



Urbanization and Human Development: A New Look

Umer Akhlaq Malik

Senior Research Fellow

*Mahbub ul Haq Human Development
Centre(MHHDC)*



Aims and Objectives

The aim of this presentation is to analyze the process of urbanization in the region; to highlight several challenges that have inhibited the positive results of urbanization for development.

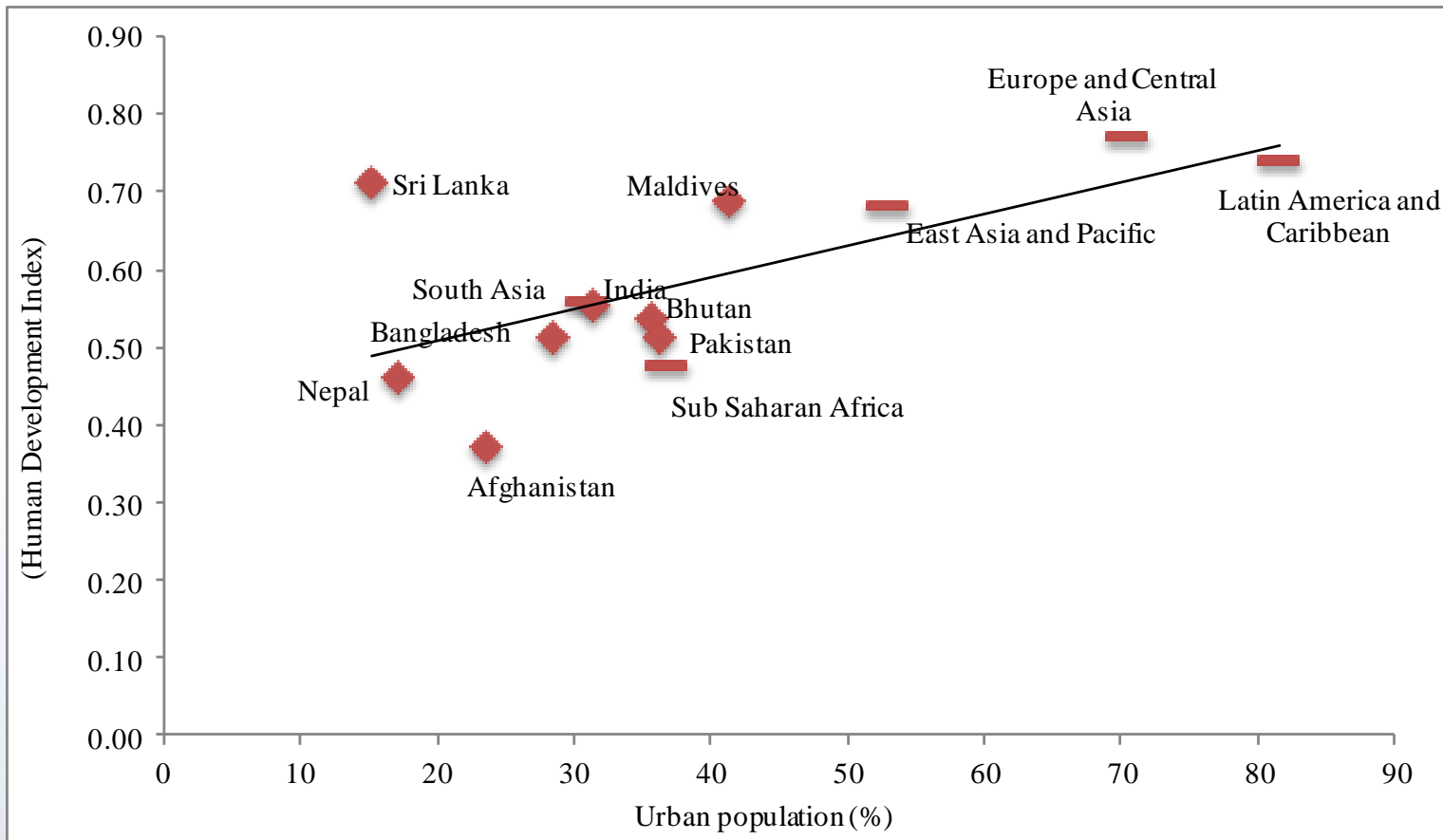


The presentation will address the following issues:

- Urbanization and human development nexus.
- Concerns related to urbanization in South Asia.
- Policy options to address urbanization challenges.



