

**WDA Forum**

World Demographic & Ageing Forum



# Demographic Change in Africa

How to capture its Demographic Dividend?

Dr. Hans Groth – President WDA Forum, St. Gallen



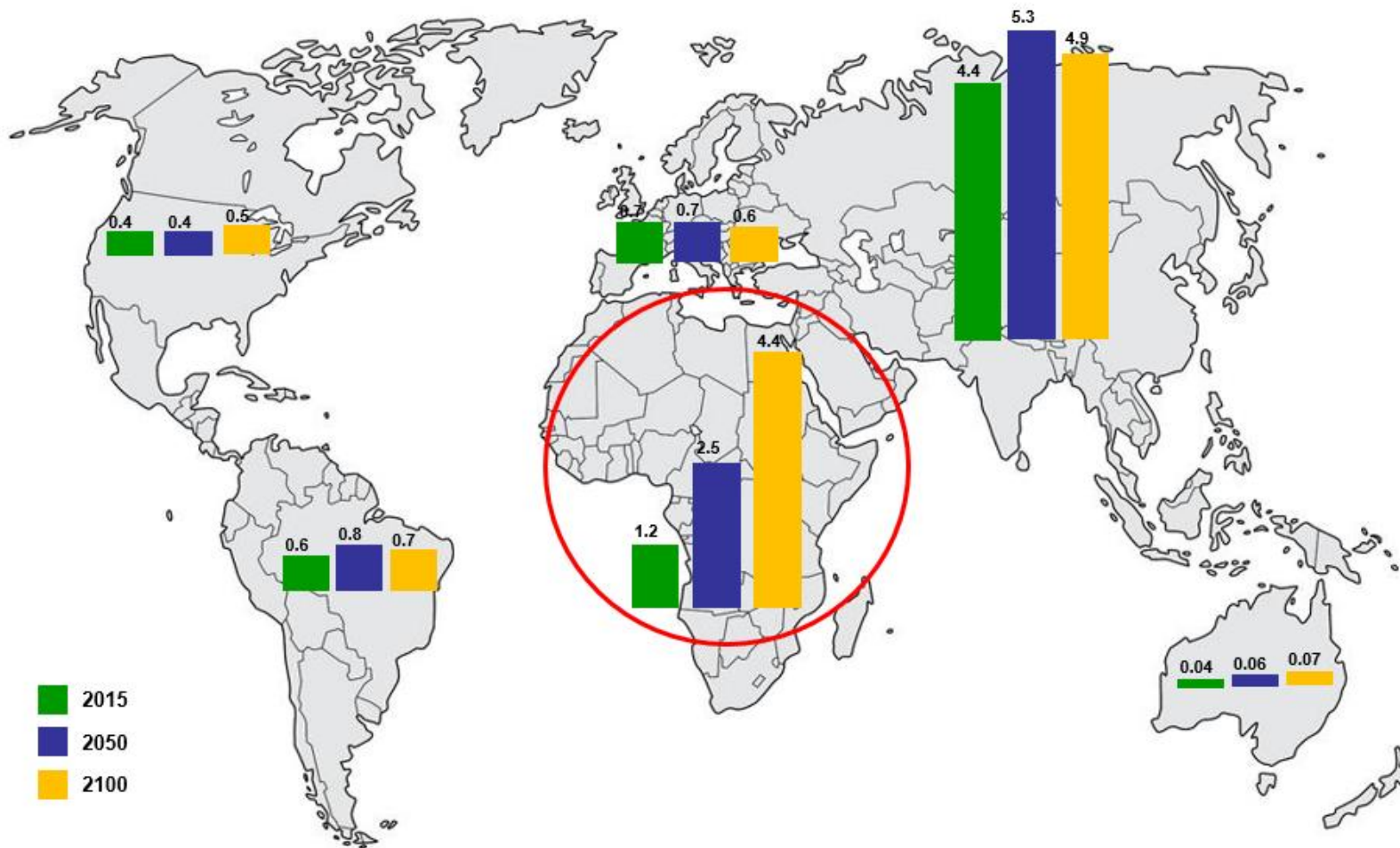
# What insights can you expect today ?

“Es gibt Entwicklungen, die wir schlichtweg nicht steuern oder beeinflussen können.

Aber es gibt Veränderungen, auf deren Bewältigung wir uns vorbereiten können – für den demografischen Wandel trifft dies zu.”

Hans Groth, 2. Demografie Dialog Schweiz , Castasegna, 30. Mai 2013

# Our next world



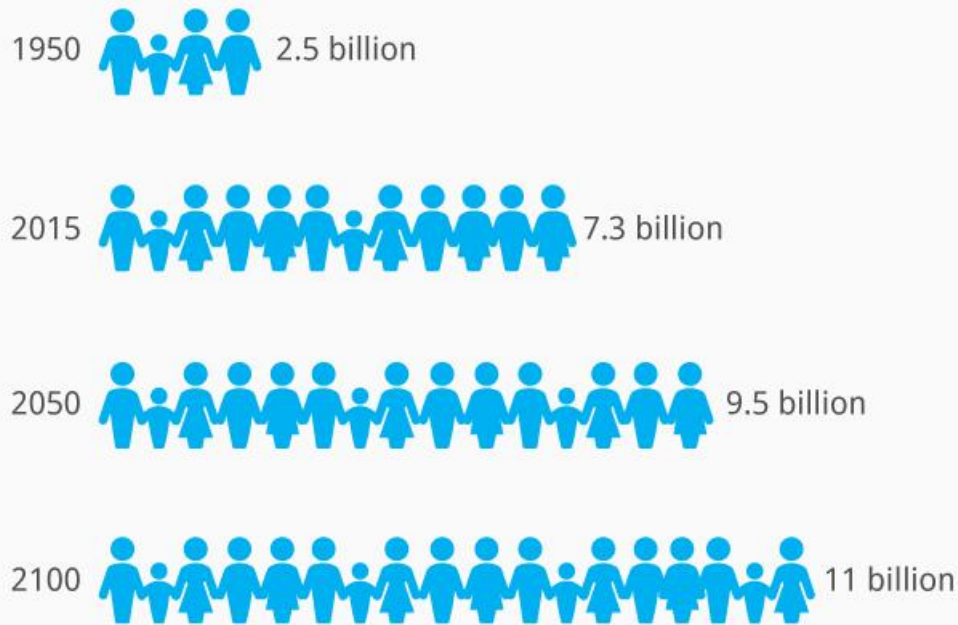
Source: UN Population Division „World Population Prospects, the 2015 Revision“

# Why have we gathered tonight?

## By the End of the Century, 40% of People Will Be African

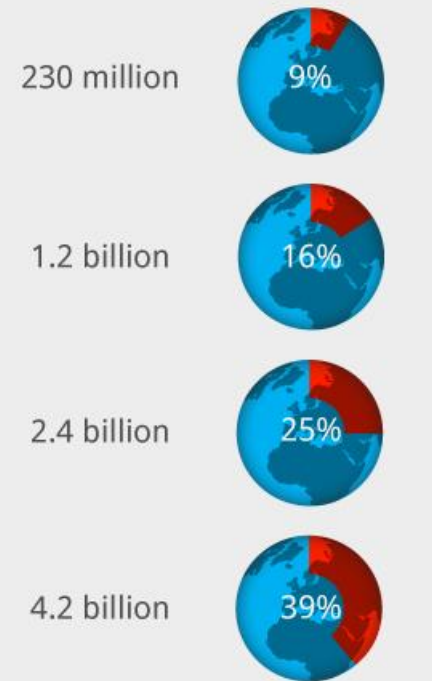
World population forecast with Africa's percentage share

