

Urbanisation and megacities

Cities of more than eight million people are known as megacities and most are in poorer or developing countries. By 2015, there will be 33 megacities – 27 of them in developing countries. Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia, is one of these megacities.

While the population of Jakarta city centre is 9.5 million, the greater area of urbanised Jakarta (Jabodetabek – see map below) has a population of 27.9 million. Three million people travel into the centre of Jakarta on a daily basis.

From 2000-2010, the city has grown at a rate of 3.6 percent per annum. On the other hand, green spaces in Jakarta have been reducing. In 1965, more than 35 percent of Jakarta's land area was green and in 2011, it was only 9.3 percent.

Like most megacities, there is great inequality of wealth in Jakarta. US President Barack Obama attended school in a very wealthy part of Jakarta – while others attend schools with much poorer facilities. There are major shopping malls and expensive cars in Jakarta alongside street vendors and motorbikes.

Jakarta is a coastal city built on a low, flat basin in north-west Java. Forty percent of Jakarta lies below sea level and 13 rivers and canals flow through the city to the Java Sea. These rivers, as well as high ocean tides, combine with Jakarta's low topography to make it vulnerable to flooding. Clogged sewage pipes and waterways are also causes of flooding. The increased urban sprawl upstream means that rain is no longer absorbed by the soil and ground run-off means that sediment and waste is washed downstream. People continue to build along the rivers that flow north into the ports of Jakarta and migrants find it is cheaper to live in these areas.

Every year, large parts of Jakarta are flooded during the rainy season, from November to April. Floods were especially severe in 2002, 2007 and 2013. In 2007, 60 percent of Jakarta was inundated with water causing over 70 deaths and displacing 340,000 of its inhabitants. Flooding also leads to dengue fever and diarrhoea.

The World Bank has initiated a flood mitigation project (2012-2017) to dredge and rehabilitate the city's 11 flood-ways and canals. The scale of



Source: World Bank

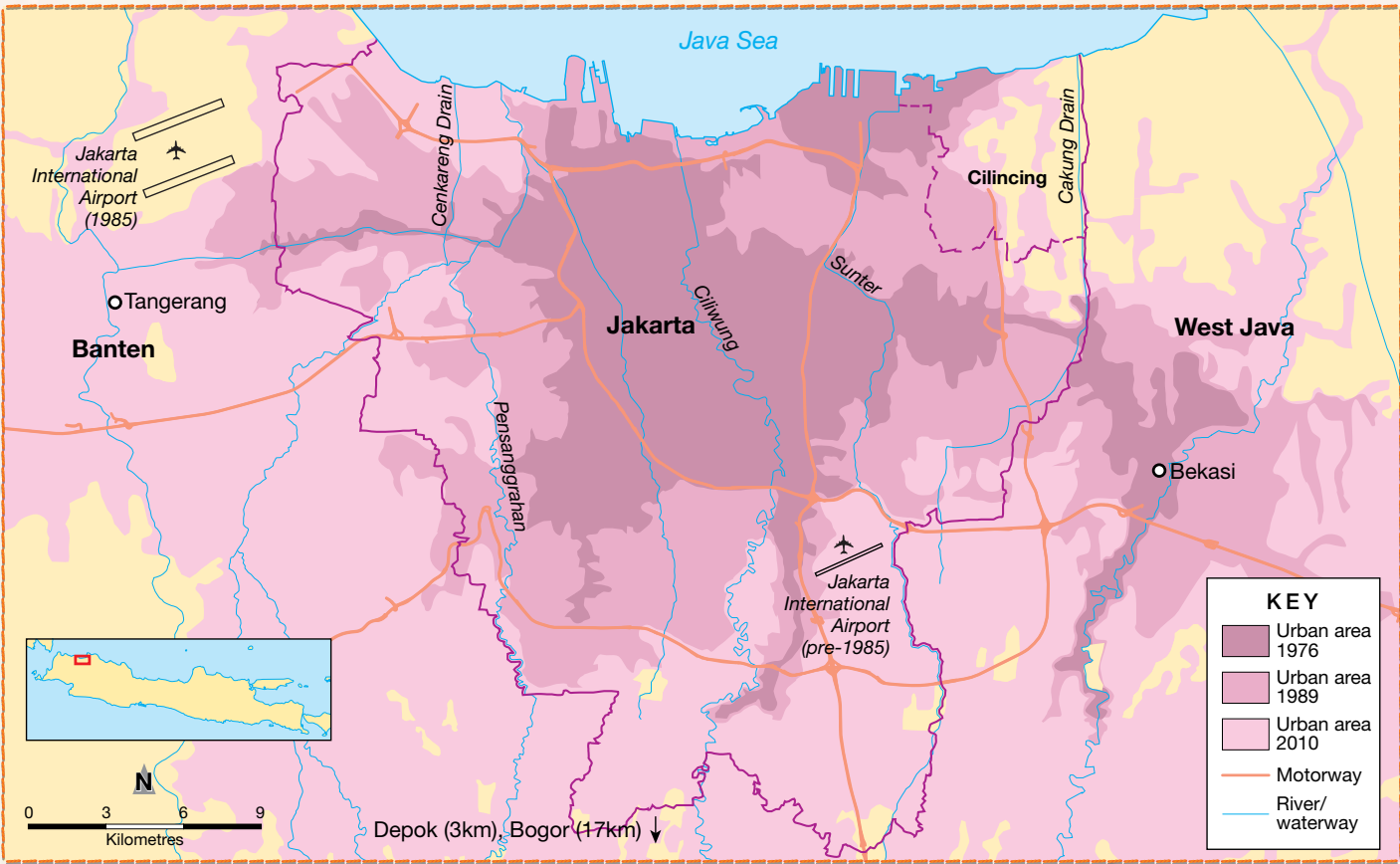
Poor and overcrowded housing is common along the banks of Jakarta's polluted rivers and canals.

