



Generation 2030 | AFRICA

AUGUST 2014 | DIVISION OF DATA, RESEARCH, AND POLICY




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Generation 2030|AFRICA

Child demographics in Africa

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Generation 2030 | AFRICA

5.....Introduction

7.....Executive summary

13.....Chapter 1 | Child demographics in Africa

Total population

Child, adolescent, working-age and elderly populations

Women of reproductive age

Fertility

Births

Mortality, life expectancy and dependency

Density and urbanization

Fragility and poverty

43.....Chapter 2 | Policy issues

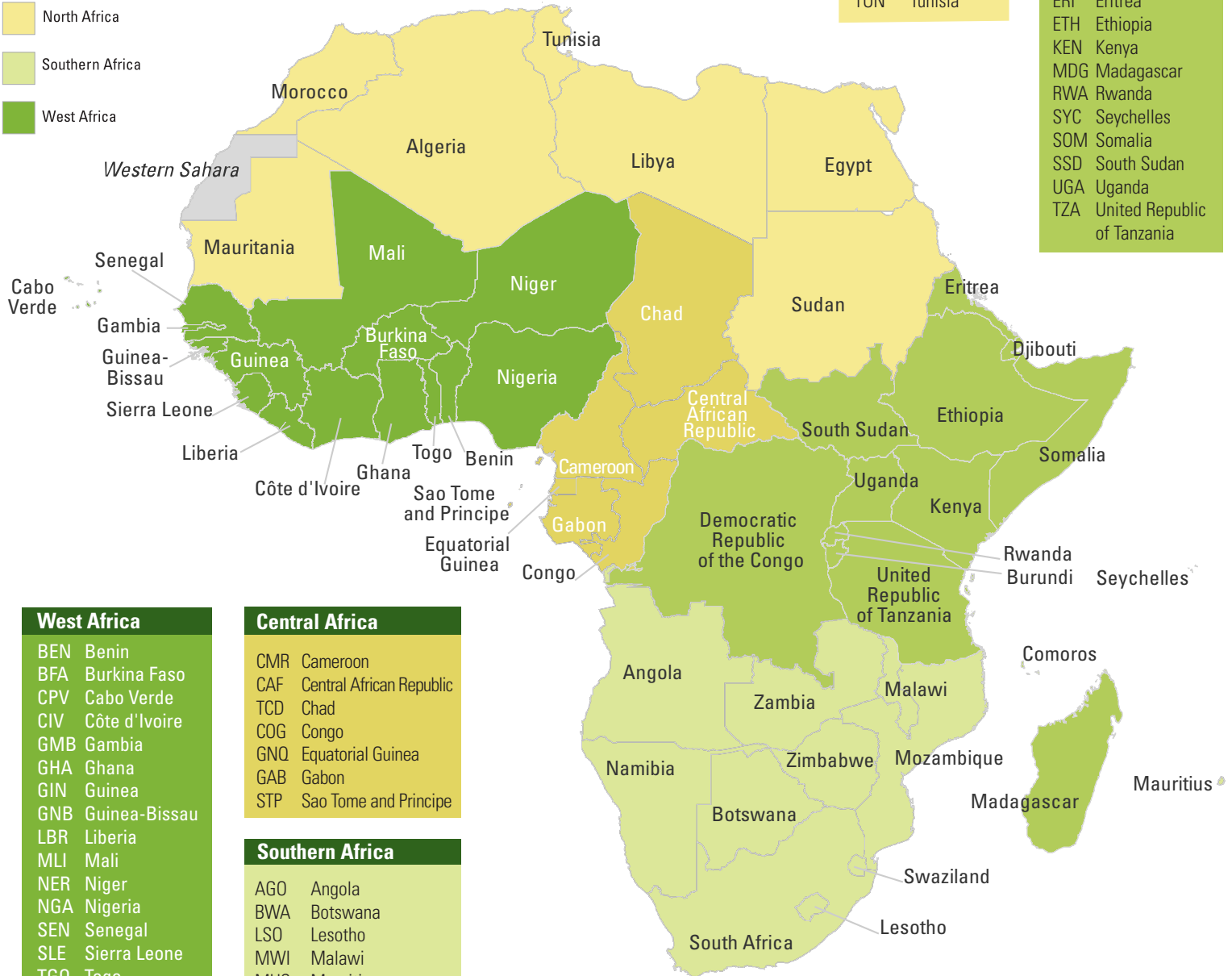
50.....Appendix

56.....Tables: Demographic indicators

AFRICA

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) regions

- Central Africa
- Eastern Africa
- North Africa
- Southern Africa
- West Africa



North Africa	
DZA	Algeria
EGY	Egypt
LBY	Libya
MRT	Mauritania
MAR	Morocco
SDN	Sudan
TUN	Tunisia

Eastern Africa	
BDI	Burundi
COM	Comoros
COD	Democratic Republic of the Congo
DJI	Djibouti
ERI	Eritrea
ETH	Ethiopia
KEN	Kenya
MDG	Madagascar
RWA	Rwanda
SYC	Seychelles
SOM	Somalia
SSD	South Sudan
UGA	Uganda
TZA	United Republic of Tanzania

West Africa	
BEN	Benin
BFA	Burkina Faso
CPV	Cabo Verde
CIV	Côte d'Ivoire
GMB	Gambia
GHA	Ghana
GIN	Guinea
GNB	Guinea-Bissau
LBR	Liberia
MLI	Mali
NER	Niger
NGA	Nigeria
SEN	Senegal
SLE	Sierra Leone
TGO	Togo

Central Africa	
CMR	Cameroon
CAF	Central African Republic
TCD	Chad
COG	Congo
GNQ	Equatorial Guinea
GAB	Gabon
STP	Sao Tome and Principe

Southern Africa	
AGO	Angola
BWA	Botswana
LSO	Lesotho
MWI	Malawi
MUS	Mauritius
MOZ	Mozambique
NAM	Namibia
ZAF	South Africa
SWZ	Swaziland
ZMB	Zambia
ZWE	Zimbabwe

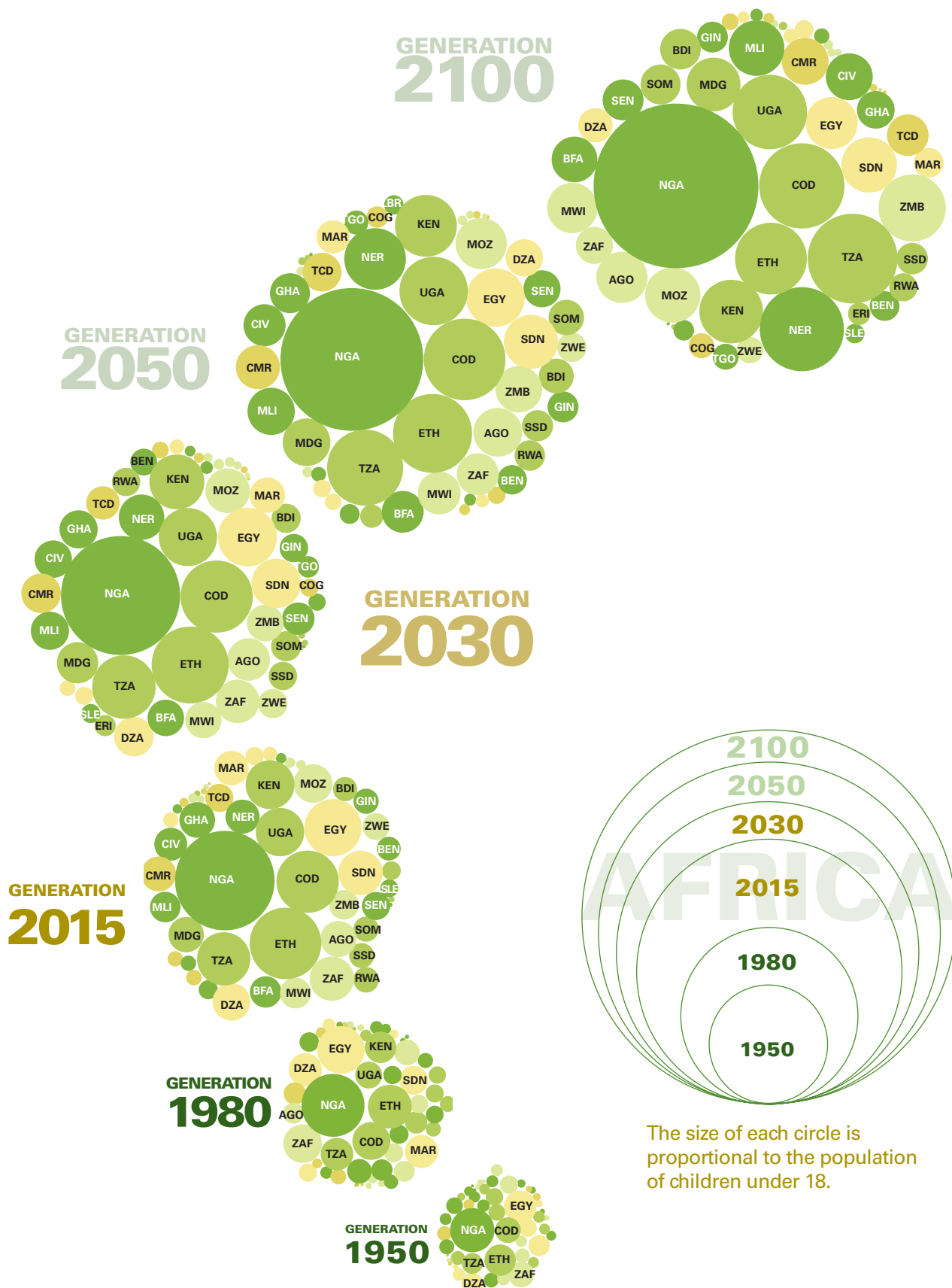
Note: The regional aggregates follow the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) regions. The detailed classification can be found at <http://www.uneca.org/node/2798/>.

Note on maps: All maps included in this publication are stylized and not to scale. They do not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or area or the delimitation of any frontiers. The final boundary between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. The final status of the Abyei area has not yet been determined.

Source for page 3: UNICEF analysis based on United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision (UN WPP), United Nations, New York, 2013.

AFRICA

CHILD POPULATION UNDER 18 BY GENERATION



MAP OF AFRICA



Introduction



Introduction

“It can be said that there are four basic and primary things that the mass of people in a society wish for: to live in a safe environment, to be able to work and provide for themselves, to have access to good public health and to have sound educational opportunities for their children.” These words belong to Nelson Mandela, Africa’s most revered leader in modern times, and reflect his hopes for his continent’s over 1 billion inhabitants. Until relatively recently, much of Africa has been among the economically least developed and least densely populated places on earth, replete with villages and rural communities. But Africa is changing rapidly, in its economy, trade and investment; in climate change; in conflict and stability; in urbanization, migration patterns and most of all in demographics.

Demographics are key to Africa’s increasing centrality to the global development and growth agenda. In particular, the demographics of Africa’s children are experiencing a shift on a scale perhaps unprecedented in human history. Consider this: on current trends, *almost 2 billion babies will be born in Africa in the next 35 years. Over the same period Africa’s under-18 population will increase by two thirds, reaching almost 1 billion by mid-century; and close to half of the world population of children will be African by the end of the 21st century.*

Among the most surprising findings of this report’s predecessor — then entitled *Generation 2025 and Beyond*^{*} released in November 2012 — was the massive shift in the world’s child population towards Africa in recent decades. Since then, revised global population projections from the United Nations Population Division, based on the latest version of *World Population Prospects*, the 2012 Revision released in 2013, indicate an even stronger move in global child demographics towards Africa.

Our previous reporting of one in every three children in the world living in Africa by 2050 has proven to be an

underestimate: the population revisions now indicate that by mid-century the continent will be home to around 41 per cent of all of the world’s births, 40 per cent of all global under-fives, and 37 per cent of all children (under-18s).

The *Generation 2030* project — renamed to reflect the end date of the post-2015 agenda that is beginning to emerge and to focus on child demographic shifts in the years running up to 2030 and beyond — provides key data and analysis, and raises policy issues that will foster debate and discussion and influence decisions in the coming years.

This report, focusing exclusively on Africa, has two key components. *Chapter 1* provides an in-depth analysis of child demographic trends in Africa, for the region as a whole, by subregion, and country-by-country, and contextualizes some of these trends. *Chapter 2* seeks to raise some key policy questions — though by no means exhaustively — on the implications of Africa’s child demographics for the continent itself and for the world.

The authors acknowledge that the actual demographic trends may differ from the projections due to policy interventions and changes in underlying assumptions. For example, we are aware that different rates of economic growth among nations may alter the composition of countries classified as low-income, middle-income and high-income; or that policies may change the rates of fertility or urbanization. Nonetheless, we consider that the key points highlighted in this review of demographic trends have important implications for global, regional and national actions to help realize the rights of all of the continent’s children in the 21st century, foster inclusive and sustainable development, and set the ground for a more peaceful, stable and prosperous Africa. ■

* You, D. and Anthony, D., ‘Generation 2025 and Beyond’. *Occasional Papers*, No. 1, UNICEF, 2012.



Generation 2030 | Africa: Executive summary



Generation 2030 | Africa

Executive summary

Four in 10 of the world's people will be African by the end of this century

- Africa has experienced a marked increase in its population in last few decades. Its current population is five times its size in 1950. And the continent's rapid population expansion is set to continue, with its inhabitants doubling from 1.2 billion to 2.4 billion between 2015 and 2050, and eventually reaching 4.2 billion by 2100.
- The future of humanity is increasingly African. More than half the projected 2.2 billion rise in the world population in 2015-2050 is expected to take place in Africa, even though the continent's population growth rate will slow. On current trends, within 35 years, *1 in every 4 people will be African, rising to 4 in 10 people by the end of the century*. Back in 1950, only 9 among 100 of the world's number of inhabitants were African.
- With its inhabitants set to soar, Africa will become increasingly crowded, with its population density projected to increase from 8 persons per square kilometre in 1950 to 39 in 2015 and to about 80 by mid-century.

A billion children will live in Africa by mid-century

- In 2050, around *41 per cent of the world's births, 40 per cent of all under-fives, 37 per cent of all children under 18 and 35 per cent of all adolescents will be African* — higher than previously projected. In 1950, only about 10 per cent of the world's births, under-fives, under-18s and adolescents were African.
- The population of Africa's under-fives will swell by 51 per cent from 179 million in 2015 to 271 million in 2050 and its overall child population (under-18s) will increase by two thirds from 547 million in 2015 to almost 1 billion by mid-century.
- It is projected that 1.1 billion children under 18 will be living in Africa by 2100, accounting for almost half (47 per cent) of the world population of children at that time.

Africa has the highest child dependency ratio in the world

- More than any other region, Africa's children lie at the heart of its demographic and social transition. Today, almost 47 per cent of Africans are children under 18. In 15 African countries, more than half of the total population are children under 18.
- Africa has the highest child dependency ratio — 73 children under age 15 per 100 persons of working age in 2015, close to double the global average. This ratio is projected to decline steadily as fertility rates ebb and the working-age population expands, but will still remain far higher than other regions.
- In contrast, Africa's old-age dependency ratio (defined as elderly person 65 years and older per 100 working-age persons) is expected to increase slowly from a very low level of 6 in 2015 to 9 in 2050 and climb to 22 in 2100. These ratios will be far, far lower than anywhere else.

Almost 2 billion babies will be born in Africa between 2015 and 2050 due to high fertility rates and increasing number of women of reproductive age

- Continued high rates of fertility and an increasing number of women of reproductive age are the driving force behind Africa's surge in births and children, although divergences have appeared between countries and communities within countries in the region.
- Each African woman on average will have 4.7 children in 2010-2015 — far above the global average of 2.5. Niger has the highest total fertility rate of any country, with an average of 7.5 children per woman in 2015. In total, 15 African countries will have an average fertility rate of 5 children or more per woman in 2015. In the coming decades, Africa's fertility rates are expected to drop — in some cases sharply — but will stay well above the rest of the world.
- Africa's population surge has swelled its ranks of women of reproductive age (15–49), from 54 million in 1950 to 280 million in 2015; on current trends, this figure will further increase to 407 million in 2030 and to 607 million in 2050.
- In 1950, only 11 million African babies were born. This number has increased to more than 40 million in 2015 and will continue to expand within the next 35 years. By mid-century, 41 per cent of the world's births will take place in Africa, and almost 2 billion births will take place on this continent alone over the next 35 years or so. The annual number of births in Africa is only estimated to decline towards the end of the century.

Child survival has improved in Africa, but the continent still accounts for half of all child deaths, and this figure is set to rise to around 70 per cent by mid-century

- There has been considerable progress on child survival in Africa since 1990 and particularly since the year 2000. But faster progress in other regions has left Africa with the highest concentration of global under-five and under-18 deaths of any region.
- In Africa, one in every 11 children born still dies before their fifth birthday, a rate 14 times greater than in the average in high-income countries. The continent currently accounts for more than half of the world's child deaths. This share will continue to rise to around 70 per cent by the middle of the century, given the continent's current mortality, fertility and demographic levels and trends, and assumptions of, continued rates of progress elsewhere.

Life expectancy for Africa's children has risen sharply in recent decades but is still shorter than the global average; within 20 years, Africa will have its first generation of children who can expect to reach pensionable age

- Life is still shorter in Africa than anywhere else on earth. In the 1950s, life expectancy at birth in Africa was less than 40 years — about 30 years shorter than in the developed regions of the world at that time.
- Today, Africans' average life expectancy at birth is 58 years, a considerable gain but still a full 12 years shorter than the global average.
- By 2035, Africa as a continent will have its first generation of children that can expect to reach the pensionable age of 65 years, as life expectancy at birth by this year will rise above 65 years for the first time.



Continuous urbanization will most likely lead to the majority of Africa's people and children living in cities in less than 25 years

- The image of Africa as a rural continent is fast changing amid rapid urban growth. Currently, 40 per cent of Africa's population lives in cities. The past few decades have seen a frenetic pace of urbanization, considering that in 1950 just 14 per cent, and in 1980 just 27 per cent of the continental population was classified as living in urban areas.
- By late 2030s, Africa is set to become a continent with more population living in urban than in rural areas. On current trends, by mid-century almost 60 per cent of Africa's population will live in cities.
- Africa's urban children are increasingly likely to grow up in the continent's rapidly expanding megacities with 10 million or more inhabitants. Lagos, Africa's second biggest urban agglomeration, will see its population swell by 1.8 times over the next 15 years from 13 million in 2015 to 24 million in 2030, while the populace of Al-Qahirah (Cairo), currently in first place, will expand from 19 million to 25 million over the same period.

Today three in 10 of Africa's children are living in fragile and conflict-affected contexts

- Conflict and fragility continue to undermine human rights and social and economic progress in a number of African countries. Of the 34 countries classified by the World Bank in 2014 as having fragile and conflict-affected contexts, 20 are African.
- Around one fourth of the continent's population resides in these 20 countries, which also account for almost three in 10 African children under 18, totalling 143 million. Almost 3 in every 10 births in Africa, and one third of all under-five deaths in Africa, occur in countries with fragile and conflict-affected contexts.

Four in 10 of Africans and almost half of sub-Saharan Africa's populace live below the international poverty line of US\$1.25 per day

- About 60 per cent of the African population — and 70 per cent of sub-Saharan Africa — survives on less than US\$2 per day. In the two subregions of Eastern Africa and West Africa, about three quarters of the population lives on less than US\$2 per day.
- Extreme poverty is also rife on the continent; around 40 per cent of Africa's population, and almost half (48 per cent) of sub-Saharan Africa live on less US\$1.25 per day.

Divergences in fertility rates are marked in sub-Saharan Africa, with disparities highest in West and Central Africa between richest and poorest

- Fertility rates are highest among the poorest African communities. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for example, women in the lowest wealth quintile have on average 7.4 children, 3.2 children more than women in the wealthiest quintile.
- Women in the poorest quintile in Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and the United Republic of Tanzania have on average 2-4 children more than women in the wealthiest quintile. Similar trends are prevalent in other countries.

Special attention is required for Nigeria, which is the country with the largest increase in absolute numbers of both births and child population

- At the country level, the greatest number of births in Africa takes place in Nigeria; by 2015 one fifth of the continent's births will take place in that country alone, accounting for 5 per cent of all global births. From 2015 to 2030, 136 million births will take place in Nigeria — 19 per cent of all African babies and 6 per cent of the global total. By 2050, *Nigeria alone will account for almost one tenth of all births in the world.*
- In absolute terms, Nigeria is projected to add from 2031 to 2050 an additional 224 million babies (21 per cent of the births in Africa and 8 per cent of all births in the world).

Niger, Mali and other smaller African nations with high fertility rates and large relative projected increases in child and total population in the world also require particular attention and investment

- At the country level, in 2015 the highest fertility in the world is estimated in Niger, with 7.5 children per woman, followed by Mali with 6.8 children per woman. In 2050, their fertility levels are projected to remain the highest in Africa at 4.8 for Niger and 4.0 for Mali.
- Niger is also expected to have the largest percentage increase in the number of births — more than doubling from 1 million in 2015 to 2.5 million babies in 2050.
- Niger is projected to have the largest relative increase in its total population — its population in 2050 (69 million) will be more than triple the population in 2015 (19 million). In 2100, 204 million people are projected to live in Niger.

Investing in children will be paramount for Africa to realize the rights of its burgeoning child population and reap a potential demographic dividend

- Almost 2 billion babies will be born in Africa within 35 years and almost 1 billion children, nearly 40 per cent of the world's total — will live in Africa by mid-century. If investments are made in expanded and improved health care, education and protection and participation mechanisms, these 1 billion children and their predecessors, the children of today and tomorrow, have the potential to transform the continent, breaking centuries old cycles of poverty and inequity.
- Moreover, the continent could reap the vast potential economic benefits experienced previously in other regions and countries from its changing age structure, with lower dependency ratios and an expanded labour force. But reaping the demographic dividend will heavily depend on investing now in human capital. Supporting Africa's poor families to do this for their children will be paramount if Africa is to take full advantage of its demographic transition in the coming decades.
- An opposite scenario is also possible. Unless investment in the continent's children is prioritized, the sheer burden of population expansion has the potential to undermine attempts to eradicate poverty through economic growth, and worse, could result in rising poverty and marginalization of many if economic growth were to falter. Without equitable investment in children, prioritizing the poorest and most disadvantaged in the coming decades, Africa also risks repeating the mistakes of other continents and experiencing ever-widening disparities among its children even as its economy prospers, with negative implications for human rights, employment, sustained growth and political stability.



Investing in girls and women, especially in reproductive health, education, and preventing child marriage is key to Africa's demographic transition

- Demographic trends are not inevitable; most are policy responsive. A discourse must emerge on how to extend access to greater reproductive health services to Africa's families — including culturally sensitive reproductive health education and services for women and particularly adolescent females to reduce the unmet need in family planning.
- Investing in and empowering girls and young women will be imperative to slow adolescent fertility rates, and build an Africa fit for all. Expanded programmes to end child marriage (defined as a union in which one or both parties are under age 18), which is highly prevalent across the continent, must also be included as part of efforts to address Africa's demographic transition. Child marriage is a determining factor in sustaining elevated rates of adolescent pregnancy, high lifetime fertility rates and exclusion from education.
- Prioritizing girls' education in Africa will be paramount. Studies clearly show that educated women delay their first pregnancy, and space their births more widely than women who lack education, and are more likely to ensure that their children go to and stay in school.
- Empowerment of girls and women in Africa must go beyond the statistics, however, to the roots of discrimination, marginalization and violence that undermine their rights. Cultural, social, economic and political barriers that perpetuate the disempowerment of women must be urgently addressed if Africa is to manage its demographic transition and reap the full rewards of prosperity that a demographic dividend can bring.

National development plans must take greater account of projected shifts in Africa's child population and support better data systems

- With many African countries set to see unprecedented absolute increases in their child and overall populations, national development planning and systems strengthening must be adapted and sharpened to prepare for these demographic shifts. Demographic analysis at national and particularly at the subnational levels must become a much more integral component of development programming in Africa.
- Civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems will be essential for strengthening development planning at the national and subnational levels. Without accurate demographic data and analysis, it will be difficult to plan adequately for the required increases in essential services that Africa's burgeoning child population will require.
- UNICEF considers it imperative that a discourse takes place on Africa's child demographics, poverty and inequity and rights, and that all the many stakeholders that will help to determine the continent's future, including governments and donors, the private sector, civil society organizations, religious leaders, and children themselves, be included and have a voice. It is time to acknowledge our shared responsibility to the future of Africa and take the policy decisions required for all Africa's children, present and future, to finally realize all their rights. ■



1| Child demographics in Africa



1 | Child demographics in Africa

Africa, already the world's second most populous continent with over 1 billion inhabitants, is experiencing a demographic shift unprecedented in its scale and swiftness. Consider this: In the next 35 years, 1.8 billion babies will be born in Africa; the continent's population will double in size; and its under-18 population will increase by two thirds to reach almost 1 billion.

Today more than 7 billion people are living in the world and on current projections there will be 11 billion by the end of the 21st century. Africa's population will continue to grow significantly while all the other continents will see a relatively smaller increase or decline in their current numbers of births, total population and child population. Africa is also ageing at a far slower pace than the rest of the world, and could potentially reap a demographic dividend as its labour force expands at a faster rate than its dependent population. By the end of the century, Africa is projected to have almost quadrupled its population to over 4 billion, and will be home to almost 40 per cent of humanity.

Understanding this demographic transition and putting in place the necessary policies to address its challenges and opportunities will be key to securing an Africa fit for its children. This chapter analyses the projected levels and trends in Africa's population, fertility, births, mortality, population density and urbanization, setting the scene for a discussion of key policy issues in the next chapter. The analysis is based mostly on the latest estimates provided by the United Nations Population Division¹ using the medium fertility variant; other sources have also been used where applicable.

