

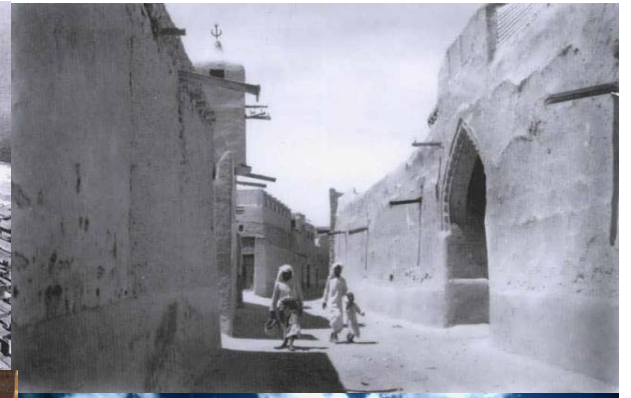
State of Arab Cities Report 2012

Expert Group Meeting
**Bridging the Urban Divide in the ESCWA Region:
Towards Inclusive Cities**
Beirut, 25-26 November 2010

UN HABITAT OFFICE FOR ARAB CITIES, KUWAIT



Arab Cities: Trends, Challenges, Opportunities



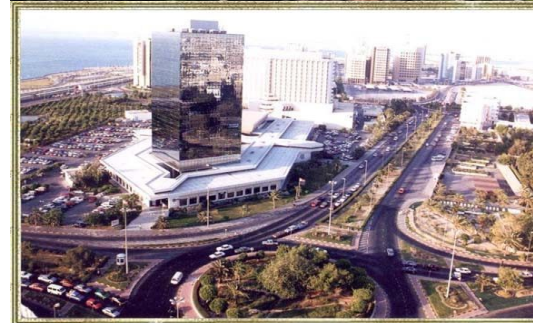
Regional Urban Trends

Rapid urban growth is the major urban challenge in Arab region

As of 2010, the Arab region had two-thirds of its population living in areas classified as urban, 66.3%, about 15% higher than the global average

Nonetheless, urbanization levels as well as the urban rate of change varies highly across the region.

Like elsewhere in the world, new urban configurations are emerging in the Arab States' region, from Extended Metropolitan Regions to urban development corridors and Mega Urban Regions.

