Third, a sharp focus on the particular needs and priorities of children must be maintained in urban planning, infrastructure development, service delivery and broader efforts to reduce poverty and disparity. The international Child-Friendly Cities Initiative provides an example of the type of consideration that must be given children in every facet of urban governance.

Fourth, policy and practice must promote partnership between the urban poor and government at all its levels. Urban initiatives that foster such participation – and in particular those that involve children and young people – report better results not only for children but also for their communities.

Finally, everyone must work together to achieve results for children. International, national, municipal and community actors will need to pool resources and energies in support of the rights of marginalized and impoverished children growing up in urban environments. Narrowing the gaps to honour international commitments to all children will require additional efforts not only in rural areas but also within cities.

Clearly, children’s rights cannot be fulfilled and protected unless governments, donors and international organizations look behind the broad averages of development statistics and address the urban poverty and inequality that characterize the lives of so many children.

**Figure 1.4. Urban populations are growing fastest in Asia and Africa**

*World urban population 1950, 2010, 2050 (projected)*

Source: UNDESA, Population Division.