

**CHALLENGES OF URBANIZATION IN  
POST-COLONIAL OGBOMOSO, 1990-2019.**

**Hamza Kamil**

Department of History, Faculty of Arts,  
University of Ibadan  
hamzahkamil@gmail.com 08034823043

**Malang Fanneh, Ph.D**

Department of History, Faculty of Arts and Sciences,  
University of the Gambia  
mfanneh@utg.edu.gm +2203413581/ +2209931359

**Abstract**

*Since the end of the Second World War, shift and changing nature of socio-economic conditions have helped to create new processes of urbanization in Nigeria. For many years, the focus of urban scholarship in Nigeria has largely focussed on rural-urban migration with less attention paid to urban studies and its multidisciplinary approaches. Since the issue of urban definition with its challenges is inconclusive, this paper, therefore seeks to examine urbanization process in Ogbomoso and socio-economic transformation that characterised its development. This paper attempts an in-depth analysis of trends and challenges of urban growth in Ogbomoso metropolis. Historical analytical method is employed to address the kernel of this work. The study employs primary and secondary data to elicit information. The primary sources include structured questionnaires and in-depth interviews with purposively selected key informants. Secondary data is sourced through textbooks and journals articles to complement the primary data utilized. Data collected is analysed using descriptive and content analysis. The growth of cities such as Ogbomoso in postcolonial Nigeria is attributed to a combination of factors such as employment, security and adequate social facilities that include education, housing, transportation, communication and health. This paper argues*



*that Ogbomoso faces challenges of spontaneous urbanization which includes population surge and insecurity. Through spatial expansion, Ogbomoso absorbs the adjoining rural areas. The study reveals that urban growth has subsequently increased pressure on existing or unavailable job opportunities, insecurity and infrastructural facilities, thereby leading to migration, poverty, unemployment and increase in crime. The concentration of social facilities in Ogbomoso has equally encouraged the exodus of migrants with diverse cultural affinities and such a trend led to significant demographic changes in Ogbomoso.*

**Key words:** Infrastructure, Crime, Urban, Rural-urban migration, Development

### **Background**

Nearly half of the world's population now lives in cities and it has been estimated that about two billion more people will be added to the global population within the next thirty years, especially in emerging countries' metropolitan regions<sup>1</sup>. This figure shows a substantial change from the spatial variability of demographic development in the developing world over the previous years, which was considerably more evenly distributed between urban and rural areas. Therefore, the current state of global urbanisation, as well as the number and size of the world's most populous cities, are unparalleled<sup>2</sup>. Similarly, the United Nations notes that very few cities in the globe had a population of at least one million at the turn of the Twentieth Century, with the vast majority of them located in sophisticated industrial countries. Majority of these megacities are located in the developing world. Interestingly, the year 2007 witnessed urban populations outnumbering rural populations for the first time, and as a result, the UN and some scholars both projected that, the developing world by 2017 will be urbanized.<sup>3</sup>



Nevertheless, despite the developing nature of Nigeria, she appears to be experiencing an increased pace of urbanisation, largely as a consequence of the movement of rural dwellers to urban settlements. Olotuah and Bobadoye noted that over 40 per cent of Nigerians reside in metropolitan centres of varied sizes across the country.<sup>4</sup> This situation should be compared to only 10 percent in the 1930s and 1950s respectively.

Ogbomoso is the focus of this paper because it has been a fast-growing city over the years because of the availability of infrastructural facilities domiciled in the metropolis. For instance, the population of Ogbomoso in 2009 was projected to be 978,557. Decades ago, the town had a population of 387, 184 in the year 1950. As of today, data shows that Ogbomoso's population has risen significantly. In 2015, it was estimated that the town had an 8.55 per cent yearly population increase.<sup>5</sup> These figures indicate Ogbomoso's urban transformation over time, and this typically comprises her population as well as its nearby suburban districts which have so tremendously increased. Figure 1 below shows the population of Ogbomoso since 1950. The period 1990 to 2019 is considered because the establishment of Oyo State University of Technology (now Ladoke Akintola University of Technology) in 1990 transformed Ogbomoso into a university town that attracted a lot of people thereby making the place to witness a steady economic growth and infrastructural development. The Covid 19 outbreak in 2019 adversely affected socio-economic developments in urban areas like Ogbomoso.

