

Seeing the city: *alternative methods for creative urban planning*

22nd October 2013

Caroline Wanjiku Kihato, PhD

Jo Vearey, PhD



SharingSpace Project is financed by the European Union Marie Curie International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (FP7-PEOPLE-2012-IRSES)

Today

By the end of this session...

- To articulate the planning challenges associated with migration and urbanisation in southern Africa.
- To be aware of alternative methods for creative urban planning.
- To outline strategies that will enhance urban planning in ways that more effectively meet the needs of people living in urban slums.

Exercise 1

- What do you think slums are?
- What are your views about slums and how city authorities should respond?

What is urbanisation?

- Growth in the proportion of a population living in urban areas.
 1. **Rural to urban migration.**
 2. **Natural population growth** of existing urban population.
 3. **Reclassification** of rural areas into urban ones (changing definitions).

Urbanisation in Africa: The context

- African urbanisation resulting in high demand for land
- By 2050, 50% of Africans will live in cities
- By 2015 Lagos will grow by 58 people every hour, Kinshasa 39, Nairobi 15
- Urbanisation is occurring without economic growth
- Informality is the predominant characteristic of urban growth







Almeria, Spain



UK



Padova, Italy
(C) Julian Roeder

Glasgow



Harmanovce, Slovakia
(C) Julian Roeder



Lisbon (C) Julian Roeder



Russia



Birmingham, UK



Sheffield, UK



Glasgow



Lisbon (C) Julian Roeder



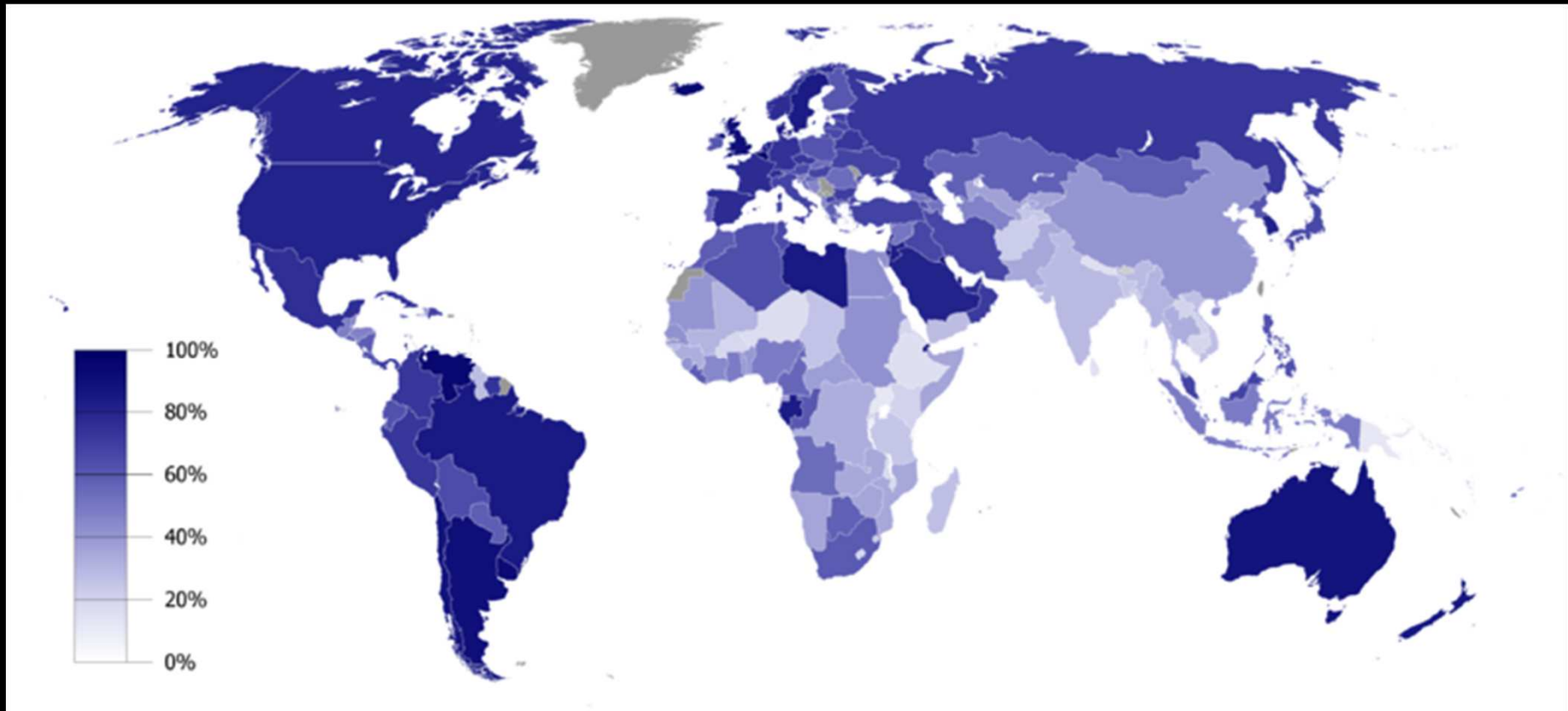
NYC



Harmanovce, Slovakia
(C) Julian Roeder

An urban world

Over half of the world's population is now urban



UNICEF, 2008

The third teacher's message is reinforced by many, for the firm lines in history, more than had in population we all be living in cities. These 5.5 billion people are expected to grow to 10 billion by 2050 – that unique map of the world shows a future that people live now.