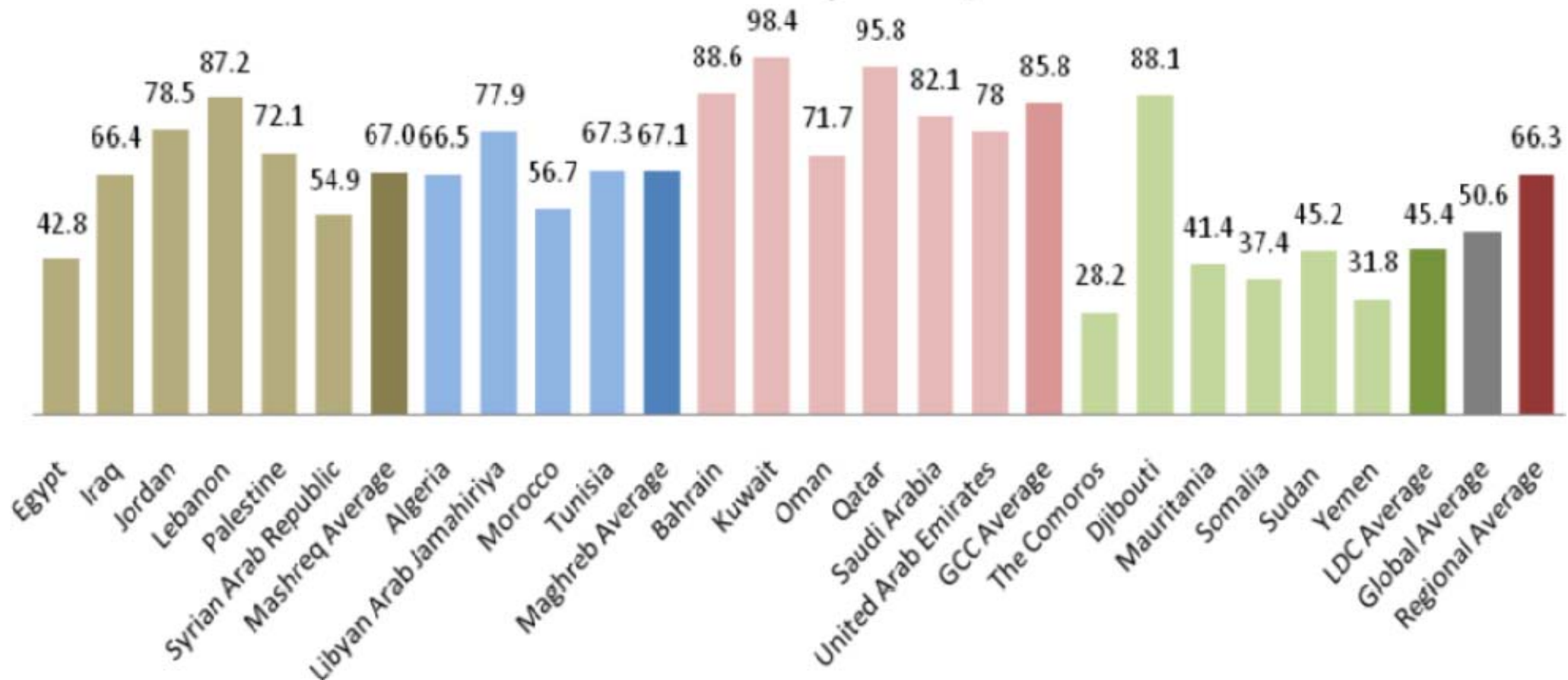


The Arab Region in Global Context

	Urbanization Levels %						Urban Growth Rate				
	1980	1990	2000	2010	2025		1980-1985	1990-1995	2000-2005	2010-2015	2025-2030
Arab Region	54.6	60.7	64.0	66.3	71.1	Arab Region	5.09	3.21	2.86	2.39	1.94
Latin America and the Caribbean	64.9	70.6	75.3	79.4	83.5	Latin America and the Caribbean	2.98	2.38	1.86	1.51	0.98
Sub-Saharan Africa	23.9	28.2	32.8	37.3	45.2	Sub-Saharan Africa	4.56	4.37	3.79	3.55	3.11
Europe	68	70.5	71.4	72.6	76.2	Europe	0.79	0.34	0.21	0.17	0.19
North America	73.9	75.4	79.1	82.1	85.7	North America	1.23	1.57	1.42	1.2	0.86
East Asia	25.7	33	40.4	48.5	59.2	East Asia	3.57	3.09	2.53	1.99	1.16
South-Central Asia	24.3	27.2	29.5	32.2	39.6	South-Central Asia	3.63	2.92	2.42	2.63	2.54
South-East Asia	25.5	31.6	39.7	48.2	58.7	South-East Asia	4.29	3.97	3.47	2.63	1.73
World	39.1	43	46.6	50.6	57.2	World	2.66	2.34	2.07	1.91	1.6

Urbanization Levels in the Arab Region

% of Urbanization of Total Population, 2010 Estimates



Sub-Regional Urban Trends

MASHREQ

- Home to two largest urban agglomerations in the region, Baghdad and Cairo-the only megacity in the Arab region, with more than 12 million inhabitants according to 2010 estimates
- Accounts for the largest proportion of urban dwellers in the Arab world, about 40% of region's urban population according to 2010

Sub-Regional Urban Trends

MAGHREB

- Urbanization levels consistent with the overall average for the Arab region, about 2/3, but some of the most urbanized countries in African continent
- Demographic pressures have resulted in economic migration of citizens abroad or to medium-sized towns. Also receives a large amount of migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa, some in transit to Europe.

