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Bridging Development Research, Policy & Practice

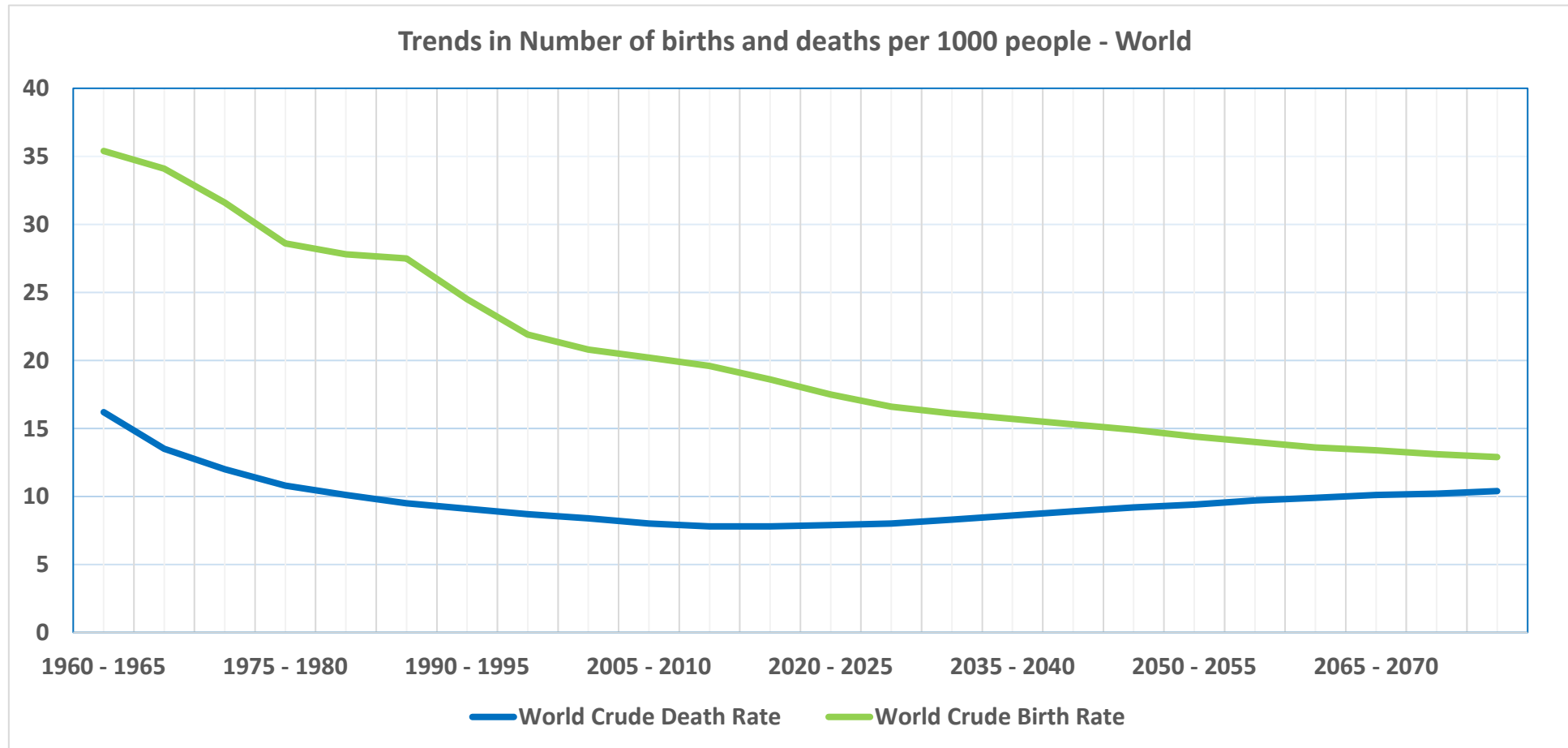
Changing age structures and sustainable development in youthful societies

Eliya Msiyaphazi Zulu, PhD

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Fiftieth session, 3-7 April 2017, New York



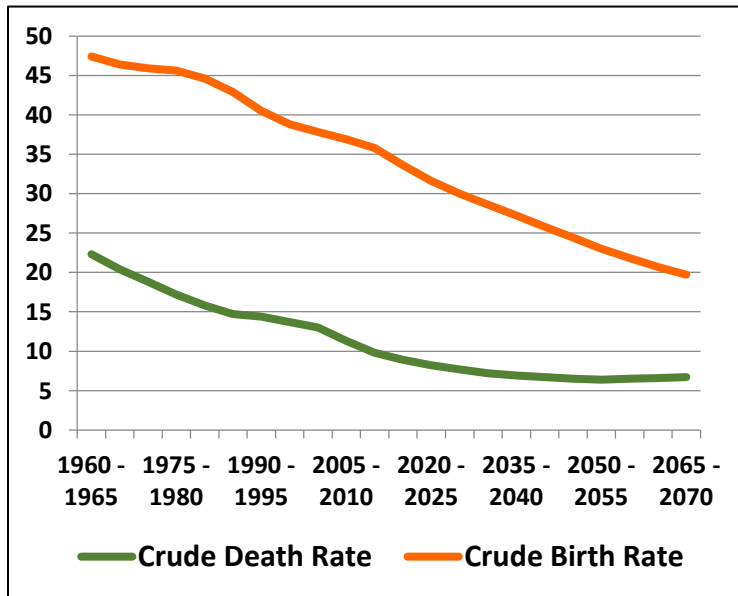
The World has witnessed phenomenal transition from high to low birth and death rates, shaping today and future population dynamics



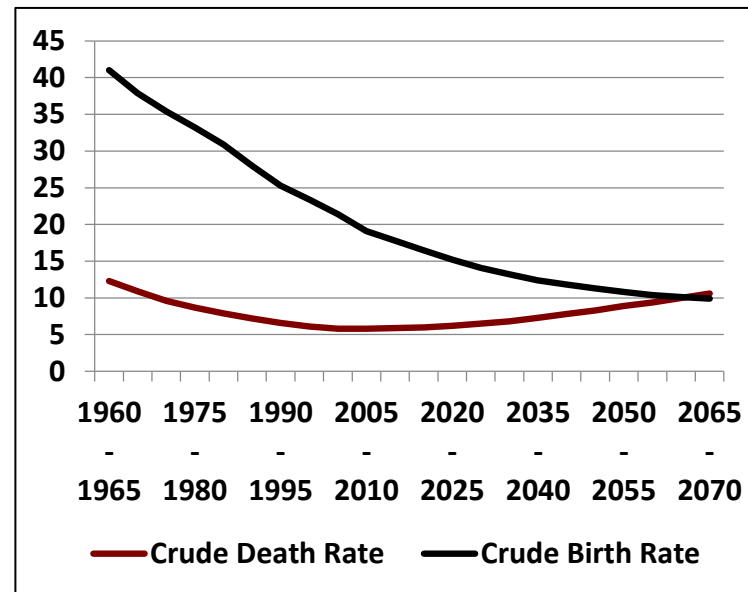
Source: World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision

Because of its slower demographic transition Africa has a younger population that is growing faster than populations of Asia and Latin America

