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2015

World Population Ageing



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Department of Economic and Social Affairs

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Key trends in population ageing for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- Between 2015 and 2030, the number of older persons — those aged 60 years or over — in the world is projected to grow by 56 per cent, from 901 million to more than 1.4 billion.
- By 2030, older persons will outnumber children aged 0-9 years (1.4 billion vs. 1.3 billion); by 2050, there will be more people aged 60 or over than adolescents and youth aged 10-24 years (2.1 billion vs. 2.0 billion).
- The number of people at very advanced ages is increasing too: the global population aged 80 years or over is projected to grow from 125 million in 2015 to 202 million in 2030 and to 434 million in 2050.
- Virtually all countries are expected to see substantial growth in the number of older persons between 2015 and 2030, and that growth will be faster in the developing regions than in the developed regions.
- Over the next 15 years, the number of older persons is expected to grow fastest in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a projected 71 per cent increase in the population aged 60 or over, followed by Asia (66 per cent), Africa (64 per cent), Oceania (47 per cent), Northern America (41 per cent) and Europe (23 per cent).
- In 2015, one in eight people worldwide was aged 60 or over. By 2030, older persons are projected to account for one in six people globally.
- The ageing process is especially advanced in Europe and in Northern America, where more than one in five people was aged 60 or over in 2015, but it is growing rapidly in the other regions as well. By 2030, older persons are expected to account for more than 25 per cent of the populations in Europe and Northern America, 20 per cent in Oceania, 17 per cent in Asia and in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 6 per cent in Africa.
- In 2050, 44 per cent of the world's population will live in relatively aged countries, with at least 20 per cent of the population aged 60 or over, and one in four people will live in a country where more than 30 per cent of people are above age 60.
- The immediate cause of population ageing is fertility decline. However, improved longevity contributes as well, first by eliminating the demographic necessity of high fertility, and second by increasing the number of survivors to older ages. By 2050, life expectancy at birth is projected to surpass 80 years in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern America and Oceania; and it will approach 80 years in Asia and 70 years in Africa.
- Among today's young people, survival to age 80 is expected to be the norm everywhere but in Africa. Worldwide, 60 per cent of women and 52 per cent of men born in 2000-2005 are expected to survive to their 80th birthdays, compared to less than 40 per cent of the women and men born in 1950-1955.
- As populations continue to age during the post-2015 era, it is imperative that Governments design innovative policies specifically targeted to the needs of older persons, including those addressing housing, employment, health care, social protection, and other forms of intergenerational support. By anticipating these demographic shifts, countries can enact policies proactively to adapt to an ageing population.

Introduction

The world's population is ageing: virtually all countries are experiencing growth in the number and proportion of older persons in their populations. The ageing process began more than a century ago in many developed countries and, over the late-twentieth and into the twenty-first century, it emerged in most of the developing countries as well. Population ageing is poised to become one of the most significant social transformations of the twenty-first century, with implications for nearly all sectors of society, including labour and financial markets, the demand for goods and services, such as housing, transportation and social protection, as well as family structures and inter-generational ties. Preparing for the economic and social shifts associated with an ageing population is thus essential to ensure progress in development, including towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular those related to poverty eradication, the promotion of health, gender equality, employment, and sustainable human settlements, as well as reducing inequality within and across countries.

Population ageing is in many ways a demographic success story, driven by changes in fertility and mortality that are associated with economic and social development. Progress in reducing child mortality, improving access to education and employment opportunities, advancing gender equality, and promoting reproductive health and access to family planning have all contributed to reductions in birth rates. Moreover, advancements in public health and medical technologies, along with improvements in living conditions, mean that people are living longer and, in many cases, healthier lives than ever before, particularly at advanced ages. Together, these declines in fertility and increases in longevity are producing very substantial shifts in the population age structure, such that the share of children is shrinking while that of older persons continues to grow.

Growth in the numbers and proportions of older persons can be expected to have far reaching economic, social, and political implications. In many countries the number of older persons is growing faster than the number of people in the traditional working ages, leading many Governments to consider increasing the statutory ages at retirement in an effort to prolong the labour force participation of older persons and improve the financial sustainability of pension systems. At the same time, population ageing and growth in the number of persons at very advanced ages, in particular, puts pressure on health systems, increasing the demand for care, services and technologies to prevent and treat non-communicable diseases and chronic conditions associated with old age. Countries can address these and other challenges by anticipating the coming demographic shifts and enacting policies proactively to adapt to an ageing population.

This publication presents the highlights of the *World Population Ageing 2015* report. It summarizes the trends in population ageing drawn from the latest estimates and projections of population by age and sex of 233 countries or areas, as published in *World Population Prospects: the 2015 Revision*. The present Highlights focuses mostly on the period from 2015 to 2030, the implementation period identified for the SDGs, and discusses the implications of trends in the number and share of older persons for development planning. The annex table

provides data on the estimated and projected number and share of older persons and what they imply for future potential support ratios, as well as the indicators of fertility and longevity that drive population ageing. This information is presented for the world, for geographical regions, and for the 201 countries or areas with 90,000 inhabitants or more in 2015.



Trends in population ageing

Worldwide, there were 901 million people aged 60 years or over in 2015. Their number is projected to grow to 1.4 billion in 2030, the target date for the SDGs, and to 2.1 billion by 2050. Growth in the number of older persons is a global phenomenon: virtually every country in the world will experience a substantial increase in the size of the population aged 60 years or over between 2015 and 2030. The increase is projected to be especially significant in the less developed regions. Latin America and the Caribbean, for example, is projected to see a more than 70 per cent increase in the number of older persons over the next 15 years. The growth of the older population is expected to be similarly rapid in

Table 1

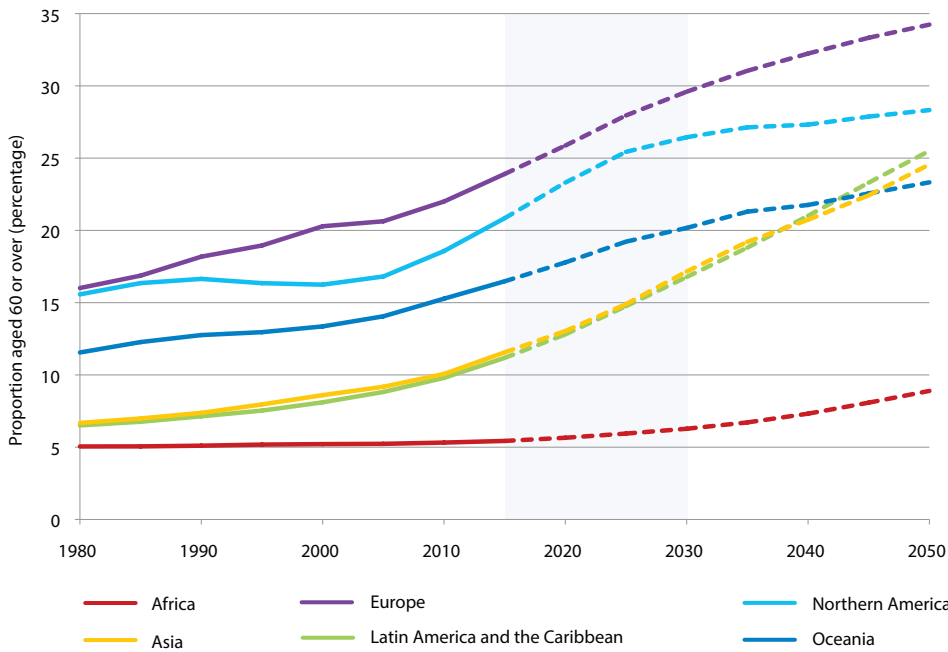
Number and distribution of persons aged 60 years or over by region, 2015 and 2030

	Persons aged 60 years or older in 2015 (millions)	Persons aged 60 years or over in 2030 (millions)	Percentage change between 2015 and 2030	Distribution of older persons in 2015 (per cent)	Distribution of older persons in 2030 (per cent)
World	900.9	1402.4	55.7	100.0	100.0
Africa	64.4	105.4	63.5	7.2	7.5
Asia	508.0	844.5	66.3	56.4	60.2
Europe	176.5	217.2	23.1	19.6	15.5
Northern America	74.6	104.8	40.5	8.3	7.5
Latin America and the Caribbean	70.9	121.0	70.6	7.9	8.6
Oceania	6.5	9.6	47.4	0.7	0.7

Africa and Asia, with increases of more than 60 per cent projected between 2015 and 2030, compared to a 23 per cent increase in Europe, where the population is already much older (table 1).

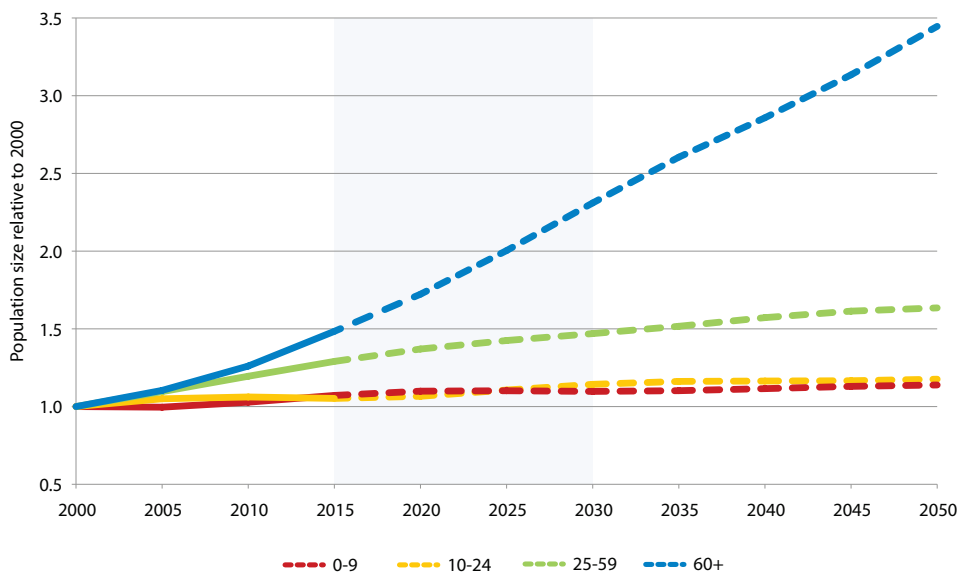
In most countries, the growth in the absolute number of older persons will occur in a context of low or declining fertility, so that the share of older persons in the population also can be expected to grow. In 2015, one in eight people worldwide was aged 60 or over. By 2030, older persons are projected to account for one in six people globally. The ageing process is especially advanced in Europe and in Northern America, where more than one in five people was aged 60 or over in 2015, but it is advancing rapidly in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Oceania as well. By 2030, older persons are expected to account for more than 25 per cent of the populations in Europe and in Northern America, 20 per cent in Oceania, 17 per cent in Asia and in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 6 per cent in Africa (figure 1).

