

RISK DRIVER 3

LAND USE AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

SCORES LEGEND



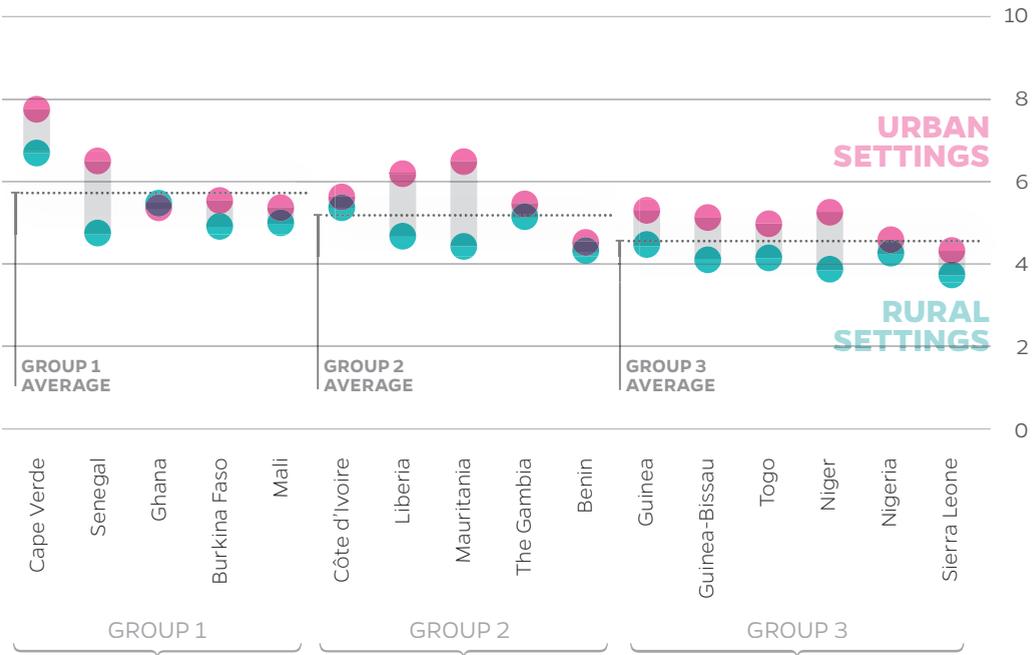
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takes into consideration factors including infrastructure, building codes and standards, rehabilitation and reconstruction practices, development plans and monitoring mechanisms. Here an important distinction is also made in the analysis between urban and rural settings.

COMPARED to the rest of the world, the West African region presents an overall deficiency in its infrastructure. As an example, only about 10 percent of the overall population has access to electricity. In rural areas this figure can be as low as 1 percent. The lack of adequate development plans through which risk could be better managed in both rural and urban settings needs to be addressed.

IN THE CONTEXT of West Africa, Risk Driver 3 indicators are critically affected by the phenomenon of rural exodus or out-migration. This has translated into the migration of 14 million people from rural to urban areas every year in subsaharan Africa, of which 70% move into slums, as estimated in a U.N. Habitat report. Indeed, the

LAND USE AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT IN RURAL AND URBAN SETTINGS IN WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES



region is witnessing rapid growth in its urban population: from 90.2 million people living in cities in 2000, to 135.3 million (an almost 50% increase) in 2010. It is estimated that in 2020 the region will reach 195.3 million city dwellers, and that in 2030 West Africa will become predominantly urban. This is already the case in Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana and Liberia.

THE CONSEQUENCE is that West Africa now must face the challenges of urbanisation and related increased risk across a number of its cities. These include Porto Novo (Benin), Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), Accra (Ghana), Niamey (Niger), Lagos (Nigeria) and Lomé (Togo). Indeed, overcrowding, high unemployment rates, the expansion of unplanned settlements, and urban poverty can contribute to social tensions and ethnic or racial conflict. In addition, the response to rapid urban population growth may lead to rapid changes in land use and deteriorating environmental conditions.