

# POPULATION Newsletter

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## Featured article

### World Population Policies 2007

**W**orld Population Policies 2007, a publication providing an overview of population policies for 195 countries as of 2007, has been released. This publication reflects a key part of the monitoring work carried out by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat to assess progress made in the attainment of the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). In addition to presenting population policies as of 2007, *World Population Policies 2007* presents policy information near mid-decade for the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s, dates corresponding more or less to the timing of the United Nations international population conferences held at Bucharest (1974), Mexico City (1984) and Cairo (1994). Such information permits an assessment of changes in population policies over time.

An analysis of current population policies indicated that a majority of Governments viewed HIV/AIDS as the most significant demographic issue facing them: 93 per cent of the Governments of developing countries expressed this view as did 81 per cent of those of developed countries (see table). Among developing countries, high mortality in childhood and high maternal mortality were the second and third most important issues. In developed countries, major population concerns included low fertility, population ageing, and the relatively small or

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declining numbers of persons of working age, in addition to HIV/AIDS. Developing countries were also concerned about their working age population, mainly because they need to create sufficient jobs for rapidly growing labour

forces. In contrast, developed countries were concerned about the potential shortage of workers as continued low fertility and population ageing are leading to declining numbers of people of working age.

*The study found that a majority of Governments viewed HIV/AIDS as the most significant demographic issue facing them: 93 per cent of the Governments of developing countries had this view, as did 81 per cent of those of developed countries.*

In developing countries, especially in Africa, an increasing number of Governments consider that both population growth and fertility are too high and are implementing measures to lower them.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic continues to spread. Despite advances made in treating people infected with HIV and in controlling the spread of the epidemic, its impact in terms of morbidity, mortality and slower population growth continues to be evident in many countries. The future course of the epidemic depends on achieving a major increase in the proportion of AIDS patients who receive antiretroviral therapy (ART) to treat the disease and on the success of efforts to prevent the further spread of HIV.

In the more developed regions, below-replacement fertility prevails and is expected to continue to 2050. Concern about the consequences of population ageing is increasing among many Governments of developed countries. Policies have focused on ensuring the long-term sustainability of pension systems and on promoting a holistic approach to population ageing by mobilizing the full potential of people at all ages. Measures to balance work and family life and those that promote gender equality in all spheres of life are part of this approach.

Despite the wide array of measures Governments have taken to shape internal migration and urban growth, especially in developing countries, policies have generally

**MAJOR POPULATION CONCERNS OF GOVERNMENTS IN 2007**  
**Issues of significance to at least 50 per cent of Governments in 2007, by level of development**

<i>Region and issues</i>	<i>Percentage of Governments reporting it is significant</i>
<b>World</b>	
HIV/AIDS	90
Infant and child mortality	73
Maternal mortality	70
Size of the population of working age	66
Adolescent fertility	58
Low life expectancy at birth	57
Population ageing	55
Pattern of spatial distribution	51
<b>More developed regions</b>	
HIV/AIDS	81
Population ageing	81
Low fertility	61
Size of the population of working age	61
<b>Less developed regions</b>	
HIV/AIDS	93
Infant and child mortality	86
Maternal mortality	83
Size of the population of working age	69
Adolescent fertility	65
Low life expectancy at birth	64
Pattern of spatial distribution	56
High fertility	54
High rates of population growth	50

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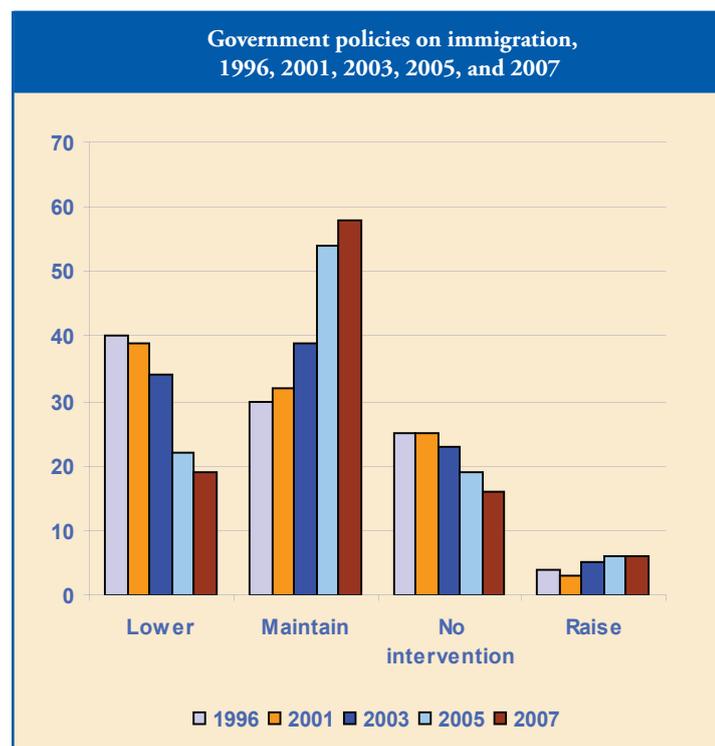
failed to meet their stated objectives of reducing or slowing urban growth. A more realistic approach would entail focusing on the consequences of population distribution and urbanization and taking measures to adapt to them.

With respect to international migration, countries of destination increasingly recognize that international migration has beneficial outcomes and have adopted policies and measures to tailor international migration to national needs. Fewer countries wish to lower immigration. In 2007, just 19 per cent of countries wanted to reduce immigration, down from 40 per cent in 1996 (see figure). Furthermore, a growing number of countries of destination are promoting the admission of skilled workers. In

the longer term, migration to developed countries is likely to increase not only because of the persistent economic disparities among countries but also because of the persistence of low fertility and the marked population ageing expected in those countries over the coming decades. Nevertheless, the possibility of short-term reversals in immigration policies may occur in response to changing economic and political considerations.

*Fewer countries wish to lower immigration. In 2007, 19 per cent of countries wanted to reduce immigration, down from 40 per cent in 1996.*

Despite the increased volume of migration, the percentage of countries seeking to lower emigration has remained at about one in four since the mid-1980s. Countries have become more inclined to encourage the return of their citizens abroad, create links with their transnational communities, facilitate the flow of remittances, and harness the positive impact of migration on poverty reduction in the countries of origin. As the migration and development discourse gains momentum, policies concerning emigration will be an important issue for countries of origin.



