



UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

28639

Distr.  
LIMITED

E/CN.14/POP/67  
21 July 1972

Original : ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Seminar on Statistics and Studies  
of Migration and Urbanization

Moscow, USSR, 11-22 September 1972

URBANIZATION IN AFRICA : LEVELS, TRENDS AND PROSPECTS

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
I. INTRODUCTION	1
II. DEFINITIONS AND LIMITATIONS OF DATA	1
III. URBANIZATION IN AFRICA AND OTHER WORLD REGIONS	2
IV. URBANIZATION IN AFRICAN SUB-REGIONS AND COUNTRIES	4
North Africa	4
West Africa	11
Central Africa	13
East Africa	15
Other Africa	17

ANNEXES :

- I. NATIONAL DEFINITION OF "URBAN".
- II. ANNUAL RATE OF INCREASE OF THE TOTAL POPULATION AND OF THE URBAN POPULATION BY SUB-REGION 1965-80.
- III. ANNUAL RATE OF INCREASE OF THE TOTAL POPULATION AND OF THE URBAN POPULATION BY COUNTRY 1965-80.

M72-1166

## URBANIZATION IN AFRICA : LEVELS, TRENDS AND PROSPECTS

## I. INTRODUCTION

Although due recognition is given to the importance of the studies of urbanization and internal migration and their relations to social and economic development, statistical data available are not always adequate for such studies. In this paper use has been made of the data available to indicate the levels, trends and prospects of urbanization in Africa. Obviously these levels, trends and prospects are greatly affected by internal migration as it is generally accepted that the growth of African urban areas, particularly cities, owes more to migration than to natural increase. Unfortunately data on internal migration do not permit, neither by its quantity or quality, an analysis commensurate to the magnitude of the problems. One cannot, therefore over emphasize the urgency of initiating an intensive programme of data collection and research on urbanization and internal migration, particularly if one considers the fact that by the year 2000 the urban population 1/ of Africa will number 320 million persons 2/ in contrast to the 270 million persons who were living in all of Africa in 1960 and the 344 million estimated to be there in 1970. By the end of the century, the urban population of Africa will thus be more than the total population of Africa around 1965.

If the need for policies to cope with such a development is obvious, so too is the need for research on which to base these policies.

## II. DEFINITIONS AND LIMITATIONS OF DATA

There are considerable variations in the definition of urban areas which make international comparisons hazardous: definitions of urban areas in some African countries are given in Annex I.

For the purposes of this paper, and to preserve uniformity, the following definitions have been adopted in line with the recent United Nations studies : 2/

---

1/ Urban population defined as population living in towns of 20,000 or more inhabitants.

2/ United Nations; Growth of the World's urban and rural population 1920-2000. Population Studies No. 44, New York 1969.

- (a) Urban population : Population in towns with 20,000 and more inhabitants
- (b) City population : Population in cities with 100,000 and more inhabitants
- (c) Big city population: Population in "big cities" with 500,000 and more inhabitants

Both "city population" and "big city population" are included in the "urban population", and "big city population" is also included in "city population". Throughout the paper, the terms "urban", "city" and "big city" will be defined as above. It is to be noted, however, that even with the above standardized definitions, comparisons of urban population are sometimes hazardous. Urban population can grow either by population increase within the same geographical limits, or by extension of existing areas, or by both.

### III. URBANIZATION IN AFRICA AND OTHER WORLD REGIONS

With about 13 per cent, or hardly more than half the world average (25 per cent), of its population living in towns of 20,000 or more inhabitants in 1960, Africa is the least urbanized region of the world. However the annual rate of growth of its urban population (5 per cent) between 1940 and 1960 was with that of Latin America (5.2 per cent) one of the fastest in the world. It is estimated that by the year 2000 the percentage of the urban population in Africa will be 28 per cent (compared to the world average of 38 per cent) which in comparison to other regions will be only higher than that of South Asia (26 per cent). Although its urban population rate of growth will be declining to 4.5 per cent during 1980-2000, Africa will still be the fastest urbanizing region in the world.

Table 1. Percentage of total population in urban areas, as estimated for 1960, 1980 and 2000

Major areas	1960	1980	2000
World Total	25	31	38
Europe	44	49	55
Northern America	58	68	72
Soviet Union	36	51	63
Oceania	53	57	59
East Asia	19	26	33
South Asia	14	19	26
Latin America	33	43	54
Africa	13	20	28

Source: United Nations. Growth of the World's Urban and Rural Population, 1920-2000, Sales No. E. 69.XIII.3

The magnitude of the growth is best illustrated by the fact that the urban population of Africa will increase from 37 million in 1960 to 218 million in 2000 close to the total population of Africa in 1960 which was 273 million.

Table 2. Estimated annual rates of growth of urban population of major areas 1940-60; 1960-80 and 1980-2000

Major areas	1940-60	1960-80	1980-2000
World total	2.9	2.9	2.8
Europe	1.1	1.2	1.0
Northern America	2.8	2.2	1.8
Soviet Union	2.6	3.0	2.3
Oceania	3.1	2.3	1.8
East Asia	3.5	3.0	2.4
South Asia	4.3	4.1	3.9
Latin America	5.2	4.4	3.8
Africa	5.0	4.6	4.5

Source: United Nations. Growth of Urban and Rural Population, op. cit.

But the most striking feature of Africa's urbanization is the concentration of the urban population in cities in contrast with its low level of urbanization.