Sub-Regional Urban Trends

GCC

- Great urbanization changes began in the last half of the 20th century due to “oil urbanization processes” and many countries surpassed 50% mark of urbanization as early as 1950s.
- In GCC from 1980-2010, urban population increased by more than three times, from 9.5 million to almost 32 million. High average family size and influx of labor migration into these countries are some of the reasons for this rise.

Sub-Regional Urban Trends

ARAB LDCS

- Lowest rates of urbanization in the Arab world, although it is the most fast urbanizing region according to its urban annual growth rate.
- For example, The annual rate of expected change for the urban population in Yemen from 2010-2015 is predicted to be the highest in the entire Arab region, 1.85%, compared to 0.81 global average and 0.53% Arab region average.

Challenges and Opportunities: *The Youth Bulge*

- One of the great challenges facing the Arab region is the "youth bulge". The young in the region make up a larger share of the population than the global average.
- Opportunities for youth through employment and access to entrepreneurship opportunities are often limited.

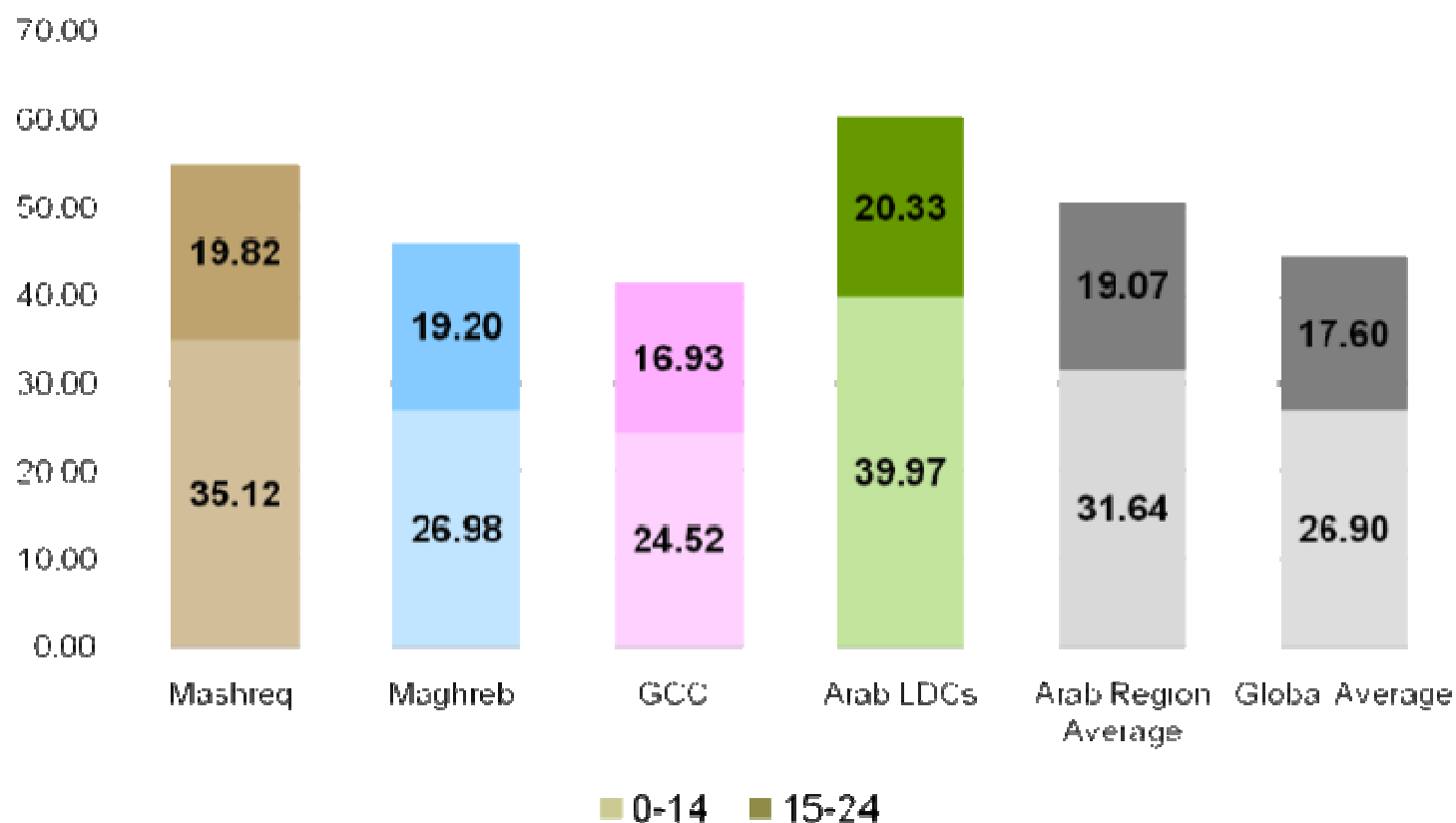


Challenges and Opportunities: *The Youth Bulge*

- As a result, the Arab Region faces some of the highest rates of youth unemployment in the world, making up the bulk of the unemployed or underemployed
- Urban policies aimed at job creation for both skilled and unskilled youth are fundamental to meet the challenges faced by this demographic group

Challenges and Opportunities: *The Youth Bulge*

Youth as % of Total Population, 2010 Estimates



Source: United Nations Population Division, World Population Prospects, the 2008 Revision Database



Challenges and Opportunities: *Empowering Women in the City*

- The urban poor, unemployed and most vulnerable in the city are often disproportionately represented by women.
- Barriers to women's empowerment is often manifested in the public and private sphere
 - explicitly through legal exclusions in personal status laws
 - implicitly in traditional cultural norms of a woman's role in society



Challenges and Opportunities: *Empowering Women in the City*

A recent Freedom House study surveying 18 countries in the region noted that 15 gained achievements in women's rights in last 5 years