Figure 1.
Percentage aged 60 years or over by region, 1980-2050



Globally, the number of older persons is growing faster than the numbers of people in other age groups. In 2015, there were 48 per cent more people aged 60 or over worldwide than there were in 2000, and in 2050, the number of older persons is projected to have more than tripled since 2000 (figure 2). In contrast, at the global level, the numbers of children under age 10 and of adolescents and youth aged 10-24 will change relatively little: the projected numbers of children and of adolescents and youth in 2050 represents a less than 20 per cent increase over the year 2000. The global number of adults aged 25-59

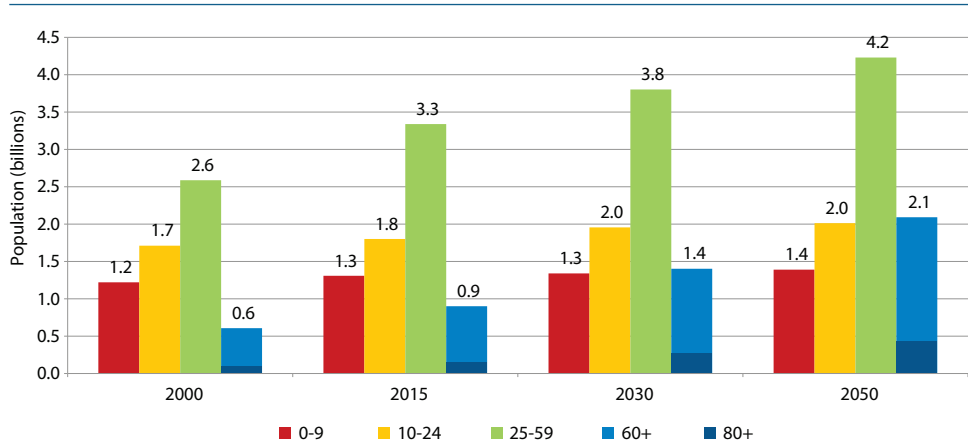
Figure 2.
Increase in world population relative to 2000, by broad age group, 2000-2050



The over 60 population is the fastest growing age group.

is growing faster than the number of children, but not as fast as the population aged 60 or over. In 2015, there were 29 per cent more people aged 25-59 than there were in 2000, and projections indicate that by 2050 there will be 63 per cent more of them than in 2000. By 2030, older persons will outnumber children aged 0-9 years (1.4 billion vs. 1.3 billion); by 2050, there will be more older persons aged 60 or over than adolescents and youth aged 10-24 years (2.1 billion vs. 2.0 billion) (figure 3). The number of people at very advanced ages is increasing too: the global population aged 80 years or over is projected to grow from 125 million in 2015 to 202 million in 2030 and to 434 million in 2050.

Figure 3.
Global population by broad age group, 2000-2050



Two-thirds of the world’s older persons live in the developing regions and their numbers are growing faster there than in the developed regions. Asia, with 508 million people aged 60 or over in 2015, was home to 56 per cent of the global older population, a share projected to increase to 60 per cent in 2030 (figure 4; table 1). The 71 million older persons in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2015 accounted for 7.9 per cent of the global total in that year; this share is expected to reach 8.6 per cent in 2030, when projections indicate that there will be 121 million people aged 60 or over in that region. Africa was home to a



relatively small number of people aged 60 years or over, with 64 million in 2015, representing 7.2 per cent of the global total. In 2030, Africa's projected 105 million older persons could account for 7.5 per cent of the older population worldwide.

Europe and Northern America are projected to see significant but slower growth in the number of older persons compared to other regions. Consequently, the share of the world's older persons residing in Europe and in Northern America is expected to decline. In 2015, Europe's 177 million people aged 60 or over accounted for close to 20 per cent of older persons globally, and while its number of older persons is projected to grow to 217 million in 2030, its share of the world's older population is projected to fall to 15.5 per cent. Similarly, the number of people aged 60 years or over in Northern America is projected to rise from 75 million in 2015 to 105 million in 2030, while the region's share of the world's older population is expected to decline from 8.3 per cent to 7.5 per cent.

The older population is growing fastest in the less developed regions.

Figure 4.
Population aged 60 years or over by region, 1980-2050

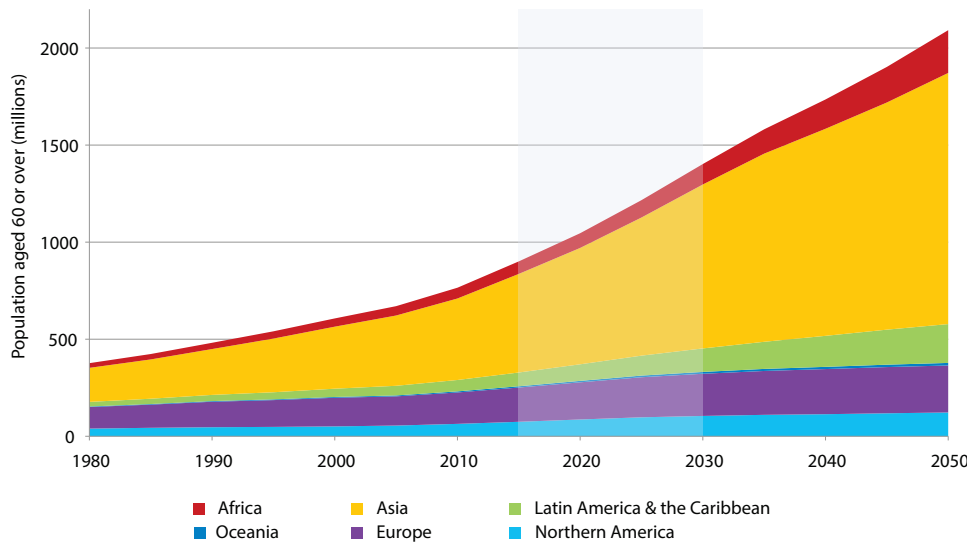
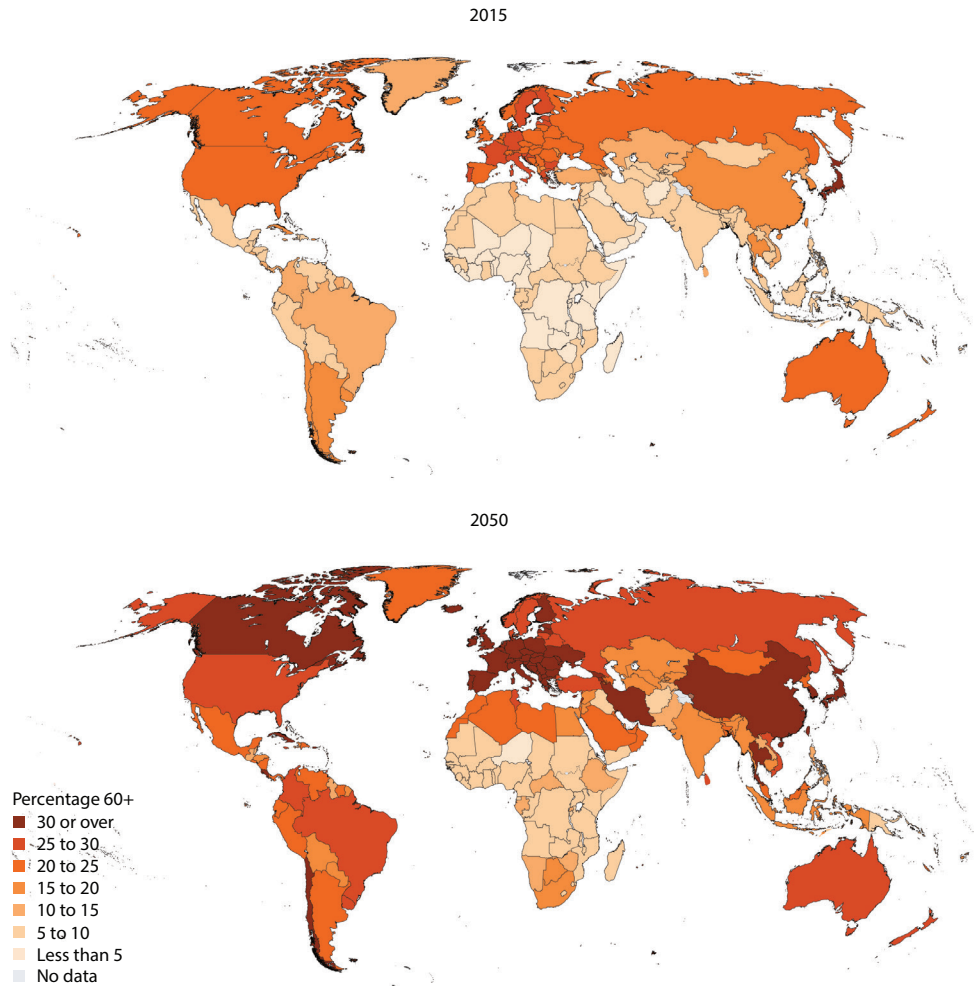


Figure 5.
Percentage of the population aged 60 years or over, 2015 and 2050

The percentage of older persons in the population will increase in virtually all countries.