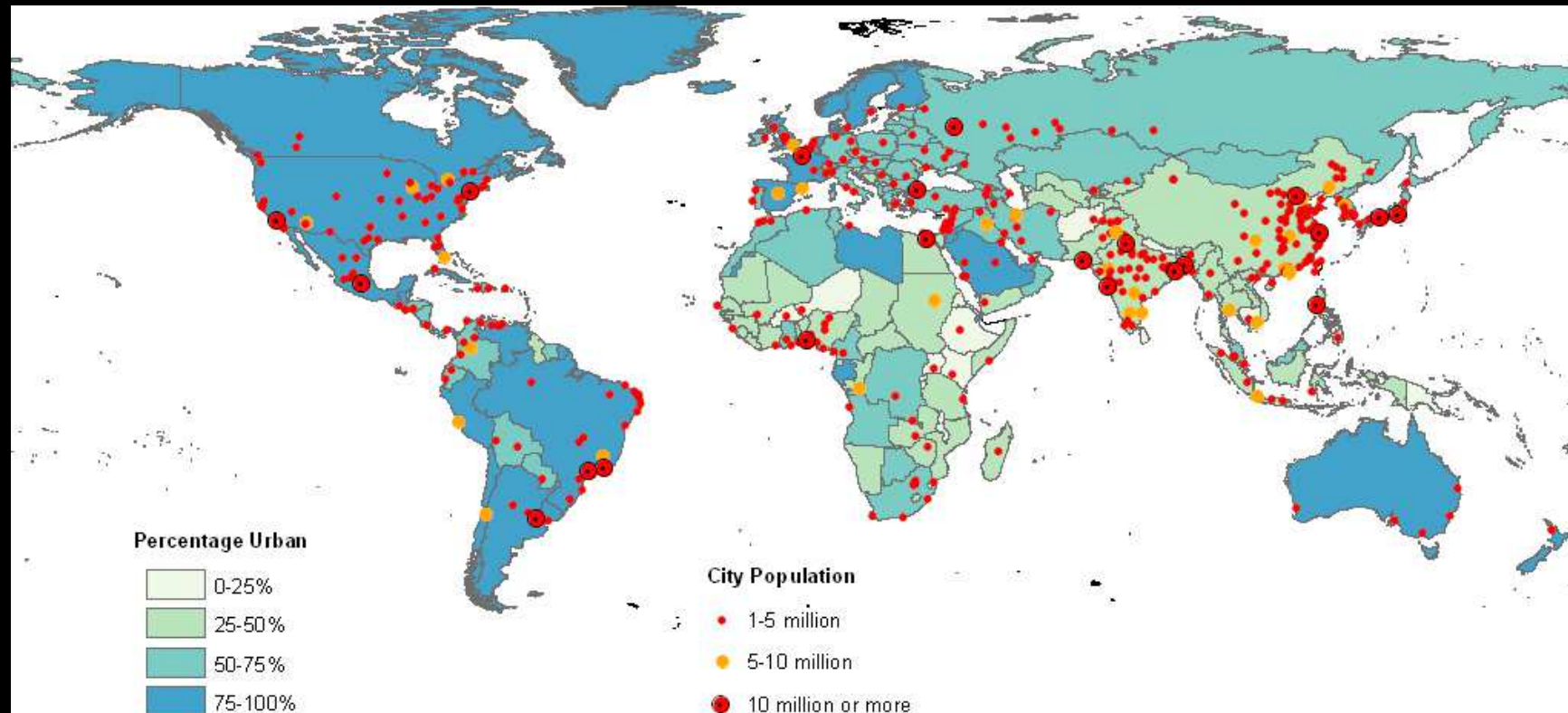


The world's urban population – from a total of 6,515.9 million



