



# Population & Sustainability Network

PROMOTING REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Population and Sustainability Network

**SRHR, population dynamics  
and sustainable development –  
Interconnected challenges and  
solutions.**

Be-cause Health Seminar: SRHR in the Post-2015 era.



**November 2014**



## Spot the Source .... ?

*“Population, poverty, patterns of production and consumption and the environment are so closely interconnected that none of them can be considered in isolation.”*

*“Demographic factors, combined with poverty and lack of access to resources in some areas, and excessive consumption and wasteful production patterns in others, cause or exacerbate problems of environmental degradation and resource depletion and thus inhibit sustainable development.”*





## And .... ?

*“Advancing gender equality and equity and the empowerment of women, and the elimination of all kinds of violence against women, and ensuring women’s ability to control their own fertility, are cornerstones of population and development-related programmes.”*

*“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.”*





## ICPD: Further insights and recommendations

*“reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and promote appropriate policies, including population-related policies, in order to meet the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”*

*“Integrate demographic factors into environment impact assessments and other planning and decision-making processes aimed at achieving sustainable development.”*

*“Utilize demographic data to promote sustainable resource management, especially of ecologically fragile systems.”*





## For discussion:

- ICPD is clear on the importance of population dynamics and population, SRHR and sustainable development linkages, but how clear are we as a development and SRHR community?
- Why are we reluctant to focus on these links, particularly with reference to the P word?
- Is this silence helpful and how can it be overcome?





# What are population dynamics?

Demographic trends and changes including:

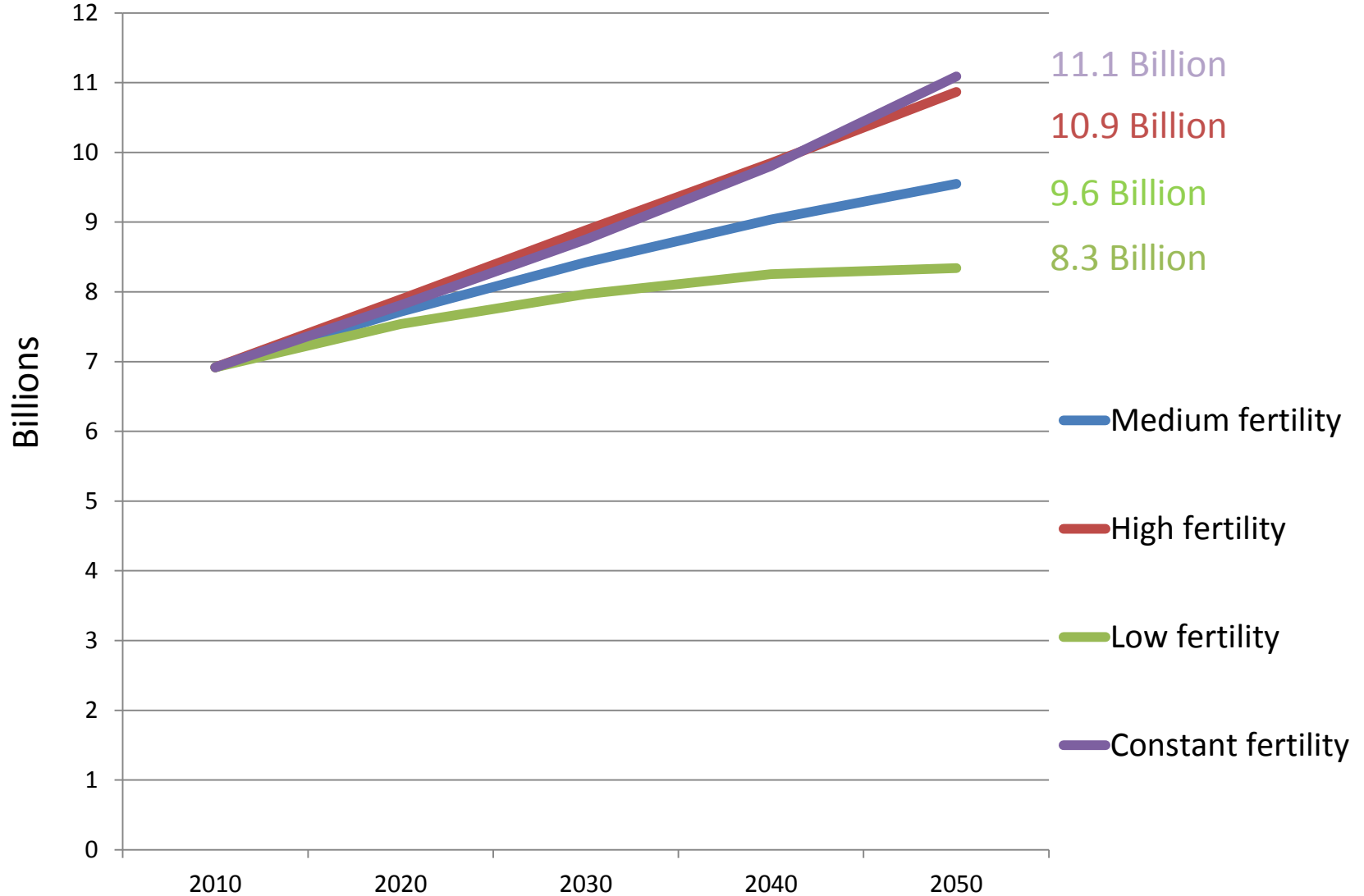
- population growth
- population decline
- ageing
- urbanization
- migration



