



MISCONCEPTIONS AND
POLICIES ON URBAN GROWTH



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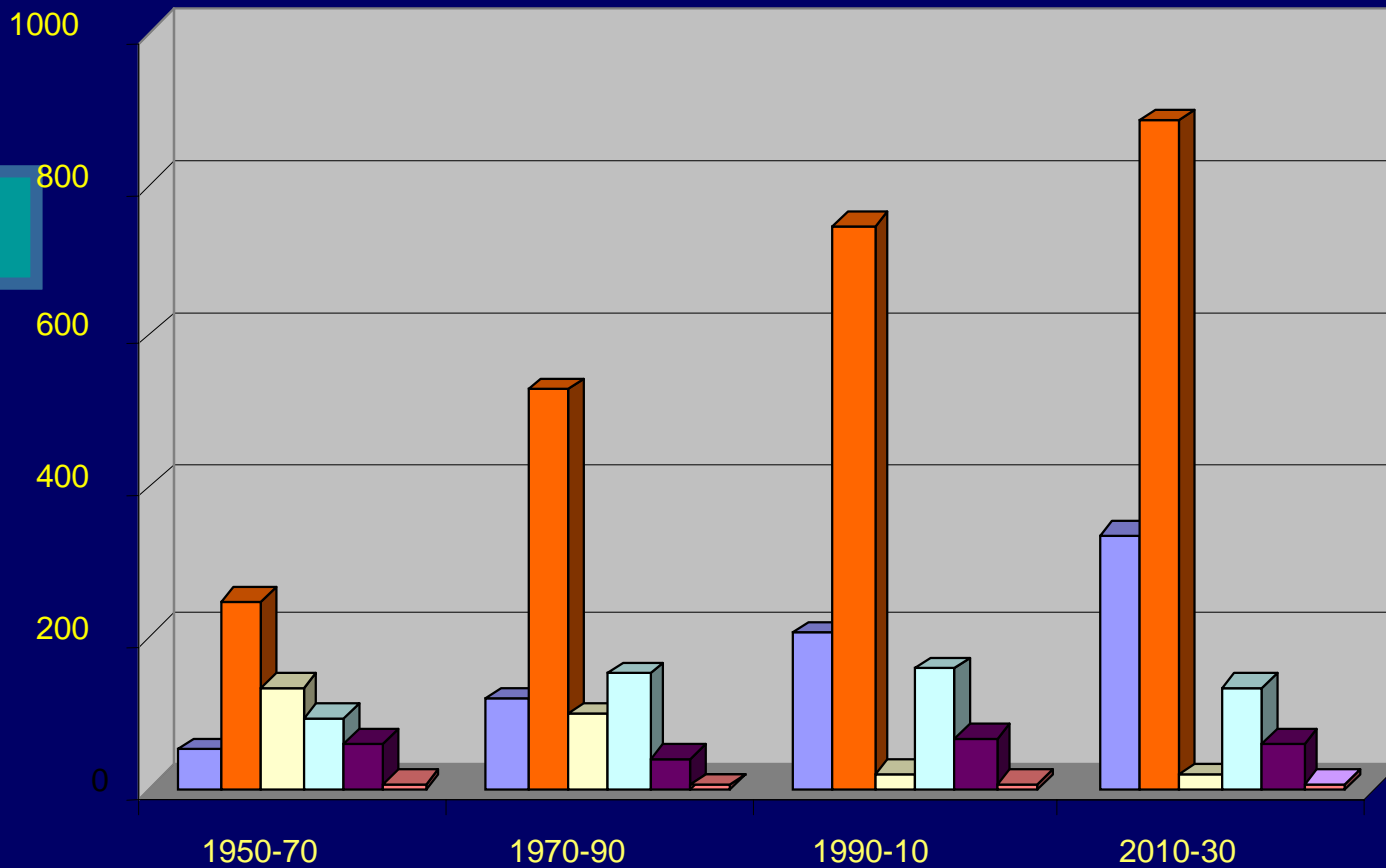
DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF GLOBAL URBANIZATION

- HALF OF WORLD POPULATION WILL BE URBAN IN 2008
- INCREASE OF 1.2 MILLION URBANITES A WEEK
- CURRENT 3.3 B. WILL RISE TO ALMOST 5 B. BY 2030
- ALL FUTURE DEMOGRAPHIC GROWTH WILL BE URBAN
- MOST WILL OCCUR IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
- DOUBLING BETWEEN 2000-2030 IN AFRICA/ASIA
- IN SHORT, MASSIVE URBAN GROWTH IS IMMINENT: WILL IT BE

