

Trends and Patterns of Urbanization in Kenya

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Presentation outline

📁 Introduction

📁 Trends of urban growth (1948-2009)

📁 The major urban centres

📁 The small and medium-size urban centres

📁 Regional variation

📁 Implications of urban growth trends

📁 Conclusion



Introduction: Urbanization is inevitable

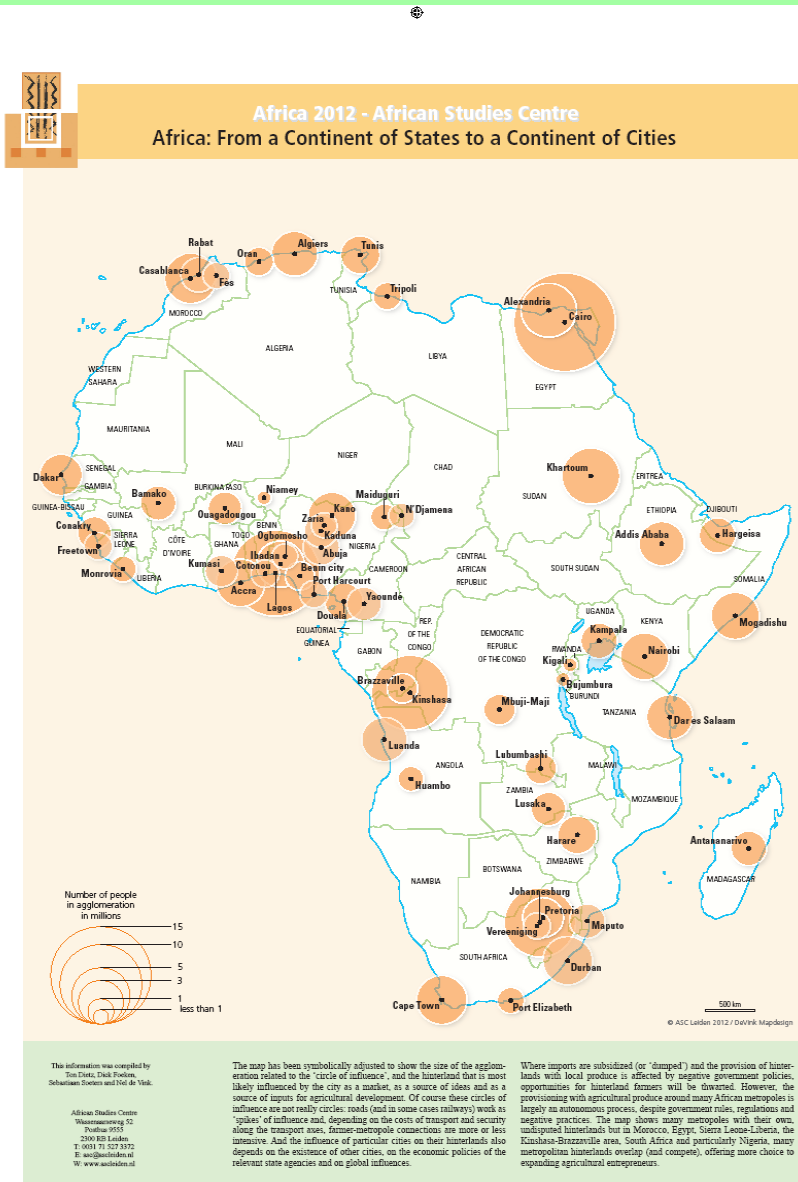
Percentage Urban and Urban Growth Rate by Major Areas, 2011

Region	% urban	Average annual urban growth rate (2005-2010)
World	52.1	2.14
Africa	39.6	3.27
Asia	45.0	2.70
Europe	72.9	0.50
Latin America & the Caribbean	79.1	1.56
North America	82.2	1.23
Oceania	70.7	1.81

Source: United Nations (2012)

- Half of world's population lives in urban areas
- Europe, Latin America/Caribbean & North America are highly urbanized
- Africa and Asia are least urbanized but have highest growth rates
- Urbanization levels and urban growth rates are not uniform in Africa