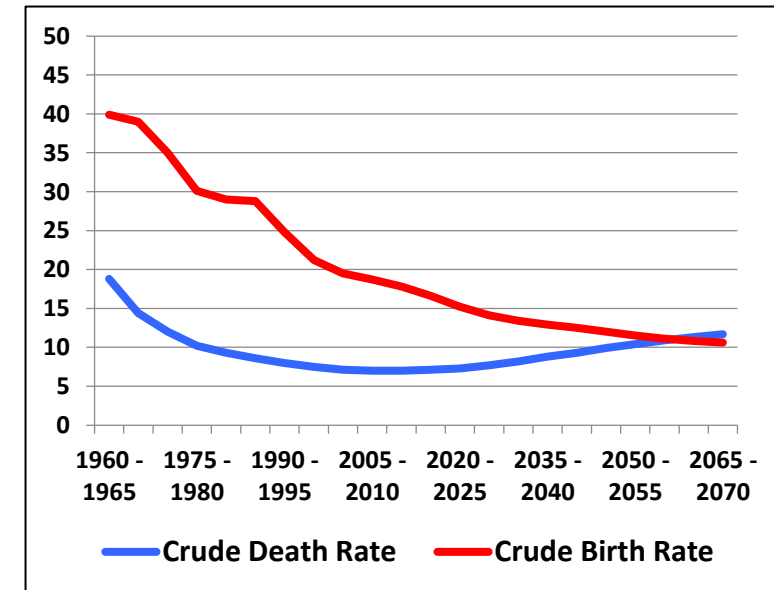
Africa



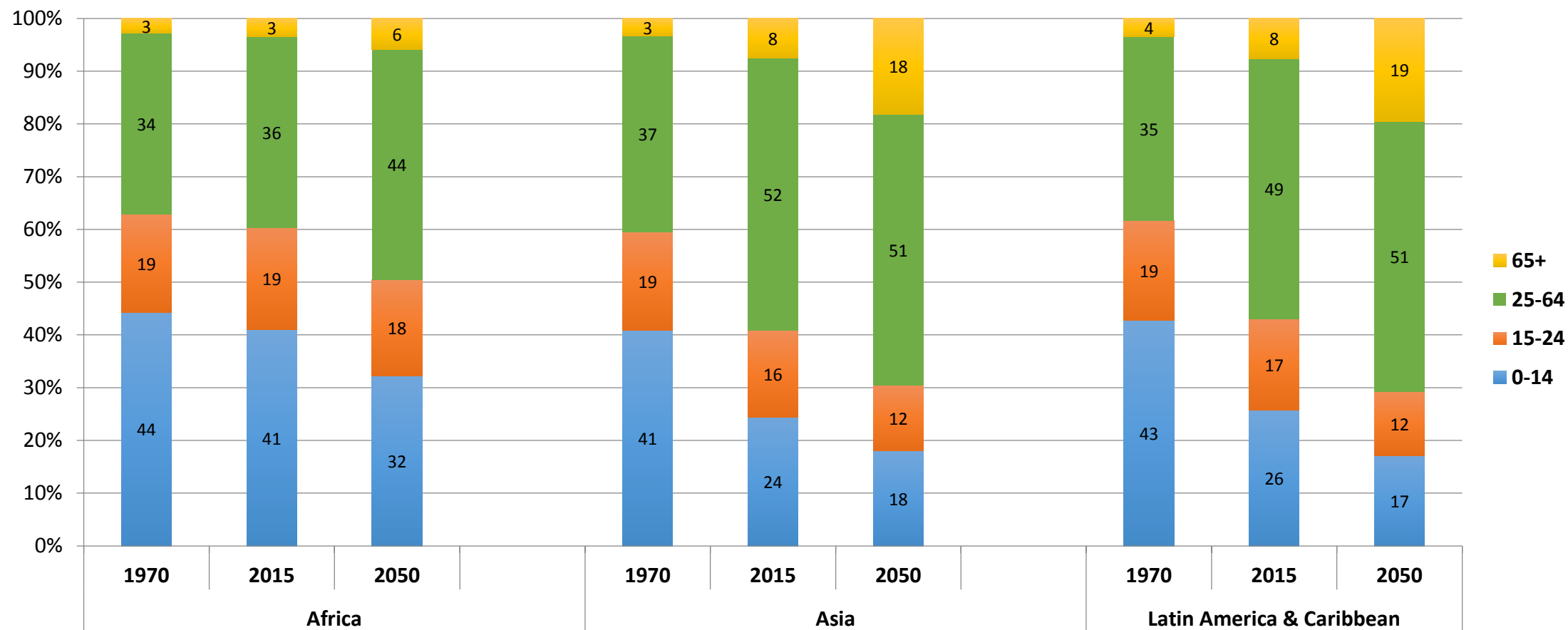
Latin America



Asia

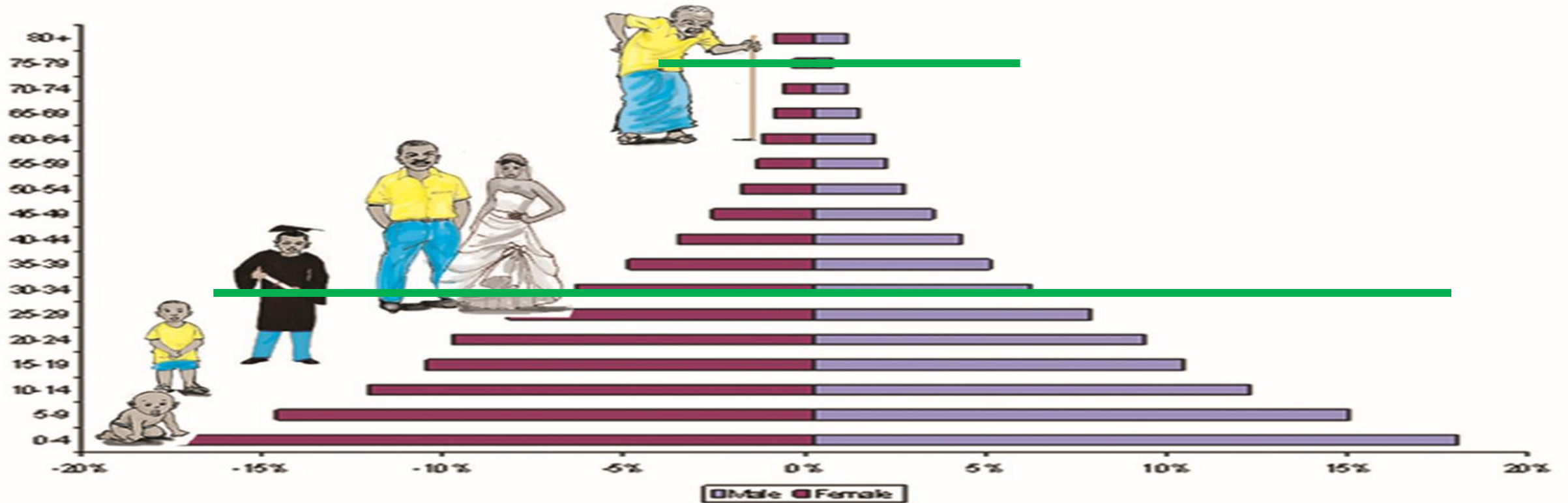


Percentage distribution of the populations of Africa, Asia and Latin America by age group, 1970 to 2050

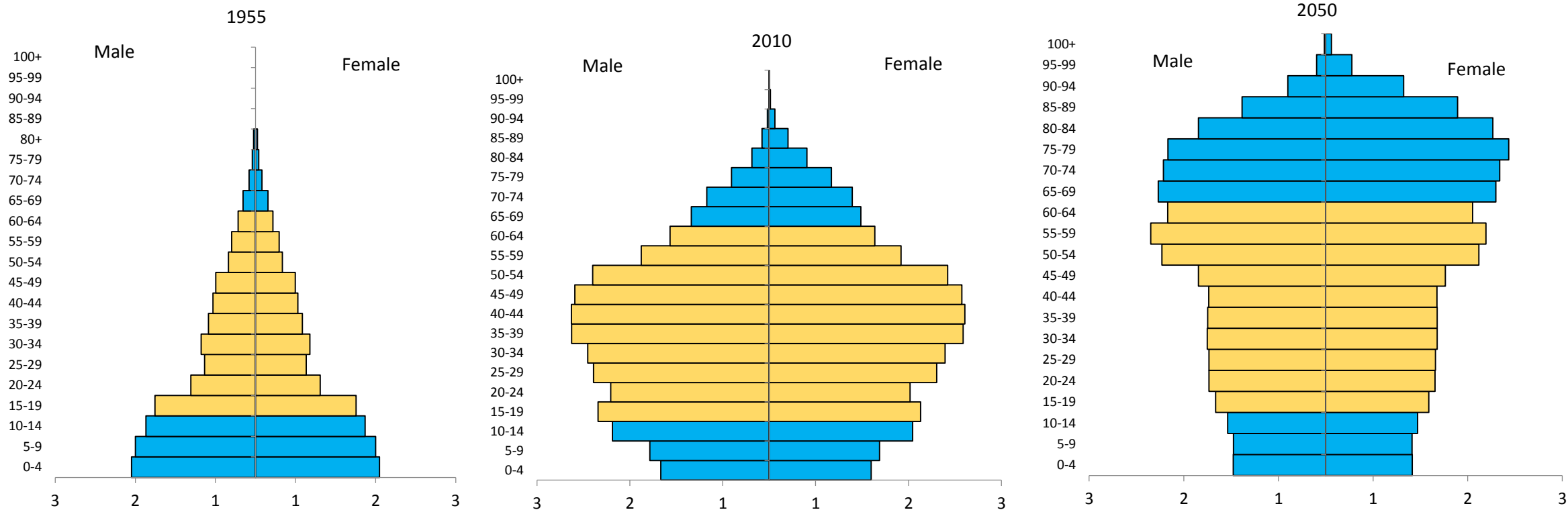


Source: World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision.

