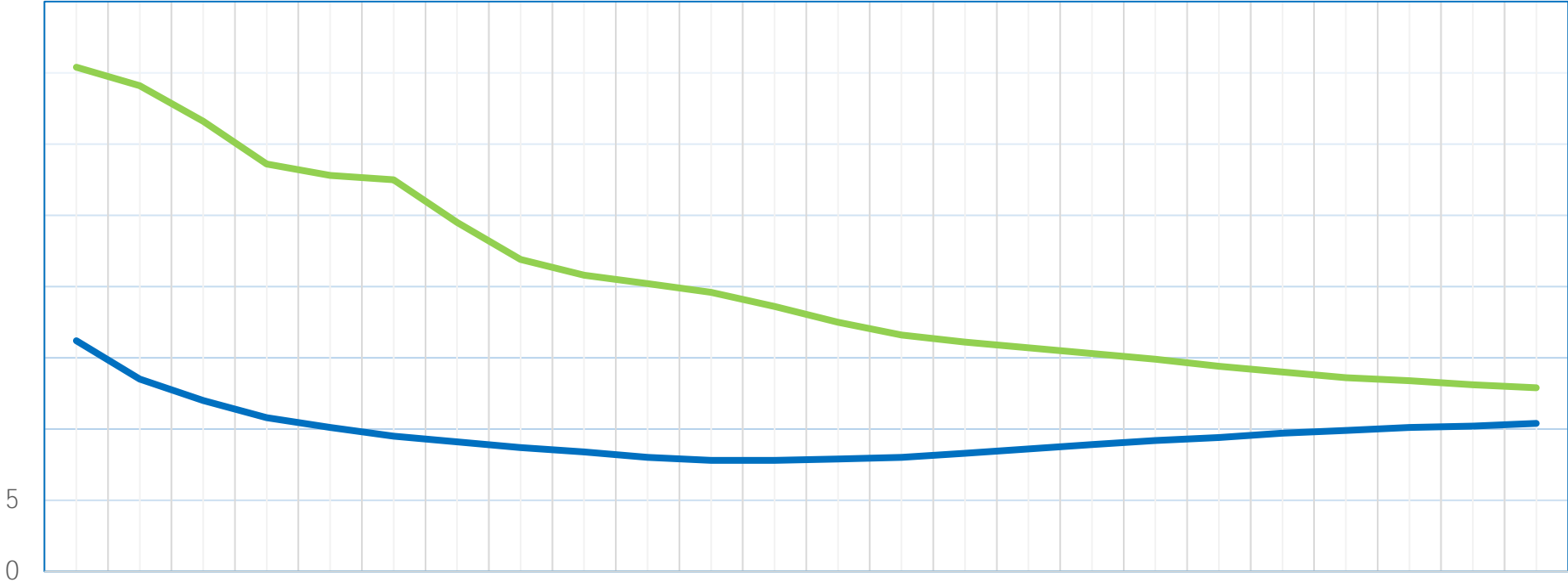


Changing age structures and sustainable development in youthful societies

Eliya Msiyaphazi Zulu, PhD

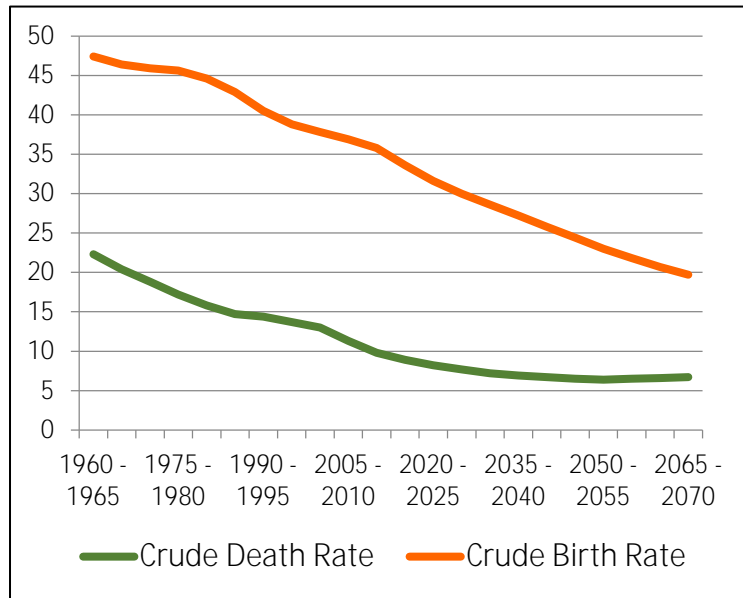
Presented at the UN Commission on Population and Development
Fiftieth session, 3-7 April 2017, New York

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

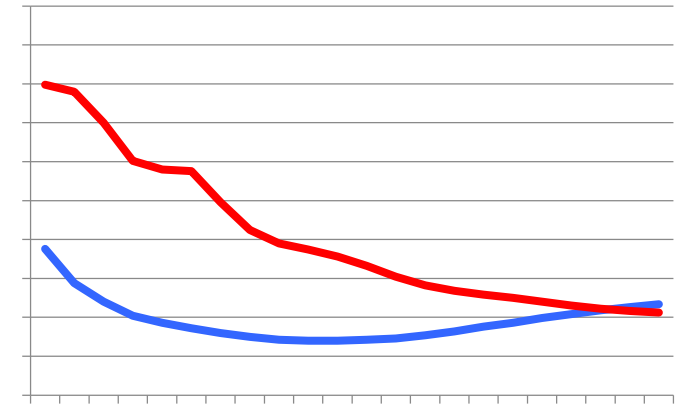


Because of its slower demographic transition Africa has a younger population that is growing faster than populations of Asia and Latin America

