



**POPULATION
COUNCIL**

Ideas. Evidence. Impact.

INVESTING WHEN IT COUNTS: ADOLESCENT GIRLS & THE SDGs

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Panel on Population Dynamics, Economic Development, and Poverty
United Nations Population Division

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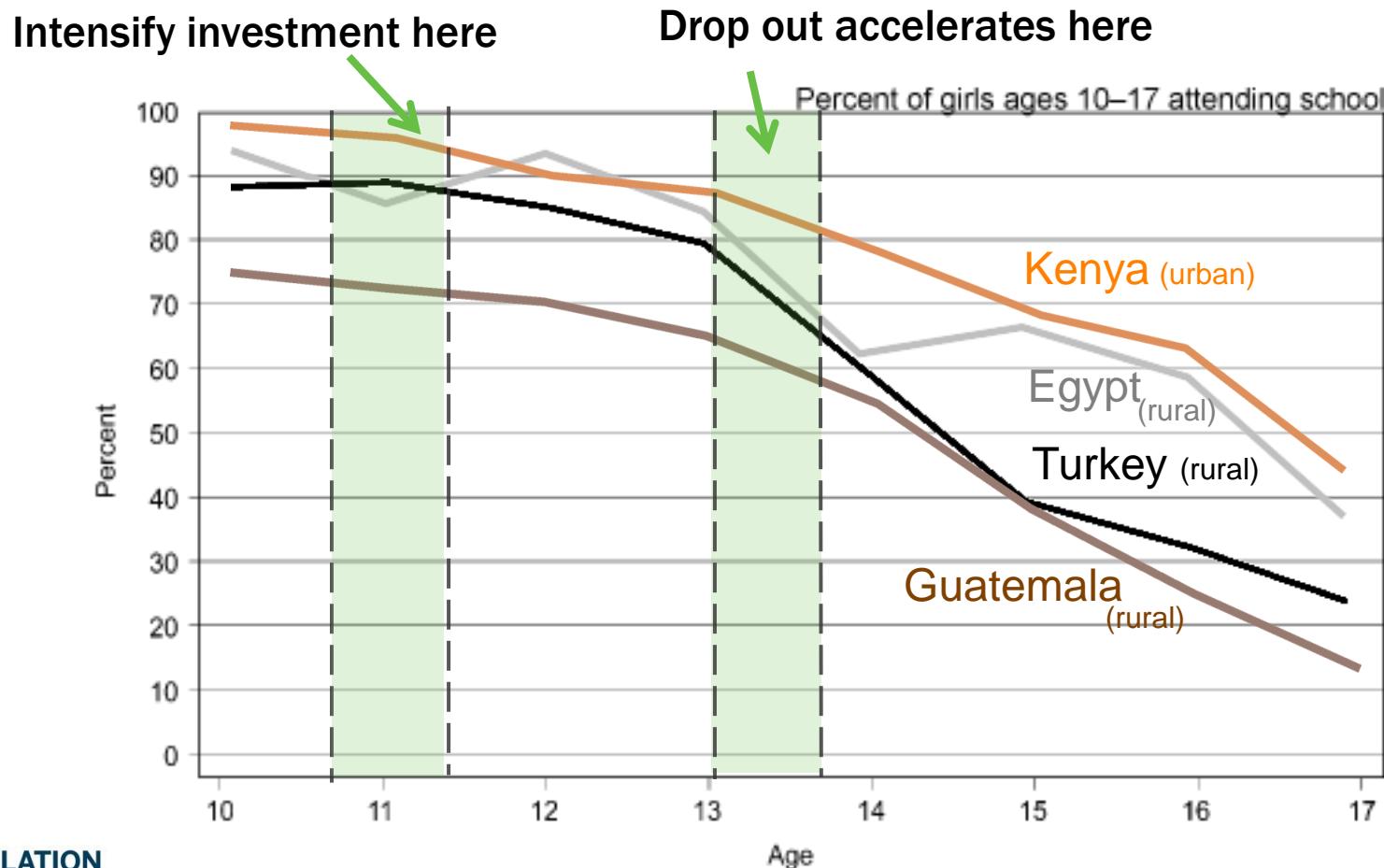
AGENDA

- Why girls?
- Girls' education
- Women's labor force participation
- Fertility
- Components of population growth
- Investments for sustainability

Why girls?