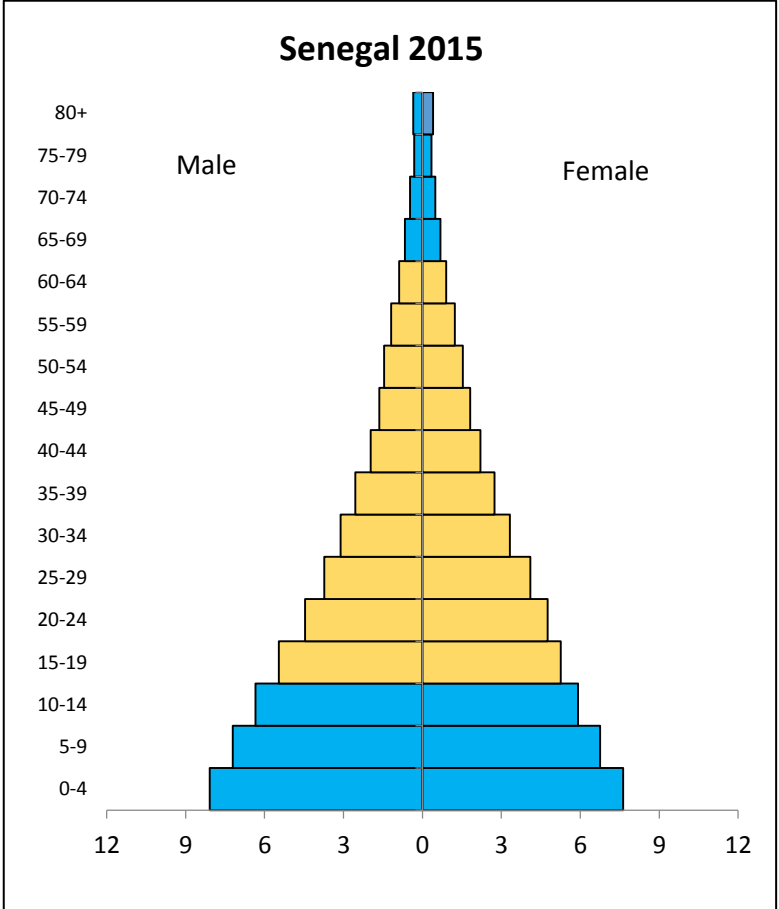
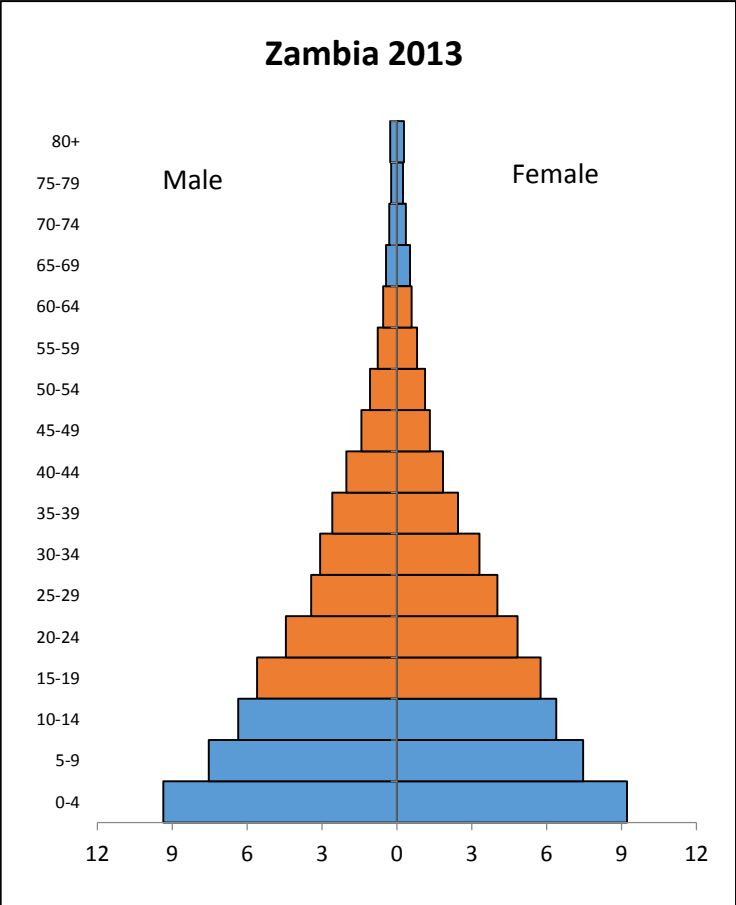
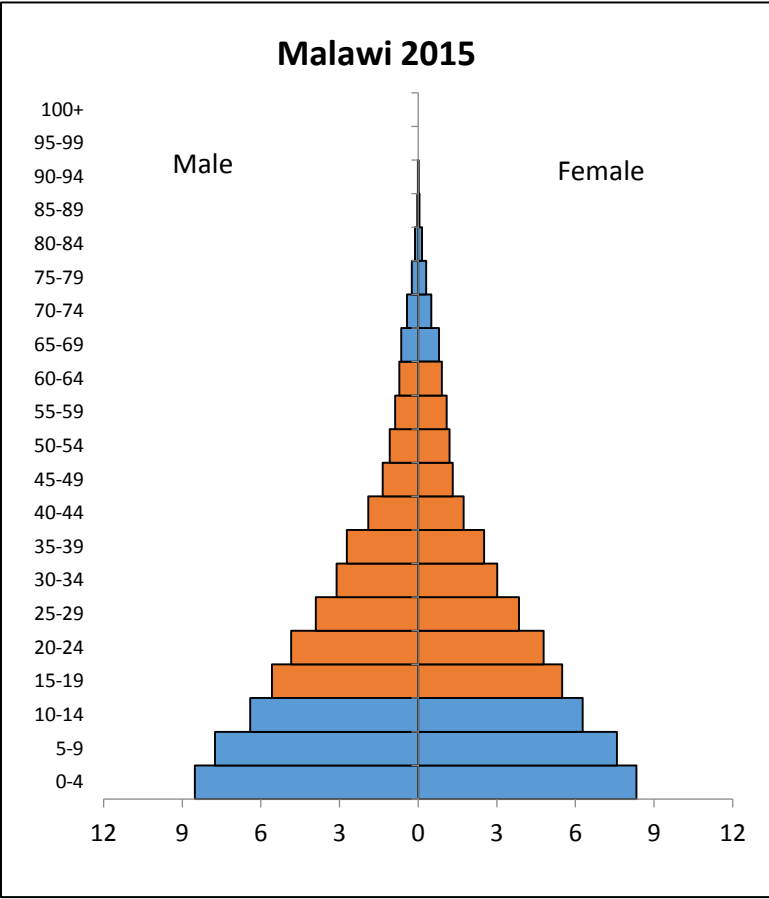
The share of people in each age group affects development needs and prospects



As the South Korea example shows, there is a limited time period to take advantage of a youth bulge before it turns into an old-population bulge



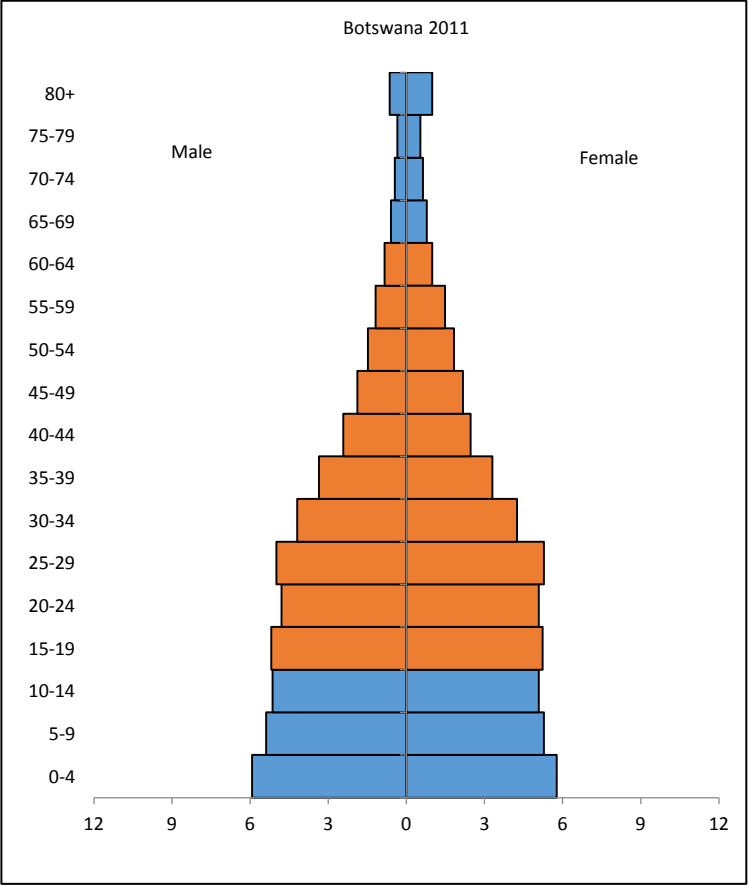
Most populations in sub-Saharan Africa are dominated by children and youth, creating both challenges and opportunities for development



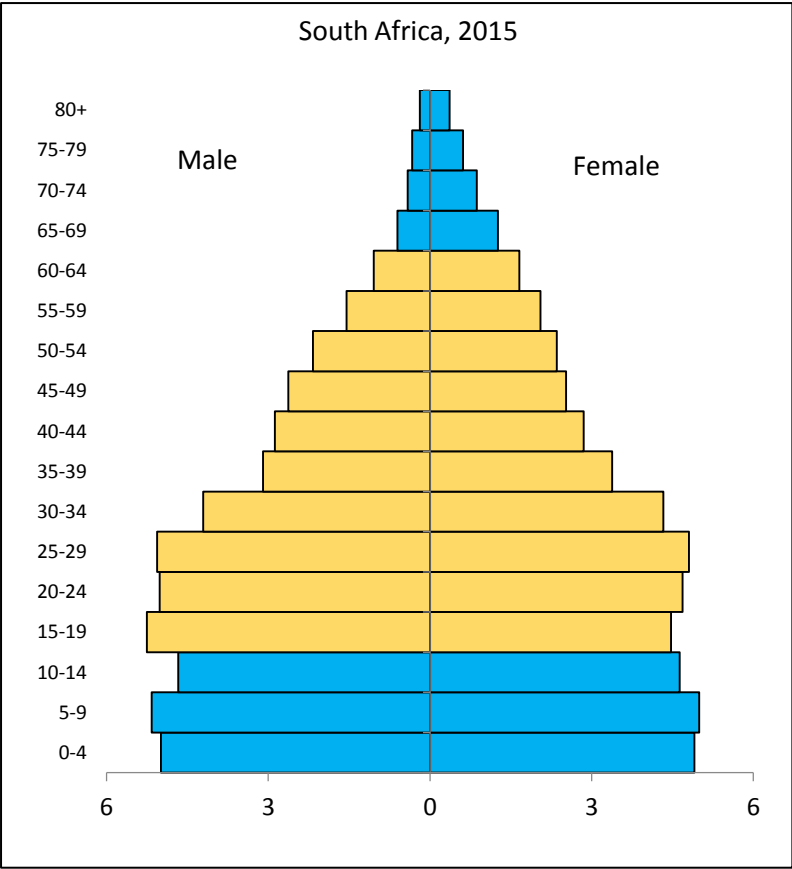
Source: World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision

Populations in Southern and Northern Africa are older than the rest of sub-Saharan Africa due to steady fertility declines