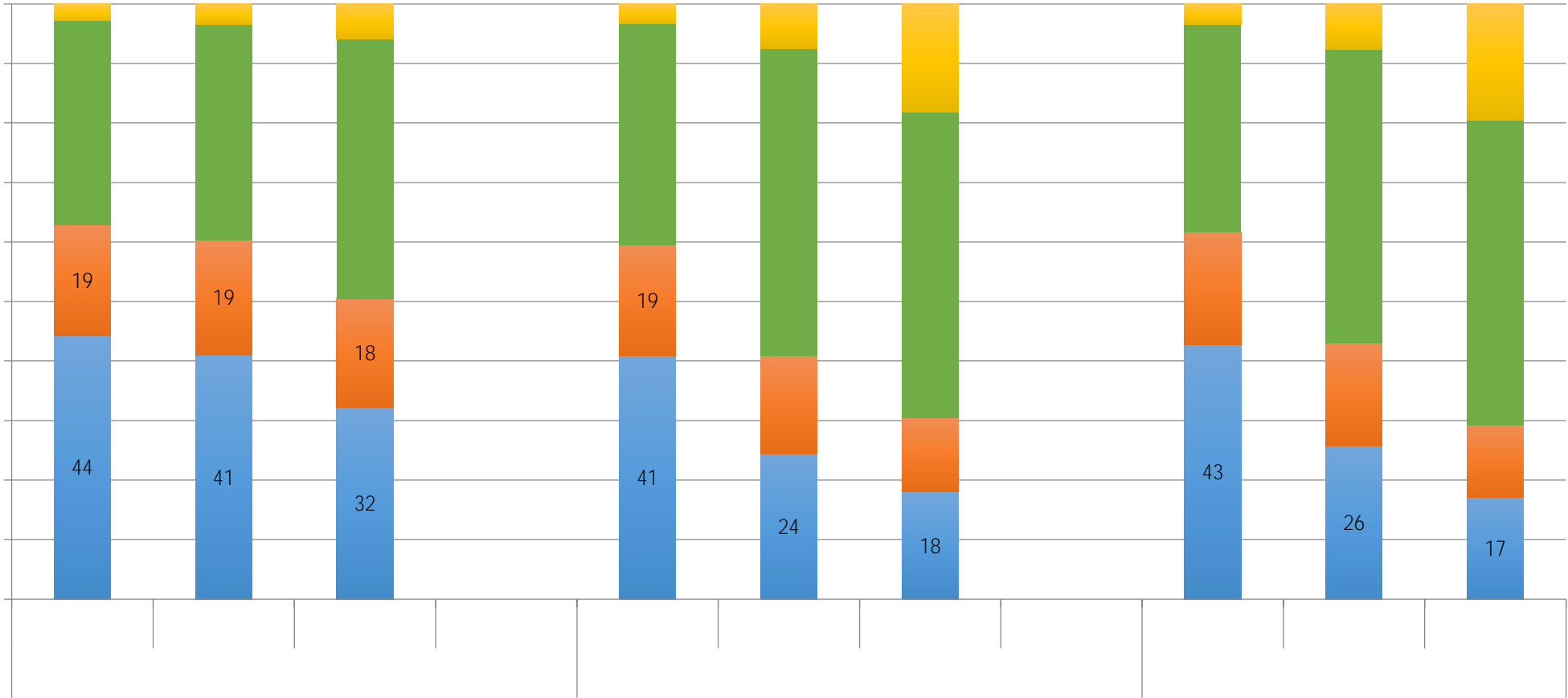
Africa



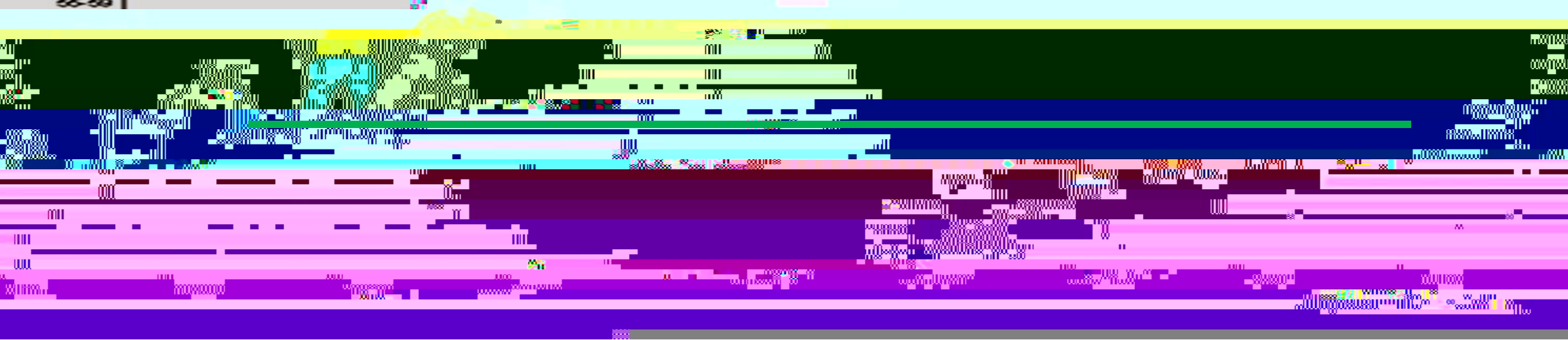
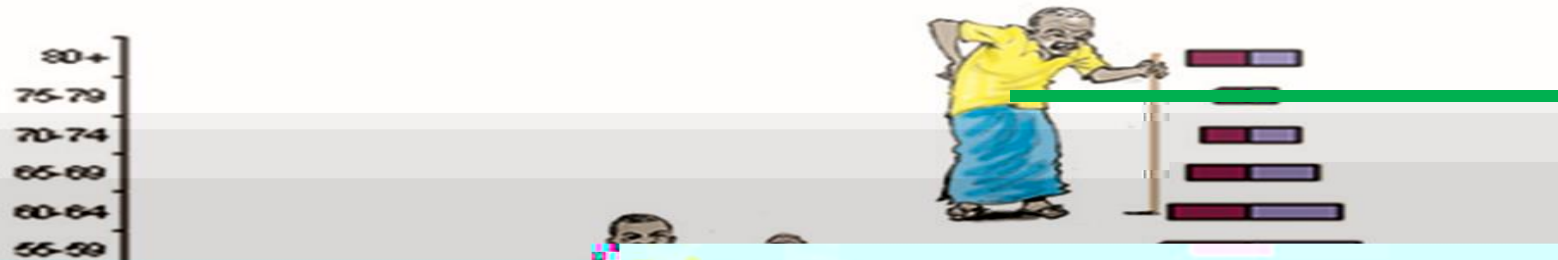
Asia