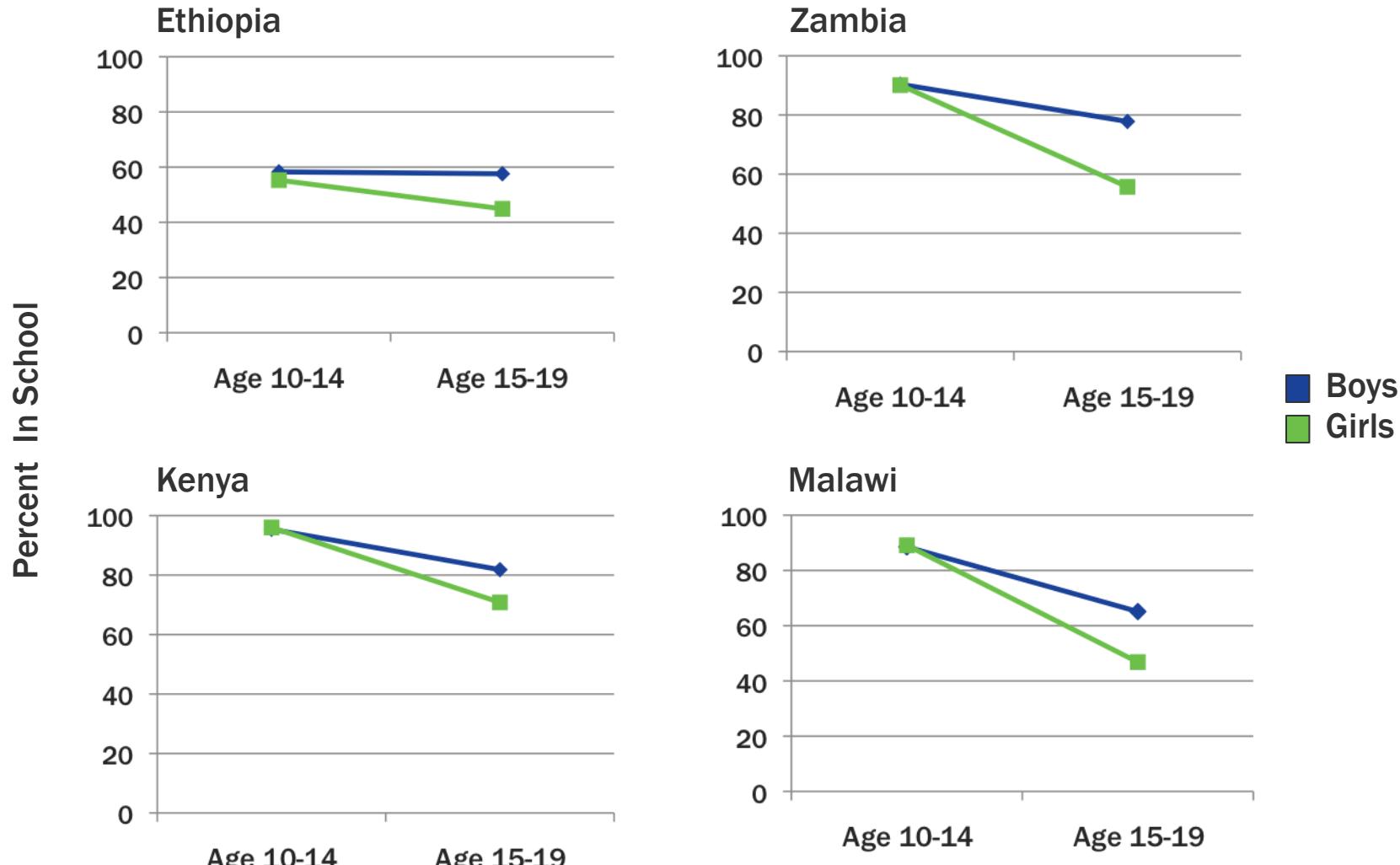
THERE IS A GENERAL PATTERN OF GIRLS BEGINNING TO DROP OUT OF SCHOOL AT THE ONSET OF PUBERTY



SOURCES: GUATEMALA (HALLMAN ET AL. 2005); TURKEY AND KENYA (POPULATION COUNCIL ADOLESCENT DATA GUIDES 2009, RELYING ON DHS 2003); EGYPT (ELMPS 2006).