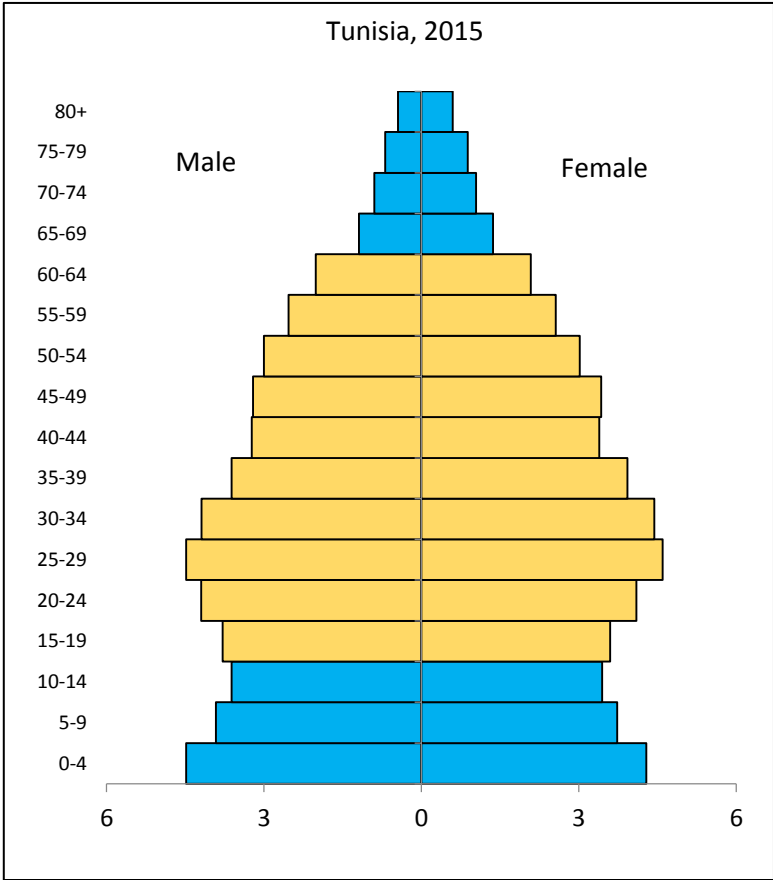
Botswana



South Africa

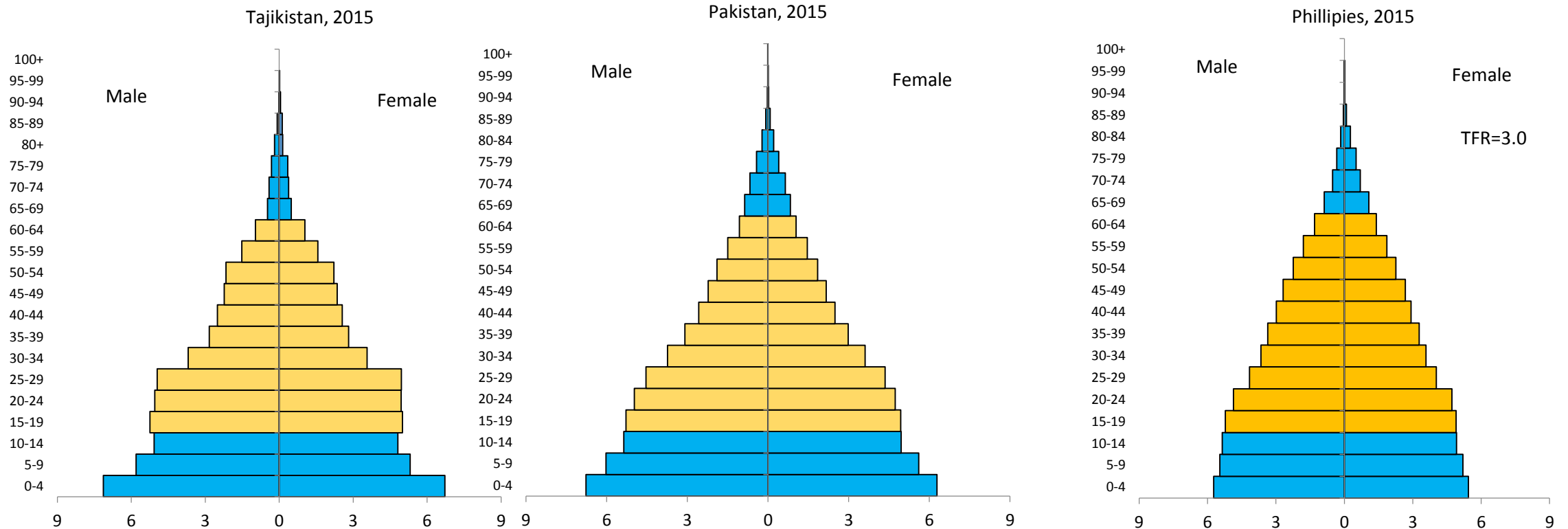


Tunisia

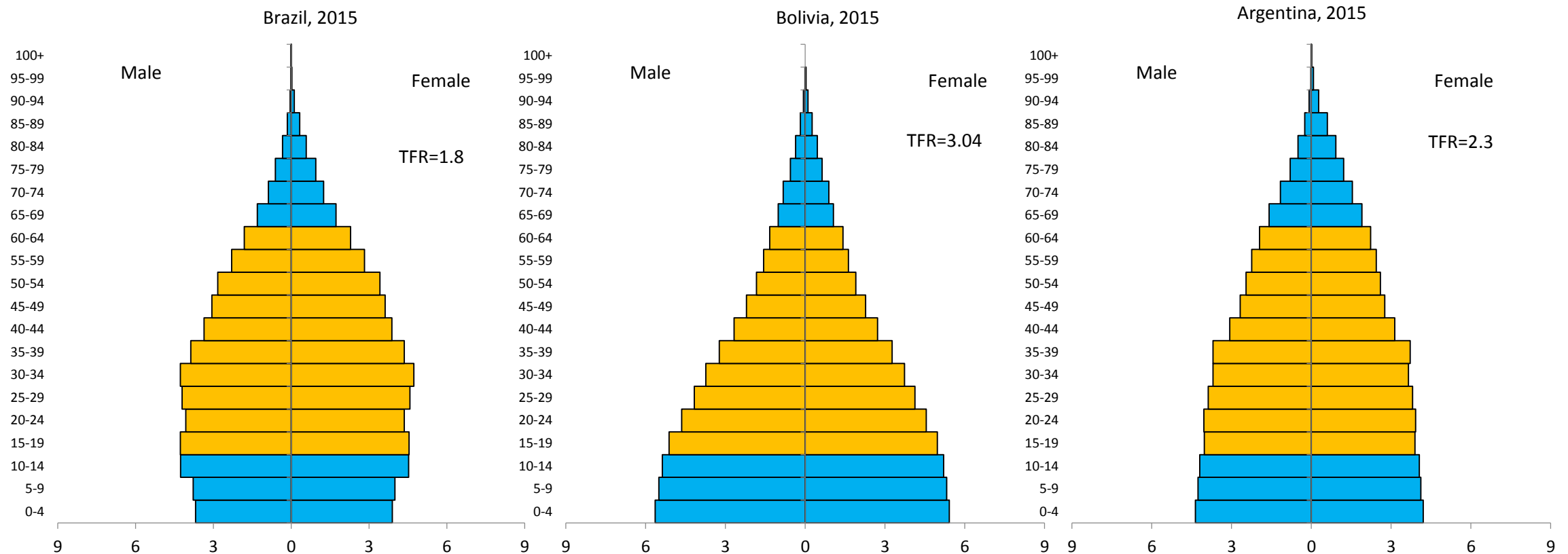


Source: World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision

Asia: Some countries in Asia have had slow demographic transitions than the rest of the region, exhibiting no clear youth bulges yet

