

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA) AND THE UNITED NATIONS POPULATION DIVISION, DESA
SPECIAL BULLETIN ON THE POPULATION DYNAMICS IN LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, MAY 2011



Population Dynamics in Least Developed Countries

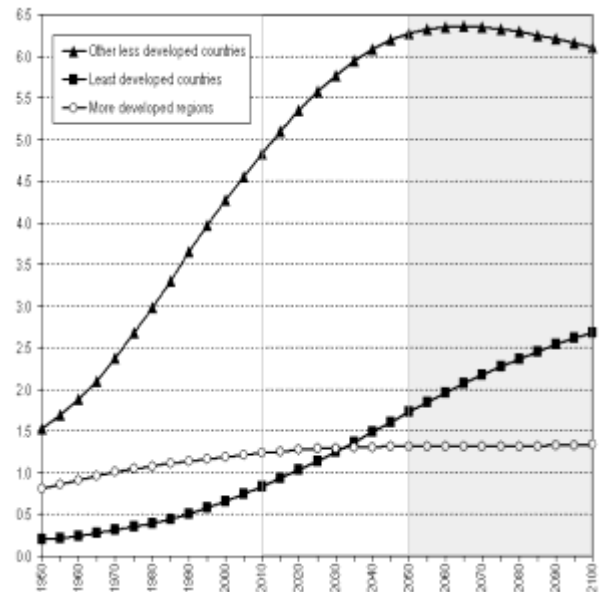
The group of least developed countries (LDCs) currently includes 48 countries: 33 from Africa, 14 from Asia and 1 country from Latin America and the Caribbean. Sixteen LDCs are landlocked and 10 are Small Island Developing States.

In 2011, the total LDC population stands at 851 million, and is expected to double before 2050. The population of LDCs is presently growing nearly twice as fast (at 2.2 per cent annually) as that of the rest of the developing countries, which are growing at 1.2 per cent per year. Although the LDCs contain only 12% of the world population, they will account for almost 40% of the global population growth during the next forty years.

Fertility decline in the least developed countries has been markedly slower than in the other developing countries. The total fertility rate in LDCs in 2010-2015 is estimated to be 4.1 children per woman, in contrast to 2.3 for the rest of the developing world. This high fertility is responsible for the elevated rates of population growth in most of the least developed countries. High fertility also imposes a heavy burden in the health sector, particularly in relation to the need to provide adequate nutrition, immunizations and other health services to the rising number of children.

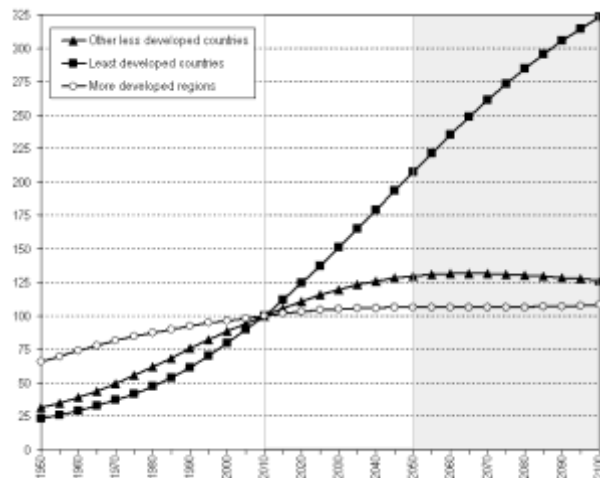
The sustained increase of the number of children and young people in the least developed countries imposes additional burdens on the school systems, limiting their ability to provide education for all. It also represents a difficult challenge for the labour market, considering that the population of working age of the least developed countries is expected to increase by over 200 million people from 2010 to 2025.

Projected population by development region, medium variant, 1950-2100 (billion)



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2011): World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision. New York

Population as percentage of population in 2010, medium variant, 1950-2100



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2011): World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision. New York

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Demographic indicators in Least Developed Countries