**Population Dynamics**

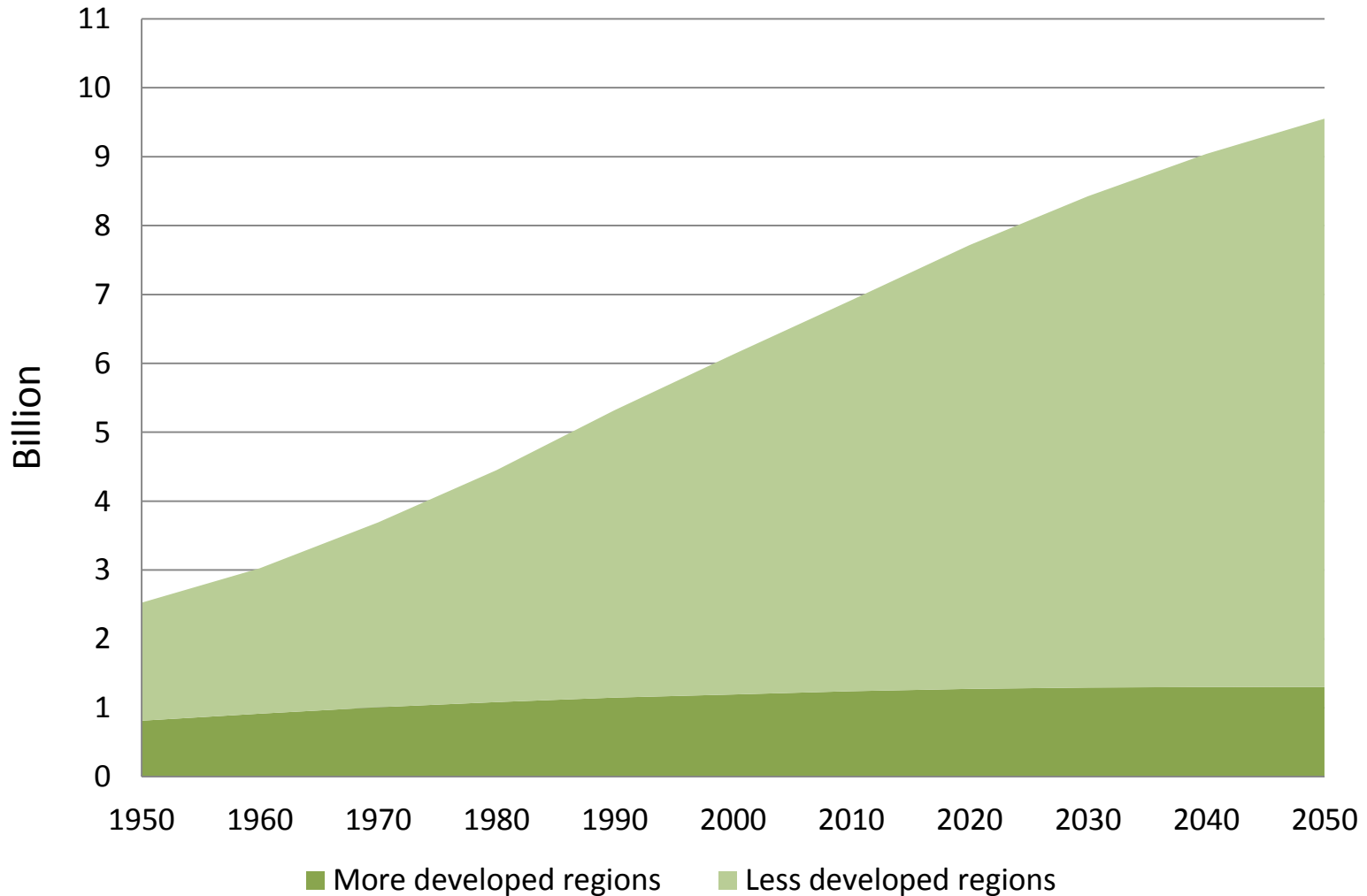
... which influence the size, composition and spatial distributions of populations.

# World Population Projections for 2025-2050



Source: UN World Population Prospects: The 2012 revision database.

# Population growth 1950 - 2050



Source: UN World Population Prospects: The 2012 revision database.







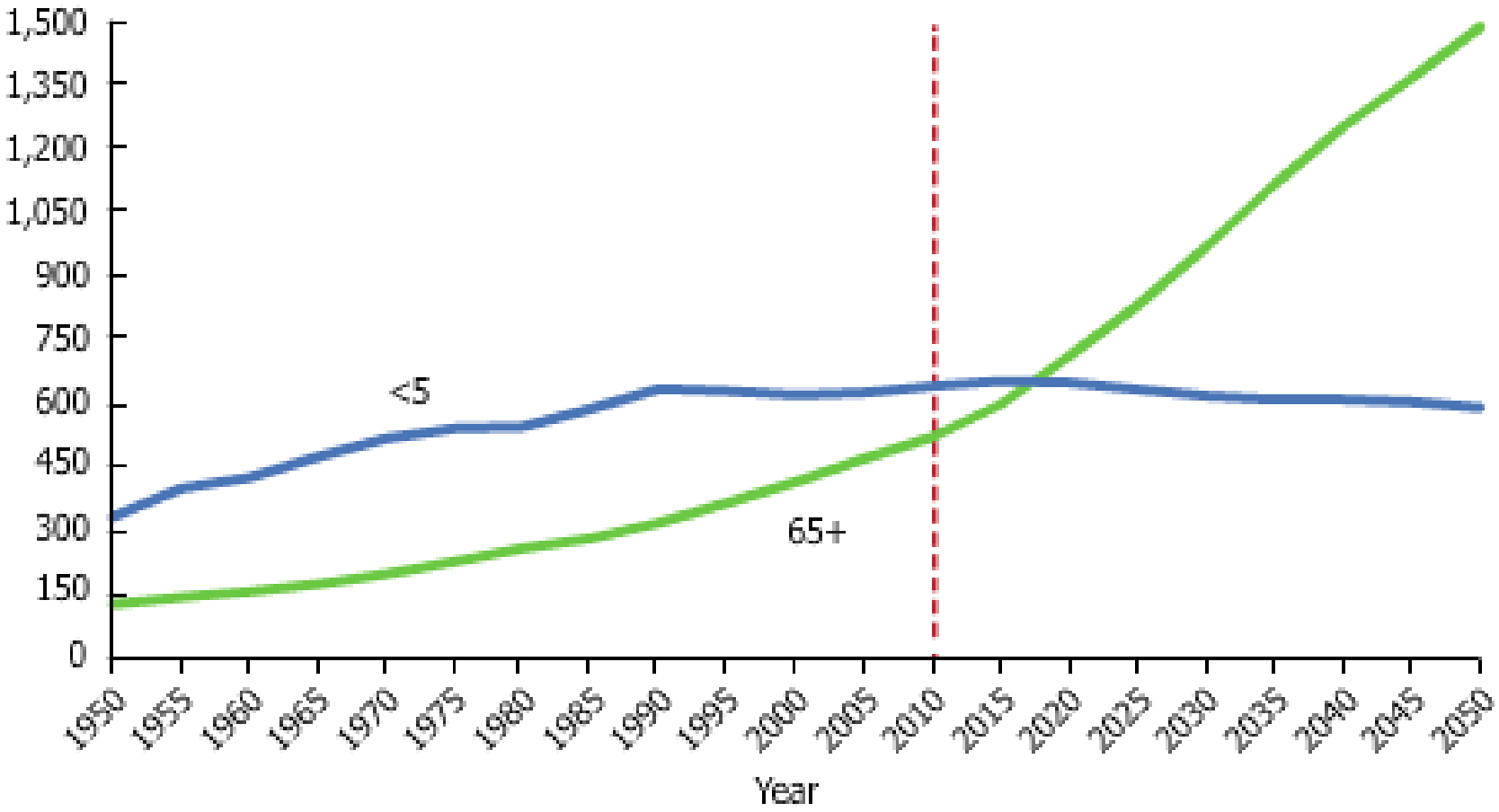
# Behind the projections: Did the 'population issue' go away?