In 1960, with 13 per cent of its total population living in urban areas, and 9 per cent living in cities, Africa had 74 per cent of its urban population living in cities; the corresponding percentages for the world were 25, 18 and 74 respectively. This must be viewed in the light of the emergence of big cities in Africa; in 1920 Africa had only one big city, Cairo. By 1960 it had ten big cities, three of which had more than one million people. While in 1920 less than one million persons out of the total population of Africa (143 million) or 0.6 per cent, lived in big cities, by 1960 the number of persons living in big cities had reached almost 11 million out of the total population of 273 million or 4.0 per cent; and it is estimated that by 1985 the number will reach 47 million or 10.5 per cent of the total population. In relation to the urban population, the percentage living in big cities was 13 in 1920, 29 in 1960 and it is estimated that it will reach 52 by 1980.

Another indicator of the concentration of the urban population in cities is given by the fact that between 1920-1960 seventy nine per cent of the urban population increase was due to the growth of the population in cities.

With regard to cities with one million inhabitants or more, Africa had only 2 such cities in 1950 with a population of 3.4 million, by 1970 the number of such cities were 8 with a population of 8 million; it is expected that by 1985 their number will be 19 with a population of almost 47 million. <sup>1/</sup>

#### IV. URBANIZATION IN THE AFRICAN SUB-REGIONS AND COUNTRIES

The degree of urbanization and the growth rate of urban population in Africa vary considerably from country to country and from one sub-region to another. The sub-regions are therefore treated separately.

But by comparing them one must keep in mind the fact that the urbanization process did not start at the same time in the different sub-regions and this, along with other factors, has a certain effect on their urbanization trend.

Table 3. Urban population as percentage of total population by sub-region 1960, 1970 and 1980

Sub-region	1960	1970	1980
North Africa	24	30	35
West Africa	12	14	19
East Africa	6	8	10
Central Africa	8	12	15
Other Africa	20	25	30
Africa	13	17	20

Source: ECA; Demographic Handbook for Africa, June 1971; National sources.

##### North Africa

With about 30 per cent of its population living in towns of 20,000 or more inhabitants in 1970, North Africa is the most urbanized sub-region in Africa and it is estimated that the above percentage will reach 35 by 1980 and will still be the highest one among all sub-regions of Africa.

The percentage of the total population living in cities was 18 in 1960 while the percentage of the urban population living in cities was 72 as against 10 and 69 for Africa as a whole. It is also to be

<sup>1/</sup> United Nations: The World's million cities, 1950-85, ESA/P/"P. 45.

noted that North Africa was the first sub-region of Africa to have a city of a million inhabitants and more, namely Cairo.

Within the sub-region, all countries except Sudan have relatively high percentages of urban population; Egypt has the highest (41) followed by Morocco (30), Algeria (29), Tunisia (26) and Libya (24); Sudan with 8 per cent has less than half the average for Africa.

Table 5 gives the population in cities of 100,000 and more inhabitants as a percentage of (a) total population and (b) population in towns of 20,000 and more inhabitants.

Table 4. Estimated percentage of urban population by sub-region and country

Country and sub-region	Per cent urban	Country and sub-region	Per cent urban
<u>North Africa</u>	29.9	<u>East Africa</u>	7.5
Algeria	29.5	Ethiopia	5.3
Egypt	41.0	Kenya	7.9
Libya	23.7	Madagascar	10.5
Morocco	30.3	Malawi	3.7
Sudan	7.5	Mauritius	47.0
Tunisia	25.7	Somalia	11.5
		Tanzania	5.7
<u>West Africa</u>	14.2	Uganda	5.2
Dahomey	13.2	Zambia	24.1
Gambia	9.6		
Ghana	17.4	<u>Other Africa</u>	25.3
Guinea	10.7	Angola	9.7
Ivory Coast	19.0	Botswana	21.7
Liberia	18.4	Mozambique	6.0
Mali	7.1	Namibia	12.0
Niger	4.3	South Africa	41.5
Nigeria	15.3	Southern Rhodesia	16.5
Senegal	27.3	Swaziland	5.0
Sierra Leone	13.2		
Togo	10.5		
Upper Volta	4.2		
		<u>Total Africa</u>	17.0
<u>Central Africa</u>	11.9		
Burundi	2.2		
Cameroon	12.7		
Central Afr. Rep.	16.4		
Chad	7.6		
Congo	31.0		
Gabon	20.4		
Zaire	12.8		

Sources: ECA Demographic Handbook for Africa, June 1971; National Sources.

Table 5. Population in cities of 100,000 and more inhabitants as a percentage of total population and of population of towns of 20,000 and more inhabitants

