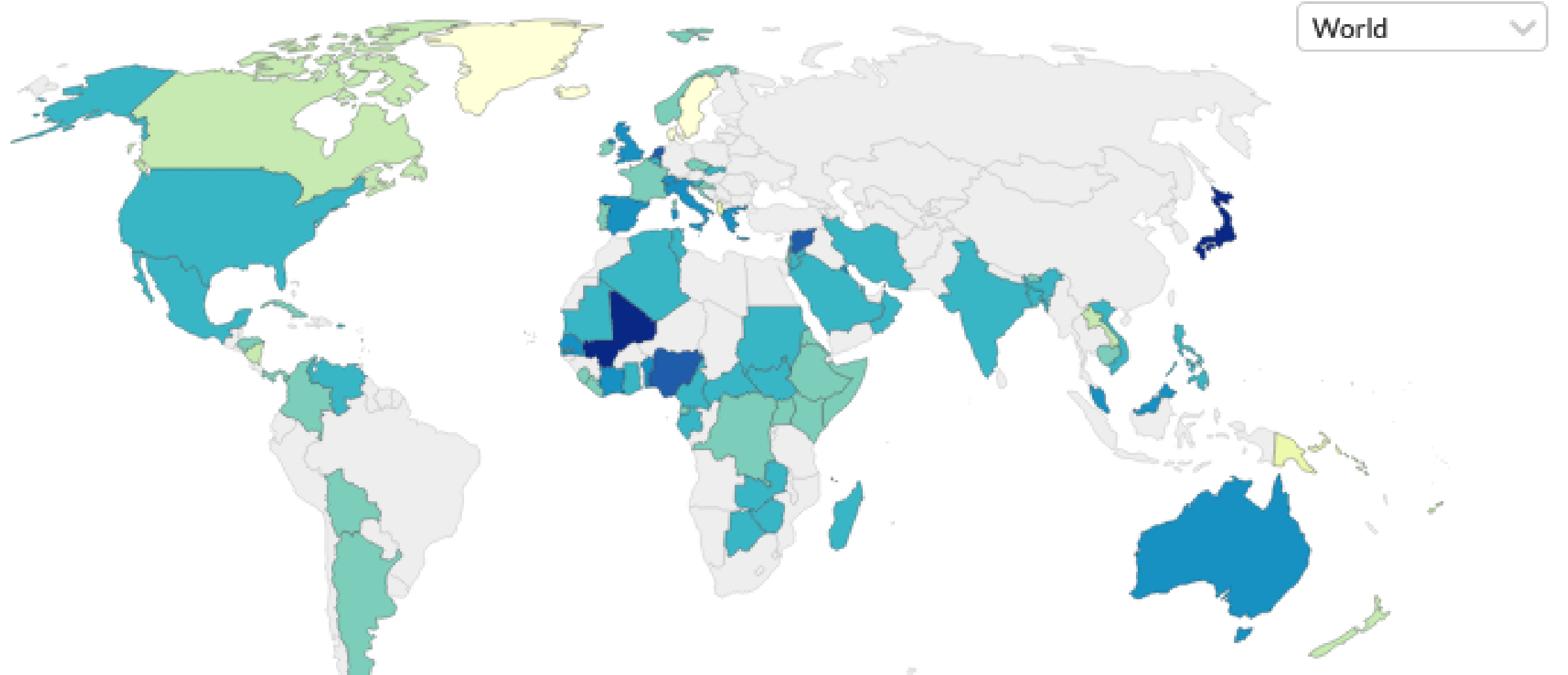


UN's 11th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) is to "make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable"

- Goal:
  - Resource-efficient, inclusive cities
- Problem:
  - Who are we talking about? Necessary for urban planning

