



**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

January 22, 2015

AGENDA

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

Why girls?



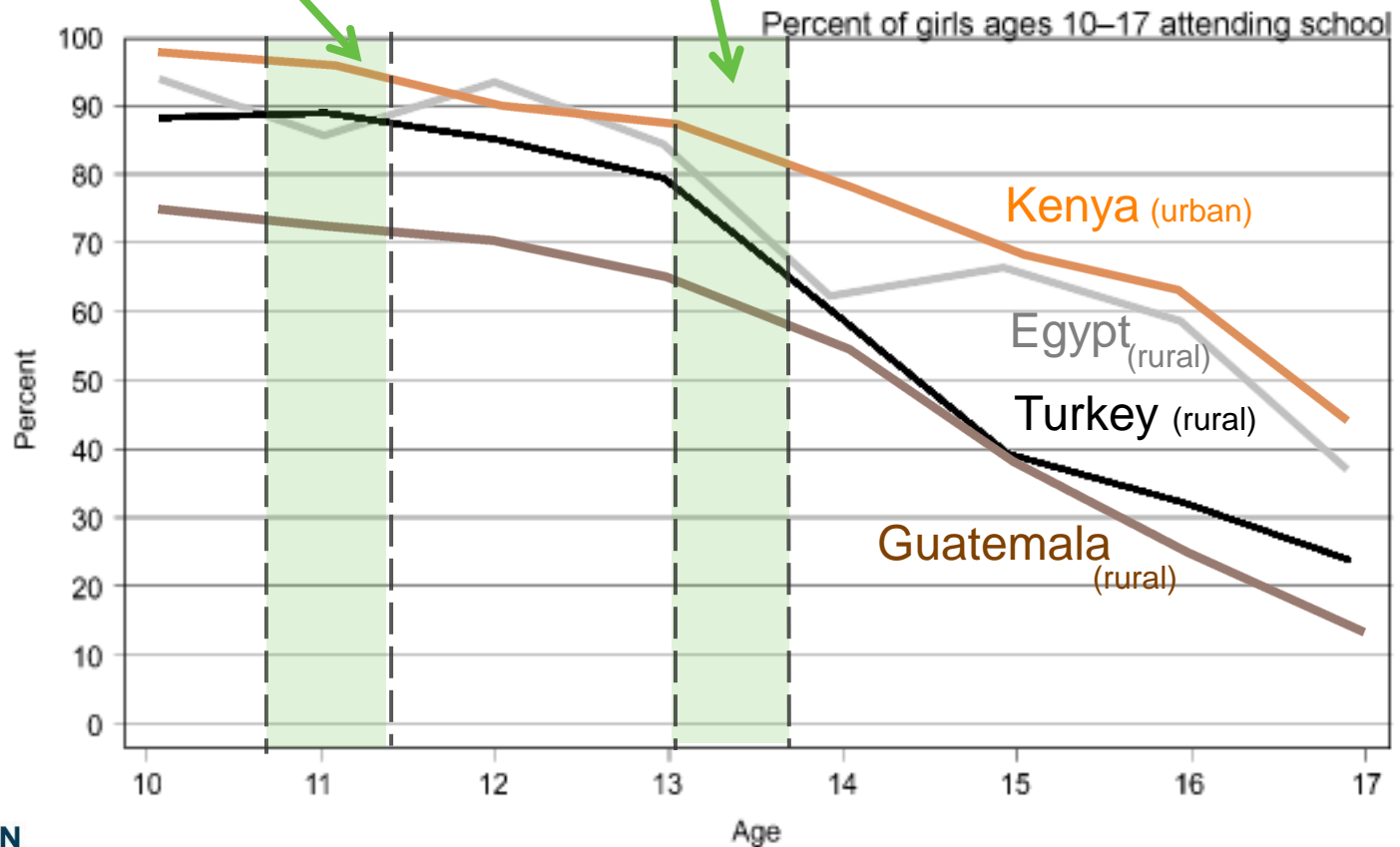
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THERE IS A GENERAL PATTERN OF GIRLS BEGINNING TO DROP OUT OF SCHOOL AT THE ONSET OF PUBERTY