GOOD OR BAD? DEPENDS ON HOW IT IS APPROACHED

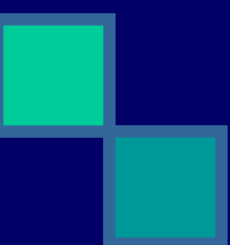



The SCALE and LOCATION: Urban growth by world regions, (in millions)






OUR PURPOSE IN THE SWOP REPORT

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- Challenge common misconceptions
 - Contest incorrect policies
 - Suggest better approaches
 - Help carry them out
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SEVEN COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

- Urbanization is inherently bad
 - Most urban growth occurs in mega-cities
 - Urban growth comes mainly from migration to cities
 - Rural-Urban migration can and should be stopped
 - The poor are a marginal minority in cities
 - Cities occupy a huge amount of land area
 - Urbanization inevitably harms the environment
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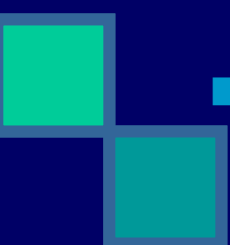



"1. Urbanization is bad"

- Cities actually have great potential
 - Key Question: Would anything improve if the population were more dispersed?
NO!
 - Why are cities NOT taking full advantage of their potential? Poor governance
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URBANIZATION IS ACTUALLY GOOD!

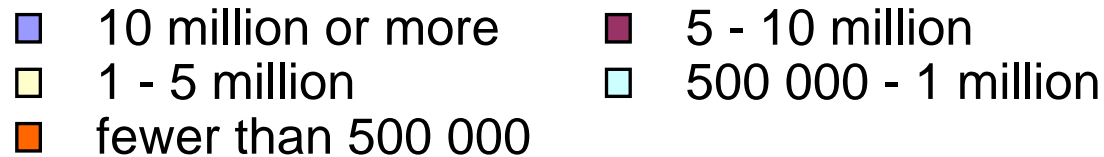
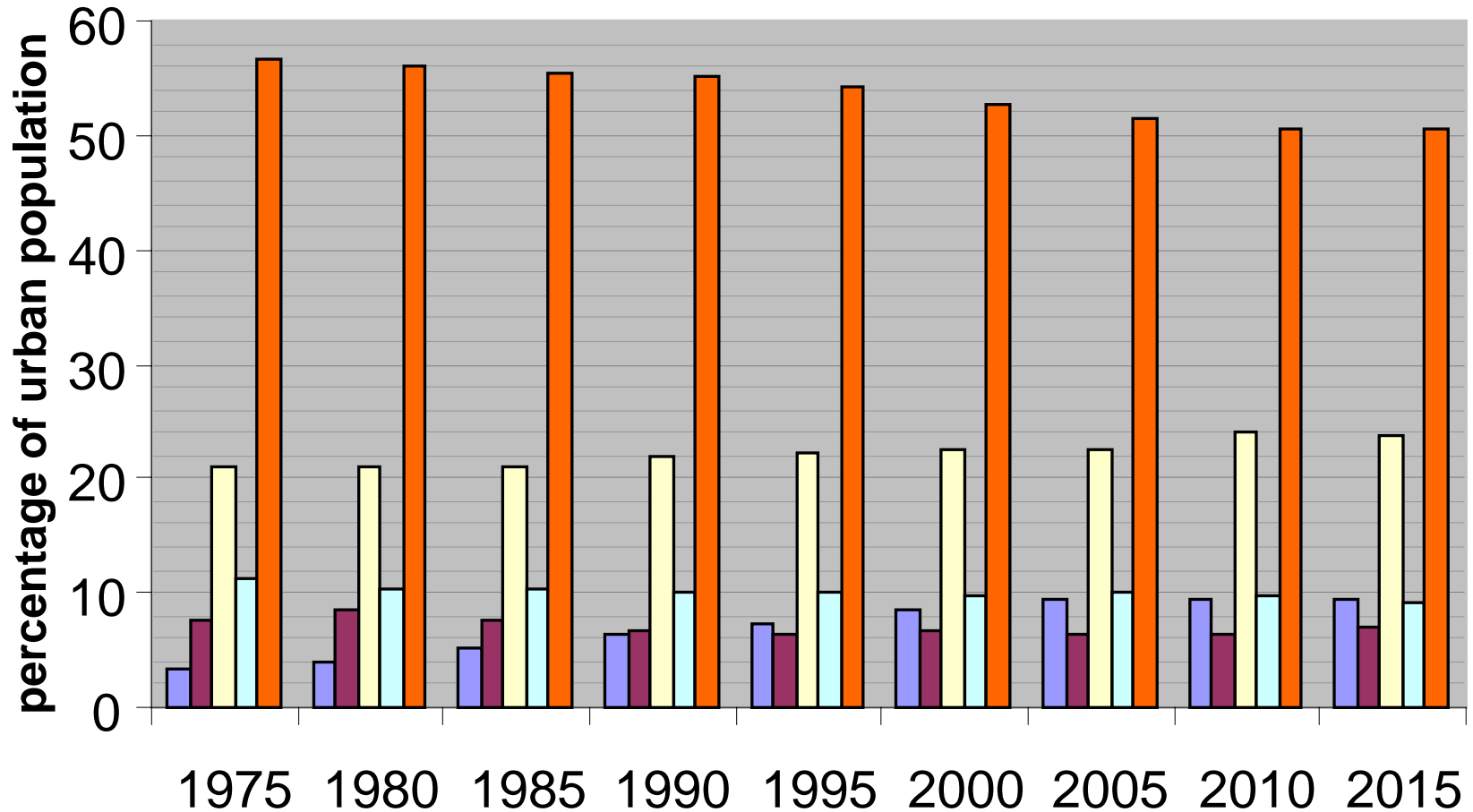
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- Economically – advantages -> concentration of growth; heightened by globalization
 - Socially – more resources, advantages of scale and proximity, favorable changes in social organization
 - Demographically – Lower fertility: greater motivation, better access to RH services
 - Environmentally – density and concentration necessary for preservation of rural biodiversity; technological solutions
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"2. Most Urban growth Occurs in Mega-Cities"