Introduction: From a continent of states to a continent of cities



% Urban and Urban Growth Rate in Africa, 2011

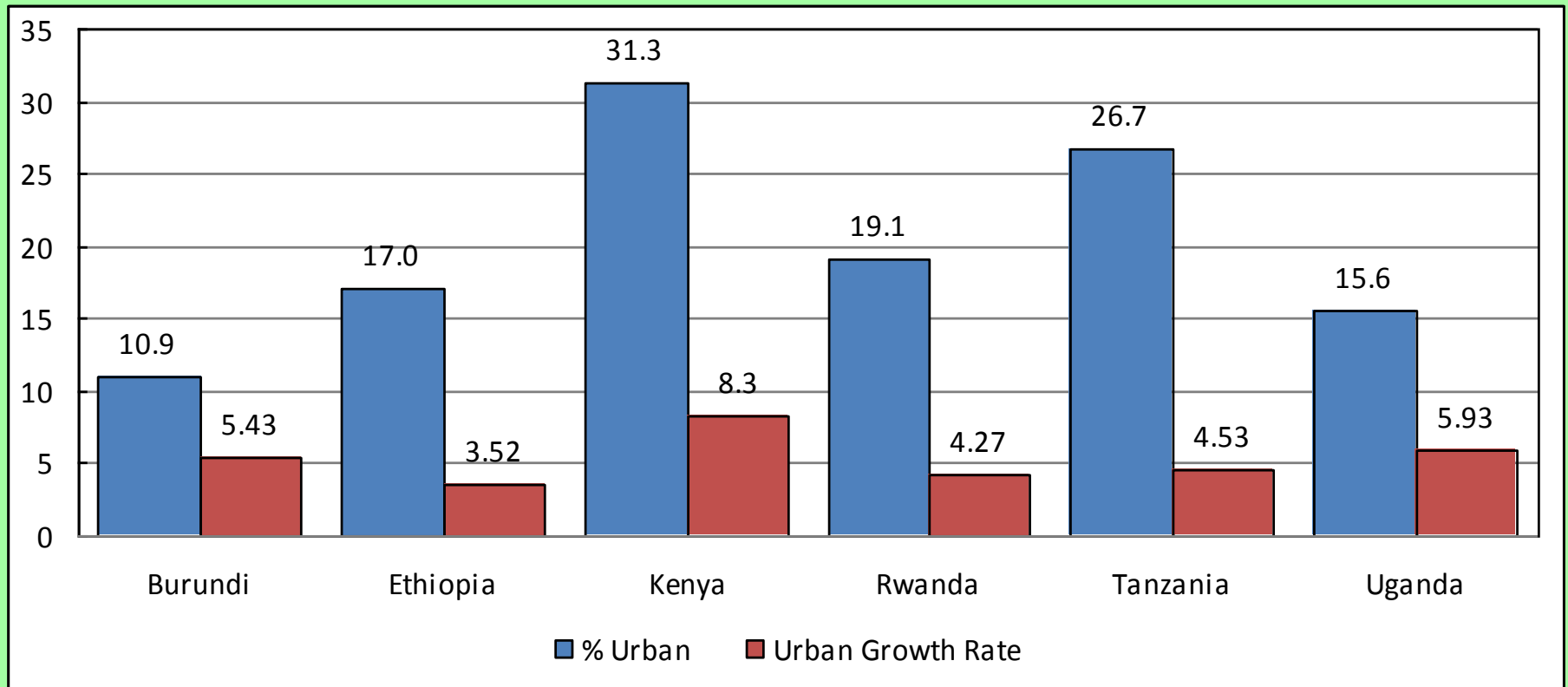
Region	% urban	Average annual urban growth rate (2005-2010)
SS-Africa	36.7	3.67
Africa	39.6	3.27
Eastern Africa	23.7	3.90
Middle Africa	41.5	3.94
Northern Africa	51.5	2.14
Southern Africa	58.9	1.82
Western Africa	44.9	3.92

Source: United Nations (2012)

Introduction: Kenya leading the pack in Eastern Africa?