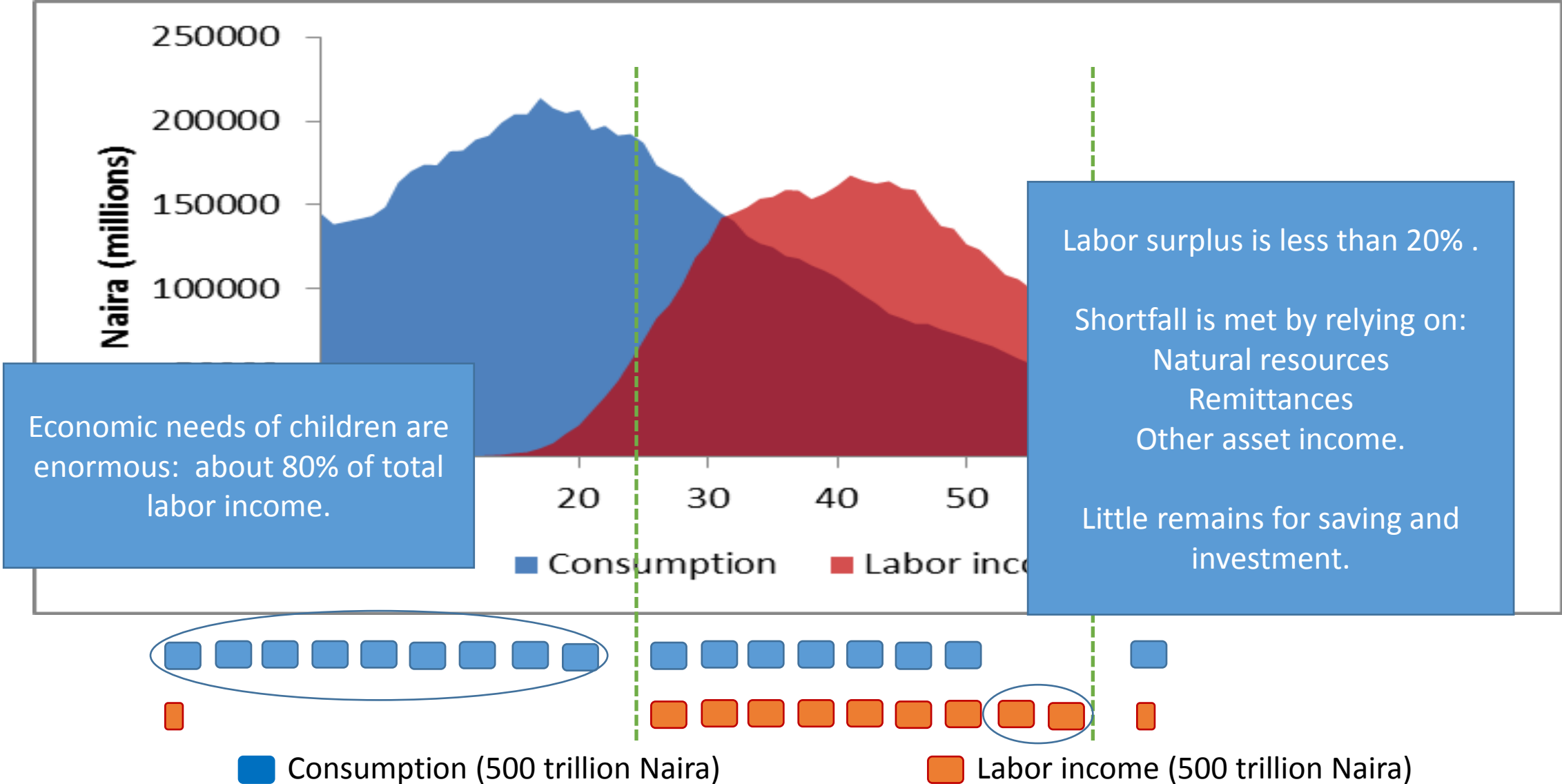


Latin America: The clear youth bulge seen in Brazil is not as distinct in Bolivia and Argentina



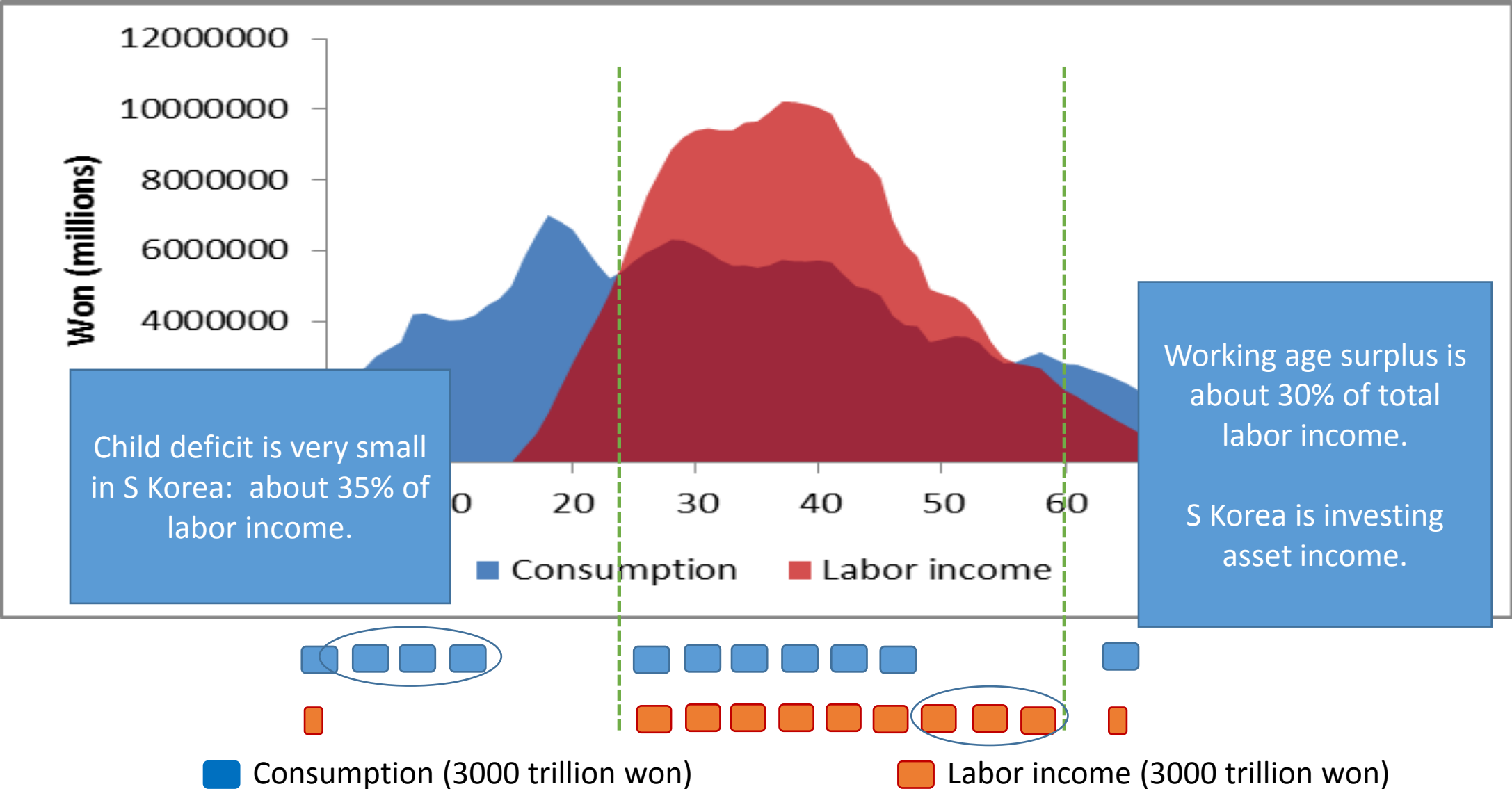
Source: World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision

Consumption and Labor Income by Age, Nigeria 2004



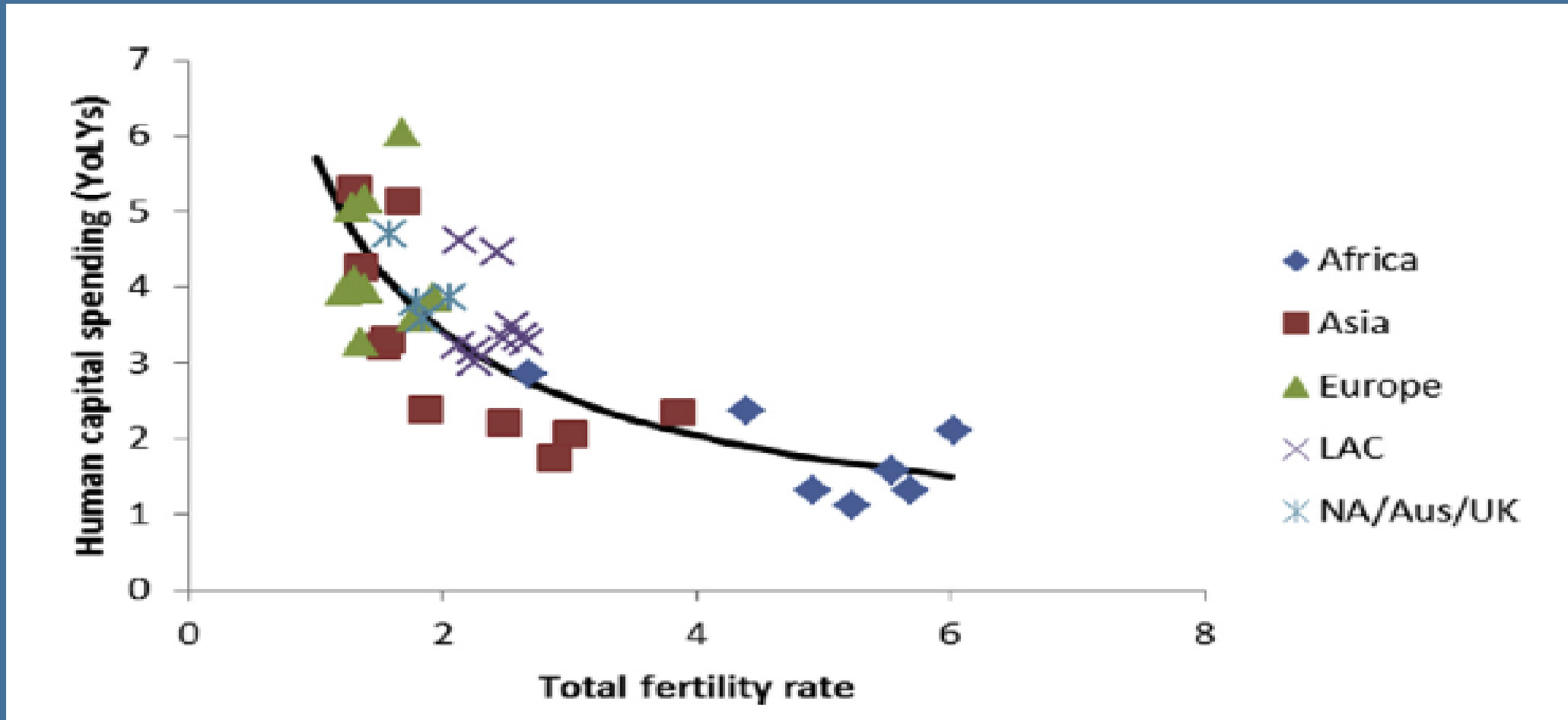
Source: National Transfer Accounts estimates (www.ntaccounts.org) - Mason 2012