Since the adoption of the ICPD Programme of Action, there has been growing recognition that international migration and development are inexorably linked and are of key relevance to the global agenda. To reap the benefits and minimize the adverse consequences of international migration, greater international cooperation and policy coherence are considered essential.

The major conclusion of the report is that Governments are becoming increasingly concerned with the consequences of population trends and international migration. Furthermore, Governments are now more inclined to view population as a legitimate area for government actions and to act upon these concerns by formulating and implementing policies that address population issues. In addition, population policies and programmes in many countries have been re-oriented to be consistent with the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for their further implementation, as well as the Millennium Development Goals set by the international community.

*World Population Policies 2007* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XIII.8) is available for US\$ 60.00 from United Nations Publications, Two United Nations Plaza, Room DC2-853, Dept PRES, New York, N.Y. 10017 USA; Tel.: 1-800-253-9646 or 1-212-963-8302, Fax: 1-212-963-3489, e-mail: [publications@un.org](mailto:publications@un.org); or Section des Ventes et Commercialisation, Bureau E-4, CH-1211, Geneva 10, Switzerland, Tel.: 41-22-917-2614, Fax: 41-22-917-0027, e-mail: [unpubli@unog.ch](mailto:unpubli@unog.ch); internet: <http://www.un.org/publications>. The publication may be downloaded from [www.unpopulation.org](http://www.unpopulation.org).

In addition to the published report, a CD-ROM version may be purchased from the United Nations Population Division for US\$100.00. An order form can be downloaded from [www.unpopulation.org](http://www.unpopulation.org). Complimentary copies are available for institutions in developing countries as part of the Population Division's Technical Cooperation Programme. Requests should be addressed

on the institution's letterhead paper to Ms. Hania Zlotnik, Director, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, DC2-1950,

New York, N.Y. 10017, USA; Tel.: 1-212-963-3179, Fax: 1-212-963-2147. ■

## Relevant intergovernmental activities

# Global Forum on Migration and Development

**O**n 10 and 11 July 2007, the first meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) took place in Brussels, Belgium.

Organized by the Government of Belgium, this meeting was the direct result of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development conducted by the General Assembly in September 2006. At the Dialogue, then Secretary-General Kofi Annan proposed that Governments continue the systematic discussion of ways to enhance the contribution of international migration to development and reduce its negative consequences. The Government of Belgium responded to this proposal by taking the lead in launching the Global Forum on Migration and Development, which, in accordance with the discussions held at the High-level Dialogue, was conceived as a state-led, informal, and consultative process open to all Member States of the United Nations. The Global Forum is linked to the United Nations through Mr. Peter Sutherland, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development, who provides advice on substantive and organizational matters.

The first meeting of the Global Forum aimed at fostering practical, evidence-based dialogue and cooperation to explore the opportunities that international migra-

tion opens for development and address the challenges it poses. Over 800 delegates representing 156 Member States and more than 20 international organizations participated in the first meeting of the Global Forum. The Forum was preceded by a meeting of civil society held on 9 July, whose report was presented to the plenary meeting of the Forum. In his address to the opening session of the Forum, the Secretary-General stated: "At this early stage of international cooperation on migration and development, we are trying to build trust among States. So we should focus on those policy actions that stand to benefit all the actors in the migration system."

Endeavouring to maximize the involvement of Member States in the Forum, the Government of Belgium conducted a comprehensive survey among Member States of the United Nations in November 2006 to determine the priority issues that should be the focus of the first meeting of the Forum. The three themes that emerged were: (a) human capital development and labour mobility, (b) remittances and other diaspora resources, and (c) policy and institutional coherence and partnerships. Accordingly, round tables were organized on each theme. Each round table in turn consisted of four sessions addressing particular issues within the overall theme. Out of the deliberations held, over 50 recommendations on concrete steps to improve migration's outcomes and its impact on development emerged.

Regarding labour mobility, the recommendations ranged from suggestions to facilitate seasonal movements of migrant workers to finding ways of helping migrants

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defray the costs of migration. Governments volunteered to hold focused consultations on how to improve recruitment and employment practices involving international migrants or on how to facilitate circular migration. Attention was also given to the migration of skilled personnel and to actions that countries of origin and those of destination could take jointly to improve the retention, training or return of skilled personnel to the developing countries that needed such workers.

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With respect to remittances and the use of other resources generated by migrants abroad, the Global Forum made specific suggestions on how to enhance competition among money transfer institutions, facilitate remittance transfers and minimize transfer costs. The need to improve the financial literacy of migrants and their families was recognized as was the desirability of diversifying the supply of financial services available to migrants and to the population of countries of origin. A number of initiatives to maintain and sustain the ties between migrant communities abroad and their communities of origin were also proposed.

In terms of policy and institutional coherence and partnerships, the Global Forum recognized that it was important to promote dialogue and cooperation among the different government entities, as well as other stakeholders, involved in managing migration. Furthermore, it recommended the establishment of mechanisms to enable government officials responsible for migration policies and those responsible for development policies to communicate and consult with one another on ways to promote synergies between their respective policies and decisions. The explicit consideration of migration in national development planning processes was also endorsed.

In parallel to the Global Forum, the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat (UN/DESA) coordinated, at the request of the organizers of the Brussels Forum, a Marketplace of International Migration and Development Services. Through the Marketplace, Governments were able to identify potential partners in implementing specific activities or projects on international migration and development. The 18 projects included in the Marketplace generated 35 meetings between requestors and potential providers and included a variety of activities such as data collection, training and capacity building, acquisition of equipment, and the creation of networks among migrants abroad.

The Global Forum was successful in maintaining the momentum generated by the High-level Dialogue. It embraced a new approach to international migration by placing development at the centre of the debate and stressing that legal migration is an opportunity, rather than a threat, to both countries of destination and countries of origin. Another important achievement of the Forum process was the establishment of an international network of national focal points on migration and development. By identifying such focal points and assigning them the task of coordinating national positions on migration and development in relation to the Forum, Governments have initiated national processes of dialogue and coordination leading to greater national coherence in relation to international migration.

Intent on maintaining the process going forward and building on the success of the Brussels meeting of the Forum, the Government of the Philippines has accepted

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to host the next meeting of the Forum, which will take place in Manila from 29 to 30 October 2008. One of the objectives of the Manila Forum will be to assess the implementation of the outcomes of the Brussels meeting.