Total population

Despite slowing growth rates, Africa's population will double by 2050

The latest projections by the United Nations Population Division indicate a sharp increase in Africa's inhabitants through the rest of the century, even as population growth rates continue to slow. Africa's population will double in just 35 years to 2.4 billion in 2050, and is

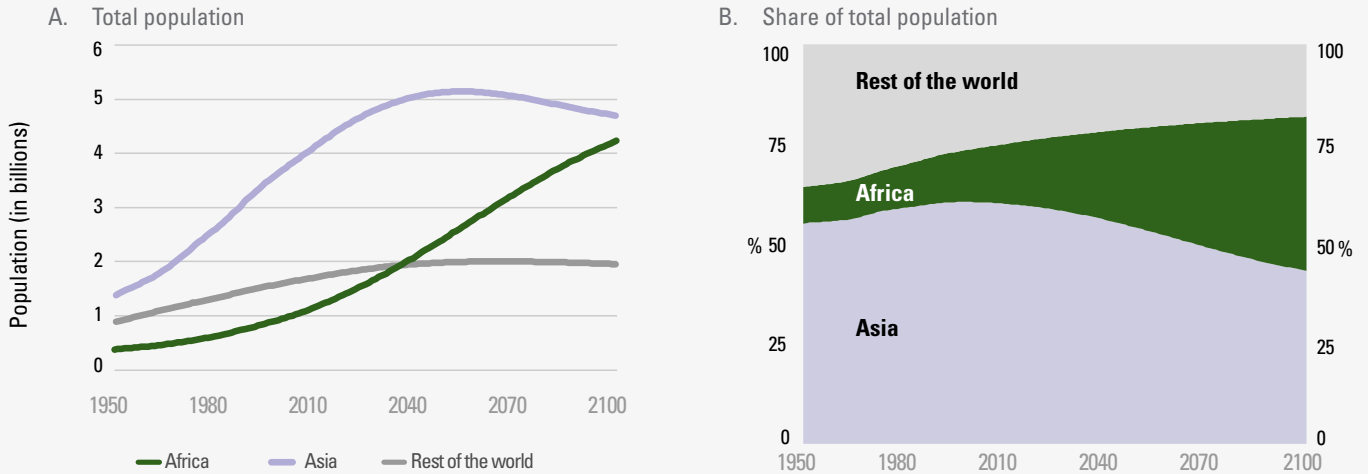
projected to eventually hit 4.2 billion by 2100 (*Figure 1*). About half a billion will be added already by 2030. More than half of the 2.2 billion projected rise in the world's population between 2015 and 2050 will take place on this continent alone. As a result of changing global population dynamics, and with Asia's population growth set to slow markedly, Africa will increase its share of the world population to almost 25 per cent by mid-century and 39 per cent by the end of the century, up from just 9 per cent in 1950 and 16 per cent in 2015.

¹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, *World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision*, United Nations, New York, 2013.

FIG. 1

Africa's population will double from 2015 to 2050

Total population by region, 1950–2100

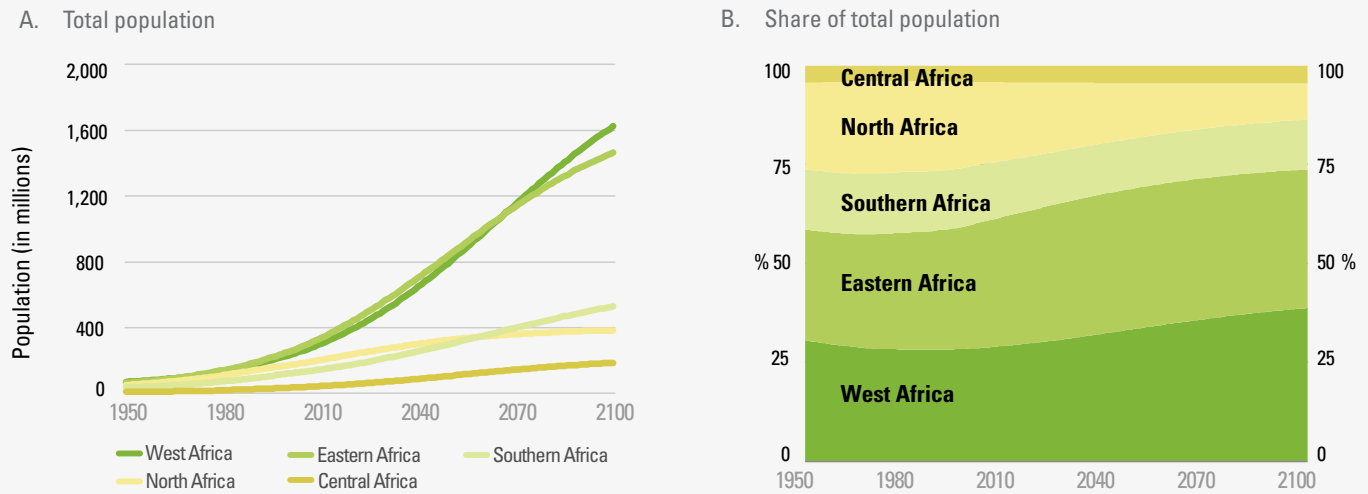


Source: UNICEF analysis based on United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision (UN WPP), United Nations, New York, 2013.

FIG. 2

West and Eastern Africa will be the main drivers of population growth, with West Africa becoming the most populous region in Africa by 2067

Population in Africa by UNECA region, 1950–2100



Note: The regional aggregates follow the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) regions. The detailed classification can be found at <http://www.uneca.org/node/2798/>. Source: UNICEF analysis based on UN WPP 2012 Revision.



By mid-century, two thirds of Africa’s population will live in either Eastern Africa or West Africa

The African population is concentrated mostly in Eastern Africa and West Africa, which together account for more than 60 per cent of the continent’s inhabitants today. Of the 1.2 billion African inhabitants estimated for 2015, around 33 per cent live in Eastern Africa, 30 per cent in West Africa, 19 per cent in North Africa, 14 per cent in Southern Africa and 4 per cent in Central Africa. By the middle of the century, West Africa and Eastern Africa will be home to more than 800 million inhabitants each, doubling their present totals of under 400 million, and will together account for more than two thirds of Africa’s inhabitants (Figure 2). Similarly, Southern Africa and Central Africa’s populations will approximately double, to around 300 million and 100 million respectively. Based on current trends, the four sub-Saharan African regions will continue to see increases in their population totals through the rest of the century; only North Africa will see its population begin to level out towards the latter part of the century.

In just 35 years, Nigeria’s population will be 2.5 times its current size, reaching 440 million

Among Africa’s 54 countries, Nigeria has by far the largest population with 184 million inhabitants, accounting for 16 per cent of Africa’s population in 2015 (Figure 5A). Nigeria will

contribute to more than a fifth of the total growth of the African population between 2015 and 2050. By 2100, almost 1 billion people (914 million) are projected to live in Nigeria alone.

The next three most populous countries currently are Ethiopia (99 million), Egypt (85 million) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (71 million) (Figure 5A). Ten countries will contribute massively to the region’s immense population increase in absolute terms between 2015 and 2050: Nigeria (257 million additional inhabitants); Ethiopia (+ 89 million); Democratic Republic of the Congo (+ 84 million); the United Republic of Tanzania (+ 77 million); Uganda (+ 64 million); Kenya and Niger (both + 50 million); Sudan (+ 38 million); Egypt (+ 37 million) and Mozambique (+ 33 million).

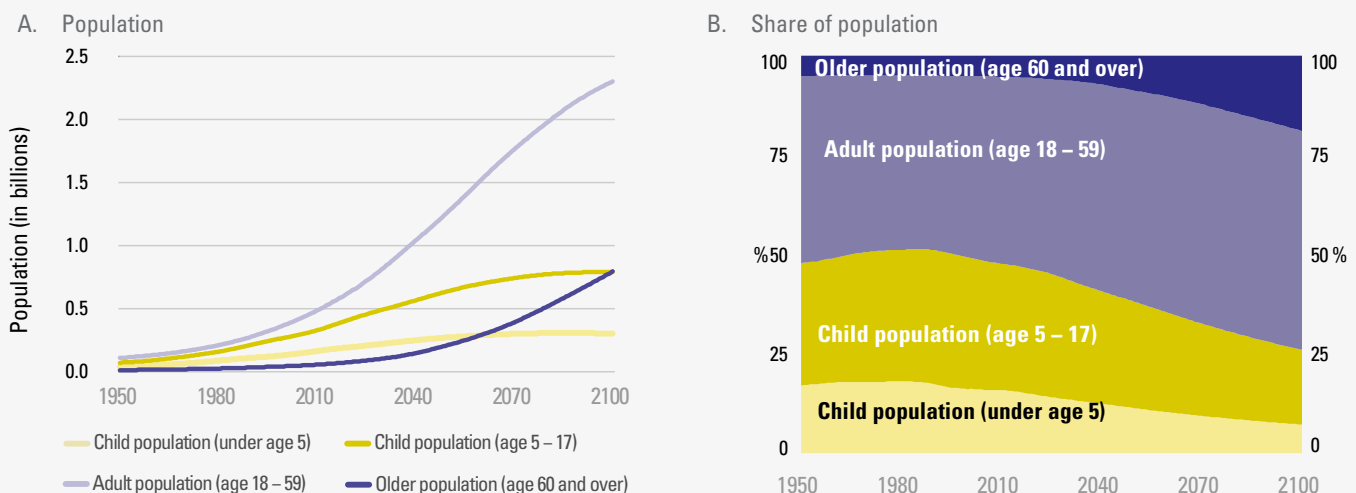
Niger has the largest percentage increase in population among African countries

In terms of percentage rises, the largest increases will be recorded in Niger (260 per cent), whose population will rise from 19 million to 69 million from 2015 to 2050. By 2100, 204 million people are projected to live in Niger. The other largest relative increases after Niger for the 2015-2050 period are projected for Zambia (185 per cent); Mali (178 per cent); Uganda (159 per cent); the United Republic of Tanzania, Gambia and Burundi (all 147 per cent); Chad (146 per cent); Somalia (143 per cent) and Nigeria (140 per cent).

The absolute number of children in Africa will increase, while their share among the total population in Africa will decline to almost 40% in 2050

FIG. 3

Population in Africa by age group, 1950–2100



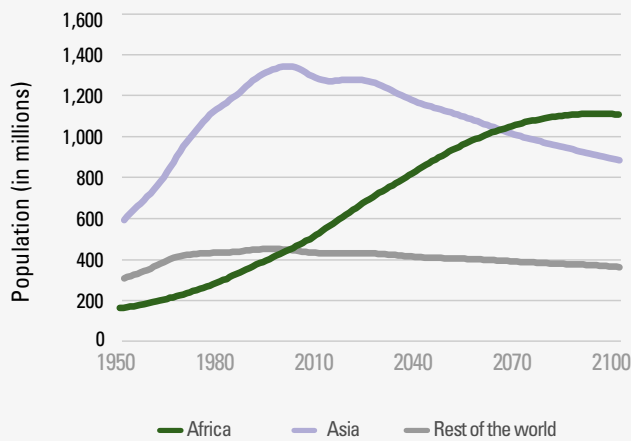
Source: UNICEF analysis based on UN WPP 2012 Revision.

The child population under 18 in Africa will increase by two thirds to almost 1 billion from 2015–2050, and Africa will become home to almost half the world's children by 2100

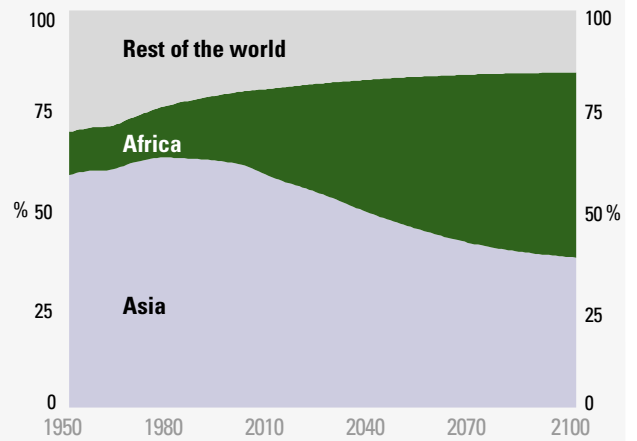
FIG. 4

Children under 18, 1950-2100

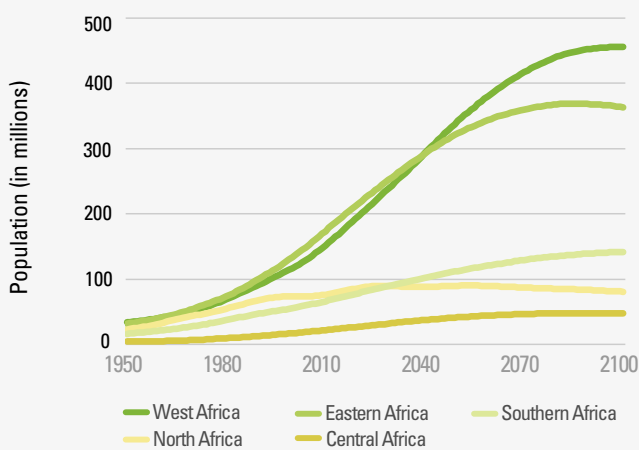
A. Number of children under 18, by region



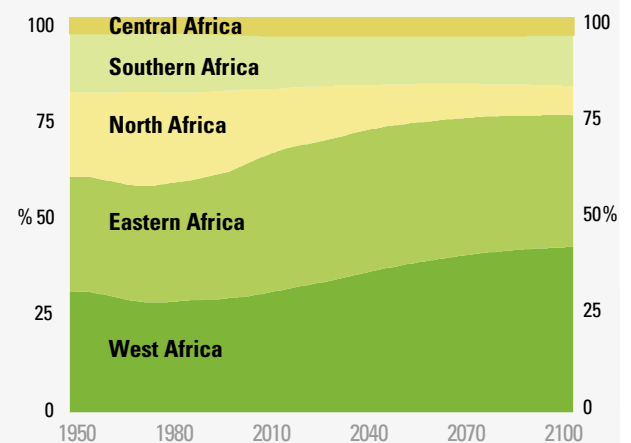
B. Share of children under 18, by region



C. Number of children under 18 in Africa, by UNECA region



D. Share of children under 18 in Africa, by UNECA region



Source: UNICEF analysis based on UN WPP 2012 Revision.



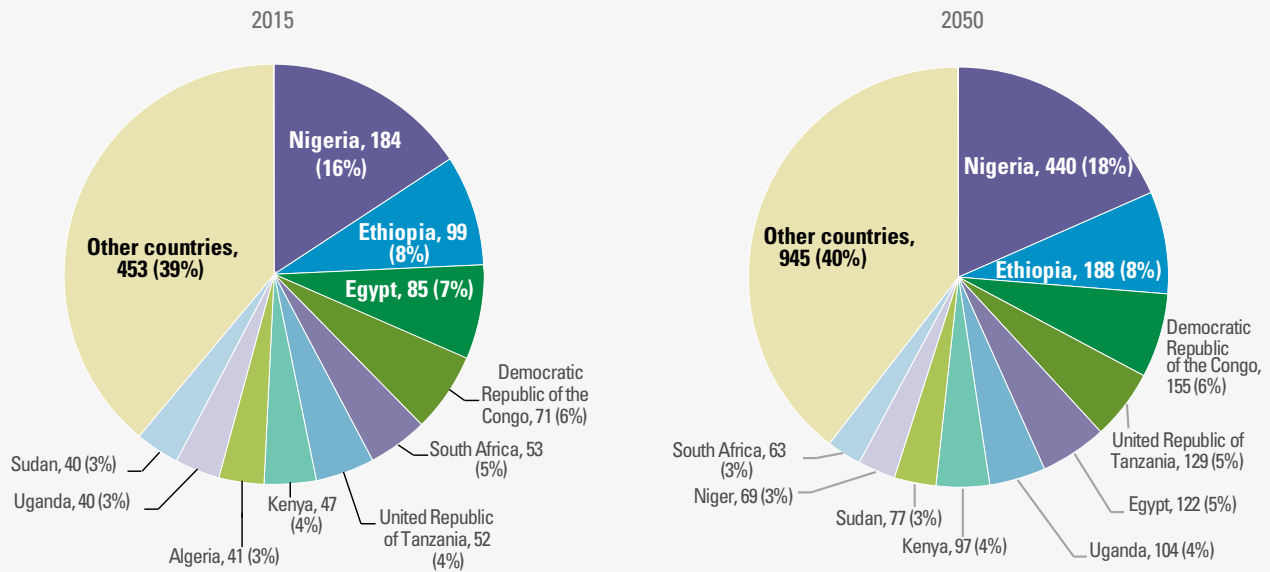


Nigeria will continue to increase its share in the African population; by 2050, one fifth of children under 18 in Africa will live in Nigeria

FIG. 5

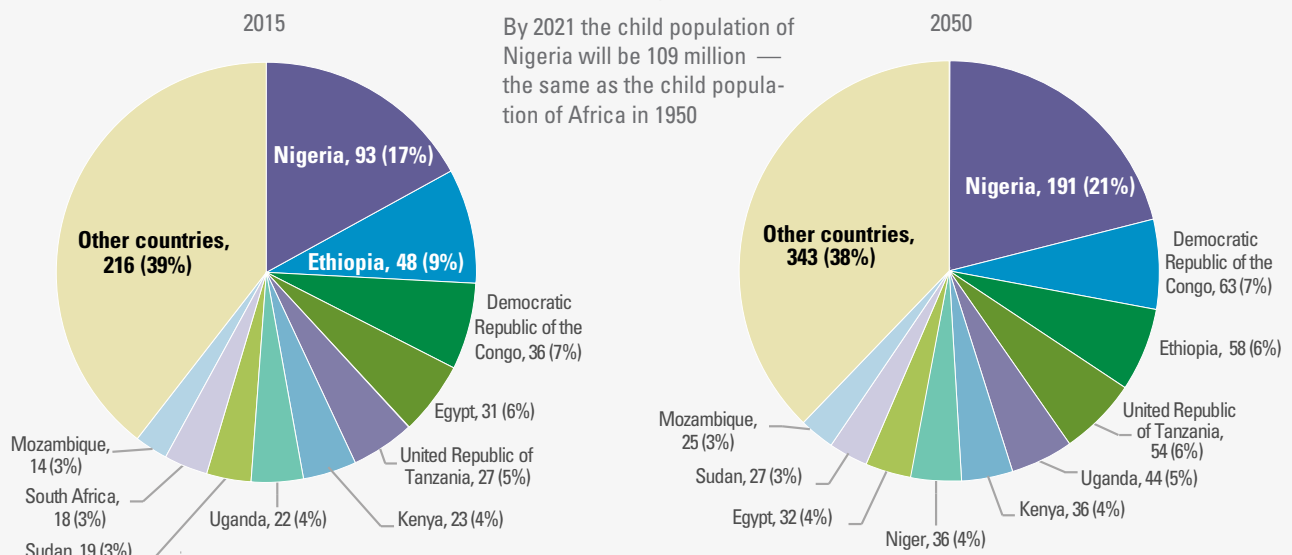
Top 10 countries in Africa with largest total population and most children under 18, 2015 and 2050

A. Total population, in millions (% of Africa)



B. Children under 18, in millions (% of Africa)

By 2021 the child population of Nigeria will be 109 million — the same as the child population of Africa in 1950



Note: The first number cited for each country refers to the child population in millions, the second to its share of the African population.
Source: UNICEF analysis based on UN WPP 2012 Revision.

Child, adolescent, working-age and elderly populations

While the African populace has grown in absolute numbers from 1950 to 2015, its overall age structure has not changed considerably. Children under 18 years, and the adult population from age 18 to 59, have remained in similar proportions, accounting for some 47–48 per cent each in 2015. Persons aged 60 and above currently represent just 5 per cent of the African population (*Figure 3*). However, this composition will begin to shift: slowly but steadily at first, and then more rapidly later on in the century, as the growth in the continent's child population slows slightly and life expectancy for Africa's inhabitants rises. From 2015 to 2050, all three age groups are projected to continue to grow, but the expansion rate will be steeper in the age group 18–59 and particularly steep in the age group 60 and over (*Figure 3*).

The African population is much younger than the rest of the world

Today, as in 1950, 50 per cent of the African population is under 20 years of age, while globally the median age of the world's population has risen from about 24 years in 1950 to about 30 years in 2015. By 2050, the African population will be older than it is today with a median age around 25 years, but will remain well below the global average of 36 years.

In 2015, in 15 African countries, more than half of the population will be under 18. These countries include Niger (57 per cent); Uganda and Chad (both 55 per cent); Mali, Angola and Somalia (all 54 per cent); Zambia (53 per cent); Gambia, Burkina Faso, Mozambique and Malawi (all 52 per cent); the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United Republic of Tanzania, Burundi and Nigeria (all 51 per cent).

Africa's under-five population will swell by 51 per cent by 2050, and its under-18s will increase by two thirds to almost 1 billion. The number of adolescents will grow by 83 per cent to almost half a billion. By 2100, Africa will be home to almost half the world's children under 18

In 1950, only 39 million children under 5, 109 million children under 18 and 50 million adolescents lived in Africa. In 2015, these numbers increased to 179 million, 547 million and 257 million respectively. Africa's child population is projected to continue to burgeon. Over the next 15 years until 2030 the child population under 5 will grow by 22 per cent to 220 million, the child

population under 18 will increase by 30 per cent to 711 million and the adolescent population will rise by 39 per cent to 356 million.

From 2015 to 2050, the continent's under-five population will increase by 51 per cent, or 91 million, rising to 271 million. Over the same period, its under-18 population will expand by two thirds, to almost 1 billion children (909 million), while the number of adolescents (10–19 years) will swell by 83 per cent from 257 million to 470 million. With child populations set to decline in the rest of the world's regions, by the end of the century there will be an even greater concentration of the world's under-18s in Africa, at 1.1 billion, almost half (47 per cent) of the global total (*Figure 4*).

Nigeria will see the largest absolute increase in its under-18 and under-five populations, both doubling over the time period from 2015 to 2050. By 2050, one fifth of Africa's children under 18 will live in Nigeria (*Figure 5*). Other notable increases in both age groups will be experienced by the United Republic of Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Niger (*Figure 6*).

Africa will eventually begin to age in the second half of the 21st century, with almost 800 million elderly persons living there in 2100, up from just 64 million today

Africa's inhabitants aged 60 years and older will grow from the current 64 million to 211 million in 2050, an absolute increase of 148 million and a relative increase of 232 per cent. By 2100, it is projected that 794 million Africans will be aged 60 and over. Even with this dramatic pace of ageing, Africa will still be by far the most youthful continent in the world throughout the 21st century. The share of older persons in the African populace will rise from 5 per cent currently to 9 per cent in 2050 and to 19 per cent by 2100, but this will still be far smaller a share than any other continent or region.

Africa will take over from Asia as the continent with the most children in 2067

Since 1950, more than half of the world's child population have lived, and still live, in Asia. But since the beginning of the 21st century, Asia's share in the global child population has steadily declined. By 2015, 55 per cent of under-fives, 57 per cent of under-18s and 58 per cent of adolescents are estimated to live in Asia. These shares are set to fall further by about 10 percentage points respectively by mid-century, and reach 37 per cent, 38 per cent and 38 per cent respectively by its end (*Figure 4*).



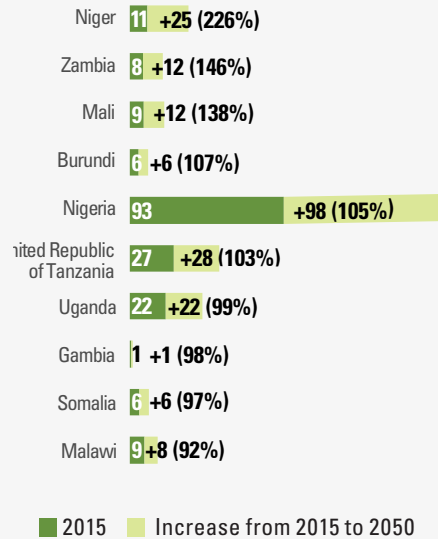
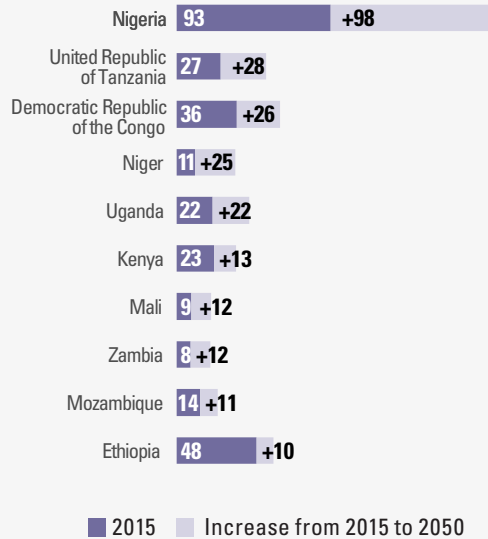
The number of children under 18 in Nigeria is projected to increase from 93 million in 2015 to 191 million in 2050, an increase of 98 million, or 105%, from 2015 to 2050

FIG. 6

Top 10 countries in Africa with largest absolute and percentage increases in children under 18 from 2015 to 2050

A. By largest absolute increases, child population in millions

B. By largest percentage increases, child population in millions (% increase)



Note: The first number cited for each country refers to the population in 2015, the second to the increase from 2015 to 2050. Together they represent the population in 2050.
 Source: UNICEF analysis based on UN WPP 2012 Revision.

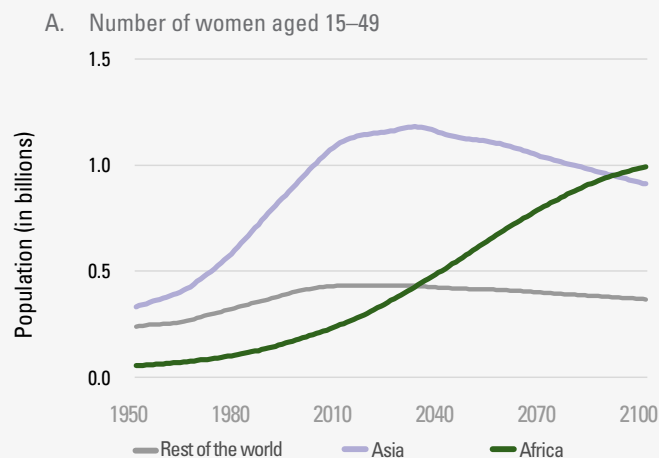
In contrast to Asia’s dwindling share of the world’s child population, Africa’s share has risen rapidly since 1950 when the continent was home to 12 per cent of the world’s under-fives, 11 per cent of under-18s and 10 per cent of adolescents. By 2015, Africa is estimated to be home to 27 per cent of the

world’s under-fives, 24 per cent of its under-18s and 22 per cent of its adolescents. Based on current projections, 40 per cent of the world’s under-fives, 37 per cent of under-18s and 35 per cent of the adolescent population will live in Africa by 2050.

