

**UNITED NATIONS EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON SUSTAINABLE CITIES, HUMAN  
MOBILITY AND INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

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Patterns and drivers of trends in  
migration and urbanization:  
regional perspectives: **Migration  
and Cities in Latin America  
and the Caribbean**

Jorge Rodriguez Vignoli

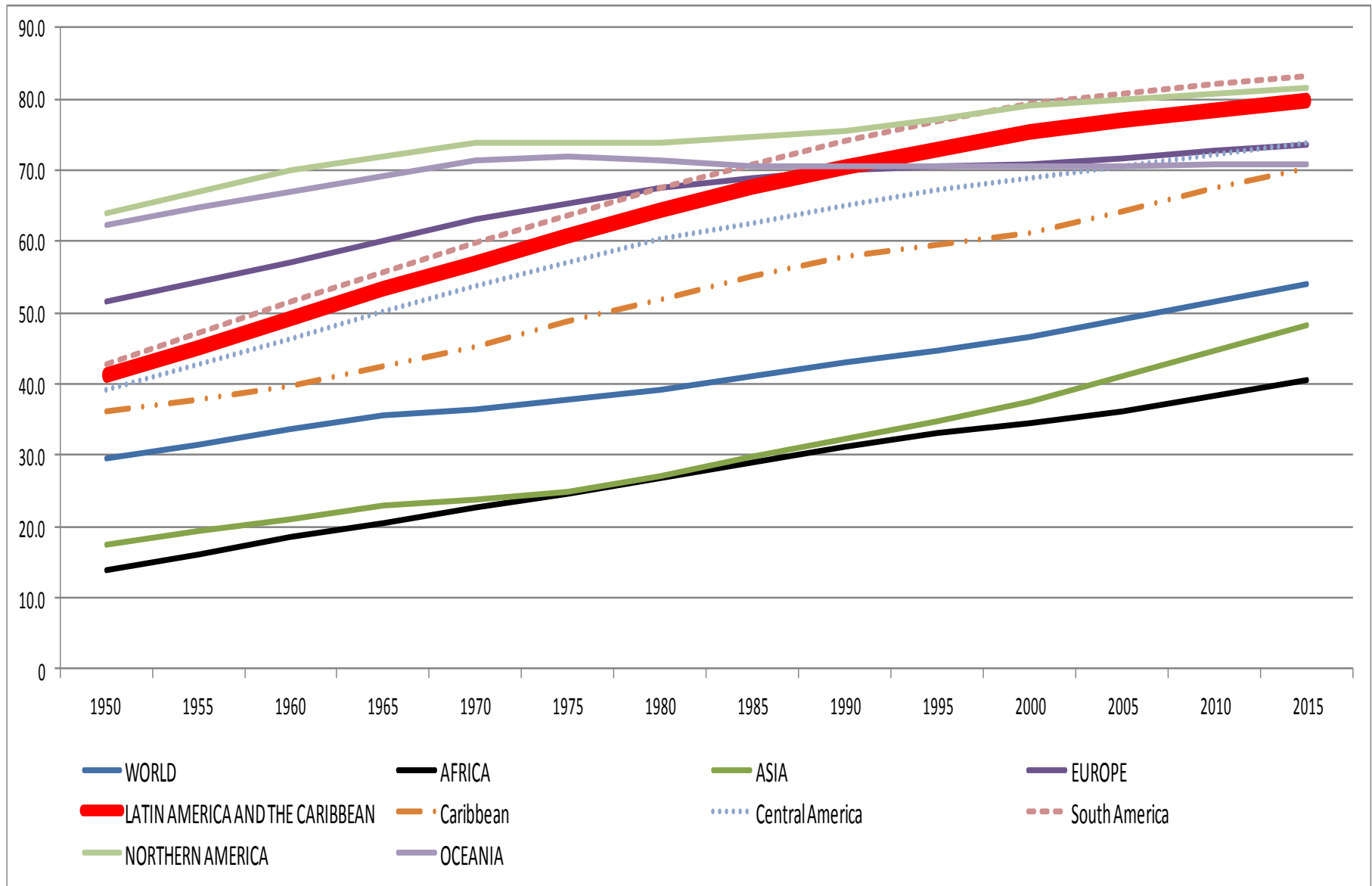
CELADE (Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre)-Population Division of ECLAC  
(Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean)