Urbanization and human development nexus.



Sources: UNPD 2014 and UNDP 2013.

- Increasing levels of urbanization are generally associated with a higher level of human development.
- There are deviations indicating that a high level of urbanization does not necessarily yield better human development outcomes e.g. Sub Saharan Africa and South Asia, Pakistan and Bangladesh

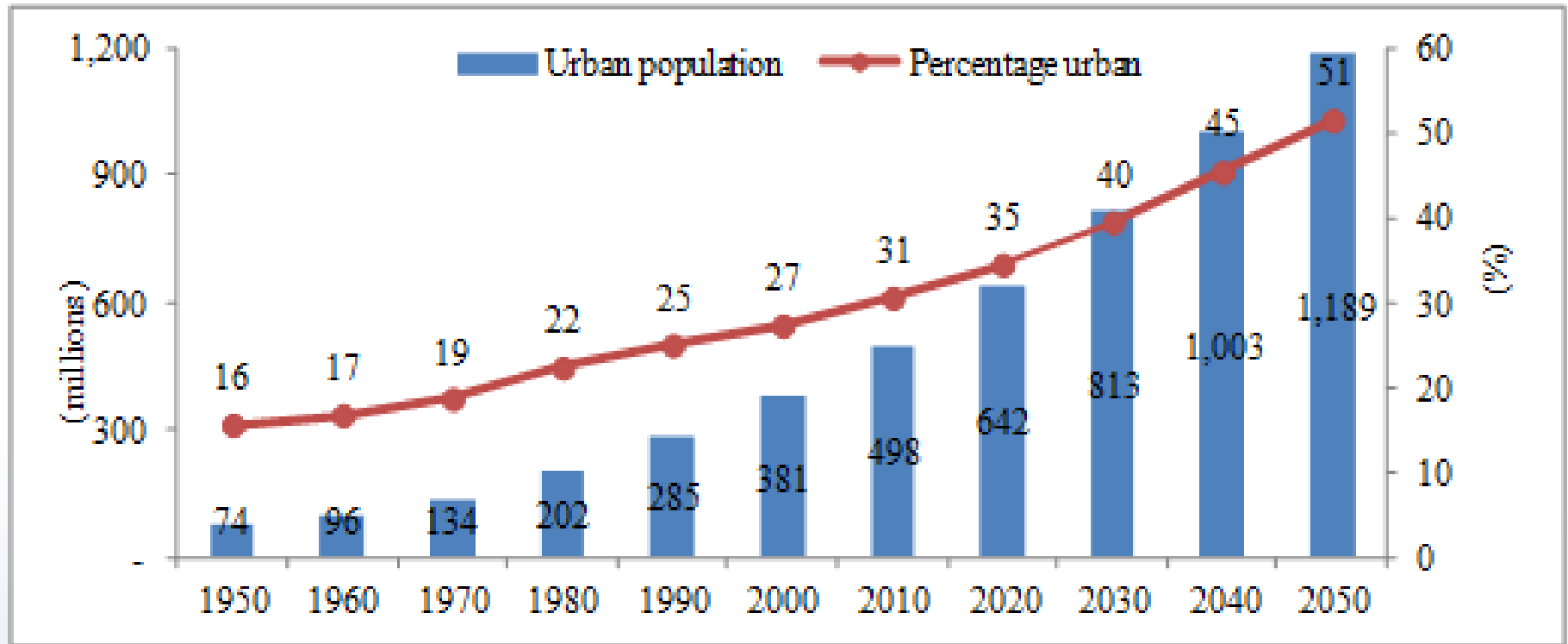
Concerns related to urbanization process in South Asia

1) *Definition of urban differ across countries:*

- India and Nepal uses a broad-based definition comprising of demographic and economic characteristics
- Pakistan and Sri Lanka have a restrictive definition based only on administrative criteria.