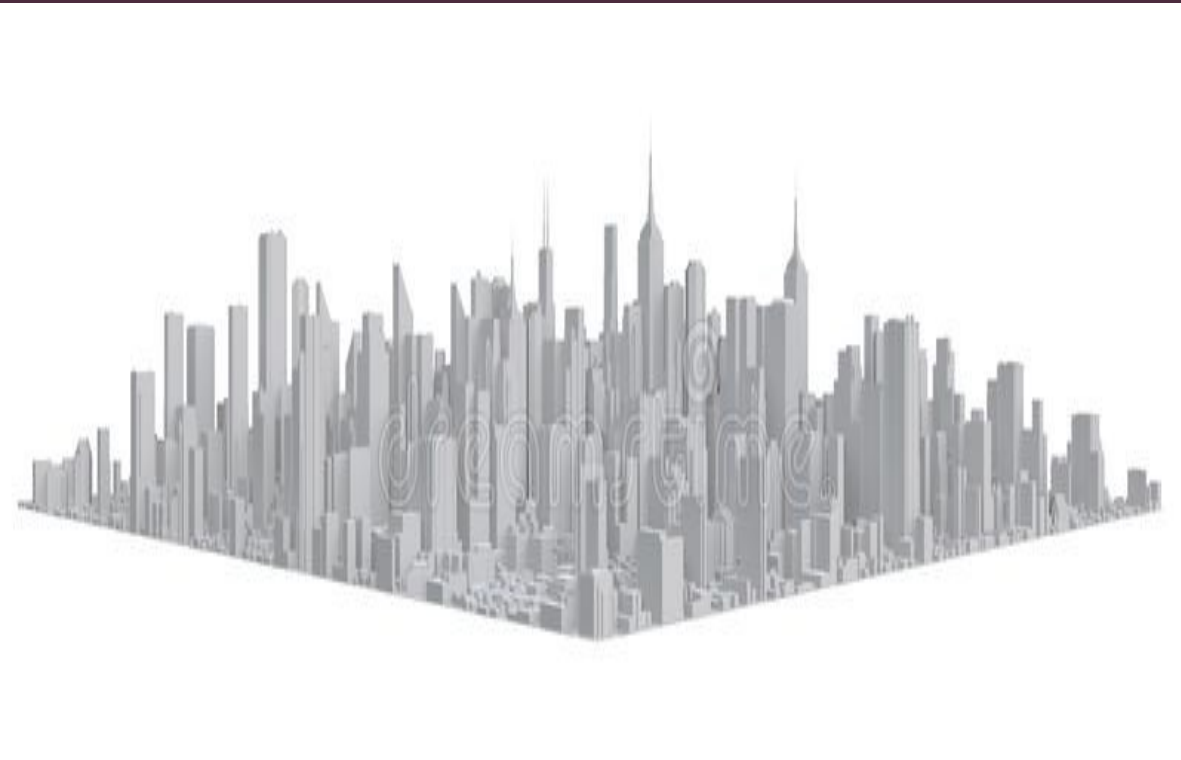
# Minimum number of inhabitants for a settlement to classify as an urban area

Minimum population threshold of a settlement for it to be defined as an 'urban area' based on national definitions. There is no universal definition of what constitutes an 'urban area'; definitions vary significantly between countries. For many countries, there is no defined threshold based on inhabitants; other metrics such as population density, infrastructure, or even pre-defined cities may be used.



Country	National definition of 'urban'
Argentina	Localities with 2,000 inhabitants or more.
Sweden	Built-up areas with 200 inhabitants or more and where houses are at most 200 metres apart.
Japan	Cities defined as shi. In general, shi refers to a municipality that satisfies the following conditions: (1) 50,000 inhabitants or more; (2) 60 per cent or more of the houses located in the main built-up areas; (3) 60 per cent or more of the population (including their dependents) engaged in manufacturing, trade or other urban type of business.
India	Statutory places with a municipality, corporation, cantonment board or notified town area committee and places satisfying all of the following three criteria: (1) 5,000 inhabitants or more; (2) at least 75 per cent of male working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits; and (3) at least 400 inhabitants per square kilometre.
Zimbabwe	Places officially designated as urban, as well as places with 2,500 inhabitants or more whose population resides in a compact settlement pattern and where more than 50 per cent of the employed persons are engaged in non-agricultural occupations.
Singapore	Entire population.