- UN medium projections
- Assumptions that family planning programmes are in place
- People/donors “bored” with family planning
- Commodities



# Ageing: World Population

Total Population (Millions)



Source: Population reference



# Ageing

- Fertility decline and increased longevity = increasing numbers and proportion of people 60 +
- 2010: 9.3% of the world's population 65+. 2050: 19.7%.
- European Countries (except Iceland) fertility is below replacement (<2.1)
- Roughly 50% half of the world's population live in below replacement countries.
- Most pronounced: Europe, Latin America, Asia
- Fastest: developing countries
- Without immigration working age population of Europe would ↓significantly

Source: UN World Population Prospects: The 2012 revision database.





# International Migration

- **Insert graph**

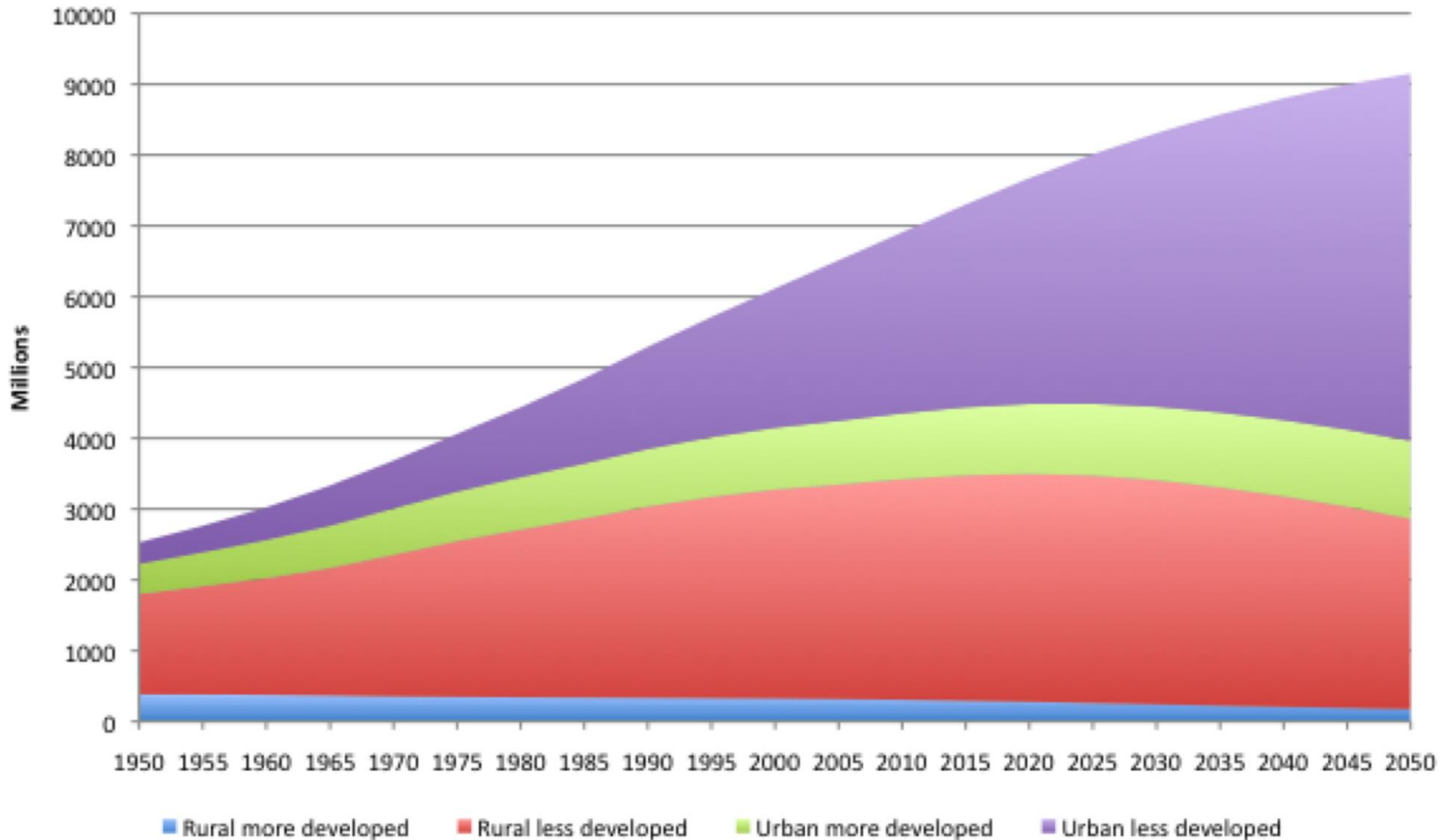


# International Migration

- Increasing levels of international migration in recent years.
- 2013: 232 million international migrants  
→ 2050: 400 million expected
- ~ 1/3 South- South, 1/3 South -North followed by N-N and N-S
- Migration **within** countries, particularly r-u accounts for a greater share.
- Increasing feminisation of migration:
  - Women almost 50% (~45% in less developed countries).
- **Different types** of migration:
  - Temporary, permanent
  - circular/unidirectional
  - R-u / u-r
  - Forced: trafficking, displacement, refugees
  - Push and pull factors: natural disaster, crisis, labour migration, environmental etc



## World Urban/Rural Population



Source: UN World Urbanization Prospects: The 2009 revision.