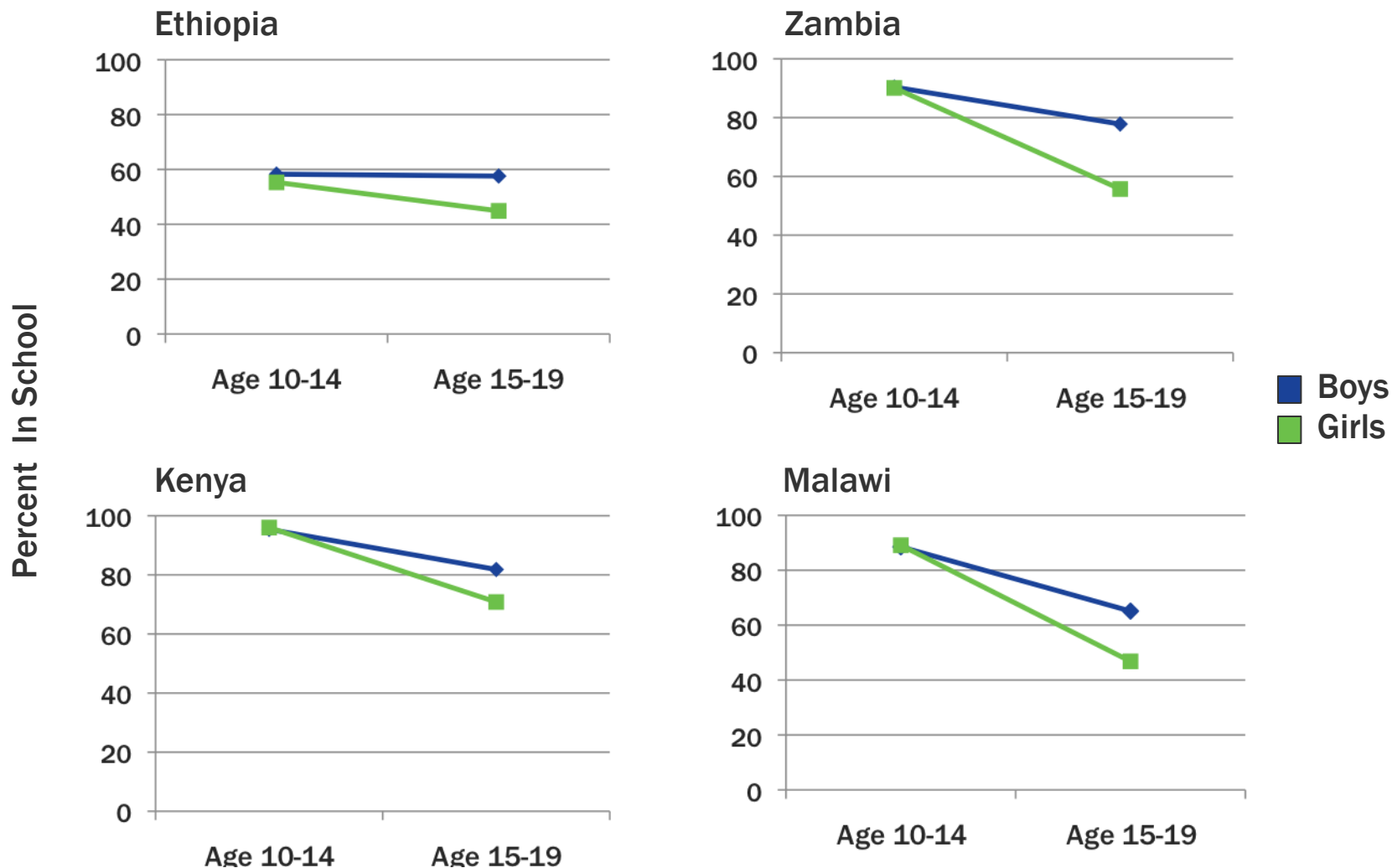
Intensify investment here

Drop out accelerates here

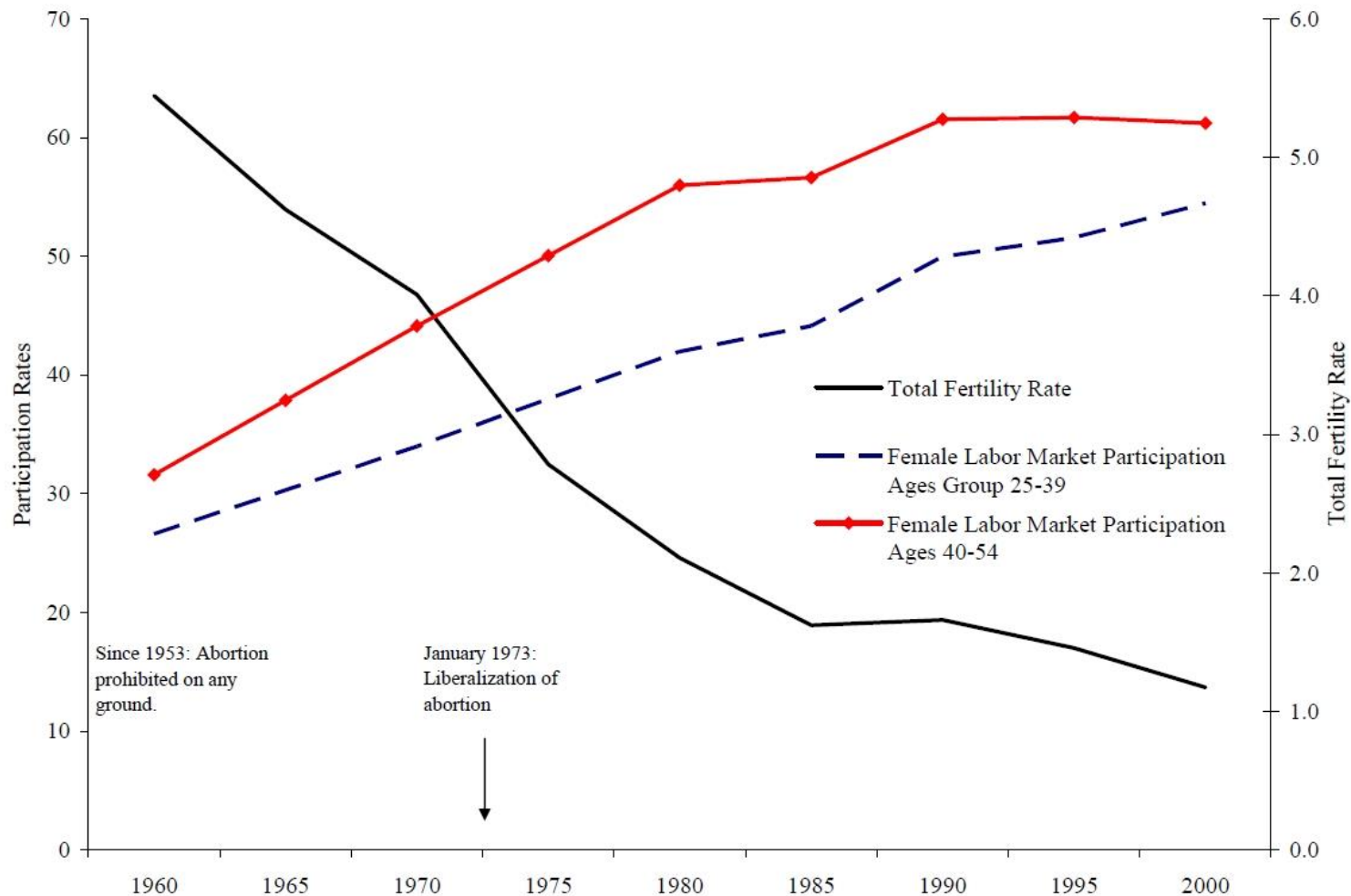