# Trends in Urbanization



4.1 billion people live in urban areas today - 55% of world population (in 1800 less than 10% of world population)

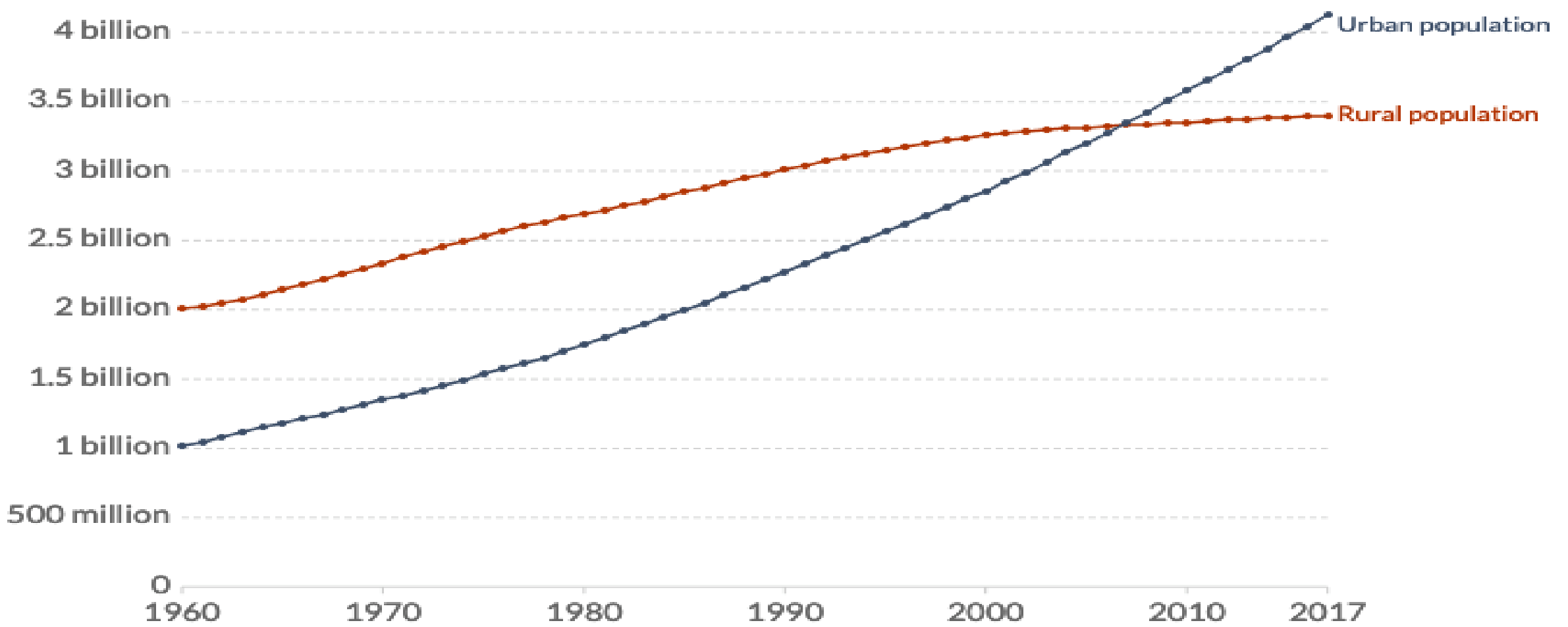
2007 - number of people in urban areas exceeded number in rural areas for the first time  
2050 - 2/3 of global population will live in urban areas

358 “million cities” with one million or more people, and 27 “mega-cities” of ten million or more

95 percent of projected urban expansion will take place in developing countries (UNDP, 2018)

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

⇌ Change country



Source: UN World Urbanization Prospects (2018)