### **Historical Background of Ogbomoso and its Urbanization**

Ogbomoso is a pre-colonial urban centre in Nigeria, and the second-largest city in terms of people and area in present day Oyo state. The city lies around 100 kilometres north of Ibadan, the capital of Oyo State, and about 80 kilometres north of Ilorin and Osogbo, the capitals of Kwara and Osun states, respectively<sup>6</sup>. Ogbomoso is one of many Yoruba settlements in Southwest



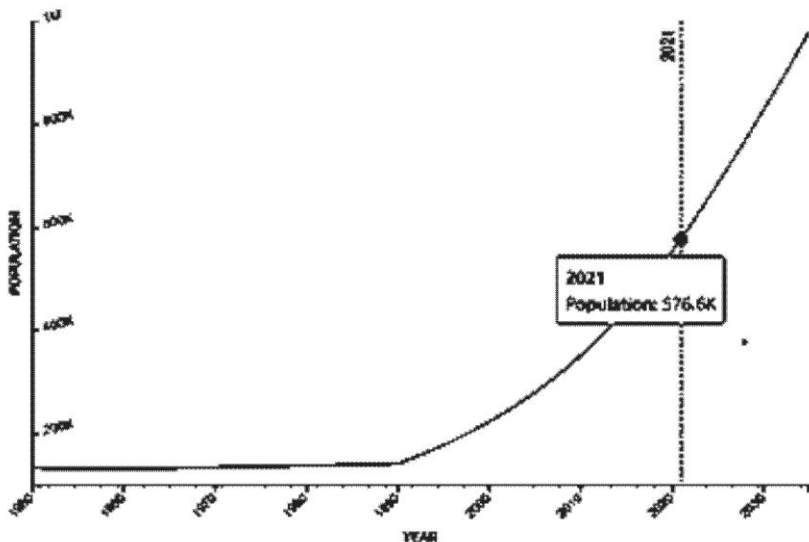
Nigeria where urbanisation as a way of life precedes the country's foreign contact. The city evolved as a result of the activities of five successive waves of migrants who lived in various areas of the existing city, similar to how other Yoruba settlements started and developed in the early 17th century. Further in time, the last wave of migrants, led by Soun Ogunlola, conquered and pacified a massive settlement that still stands today.<sup>7</sup> The place that became known as Ogbomoso from the 18th century could not be described as a single political entity with recognized authority of a ruling house on others.<sup>8</sup> The settlement could be described as a tiny village in rough spherical shape of hunting and farming camps of about five dwellers in the early 17th century. The second version traced the history of the town to the second half of the 18th century.<sup>9</sup> There is a considerable agreement on historical tradition which ascribes the founding of the town to five personalities who came to settle down in the area from different directions. The first settler on the site was a Nupe hunter called Aale, who killed an elephant and made his camp at the place still known as Oke-Elerin. His descendants eventually produced the Baale Oke-Elerin chieftaincy family.<sup>10</sup> The second settler was Ohunsile, an Awori prince from Ota, which is located in present-day Ogun State. His lineage can be traced to the present-day chieftaincy family of Baale Ijeru in the Ijeru quarters of Ogbomoso.<sup>11</sup> Orisatolu, an Ibariba from Bogu, had to flee and settle in Ogbomoso after killing a man with poison. Upon arriving in his new camp, he cultivated a special vegetable called "Isapa." As a result, he was referred to as Baba Onisapa (father who possesses Isapa), and his settlement became known as the Isapa district.<sup>12</sup> The fourth settler, Akandie, arrived before the family of Soun in the area. His family retained the title of Akandie in the Isale Afon ward of Ogbomoso, although the family eventually became extinct.<sup>13</sup> These individuals and their descendants played important roles in the early development and growth of Ogbomoso, establishing chieftaincy families and contributing to the formation of distinct districts within the community.<sup>14</sup> Soun Ogunlola Ogunlola, was the fifth settler and co-founder gave rise



to the Soun ruling dynasty in Ogbomoso. He was reported to have come from Borgu in Baribaland.<sup>15</sup>

More importantly, flocks of refugees escaping the Fulani jihadists who overran most Yoruba northern towns, including Ilorin, some 80 km from Ogbomoso, provided the first impetus for the city's rise. As a result of Ogbomoso's success in repelling the Fulani warriors, other fleeing refugees were attracted to the town. Over time, the scattered hamlets that covered a vast region of land transformed into a continually built-up and compact settlement. Though, the movement of people to urban areas promoted the process of urbanisation, this situation has great effect on the status of towns in term of size and density. The population of Ogbomoso increased from 80,000 in 1924 to 387, 184 in the mid1950s.<sup>16</sup>

