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The number of people in South Asia’s cities rose by 130 million between 2000 and 2011—more than the entire population of Japan. This was linked to an improvement in productivity and a reduction in the incidence of extreme poverty. But the region’s cities have struggled to cope with the pressure of population growth on land, housing, infrastructure, basic services, and the environment. As a result, urbanization in South Asia remains underleveraged in its ability to deliver widespread improvements in both prosperity and livability.

Leveraging Urbanization in South Asia is about the state of South Asia’s urbanization and the market and policy failures that have taken the region’s urban areas to where they are today—and the hard policy actions needed if the region’s cities are to leverage urbanization better. This publication provides original empirical and diagnostic analysis of urbanization and related economic trends in the region. It also discusses in detail the key policy areas, the most fundamental being urban governance and finance, where actions must be taken to make cities more prosperous and livable.

Related Regions: Middle East and North Africa, South Asia
Related Countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan
Related Topics: Governance, Poverty Reduction, Urban Development
Keywords: RESILIENCE, POPULATION, CONGESTION, INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING, PROSPERITY, LIVABILITY, CONNECTIVITY, AGGLOMERATION
What’s New in the World Bank eLibrary?
Recommended Readings

- Curated
- Focus on hot topics
- Organized by:
  - Most Popular Titles
  - Other Selected Content
- Entries include basic information plus direct link to content
- To be updated periodically

**Most Popular Titles**

- **Shock Waves: Managing the Impacts of Climate Change on Poverty**
  - Authors: Stephane Hallegatte, MokhBangalore, Laura Bonaccorsi, Marianne Fay, Tamara Kne, Luf Navock, Julie Rozenberg, David Treguer, and Adrien Vogt-Schnib
  - Published: November 2015
  - Abstract: Ending poverty and stabilizing climate change are major steps toward sustainable development. But they cannot be jointly tackled through an integrated strategy, even if they can more easily be achieved if considered.

- **Decarbonizing Development: Three Steps to a Sustainable Energy Future**
  - Authors: Marianne Fay, Stephenie Hallegatte, and Adria
  - Published: June 2015
  - Abstract: The science is unequivocal: Stabilizing CO2 at a safe level must be done by 2100 if we are to keep climate change at the maximum acceptable limit. Decarbonization looks at what it would take to decarbonize the world’s broader energy development goals.

- **Turn Down the Heat: Climate Extremes and Public Health**
  - Authors: World Bank
  - Published: June 2013
  - Abstract: This report focuses on the risks of climate change in Asia and affects the most vulnerable populations. It outlines strategies to reduce the impacts of extreme weather events, such as floods, droughts, and heat waves, which are expected to have severe negative implications.

**Other Selected Content**

- **State and Trends of Carbon Pricing October 2015**
  - Authors: World Bank
  - Published: October 2015
  - Abstract: This report is a one-stop shop for learning about key developments and prospects of existing and emerging carbon markets. It has not stopped the development of domestic carbon pricing initiatives. Today, nearly 40 national and over 72 sub-national jurisdictions responsible for almost one-fourth of global greenhouse gas emissions are putting a price on carbon. Together, these initiatives cover the equivalent of almost 6 gigatons of carbon dioxide, or about 12 percent of global emissions.

- **The Impacts of Climate Change on Poverty in 2030 and the Potential from Rapidity, Inclusive, and Climate-Informed Development**
  - Authors: Julie Rozenberg and Stephane Hallegatte
  - Published: October 2015
  - Abstract: The impact of climate change on poverty depends on the magnitude of climate change, but also on demographic and socioeconomic trends. By 2030, climate change is found to have a significant impact on poverty, especially through higher food prices and a reduction in agricultural production in Africa and South Asia and through health in all regions. The magnitude of these impacts depends on development choices.

- **Enhancing the Climate Resilience of Africa’s Infrastructure: The Power and Water Sectors**
  - Authors: Raffaele Cerqua, Malik Liden, James E. Neumann, and Kenneth M. Strezpek
  - Published: September 2015
  - Abstract: To sustain Africa’s growth and accelerate the eradication of extreme poverty, investment in infrastructure is fundamental. Such an investment will support the construction of long-lived infrastructure (e.g., dams, power stations, irrigation canals), which may be vulnerable to changes in climatic patterns. The direction and magnitude of which remain significantly uncertain. This book evaluates the impacts of climate change on hydro-power and irrigation expansion plans in Africa’s main basins and outlines an approach to reduce climate risks through suitable adjustments to the planning and design process. Despite the large uncertainty on whether drier or wetter conditions will prevail in the future in Africa, the book finds that modifying existing investment plans to explicitly handle the risk of large climate swings, can cut in half or more the cost that would accrue by building infrastructure on the basis of the climate of the past.