# TOPICS

- Urbanization and migration
- National Settlement System: continuity and change
- Migration and cities: new evidence and findings on population growth, redistribution and composition effects
- An emerging issue: international migration
- Final remarks

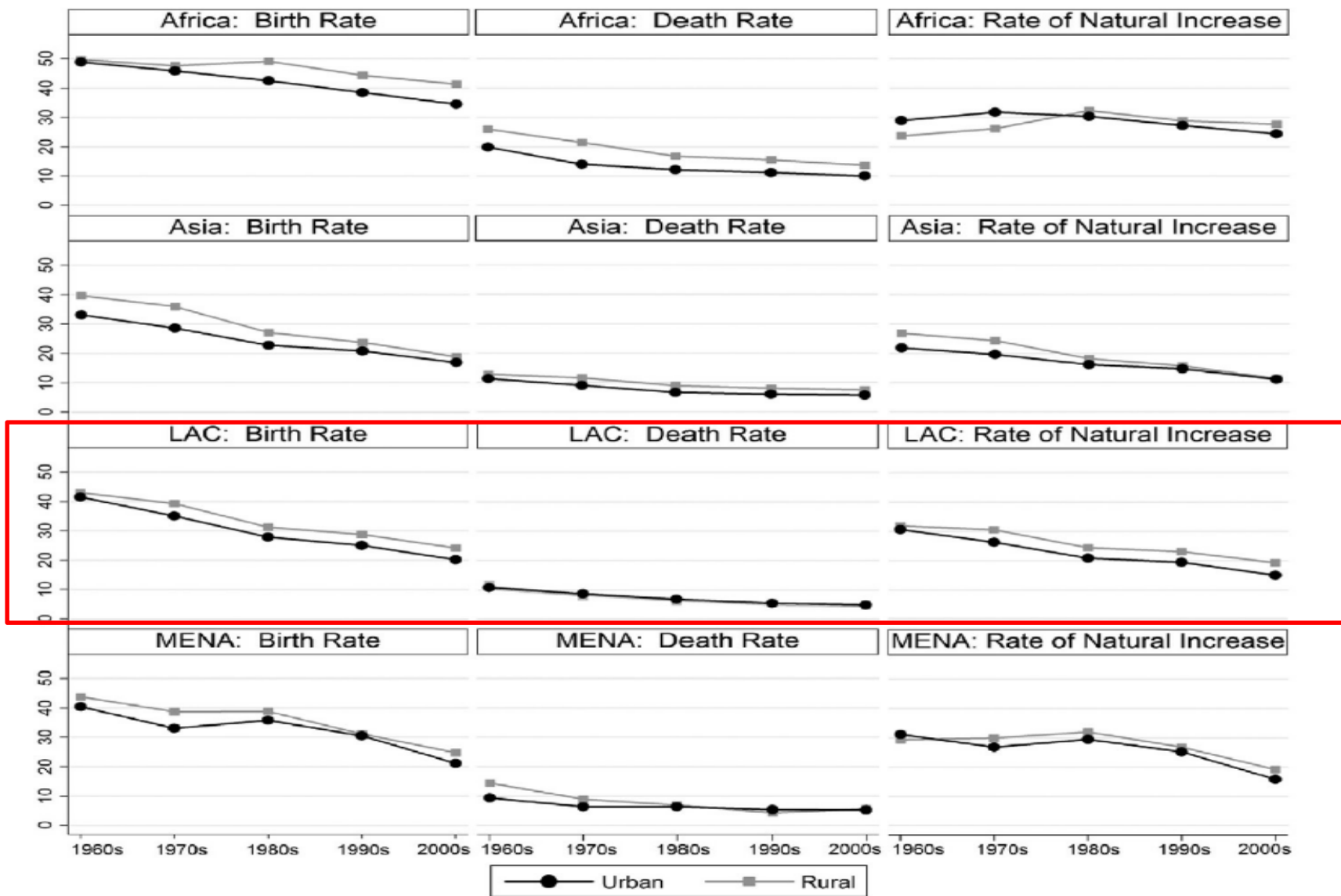
# **URBANIZATION AND MIGRATION**

# URBANIZATION CONTINUES. THE REGION IS THE MOST URBANIZED AMONG THE DEVELOPING REGIONS



- Population transfer (including internal migration) from rural to urban areas is the urbanization engine
- There are historical drivers behind rural to urban migration
- Persistent Urban-Rural gap
- In the short term, there are little chances for a rural (or even small cities) demographic recovery. In LAC region, small is not beautiful yet.