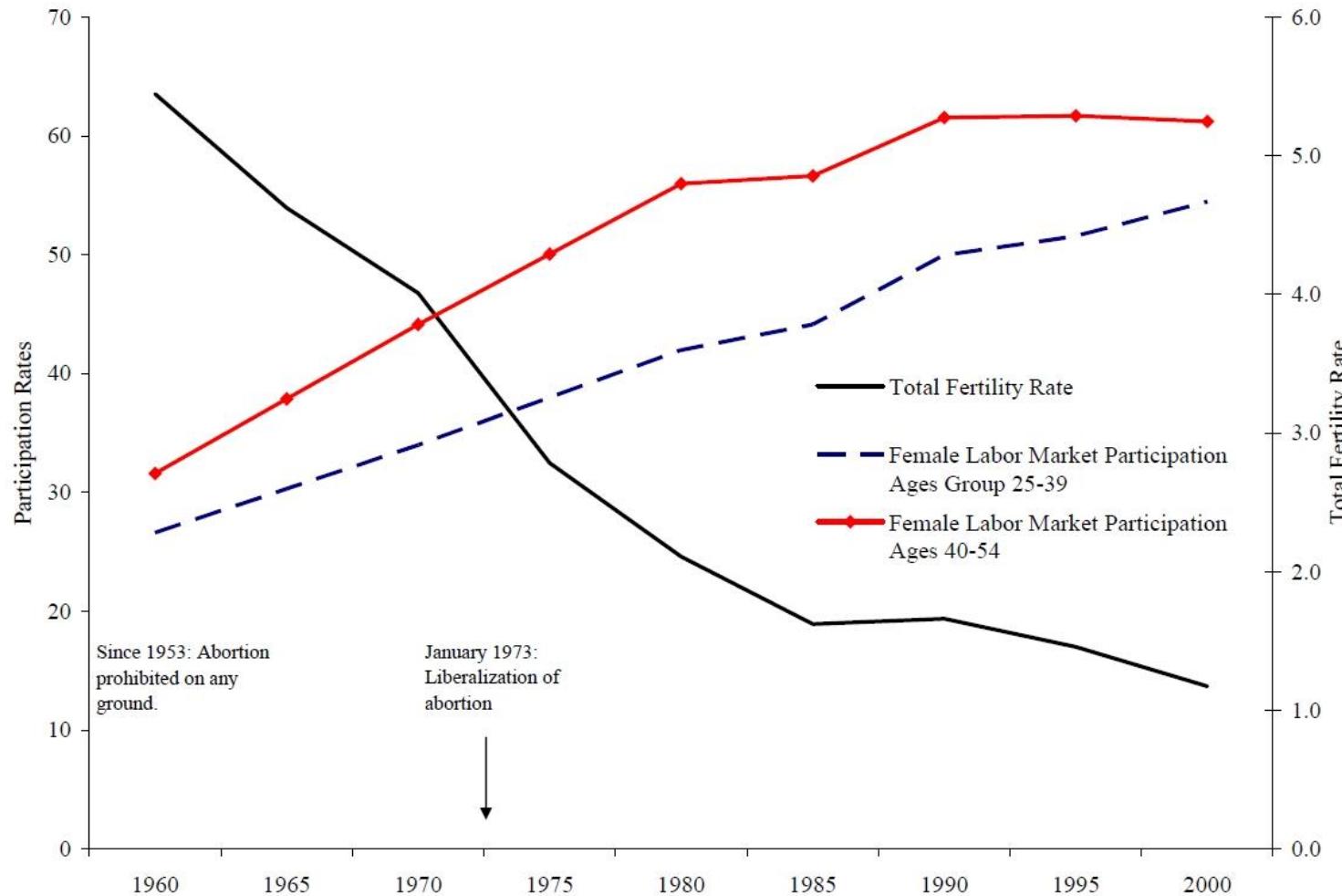
THE GENDER GAP GROWS DURING PUBERTY

CURRENT SCHOOL ENROLLMENT BY GENDER AND AGE



SOURCES: POPULATION COUNCIL. ADOLESCENT COUNTRY DATASETS. ETHIOPIA, 2005; ZAMBIA, 2007; KENYA, 2009; MALAWI, 2004.