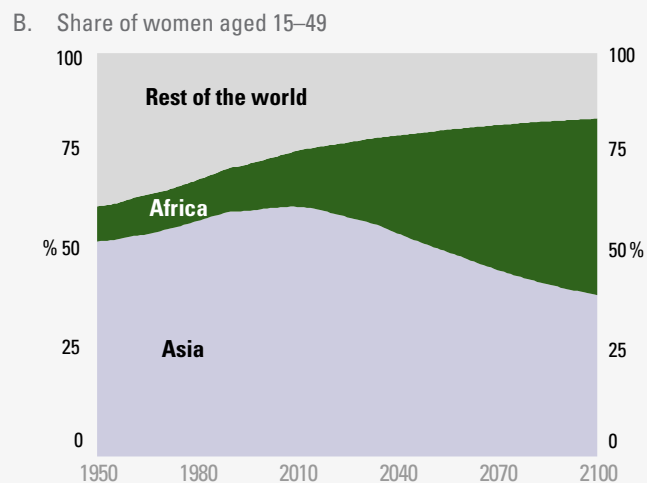


Africa's population of women of reproductive age is projected to more than double between 2015 and 2050

Women of reproductive age by region, 1950–2100



Source: UNICEF analysis based on UN WPP 2012 Revision.



Women of reproductive age

By mid-century, the number of women of reproductive age in Africa will more than double, in contrast to Asia, whose numbers of women of reproductive age are shrinking

The number of women of reproductive age (15–49 years) in Africa in the year 2015 (280 million) will be more than five times its level in 1950. This total is projected to increase further to 407 million in 2030 and then to 607 million in 2050, reaching almost 1 billion (991 million) by the end of the century (*Figure 7*). Contrast this to Asia, where the total number of women of reproductive age rose from 333 million in 1950 to 1.1 billion in 2015, and will stabilize around 1.1 billion before declining to 910 million by the end of the century.

In addition, Africa's share of the world population of women of reproductive age is set to grow staggeringly quickly. Whereas in 1950, 9 per cent of all women aged 15–49 were African, this share will rise to 15 per cent in 2015 and again to 28 per cent in 2050, ending the century at 44 per cent of the global total. Asia's share, which was 53 per cent of the global total in 1950, will decline from 61 per cent in 2015 to 52 per cent in 2050 and reach 40 per cent in 2100. In contrast, the rest of the world, which in 1950 held 38 per cent of women of reproductive age, will see this share shrink steadily to just 16 per cent by 2100.

Fertility

Africa's fertility rates will continue their downward trend, but still remain far above global averages

Africa's average fertility rate is in decline, and has been for decades. But its rate of decline is slow and the continent's fertility rates remains far higher than anywhere else in the world. On current trends, this trend will continue at least until mid-century. Fertility in Africa will drop from around 4.7 children per woman in 2010–2015 to 3.8 in 2025–2030, and to 3.1 by 2045–2050, and further decline to 2.1 children per woman by the end of the century (*Figure 8*).

On the African continent, fertility is highest in West Africa, with an estimated average rate of 5.6 children per woman for the period 2010–2015, followed by Central Africa and Eastern Africa (both 5.1), Southern Africa (4.0) and North Africa (3.1). In both North Africa and Southern Africa, the average fertility rates began to decline in the late 1960s, but it was not until the late 1980s that fertility in Eastern Africa, Western Africa and Central Africa began to drop after having increased from 1950 onwards (*Figure 8*).

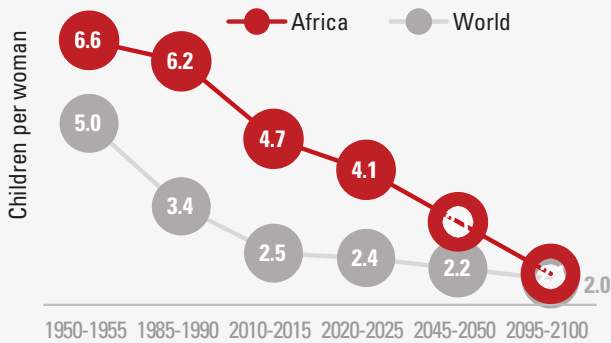
For all regions, fertility levels are projected to continue to decline steadily over the remainder of the century (*Figure 8*). By 2050, all African's subregions, with the exception of



FIG. 8

Fertility levels in Africa remain much higher than the global average

A. Total fertility in Africa and the world, 1950–2100



Source: UNICEF analysis based on UN WPP 2012 Revision.

B. Total fertility by UNECA region, 1950–2100

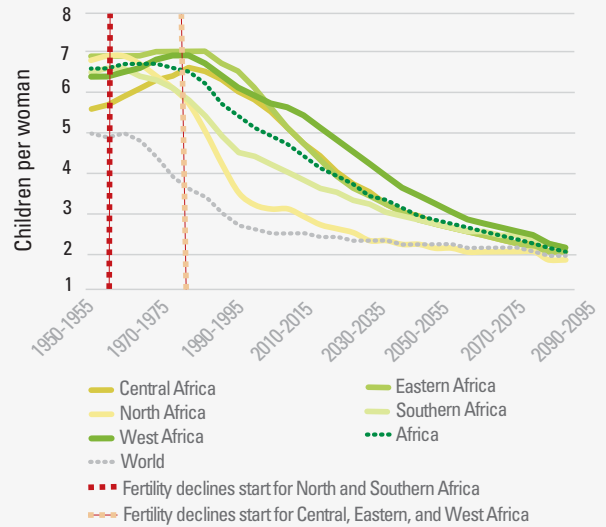
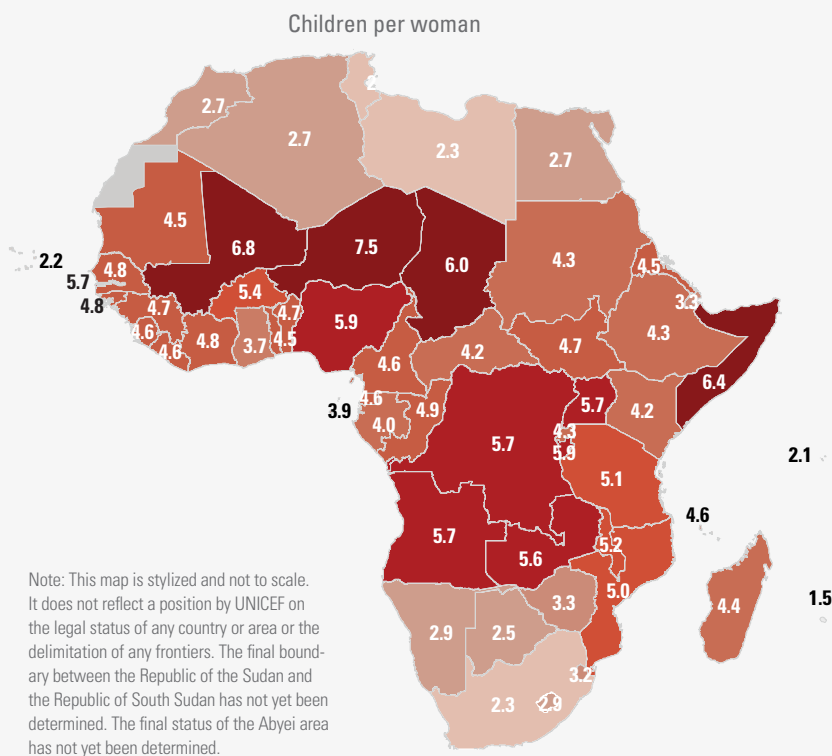


FIG. 9

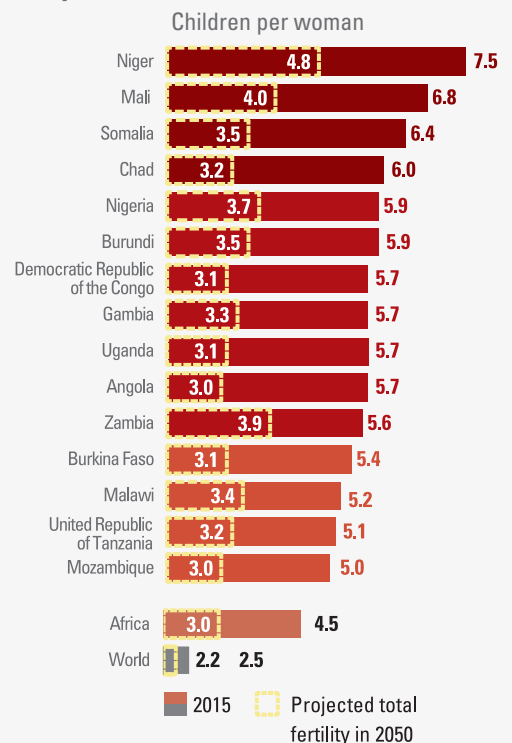
In 15 countries, total fertility is at 5 or more children per woman in 2015

A. Total fertility in countries in Africa, 2015



Source: UNICEF analysis based on UN WPP 2012 Revision.

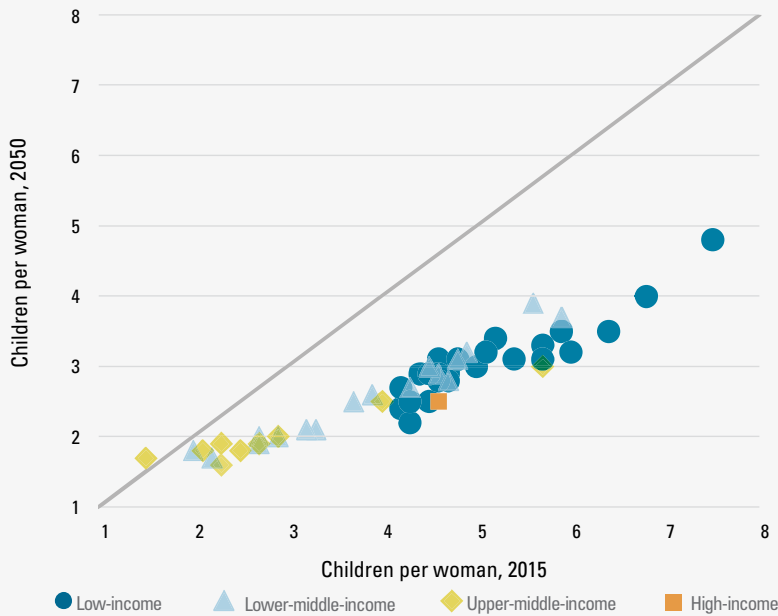
B. Top 15 countries in Africa with highest total fertility, 2015 and 2050



Note: The red or grey bar shows the fertility rate in 2015, the dashed yellow line shows the projected fertility rate in 2050.

The poorest countries and households tend to have the highest fertility

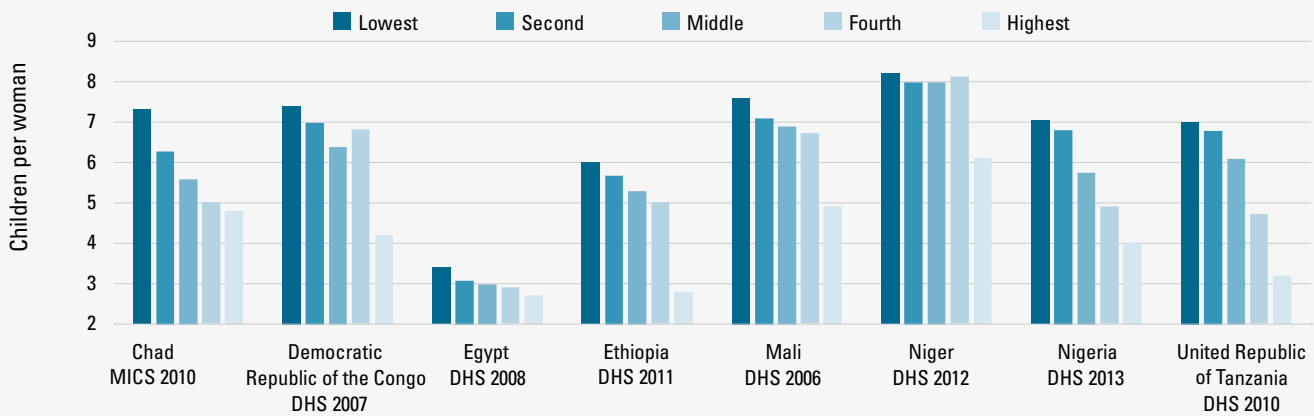
A. Total fertility in African countries by national income, 2015 and 2050



Note: The plot shows the fertility levels in 2015 and the projected fertility levels in 2050. Values below the diagonal indicate that the fertility is projected to decline over the period from 2015 to 2050 while values above the diagonal indicate an increase.

Source: UNICEF analysis based on UN WPP 2012 Revision. The national income classifications follow the World Bank income classification, 2014.

B. Total fertility by wealth quintiles in selected African countries



Source: UNICEF analysis based on Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) and Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) data.

West Africa, will have less than 3 children per woman, and by this century's close the average fertility rate in all African subregions will hover at around 2 children per woman.

Average fertility levels vary widely across Africa, and are strongly correlated with national income

At the country level, 2015 estimates for Africa's fertility rates

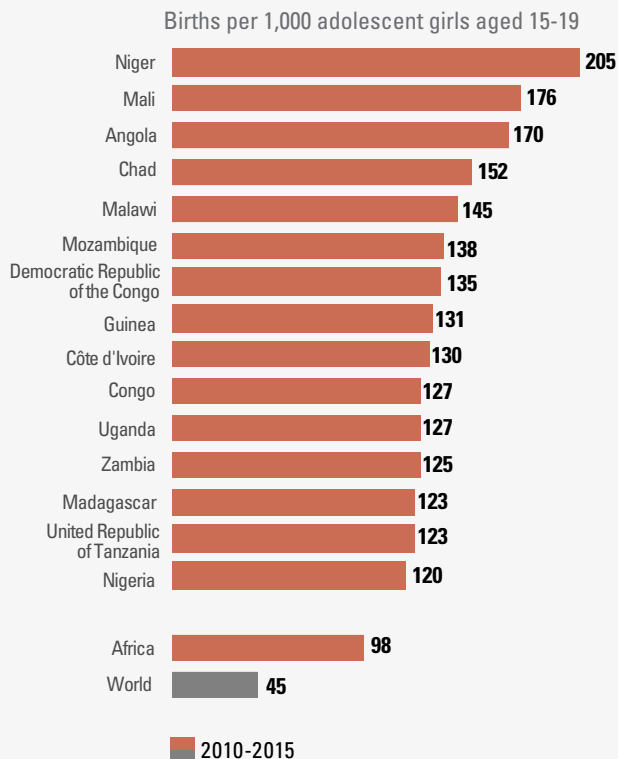
vary widely, from 1.5 children per woman in Mauritius to 7.5 children per woman for Niger. Fifteen African countries have fertility levels of five children or more per woman (Figure 9). In general, fertility levels remain closely correlated with national income (Figure 10). The countries with average fertility rates greater than six children per women (Chad, Mali, Niger and Somalia) all belong to the group of nations with low income levels.



Adolescent fertility rates are above 120 births per 1,000 adolescent girls aged 15–19 in 15 African countries

FIG. 11

Top 15 countries with the highest adolescent fertility rates in Africa, 2010-2015



Source: UNICEF analysis based on UN WPP 2012 Revision.

With the exception of countries with already low levels of fertility rates, significant drops in fertility rates are projected for most African countries over the course of the century, and particularly in those countries with the highest rates at present. Fertility levels in Angola, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Niger, Somalia and Uganda are estimated to drop by more than 2.5 children per woman over the next 35 years (*Figure 9*). Nonetheless, 19 countries will still have fertility rates above 3 children per women by mid-century.

Figure 10B clearly shows that in the countries analysed, fertility rates are consistently higher for the poorer quintiles compared to their richer counterparts. Women in the poorest quintile in Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and the United Republic of Tanzania have on average 2 or almost 4 children more than women in the wealthiest quintile. Survey data also show that fertility levels

tend to be higher in rural areas than in urban areas. In Niger, women in rural areas have on average about two and a half children more than women living in urban areas and, in Ethiopia, women in rural areas have about three children more.

Adolescent fertility (adolescent girls aged 15–19) in Africa is more than double the global average, and quadruples the world rate in some of the poorest countries

Adolescent girls aged 15–19 in Africa have the highest rates of fertility for their age cohort in the world, with 98 births per 1,000 adolescent girls, compared to the average of 45 at the global level. From 2010 to 2015, 14 per cent of all babies in Africa were born to adolescent girls and women under 20, compared to 9 per cent globally.

For the same time period, at the country level, 15 countries in Africa have 120 or more live births per 1,000 adolescent girls aged 15 to 19. The highest adolescent fertility rates are estimated for Niger with 205 births per 1,000 adolescent girls, followed by Mali (176), Angola (170) and Chad (152) (*Figure 11*). The lowest adolescent fertility rates in 2010-2015 are estimated for countries in North Africa: Libya, with 3 births per 1,000 adolescent girls aged 15–19; Tunisia (5), and Algeria (10).

Contraceptive prevalence remains low and unmet need high

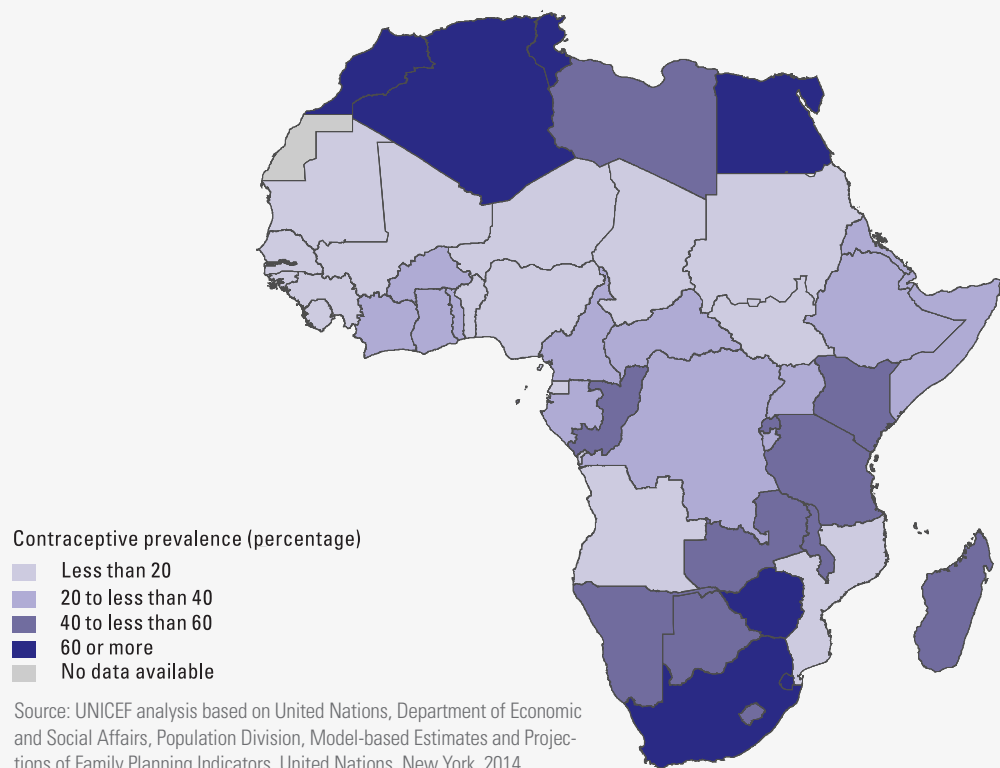
Today worldwide, almost two thirds of women of childbearing age who are in a union are using contraceptive methods.² In Africa, this proportion drops to a third of all women. On the continent, 32 African countries have contraceptive prevalence levels below 40 per cent. Half of these countries in Africa have an estimated level of contraceptive prevalence below 20 per cent and they are mainly located in Western Africa and Eastern Africa (*Figure 12*).

Globally, 12 per cent of all women of childbearing age are estimated to have an unmet need for family planning in 2015; for the African continent this proportion rises to 23 per cent. Unmet need for family planning tends to be lowest in countries where contraceptive prevalence is already high (above 60 per cent). In Africa, 38 countries are estimated to have high unmet need levels, ranging from 20 per cent to 35 per cent of all women of reproductive age who are married or in a union (*Figure 13*). In 28 of them the contraceptive prevalence is below 30 per cent.

² United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, *Model-based Estimates and Projections of Family Planning Indicators*, United Nations, New York, 2014.

In 16 African countries less than 20 percent of women of reproductive age in a union are using contraceptive methods

Percentage of married or in-union women aged 15 to 49 who are using any method of contraception, 2015



Contraceptive prevalence (percentage)

- Less than 20
- 20 to less than 40
- 40 to less than 60
- 60 or more
- No data available

Source: UNICEF analysis based on United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, Model-based Estimates and Projections of Family Planning Indicators, United Nations, New York, 2014.

Note: This map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or area or the delimitation of any frontiers. The final boundary between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. The final status of the Abyei area has not yet been determined.

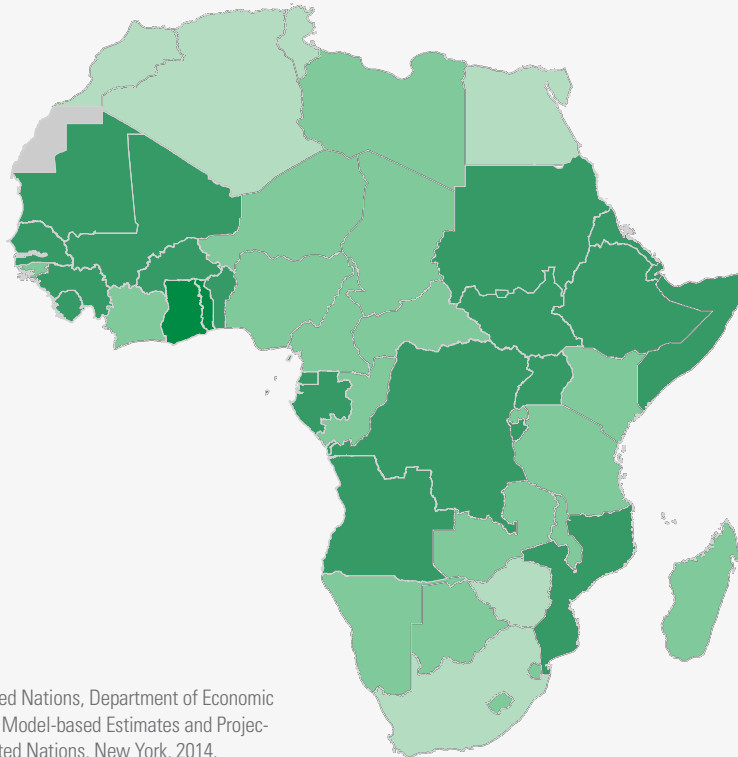




FIG. 13

In about half of the countries in Africa, a fourth of the women of reproductive age in a union have an unmet need for family planning

Percentage of married or in-union women aged 15 to 49 who want to stop or delay childbearing but are not using a method of contraception, 2015



- Unmet need 2015
- Less than 15
 - 15 to less than 25
 - 25 to less than 35
 - 35 or more
 - No data available

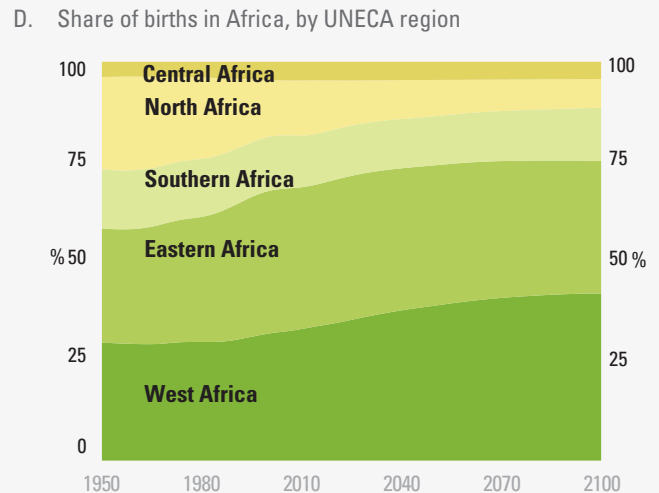
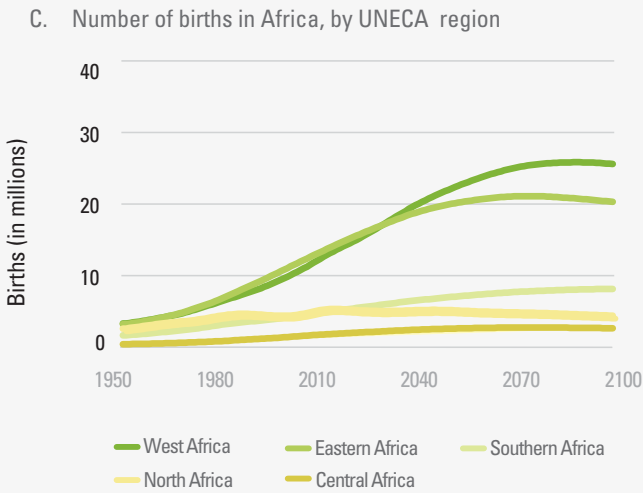
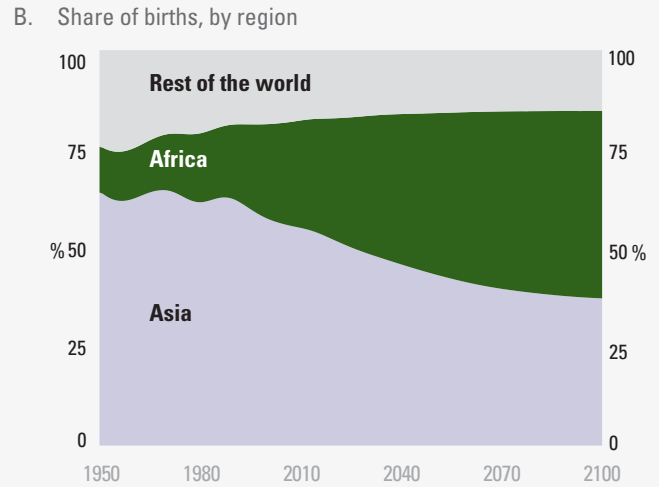
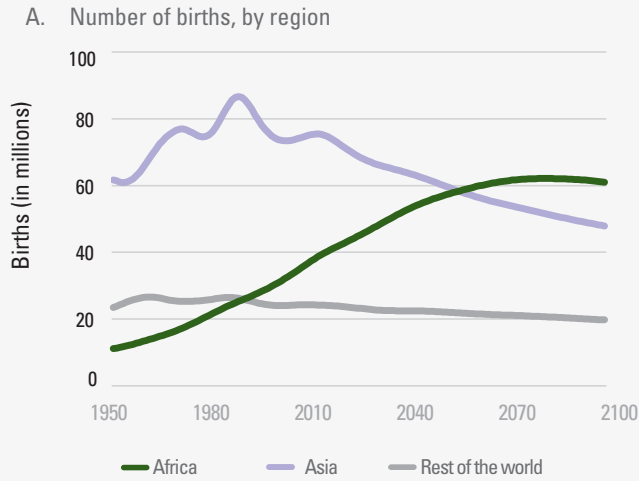
Note: This map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or area or the delimitation of any frontiers. The final boundary between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. The final status of the Abyei area has not yet been determined.