Consumption and Labor Income by Age, S Korea 2000

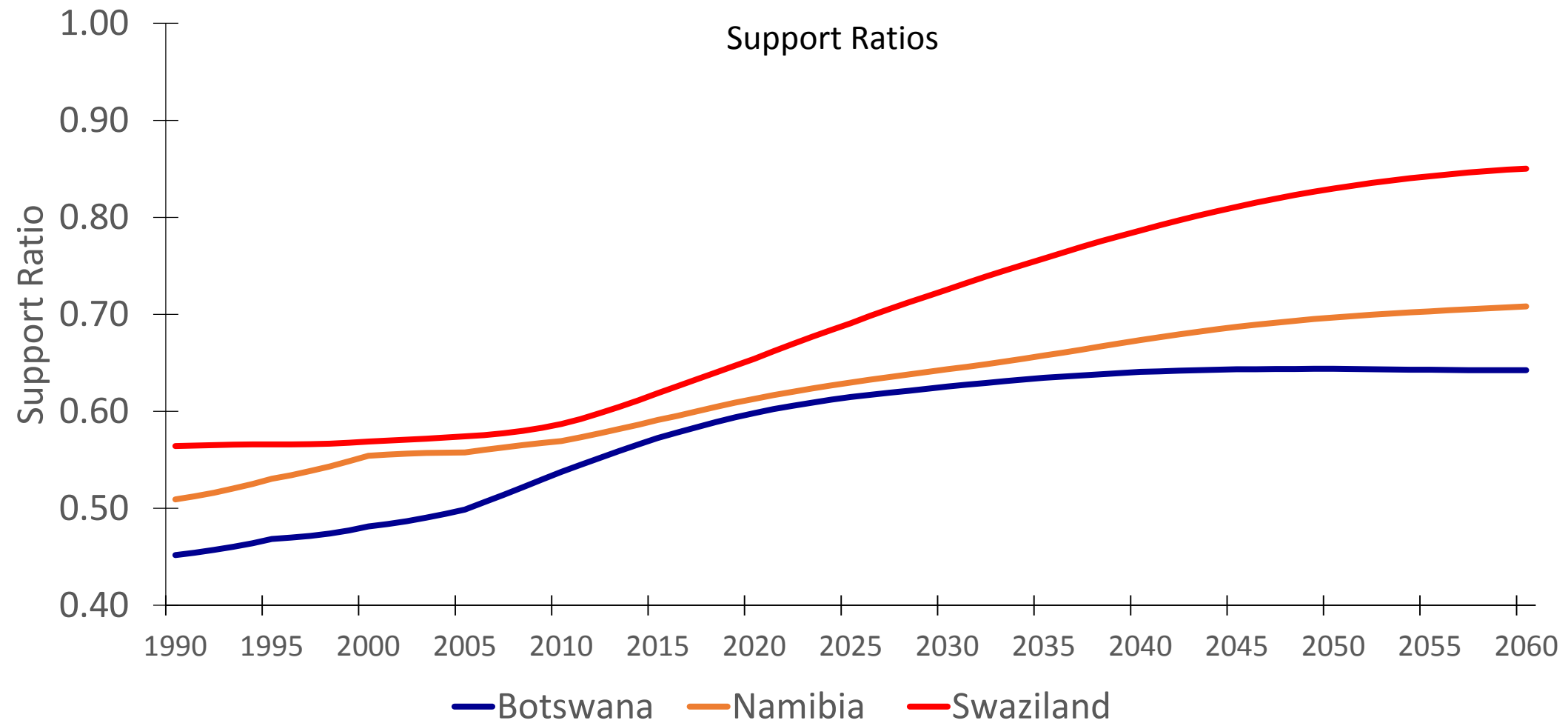


Source: National Transfer Accounts estimates (www.ntaccounts.org) - - Mason 2012

There is a strong negative association between fertility and the level of human capital spending

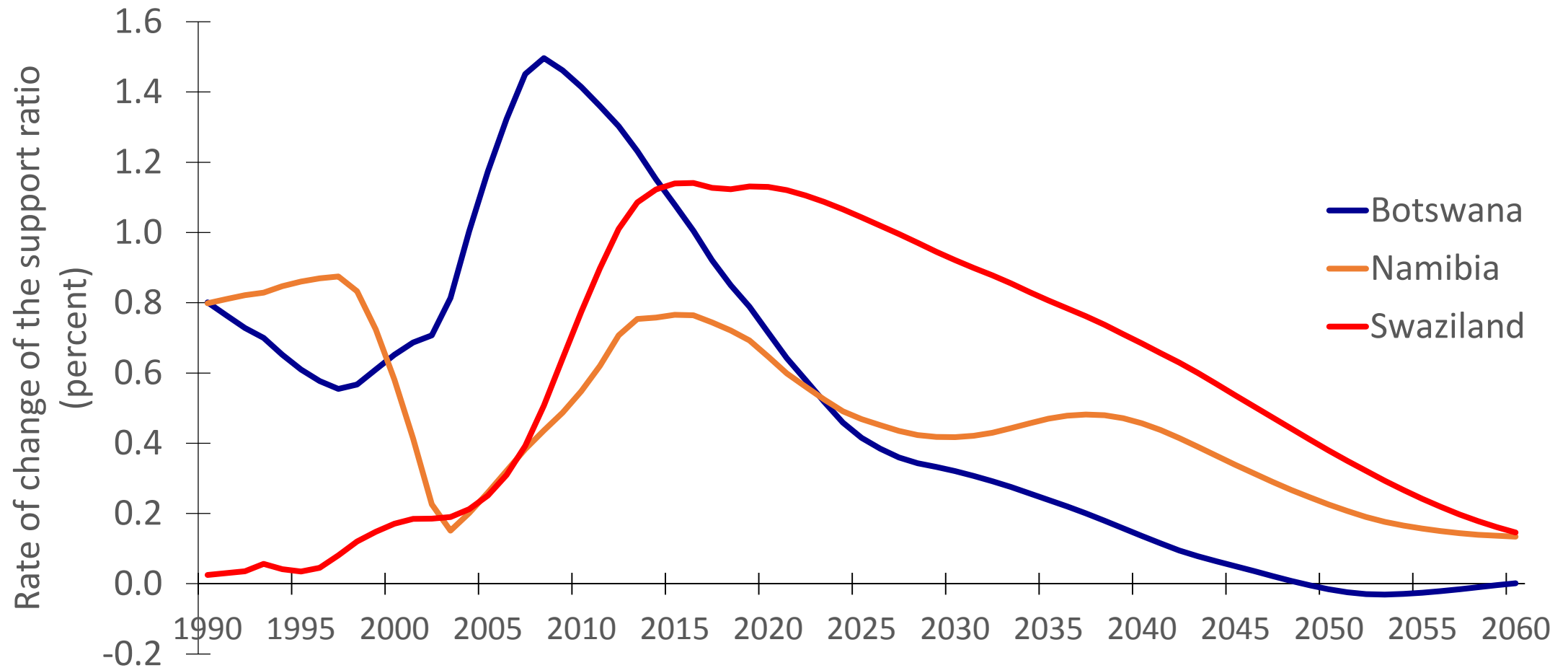


The window of opportunity for harnessing the demographic dividend opened in Botswana, Swaziland, and Namibia around 1990



Source: NTA Modelling Estimates by AFIDEP, UCT, UNFPA

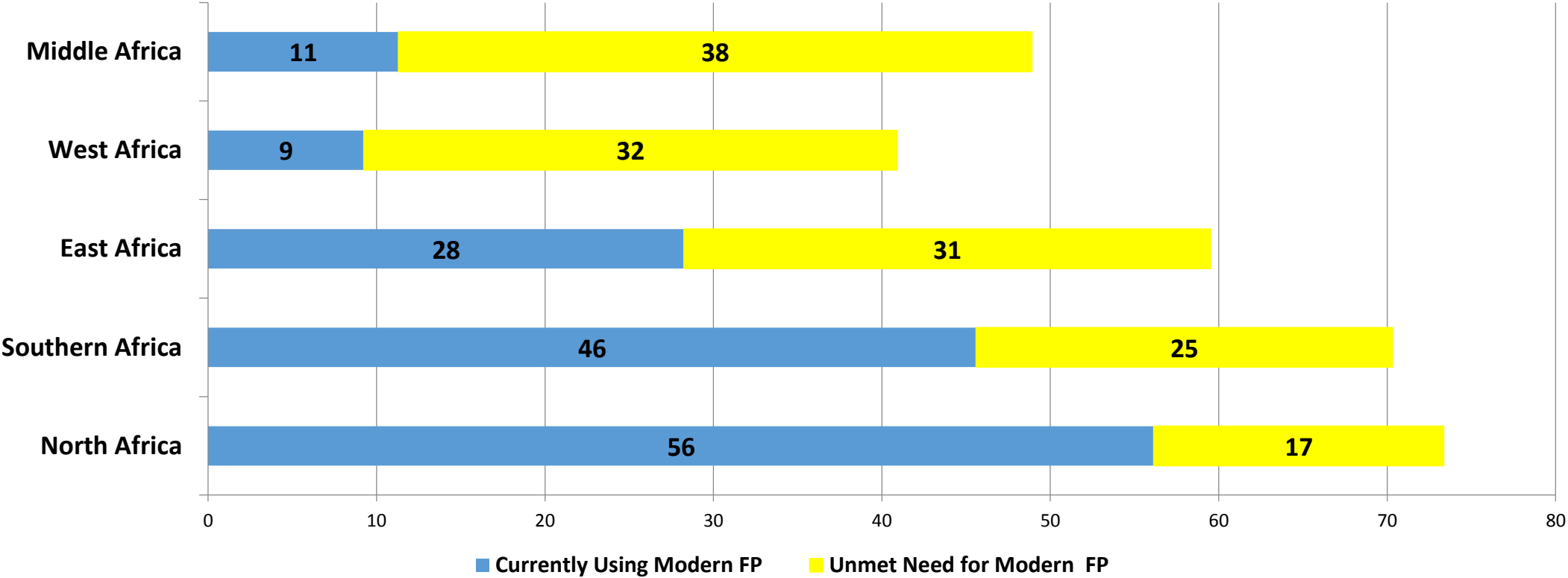
The first demographic dividend has already peaked in Botswana, and it will peak in the next 10-20 years in Namibia, and Swaziland in the next decade



So, what can be done to
optimize linkages between
youthful populations and
sustainable development?