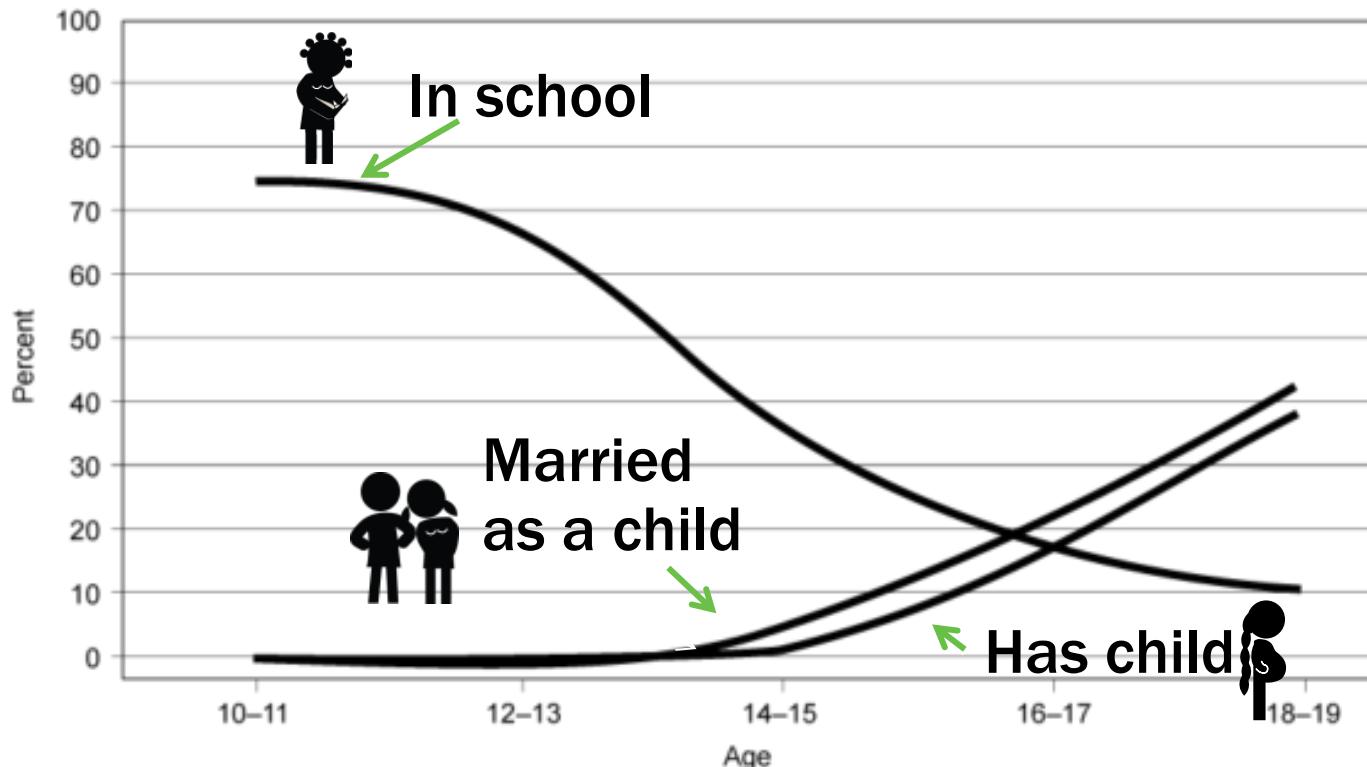
SOUTH KOREA, TOTAL FERTILITY RATES AND FEMALE LABOR MARKET PARTICIPATION 1960–2000



REACH GIRLS EARLY

EARLY ADOLESCENCE IS THE PIVOTAL MOMENT FOR GIRLS. THAT IS WHEN THEIR LIVES GO OFF TRACK.

