

# Overview of fertility trends since ICPD and key issues to consider for the future



*United Nations, Population Division/DESA*

21 October 2013

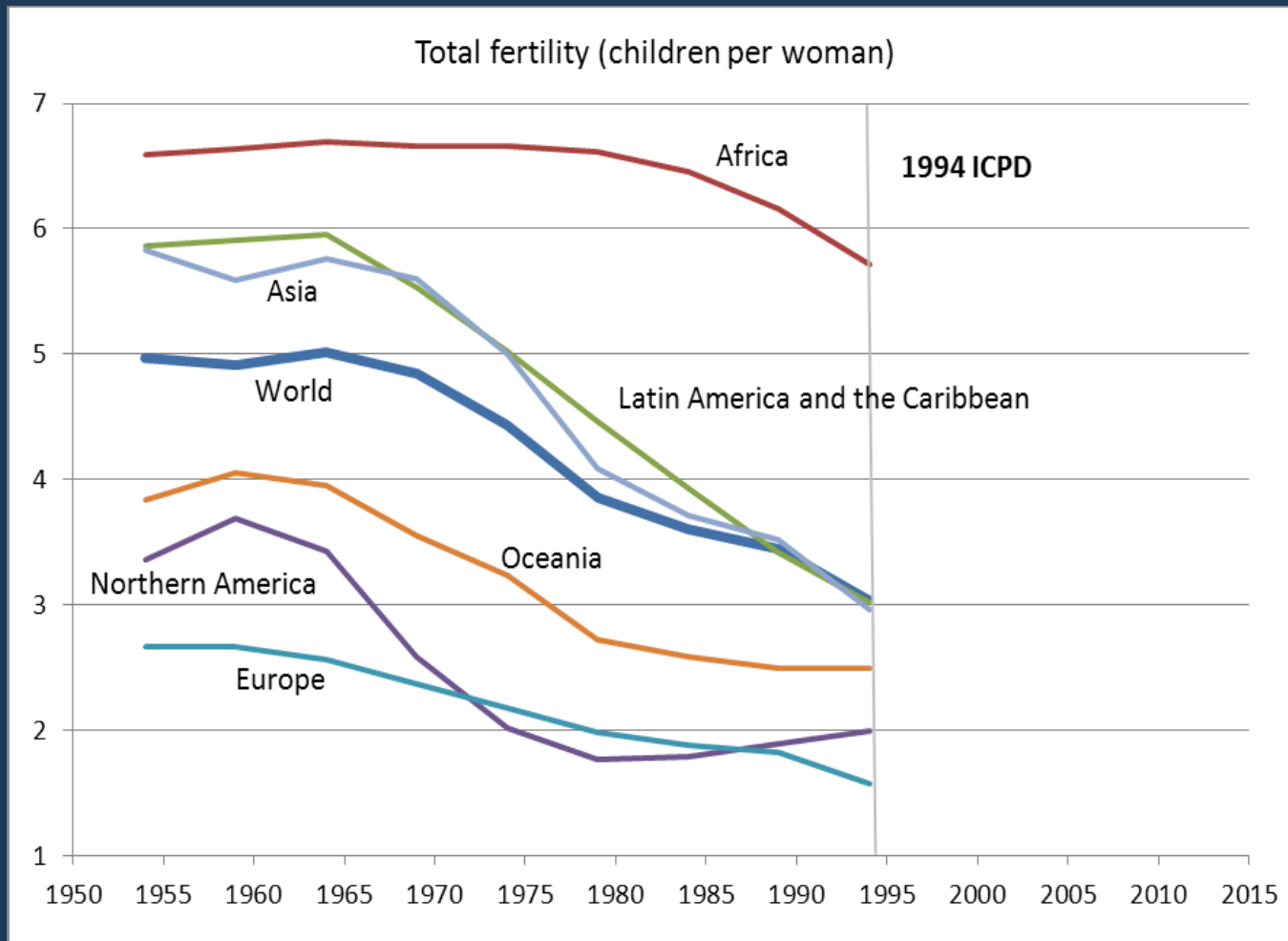
*United Nations Expert Group Meeting on “Fertility, changing population trends and development: challenges and opportunities for the future”, New York, 21-22 October 2013*

# Objective

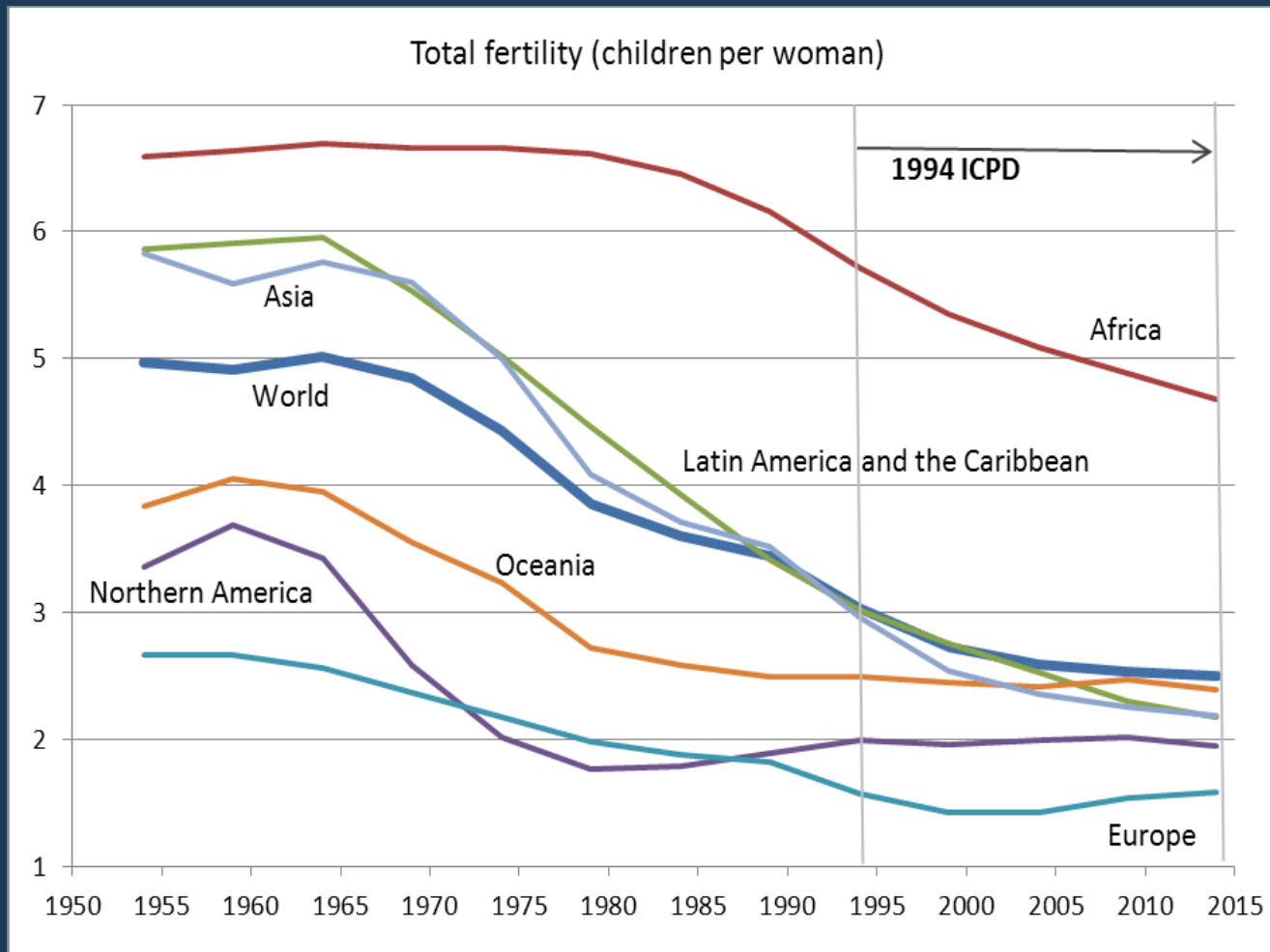
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- Changes in total fertility and the timing of childbearing
- Changes in marriage and union formation
- Changes in contraceptive prevalence and unmet need for family planning
- Future trends
- Questions asked to EGM participants