For additional information on the Global Forum on Migration and Development, visit its website at [www.gfmd-fmmd.org](http://www.gfmd-fmmd.org) or [www.unmigration.org](http://www.unmigration.org). ■

## Meetings

### Sixth Coordination Meeting on International Migration

The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat (UN/DESA) convened the Sixth Coordination Meeting on International Migration from 26 to 27 November 2007 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The objectives of the Coordination Meeting were: (a) to discuss the outcomes of the 2007 Global Forum on Migration and Development, held in Brussels, Belgium; (b) to consider preparations for the 2008 Global Forum, to be held in Manila, the Philippines; (c) to exchange information on work programmes in the area of international migration and development; and (d) to share best practices and future plans on the use of surveys in collecting migration information.

Some 80 participants attended the meeting, representing agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system; offices of the United Nations Secretariat, including the regional commissions; and other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental institutions active in the field of international migration.

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In opening the meeting, Ms. Hania Zlotnik, Director of the Population Division, recalled that the annual coordination meetings were convened in response to a request by the United Nations General Assembly. The Sixth Coordination Meeting on International Migration would provide useful input for the report of the Secretary-General called for in resolution A/61/208, which would be considered by the General Assembly at its 63rd session in 2008. By bringing together a large number of entities working on international migration, the coordination meetings also served as an important link between the United Nations system and the process of the Global Forum.

Ambassador Régine de Clercq, the Executive Director of the first meeting of the Global Forum, noted that the 2007 Brussels Forum had been a resounding success. She explained that the Global Forum was a logical follow-up to the High-level Dialogue. The Global Forum was an informal and state-led process, which was open to all United Nations Member States, focusing on practical results. The Brussels Forum had identified more than 50 concrete suggestions for follow-up. In addition, the Marketplace on International Migration and Development Services, which was organized by UN/DESA during the Global Forum, was a valuable instrument to enhance cooperation between Member States and international organizations. Although achieving concrete results was important, she emphasized that the main goal of the

Global Forum was to allow for an informal exchange of views and not to produce projects. Ambassador de Clercq invited all participants in the Coordination Meeting to review the outcomes of the Brussels Forum and to identify how their organizations could assist in implementing them.

Under-Secretary for Migrant Workers Affairs, Mr. Esteban B. Conejos Jr., of the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Philippines, briefed participants on the second meeting of the Global Forum, to be held in Manila from 29 to 30 October 2008. Preparations for the Manila Global Forum focused on two main issues, namely, the follow-up of outcomes from the 2007 Global Forum and the selection of themes for the Manila meeting. Based on the results of a survey carried out among Member States in preparation for the Brussels Forum, the Government of the Philippines had proposed that the theme of the 2008 meeting of the Global Forum be *Protection and empowerment of migrants for development*. At a recent meeting of the Forum's Steering Group, Governments had expressed support for the proposed theme. Such theme would allow consideration of the implications of one of the key conclusions of the 2006 High-level Dialogue, namely, that the respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms of all migrants is a necessary condition for reaping the full benefits of international migration. Under-Secretary Conejos underscored that the support of international organizations was essential for a successful outcome of the Manila Global Forum.

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*The theme of the 2008 meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development would be "Protection and empowerment of migrants for development".*

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The Coordination Meeting focused next on emerging issues, hearing presentations on three recent studies: two by different units of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and another by the World Bank.

Mr. Jean-Christophe Dumont of the Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs of the OECD, presented the results of a study on the health workforce and migration which was part of the OECD's 2007 *International Migration Outlook*.<sup>1</sup> The study documented that the situation regarding health personnel varied considerably among OECD countries, yet migrants constituted an important proportion of the health personnel in many of them. The study indicated that most foreign-born nurses working in OECD countries originated in other OECD countries, while most foreign-born doctors practicing in OECD countries originated outside the OECD. Several countries in Africa and the Caribbean were found to have a high proportion of their health professionals working in OECD countries. In contrast, expatriate health workers originating in OECD countries generally constituted a small proportion of the health workers of countries of origin.

Mr. Jeff Dayton-Johnson of the Development Centre of the OECD presented the main results of the report entitled *Policy Coherence for Development: Migration and Developing Countries*.<sup>2</sup> The report assessed the impact of international migration to OECD countries on the economic development of countries of origin and vice versa. The evidence suggested that international migration could contribute to poverty reduction in countries of origin but economic development and international aid were unlikely to slow down future migration. The migration of low-skilled workers was found to have the greatest impact on reducing poverty, not only because it reduced unemployment in countries of origin, but also because low-skilled migrants were more likely to send remittances and to remit a larger proportion of their income. Poor countries had the highest emigration rates among skilled professionals, a factor that could slow their development. In order to address the implications

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<sup>1</sup>*International Migration Outlook* (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2007).

<sup>2</sup>*Policy Coherence for Development: Migration and Developing Countries* (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2007).

of these findings, there was a need for greater coherence between migration and development policies. Receiving countries were advised to promote circular migration by providing multiple-entry visas to migrants, to grant citizenship to long-term immigrants, to take measures that reduced remittance transfer costs, and to promote co-development by engaging expatriate communities in the implementation of development projects in countries of origin. Policy recommendations for countries of origin included following sound macro-economic policies, accelerating the development of human capital, and investing in communications and transportation systems.

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Mr. Andrew Morrison, Mr. Maurice Schiff and Ms. Mirja Sjöblom of the World Bank presented the key findings of a publication entitled *The International Migration of Women*.<sup>3</sup> The study explored whether the determinants and consequences of international migration differed for migrating men and women by using econometric analyses based on data collected by household surveys. The presentation focused on gender differences in five main areas: (a) the determinants of migration, (b) the propensity to remit and the amounts involved, (c) the ways in which remittances were spent, (d) the patterns of labour force participation and performance, and (e) the impact of migration on families and businesses left behind. One salient conclusion was that, due to gender and sector specific networks, women were much less likely than men to migrate abroad, except among the highly-skilled. Another finding was that household expenditure allocations were not only determined by the sex of the remitter, but also by that of the head of household in

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<sup>3</sup>*The International Migration of Women* (World Bank, 2007).

families receiving remittances. Thus, expenditure patterns of female heads of household often resulted in better child development outcomes than did those of men. In studying the psycho-social impact of migration on children, the authors found a greater negative impact when mothers were absent. It was recommended that families be informed about the potential negative consequences of migration and that children in migrant households be assisted to cope with the absence of parents.

