



Interlinkages between Demographic Trends and Urbanization in North Africa

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Macro level Portrait

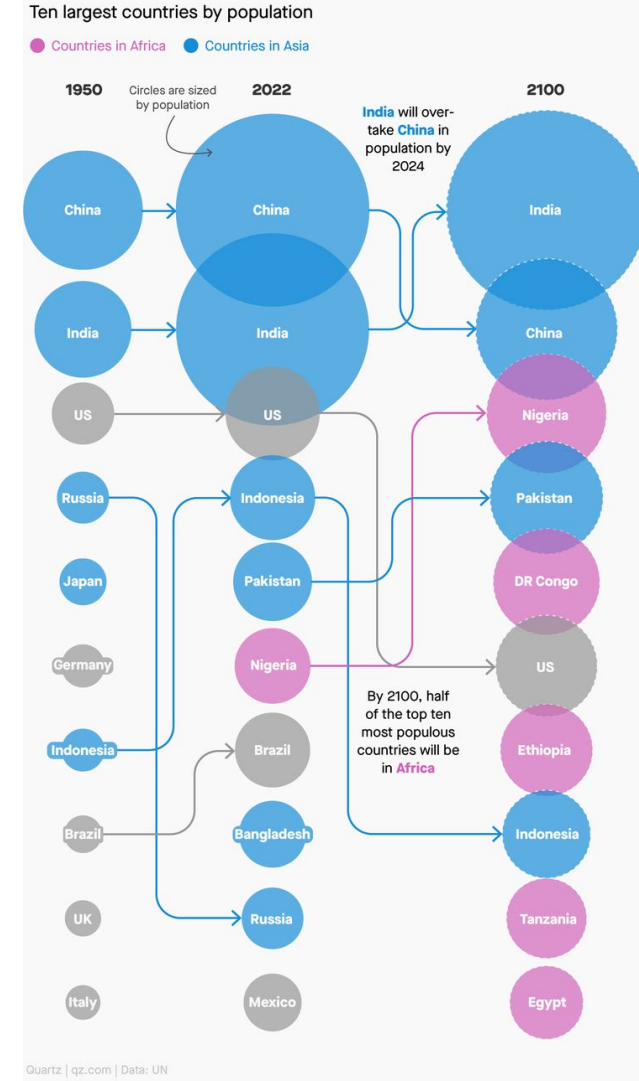
- The near-term estimates by the UN and World Bank show that MENA countries experienced massive increases in population.
- By 2050, the world will hold around 9.8 billion humans. More than half of the 1.8 billion people added between now and then will live in just eight countries: the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Tanzania.

UNFPA (2022). 8 Billion: A World of Infinite Possibilities

Population Growth

- Africa will, in fact, drive half of the world's growth in population between 2022 and 2062.

Samanth Subramanian, Annalisa Merelli, Amanda Shendruk (2022). The world's population just hit 8 billion—and that's okay. Quartz

