The world's urban population is unevenly distributed. African and Asian cities are growing faster than ever; Latin America has slowed, while Europe and North America have peaked.

Five billion people will live in cities by 2030. Despite the impact of COVID-19 on some regions, cities will continue to grow. Low-density sprawl negatively impacts resources and infrastructure, increasing commutes and stretching public services, while compact cities are socially and environmentally sustainable.

The Urban Age research project, jointly organised by LSE Cities and the Alfred Herrhausen Gesellschaft from 2005-2022, has produced data visualisations to show where cities are growing.

**Kampala, Uganda**

Sub-Saharan African cities are beginning to grow at rapid rates. In Kampala, the population has tripled and the density has doubled between 1990 and 2015, much of it in low-rise and overcrowded informal settlements. Yet the overall levels of density remain low compared to Asian cities. In the same period, declining birth rates and outmigration have affected many European cities.

**Shanghai, China**

Between 1990 and 2015, unprecedented population growth and urbanisation were recorded worldwide, with the greatest speed and intensity in Asian megacities. Rapid economic development and urban migration have driven China to transform Shanghai with high-rise towers. This has dramatically increased the city's population density and quadrupled living space per person.