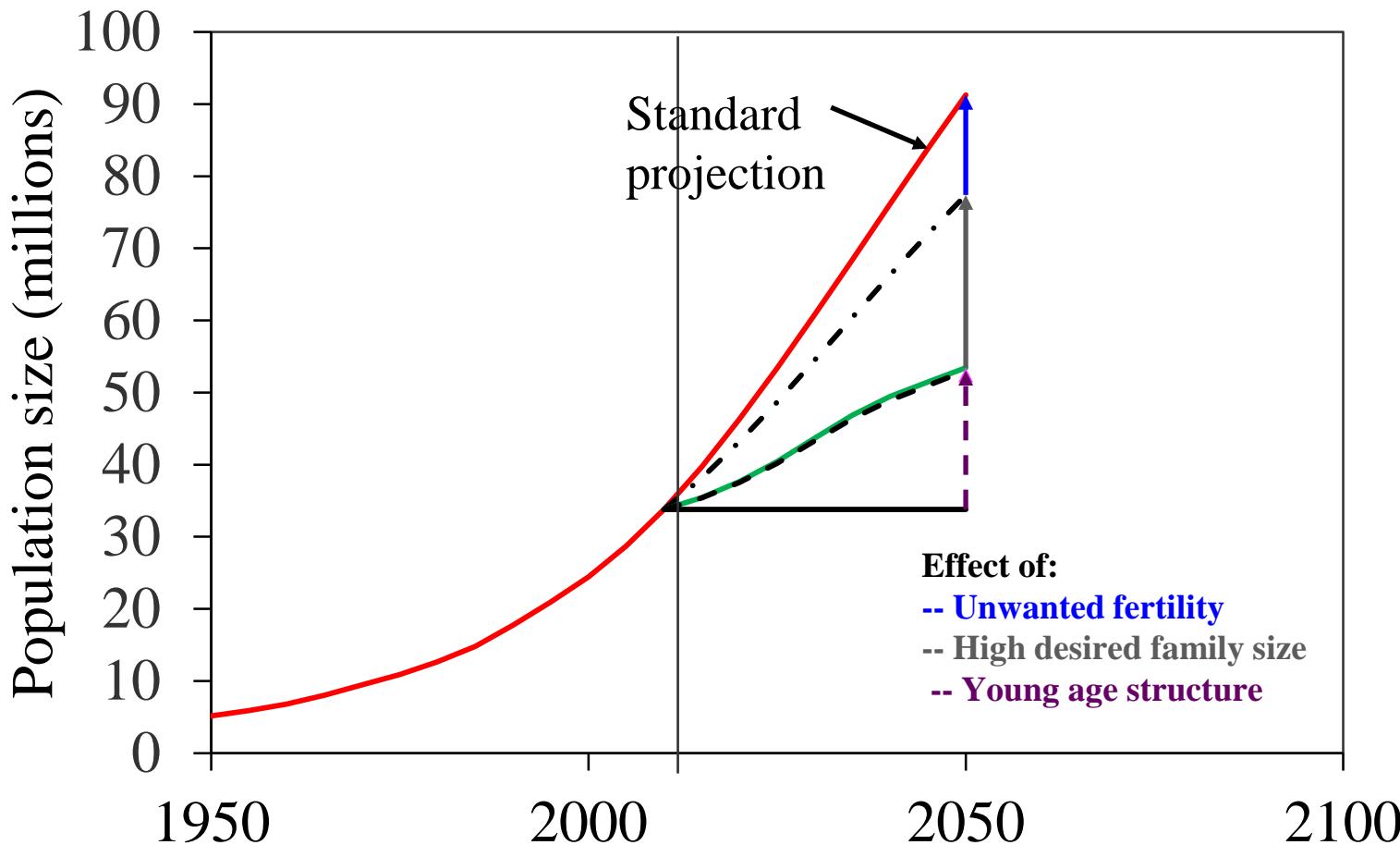
Percent of Guatemalan girls ages 10–19, by outcome



SOURCE: HALLMAN, K., S. PERACCA, J. CATINO, M.J. RUIZ. 2005. "CAUSES OF LOW SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT AND EARLY TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD IN GUATEMALA." NEW YORK: POPULATION COUNCIL.