THE GENDER GAP GROWS DURING PUBERTY

CURRENT SCHOOL ENROLLMENT BY GENDER AND AGE



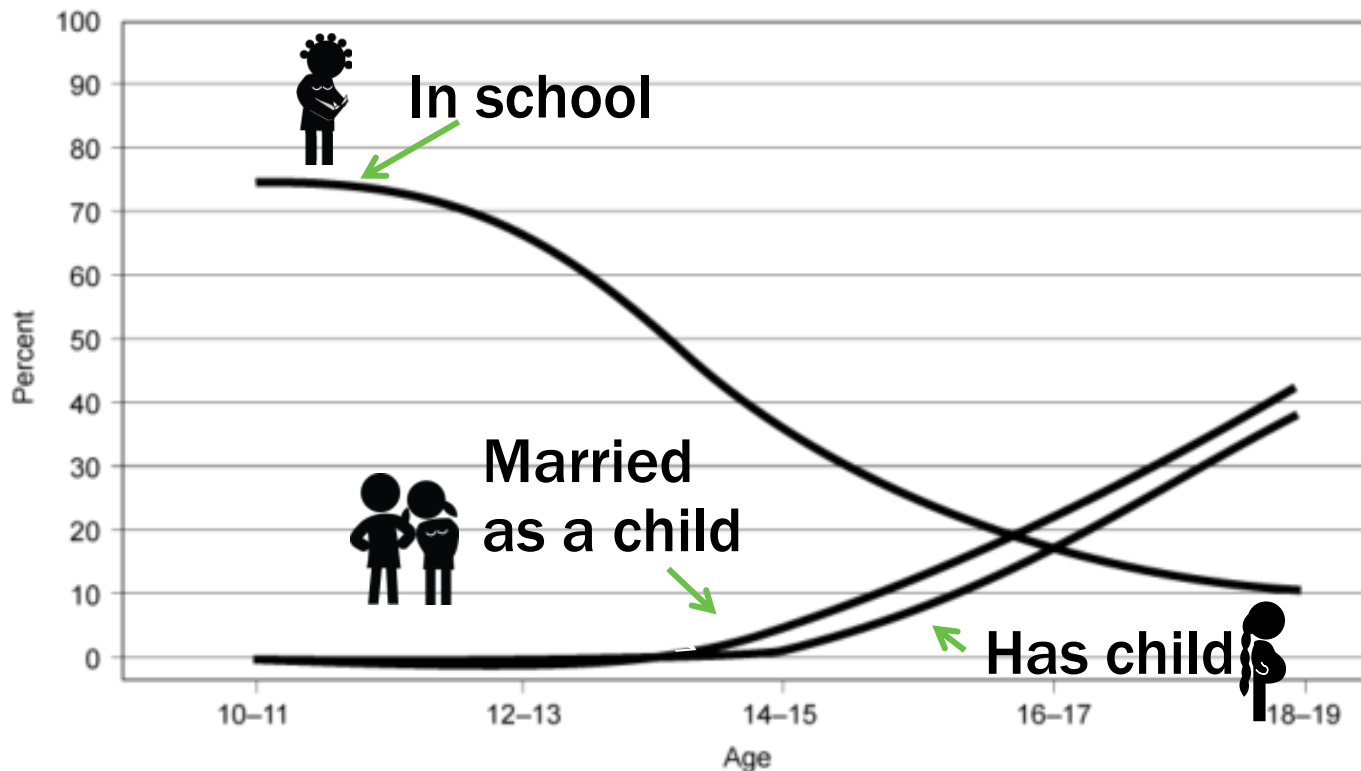
SOUTH KOREA, TOTAL FERTILITY RATES AND FEMALE LABOR MARKET PARTICIPATION 1960–2000