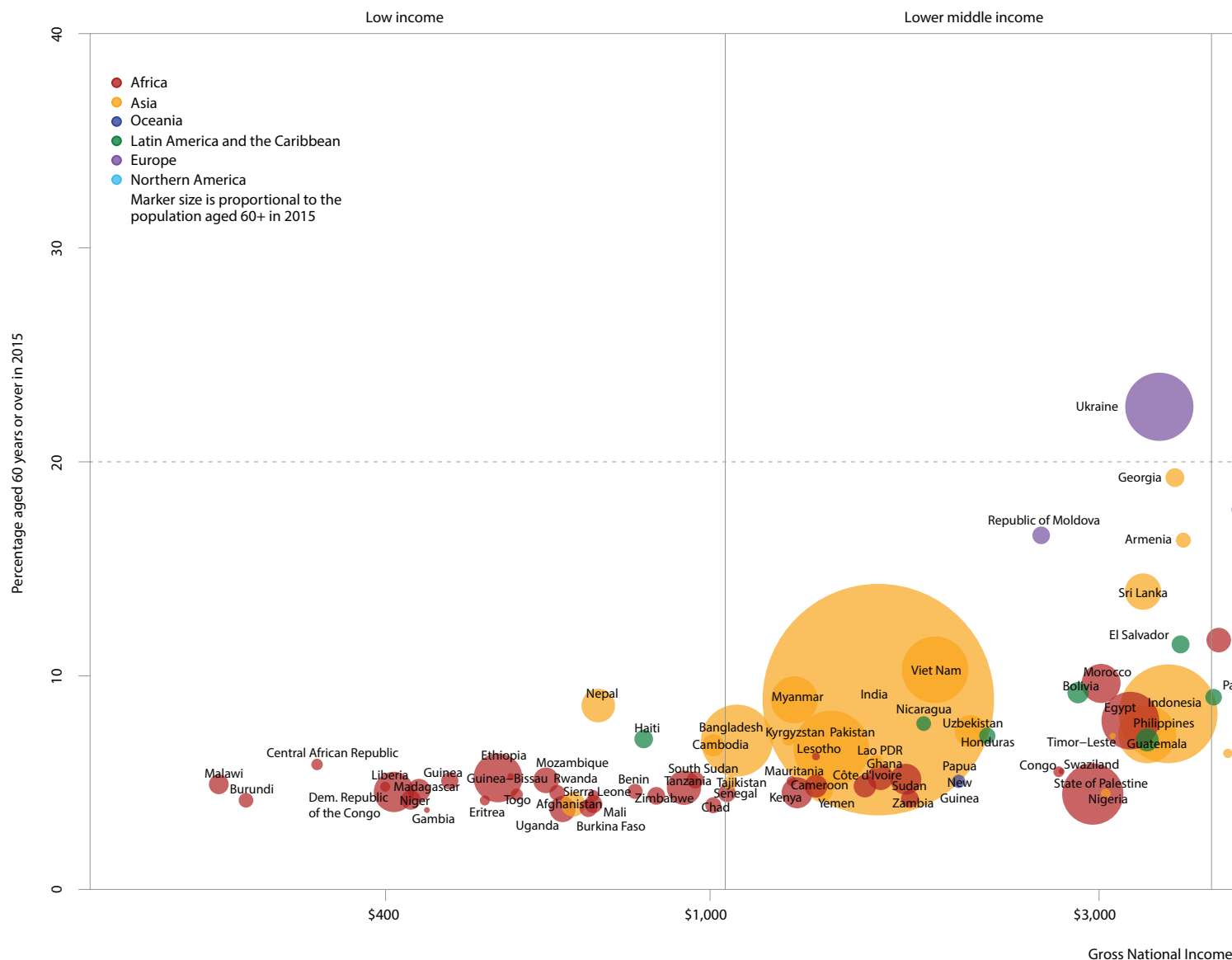
Data source: World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision
 The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.

In 2050, nearly half of the world’s population will live in countries with at least 20 per cent of the population aged 60 or over, and one in four people will live in countries where older persons account for more than 30 per cent of the population (figure 5). The number of countries or areas where at least 20 per cent of people are aged 60 years or over is projected to grow from 53 in 2015 to 145 in 2050, and the share of the world’s people living in such countries is projected to increase from 17 per cent to 44 per cent. In 74 countries or areas, older persons are projected to make up at least 30 per cent of the population in 2050, up from just 3 countries or areas in 2015. Conversely, the number of countries with very young population age structures is shrinking over time. While in 2015 there were 37 countries or areas where less than 5 per cent of people were aged 60 or over, by 2050 the share of older persons is projected to be above 5 per cent in almost all countries.



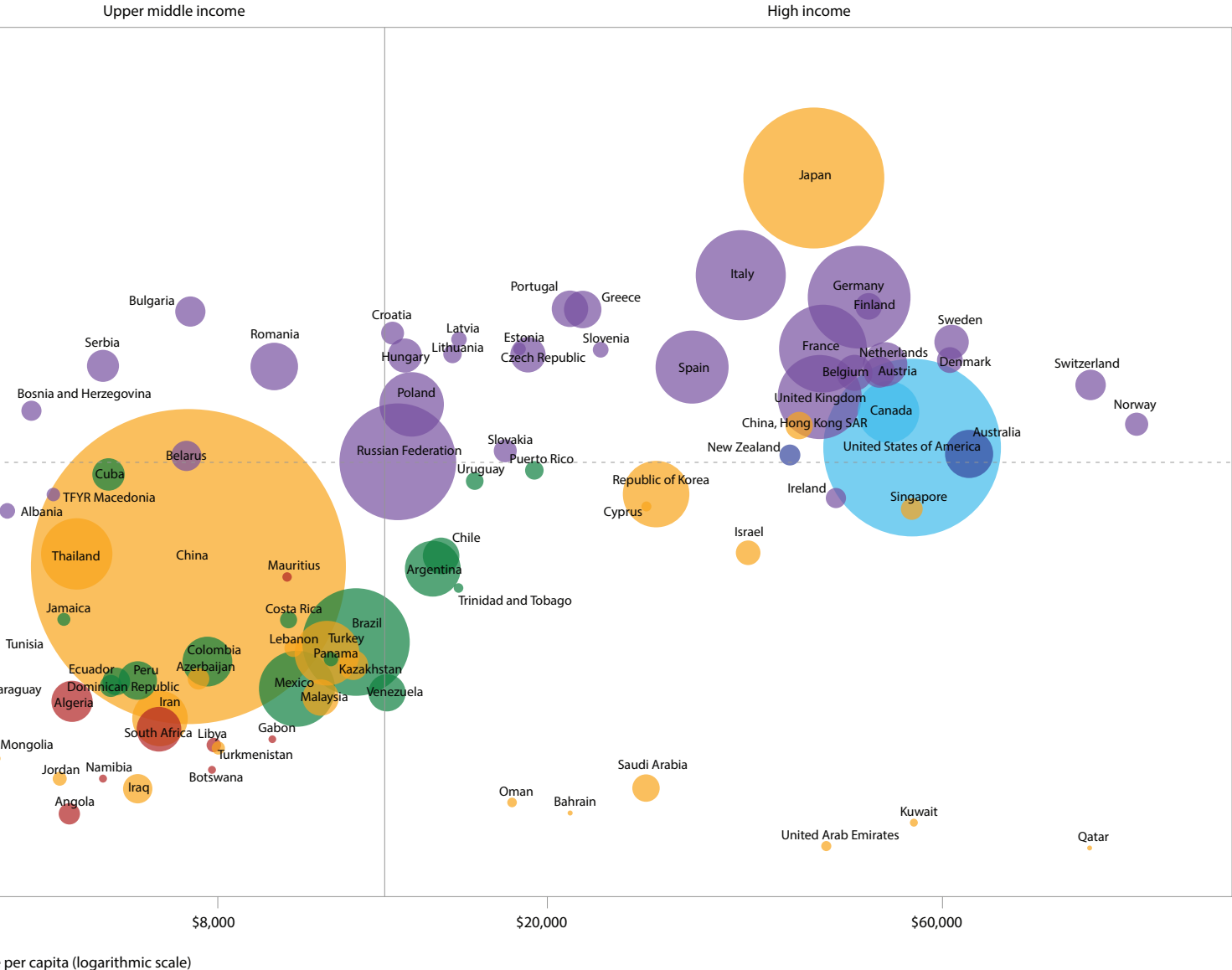
High-income countries tend to be the most aged (figure 6). Japan is home to the world’s most aged population, with 33 per cent of persons aged 60 years or over in 2015. Japan is followed by Italy (29 per cent aged 60 or over), Germany (28 per cent), and Finland (27 per cent). In 2015, of the 58 high-income countries or areas with total population greater than 90,000, 32 countries had at least one in five people aged 60 years or over. The proportion of older persons also exceeded 20 per cent among several upper-middle-income European countries, such as Bulgaria (27 per cent aged 60 or over in 2015) and Romania (22 per cent). Comparatively young age structures prevailed among countries at the lower end of the income distribution: in every low-income country and 85 per cent of lower-middle-income countries in 2015, less than one in ten people was aged 60 or over.

Figure 6.
Percentage of population aged 60 years or over in 2015 vs. gross national income (GNI) per capita in 2014



Source for GNI: World Bank (2015). World Development Indicators.

By 2030 many middle-income countries will have aged considerably. Within the next 15 years, several upper-middle-income countries are projected to become as aged as many of today's high-income countries. For example, between 2015 and 2030 the share of people aged 60 years or over is projected to increase from 15 to 25 per cent in China, from 16 to 27 per cent in Thailand and from 19 to 32 per cent in Cuba (see annex table). Some lower-middle-income countries are projected to age rapidly as well. For example, between 2015 and 2030 the proportion aged 60 or over is projected to increase from 14 to 21 per cent in Sri Lanka, from 10 to 18 per cent in Viet Nam, and from 10 to 15 per cent in Morocco. The population ageing process is much slower in low-income countries: in 93 per cent of low-income countries and 54 per cent of lower-middle-income countries, the share of older persons is projected to remain below 10 per cent through 2030.