Source: UNICEF analysis based on United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, Model-based Estimates and Projections of Family Planning Indicators, United Nations, New York, 2014.



**The number of births will continue to grow in Africa but decline in the rest of the world;
Four in 10 of the world's babies will be born in Africa by mid-century**

Births, 1950–2100



Source: UNICEF analysis based on UN WPP 2012 Revision.





Births

In 1950, Africa accounted for one in every nine global births. By 2030 Africa is projected to account for almost one in every three global births. At the end of the century, Africa will account for almost half of all the world's births

More and more of the world's children are being born in Africa. The trends are truly striking and require contemplation. Today, around 29 per cent of the world's births take place in Africa. By 2030, this share will increase to 35 per cent and based on current trends will reach 41 per cent by mid-century. And by 2100, almost half of all of the world's children (47 per cent) will be born in Africa. This is an increase from the figures reported in the first edition of this series on child demographics, when Africa's share of global births was projected at one third by mid-century; the revision is based on new estimates from the United Nations Population Division. It is also an almost unfathomable increase in historical terms, considering that in 1950 only 12 per cent of the world's births took place in Africa (*Figure 14*).

The continent will see almost half a billion births in the next 10 years or so, and almost 1.8 billion births over the next 35 years to mid-century

Even under the assumption of large declines in the fertility levels in Africa, the continent's number of births is not estimated to decline until the 2080s because of the increasing number of women of reproductive age (*Figure 7*). In fact, the absolute numbers of births are also set to increase massively. On current trends, over the next 15 years from 2015 until 2030, 700 million babies — slightly under the entire current population of the European continent — will be born in Africa, with a further 1.1 billion births on the continent between 2031 and 2050 (*Figure 15*). In sum, 1.8 billion babies will be born from 2015 to 2050, which is 700 million babies more than over the equivalent number of years from 1980 to 2015. These 1.8 billion babies will account for 35 per cent of the 5 billion babies projected to be born in the world from 2015 to 2050. Put another way, in 2015, around 3.4 million births will take place in Africa every month, adding up to around 40 million a year. This contrasts sharply with 1950, when Africa's births were less than 1 million per month.

West Africa will relatively soon surpass Eastern Africa as the subregion with the highest number of births in Africa, as births in low-income countries proliferate

Subregional birth trends within Africa vary markedly. West Africa's relatively higher fertility rates compared to other subregions will see it surpass Eastern Africa as the region with the highest numbers of births by 2029. In about three years' time, from 2018 onward, the number of births in Southern Africa will exceed those in North Africa for the first time (*Figure 14*).

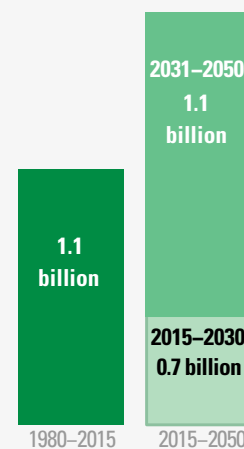
By 2050, 1 in every 11 of the world's babies will be born in Nigeria, which will experience more than 360 million births in the next 35 years

Presently, 1 in every 5 births in Africa takes place in Nigeria, which accounts for 1 in every 19 global births. Based on current trends, between now and 2030, 136 million babies will be born in Nigeria, and from 2031 until mid-century there will be 224 million more, adding up to 359 million births — more than the current population of the United States — in the next 35 years (*Figure 16*). Assuming current trends persist, Nigeria will be home to 1 in every 11 global births by 2050.

FIG. 15

In 2015–2050, 1.8 billion babies will be born in Africa, 700 million more than in 1980–2015

Cumulative number of births in Africa, 1980–2015, and 2015–2050

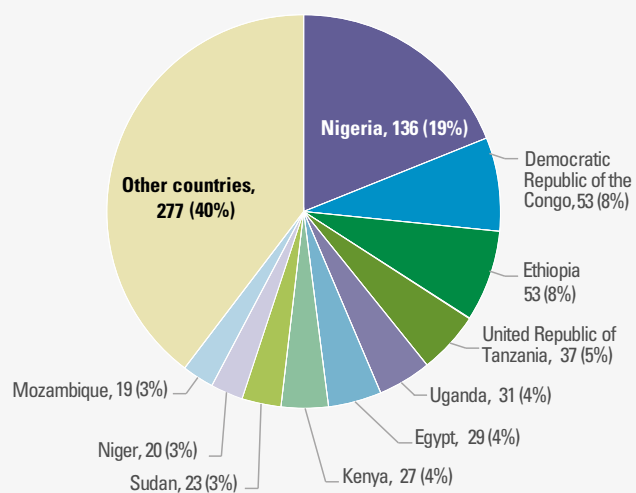


Source: UNICEF analysis based on UN WPP 2012 Revision.

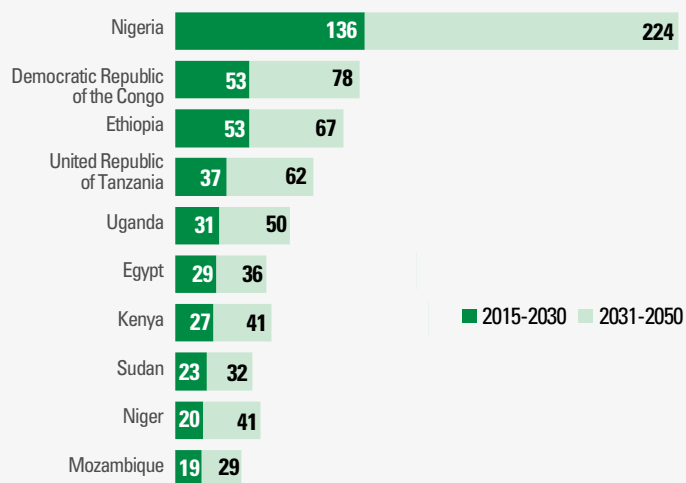
Nigeria will experience the largest increase in absolute number of births among African countries

Top 10 countries with the greatest number of births in Africa

A. Births, 2015–2030, in millions (% in Africa)



B. Births, 2015–2030 and 2031–2050 (in millions)



Note: The first number cited for each country refers to births in millions, the second to its share of African births.

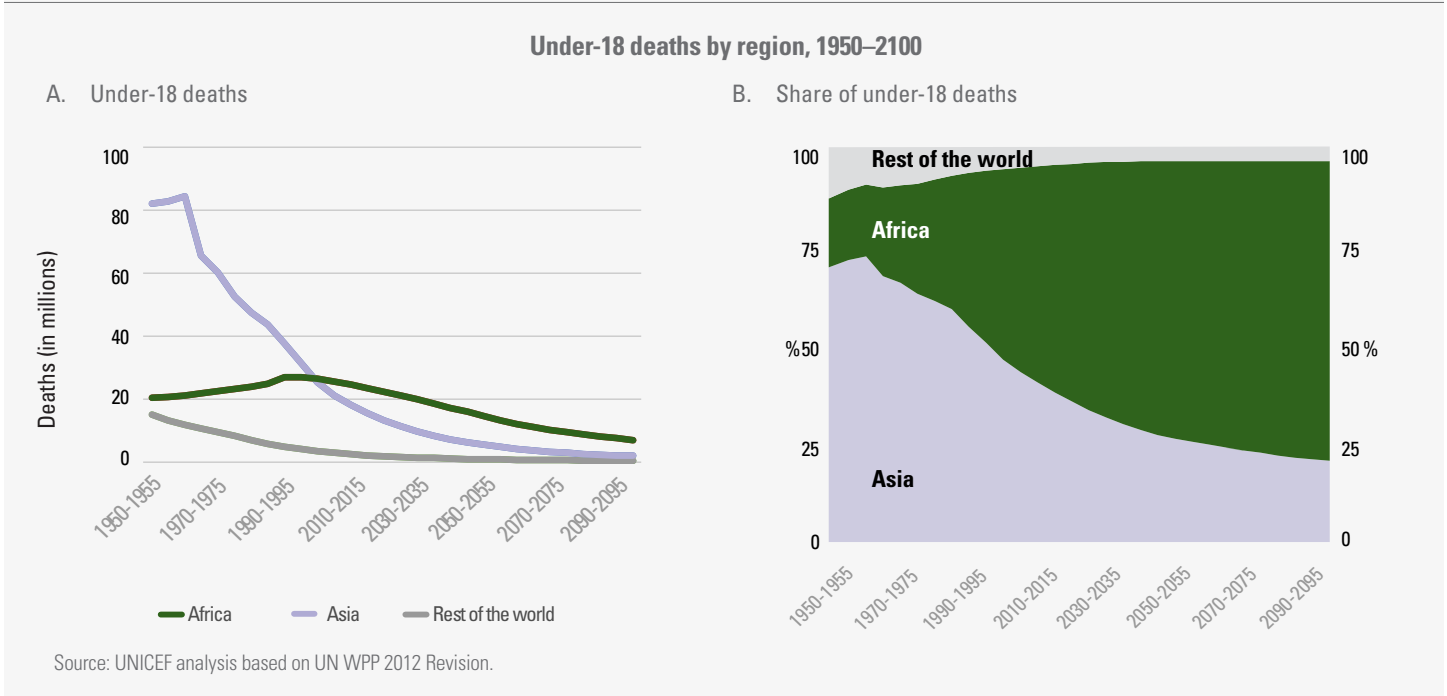
Source: UNICEF analysis based on UN WPP 2012 Revision.





FIG. 17

Child survival has improved in Africa, but child deaths will be more and more concentrated in Africa



Mortality, life expectancy and dependency

Child survival has improved markedly across Africa, but the continent still accounts for half of global child deaths, a figure that will rise to 70 per cent by mid-century

A child born in Africa today has a much higher chance of reaching her or his fifth birthday than almost a quarter of a decade ago. Back then, in 1990, more than 1 in every 6 African children died before reaching age 5; in 2012, the latest year for which estimates are available, that ratio fell to 1 in every 11 children born.³ The 1980s and 1990s were a particularly challenging time for child mortality in Africa: Births surged and so did child deaths because progress in reducing child mortality was not enough to outpace the increasing number of births. This trend continued until the late 1990s, when Africa began to see a fall in its absolute numbers of child deaths.

The regional decline in under-five and under-18 deaths that has occurred since the late 1990s is encouraging, and in large part is thanks to the concerted efforts of national and international

partners to prioritize child survival interventions in sub-Saharan Africa. But faster progress elsewhere has left Africa far behind the rest of the world, leading to a high concentration of the world's child deaths on this continent. Today, more than half of deaths among children under 18 occur in Africa, a figure that is projected to rise to 70 per cent by mid-century (Figure 17).

Life expectancy for Africa's children has risen sharply in recent decades and will continue to rise, steadily narrowing the gap with other regions

Children born in Africa can now expect to live considerably longer lives than previous generations. In the 1950s, '40-something's' were relatively rare in Africa, with average life expectancy at 37 years, significantly lower than in the developed regions of the world (65 years). That gap has narrowed even as life expectancy in all regions has risen. Today, African life expectancy at birth is 58 years — far greater than in any time in the continent's recorded history but still 19 years lesser than the developed regions and 12 years lesser than the global average of 70 years in 2010–15 (Figure 18). This gap will narrow steadily according to current projections, and by 2035, Africa will have its first generation that can expect to reach pensionable age, as life expectancy at birth will reach 65 years for the first time.

³ UNICEF, *Committing to Child Survival: A Promise Renewed – Progress Report 2013*, New York, 2013.

Africa's overall dependency ratio will stay high, due to its expanding child population, in contrast to other regions that face rising dependency due to growing elderly populations

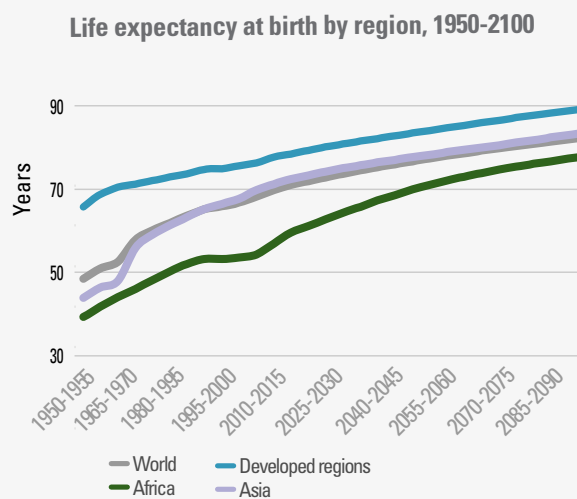
Africa's dependency ratio — measured as children (14 and younger) + elderly (65 and older) as a share of the working-age population (15–64 years) — is high, at 79 per 100 persons of working age in 2015, but has declined steadily since 1950. But unlike any other continent or region, Africa's overall dependency ratio is driven by an outstandingly high child dependency ratio (*Figure 19*); in contrast, most other regions are facing increasing dependency ratios driven by ageing populations. Africa has the highest child dependency ratio, at 73 children per 100 persons of working age in 2015, close to double the global average of 40 children per 100 persons close to working age.

High child dependency and low old-age dependency ratios are especially prevalent in Eastern, West and Central Africa. North Africa and Southern Africa, to a lesser extent, display lower child dependency ratios (*Figure 20*). In the coming decades, Africa, like all regions, will see a sharp increase in its old-age dependency ratio as its population finally begins to age, particularly after mid-century. But unlike the rest of the world, Africa's dependency ratio is projected to keep falling as the growth in the working-age population and falling child dependency ratio outweigh the moderate increases in old-age dependency until close to the end of the 21st century.

Across Africa, there is considerable divergence in the composition of dependency ratios. In 2015, the African countries with the highest child dependency ratios are Niger

Life expectancy at birth is increasing, but remains shorter in Africa than in other regions

FIG. 18



Note: Developed regions and developing regions follow those of United Nations Statistical Division 'Standard country or area codes for statistical use'. The detailed classification can be found at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49.htm>.

Source: UNICEF analysis based on UN WPP 2012 Revision.

with 106, Uganda with 97, Chad and Mali with 96, Angola and Somalia with 93, Zambia with 91, Gambia with 88, Mozambique with 87 and Malawi with 86 (*Figure 21A*). No African country has a particularly high rate of old-age dependency, but among those with the highest old-age dependency ratios in Africa are Mauritius with 13; Seychelles and Tunisia with 11; Egypt, Gabon and South Africa with 9; Cabo Verde, Morocco and Libya with 8 and Algeria with 7 (*Figure 21B*).





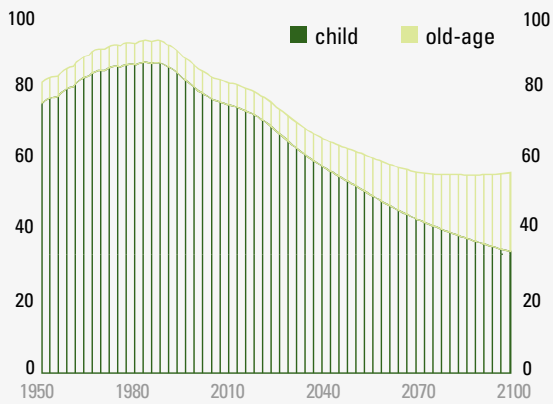
FIG. 19

Africa has the highest child dependency ratio in the world

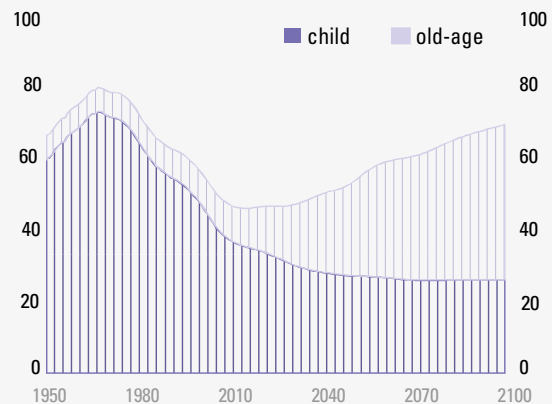
Composition of dependency ratios (child and old-age), 1950–2100

Number of child (under 15) and old-age (65 and over) dependants per 100 persons of working age (15–64)

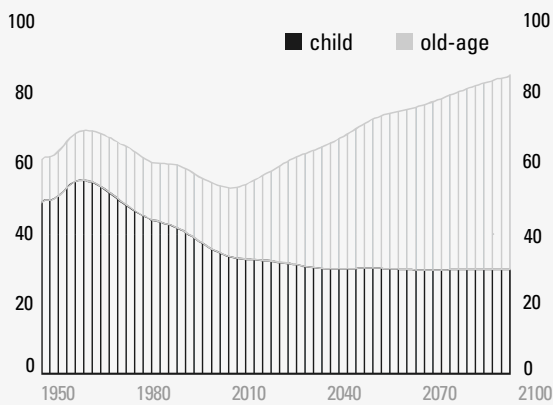
A. Dependency ratios in Africa



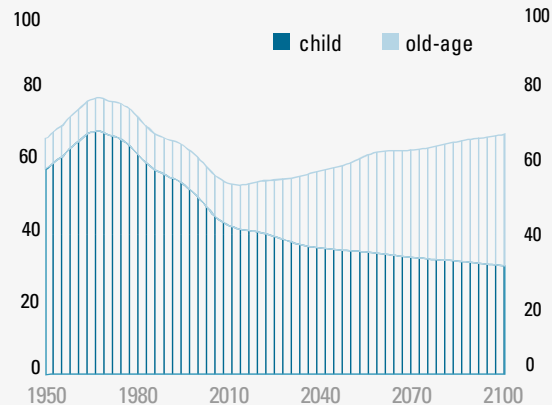
B. Dependency ratios in Asia



C. Dependency ratios in the rest of the world



D. Global dependency ratios



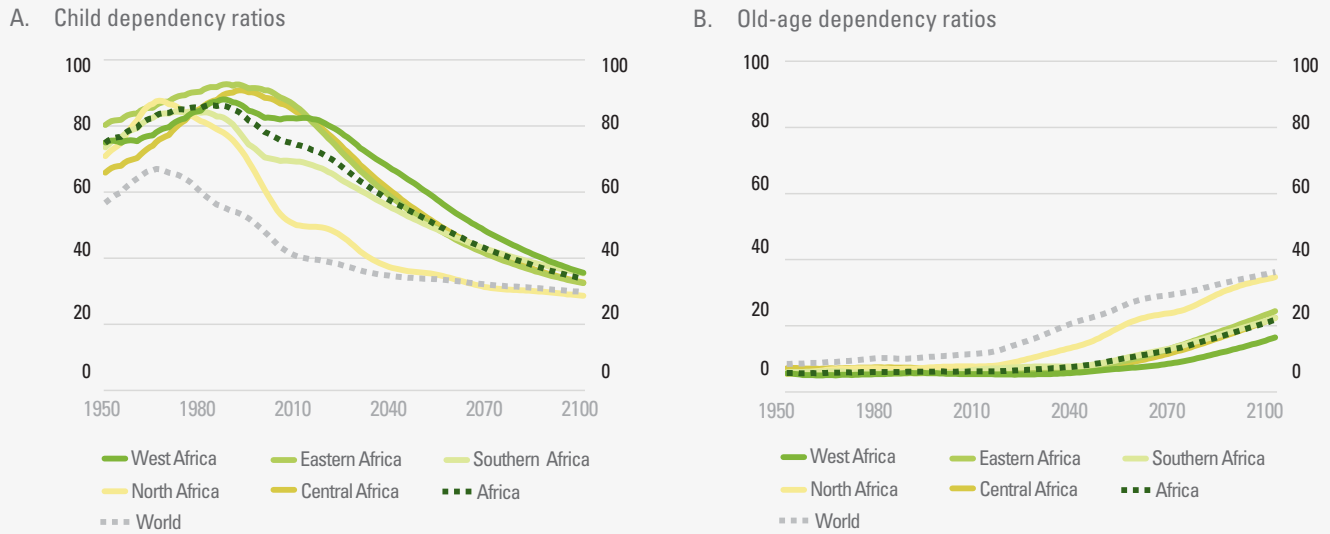
Source: UNICEF analysis based on UN WPP 2012 Revision.

FIG. 20

Total dependency ratios in Africa’s regions are mainly driven by high child dependency ratios, and very low old-age dependency ratios

Child- and old-age dependency ratios in UNECA regions, 1950–2100

Number of child (under 15) and old-age (65 and over) dependants per 100 persons of working age (15–64)



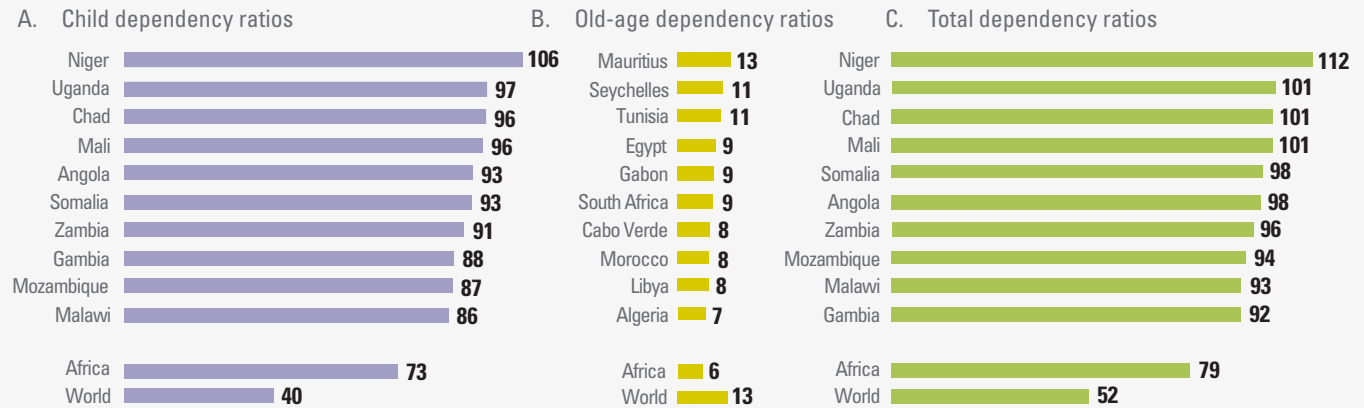
Source: UNICEF analysis based on UN WPP 2012 Revision.

FIG. 21

In 2015, in Niger, there are more children than persons of working age: 106 dependent children per 100 persons of working age

Top 10 countries in Africa with highest child, old-age and total dependency ratios, 2015

Number of dependants per 100 persons of working age (15–64)



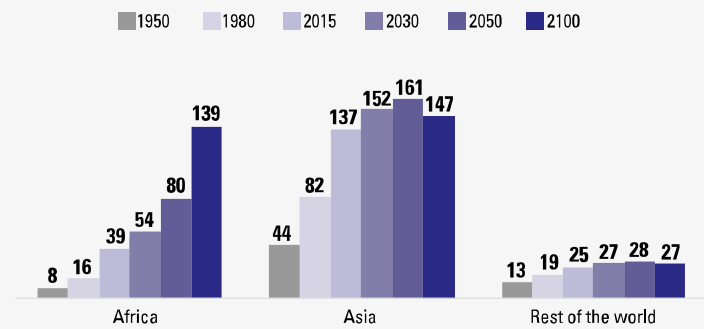
Source: UNICEF analysis based on UN WPP 2012 Revision.



Population density has risen sharply in Africa in recent decades

FIG. 22

Population density by region 1950–2100
(persons per sq. km)

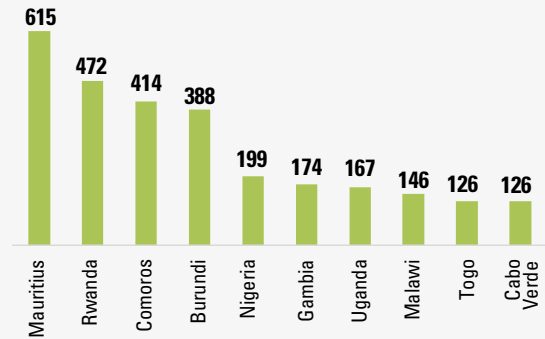


Source: UNICEF analysis based on UN WPP 2012 Revision.

The most densely populated African countries are mainly low-income countries

FIG. 23

Top 10 most densely populated countries in Africa, 2015
(persons per sq. km)



Note: Countries with more than 500,000 inhabitants.

Source: UNICEF analysis based on UN WPP 2012 Revision.

Density and urbanization

Africa will become far more crowded this century, with the continent’s population density set to almost quadruple by 2100

The surge in its inhabitants has seen Africa become much more densely populated in recent decades. The continent’s population density has risen from 8 persons per square kilometre in 1950 to 39 per square kilometre in 2015. It will more than double to 80 persons per square kilometre in 2050, and almost quadruple to 139 persons per square kilometre by the end of the century — roughly the current population density of China (146) (Figure 22). Among the African countries with more than 500,000 inhabitants, Mauritius is the most densely populated country with 615 persons per square kilometre, followed by Rwanda with 472, Comoros with 414, Burundi with 388, and Nigeria with 199 (Figure 23). In Nigeria, population density is expected to rise to 296 persons per square km in 2030, and to 477 in 2050, and 989 persons per square km in 2100 — roughly the current population density of Bangladesh. By the end of the century, Burundi is projected to become the most densely populated country in Africa with 2,022 persons per square kilometre, followed by Rwanda with 1,375 persons per square kilometre.

The image of Africa as a mostly rural continent is beginning to fade quickly amid rapid urbanization that will lead to the majority of its people and children living in cities in less than 25 years

To many outside the continent, the image of Africa often continues to be largely rural. The figures still somewhat support this notion, but only just: nowadays 40 per cent of Africa’s population lives in urban areas. The past three decades have seen a frenetic pace of urbanization; considering that in 1980, just 27 per cent of the population was classified as living in urban areas. This rapid growth is set to continue, with Africa set to become an urban continent by the late 2030s with the majority of its population living in cities or towns. By mid-century, 56 per cent of Africa’s population will live in urban areas (Figure 24).