Mr. Gerver Torres of the Gallup Organization made a presentation about the Gallup World Poll, a global annual survey begun in 2005 to measure subjective well-being and quality of life. The survey canvasses the views of about 140,000 respondents in 130 countries, representing 95 per cent of the world's adult population. Mr. Torres reported that, once fully developed and tested, the survey would be carried out four times a year. In response to a growing interest from Governments and the private sector, Gallup had developed a migration index, based on a series of 16 questions measuring migration intentions and experiences. A recent pilot study in Latin America had shown that more than half of respondents in the Dominican Republic intended to move abroad, compared to only 13 per cent of respondents in Venezuela. Young people between the ages of 15 and 20 years had the greatest desire to move. Dissatisfaction with a job was found to have a greater impact on the desire to move than unemployment. Mr. Torres also presented information on the desire to move in relation to respondents' satisfaction with political freedom, confidence in the Government and the economy, possession of talent, and political discrimination. Respondents believed that international migration was a positive experience for sending countries, receiving countries and migrant families alike.

Professor Richard Bilsborrow of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill made a presentation on the appropriate use of surveys in the study of the determinants and consequences of international migration. Migration surveys were a key source of information on the causes and consequences of international migration.

Professor Bilborrow first described several of the challenges involved in organizing migration surveys. The first challenge was to construct an accurate sampling frame. The population census was the preferred sampling frame to study immigration because of its universal coverage. However, censuses generally do not include information on emigrants, especially not on households that had left the country in their entirety. A second challenge was that migration was a relatively rare phenomenon. Finding a sufficient number of international migrants made surveys an expensive undertaking. The main challenge, however, was to select the correct comparison group. To assess properly the effects of migration, it was essential that those who had migrated were compared with an appropriate control group of non-migrants. To study the determinants of migration, migrants should be compared with non-migrants in the country of origin. Consequently, information would have to be collected on migrants in the countries of destination as well as on non-migrants in countries of origin. The information collected should refer to the time of emigration, rather than to the time of the survey. The same comparison groups, that is, migrants at destination compared with non-migrants at origin, are also necessary to study the consequences of migration. However, in contrast to the study of determinants, for the study of consequences the information collected should refer both to the time when movement

took place and to the current time; this would allow to measure the differential outcomes between migrating and not migrating.

Professor Bilborrow noted that in order to fully understand the causes of international migration from one country of origin, surveys should be conducted simultaneously not just in that country of origin but also in the major countries of destination of its emigrants. Similarly, studying the consequences of international migration would require simultaneous surveys of all migrants in a country of destination and of non-migrants in the major countries of origin. The common practice of comparing international migrants in the country of destination with non-migrants in that country did not really reveal neither the causes of migration nor its consequences. Findings from such comparisons revealed the degree of adaptation or integration of migrants to the host society but said nothing on the consequences of international migration.

The last session of the meeting was devoted to the exchange of information on current and future activities on international migration among the organizations present. All materials relating to the meeting, including the papers and PowerPoint presentations submitted by the participating entities, are available on the Population Division's website at [www.unmigration.org](http://www.unmigration.org). ■

## New wall charts

### World Fertility Patterns 2007

**W**orld Fertility Patterns 2007, a wall chart produced by the United Nations Population Division/DESA, presents fertility indicators for the 195 countries and areas that had at least 100,000 inhabitants in 2007. For each of those countries or areas, the wall chart displays unadjusted data on total fertility, age-specific fertility and the mean age at childbearing at

two points in time: a year as close as possible to 1970 and a more recent year as close as possible to 2005. For all developed countries and for developing countries with civil registration systems that cover at least 90 per cent of all births occurring in the country, the age-specific fertility rates presented were derived from data produced by such registration systems. For the remaining developing

*With the exception of Albania, all developed countries have reached below-replacement fertility levels. Overall, fertility levels have declined substantially in several developing countries in recent decades, but levels are still high in most of the least developed countries.*

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countries, age-specific fertility rates were obtained from data gathered by population censuses or surveys.

With the exception of Albania, all developed countries have recent levels of fertility that are below replacement level. Fertility levels have declined substantially in many developing countries over the past two or three decades, but fertility levels remain high in most of the least developed countries. Out of the 171 countries or areas with two observations, where the most recent refers to 1995 or a later date, total fertility according to the most recent observation varied between 0.85 children per woman in Macao Special Administrative Region of China in 2004 and 7.3 children per woman in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 1995. With the exception of Albania, total fertility varied between 1.2 and 2.1 children per woman among the 45 developed countries included in that group. Albania recorded a total fertility of 2.6 children per woman in 2001. Among the 126 developing countries considered, all but 15 had experienced a reduction of fertility averaging at least 0.4 children per decade. In 66 of those developing countries, total fertility was equal or lower than 3 children per woman at the most recent date. Yet, 30 countries in sub-Saharan Africa exhibited still a total fertility of at least 5 children per woman at the time of the most recent observation.

The process of fertility decline brings about changes in the age distribution of childbearing. Most developed countries have experienced an increase in the mean age at childbearing between the early 1970s and recent years. Among the 42 developed countries whose recent data refer to 2000 or later, only eight countries—all with

economies in transition—experienced a reduction in the mean age at childbearing. By contrast, among the 112 developing countries with two observations and recent data referring to 1995 or a later date, 80 had experienced a decline in the mean age at childbearing. Among the developing countries considered, the median value of the mean age at childbearing had decreased from 29.3 years to 28.7 years from the earlier period to the more recent one. Among developed countries, the corresponding change was from 27.0 to 28.8 years.

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*Between the early 1970s and recent years, the mean age at childbearing increased in most developed countries and declined in most developing countries.*

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Early marriage and early childbearing exacerbate the disadvantages associated with poverty. Infant and under-five mortality are highest amongst the youngest mothers. Delayed marriage reduces the risk of maternal mortality associated with bearing children too early in life (before age 18). Among developed countries, the adolescent birth rate (the number of births per 1000 women aged 15 to 19) tends to be low in recent years, but it still shows a wide range of variation: from 5 births per 1000 women aged 15 to 19 in Belgium in 1997 to 43 in the United States in 2002. In developing countries, the range of variation in the adolescent birth rate is considerably wider: from 2 in the Republic of Korea in 2004 to 199 in Niger in 2004. Among the 122 developing countries with data for two points in time, 103 experienced a decline in the adolescent birth rate between the earlier period and the more recent one.