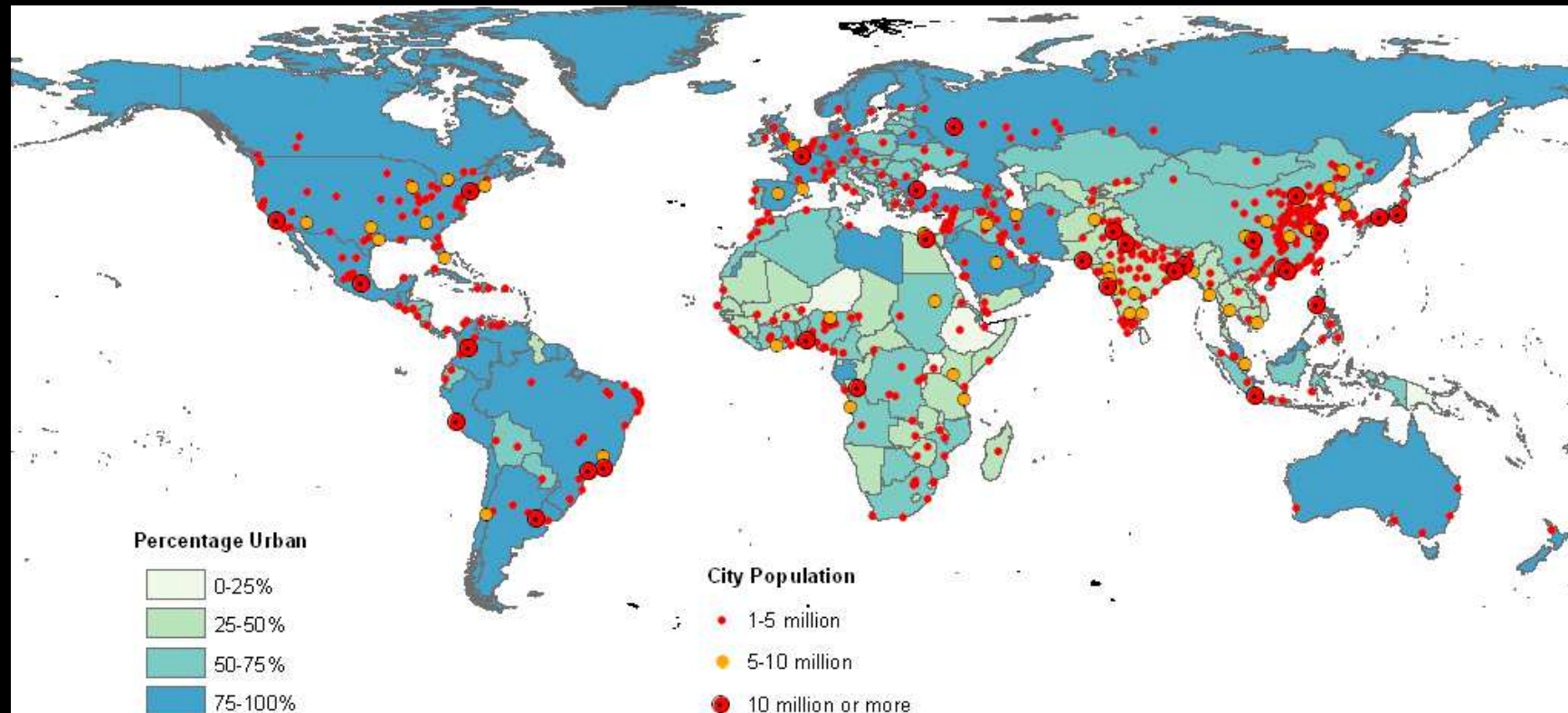
Urban growth 2005–2010

Urban Agglomerations in 2009 (proportion urban of the world: 50.1%)