the project, at a cost of \$189 million, is too great for any non-government organisation but is appropriate for a multilateral aid organisation like the World Bank in providing a loan to the provincial government of Jakarta.

In 2012, AusAID worked with local governments in Indonesia to connect more than 330,000 people in urban areas to water and sanitation.

AusAID has provided finance for the project after the local government has connected the water service. The cost of piped water has reduced expenses for the people as it can be up to 20 times cheaper and of better quality than water trucked in by vendors.

Map showing urban growth of Jakarta (1976-2010)



Jabodetabek is the name for the urban agglomeration of Jakarta, Bogor, Depok, Tangerang and Bekasi. In the past 20 years, the urban sprawl from Jakarta means these cities have now become one of the world's largest urban centres, with a population of 27.9 million and a population density of 9,400 people per square kilometre. Sydney has a population of 3.8 million and a population density of 2,100 per km².

For you to do

1. What does the map show about how Jakarta has changed from 1976 to 2010? What are some of the positive, negative and interesting aspects of this change?

Positive	Negative	Interesting

2. Suggest possible reasons why people continue to move into large cities like Jakarta.
3. Suggest reasons why Jakarta is vulnerable to regular flooding. Why are the poor more vulnerable to flooding?
4. Find out about other megacities in the developing world. What are the similarities and differences between life in Jakarta and other megacities?

Why do people move into megacities?

Yulia and Ayang live in Cilincing, a district in the north east of Jakarta (see map p.24). Much of the housing there is built on flood plains. It is one of the most vulnerable areas where the urban poor live along the coast, river banks and canals. Like many Indonesians, both Yulia and Ayang migrated to Jakarta from a rural, agricultural area.

Yulia's story

My name is Yulia and I have a husband and three children. Together, we moved from the country in 2007 when I had my third child. We used to work on my parents' farm. The family farm gave us food to eat but we could not earn any regular income.

We decided to move to the city to earn some money – to work in jobs where we could earn a regular income. We came from the country and chose to move to Jakarta because we could live with my husband's family.

Now we share my husband's parents' house with 11 other family members – nine children and seven adults altogether. It is very crowded.



Yulia does her laundry work outside her home. This is the only running water in their house of 16 people.

Now my husband works in a paint factory and I work doing laundry. The income from my husband's work is not enough to buy food each week and that is why I have to work too. The main food we eat is rice, noodles, egg, tofu and vegetables.

I like living in Jakarta because it is close to family and I can work here to help bring in some income. I don't like the overcrowding of living with 16 people in the one house. That brings conflict with other members of the family. It means I don't have much independence to care for my children in the way that I would like.

I really want my children to stay in school and not drop out – like I did. My parents could not keep me in school and I had to get a job to help the family. I hope my children can finish their education and have a better life than me.

Ayang's story

My name is Ayang and I have been living in the Cilincing area of Jakarta for 20 years. I came here with my husband to look for work but we are now separated and I live with my three children. Rural areas might have a stronger sense of community but sometimes there is also gossip and less freedom. I like the greater freedom in Jakarta. On the negative side, there is a lot of pollution and traffic congestion.

I now sell sandals at a local market but the government has plans to demolish our housing estate, including the markets, and I don't know what will happen. They want to extend the port to increase international trade and build a tollway to improve traffic. The government wants to buy the land for a very low price and the community is trying to negotiate a better deal.



Every day, millions of people travel into Jakarta. While some just come to work for the day, others like Yulia and Ayang migrate from rural areas looking for a new life.