For additional information on the *World Fertility Patterns 2007* wall chart (United Nations publication Sales No. E.08.XIII.4), please contact United Nations Publications, Two UN Plaza, Room DC2-853, Dept. PRES, New York, NY 10017 USA; tel. 1-800-253-9646 or 1-212-963-8302, fax: 1-212-963-3489, e-mail: [publications@un.org](mailto:publications@un.org). ■

## World Mortality 2007

For the first time, the United Nations Population Division/DESA has issued a wall chart devoted to indicators of mortality. The potential to live a long and healthy life is a fundamental aspect of human development. The reduction of mortality, particularly child and maternal mortality, is a core target in the internationally agreed development goals, such as those contained in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and in the United Nations Millennium Declaration. *World Mortality 2007* presents key indicators of mortality at the global, regional and country levels. The wall chart highlights variations among countries in a number of indicators of mortality: annual deaths; crude death rates; life expectancy at birth by sex; infant mortality; under-five mortality; and survival from birth to age 15, from age 15 to age 60, and from birth to age 60. Estimates of mortality are complemented by information related to major causes of death, such as the proportion of deaths due to three broad groups of causes; adult HIV prevalence; AIDS deaths; and the maternal mortality ratio. The key findings of the wall chart are summarized below.

- Worldwide, an estimated 55 million deaths occurred each year in 2000-2005. Of these, 12 million deaths occurred in the more developed regions and 43 million occurred in the less developed regions. India experienced the highest number of annual deaths (9.5 million), followed by China with 8.6 million deaths annually.

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*In 2000-2005, life expectancy at birth ranged from a low of 39 years in Zambia, a country highly affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, to a high of 82 years in Japan*

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- In 2000-2005, life expectancy at birth was 66 years for the world as a whole. With a life expectancy of 53 years,

*the least developed countries were the most disadvantaged in terms of the expected survival of their populations. The rest of the developing countries had an average life expectancy of 67 years, whereas that in developed countries had reached 76 years. At the country level, life expectancy at birth ranged from a low of 39 years in Zambia, a country highly affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, to a high of 82 years in Japan.*

- The United Nations Millennium Declaration identified the reduction of child mortality as a critical challenge for the twenty-first century. Every year, millions of young children die of preventable causes. The survival chances of young children reflect major inequalities among countries in terms of health and development. Mortality in childhood is highest in the least developed countries, where infant mortality averaged 95 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2000-2005 and under-five mortality averaged 153 deaths per 1,000 live births. Among the world's major areas, Africa had the highest level of under-five mortality in 2000-2005, at 154 deaths per 1,000 live births, and has experienced a slower decline in child mortality than other developing regions.

- The probability of survival from ages 15 to 60 was exceptionally low in countries that are highly affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. In Southern Africa, the region with the highest prevalence of HIV infection, the probability of survival from 15 to 60 according to the mortality rates prevalent during 2000-2005 was below 50 per cent, compared to a worldwide average of 81 per cent.

- In countries where mortality is high, deaths from communicable, perinatal, maternal and nutritional causes account for a large proportion of all deaths: in the least developed countries, such causes were responsible for 67 per cent of all deaths in 2002, while non-communicable diseases caused 26 per cent of all deaths and injuries caused 8 per cent of all deaths. In contrast, in the more developed regions,

deaths from the first group of causes were responsible for 6 per cent of all deaths, while non-communicable diseases and injuries caused 86 per cent and 8 per cent of all deaths, respectively.

- In 2007, about 33 million people around the world were living with HIV, including nearly 31 million people aged 15 or over and more than two million children under age 15. Adult HIV prevalence, measured as the percentage of HIV-positive persons among those aged 15 to 49, varied widely across regions and countries. Late in 2005, Southern Africa had the highest HIV prevalence of any world region, with 22 per cent of adults infected. Sub-Saharan Africa as a whole had an adult HIV prevalence of 6 per cent. Outside of Africa, the Caribbean had the highest level of adult HIV prevalence (1.6 per cent).

- The number of deaths caused by AIDS increased dramatically since 1990 but that increase seems to have ceased recently. UNAIDS estimates indicate that the 2.1 million deaths AIDS caused in 2007 is a slightly lower number than that estimated for 2005. This decline is, at least in part, attributable to the scaling up of treatment with antiretrovirals. More than three-quarters of AIDS deaths occurred in Africa. AIDS remains a major cause of death worldwide and is the leading cause of death in sub-Saharan Africa, where the provision of treatment services will remain an immense challenge in coming years.

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*In 2005, an estimated 536 thousand women worldwide died of maternal causes. Mothers in the least developed countries faced the highest risk of death, with 870 maternal deaths occurring for every 100,000 live births. Efforts to reduce maternal mortality must be targeted to these most disadvantaged populations.*

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- In 2005, an estimated 536 thousand women died of maternal causes, resulting in a maternal mortality ratio (MMR) of 400 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births at the world level. In developing countries as a whole, the MMR was estimated to be 450 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2005, while in developed countries it averaged 11 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. Mothers in the least developed countries faced the highest risks of death, with 870 maternal deaths occurring for every 100,000 live births. Reducing maternal mortality, particularly in the least developed countries, has never been so urgent.

For additional information on the *World Mortality 2007* wall chart (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XIII.5), please contact United Nations Publications, Two UN Plaza, Room DC2-853, Dept. PRES, New York, NY 10017 USA; tel. 1-800-253-9646 or 1-212-963-8302, fax: 1-212-963-3489, e-mail: [publications@un.org](mailto:publications@un.org). ■

## Population and HIV/AIDS 2007

A new edition of the wall chart entitled *Population and HIV/AIDS* has been issued by the United Nations Population Division/DESA, which had produced two previous versions in 2001 and 2005. The 2007 wall chart presents estimates of total population and life expectancy at birth as well as indicators of the state of the HIV/AIDS epidemic for the 229 countries or areas that constitute the world. For 195 countries,

information on the programmes implemented by Governments in response to the epidemic is also included. In addition, the wall chart displays data on the prevalence of condom use, the level of coverage of antiretroviral therapy (ART) and per capita health expenditure. For the 62 countries that in 2005 were highly affected by the epidemic, indicators of the demographic impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic are also shown.