- **Climate Change**
  - From: World Development Report 2015: Mind, Society, and Behavior
  - Authors: World Bank
Recommended Readings

- **Current subjects:**
  - Climate Change
  - Conflict & Development
  - Gender Economics
  - Microfinance
  - Monitoring & Evaluation
  - Power and Energy
  - Sustainable Urban Development
  - Women’s & Children’s Health
Available for approximately 200 books published since 2014 (No need to download)

- Figure and Table Viewers to enlarge, scroll through and save all figures and tables within the chapter
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- Reference linking and links to original sources
Reference Linking (CrossRef & Cited By)


Data by Country and Indicator

- **50+ indicators**
  - Population
  - Environment
  - Economy
  - States and Markets
  - Global Links

- Across all available countries

- Time series since **1960**

**Views**
- Country view
- Indicator view
- Click country or indicator link to **switch views**
### China

#### East Asia & Pacific

#### Upper middle income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of poorest 20% in total consumption income (%) *</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy at birth (years) *</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total fertility rate (births per woman) *</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women 15-19) *</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contraceptive prevalence (% of women 15-49) *</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births attended by skilled health staff (% of total) *</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child malnutrition, underweight (% of under age 5) *</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child immunization, measles (% of age 12–23 mos) *</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary completion rate, total (% of relevant age group) *</td>
<td>89.4</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross secondary enrollment, total (% of relevant age group) *</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratio of girls to boys in primary &amp; secondary school (%) *</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevalence of HIV, total (% of population ages 15-49) *</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population (Billions) *</td>
<td>1.335</td>
<td>1.263</td>
<td>1.357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population growth (%) *</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty headcount rate at $1.90 a day (2011 PPP) (%) *</td>
<td>66.6</td>
<td>--</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forest area (Million sq. km) *</td>
<td>571</td>
<td>1.77</td>
<td>2.652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freshwater use (% of internal resources) *</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to improved sanitation facilities (% total pop.) *</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy use per capita (kilograms of oil equivalent) *</td>
<td>747</td>
<td>619</td>
<td>2,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carbon dioxide emissions per capita (metric tons) *</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt/GDP (% of total external debt) *</td>
<td>511</td>
<td>0.93</td>
<td>3.762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt service (% of exports of goods and services) *</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface area (Million sq. km) *</td>
<td>9.305</td>
<td>9.305</td>
<td>9.305</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Carbon dioxide emissions per capita (metric tons)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Asia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maldives</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bermuda</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>15.7</td>
<td>17.4</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>20.2</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Asia &amp; Pacific (all income levels)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brunei Darussalam</td>
<td>24.2</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French Polynesia</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong SAR, China</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea, Dem. Rep.</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea, Rep.</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Notes:**

1. The data for China do not include data for Hong Kong SAR, China, Macau SAR, China, or Taiwan, China. Based on data from the National Bureau of Statistics, the methodology for national accounts and expenditure accounts in constant prices has been revised.
Functionality and Additional Information

- **Functionality**
  - “Select Years” to customize view
  - “Download as CSV” to manipulate data
  - “Create Citation” for automatically created citation
  - Dynamic URLs to save views
  - Hyperlinked labels to switch views

- **Additional information**
  - Notes
  - Sources
  - Indicator definitions
“About Data” tab:

- **Intro** to World Development Indicators
- Overview of functionality
- Data updated monthly
- Update/version history
- Links to release notes and errata

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*The years 1990, 2000, and 2013 are the default view because those years benchmark over time and because 2013 is currently the year most likely to provide data across all economies and indicators. Both earlier and later years of data can be selected through the "Select Years" function.

**eLibrary Version History**

March 11, 2018: World Bank eLibrary was updated with the February 2018 release of World Development Indicators. [Release notes/errata](#)

- Since that update, notes on data points are no longer displayed. This known issue is being investigated.

November 2, 2015: World Bank eLibrary was updated with the October 2015 release of World Development Indicators. [Release notes/errata](#)

- Since that update, the Net Migration indicator no longer displays any data. This known issue is slated to be
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Chapter Authors/Editors: Xiaodong Wang, Richard Stern, Dilip Limaye, Wolfgang Mostert and Yabei Zhang

Published: September 2013

PDF (646 KB)

Abstract

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In: Unlocking Commercial Financing for Clean Energy in East Asia

Chapter Authors/Editors: Xiaodong Wang, Richard Stern, Dilip Limaye, Wolfgang Mostert and Yabei Zhang

Published: September 2013

PDF (641 KB)

Abstract

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<td>The analysis of household surveys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning from Mega-disasters: Lessons from the Great East Japan Earthquake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban China: Toward Efficient, Inclusive, and Sustainable Urbanization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women, Business and the Law 2016: Getting to Equal</td>
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