# NATURAL INCREASE: RURAL HAS BEEN FASTER THAN URBAN DURING THE PAST FIFTY YEARS



## RURAL TO URBAN POPULATION TRANSFER STILL CONTINUES

### Rural to Urban Population Transfer (millions)

1980-1990		1990-2000		2000-2010	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
<b>7.86</b>	<b>8.89</b>	<b>7.88</b>	<b>9,24</b>	<b>5.23</b>	<b>6.79</b>

Relative weight of rural to urban population transfer on urban growth

1980-1990		1990-2000		2000-2010	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
<b>36.8</b>	<b>37.5</b>	<b>32.6</b>	<b>33.7</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>25.2</b>

Source: Rodriguez 2017 (forthcoming), author's own calculations

Note: Countries included: Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Uruguay and (Bol. Rep.) Venezuela

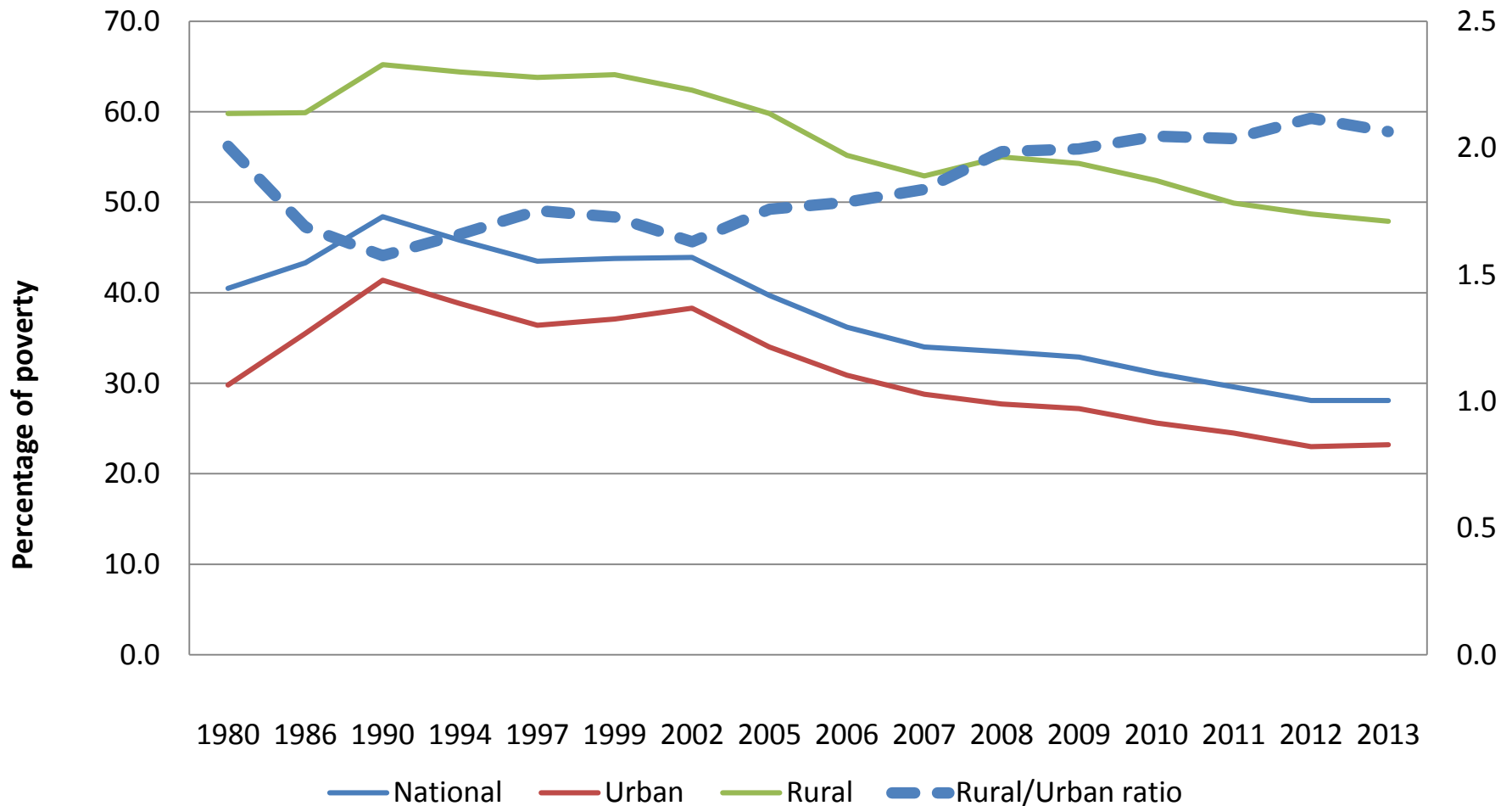
# RURAL TO URBAN MIGRATION STILL CONTINUES

