Mexico

Disease & Health

Use the data from the [World Health Organization’s website](https://data.who.int/countries) to complete the top portion of your research portfolio page for your assigned country.

Topics to research:

* Shift to non-communicable diseases (such as heart disease and diabetes- transitioning on ETM?)
* High rates of maternal mortality and infant mortality rates
* COVID impacts

Social & Economic Developments

Topics to research:

* Gaping income inequality
* Large informal economy
* Large dependence on US economy

Migration

Topics to research:

* Emigration to US

Urbanization & Overpopulation

Vol. 74, No. 1, "Global Urbanization: Nations, Cities, and Communities in Transformation" (Fall/Winter 2021).

By Misael Galdamez and Amy K. Glasmeier

[“The Unequal Geography of Opportunity in Megacities: A Spatial and Living Wage Analysis of Mexico City”](https://jia.sipa.columbia.edu/content/unequal-geography-opportunity-megacities-mexico-city)

Global urbanization is accelerating at a dizzying pace. We live in a world where 34 cities break the size barrier of 10 million people, most of which are predominately located in Global South regions. Central Asia boasts 11 megacities, the most globally, while nine are in India and six in Latin America. Various forces underlie the formation of today’s megacities, from political strife to agricultural modernization, to increasing climate variation. These factors and more add up to increasing concentration of populations in large global cities in an effort to find safety, security, and prosperity.

Such conspicuous forces contribute to a myriad of challenges that diverge from the initial era of megacity development. In the early 2000s, Edward Glaeser and colleagues foretold that future megacities would be overcrowded, susceptible to high crime rates, lacking in infrastructure, and short on jobs, education, water, and housing. In other words, the fundamentals would be missing or woefully inadequate to meet the basic needs of their citizens.

Highlighting this unequal moment of global urbanization, we present the case study of Mexico City, the second largest of Latin American cities. As in other megacities, Mexico City has bifurcated, splitting the low- and high-wage workforces into two separate factions. As the city continues to grow, urban congestion, endless traffic jams, water shortages, air pollution, and massive inequities expanded unabated. And as with other Global South megacities, the poor and economically vulnerable bear the burden of the uneven geography of opportunity. Mexico City falls short of its promise to provide an adequate quality of life for most of its citizens.

Choose an article to read related to the urbanization issues/ proposed solutions in Mexico:

* [A New Approach to Urban Transport & Housing in Mexico](https://urbantransitions.global/en/news/a-new-approach-to-urban-transport-and-housing-in-mexico/)
* [Tackling Climate Change in Mexico: Lessons from Four Frontrunning Cities](https://urbantransitions.global/en/news/tackling-climate-change-in-mexico-lessons-from-four-frontrunning-cities/)

Climate Change & Environmental Concerns

Topics to research:

* Climate change impacting land usable for farming
* Water crisis

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Disease & Health

Use the data from the [World Health Organization’s website](https://data.who.int/countries) to complete the top portion of your research portfolio page for your assigned country.

* [WHO Injects Fresh Support into DR Congo Vaccination Drive](https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/03/1161021)
* [Preventing Ebola in the Republic of Congo](https://www.unicef.org/congo/recits/preventing-ebola-republic-congo)
* [Overcoming Barriers to Tuberculosis Care in the DRC](https://ccp.jhu.edu/2025/01/27/tb-drc-overcoming-barriers/)

Social & Economic Development

Topics to research:

* Vast amount of resources, but lack of proper infrastructure makes it difficult for economy to profit from them/ distribute them
* DRC is one of the poorest countries, with one of the highest percentages of people leaving under $2.15/day
* Gender violence against women
  + [UNICEF article: “A fresh start through a sewing studio”](https://www.unicef.org/drcongo/en/stories/fresh-start-through-sewing-studio)

Migration

Topics:

* Internal conflicts = high levels of IDPs (internally displaced persons)
* Lots of refugees and asylum seekers
  + [UNHCR Article: “Democratic Republic of the Congo Refugee Crisis Explained”](https://www.unrefugees.org/news/democratic-republic-of-the-congo-refugee-crisis-explained/)

Urbanization & Overpopulation

* [New Report Unveils Deepening Housing Crisis in Kinshasa, DRC](https://www.nyu.edu/about/news-publications/news/2025/february/new-report-unveils-deepening-housing-crisis-in-kinshasa--drc.html)

Climate Change & Environment

* Dependency on agriculture threatened by climate change
  + [UNDP Article: “Climate Change impacts on indigenous peoples of the DRC”](https://www.adaptation-undp.org/climate-change-impacts-indigenous-peoples-drc#:~:text=Natural%20resources%20(spring%20water%2C%20fruits,more%20frequent%20among%20indigenous%20groups.)