Country	Total population (thousand)			Population growth rate (per cent)	Total fertility (children per woman)	Under-five mortality (per thousand)	Life expectancy (years)	Median age (years)	Dependency ratio (per one hundred population 15-64)	Women aged 15 - 49 (per cent)	Population aged 0 - 24 (thousand)	Population aged 10 - 24 (thousand)	Population aged 60+ (thousand)
	2010	2011	2050										
Afghanistan	31,412	32,358	75,250	2.6	6.0	184	49.3	16.6	95	21.7	21,599	10,999	1,221
Angola	19,082	19,618	42,334	2.9	5.1	156	51.7	16.6	96	22.7	12,969	6,490	774
Bangladesh	148,692	150,494	194,353	1.1	2.2	51	69.4	24.2	56	27.6	76,485	46,400	10,083
Benin	8,850	9,100	21,734	3.0	5.1	121	56.8	17.9	88	23.7	5,767	2,919	423
Bhutan	726	738	962	1.9	2.3	52	67.7	24.6	52	25.9	368	226	52
Burkina Faso	16,469	16,968	46,721	3.0	5.8	147	56.0	17.1	91	23.5	11,106	5,552	631
Burundi	8,383	8,575	13,703	2.9	4.1	152	51.1	20.2	69	26.3	5,131	2,880	394
Cambodia	14,138	14,306	18,965	1.1	2.4	69	63.7	22.9	56	27.7	7,628	4,677	915
Central African Republic	4,401	4,487	8,392	1.8	4.4	155	49.5	19.4	80	24.2	2,727	1,471	268
Chad	11,227	11,525	27,252	2.7	5.7	195	50.1	17.1	93	22.6	7,511	3,736	520
Comoros	735	754	1,700	2.7	4.7	86	61.7	18.9	83	23.8	457	224	32
Democratic Republic of Congo	65,966	67,758	148,523	2.8	5.5	180	48.9	16.7	96	22.6	44,982	22,587	2,870
Djibouti	889	906	1,620	1.9	3.6	104	58.5	21.4	64	26.2	515	295	50
Equatorial Guinea	700	720	1,493	2.8	5.0	151	51.5	20.3	73	23.7	422	220	32
Eritrea	5,254	5,415	11,568	3.2	4.2	62	62.2	19.0	79	25.3	3,327	1,692	222
Ethiopia	62,950	64,734	145,187	2.2	3.8	96	60.0	18.7	81	24.1	52,751	29,200	4,490
Gambia	1,728	1,776	4,036	2.8	4.7	93	59.0	17.8	86	25.0	1,141	591	62
Guinea	9,982	10,222	23,006	2.0	5.0	134	54.7	18.3	86	23.0	6,420	3,282	519
Guinea-Bissau	1,515	1,547	3,185	2.0	4.9	181	48.8	19.0	81	23.9	946	492	83
Haiti	9,993	10,124	14,178	1.3	3.2	76	62.5	21.5	68	25.9	5,728	3,293	670
Kiribati	100	101	156	1.6	2.9	44	68.5	22.4	61	26.9	55	33	6
Lao People's Democratic Republic	6,201	6,288	8,384	1.5	2.5	46	67.9	21.5	62	26.8	3,566	2,189	375
Lesotho	2,171	2,194	2,788	1.0	3.1	89	49.1	20.3	71	26.5	1,322	779	138
Liberia	3,994	4,129	9,660	4.5	5.0	107	57.5	18.2	86	23.4	2,581	1,291	179
Madagascar	20,714	21,315	53,561	2.9	4.5	58	66.9	18.2	86	23.5	13,385	6,991	1,018
Malawi	14,901	15,381	49,719	3.0	6.0	119	55.1	16.9	96	22.2	10,203	5,098	757
Mali	15,370	15,840	42,130	3.1	6.1	173	52.1	16.3	97	22.7	10,599	5,152	556
Mauritania	3,460	3,542	7,085	2.5	4.4	106	59.2	19.8	74	24.8	2,110	1,122	158
Mozambique	23,391	23,930	50,192	2.4	4.7	123	51.0	17.8	90	23.8	15,229	7,751	1,227
Myanmar	47,963	48,337	55,296	0.7	1.9	57	66.0	28.2	44	28.8	21,138	13,199	3,954
Nepal	29,959	30,486	46,495	1.9	2.6	39	69.1	21.4	68	26.0	17,151	10,010	1,936
Niger	15,512	16,069	55,435	3.5	6.9	144	55.3	15.5	105	21.7	10,832	5,062	620
Rwanda	10,624	10,943	26,003	2.9	5.3	114	55.8	18.7	83	24.7	6,910	3,496	480
Samoa	183	184	219	0.3	3.8	24	72.8	20.9	75	22.8	104	58	14
Sao Tome and Principe	165	169	299	1.6	3.5	69	65.0	19.3	79	24.8	103	57	9
Senegal	12,434	12,768	28,607	2.7	4.6	85	59.8	17.8	86	24.4	8,201	4,233	499
Sierra Leone	5,858	5,997	11,088	2.6	4.7	157	48.2	18.4	81	24.8	3,743	1,903	216
Solomon Islands	538	552	1,163	2.7	4.0	43	68.4	19.9	75	24.0	326	172	28
Somalia	9,331	9,557	28,217	2.2	6.3	162	51.7	17.5	91	23.0	6,091	2,966	420
Sudan	43,552	44,632	90,962	2.5	4.2	87	62.0	19.7	77	24.1	26,544	14,130	2,530
Timor-Leste	1,124	1,154	3,006	2.1	5.9	76	63.2	16.6	97	21.3	773	405	56
Togo	6,028	6,155	11,130	2.2	3.9	104	57.8	19.7	76	25.1	3,694	2,018	325
Tuvalu	10	10	13	0.3	3.3	40,998	67.6	23.0	70	24.9	5	3	1
Uganda	33,425	34,509	94,259	3.2	5.9	114	54.7	15.7	104	21.8	23,637	11,478	1,339
United Republic of Tanzania	44,841	46,218	138,312	2.9	5.5	81	59.3	17.5	92	22.7	29,809	14,724	2,262
Vanuatu	240	246	513	2.5	3.7	29	71.4	20.6	72	24.8	142	78	14
Yemen	24,053	24,800	61,577	3.1	4.9	57	66.1	17.4	88	23.5	16,363	8,608	1,017
Zambia	13,089	13,475	45,037	2.7	6.3	130	49.6	16.7	98	22.1	8,950	4,411	630
Least Developed Countries	832,330	851,103	1,726,468	2.2	4.1	112	58.8	19.7	77	24.6	511,548	274,644	45,076
Other Developing Countries	4,827,660	4,882,553	6,267,928	1.2	2.3	52	69.4	28.2	50	26.5	2,195,135	1,318,379	464,747

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2011): World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision. New York.