



Informing policies for Africa's urban future

Africa is projected to have the fastest urban growth rate in the world – by 2050, Africa's cities will be home to an additional 950 million people. Urban planning and management are essential development challenges. Understanding urbanisation, its drivers, dynamics and impacts, is key to design targeted, inclusive and forward-looking policies at the local, national and continental levels. Africapolis data and evidence supports cities and governments to make urban areas more inclusive, productive and sustainable.

A unique database on cities and urbanisation in Africa

Produced by the OECD Sahel and West Africa Club, Africapolis.org is the only comprehensive and standardised geospatial database on cities and urbanisation dynamics in Africa. Combining demographic sources, satellite and aerial imagery and other cartographic sources, it is designed to enable comparative and long-term analyses of urban dynamics - covering 7 500 agglomerations in 50 countries.



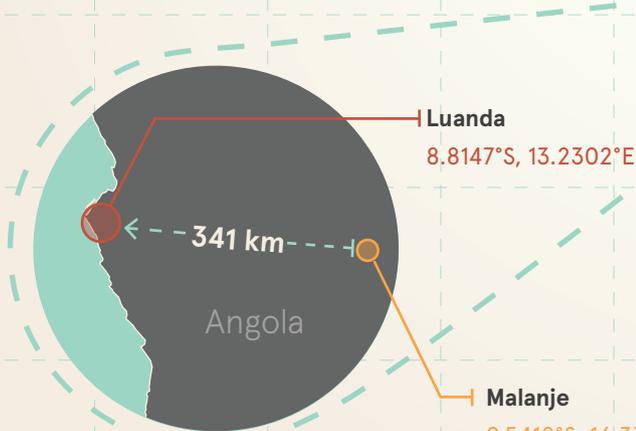
Built-up area

Dakar, Senegal
 Area: 204 km²
 Density: 15 050 inhab/km²

Population size



- Addis Ababa
3.7 million inhabitants
- Adama
339 900 inhabitants
- Dera
28 500 inhabitants
- Asera
116 600 inhabitants



Geolocation

Luanda
 8.8147°S, 13.2302°E

341 km

Malanje
 9.5418°S, 16.3346°E
 Distance to metropolitan
 agglomeration: 341 km

7 225 urban areas



Less than 300 000 inhabitants

Going beyond big cities

UN World Urbanization Prospects provide detailed information for big cities above 300 000 inhabitants.

But **97%** of urban areas in Africa have fewer than 300 000 inhabitants. **Africapolis** provides unique information on small and medium sized agglomerations starting with 10 000 inhabitants.

I Cities are alive

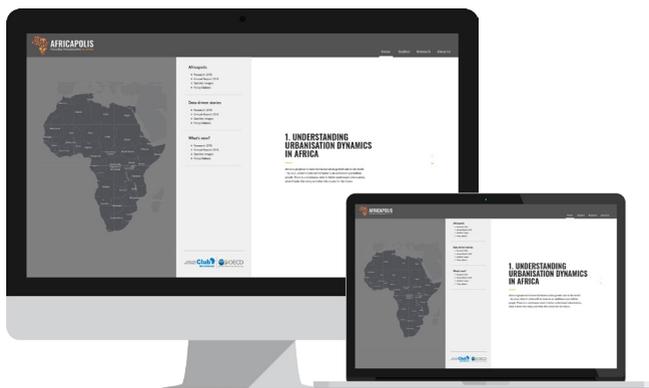
Governments across the globe define the boundaries of a city according to varying administrative, governance and political needs and objectives. The legal definitions used are precise and inflexible. Cities, however, are alive. They evolve, develop and grow, driven by the aspirations of their inhabitants and by technological and policy innovations. Capturing these essential features of urbanisation is key to better understanding and managing the future of cities. Africapolis defines an urban

agglomeration by the physical extent of its built-up area to detect key features of urbanisation dynamics. These are the expansion of built-up areas, the growing interconnections across urban networks and the emergence of small towns and secondary cities. Africapolis methodology is based on combining demographic sources, satellite and aerial imagery and other cartographic sources, generating data that is independent of national definitions, comparable across countries and time and verifiable.

I Who is Africapolis for?

Africa's urban transition offers tremendous opportunities, but also brings with it enormous challenges. The new data and analyses generated by Africapolis aim to improve policy makers' and researchers' capacity to better target resources and develop policies that support a managed urban transition. In particular, it provides an evidence base for secondary cities

and small towns which play an important role in moving towards more balanced and sustainable urban development in line with the New Urban Agenda in Africa and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 to "make cities and human settlements more inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable."



Explore, compare and download

Africapolis.org allows users to explore, visualise and map over 200 000 data points. It provides a powerful tool for understanding urbanisation dynamics in Africa. Users can download the full dataset to explore it in more detail or apply it to their own needs and they can contribute data and stories to make the platform grow.



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