World's Population



Africa's Population

Accounts for



Source: UNICEF

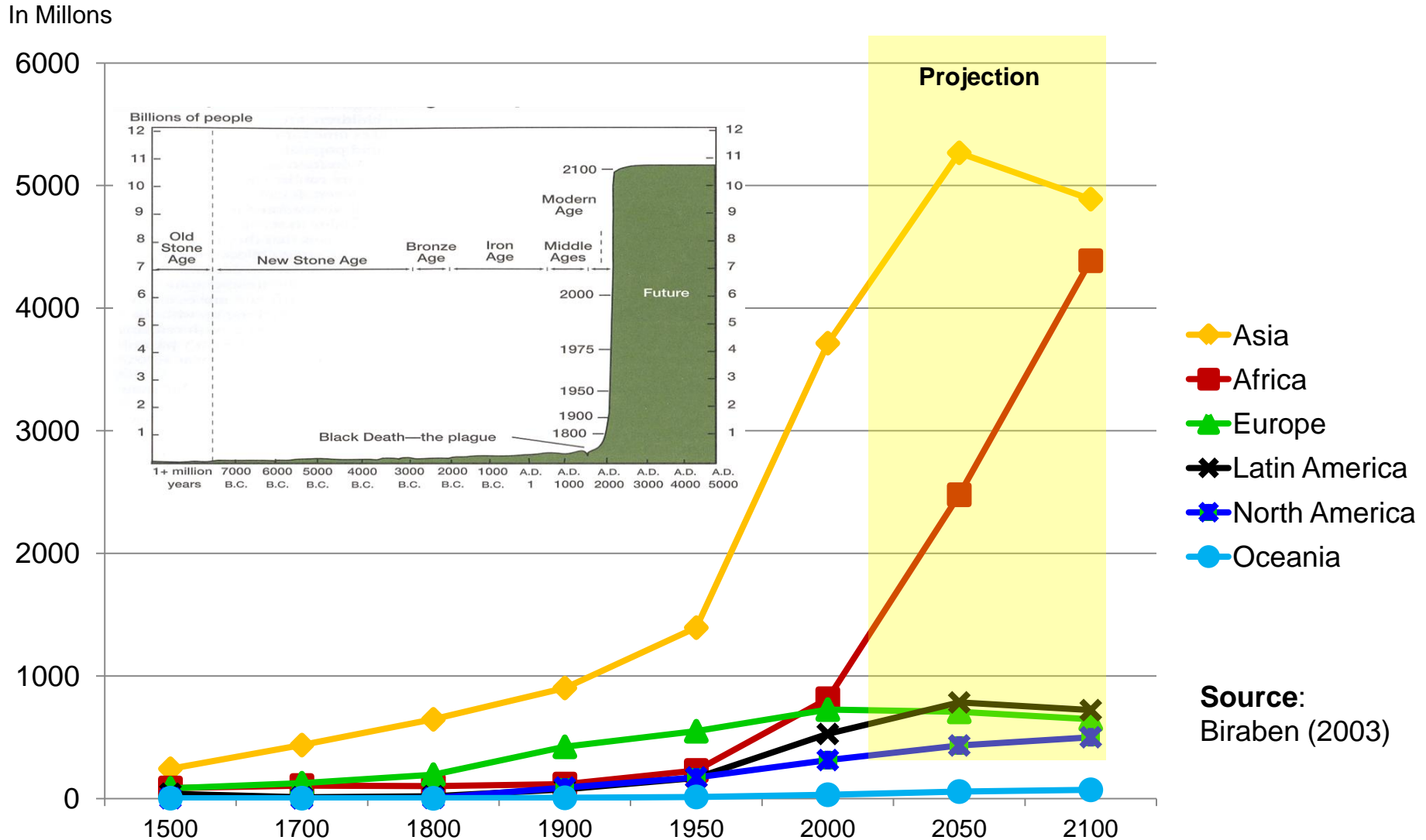
Mashable statista



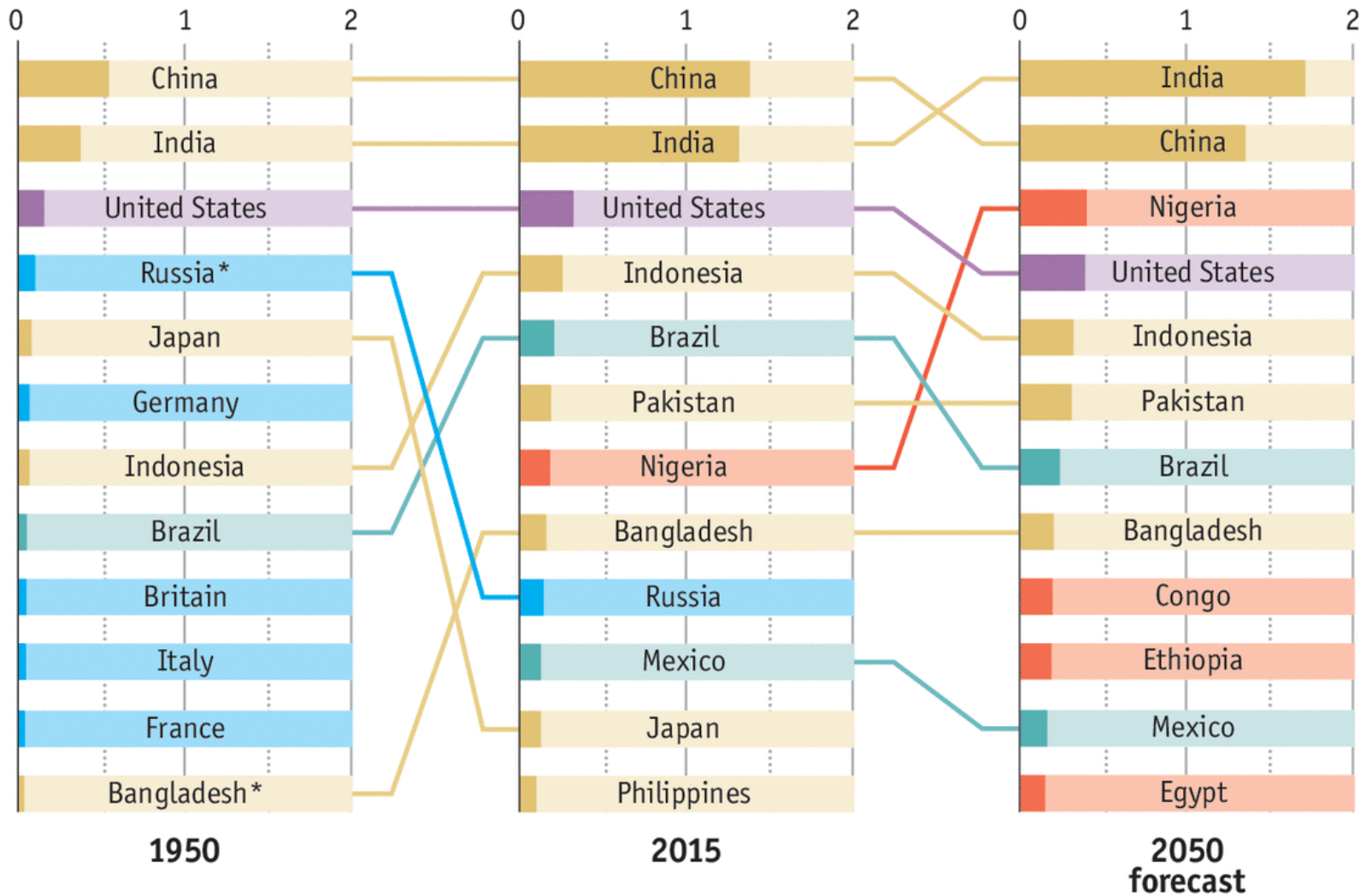
# Structure of my talk on Africa

- **Population dynamics**
- Health & education
- Fertility, families, culture & values
- About the “demographic dividend”
- ...and what are the options?

# Population development by continent (in mio)



# Most populous countries (in bn)

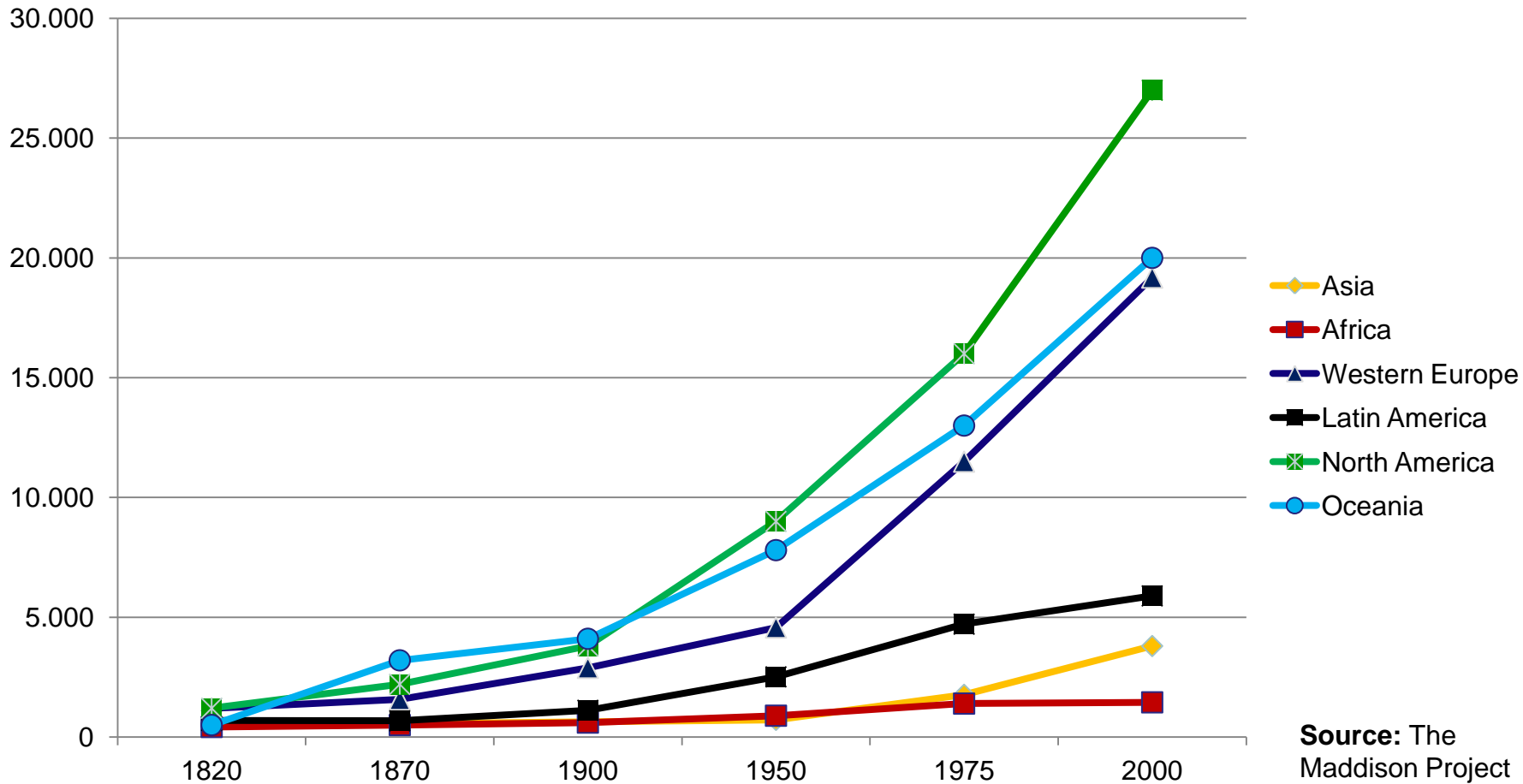


Sources: UN; *The Economist*

\* Did not exist as countries in 1950. Historical estimates made using modern borders

# GDP per capita 1820-2000

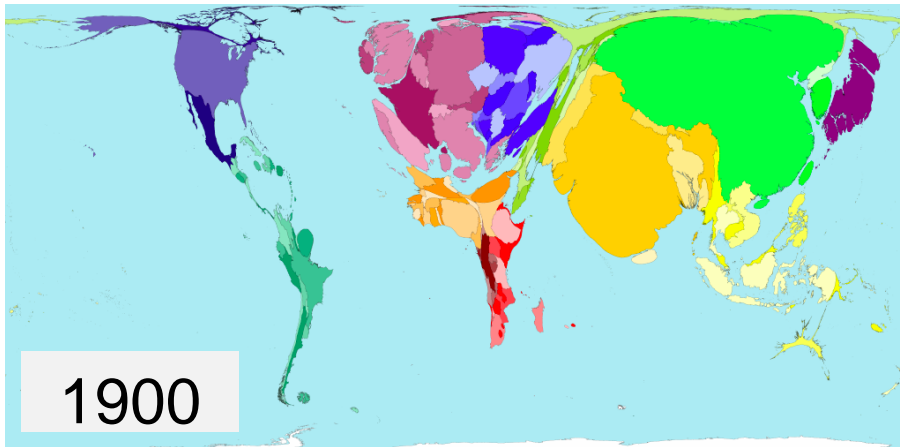
Dollar (1990 Intern. \$)



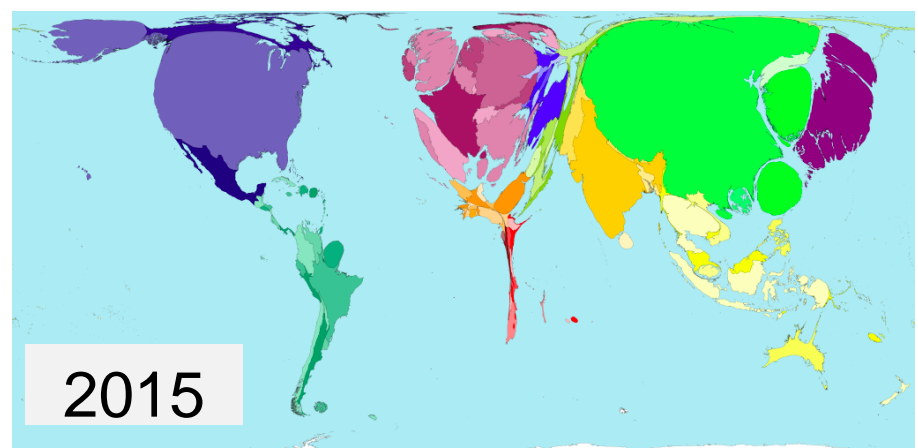
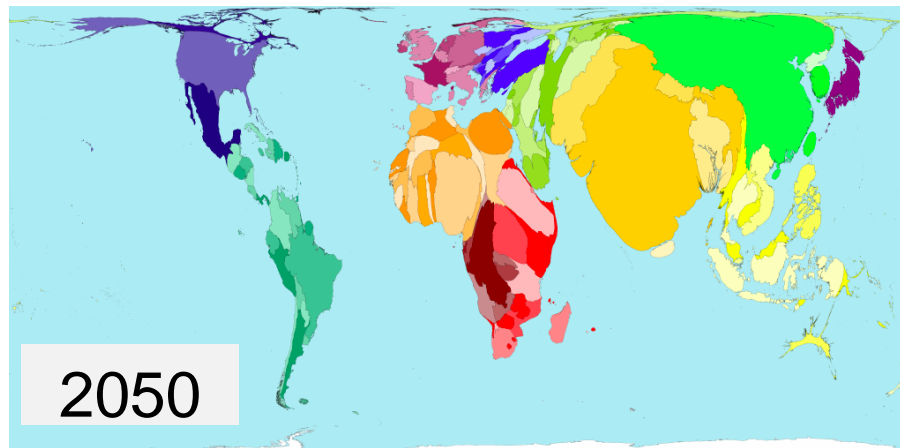
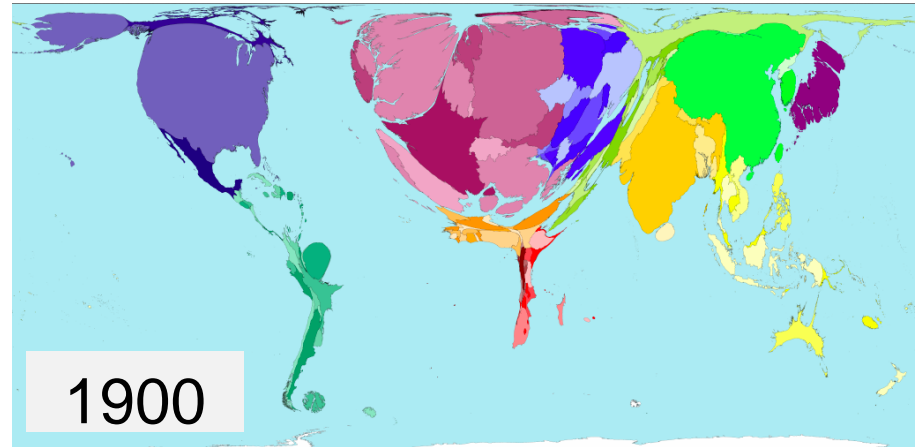