Huge discrepancies in urbanization persist across regions and countries in Africa

Urbanization in 2015 is most advanced in the North Africa region, where more than half of the population lives in cities or towns, followed by Central Africa (46 per cent), West Africa (45 per cent), and Southern Africa (44 per cent). Eastern Africa is far less urbanized than the other regions, with only about a fourth of its population currently living in cities or town (28 per cent) (Figure 25).

At the national level, in 2015, urbanization will be most advanced in Gabon with 87 per cent of the population living in cities and towns, followed by Libya, Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco in North Africa, smaller countries such as Djibouti, Cabo Verde, Sao Tome and Principe, the Congo in Central Africa, and South Africa (Figure 26).

But Africa will still be home to countries with a high population of rural inhabitants. For example, Burundi, the continent’s

In less than 25 years, the majority of Africa’s population will live in urban areas



Source: UNICEF analysis based on United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision (UN WUP), United Nations, New York, 2014.

fourth most densely populated country, has the highest proportion of the population living in rural areas in 2015 (88 per cent), followed by Uganda, Malawi, Niger, South Sudan, and Ethiopia — all with more than 80 per cent rural population. Six out of the top 10 countries with the largest percentage of rural populations are located in Eastern Africa and five out of these were classified as fragile contexts in 2014.

Although more children still live in rural areas, the growth in Africa’s urban child population has outstripped that of its rural counterpart

For children, urbanization trends have been equally pronounced on the African continent.⁴ In 1980, about three quarters of all children under 5 and under 18 lived in rural areas, while in 2015 this ratio will fall to about 60 per cent. Compared to the rural population, the child and adult population in urban areas has

been growing much faster over the last 35 years from 1980 to 2015. Over this period, the absolute increase in child population in urban and rural areas is similar but the relative increases are much larger in the urban areas. In 2015, the child population in urban areas will be more than three times its size in 1980, while the rural child population is only about twice its size in 1980.

Dependency ratios in rural areas tend to be higher than in urban areas in Africa

In 1980, child dependency ratios in rural areas in Africa were significantly higher than in urban areas, with 90 children per 100 persons of working age, compared to 74 in urban areas. In 2015, differences in child dependency ratios between rural and urban areas remain substantial with 78 child dependents per 100 persons of working age in rural areas and 66 in urban areas.

⁴ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, Urban and Rural Population by Age and Sex, 1980-2015, United Nations, New York, version 2 August 2013.



Africa's urban children are increasingly likely to grow up in rapidly expanding megacities

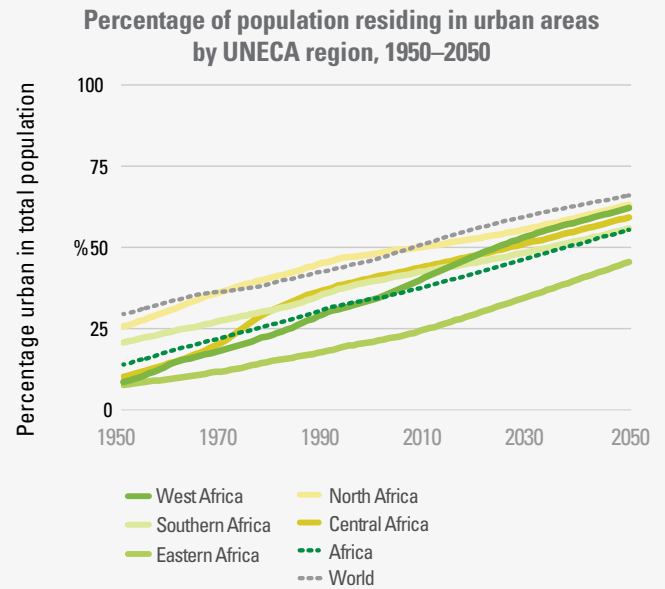
Projections are not available for urban-rural population trends disaggregated by age. But based on the estimations for urban concentration, there is an increasing likelihood according to the projections of the United Nation Population Division that in the future Africa's urban children will also live in megacities. The population of Al-Qahirah (Cairo), Egypt will rise to 25 million in 2030 from 19 million in 2015. The population in Lagos, Nigeria, the second biggest agglomeration in Africa, is projected to grow from 13 million in 2015 to 24 million in 2030. Meanwhile, Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo will become the second largest urban agglomeration in sub-Saharan Africa with 20 million inhabitants in 2030, up from 12 million in 2015.

An analysis⁵ for Africa by the French Agency for Development (AFD) confirms that the urban population in West Africa has increased on a large scale from 1950 until today and that the number of urban centres with populations above 10,000 inhabitants has grown continuously, from 125 in 1950 to close to 1,300 in 2010. However, the study emphasizes that while a large number of smaller agglomerations have emerged in West Africa, a smaller part of the population is living in agglomerations with more than 10,000 inhabitants. Also, their analysis shows slower trends in urbanization today than the United Nations

5 Agence Française de Développement (AFD), 'Africapolis urbanisation trends 1950–2020 – a geostatistical approach – West Africa study', Paris, 2011, available at <http://www.afd.fr>.

FIG. 25

By 2050, in all regions — except Eastern Africa — the majority of the population will live in cities and towns



Source: UNICEF analysis based on UN WUP 2014 Revision.

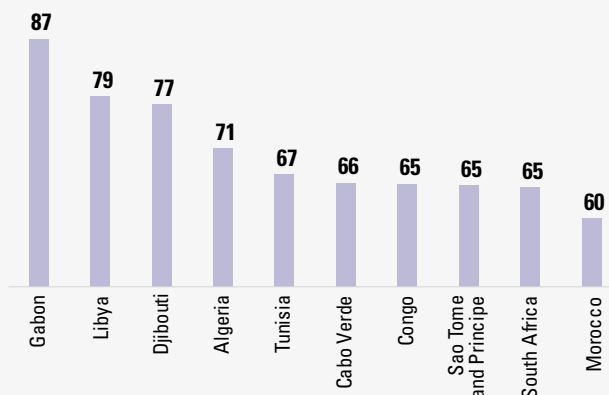
estimates and the authors conclude that today's urban growth is less pronounced than 50 years ago since the rise in the percentage of urban population in total to rural population has slowed continuously since the 1980s. More reliable data to base estimates upon will be needed to assess more accurately the current urbanization trends in the African regions.

Huge disparities in urbanization persist between countries

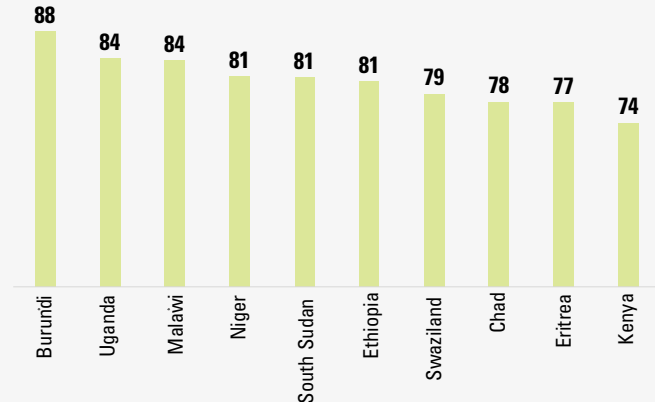
FIG. 26

Top 10 African countries with highest percentage of population residing in urban and rural areas, 2015

A. Top 10 countries in Africa with highest percentage urban population in 2015



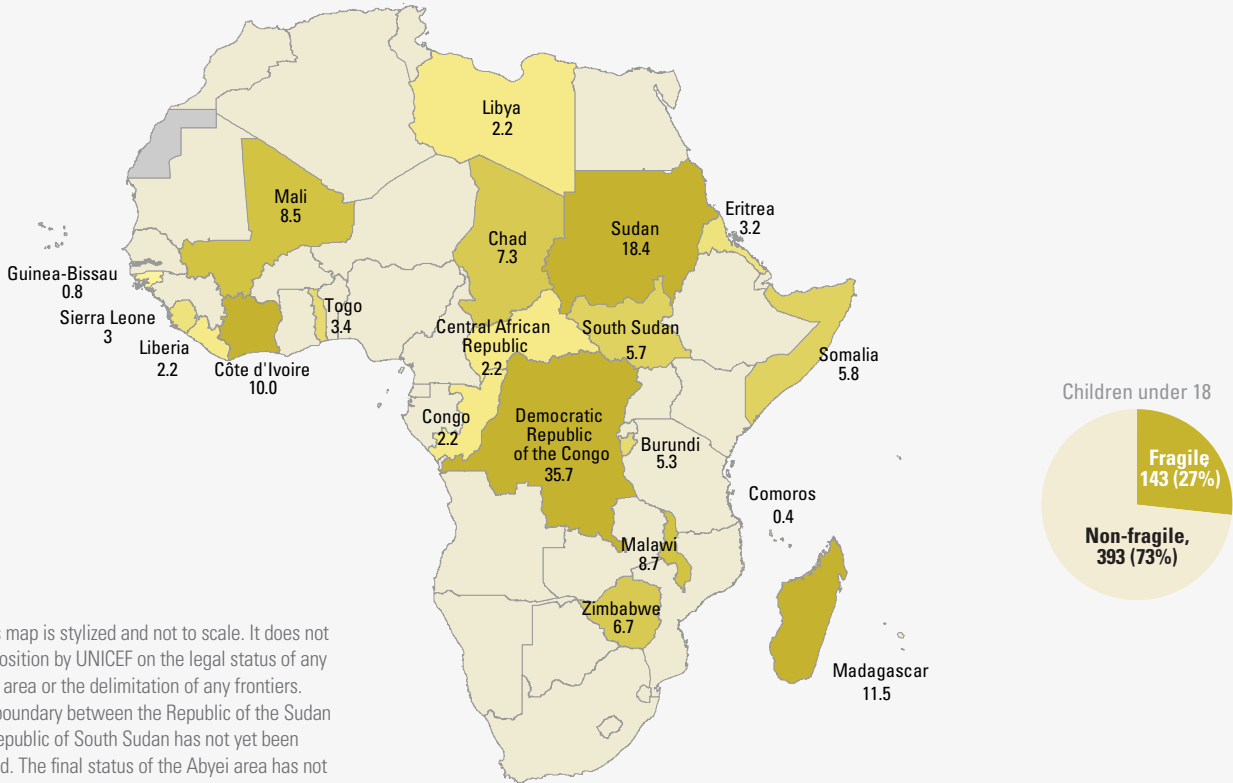
B. Top 10 countries in Africa with highest percentage rural population in 2015



Source: UNICEF analysis based on UN WUP 2014 Revision.

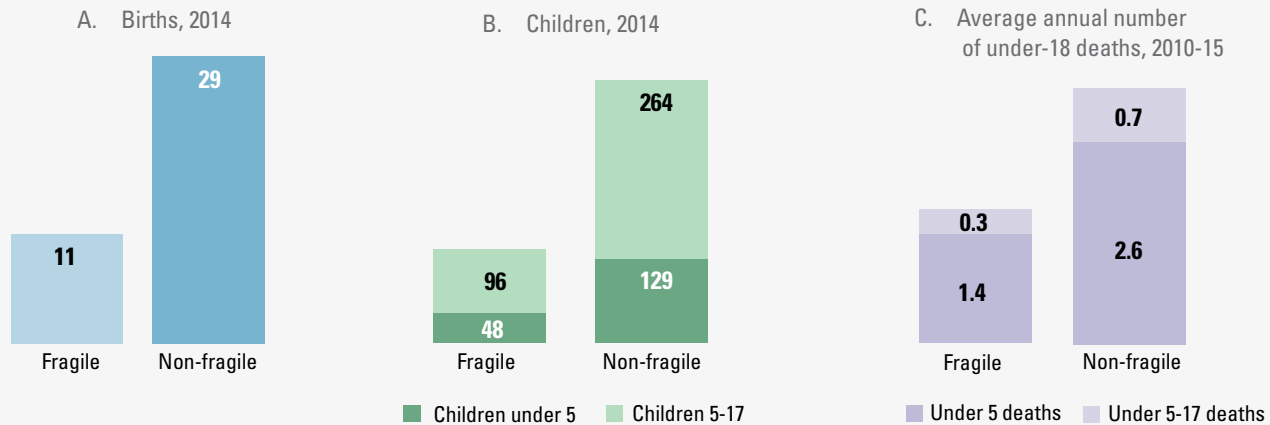
Today, three in 10 of Africa's children are living in fragile and conflict-affected states

Number of children under 18 in fragile and conflict-affected states, 2014 (in millions)



Note: This map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or area or the delimitation of any frontiers. The final boundary between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. The final status of the Abyei area has not yet been determined.

Births, children under 5 and 5-17, and deaths by fragile and conflict-affected states in Africa, 2014 (in millions)



Note: Fragile and conflicted-affected states refer to the World Bank 'Harmonized List of Fragile Situations FY14'. Fragile Situations have: either (a) a harmonized average Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA) country rating of 3.2 or less, or (b) the presence of a UN and/or regional peace-keeping or peace-building mission during the past three years. For further details of this classification please refer to <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTLICUS/Resources/511777-1269623894864/HarmonizedlistoffragilestatesFY14.pdf>.

Source: UNICEF analysis based on UN WPP 2012 Revision.



Fragility and poverty

Around three in 10 of Africa's children are growing up in fragile and conflict-affected states

Many of Africa's children are growing up in situations of fragility, poverty and inequality. Of the 34 countries currently classified by the World Bank as fragile and conflict-affected contexts in 2014, 20 are African. Around one fourth of the continent's population (288 million), 27 per cent of the child population under 18 (143 million) and 27 per cent of the child population under 5 (47 million) live in these 20 fragile contexts. Almost three in 10 births in Africa, and one third of under-five deaths occur in these 20 contexts (*Figure 27*). Six of the countries with fertility levels over five children per women are classified as fragile and conflict-affected states (Burundi, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Mali and Somalia).

A broader concept of fragility is used by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),⁶ combining the World Bank list and the Failed State Index from the Fund for Peace. Following this classification 31 African countries are classified as fragile contexts. The OECD highlights that these states are less likely to meet the MDGs, and four of the African fragile states with available data are unlikely to meet any of the MDGs by 2015. The report underscores that people living in a context of conflict and fragility are largely affected by poverty and that progress in fragile states on eradicating poverty has been especially slow.

6 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development: *Fragile States 2014: Domestic Revenue mobilization in fragile states*, OECD, Paris, 2014.

Almost half of Africa's countries are classified as low-income, and are home to around half of its total population and child population

Almost half (26) of the continent's 54 countries are classified as low-income, comprising 552 million inhabitants in 2015, almost half of Africa's overall population. Seventeen African countries are classified as lower-middle-income countries with 470 million people in 2015 (40 per cent); 10 are upper-middle-income countries with 142 million in 2015 (12 per cent); and only one country (Equatorial Guinea) is a high-income country with less than a million people. In the continent, 9 out of 10 children under 18 are living in low- and lower-middle-income countries (*Figure 28*).

Most of Africa's population is living in poverty

Most of Africa's population is living in poverty, often extreme, despite high GDP growth rates in recent years. Based on the latest data available for 45 of Africa's 54 countries from the World Bank, 58 per cent of the African population — and 70 per cent of sub-Saharan Africa — survives on less than US\$2 per day. In the two subregions of Eastern and Western Africa, more than 70 per cent of the population lives on less than US\$2 per day. Extreme poverty is also rife on the continent; around 40 per cent of Africa's population, and almost half of sub-Saharan Africa live on less US\$1.25 per day (*Figure 29*).

While less data are available for poverty breakdowns by age group, current estimations from the World Bank based on data for 26 countries in sub-Saharan Africa show that children have a higher poverty rate than adults in these countries.⁷ More than half of the children under 18 live in in extreme poverty on less than US\$1.25 per day.

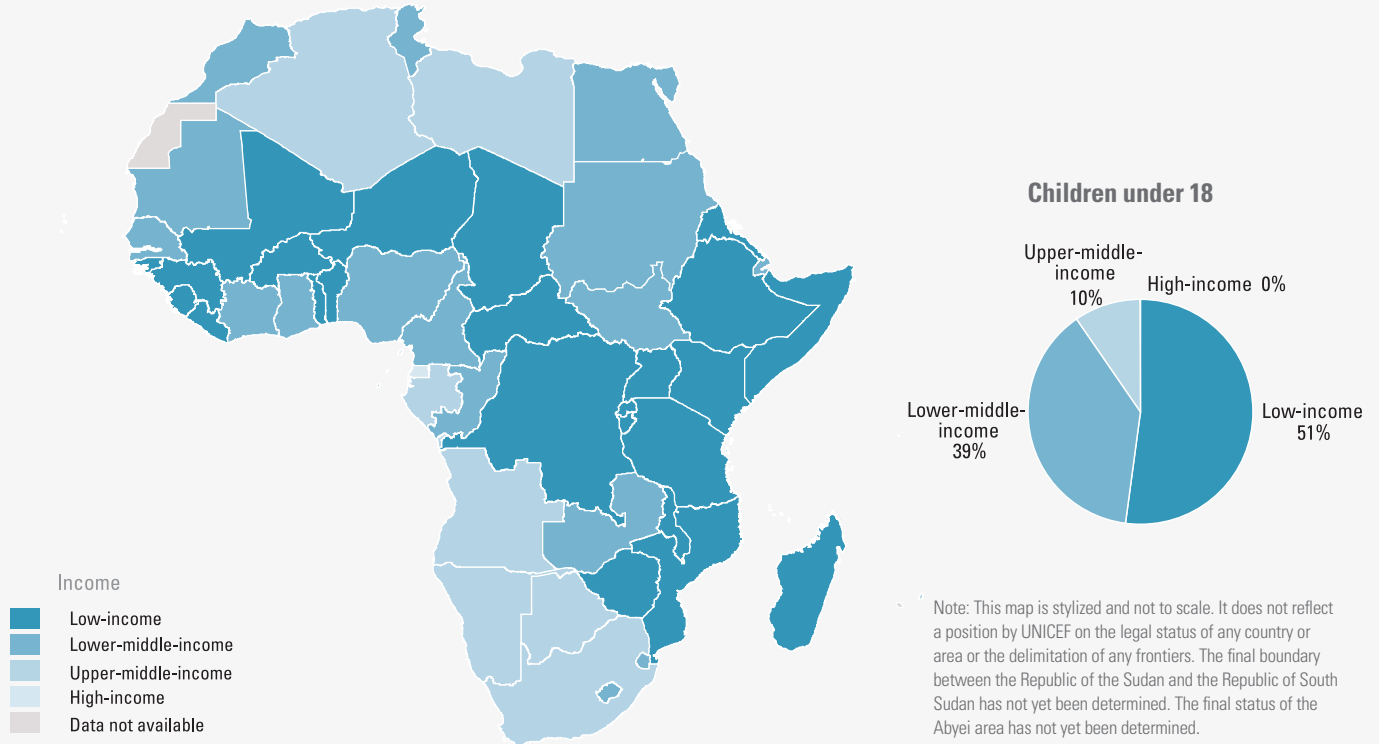
7 The World Bank, 'International Income Distribution Database (I2D2)', The World Bank, Washington, D.C., 2014.



FIG. 28

9 in 10 children in Africa live in the 26 low-income and 17 lower-middle-income countries

Countries in Africa by national income, 2015

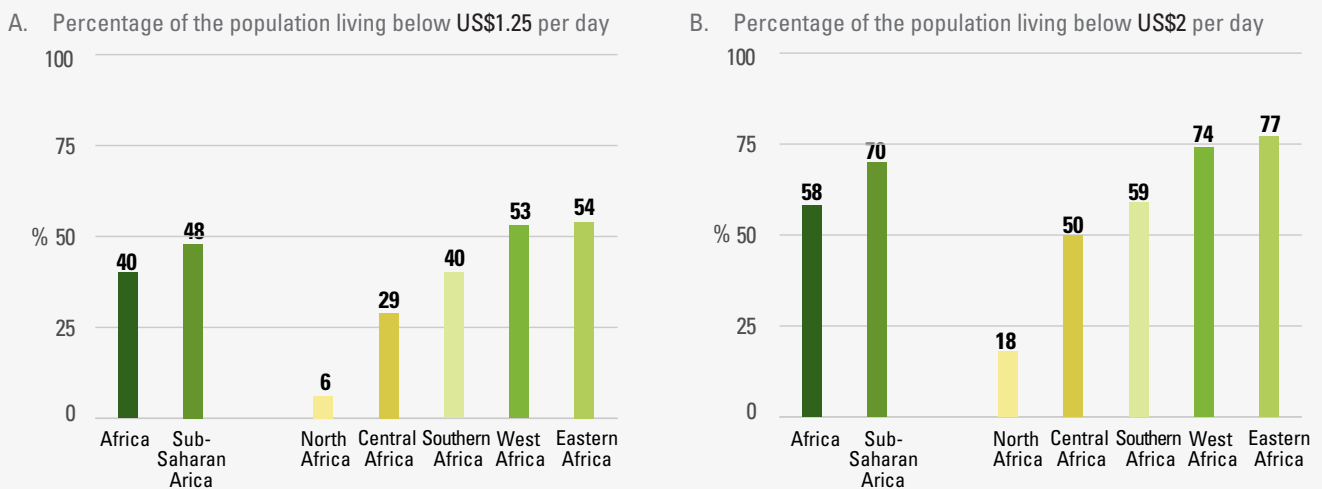


Source: UNICEF analysis based on UN WPP 2012 Revision. The national income classifications follow the World Bank income classification, 2014.

FIG. 29

Almost half of the population in sub-Saharan Africa lives in extreme poverty

Percentage of poor in the population, 2010



Source: UNICEF analysis based on the World Bank 'PovcalNet: the on-line tool for poverty measurement developed by the Development Research Group of the World Bank', 2014.



Data from UNICEF's Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (MODA)⁸ for 23 countries in Africa show that a vast majority of children under 5 are deprived in terms of nutrition, health, water, sanitation, and housing. From 71 to 98 per cent of children under 5 in countries with survey data have deprivations in access to goods and services related to nutrition, health, water, sanitation and housing which are crucial for their survival and development. On average children experience deprivations in two to three of the five above mentioned dimensions. Among the countries compared, the deprivation intensity is lowest in Rwanda

and highest in Chad, where child poverty is most intense with children on average being deprived in three to four dimensions.

Poverty rates for 5–17-year-olds are only marginally lower than for the under-fives. Data for 24 African countries reveal that among children aged 5–17 between 56 to 95 per cent are deprived in at least one of five following dimensions: education, information, water, sanitation and housing. The deprivation is highest in Malawi with 95 per cent of all children being deprived in at least one dimension. Children in Chad are deprived most intensively; on average a child in Chad is deprived in more than three of the five dimensions.

8 United Nations Children's Fund, 'Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (MODA)', www.unicef-irc.org/MODA, UNICEF, 2014.

AFRICA

DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION

In demographic transition, the population moves from one demographic structure to another. Typically, following the initial stage, four stages are involved in the demographic transition process that describe how secular shifts in fertility and mortality levels change the age structure of a population from many children and few elderly to few children and many elderly. In the transitional period, countries can experience unprecedented levels of population growth.

Demographic transition in stages

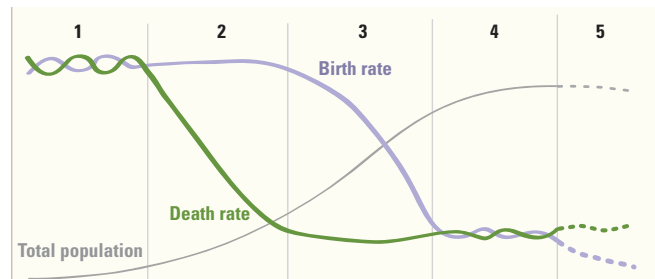
Stage 1: Fertility and mortality are high and fluctuating. Births and deaths counterbalance, therefore population size increases very slowly, if at all.

Stage 2: Mortality starts to decline, especially among children and young adults. Population size increases because the number of births is greater than the number of deaths.

Stage 3: Fertility levels also start to decline, and population growth slows down. Population size is still growing due to the young age structure of the population (women of reproductive age), despite lower levels of fertility.

Stage 4: Fertility and mortality are both low, resulting in low population growth and population ageing.

Stage 5: A fifth stage where fertility levels fall below replacement level has been suggested. Eventually population will decline over the long term. This stage is also called the 'second demographic transition' or 'second fertility transition'.



High child dependency ratios

In the course of stage 2 of the demographic transition, declining mortality and rising life expectancy not only impact the population size, they also alter the age structure of the population. As the initial mortality decline concentrates in children under 5, the survival of infants and children increases. The population grows younger and the proportion of children relative to adults gets larger. During this stage, the working-age population supports an increasing number of dependent children.

The young age structure, which is the result of high fertility and low mortality, entails future population growth. The relative abundance of younger people results in a birth rate that is higher than the death rate even if the fertility rate is at replacement.

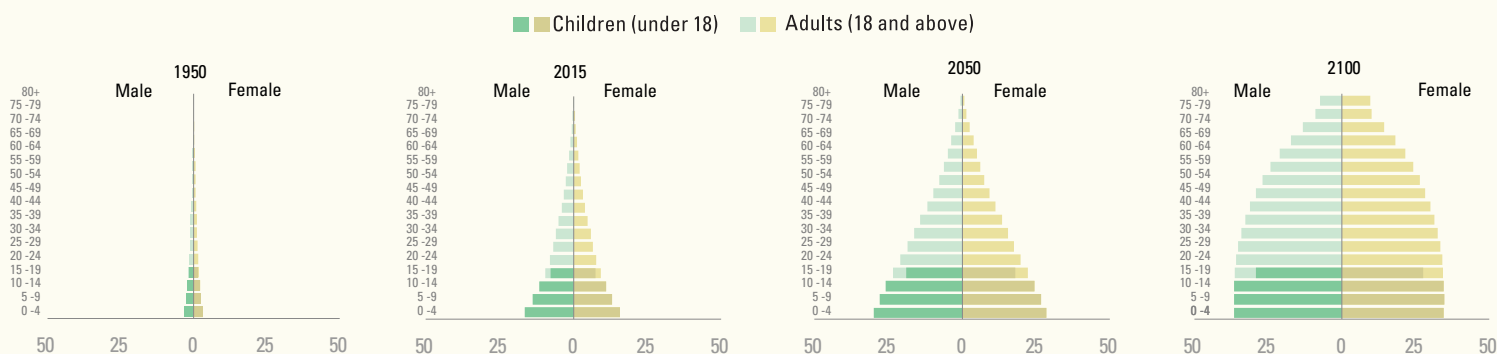
The population pyramid for Nigeria in 2015 shows a very young population with few elderly people (Figure A). The age structure in the population has not changed significantly compared to 1950. The number of young children in the population is increasing, with new births getting added every year to the base. Nigeria has high potential for future growth. With reduced child mortality, a large proportion of the big cohorts who are now children will survive to adulthood and have children of their own, thus contributing to population growth. Through improvements in adult survival, the sides of the pyramid have become less steeply sloping, and the adult population larger.