REACH GIRLS EARLY

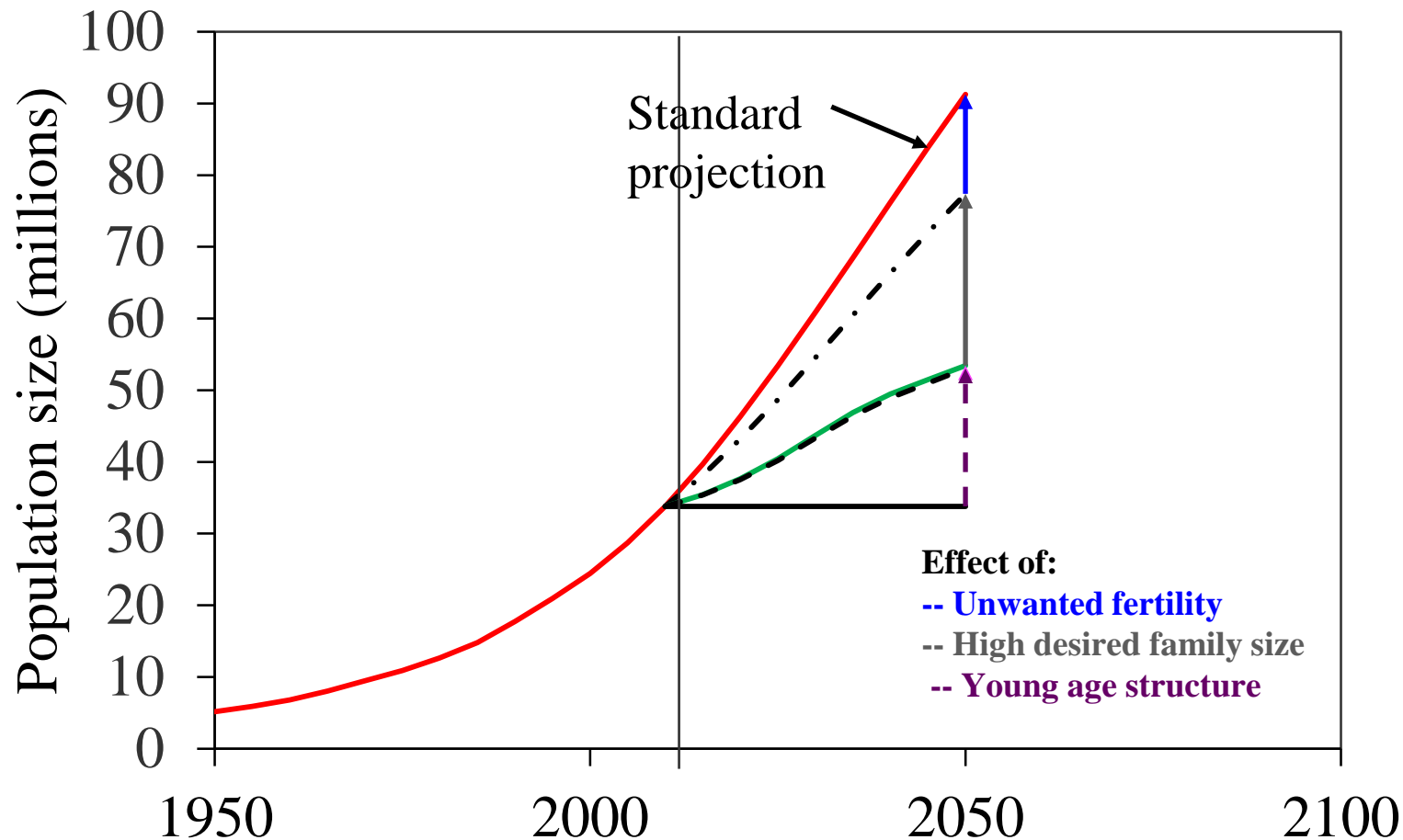
EARLY ADOLESCENCE IS THE PIVOTAL MOMENT FOR GIRLS. THAT IS WHEN THEIR LIVES GO OFF TRACK.

