

Urban opportunities and Challenges in Lagos

Where is Lagos?	Lagos is Africa's biggest city and one of the fastest growing. It is in the south-west of Nigeria on the coast of the Gulf or Guinea.
Why is Lagos important?	Lagos is the centre for trade and business. 80% of Nigeria's industry is in Lagos. It is the main financial centre for west Africa. There is an international airport and a busy sea port. Most of Lagos money came from oil.
Reasons for the change:	Lagos is growing quickly due to rural to urban (people moving in from the countryside). Secondly natural growth as the young migrants have babies and more children.

Opportunities	Challenges
<p>More jobs than anywhere else in Nigeria – average earnings of £670 per year.</p> <p>A busy port with many industries.</p> <p>Major international airport with good transport connections.</p> <p>Growing finance, film and fashion industries.</p> <p>Work in the informal economy – e.g. street vendor, Olusosun dump.</p> <p>Waste recycling in the informal economy.</p> <p>More schools and universities – all attend until 9 – well educated workforce.</p> <p>Health care is available – life expectancy is 53</p> <p>Some homes have water and electricity.</p> <p>A new light railway for the city.</p>	<p>There is a big gap between rich and poor – inequality.</p> <p>The informal economy can be dangerous – chemicals in the waste dump.</p> <p>Squatter settlements lack water and electricity.</p> <p>High levels of crime – 1% of households have reported a murder.</p> <p>Polluted water so people must use street vendors who are expensive. Sewage mixes with water.</p> <p>Rising sea levels leading to flooding.</p> <p>Congestion of roads 2hour waits, 28% deaths per 1000 accidents.</p>

Urban Planning in Makoko to improve quality of life:

Makoko is a self-built squatter settlement on the marshy land on the edge of Lagos Lagoon where no one else wants to live. It is very densely populated with homes built on stilts in the water. Homes are made from tin sheets and wooden planks. Most make a living in the informal economy and fishing. The authorities want to demolish the town.

75% live in one room - 38% no kitchen bath or toilet - 89% no piped water - 90% no sewage system.

Self Help Schemes

This is where people are given the tools and skills to improve their own homes.

People are given low cost loans for materials.

They are taught a trade so after using their skills in their community they can get a job.

In Makoko floating communities were built which are sustainable.

They use natural materials and solar power.

It helps protect places from rising sea levels.

Success of the project:

A new school was built which was also used as a community centre.

Skills help people get jobs in the future.

Houses are made more sturdy and more sustainable.

Community spirit is improved further.

Failures of the project:

There are too many people for the schemes to help everyone.

The school was demolished by a storm.

There is still a shortage of jobs in the area.

People may not be able to ever pay back loans.