# Growing inequality

**Where do people live?**  
(proportion of global population)



**Where do people live in prosperity?**  
(proportion of global GDP in PPP USD)



Source: worldmapper.org



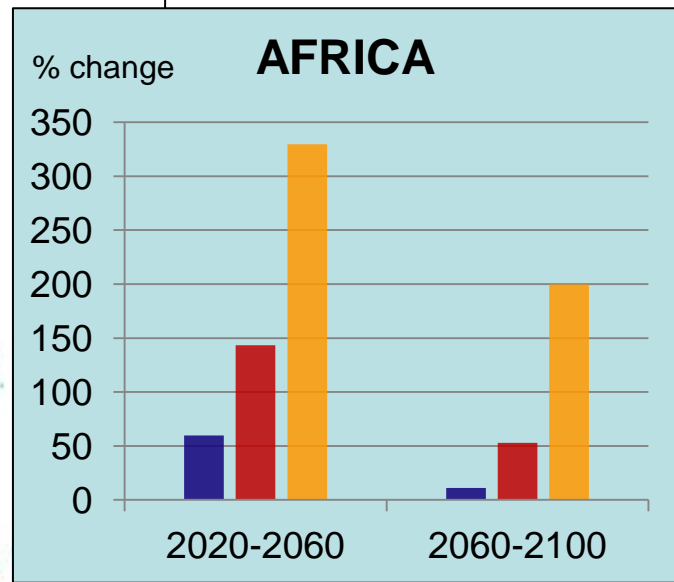
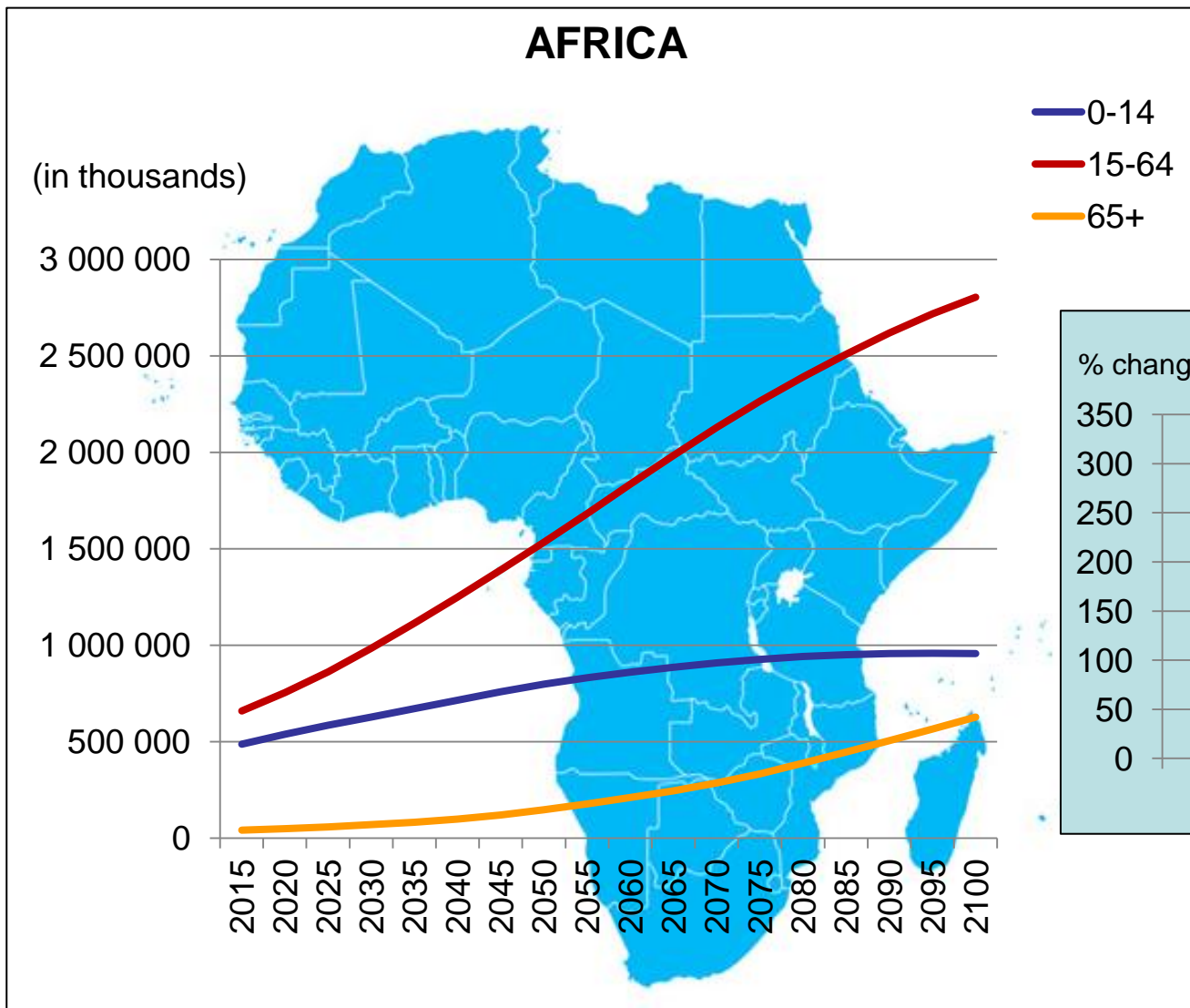
# UN world population prospects: The methodology

*“To project the population until 2100, various assumptions were made regarding future trends in fertility, mortality and international migration. Because the future is uncertain, 8 different projection variants were produced to convey the sensitivity of the projections to changes in the underlying assumptions.”*

- A) Fertility Assumptions:** Convergence towards low fertility
- B) Mortality Assumptions:** Increasing life expectancy
- C) Migration Assumptions:** Projected levels of net migration were generally kept constant until 2045-2050, after 2050, it is assumed that net migration would gradually decline and reach 50 per cent of the projected level of 2045-2050 by 2095-2100.

Source: UN Population Division (2015). *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision, Methodology of the United Nations Population Estimates and Projections*, Working Paper No. SA/P/WP.242.

# Population growth in Africa 2015-2100 (by age cohorts)

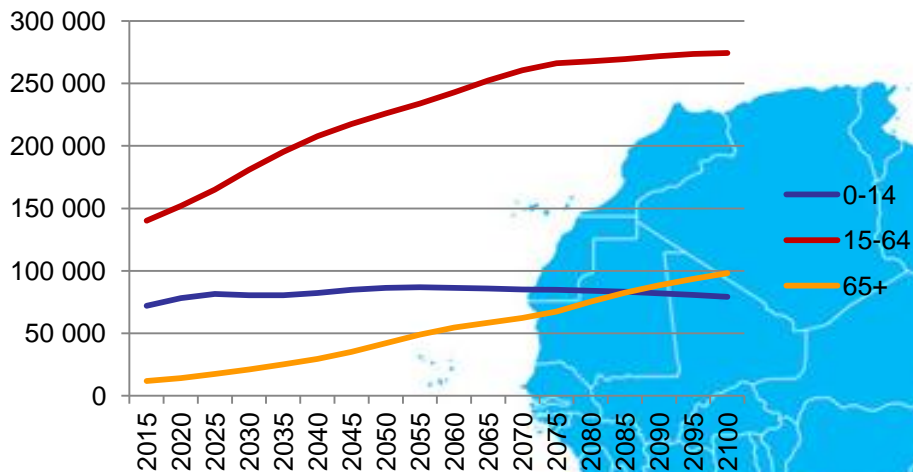


Source: UN WPP (2015)

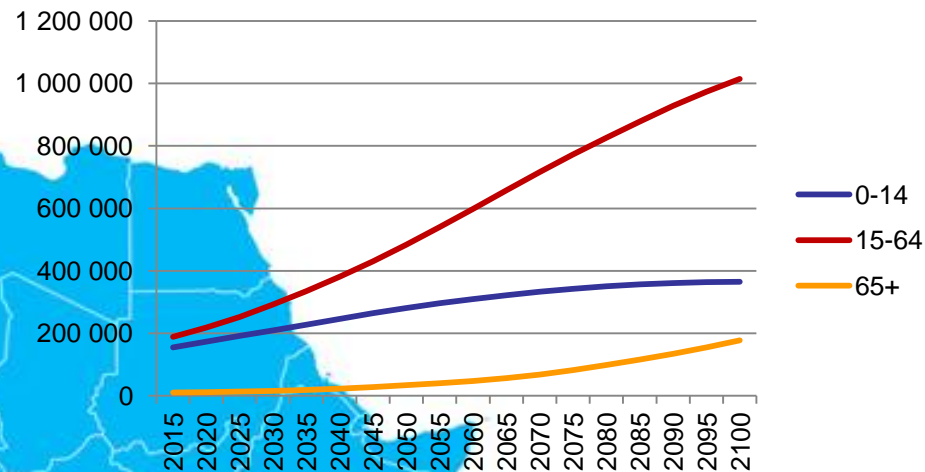
# Population growth in Africa 2015-2100 (by age cohorts)