# In 1994, total fertility of the world was 3 children per woman

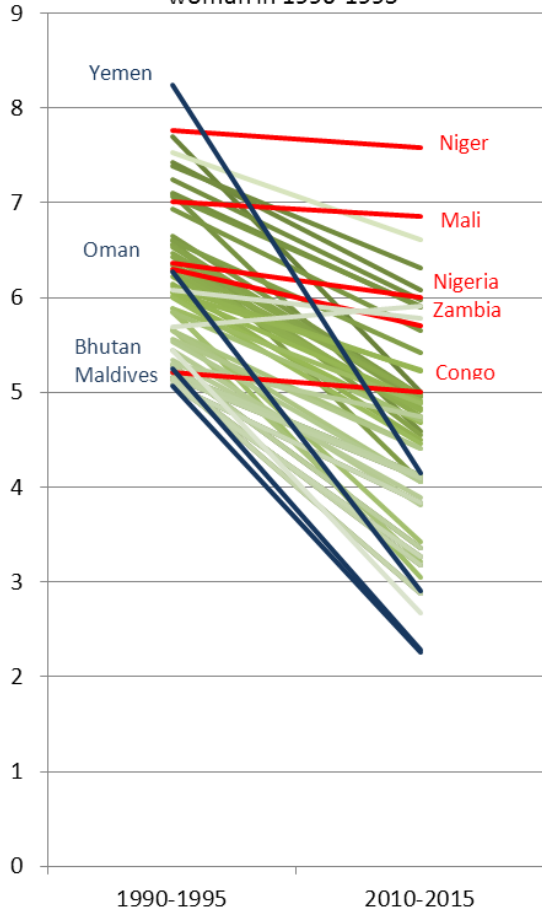


# African total fertility declined at slower pace than what expected from historical experience

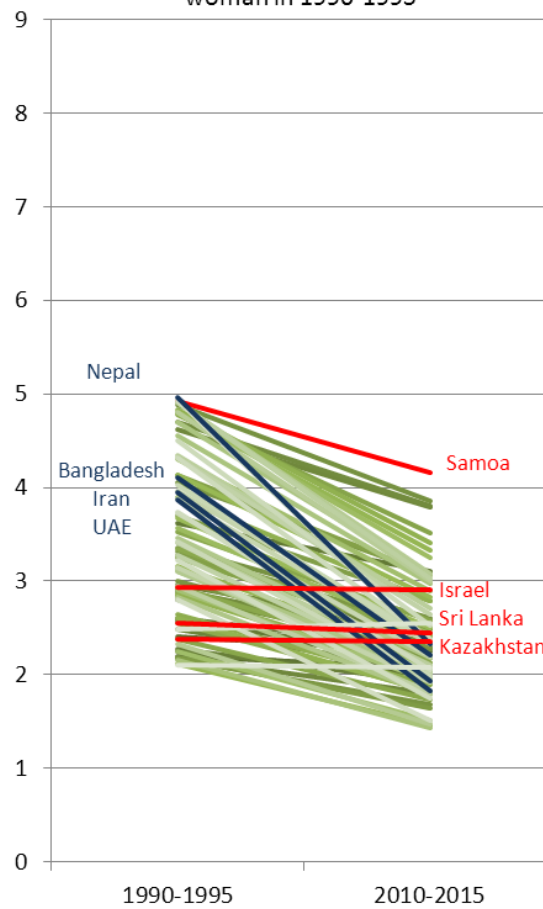


# Declines in total fertility were not universal

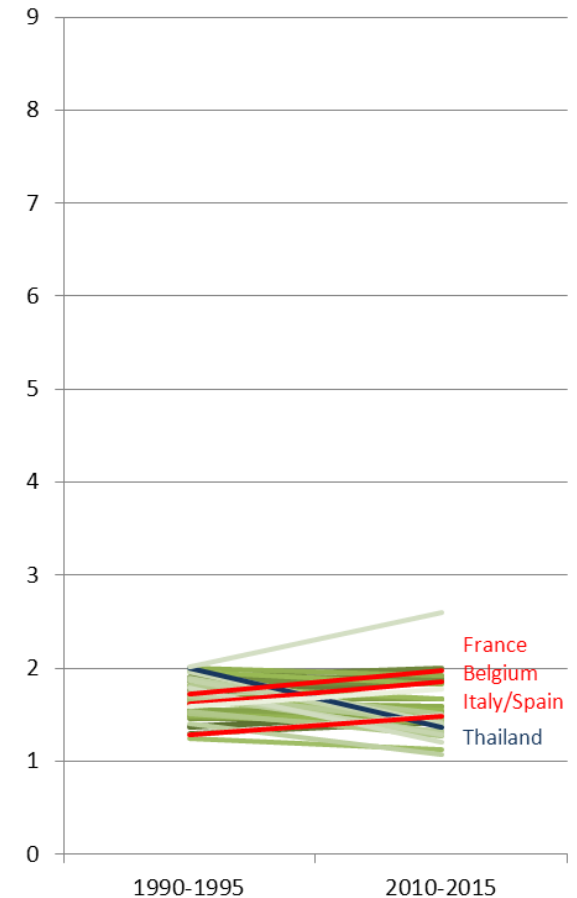
Total fertility greater than 5 children per woman in 1990-1995



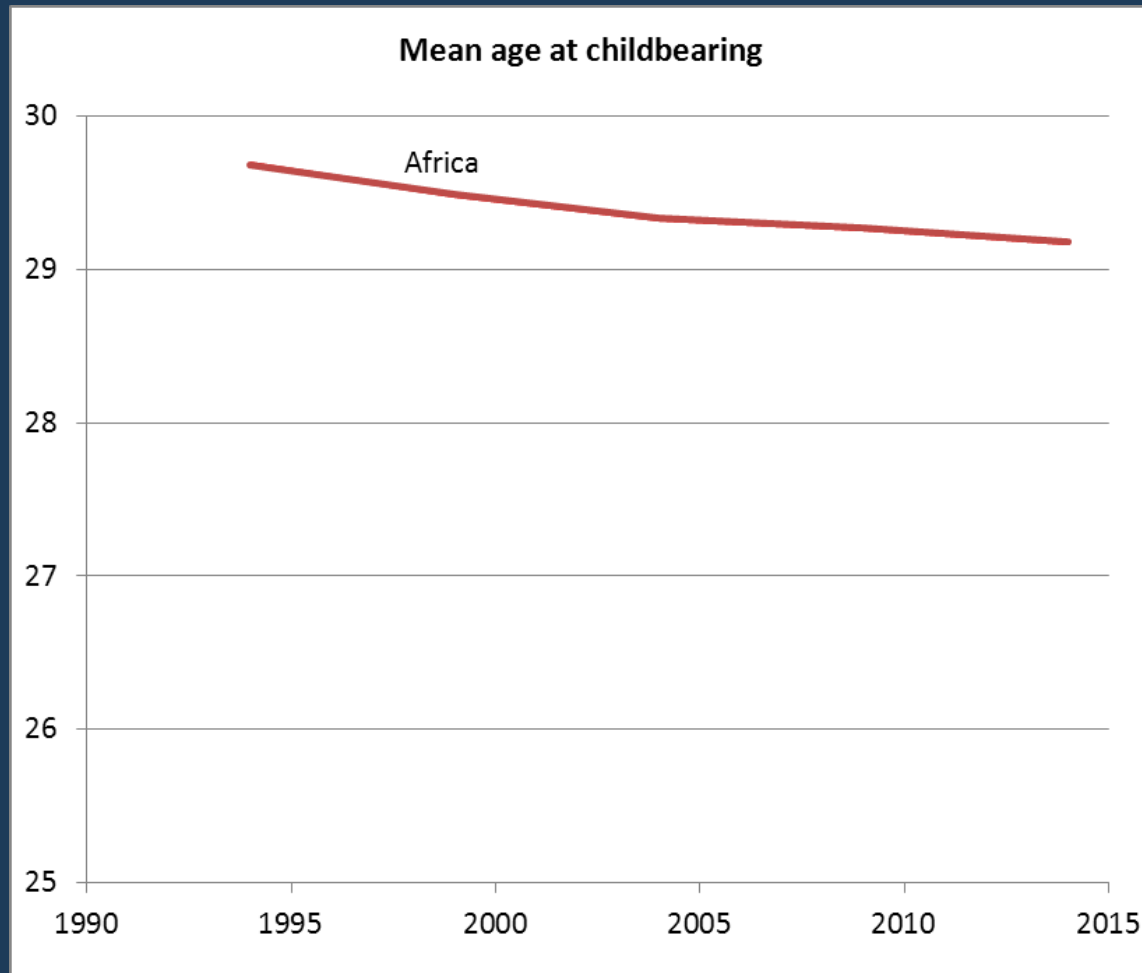
Total fertility from 2.1 to 5 children per woman in 1990-1995