Nigeria

Disease & Health

Use the data from the [World Health Organization’s website](https://data.who.int/countries) to complete the top portion of your research portfolio page for your assigned country.

* [The Double Challenge of Malaria & Malnutrition in Kano, Nigeria](https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/latest/double-challenge-malaria-and-malnutrition-kano-nigeria)
* [Health & HIV](https://www.unicef.org/nigeria/health-hiv#:~:text=Nigeria%20has%20190%2C950%20HIV%2FAIDS,new%20infections%20recorded%20in%202015.)
* [At a Glance: HIV in Nigeria](https://www.beintheknow.org/understanding-hiv-epidemic/data/glance-hiv-nigeria)

Social & Economic Development

Topics:

* Record inflation of povery rates → increased violence
* Economic dependency on oil

Migration

Topics:

* Concerns of “Brain Drain”, especially in regard to healthcare workers
* IDPs (internally displaced persons)- one of the highest percentages of IDPs

Urban Growth

* Rapid urban growth of Lagos→ infrastructure can’t keep up, leading to informal settlements
* Problems of massive population growth related to urban growth- need to implement family planning/ed?

Climate Change & Environment

* Food insecurity tied to climate change
* Climate change also tied to increased conflicts over resources

Philippines

Disease & Health

Use the data from the [World Health Organization’s website](https://data.who.int/countries) to complete the top portion of your research portfolio page for your assigned country.

* Major concerns over tuberculosis outbreaks, and in particular the high impacts on the slums
* Dengue fever
  + [Guardian Article: “Philippines officials offer cash for mosquitoes amid rise in dengue cases”](https://www.adaptation-undp.org/climate-change-impacts-indigenous-peoples-drc#:~:text=Natural%20resources%20(spring%20water%2C%20fruits,more%20frequent%20among%20indigenous%20groups.)

Social & Economic Development

* Income inequality
  + [Outreach International Article: “The state of poverty in the Philippines: what are the causes?”](https://outreach-international.org/blog/poverty-in-the-philippines/#:~:text=Living%20conditions%20in%20densely%20populated,and%20quality%20education%20remains%20uneven.)
* Philippines as a source for cheap outsourced labor- sweatshops(?)

Migration

* Emigration is a key policy to boost the economy with remittances

Urbanization

* Overpopulation in Manila
  + [Guardian Article: “Manila: A megacity where the living must share with the dead”](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2010/oct/15/philippines-overpopulation-crisis#:~:text=But%20as%20we%20brace%20ourselves,of%20a%20million%20every%20year.)
* Flooding in metro Manila

Climate Change & Environment

* Mass pollution, especially of plastic
* Geographically vulnerable to natural disasters

Brazil

Disease & Health

Use the data from the [World Health Organization’s website](https://data.who.int/countries) to complete the top portion of your research portfolio page for your assigned country.

* mosquito -based diseases (malaria, dengue, zika, yellow fever)

Economic & Social Development

* One of the most inequal societies- huge poverty gap
  + [Agencia IBGE Noticias Article: “Poverty drops to 31.6% of the population in 2022, after reaching 36.7% in 2021”](https://agenciadenoticias.ibge.gov.br/en/agencia-news/2184-news-agency/news/38574-poverty-drops-to-31-6-of-the-population-in-2022-after-reaching-36-7-in-2021)
* Social Inequalities based on race and gender
  + Amnesty International: [“Brazil 2023”](https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/americas/south-america/brazil/report-brazil/)

Migration

* Brazilian emigration to the US
  + [Migration Policy Institute Article: “Brazilian Immigrants in the United States”](https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/brazilian-immigrants-united-states)
* Venezuelan immigrants & refugees in Brazil
  + [Refugees International Article: “The World should take note of Brazil’s refugee policy”](https://www.refugeesinternational.org/latinoamerica21-the-world-should-take-note-of-brazils-refugee-policy/)

Urbanization

* Sao Paulo overpopulation & urban struggles
* *favelas*
  + [Vox article & video: Inside Rio’s Favelas, the city’s impoverished, neglected neighborhoods](https://www.vox.com/2016/8/1/12322566/rio-favela-olympics-brazil)

Climate Change & Environment

* Complications that accompany deforestation of the Amazon

India

Disease & Health

Use the data from the [World Health Organization’s website](https://data.who.int/countries) to complete the top portion of your research portfolio page for your assigned country.

China

Disease & Health

Use the data from the [World Health Organization’s website](https://data.who.int/countries) to complete the top portion of your research portfolio page for your assigned country.