BROAD DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS IN LDCs
DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES are CHALLENGES and OPPORTUNITIES for DEVELOPMENT.
DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGES are DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES.
This year, world population will reach 7 BILLION, with 855 MILLION people living in LDCs.
BY 2050, world population will surpass 9 BILLION, with 1.67 BILLION living in LDCs.
Over the next 40 years, population will grow by less than 30% worldwide, but will nearly double in LDCs – from 855 million to 1.67 billion.
The LDCs have the highest infant, child & maternal death rates in the world, but they also have the highest fertility rates in the world.
DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE AFFECTS the economic, social & environmental DEVELOPMENT of all countries.
Over the last decade, many LDCs made only SLOW PROGRESS towards internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs.
SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE
OPPORTUNITIES & CHOICES
made by individuals
compound to larger-scale
DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES.
Comparisons of SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH indicators of LDCs and other developing nations show significant disparities.
INFANT DEATH RATES, 2008
(PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS)

79
LDCs

49
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

5
INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES

(UNICEF, 2010)
UNDER-5 DEATH RATES, 2008
(PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS)

123
LDCs

68
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

6
INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES

(UNICEF, 2010)
MATERNAL MORTALITY RATES, 2008
(PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS)

590
LDCs

290
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

17
INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES

(UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO and World Bank, 2010)
Women need access to voluntary family planning services & appropriate care during pregnancy & childbirth. ARE PREVENTABLE MATERNAL & INFANT DEATHS.
ADOLESCENT BIRTH RATES, 2007
(PER 1,000 GIRLS)

121
LDCs

52
DEVELOPING REGIONS

23
INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES

(UNFPA, 2011)
Decisive development policies must help women, especially young women, to pursue and balance their productive & reproductive objectives.
PREVALENCE OF CONTRACEPTIVE USE, 2007

- 31% LDCs
- 62% Developing Regions
- 69% Industrialized Countries

(UNFPA, 2011)
UNMET NEED FOR FAMILY PLANNING, 2007

24% LDCs
11% DEVELOPING REGIONS

(UNFPA, 2011)
TOTAL FERTILITY, 2005 - 2010
(CHILDERN PER WOMAN)

4.4 LDCs
2.4 LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
1.7 MORE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

(Population Division, 2011)
Family planning enables individuals and families to decide on the number, timing & spacing of children.
POPULATION GROWTH RATES (2005 – 2010)

2.1% LDCs
1.2% LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
0.4% MORE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

(Population Division, 2011)
HIV/AIDS PREVALENCE IN 15 - 49 YEAR OLDS, 2008

1.8% LDCs
0.8% DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
0.4% INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES

(MDG Report, 2010)
Proper access to SEXUAL HEALTH CARE & products helps to arrest the spread of diseases like HIV/AIDS.
LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH, 2010

57 LDCs
68 LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
77 MORE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

(Population Division, 2011)
POVERTY IN THE LDCs
53% of the people in the LDCs were living on less than $1.25 per day in 2005.

(MDG Report, 2010)
The percentage of people who live in extreme poverty in the LDCs has fallen, but their number has continued to grow, owing to high population growth.
While some people have LIFTED themselves above the $1.25 poverty line, many more ARE STUCK below the $2 poverty line.
RAPID POPULATION GROWTH AND LARGE YOUTHFUL POPULATIONS
LDCs have the LARGEST & MOST RAPIDLY GROWING youth population worldwide.
Today, about 60% of the population in LDCs is UNDER THE AGE OF 25, versus 46% in other developing countries.

(Population Division, 2011)
The promise of the demographic dividend requires investments in youth and their employment.
PRIMARY EDUCATION ENROLMENT RATES, 2008

79% LDCs

89% DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

96% INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES

(MDG Report, 2010)
LITERACY RATES OF
15 – 24 YEAR OLDS, 2005 – 2008

70% LDCs
87% DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
99% INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES

(MDG Report, 2010)
POVERTY REDUCTION is only achievable with productive & remunerative EMPLOYMENT of the labour force, especially the younger generations.
ESTIMATED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN LDCs, 2010

10% YOUTH  
4% ADULTS

(ILO, 2011)
Unemployment estimates are best complemented by estimates of **UNDEREMPLOYMENT** and **VULNERABLE EMPLOYMENT**.
The vast majority of the labour force in LDCs suffers from
UNEMPLOYMENT, UNDEREMPLOYMENT or VULNERABLE EMPLOYMENT.
Over 80% of people in LDCs suffer from VULNERABLE EMPLOYMENT.