The demography of population ageing

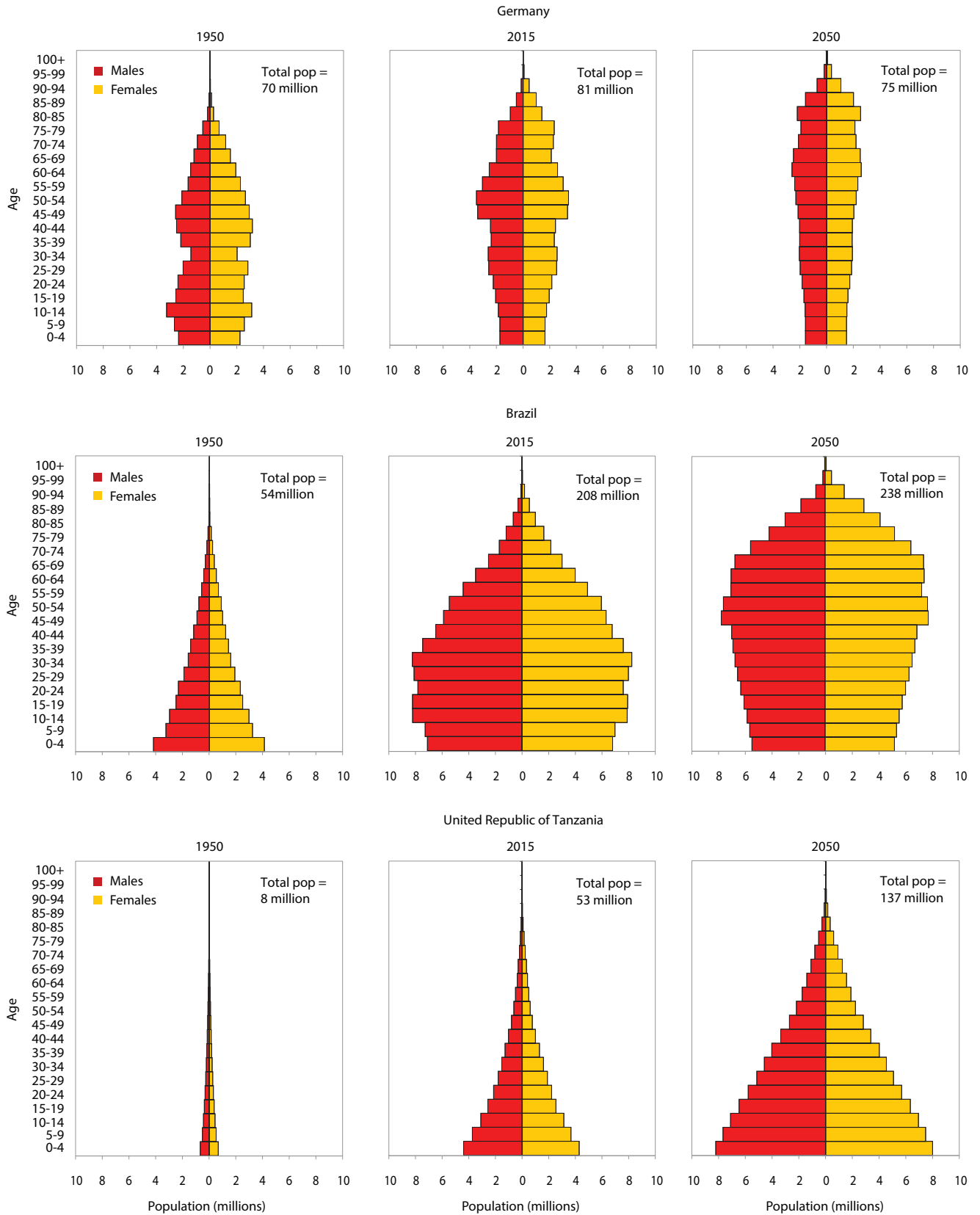
Population ageing is an inevitable consequence of the demographic transition.

Population ageing is driven by the reductions in fertility and improvements in longevity that occur during the demographic transition. The transition began first in Europe and Northern America, where fertility reductions took place over the past two centuries, contributing to their relatively aged population age structures today. In Germany, for example, the total fertility rate in 1950 was 2.1 children per woman, and the proportion of the population aged 60 or over was just under 15 per cent. Fertility continued to fall in Germany to 1.4 children per woman in 2015, while the proportion of older persons nearly doubled, to 28 per cent. While fertility rates in Germany are expected to increase somewhat in the coming decades, they are likely to remain below the replacement level of 2.1 children per woman, and, by 2050, the percentage aged 60 years or over is projected to reach 39 per cent.

The demographic transition began later in most of Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, and thus their populations are youthful compared to Europe and Northern America. In Brazil in 1950 fertility stood at 6.2 children per woman, on average, and just 5 per cent of the population was aged 60 or over. But starting around 1960, fertility declined rapidly in Brazil, to 1.8 children per woman in 2015, and it is projected to remain below replacement at least through 2050. Fertility decline has occurred much faster in Asia and in Latin America and the Caribbean than in the more developed regions, and thus the populations of Asia and of Latin America and the Caribbean are ageing more rapidly. The share of Brazil's population aged 60 years or over, for example, is projected to increase from 12 per cent in 2015 to 29 per cent in 2050.

Many countries in Africa remain in the early stages of the demographic transition: some have begun to see reductions in fertility only recently, while others have yet to see a significant decline in fertility. As a result, while the numbers of older people have grown, their share of the overall population has remained fairly small. In the United Republic of Tanzania, for example, total fertility in 2015, at 5.1 children per woman, was still comparatively high, although it had fallen from 6.7 children per woman in 1950. Consequently, there has been little change in the proportion of older people in Tanzania: it increased only slightly, from 4 per cent in 1950 to 5 per cent in 2015. Fertility in Tanzania is projected to continue a relatively slow decline towards 3.3 children per woman in 2050, and the percentage of the population aged 60 or over is projected to rise gradually, reaching 7 per cent by the mid-century.

Figure 7.
Population age structure in Germany, Brazil and the United Republic of Tanzania



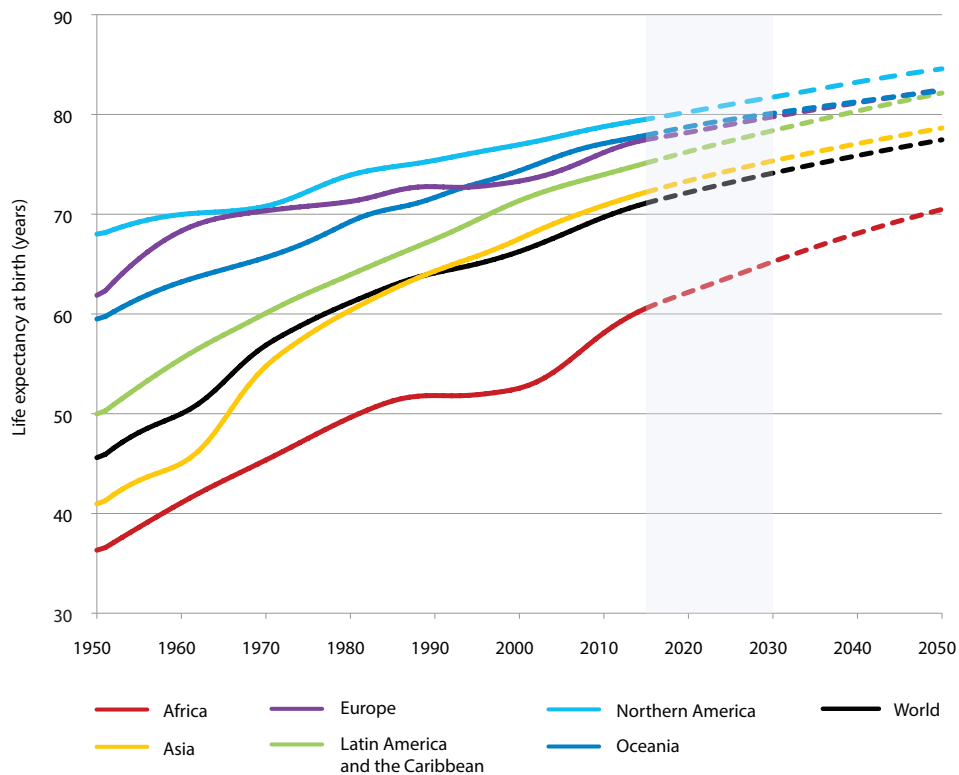
Box 1**Population ageing and international migration**

While declining fertility and increasing longevity are the key drivers of population ageing globally, international migration has also contributed to changing population age structures in some countries and regions. In countries that are experiencing large immigration flows, international migration can slow the ageing process, at least temporarily, since migrants tend to be concentrated in the working ages. However, over the long term, levels of immigration would need to be much higher than have been observed in the past in order for international migration to offset the changes in population age structure that result from fertility and mortality trends. Thus migration alone is unlikely to be an effective policy response to population ageing in a vast majority of countries (United Nations, 2001).

However, there is some evidence that countries are increasingly turning to international migration in the context of an ageing population. The number of countries with policies to increase rates of immigration rose from 8 in 1996 to 22 in 2013 and 20 of those 22 countries (91 per cent) identified population ageing as a “major concern” in 2013. By comparison, just 47 per cent of countries that had not enacted policies to promote immigration identified population ageing as a “major concern” (United Nations, 2014).

Conversely, the emigration of young workers has accelerated population ageing in some countries, particularly in Eastern Europe where increasing access to European Union labour markets as well as the economic crisis that began in 2008 have contributed to large emigration flows (OECD, 2013). In response, some of these countries have enacted policies to slow rates of emigration or to encourage the return of their citizens from abroad (United Nations, 2014).

