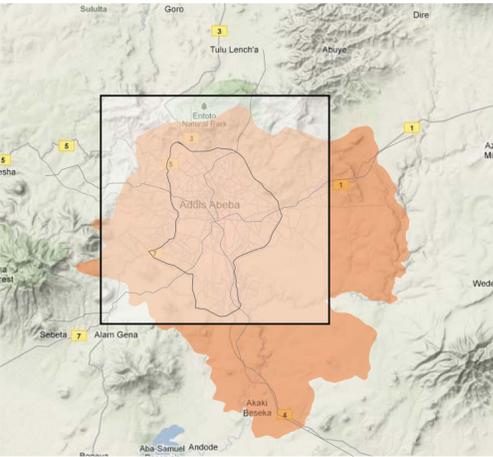


## Urban Expansion in Addis Abeba



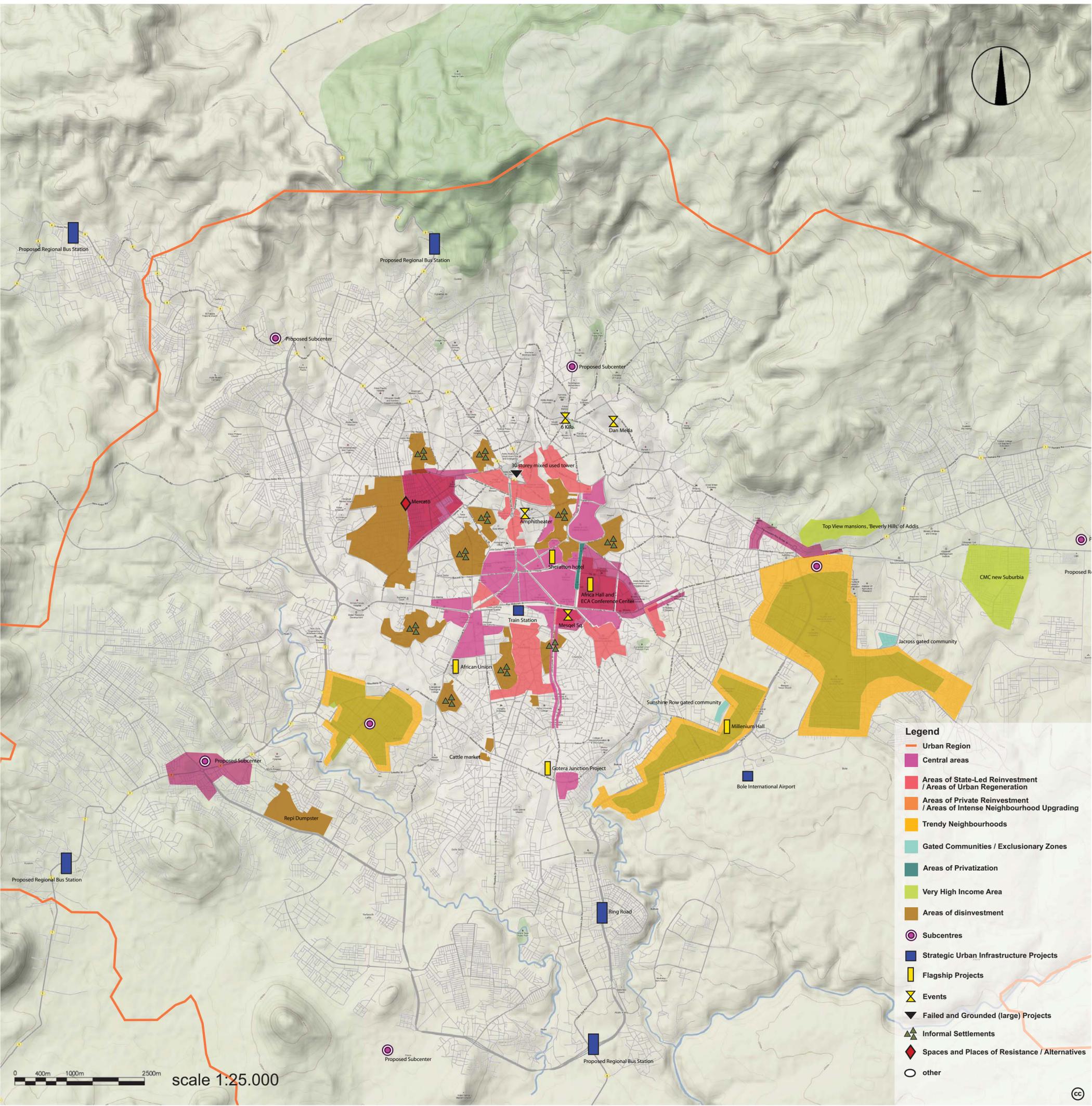
Given Ethiopia's history of being generally politically stable, it has become one of the main diplomatic centers of Africa. As such, the national government is essentially uprooting entire neighborhoods in favor of hotels, office buildings, and high-rises, completely transforming the city's image to better fit the model of a globally competitive city and to bring in more revenue. The majority of the thousands of displaced peoples typically lack the means to resettle, and the government, knowing this, has embarked on a massive project to build hundreds of subsidized condominiums. Most of the city residents are too poor to afford this subsidized housing, however, posing a major problem. No one is ensuring that the displaced people find new homes, and there are currently no studies about what is happening to them. Thus the social costs of these new condominium developments are only minimally accounted for by the government, potentially making them more detrimental to the city than advantageous.

