Atlas of the Human Planet 2019
A compendium of urbanisation dynamics in 239 countries

Compiled based on the Global Human Settlement Layer (GHSL) and the harmonised global definition of Cities, Urban and Rural Areas

Main findings

- Built-up area per capita: > 100% of the global average
- More urbanised and urbanising faster than global average

- Diversity of urban demography:
  - Urban population up to -25% in 2015 compared to 1990
  - Urban population > 2x in 2015 compared to 1990

- Magnitude and speed of the urbanisation process 1990 - 2015:
  - Population in urban areas > 80% in 2015
  - More urbanised and urbanising faster than global average
Serving the voluntary commitment to develop a global, people-based definition of cities and settlements

**Why do we need a global definition of cities?**

SDG indicators require urban/rural data disaggregation

SDG indicators sensitive to the city boundaries

11.2.1 Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport
11.3.1 Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate
11.6.2 Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g., PM2.5 and PM10) in cities
11.7.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all

**Voluntary commitment for a people-based definition of cities**

During the UN-Habitat III conference in October 2016, the European Union, the OECD and the World Bank launched a voluntary commitment to develop a global, people-based definition of cities and settlements

**Porting the Degree of urbanisation to the globe**

The GHS-SMOD ports the Degree of Urbanisation to the globe delineating three settlement typologies based on population density, population size and contiguity using 1 km² grid cells. The GHS-SMOD is derived combining GHS-BUILT and GHS-POP

**Input Data**


Census data

**GHS Products**

GHS-BUILT

GHS-POP

GHS-SMOD

**Urban Centre**

**Urban Cluster**

**Rural Area**

The GHS-SMOD calculates at 1 km

**References**

GHS-BUILT

GHS-POP

GHS-SMOD

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For further information and to explore the GHSL:

http://ghsl.jrc.ec.europa.eu