Figure 8.
Life expectancy at birth by region, 1950-2050



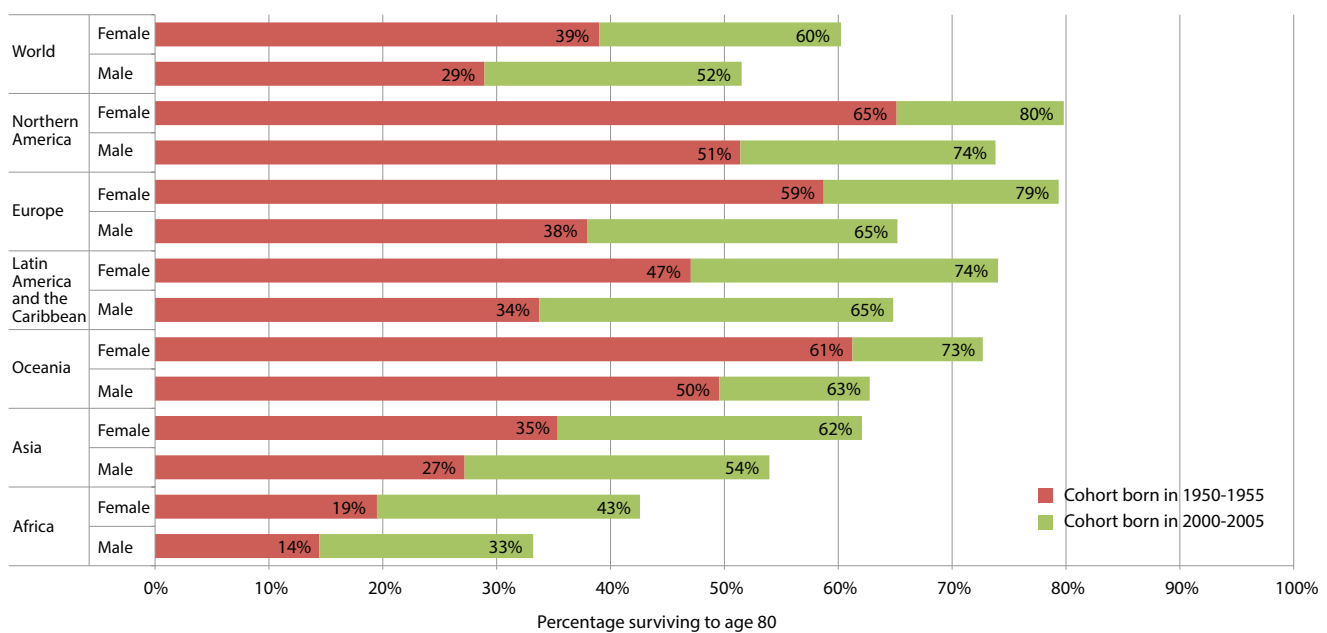
The immediate cause of population ageing is fertility decline. However, improved longevity contributes as well, first by eliminating the demographic necessity of high fertility, and second by increasing the number of survivors to older ages. Since 1950, life expectancy at birth has risen by more than 10 years in Northern America and in Europe, by close to 20 years in Oceania and by more than 25 years in Latin America and the Caribbean (figure 8). In each of the aforementioned four regions, life expectancy is projected to surpass 80 years in the coming decades. Asia has achieved the largest gains in survival, adding more than 30 years to life expectancy at birth since 1950. The region is projected to continue to improve, with life expectancy projected to increase from 72 years in 2015 to 79 years in 2050. Africa has lower levels of life expectancy, owing largely to persistently high child and maternal mortality risks in many countries, as well as excess mortality caused by HIV/AIDS over the past quarter century. Nonetheless, Africa added 24 years to the life expectancy at birth since 1950 and is projected to see further improvement from 61 years in 2015 to 70 years in 2050.

Most children born today will live to their 80th birthdays.

More people are projected to survive to advanced older ages than ever before. Mortality estimates and projections suggest that less than one-half of the people born in the world during 1950-1955 will survive to celebrate their 80th birthdays (figure 9). Among this cohort, only women and men born in Northern America and in Oceania and women born in Europe are more likely than not to reach age 80. Among those born more recently, however, in 2000-2005, survival to age 80 is expected to be the norm everywhere but Africa. Around eight in ten women born in Northern America and in Europe in 2000-2005 are projected to survive to age 80. Projected probabilities of survival to age 80 among the 2000-2005 birth cohort also exceed 70 per cent among women in Oceania and in Latin America and the Caribbean and among men in Northern America. Those born in Africa are least likely to survive to advanced older ages: 43 per cent of women and 33 per cent of men born in Africa during 2000-2005 are projected to live to their 80th birthdays.

Figure 9.

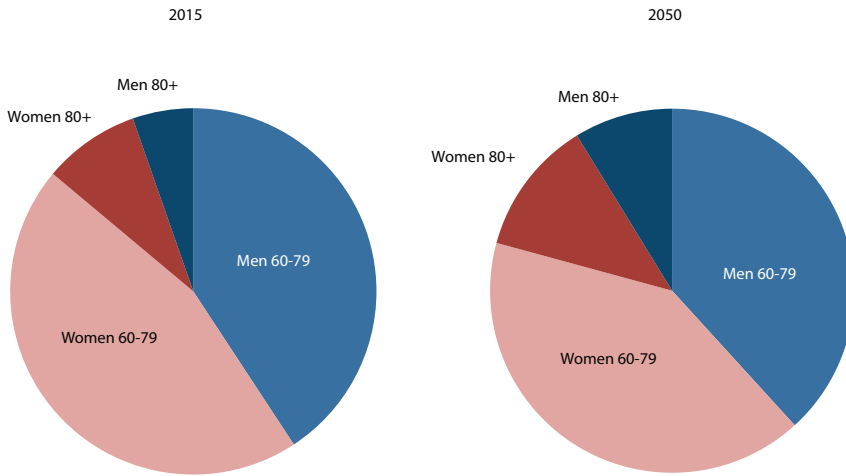
Probability of survival to age 80 by sex and region, birth cohorts of 1950-1955 and 2000-2005



Because women tend to live longer than men, they comprise a larger share of the older population, especially at advanced ages (figure 10). In 2015, women accounted for 54 per cent of the global population aged 60 years or over and 61 per cent of those aged 80 years or over. Moreover, improvements in survival at advanced ages mean that the older population is itself ageing. The share of the older population that is aged 80 years or over is projected to grow from 14 per cent in 2015 to 21 per cent in 2050.

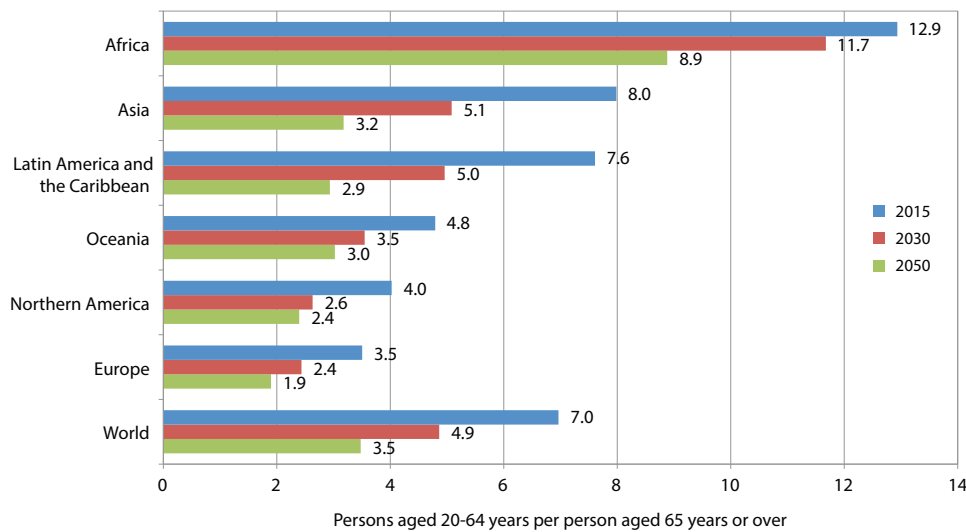
Figure 10.
Global share of the older population by age and sex, 2015 and 2050

The older population is itself ageing.



With increasing longevity and declining fertility, each successive cohort of older persons can expect to live longer and have fewer adult children as potential sources of support in old age. Indeed, the potential support ratio—the number of people aged 20 to 64 years per person aged 65 years or over—declines as a population ages. In 2015, there were 7 working-aged people for each older person in the world. By 2050, the global potential support ratio is projected to have fallen to 3.5 and all major regions except Africa are expected to have potential support ratios of 3.2 or lower (figure 11). In 2050, there are expected to be 2.4 working-aged people for every older person aged 65 or over in Northern America, 1.9 in Europe, and the potential support ratio is projected to have fallen below 2 in 46 countries or areas, such as Japan (1.3), Portugal (1.4), Cuba (1.5) and Austria (1.7).

Figure 11.
Potential support ratios by region, 2015, 2030 and 2050



Policy implications of population ageing

Preparing for an ageing population is integral to the achievement of many of the sustainable development goals and targets, including poverty eradication, ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being at all ages, gender equality, and full and productive employment and decent work for all, reducing inequalities between and within countries, and making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. The 2002 Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA), adopted during the Second World Assembly on Ageing, highlighted the need to consider older persons in development planning, emphasizing that older persons should be able to participate in and benefit equitably from the fruits of development to advance their health and well-being, and that societies should provide enabling environments for them to do so. As populations grow increasingly aged, it is more important than ever that Governments design innovative policies and public services specifically targeted to older persons, including those addressing, *inter alia*, housing, employment, health care, infrastructure and social protection. Such policies will be essential to the success of efforts to achieve the goals and targets laid out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Planning for growing numbers and proportions of older people is essential to ensure the sustainability of pension systems. In some countries, large majorities of older people are covered by existing pay-as-you go or unfunded pension programmes, but declining old-age support ratios imply that such programmes may struggle to maintain adequate income support into the future. In response, some countries are pursuing pension system reforms, such as increasing the statutory ages at retirement and encouraging private savings. In many developing countries, existing pension systems cover only a minority of older persons. There, Governments should prioritize enhancing system coverage and taking other measures to properly finance the pensions of the ever-expanding population of retirees. Countries, where appropriate, should expand their pension systems to guarantee basic income security in old age for all, at the same time ensuring the sustainability and solvency of pension schemes.