When the government uproots people with their expansion, they are also destroying valuable farmland, de-

creasing the amount of land available for cultivation. Entire agricultural communities are moved and left with very little compensation for their land, with no other skills to rely upon in a city with already very few employment opportunities. The government expects them to use the small compensation money for investments in new livelihoods and homes, particularly in their new condominium project, but this does not often happen. This process of rapid urban development is working both to increase the populations of unemployed and homeless peoples, and to decrease the supply of fresh produce available, causing prices and food insecurity to increase.

Urban Expansion in Addis Ababa: Effects of the Decline of Urban Agriculture on Livelihood and Food Security  
 Mara Gittleman  
 Tufts University, 2009  
 Winner of the 2009 Citizen Science Paper Competition Undergraduate Level  
 Presented at the United Nations 17th Commission on Sustainable Development

Ethiopia 1'104'300 Km2 \* Inhabitants 79'221'000  
 Urban Region 530'14Km2 \* Inhabitants 4,567,857



# Addis Abeba

a small scale fabric of global mainstreams  
80% living in slums, 51% working in the informal sector

As an indigenous urban settlement, Addis Abeba initially expanded without any formal planning or control. The earliest settlements developed haphazardly around the king's palace and the camps ('sefers') of his generals (rases) and other dignitaries. It appears that just like the king, the generals preferred to live surrounded by the ranks and files of their subordinates. At the same time, and at least originally, substantial vacant spaces would separate the abodes of these dignitaries from those of their subordinates. This original settlement pattern, supported by the then prevailing social, cultural and economic

conditions, eventually led to the gradual filling up of those vacant spaces and the emergence of a residential structure where the wealthy lived side by side with the deprived. The mixed residential structure that began in those days was not altered by the changes that took place in its economic base as the country opened up to Western civilization in the early 20th century and subsequently during the short-lived Italian occupation. In keeping with the pattern of urban growth of the least urbanized countries, the country is currently witnessing one of the fastest rates of urban growth in the

world, namely an average five percent per annum. This combination of an enormous growth in population, small pattern mixed land use and informal development results in a dense meshwork of coexistence. While there is almost no areal or functional zoning, the globalization is to be read as a layer cake of mainstreams rather than a two dimensional layout.

SITUATION ANALYSIS OF INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IN ADDIS ABABA, ADDIS ABABA SLUM UPGRADING PROGRAMME, United Nations Human Settlements Programme



informal settlements as a consequence of uncontrolled growth.

High rise buildings, are being constructed all over the city which tries to align with the International Style, functioning as the symbols of economic development and modernity.

Low Cost Housing Construction  
Commissioned by: Addis Abeba City Government  
Financier: Addis Abeba City Government, Ethiopia  
Overall term: 2003 to 2009

The streets are full with advertising posters of the new western style buildings, product of the growing private real estate sector in Ethiopia.

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is becoming in general a prosperous construction market. Addis Abeba Ring Road Project used to be the first important project by which Chinese contractor open huge potential market in Ethiopian. Chinese contractors are attracted to Ethiopia for its political stability, consistent growth, and relatively wholesome legal system as compared to many other African states. The majority of the Chinese companies work in some form of infrastructure construction; a significant proportion engages specifically in road construction.