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

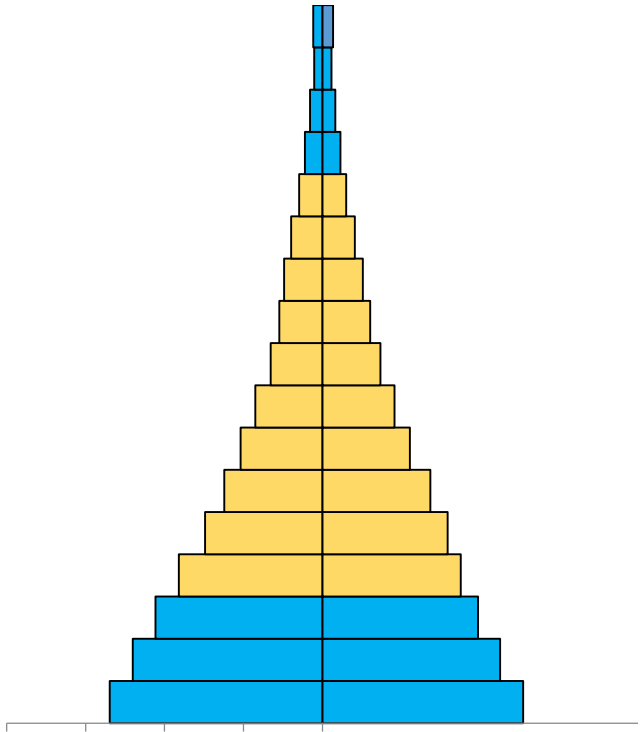
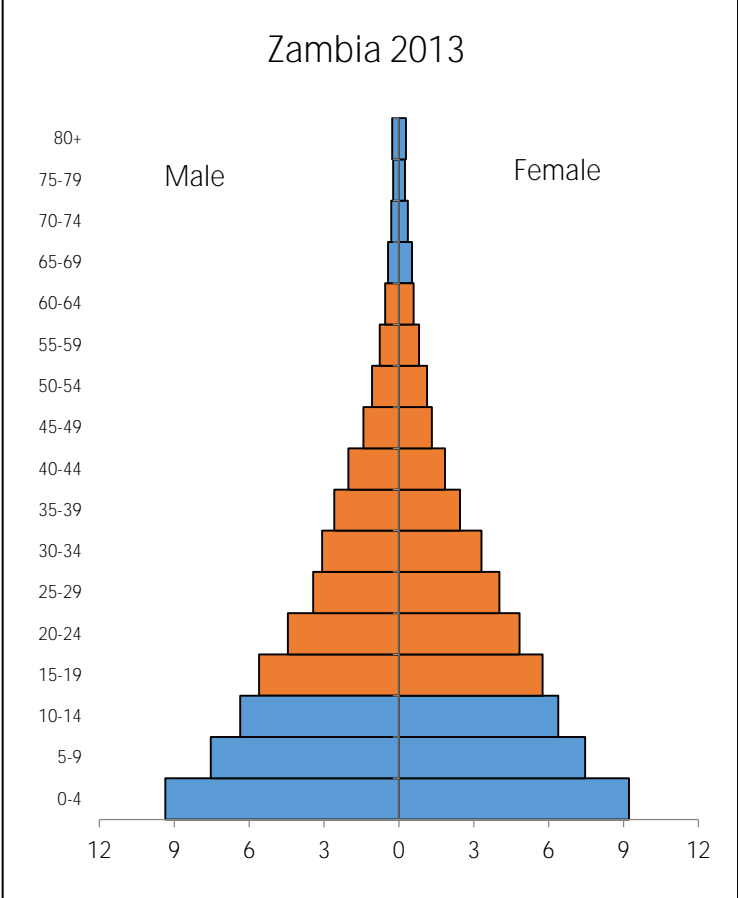
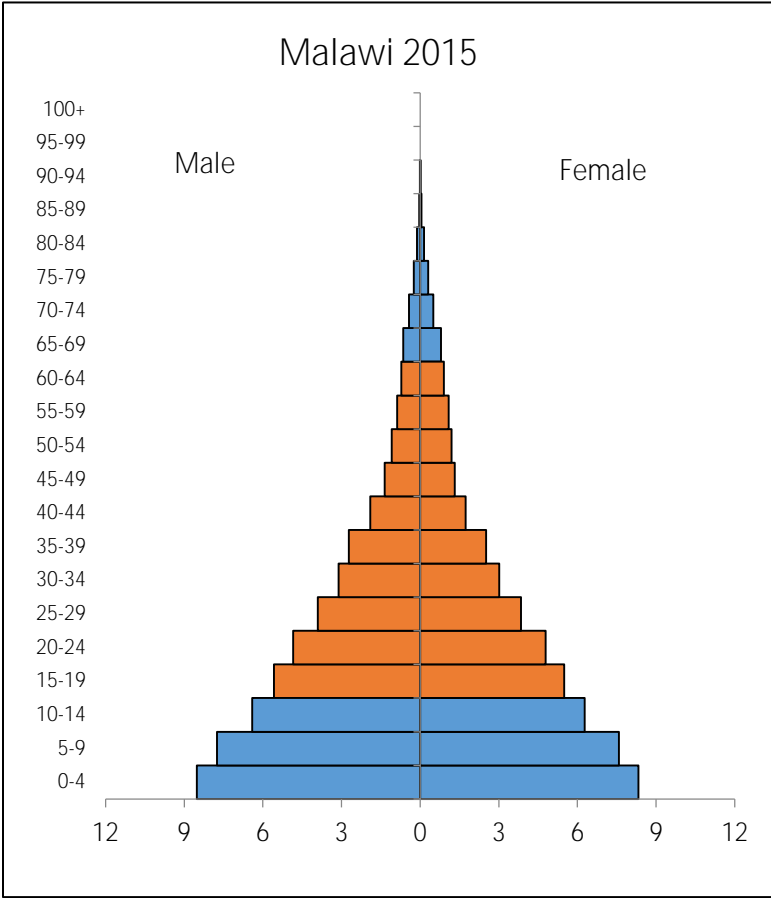


The share of people in each age group affects development needs and prospects



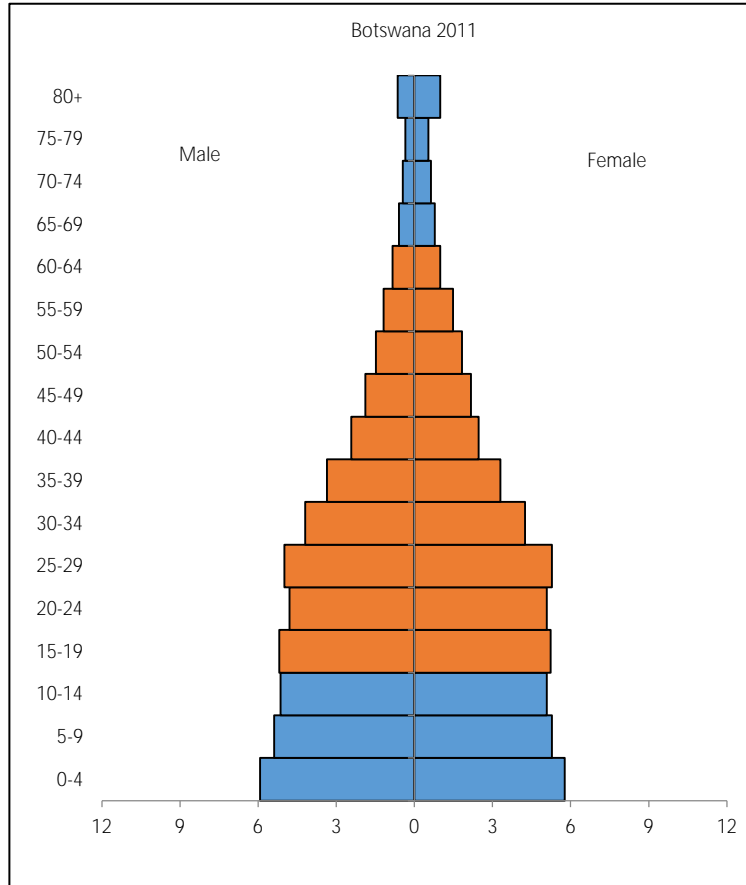
As the South Korea example shows, there is a limited time period to take advantage of a youth bulge before it turns