Percentage Urban and Urban Growth Rate for Selected Eastern African Countries

Source: Kenya (forthcoming) for Kenya; United Nations (2012) for others



- In 2009, Kenya's population was 31.3% urban with 8.3% annual growth rate
- **In short:** Urbanization is inevitable and managing its trends and patterns constitute a major challenge

Trends of urban growth in Kenya (1948-2009)

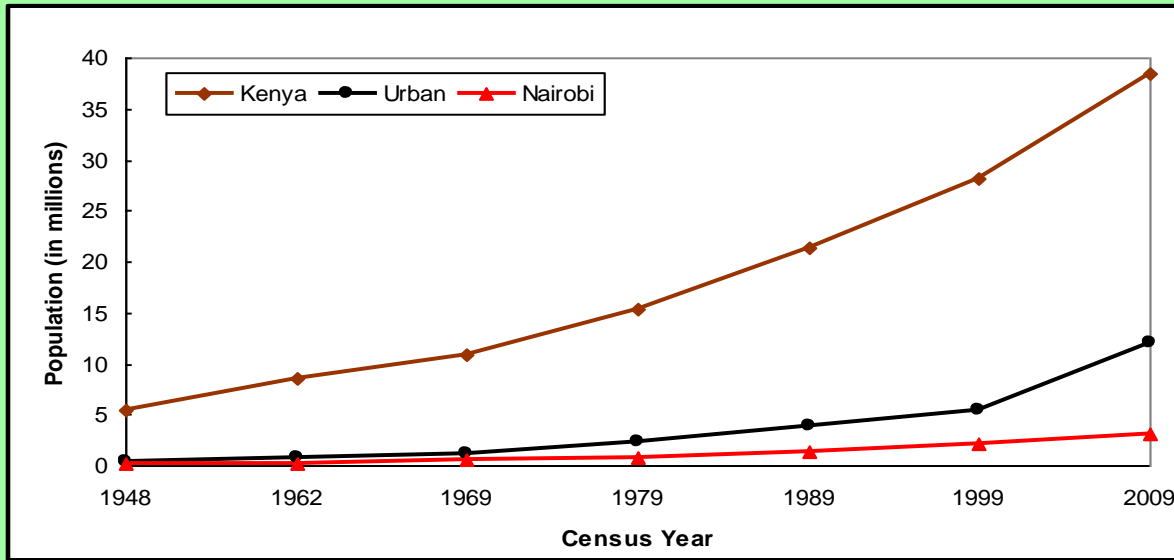
Urbanization Trends in Kenya, 1948-2009

Year	Total population	No. of urban centres	Urban population	% of urban to total population	Intercensal growth rate (%)
1948	5,407,599	17	285,000	5.3	-
1962	8,636,263	34	747,651	8.7	6.3
1969	10,956,501	47	1,076,908	9.8	7.1
1979	15,327,061	91	2,315,696	15.1	7.7
1989	21,448,774	139	3,878,697	18.1	5.2
1999	28,159,922	180	5,429,790	19.3	3.4
2009	38,412,088	230	12,023,570	31.3	8.3

Source: Kenya (forthcoming)

- Urbanization is a product of British colonial administration
- Urban population and number of urban centres is increasing since 1948
- High growth rates after independence but declining from 1989 and up again in 2009
- Dominance of Nairobi (% urban) but declined in 2009
- The emergence of small and medium-sized urban centres
- However, there exists regional variation in urbanization levels, trends & patterns