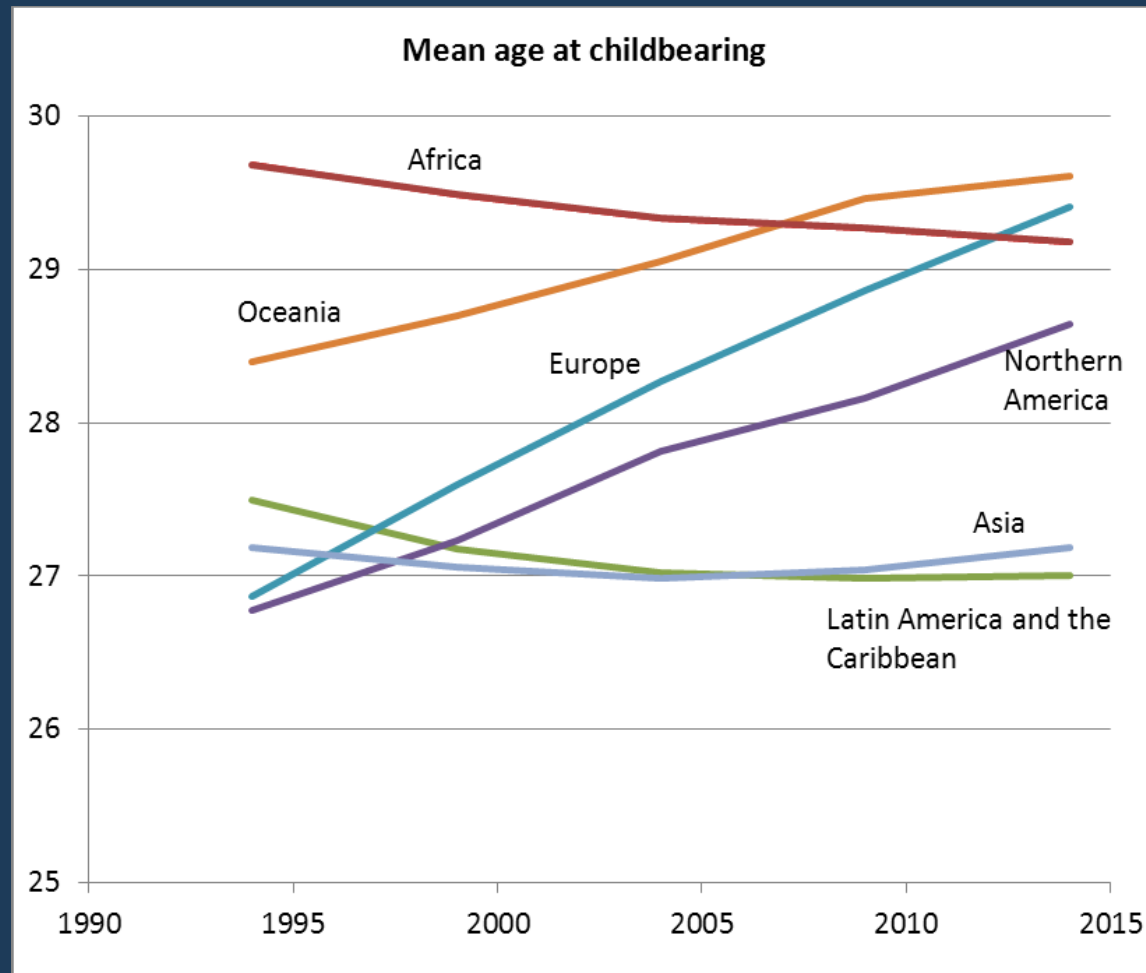
Total fertility less than 2.1 children per woman in 1990-1995



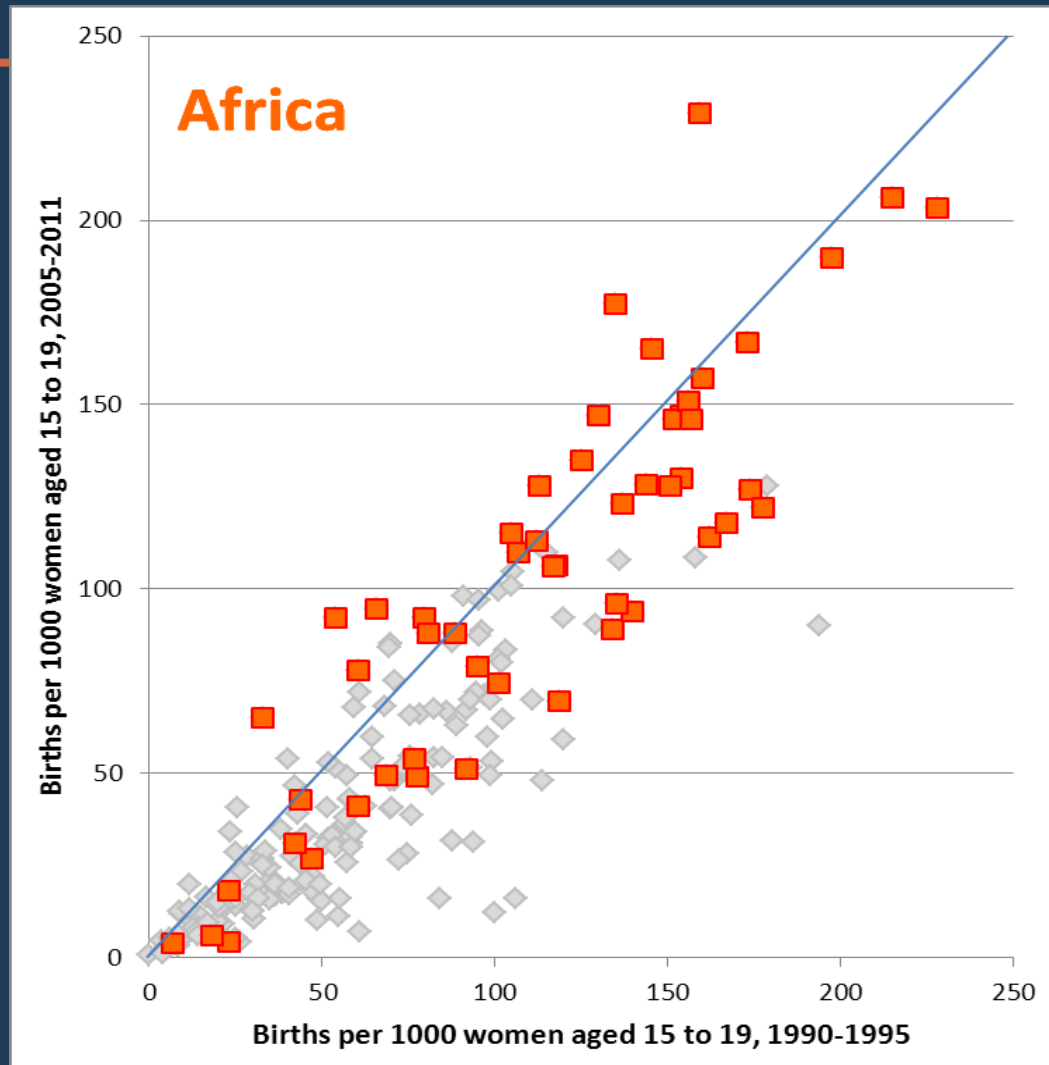
# In Africa, at high total fertility, mean age at childbearing remains high