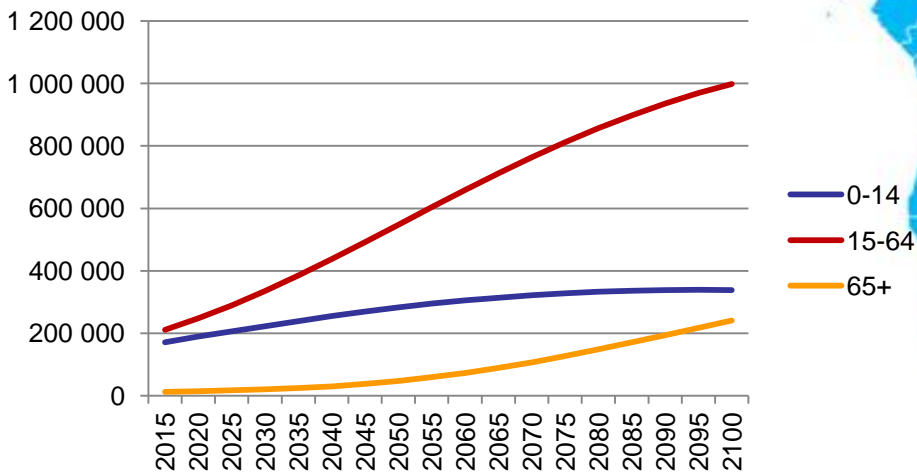
## Northern Africa



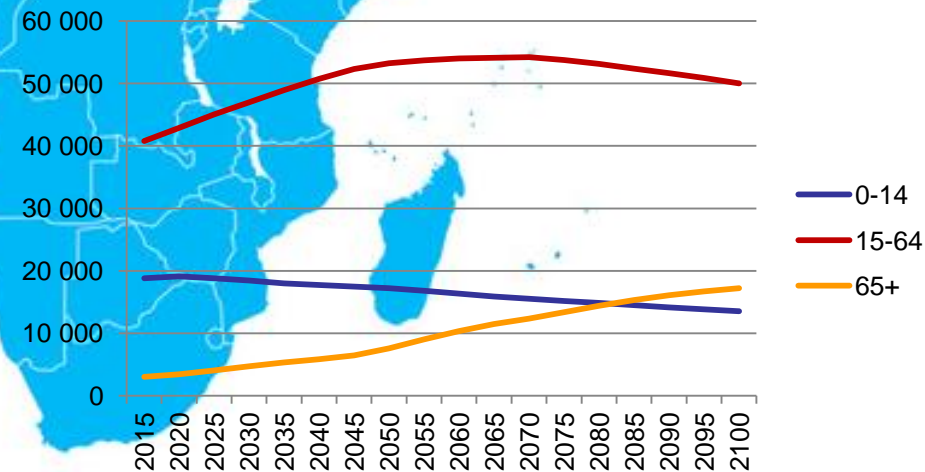
## Western Africa



## Eastern Africa



## Southern Africa

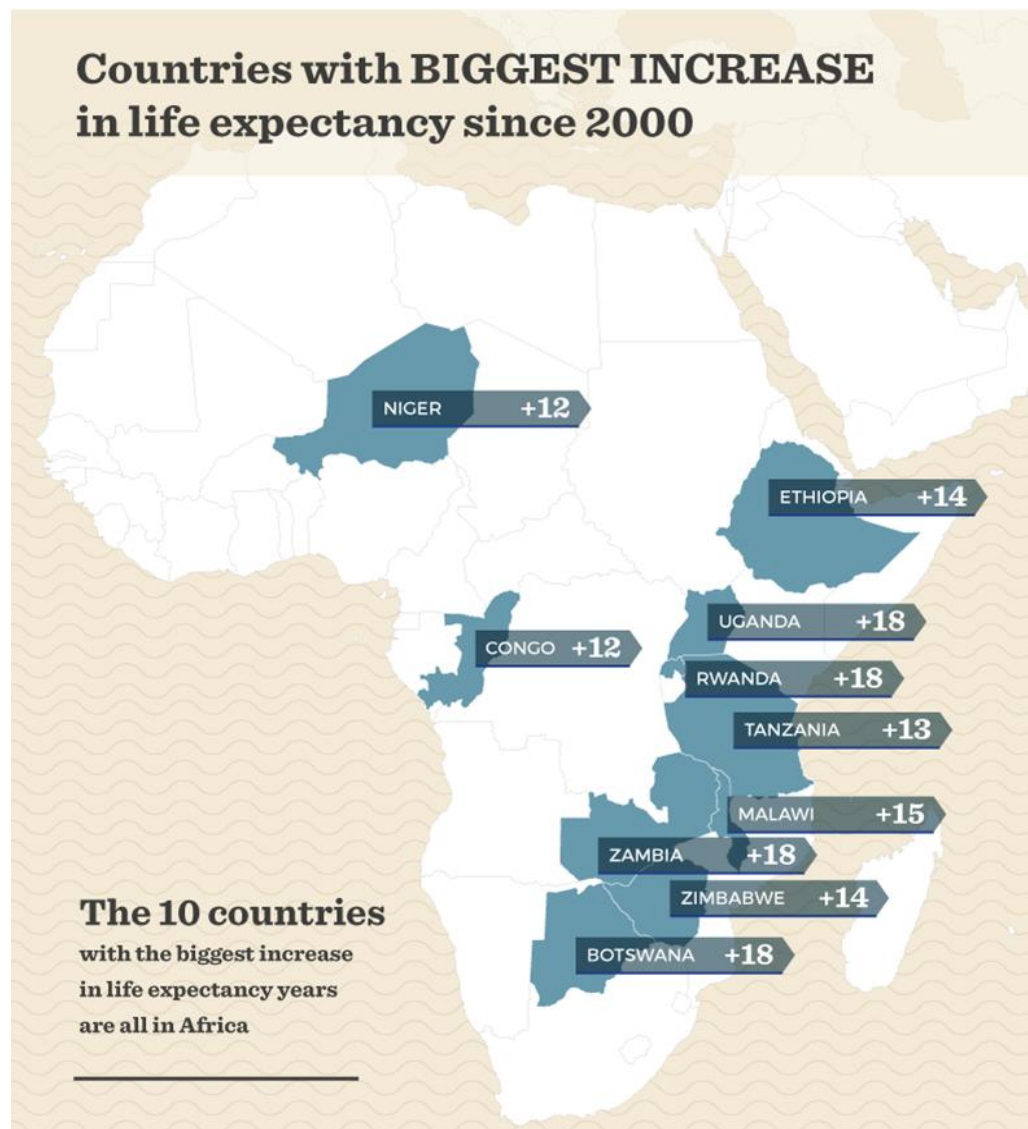




# Structure of my talk on Africa

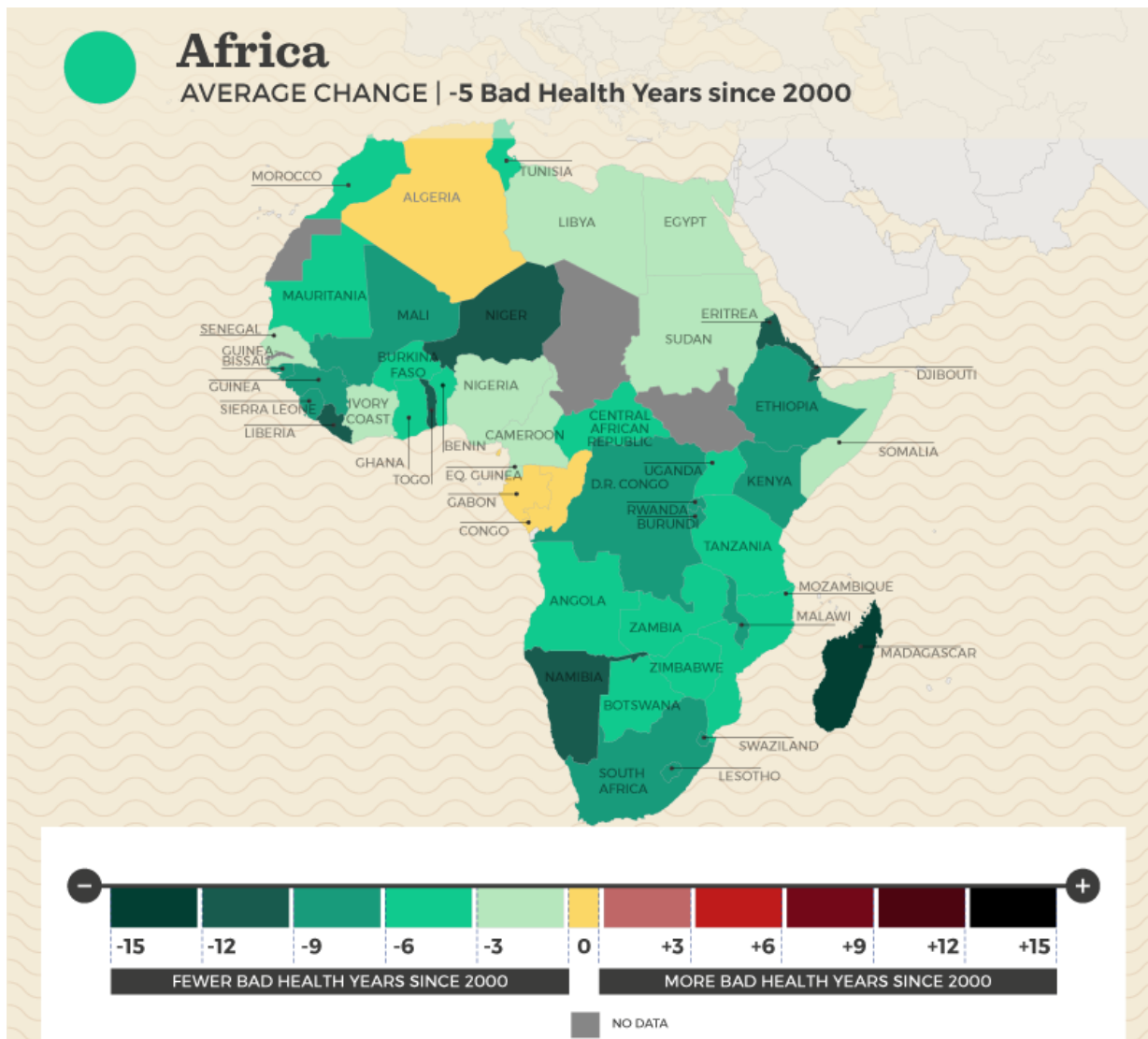
- Population dynamics
- **Health & education**
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- About the “demographic dividend”
- ...and what are the options?

# Life expectancy in Africa: Significant increases



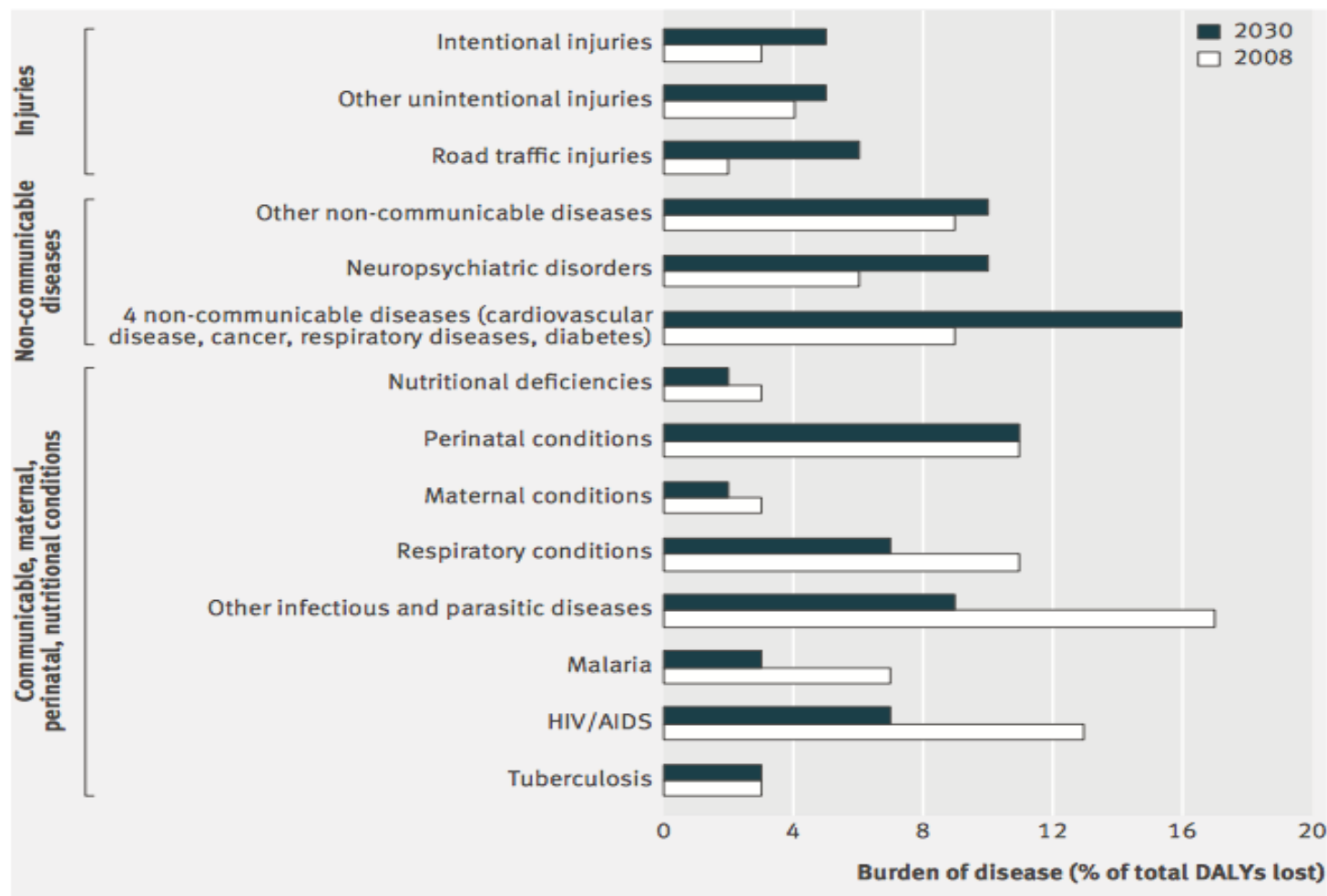
**Source:**  
[www.medigo.com/blog/in-fographics/longer-life-healthier-life/](http://www.medigo.com/blog/in-fographics/longer-life-healthier-life/)

# Africa: Less bad health years since 2000



Source:  
[www.medigo.com/blog/in-fographics/longer-life-healthier-life/](http://www.medigo.com/blog/in-fographics/longer-life-healthier-life/)

# Africa: Changing Morbidity



Burden of disease (% of total disability adjusted life years (DALYs) lost) by groups of diseases and conditions, sub-Saharan Africa, 2008 and 2030 predictions<sup>1</sup>