- greatest increases in Kuwait, Algeria and Jordan
- Greatest decreases in Iraq, Yemen and OCP
- most amount of rights in Tunisia, Morocco and Algerai
- least amounts of rights in Yemen and Saudi Arabia



Challenges and Opportunities: *Empowering Women in the City*

- Female illiteracy is one of the greatest barriers to empowering women and literacy rates for women go severely down with greater levels of household deprivation. Nonetheless, women in urban areas enjoy higher levels of literacy than in rural areas.
- According to Human Development Indicators, great gaps (15% or more) between the literacy rate of men and women exist in:
 - Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Yemen, Sudan, Mauritania and Iraq
 - In Morocco the difference is 25.5 % points and in Yemen it is 36.5%
 - Greatest parity exists in Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, with negligible differences between men and women's literacy rate

Female Literacy Rate, Source, Global Urban Indicators Database 2010

Country	Year	Total	Total	Non-slum	All	One	Two	Three
		Urban	Rural		Slum	shelter deprivation	shelter deprivations	shelter deprivations
Egypt	2005	77.2	64.2	81.4	69.7	64.9	75.7	50.0
Morocco	2004	67.5	24.6	68.7	53.4			
Morocco	1992	57.6	12.0	60.7	35.9			
Yemen	1991	37.4	6.2	48.2	24.0	29.6	17.4	12.9

Challenges and Opportunities: *Marginalized Populations*

Refugees and IDPs

- The region is both a sender and a recipient of many refugees and displaced people into urban areas, who make up a large fraction of the urban poor. Nonetheless, many refugees don't have the right to formal employment or education for their children in their host countries
- According to the 2009 Human Development Report statistics on conflict-induced movement, the Mashreq region alone accounts for over 50% of the world's refugees (OCP 34.6% and Iraq 15.9%)
- In Jordan, the Iraqi refugee population escalated greatly after 2003, mostly consisting of migrating families. They have settled almost exclusively in urban areas.
- Many of the IDPs from the region (estimated at 9.8 million for 2008 according to those registered by UNHCR and UNRWA) come mostly from Sudan, Iraq, Somalia, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen.