Sub-region and country	Year	A	
		B	C
<u>North Africa</u>			
Algeria	1966	13.4	50.6
Libya	1964	22.5	...
Morocco	1960	18.9	79.7
Sudan	1964-65	2.8	43.0
Tunisia	1966	10.4	45.4
Arab Republic of Egypt	1966	29.6	77.2
<u>West Africa</u>			
Dahomey	1970	7.7	...
Ghana	1960	9.5	77.7
Guinea	1960	5.7	86.6
Ivory Coast	1960	5.6	79.3
Mali	1962	2.3	70.5
Nigeria	1963	8.7	61.8
Senegal	1960-61	12.6	55.9
Sierra Leone	1963	5.9	82.8
<u>Central Africa</u>			
Cameroon	1965	3.9	44.7
Central African Republic	1966	10.4	62.1
Congo	1961-62	16.0	63.5
Zaire	1966	7.1	62.6
<u>East Africa</u>			
Ethiopia	1965	3.4	73.5
Kenya	1969	6.6	90.4
Madagascar	1962	5.2	57.6
Malawi	1966	2.7	100.0
Mauritius (exc. dependencies)	1969	17.3 <sup>a/</sup>	39.0
Somalia	1962-63	5.7 <sup>a/</sup>	75.0
Tanzania	1967	2.2	43.3
Uganda	1969	4.0	78.3
Zambia	1969	14.0	...
<u>Other African countries</u>			
Angola	1960	4.6	66.7
Mozambique	1960	2.7	...
Southern Rhodesia	1969	12.4	79.2
South Africa	1960	26.5	75.5

Sources: United Nations Demographic Yearbook 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1969, 1970; National sources.

Notes: A : Population in cities of 100,000 and more inhabitants as a percentage of :

B : total population

C : Population in towns of 20,000 and more inhabitants

<sup>a/</sup> Unofficial estimate.

The data suggest that the country with the highest percentage of its population in cities is Egypt (27.1 in 1960, 29.6 in 1966) and this is in fact the highest in the continent. Here again, all countries except Sudan (1.7 in 1960) have relatively high percentage (Libya 22.5 in 1964), Morocco (18.9 in 1960) and Tunisia (10.6 in 1966). Using the proportion of urban population living in cities of 100,000 inhabitants as a measure of concentration, the maximum occurs in Morocco with 79.7 per cent in 1960 compared to 74.0 in 1960 for Egypt, 68.6 in 1960 for Algeria, 45.4 in 1966 for Tunisia and 44.6 in 1962 for Sudan. <sup>1/</sup>

Table 7 gives the distribution of towns of 200,000 and more inhabitants by size range. With regard to the cities of 100,000 and more inhabitants, North Africa has 38 such cities of which 5 have more than 500,000 inhabitants each and out of these five, three have more than one million each.

Egypt with 17 cities has the biggest share, and has also 3 out of the 5 big cities and 2 out of the 3 cities containing more than a million inhabitants, 2 namely, Cairo (4.2 million in 1966) and Alexandria (1.8 million in 1966) are the most populous cities of Africa; Morocco has 10 cities out of which one is a big city: Casablanca (1.3 million in 1969) while Algeria has 4 cities out of which Algiers (904,000 in 1966) is a big city; Sudan has 4 cities and Tunisia one city.

North Africa has the highest rates of growth of total population among the sub-regions, however it has the lowest rates of growth of the urban population. As in most other sub-regions the latter are higher than the former but not to the same extent; indeed in the other sub-regions urban population increased between 1965-70 at twice or more the rate of increase of the total population while in North Africa the rates were respectively 4.9 and 3.0 per cent. Nevertheless the urban population is expected to double its 1965 size by 1980 while the total population will increase by 60 per cent.

The rates of growth of the primate cities, are all lower than that of the total urban population, varying from 3.0 for Tripoli <sup>2/</sup> to 4.8 for Casablanca.

---

<sup>1/</sup> The percentage for Libya was 65.0 in 1954 when only one out of the two towns had more than 100,000 inhabitants. In 1964 both the two towns had more than 100,000 inhabitants.

<sup>2/</sup> For 1964-68.



Table 6. North Africa: Annual rate of increase of the total population, urban population and of selected cities<sup>a/</sup> 1965-1980

	1965-70	1970-75	1975-80
Total population	3.0	3.2	3.3
Urban population	4.9	4.7	4.8
Cairo-Giza	4.5	4.6	4.5
Alexandria	3.6	3.7	3.7
Casablanca	4.8	4.9	4.9
Rabat-Salo	6.5	6.5	6.5
Algiers	4.3	4.2	4.1
Tunis	3.2	3.3	3.2

<sup>a/</sup> Cities with at least 1,000,000 inhabitants by 1985.

Table 7. Distribution of towns of 20,000 and more inhabitants by a size range

Sub-region and country	Year	Size range			
		20,000- 49,999	50,000- 99,999	100,000- 499,000	500,000 or more
<u>North Africa</u>					
Algeria	1965	50	12	3	1
Libya	1964	-		2	-
Morocco	1969	10 <sup>a/</sup>	...	9	1
Sudan	1968	4	1	4	-
Egypt	1966	61	10	14	3
Tunisia	1966	13	3	1	-
<u>West Africa</u>					
Dahomey	1970	2	1	1	-
Gambia	1967	1	-	-	-
Ghana	1970	14	4	1	1
Ivory Coast	1965	5	1	1	-
Liberia	1962	1	1	-	-
Mali	1969	4	-	1	-
Niger	1968	3	1	-	-
Nigeria	1963	46	20	21	2
Senegal	1966	5	3	1	-
Sierra Leone	1969	1	-	1	-
Togo	1968	-	1	-	-
Upper Volta	1966	1	2	-	-

Table 7 (Cont'd)