Percent of Guatemalan girls ages 10–19, by outcome



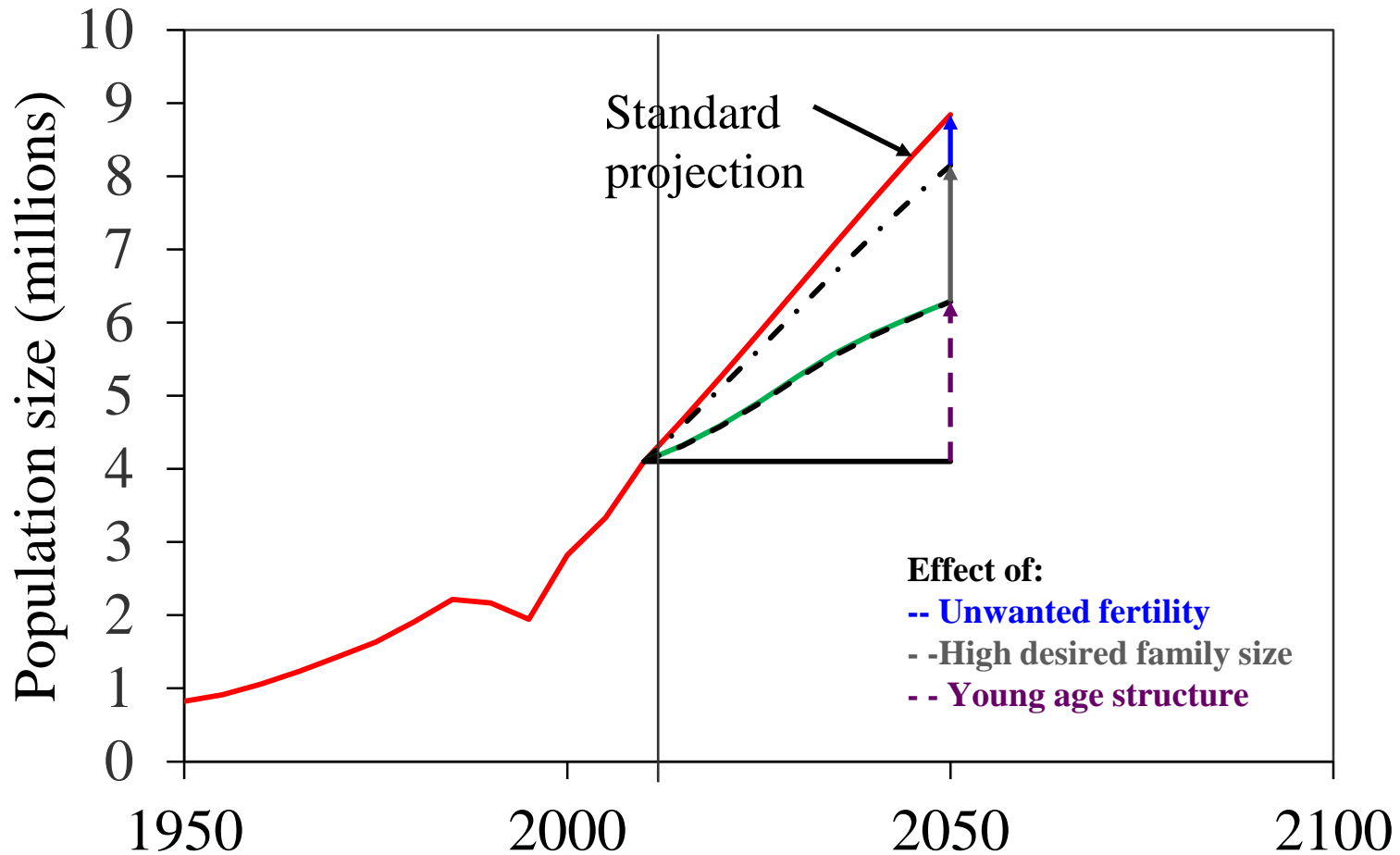
UGANDA:

ALTERNATIVE POPULATION PROJECTIONS FOR 2005-2050 AND POPULATION GROWTH COMPONENTS



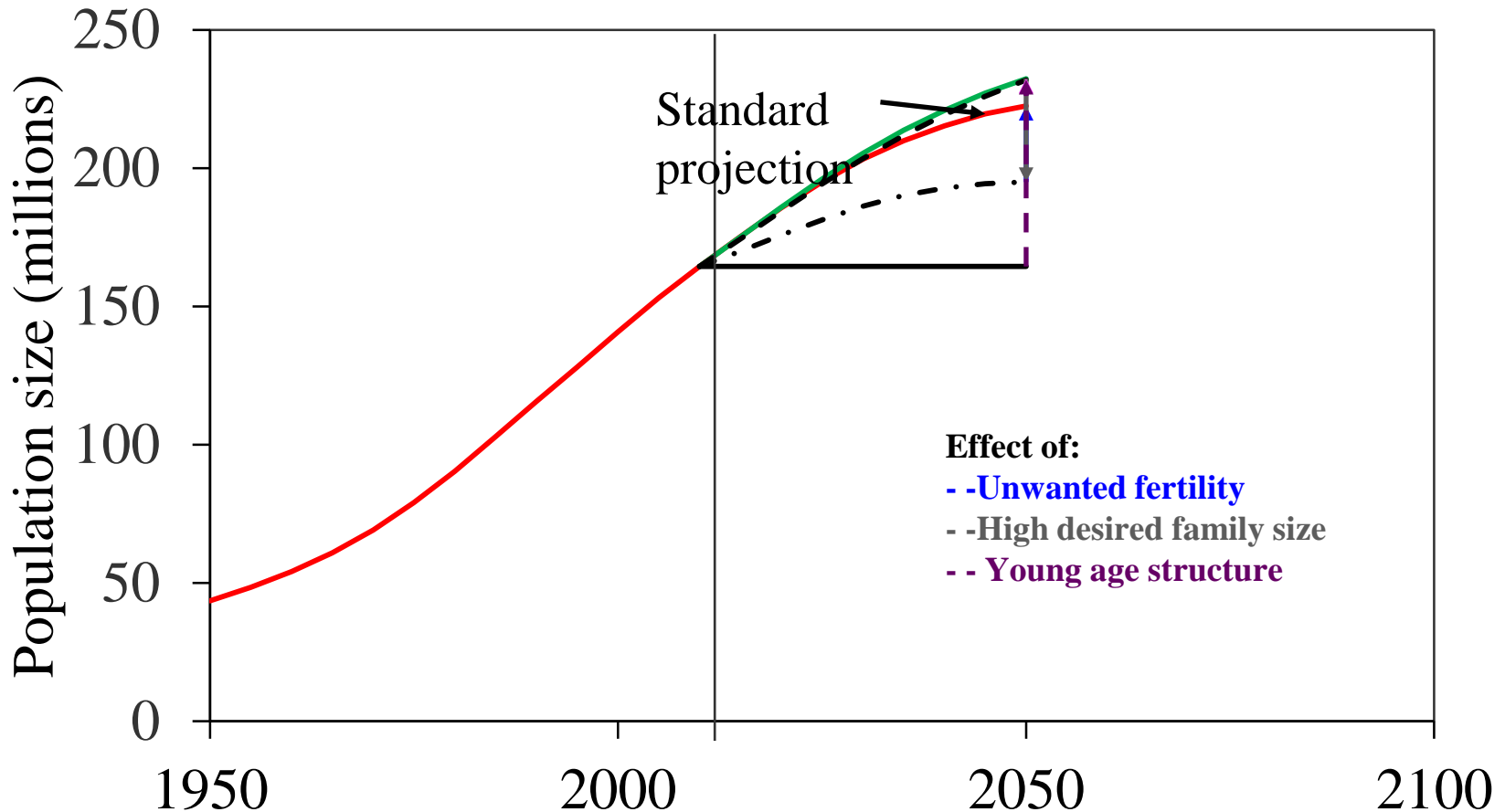
LIBERIA:

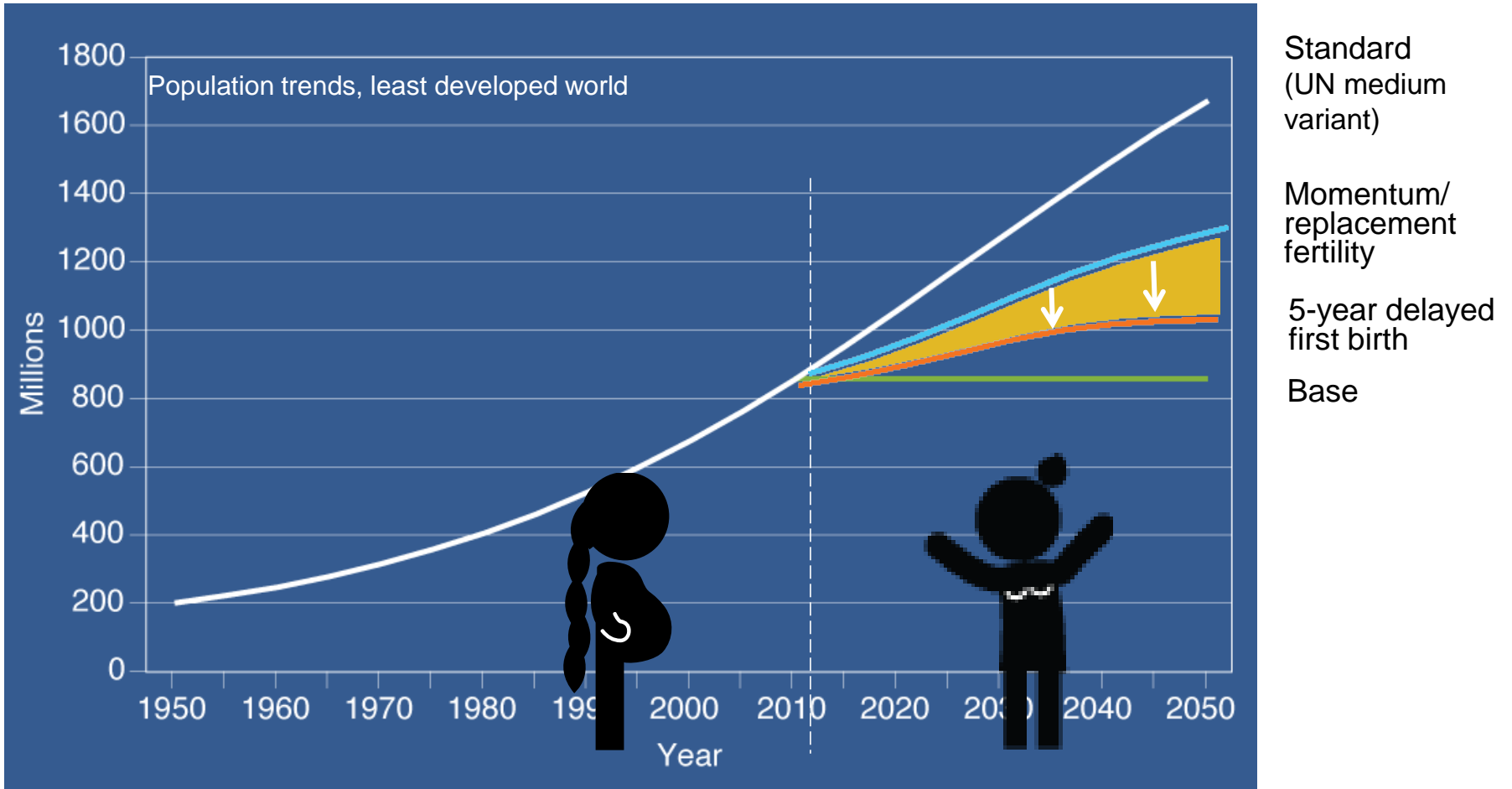
ALTERNATIVE POPULATION PROJECTIONS FOR 2005-2050 AND POPULATION GROWTH COMPONENTS



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!

**For more information,
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