Challenges and Opportunities: *Marginalized Populations*

Migrant Workers

- Many countries in the Arab region have become economic migrant-recipient countries in the past decades, most particularly in the GCC region.
 - In many of these countries, the amount of foreign residents outnumbers the local population
- The differential access to services and low legal coverage given to migrant labourers limits their ability to find affordable and decent housing, to obtain a liveable wage, and to bring charges against their employer in the case of labor abuse
- Several countries in the Gulf have taken positive steps to re-evaluate and reform the labour law, many based on the kafala sponsor system, as well as setting up hotlines and shelters for domestic workers.



Challenges and Opportunities: *Climate Change*

The Arab countries are some of the most vulnerable in the world to climate change. Some challenges include: desertification, low-lying coastal areas, extreme heat, water security

- The Arabian peninsula has the highest ratio of desert to total land area in the entire world, at almost 90%
- Sea-level rises would have disastrous effects on low-lying coastal cities, as well as in agricultural areas, further inducing rural-urban migration and displacement.

Source: Otto Simonett, UNEP/GRID Geneva; Prof. G. Sestini, Florence; Remote Sensing Center, Cairo; DIERCKE Weltwirtschaftsatlas, 2000



Challenges and Opportunities: *Climate Change*

The 2009 AFED Report reveals that a one meter rise in sea-levels would directly affect 3.2% of the population in the Arab countries, compared to a global percentage of 1.28%

- Nonetheless, a pan-Arab survey that was conducted by the Arab Forum on Environment and Development demonstrated high public perception of climate change and its impact.
- From 2,322 responses from 19 different Arab countries:
 - 98% of those surveyed believe that the climate was changing
 - 89% believed this was due to human activities
 - Of the 5% who did not understand what climate change was, 95% of them still answered that they believed it was happening.



Challenges and Opportunities: *Slums*

- Reductions since 1990 to reduce the % of slum dwellers to the total urban population have occurred in Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco

	1990	2001	2005
Egypt	57.5	39.9	17.1
Morocco	37.4	32.7	13.1

Slums population increased in Sudan, the Comoros, Yemen and Lebanon from 1995 to 2005.

Tunisia the percentage fell from 9% to 3%, as well as Cairo.

Arab LDC's has the highest rates of people living in slums as a percentage of the total urban population

Morocco was the first Arab country to launch the the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure and the Global Campaign on Urban Governance as part of the "Cities without Slums" Programme on World Habitat Day 2004.

Challenges and Opportunities: *Slums Upgrading: Al-Ghadran District - Tunisia*



After



Before



Challenges and Opportunities:



INNOVATIVE CITIES

Challenges and Opportunities: Innovative Cities

Global Cities Index 2008, measuring the global presence of cities included both Cairo and Dubai. With Dubai scoring on information exchange and human capital and Cairo on political engagement and human capital.

The World Bank's Knowledge Economy Index places the GCC countries as the best performing sub-region in the Arab World, measured in terms of the economic incentive regime, innovation, education and ICT. Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Kuwait ranked 44th, 45th, 49th and 52 respectively.

Challenges and Opportunities: Innovative Cities – MASDAR UAE



Challenges and Opportunities: Innovative Cities

- Arab leaders increasingly recognize the importance of the city as a laboratory for innovation, a magnet for investment and a source of job creation.
- Smart Cities are being developed in different Arab Cities; as well as Knowledge Economy Cities