Sub-region and country	Year	Size range			
		20,000- 49,999	50,000- 99,999	100,000- 499,000	500,000 or more
<u>Central Africa</u>					
Burundi	1965	-	1	-	-
Cameroon	1965	4	1	2	-
Central African Republic	1966	5	-	1	-
Chad	1964	3	1	-	-
Congo	1962	-	1	1	-
Zaire	1969	...	...	10	1
Equatorial Guinea	1960	2	-	-	-
Gabon	1969	1	1	-	-
<u>East Africa</u>					
Ethiopia	1965	8	1	1	1
Kenya	1969	2	-	2	-
Madagascar	1962	5	1	1	-
Malawi	1966	-	-	1	-
Mauritius	1962	3	1	-	-
Somalia	1964	3	1	1	-
Uganda	1969	3	-	1	-
Tanzania	1967	9	2	1	-
Zambia	1969	...	...	3	-
<u>Other African Countries</u>					
Angola	1960	4	-	1	-
Botswana	1964	3	-	-	-
South Africa	1960	23	8	8	3
Southern Rhodesia	1969	5	-	2	-
Namibia	1960	1	-	-	-
Mozambique	1960	...	...	1	-

Source: United Nations Demographic Yearbook, 1970; National sources.

a/ For 1960.

It is estimated that by 1985 there will be six cities, with 1,000,000 inhabitants or more, distributed as follows:

Egypt 2 : Cairo-Giza (11 million); Alexandria (3.6 million)  
 Morocco 2 : Casablanca (3.0 million); Rabat-Sale (1.2 million)  
 Algeria 1 : Algiers (2.0 million)  
 Tunisia 1 : Tunis (1.2 million).

Among these cities Rabat-Sale, capital of Morocco, has the highest rate of growth, followed by Casablanca, the primate city of Morocco and this applies throughout the period 1965-85.

Table 8. Percentage of total population and of urban population in the selected cities 1965-1980

	Percentage of total population				Percentage of urban population			
	1965	1970	1975	1980	1965	1970	1975	1980
Cairo-Giza	15.6	16.9	18.3	19.7	40.8	41.3	42.7	44.0
Alexandria	5.9	6.2	6.4	6.6	15.5	15.0	14.9	14.8
Casablanca	8.9	9.6	10.2	10.9	35.1	31.6	29.7	27.8
Rabat-Sale	2.5	2.9	3.4	3.9	9.4	9.7	9.8	10.0
Algiers	7.5	7.9	8.2	8.4	29.4	26.8	25.3	23.5
Tunis	14.6	14.7	14.7	14.6	65.1	57.2	49.2	42.1

All the above cities, with the exception of Alexandria and Rabat-Sale, are the primate cities of the countries concerned. In general, it can be said that the share the primate cities make of the total urban population is related to the existence of other important urban centres in the country.

As a partial evidence of this, Tunis which is the only city of Tunisia contains the highest percentage of urban population. But on the other side Cairo, the primate city of the country which has the highest number of cities in the sub-region, has a relatively high percentage of urban population which in contrast with other primate cities of the sub-region will be increasing.

For the two cities which are not primate, namely Alexandria (Egypt) and Rabat-Sale (Morocco), the share of urban population of the former will be declining slightly while that of the latter which is a capital will be increasing.

### West Africa

With about 14 per cent of its population living in towns of 20,000 or more inhabitants in 1970, West Africa is less urbanized than North Africa and Southern Africa but more urbanized than East and Central Africa. With the percentage expected to reach 19 by 1980, its position in relation to other sub-regions of the continent will be the same.

The percentage of the total population living in cities was 8 in 1960 while the percentage of the urban population living in cities was 61 as against 10 and 69 respectively for Africa.

Within the sub-region, 4 out of 13 countries have a percentage of urban population higher than the average for Africa (17), they are Senegal (27.3), Ivory Coast (19.0), Liberia (18.4) and Ghana (17.4); they are followed by Nigeria (15.3), Sierra Leone and Dahomey (13.2); the countries with the lowest percentages being Upper Volta (4.2) and Niger (4.3).

According to data available, Senegal has the highest percentage of its population living in cities (12.6 in 1960-61) followed by Ghana (9.5 in 1960), Nigeria (8.7 in 1963); the lowest percentage is found in Mali (2.3 in 1962); however consideration should be given to the fact that some countries have no cities at all.

West Africa has 30 cities (see Table 6) distributed as follows: Dahomey (1 in 1970), Ghana (2 in 1970), Ivory Coast (1 in 1965), Mali (1 in 1969), Nigeria (23 in 1963), Senegal (1 in 1966) and Sierra Leone (1 in 1966).

Out of these 30 cities only 3 are big cities, namely Accra (615,800 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>in 1968</sub>), Lagos (665,246 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>in 1963</sub>), Ibadan (627,379 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>in 1963</sub>).

Concerning the concentration of the urban population in cities measured as the per cent of urban population living in cities of 100,000 inhabitants and more given in Table 5, the range within the sub-region around 1960 is between 55.9 (for Senegal) and 86.6 (for Guinea) with the percentages for other countries as follows: Nigeria (61.8), Mali (70.5), Ghana (77.7), Ivory Coast (79.3) and Sierra Leone (82.8).

---

<sup>1</sup>/ Figures are for city proper.

Table 9. West Africa: Annual rate of increase of the total population, urban population and of selected cities and capitals

	1965-70	1970-75	1975-80	1980-85
Total population	2.5	2.7	2.9	
Urban population	4.8	5.9	5.6	
Lagos	6.5	7.0	7.1	7.1
Ibadan	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.0
Accra	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.1
Abidjan	7.2	7.2	7.0	7.0
Dakar	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.0
Ouagadougou	6.2	6.9	6.9	6.9
Niamey	10.0	9.6	...	...