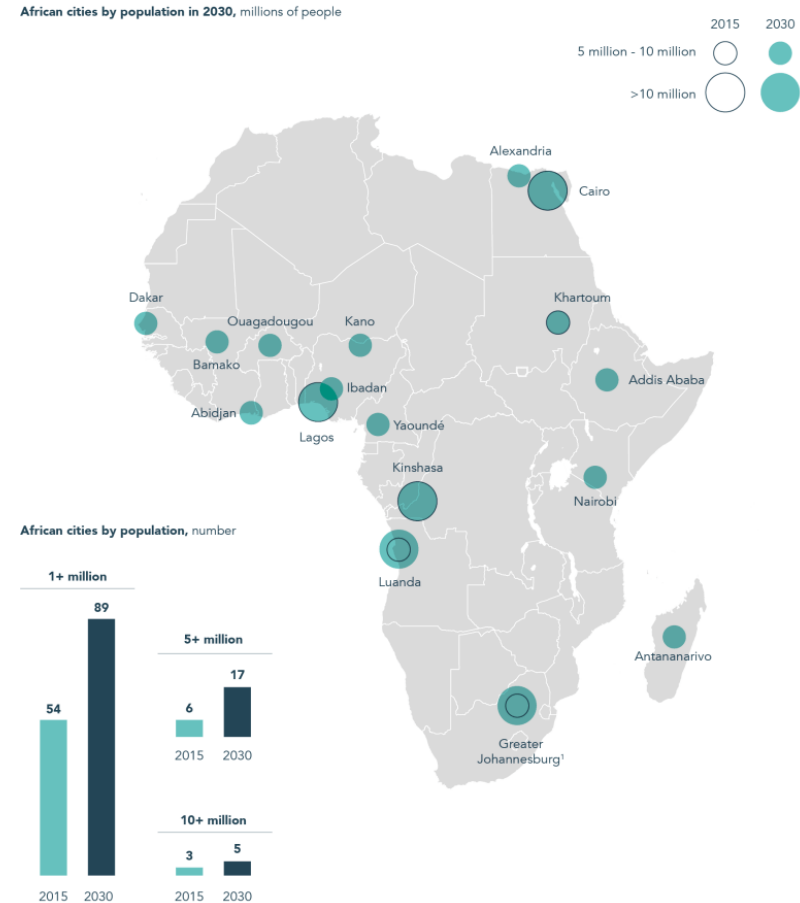


Rapid Urbanization

- As the map shows, by 2030 Africa will have 17 cities with more than 5 million inhabitants, but also 90 cities with at least one million.

Brookings (2020). Charts of the Week: Africa's changing demographics

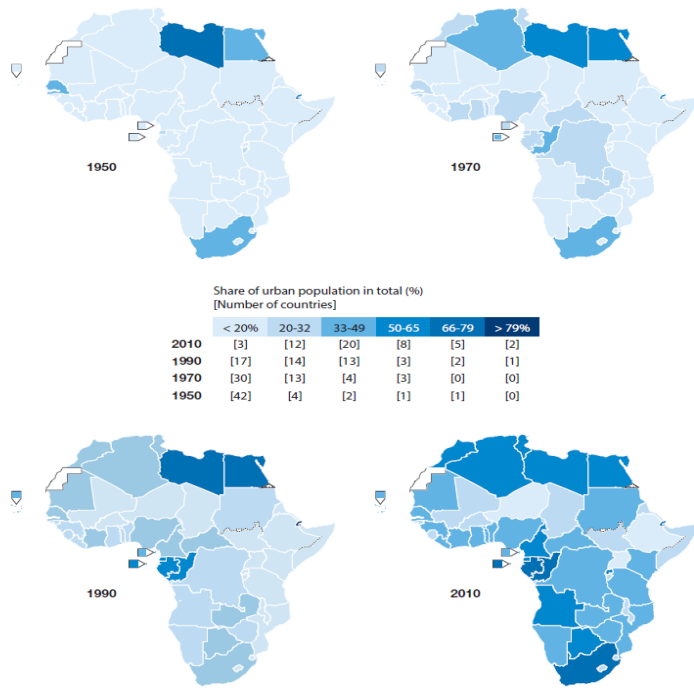
Figure 5.3 By 2030, Africa will have 17 cities with more than 5 million inhabitants



1 Greater Johannesburg includes the City of Johannesburg, Ekurhuleni, and the West Rand.
Source: United Nations World Population Prospect, June 2014 revision, U.N. population division; MGI Cityscope; McKinsey Global Institute analysis.

Share of Urban Population from the Total Population

Growth of African Cities 2010 - 2025



Sources: OECD/SWAC 2018, Africapolis (database); Geopolis 2018

Consequences

Economic
(Unemployment, poverty, prices)

Social
(Inclusion/exclusion, most vulnerable)

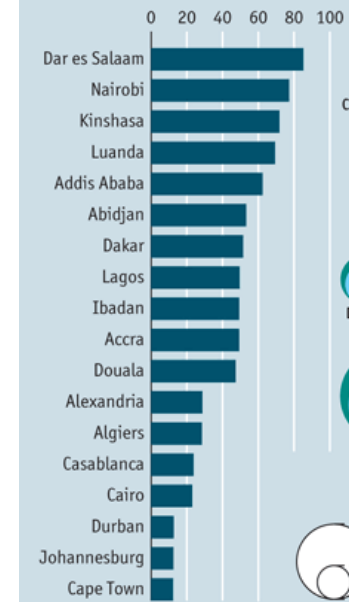
Environment (Natural Resources, Infrastructure)