In December 2007, UNAIDS estimated that 33 million people were living with HIV worldwide. According to HIV prevalence estimates at the country level in late 2005, almost two-thirds of all HIV positive adults and children lived in Africa, although the continent was home to just 14 per cent of the world population. The epidemic has also seriously affected several countries in Asia, which in 2005 was home to 5.1 million people living with HIV. In Eastern Europe, where the epidemic continues to expand, the population living with HIV amounted to 1.4 million in 2005, and in Latin America and the Caribbean, it had reached nearly 2 million. Since the disease was first diagnosed in 1981, over 25 million people have died from AIDS.

Children are particularly affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Globally, children under age 15 account for one in every seven deaths caused by AIDS. An estimated 15 million children under age 18 have been orphaned by AIDS. Orphans face increased risk of death, violence, exploitation or abuse, and many are growing up in poverty. By 2010, the number of AIDS orphans worldwide may exceed 18 million.

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*In several of the countries most affected by HIV/AIDS, life expectancies at birth are more than 20 years lower than they would have been in the absence of AIDS.*

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In countries highly affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, all population and development indicators have been adversely affected by it. The wall chart shows that:

- *In several of the most affected countries, life expectancies at birth are more than 20 years lower than they would have been in the absence of AIDS.*
- *Among the 62 countries most affected by the epidemic, the population in 2015 is 2 per cent smaller when projected taking account of the impact of HIV/AIDS than it*

*is when projected in the absence of the disease. In Southern Africa, the most affected region, the reduction in the population projected to 2015 caused by the epidemic is 14 per cent. Most countries have introduced policies that include comprehensive prevention strategies, care, support or treatment among their major components.*

- *Blood screening efforts to prevent the transmission of HIV and other infectious diseases via blood transfusions have improved considerably, with many countries expanding screening to cover a larger share of the blood supply. Nevertheless, national policies ensuring the safety of blood products continue to vary in coverage and comprehensiveness.*
- *Governments are raising public awareness of the risks of HIV infection via information, education and communication (IEC) programmes provided through primary and secondary education, print media, theatre, radio, television, direct mailings and other means of communication.*
- *Three-quarters of countries have instituted programmes to provide ART to persons with AIDS, including 95 per cent of countries where the adult HIV prevalence is higher than 1 per cent. However, these programmes are currently treating less than a third of the population in need of ART.*

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- *By 2007, 63 per cent of countries had adopted legal measures to prohibit AIDS-related discrimination, up from 59 per cent in 2005. Discrimination and stigma significantly hamper the effectiveness of efforts to control the epidemic and hinder the achievement of universal access to therapy.*

- While free distribution of condoms exists in most countries, many Governments acknowledge difficulties in reaching target populations. Data on use of condoms for contraceptive purposes indicate that in 50 countries, at least 5 per cent of women who are married or in union use condoms. Condom use exceeds 10 per cent in only 24 countries.

For additional information on the *Population and HIV/AIDS 2007* wall chart (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XIII.9), please contact United Nations Publications, Two UN Plaza, Room DC2-853, Dept. PRES, New York, NY 10017 USA; tel. 1-800-253-9646 or 1-212-963-8302, fax: 1-212-963-3489, e-mail: publications@un.org. ■

## Urban Population, Development and the Environment

In order to support the forty-first session of the Commission on Population and Development, which focused on the theme of population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development, the United Nations Population Division/DESA issued a wall chart entitled *Urban Population, Development and the Environment*. For 228 countries and areas and 33 country aggregates, the wall chart presents information on the percentage of land area occupied by urban settlements, the total urban population and its growth rate, population density in urban areas, the percentage of the urban population living in slums, the percentage with access to improved sanitation or water sources, energy use, per capita carbon dioxide emissions, and motor vehicles in use. Data refer to 2005 or the nearest possible year.

According to the data displayed in the wall chart, in 2005, just under half of the world population lived in urban areas. The world's urban settlements occupy only 2.7 per cent of the world's land area. Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern America and Oceania are the most urbanized major areas, with over 70 per cent of their respective populations living in urban areas. Africa and Asia, being the least urbanized major areas, are urbanizing more rapidly than the other major areas. Africa, in particular, exhibits the world's highest rates of urban population growth, averaging 3.4 per cent per year during 2000-2005. Population growth in the urban areas of the less developed regions is projected to account

for a great majority (93 per cent) of the world's overall population growth between 2005 and 2030. In view of this finding and because the population of the developed regions is growing very slowly, the expansion of the total world population over the coming decades will be largely determined by population growth in the urban areas of the less developed regions.

The living conditions of the urban population in the less developed regions, as reflected by the percentage of urban dwellers living in slums and the percentage with access to an improved water source or improved sanitation, are also documented in the wall chart. In 2005, an estimated 37 per cent of the urban population in less developed regions was living in slums. In the least developed countries, almost three quarters of the urban population were slum dwellers. Globally, 170 million urban dwellers (5 per cent) lack access to an improved water supply and over 600 million (20 per cent) lack adequate sanitation services. In Africa, 16 per cent of the urban population lacks access to an improved water supply and 38 per cent lacks adequate sanitation.

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*In 2005, an estimated 37 per cent of the urban population in the less developed regions was living in slums. In the least developed countries, almost three quarters of the urban population were slum dwellers.*

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Rising demand for energy and transportation is associated with economic growth and is essential for development. However, the use of energy and transportation, which is mostly concentrated in urban areas, has heavy impacts on the environment. Energy generated by the combustion of fossil fuels and biomass often results in air pollution, with negative effects on the health of both people and ecosystems, and ominous long-term consequences for the world's climate. On average, per capita energy use in the more developed regions is five times greater than in the less developed regions and more than 15 times greater than in the least developed countries. Per capita emissions of carbon dioxide, the main gas linked with global warming, are also considerably higher in the more developed regions (11.9 metric tons per capita) than in the less developed regions (2.5 metric tons

per capita) and are lowest in the least developed countries (0.2 metric tons per capita). Similarly, the number of motor vehicles per capita is more than 12 times higher in the more developed regions than in the less developed regions. However, much of the future growth in energy demand and in motor vehicle use is expected to occur in the less developed regions, both because of population growth and rising incomes.