In West Africa although the rates of growth of the total population are relatively high, the rates of growth of its urban population are for certain periods more than twice that of the total population. And between 1965 and 1980 while the total population will increase by about 50 per cent, the urban population is expected to increase by about 120 per cent.

It is estimated that by 1985 there will be five cities with 1,000,000 or more inhabitants, distributed as follows:

Nigeria 2 : Lagos (4.0 million), Ibadan (1.1 million)  
Ghana 1 : Accra (1.6 million)  
Ivory Coast 1 : Abidjan (1.2 million)  
Senegal 1 : Dakar (1.2 million)

All these cities, except Ibadan, are primate cities and capitals. Between 1965-70 all of them had rates of growth higher than that of the sub-region's urban population. However, for the period 1970-1980 only Lagos and Abidjan maintain that position with rate of growth of about 7 per cent, which is closer to the rate experienced by many African capitals.

Table 10. Selected cities as per cent of the urban population and of the total population of their respective country

	Per cent of total population				Per cent of urban population			
	1965	1970	1975	1980	1965	1970	1975	1980
Lagos	1.8	2.2	2.7	3.3	12.5	14.3	15.1	16.0
Ibadan	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	7.6	7.3	6.3	5.6
Accra	7.3	8.2	9.0	9.9	48.7	46.7	45.2	44.0
Abidjan	7.8	9.8	12.2	15.1	55.5	51.7	53.0	59.3
Dakar	13.3	15.0	16.9	18.9	54.1	55.1	57.8	62.5
Ouagadougou	1.5	1.8	2.3	2.8	44.7	43.4	36.8	38.4
Niamey	1.6	2.2	2.8	...	51.0	52.1	52.8	...

For all the countries of Africa, the primate city which has the lowest share of the urban population is Lagos, capital of Nigeria, where it was estimated that in 1970 there were 24 centres of 100,000 inhabitants or more.

All other primate cities of the sub-region contains about or more than 50 per cent of the urban population of their country. For primate cities for which data are available it is only Accra which shows a decreasing trend in its share of urban population.

#### Central Africa

The level of urbanization in Central Africa is only higher than that of East Africa. Its percentage of the total population living in towns of 20,000 and more inhabitants was 12 in 1970 and is expected to reach 15 by 1980.

However it has three countries with level of urbanization higher than that of Africa or close to it, they are Congo (31.0), Gabon (20.4) and Central African Republic (16.4). But it contains also the country which has the lowest level of urbanization in Africa, Burundi (2.2) <sup>1/</sup>. The percentage of urbanization for other countries are Zaire (12.8), Cameroon (12.7) and Chad (7.6).

Only four countries of the sub-region have cities of 100,000 and more inhabitants, Zaire (11 in 1969), Cameroon (2 in 1965), Central African Republic (1 in 1966) and Congo (1 in 1962).

<sup>1/</sup> If only countries which have at least one town of 20,000 or more are taken into consideration.

The highest percentage of total population in the cities occurs in the Congo (16.0 in 1961-62), the percentage for the other three countries being 10.4 in 1966 for the Central African Republic, 7.1 in 1966 for Zaire and 3.9 in 1965 for the Cameroon.

Except for Cameroon the per cent of urban population in cities is about 60; for Cameroon it is about 45 in 1965 while it was about 67 in 1962. <sup>1/</sup>

The biggest city in the sub-region is Kinshasa with an estimated population of 1.1 million in 1970 which is expected to reach 3.3 million in 1985 by which time it will still be the only city of 1 million or more inhabitants of the sub-region.

The rate of growth of the urban population of the sub-region was threefold that of the total population in 1965-70 and although it will be decreasing, it will be still very high in relation to that of the total population, 5.4 against 2.4 in 1970-75 and 4.9 against 2.6 in 1975-80. While the total population is expected to increase by about 45 per cent between 1965 and 1980, the urban population will increase by about 140 per cent during the same period.

Table 11. Central Africa: Annual rate of increase of total population, urban population and of selected cities

	1965-70	1970-75	1975-80	1980-85
Total population	2.2	2.4	2.6	
Urban population	6.6	5.4	4.9	
Kinshasa	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.3
Yaounde	9.9	...	...	
Douala	5.1	...	...	

Unfortunately data are not available for many cities of the sub-region to study the trend. But for Kinshasa, the biggest city of the sub-region, the rate of growth between 1965 and 1985 remains constant at around 7 per cent. For Yaounde and Douala it was 9.9 and 5.1 respectively between 1965-70.

<sup>1/</sup> This is explained by the fact that Western Cameroon has no city its biggest town is Victoria with 23,000 in 1965. If Western Cameroon was not included, the per cent would have been almost 70.

Table 12. Selected cities as per cent of the urban population and of the total population of their respective country

	Per cent of total population				Per cent of urban population			
	1965	1970	1975	1980	1965	1970	1975	1980
Kinshasa	5.1	6.5	8.2	10.2	46.5	50.9	56.7	63.5
Yaounde	2.1	3.1	...	...	31.7	41.9	...	...
Douala	3.7	4.3	...	...	55.7	58.8	...	...

The available data suggest that the share of the primate cities in the urban population are in the 70's above 50 per cent and tends to increase.

#### East Africa

With 8 per cent of its population living in towns of 20,000 or more inhabitants, or less than half the average for Africa, East Africa is the least urbanized sub-region of the continent and it is estimated that by 1980 with the proportion reaching 10 per cent as against the average for Africa of 20, it will still be the least urbanized sub-region.