Political (Instability)

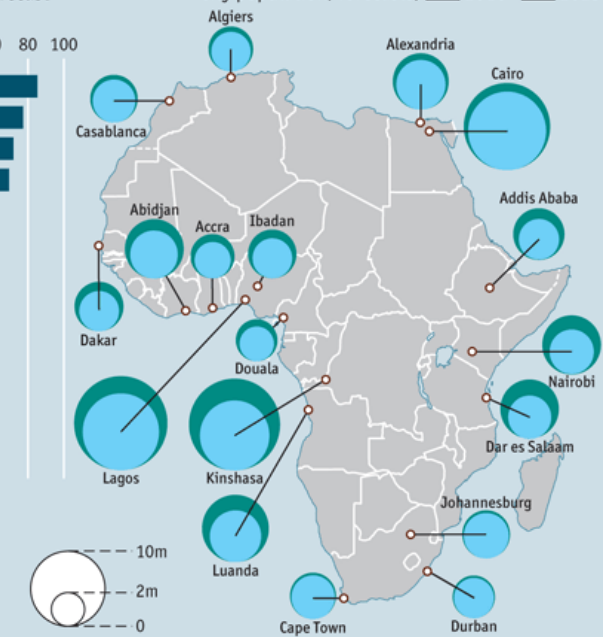
Development (Slums, Congestion, Homelessness)

Growth of African cities

% increase, 2010-2025 forecast



City population, forecasts, 2010 2025



Source: UN-HABITAT

Impact of Urbanization on the Extended Family Structures (Less in Numbers, More in Impact)