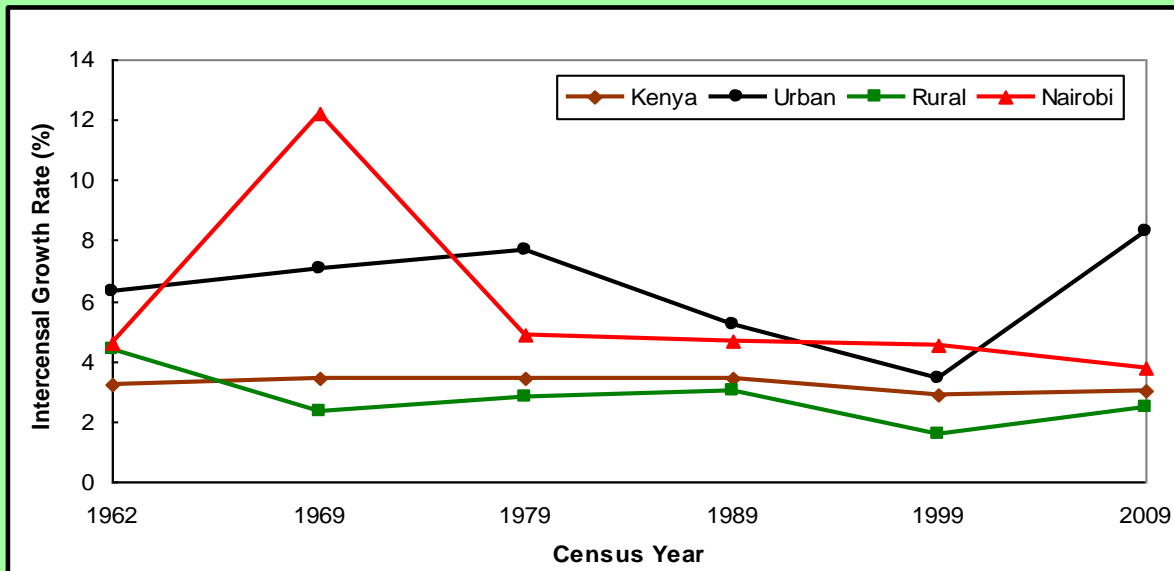
Trends of urban growth in Kenya (1948-2009)



Kenya's Population Growth Trends, 1948-2009

Source: Kenya (forthcoming)

- Declining dominance of Nairobi?



Kenya's Population Growth Rate Trends, 1948-2009

Source: Kenya (forthcoming)

The major urban centres in Kenya (2009)

Population by Major Urban Centres, 2009

Urban centre	Total population	Core urban population	Peri-urban population	% of total urban population
KENYA	12,023,570	9,090,412	2,933,158	
1. Nairobi	3,109,861	3,109,861	0	25.9
2. Mombasa	925,137	905,627	19,510	7.7
3. Kisumu	383,444	254,016	129,428	3.2
4. Nakuru	367,183	343,395	23,788	3.1
5. Eldoret	312,351	247,500	64,851	2.6
6. Kikuyu	264,714	200,285	64,429	2.2
7. Ruiru	240,226	238,329	1,897	2.0
8. Kangundo-Tala	218,722	13,119	205,603	1.8
9. Naivasha	170,551	91,898	78,653	1.4
10. Thika	151,225	136,386	14,839	1.3
11. Machakos	150,467	40,819	109,648	1.3

Source: Kenya (forthcoming)

- Core vs peri-urban population & proximity to Nairobi matters

The small and medium-size urban centres

Urban Population by Size Category of Urban Centres, 1962-2009								
Year	Category of urban centres by population size							
	1 million and over		100,000-999,999		10,000-99,999		2,000-9,999	
	No.	Total population	No.	Total population	No.	Total population	No.	Total population
1962	0	-	2	523,075	5	105,712	27	118,864
1969	0	-	2	756,359	9	79,267	36	153,282
1979	0	-	6	1,321,566	24	717,855	64	276,275
1989	1	1,324,570	5	1,046,588	40	1,080,726	93	426,813
1999	1	2,083,509	4	1,214,927	62	1,508,180	113	623,174
2009	1	3,109,861	22	4,617,114	97	3,665,486	110	631,109

No.= Number of urban centres / *Source: Kenya (forthcoming)*

- An upward trend in their numbers and population over time
- They are expected to dominate the urban hierarchy in future
- Need more emphasis in terms of planning and governance issues
- **In 2009**: 207 in number; 4.3 million people; & 36% of urban population
- The importance of small and medium-size urban centres