Health care systems must adapt to meet the needs of growing numbers of older persons. In countries where health systems are already well-equipped to diagnose and treat conditions associated with old age, public policies are needed to mitigate the upward pressure on national health care budgets exerted by the rising costs of health care services, and the longer lifespans and increasing numbers of older persons. In places where existing health systems are weak or ill-equipped to address the needs of an ageing population, countries should work to expand and evolve those systems in preparation for a growing burden of non-communicable diseases. As life expectancies increase, it is more important than ever to enact policies that promote lifelong health and emphasize preventive care—such as those that support good nutrition and physical activity, and discourage tobacco use and the harmful use of alcohol and drugs—to prevent or postpone the onset of age-related

disability. In addition, countries should prepare for a growing need for long-term care, both home-based and facility-based, to ensure the well-being of those at advanced ages.

Population ageing underscores the urgency of eliminating age-related discrimination, promoting and protecting the rights and dignity of older persons, and facilitating their full participation in society. Ensuring that older persons who want to work have access to employment opportunities is a key policy priority. Policies are needed to eliminate age barriers in the formal labour market and promote the recruitment of and flexible employment opportunities for older workers, as well as facilitate access to microcredit and, where applicable, provide subsidies and other incentives for self-employment. In addition, countries should ensure that older persons are included in public policy and decision-making processes, including by utilising information and communications technologies to facilitate their engagement in public governance processes.

Governments should act to improve older persons' access to public services in both urban and rural settings, including by ensuring that infrastructure and services are accessible to persons with limited mobility, or visual, hearing and other impairments for which prevalence tends to increase with age. The proliferation of technologies, such as mobile devices, offers a variety of new channels for reaching older persons, for example by delivering messages related to health, security or environmental hazards via SMS. Governments should help to bridge the digital divide by addressing differences in educational background and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) skills of older persons through technology training courses, programmes and learning hubs tailored to their needs.

Recent population trends guarantee that virtually every country should anticipate significant growth in the number of older persons over the coming decades, necessitating multisectoral policy reforms to ensure that older persons are able to participate actively in the economic, social, cultural and political life of their societies. By understanding their specific population trends, Governments may assess present needs and anticipate future needs with respect to their older population. In doing so, they can proactively implement the policies and programmes that ensure the well-being and full socio-economic integration of older persons while maintaining the fiscal solvency of pension and health care systems and promoting economic growth.

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Annex table

Country or area	Population aged 60 or over (thousands)		Percentage aged 60 or over		Potential support ratio (persons aged 20-64 per person aged 65 or over)		Total fertility (children per woman)	Life expectancy at birth (years)	
	2015	2030	2015	2030	2015	2030	2010-2015	2010-2015	Males
World	900 906	1 402 405	12.3	16.5	7.0	4.9	2.5	68.3	72.7
More developed regions	298 783	375 219	23.9	29.2	3.4	2.4	1.7	75.1	81.5
Less developed regions	602 123	1 027 187	9.9	14.2	9.0	5.9	2.6	66.9	70.7
Least developed countries	52 066	88 531	5.5	6.7	12.8	11.5	4.3	60.7	63.6
Other less developed countries	550 057	938 655	10.7	15.9	8.6	5.4	2.4	68.3	72.1
Less developed regions, excluding China	386 862	658 943	8.2	11.4	10.0	7.2	3.0	65.1	69.1
High-income countries	309 662	408 853	22.1	27.7	3.7	2.6	1.7	75.7	81.9
Middle-income countries	557 662	938 759	10.5	15.4	8.7	5.6	2.4	67.7	71.5
Upper-middle-income countries	320 158	544 856	13.4	21.2	7.4	4.2	1.9	71.8	76.0
Lower-middle-income countries	237 504	393 903	8.1	11.2	10.4	7.6	2.9	64.6	68.1
Low-income countries	33 161	54 040	5.2	5.8	12.7	12.5	4.9	58.7	61.9
Sub-Saharan Africa	46 455	74 504	4.8	5.3	14.0	13.6	5.1	55.9	58.4
Africa	64 447	105 387	5.4	6.3	12.9	11.7	4.7	58.2	60.9
Eastern Africa	18 868	30 818	4.8	5.3	13.6	13.4	4.9	58.9	62.2
Burundi	468	844	4.2	4.9	17.3	13.6	6.1	54.2	58.0
Comoros	36	65	4.6	6.0	16.6	13.2	4.6	61.2	64.5
Djibouti	56	97	6.3	9.2	12.7	9.5	3.3	60.0	63.2
Eritrea	218	339	4.2	4.6	16.9	16.9	4.4	60.9	65.2
Ethiopia	5 205	8 464	5.2	6.1	12.4	12.7	4.6	61.3	65.0
Kenya	2 090	3 628	4.5	5.5	16.1	13.4	4.4	59.1	62.2
Madagascar	1 128	2 091	4.7	5.8	15.6	12.9	4.5	63.0	66.0
Malawi	849	1 218	4.9	4.6	11.7	14.4	5.3	59.9	62.0
Mauritius ¹	188	305	14.7	23.3	6.6	3.6	1.5	70.7	77.7
Mayotte	13	28	5.6	8.0	11.8	9.4	4.1	76.0	82.9
Mozambique	1 432	2 138	5.1	5.2	12.1	12.5	5.5	52.9	56.2
Réunion	130	241	15.1	25.5	5.7	3.0	2.2	76.0	82.9
Rwanda	527	989	4.5	6.3	16.3	12.0	4.1	59.7	66.3
Seychelles	11	19	10.9	19.1	9.1	4.4	2.3	68.7	77.9
Somalia	482	736	4.5	4.5	13.9	14.8	6.6	53.3	56.5
South Sudan	634	1 007	5.1	5.7	12.5	13.2	5.2	54.1	56.0
Uganda	1 474	2 297	3.8	3.7	15.4	18.4	5.9	55.7	58.8
United Republic of Tanzania ²	2 552	4 292	4.8	5.2	12.9	12.8	5.2	62.6	65.6
Zambia	690	1 047	4.3	4.1	13.9	16.6	5.5	57.2	60.3
Zimbabwe	686	973	4.4	4.6	15.1	16.3	4.0	53.6	56.0
Middle Africa	6 901	11 267	4.5	4.9	14.0	14.2	5.8	54.3	57.0
Angola	959	1 652	3.8	4.2	17.0	15.8	6.2	50.2	53.2
Cameroon	1 131	1 728	4.8	5.2	13.6	14.1	4.8	53.7	56.0
Central African Republic	287	404	5.9	6.2	12.0	12.3	4.4	47.8	51.3
Chad	555	867	4.0	4.0	15.8	16.8	6.3	50.1	52.2
Congo	255	414	5.5	6.1	11.9	11.5	5.0	60.0	62.9
Dem. Republic of the Congo	3 537	5 900	4.6	4.9	13.6	13.9	6.2	56.7	59.5

Country or area	Population aged 60 or over (thousands)		Percentage aged 60 or over		Potential support ratio (persons aged 20-64 per person aged 65 or over)		Total fertility (children per woman)	Life expectancy at birth (years)	
	2015	2030	2015	2030	2015	2030	2010-2015	2010-2015	
								Males	Females
Equatorial Guinea	43	105	5.1	8.5	16.6	8.8	5.0	55.9	58.6
Gabon	125	182	7.3	7.8	9.3	9.9	4.0	63.2	64.1
Sao Tome and Principe	8	15	4.4	5.8	14.2	13.3	4.7	64.2	68.2
Northern Africa	17 992	30 883	8.0	10.9	10.3	7.3	3.3	68.6	72.4
Algeria	3 573	6 413	9.0	13.3	9.8	6.1	2.9	72.1	76.8
Egypt	7 238	11 593	7.9	9.9	10.2	8.0	3.4	68.7	73.1
Libya	439	894	7.0	12.0	12.6	8.4	2.5	68.8	74.4
Morocco	3 317	6 012	9.6	15.1	9.4	5.4	2.6	72.6	74.6
Sudan	2 081	3 633	5.2	6.4	13.7	12.2	4.5	61.6	64.6
Tunisia	1 314	2 247	11.7	17.7	8.1	4.8	2.2	72.3	77.0
Western Sahara	31	91	5.5	12.4	21.8	8.7	2.2	65.9	69.8
Southern Africa	4 680	6 958	7.5	9.9	11.4	8.6	2.5	55.0	59.0
Botswana	133	224	5.9	8.0	15.2	11.1	2.9	61.8	66.5
Lesotho	133	132	6.2	5.3	11.6	13.5	3.3	49.2	49.6
Namibia	134	233	5.5	7.1	13.9	11.3	3.6	61.6	67.0
South Africa	4 209	6 283	7.7	10.5	11.1	8.3	2.4	54.9	59.1
Swaziland	71	86	5.5	5.7	13.3	12.4	3.4	49.7	48.5
Western Africa	16 006	25 462	4.5	4.9	15.3	15.0	5.5	54.4	55.6
Benin	501	873	4.6	5.6	15.3	14.2	4.9	57.8	60.6
Burkina Faso	692	1 201	3.8	4.4	17.2	17.0	5.6	56.7	59.3
Cabo Verde	35	64	6.7	10.4	12.1	8.7	2.4	71.1	74.7
Côte d'Ivoire	1 100	1 642	4.8	5.1	14.4	14.6	5.1	50.2	51.9
Gambia	74	136	3.7	4.4	17.7	16.3	5.8	58.5	61.2
Ghana	1 444	2 413	5.3	6.5	14.0	12.7	4.2	60.1	62.0
Guinea	643	1 015	5.1	5.6	14.3	13.3	5.1	57.6	58.5
Guinea-Bissau	98	146	5.3	5.7	14.4	13.4	5.0	53.0	56.5
Liberia	217	361	4.8	5.6	14.6	13.9	4.8	59.3	61.2
Mali	706	1 100	4.0	4.0	15.6	17.4	6.4	57.4	57.0
Mauritania	207	371	5.1	6.5	14.4	12.2	4.7	61.3	64.3
Niger	837	1 502	4.2	4.2	14.2	13.3	7.6	59.9	61.6
Nigeria	8 158	12 525	4.5	4.8	15.7	15.7	5.7	52.0	52.6
Senegal	684	1 154	4.5	5.1	14.6	14.3	5.2	63.9	67.6
Sierra Leone	284	413	4.4	4.8	16.5	17.2	4.8	49.7	50.7
Togo	325	545	4.5	5.2	16.1	15.2	4.7	58.3	59.7
Asia	507 954	844 487	11.6	17.2	8.0	5.1	2.2	69.7	73.6
Eastern Asia	269 797	435 155	16.7	26.4	6.0	3.3	1.6	74.7	78.6
China ³	209 240	358 146	15.2	25.3	7.1	3.6	1.6	74.0	77.0
China, Hong Kong SAR ⁴	1 581	2 670	21.7	33.6	4.5	2.1	1.2	80.9	86.6
China, Macao SAR ⁵	87	185	14.8	25.7	8.1	3.1	1.2	78.1	82.5
Dem. People's Rep. of Korea	3 149	5 181	12.5	19.4	6.5	5.1	2.0	66.3	73.3
Japan	41 873	44 808	33.1	37.3	2.1	1.7	1.4	80.0	86.5
Mongolia	189	420	6.4	11.9	14.8	7.3	2.7	64.8	73.3
Republic of Korea	9 325	16 501	18.5	31.4	5.1	2.5	1.3	78.0	84.6
Other non-specified areas	4 354	7 243	18.6	31.3	5.6	2.5	1.1	76.4	82.3
Central Asia	5 313	9 402	7.9	11.9	11.7	6.9	2.7	64.5	72.3
Kazakhstan	1 882	2 889	10.7	14.4	8.9	5.4	2.6	64.3	73.9
Kyrgyzstan	420	799	7.1	11.3	13.2	6.9	3.1	66.4	74.3
Tajikistan	425	958	5.0	8.6	17.3	9.2	3.6	65.9	72.8
Turkmenistan	369	700	6.9	11.4	14.2	8.0	2.3	61.3	69.7
Uzbekistan	2 218	4 055	7.4	11.8	12.4	7.3	2.5	64.9	71.6