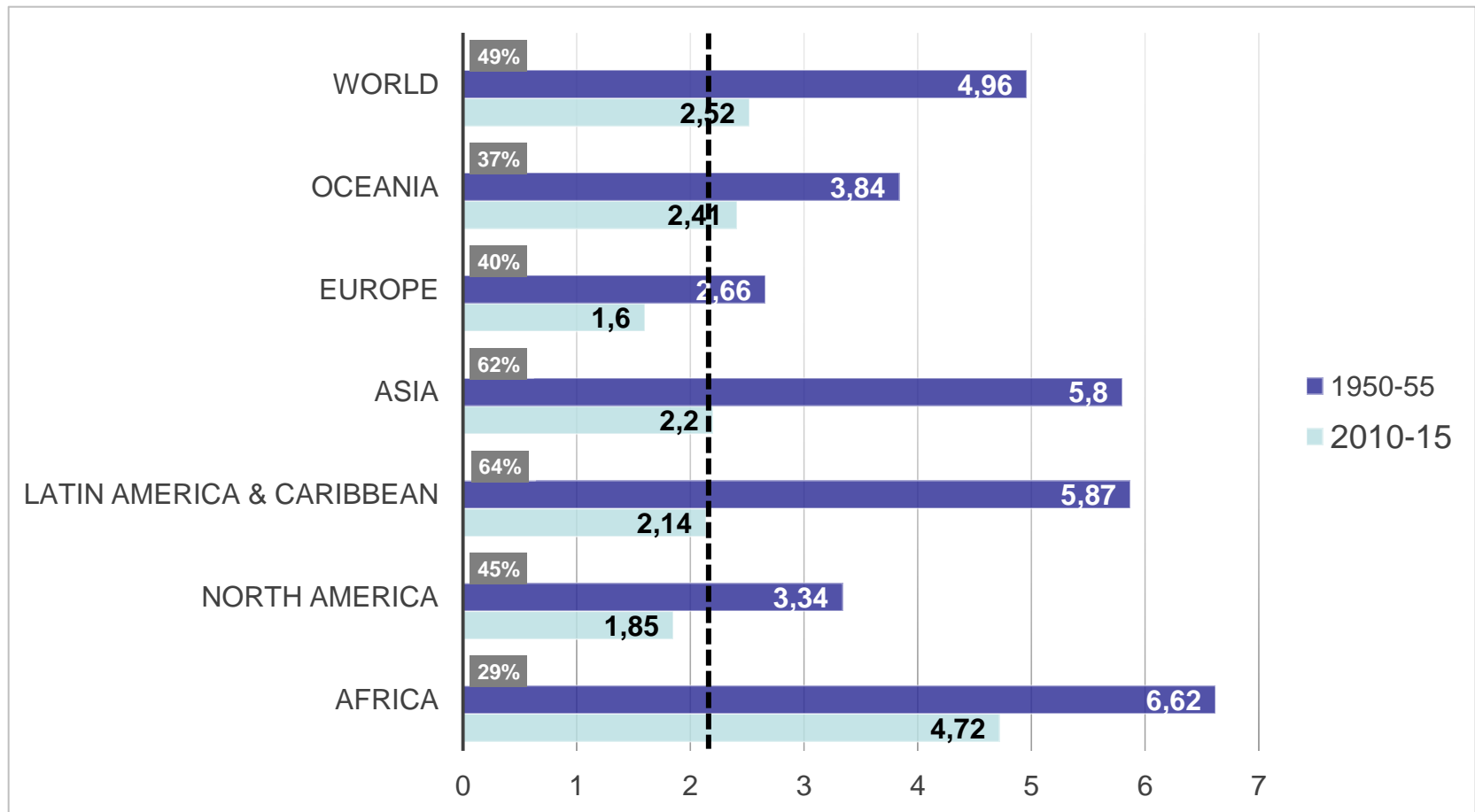




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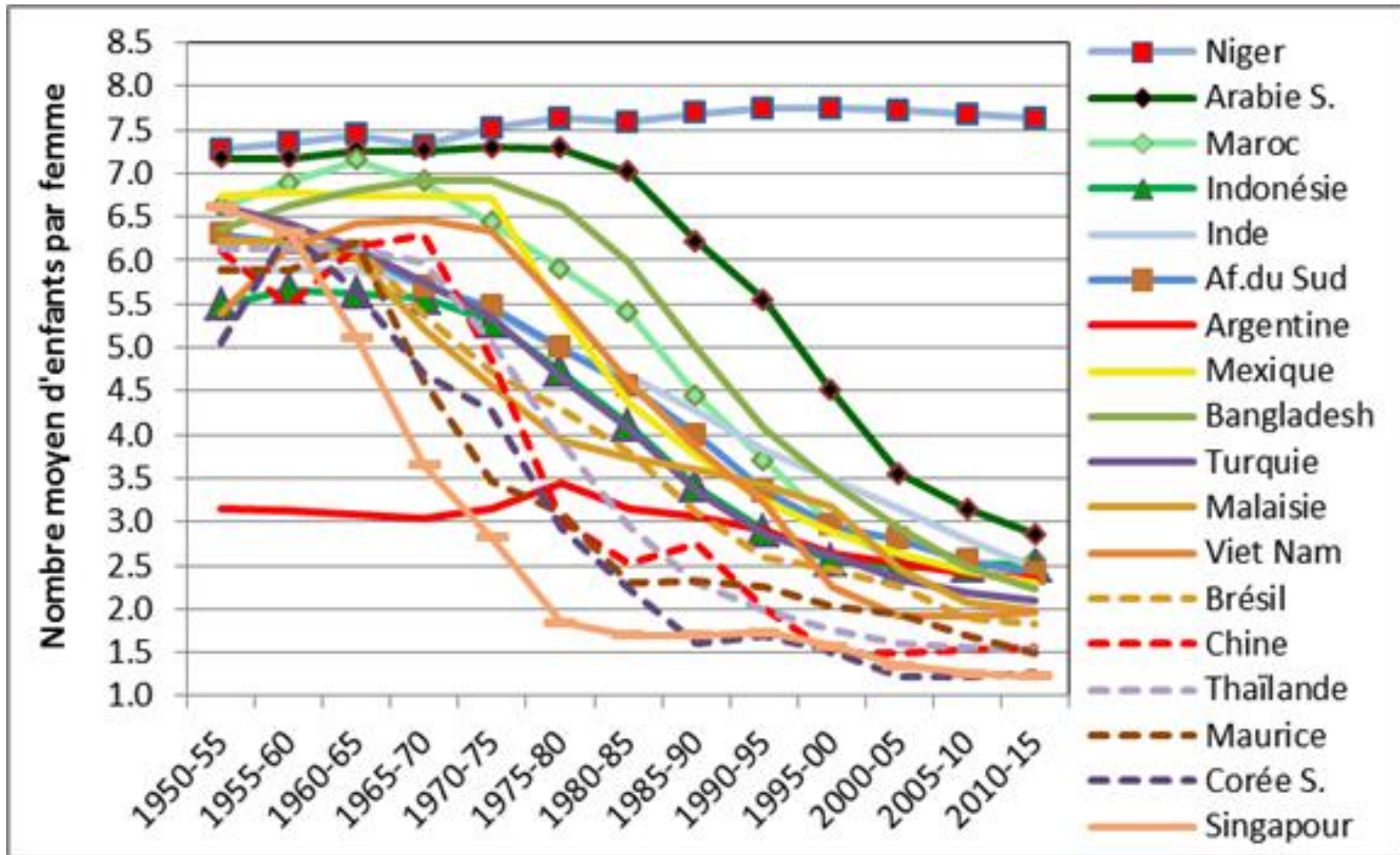
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# Dynamics of fertility across the world

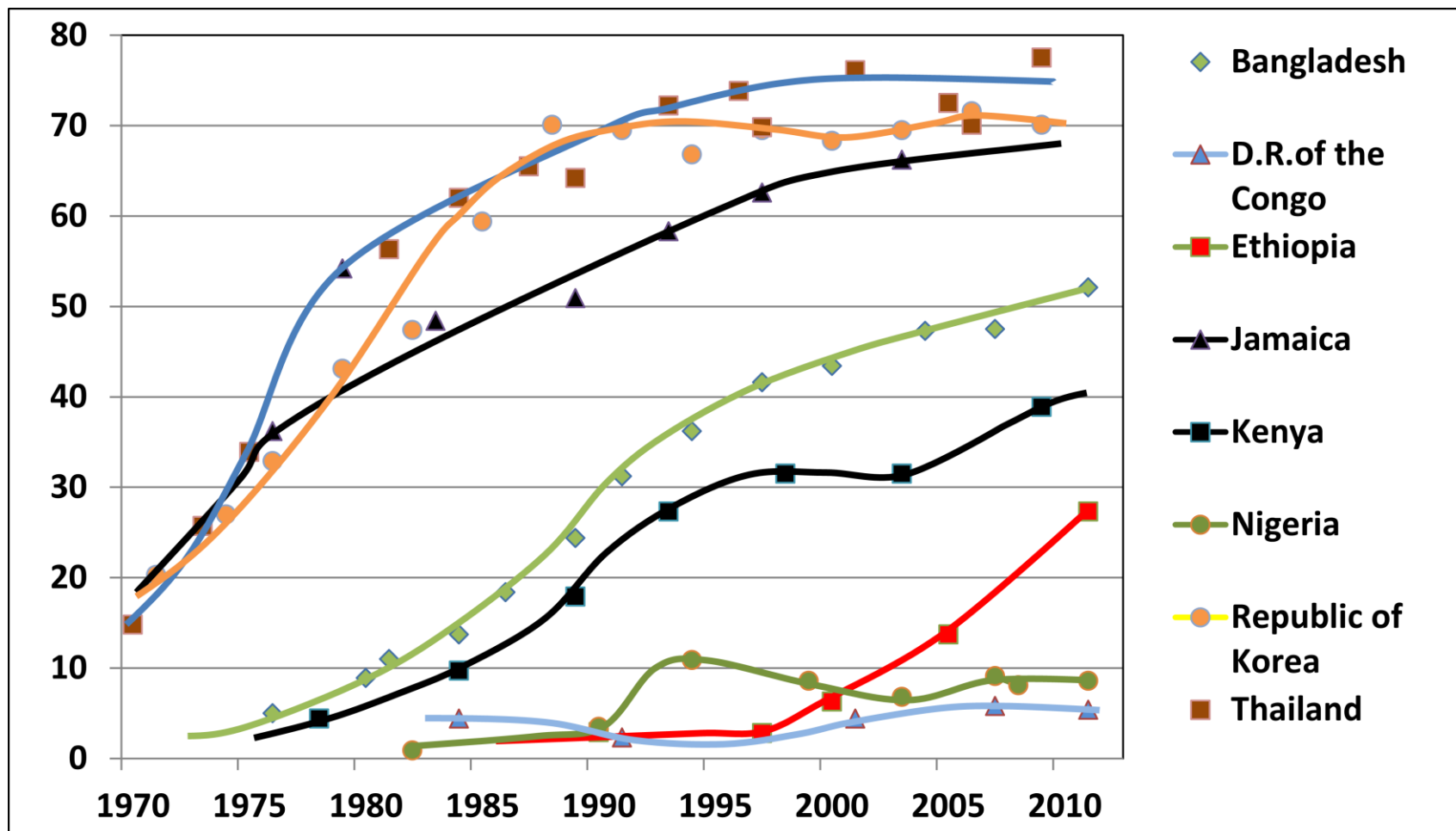


Source: UN Population Division

# Fertility Rates: Asia vs. Niger, South Africa and Morocco

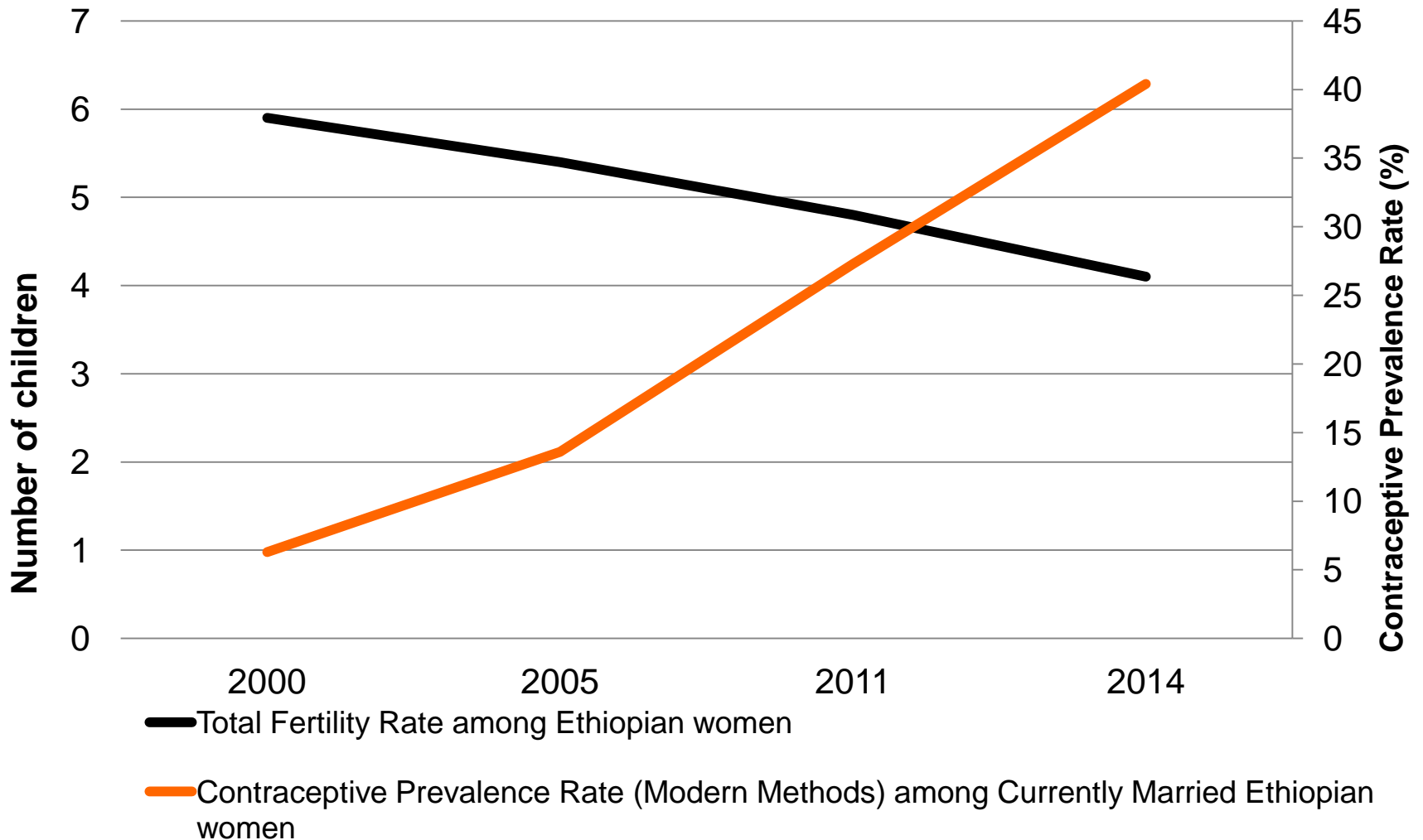


# Use of modern contraceptives (%)



Source: Jean-Pierre Guengant, *Note sur la situation démographique du Niger*, n. d.