Prioritize family planning and address all barriers of access and use of contraception to eliminate unplanned pregnancies and reduce fertility

% of Married women using modern FP and those with unmet need for FP in Africa



Source: DHS Comparative Reports, 2014

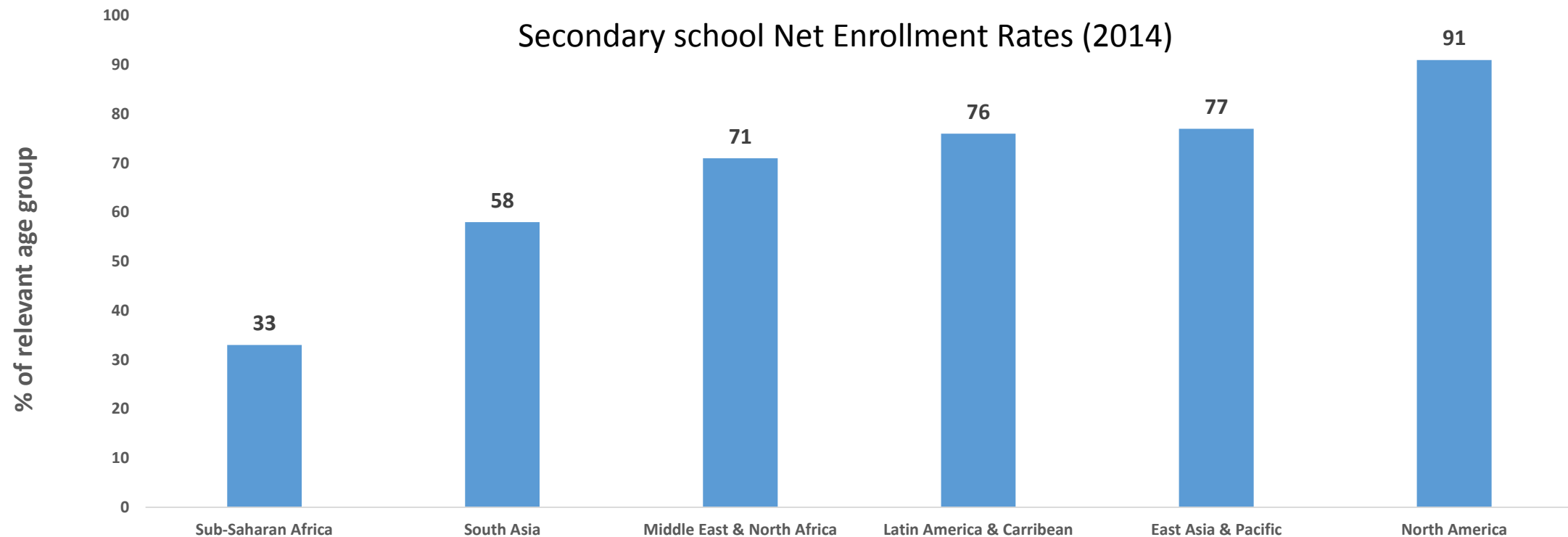
Reform education systems to prioritise transferable skills, innovation, science and technology, and entrepreneurship



©Albert Gonzalez Farran/UNAMID



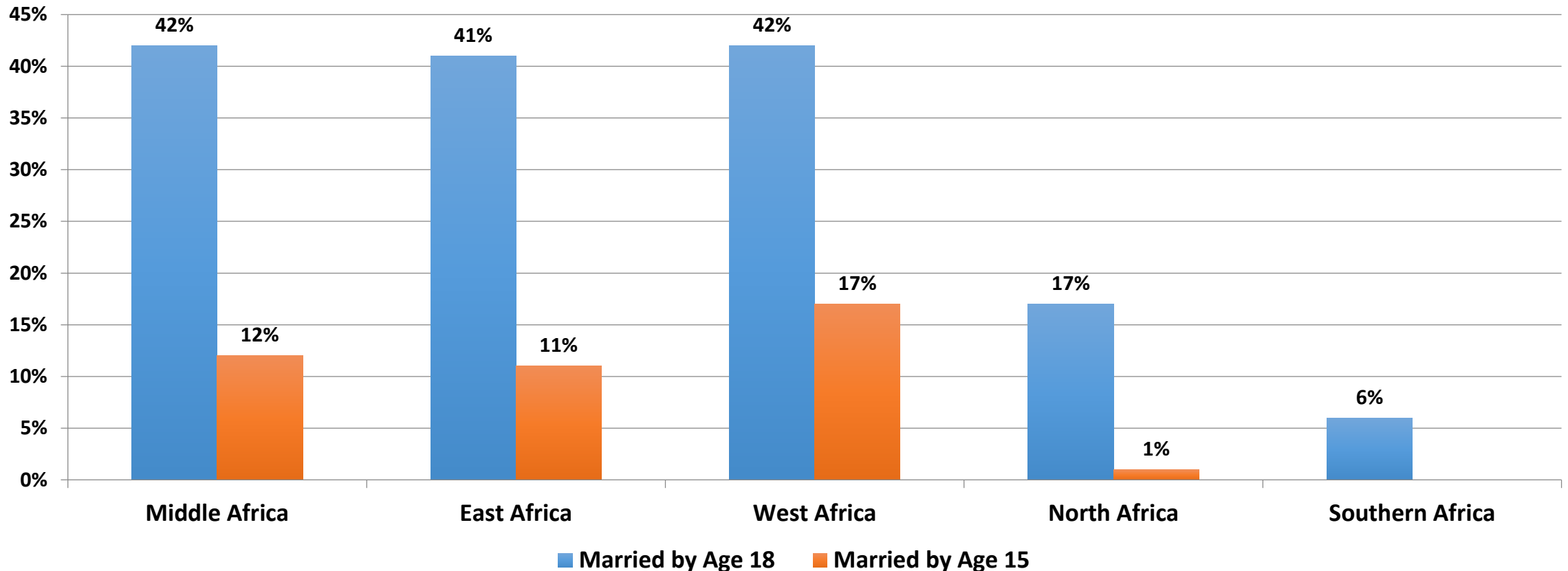
Embrace universal secondary education and increase access to tertiary education to unleash the power of youth in driving socioeconomic transformation



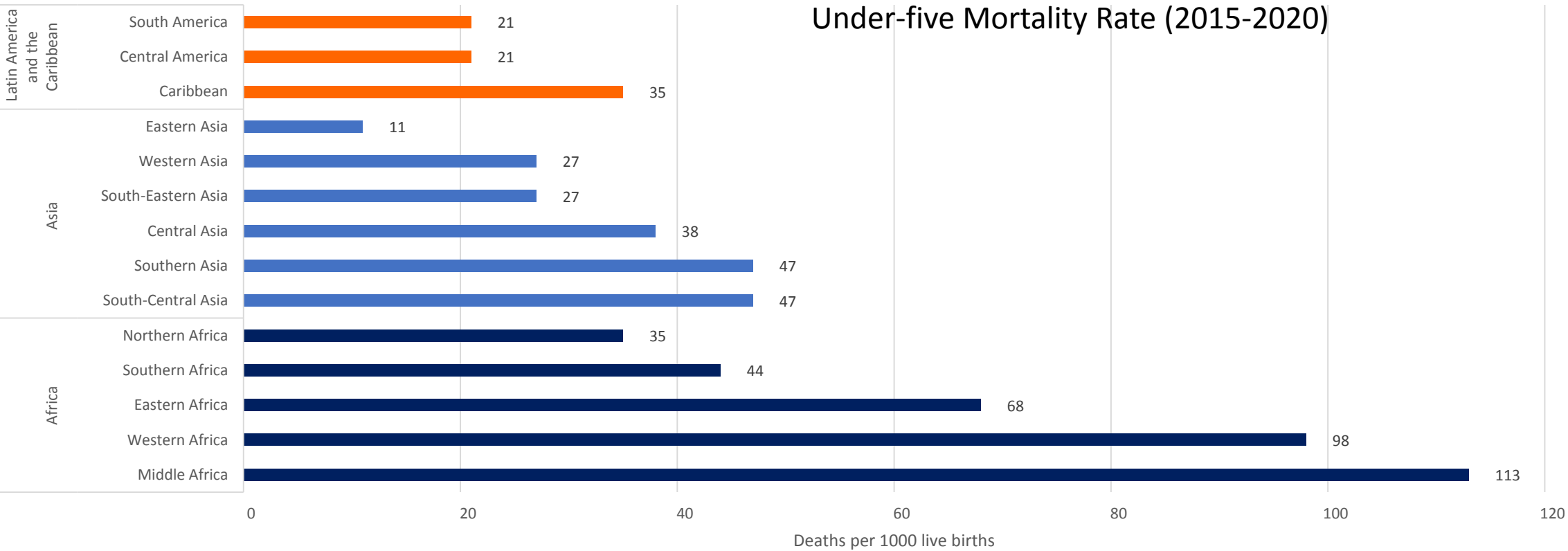
Source: World Bank, WDI, 2017

Adopt policies of zero tolerance to teenage marriages and childbearing in regions where this remains a challenge like in West, Middle, and East Africa

