Tanzania is undergoing an urban transformation. By 2015 expanding city boundaries, natural population growth and in-migration accounted for the world’s sixth highest rate of urban population growth. By mid-century, the country’s urban population is estimated to exceed 60 million, compared to 15 million in 2012.

In Dar es Salaam the population is projected to more than double from 4.4 million in 2012 to 10.8 million in 2030.

- Dar es Salaam is Tanzania’s largest city. Secondary cities will continue to rapidly grow but are not projected to challenge Dar es Salaam’s status.

Low per capita income and the absence of conventional local government results in many urban residents relying on self-provisioned services.

- Rapid urban population growth without a strong fiscal base places a strain on the limited urban infrastructure and services.
- Over 70% of Dar es Salaam’s population lives in neighbourhoods without adequate housing, or publicly provided services such as safe drinking water or sanitation.
- In most cases the evolution of urban areas has outpaced the enforcement of spatial plans.
- Informal urban expansion results in life expectancy in urban Tanzania that is lower than in rural areas, and maternal and infant mortality rates that are higher.
- The labour force participation rate in urban centres is lower than rural areas—76.2% participation in Dar es Salaam and 84.4% in other urban centres compared to 89.9% in rural areas.

Both new financing options and new service delivery mechanisms will be required to provide mass transport, energy, sanitation, water and solid waste management to all urban residents.

- Financing plans need to be linked to specific infrastructure priorities and urban plans.
- The national budget needs to support investment in urban areas.
- State-owned enterprises need to adjust investment to account for urban growth.
- Affordability can be enhanced by linking service delivery with urban work opportunities.

Climate change currently amplifies the risks and vulnerability in Tanzanian cities but could serve as a call to action.

- Increases in temperature, unpredictable rainfall, and intense droughts and floods have exposed underlying problems of food insecurity, water scarcity, infrastructure deficits, lack of solid waste management and power outages in urban areas.
- Compact and coordinated urban growth could connect citizens to economic opportunity and place urban development on a low carbon trajectory.
- Integrating Tanzania’s ecological systems into urban design can reduce the impact of floods and provide valuable natural resources for urban development.
- The electricity, sanitation, transport and waste management services that have evolved in the absence of the state-are often low carbon. Recognising and scaling these options could combine service delivery with work creation.

**Coordinated industrial, housing, and transport polices could shift Tanzania’s urban growth to become more inclusive, productive and sustainable.**

- National policymakers acknowledge their role in transforming how cities develop.
- Tanzania’s Five Year Development Plan II commits to developing a National Urban Development Strategy.
- The Five Year Plan recognises the links between urbanisation and industrialization but identifies population growth, unplanned urbanization and climate change as threats to the development gains from Tanzania’s economic growth.

**Coalitions between different levels of government, public, private, and civil society actors can bridge fiscal and capacity gaps and support sustainable urban development.** A National Urban Development Strategy could oversee multiple level governance and enhance urbanisation by:

- Including well-defined responsibilities of different levels and departments of government.
- Recognizing the importance of spatial planning to connect people with economic opportunities.
- Ensuring that planned infrastructure investments reinforce the spatial plan.
- Regulating state-owned enterprises to align their services with infrastructure and spatial plans.

**Administrative burdens, the cost of mobility and an irregular supply of public electricity and water make for high costs of doing business in Tanzanian cities. Government could support business by:**

- Bundling urban services and reducing the time for administrative processes.
- Establishing and communicating frameworks for business accountability that encourage responsible corporate citizenship.
- Allowing participation by non-state actors in urban planning and implementation.
Suggested Social Media

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New paper from the Coalition for Urban Transitions emphasizes the need for better urban development in Tanzania, where the urban population is projected to exceed 60 million by 2050.

Better urban development is an opportunity that Tanzania cannot afford to miss—new paper from the Coalition for Urban Transitions outlines the need for effective planning and financing across the different sectors of government.

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