# Urbanization

- ↑ urbanization: 1950: 30%  
→ 2008: 50%
- Slowing but still increasing: 2014: 54%  
→ 2050: 67% projected
- Since 1990 most urban growth in developing countries
- Drivers: Natural population growth, r-u migration, u-u migration
- ↓ rural population: 300 million fewer in 2050 than today

Source: UN World Urbanization Prospects: The 2011 revision database.





# Population and the Environment

- **Complex, Controversial, Critical Connection**
  - Have to recognize different consumption patterns in GHG emissions, and the use of the world's non-renewable resources







## Climate Change: a few facts...

- The increase in Greenhouse Gas Emissions over the last 150 years has already significantly changed climate.
- The twelve warmest years on record have all occurred in the last thirteen years.
- IPCC reports best estimate temperature rises of 1.8°C to 4°C. However, global carbon dioxide emissions are already rising faster than the most dire of the IPCC emission scenarios



# Climate Change Impacts on People and Populations:

**Temperature Rise**

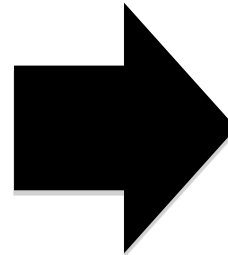
**Unpredictable precipitation**

**Sea level rise**

**Flood**

**Increase in storm severity**

**Glacial melting**



**Half of world's population to suffer food shortages by 2050**

**1-2 billion to suffer water shortages by 2050**

**Increase in diseases:  
Diarrhea, malaria and  
malnutrition**



# Poor countries will be hit earliest and hardest:

- Most vulnerable to impacts
- Have less capacity to adapt
  - Rapid population growth and high fertility underscore both
  - Often due to poor access to srh services





# Vulnerability...

- Dependence on ecosystems
- Poor health
- Poverty
- Geographic exposure
- Low scientific and technological capacity





# Population growth underwrites these vulnerabilities in three major ways:

- 1) Population growth and climate change act cumulatively to deplete the source of key natural resources, for example through soil erosion and deforestation, - (availability)
- 2) Population growth is projected to cause a significant escalation in demand for resources that climate change diminish, including fresh water and food, (demand)
- 3) Rapid population growth heightens human vulnerability to natural disasters caused by climate change, including by forcing more people to migrate and settle in areas at risk of floods, storms and drought.



# National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA) UNFCCC

- Outline top priorities for adaptation and specific localized vulnerabilities to climate change
- Well over half of them refer to population growth/density as a factor that makes coping with the changes that climate change will bring much harder.



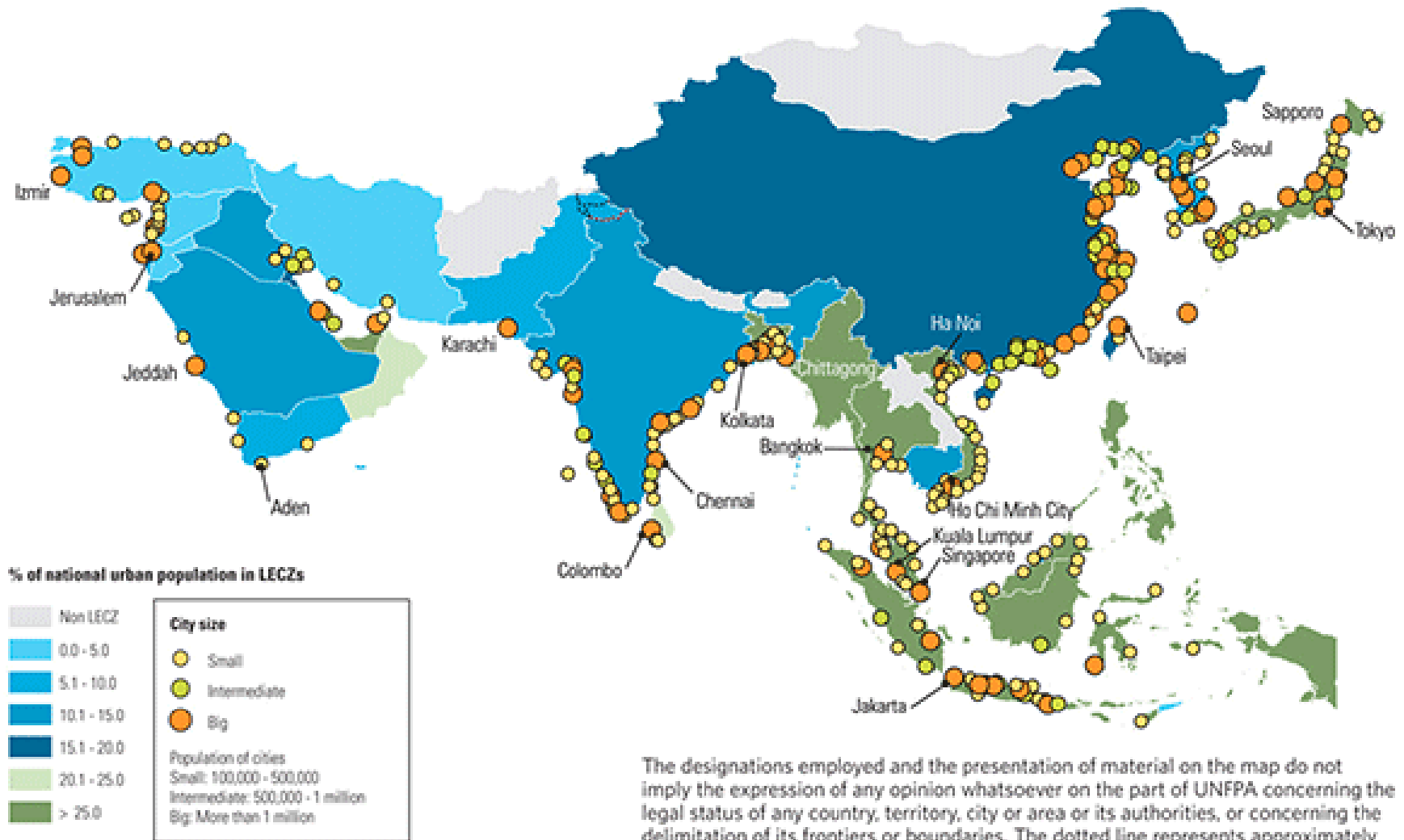


## Rising sea-levels...

- We have seen a sea level rise of over 40 mm and significant retreat of Arctic sea ice and nearly all continental glaciers
- At the moment:
  - **one third** of the world's population lives within 60 miles of a shoreline and
  - **13** of the world's **20** largest cities are located on a coast.