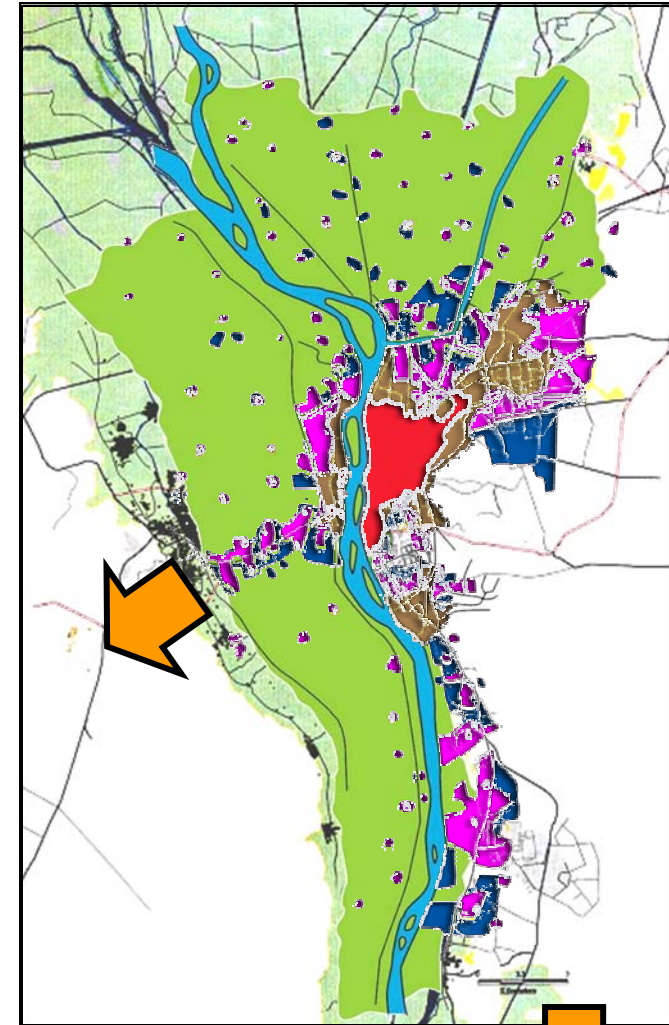
Challenges and Opportunities: Innovative Cities

- New cities are being developed as centers of excellence, innovation, technology and research
- Cities are also embarking on experimental projects which incorporate sustainable energy considerations.



Challenges and Opportunities: New Planning Approaches

- Arab cities are more adopting strategic participatory planning, introducing city visioning as a collective dream and mobilizing partnerships for effective plans implementation;
- Planning is now practiced as a governance mechanisms for civic engagement, (Greater Amman, Cairo 2050, Medina Monawara, Riyadh)



Challenges and Opportunities: New Planning Approaches

- Transportation and public transit are becoming a priority
- Environment and culture heritage are more recognized as driving economic factors in the planning process;
- Integrating safety and security measures in planning are increasingly seen in new Arab city plans



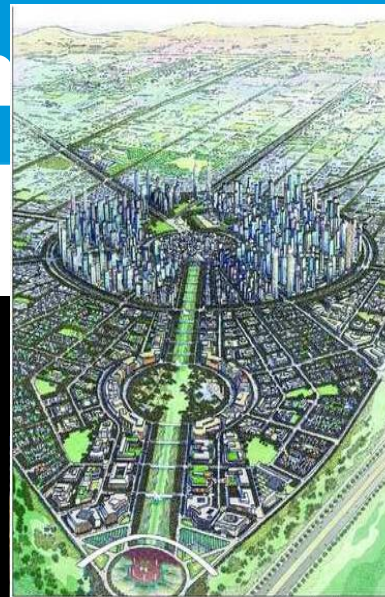
Challenges and Opportunities: New Planning Approach