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

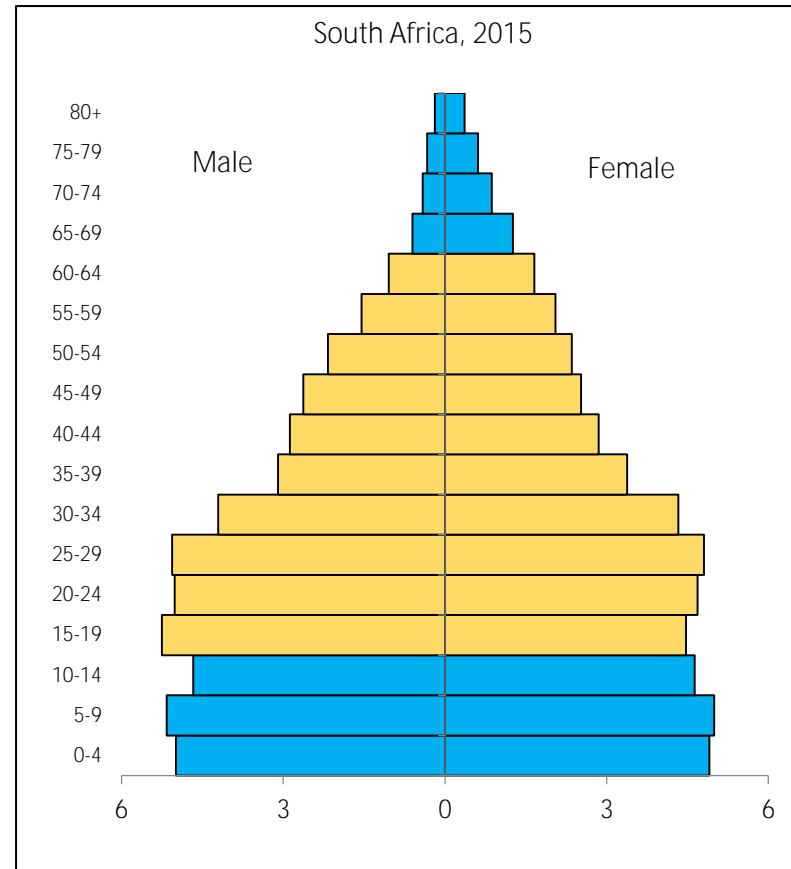


Populations in Southern and Northern Africa are older than the rest of sub-Saharan Africa due to steady fertility declines

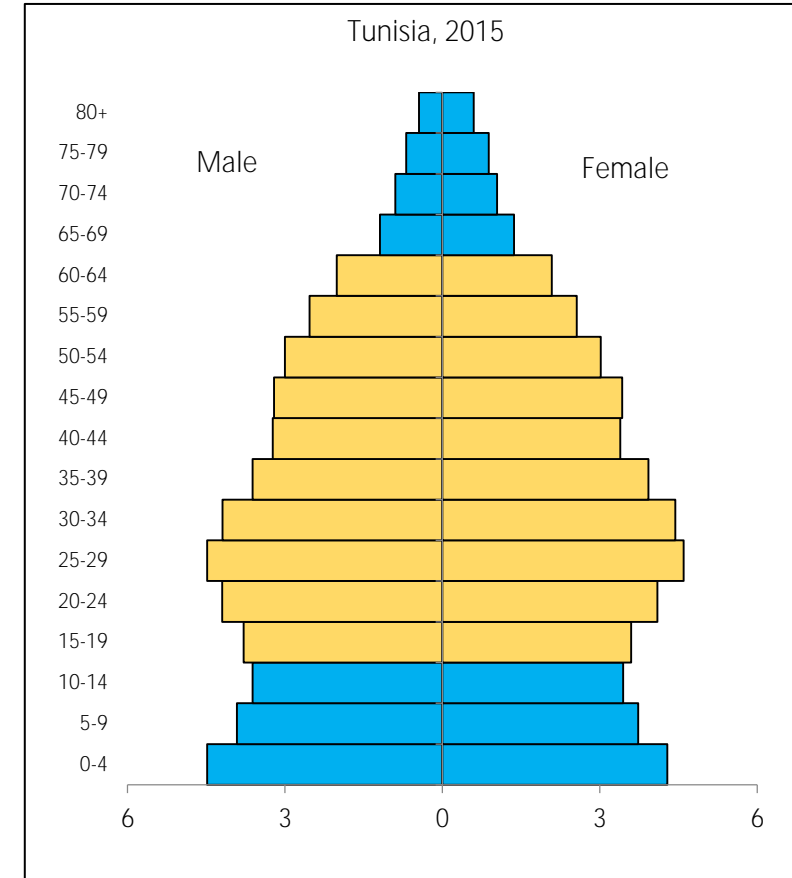
Botswana



South Africa

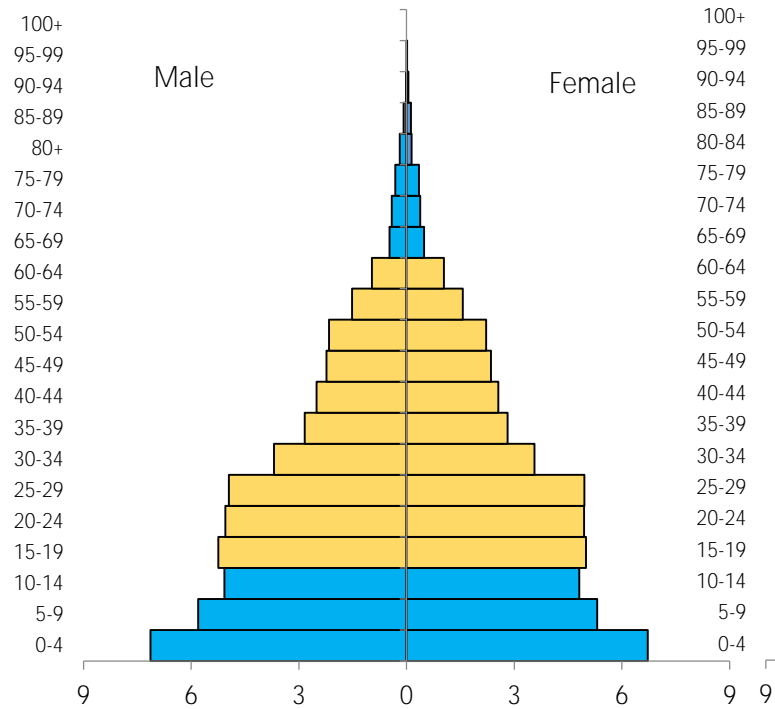


Tunisia

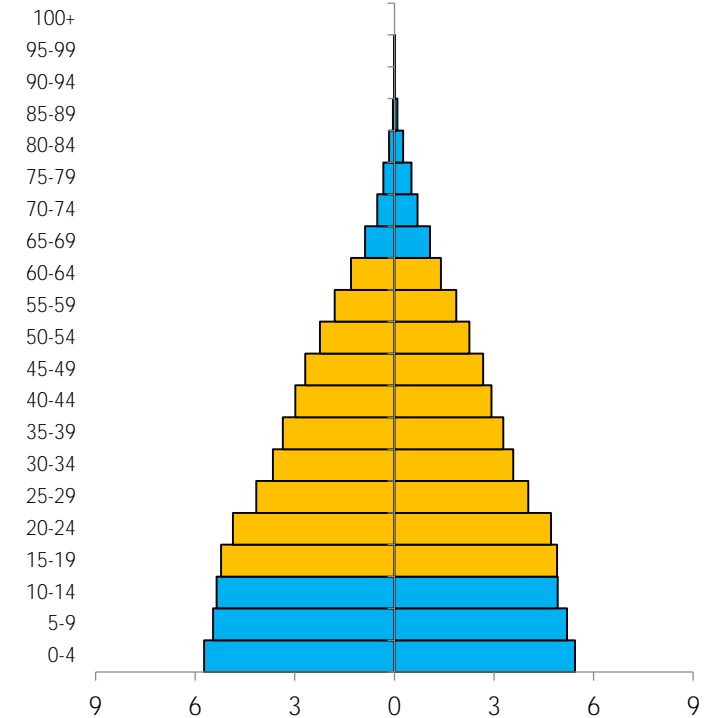
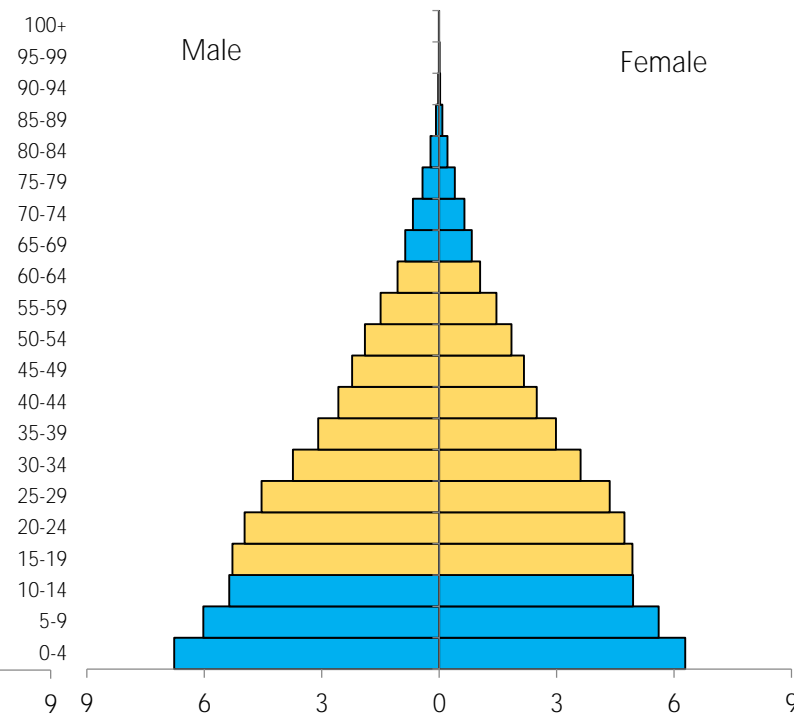