**Figure 4.3: Cities at low-elevation coastal zones (LECZs)**



Source: UN Habitat.

The designations employed and the presentation of material on the map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of UNFPA concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

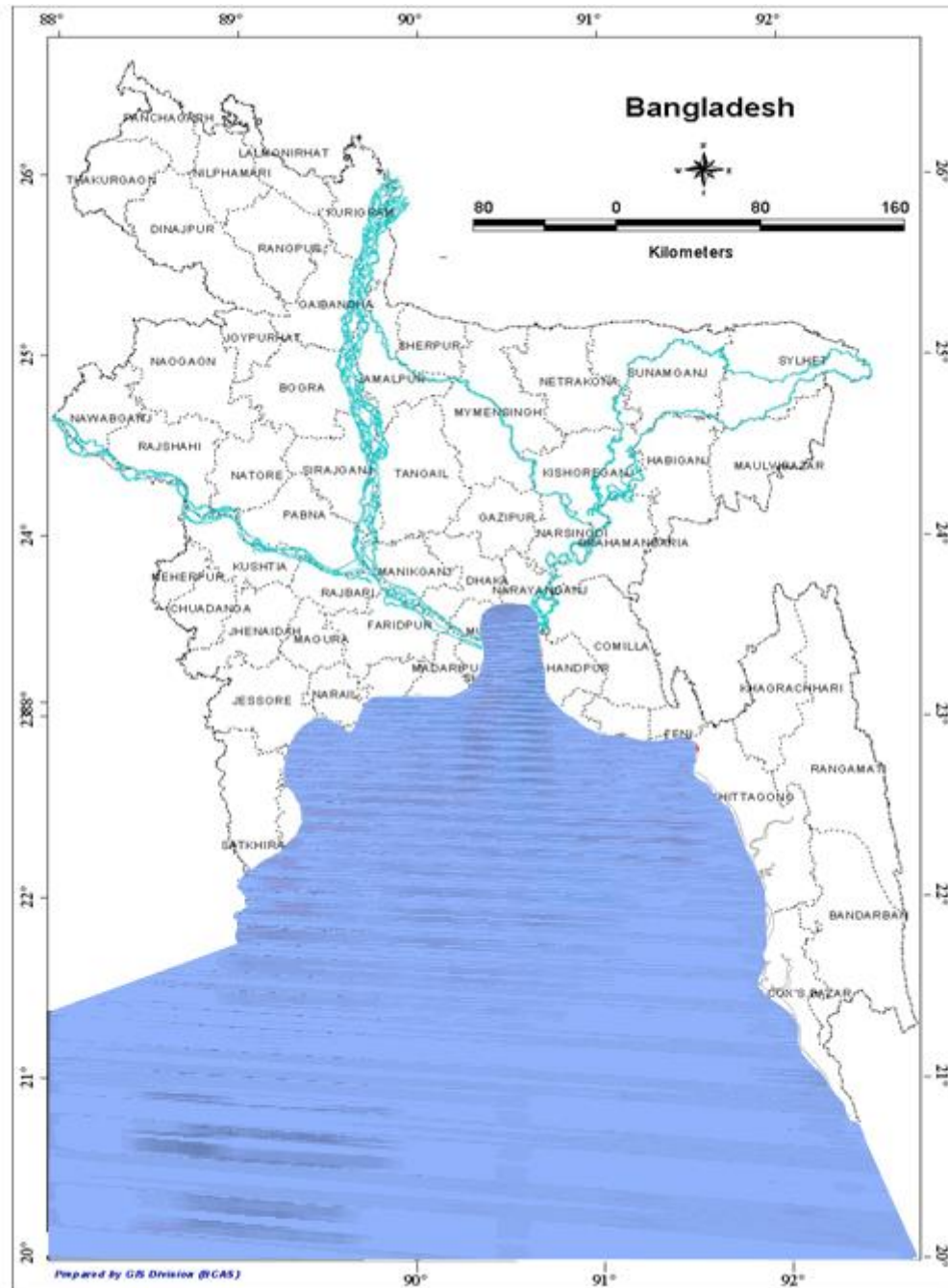






UCL

1 Meter



Sea Level Rise



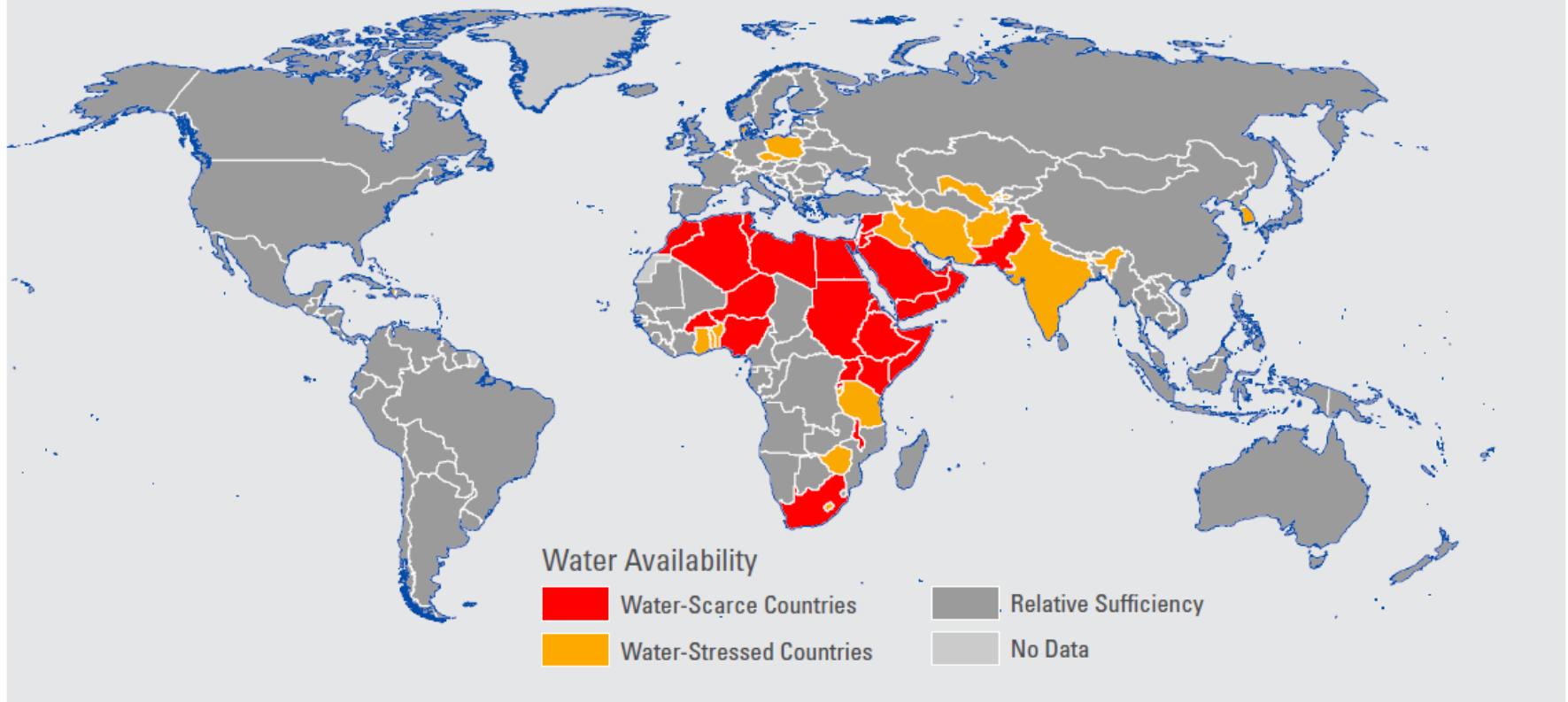
# Climate change and migration:

- ?400million displaced with 4°C by 2050?
- Definitions and numbers: treat with caution
- Migration as an adaptation strategy. **BUT:**
- The poor less likely to have capacity to migrate
- People are as likely to migrate **to** environmentally vulnerable places –
  - Megacities in vulnerable coastal areas: Asia, Africa
  - Slums exposed to flooding and other hazards



## Figure 1: Population Growth Impacts Water-Scarce and Water-Stressed Countries

Data on the amount of total renewable freshwater available in each country (2008-2012) is from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Total renewable freshwater includes the amount of both internal and external renewable water available to a country. This value is then divided by 2010 population figures provided by the United Nations Population Division to produce a per capita rate.



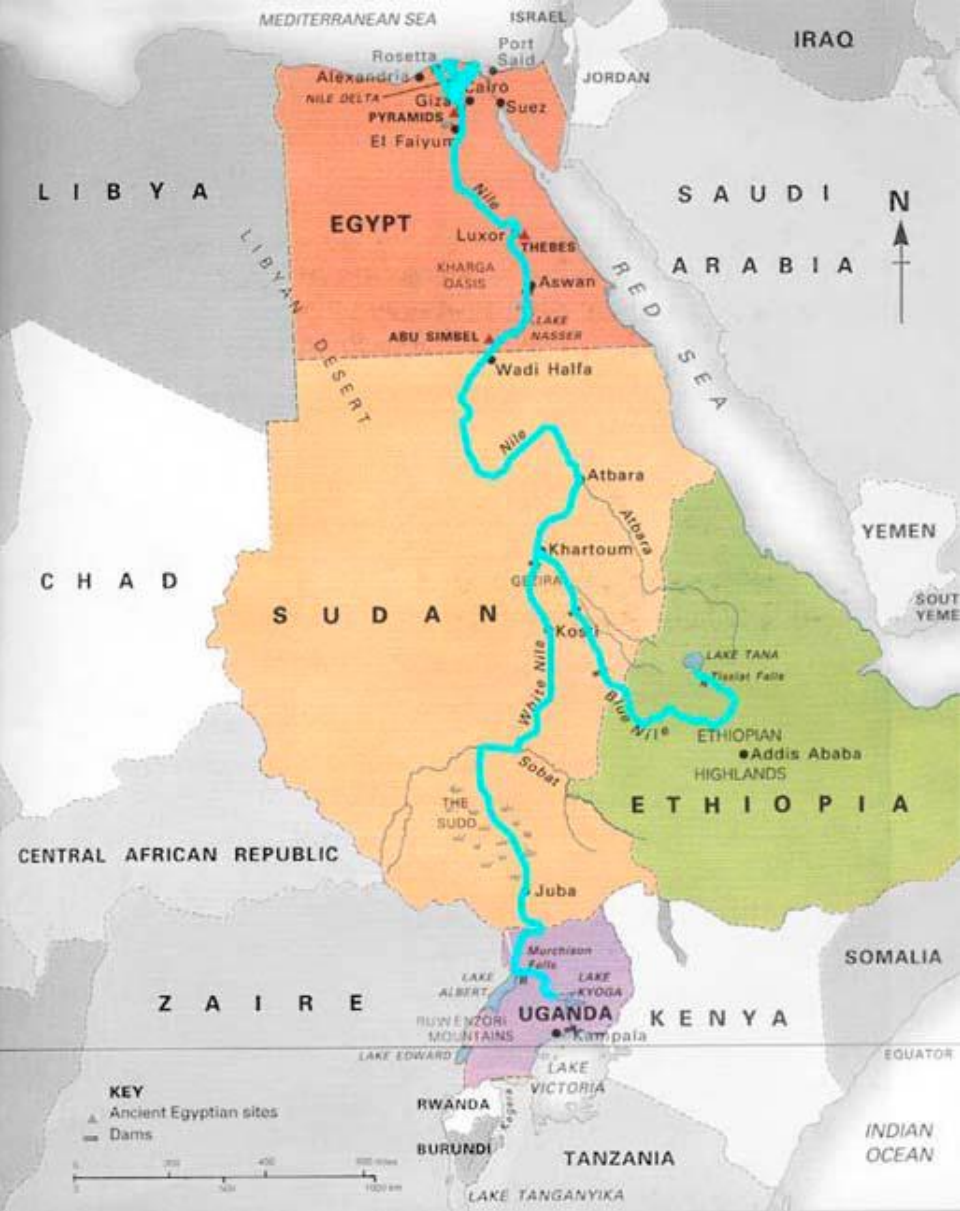
Source: Population Action International (PAI). *Mapping Population and Climate Change*. Washington, DC: PAI.