For additional information on the *Urban Population, Development and the Environment* wall chart (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XIII.7), please contact United Nations Publications, Two UN Plaza, Room DC2-853, Dept. PRES, New York, NY 10017 USA; tel. 1-800-253-9646 or 1-212-963-8302, fax: 1-212-963-3489, e-mail: [publications@un.org](mailto:publications@un.org). ■

## Rural Population, Development and the Environment

The wall chart entitled *Rural Population, Development and the Environment* is the companion of that focusing on the urban population. It was prepared by the United Nations Population Division/DESA to provide information to the forty-first session of the Commission on Population and Development which discussed the topic of population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development. For the 228 countries and areas that constitute the world and 33 country aggregates, the wall chart provides information on the rural population and its growth rate, the percentage of land area occupied by cropland and forests, the percentage of cropland area that is irrigated, the percentage of rural population with access to improved sanitation and water sources, agricultural labour density, energy use and fertilizer use, among other indicators.

The wall chart shows that in 2005, 3.4 billion persons, slightly over half of the world population, lived in rural areas. Two major areas, Africa and Asia, accounted

for almost 90 per cent of the world's rural population. India and China alone accounted for 47 per cent of the world's rural population. Globally, the rural population is growing slowly, and it is declining in all major areas except Africa and Oceania. The rural population of the less developed regions is projected to reach a maximum of 3.2 billion by 2020 and then to start a slow and prolonged decline.

Rural inhabitants have much poorer access to basic services than urban dwellers. About 85 per cent of persons who lack access to improved water sources live in rural areas, as do approximately 75 per cent of those without access to adequate sanitation. Globally, about 940 million rural dwellers (28 per cent) lack access to an improved water supply and 2 billion (62 per cent) lack adequate sanitation services. In the least developed countries, half of the rural population lacks access to an improved water supply and more than two thirds lack adequate sanitation.

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*Rural inhabitants have much poorer access to basic services than urban dwellers. About 85 per cent of persons who lack access to improved water sources live in rural areas, as do approximately 75 per cent of those without access to adequate sanitation.*

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Currently, 12 per cent of the global land area is occupied by cropland and an additional 26 per cent by permanent pastures. On average, the share of cropland differs only slightly between the more and the less developed regions, while in the least developed countries the average share (8 per cent) is lower. Irrigated agricultural land comprises less than one-fifth of the total cropped area of the world but produces about two-fifths of the world's food. Irrigation also accounts for about 70 per cent of global water withdrawals. The proportion of cropland equipped for irrigation is particularly high in Asia, especially Eastern Asia, where almost half of cropland is irrigated.

Forests cover nearly one third of the Earth's land surface. During 2000-2005, deforestation, caused mainly by the conversion of forests into agricultural land, has continued at a rapid pace, with some 130,000 km<sup>2</sup> of forested land cleared every year—an area about the size of Bangladesh. However, as a result of replanting and

natural forest growth in some areas, the net loss has been less: about 73,000 km<sup>2</sup> annually. The pace of net forest loss is estimated to have decreased slightly since the 1990s and in some major areas it has stabilized (Asia) or there has been a net gain in forested land (Europe and Northern America). The major areas experiencing the greatest recent losses of forest area are Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean.

In general, agricultural labour intensity and the economic share of agriculture are inversely correlated with income and economic growth. Currently, agriculture contributes only 3 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) generated in the more developed regions and 12 per cent of the GDP in the less developed regions, where agricultural labour intensity is also higher. In the least developed countries, the share of agriculture in GDP is higher, at 26 per cent. In some countries in Africa, agriculture accounts for over half of GDP.

For additional information on the *Rural Population, Development and the Environment* wall chart (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08XIII.10), please contact United Nations Publications, Two UN Plaza, Room DC2-853, Dept. PRES, New York, NY 10017 USA; tel. 1-800-253-9646 or 1-212-963-8302, fax: 1-212-963-3489, e-mail: [publications@un.org](mailto:publications@un.org). ■

## New release

# World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision

The United Nations Population Division/DESA has been preparing the official population estimates and projections of the United Nations since 1951. The *2006 Revision of World Population Prospects* is the twentieth round of such projections. The

two volumes containing the detailed results of the 2006 Revision have been released. The first volume, entitled *Comprehensive Tables*, presents a time series of major demographic indicators for each country in the form of country profiles as well as tables displaying the values of

each indicator from 1950 to 2050 at five-year intervals. The second volume, entitled *Sex and Age Distribution of the World Population*, presents a time series of data on the population of each country classified by five-year age group and sex for every year ending in zero or five from 1950 to 2050. In both volumes, the results of three different projection variants, namely, the high, medium and low variants, are presented for the period 2005-2050. Volume I also presents the results of the constant-fertility variant.

Both volumes present population estimates and projections for the world as a whole and the major development groups, followed by each of the major areas and regions of the world. Country profiles are produced for the 195 countries or areas whose population in 2007 was estimated to be at least 100,000 inhabitants. Both volumes include an executive summary and a description of the assumptions underlying each of the variants prepared for the *2006 Revision*, all presented in the six official languages of the United Nations.

The main results of the *2006 Revision* can be consulted on an interactive database accessible at the Population Division's website ([www.unpopulation.org](http://www.unpopulation.org)). A wall chart displaying population estimates for 2007 and the medium variant projections for 2020 and 2050 for all countries of the world as well as selected demographic indicators for the period 2005-2010 has also been issued.

In addition, the full results of the *2006 Revision* are released on two CD-ROMs: one containing the Comprehensive Dataset and the other containing the Extended Dataset. Both CD-ROMs contain estimates and projections of the populations of every country of the world by five-year age group and sex for every year multiple of five from 1950 to 2050 as well as a set of demographic indicators covering the same period. Data for 1950-2005 are estimates and those for later years are projections. The demographic indicators presented include the total number of births and the total number of deaths for every five-year period; the net number of migrants per

five-year period; the respective crude birth rates, death rates and net migration rates; the life expectancy at birth by sex; infant mortality and under-five mortality; total fertility, the net reproduction rate and the population growth rate; and the median age of the population. The data are presented using two formats: Excel and comma-delimited ASCII.