Asia: Some countries in Asia have had slow demographic transitions than the rest of the region, exhibiting no clear youth bulges yet

Tajikistan, 2015

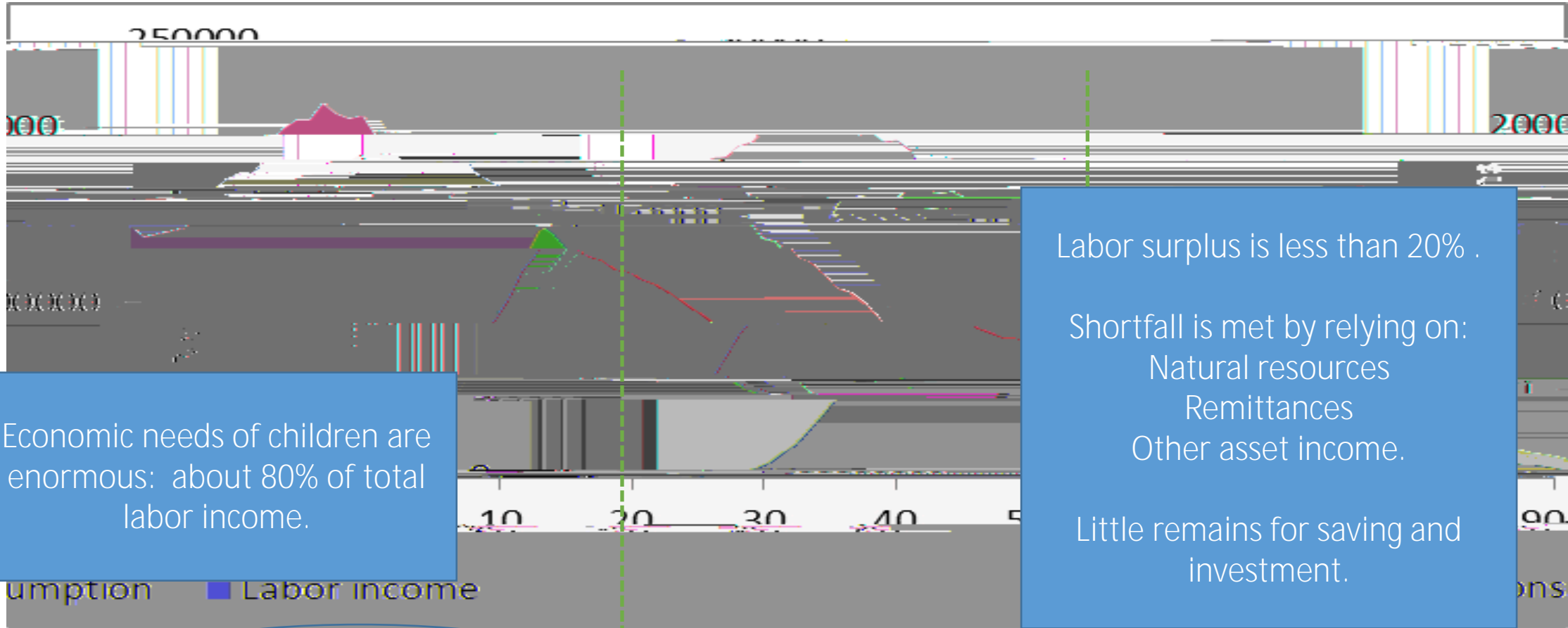


Pakistan, 2015



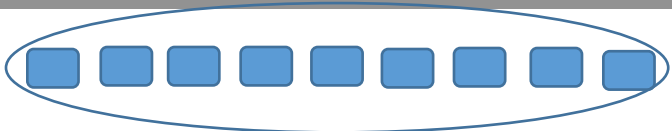
Latin America: The clear youth bulge seen in Brazil

Consumption and Labor Income by Age, Nigeria 2004



Economic needs of children are enormous: about 80% of total labor income.