باریس 2020



لندن 2020



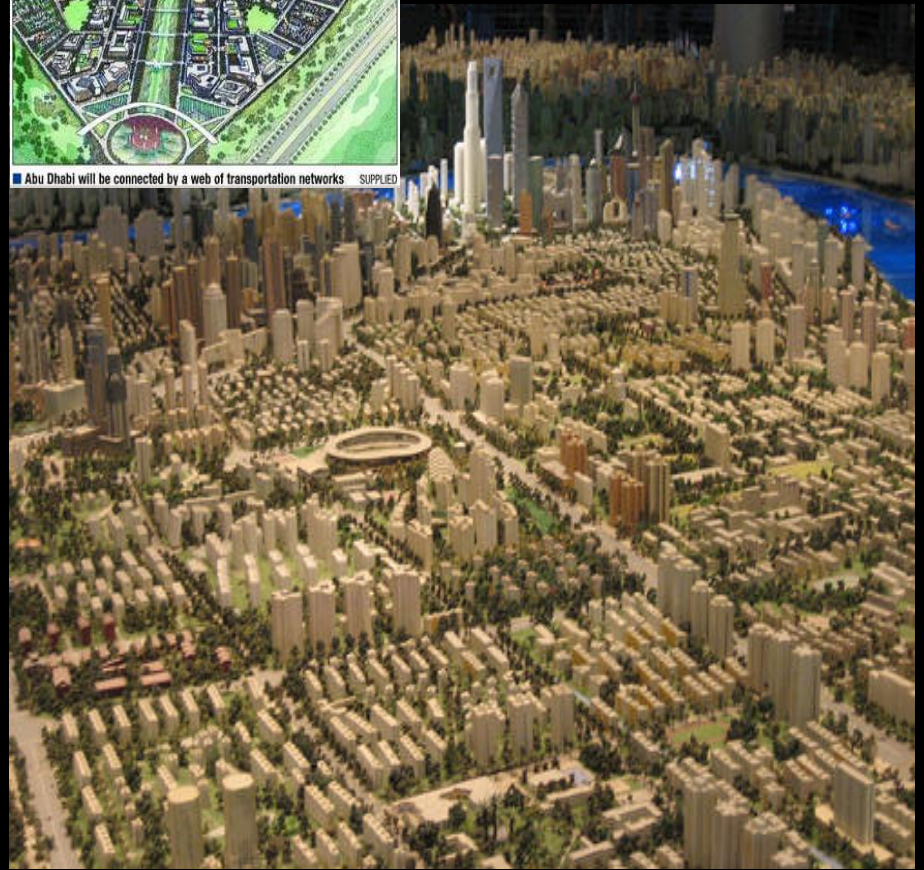
أبو ظبی 2030



سنغافوره 2050



شنغهای 2050



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Citizens sharing their vision

Challenges and Opportunities: Safe and Livable Cities

Urban violent crime is lower in the Arab region than that in many other regions in the world.

Petty crime and theft are relatively low on a whole, although some countries suffer from higher instances than others and conflict can play a destabilizing role in the rule of law.

Refugees are fleeing from their conflict cities in Sudan, Yemen, Iraq and Palestine to Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

Internal displacement is a characteristic of some Arab cities of Iraq, Sudan, Somalia, Yemen and Palestine.

Challenges and Opportunities:

Governance

- **Bloggers in the Arab region wrote predominantly about local and domestic issues, and the largest clusters of activity could be found in Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Many of the bloggers are comprised of women and/or youth; three-fourths of bloggers are under the age of 35, with 45% in the 25-35 year-old bracket, and about 1/3 are female**

Challenges and Opportunities:

Governance

Local elections are not regularly held in most of arab cities and the process and results are in many cases challenged by civil societies and the wider public

Although several NGOs have opened and flourished in the region in the last decade, (particularly Muslim charity and grassroots organizations, the mainstreaming of civil society into working with local authorities has room for improvement; mistrust and a lack of confidence and credibility from both sides can hamper efforts for collaboration

Challenges and Opportunities: **Governance**

Country-level studies by the United Nations in 2008 reveal that most countries in the Arab region for which information is available, had an increase in their e-government readiness index, with the exception of Iraq, Comoros, Djibouti and Sudan, which reported drops in the three-year span.