# In low fertility regions, childbearing postponed to older ages or concentrated in younger ages

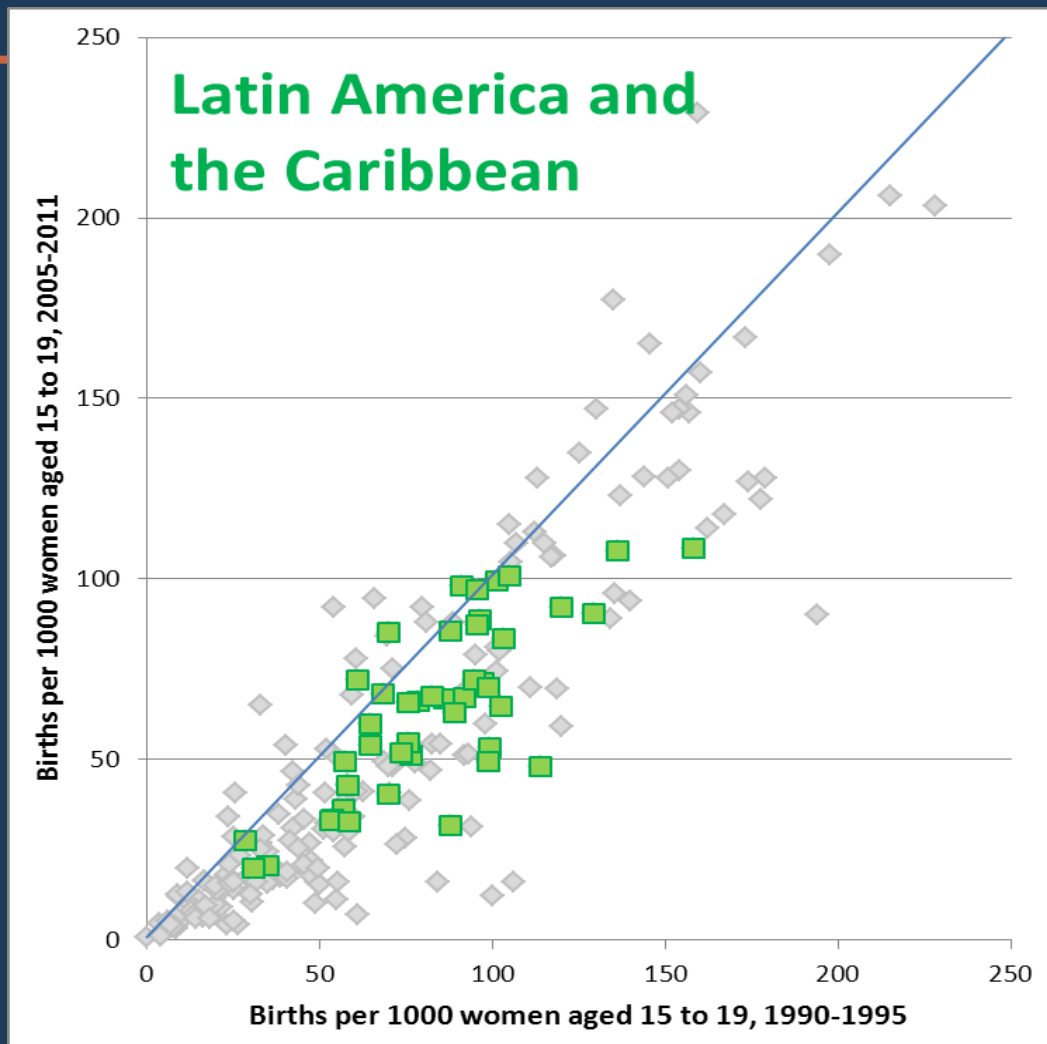


# Adolescent childbearing remains very high in parts of Africa

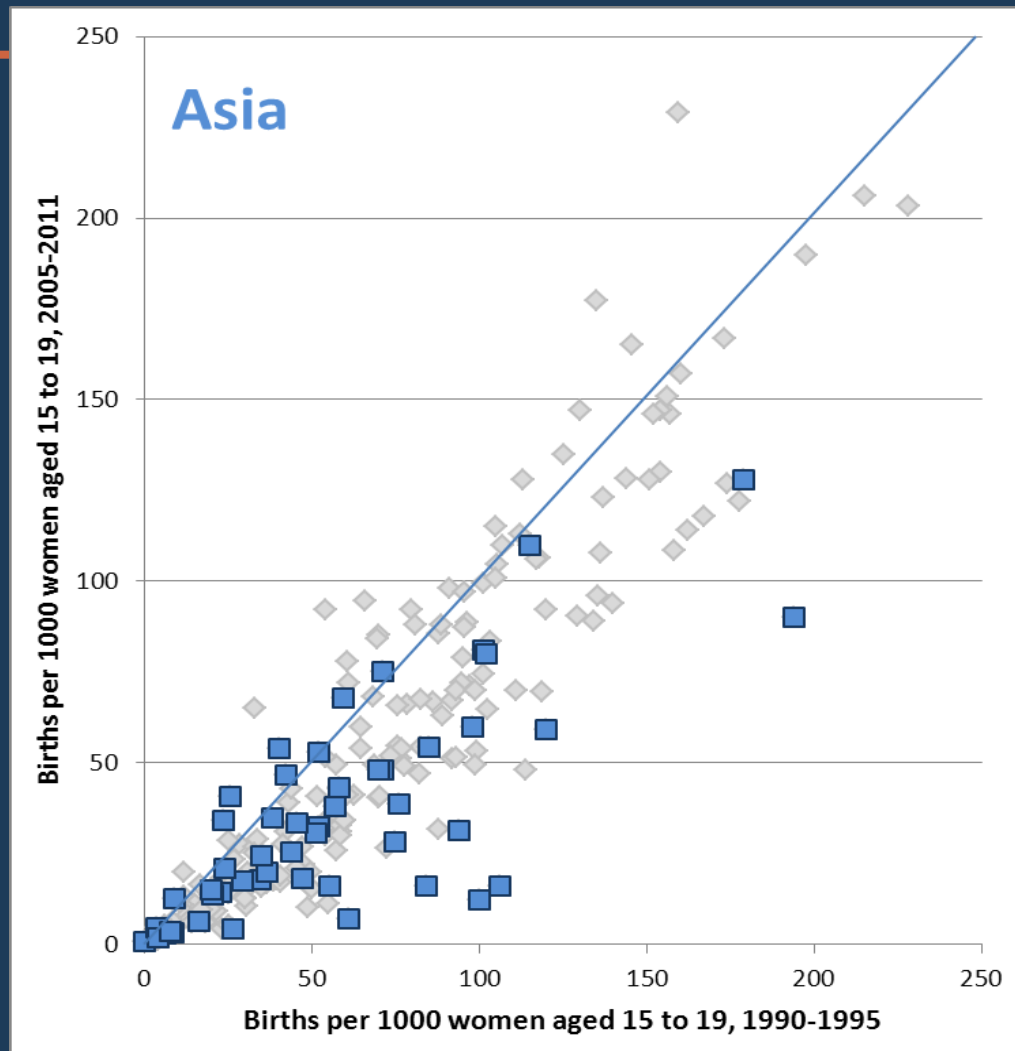




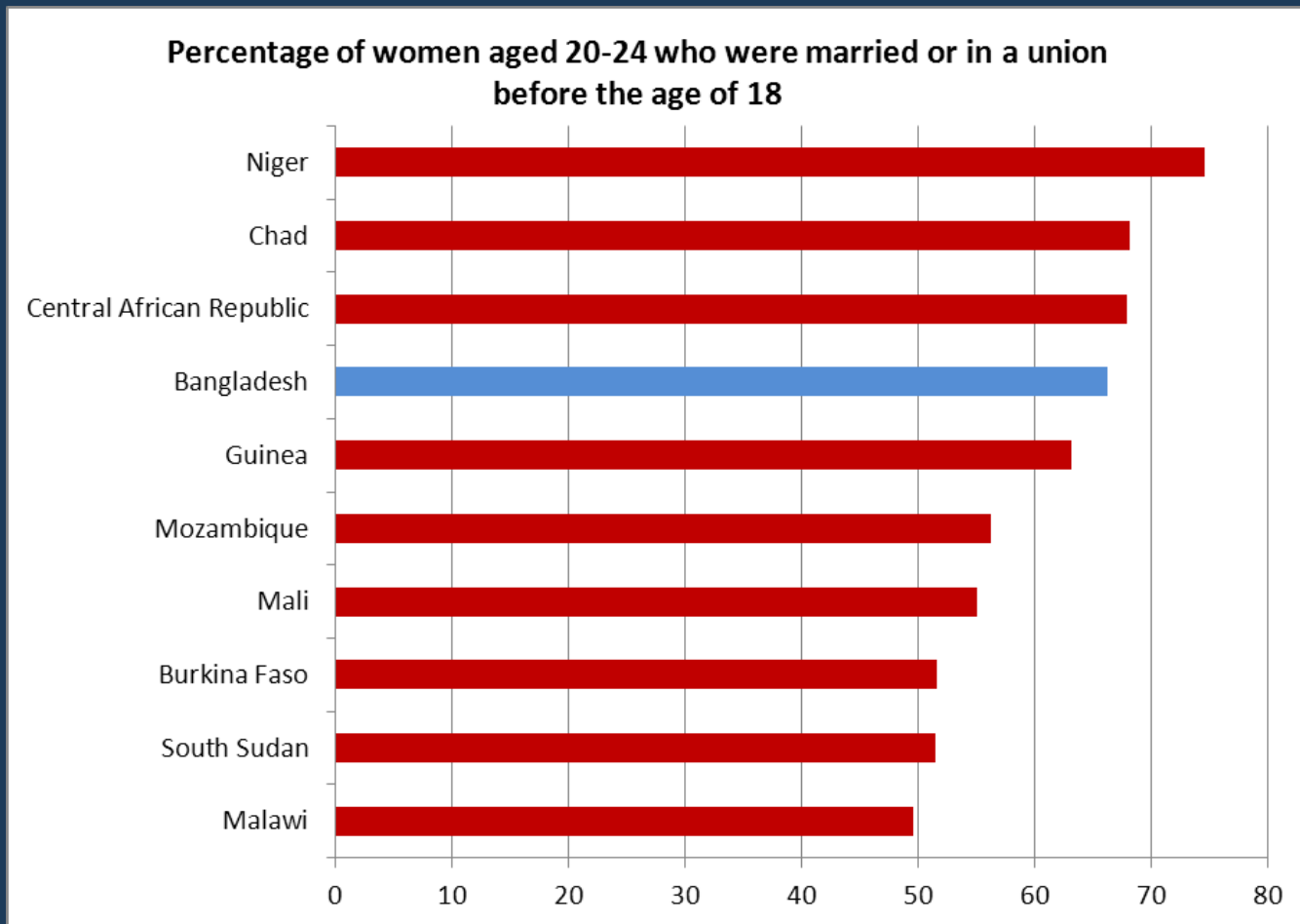
# In Latin America and the Caribbean, though total fertility is low, adolescent childbearing is high