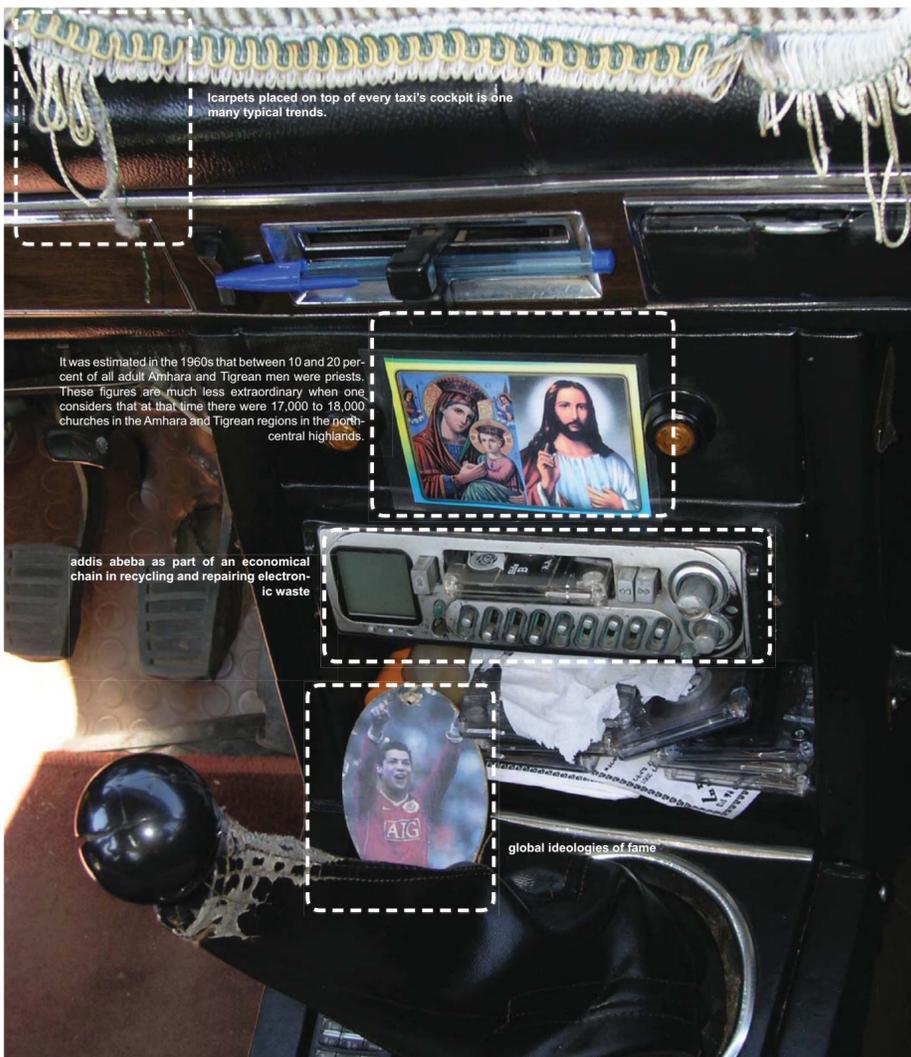
Minibus taxis are a mode of transport that falls between private transport and bus transport. The minibuses in Addis are mostly Toyota Hiace and have a blue-and-white color. They are preferred over public buses and taxis because they are cheap and flexible and operate on semi-fixed routes. They don't have fixed stops along their route, but instead the passenger is required to say where to stop. The minibus taxi has a crew member called a "weyala", who is shouting out the destination from the window to get hold of new passengers.

Today Addis looks like a huge construction site in a constant motion. Extreme population growth creating the need for rapid urbanization, coalesce with the vision of Addis to take a role as a global player.

## the coexistence of mainstreams - a global development

## contrasting the poor - an imported global trend

Over the last three decades, a few, predominantly high-income, residential areas have emerged, especially in the Bole and Old Airport areas. A new upper middle class residential area also seems to be in the making in the eastern peripheries of the city. Today, high-rise apartment and office blocks dot the fronts of the main streets in Addis Abeba, giving a rather misleading impression of a well-built, spacious city. Together with a mixed or apparently well-integrated residential structure, these impressive roadside buildings often effectively mask the predominantly low standards of most housing units and residential neighborhoods.



Carpets placed on top of every taxi's cockpit is one many typical trends.

It was estimated in the 1960s that between 10 and 20 percent of all adult Amhara and Tigrean men were priests. These figures are much less extraordinary when one considers that at that time there were 17,000 to 18,000 churches in the Amhara and Tigrean regions in the north-central highlands.

addis abeba as part of an economical chain in recycling and repairing electronic waste

global ideologies of fame

