Changing Population Age Structures and Sustainable Development

Report of the Secretary-General to the 50th session of the Commission on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2017/2)

Population Division, DESA, United Nations New York, 3 April 2017

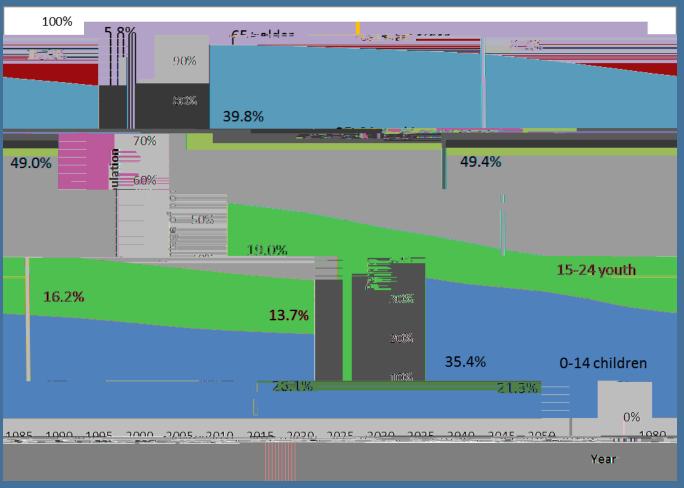
Outline

- Changing population age structures
 Global and regional trends
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Changing population age structures

World population ageing is intensifying

Percentage distribution of global population by broad age group, 1980 to 2050



Source: World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision.

Working-age population (aged 25-64)

-age population (WAP) is projected to increase from 3.6 billion in 2015 to 4.8 billion in 2050, most of it contributed by Africa (+653 million) and Asia (+440 million);

Asia will continue to have the largest regional share of the WAP, 62 per cent in 2015 and 57 per cent in 2050.

after 2015;

Countries with large net inflows of migrants can attenuate, but not neutralize, the trend toward population ageing.

Older persons (aged 65 or older)

Older persons expected to increase 2.6-fold, from from 608 million in 2015 to nearly 1.6 billion by 2050. Growth especially rapid (more than tripling) in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa;

Measures of ageing that take into account improvements in physical and mental health suggest a much slower speed of ageing, and less dire socio-economic consequences than often assumed.

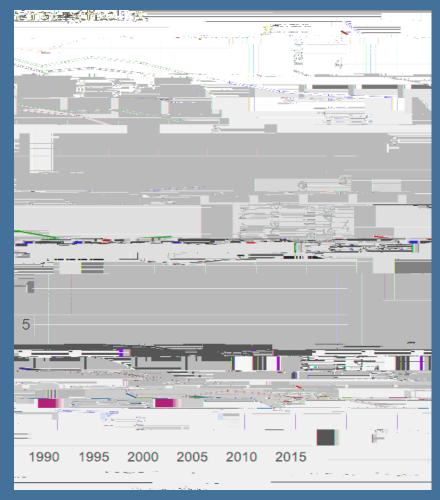
Older persons (aged 65 or over)

Another important feature is the female predominance in the older population.

In 2015, women accounted for 55 per cent of the global population aged 65 or older, and for 61 per cent of those aged 80 years or older (percentages highest in Europe, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern America and Africa, and Asia and Oceania)

Fertility, health and education

Inverse relationship between education and fertility remains strong, but varies internationally

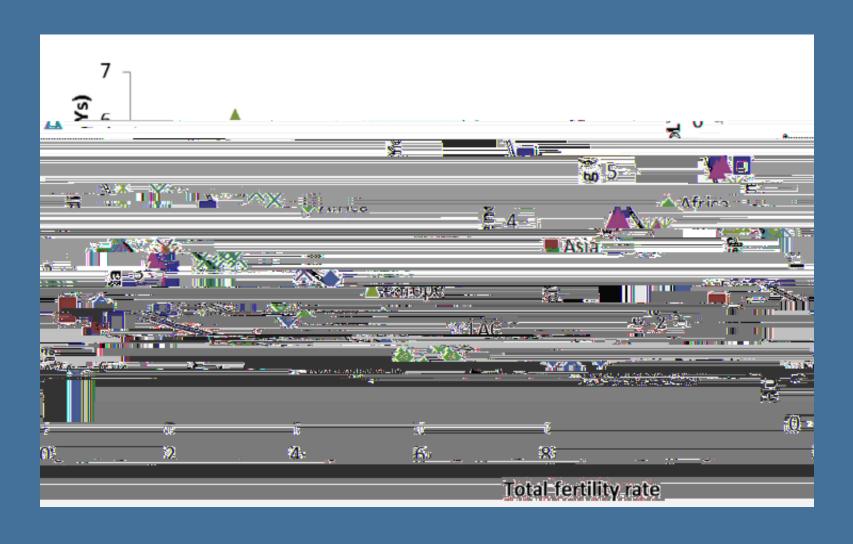




Source: Pradhan (2016)