# In most Asian countries adolescent childbearing declined



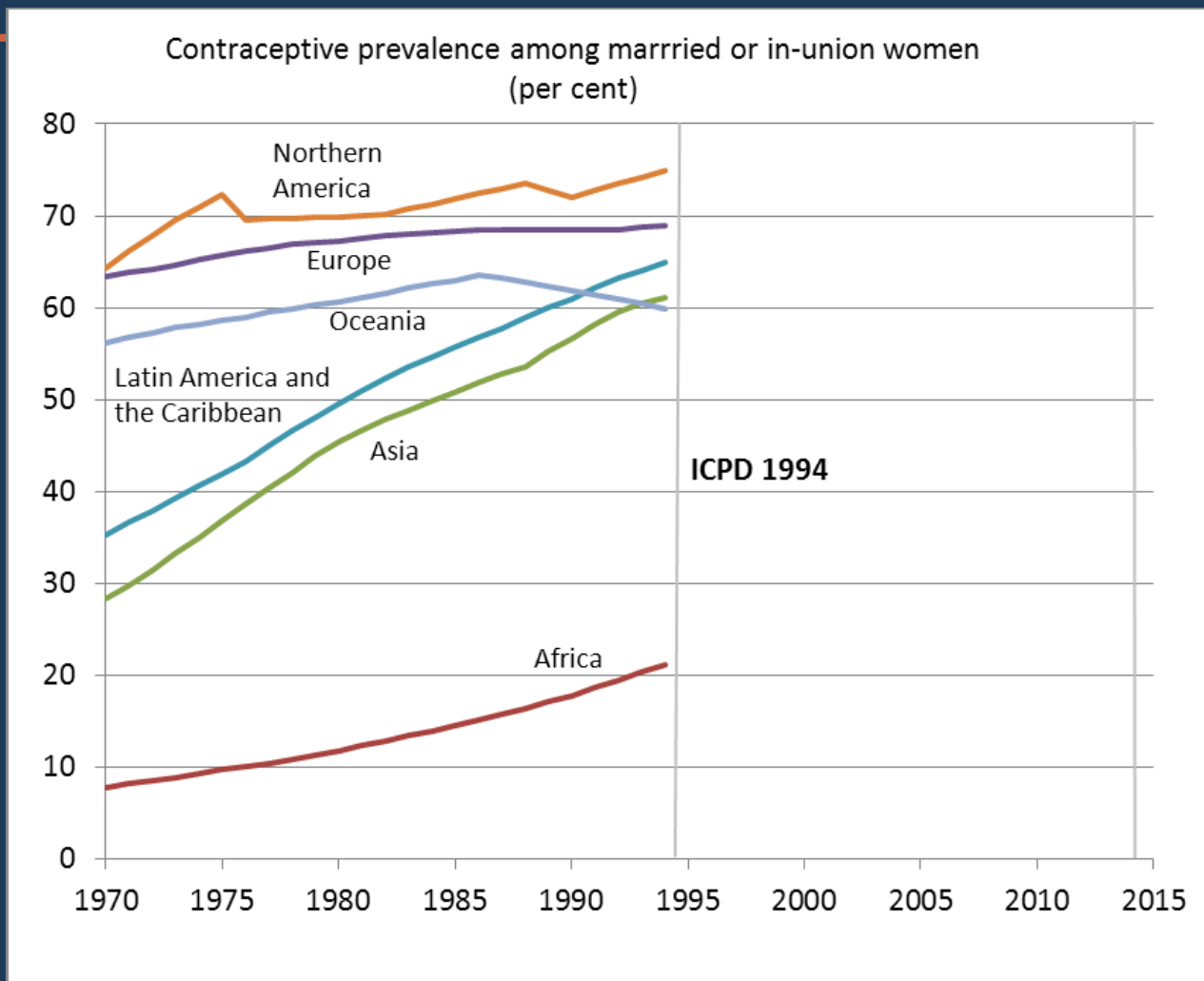
# Child marriage remains prevalent in parts of Africa



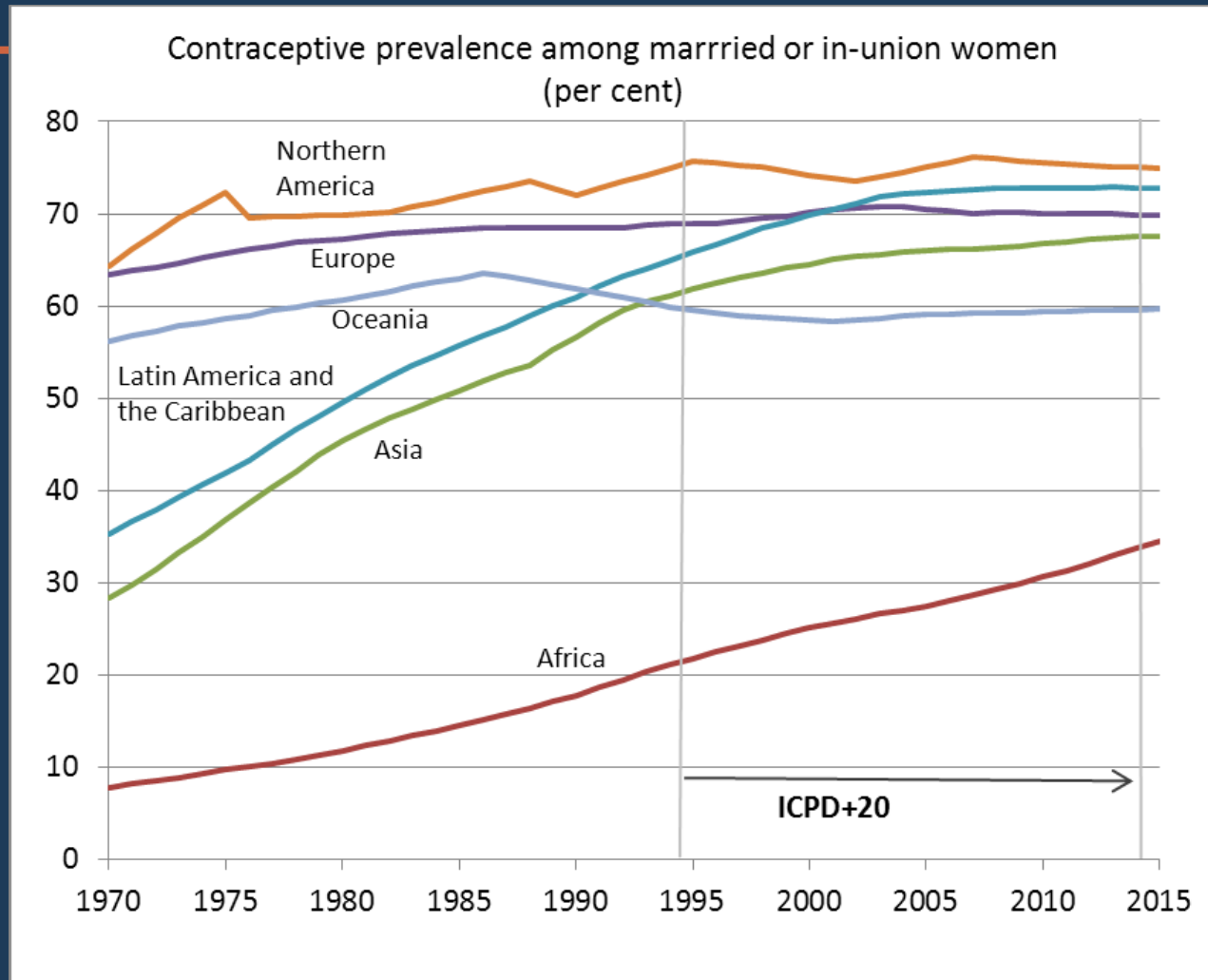
# Family planning: much progress still to be made