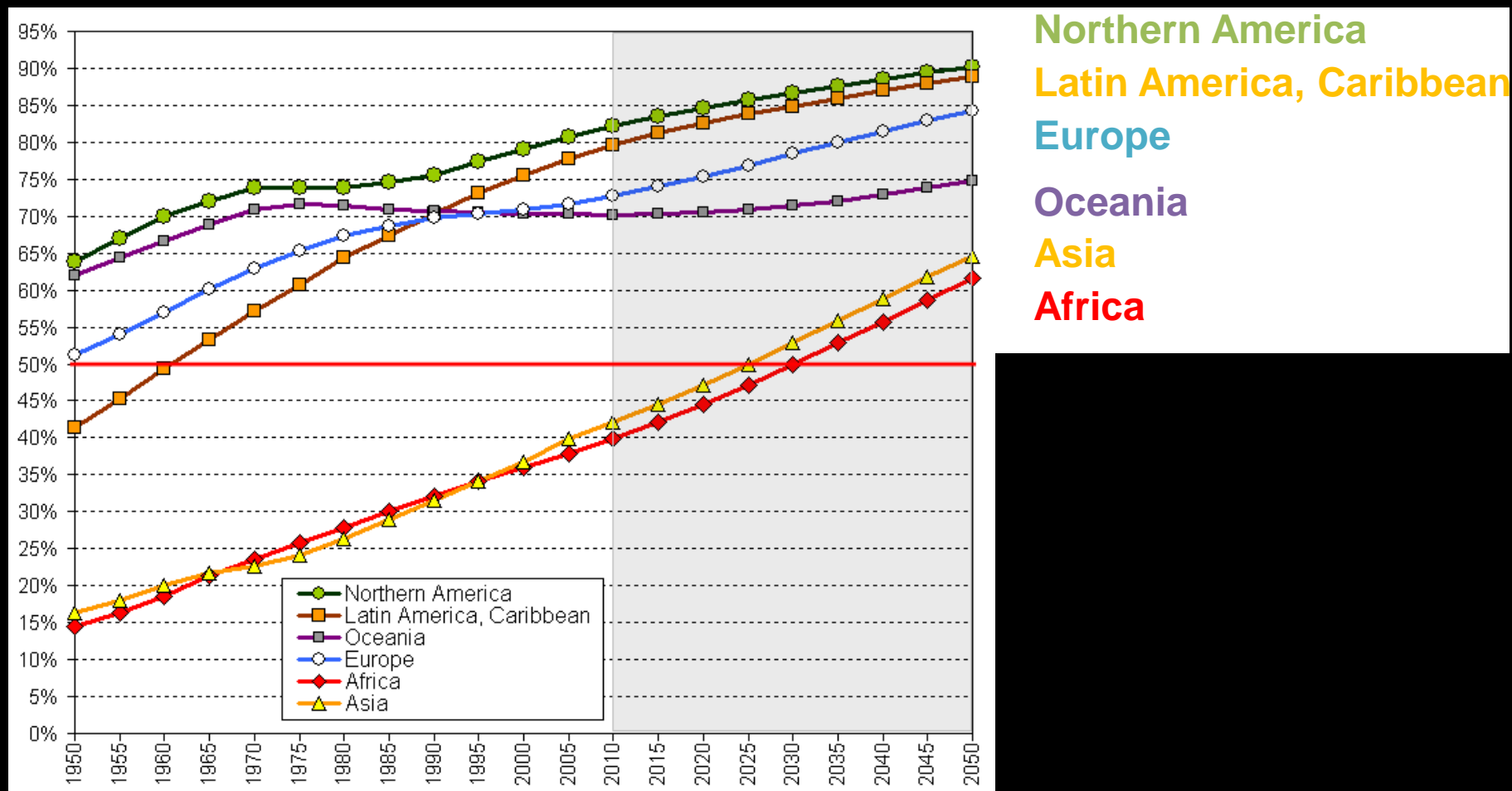
Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division: *World Urbanization Prospects, the 2009 Revision*. New York 2010

Urban Agglomerations in 2025 (proportion urban of the world: 56.6%)



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division: *World Urbanization Prospects, the 2009 Revision*. New York 2010

Urban population by major geographical area (in per cent of total population)



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division: *World Urbanization Prospects, the 2009 Revision*. New York 2010

Slum population and urban population growth in the world (1976-2006)

