



# Urban Issues and Challenges

## Urban Planning Improving Life in Lagos

### Makoko Floating School

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quiz



#### The Big Picture



#### Makoko

- Informal settlement located on the Lagos Lagoon.
- Current population is estimated at over 85,000 residents.
- Originally a fishing village that has grown into a densely populated area.
- Homes are built on stilts over the water, making it unique but vulnerable.
- Faces significant infrastructure and service challenges.



#### Issues in Lagos

- **Rapid Population Growth:** Lagos's population grows by over 600,000 people annually, equivalent to the entire population of Bristol each year.
- **Informal Settlements:** Makoko is an informal settlement on the edge of Lagos Lagoon, built on stilts to adapt to the aquatic environment.



#### Urban Planning Strategies

- **Makoko Floating School (2014):** A prototype designed as a sustainable solution for education in water-based communities. It provided classrooms for 60 students and served as a community hub.
- **Local Materials:** The school was constructed using bamboo, timber, and other local resources, reflecting the community's cultural and physical needs.
- **A-Frame Design:** Featured a triangular structure with a 1,000-square-foot play area for stability and functionality.



#### Key Terms



**Floating community** – A community built on water, designed to adapt to aquatic environments.



**Sustainable building** – Structures designed using eco-friendly materials and techniques, supporting both the environment and community needs.



**A-frame structure** – A triangular structure used in buildings for stability, particularly in floating environments.

- **Reconstruction:** The original floating school collapsed in 2016 due to heavy rain, but it has since been replaced with a new structure that continues to serve the community.



#### Improvements to QOL



##### Social improvements to quality of life

- **Educational Opportunities:** The Makoko Floating School provided an accessible educational facility for children, improving attendance rates and fostering community pride.
- **Community Hub:** The school also served as a community centre, supporting local social activities and bringing residents together.



##### Environmental improvements to quality of life

- **Adaptation to Rising Sea Levels:** The floating school serves as a model for future floating communities, which could support populations facing rising sea levels due to climate change.
- **Sustainable Living:** The school design was environmentally friendly, using local materials and adapting to the aquatic surroundings, promoting sustainability in urban planning.