2) Rapid pace of urbanization:

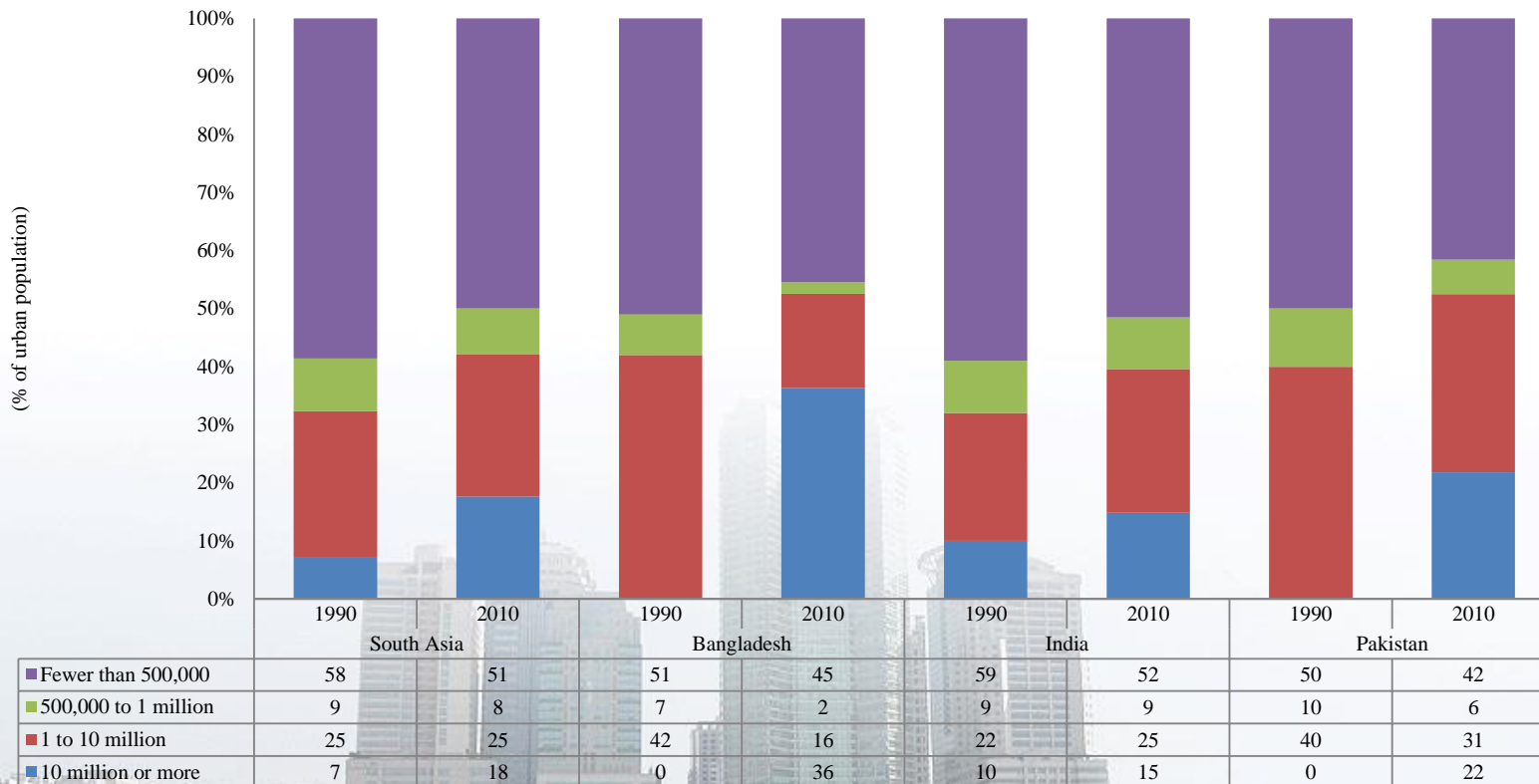


Source: UNPD 2014.

- South Asia's urban population has risen from 73 million in 1950 to 511 million in 2011 - from 15.6 per cent in 1950 to 30.9 per cent in 2011.
- The growth rate of the urban population for South Asia is higher compared to that of the world - World (2010) 2.39 per cent, South Asia (2010) 3.05 per cent.



3) Increased concentration of population in large cities and growth of mega cities:



Sources: UNPD 2014 and MHHDC 2014 Statistical Profile of Urbanization in South Asia.

- Around 40 per cent of the urban population in South Asia is residing in large cities (with a population of over one million).
- In contrast, the proportion of the population in small and medium sized cities has decreased.



Population of mega-cities in South Asia, 1970-2025

	Population (million)				Annual rate of change (%)
	1970	1990	2011	2025	
					2011-2025
Delhi	3.5	9.7	22.7	32.9	2.67
Mumbai	5.8	12.4	19.7	26.6	2.12
Dhaka	1.4	6.6	15.4	22.9	2.84
Kolkata	6.9	10.9	14.4	18.7	1.87
Karachi	3.1	7.1	13.9	20.2	2.68

Source: UNPD 2014.