**Figure 1: Ogbomoso's population between 1950 and 2020**



Sources: Fig 1 (UN World Urbanization Prospects, 2021)



**Table 1: Nigeria Population by Cities**

| City/Yrs    | 1950 | 1955 | 1960 | 1965 | 1970 | 1975 | 1980 | 1985 | 1990 | 1995 | 2000 | 2005 | 2010  | 2015  | 2020  | 2025  |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Aba         | 48   | 70   | 102  | 144  | 193  | 258  | 344  | 430  | 484  | 551  | 630  | 721  | 836   | 1015  | 1252  | 1529  |
| Benin-City  | 49   | 62   | 83   | 113  | 163  | 233  | 335  | 480  | 689  | 845  | 975  | 1124 | 1311  | 1591  | 1955  | 2377  |
| Enugu       | 60   | 75   | 108  | 144  | 163  | 211  | 281  | 350  | 394  | 461  | 547  | 649  | 775   | 953   | 1178  | 1439  |
| Ibadan      | 450  | 493  | 570  | 668  | 809  | 980  | 1186 | 1436 | 1739 | 1993 | 2236 | 2509 | 2855  | 3418  | 4165  | 5028  |
| Ilorin      | 114  | 143  | 179  | 222  | 268  | 323  | 389  | 457  | 515  | 572  | 633  | 700  | 788   | 948   | 1169  | 1428  |
| Jos         | 31   | 47   | 69   | 103  | 152  | 224  | 331  | 438  | 493  | 547  | 604  | 666  | 748   | 899   | 1108  | 1355  |
| Kaduna      | 35   | 53   | 99   | 173  | 266  | 408  | 628  | 853  | 961  | 1069 | 1184 | 1311 | 1476  | 1768  | 2167  | 2633  |
| Kano        | 123  | 257  | 229  | 343  | 542  | 855  | 1350 | 1861 | 2095 | 2339 | 2602 | 2895 | 3271  | 3902  | 4748  | 5724  |
| Lagos       | 325  | 468  | 762  | 1135 | 1414 | 1890 | 2572 | 3500 | 4764 | 5983 | 7281 | 8859 | 10788 | 13121 | 15826 | 18857 |
| Maiduguri   | 50   | 68   | 105  | 156  | 216  | 300  | 416  | 531  | 598  | 651  | 700  | 752  | 827   | 985   | 1213  | 1482  |
| Ogbomoso    | 132  | 169  | 247  | 333  | 378  | 428  | 485  | 549  | 622  | 704  | 798  | 904  | 1039  | 1256  | 1545  | 1884  |
| Onitsha     | 74   | 91   | 129  | 171  | 195  | 224  | 257  | 294  | 337  | 418  | 533  | 681  | 867   | 1088  | 1346  | 1642  |
| P. Harcourt | 60   | 88   | 135  | 198  | 266  | 358  | 482  | 604  | 680  | 845  | 1091 | 1407 | 1807  | 2264  | 2782  | 3371  |

Sources: Adapted from (Bakare, 2014).

The above table illustrates that the urban population in Nigerian cities has been steadily increasing since 1985 Ogbomoso inclusive, and the trend is expected to continue through 2025.

Due to the high rates of growth and the rural-to-urban movements, not only have interconnected problems of human settlements but the environment has become increasingly complicated and worsened. Poverty has also become significantly more severe and widespread among the people of the towns and the entire country at large. Population growth in urban areas has harmed public infrastructure, resulting in a deplorable urban environment and severe housing problems including overcrowding, slums, substandard housing, and outright homelessness to mention a few, all of which have negative consequences on human health and well-being in urban areas<sup>17</sup>. The fundamental questions this work aims at answering include: What are the challenges of urbanization in Ogbomoso? How can the growing city of Ogbomoso be sustainable? Discussing these challenges would not only inform readers, or contribute to the existing body of literature, but will draw attention to how urbanization poses challenges to the human population and sustainability in Ogbomoso.