Low child dependency ratios

The prolonged decline in fertility initially affects the base of the population pyramid, as the proportion of children begins to decline. When the relative size of younger cohorts in the population eventually starts declining, the cohorts that had initially benefited from the decreasing mortality keep the population of working age growing — and a 'youth bulge' is created. During this period, the proportion of the population of working age grows relative to the proportion of both children and elderly people combined, producing more potential workers per dependent. For a longer period, which can last more than a decade, the decline in the younger age groups is not compensated by an increase in the older age groups, so that the working-age populations tends to become larger than the non-working-age population.

The age pyramid for South Africa in 2015 reflects the fact that fertility rates have fallen and the current cohorts of women of childbearing age are not giving rise to very large cohorts of children. The age structure of the population is changing the working-age population in South Africa, which is becoming larger than the group of dependents. In 2050, the dependency ratios in South Africa will be at 47 dependents per 100 persons of working age, compared to 54 in 2015 and 73 in 1950.

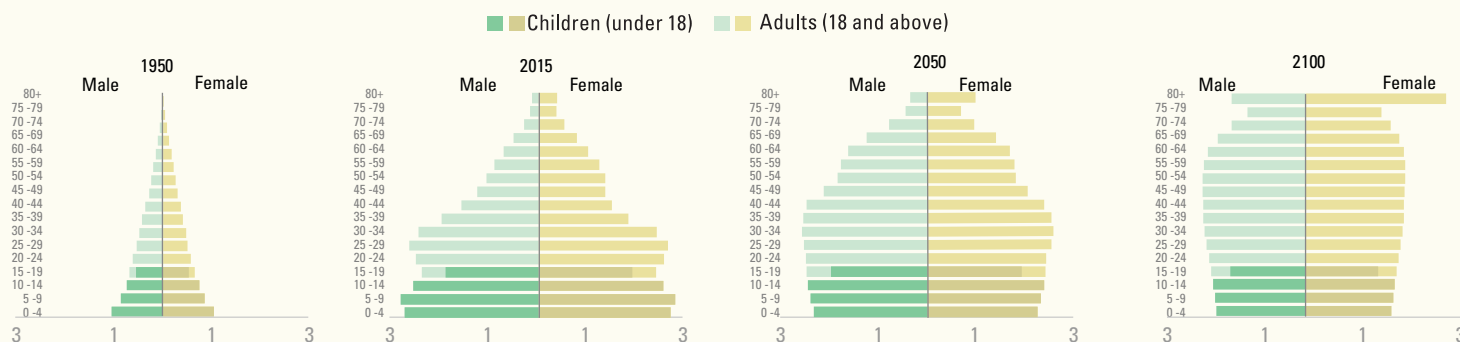
A. Population by age and sex in Nigeria, 1950, 2015, 2050 and 2100 (in millions)



AFRICA

DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND

B. Population by age and sex in South Africa, 1950, 2015, 2050 and 2100 (in millions)



Demographic dividend

The situation of having a relatively larger working-age population is related to the so-called first demographic dividend.* The age structure of the population can have important economic consequences for the population since an increased number of potential workers per dependent increases the potential for increasing production and savings.

The demographic dividend has to be seen as a window of opportunity for accelerated economic growth may — or may not — be realized. The favourable age structure of a population between fertility decline and an ageing population frames the window of opportunity in the third phase of the demographic transition. Besides the favourable age structure, inclusive and equitable economic and social policies as well as political and social stability matter for reaping the demographic bonus.

In the next stage of the demographic transition the increasing longevity leads to a rapid growth of the group of elderly people. At the same time, low fertility results in a slower growth of the working-age population.

The ageing population can create a burden for the working-age population if supported by intergenerational transfers, either through pension systems or from adult offspring. It has been argued that this burden would neutralize or be limited by life cycle savings of the elderly.** As the working-age population matures the prospect of retirement can provide the motivation to save for financial security. The additional savings can either be consumed or used to prolong economic growth. This stage of economic growth has been termed the second demographic dividend which can occur in the fourth phase of the demographic transition.

* Bloom, D.E., D. Canning and J. Sevilla. The Demographic Dividend: A New Perspective on the Economic Consequences of Population Change. Population Matters Monograph MR-1274, RAND, Santa Monica 2003.

**Lee, R. and A. Mason, eds., 'Population Aging and the Generational Economy: A Global Perspective', Edward Elgar, Chetenham, 2011.

Country classification

The stage of countries in their demographic transition can be assessed by comparing the trajectory of fertility and mortality trends as well as the age structure. Most countries in sub-Saharan Africa have so far not experienced favourable dependency structures. Many of these countries are still experience high fertility rates today.

Currently countries in Africa can be classified broadly into 4 groups according to their fertility trends. In the first group adolescents and youth are currently entering the working-age population, and dependency ratios are decreasing. In the second group of countries, fertility started declining more noticeably in the 1970s and 1980s and by the mid 21st century a large group of adolescents will enter the working-age population. In the third group of countries fertility levels are still high but declining, which will after a prolonged decline lead to a change in the age structure of the population. The fourth group includes countries with small or only recent declines in the fertility levels, their potential for population growth remains high and the age structure will only change slowly.

All countries in Africa have experienced significant reductions in child and adult mortality. Since 1950 life expectancy at birth increased in all African countries. However, substantial variations in mortality declines exist between countries. Several countries in fragile and conflict affected situations in Africa have shown smaller reductions in mortality levels, and countries with high HIV prevalence experienced a stagnation or reduction in life expectancy in the late 1990 and early 2000s.

Countries in Africa by fertility level and decline

	Low fertility	Medium fertility level and declining	High fertility and declining	High fertility and slowly or only recently declining
Countries	Algeria, Cabo Verde, Egypt, Libya, Mauritius, Morocco, Seychelles, South Africa, Tunisia	Botswana, Djibouti, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland, Zimbabwe	Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Togo	Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia
Fertility level (range and average across countries)	1.5–2.8 (average: 2.4)	2.6–3.5 (average: 3.2)	3.9–5.0 (average: 4.6)	5.0–7.6 (average: 5.9)
Fertility decline began	Late 1950– early 1980	1960s–1970s	1970s–1980s	1980s to now
Total dependency ratio , (range and average across countries)	40%–58% (average: 49%)	58%–74% (average: 65%)	70%–86% (average: 79%)	82%–112% (average: 94%)

Source: UNICEF analysis based on UN WPP 2012 Revision.





2 | Policy issues

The 2000 Millennium Declaration made meeting the special needs of Africa one of the priorities for human development in the 21st century. And while much has been achieved in the past decade and a half, Africa's burgeoning population — together with the multiplicity of deprivations and risks that many of its children face on a daily basis — makes this all the more an urgent priority for the post-2015 framework.

With Africa's child population set to grow by two thirds by mid-century and number almost 1 billion, and with subnational child populations likely to grow even more rapidly in settings of poverty, inequality and fragility than national aggregate projections suggest, more ambitious strategies are required to realize the rights of all Africa's children.

International dialogue on Africa's child demographics and their implications for children's rights, development and future is urgently required

The seismic demographic shifts that Africa's child population will experience are among the most important questions facing the continent, and indeed vital issues for the world. Global, regional and national policy debates and discourse on the implications of these trends are imperative, to better prepare for the post-2015 agenda and to create an Africa fit for all of its children in the rest of the century.

As globalization continues to increase the inter-connectedness and interdependence of the world's citizens, the reverberations of Africa's demographic transition will be felt far beyond the continent's borders. It has implications for a diverse range of issues, from China's growing demand for resources and major investments in Africa; Europe's challenges with migration from Africa; and Africa's emerging status as

a major consumer and investment market; to political stability and human security, energy usage, protection, and global poverty reduction.

A study by Kantorová and co-authors⁹ illustrates how population growth can be challenging for public health services. Relative progress in the coverage of skilled attendance at birth in sub-Saharan Africa is slow due to the increasing annual number of births, only rising from 40 per cent in 1990 to 53 per cent in 2012. However, the absolute number of births attended by a skilled health provider doubled from 9 million to 18 million over the same period. Increasing numbers of births will continue to have a serious impact on the ability of countries to provide the necessary health services, unless programmes and resources are significantly expanded. In order to keep the same coverage of birth attendance as in 2012 (53 per cent) for the year 2030, roughly 25 million births need to be attended — 7 million births more than the 18 million in 2012, requiring many more health personnel and facilities.

Without addressing Africa's demographic challenge, the world as a whole may not be able to meet the post-2015 targets it eventually sets, and move towards the Millennium Declaration's aims of a world marked by prosperity, peace, stability, equity,

⁹ Kantorová, V, Biddlecom, A. and Newby, H. 'Keeping pace with population growth', *The Lancet*, vol. 384, No. 9940, 26 July 2014, pp. 307–308.

tolerance and environmental sustainability by the end of this century.

Investing in children will be paramount for Africa to realize the rights of its burgeoning child population and benefit from a potential demographic dividend

Almost 2 billion babies will be born in Africa within 35 years and almost one billion children, nearly 40 per cent of the world's total, will live in Africa by mid-century. If invested in through expanded and improved health care, education, protection and participation mechanisms, these 1 billion children and their predecessors, the children of today and tomorrow, have the potential to transform the continent, breaking centuries old cycles of poverty and inequity.

But the opposite is also possible. Unless investment in the continent's children is prioritized, the sheer burden of population expansion has the potential to undermine attempts to eradicate poverty through economic growth, and worse, could result in rising poverty and marginalization of many if growth were to falter.

A pressing concern is the potential for a slowing and possible reversal in Africa's and indeed the world's annual numbers of under-five deaths, as falling mortality rates in the continent might be offset by a vastly higher number of births from a rapidly expanding population of women of reproductive age. And without equitable investment in children, prioritizing the poorest and most disadvantaged in the coming decades, Africa risks repeating the mistakes of other continents and experiencing ever-widening disparities among its children even as its economy prospers, with negative implications for employment, sustained growth and political and social stability.

Investment in children is also the best hope for Africa to reap a potentially massive and historic demographic dividend, as the labour force increases and dependency rates fall rapidly in many African nations. For its youngest citizens, such investment is of the highest importance: science increasingly underscores the criticality of the earliest years. For example, poor nutrition in the first 1,000 days of a child's life can lead to stunted growth, which is irreversible and associated with impaired cognitive ability and reduced school and work performance.

Investing in Africa's adolescents and youth as well as its young children will also be paramount, for at least two reasons. The first is that such investment is required to break the vicious cycle

of poverty and inequality that transpires when adolescents are engaged prematurely in adult roles of marriage and parenthood. Elevated incidence of early sex, unmet need for contraception and reproductive health services, and early marriage in Africa are root causes of high adolescent fertility and high lifetime number of births for mothers. Not only does premature entry into these roles have physical and psychological risks for adolescents, particularly adolescent females, they also often prevent them from entering or completing secondary education, enjoying their adolescence to the fullest, and reaching their full potential.

Second, Africa's demographic dividend is far from guaranteed by its changing demographics alone. It is the 10-year-olds today that will be entering the labour force in a decade's time when many more of African nations begin to experience their demographic transition as dependency rates fall further. Increased labour supply owing to expansion in the working-age population, together with falling dependency ratios, may not in themselves sustain economic growth at elevated levels seen in recent years unless the additional labour can be productively absorbed. This is underscored in the African Common Position on post-2015 agenda, whose economic policy agenda is focused on structural economic transformation, industrialization and employment generation. It is also reiterated in the African Union's Agenda 2063, which charts a framework for the continent's development for the next 50 years.

The best way of reaping the demographic dividend and structurally transforming Africa's economy will heavily depend on investing now in human capital, particularly in health, nutrition, water and sanitation, and particularly quality education. Supporting Africa's poor families to do this for their children, through service delivery and social protection in particular, will be paramount if Africa is to take full advantage of its demographic transition in the coming decades.

Africa's adolescents and youth will require the skills and knowledge to meet the challenges of a changing Africa, but also to be able to compete in an increasingly mechanized and hyper-connected global marketplace. That many of Africa's adolescents increasingly have access to ICT through mobile telephony is a welcome window of opportunity for innovative and participation, but this must be complemented by far greater investments in their education, health care and protection, and linking education to employment opportunities.



Pro-active policy responses to Africa's projected demographic shifts, including expanded reproductive health services, are imperative

The demographic trends described in this report are not inevitable; most are policy responsive. But addressing the phenomenal pace of Africa's population increase will require courageous and determined action. In particular, a discourse must emerge on how to extend access to greater reproductive health services to Africa's families — including culturally sensitive reproductive health education and services for women and particularly adolescent girls to reduce the unmet need — in an equitable and socially sensitive fashion that also encourages utilization, is non-discriminatory against any child or woman, and does no harm.

Unmet need for family planning reflects the gap between childbearing desires and contraceptive use. The estimates of the United Nations Population Division showed that for 2015 in sub-Saharan Africa, 25 per cent of women of reproductive age who are married or in a union have an unmet need for family planning.¹⁰ A report released by the United Nations Population Division in December 2013¹¹ underscored that most countries in sub-Saharan Africa have not seen a notable reduction in unmet need since 1990, in contrast to other regions. However, recent success stories in sub-Saharan Africa (such as Ethiopia, Malawi and Rwanda) show that meeting demand for family planning can be accelerated if reproductive health becomes a higher governmental priority.

Reducing adolescent fertility rates in Africa is essential for improving the reproductive health of African adolescents and will be critical to pro-active responses to Africa's projected demographic shifts. High levels of adolescent fertility are associated with elevated rates of unsatisfied demand for reproductive health services, including family planning. In 18 sub-Saharan African countries, more than 50 per cent of adolescent females report unmet need for family planning.¹²

Investing in and empowering girls and young women, including ending child marriage and

¹⁰ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. *Model-based Estimates and Projections of Family Planning Indicators*, United Nations, New York, 2014.

¹¹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. *Meeting Demand for Family Planning*, *Population Facts No. 2013/6*, December 2013. United Nations, New York.

¹² United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. *Adolescent Fertility since the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo*, United Nations, New York, 2013.

prioritizing girls' education, will be imperative to build an Africa fit for children

Investing in and empowering girls and young women will be imperative to slow adolescent fertility rates, and build an Africa fit for all. Expanded programmes to end child marriage (as defined as a union in which one or both parties are under age 18), which is highly prevalent across the continent, must also be included as part of efforts to address Africa's demographic transition. Child marriage is a determining factor in sustaining elevated rates of adolescent pregnancy and high lifetime fertility rates for women, and in excluding girls from education. Studies clearly show that educated women delay their first pregnancy, and space their births more widely than women who lack education.

Prioritizing and girls' education — as well as ensuring quality education for all — in Africa will therefore also be among the most powerful measures to build an Africa prepared for its demographic transitions and ready to take advantage of its potential demographic dividend. The majority of the world's countries that report high adolescent fertility and low school life expectancy (i.e., the number of years of schooling that a girl pupil can expect to spend from the beginning of primary through secondary school) are in sub-Saharan Africa, where out-of-school rates are also highest.¹³

Empowerment of women and girls in Africa must go beyond the statistics, as elsewhere, to the roots of discrimination, marginalization and violence that undermine their rights. Cultural, social, economic and political barriers that perpetuate the disempowerment of women must be urgently addressed if Africa is to manage its demographic transition and reap the full rewards of prosperity that a demographic dividend can bring.

National development plans and systems strengthening must take greater account of projected shifts in Africa's child population, and focus ever more strongly on equity-based approaches in policy and programming

With many African countries set to see unprecedented absolute increases in their child and overall populations, national development planning and systems strengthening must be adapted and sharpened to prepare for these demographic shifts. This will necessarily include a stronger focus on

¹³ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for Statistics. *Education For All Global Monitoring Report 2013/14*. UNESCO, Paris, 2014.

demographic data and analysis at national and subnational levels. In short, demographic analysis at national and particularly at the subnational levels must become a much more integral component of development programming in Africa.

Civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems will be essential for strengthening development planning at the national and subnational levels. Without accurate demographic data and analysis, it will be difficult to plan adequately for the required increases in essential services that Africa's burgeoning child population will require. A key issue that requires urgent attention is birth registration: at present, only 44 per cent of Africa's births are registered, leaving an estimated 85 million children under 5 unregistered.¹⁴ Eight of the 10 countries with the lowest levels of birth registration are in sub-Saharan Africa.

Investment in equity-based approaches to programming and policy for children are more imperative than ever, if we are to avert growth in the absolute number of Africa's poor and extreme poor children and families in the decades to come. As *Chapter 1* attests, these are the groups with the highest fertility and mortality rates among women and children, and most often the least able to access and utilize essential services.

In addition, programmes and policies must adapt and focus on the changing nature of Africa's poor, which may well increasingly become stratified along ethnic lines and will almost certainly become increasingly concentrated in both villages and slums.

Climate change will cause new sources of risk and vulnerability that have implications for Africa's demographic transition

Perhaps more than any other continent, African nations are set to see a multiplicity of risks from climate change, particularly warming, drought, rising sea levels, and resource scarcity. Six of the 10 countries most vulnerable to climate change rated by Maplecroft¹⁵ in late 2013 are in Africa. Three of Africa's most populous countries, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ethiopia, which currently are home to one third of Africa's children, number among these six. And these three countries alone will add an additional 134 million children in the next 35 years. Unless we change our approach to the

environment radically, Africa's children face an uncertain future from the direct and indirect risk of climate change. Among the effects are likely to be a rise in fragility; deterioration of environmental conditions; soaring migration as desertification and scarcity will drive migrants to the cities and to other regions; and delta cities threatened by rising sea levels.

Parts of Africa already face considerable shortages of vital services and resources such as water and food. Without adequate planning and preparation, Africa's demographic expansion is likely to result in increased scarcity of vital resources, including food, water and energy. Twice the people will need at least twice the resources and probably more. Better resource planning and management will be imperative if shortages of vital goods and services are to be averted.

In the decades to come, Africa's demand for energy is likely to soar, for everything from lighting homes and streets, to providing power for business and public services. Rapid urbanization and a growing middle class will only intensify the demand for energy. Africa has the potential to harness a variety of energy sources: hydrocarbons, hydroelectricity, wind and solar among them. With many of its population still not reliant on power driven by fossil fuels, and in the interests of its children and the environment, Africa also has a perhaps unique opportunity among all regions to focus on building renewable and sustainable sources of energy for its rapidly expanding population, and to build a sustainable environment for its children.

Child mortality, undernutrition, poverty, desperation and crises will increasingly become pressing issues in urban areas of Africa, and development initiatives must adapt accordingly

Urbanization also poses a growing challenge to realizing the rights of Africa's poorest children in particular. In the absence of new models and strategies for absorbing internal migrants and helping to realize their rights, Africa faces a rise in its slum population, particularly in its megacities. The rural poor migrants will bring their deprivations of child mortality, undernutrition and poverty with them to the cities, and it is likely that the number of under-five and under-18 deaths in urban areas will increase in the coming years, even if though the majority will still take place in rural areas. And emerging challenges, such as traffic accidents among adolescents and urban youth violence, will only heighten as a threat to childhood in urban Africa.

¹⁴ United Nations Children's Fund, *Every Child's Birth Right: Inequities and trends in birth registration*, UNICEF, New York, 2013.

¹⁵ Maplecroft, *Climate Change Vulnerability Index 2014*, October 2013, <http://maplecroft.com>.



For adolescents and youth, an increasingly urban Africa in the coming decades will bring to the fore the attendant problems of urban unemployment and underemployment, and the hopelessness of bleak economic prospects for urban youth that is currently being experienced in other world regions, with attendant potential to spur disillusionment and disenfranchisement among youth. This, combined with other factors such as sprawling slums, could spill over into increasing urban violence and crime. Much more must therefore be done to address the needs of Africa's urban adolescents and youth. Education systems, in particular, along with health care, must increasingly focus on quality of outcomes, and also on curricula that link achievements and learning in schools and colleges to the evolving needs of the African labour market. But other actions, such as civic participation, prevention of substance abuse, and recreational activities, to name but three, will also be important to meet Africa's children's social and civic rights.

Much of the focus of child survival and development efforts of recent decades in Africa has been to step up rural-based programmes through emphasis on community-based approaches targeted at the poorest and most disadvantaged. These have often yielded substantial results, as is seen by the progress made in many African countries towards the Millennium Development Goals. Programmes in rural areas need to expand: Africa will remain a rural continent for the

foreseeable future. But with many rural inhabitants rapidly moving themselves and their families to the cities — and this trend likely to intensify if economic growth remains rapid — a two-pronged approach is now required, one that prioritizes and adapts programming and policy to slums as well as villages. Scaling up urban programming for Africa is no longer optional but increasingly imperative.

Building resilience for Africa's children in the many countries facing situations of fragility will be critical to realizing their rights

The scale of emergency response to natural disasters and conflict is likely to expand, given the likelihood of increasing numbers among the poorest regions and communities of the continent, who are also the most impacted by these crises. National, regional and international emergency programming must be prepared to scale up efforts in these areas and work with African governments to improve disaster risk reduction, preparedness and resilience.

The fragility of many African nations is also a factor sustaining high fertility rates. Fragile states tend to have higher rates of child mortality than non-fragile states, sustaining incentives to maintain high levels of fertility (although fertility levels may decline during certain types of humanitarian crises and conflicts



periodically). They also tend to have high rates of illiteracy and extreme poverty and marginalization, complicating efforts at extending reproductive health services. When conflict is present, the challenges are magnified further, as systems break down further.

Building resilience in Africa, through peace-building, risk and foresight-based planning, creation of social safety nets and integrating humanitarian and development work, will be critical to both help support Africa's growing child population in fragile states and also to reduce their fragility in the future. Approaches such as the Peacebuilding, Education and Advocacy programme, introduced in several African nations and which, among other things, seeks to increase the capacity of parents, children and other stakeholders to prevent, reduce and cope with conflict and promote peace, will need to be expanded to help ensure that Africa's children grow up in a continent of stability, security and prosperity.

Tackling extreme poverty and investing in poor children in Africa now will be critical to provide better and more sustainable future living standards for all, and to permanently reduce future poverty and inequity

If current demographic trends continue, and Africa's economic growth rate remains steady or falters, there is a strong possibility that millions more children will grow up in extreme poverty. Even though Africa currently has one of the world's fastest GDP growth rates, most of its population is missing out on this economic boom, which in many countries is being driven by extractive industries and commodity-based exports. Poverty remains stubbornly high, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, and inequality within countries is often as pronounced as in other more affluent regions, and sometimes more. In addition, World Bank data for sub-Saharan Africa in 26 countries with data available shows that more than half of children under 18 are living in extremely poverty on less than US\$1.25 per day.

This scenario may be reversed, however, through sustained investments in Africa's children and youth — in quality

education and health care; in adequate nutrition, water and sanitation; in improved protection systems against violence, exploitation and abuse; in initiatives to lower rates of child marriage and labour; through fostering a culture of entrepreneurship and empowerment; and by implementing inclusive and sustainable policies that act against all forms of discrimination against children, and seek to protect Africa's unique environment for current and future generations.

A first step must be a keen global and regional discussion on how to vastly reduce extreme poverty in Africa within the next decade. And this should take place within the context of the post-2015 agenda and the emerging conversation on how this agenda will be financed. A new debate on equity for Africa's children must emerge so that another generation of children on this continent will not be lost to poverty, fragility and inequality. All stakeholders face the challenge of supporting faster and more sustainable human development in Africa in the 21st century.

The purpose of the *Generation 2030* series on child demographics is not to answer all of the many policy questions its analysis raises but rather to begin to pose the questions and spark debate and discourse that will hopefully lead to decisive and determined action. There are a growing number of forums and conversations on the future of Africa, and these are spurring a rich dialogue and diverse policy options. Fewer of these forums, however, have explicitly focused on Africa's children, and fewer still on the seismic demographic shifts for them that will be a leading determinant of their lives and those of their children in the remainder of this century.