# Fertility and contraception in Ethiopia



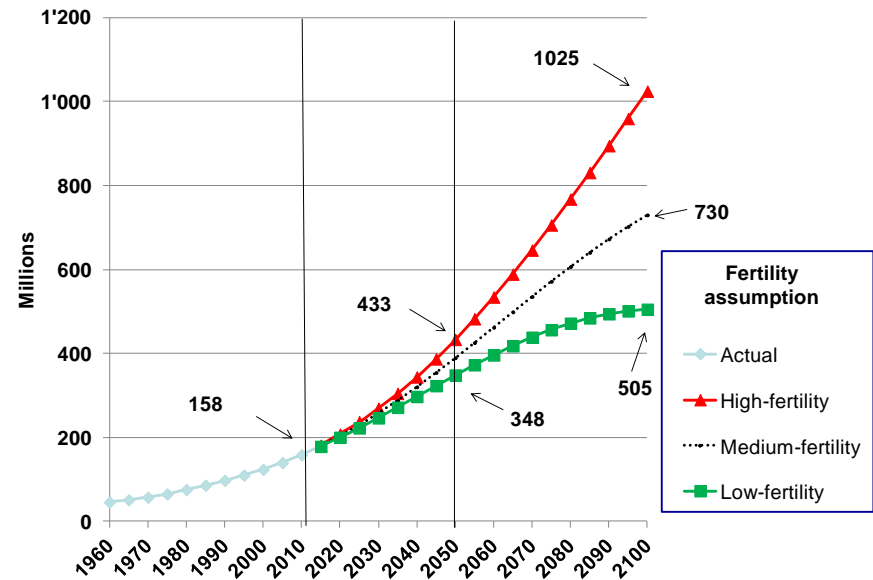
# Families in Nigeria



Source: *The Economist*, März 2014

# Beliefs from Nigeria

- Family is the most important thing in life
- You don't have to be blood related to become a family member
- We love large social groups
- Hierarchy (respect and acknowledgment for elderly)
- Polygamy is part of the culture across the entire society





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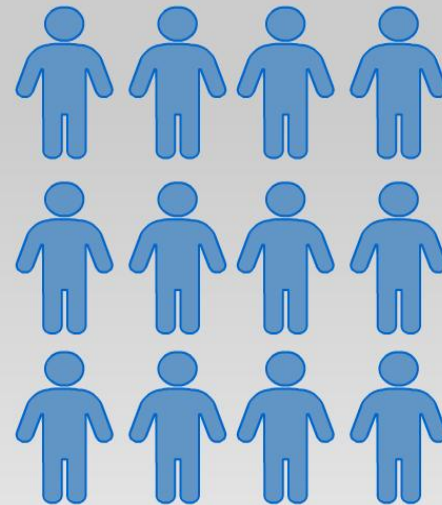
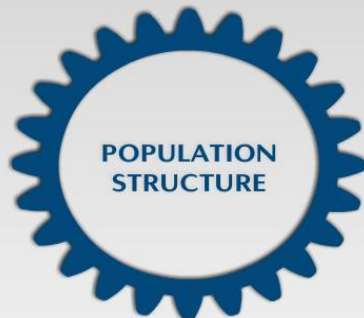
# Defining a Demographic Dividend

- A boost in gross domestic product (GDP) triggered by a larger working age population.
- This results from a change in the age structure, supported by lower mortality and fertility rates.
- Dependency ratios become more favorable, which frees up resources.
- This surplus can be used in ways that will benefit the economy:
  - Human capital investments (education and health)
  - Productive investments and public goods
  - Improved consumption levels

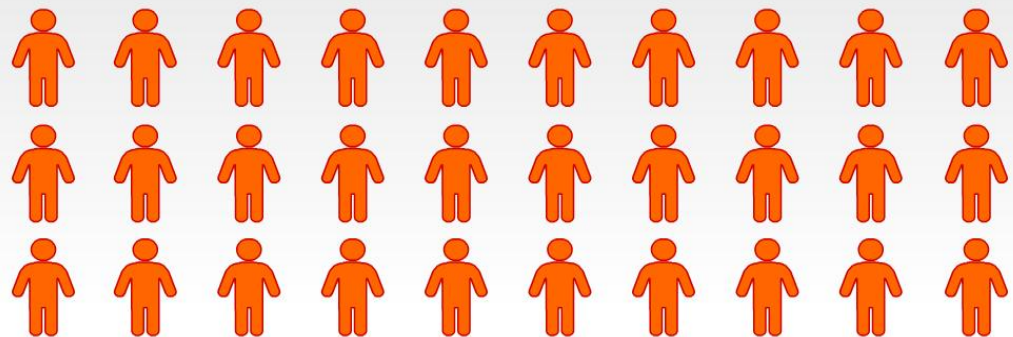
# Population structure can limit growth



**Working age  
population**



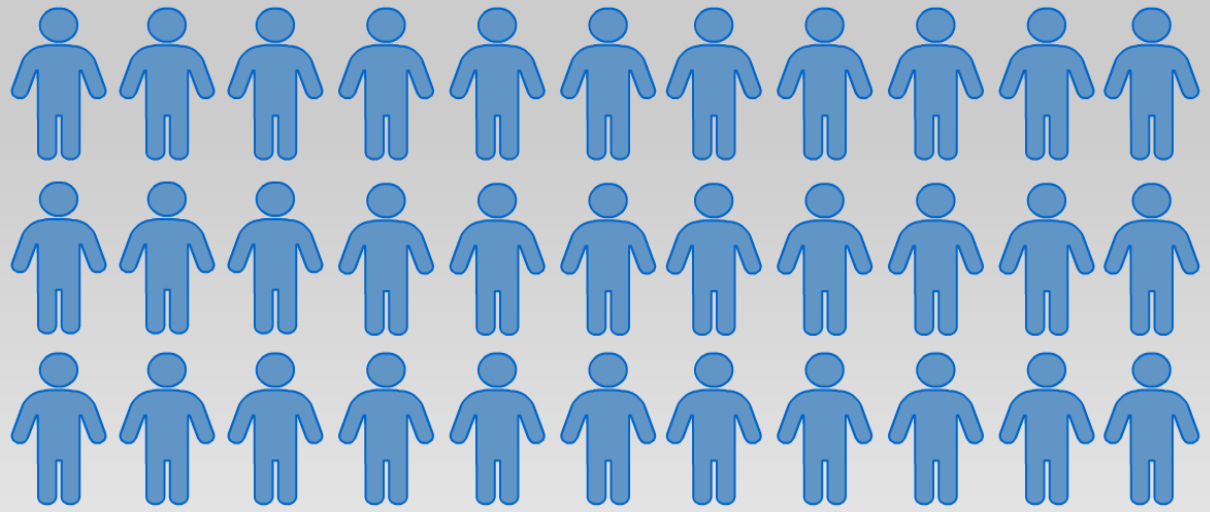
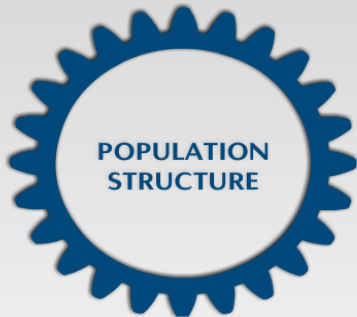
**Young dependent  
population**