OurWorldInData.org/urbanization • CC BY

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

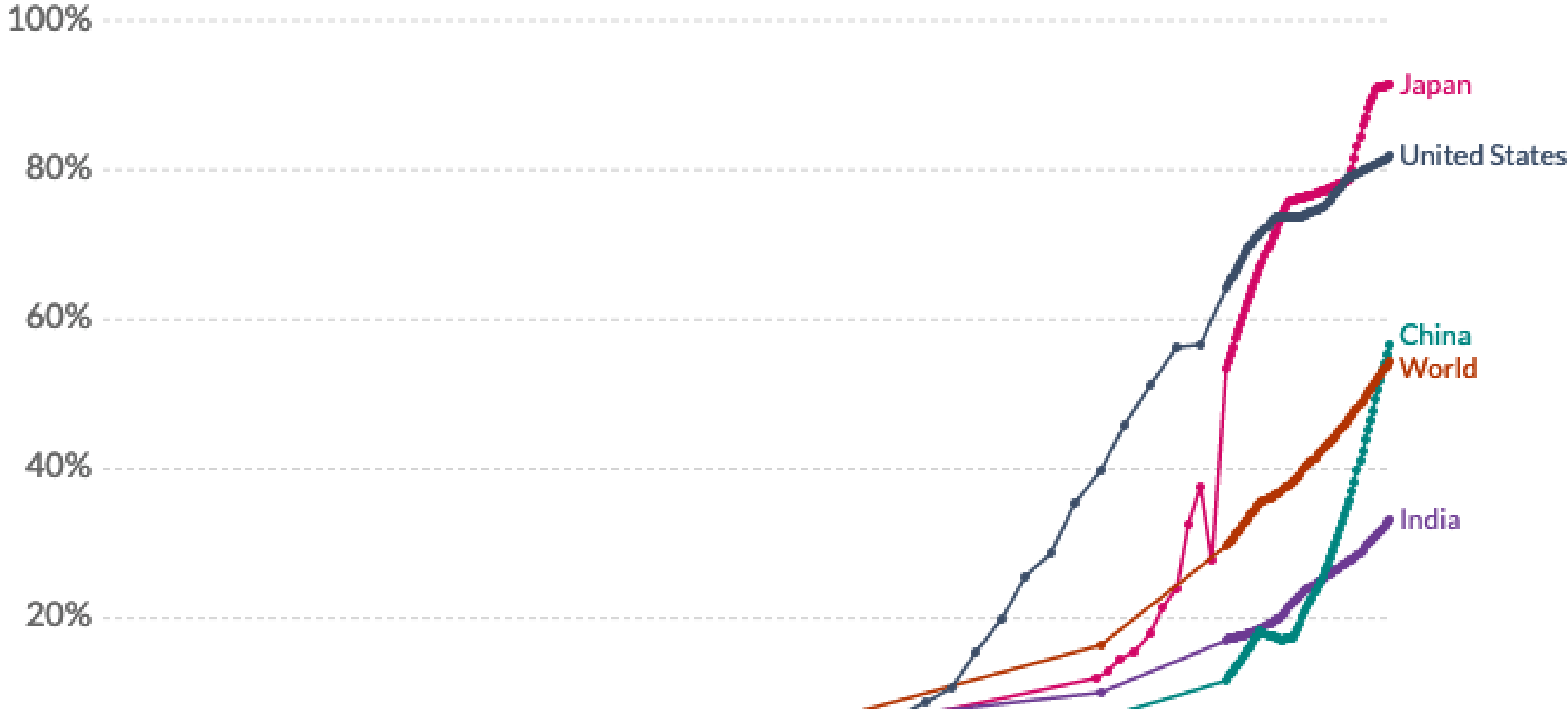




# Urbanization over the past 500 years, 1500 to 2016

Share of the total population living in urban areas.

