

Urbanisation: Policy Questions and Research Challenges

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Outline

- Urbanisation: past, present and future
- Work at ODI: rural-urban linkages, chronic poverty, growth and investment, water and sanitation, food policy
- Implications for policy questions and research

Rural – Urban Linkages

- *Overcoming the rural-urban policy dichotomy*
- India findings:
 - Close links between rural livelihood strategies and urban areas
- Implications:
 - Recognise the contribution of rural people to urban economic development
 - Plan for mobile populations

Chronic poverty in urban areas

- *Push factors from rural to urban*
- Entries and exits from urban poverty
- CPRC findings:
 - Urban growth mirrors national growth
 - Macro-economic reforms have disproportional effects in urban centres
 - Informal work – a mixed blessing?
- Implications:
 - Managing the structure and type of labour opportunities
 - Reducing risk in the informal sector

Sectors

- Water:
 - supply- versus demand-side approaches
 - constraints to community-based approaches
- Food:
 - Implication for patterns of production and consumption
- Implications:
 - Public sector costs?
 - Appropriate mix of public and private action?

Primacy and mega-cities

- *Defining 'urban'*
- What causes primate cities?
- What retrospective?
- What about small towns?

Future policy and research challenges

- Do we understand the politics or the political economy of urbanisation well enough?
- Does improved well-being for the urban poor require greater urban investment? Or greater rural investment?