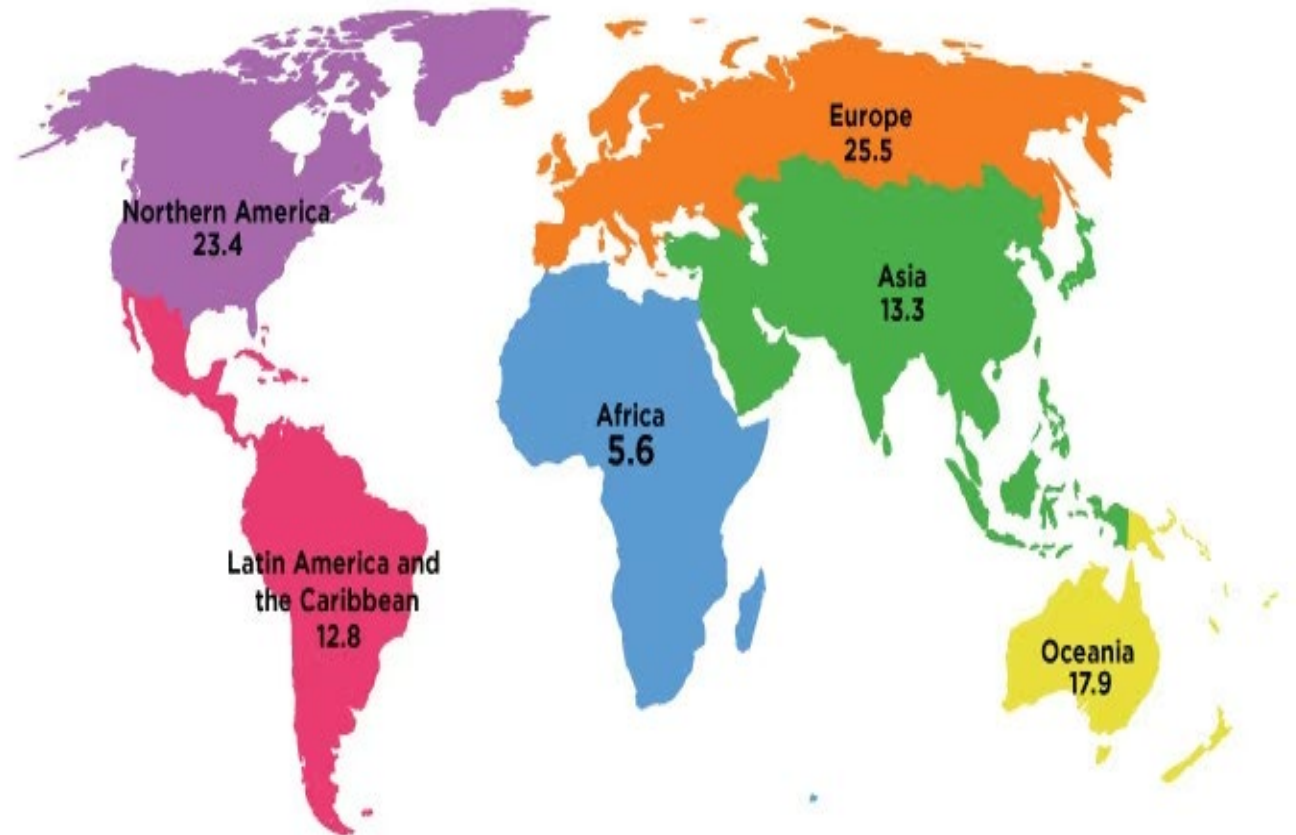
- Family is the root environment to invest in new generations and at the same time to take care of the old generations. Solidarity between generations enriches the well-functionality of the family and accordingly it contributes to the community development at large.
- The notion of 'cohousing' of extended families promote 'cohesive' and 'sustainable' communities .. "a better quality of life ... greater social interaction, support, ... opportunities to share resources... increased feeling of empowerment"
- Enhancing intergenerational solidarity helps to protect cultural heritage, because the grandparents act as the repositories and transmitters of culture, identity and values to the children.
- The involvement of grandparents in family life as caregivers reduces the financial burden of childcare on the state level. According to the South Africa Institute of Race Relations, approximately **80% of foster carers in Africa collectively are extended family members.**
- Urbanization accelerated the changing pace from the extended family to the nuclear family, leading to a gradual decrease in the former. Also, Urbanization contributed to containing extended family structures more in rural areas, while nuclear families in urban cities.

Impact of Urbanization on Elderly care

Aging Population in North Africa

- Africa's population is exceptionally young compared to other world regions that have been aging at a fast rate: only 5.6% of Africa's population was age 60 or older in 2020 compared to 23.4% in North America
- Even by 2050, Africa's older population is projected to remain in single digits, less than 1 in 10 (9.3%).
- Even though the share of older persons in Africa is small, it still translates into an enormous number of people. In 2020, 18 African countries each had more than 1 million people ages 60 and older.
- EU Population: 447 million (Aging population is 11.3 million)
- Africa Population: 1.3 billion (Aging population 72 million)

Percent of Population 60 and Older for World Regions: 2020



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, International Database, 2019.