The small and medium-size urban centres

Urban Population by Size Category of Urban Centres, 1962-2009								
Year	Category of urban centres by population size							
	1 million and over		100,000-999,999		10,000-99,999		2,000-9,999	
	No.	% urban population	No.	% urban Population	No.	% urban Population	No.	% urban population
1962	0	-	2	70	5	14.1	27	15.9
1969	0	-	2	78.4	9	7.4	36	14.2
1979	0	-	6	57.1	24	40.0	64	11.9
1989	1	34.1	5	27.0	40	27.9	93	11.0
1999	1	38.4	4	22.4	62	27.8	113	11.5
2009	1	25.9	22	38.4	97	30.5	110	5.2

No.= Number of urban centres / *Source: Kenya (forthcoming)*

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Regional variation

Urbanization Trends by Province, 1969-2009						
Province	% share of total urban population					% of urban population in province (2009)
	1969	1979	1989	1999	2009	
Nairobi	47.0	35.7	34.1	38.4	25.9	100
Central	4.3	5.6	8.0	6.7	12.5	34.4
Coast	26.3	17.6	15.2	16.5	11.8	43.2
Eastern	3.5	10.1	9.2	5.3	9.9	21.1
North Eastern	-	2.7	2.3	2.7	3.4	17.8
Nyanza	4.1	9.0	9.1	7.9	11.1	24.6
Rift Valley	13.8	14.8	17.3	17.4	19.6	23.7
Western	1.0	4.6	4.8	5.2	5.8	16.2

Source: Kenya (forthcoming)

- Nairobi continues to dominate the urban landscape
- North Eastern least urbanised
- However, further variation at county level & dominance of one or two urban centres
- = The interplay of economic, social, political and historical/colonial factors

Implications of urban growth trends

- 📁 Urban population is growing very fast while the economic growth and development transformations necessary to support it and enhance quality of life are not occurring at the same rate.
- 📁 Urbanization is not driven or accompanied by economic growth
- 📁 Resulted in social, economic, environmental and spatial development challenges that must be addressed

Challenges of urban growth

- 📁 Deepening social differentiation, inequity, segregation, exclusion and fragmentation
- 📁 Increased levels of urban poverty and vulnerability
- 📁 Inadequate and poor provision of services, especially to the urban poor
- 📁 Considerable strain on existing infrastructure
- 📁 Unemployment (urban youth) and related crime
- 📁 Housing/slum incidence
- 📁 Food insecurity
- 📁 Transportation/circulation
- 📁 Informalization/informality
- 📁 Environmental concerns
- 📁 Urban planning, development, management and governance concerns

For example...

