

# Atlas of the Human Planet 2019

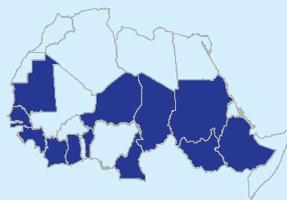
## A compendium of urbanisation dynamics in 239 countries

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

### Main findings

 Diversity of urban demography

Urban population  
**> 2x**  
in 2015 compared to  
1990



Magnitude and speed of the urbanisation process 1990 - 2015 



Population in urban areas  
**> 80%**  
in 2015



Urban population  
**up to - 25%**  
in 2015 compared to  
1990

More urbanised and  
urbanising faster than  
global average



 Built-up area per capita



**> 100%**  
of the global average



More urbanised and urbanising  
faster than global average



**> -25%**  
of the 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

GHSL Earth observation and big data for policy



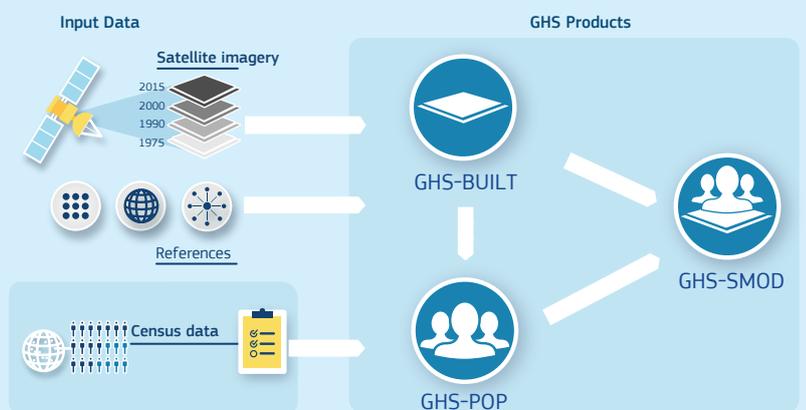
Porting the Degree of urbanisation to the globe



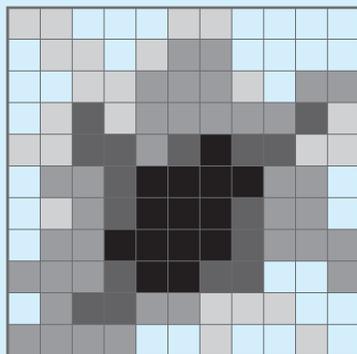
Voluntary commitment for a people based definition of cities



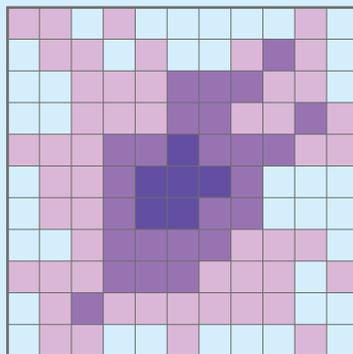
During the UN-Habitat III conference in October 2016, the European Union, the OECD and the World Bank launched a voluntary commitment to develop a global, people-based definition of cities and settlements



**BUILT-UP GRID**  
aggregated from 30 m map



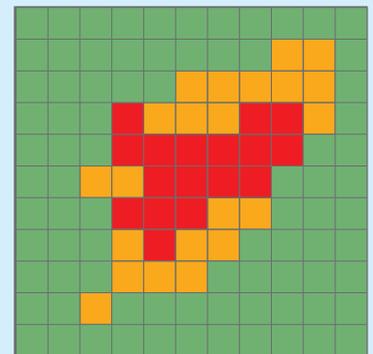
**POPULATION GRID**  
aggregated from 250 m grid



+

=

**GHS-SMOD**  
calculated at 1 km



**URBAN CENTRE**  
**URBAN CLUSTER**  
**RURAL AREA**

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 km<sup>2</sup> grid cells. The GHS-SMOD is derived combining GHS-BUILT and GHS-POP



For further information and to explore the GHSL:  
<http://ghsl.jrc.ec.europa.eu>



GHSL is the core dataset for the GEO Human Planet Initiative