# The Nile

- Demand for water is increasing in all ten countries of the Nile basin.
- Nile already severely depleted by the time it reaches the Mediterranean
- Population of Nile basin set to *double by 2050*





**Egypt** :2010: 87 million  
2050: 122 million

**Sudan**:2010: 36 million  
2050: 77 million

**Ethiopia**:1900: 5 million  
2010: 87 million  
2050: 188 million

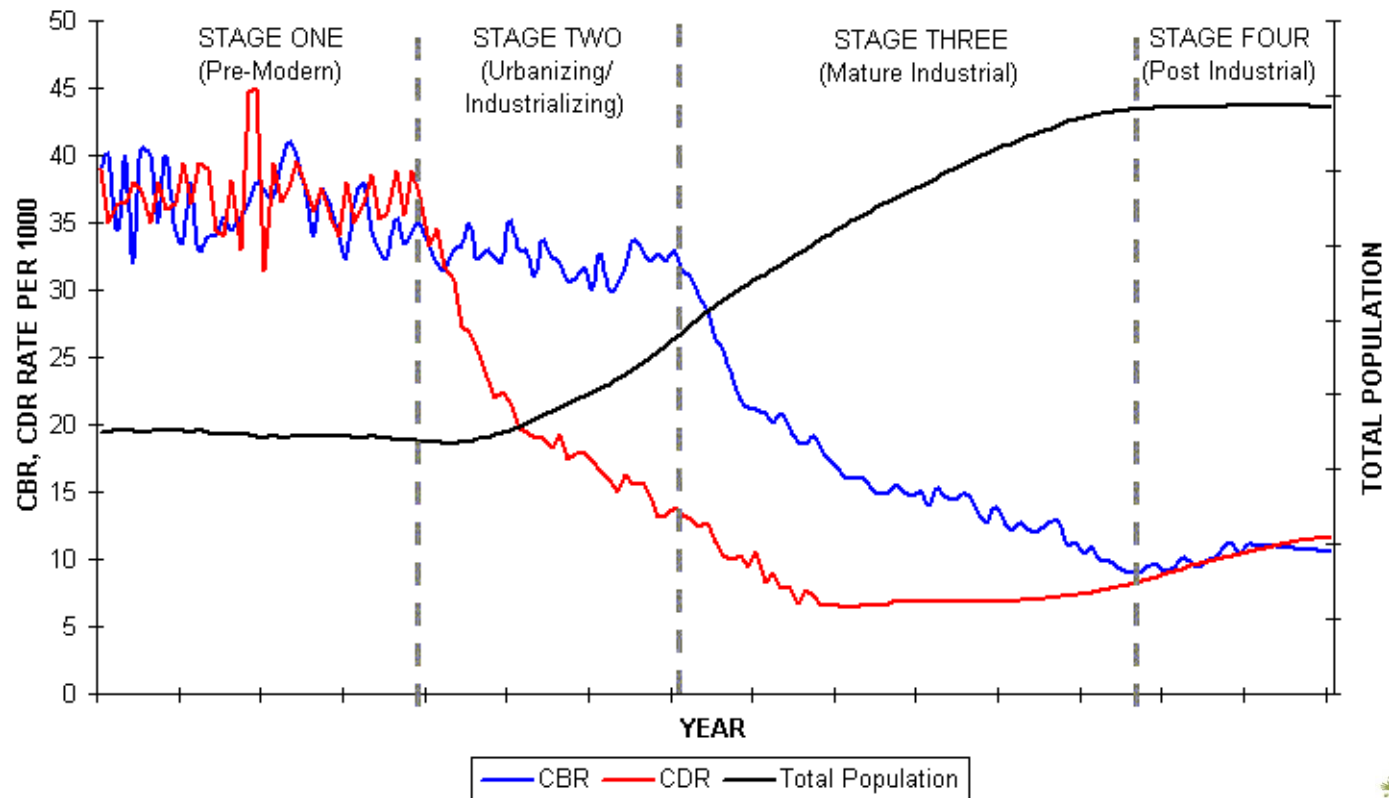
**Uganda** :2010: 34 million  
2050: 104 million

(Medium projections)

Source: UN World Population Prospects: The 2012 revision database.



### THE DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION MODEL





## Have to recognize the “Yuck” factor:

- History of population/family planning; horrendous mistakes; global memories are long in respect of forced sterilization, transistor radios, coercion
- Population now increasingly being discussed, but not always in ways that emphasize that the goal is increased investment in voluntary family planning/SRH programmes that respect and protect rights