Census round	<b>RURAL</b> (counties without cities of 20 thousand or more inhabitants) net migration	<b>RURAL</b> (counties with cities of 20 thousand or more inhabitants) net migration rate (for thousand)
2010	<b>-684,186</b>	<b>-1.7</b>
2000	<b>-1,233,713</b>	<b>-3.7</b>



# PERSISTENT RURAL-URBAN INEQUALITIES

Latin America and the Caribbean: percentage of poverty by residence zone and rural to urban poverty ratio



**NATIONAL SETTLEMENT  
SYSTEM: CONTINUITY  
AND CHANGE**

- Growing number of cities: does it mean a more decentralized system of cities?
- Outstanding concentration in metropolis
- Doubts about the de-concentration process in LAC-NSS

# MORE CITIES: DOES IT MEAN A MORE DECENTRALIZED SYSTEM OF CITIES?

Latin America and the Caribbean: number of cities (localities with 20,000 or more inhabitants) by city size category, 1950-2010

City size categories	Census Round						
	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
1 million or more	5	7	13	21	28	39	47
500,000-999,999	3	9	15	20	34	40	44
100,000-499,999	41	55	103	152	176	239	283
50,000-99,999	49	74	115	162	232	295	324
20,000- 49,999	158	223	341	479	663	888	1041
<b>Total</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>1 133</b>	<b>1 501</b>	<b>1 739</b>

Source: DEPUALC database (<http://celade.cepal.org/bdcelade/depualc/>)

Note 1. Countries included: Argentina, (Plur.Est.) Bolivia (EP), Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Uruguay and (Bol. Rep) Venezuela

Note 2: There were 1963 cities summing up the 20 countries with data from 2000 census round (ECLAC, 2012; DEPUALC database). According 2010 census round (only 11 countries with available data), there were 1739 (almost sure there would be more ROUGHLY 2500 cities if the 20 countries had their census data available)

# LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: URBANIZATION BASED ON METROPOLIS

Regional settlement system: population distribution (in percentage of the total population) by size category of settlements

