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Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies



Future Trends Series - GR:REEN Project

Title of the report

African Demographic Trends: Briefing Notes for AfDB's Long-Term Strategy

Area

Demography

Reporter

African Development Bank Group

Type of the Reporter

International Organisation

Periodically updated?

No

First issued year

2012

Latest update

2012

Official website

<http://www.afdb.org/en/>

Language available

English

Short summary

In the following report, the African Development Bank Group outlines its anticipated demographic trends in population growth and age structures. The areas of inquiry include: fertility rates, mortality rates, average life expectancy, size and structure of Africa's population, aging population, and urbanization.

Key trends

Fertility Rates

- 'In projections to 2030, the African population is expected to peak at 1.6 billion, up from 1.0 billion in 2010. This would represent 19% of the world's population.'
- 'Asia and Latin America will account for 58% and 8%, of world population, respectively.'
- 'Lower fertility rates will lower Africa's overall annual population growth rate to 2% by 2030, compared to Asia at 1.0%, Latin America and the Caribbean at 1.2%, Eastern Europe, -0.8% and the world as a whole at 1.5%.'

Mortality Rates

- 'Child mortality is projected to decline from 116 per 1000 live deaths in 2010 to 75 per 1000 live deaths in 2030 thanks to better incomes, access to improved water supply and sanitation, and better health facilities.'

Average Life Expectancy

- 'By 2030, average life expectancy in Africa is projected to reach 64 years, compared to 57 years in 2010.'
- 'North Africa and East Africa are projected to have the highest life expectation with 76 to 64 years against the lower figure of 56 years in Central Africa.'
- 'The rise in life expectancy is expected to be higher for low-income countries where it will rise from 14 years between 1990 and 2030; in middle-income countries, the expected increase is 12 years; in the upper middle-income countries, the expected increase is 5 years.'

Size and Structure of Africa's Population

- 'All African sub-regions are currently on the demographic upswing but Southern Africa and Northern Africa have higher ratios of working age to non-working age populations. Northern Africa is expected to reap the demographic dividend until just after 2030 when the ratio seems to peak and enter a downswing. The demographics of other sub-regions will continue to be on an upswing and they will reap the demographic dividend until well beyond 2030.'

Aging Population

- 'Population aging is expected to accelerate between 2010 and 2030, as more people live to age 65. Projections show that the elderly could account for 4.5% of the population by 2030 from 3.2% in 2010.'
- 'Middle-income countries, including Mauritius, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, and South Africa, are experiencing the greatest increase in population aging; their populations aged 65 years and older range between 4.5%-7.3%. Other countries, such as Libya, Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Djibouti, have also witnessed a significant increase in their elderly population.'

Urbanization

- 'Africa, and especially Sub-Saharan Africa, has experienced an unprecedented rate of urban growth, outpacing other regions.'
- 'Central Africa is projected to remain the least urbanized region and North Africa the most urbanized.'
- 'The populations in urban areas currently stands at about 40% and will increase further. The process will create an urban population that is larger than the rural population in about 2 decades.'

[Suggestions](#)

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[Methodology](#)

Survey and research from primary sources

[Reference to other trends reports? If yes, which reports?](#)

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