- Five of the twenty-three mega-cities of the world are located in the region.
- The mega-cities of South Asia are experiencing very high population growth rates., in excess of 2 per cent per year.

4) Rural to urban migration is a major source of urban growth:

- In Bangladesh migration contributed around 40 per cent to urban growth, in India and Pakistan around 21 per cent and 20 per cent, respectively.
- Migration is mostly concentrated in large cities. Dhaka (70%), Karachi (13%).

5) *High population density*

- Dhaka, Mumbai, Kolkata, Karachi and Delhi are among the densest cities of the world.
- Out of the 20 densest cities in the world, sixteen are in Asia—six of them in South Asia.
- High density cities demand better public services. Improvement in which unfortunately have not kept pace with increased urbanization.

6) *Poor social and human development outcomes:*

- **Poverty and inequality**

Proportion of population under poverty lines in rural and urban areas (%)

	Rural	Urban	National
India	25.7	13.7	21.9
Pakistan	27.0	13.1	22.3
Bangladesh	35.2	21.3	31.5
Afghanistan	37.5	29.0	36.0
Nepal	27.4	15.5	25.2
Sri Lanka	9.4	5.3	8.9

Source: World Bank 2013h and MHHDC 2014 *Statistical Profile of Urbanization in South Asia*.

- Urban slums and infrastructure and service deficit

Urban slum population in South Asia, 2009

	Slum population (thousands)	Proportion of urban population (%)
India	104,679	29.4
Pakistan	29,965	46.6
Bangladesh	27,542	61.6
Nepal	3,075	58.1

Source: UN-Habitat 2012b.

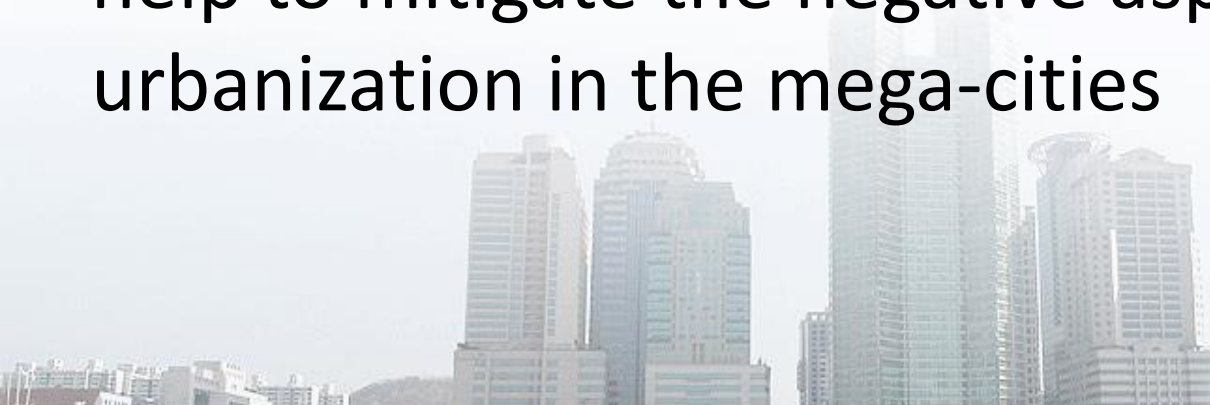
- The size of the slum population is an indicator of extreme inequality in South Asian cities.
- Slums account for around 35 per cent of the urban population in South Asia.
- In Mumbai, around 60 per cent of its population live in slums and in Delhi, one in every two people is a slum dweller.

Policy options to address urbanization challenges



1) Focus on the growth of small and medium sized cities:

- They link rural areas to the global economy.
- Focusing on small and medium sized cities will also help to mitigate the negative aspects of urbanization in the mega-cities



2) Develop urban corridors and enhance road connectivity:

- To ensure diffused spatial development, without putting pressure on any one city.
- They carry economic benefits by stimulating business, industrial and real estate development in interlinking towns and cities.



3) Increase incentives to reduce migration:

Focus on rural development;

- Increase employment opportunities in rural areas.
- Enhance the provision of services like education, health, electricity and water and sanitation services.
- e.g. National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme





Thank you