However, it has countries with high level of urbanization like Mauritius (47.0) and Zambia (24.1). But most of the other countries have low level of urbanization : Malawi (3.7), Uganda (5.2), Ethiopia (5.3), Tanzania (5.7), Kenya (7.9) and in between there are Madagascar (10.5) and Somalia (11.5). The sub-region contains 12 cities of 100,000 and more inhabitants distributed as follows: Ethiopia (2), Kenya (2), Madagascar (1), Malawi (1), Somalia (1), Uganda (1), Tanzania (1) and Zambia (3).

Of all the cities only Addis Ababa had more than 500,000 inhabitants by 1969, the others except Nairobi having less than 250,000 inhabitants. The percentage of the population living in cities is on the whole very low except for Mauritius (17.3 in 1969) and Zambia (14.0 in 1969). For the other countries the percentages are 2.2 for Tanzania in 1967, 2.7 for Malawi in 1966, 3.4 for Ethiopia in 1965, 4.0 for Uganda in 1969, 5.2 for Madagascar in 1962, 5.7 for Somalia in 1962-63 and 6.6 for Kenya in 1969.



By contrast the percentage of the urban population in the cities is rather high. It is 100.0 in Malawi, 90.4 in Kenya, 78.3 in Uganda, 75.0 in Somalia, 73.5 in Ethiopia, 57.6 in Madagascar, 43.3 in Tanzania and 39.0 in Mauritius.

It is estimated that by 1985 there will be three cities with one million or more inhabitants, namely: Addis Ababa (2.4 million), Nairobi (1.7 million) and Madagascar (1.0 million).

Although the least urbanized sub-region of the continent, East Africa experiences high rate of growth of its urban population which between 1965-80 will be always more than double that of the total population while the total population is expected to increase by about 50 per cent during the period 1965-80, the urban population will increase by about 140 per cent. All the three above mentioned cities have rate of growth higher than that of the sub-region's urban population with the exception of Tananarive for the period 1965-70.

Table 13. East Africa: Annual rate of increase of total population, urban population and of selected cities

	1965-70	1970-75	1975-80	1980-85
Total population	2.5	2.7	2.8	
Urban population	6.8	5.7	5.7	
Addis Ababa	7.0	7.6	7.6	7.6
Nairobi	7.7	7.8	7.8	7.7
Tananarive	5.9	6.0	6.0	6.0

Data available suggest that most of the primate cities of the sub-region, contain more than 50 per cent of their country's urban population; however in Lusaka the corresponding per cent was 26 in 1969.

For Addis Ababa, Nairobi and Tananarive for which estimates are available it is expected that by 1980 they will contain respectively about 81, 72, and 70 per cent of the urban population of their respective country.

Table 14. Selected cities as per cent of the urban population and of the total population of their respective country

	Per cent of total population				Per cent of urban population			
	1965	1970	1975	1980	1965	1970	1975	1980
Addis Ababa	2.5	3.2	4.1	5.3	53.5	60.3	70.0	80.6
Nairobi	4.1	5.2	6.5	8.0	63.9	65.9	68.0	72.1
Tananarive	5.4	6.3	7.3	8.4	53.8	59.7	66.9	69.6

#### Rest of Africa

With 25 per cent of its population living in towns of 20,000 or more inhabitants, this sub-region is, after North Africa, the second highest urbanized sub-region in Africa. It will occupy the same position in 1980 when the percentage is expected to reach 30.

The most urbanized country is by far South Africa, with 41.5 per cent of its population in towns, followed by Botswana (21.7), Southern Rhodesia (16.5), Namibia (12.0), Angola (9.7), Mozambique (6.0) and Swaziland (5.0).

There are fifteen cities of 100,000 and more inhabitants in the sub-region with 11 in South Africa alone, 2 in Southern Rhodesia and 1 each in Angola and Mozambique.

South Africa contained also in 1960 the 5 largest cities in the sub-region and one of them has more than one million inhabitants. They are Johannesburg (1.2 million), Cape Town (807,000), Durban (681,000), Pretoria (423,000) and Port Elizabeth (291,000).

The percentage of the population in cities is 26.5 in 1960 in South Africa, 12.4 in 1969 in Southern Rhodesia, 4.6 and 2.7 in 1960 in Angola and Mozambique respectively.

The concentration of the urban population in the cities for the three countries for which data are available is very high : 66.7 in 1960 in Angola, 75.5 in 1960 in South Africa and 79.2 in 1969 in Rhodesia.

And it is estimated that by 1985 South Africa will contain the 4 cities of the sub-region with more than one million inhabitants each: Johannesburg (2.1 million), Cape Town (1.9 million), Durban (1.6 million), Pretoria (1.5 million).

Table 15. Rest of Africa : Annual rate of increase of total population, urban population and of selected cities

	1965-70	1970-75	1975-80
Total population	2.4	2.6	2.7
Urban population	5.0	4.5	4.4
South Africa: } Urban population	4.9	4.2	4.1
Johannesburg	2.5	2.6	2.6
Cape Town	3.4	3.5	3.6
Durban	3.5	3.5	3.6
Pretoria	4.8	4.8	4.9

Urbanization trend in the sub-region is heavily affected by that of South Africa which contains about 80 per cent of the urban population of the sub-region; and a comparison between the rates of growth of the urban population of the sub-region and those of South Africa between 1965 and 1980 gives an evidence of this. As for the biggest cities of the sub-region, which are also those of South Africa, they all have rates of growth lower than those of the urban population of the sub-region and of South Africa with the exception of Pretoria whose rates for the periods 1970-75 and 1975-80 are higher.