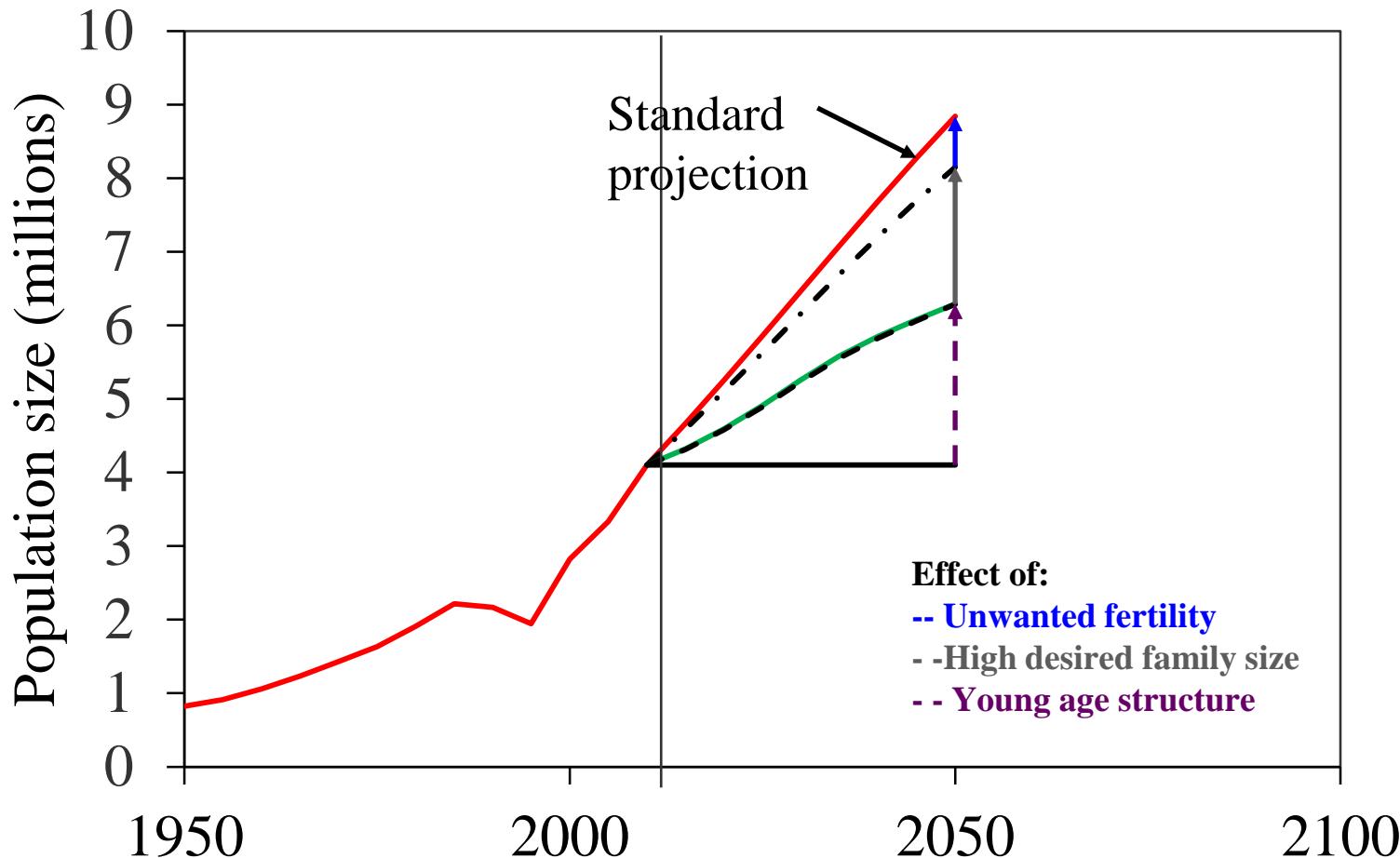
UGANDA:

ALTERNATIVE POPULATION PROJECTIONS FOR 2005-2050 AND POPULATION GROWTH COMPONENTS



LIBERIA:

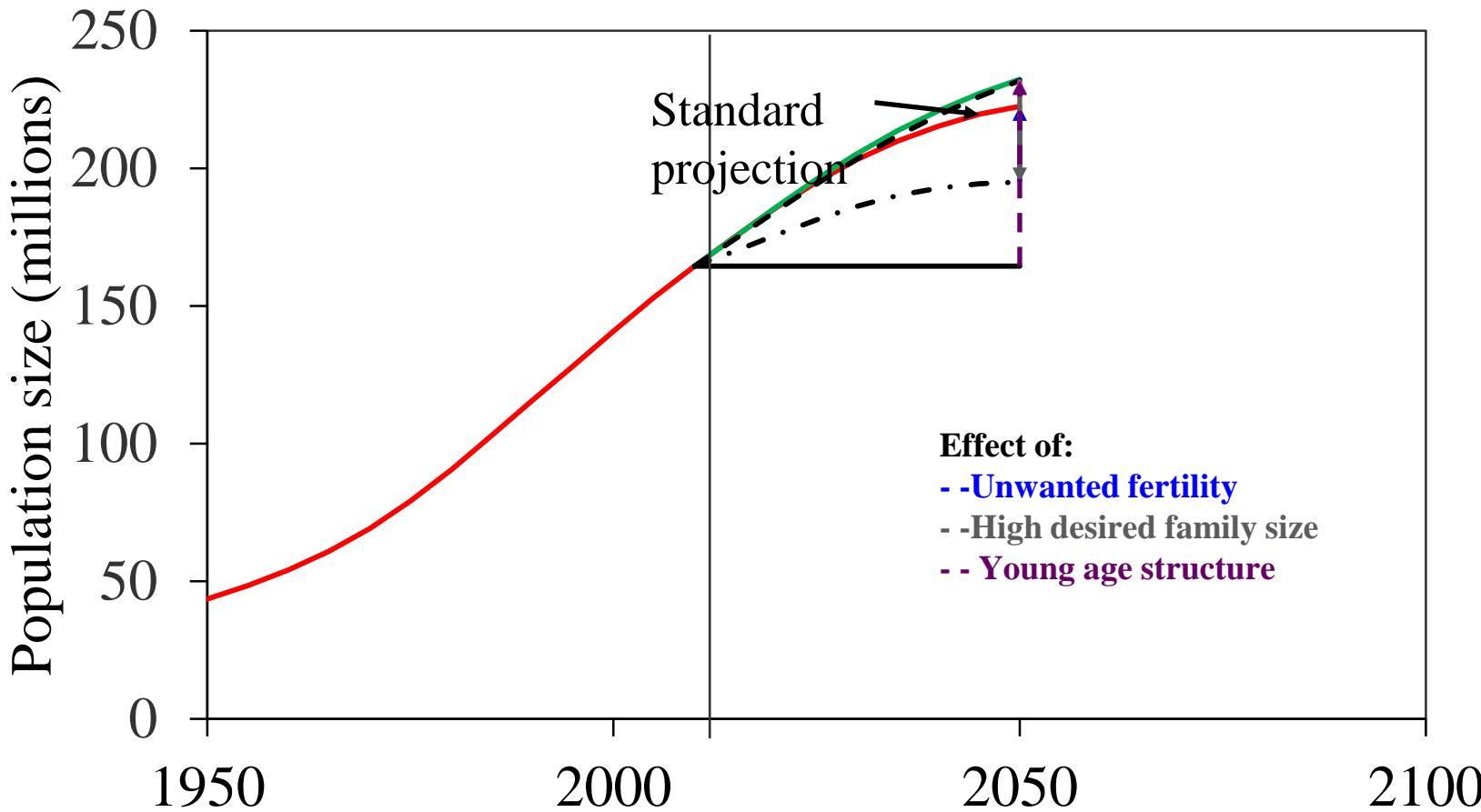
ALTERNATIVE POPULATION PROJECTIONS FOR 2005-2050 AND POPULATION GROWTH COMPONENTS