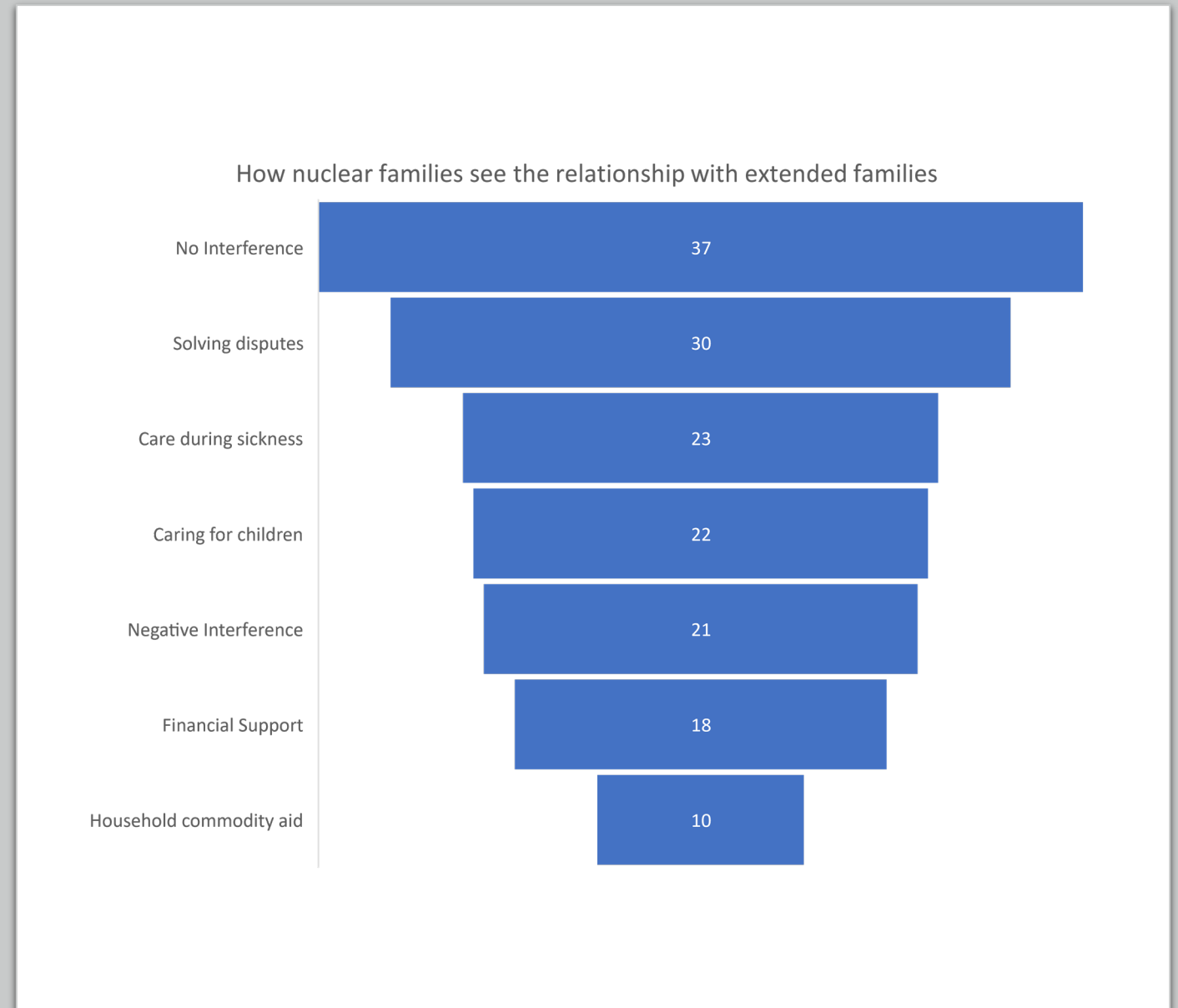
Impact of Urbanization on Elderly care

Aging Population in North Africa – Cont.

- Literature reveals how families are re-evaluating their arrangements, acclaiming the desire of the new parents to enjoy the quality of life would overcome traditional values that considered extended family structures as a source of support and pride. Reyes (2019, p.784) further elaborates this, asserting, “the decision to live in an extended-family household is often determined by necessity rather than being a choice...”.
- Extended family care is shrinking. # of elderly homes / residential care shelters has almost doubled in Egypt during the last decade
- El-Taweel, Y. (2022). Older Adults Home-Based Care in Cairo: Asset Mapping Towards Community Development. AUC