Urbanization in Ogbomoso, like that of other developing cities in Nigeria, is a continuous growing discussion. Many are of the view that it has a negative impact on urban sustainability due to a lack of social and environmental policies, coupled with incompetent administrations. Even though city governments are worried about the problem, they frequently fail to address it due to uncontrollable and unplanned migration of people from rural settlements to urban centers, in addition to the neglect of urban poor peoples' self-sufficiency and access to essential services. In other words, almost all the problems associated with rural poverty have been transferred to urban regions, particularly in Ogbomoso, the second-largest city in Oyo state. Rapid urbanisation has caused severe issues such as insufficient infrastructure, basic utilities, and environmental goods; environmental deterioration; traffic congestion and accidents; violence and social instability. These and many more have characterised the precarious situation posed by urbanisation in Ogbomoso and this paper hopes to shed important light on these trends as they relate to Ogbomoso.

One major factor that contributed to the incursion of urban land use into agricultural land in Ogbomoso was the establishment of Ladoke Akintola University of Technology Ogbomoso. This development prompted accelerated housing and infrastructural growth which penetrated the peripheral lands. Therefore, an overview of urbanisation in Ogbomoso is important in this study, along with a discussion of sustainability difficulties and obstacles to sustainable urban development in the Ogbomoso area of Oyo State. Another significance of this work is that it highlights development policies for sustainable urban services and discusses how to mitigate the challenges that Ogbomoso faces as an urban area.

Despite the fact that, urbanization has posed significant environmental, social, and economic challenges in Ogbomoso, the town has experienced extraordinary development over time. It is therefore noteworthy that the issues that necessary for the



population to have a comfortable life are met efficiently and successfully in order to establish a sustainable city. As a result, what comes to mind is what then constitutes a sustainable city? What are the major issues that need to be addressed? These are fundamental questions that require interrogation and this paper hopes to use Ogbomoso to offer some answers. A healthy and sustainable city must be economically successful, socially stable, and environmentally friendly<sup>18</sup>. People in urban centres deserve to enjoy a high standard of living, a steady revenue stream and should be free from social and emotional stress. One of the goals of a sustainable city as noted by Hardoy, J. E., Mitlin, D. and Satterthwaite, is to offer a healthy environment for both people to live in and work in.<sup>19</sup> Soini and Birkeland agree with Hardoy and others when they maintain that society's interaction with its environment is a result of how prominent and important individuals in that society develop, control, and perpetuate knowledge.<sup>20</sup>

The above descriptions highlight important urbanisation concerns as well as integrated urban attributes. Based on this knowledge, an attempt to explain major issues, notably in Ogbomoso city, that are critical for long-term urban growth becomes germane. Quite noticeable but not limited to a surge in population expansion; scarcity of basic utilities and infrastructure; poverty, violence, social insecurity, sanitation and environmental safety; man-made risks, and lack of adequate government policy system are among the concerns and challenges of urbanisation in Ogbomoso. It is therefore apt that these issues are interrogated in order for us to better understand the challenges that Ogbomoso faces as an urban centre.

### **Urbanization in Ogbomoso**

Ogbomoso city has a population running into a million and half people, making it a medium-sized city. The emergence of Ogbomoso as a major Yoruba town could be traced to the turbulent period in the old Oyo Empire when Yoruba towns and





villages waged war against one another, coupled with Fulani attacks. Ogbomoso grew out of demand for a safe haven for the fleeing Yoruba people whose towns had been destroyed by the raging internecine warfare in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The town received large masses of displaced persons and communities which contributed significantly to its expansion. A large number of people sought sanctuary in her as refugees and settled during in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, making the population explode around that time. Not only those, the town's growth and physical expansion were aided by the social, economic, and political transformation in the twentieth century. Furthermore, the advent of British colonial administration, clergymen and missionaries, the development of schools, the influx of trading operations and activities, and the relative tranquilly that reigned in the city following the inter-tribal battles that raged in nearby cities are all elements that contributed to the town's quick growth<sup>21</sup>. There were roughly 576 acres of traditional land in Ogbomoso in 1950. In 1970 the landmass rose from about 1,024 acres (nearly 100 per cent increase above 1950 statistic) to about 2,432 acres more than doubling in less than 10 years<sup>22</sup>

Further contributing to Ogbomoso's population explosion was the establishment of Oyo State University of Technology (now Ladoke Akintola University of Technology) in 1990. This resulted to rapid population and geographic expansions in the area. Since then, the city has continued to grow. As the city's population grows, the direction and pattern of development is determined by the observed growth trend<sup>23</sup>. More institutions were also established by government and private individuals. The demographic structure of the town underwent a massive transformation because different people were attracted to the town for different purposes.