The Comprehensive Dataset contains the set of population estimates and projections and corresponding indicators for nine projection variants. The first four variants differ among each other only in the projected future course of fertility. They are the low, medium, high and constant fertility variants. Results are also presented for the instant-replacement variant (in which fertility remains at replacement level during the whole projection period), the zero-migration variant, the constant-mortality variant, and a variant in which both mortality and fertility remain constant over the projection period. In addition, the results of three AIDS scenarios are included. These scenarios are called No-AIDS, High-AIDS and AIDS-vaccine indicating that, in the first, populations are calculated assuming that AIDS never existed; in the second, a higher level of HIV prevalence is projected than in the medium variant; and in the third, the chances of contracting HIV drop to zero starting in 2010, an outcome consistent with the assumption that an effective vaccine against HIV infection becomes available. The results of the three AIDS scenarios and the previous four variants are not included in the publications on the *2006 Revision*.

The Extended Dataset contains, in addition to all the data in the Comprehensive Dataset, population figures by single calendar year and single age group for 1950-2050. This CD-ROM also provides interpolated demographic indicators for single calendar years, including total numbers of births and deaths, their respective crude birth and death rates, life expectancy at birth by sex, infant mortality, under-five mortality, survivors to age 1 and total fertility. Other indicators included are: the urban population, the population density and interpolated

populations by broad age groups and sex together with their percentage age distributions and sex ratios.

Both CD-ROMs contain data for 229 countries and areas, 33 country aggregates, including the world as a whole, the more and the less developed regions, and the major areas. For the AIDS scenarios, special aggregations by region and HIV prevalence level in 2005 are presented for the 62 countries most affected by the epidemic.

The CD-ROMs are available for purchase. For information on how to order these CD-ROMs (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XIII.7 and E.07.XIII.8), please refer to the order form available at [www.unpopulation.org](http://www.unpopulation.org) or contact the Director, Population Division/DESA, United Nations (Room DC2-1950), New York, NY 10017, USA; tel. 1-212-963-3179; fax: 1-212-963-2147. ■

## Data on CD-ROM

### World Mortality Report 2007: CD-ROM Edition

The CD-ROM entitled *World Mortality Report 2007*, prepared by the United Nations Population Division/DESA, provides a comprehensive set of mortality estimates for each of the 195 countries or areas whose population was at least 100,000 inhabitants in 2007 and for 33 country aggregates, including the world as a whole, the development groups, the major areas and geographical regions. It also contains an inventory of the data available for the estimation of adult and child mortality at the national level.

All mortality estimates contained in this CD-ROM are based on the results of the *2006 Revision of World Population Prospects*<sup>4</sup> and provide an overview of levels and trends of mortality between 1950 and 2005. The CD-ROM contains the following mortality indicators: total deaths; crude death rates; infant mortality; under-five mortality; life expectancy at birth by sex; life expectancy at exact ages 15 and 60; survival probabilities between selected exact ages; and life table survivors by sex and age. Estimates are provided for each quinquennium

over the period 1950-2005 for the following indicators: total deaths, crude death rates, infant mortality and life expectancy at birth. For the remaining indicators, estimates are presented only for 1995-2000 and 2000-2005. The data are presented in Excel format.

The CD-ROM also includes a Data Inventory with information on the data potentially available for the estimation of adult and child mortality for each of the 195 countries or areas considered. For each country, panel A lists years in which population censuses were conducted and years for which data on deaths by age and sex are available from vital registration systems. Panel B lists other sources of primary data for mortality estimation, that is, censuses and surveys that collected data permitting the indirect estimation of mortality. For each census or survey, panel B indicates which of the following types of data were collected: maternity histories; retrospective reports of deaths in the household; or survival of close relatives, including children, mother, father, siblings or spouses. The information from panels A and B is also presented in Excel format.

A further set of files provides summary tables of the data inventory for countries and major areas. It presents,

<sup>4</sup>United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2007). *World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision, CD-ROM Edition - Extended Dataset in Excel and ASCII formats* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XIII.7).

for each major area and each decade starting in 1950-1960, the number of countries and percentage of the population for which various types of information are available for estimating adult and child mortality. A classification of countries by category of data available for estimating adult mortality is also presented.

The CD-ROM is available for purchase. For information on how to order the *World Mortality Report 2007* CD-ROM (POP/DB/MORT/2007), please download the order form from the Population Division's website at [www.unpopulation.org](http://www.unpopulation.org) or contact the Director, Population Division/DESA, United Nations (Room DC2-1950), New York, NY 10017, USA; tel. 1-212-963-3179; fax: 1-212-963-2147. ■

## World Population Ageing 2007: CD-ROM Edition

The CD-ROM entitled *World Population Ageing 2007* contains an electronic version of the report of the same title published in 2007. The report presents a detailed assessment of the world's older population and its future prospects. The CD-ROM includes a PDF version of that report as well as data presented in Excel format. With a user interface allowing easy retrieval and downloading of the documents and data contained in the CD-ROM, this mode of dissemination responds to growing demand from researchers and policymakers for comprehensive and easily accessible information on the older population. The data presented on the CD-ROM provide the necessary evidence to guide policymakers in the formulation of policies and to evaluate the effectiveness of programmes. The analysis accompanying the data provides useful insights to raise awareness about the situation of older persons and the level of support they may require.

The CD-ROM presents data on 18 indicators, including the population aged 60 or over by sex and selected age groups; an index of population ageing; the median age of the population; the dependency ratio and the potential support ratio; the sex ratios and growth

rates for age groups of older people; the life expectancy at selected ages; the labour force participation among the older population; the statutory retirement age by sex; the percentage of older persons who are still married; and the percentage of older persons living alone. Data are presented for 192 countries or areas for the period 1950-2050 and for 33 country aggregates, including the development groups, major areas and geographical regions. The demographic data used in *World Population Ageing 2007* were taken from the *2004 Revision of World Population Prospects*. Other data were derived from other publications of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA), other United Nations organizations and the United States Social Security Administration.

The CD-ROM is available for purchase. For information on how to order the *World Population Ageing 2007* CD-ROM (POP/DB/WPA/2007), please download the order form from the Population Division's website at [www.unpopulation.org](http://www.unpopulation.org) or contact the Director, Population Division/DESA, United Nations (Room DC2-1950), New York, NY 10017, USA; tel. 1-212-963-3179; fax: 1-212-963-2147. ■



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