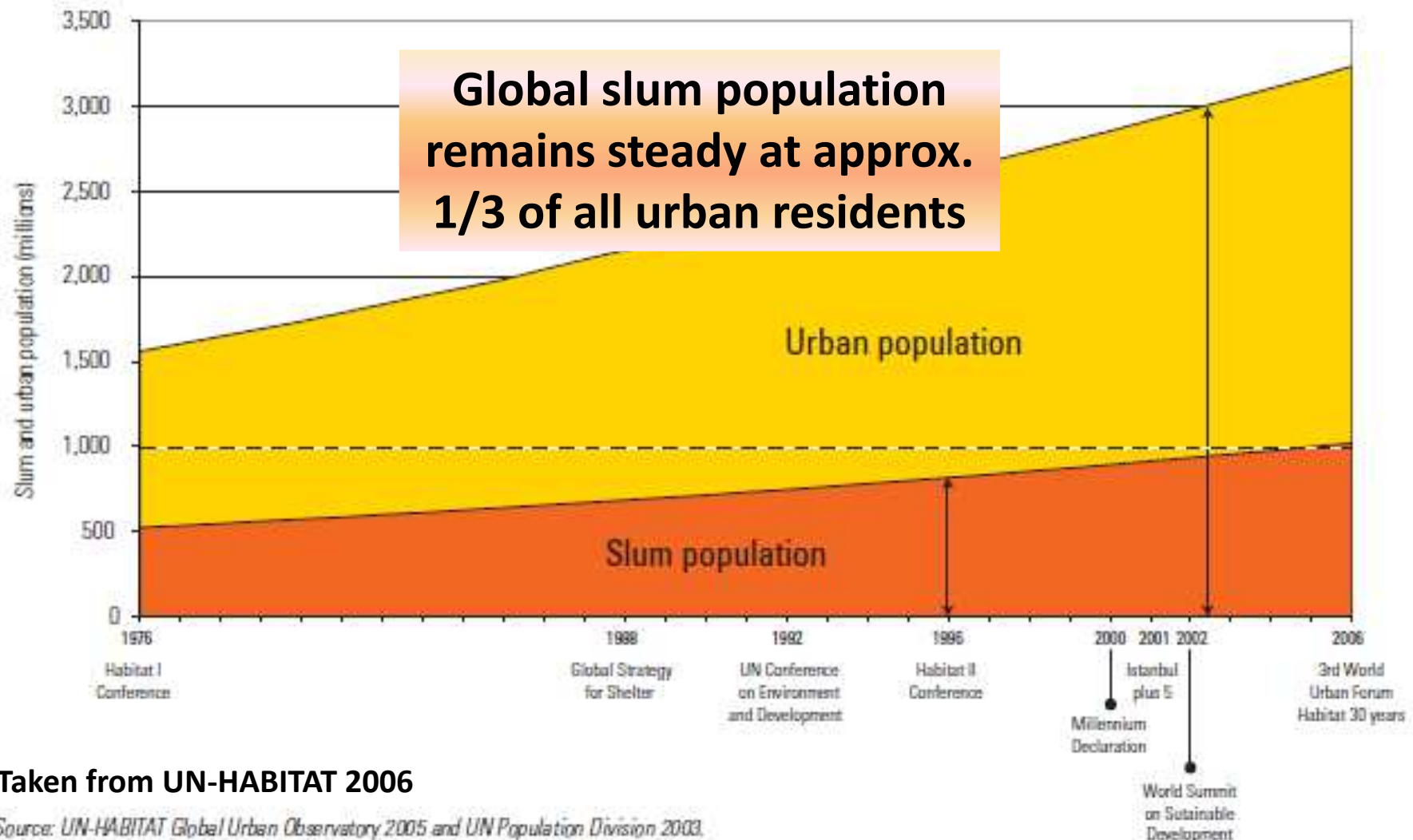