Lower fertility associated to greater investment in human capital (health and education)



Individual and household-level intergenerational support

Gender and balancing work-family obligations

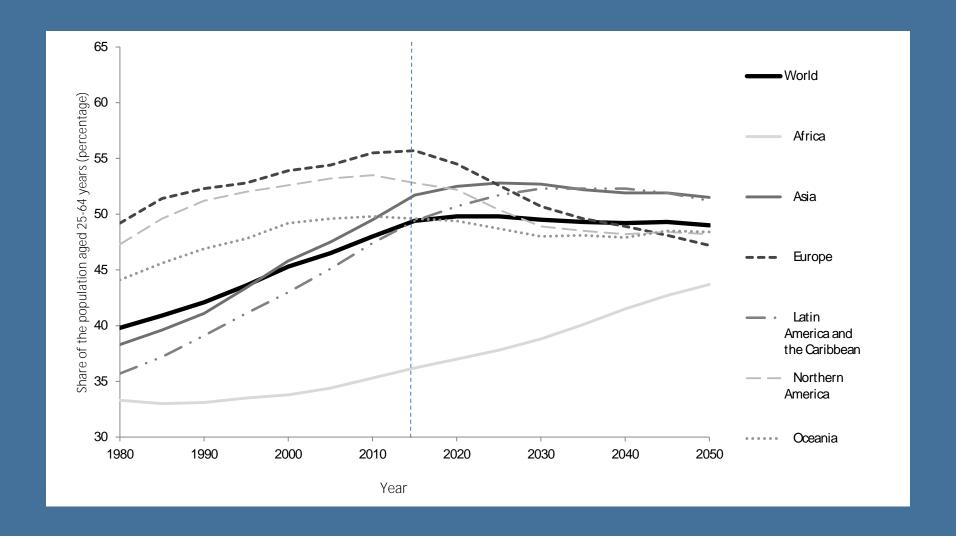
As the demographic transition unflods, women have fewer children, later in life, and often increase their labour force participation;

Generally positive changes, but also a generation who care for children and elderly parents, while also being more active in the workforce;

Policies allowing parental leave for both father and mother, as well as affordable child care and long-term care for the elderly, can help to reduce gender inequalities, and ease fiscal pressures of population ageing

Macroeconomic implications

Era of increasing global labour supply is ending



Evidence on the demographic dividends

Most countries in Africa, and some in Asia and Latin American and the Caribbean with declining fertility, will see increasing economic support ratios (positive

Many countries in Asia and Europe could experience declines of their support ratios, by 0.5 per cent or more per year over 2015-2050;

demographic can remain positive long after the first dividend has elapsed.

Evidence on the demographic dividends

Largest annual increases in economic growth (demographic dividends) in Asia (2.3% per year), owing to rapid demographic transitions and large investments in education.

In other regions, the estimated peak dividends range from 1.5% to 1.8% per year;

demographic transition projected to be slower than other developing regions, but could end up reaping very large total demographic dividend;

Evidence on the demographic dividends

The second demographic dividend can be much larger and longer lasting than the first, but its realization is less certain, as is conditional on access to SRH ca/F1m.ivices, investment in human and physical capital, and productive employment during the dividend period;

All this would be consistent with the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, but it is not a forF1m.gone result

Conclusions and recommendations

Parental leave for fathers and mothers, affordable child care, and long-term care for older persons can improve gender equality and yield macroeconomic benefits as well.

In dealing with fiscal implications of population ageing, consider increasing the age of retirement in proportion to life expectancy, and others to improve coverage, adequacy and sustainability of social security systems.

Conclusions and recommendations

Options for addressing long-term care needs of older persons with disability or functional limitations should include support for family caregivers, community-based and institutional care.

Governments, with t

Thank you