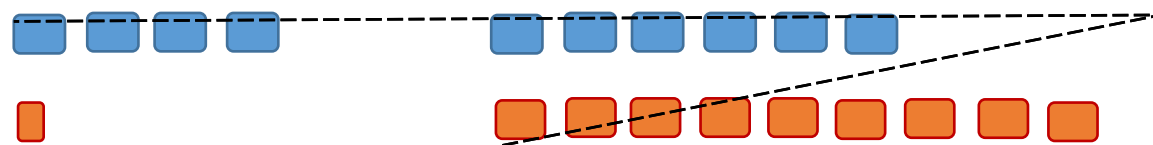
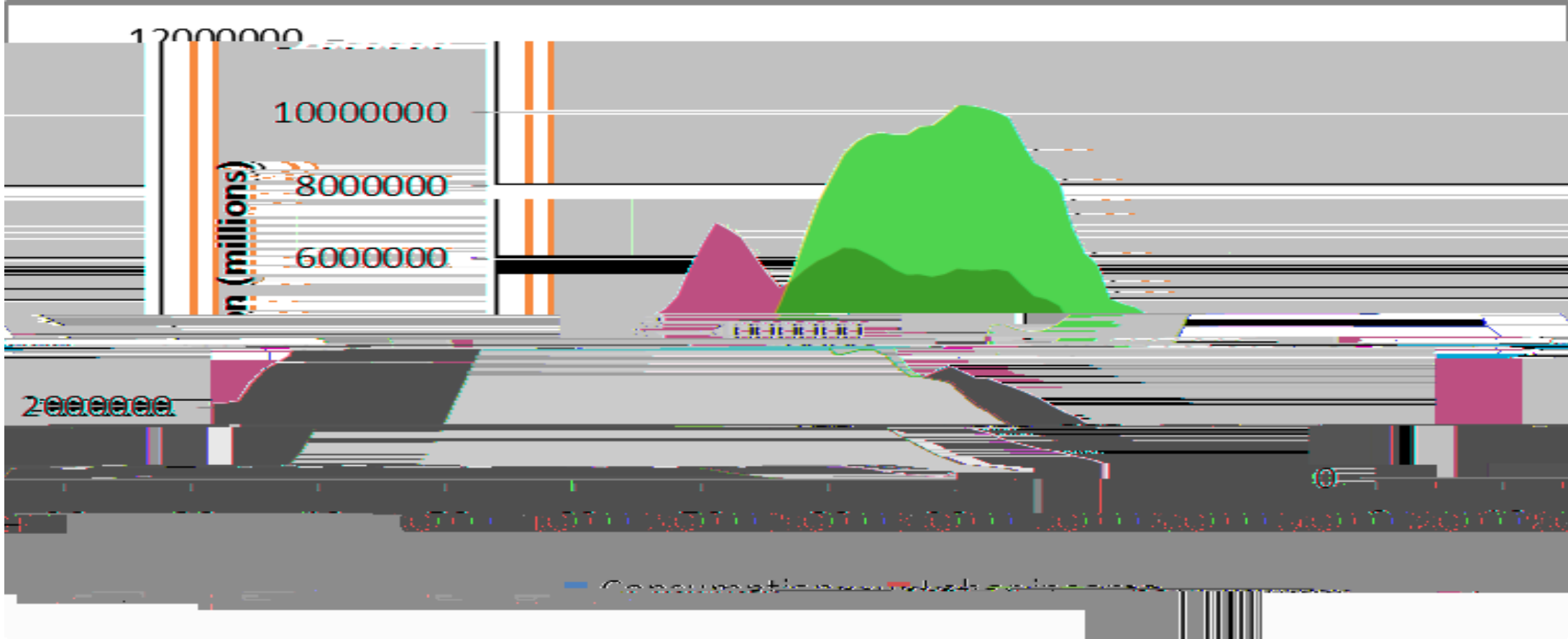
Labor surplus is less than 20% .
 Shortfall is met by relying on:
 Natural resources
 Remittances
 Other asset income.
 Little remains for saving and investment.



■ Consumption (500 trillion Naira)

■ Labor income (500 trillion Naira)

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

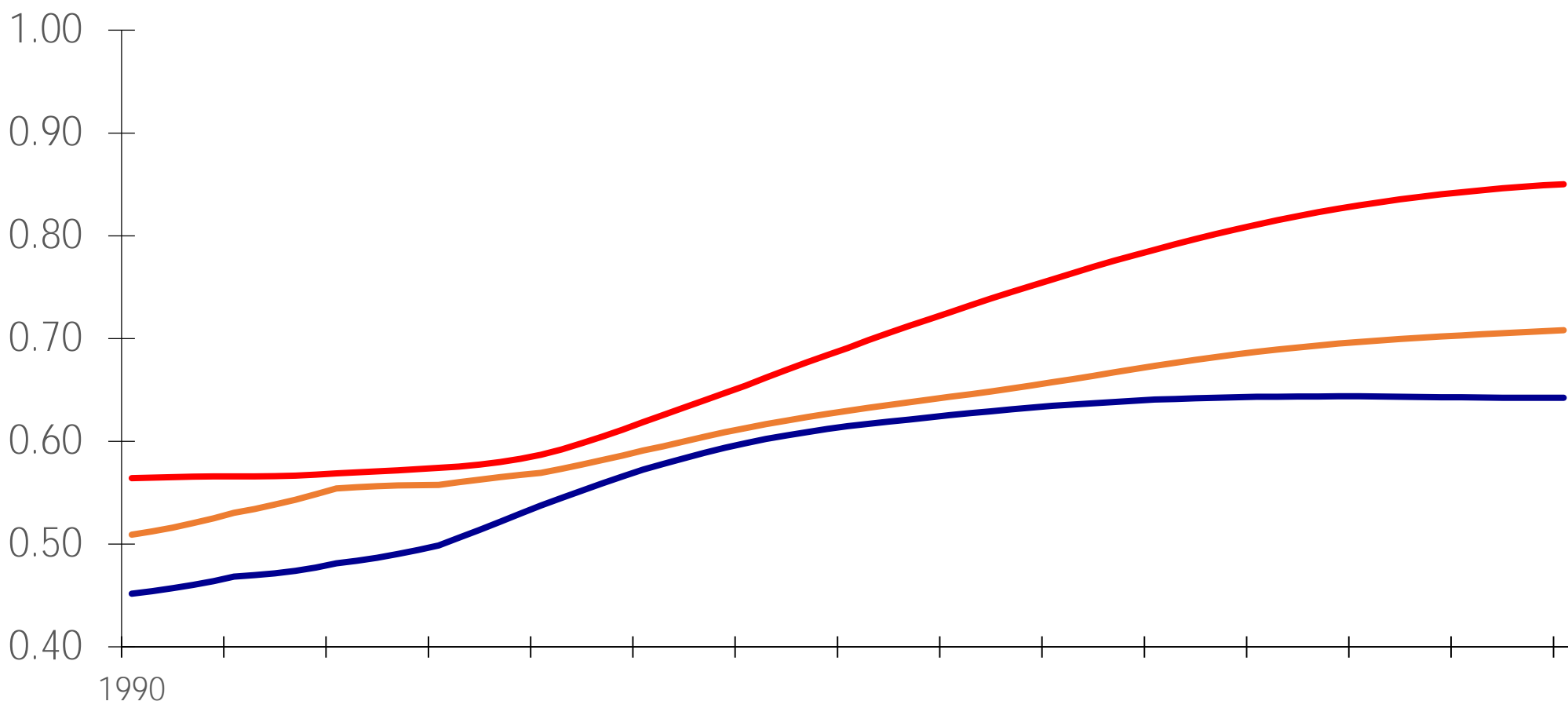


■ Labor income (3000 trillion won)

