

Challenges

Cities cover just 2% of the earth's surface, yet they are already home to more than **50% of the world's population**. And this trend is expected to continue, with 60% of people set to live in cities by 2030, and even two thirds by 2050. 90% of this urban population growth is expected to take place in emerging economies and developing countries, especially those in Asia and Africa. Urbanisation presents opportunities, but also poses considerable risks to sustainable development.



Scenarios for 2030: different pathways to sustainability

New settlements

Rapid urban population growth means more living space will be needed. **New settlements** must be built to meet this demand. For example, some 500 new cities will be established in India by 2030.



Climate-friendly city planning

New buildings and districts can be established from the outset with sustainability in mind, for example, through the use of **sustainable urban planning principles** (compact city/city of short distances), **low-carbon building materials** and **climate-friendly construction methods**.

Informal neighbourhoods

One in seven people lives in **informal settlements**. Between one and two billion more individuals could join them in the coming decades. Due to their location (e.g. on erosion-prone hillsides) and unsafe construction, these neighbourhoods are particularly vulnerable to the consequences of climate change.



Integrated upgrading

Improving access to **basic infrastructure** can help to enhance resilience and reduce poverty. **Involving urban residents** in the implementation process enables real needs to be met.

Mature cities

Mature cities have grown over time. They have a solid building stock and established infrastructure upon which adaptations will take a great deal of time and effort. The challenge lies in converting these cities into sustainable settlements without denying their identity.



Sustainable urban redevelopment

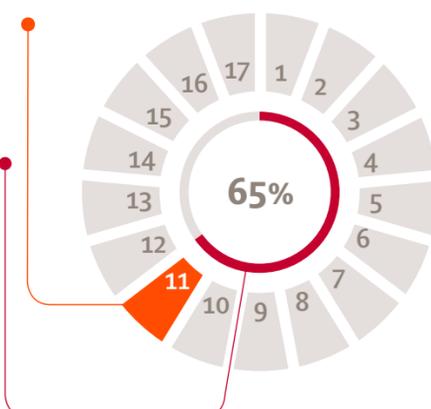
Buildings should be **renovated** and **the urban space densified** all the while taking into account building forms and cultural features specific to the city in question. **Sustainable energy and mobility infrastructure, new technologies and digitalisation** help to sever the link between cities and direct emissions.

Source: German Advisory Council for Global Change (WBGU) 2016: *Humanity on the Move: Unlocking the transformative power of cities. Flagship report.* WBGU: Berlin. P. 335 - 355.

Key role of cities in global development



Sustainable Development Goal 11 of Agenda 2030 seeks to "make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable". And **65% of the targets** can only be achieved if they are implemented with local actors.



The **New Urban Agenda** was adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in Quito in 2016. It is crucial to the implementation of the global Sustainable Development Goals.

"Our struggle for global sustainability will be lost or won in cities."

(UN-General Secretary Ban Ki-moon, April 2012)