- Most urban growth actually in "smaller" cities
- Important implications in context of devolution
- Easier to deal with smaller cities – more room to maneuver
- But ... needs are greater in smaller cities
- This is where donors can help most

“Most urban growth occurs in mega-cities”



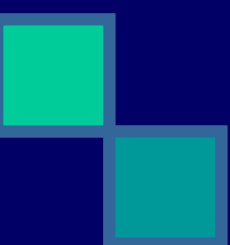



"3. Urban growth comes mainly from migration to cities"

- Most urban growth is actually due to **natural increase** (i.e. – more births than deaths)
- Exceptions: Vietnam, China
- Arithmetical fact: As a country urbanizes, natural increase predominates more
- **Lesson:** Attending RH needs is a much more effective way of buying time to cope with urban growth




4. "R->U migration can and should be stopped"

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- **Fact:** policymakers are increasingly set against urbanization and urban growth
 - But - only draconian controls work, and only for a short time (e.g. Vietnam and China)
 - MDGs - Poor people have a "right to the city" and contribute to its development
 - Preventing migration increases poverty in both rural and urban areas
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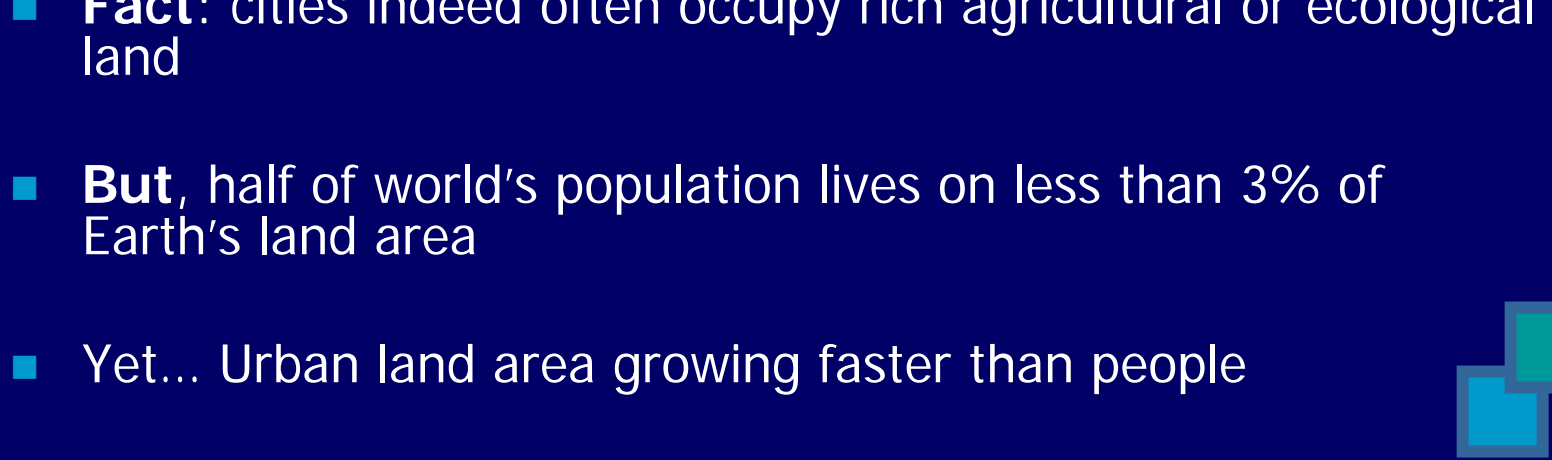