Going by the indicators of measurement, the level of urbanisation and the rate of urban population growth are two factors used to determine the nature of urbanisation. In this case, the Ogbomoso urbanisation rate is still modest, although the



country's overall urban population (107,106,007, a 4.18% increase from 2019) is relatively significant<sup>24</sup>. Figure 1 above illustrates that population proportion has raised dramatically from 387, 184 in the year 1950s. However, since then, a 4.55 per cent yearly increase, totalling 25,083 in 2015 indicates a phenomenal growth which lasted through some decades.<sup>25</sup>

It is evident that an increase in urban problems due to poor urban management, uncontrolled growth, urbanization and rapid urban transformation are bad indicators of development. On the other hand, it is interesting to note that rapid urban transformation, may not pose severe environmental issues if it is effectively controlled and managed. Curitiba, for example, is a fast-rising city in Brazil with fewer major environmental issues<sup>26</sup>. This, therefore, connotes that whilst the majority of a country's GDP is generated in urban regions, urban expansion does not necessarily represent a bad thing when properly managed.

Quite unfortunately, urban populations have grown in most developing countries without the services and infrastructure required for long-term survival.<sup>27</sup> Local and regional governments pay little attention to this environmental concerns and exacerbating the problems.<sup>28</sup> This corroborates Alberti's argument that 'Urbanization occurs so swiftly in today's world in such a way that the ability of local governments to provide adequate housing, infrastructure, and other necessary services is generally overburdened in developing countries.'<sup>29</sup>

Nonetheless, both in terms of space and people, Ogbomoso's urban growth has continually outpaced the city's infrastructure and service growth. It has resulted in a substantial portion of the metropolitan population being deprived of access to basic infrastructure. Basic services such as housing, water, sewage, drainage, roads, and power supply are so epileptic beyond imagination. For instance Oyewole in "Oyo/Ogbomoso Road, Shame of a Nation" protests that,



*Writing about the deplorable condition of the Oyo/Ogbomoso federal road is repeating a one line-poem severally for a deaf and dumb to recite. But we must keep talking until we are heard, and the road is rehabilitated. We have to say however that when a poor man blows the alarm, he receives a poor response, but people are dying on the road. Goods worth billions of naira perish on a daily basis. It is rather appalling that the oldest and shortest route between the Southwest and northern part of Nigeria is this bad.<sup>30</sup>*

In recent years, Ogbomoso has witnessed more physical expansion and opening up of new road networks resulting to the city enveloping many of the smaller settlements surrounding it. The absorbed settlements of Onitinrin, Osuru, Odoje, Igbon, Tewure, Agric, Olope, Oladokun Ogbomoso are very accessible both from outside and within the city. New roads are constructed, and the old ones are rehabilitated. These accessible roads are always clogged up when workers are going to or returning from work.

Additionally, traffic jams are a common occurrence in Ogbomoso due to limited transportation infrastructures (road layouts) and negligence by the authorities. There are also unlicensed and unfit drivers and vehicles that are not roadworthy. Different types of vehicles (trucks and cars) ply the same roads with hawkers and stores on sidewalks and roads. Many of the road users lack knowledge of traffic regulations and instructions, and bad traffic management is to blame for traffic congestions. Because of this, the majority of Ogbomoso's population cannot afford an improved transportation system. For instance, it takes more than an hour to travel ten kilometers on average as the roadways in the city pose grave dangers to people and automobiles. According to findings, traffic congestion caused by a rise in the number of cars is the most pressing problem that requires road dualization in Ogbomoso<sup>31</sup>. This supports Gbadegesin and Aluko's claims



that fast urbanization and poor planning have resulted to severe traffic congestions in most Nigerian cities.<sup>32</sup> The water delivery system is likewise unavailable or inadequate, leading to low water quality and quantity for the residents. During the summer, the metropolitan population is severely affected by water shortages, particularly drinking water. Electricity cuts or power outages are also another bottleneck experienced by the inhabitants of Ogbomoso city.