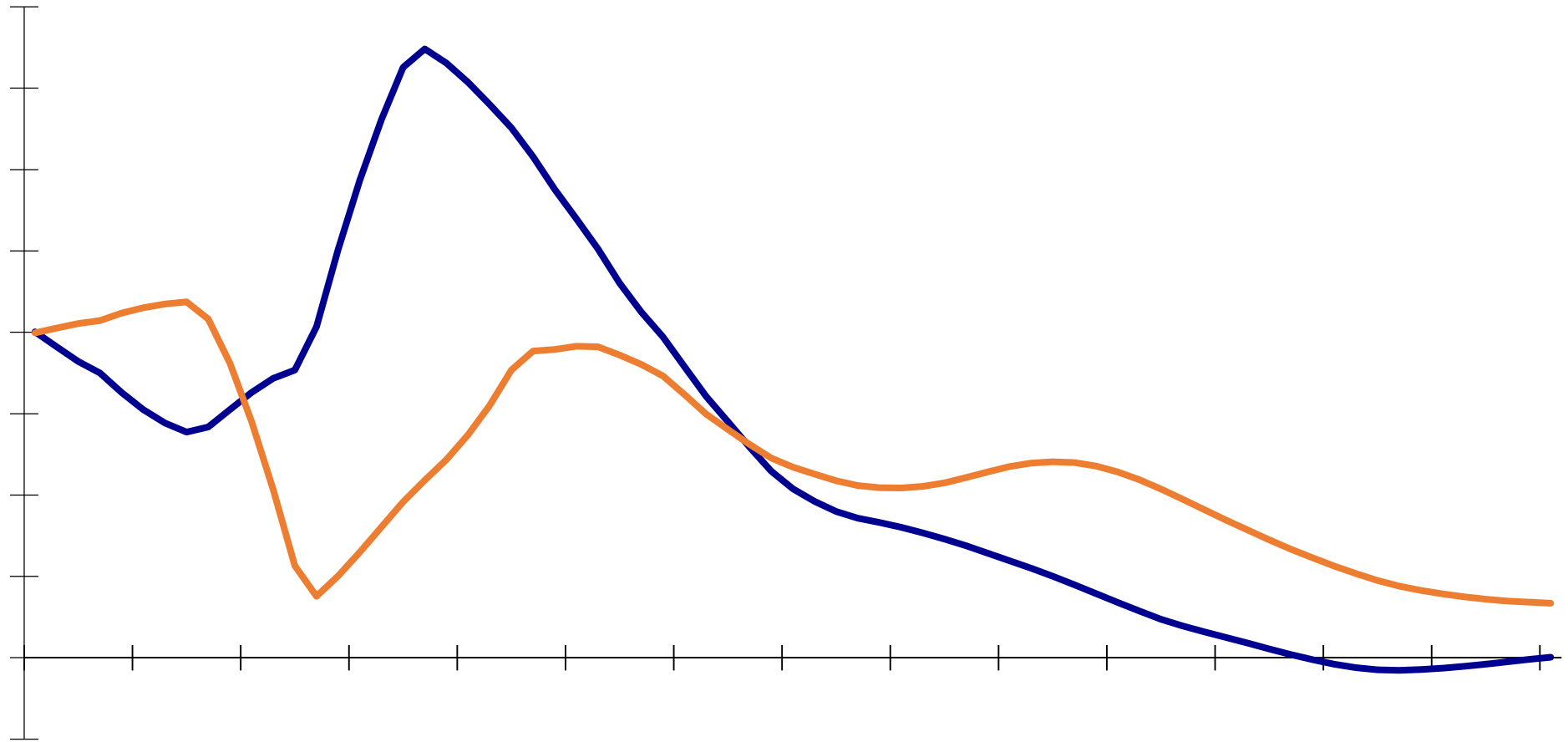
There is a strong negative association between fertility and the level of human capital spending



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



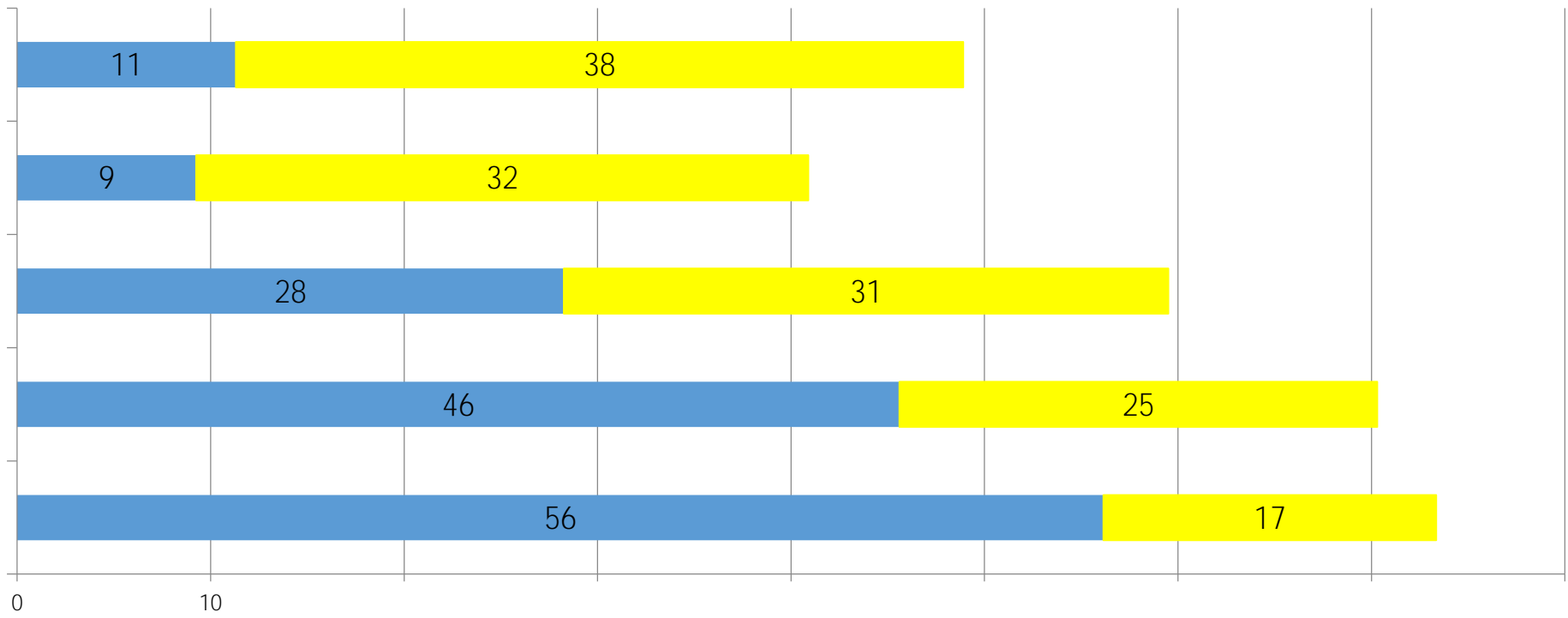
The first demographic dividend has already peaked in Botswana, and it will peak in the next 10-20 years in Namibia, and Swaziland in the next decade



