

THE DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

KEY DRIVERS



VOLUNTARY FAMILY PLANNING PROMOTION

The unmet need for contraceptives is high in sub-Saharan Africa; on average 23% of married women aged 15-49 do not have access to the contraceptives they need.



GIRLS' EDUCATION

For every extra year of school, there is a 6% decrease in the chance of adolescent marriage and 7% reduction in the likelihood of adolescent birth. The skills acquired through schooling increase women's earning potential and are strongly correlated with higher national income and growth.



WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Each child reduces a woman's productive participation in the labour market by 1.9 years.

OTHER DRIVERS:



Better health care reduces maternal and infant mortality rates, which gives an incentive to lower family size.



Social norm change and promotion of gender equality can increase acceptance for girls' education, women empowerment and family planning.



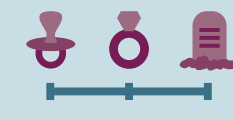
Economic growth and prosperity could improve incentives to lower family sizes, but is **not a key driver** as some poor countries have achieved lower fertility rates (e.g. Bangladesh, Kenya).

POPULATION DATA

COMES FROM THREE SOURCES:



CENSUS



BIRTH/
MARRIAGE/DEATH
REGISTRATION



SURVEY

ACCESSIBLE



TIMELY

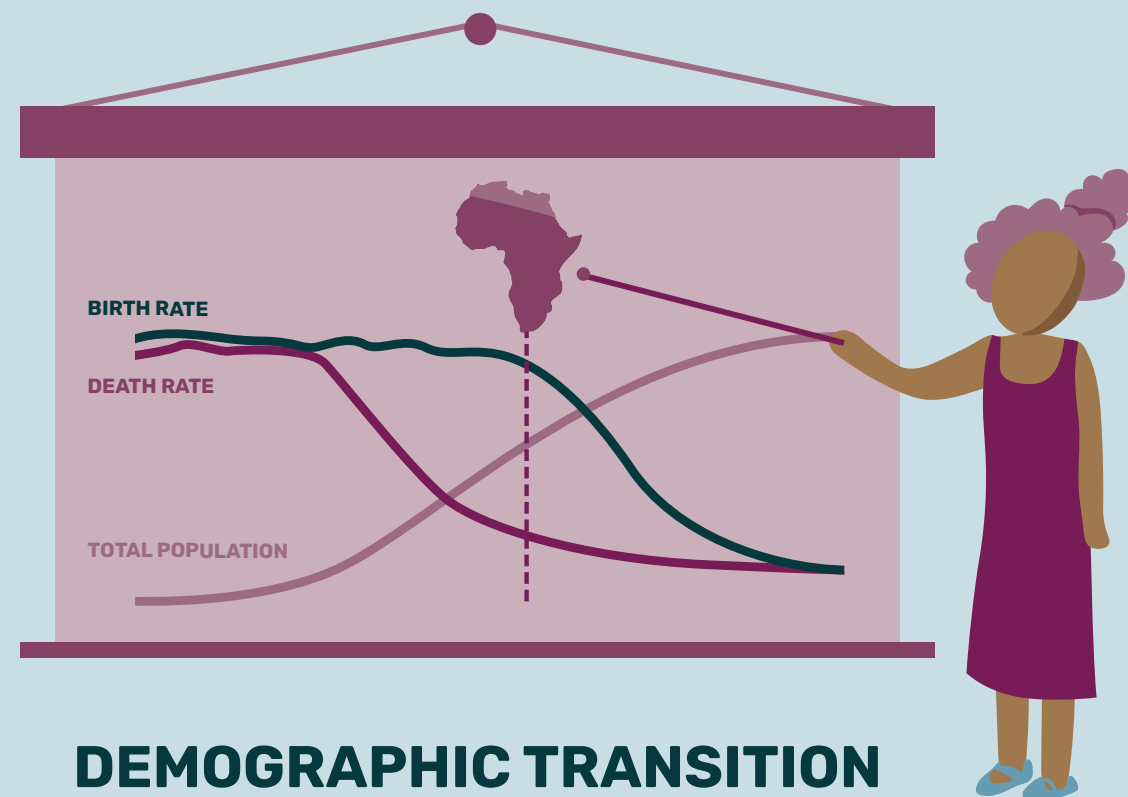


COMPLETE



DISAGGREGATED

DATA IS ONLY USEFUL WHEN:



DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION

The demographic transition is the reduction of mortality and fertility rates over a long period of time, impacting on total population growth. Due to the position of sub-Saharan African countries in the transition – with most of them still experiencing high fertility rates and declining mortality rates – they face high population growth.

The population of sub-Saharan Africa is estimated to double between 2020-2050. The pace of fertility rate decline is relatively slow compared to what was seen in other regions of the world. However, there are important differences between (and within) countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES



A POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS OF RAPID POPULATION GROWTH

If populations grow significantly this means every year much more investment is needed only to maintain the current level of GDP per capita, as well as capital per worker, and level of public spending per pupil, patient, etc.

HIGHER CHILD DEPENDENCY RATIOS HIGH PROBABILITY OF UNDEREMPLOYMENT



GREATER POSSIBILITY OF CONFLICT

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

B IMPLICATIONS OF ACCELERATED FERTILITY DECLINE



If countries are able to decrease fertility rates faster during a period of time, this could create a 'window of opportunity' for rapid economic growth – often referred to as a 'demographic dividend'.

Over time this should give a new generation better opportunities in their lifetime.

However, to capitalise on this, investments are needed in human capital and physical infrastructure.



LOWER CHILD DEPENDENCY RATIOS

INTERVENTIONS & POLICIES

- 1 Interventions in individual drivers of demographic transition and multisectoral approaches that link drivers
- 2 Investments in better population data and improved skills to analyse these data
- 3 Programmes and policy work that support governments to develop a coherent policy response to their demographic trends
- 4 Programmes and policy work to support governments to achieve a demographic dividend