

AGIR, AFRICAPOLIS

NEW URBANISATION DATA TO BETTER TARGET FOOD SECURITY POLICIES AND BUILD RESILIENCE IN WEST AFRICA

European Development Days (EDD15) Brussels, 4 June 2015

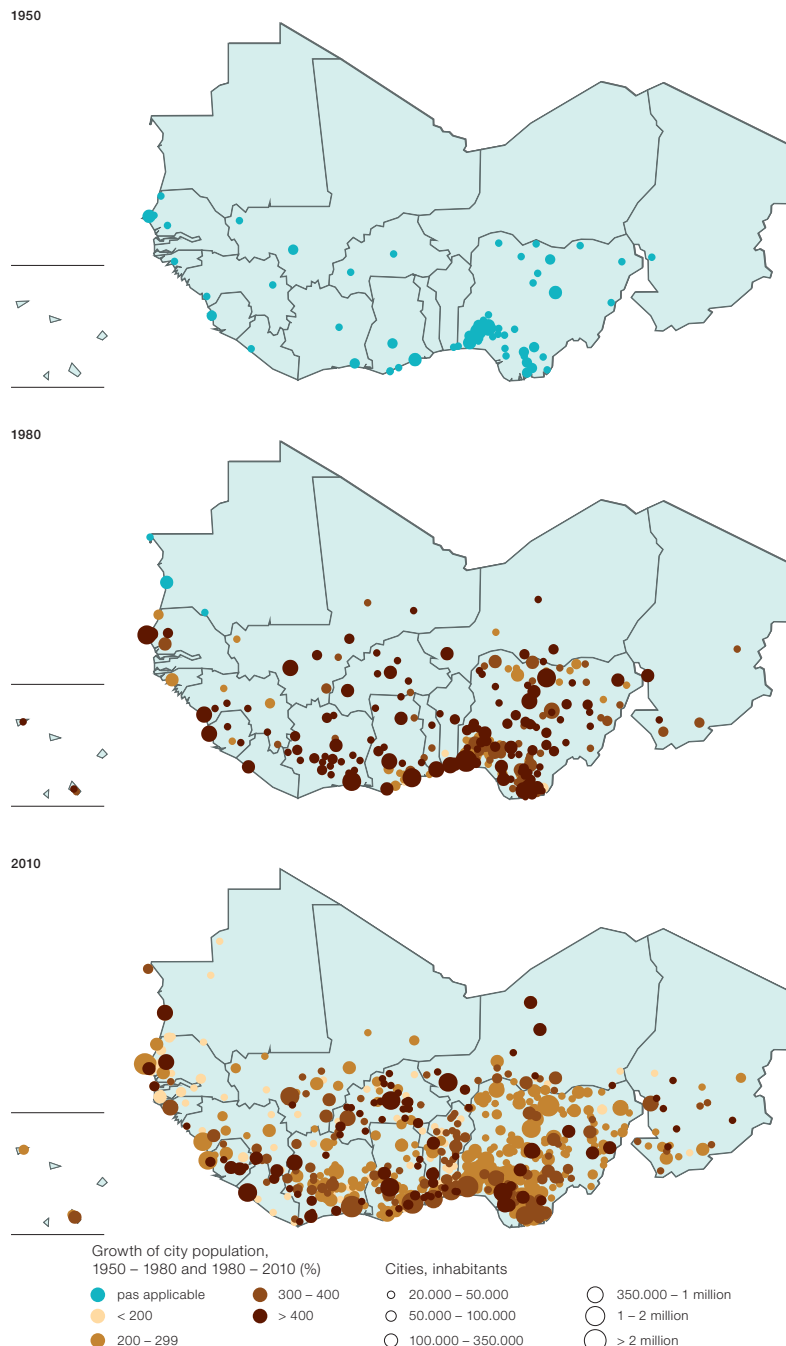
PRESS RELEASE

The Sahel and West Africa Club Secretariat (SWAC/OECD) presented Africapolis, a comprehensive and comparable dataset on urbanisation in West Africa, at the European Development Days (EDD15). An interactive presentation engaged the audience in a discussion with policy makers working on food security and resilience, in particular on the implementation of the Global Alliance for Resilience (AGIR) - Sahel and West Africa.

Reliable and comparable data is crucial for effective policy-making, in particular in West Africa's fast-changing population and settlement landscape. Responding to the call of the Post-2015 Development Agenda for a data revolution, Africapolis is a significant step towards closing the data gap in West Africa. It provides solid ground for better tackling food and nutrition challenges in view of the region's aim of achieving zero hunger by 2025. Understanding the region's spatial development, its on-going demographic transition, urbanisation processes and settlement patterns is an important pre-condition to designing more effective food and nutrition policies.

The SWAC Secretariat worked together with the E-geopolis team on the up-date of the Africapolis I study. The update covers 17 West African countries spanning the period 1950 to 2010. It provides population estimates for 2 965 geolocalised agglomeration based on census data, and satellite and aerial imagery.

Urban network and growth of cities



Africapolis puts at the disposal of policy makers previously unpublished data and information, including:

- A systematic geolocation of urban agglomerations broadening the analytical scope for mapping and spatial analysis;
- An extensive and updated inventory of agglomerations in Nigeria, accounting for more than half of West Africa's population;
- An identification of small towns that are not listed in any international database.

The availability of disaggregated data broken down by agglomeration allows for spatial structure analysis. This could provide insights on a number of important issues, such as what urban policies would enable towns to respond to the increase in populations vulnerable to food insecurity. What types of investment in agriculture are necessary in light of the decreasing available manpower in rural areas? What type of policies and programmes are needed to strengthen the linkages between rural and urban areas?



Session Moderator Jean-Pierre Elong-Mbassi, Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA)

Recognising the importance of urbanisation and settlement patterns in food and nutrition strategies, AGIR has placed poor urban dwellers among its target populations. It aims at building the resilience of poor urban and rural dwellers alike. "We are making fast progress; almost all West African countries have launched inclusive dialogue processes to define their respective resilience priorities", declared Martin Issa Bikienga, Co-ordinator of the AGIR Technical Unit based at the CILSS headquarters in Ouagadougou. "Priority must be placed on harmonisation and

alignment; AGIR provides us with a common framework for action", underlined Philippe Thomas, Head of the DevCo Food Crisis Sector from the European Commission. This opinion is also shared by SWAC President Francois-Xavier de Donnea who said that "Improving co-ordination and harmonisation will both be critical for the success of the Alliance".

AGIR and the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA) will be presented at a special event during the Sahel and West Africa Week from 20-26 October 2015 at Expo Milano 2015.

Useful links

- The Africapolis dataset is available on the OECD data portal at: <http://stats.oecd.org> > click on Demography and population, > select West African Statistics.
- About AGIR: www.oecd.org/site/rpca/agir
- Statistical, mapping and regional analysis tool (SMART): www.westafricagateway.org/smart
- Settlement, market and food security: www.oecd.org/swac/ourwork/waf-2011-12.htm

About SWAC

The Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC) is an international platform for policy dialogue and analysis devoted to regional issues in West Africa. Its mission is to enhance the effectiveness of regional policies and partner support.



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