(ILO, 2011)
The LACK OF PRODUCTIVE and remunerative EMPLOYMENT is closely associated with WORKING POVERTY.
WORKING POVERTY

About 60% of those employed in LDCs, earned less than $1.25 per day in 2009.

(ILO, 2011)
The MARGINALIZATION OF YOUTH in labour markets CONSTRAINS THEIR PARTICIPATION in political, social and cultural life.
Between now & 2050, the WORKING-AGE POPULATION of the LDCs will increase by an average of 15 million per year.
Between now & 2050, the **LABOUR FORCE** of the LDCs will increase by an average of 33 thousand per day.
POPULATION GROWTH RAISES THE STAKES in efforts to REDUCE POVERTY, CREATE EMPLOYMENT and ENSURE FOOD SECURITY.
RAPID URBAN GROWTH AND RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION
71% of the people in the LDCs still live in rural areas. But the urban population is expanding at a higher rate than anywhere else.
LDCs collectively have an urban growth rate of almost 4%.

THE URBAN POPULATIONS WILL DOUBLE IN 20 YEARS, surpassing rural populations by 2045.
Rapid urban growth often puts pressure on infrastructure and services and the environment. But, **URBANIZATION CAN BE A POSITIVE FORCE** for economically, socially and environmentally sustainable development **IF WE PLAN AHEAD.**
As populations continue to grow, it makes economic and environmental sense for people to live closer together in urban areas.
In **URBAN AREAS**, essential services - e.g. health and education - can be delivered at lower costs per capita, and the development of physical infrastructures - e.g. housing, water, sanitation, power, transport - **BENEFIT FROM ECONOMIES OF SCALE.**
More than 70% of LDC GOVERNMENTS are actively ADDRESSING their concerns about rapid URBANIZATION.
Policies to curb rural-urban migration and slow urban growth have not worked and distract from the need to plan for **URBAN GROWTH**, which **WILL INEVITABLY HAPPEN**.
Proactive planning for urban growth - particularly securing the land, housing and service needs of the urban poor - can help seize the benefits of urbanization and minimize its cost.
PLANNING FOR POPULATION DYNAMICS
- both in rural and urban areas -
requires data analysis of current and
future population trends.
The DEVELOPMENT OF URBAN AREAS and non-agricultural sectors must be COMPLEMENTED by the DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AREAS and agriculture.
EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN LDCs
Decisive policies should be adopted to strengthen women’s choices & opportunities in LDCs
ADULT LITERACY RATES IN LDCS, 2008

69% MEN

51% WOMEN

(LDC Report, 2010)
PERCENT OF LDC POPULATION SUFFERING FROM VULNERABLE EMPLOYMENT, 2009

76% MEN

87% WOMEN

(ILO, 2011)
INVESTING IN GENDER EQUALITY has short- and long-term social & economic MULTIPLIER EFFECTS.
ACTIVITY RATES IN LDC POPULATION, 2008

84% MEN

63% WOMEN

(LDC Report, 2010)
Strengthening WOMEN’S PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY in LDCs is key to ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.
EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN requires better access to sexual & reproductive health care.
TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES FOR LDCs
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The harmonious balance between economic, social and environmental objectives - is strongly linked to POPULATION DYNAMICS.
POPULATION DYNAMICS AFFECT DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

such as

poverty reduction, employment creation, food security, environmental sustainability, climate change, mitigation and adaptation.
Between 2010 and 2050, the world population will grow FROM 7 TO 9 BILLION. Raising the living standards of the poor will require a large increase in economic output.
FOOD PRODUCTION will need to INCREASE BY about 70% to feed a population of 9 BILLION. 

