



# Water and Settlements

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# Expansion of Urban Settlements

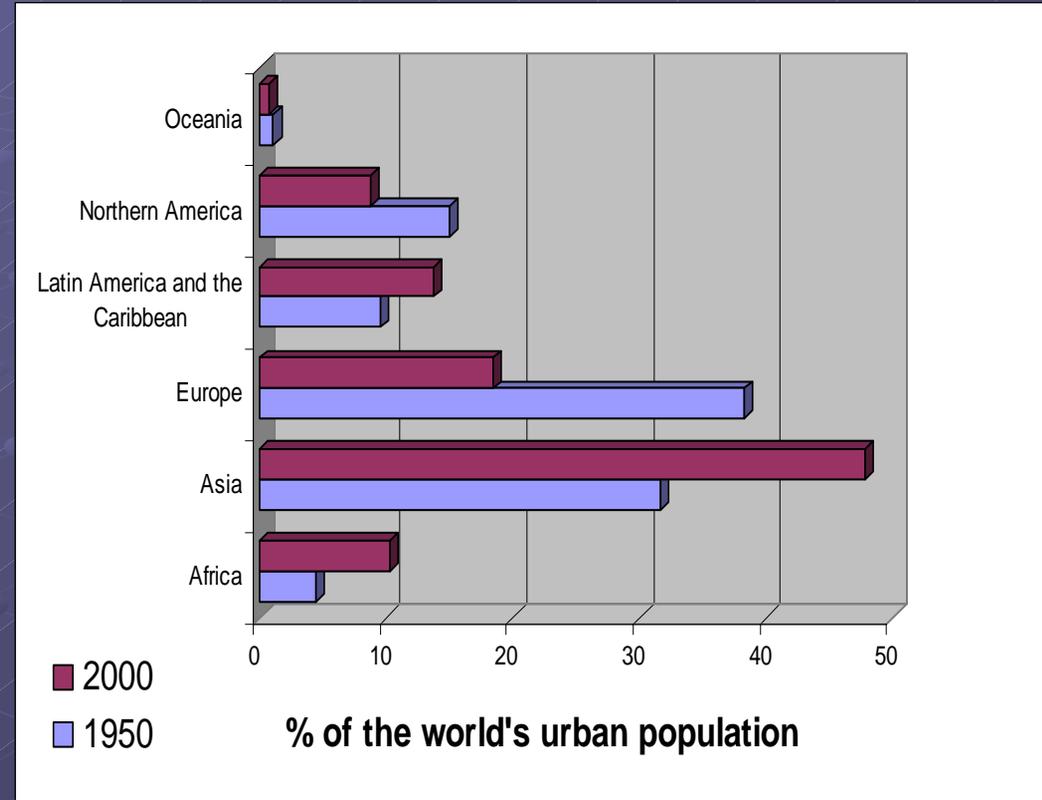
- During the 20<sup>th</sup> century;
  - The World's urban population increased more than tenfold,
  - Today, half of the World's population lives in urban centers,
  - Rural population grew twofold.

## Cities with more than 1 million inhabitants:

- 1800: London and Beijing
- By 1950: there were 85
- By 2000: 387 (18 of which are over 10 million )

# Regional Distribution of Urban Population

- **Asia:** Half of the World's urban population and more than half of its 'million cities'.
- **Latin America & Africa:** Close to a quarter of the World's urban population and its 'million cities'.
- **Europe&North America:** Less than one third of the World's urban population and little more than a quarter of its 'million cities'.



# Major Challenge

- Ensuring adequate provision for water and sanitation:
  - *“to halve the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015”*
- To meet MDGs 961 million urban dwellers must gain access to improved water supply and over 1 billion must gain access to improved sanitation.

# Slums

Over 900 million urban dwellers are living in '**SLUMS**'.

- In low and middle-income nations;
  - 874 million people are living in slums,
  - A great portion of urban population lack provision for safe water and sanitation,
  - The sewer infrastructure is not in place yet or not functioning well,
- ⇒ *Close to half the population is suffering from one or more of the main diseases associated with inadequate water and sanitation (WHO, 1999)*

# Challenge of improving provision

## The problems that public sector face:

- Government agencies failing to pay their water bills,
- Lack of mandate to serve most informal settlements,
- Poverty, corruption, donor-driven agendas, political instability.

The interests of the urban poor could be better represented in public-private partnerships.

# Challenge of improving provision-II

- Both public and privately operated utilities need to be regulated:
  - The interests of low-income residents need to be reflected within the regulatory regimes,
  - Policy development should involve low-income households and community organizations,
  - Increased transparency and accountability.

# Reaching Targets-Governance Matters

- The development of competent, capable, accountable local agencies or utilities who can work with community organizations.
- Improving provision in existing settlements while ensuring that expanding urban populations do not create new 'slums'.

The water and sanitation MDG targets will not be met without better urban governance.