"5. The poor are a small marginal minority in cities"

- **FACT:** Cities are usually set up for the affluent
 - Hence, the poor fall thru the cracks; thus, they occupy worse possible areas in cities
 - But, in developing countries, the poor are a **majority** in city growth
 - Poverty is increasing faster in cities
 - One billion people already live in slums
 - These housing conditions determine much of human misery
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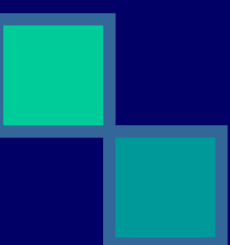



"6. Cities occupy a huge amount of land area"

- **Fact:** cities indeed often occupy rich agricultural or ecological land
 - **But,** half of world's population lives on less than 3% of Earth's land area
 - Yet... Urban land area growing faster than people
 - Urban sprawl and peri-urbanization could quickly double or triple urban land use
 - Thus, need to take a proactive stance to reduce negative impacts of urban expansion
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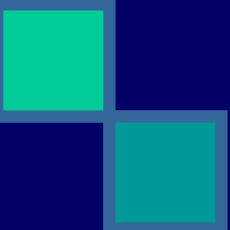



"7. Urbanization is bad for the environment"

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- Actually - the battle to save remaining ecosystems will be waged in **urban jungles!**
 - Protection of biodiversity and of natural ecosystems depends on reducing rural density
 - Serious negative environmental impacts of cities -> a given pattern of civilization
 - BUT – where and how cities grow does make a huge difference
 - Especially critical issues:
 - Land use
 - Relation between local and global environmental issues
 - Heat island effects, water and energy sources
 - Global warming, LECZ and location of cities (e.g. China)
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MISCONCEPTIONS LEAD TO BAD POLICIES

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- Futile attempts to prevent urban growth (migration controls, bureaucratic restrictions, evictions, lack of planning for inevitable growth)
 - The poor are marginalized: cities are planned for a minority
 - Better-off groups often capture the benefits of programs devised for the urban poor
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POVERTY, POOR HEALTH AND DEGRADATION RESULT FROM POOR POLICIES

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- Having a secure shelter, an address is critical
 - The urban poor end up in worse places
 - Unhealthy/dangerous living environments, lack of access to water and sanitation and other services, distance from work, etc
 - Potential urban advantages not fulfilled (social participation, empowerment of women and youth, better access to services)
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WHAT TO DO?

- **PROMOTE AN ATTITUDE CHANGE IN POLICYMAKERS**
 - **ACCEPT INEVITABLE URBAN GROWTH**
 - **DEVELOP A LONGER-TERM VISION TO PLAN AHEAD FOR THE SOCIAL AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF URBAN SPACE**
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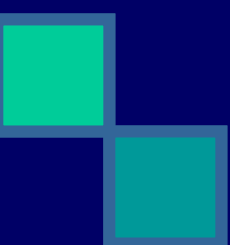



NEED FOR PROACTIVE ATTITUDE BY POLICYMAKERS

- **FORESEE INEVITABLE URBAN GROWTH**
 - **FORESEE SPATIAL NEEDS OF THE POOR**
 - **PROJECT SUSTAINABLE CITIES**
 - **ULTIMATELY - INFLUENCE GROWTH OF CITIES**
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Planning Ahead: SHELTER FOR THE POOR

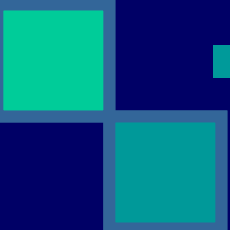

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- Shelter is the most critical aspect of poor people's insertion into cities
 - The poor are most affected by unregulated land markets
 - Major proactive need: ensure "minimally serviced" and secure land
 - This requires a radical change in attitude and policy
 - But, dealing with haphazard "spontaneous" slum growth after the fact is much more costly
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HOW TO PROVIDE SERVICES HERE?





URBANIZATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

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- Make more sustainable use of urban space:
 - Favor sustainable designs, density, mass transport, minimize invasion of valuable lands
 - Plan ahead for urban morphology (resource use and waste generation)
 - Favor integrated city-region planning
 - Demographic tools and data can be critical instruments in proactive efforts
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TIME'S UP, THANK YOU!