- Reproductive rights in the Programme of Action : *“All couples and individuals have the basic right to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the information, education and means to do so”*
- Unmet need for family planning
- The benchmark in ICPD+5 (to reduce unmet need by at least 50 per cent by 2005) – not reached even by 2015
- Since 2008, contraceptive prevalence and unmet need for family planning are indicators to measure “universal access to reproductive health” in MDG5

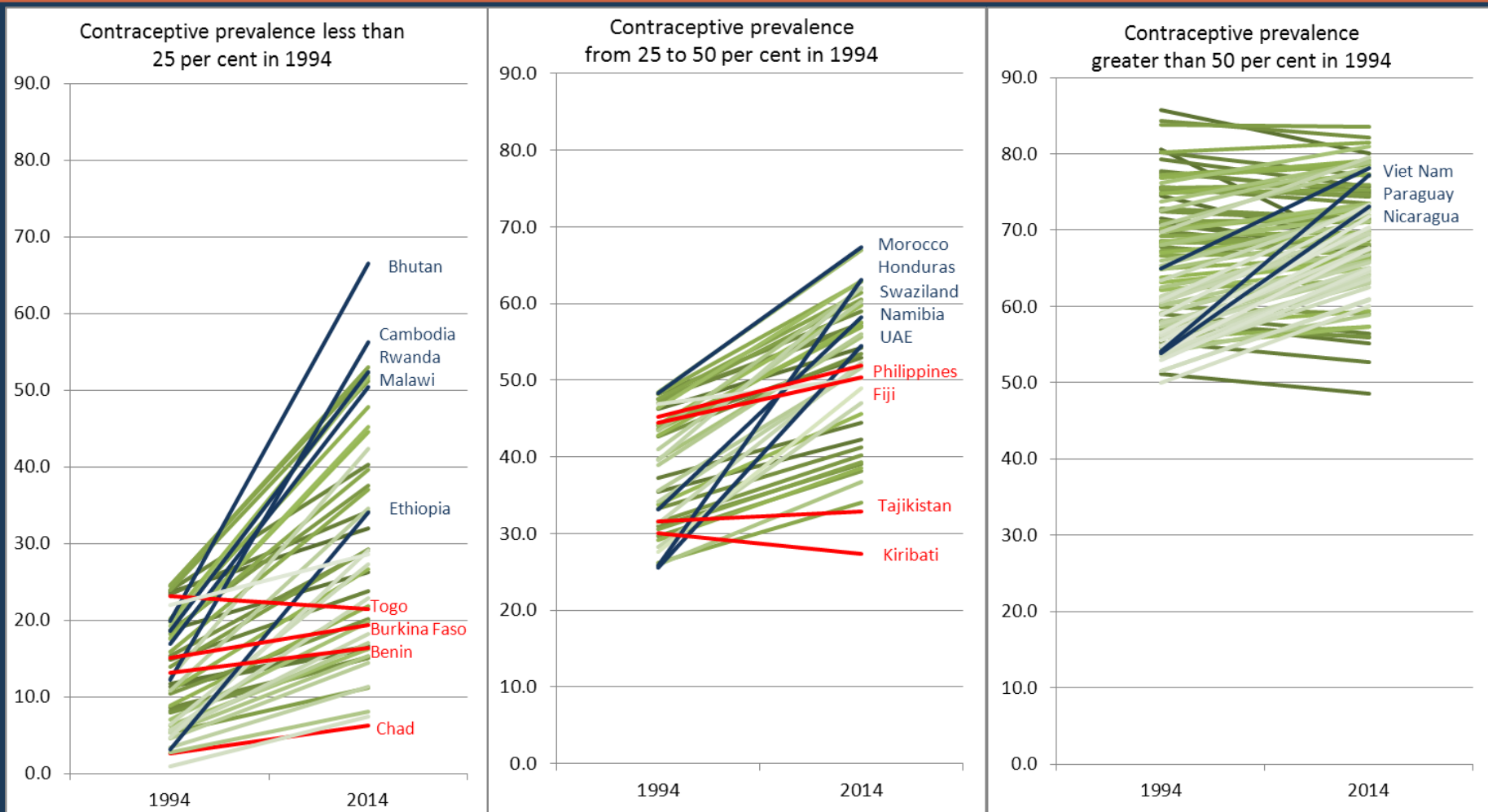
# Contraceptive prevalence increased fast in Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean



# In Africa, increase in contraceptive prevalence continues to be slow



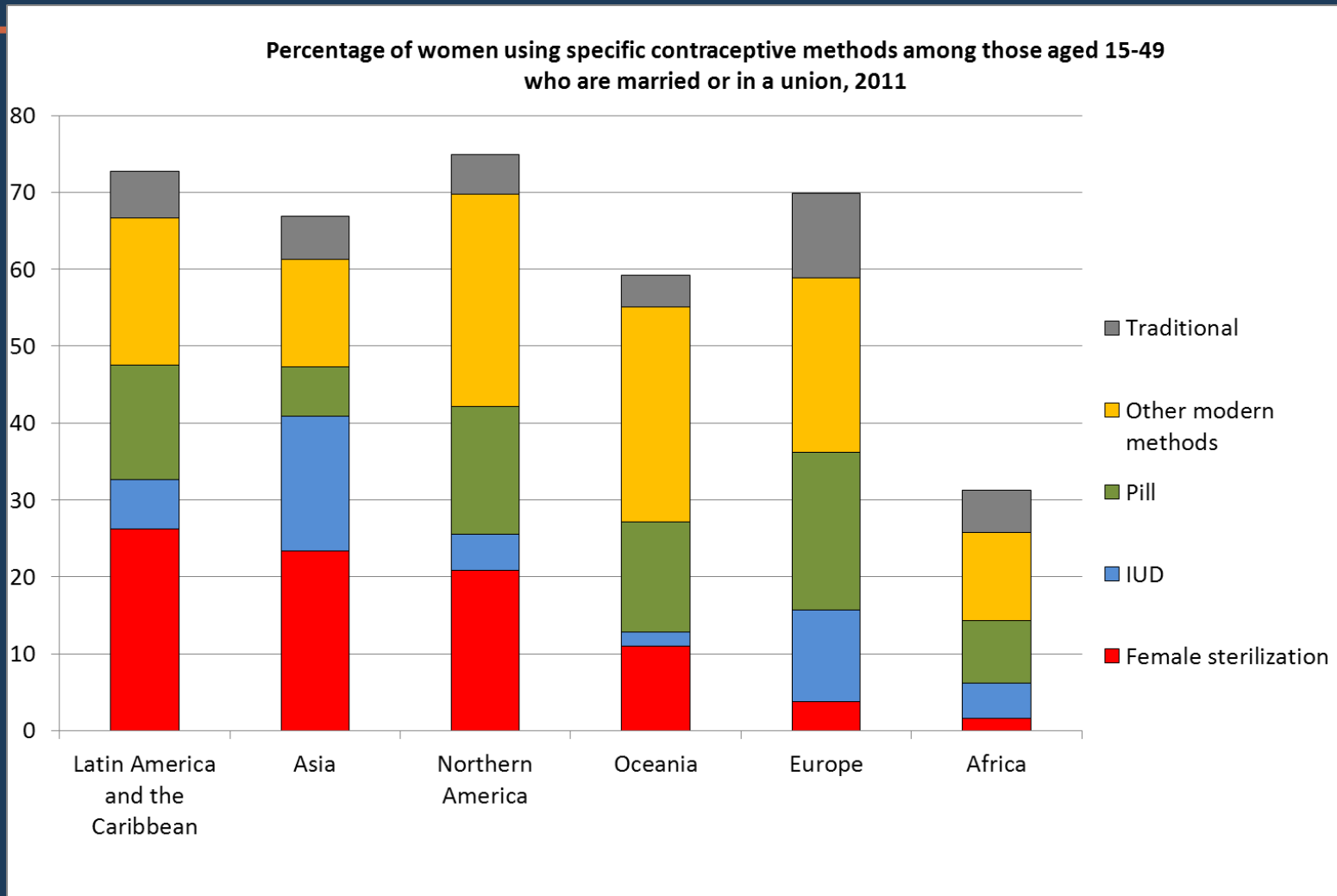
# Increases in contraceptive prevalence were not universal