Another feature of these cities, again with the exception of Pretoria, that their share of the urban population is steadily declining.

Table 16. Selected cities as per cent of the urban population and of the total population

	Per cent of total population				Per cent of urban population			
	1965	1970	1975	1980	1965	1970	1975	1980
Johannesburg	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.2	19.3	17.2	15.9	14.8
Cape Town	5.3	5.5	5.8	6.1	14.3	13.3	12.9	12.6
Durban	4.5	4.7	5.0	5.2	12.2	11.4	11.1	10.8
Pretoria	3.2	3.5	3.9	4.4	8.6	8.5	8.8	9.2

Conclusion

Although the total population of Africa is growing fast, the urban population in all sub-regions is growing much faster; except for North Africa, between 1965 and 1980, all other sub-regions experience at one time or another, rate of increase of the urban population twice or more than that of the total population. However the general trend is a decrease in the rate of growth of the urban population; but nevertheless by 1980 the urban population will be more than double its 1965 size. The range of increase between sub-regions will be from 98 per cent for Other Africa to 142 per cent for East Africa.

One characteristic of African urbanization is the high concentration of the urban population in the cities; with few exceptions most African countries have more than half of their urban population in cities of 100,000 or more inhabitants. For Africa as a whole the percentage was 74 in 1960 or almost 27 million out of a total urban population of 37 million. This is due partly to the relatively low number of medium-size towns.

While Africa had only three cities of one million or more in 1960, it is expected that their number will reach 19 in 1985 and that they will contain about 42 per cent of the urban population of Africa.

ANNEX I

NATIONAL DEFINITIONS OF URBAN

Algeria : Fifty-five of the most important communes having local self-government

Angola : Agglomerations of 2000 or more inhabitants.

Botswana : The cities of Gaborone and Dabatsi and the urban agglomeration of Francistown.

Burundi : Commune of Bujumbura.

Cameroon : Urban centres.

Central African Republic : 20 principal centres with a population of over 3,000 inhabitants.

Chad : 10 urban centres.

Zaire : Agglomerations of 2,000 or more inhabitants where the predominant economic activity is of the non-agricultural type and also mixed agglomerations which are considered urban because of their type of economic activity but are actually rural in size.

Congo, People's Republic of : Not available.

Dahomey : Towns of Cotonou, Porto Novo, Ouidah, Parakou and Djougou.

Ethiopia : Not available.

Gabon : Towns having a population of over 2,000 inhabitants.

Gambia : Bathurst only.

Ghana : Localities of 5,000 or more inhabitants.

Guinea : Urban centres.

Kenya : Towns of 2,000 or more inhabitants.

Libya : Total population of Tripoli and Benghazi plus the urban parts of Beida and Derna.

Madagascar : Centres having more than 5,000 inhabitants.

Malawi : All townships and townplanning areas and all district centres.

Mali : Not available.

Mauritania : Urban centres.

Mauritius : 1952 localities with legally defined limits, administered by a locally nominated body or a municipal corporation.  
1962 proclaimed townships according to enlarged limits as of August 1963, plus the town of Makebourg.

Morocco : 117 urban centres.

Namibia : Localities (towns, villages and townships) large enough to be treated as separate units, whether having local government or not.

Niger : Not available.

Reunion : 1954: administrative centres of communes having more than 2,000 inhabitants.  
1961: agglomerations in communes of which the administrative centres have more than 2,000 inhabitants.

Rwanda : Not available.

St. Helena : Jamestown, the capital.

Senegal : Cap-Vert region and the cities of Saint-Louis, Thies, Kaolack, Diourbel and Ziguinchor.

Seychelles : Port Victoria, the capital.

South Africa : All areas of 500 or more inhabitants and adjoining suburban areas, excluding predominantly rural agricultural settlements, temporary villages for construction work in rural areas and alluvial diamond diggings; well established towns with specified urban characteristics with fewer than 500 inhabitants but having at least approximately 100 white inhabitants "rural" portions of certain districts in which large metropolitan areas fall and where the percentage of the rural population is small compared with the urban and a considerable proportion of the workers follow urban-type occupations.

Southern Rhodesia: Main towns including suburbs.

Sudan : Sixty-eight towns.

Swaziland : Localities proclaimed as urban.

Togo : 1958 - 1960 seven urban communes.

1961 : Localities having been given the status of communes.

Tunisia : 1956 : Localities having been given the status of communes.

1966 : population living in communes.

Uganda : 1959 : the populations of all settlements as small as trading centres with populations as low as 100 persons.

1969 : not available.

United Arab Republic: 1957: governorates and chief towns of provinces

1960 : Governorates of Cairo, Alexandria, Port Said, Ismailia, Suez frontier governorates and capitals of other governorates as well as district capitals. (Markaz)

United Republic of Tanzania : 16 Gazetted townships

Tanganyika : 1958 : 33 gazetted townships.

1967 : 15 gazetted townships.

Zanzibar : 1958: Town of Zanzibar, towns of Wete, Chake and Mkoani, and township planning areas of Bububu, Kimara, Mbwani and Mombasa.

1967 : Administratively gazetted township of Zanzibar.

Upper Volta : Six urban communes and eight localities which can be considered as urban.