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

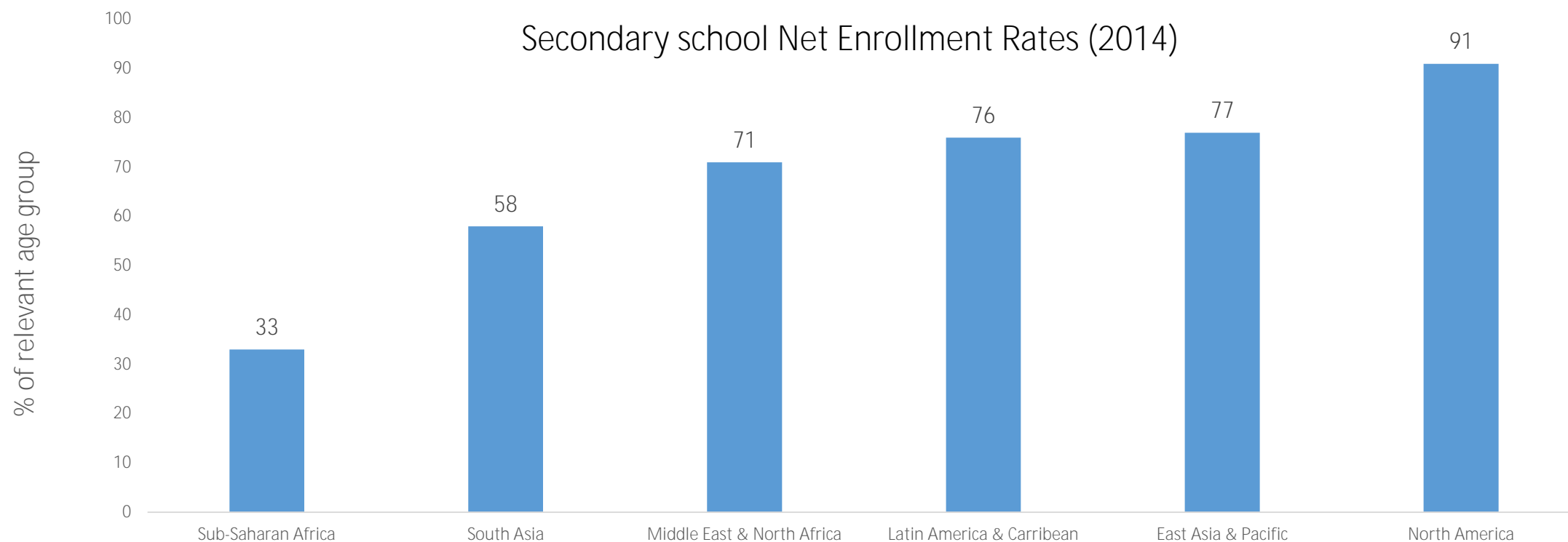


Source: DHS Comparative Reports, 2014

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



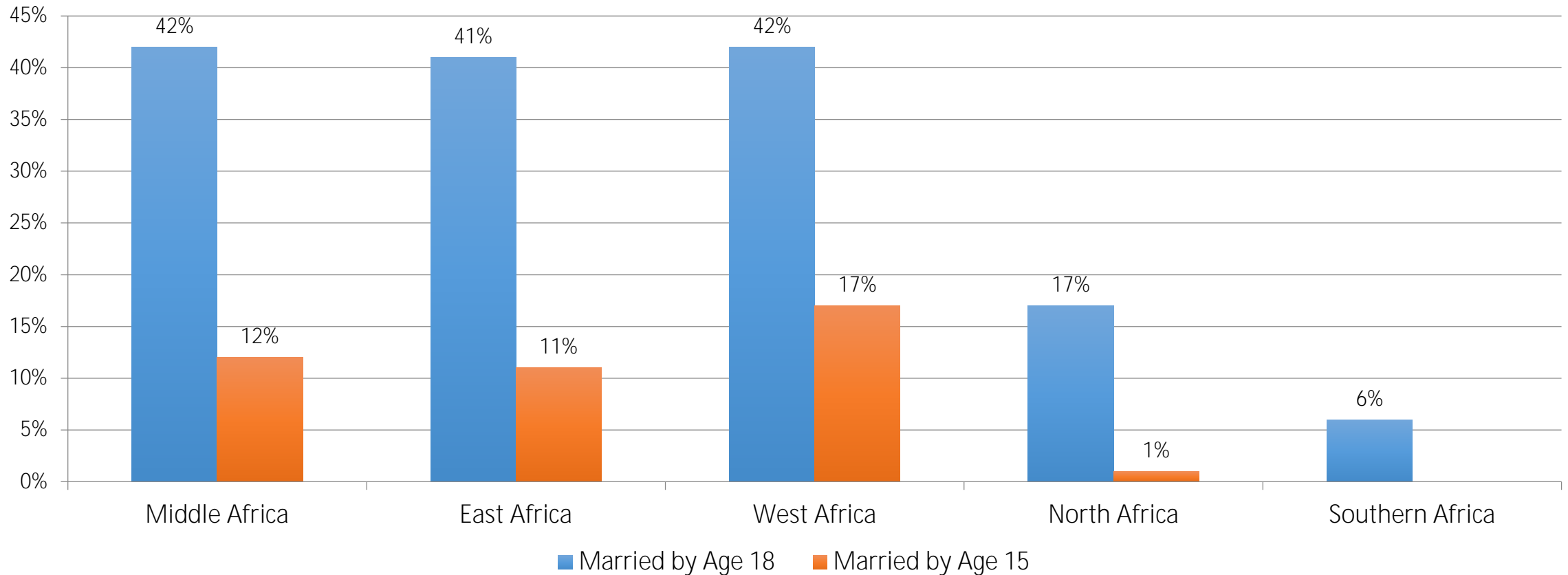
Embrace universal secondary education and increase access to tertiary education to unleash the power of youth in driving socioeconomic transformation



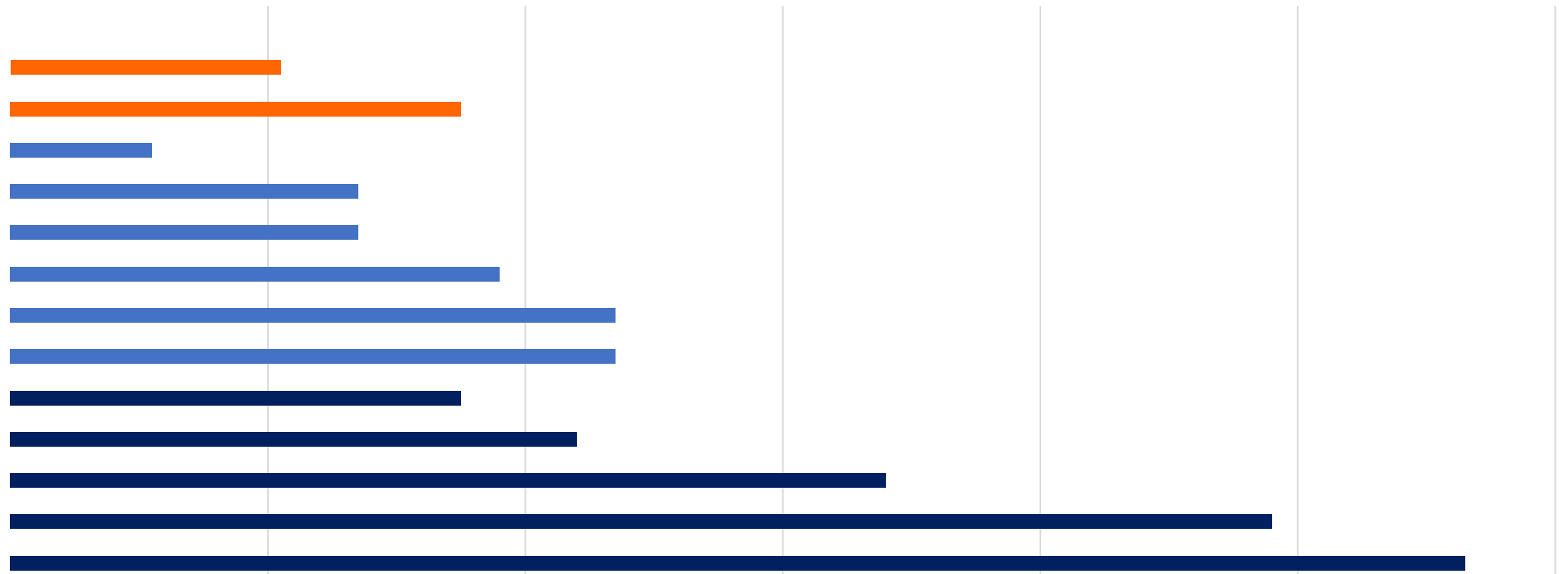
Source: World Bank, WDI, 2017

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

DD Profiling

Desk reviews and
data analysis,
including

modelling

Evidence
translation

Advocacy to ge4Aoe

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





Thank You

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