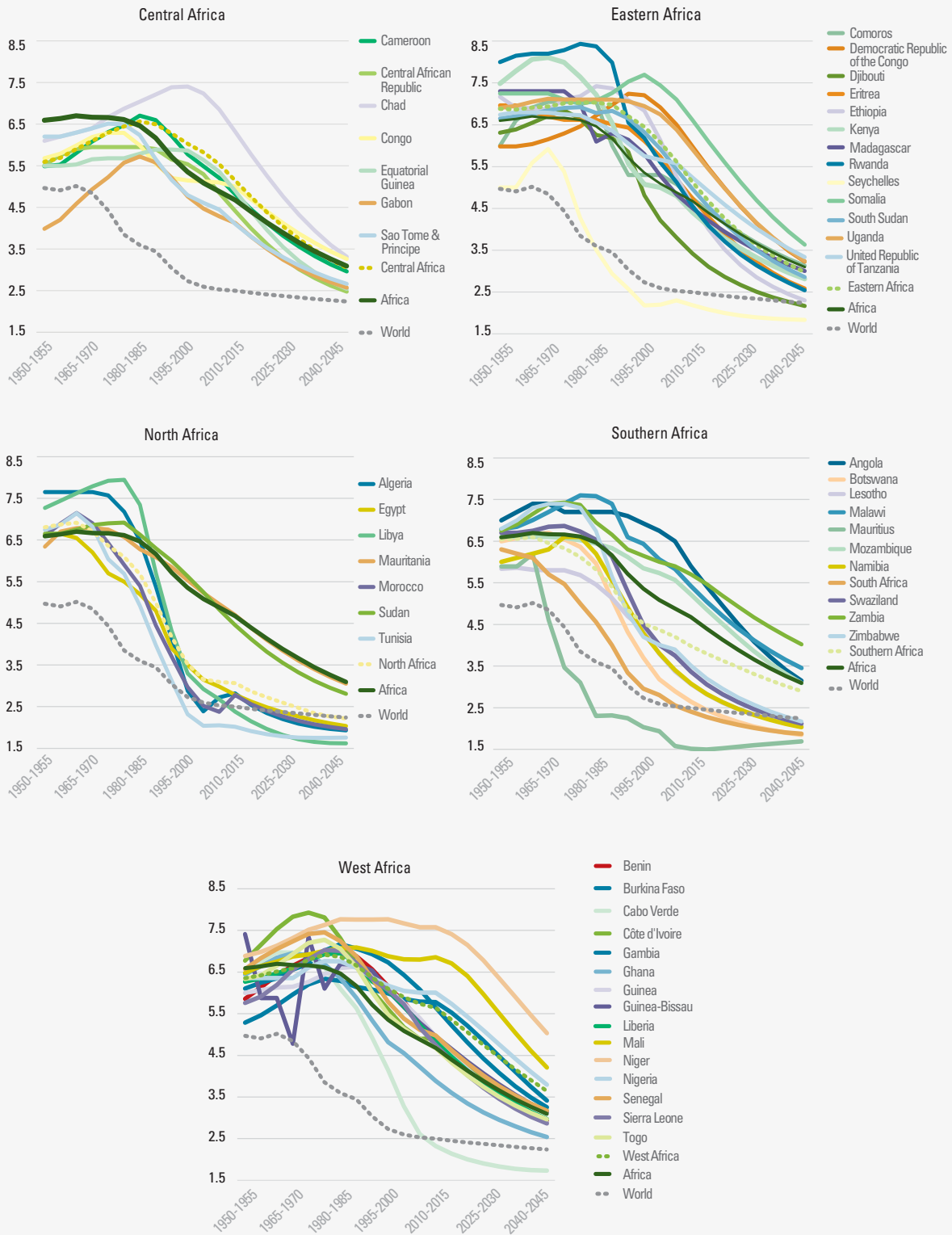
UNICEF considers it imperative that a discourse takes place on Africa's child demographics, poverty and inequity and rights, and that all the many stakeholders that will help to determine the continent's future, including governments and donors, the private sector, civil society organizations, religious leaders, and children themselves, be included and have a voice. It is time to acknowledge our shared responsibility to the future of Africa and take the policy decisions required for all Africa's children, present and future, to finally realize all of their rights. ■



Appendix and tables

FIG A1

Trends in total fertility rates in countries by UNECA region, 1950-2050, number of children per woman

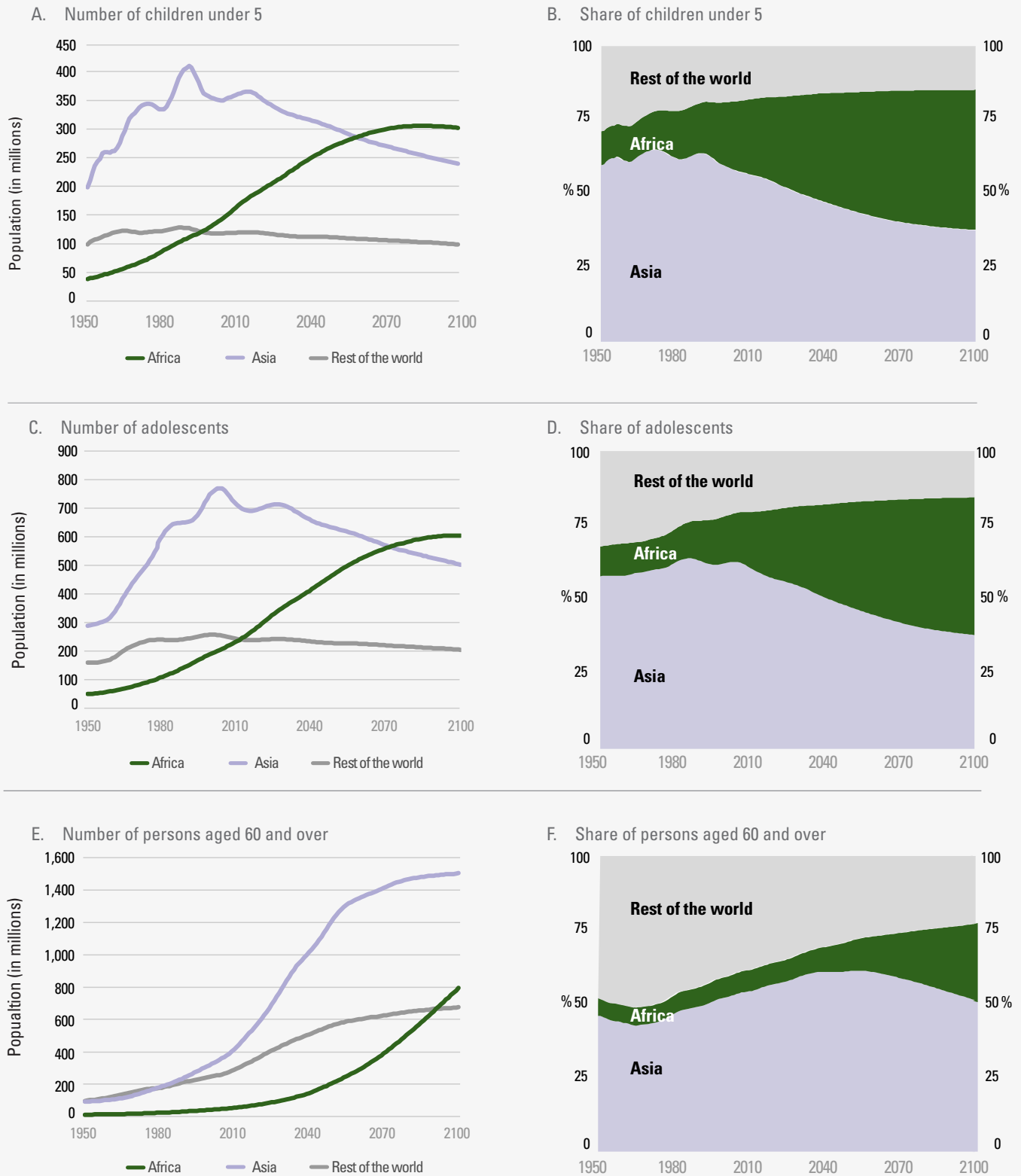


Source: UNICEF analysis based on UN WPP 2012 Revision.



FIG A2

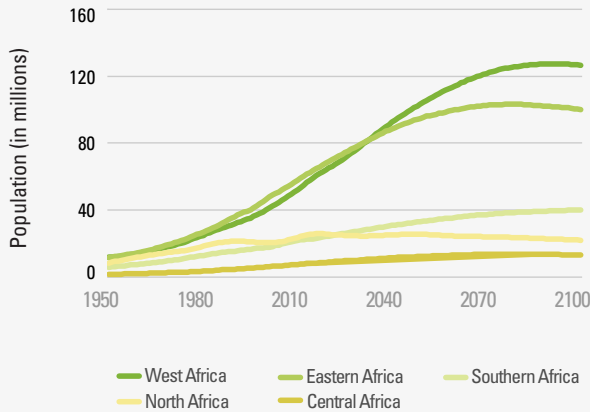
Children under 5, adolescents, and persons aged 60 and over by region, 1950-2100



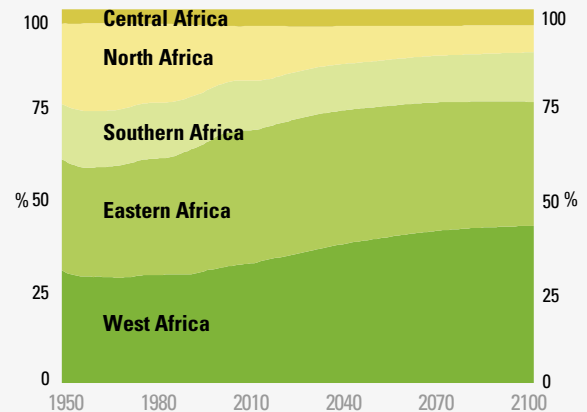
Source: UNICEF analysis based on UN WPP 2012 Revision.

Children under 5, adolescents, and persons aged 60 and over by UNECA region, 1950-2100

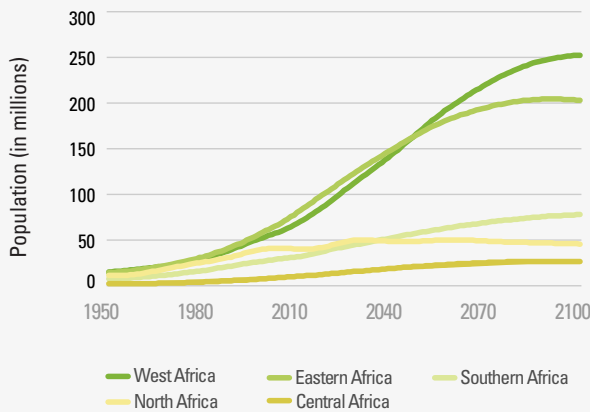
A. Number of children under 5



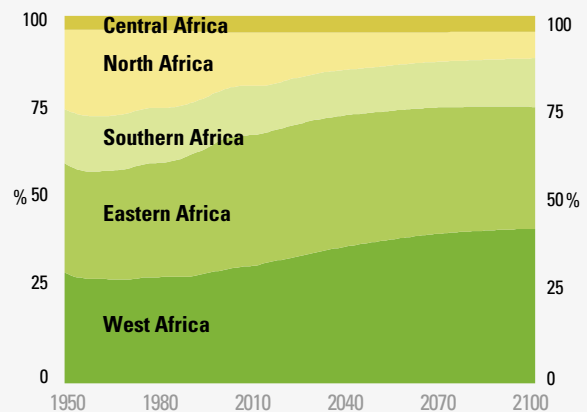
B. Share of children under 5



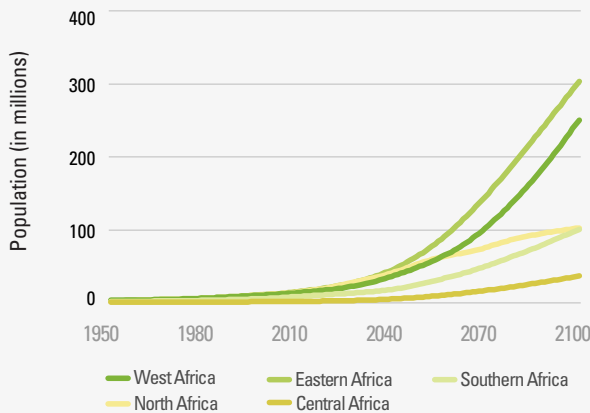
C. Number of adolescents



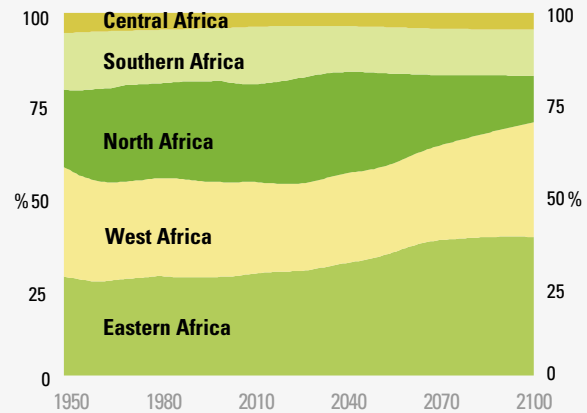
D. Share of adolescents



E. Number of persons aged 60 and over



F. Share of persons aged 60 and over

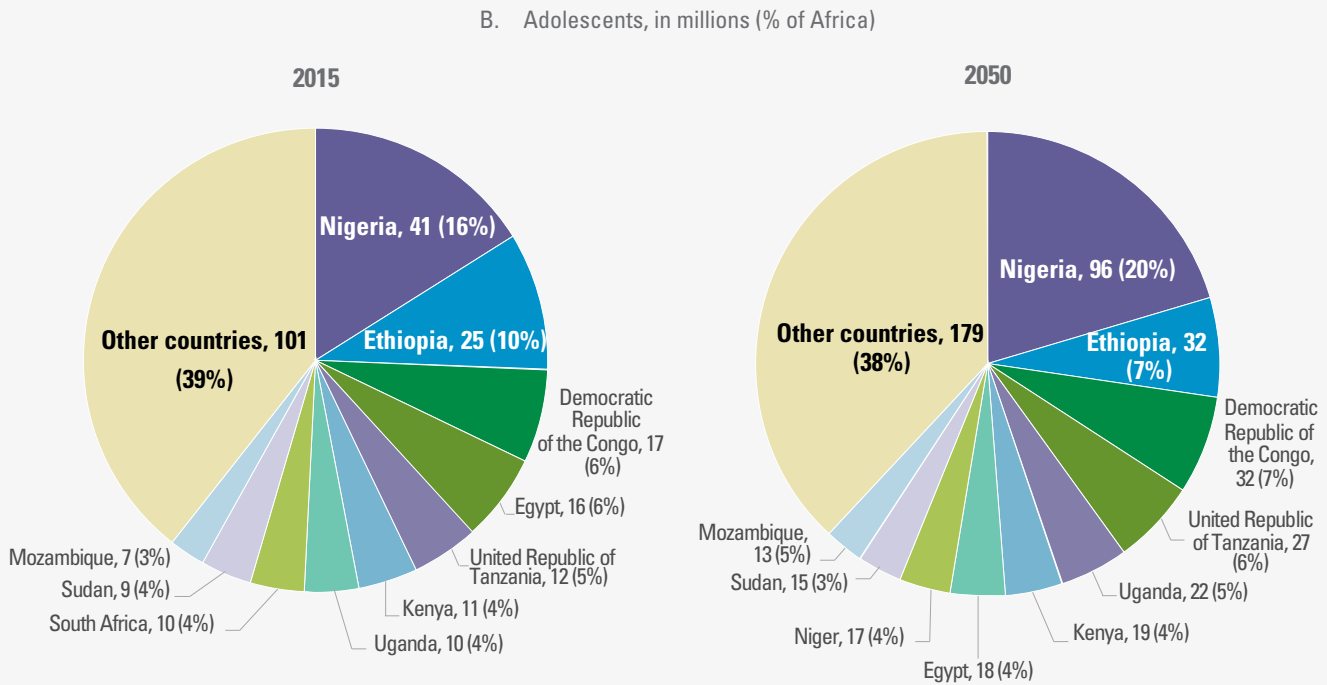
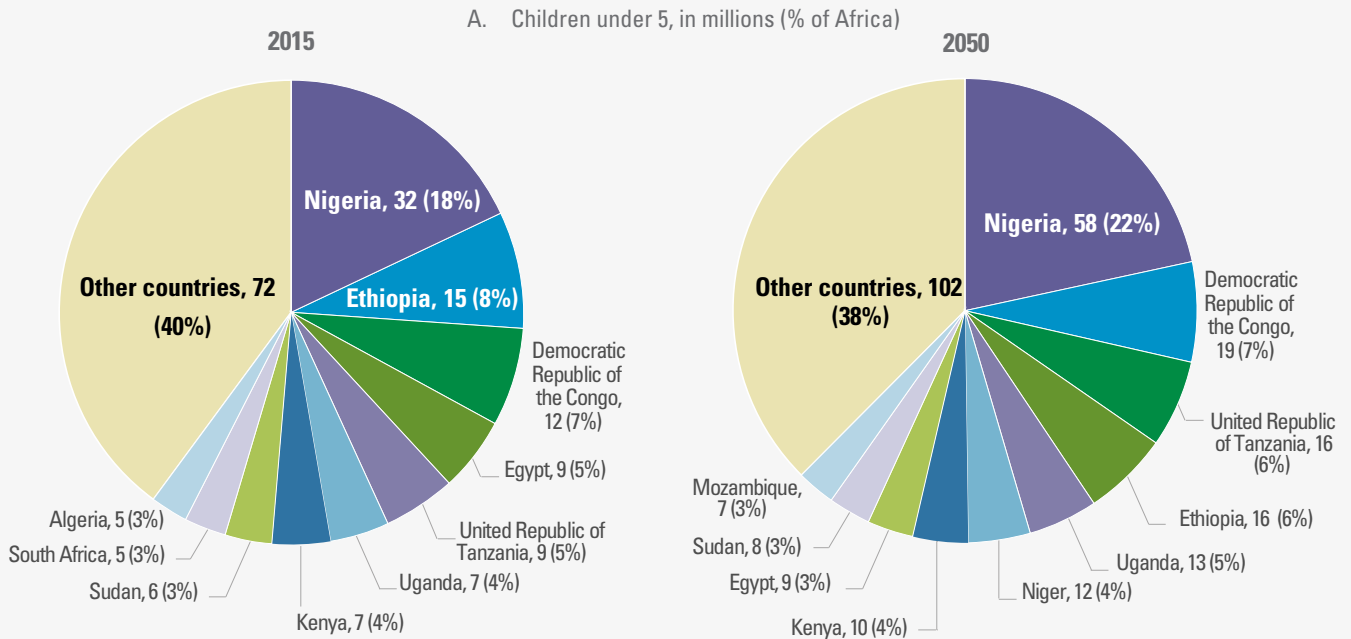


Source: UNICEF analysis based on UN WPP 2012 Revision.



FIG A4

Top 10 countries in Africa with the greatest numbers of children under age 5 and adolescents, 2015 and 2050

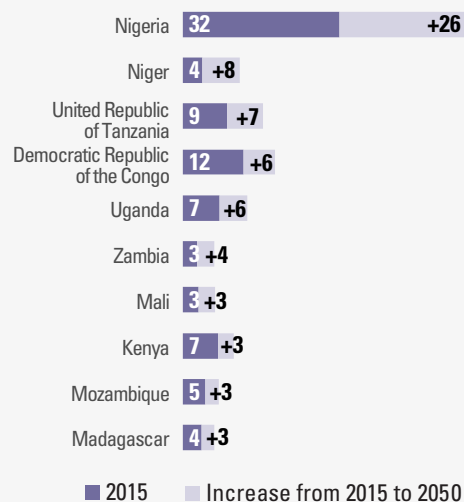


Note: The first number cited for each country refers to the child population in millions, the second to its share of the African population.
 Source: UNICEF analysis based on UN WPP 2012 Revision.

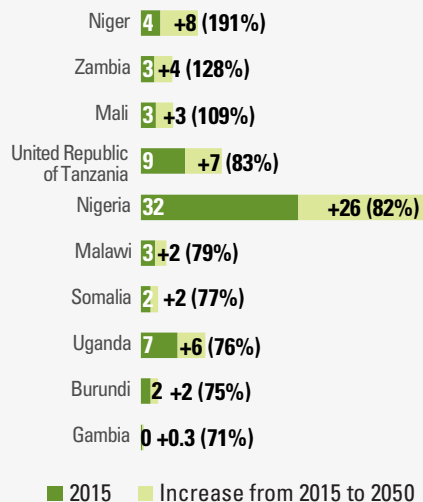
Top 10 countries in Africa with the largest absolute and percentage increases in children under 5 and adolescents from 2015-2050

FIG A5

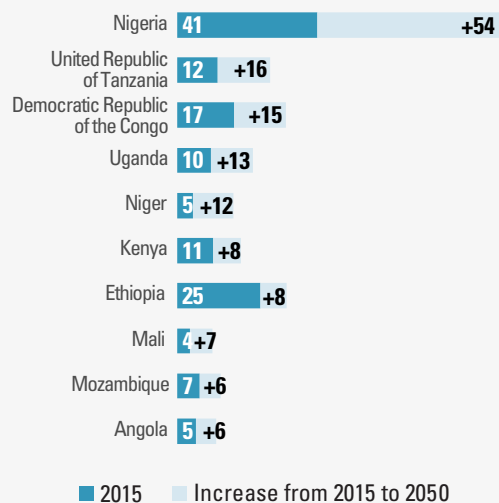
A. By largest absolute increases, children under 5 in millions



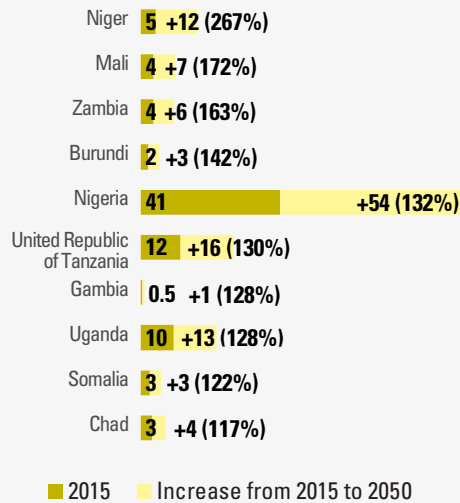
B. By largest percentage increases, children under 5 in millions (% increase)



C. By largest absolute increases, adolescents in millions



D. By largest percentage increases, adolescents in millions, (% increase)

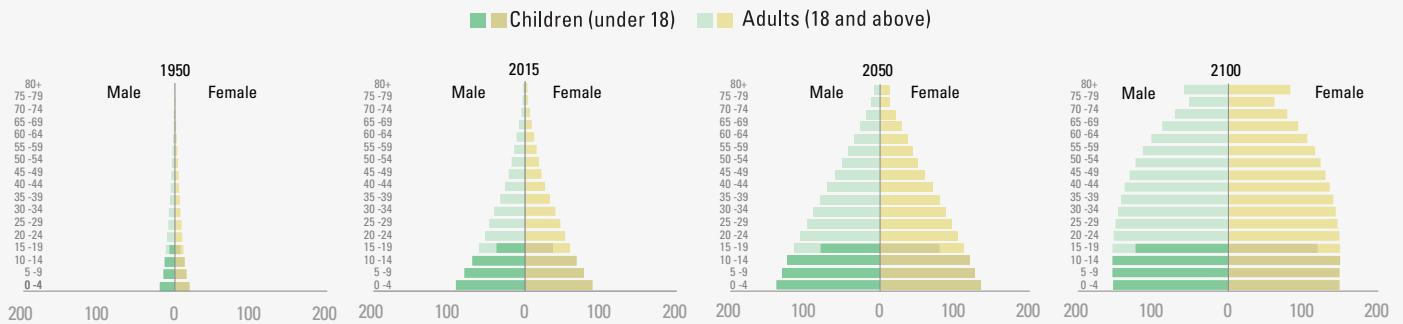


Note: The first number cited for each country refers to the population in 2015, the second to the increase from 2015 to 2050. Together they represent the population in 2050. Source: UNICEF analysis based on UN WPP 2012 Revision.



Population by age and sex in Africa, 1950, 2015, 2050 and 2100 (in millions)

FIG A6



Source: UNICEF analysis based on UN WPP 2012 Revision.

Regional classification and notes

Averages for regions and the world presented in this report are calculated using data from countries and areas as classified below. Numbers and percentages are rounded and therefore may not sum to totals.

Countries listed individually are those with 90,000 inhabitants or more in 2012; the others are included in the aggregates but are not listed separately.

Continents

Asia Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen

Africa Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Rest of the world Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana,

Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Kiribati, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niue, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Central Africa Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe

Eastern Africa Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania

North Africa Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia

Southern Africa Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe

West Africa Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo

African Union regions

Central Africa Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe

Eastern Africa Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania

Northern Africa Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Tunisia, Western Sahara

Southern Africa Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Western Africa Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo

DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS POPULATION

Countries or areas	Total population (thousands)					Child population under 5 (thousands)				
	1950	1980	2015	2030	2050	1950	1980	2015	2030	2050
Algeria	8,872	19,475	40,633	48,561	54,522	1,403	3,553	4,633	3,593	3,772
Angola	4,148	7,637	22,820	34,783	54,324	703	1,491	4,145	5,495	6,629
Benin	2,255	3,718	10,880	15,507	22,137	309	680	1,708	2,084	2,382
Botswana	413	998	2,056	2,348	2,780	62	188	230	219	202
Burkina Faso	4,284	6,823	17,915	26,564	40,932	692	1,278	3,088	3,963	4,906
Burundi	2,309	4,127	10,813	16,392	26,691	377	782	2,004	2,479	3,504
Cabo Verde	178	302	508	577	636	19	52	48	41	34
Cameroon	4,466	8,932	23,393	33,074	48,599	708	1,635	3,746	4,536	5,396
Central African Republic	1,327	2,274	4,803	6,318	8,491	190	385	696	772	817
Chad	2,502	4,513	13,606	20,878	33,516	376	859	2,560	3,395	4,245
Comoros	156	314	770	1,057	1,508	22	57	118	142	169
Congo	808	1,796	4,671	6,754	10,577	129	321	766	976	1,298
Côte d'Ivoire	2,630	8,266	21,295	29,227	42,339	453	1,599	3,389	4,057	4,989
Democratic Republic of the Congo	12,184	26,357	71,246	103,743	155,291	2,170	4,780	12,357	15,738	18,850
Djibouti	62	359	900	1,075	1,244	12	68	111	101	97
Egypt	21,514	44,932	84,706	102,553	121,798	3,731	6,894	9,285	8,893	8,682
Equatorial Guinea	226	221	799	1,139	1,623	30	30	119	141	159
Eritrea	1,141	2,415	6,738	9,782	14,314	213	449	1,104	1,238	1,427
Ethiopia	18,128	35,241	98,942	137,670	187,573	3,328	6,705	14,577	16,224	16,149
Gabon	473	726	1,751	2,382	3,302	53	114	252	283	322
Gambia	271	604	1,970	3,056	4,866	45	118	359	489	615
Ghana	4,981	10,802	26,984	35,264	45,670	925	1,933	3,735	3,996	4,249
Guinea	3,094	4,495	12,348	17,322	24,466	449	776	1,945	2,329	2,625
Guinea-Bissau	518	818	1,788	2,473	3,504	82	142	279	338	396
Kenya	6,077	16,268	46,749	66,306	97,173	1,056	3,347	7,221	8,697	10,477
Lesotho	734	1,307	2,120	2,419	2,818	119	224	265	256	240
Liberia	930	1,893	4,503	6,395	9,392	145	348	701	867	1,034
Libya	1,113	3,078	6,317	7,459	8,350	172	565	631	493	461
Madagascar	4,084	8,747	24,235	36,000	55,498	631	1,647	3,770	5,008	6,407
Malawi	2,881	6,237	17,309	25,960	41,203	556	1,244	2,911	3,950	5,219
Mali	4,638	6,735	16,259	26,034	45,168	730	1,203	3,129	4,589	6,535
Mauritania	660	1,534	4,080	5,640	7,921	116	273	602	722	853
Mauritius	493	966	1,254	1,288	1,231	89	109	71	69	59
Morocco	8,986	19,799	33,955	39,190	42,884	1,388	3,229	3,680	3,009	2,872
Mozambique	6,442	12,142	27,122	38,876	59,929	1,100	2,172	4,538	5,941	7,300
Namibia	485	1,013	2,392	3,042	3,744	76	188	288	308	289
Niger	2,560	5,834	19,268	34,513	69,410	515	1,161	3,991	6,828	11,627
Nigeria	37,860	73,698	183,523	273,120	440,355	6,330	13,373	32,160	43,074	58,473
Rwanda	2,186	5,141	12,428	17,771	25,378	421	1,061	1,935	2,257	2,466
Sao Tome and Principe	60	95	203	278	388	10	19	31	34	38
Senegal	2,477	5,569	14,967	21,856	32,933	418	1,087	2,494	3,051	3,848
Seychelles	36	66	94	98	100	4	8	8	6	6
Sierra Leone	1,944	3,180	6,319	8,058	10,296	311	579	949	1,040	1,078
Somalia	2,264	6,090	11,123	16,880	27,076	389	1,076	2,033	2,786	3,598
South Africa	13,683	29,077	53,491	58,096	63,405	2,088	4,505	5,268	4,796	4,432
South Sudan	2,583	4,702	12,152	17,297	24,760	462	849	1,882	2,318	2,654
Sudan	5,734	14,418	39,613	55,078	77,138	1,030	2,729	5,850	7,038	7,987
Swaziland	273	603	1,286	1,516	1,815	49	119	172	168	163
Togo	1,395	2,721	7,171	10,015	14,521	235	517	1,135	1,322	1,613
Tunisia	3,099	6,308	11,235	12,561	13,192	481	993	930	751	727
Uganda	5,158	12,550	40,141	63,388	104,078	945	2,439	7,470	10,183	13,136
United Republic of Tanzania	7,650	18,687	52,291	79,354	129,417	1,461	3,542	8,992	12,070	16,477
Zambia	2,372	5,847	15,520	24,957	44,206	447	1,123	2,841	4,155	6,476
Zimbabwe	2,747	7,289	15,046	20,292	26,254	442	1,454	2,118	2,244	2,261



DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS POPULATION

Adolescents (thousands)					Child population under 18 (thousands)					% children under 18 in total population	Countries or areas
1950	1980	2015	2030	2050	1950	1980	2015	2030	2050	2015	
1,990	4,624	6,047	8,942	6,928	4,185	10,313	13,339	14,699	13,032	32.8	Algeria
882	1,740	5,449	8,131	11,570	1,963	4,046	12,254	17,010	22,293	53.7	Angola
414	830	2,528	3,397	4,300	912	1,907	5,312	6,763	8,137	48.8	Benin
97	232	443	458	423	197	530	813	810	746	39.5	Botswana
933	1,565	4,279	6,110	8,484	2,015	3,556	9,286	12,508	16,428	51.8	Burkina Faso
498	936	2,325	3,965	5,620	1,088	2,104	5,512	7,996	11,398	51.0	Burundi
42	85	102	88	73	71	165	175	155	126	34.4	Cabo Verde
939	1,937	5,416	7,396	9,567	2,042	4,537	11,496	14,739	18,303	49.1	Cameroon
263	490	1,097	1,338	1,538	557	1,100	2,203	2,593	2,855	45.9	Central African Republic
506	963	3,330	5,002	7,236	1,093	2,307	7,461	10,509	14,114	54.8	Chad
33	72	172	229	302	69	162	370	454	576	48.0	Comoros
171	403	1,036	1,519	2,191	373	918	2,281	3,080	4,301	48.8	Congo
594	1,690	4,851	6,535	8,496	1,303	4,225	10,156	13,135	16,587	47.7	Côte d'Ivoire
2,680	5,870	16,691	23,648	32,149	6,087	13,421	36,497	49,032	62,530	51.2	Democratic Republic of the Congo
14	88	177	212	193	33	193	354	377	352	39.3	Djibouti
4,411	10,245	15,625	18,364	17,884	9,762	21,094	30,760	32,580	31,934	36.3	Egypt
43	65	165	237	294	90	115	356	466	551	44.5	Equatorial Guinea
258	562	1,485	2,240	2,691	590	1,277	3,309	4,239	5,027	49.1	Eritrea
3,971	7,374	24,596	29,265	32,451	9,128	17,964	48,229	55,707	58,408	48.7	Ethiopia
80	139	372	504	599	161	323	778	961	1,121	44.4	Gabon
58	122	458	717	1,047	128	304	1,031	1,507	2,043	52.3	Gambia
1,120	2,529	5,851	7,290	8,106	2,567	5,654	11,952	13,705	14,972	44.3	Ghana
628	953	2,833	3,816	4,744	1,330	2,151	5,978	7,578	8,973	48.4	Guinea
103	148	401	538	691	231	397	849	1,084	1,328	47.5	Guinea-Bissau
1,277	3,848	10,535	14,453	18,822	2,799	9,207	22,513	28,419	35,818	48.2	Kenya
155	308	493	514	487	343	668	906	932	873	42.7	Lesotho
210	418	1,044	1,395	1,849	446	969	2,203	2,794	3,523	48.9	Liberia
226	699	1,118	1,219	947	497	1,615	2,176	1,994	1,693	34.4	Libya
858	1,991	5,714	7,835	10,965	1,814	4,618	11,776	16,020	21,333	48.6	Madagascar
638	1,403	4,106	5,977	8,746	1,498	3,336	8,932	12,369	17,192	51.6	Malawi
934	1,475	3,798	6,297	10,337	2,075	3,348	8,800	13,716	20,958	54.1	Mali
151	361	902	1,196	1,516	333	799	1,879	2,358	2,894	46.0	Mauritania
112	230	185	141	128	255	412	293	251	220	23.4	Mauritius
2,100	5,034	5,814	6,967	5,706	4,183	10,198	11,241	11,774	10,341	33.1	Morocco
1,386	2,681	6,502	9,042	12,851	3,086	6,087	14,034	18,628	24,647	51.7	Mozambique
98	230	538	581	593	216	537	998	1,084	1,051	41.7	Namibia
611	1,301	4,534	8,350	16,629	1,438	3,133	10,918	19,413	35,569	56.7	Niger
8,196	15,958	41,363	63,737	95,820	18,147	36,974	93,172	133,296	191,169	50.8	Nigeria
492	1,164	3,021	3,885	4,697	1,094	2,798	6,126	7,547	8,698	49.3	Rwanda
7	22	44	60	73	21	51	96	114	136	47.4	Sao Tome and Principe
535	1,228	3,426	5,009	6,637	1,184	2,947	7,456	9,934	12,897	49.8	Senegal
6	16	13	14	12	13	30	25	24	21	26.5	Seychelles
405	662	1,461	1,730	1,981	884	1,579	3,003	3,393	3,710	47.5	Sierra Leone
476	1,351	2,679	3,967	5,940	1,068	3,047	5,967	8,485	11,767	53.6	Somalia
2,825	6,561	9,606	10,215	9,423	6,101	13,949	18,459	17,809	16,532	34.5	South Africa
570	1,047	2,828	3,790	4,778	1,292	2,389	5,858	7,565	9,062	48.2	South Sudan
1,256	3,314	9,109	11,631	14,578	2,865	7,701	18,662	23,007	27,440	47.1	Sudan
60	144	295	335	330	135	335	567	608	593	44.1	Swaziland
294	611	1,606	2,222	2,828	661	1,434	3,440	4,349	5,448	48.0	Togo
741	1,562	1,607	1,813	1,384	1,458	3,109	3,079	3,024	2,552	27.4	Tunisia
1,114	2,903	9,853	15,254	22,481	2,561	6,767	22,020	31,823	43,859	54.9	Uganda
1,734	4,280	11,932	18,344	27,462	4,009	9,906	26,726	37,834	54,282	51.1	United Republic of Tanzania
529	1,345	3,713	5,874	9,753	1,221	3,147	8,247	12,616	20,284	53.1	Zambia
600	1,738	3,422	4,330	4,440	1,324	4,059	6,807	8,044	8,101	45.2	Zimbabwe

AFRICA

DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS BIRTH, FERTILITY AND URBANIZATION

Countries or areas	Number of births (thousands)					Cumulative number of births (thousands)		
	1950	1980	2015	2030	2050	1980-2014	2015-2030	2031-2050
Algeria	475	863	944	711	758	28,109	13,113	14,743
Angola	225	405	982	1,240	1,418	23,563	17,858	26,877
Benin	90	176	387	459	509	9,764	6,792	9,789
Botswana	20	44	47	44	40	1,665	736	842
Burkina Faso	202	336	714	876	1,031	17,793	12,721	19,282
Burundi	117	210	475	560	740	10,836	8,254	13,412
Cabo Verde	9	13	10	8	7	436	146	146
Cameroon	192	412	851	991	1,136	21,955	14,752	21,482
Central African Republic	55	97	161	168	170	4,639	2,657	3,395
Chad	118	225	611	767	908	13,902	11,055	16,961
Comoros	7	14	26	32	36	689	455	687
Congo	35	76	171	216	275	4,070	3,042	4,980
Côte d'Ivoire	136	400	767	882	1,050	20,091	13,188	19,490
Democratic Republic of the Congo	568	1,228	2,988	3,625	4,124	72,839	53,207	78,426
Djibouti	3	14	24	21	20	756	362	414
Egypt	1,117	1,697	1,899	1,806	1,722	61,197	29,447	35,929
Equatorial Guinea	9	9	28	31	33	680	468	642
Eritrea	54	112	238	260	287	5,773	3,946	5,639
Ethiopia	925	1,751	3,170	3,377	3,276	90,614	52,879	66,975
Gabon	14	28	54	60	66	1,407	910	1,278
Gambia	11	31	83	109	131	1,866	1,539	2,457
Ghana	222	474	807	854	881	22,352	13,244	17,628
Guinea	147	215	445	513	560	11,727	7,699	10,840
Guinea-Bissau	34	38	66	77	86	1,793	1,141	1,642
Kenya	315	807	1,579	1,878	2,174	40,947	27,454	41,160
Lesotho	31	54	57	52	48	1,983	884	1,010
Liberia	43	93	156	187	214	4,061	2,735	4,052
Libya	55	129	125	97	90	4,357	1,754	1,897
Madagascar	202	389	830	1,058	1,326	21,017	15,192	24,005
Malawi	138	339	678	886	1,129	17,461	12,503	20,321
Mali	224	331	760	1,053	1,416	17,043	14,468	25,118
Mauritania	32	66	136	160	183	3,446	2,362	3,473
Mauritius	22	22	14	14	12	676	225	247
Morocco	461	770	748	602	574	24,557	10,591	11,780
Mozambique	321	563	1,030	1,304	1,539	26,688	18,603	28,648
Namibia	21	43	61	62	58	1,935	1,002	1,197
Niger	141	322	954	1,552	2,522	19,645	19,837	41,107
Nigeria	1,758	3,441	7,441	9,616	12,391	178,567	135,513	223,977
Rwanda	117	277	422	476	503	11,783	7,205	9,955
Sao Tome and Principe	3	4	7	7	8	178	109	158
Senegal	123	271	551	664	810	13,527	9,660	15,008
Seychelles	2	2	1	1	1	57	21	24
Sierra Leone	86	154	225	236	232	6,579	3,687	4,702
Somalia	113	257	479	628	775	12,268	8,872	14,176
South Africa	618	1,019	1,087	982	888	37,842	16,371	18,858
South Sudan	121	228	426	504	557	10,331	7,556	10,664
Sudan	274	653	1,300	1,523	1,680	35,140	22,609	32,267
Swaziland	13	29	37	35	33	1,226	583	689
Togo	67	130	253	289	336	6,499	4,310	6,343
Tunisia	161	229	188	146	145	6,892	2,688	2,885
Uganda	273	617	1,696	2,221	2,751	38,589	31,361	50,464
United Republic of Tanzania	379	875	1,998	2,633	3,461	47,970	36,736	61,911
Zambia	112	271	658	927	1,398	15,047	12,590	23,402
Zimbabwe	136	344	459	460	455	13,920	7,518	9,278



DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS BIRTH, FERTILITY AND URBANIZATION

Total fertility (children per woman)					Percentage of population residing in urban areas					Countries or areas
1950-1955	1980-1985	2010-2015	2030-2035	2045-2050	1950	1980	2015	2030	2050	
7.6	6.5	2.8	2.1	1.9	22.2	43.5	70.7	77.4	82.1	Algeria
7.0	7.2	5.9	4.1	3.1	7.6	19.8	44.1	54.4	63.8	Angola
5.9	7.0	4.9	3.6	2.9	5.0	27.3	44.0	51.3	61.3	Benin
6.5	6.0	2.6	2.0	1.8	2.7	16.5	57.4	62.2	69.9	Botswana
6.1	7.2	5.6	4.1	3.3	3.8	8.8	29.9	41.0	52.0	Burkina Faso
6.8	7.4	6.1	4.5	3.6	1.7	4.3	12.1	17.3	26.3	Burundi
6.6	6.1	2.3	1.8	1.7	14.2	23.5	65.5	73.0	77.6	Cabo Verde
5.5	6.7	4.8	3.6	3.0	9.3	31.9	54.4	62.0	70.0	Cameroon
5.5	6.0	4.4	3.0	2.5	14.4	33.9	40.0	46.3	56.9	Central African Republic
6.1	7.0	6.3	4.3	3.3	4.5	18.8	22.5	26.6	37.1	Chad
6.0	7.1	4.7	3.7	3.1	6.6	23.2	28.3	31.5	38.2	Comoros
5.7	6.0	5.0	3.9	3.3	24.9	47.9	65.4	71.1	77.2	Congo
6.8	7.3	4.9	3.7	3.2	10.0	36.8	54.2	63.0	70.9	Côte d'Ivoire
6.0	6.7	6.0	4.1	3.2	19.1	27.1	42.5	50.4	60.4	Democratic Republic of the Congo
6.3	6.3	3.4	2.5	2.2	39.8	72.1	77.3	79.2	82.7	Djibouti
6.6	5.2	2.8	2.3	2.0	31.9	43.9	43.1	46.7	56.5	Egypt
5.5	5.8	4.9	3.2	2.5	15.5	27.9	39.9	44.0	50.9	Equatorial Guinea
7.0	6.6	4.7	3.2	2.6	7.1	14.4	22.6	30.2	42.1	Eritrea
7.2	7.4	4.6	2.9	2.3	4.6	10.4	19.5	26.8	37.6	Ethiopia
4.0	5.7	4.1	3.0	2.6	11.4	54.7	87.2	89.1	91.0	Gabon
5.3	6.3	5.8	4.5	3.4	10.3	28.4	59.6	66.0	71.3	Gambia
6.4	6.3	3.9	3.0	2.5	15.4	31.2	54.0	62.6	70.5	Ghana
6.0	6.6	5.0	3.5	2.9	6.7	23.6	37.2	45.1	56.3	Guinea
7.4	6.7	5.0	3.8	3.1	10.0	17.6	49.3	58.4	64.7	Guinea-Bissau
7.5	7.2	4.4	3.3	2.8	5.6	15.6	25.6	32.8	43.9	Kenya
5.8	5.5	3.1	2.3	2.1	1.8	11.5	27.3	35.6	46.7	Lesotho
6.3	7.0	4.8	3.6	3.0	13.0	35.2	49.7	56.2	65.2	Liberia
7.3	7.3	2.4	1.7	1.6	19.5	70.1	78.6	81.8	85.7	Libya
7.3	6.1	4.5	3.5	3.0	7.8	18.5	35.1	44.3	55.0	Madagascar
6.8	7.6	5.4	4.1	3.4	3.5	9.1	16.3	20.4	30.2	Malawi
6.5	7.1	6.9	5.5	4.2	8.5	18.5	39.9	50.3	60.3	Mali
6.3	6.3	4.7	3.6	3.1	3.1	27.4	59.9	66.9	74.1	Mauritania
5.9	2.3	1.5	1.6	1.7	29.3	42.4	39.7	40.0	46.3	Mauritius
6.6	5.4	2.8	2.2	2.0	26.2	41.2	60.2	67.0	74.0	Morocco
6.6	6.4	5.2	3.9	3.1	3.5	13.1	32.2	38.1	49.1	Mozambique
6.0	6.2	3.1	2.3	2.0	13.4	25.1	46.7	58.8	67.8	Namibia
6.9	7.8	7.6	6.4	5.0	4.9	13.4	18.7	24.6	35.4	Niger
6.4	6.8	6.0	4.8	3.8	7.8	22.0	47.8	58.3	67.1	Nigeria
8.0	8.4	4.6	3.1	2.5	2.1	4.7	28.8	41.5	52.6	Rwanda
6.2	6.2	4.1	3.1	2.7	13.5	33.5	65.1	70.8	75.5	Sao Tome and Principe
6.6	7.2	5.0	3.8	3.2	17.2	35.8	43.7	50.3	60.5	Senegal
5.0	3.5	2.2	1.9	1.8	27.4	49.4	53.9	58.8	65.0	Seychelles
5.8	7.0	4.7	3.5	2.9	12.6	29.8	39.9	46.7	57.2	Sierra Leone
7.3	7.1	6.6	4.7	3.6	12.7	26.8	39.6	47.3	57.9	Somalia
6.3	4.6	2.4	2.0	1.9	42.2	48.4	64.8	71.3	77.4	South Africa
6.7	6.8	5.0	3.5	2.9	8.9	8.5	18.8	23.6	33.9	South Sudan
6.7	6.6	4.5	3.3	2.8	6.8	20.0	33.8	38.8	49.8	Sudan
6.7	6.5	3.4	2.5	2.1	2.0	17.8	21.3	23.0	28.8	Swaziland
6.3	7.1	4.7	3.5	3.0	4.4	24.7	40.0	47.7	57.9	Togo
6.7	4.9	2.0	1.8	1.8	32.3	50.6	66.8	70.6	76.6	Tunisia
6.9	7.1	5.9	4.2	3.2	2.8	7.5	16.1	22.0	32.1	Uganda
6.7	6.6	5.2	4.0	3.3	3.5	14.6	31.6	41.9	53.0	United Republic of Tanzania
6.8	7.0	5.7	4.7	4.0	11.5	39.8	40.9	48.2	58.3	Zambia
6.8	6.7	3.5	2.6	2.2	10.6	22.4	32.4	33.8	43.7	Zimbabwe

WORLD

DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS POPULATION

Continents	Total population (thousands)					Child population under 5 (thousands)				
	1950	1980	2015	2030	2050	1950	1980	2015	2030	2050
Africa	228,545	477,739	1,164,502	1,632,239	2,390,735	38,699	86,071	179,319	219,549	270,718
Asia	1,386,017	2,611,052	4,353,518	4,854,755	5,133,890	197,920	334,457	364,777	328,124	300,579
Rest of the world	897,820	1,331,300	1,766,994	1,896,674	1,986,537	98,532	122,285	119,959	114,245	111,245
Europe	548,834	694,247	742,793	736,015	708,709	51,679	49,788	40,089	35,693	36,147
Latin America and the Caribbean	164,980	359,858	624,683	711,058	775,930	26,478	51,845	53,550	50,117	44,424
Northern America	171,550	254,687	360,999	403,246	446,081	18,873	18,477	23,130	24,994	26,842
Oceania	12,456	22,508	38,518	46,355	55,818	1,502	2,174	3,189	3,440	3,831
UNECA* regions										
Central Africa	9,862	18,557	49,226	70,823	106,496	1,496	3,362	8,169	10,137	12,275
Eastern Africa	64,018	141,062	388,621	566,815	850,098	11,492	26,810	63,582	79,245	95,418
North Africa	49,979	109,544	220,540	271,043	325,806	8,323	18,237	25,611	24,498	25,354
Southern Africa	34,671	73,117	160,415	213,576	301,709	5,731	12,815	22,846	27,601	33,270
West Africa	70,015	135,459	345,699	509,981	806,626	11,658	24,847	59,110	78,068	104,402
African Union regions										
Central Africa	24,355	49,041	131,285	190,959	288,477	4,043	8,925	22,530	28,353	34,629
Eastern Africa	55,753	125,962	347,429	503,045	746,486	10,064	24,085	55,142	68,135	81,109
Northern Africa	35,273	75,479	147,576	177,546	206,628	5,906	12,302	16,138	14,505	14,545
Southern Africa	34,178	72,151	159,162	212,288	300,478	5,642	12,706	22,775	27,532	33,211
Western Africa	70,015	135,459	345,699	509,981	806,626	11,658	24,847	59,110	78,068	104,402
World	2,512,382	4,420,091	7,285,014	8,383,668	9,511,162	335,150	542,813	664,055	661,918	682,543

DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS BIRTH, FERTILITY AND URBANIZATION

Continents or areas	Number of births (thousands)					Cumulative number of births (thousands)		
	1950	1980	2015	2030	2050	1980-2014	2015-2030	2031-2050
Africa	11,148	21,599	40,304	47,937	56,974	1,048,746	704,610	1,062,735
Asia	61,671	76,067	74,651	66,336	60,095	2,735,229	1,122,005	1,265,289
Rest of the world	23,530	25,956	24,109	22,732	22,143	873,599	375,282	448,622
Europe	11,835	10,125	7,944	7,054	7,137	296,253	119,353	143,498
Latin America and the Caribbean	7,234	11,526	10,850	9,996	8,840	404,357	167,373	187,094
Northern America	4,121	3,846	4,668	4,990	5,399	153,799	77,824	103,351
Oceania	340	459	646	692	766	19,191	10,732	14,679
UNECA* regions								
Central Africa	426	850	1,883	2,240	2,595	46,831	32,993	48,897
Eastern Africa	3,193	6,781	14,352	17,273	20,031	364,468	253,499	377,912
North Africa	2,575	4,407	5,340	5,044	5,153	163,698	82,564	102,975
Southern Africa	1,659	3,135	5,110	6,006	7,018	142,006	88,873	131,369
West Africa	3,295	6,425	13,619	17,373	22,177	331,742	246,681	401,582
African Union regions								
Central Africa	1,110	2,288	5,345	6,426	7,459	130,505	94,453	140,734
Eastern Africa	2,805	6,019	12,204	14,624	16,859	316,609	214,873	318,589
Northern Africa	1,841	2,990	3,304	2,930	2,909	104,294	49,549	59,133
Southern Africa	1,637	3,113	5,096	5,992	7,007	141,331	88,648	131,122
Western Africa	3,295	6,425	13,619	17,373	22,177	331,742	246,681	401,582
World	96,349	123,622	139,064	137,004	139,212	4,657,574	2,201,897	2,776,646

*United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, *World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision*, United Nations, New York, 2013.



DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS POPULATION

Adolescents (thousands)					Child population under 18 (thousands)					% children under 18 in total population	
1950	1980	2015	2030	2050	1950	1980	2015	2030	2050	2015	Countries or areas
49,325	107,547	256,989	356,115	469,767	108,996	243,910	547,128	710,913	908,799	47.0	Africa
287,908	593,364	692,192	710,300	630,924	591,001	1,155,862	1,272,651	1,232,930	1,111,709	29.2	Asia
159,431	240,379	239,100	241,940	228,129	307,027	433,885	430,003	424,530	405,749	24.3	Rest of the world
97,503	109,051	75,195	80,192	72,378	172,465	187,598	139,263	136,803	130,596	18.7	Europe
35,000	82,880	111,475	104,791	94,375	76,333	166,809	196,876	185,222	165,061	31.5	Latin America and the Caribbean
24,994	44,167	46,688	50,109	53,847	53,973	71,556	83,003	90,139	96,418	23.0	Northern America
1,934	4,281	5,742	6,848	7,529	4,257	7,922	10,862	12,367	13,674	28.2	Oceania
											UNECA* regions
2,010	4,020	11,460	16,056	21,500	4,338	9,351	24,670	32,461	41,381	50.1	Central Africa
13,981	31,502	92,022	127,100	168,562	31,646	73,882	195,283	255,523	323,133	50.3	Eastern Africa
10,875	25,839	40,221	50,131	48,944	23,282	54,829	81,134	89,437	89,886	36.8	North Africa
7,381	16,612	34,752	45,598	58,742	16,338	37,106	72,310	90,161	112,531	45.1	Southern Africa
15,078	29,574	78,534	117,229	172,019	33,392	68,742	173,730	243,330	341,868	50.3	West Africa
											African Union regions
5,188	10,825	30,476	43,669	59,268	11,513	24,877	66,680	89,489	115,309	50.8	Central Africa
12,171	28,240	82,300	111,260	145,499	27,590	66,469	172,228	221,754	276,865	49.6	Eastern Africa
7,523	17,522	25,392	31,651	28,761	16,241	36,995	51,417	54,861	52,286	34.8	Northern Africa
7,268	16,383	34,567	45,457	58,614	16,084	36,695	72,017	89,910	112,311	45.2	Southern Africa
15,078	29,574	78,534	117,229	172,019	33,392	68,742	173,730	243,330	341,868	50.3	Western Africa
496,665	941,290	1,188,281	1,308,355	1,328,820	1,007,024	1,833,657	2,249,782	2,368,372	2,426,257	30.9	World

DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS BIRTH, FERTILITY AND URBANIZATION

Total fertility (children per woman)					Percentage of population residing in urban areas						
1950-1955	1980-1985	2010-2015	2030-2035	2045-2050	1950	1980	2015	2030	2050	Continents or areas	
6.6	6.5	4.7	3.7	3.1	14.0	26.7	40.4	47.1	55.9	Africa	
5.8	3.7	2.2	2	1.9	17.4	26.8	47.9	56.1	64.0	Asia	
3.4	2.4	1.9	1.9	1.9	52.2	67.9	77.3	80.6	84.6	Rest of the world	
2.7	1.9	1.6	1.8	1.8	51.5	67.5	73.6	77.0	82.0	Europe	
5.9	3.9	2.2	1.9	1.8	41.3	64.2	79.7	83.0	86.1	Latin America and the Caribbean	
3.4	1.8	1.9	2	2.0	63.9	73.9	81.6	84.2	87.4	Northern America	
3.8	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.1	62.9	71.4	70.7	71.3	73.4	Oceania	
											UNECA* regions
5.6	6.6	5.1	3.7	3.0	10.3	31.4	46.2	51.7	59.7	Central Africa	
6.9	7.0	5.1	3.6	3.0	7.7	15.4	27.6	35.4	46.1	Eastern Africa	
6.8	5.7	3.1	2.5	2.2	25.7	41.1	51.7	56.0	63.5	North Africa	
6.5	5.8	4.0	3.3	2.9	20.8	31.2	44.3	48.9	56.3	Southern Africa	
6.4	6.9	5.6	4.5	3.6	8.5	23.6	44.9	53.9	62.6	West Africa	
											African Union regions
5.9	6.7	5.7	4.0	3.2	13.9	26.8	41.4	48.0	57.0	Central Africa	
7.1	7.0	4.8	3.5	2.9	5.6	14.1	25.7	33.3	44.2	Eastern Africa	
6.9	5.6	2.8	2.2	2.0	28.6	45.1	54.7	59.0	66.5	Northern Africa	
6.6	5.9	4.0	3.3	2.9	20.7	31.0	44.4	48.9	56.3	Southern Africa	
6.4	6.9	5.6	4.5	3.6	8.5	23.6	44.9	53.9	62.6	Western Africa	
5.0	3.6	2.5	2.3	2.2	29.5	39.2	53.9	59.9	66.3	World	





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