Source: Estimates and Projections of Family Planning Indicators: 2013 Revision

United Nations Population Division/DESA

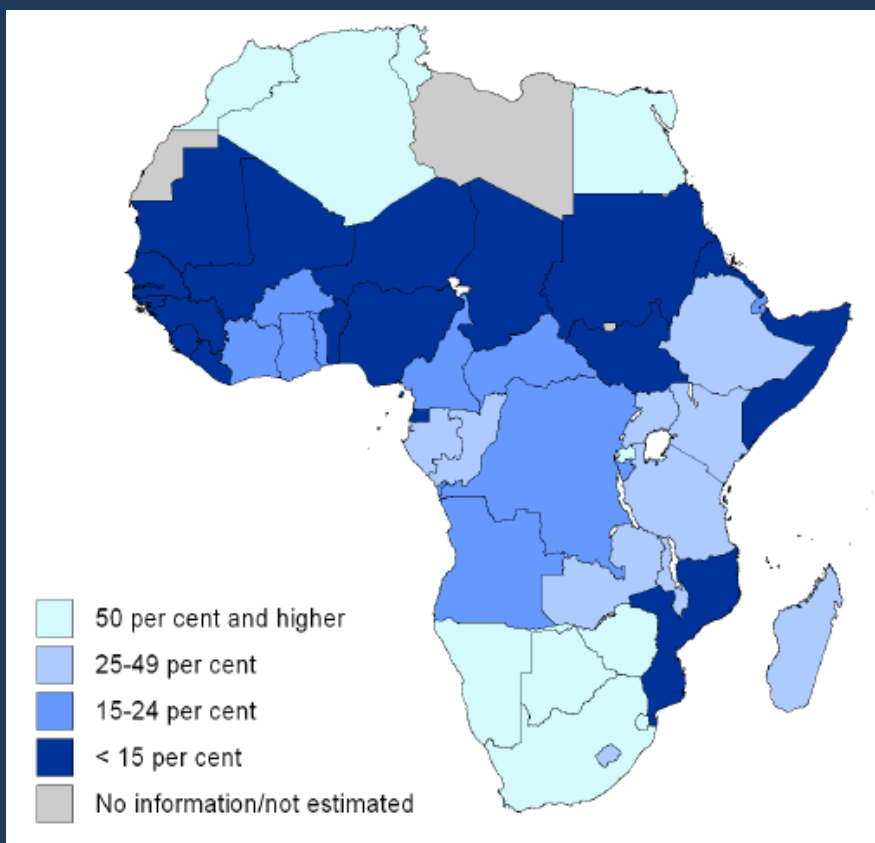
# Provide universal access to a full range of safe and reliable family-planning methods