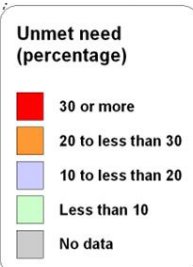
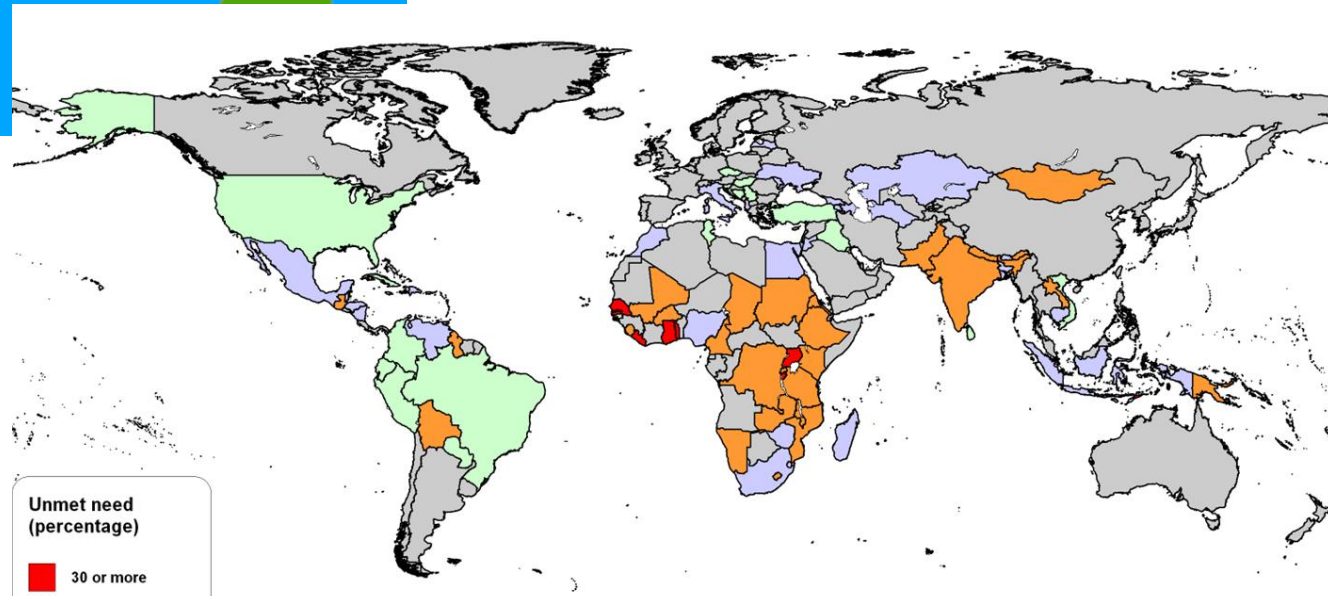
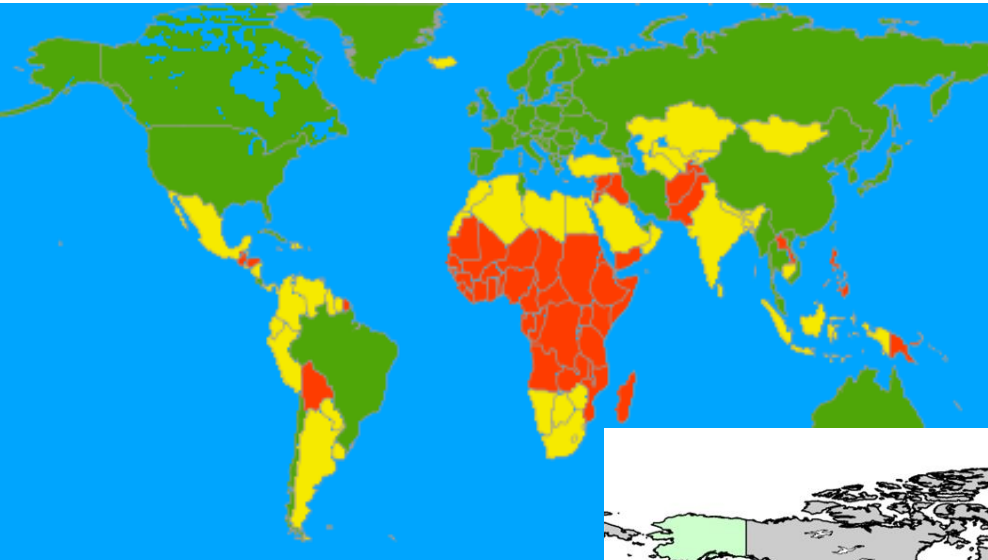


## Unmet Need...

- The number of women in the developing world with an unmet need for modern contraception declined slightly between 2008 and 2012, from 226 million to 222 million.
- However, in the 69 poorest countries—which are home to 73% of all women in the developing world with unmet need—the number has increased, from 153 to 162 million women



# High fertility – unmet need linkages



**222  
MILLION  
WOMEN**

IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHO WANT  
TO PLAN THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR  
LIVES **HAVE AN UNMET NEED  
FOR CONTRACEPTION**

ADDRESSING THIS WOULD...



PREVENT **2 IN 3**  
MATERNAL DEATHS



PREVENT **1.1 MILLION**  
INFANT DEATHS PER YEAR

PREVENT **54 MILLION** UNINTENDED  
PREGNANCIES EACH YEAR AND HELP  
STABILISE WORLD POPULATION



HELP IMPROVE  
**FOOD AND  
WATER  
SECURITY**



REDUCE PRESSURE  
ON THE  
**ENVIRONMENT**



HELP RESPOND TO



**CLIMATE  
CHANGE**

KEEP MORE GIRLS IN  
**EDUCATION**



EMPOWER WOMEN  
AND ADVANCE GENDER  
**EQUALITY**



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# What implications do population dynamics have for SRHR?

## Population Growth:

- ↑ demand
- ↑ pressure on SRHR services
- Young populations: SRHR needs of youth

## Migration:

- Needs / access: migrants and refugees
- Access to services during conflict, disaster
- SGBV during disaster
- Younger migrants

## Urbanization:

- Opportunity for ↑ access to services?
  - proximity, economies of scale
- ↑ demand / pressure on services
- Access issues:
  - migrants, slums, young people, sex workers
- Changing behavior: ↑ sex ↓ fertility?

## Ageing:

- SRHR needs of the elderly
- Data collection around 15-49
- ↑ age dependency ratios – implications for public health spending?





# Policy considerations

- How useful is the reticence about population?
- Is caring about rights is intrinsically incompatible with:
  - searching for equitable ways to harmonize global population with consumption of the world's non-renewable resources?
  - global efforts to adapt to and mitigate climate change?



## PSDA Post-2015 recommendations to address population dynamics in ways that respect and protect human rights:

- **Prioritize universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, planning.**
- **Invest in the cross-cutting issues of health, education, women's equality and human rights.**
- **Devise forward-looking goals:** with SDGs, targets and indicators based on projected changes in population size, location and age structures.





## PSDA recommendations continued...

- **Sectoral planning should utilize population data:** Planning for WASH, food Security etc. must be informed by systematic use of population data and projections.
- **Devise integrated indicators:** population dynamics and SRHR link and help integrate the environmental, social and economic pillars. For example:
  - SGBV and SRHR in emergency response and conflict situations
  - WASH in schools to improve girls education
  - SRHR for increasing resilience to climate change
- **Use population data to help address inequalities and social equity issues:** use data and indicators disaggregated by sex, age, rural/urban location etc





# Moving forward...



- **Acknowledge but move beyond the mistakes of the past; we know** the importance of and can demonstrate our commitment to the rights of women, men and children
- **Step outside of our comfort zone and into the bigger picture:** Explore and embrace the links between SRHR, population dynamics and sustainable development priorities, including climate change, food and water security etc.
- **Make friends outside the SRHR community:** environmentalists, development groups, the women's movement.
- **Explore integrated Population Health Environment Projects** to improve human *and* environmental health.





## Parting thoughts...

- Demography is not destiny
- What's good for women is good for the planet
- If those of us who care about rights don't lead the debate who are leaving the ground open for?







ext here...



sexual,  
reproductive  
health and **rights**



...what next?