# Population structure can enable growth

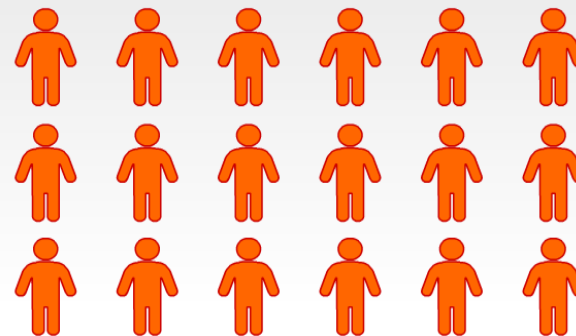


**Working age population**



**The dependent population grows smaller in relation to the working age population**

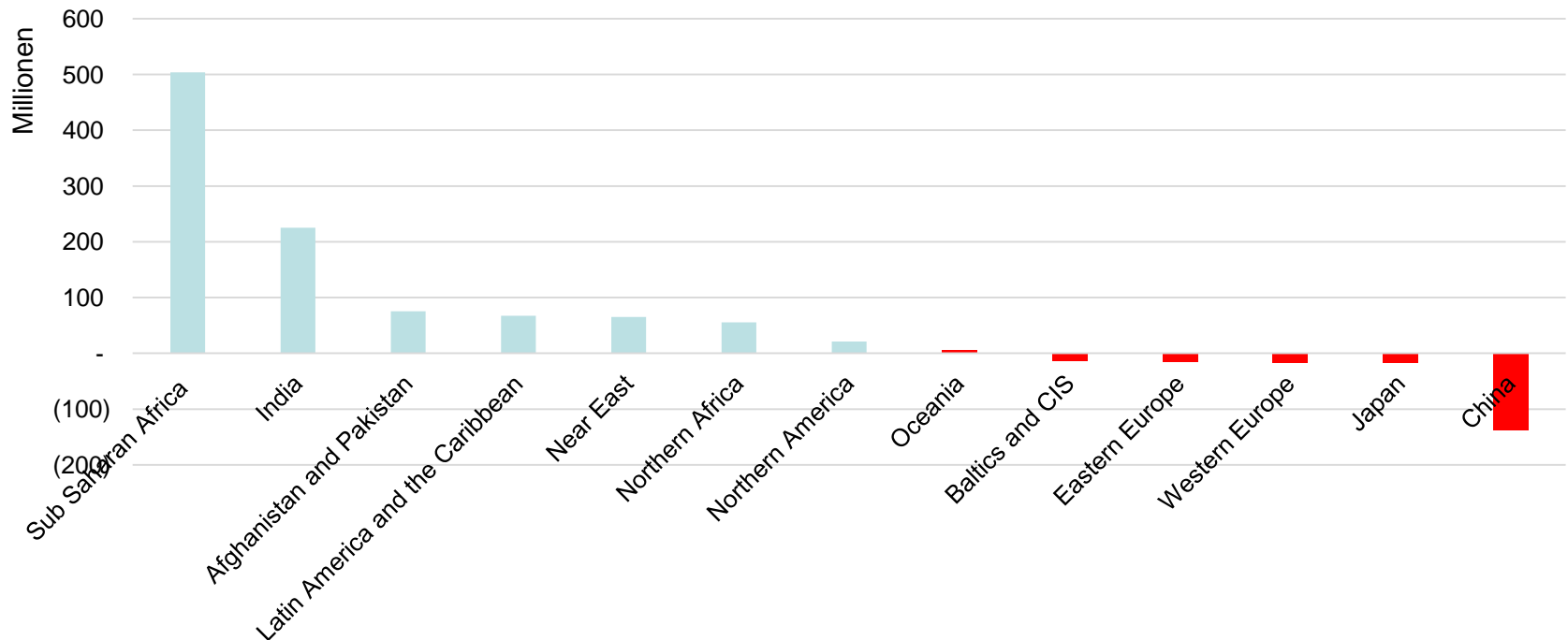
**Young dependent population**



# Not your father's world labour force any more

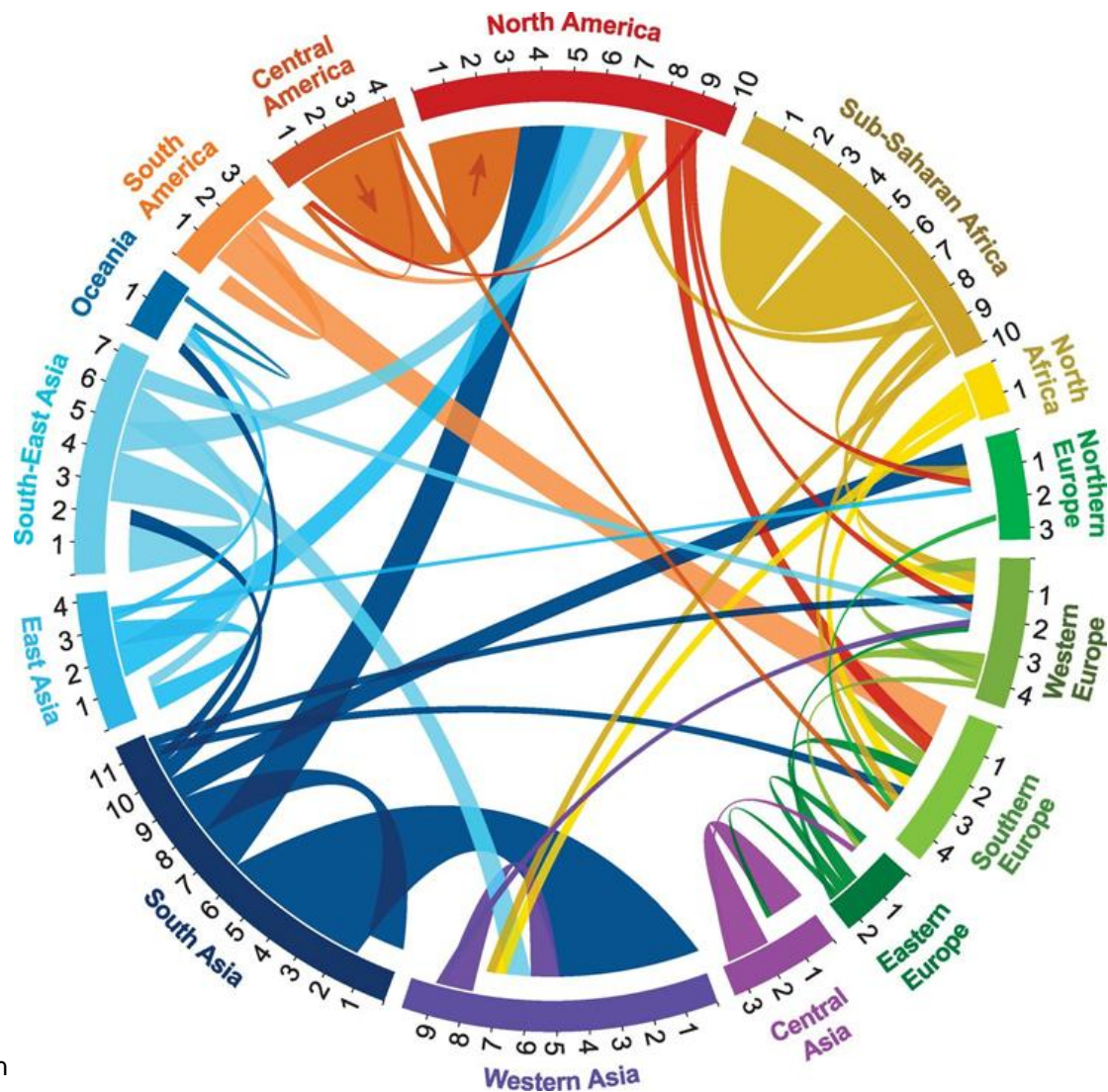
Projected Growth of Working Age Population (15-64) by Selected Region or Country:  
2015 – 2040, in Millions (US Census Bureau, International Data Base)

**Total projected change (2015-2040): 900 Million**  
**Total global change (1990-2015): 1.6 Billion**



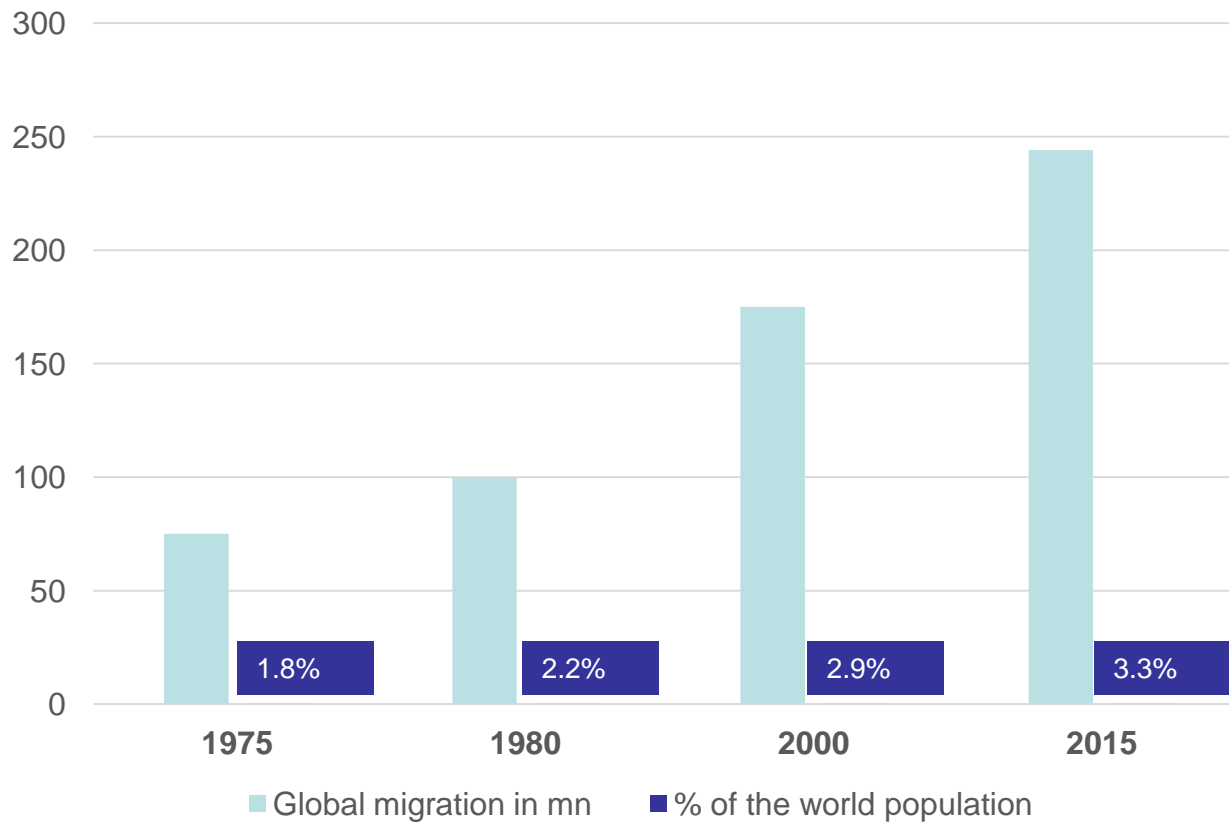
Source: US Census Bureau, International Data Base, <https://www.census.gov/population/international/data/idb/informationGateway.php>, accessed 10/25/17

# Global migration (2005 – 2010)



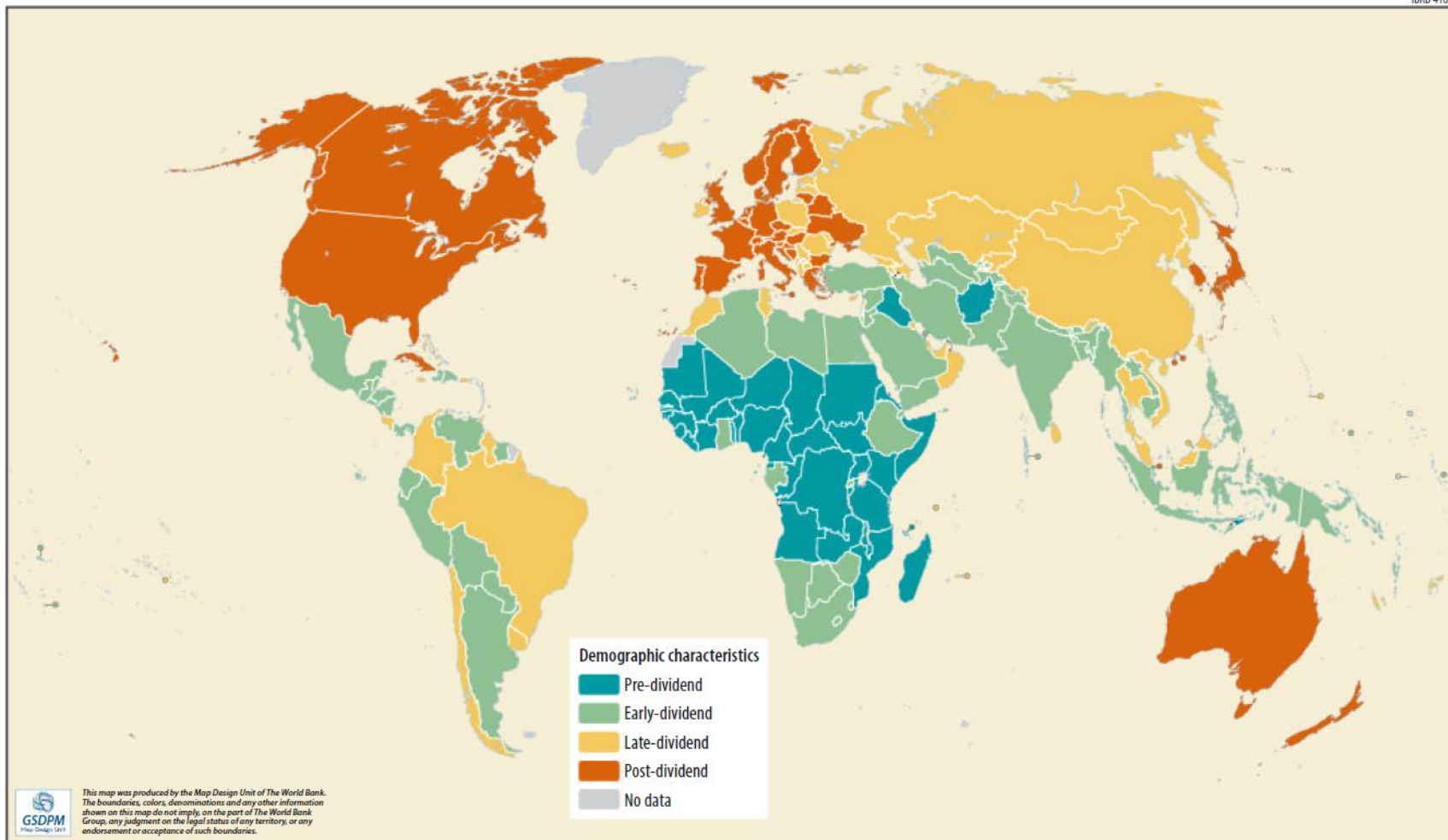
Source: UN Population

# Global migration (1975-2015)



Source: UN Population Division

# Who can capture its demographic dividend?



Source: World Bank Global Monitoring Report 2015/2016

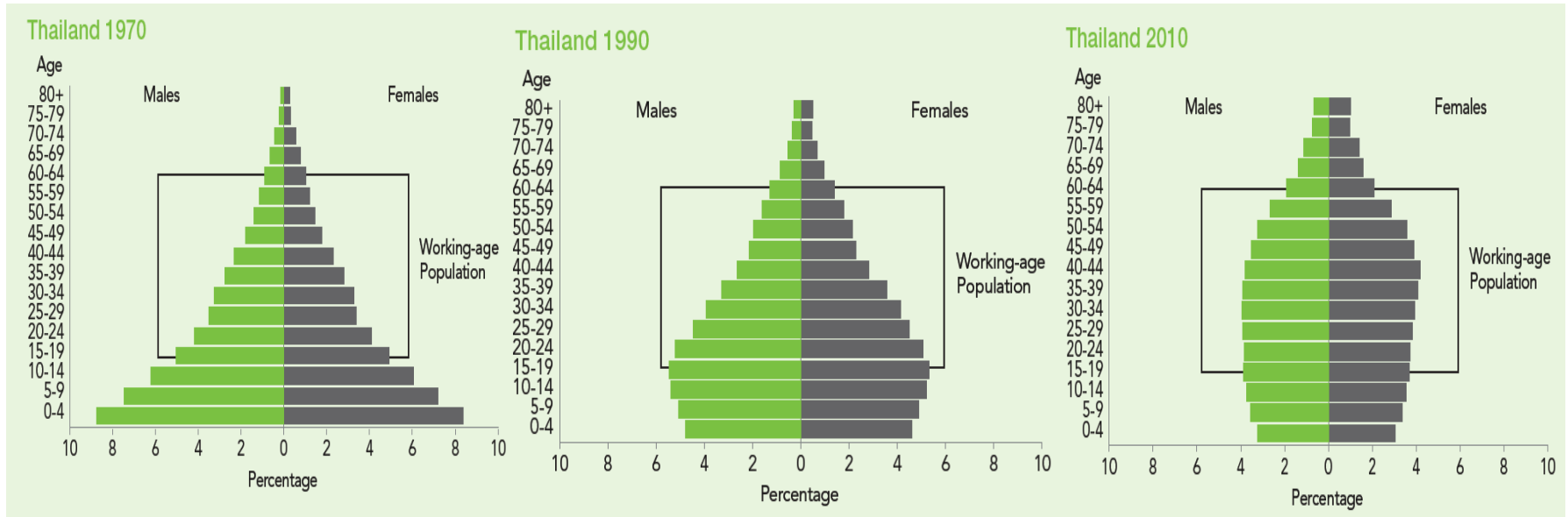


## Words of caution

- A demographic dividend (DD) is not guaranteed – the boost to economic growth can be obstructed or wasted.
- Good socioeconomic investments and policies are needed.
- A DD is not a recurring opportunity (the window of opportunity is limited in time; it opens and closes).