The prevalence of poverty in developing countries is alarming. Cities are hubs and havens of exceptional options for the wealthy people, but a harsh reality for the poor. Although it is commonly considered that urban poverty is lower than rural poverty as a result of urbanization, shreds of evidence suggest that the absolute number of impoverished and undernourished people in cities is constantly increasing.<sup>33</sup> This is due mainly to a lack of access to clean water, sanitation, and health services. Thus, poverty is perpetuated. Many of the urban poor's money is spent on medical care, which makes them more susceptible to losing their jobs and having less to feed on when they are forced to miss work due to poor health conditions. This keeps families imprisoned in a cycle of poverty.<sup>34</sup> Poverty has also been identified as a major contributor to violent crimes in cities. The view that one-sixth of the world's population today lives in shanty towns suggests that such settlements are considered to be breeding grounds for societal ills such as crime, drug addiction and alcoholism and illiteracy<sup>35</sup>.

Like other growth centres and highly populated settlements, urban poverty is a significant concern in Ogbomoso, as it is in other emerging cities across the world.<sup>36</sup> The challenge of reducing urban poverty has become more difficult due to the rapid rise of the population as a result of migration of the rural poor to urban cities. Also, due to Ogbomoso's urban growth, social imbalance has become a significant concern.<sup>37</sup> Without doubt, most of Ogbomoso's communities and other urban centres in the country are either apathetic to the needs of the vast



majority of the population or, at best, are focused on the demands of the wealthy and powerful at the expense of the masses. Noticeably, among these urban cities, unemployment has become the means through which people use violence to acquire money and fend for themselves, resulting in insecurity in Ogbomoso. As a result, living in the city becomes difficult and unsatisfactory to some people. Friendly social conducts and communal or shared feelings are dwindling. The main reasons for social imbalances are closely tied to opportunity unevenness, unmanageable population growth, lack of wage-earning options, and widespread failure of government to cater for the need of the populace. As a result, Ogbomoso's cities and many other cities in Nigeria are becoming uninhabitable due to a lack of fair opportunities, insecurity, and a better social life for its inhabitants.

Urbanization has impacts on the environment in Ogbomoso. To many people, problems associated with pollution in cities mostly include air, water, and noise pollution, as well as solid waste issues. Industrialisation and urbanisation cause the quality of environment, air, water, and soil to deteriorate significantly (use of fossil fuels in industries and transportation). This could not be totally attributed to Ogbomoso. Another important thing to note is the urban encroachment on rural land, as well as the impact of metropolitan expansion on the livelihoods of the people. Put differently, local entrepreneurs with huge capitals are not supporting local development initiatives after acquiring the lands. Many households do not have much means of livelihood and this makes most families to venture into petty trading as against the usual agricultural practice for sustenance.<sup>38</sup> Rural hinterlands in Ogbomoso are being encroached upon by cities, resulting in a scarcity of local farmlands, which pushes farmers to cultivate increasingly remote lands or abandon farming. In a study done across several communities in Ogbomoso, Adeboyejo and Abolade argue that the largely agrarian population's reflexive responses to incursions on agricultural land has been to



move further away from settlements to continue their farming pursuits.<sup>39</sup> By implication, the encroachment leads to a process known as "*slumisation*" of peri-urban areas, resulting to a settlement pattern that could be described as a network of disadvantaged communities. Abolade attributes this to the lack basic utilities and services such as power, clean drinking water, and motorable roads.<sup>40</sup>