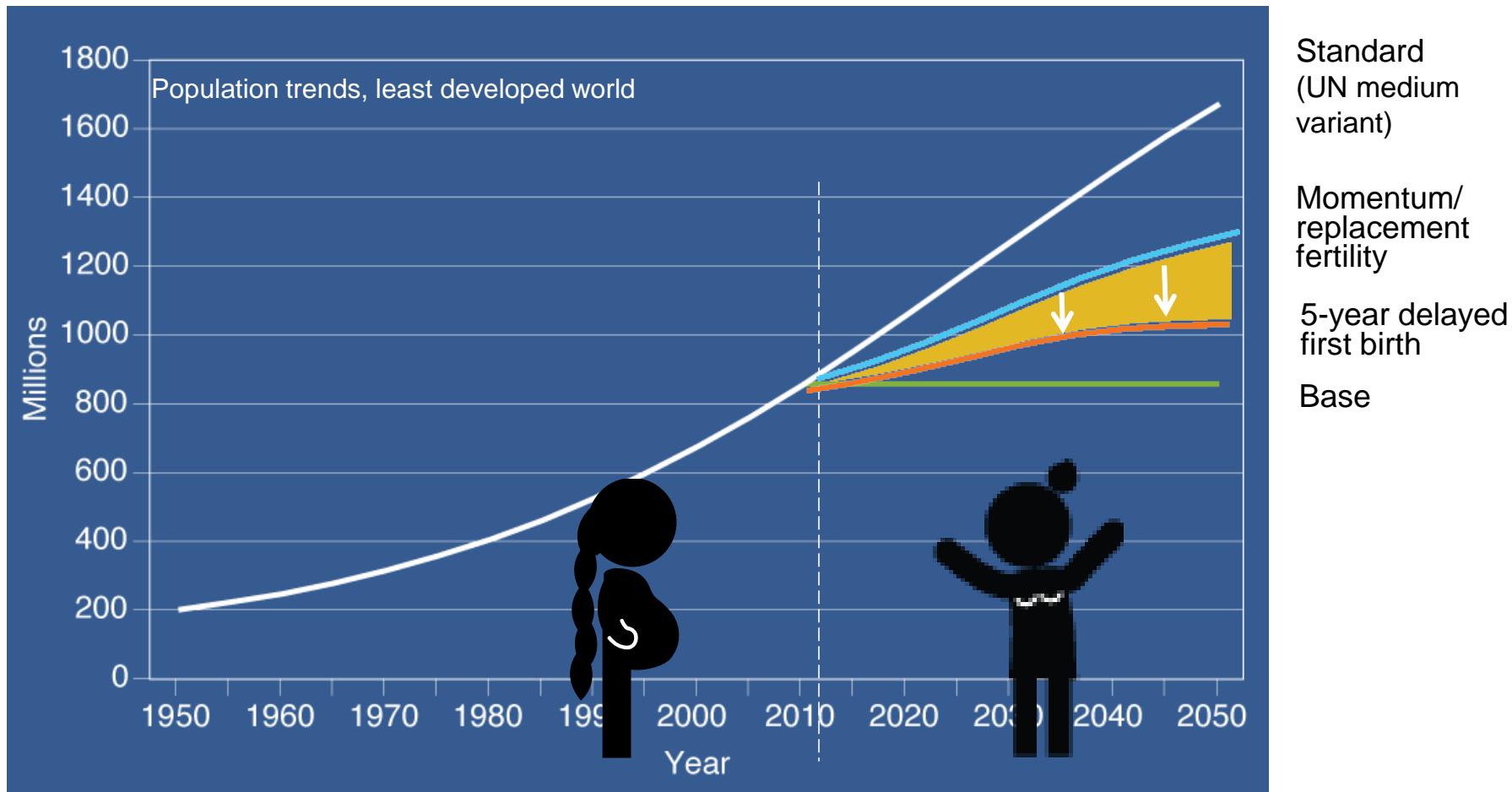


SOURCE: BONGAARTS, JOHN. 2012. "UNFPA POPULATION COUNCIL DECOMPOSITION POPULATION GROWTH (VERSION 2.0.2) [MICROSOFT EXCEL]." NEW YORK: POPULATION COUNCIL.

BANGLADESH:

ALTERNATIVE POPULATION PROJECTIONS FOR 2005-2050 AND POPULATION GROWTH COMPONENTS





SOURCES: UN 2009; BONGAARTS 2011 (ANALYSIS). ALSO SEE BRUCE, JUDITH AND JOHN BONGAARTS. "THE NEW POPULATION CHALLENGE." IN LAURIE MAZUR (ED.), *A PIVOTAL MOMENT: POPULATION, JUSTICE, AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE*. WASHINGTON, DC: ISLAND PRESS.

INVESTMENTS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

- Reduce Unwanted Fertility (e.g. Uganda)
 - Education
 - Access to Contraception
- Reduce wanted fertility (e.g. Uganda, Liberia)
 - Education
 - Women's Workforce Opportunities
- Soften the Impact of Age Structure (e.g. Bangladesh)
 - Education
 - Women's Workforce Opportunities

SUMMING UP

Achieving sustainability depends critically on investments in girls in settings where they are at high risk of dropping out of school, early marriage, and early childbearing.



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Thank you!

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