# Family planning is possible!



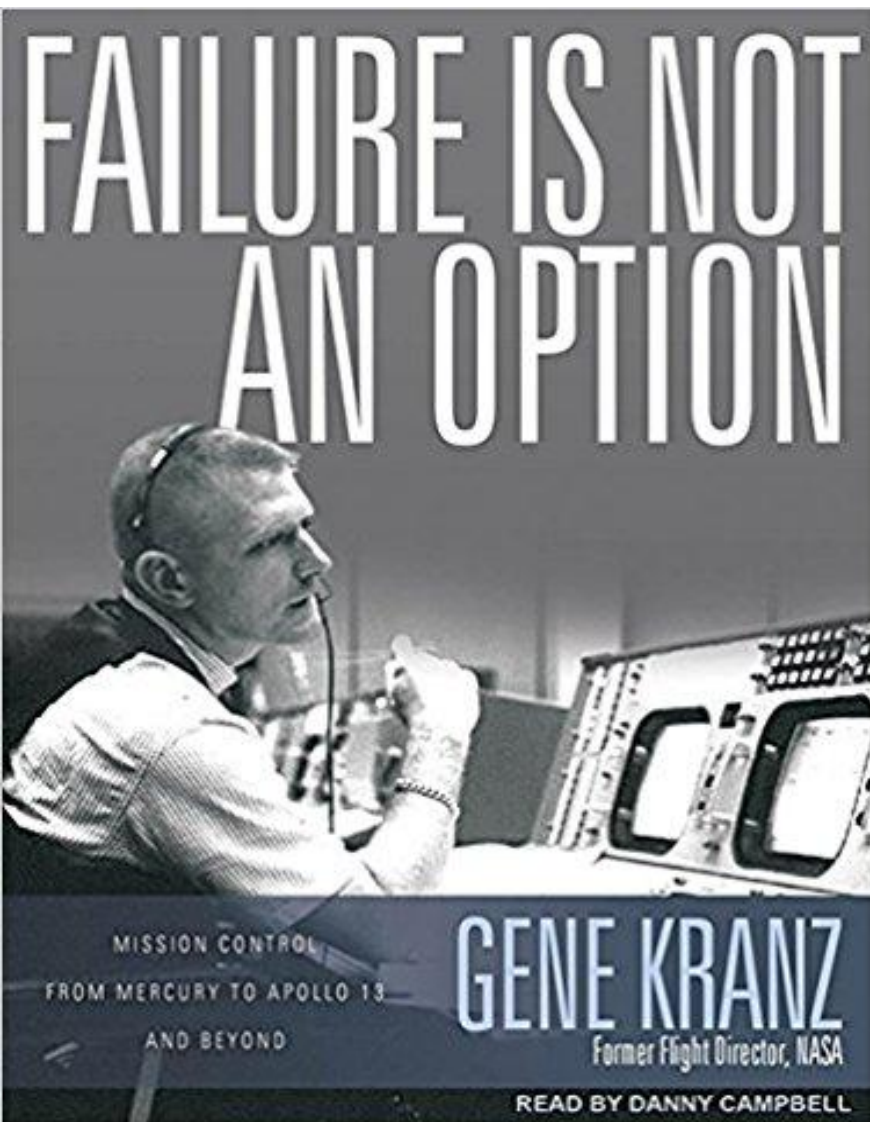
Population pyramids for Thailand in 1970, 1990, and 2010 show changes to population age structure, caused by fertility decline.



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# Lessons from Gene Kranz (Apollo 13 Flight Director)



*“When bad things happened, we just calmly laid out all the options, and failure was not one of them!”*

*“We never panicked, and we never gave up on finding a solution!”*

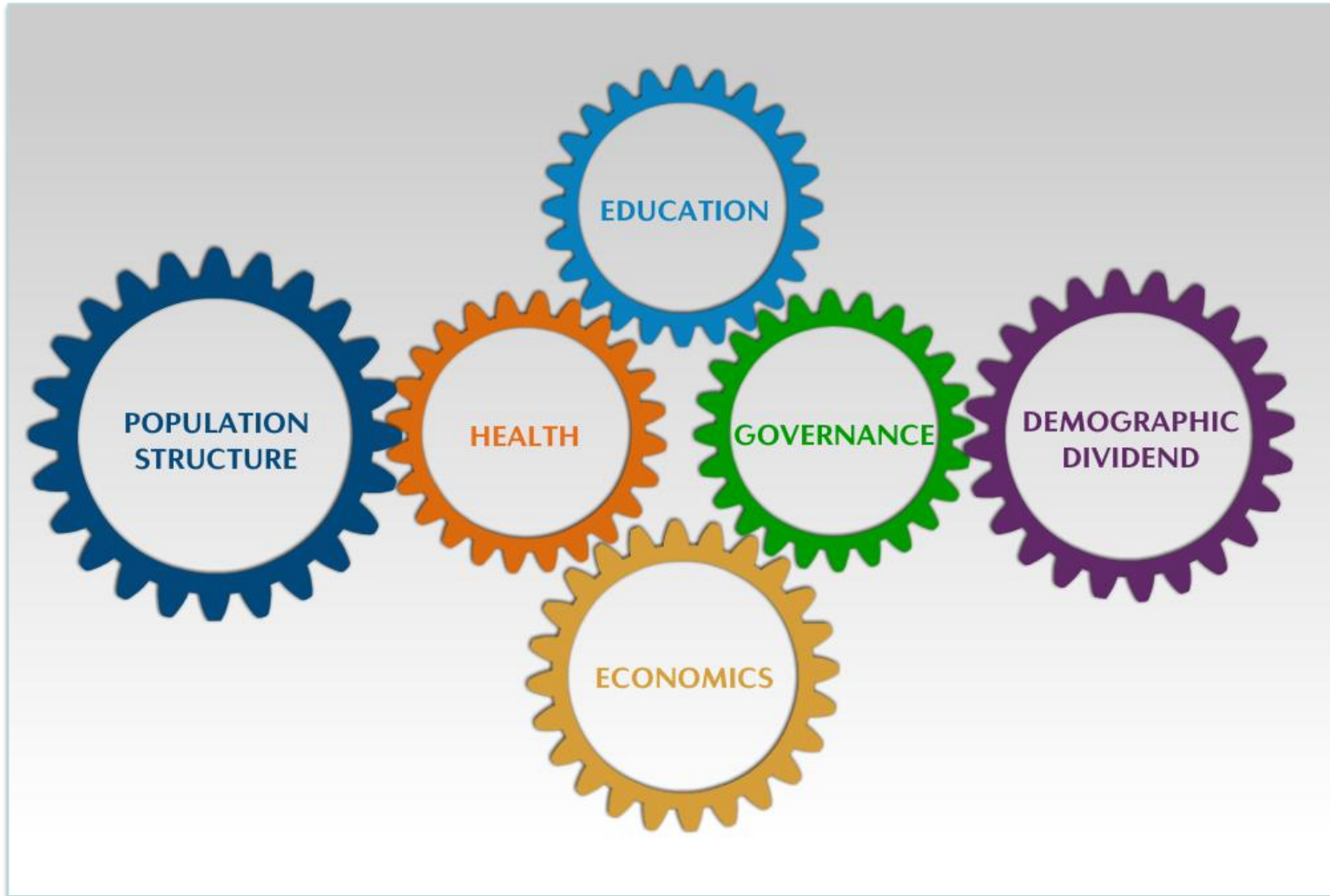
***“Failure is Not an option!”***



# Failure is not an option!

- There is an unprecedented population growth ongoing in Sub-Saharan Africa. Efficient interventions will be needed to decrease rapidly high fertility levels.
- Economic development, investment and good governance by themselves will not be sufficient to tackle fertility and to cope eventually with the societal and political implications resulting from rapid population growth.
- Fertility should not be reduced for the sake of birthrate reduction. Reducing fertility is not a goal but a means to improve human capital – the base for social stability, welfare and wealth.

# Creating an enabling environment





# Implications for policymakers

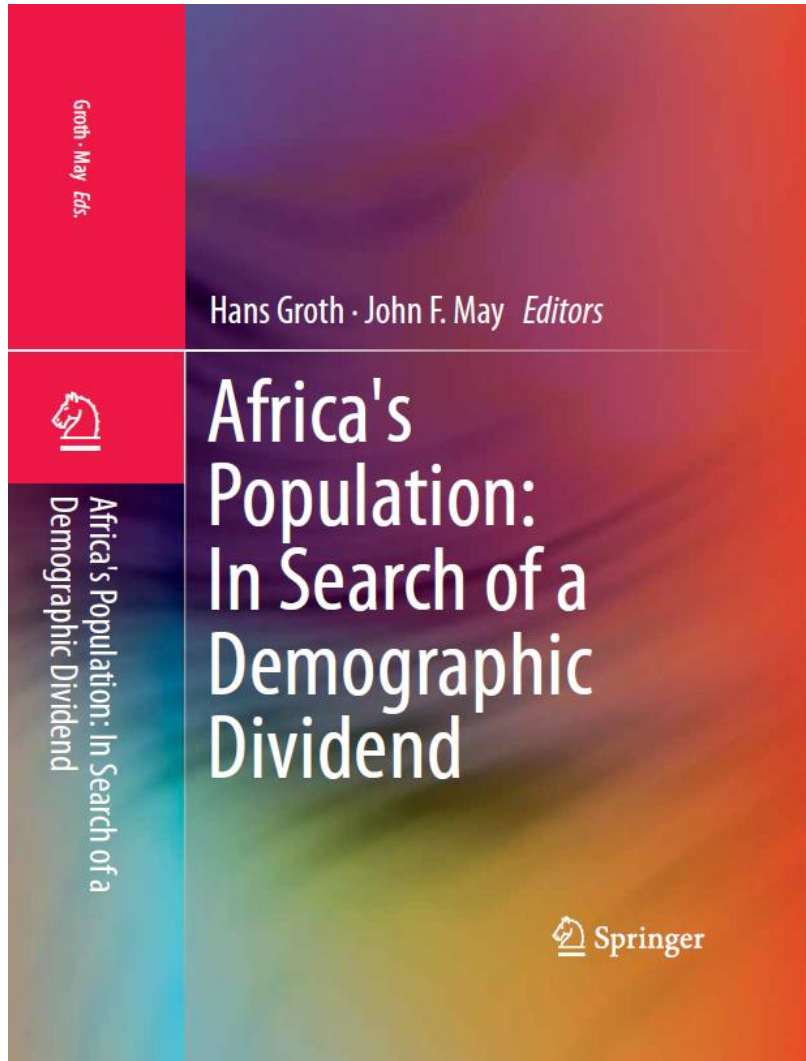
- Achieving a demographic dividend requires coordinated and comprehensive efforts across multiple sectors.
- Strengthening education and health policies for the current generation will bring stronger, better skilled workers for future growth.
- Investments in human capital must begin now to see the benefits of a demographic dividend in coming decades.



## Implications for policymakers (continued)

- Each country must create a tailored plan that works within its national context.
- Key components of an enabling environment are:
  - Strong education and health sectors
  - Comprehensive family planning programs
  - Vigorous job growth
  - Good governance

New book – launched in June 2017!



[http://www.springer.com/us/  
book/9783319468877](http://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319468877)