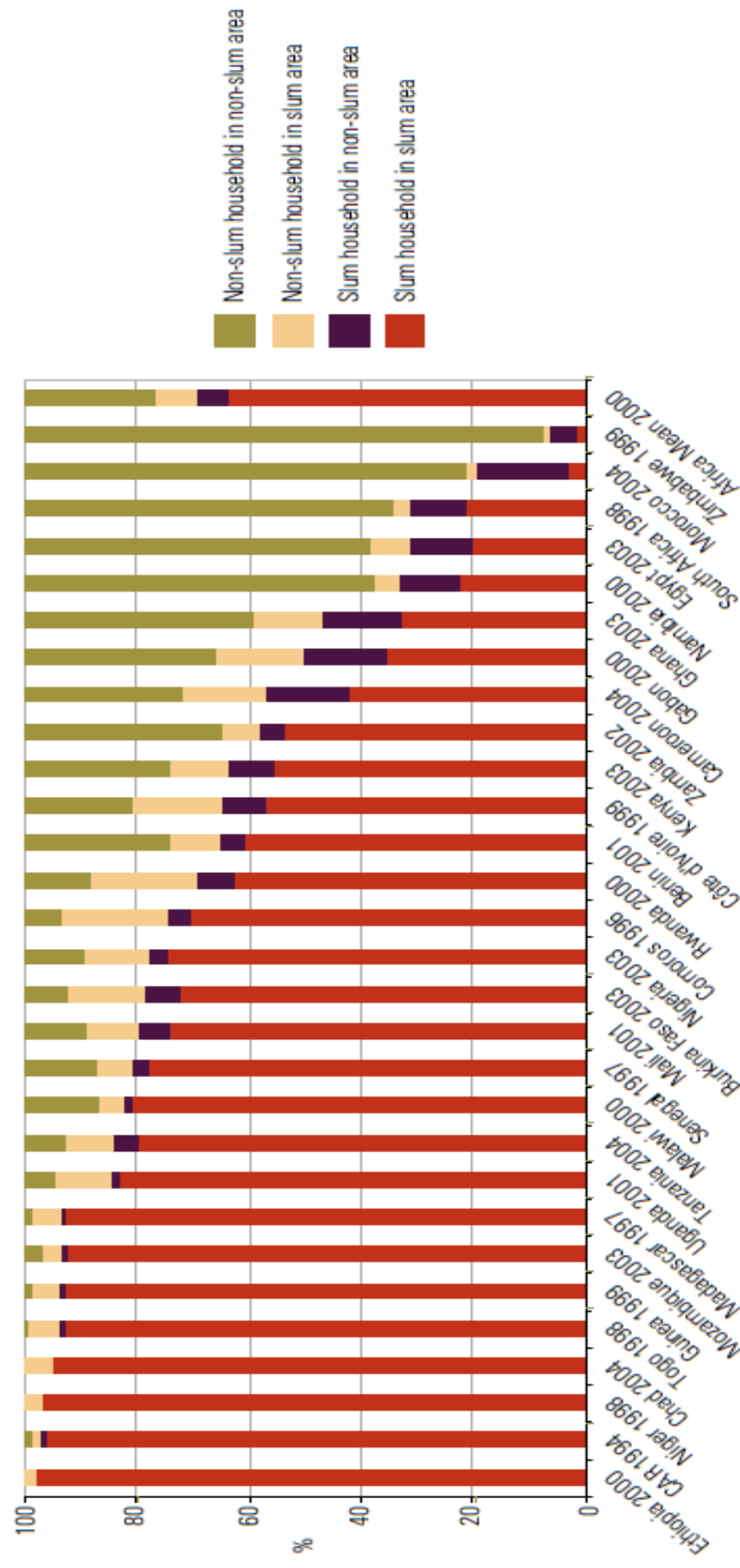


