

Urbanisation:

The increasing proportion of people living in urban (as opposed to rural) areas. Urban populations are growing most quickly in less developed regions.

HICs are the most urbanised countries (more than 75%)

LICs are the least urbanised countries (often under 50%, some (Kenya) under 25%)

NEEs are currently urbanising the most rapidly (India, China, Nigeria)

Megacities:

Cities with a population of over **10 million**

Slow Growing Megacities:

- No squatter settlements
- In HICs
- Tokyo, Los Angeles

Growing Megacities:

- Under 20% in squatter settlements
- Often in NEEs
- Beijing, Rio de Janeiro

Rapid Growing Megacities:

- Over 20% in squatter settlements
- Often in LICs and NEEs
- Lagos, Mumbai

Why do cities grow?

Natural Increase – birth rate exceeds the death rate. Often in LICs/NEEs there is a big difference, so rapid population growth

Rural-Urban Migration – push and pull factors encourage people to leave the countryside and move to the cities

Push Factors:

- Farming is poorly paid
- Farmers may have no extra to sell (subsistence farming)
- Rural areas are isolated

Pull Factors (prospect of):

- Higher living standard
- Better medical facilities
- Better chance of education for children

Key Terms:

- Urbanisation
- Push factor
- Pull factor
- Rural-urban migration
- Megacities
- Migration
- Natural increase
- Informal economy
- Formal economy
- Land use
- Quality of life
- Sanitation
- Services
- Squatter settlement
- Favela
- Site and service scheme
- Pollution
- Traffic congestion