% of women aged 20-24 who got married by age 15 and 18



Step-up on-going interventions to reduce child mortality to enhance fertility decline and improve life expectancy at birth



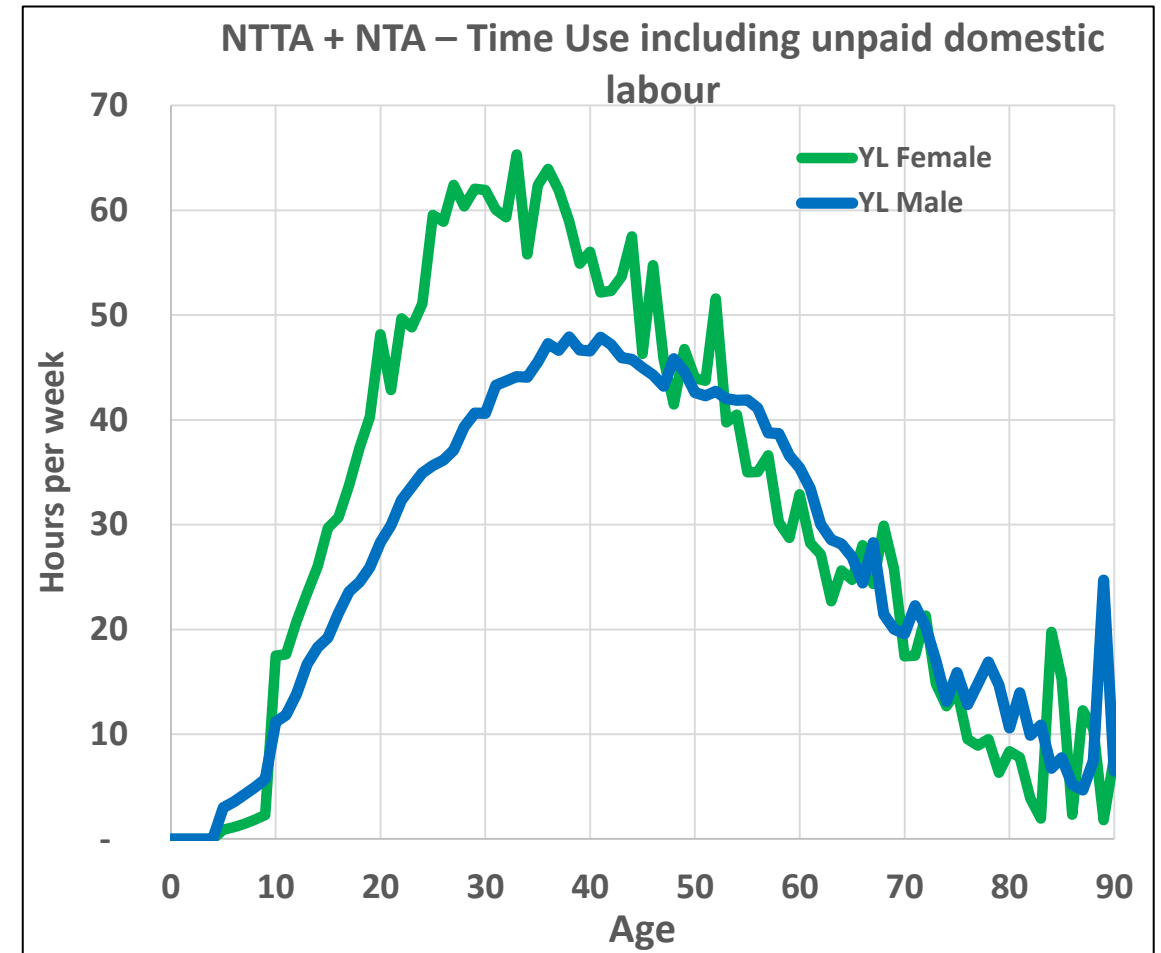
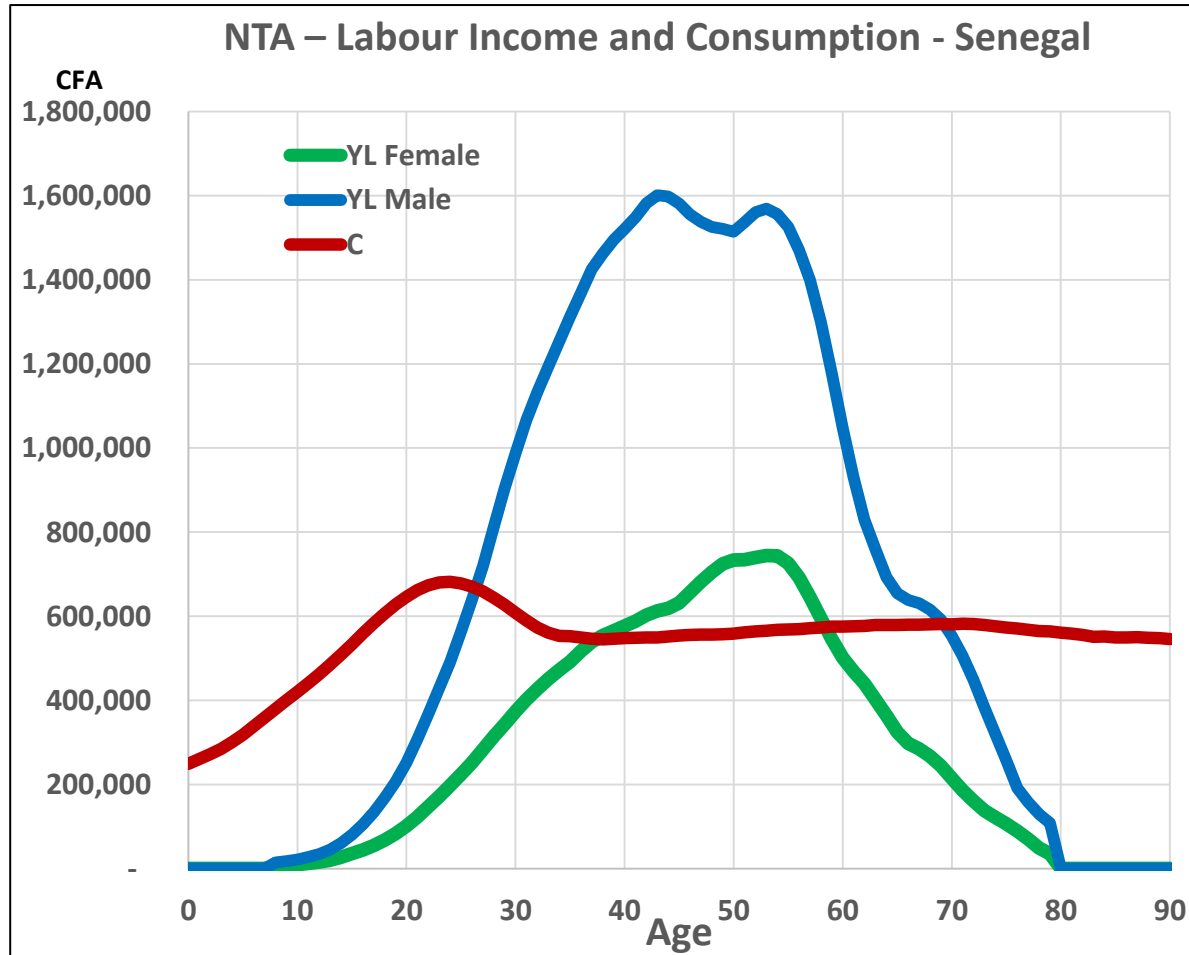
Source: UN Population Prospect: 2015 Revision

Enhance capacity to generate quality jobs and livelihoods for the current work force and upcoming working-age bulge to optimize inclusive sustainable development

Country	Unemployment Rate	% in Informal Sector
Mozambique	22.5%	85%
Tanzania	11.7%	87.7
Uganda	6.8%	80%
Zambia	7.9%	70%

Source: National demographic dividend study reports

Efforts to enhance economic productivity of youthful populations should focus on empowering women to get into employment and other stable livelihoods outside the home



Source: CREFAT 2016

Youthful countries should strategically mainstream demographic dividend principles in national and sub-national development plans and budgeting processes to move from rhetoric to Action

**Research and Knowledge Translation; Advocacy and Awareness;
Capacity Building, Effective Coordination and Oversight**

DD Profiling

Desk reviews and data analysis, including modelling

Evidence translation

Advocacy to get buy-in from all sectors

Policy Declaration



National DD Strategy/Road map

Define long terms goals & strategies
Identify game-changer policies and programs



Planning and budget allocation

- Embed DD actions in development planning, M&E & budgeting processes



Implementation & Oversight

Pilot & scale up programmes
Monitoring & Evaluation
Accountability



“Leaving No One Behind” for youthful populations means prioritizing investments in people – the demographic dividend





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Thank You

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