Figure 4.3 Number of Urban Centres with Access to Piped water

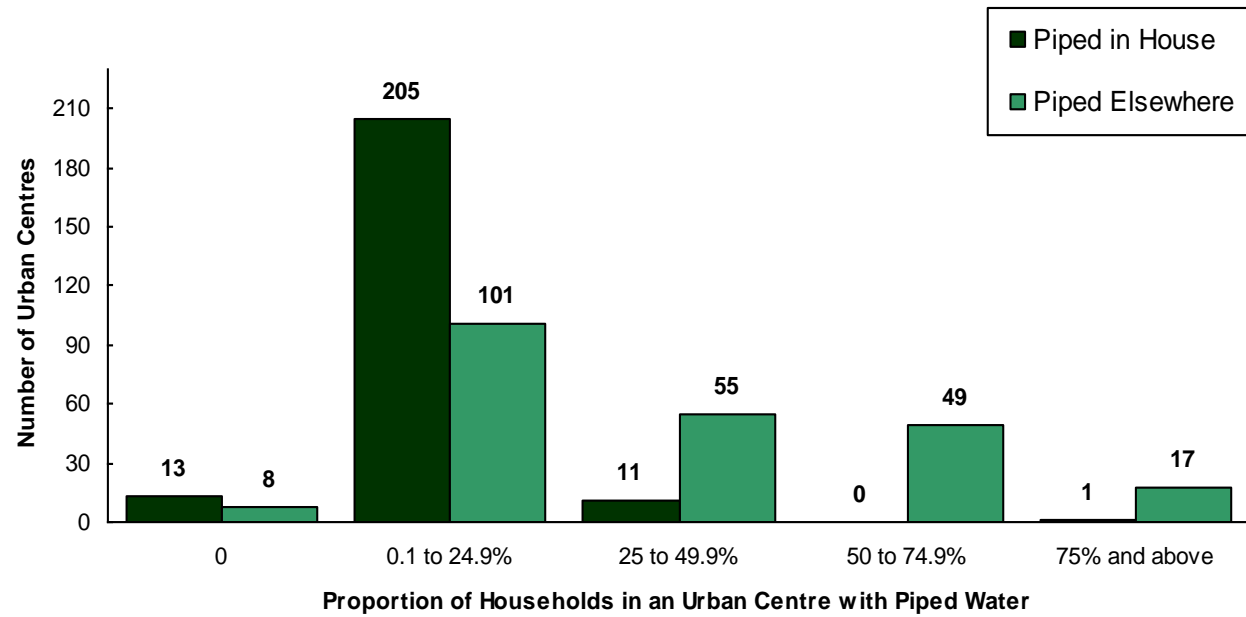
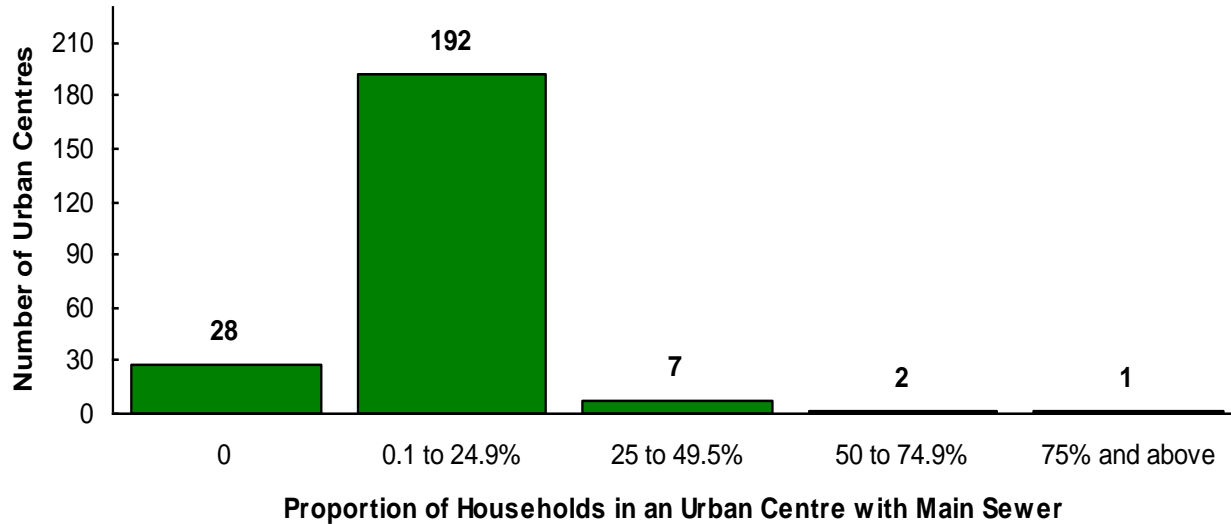


Figure 4.4 Number of Urban Centres with Access to Main Sewer



Water & sanitation situation in urban Kenya is simply pathetic

In conclusion



A vision without action is a daydream but action without vision is a nightmare.

and...

It is indeed possible to move from chaotic cities to harmonious cities provided good policies and strategies are adopted, investments mobilized, stakeholder participation secured, good governance practiced and human development recognized

Thank you!
And I hope that you enjoyed the presentation