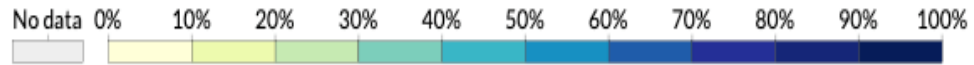
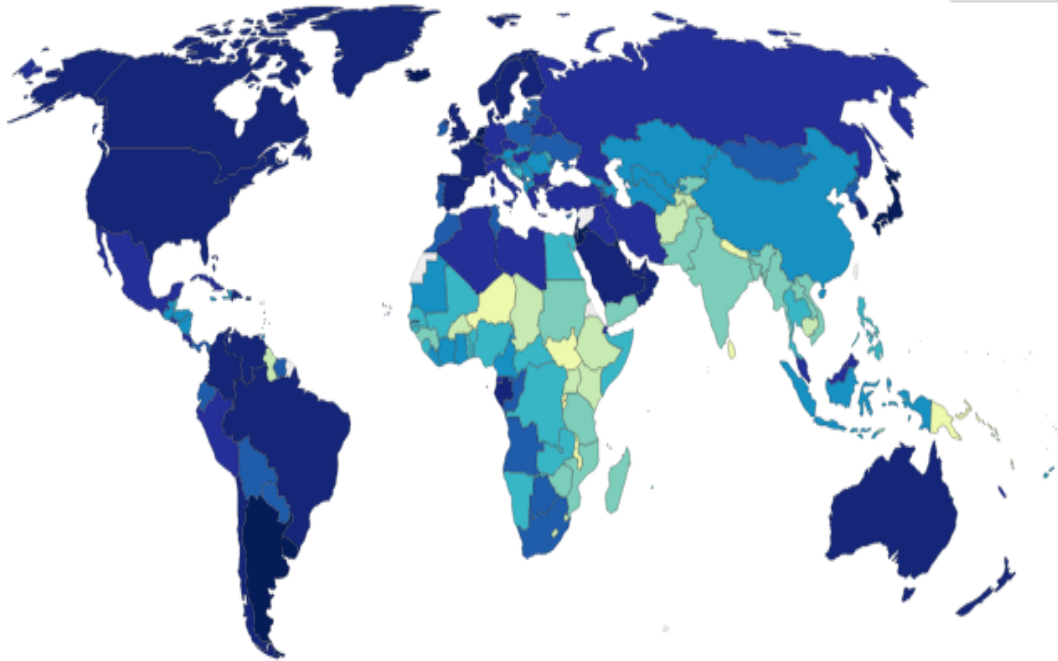
[+ Add country](#)



## Share of people living in urban areas, 2017

Our World  
in Data

World



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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▶ 1960 ————— ○ 2017

## Urbanization Differs By Location

- In high-income countries – more than 80% of population lives in urban areas
- In low to lower-middle income countries the majority lives in rural areas – but this is changing rapidly

# Migration And Urbanization Are Linked

- Understanding migration patterns is critical:
  - Policies and strategies need to recognize that the lives and access to opportunities of newly arrived migrants differ vastly from those of established urban dwellers

# Multi-Dimensional Urbanization & Family Issues

## West:

- Unmarried; couples without children / “Kiddie deserts”
- Economic and social advantages and consequences

## Non-Western:

- Urban margins: populated by migrants from rural areas
  - Poor; children; elderly – disadvantaged to be far from locus of power
- Floating populations

## Gender Issues:

- Opportunities to escape from patriarchal rural situations
- Domestic workers; service sector jobs; trafficking of women; marriage brides
- Harassment in public places
- Transnational motherhood
- Risks associated with migration