Zambia : 1950: The main nine European towns neighbouring mines, locations and compounds.

Beginning 1961: Main towns and many small townships as could be separately identified.

Source: United Nations Demographic Yearbook, 1970.

ANNEX II

ANNUAL RATE OF INCREASE OF THE TOTAL POPULATION AND OF THE  
URBAN POPULATION BY SUB-REGION 1965-1980

Sub-region	Period	Rate of increase of total population	Urban population
North Africa	1965-70	3.0	4.9
	1970-75	3.2	4.7
	1975-80	3.3	4.8
West Africa	1965-70	2.5	4.8
	1970-75	2.7	5.9
	1975-80	2.9	5.6
Central Africa	1965-70	2.2	6.6
	1970-75	2.4	5.4
	1975-80	2.6	4.9
East Africa	1965-70	2.5	6.8
	1970-75	2.7	5.7
	1975-80	2.8	5.7
Other Africa	1965-70	2.4	5.0
	1970-75	2.6	4.5
	1975-80	2.7	4.4

Source: ECA: Demographic Handbook for Africa, June 1971.



## ANNEX III

ANNUAL RATE OF INCREASE OF THE TOTAL POPULATION AND OF  
THE URBAN POPULATION 1965-80

Sub-region and Country	Total Urban		Total Urban		Total Urban	
	1965-70	1965-70	1970-75	1970-75	1975-80	1975-80
<u>East Africa</u>						
Ethiopia	2.1	4.4	2.2	4.5	2.4	4.6
Tanzania	2.5	8.0	2.7	7.3	2.9	8.0
Tanganyika	2.5	6.9	2.7	8.0	2.9	8.1
Zanzibar	2.0	1.4	2.3	1.3	2.4	7.5
Kenya	3.1	7.1	3.2	7.1	3.4	6.6
Uganda	2.6	21.3	2.7	25.3	2.9	6.6
Madagascar	2.7	3.6	2.9	3.6	3.0	5.2
Malawi	2.4	9.5	2.7	5.9	2.9	7.1
Zambia	2.9	6.8	3.2	5.6	3.3	5.2
Rwanda	2.9	-	3.0	-	3.2	5.9
Somalia	2.2	7.8	2.6	6.1	2.9	5.0
Mauritius	2.5	5.5	2.5	2.8	2.5	2.6
<u>Central Africa</u>						
Zaire	2.2	5.3	2.5	5.0	2.6	4.8
Cameroon	2.0	9.8	2.3	5.3	2.5	4.7
Chad	2.3	8.1	2.5	8.9	2.7	7.6
Burundi	2.3	5.9	2.5	6.6	2.6	5.7
Central African Republic	2.1	6.8	2.4	6.4	2.6	4.8
Congo (B)	2.2	4.7	2.4	4.1	2.6	3.9
Gabon	0.8	6.6	1.0	6.3	1.2	4.8
<u>North Africa</u>						
Egypt, Arab Rep. of	2.8	4.2	2.9	3.8	3.0	3.9
Sudan	3.1	3.9	3.3	4.1	3.4	4.1
Algeria	3.3	6.2	5.9	9.3	3.5	6.2
Morocco	3.4	5.9	1.1	2.4	3.6	5.7
Tunisia	3.1	5.9	3.3	6.4	3.4	6.5
Libya	3.1	5.2	3.2	7.4	3.4	4.6
Spanish North Africa	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.1
<u>West Africa</u>						
Nigeria	2.5	3.6	2.7	5.8	3.0	5.7
Ghana	3.1	6.3	3.3	6.1	3.4	5.9
Upper Volta	2.0	7.1	2.2	10.5	2.4	6.0
Mali	2.3	7.6	2.5	4.6	2.7	4.3
Ivory Coast	2.4	8.7	2.5	6.6	2.7	4.7

Sub-region and Country	Total Urban		Total Urban		Total Urban	
	1965-70		1970-75		1975-80	
<u>West Africa (Cont'd)</u>						
Senegal	2.4	4.5	2.6	4.0	2.7	3.4
Guinea	2.2	7.0	2.4	5.5	2.6	5.8
Niger	2.9	9.5	3.1	7.3	3.2	5.4
Sierra Leone	2.2	10.7	2.4	5.6	2.6	5.8
Dahomey	2.6	9.1	2.7	7.0	2.9	5.9
Togo	2.6	8.5	2.7	11.1	2.9	5.9
Liberia	1.8	7.5	2.1	4.7	2.2	4.7
Mauritania	2.2	-	2.5	11.9	2.7	16.4
Portuguese Guinea	1.1	4.6	1.4	-	1.6	3.7
Gambia	2.0	3.1	2.1	2.7	2.3	4.6
<u>Other Africa</u>						
Republic of South Africa	2.4	4.9	2.5	4.2	2.6	4.1
Mozambique	2.1	6.2	2.3	6.7	2.4	6.5
Angola	2.0	6.3	2.2	6.1	2.3	6.4
Southern Rhodesia	3.4	4.1	3.5	4.0	3.6	3.9
Lesotho	1.8	-	2.0	7.0	2.2	7.4
Namibia	1.9	6.3	2.1	5.6	2.2	5.7
Botswana	2.2	5.6	2.3	7.1	2.5	7.2
Swaziland	2.9	-	3.1	11.4	3.2	8.8

Sources: ECA: Demographic Handbook for Africa, June 1971;  
National sources.