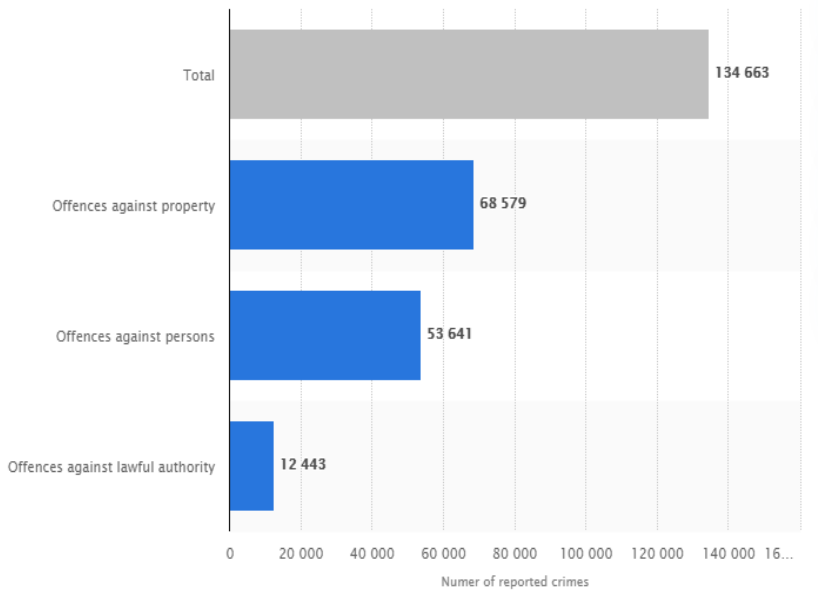
Thus, the result of rapid urbanisation is that agricultural lands are converted into urban settlements and this has seriously affected food production in the communities because majority of the population abandon farming activities to seek white collar jobs. Unfortunately, primary resources are being exploited. Bricks are dug up in large areas around towns, while woods are cut down. The plundering of water bodies, forests and rivers among others are the challenges that follow urbanization in most places like Ogbomoso<sup>41</sup>

Urban challenges such as poverty has been increasing in Nigeria. The country is confronted with a myriad of problems and complex as these problems are, what causes them has to be clearly understood before solutions could be proffered. Crime tends to increase in high-population areas with less or no planning to mitigate it while it decreases in areas with low-population concentrations. This is due to the fact that increasing urbanization, industry, and migration to cities promote a desire to survive even when resources are scarce. As a result, Nigerian cities today face a number of issues in terms of crime and insecurity. The figure below shows crimes reported in Ogbomoso in 2017.



## Crimes Reported in Ogbomoso in 2017

Fig 2



Sources: (Statista, 2021)

The data shows that in 2017, over 135 thousand crimes were reported in Nigeria. Property crimes accounted for about 70 thousand of the total instances, making up the majority of the total. There were more than 50 thousand reports of crimes against people. Defining the Nigerian criminal scene lately, are political instability, citizen disenfranchisement, terrorism, and violence against persons, property among others. According to the Global Peace Index, Nigeria is one of the world's least peaceful countries. Furthermore, according to the Global Terrorism Index, Nigeria is the third-most terrorised country in the world after Afghanistan and Iraq.<sup>42</sup> Mass killings, or genocide, are another severe menace in Nigeria and it has been



indicated that the country has the second-highest genocide risk in Africa, and it is the sixth-highest genocide risk worldwide<sup>43</sup>.

With regards to the Nigeria urban crime-related and insecurity issues, several researchers have identified social, economic, cultural, and political challenges as the root causes of criminal activities in urban societies.<sup>44</sup> Therefore, this shows that urbanization even though has a positive influence on society and the people but it incites social and economic class conflicts, making the bulk of the poor further destitute. Slums, squatter developments, and the segregation of urban residents along economic and educational lines, are issues that must be addressed. In this sense, the study contends that, if not effectively managed, urbanization may drive jobless or low-income earners to take incorrect paths to make a livelihood.

As a result of the lack of security facilities and services, overcrowding, and the inability of the local councils to provide required amenities, inadequate public transportation means and working policy, many residents of Ogbomoso have become vulnerable and helpless in times of disasters or emergencies. There have recently been multiple incidents of kidnappings, ritual killings, murders, abductions, car snatchings, and other security breaches in Ogbomoso<sup>45</sup>. Even while the situation is not worse in comparison to other cities in the country, it should be emphasised that a rising promising city with such instability and anxieties will gradually erode the city's welfare, life and living satisfaction.<sup>46</sup>

Gunmen suspected to be kidnappers usually abduct people in the town and several others are kidnapped in different towns. Though majority of the abducted victims are released, they only gained their freedoms after millions of Naira has been paid as ransom.