Size categories of settlement	Census Round						
	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
1 million or more	12.9	16.9	22.3	28.5	31.1	33.7	36.3
500,000-999,999	1.7	4.3	4.9	5.3	7.4	7.5	7.4
100,000-499,999	7.8	8.4	10.2	11.6	12.3	13.3	13.7
50,000-99,999	3.0	3.5	3.9	4.2	5.4	5.5	5.3
20,000- 49,999	4.2	4.8	5.1	6.2	6.7	7.1	7.6
Subtotal 20,000 and more	29.5	37.9	46.4	55.7	62.9	67.0	70.4
2, 000-19,999	10.4	10.5	10.9	12.6	11.6	11.8	10.1
Subtotal 2,000 and more	39.9	48.4	57.3	68.4	74.5	78.8	80.5
Urban percentage	42.4	51.0	59.4	68.6	74.7	79.0	81.5

Source: DEPUALC database (<http://celade.cepal.org/bdcelade/depualc/>)

Note 1. Countries included: Argentina, (Plur.Est.) Bolivia (EP), Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Uruguay and (Bol. Rep) Venezuela

**MIGRATION AND CITIES: NEW  
EVIDENCE AND FINDINGS ON  
POPULATION GROWTH,  
REDISTRIBUTION AND  
COMPOSITION EFFECTS**

- How is internal migration influencing population growth and redistribution across the system of cities?
  - ✓ Large cities
  - ✓ Intermediate cities
  - ✓ Bottom of National Settlement System: rural areas and small cities
- A paradox: most of the cities are repulsion centers (Why?)
- New data (and methods) about population composition effect: the case of age structure and the proportion of young people