Country or area	Population aged 60 or over (thousands)		Percentage aged 60 or over		Potential support ratio (persons aged 20-64 per person aged 65 or over)		Total fertility (children per woman)	Life expectancy at birth (years)	
	2015	2030	2015	2030	2015	2030	2010-2015	2010-2015	
								Males	Females
Southern Asia	153 490	256 153	8.4	11.9	10.3	7.4	2.6	66.4	69.2
Afghanistan	1 300	2 232	4.0	5.1	16.9	16.4	5.1	58.7	61.1
Bangladesh	11 235	21 526	7.0	11.5	11.2	8.3	2.2	69.9	72.3
Bhutan	57	102	7.4	11.6	11.6	8.3	2.1	68.6	69.1
India	116 553	190 730	8.9	12.5	10.0	7.0	2.5	66.1	68.9
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	6 502	12 745	8.2	14.4	12.7	6.7	1.7	74.0	76.2
Maldives	25	51	6.8	11.7	12.5	8.0	2.2	75.4	77.4
Nepal	2 456	3 572	8.6	10.8	9.1	8.1	2.3	67.6	70.5
Pakistan	12 476	20 671	6.6	8.4	11.2	9.8	3.7	65.0	66.8
Sri Lanka	2 887	4 524	13.9	21.0	6.3	3.7	2.1	71.2	78.0
South-Eastern Asia	59 008	106 415	9.3	14.7	9.9	6.0	2.4	67.5	73.2
Brunei Darussalam	32	85	7.6	17.1	14.5	5.6	1.9	76.6	80.4
Cambodia	1 053	1 972	6.8	10.4	13.2	8.3	2.7	65.5	69.6
Indonesia	21 194	38 957	8.2	13.2	11.3	7.1	2.5	66.6	70.7
Lao People's Dem. Republic	407	685	6.0	8.1	13.2	10.6	3.1	64.1	66.8
Malaysia ⁶	2 785	5 196	9.2	14.4	10.3	6.2	2.0	72.2	76.9
Myanmar	4 786	7 982	8.9	13.2	10.8	7.1	2.3	63.6	67.7
Philippines	7 321	12 682	7.3	10.3	11.7	8.4	3.0	64.7	71.6
Singapore	1 001	1 969	17.9	30.7	5.7	2.5	1.2	79.6	85.6
Thailand	10 731	18 355	15.8	26.9	6.2	3.1	1.5	70.8	77.6
Timor-Leste	85	108	7.2	6.8	7.4	9.6	5.9	66.1	69.5
Viet Nam	9 613	18 425	10.3	17.5	9.3	4.9	2.0	70.7	80.3
Western Asia	20 346	37 363	7.9	11.6	10.9	7.3	2.9	70.0	75.6
Armenia	493	712	16.3	23.8	6.0	3.1	1.6	70.7	78.4
Azerbaijan ⁷	980	1 885	10.0	17.6	11.6	4.7	2.3	67.5	73.8
Bahrain	53	178	3.9	10.8	28.9	10.5	2.1	75.6	77.4
Cyprus ⁸	209	309	18.0	23.7	5.0	3.4	1.5	77.7	82.2
Georgia ⁹	770	969	19.3	25.1	4.5	3.0	1.8	70.9	78.1
Iraq	1 817	3 162	5.0	5.8	14.9	13.8	4.6	67.0	71.4
Israel	1 278	1 808	15.8	18.1	4.7	3.8	3.1	80.2	83.8
Jordan	414	782	5.4	8.6	13.4	10.6	3.5	72.2	75.5
Kuwait	133	442	3.4	8.9	35.5	13.4	2.2	73.3	75.6
Lebanon	670	1 014	11.5	19.2	7.2	4.3	1.7	77.1	80.9
Oman	196	494	4.4	9.4	27.7	11.5	2.9	74.7	78.9
Qatar	51	221	2.3	7.9	66.2	18.5	2.1	77.1	79.7
Saudi Arabia	1 582	4 324	5.0	11.1	21.1	9.3	2.9	72.8	75.5
State of Palestine ¹⁰	211	421	4.5	6.2	15.4	12.8	4.3	70.7	74.7
Syrian Arab Republic	1 191	2 556	6.4	8.9	11.6	9.5	3.0	64.0	76.3
Turkey	8 828	14 911	11.2	17.0	7.7	5.0	2.1	71.5	78.1
United Arab Emirates	215	1 238	2.3	11.3	70.5	12.3	1.8	76.0	78.2
Yemen	1 254	1 939	4.7	5.3	16.4	14.7	4.4	62.2	64.9
Europe	176 513	217 220	23.9	29.6	3.5	2.4	1.6	73.4	80.6
Eastern Europe	63 091	71 662	21.5	25.7	4.4	2.9	1.6	66.9	76.8
Belarus	1 927	2 260	20.3	25.2	4.7	3.0	1.6	65.3	77.0
Bulgaria	1 926	1 898	26.9	30.1	3.1	2.5	1.5	70.6	77.6
Czech Republic	2 630	3 027	24.9	28.9	3.5	2.5	1.5	75.4	81.3
Hungary	2 455	2 559	24.9	27.6	3.5	2.8	1.3	71.2	78.5
Poland	8 753	10 657	22.7	28.6	4.1	2.5	1.4	73.1	81.1
Republic of Moldova ¹¹	674	858	16.6	22.4	6.9	3.7	1.3	67.2	75.4
Romania	4 763	5 258	24.4	29.8	3.6	2.7	1.5	70.9	78.1