Another major challenge that comes with urbanization is food shortage. Agriculture in both urban and rural areas is threatened by the high incidence of rural-to-urban migration. In rural areas,

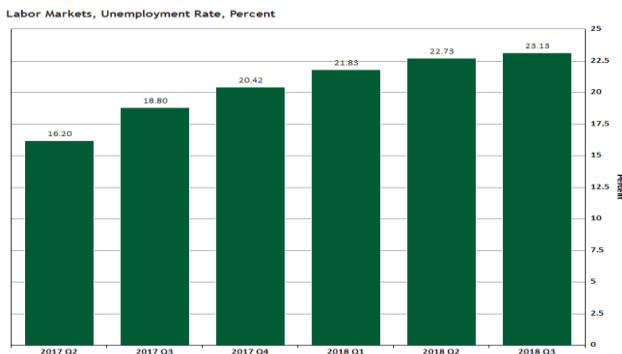




large numbers of people who work in the agricultural sector move to metropolitan areas in search of opportunities such as wage labour in manufacturing and processing industries, while some go into informal enterprises.<sup>47</sup> Several other challenges, such as banditry and the Fulani herdsmen menace in the country, have made farming less popular in Ogbomoso and its environs, as many farmers have fled the rural environment for cities for fear of being kidnapped, raped, or killed on their farmlands. Additionally, more agricultural land has been developed in suburbs, and significant tracts of the land in area have been redeveloped for residential purposes or inaccessible for agricultural purposes in.

An increase in the unemployment rate is a major challenge of urbanization in Ogbomoso. The expanding quantity of job seekers in both the formal and informal sectors of the urban economy have been one of the key repercussions of rapid urbanisation in most densely populated areas<sup>48</sup>. Urbanization has a substantial impact on city unemployment rates. Unemployment is extremely high in all Nigerian cities, owing primarily to the large number of migrants from the country's rural areas<sup>49</sup>

### Unemployment Rate in Nigeria (2018 Q3)



Sources: (NBS, 2021)



The figure above shows that the unemployment rate since 2017 has been on a drastic rise to Q3 of 2018. Currently, 33.3%, or 23.2% of the approximately 70 million people in Nigeria who should be working are unemployed (NBS, 2021). Among many reasons for the unemployment situation is that the country's dire economic status has been on a dwindling trend since the economic recession of 2016. In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, the country fell into another economic downturn, the worse in many years. Nevertheless, uncertainty and unemployment have resulted from the poor performance of various areas of the economy, particularly the farming sector. Agricultural labour and output have been harmed by the periodic farmer-herder conflicts. Another important problem is the economy's lack of emphasis on the country's infrastructure. Farmers, for example, must transport their products to markets but the roads connecting the production centres (farmlands) and the markets (towns) are in bad conditions. Power supply is unreliable, and security is inadequate. These elements add up to a low investment level.<sup>50</sup>

### **Conclusion**

For emerging nations, urbanisation and environmental degradation make economic growth an uphill task. The study focuses on Ogbomoso as a case study to highlight the concerns of urban population expansion and the resulting challenges of urban sustainability. Both pull and push factors are driving Ogbomoso's growth, but service provision and money-making options are not keeping up. As a result, the city would suffer from inadequate infrastructure, social insecurity, natural and man-made risks. Thus, poor urban administration becomes a trend over the years.

This paper reveals that sustainable urban development is enhanced by good governance. When it comes to the federal and state governments it is deficient in proper openness and



accountability, decentralisation, involvement, and coordination as well as a sense of control. It is therefore inevitable that without proper tackling of urban challenges by government and non-governmental organisations, economic growth would not be properly addressed. Ogbomoso population has already exploded and could go out of hand soon.

Furthermore, the study underscores that urban development and planning should be the responsibility of the local government. The misplaced priority of the federal government interferes with national policy such as budgets need some attention. Equally, Federal and state governments should invest more seriously, and energy should be directed towards providing a master plan and rules for development facilitation services and finances across the country's states and cities.

Additionally, the paper reveals that an all-encompassing policy that would tackle the needs of the people and the sustainability of urban cities is very important. The benefit such policies reflect on the society and its sustainability is significant. This is because a strong and engaged civil society can stimulate effective local governance as well as help the central government understand peoples' needs and come up with the right solutions to mitigate them. Therefore, more attention must be paid to environmental and social issues in urban development in Ogbomoso. In a situation where the government cannot address the challenges that accompany urbanization, privatisation of services and amenities would be an ideal strategy that could bring about efficiency.

In conclusion the federal, state and local governments must all focus on areas that are vital to the majority of urban dwellers. They should work together and prioritize the most pressing needs of the urban dwellers. The present situation calls for drastic and implementation of sustainable strategies for long term development. It is important that human wellbeing and satisfaction are prioritised above those of animals. Therefore,



there should be no delay in implementing reforms in administrative institutions because it could lead to balanced regional growths as well as the overall development of the entire country.



## Endnotes

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