# HOW IS INTERNAL MIGRATION INFLUENCING POPULATION GROWTH AND REDISTRIBUTION ACROSS THE SYSTEM OF CITIES?

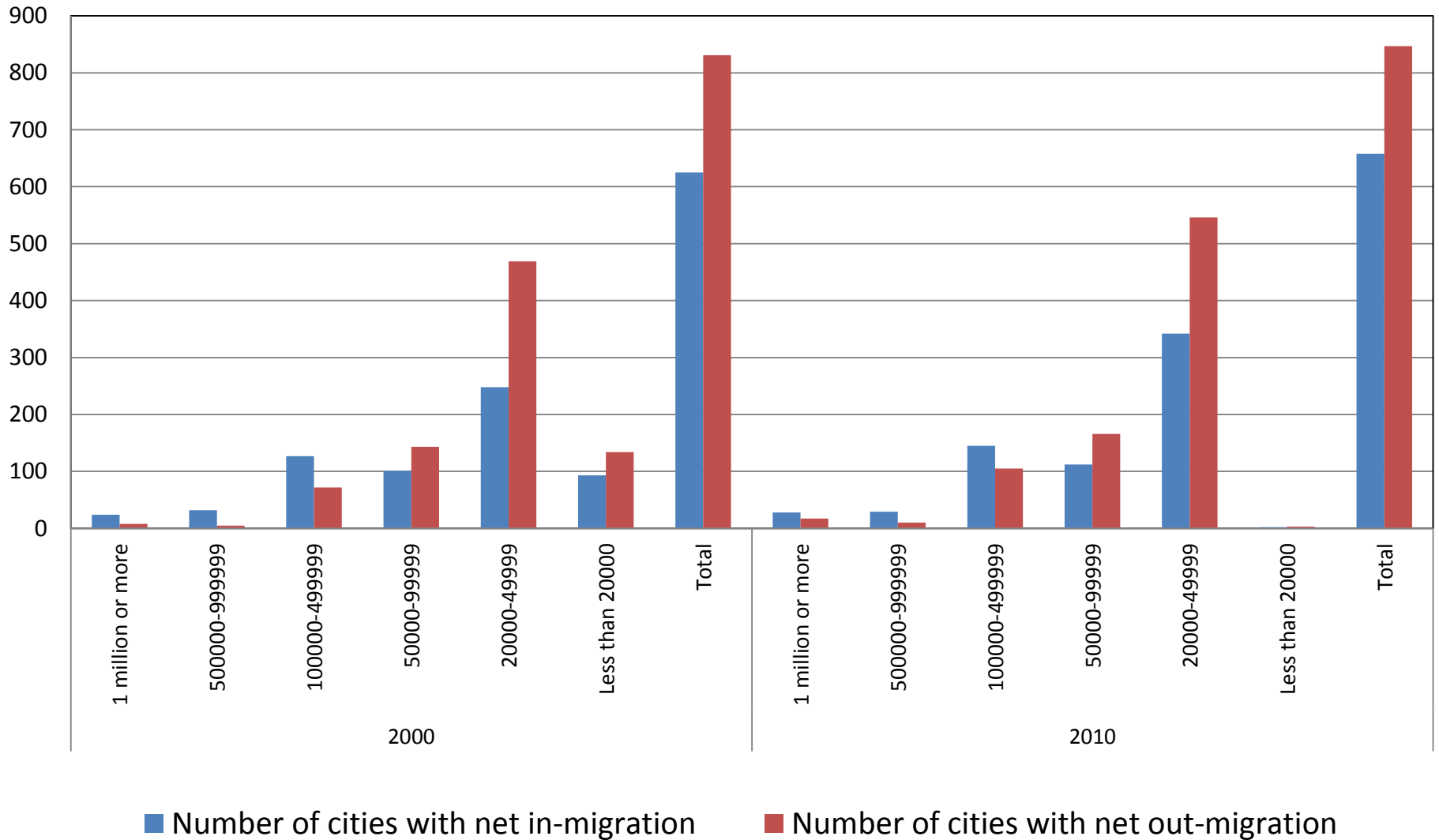
Size categories of human settlement	2000 (migration time period: 2000-1995)		2010 (migration time period: 2010-2005)	
	NET MIGRATION	NET MIGRATION RATE (in thousands)	NET MIGRATION	NET MIGRATION RATE (in thousands)
<b>1 million or more</b>	<b>886,985</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>199,988</b>	<b>0.3</b>
500000-999999	453,368	3.6	350,449	2.6
100000-499999	518,038	2.5	519,073	2.0
50000-99999	-49,889	-0.5	-83,752	-0.8
20000-49999	-530,643	-3.7	-299,249	-1.7
Less than 20000	-44,145	-1.5	-2,324	-4.0
<b>Rest</b>	<b>-1,233,713</b>	<b>-3.7</b>	<b>-684,186</b>	<b>-1.7</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Source: technical note, table 1

Note: for more details about category "less than 2,000", please see technical note



