

# Africa's urban population will double by 2045, reaching over one billion people

Africa’s urban areas are quickly growing in population. By 2045, the urban population in Africa will be over one billion people, up from about 472 million in 2015. The average annual rate of change of the urban population for the 2015-2020 time-frame in the continent is projected to be 3.4%. This average is the highest globally and surpasses the global average of 1.8%. The most populous cities on the continent (those with more than 2 million people) are growing as fast as 4% annually.

According to the United Nations, by 2045 the urban population in Africa will have surpassed that of China and will continue to be larger than India, Latin America, Europe and Northern America. Population growth is the main contributor to urbanization in Africa, with most of the expansion in urban populations coming from natural growth and not rural-to-urban migration. Employment, affordable housing, and effective infrastructure will be needed for the growing population.