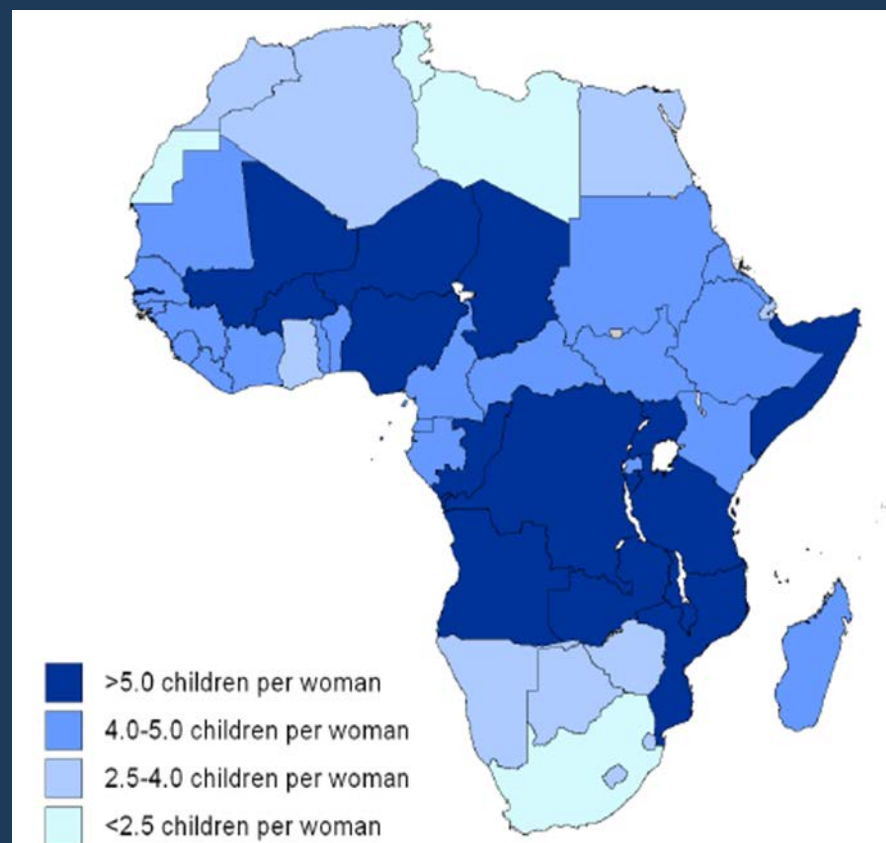


# Diversity within Africa is large in total fertility levels and contraceptive prevalence

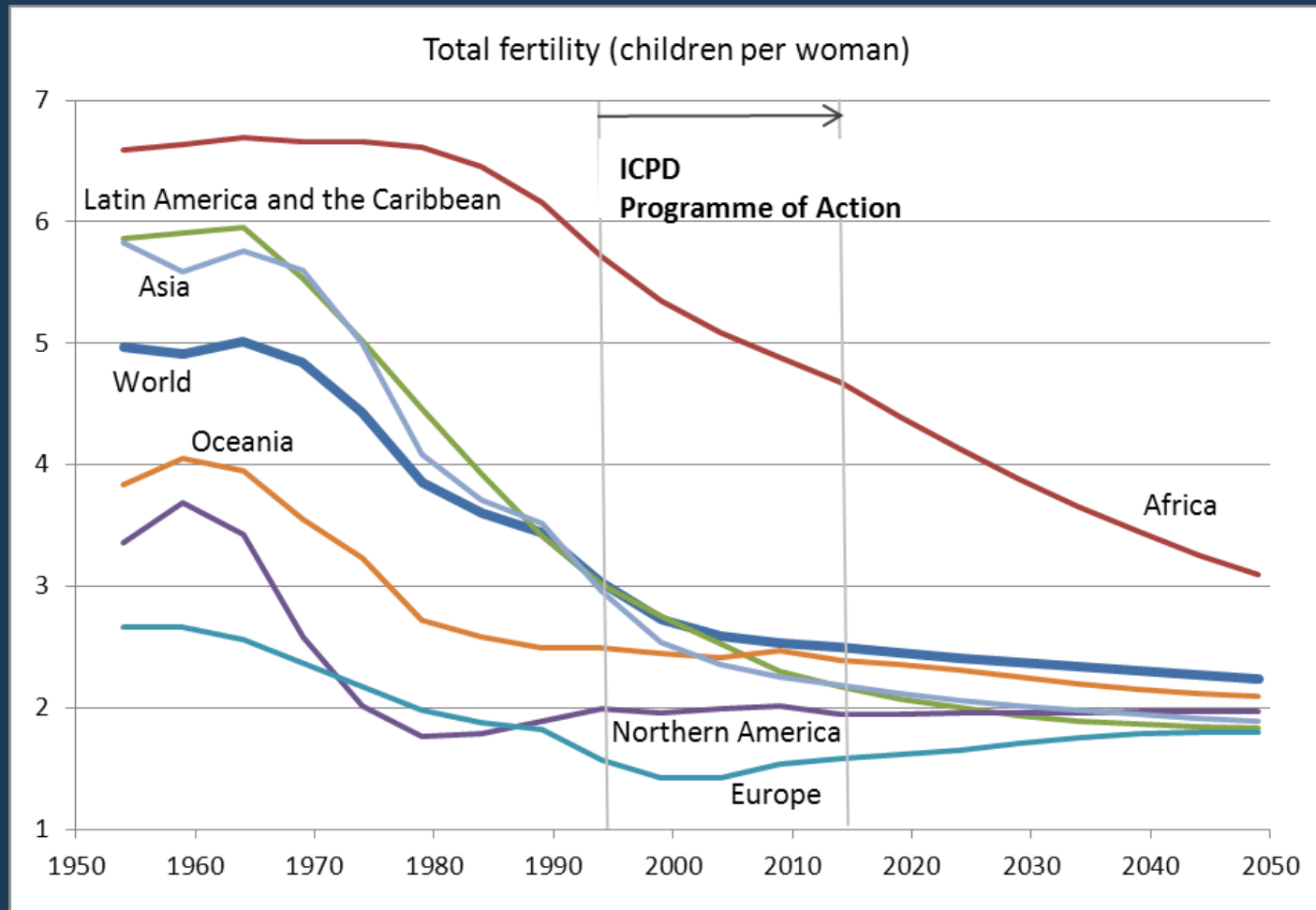
Contraceptive prevalence, 2011



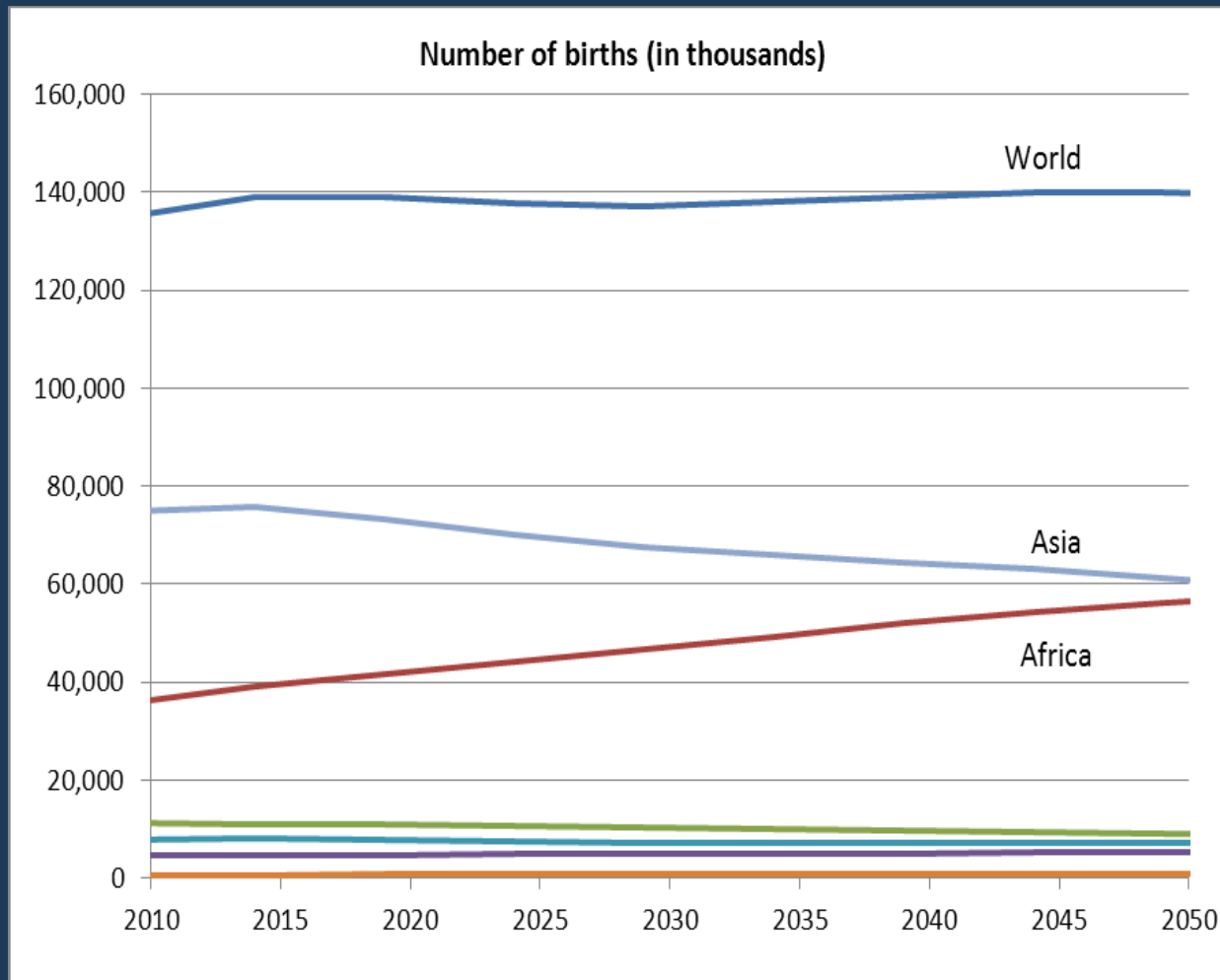
Total fertility, 2010-2015



# African total fertility is projected to continue to decline at a slow pace



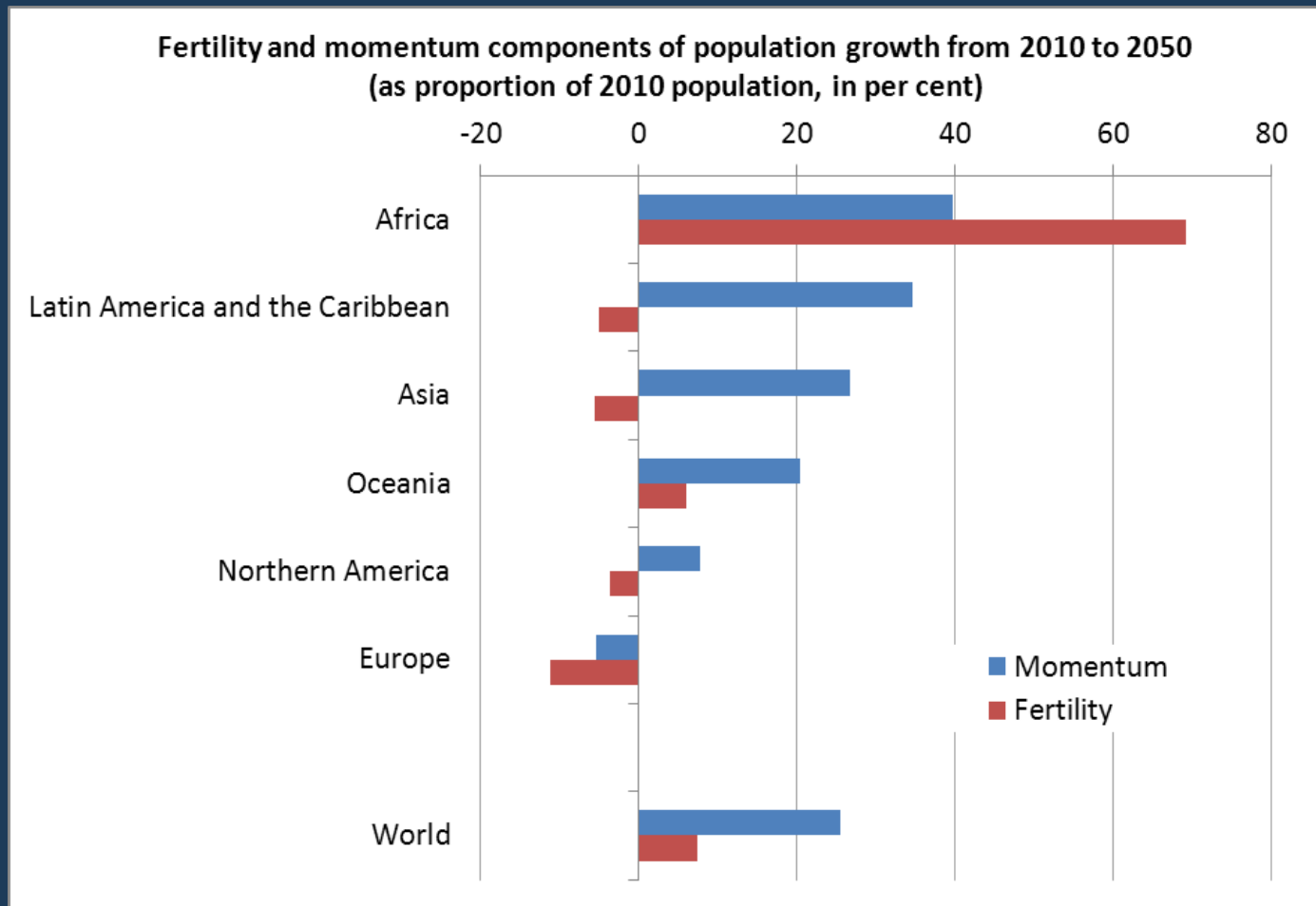
# Fertility changes determine the number of births and the base of population pyramids



Source: World Population Prospects 2012

United Nations Population Division/DESA

# Fertility and momentum components are important to future population growth



# Questions

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- Why African fertility decline different? And will it stay exceptional in future? What are the challenges?
- Why different pathways to low fertility? Will the differences remain?
- What are the changes in transitions to adulthood and their impact on childbearing?
- What are the key policy-relevant ways that women's empowerment and gender equality influence childbearing?
- What are the population-level impacts of enabling women to exercise their reproductive rights?