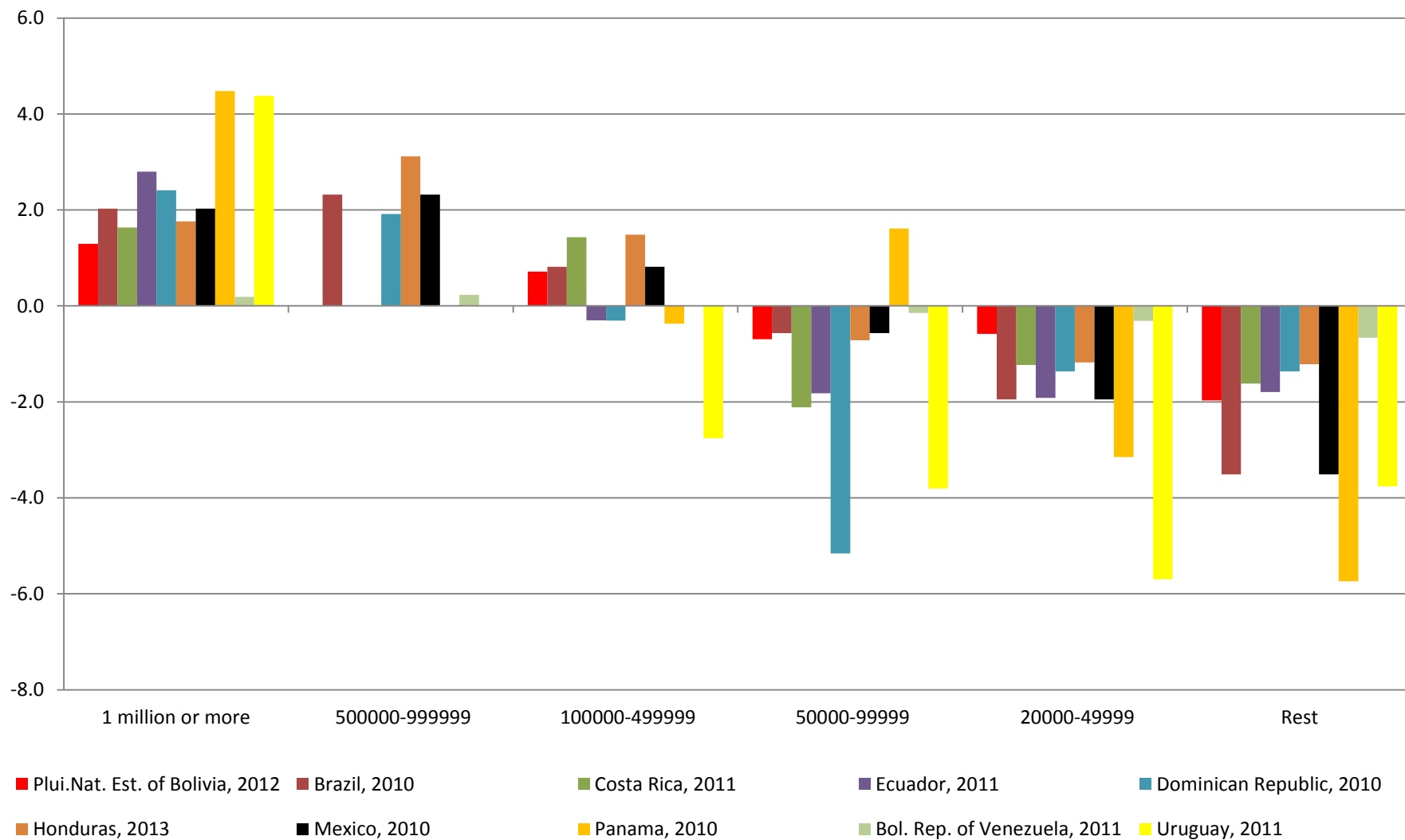
# A SURPRISING FINDING: MOST OF THE CITIES ARE REPULSION CENTERS



Source: technical note

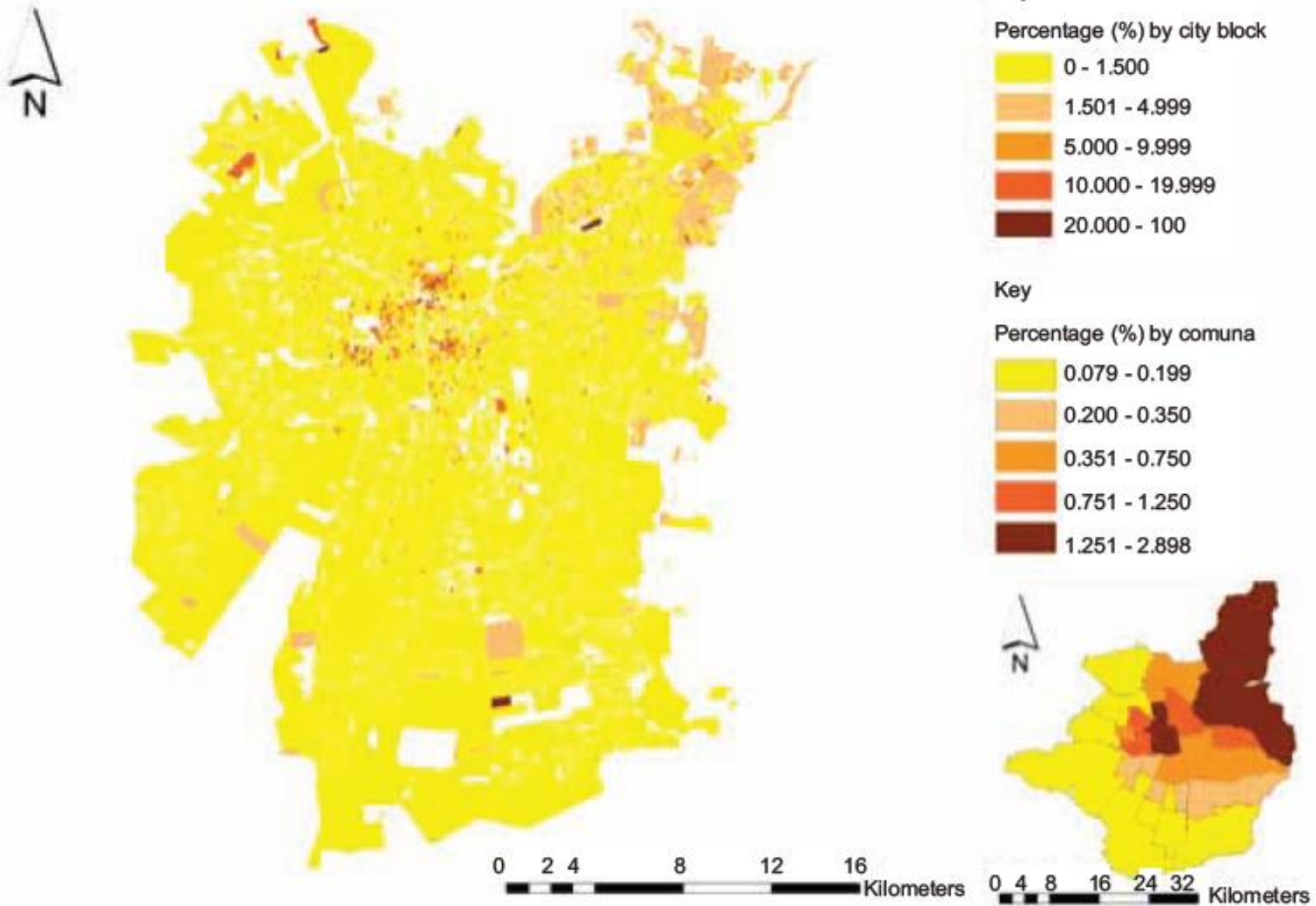
Note: for more details about category “less than 2,000”, please see technical note

# MIGRATION “REJUVENATES” BIG AND INTERMEDIATE CITIES, BUT IT HAS THE OPPOSITE EFFECT AMONG SMALL CITIES AND RURAL AREAS



**CITIES AND  
INTERNATIONAL  
MIGRATION**

# PERUVIAN MIGRANT POPULATION RESIDING IN GREATER SANTIAGO, 2002 CENSUS



Source: technical note Map 1

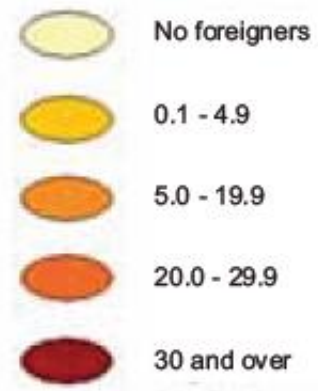
# FOREIGN POPULATION RESIDING IN PANAMA CITY, 2010 CENSUS



Districts that comprise Panama City



Percentage of foreigners by segment



# FINAL REMARKS

Overall, urbanization, despite its challenges and risks, is friendly with 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as New Urban Agenda

Accomplishment of 2030 Agenda for SD and NUA seems to be facilitated by migration in large and intermediate cities

However, internal migration could undermine the accomplishment of 2030 Agenda for SD and NUA

International in-migration (refugees are still few) is increasing in several Latin American cities, mostly large cities, but it is still an issue that deserves much more research