Issues facing people in megacities



Source: World Bank



Source: World Bank

For you to do

1. Look at the photographs of Jakarta (above) and choose the most appropriate caption.

- Photo No. ____ Poor housing, overcrowding and waste management
- Photo No. ____ Traffic congestion and air pollution
- Photo No. ____ Flooding is a regular hazard in the wet season.
- Photo No. ____ Without access to safe drinking water, poor communities have to buy water from street vendors.

2. What are the reasons for Yulia and Ayang migrating to Jakarta? What do they like and dislike about the city?

3. Jakarta can be represented in many different ways. Look at the images at worldvision.com.au/schoolresources and complete the worksheet.

Urbanisation strategies

World Vision Indonesia: Yacobus Runtuwene

I grew up in the Cilincing area of Jakarta and now manage World Vision's work in the area (see map p.24).

World Vision has been working in the Cilincing area of Jakarta for 11 years. It is not enough to give people aid – food, school uniforms or books. We seek to empower communities and train the people to bring about change in their own community.



Yacobus Runtuwene at work in Jakarta



Many people in Jakarta work in the informal sector like this food stall.

Cilincing community member: Nuhr



Ibu Nuhr cutting peanuts for her snack food preparation.

I have been working as a volunteer with World Vision for 11 years. I first started with a program for mothers to clean up the local environment – part of a campaign to improve the environment, clean the canals and reduce flooding called “Clean and Green”. This was an important program that has continued to affect the way people take better care of our area.

I also work as an educator for pregnant mothers. I meet with about 100 mothers per month at the local community health centre. This involves weighing the children and helping to support the mothers with breastfeeding and nutrition. These are poor mothers who would not learn about these things anywhere else. It really helps to improve the health of both the mothers and their children.

I am also engaged with an economic development program organised by World Vision. Along with other women, I have learnt how to prepare and pack a snack food made from wheat, eggs, peanuts and coconut oil. I can produce 180 packs in a week and this has been an important source of income for my family – and the families of the other women.

I am positive that the community will continue to improve our area of Jakarta because we have developed a local committee to prepare for the time when World Vision is no longer here. We now have the training, information and knowledge to continue to improve our community. At first, people expected direct materials from World Vision, but they now appreciate that the training and empowerment is more important and powerful to bring about long-term change.

Cilincing community member: Ayang



Ibu Ayang works with World Vision as a volunteer community leader.

I became involved with World Vision 11 years ago when I joined the mothers' program to clean the environment and earn some food. Over the years, World Vision has helped to transform the community. People are now much more aware of their environment and the need to take care of it.

Also, I have seen the children and youth groups help support the young people with their school work and healthy sports activities. Problems with drugs among young people have reduced.

I have now become involved in a range of other programs. In 2009, I trained as a HIV/AIDS educator for the community. I am one of 10 leaders in the area who train 20 people each month about the prevention of HIV and AIDS.

At the beginning, the Muslim community was concerned that a Christian organisation wanted to convert the local people. But the community's attitude has changed because they have seen that World Vision seeks to communicate and support the whole community. I am not aware of any other NGOs working in my part of Jakarta.

We have formed a committee to plan for the day World Vision leaves and make sure that these changes will continue in Cilincing. Over the years I have learnt a lot from being involved with World Vision. I have grown in knowledge and been empowered with training that I could not normally afford. This can now help me to increase the income for my family of three children.

For you to do

1. Read the stories of Nuhr and Ayang. Identify the interventions to improve the liveability of the city and address the challenges of living in a megacity. Evaluate the interventions according to the following:

Intervention strategies	Evaluation criteria	Evidence
	Impact: Have the interventions made an impact in the community?	
	Approach: Has the community been involved in the intervention?	
	Sustainability: Has the intervention been sustainable?	

2. Why does Yacobus say, “It is not enough to give people aid – food, school uniforms or books”? How do the stories of Nuhr and Ayang show this?
3. Compare the challenges for an aid and development organisation to bring about change in a rural village of 3,000 people and a megacity of 10 million people. How would work in the two settings be similar and different?

Reflection and action

I was surprised to find out...	
The most interesting thing I learnt was...	
I would like to know more about...	
I don't understand...	
One thing I would like to do now is...	

Edward de Bono's thinking hats

Use de Bono's six thinking hats to explore Australia's engagement with Asia: Indonesia. This includes the DVD chapter and written resources.



White hat: What are some of the facts you learnt as a result of looking at this topic?



Red hat: How do you feel as a result of looking at this topic? Hopeful, angry, depressed, thankful, disappointed, something else?



Black hat: What were some of the negative aspects to this topic?



Yellow hat: What are some of the positive, encouraging or hopeful aspects of this topic?



Green hat: What are some ideas or possible actions that could address an issue in this topic?



Blue hat: What is the "big picture idea" behind this topic? What have you learnt about Australia's engagement with Indonesia?