## Quality Of Living Varies in Urban Centers

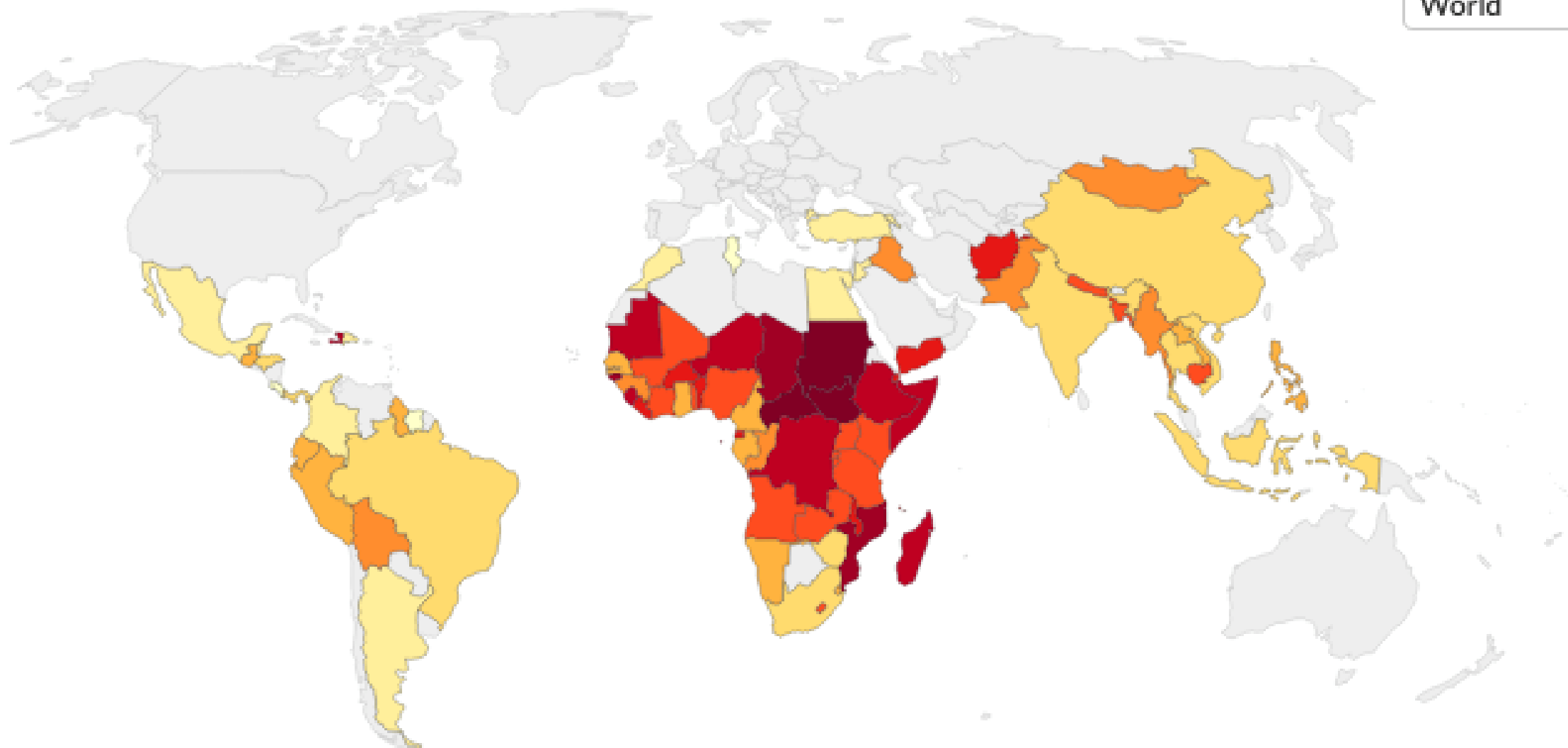


- One measure of living standard:
  - Quality of life
- Share of urban population in slum household:
  - Lack of access to water; sanitation; living area; quality of housing
- 1 in 3 households in urban areas live in slum conditions
- Number of urbanites who live in slums is becoming less

# Share of urban population living in slums, 2014

A slum household is defined as a group of individuals living under the same roof lacking one or more of the following conditions: access to improved water, access to improved sanitation, sufficient living area, and durability of housing.

