Urbanization and Migration - Two Global Mega Trends: Diversity, Opportunities, and Challenges

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Today’s Agenda

- Historical Global Urbanization
  Regional Trends and Variations
- Urbanization, City Population Growth, and Land Use
- Cities: Engine of Sustainable Development
- Migration: Drivers of Urban Transition
- Migration: Solution for Shrinking Cities and Ageing Population
- Migration: People, Places and Policies
- International Migration: Numbers, Forms, Opportunities, and Challenges
- Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and IDPs
- Policies for International Migration
- Conclusion and Recommendations

From Research to Action
Generalization of the urban world in the 21st century

Urban areas hold the future of our planet

Debut 19th Century: the Rural Century 2-10%
746 million in 1950

Debut 20th Century: the Urban Transition Century: 10-47%

21st Century: the Urban Century 50% and up
3.9 billion in 2014

70% of the world population will live in cities and towns by 2050 (6.4 billion)
Urbanization and city population growth

Urbanization has been accompanied with the emergence of large cities and the formation of city regions, metropolitan regions and urban corridors.
The world of cities

Urbanization has been accompanied with the emergence of large cities and the formation of city regions, metropolitan regions, and urban corridors.
Urbanization, rapid land expansion, and the proliferation of slums

Urban Planning, land use, basic infrastructure, transportation, employment, institutions

**Urbanization and rapid land expansion**
- Endless growth of cities in the periphery - Low density settlements
- Reduction of public spaces
- Consumption of land: up to 3 times of population growth
- Motorized means of mobility

**Urbanization and Proliferation of slums**
- Overcrowded settlements
- No public spaces
- Multiple deprivations
- 33% of people in urban areas are living in slum conditions
Cities – drivers of sustainable development

Economies of scale and agglomeration – diffusion of ideas and technology innovation
health, education, engagement…. but inequalities
Internal and international migration have been determinant to urban transition and growth of cities.

**People, Places, and Policies**

- **People** level as expressed by Intention and Decision to Migrate
- **Place** level at the Origin as well as at the destination
- **Policies** level – at the origin as well as at the destination. Migration as a Human Right (Right to City and a Global Right)
Rural-urban migration: central factor of the urban transition

Until the 19th century, urban population growth was mainly associated to fertility and mortality rates.

During the 19th and 20th centuries up to 85% of urban growth was due to rural-urban migrations.

When the majority of the world lives in cities and towns, rural-urban migration contributes less to urban growth.

Rural-urban migration has been substituted with:
- urban sprawl
- intra-urban migration
- reclassification of land from rural to urban (which contributes 30% to urban growth)

General illustration of migration effects on population age structure.

No effect

Moderate effect

Strong effect

Strong effect for male
International migration: numbers and destinations

International migration is irreversible and is an urban affair

- International migration is mostly regional
- 60-80% of African migration are intra-regional

- Sydney, London and New York, migrants represent over a third of the population.
- In some cities such as Brussels and Dubai, migrants account for more than half of the population.
- Migration as Solution of Shrinking Cities
Economic factors have been at the frontline of migration: The majority of people migrate due to economic circumstances and move to places where there is hope for better opportunities.

**MAIN REASONS**
- Economic
- Family
- Education
- Conflicts (refugees, Asylum/IDPs)
- Disasters (refugees, Asylum/IDPs)

**DESTINATION OF MIGRANTS**
- High Income Countries
- Middle Income Countries
- Low Income Countries

**SECTOR OF WORK**
- Services
- Manufacturing & Construction
- Agriculture
- Employees, Entrepreneurs, Employers
Migration: solution for shrinking cities and ageing population

Poor Economic performance coupled with decline in active population and increase of retirees call for internal as well as international migration to revive ageing countries and shrinking cities.

**SHRINKING CITIES AND AGEING OF POPULATION**

1. **Poor economic performance**
2. **High emigration rates**
3. **Decline in fertility (below replacement) and high life expectancy**
4. **Decline in active population**
5. **Increase of retirees**

**MIGRATION AS SOLUTION**

- Migrants in their active age
- Migrants are skillful
- Migrants pay taxes
- Migrants contribute to social security
- Migrants expend, invest and save
Migrants connect countries and cities and are resourceful partners in host countries as well as in their homelands

Migration represents significant potential benefits for cities and countries

Remittances:
- From USD 126 billion in 2000 to USD 575 billion in 2016
- Higher than the Official Development Assistance (ODA)
- Has reached nearly one third of some Country GDPs
Challenges and barriers against migrant integration

20.9M victims of forced labour (2002-2011)
68% forced labour exploitation
22% forced sexual exploitation

Legal and administrative barriers
Lack of documentation (illegal migration status)
Discrimination, xenophobia and lack of representation
Linguistic barriers
Reduced knowledge of the local environmental and social context
Inadequacy of skills for urban labour market
Reduced access to social networks
Restriction of immigrants’ culture - Most cities do not fully understand how to integrate ethnic ‘minorities’ without fear of losing their historic cultural identity
Challenges in the migrant journey include human trafficking, migrant fatalities, and disappearances.

Migrant fatalities and disappearances recorded in January 2014–June 2017:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Mediterranean</th>
<th>Africa</th>
<th>South-east Asia</th>
<th>Americas</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14,500</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>1,850</td>
<td>2,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Global migrant fatalities and disappearances worldwide, 1 January–30 June 2017:

- Mediterranean: 14,500 deaths
- Africa: 3,000 deaths
- South-east Asia: 1,850 deaths
- Americas: 2,000 deaths

TOTAL DEATHS: 3,108
With increased conflicts, wars, and disasters - the number of refugees, IDPs, and asylum seekers are on the rise

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Refugees and Asylum Seekers</th>
<th>Characteristics of Refugees</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22.5M refugees</td>
<td>57% under 18 years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.2M refugees with UNHCR</td>
<td>48% are women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.8M Asylum Seekers</td>
<td>60% in urban areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Seeking International</td>
<td>Asylum applicants are unaccompanied children from 76 countries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IDPs**

- 31.1 million new internal displacements in 125 countries
- Disasters: 24.2 million in 118 countries
- Conflicts and violence: 6.9 million in 37 countries

**Top 10 countries of origin (79% of Refugees-13.5M)**

- **Syria** 5.5 million
- **Afghanistan** 2.5 million
- **DRC** 1.4 million
- **Others:** Myanmar, Somalia, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic, Eritrea and Burundi
Lack of alignment between national migration policies and urban realities

NATIONAL MIGRATION POLICIES

- Migrant legal status
- Laws
- Norms
- Institutions
- Global agendas and treaties

URBAN REALITIES

- Employment
- Education
- Housing
- Urban Public Spaces
- Urban Planning

ICPD = International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014

United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants
10 September 2015 - UN Headquarters

Towards a New Urban Agenda

Sustainable Development Goals
In the absence of alignment of national migration policies to urban realities, sanctuary cities emerge.
Cities play an important role in promoting migrant-friendly countries

**BY ENSURING...**

- Inclusive urban planning
- Multicultural cities
- Assist Migrants to obtain and renew legal documents
- Safeguards against Negative reporting on migrants
- More ‘Human Scale’

**EXPECTED RESULTS**

- Reduce vulnerabilities
- Build resilience
- Creates harmony between the different dimensions of cities
- Stimulates local job creation and more investment in host countries
- Promote Economy growth in host countries and countries of origin
Cities as transversal entities call for a holistic approach of Migration integration for sustainable urban development.
Urban Partnership for migrant-friendly countries and cities starts with Stakeholders consultation on sharing information and assessing needs.
Working together for migrant-friendly countries and cities