(LDC Report, 2010)
To RAISE LIVING STANDARDS and reduce poverty amidst a growing population requires SUSTAINABLE patterns of PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION.
SUSTAINABLE patterns of CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION - the hallmark of the green economy - are crucial but INSUFFICIENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.
In addition to more sustainable consumption and production, the **The Rio Declaration** (principle 8) and the **ICPD Programme of Action** (principle 6) call for **population-related policies.**
GREEN ECONOMY
THE GREEN ECONOMY
includes not only low-carbon industries but also
SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES,
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY, and even
SUSTAINABLE SERVICES, such as tourism.
Because of their low level of economic development, the LDCs have very low levels of greenhouse gas emissions. 

**STILL, LDCs SUFFER FROM MORE SERIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION THAN MOST OTHERS.**
CLIMATE CHANGE, POVERTY AND UNSUSTAINABLE PRACTICES in the LDCs lead to an unsustainable use of water resources, the degradation of soils and high rates of deforestation. This UNDERMINES a sustainable increase in AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT AND FOOD PRODUCTION.
Between 2000 and 2008, the average annual rate of **REAL ECONOMIC GROWTH** of the **LDCs** was almost as high as in other developing countries (6.5%), but adjusted for population growth and environmental depletion, it was **ONLY HALF (2.5%) OF OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.**
Currently, **ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION** is more significant in LDCs than in other countries. **THE TRANSITION TO THE GREEN ECONOMY SHOULD THEREFORE BE A KEY DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE.**

This transition does not need to be at the expense of economic growth or contradict employment creation and poverty reduction.
More

**SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT** and **URBANIZATION** are influenced by **POPULATION DYNAMICS**, which in turn, are influenced by **SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE**, family planning and women empowerment, amongst others.
Food production will need to increase by about 70% to feed a population of 9 billion.

The transition to the green economy must take account of the most vulnerable populations, both in rural and urban areas.
UNDERSTANDING THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE is essential for the TRANSITION TO THE GREEN ECONOMY.
CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY & ADAPTATION IN LDCs
The **LDCs** are the most vulnerable, yet **LEAST CAPABLE OF ADAPTING** to climate change.
VULNERABILITY TO CLIMATE CHANGE differs among & within populations - POVERTY WORSENS THE GAP.
UNDERSTANDING WHO IS MOST VULNERABLE TO CLIMATE CHANGE is key to knowing how best to adapt.
INCORPORATING POPULATION DYNAMICS INTO ADAPTATION planning allows for MORE APPROPRIATE RESPONSES TO CLIMATE CHANGE.
The impacts of climate change will affect the ability of LDCs to achieve broader development goals.
REDUCING RISKS FROM NATURAL DISASTERS IN LDCs requires better collection & use of POPULATION DATA.
FERTILITY CHOICES influence the RESILIENCE of individual families to CLIMATE RELATED SHOCKS.
REINVIGORATE POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR ADDRESSING POPULATION DYNAMICS
The LDCs have the HIGHEST RATES OF POPULATION GROWTH worldwide – yet they are the LEAST ABLE TO MEET THE NEEDS of growing populations.
RAPID POPULATION GROWTH is a major CHALLENGE to achieving POVERTY REDUCTION & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.
POPULATION POLICIES must strengthen fundamental HUMAN RIGHTS, FREEDOMS & OPPORTUNITIES, not restrict them.
Stabilizing population through individuals’ 
FREE EXERCISE OF A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT 
begins with access to 
SEXUAL AND 
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH.
ADULTS WITH HIGHER EDUCATION AND INCOME HAVE FEWER CHILDREN. and on average, FAMILIES WITH FEWER CHILDREN INVEST MORE IN EACH CHILD.
POPULATION STABILIZATION THROUGH RIGHTS
POPULATION DYNAMICS ARE NOT DESTINY -
they depend on policy choices made today
BUT THEY DO HAVE LONG TERM IMPACTS.
PLANNING FOR POPULATION DYNAMICS
- both in rural and urban areas - requires data analysis of current and future population trends.
UNDERSTANDING AND PLANNING for POPULATION DYNAMICS contributes to an INCREASED EFFECTIVENESS of development cooperation.