

Activity 6 | Rapid urbanisation (15 min)

54% of today's population lives in urban areas; a proportion that is expected to increase to 66 per cent by 2050. When the children in the series were born in 1992 there were 10 "mega-cities", which means cities with 10 million inhabitants or more. Now there are 28. Can students name some of these "mega-cities"? (possible answers: Tokyo, Delhi, Shanghai, Mexico City, Mumabi, Sao Paulo, Osaka, Beijing, Cairo and New York-Newark area). Do students realise that most of these cities are in Asia?

"Managing urban areas has become one of the most important development challenges of the 21st century. Our success or failure in building sustainable cities will be a major factor in the success of the post-2015 UN development agenda".

(John Wilmoth, Director of UN DESA's Population Division)

(activity) In this activity, students will explore why rapid urbanisation happens by thinking about the push and pull factors that lead people to migrate to urban areas. Hand out **worksheet 6** and ask students to discuss what they think the most important push and pull factors are. Also ask them to think about what the problems are with rapid urban growth.