Country or area	Population aged 60 or over (thousands)		Percentage aged 60 or over		Potential support ratio (persons aged 20-64 per person aged 65 or over)		Total fertility (children per woman)	Life expectancy at birth (years)	
	2015	2030	2015	2030	2015	2030	2010-2015	2010-2015	Males
Russian Federation	28 730	33 233	20.0	24.0	4.9	3.0	1.7	64.2	75.6
Slovakia	1 114	1 411	20.5	26.4	4.8	2.9	1.4	72.2	79.7
Ukraine ¹²	10 118	10 501	22.6	25.7	4.2	2.9	1.5	65.7	75.7
Northern Europe	23 968	30 820	23.4	28.0	3.3	2.6	1.9	77.8	82.3
Channel Islands ¹³	39	54	23.6	31.0	3.6	2.4	1.5	78.5	82.4
Denmark	1 401	1 764	24.7	29.4	3.1	2.5	1.7	78.0	81.9
Estonia	331	361	25.2	29.1	3.2	2.4	1.6	71.6	81.1
Finland ¹⁴	1 496	1 797	27.2	31.5	2.8	2.1	1.7	77.6	83.4
Iceland	63	94	19.2	25.8	4.3	2.8	2.0	80.7	83.8
Ireland	861	1 267	18.4	24.4	4.5	3.1	2.0	78.4	82.7
Latvia	506	524	25.7	29.0	3.2	2.5	1.5	68.9	78.7
Lithuania	719	761	25.0	28.7	3.2	2.5	1.6	67.4	78.8
Norway ¹⁵	1 134	1 559	21.8	26.2	3.6	2.8	1.8	79.2	83.4
Sweden	2 497	3 074	25.5	28.6	2.9	2.4	1.9	80.1	83.7
United Kingdom ¹⁶	14 889	19 521	23.0	27.8	3.3	2.6	1.9	78.5	82.4
Southern Europe	39 914	50 712	26.2	33.9	3.0	2.1	1.4	78.4	83.9
Albania	515	752	17.8	25.5	4.9	2.8	1.8	75.0	80.2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	853	1 097	22.4	30.6	4.2	2.5	1.3	73.7	78.8
Croatia	1 100	1 233	25.9	31.0	3.2	2.3	1.5	73.6	80.4
Greece	2 961	3 480	27.0	33.2	2.8	2.2	1.3	77.6	83.6
Italy	17 108	21 605	28.6	36.6	2.6	1.9	1.4	80.3	85.2
Malta	107	130	25.6	30.4	3.1	2.3	1.4	78.6	82.0
Montenegro	127	156	20.3	25.2	4.5	3.0	1.7	73.8	78.2
Portugal	2 801	3 413	27.1	34.7	2.9	2.1	1.3	77.4	83.5
Serbia ¹⁷	2 163	2 254	24.4	27.2	3.5	2.8	1.6	71.8	77.5
Slovenia	521	672	25.2	32.7	3.5	2.1	1.6	76.9	83.1
Spain ¹⁸	11 246	15 361	24.4	33.5	3.3	2.2	1.3	79.4	85.1
TFYR Macedonia ¹⁹	385	515	18.5	24.8	5.2	3.3	1.5	72.9	77.5
Western Europe	49 540	64 026	26.0	32.7	3.0	2.1	1.7	78.5	83.7
Austria	2 064	2 864	24.2	32.4	3.3	2.3	1.5	78.5	83.6
Belgium	2 725	3 544	24.1	29.5	3.3	2.4	1.8	78.0	83.0
France	16 249	20 321	25.2	29.9	3.0	2.2	2.0	78.8	84.9
Germany	22 269	28 644	27.6	36.1	2.9	1.9	1.4	78.2	83.1
Luxembourg	108	168	19.1	24.7	4.5	3.2	1.6	78.9	83.7
Netherlands	4 148	5 633	24.5	32.0	3.3	2.2	1.8	79.4	83.1
Switzerland	1 955	2 825	23.6	30.6	3.4	2.4	1.5	80.4	84.7
Latin America and the Caribbean	70 922	120 959	11.2	16.8	7.6	5.0	2.2	71.2	77.9
Caribbean	5 745	8 946	13.3	19.2	6.1	4.1	2.3	69.7	75.2
Antigua and Barbuda	10	21	10.8	19.7	8.4	4.7	2.1	73.3	78.2
Aruba	19	30	18.5	28.4	5.1	2.7	1.7	72.9	77.8
Bahamas	49	90	12.5	20.1	7.6	4.0	1.9	72.0	78.1
Barbados	56	81	19.8	27.7	4.2	2.5	1.8	72.9	77.7
Cuba	2 215	3 552	19.4	31.6	4.6	2.5	1.6	77.1	81.3
Curaçao	33	50	21.1	28.4	4.0	2.4	2.1	74.5	80.7
Dominican Republic	1 023	1 722	9.7	14.2	8.1	5.6	2.5	70.2	76.5
Grenada	11	16	10.2	14.3	8.0	5.4	2.2	70.8	75.6
Guadeloupe ²⁰	95	150	20.2	30.5	3.9	2.3	2.2	76.8	84.0
Haiti	755	1 168	7.1	9.3	11.0	9.0	3.1	60.2	64.4
Jamaica	357	537	12.8	18.7	6.3	4.3	2.1	73.1	77.9
Martinique	104	151	26.2	38.5	3.0	1.6	2.0	77.8	84.4

Country or area	Population aged 60 or over (thousands)		Percentage aged 60 or over		Potential support ratio (persons aged 20-64 per person aged 65 or over)		Total fertility (children per woman)	Life expectancy at birth (years)	
	2015	2030	2015	2030	2015	2030	2010-2015	2010-2015	
Puerto Rico	723	927	19.6	25.5	4.1	3.0	1.6	75.2	83.2
Saint Lucia	23	39	12.5	19.1	6.6	4.5	1.9	72.2	77.6
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	12	21	10.9	18.3	8.1	4.5	2.0	70.7	74.9
Trinidad and Tobago	193	277	14.2	20.2	6.7	4.1	1.8	66.9	73.8
United States Virgin Islands	26	34	24.1	32.2	3.2	1.9	2.3	77.2	82.9
Central America	16 144	28 786	9.3	14.2	8.7	6.0	2.4	73.1	78.4
Belize	21	42	5.9	8.9	14.1	10.5	2.6	67.2	72.7
Costa Rica	613	1 111	12.8	20.5	6.8	4.0	1.9	76.7	81.7
El Salvador	703	1 010	11.5	15.8	6.7	5.1	2.0	67.9	77.1
Guatemala	1 145	1 834	7.0	8.6	9.8	9.0	3.3	67.9	75.0
Honduras	581	1 044	7.2	10.7	10.8	8.0	2.5	70.4	75.4
Mexico	12 177	22 094	9.6	14.9	8.7	5.8	2.3	74.0	78.9
Nicaragua	473	878	7.8	12.5	10.8	6.7	2.3	71.4	77.5
Panama	430	773	10.9	16.2	7.4	5.0	2.5	74.3	80.5
South America	49 033	83 227	11.7	17.7	7.4	4.7	2.0	70.7	78.0
Argentina	6 559	8 634	15.1	17.5	5.1	4.3	2.3	72.2	79.8
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	988	1 499	9.2	11.4	7.9	6.8	3.0	65.3	70.2
Brazil	24 392	42 879	11.7	18.8	7.7	4.5	1.8	70.3	77.9
Chile	2 818	4 800	15.7	23.7	5.6	3.4	1.8	78.1	84.1
Colombia	5 226	9 721	10.8	18.3	8.6	4.8	1.9	70.2	77.4
Ecuador	1 602	2 840	9.9	14.5	8.2	5.5	2.6	72.8	78.4
French Guiana	21	48	7.8	12.7	10.9	6.2	3.5	75.8	82.6
Guyana	64	122	8.3	14.9	10.7	5.9	2.6	64.0	68.6
Paraguay	598	942	9.0	12.0	8.9	6.6	2.6	70.7	74.9
Peru	3 127	5 409	10.0	14.7	8.3	5.7	2.5	71.5	76.8
Suriname	56	94	10.2	15.7	8.4	5.4	2.4	67.8	74.2
Uruguay	657	796	19.1	22.1	3.9	3.4	2.0	73.3	80.4
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	2 925	5 442	9.4	14.8	9.0	5.6	2.4	69.9	78.2
Northern America	74 589	104 799	20.8	26.4	4.0	2.6	1.9	76.8	81.5
Canada	8 021	11 858	22.3	29.4	3.8	2.4	1.6	79.7	83.8
United States of America	66 545	92 906	20.7	26.1	4.0	2.7	1.9	76.5	81.3
Oceania	6 481	9 553	16.5	20.2	4.8	3.5	2.4	75.3	79.7
Australia/New Zealand	5 808	8 391	20.4	25.0	4.0	2.8	1.9	79.9	84.1
Australia ²¹	4 887	7 014	20.4	24.6	4.0	2.9	1.9	79.9	84.3
New Zealand	921	1 378	20.3	27.0	3.9	2.6	2.1	79.7	83.4
Melanesia	555	950	5.8	7.7	14.2	11.1	3.7	61.9	66.3
Fiji	83	134	9.3	14.3	9.7	5.6	2.6	66.9	72.9
New Caledonia	38	61	14.5	19.6	5.9	4.2	2.1	73.6	79.3
Papua New Guinea	387	671	5.1	6.7	16.3	13.2	3.8	60.3	64.5
Solomon Islands	30	52	5.2	6.9	13.7	12.0	4.1	66.2	69.0
Vanuatu	17	32	6.5	9.1	11.8	8.6	3.4	69.6	73.6
Micronesia	51	95	9.7	15.6	9.0	5.1	2.8	70.5	75.3
Guam	22	40	13.0	19.9	6.5	3.8	2.4	76.1	81.5
Kiribati	7	13	6.1	9.3	13.7	8.8	3.8	62.6	68.9
Micronesia (Fed. States of)	8	11	7.5	9.1	11.3	7.9	3.3	68.0	69.9
Polynesia	67	117	9.8	15.6	8.3	5.1	3.0	71.7	77.1
French Polynesia	33	62	11.6	19.7	8.2	4.4	2.1	74.0	78.6
Samoa	15	25	7.9	12.1	8.9	6.0	4.2	70.0	76.4
Tonga	9	13	8.2	10.5	7.9	7.1	3.8	69.7	75.6

Notes

- ¹ Including Agalega, Rodrigues, and Saint Brandon.
- ² Including Zanzibar.
- ³ For statistical purposes, the data for China do not include Hong Kong and Macao, Special Administrative Regions (SAR) of China, and Taiwan Province of China.
- ⁴ As of 1 July 1997, Hong Kong became a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China.
- ⁵ As of 20 December 1999, Macao became a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China.
- ⁶ Including Sabah and Sarawak.
- ⁷ Including Nagorno-Karabakh.
- ⁸ Refers to the whole country.
- ⁹ Including Abkhazia and South Ossetia.
- ¹⁰ Including East Jerusalem.
- ¹¹ Including Transnistria.
- ¹² Including Crimea.
- ¹³ Refers to Guernsey and Jersey.
- ¹⁴ Including Åland Islands.
- ¹⁵ Including Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands.
- ¹⁶ Refers to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- ¹⁷ Including Kosovo.
- ¹⁸ Including Canary Islands, Ceuta and Melilla.
- ¹⁹ The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
- ²⁰ Including Saint-Barthélemy and Saint-Martin (French part).
- ²¹ Including Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, and Norfolk Island.



Accurate, consistent and timely data on global trends in population age structure are critical for assessing current and future needs with respect to population ageing and for setting policy priorities to promote the well-being of the growing number and share of older persons in the population. This publication presents the highlights of the *World Population Ageing 2015* report, which summarizes the trends in population ageing drawn from the latest United Nations estimates and projections of population by age and sex for 233 countries or areas, as published in *World Population Prospects: the 2015 Revision*. The present *Highlights* focuses in particular on the period from 2015 to 2030, the implementation period identified for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and discusses some implications of trends in the number and share of older persons for development planning.

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