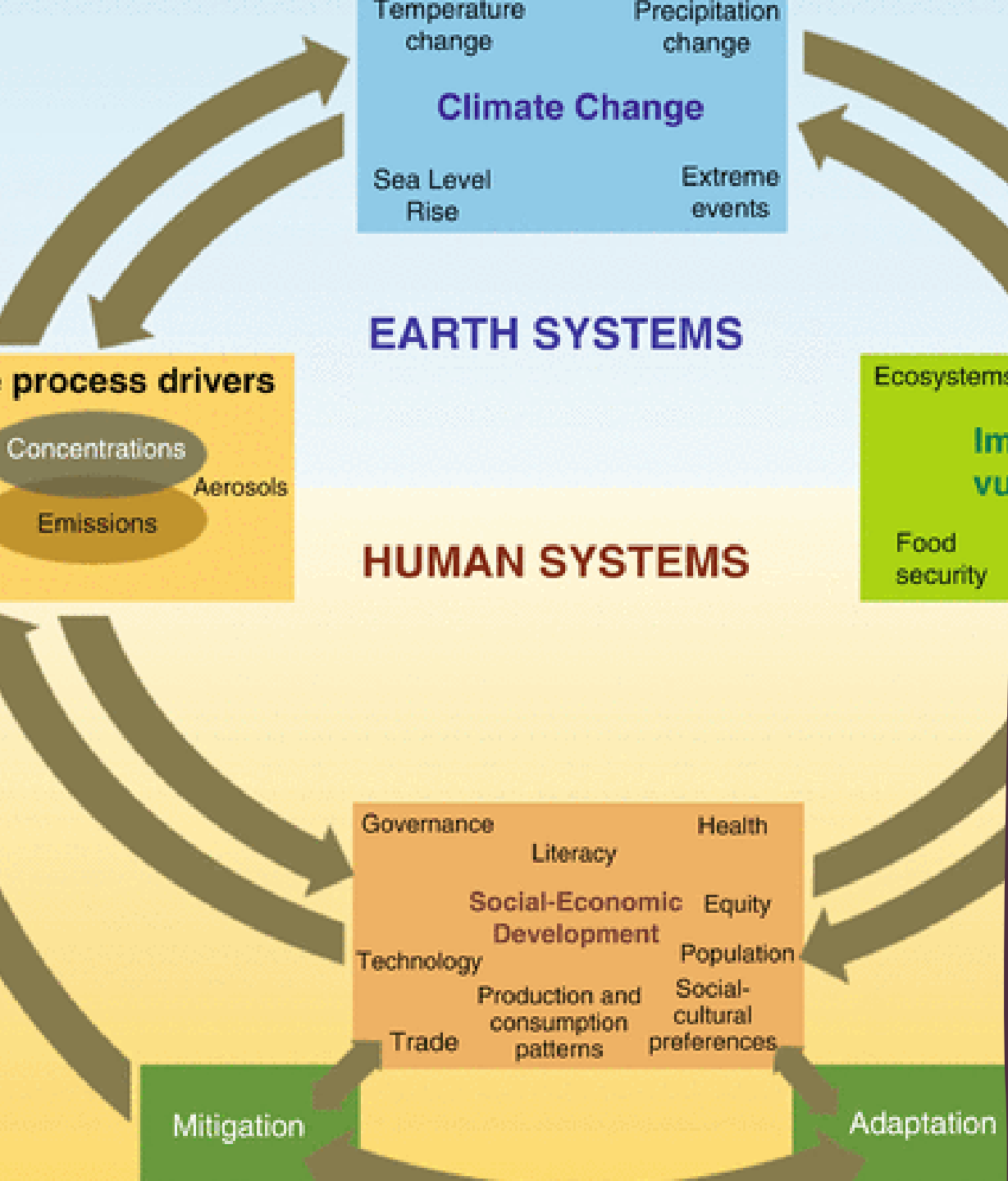
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# Advantages Of Urbanization (If Done Correctly)

- High-density economic activities
- Easier trade
- Access to human capital
- Shared services and infrastructure
  - Electricity
  - Sanitation
  - Drinking water
  - Fuel and heating





# Challenges Of Urbanization In The 21<sup>st</sup> Century

- Climate change
- Securing access to basic services for all, such as drinking water, food, clean air, healthcare (including basic sanitation requirements)
- Resilience to disasters
- Leading to shrinking cities in high-income countries and growing cities in low-income countries



# Improving Urbanization Efforts & Meeting SDG 11




- Infra structure management and local governance
- Accounting for floating populations who move between rural and urban areas
- Need for mixed income housing
- Green spaces
- Pedestrian friendly streetscapes
- Accessible public transportation

# Improving Urbanization Efforts & Meeting SDG 11

Improved resource utilization and access to local economies to lessen poverty and unemployment



Strengthening family supports and services in order to improve the the social and economic capital of individuals and concurrently, the well-being of communities in urban and rural settings



Coordinated responses in order to reach the most vulnerable, individuals and assist them in realizing their rights, capabilities, and full potential as individuals and communities.

# Recommendations for Sustainable, More Egalitarian Urbanization

- Institute more wide-spread participatory processes in urban and rural areas to facilitate poverty eradication
- Incorporate recent migrants into urban planning councils to represent their needs
- Highlight the needs of recent migrants vs. long-established migrants in urban areas and create appropriate programs and policies to facilitate integration
- Adopt a gendered lens when planning on urban areas to create safe conditions for girls and women to live and move around
- Coordination between urban, regional, national and international development planning



Thank you!