FIGURE 1.1.4: DISTRIBUTION OF SLUM AND NON SLUM HOUSEHOLDS



Note: The data in figure 1.1.4 are based on the UN-HABITAT definitions of slums (a contiguous settlement where the inhabitants are characterized as having inadequate housing and basic services; a slum is often not recognized and addressed by public authorities as an integral part of the city) and slum households (a household that lacks one or more of the five elements: access to improved water; access to improved sanitation; security of tenure; durability of housing; and sufficient living area).

Film clip

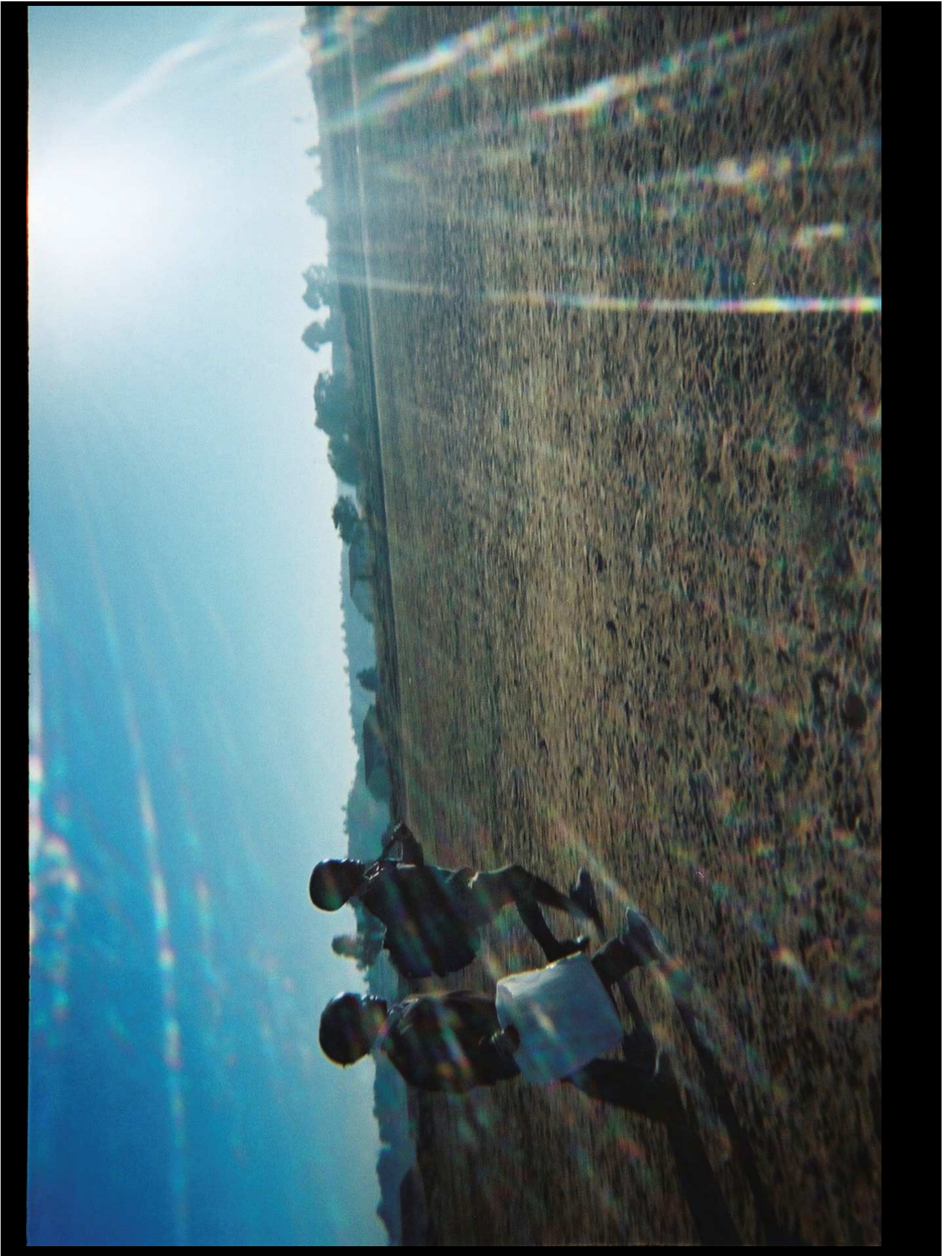
Ways of seeing the city

- What did you understand from the background presented?
- How does this compare to what you have understood from the film clip?
- Has the information presented challenged your thinking about slums?

Participatory photo projects

- Working with residents of diverse “hidden” urban spaces
 - Informal settlements (slums)
 - Hostels
 - Inner city (sex workers)
- Lived experiences
- Voice



















- What kind of strategies would you develop in order to improve the lives of people living in slums?
 - Research/ways of understanding?
 - Responses?



Researching urban contexts

Participatory photo projects

- Responsibilities of researchers: contributing to social change
- Broad approach to the urban context: lived experiences
- Beyond more established quantitative and qualitative research approaches: mixed methods, multi-methods
- Accessing “marginalised communities”: what is a community?, access, safety, legality, ‘voice’
- Residents as experts; researchers as participants: power
- Partnerships and collaboration: university, photography school, community and advocacy groups, government
- Exploring (re)presentation
- Challenging social research: what do we really know?