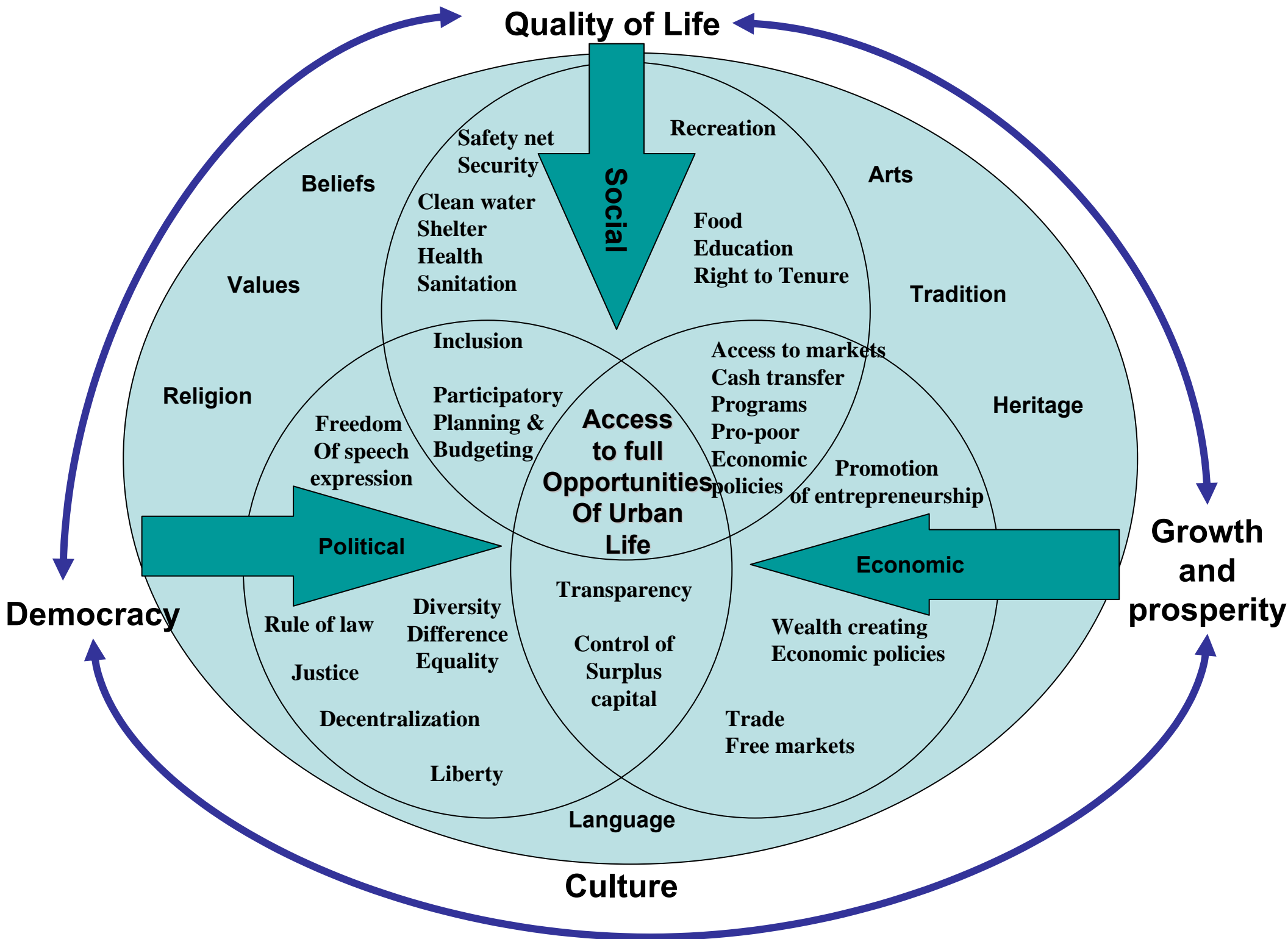
For the 2008 global rankings, the United Arab Emirates placed highest in the region, at 32nd place, Bahrain second at 42nd place and Jordan third at 50th place

Challenges and Opportunities: **Knowledge and Information on Cities**

The availability of city level data that are comparable globally presents a challenge for providing a fair comparable picture of Arab cities.

Research institutions and knowledge centers in Arab region has to act progressively to lead on monitoring urban trends and deepening knowledge on urban indicators collection, analysis and reporting.

Existing Arab cities networks for knowledge sharing and knowledge development requires strengthening.





Promoting sustainable urban development and adequate shelter for all

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