Nature of Relationships between Extended and Nuclear families in North Africa

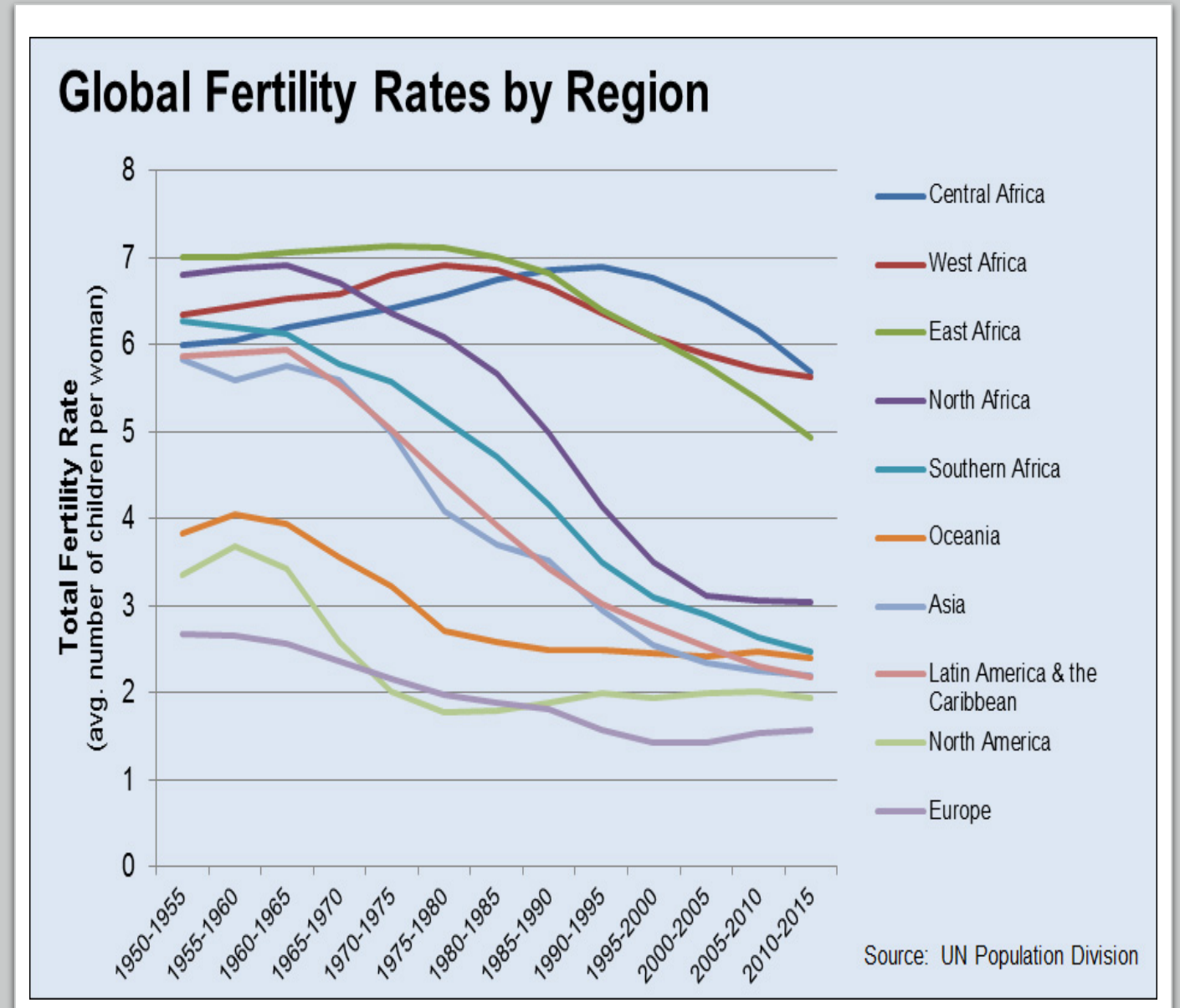
- The recent evidence from empirical research on assessing the marital relationships in the first five years of marriage across 19 Arab countries revealed prominent harmonious interactions between extended families and nuclear ones. 30% of a representative sample (1184 participants from Arab countries including the countries of North Africa) from newly married couples confirmed that the fathers and mothers and in-laws contribute positively to solving any marital disputes.
- 18 % of participants confirmed that they still receive financial support from their families, where 22% and 23 % of participants respectively confirmed that extended families help to raise the kids and take care of them during the sickness of mothers, while the negative interference remained limited to 21 % (DIFI, 2022).



Fertility Rates

- Fertility rates are still high in many African countries, averaging 4.5 children per woman, according to UN data.

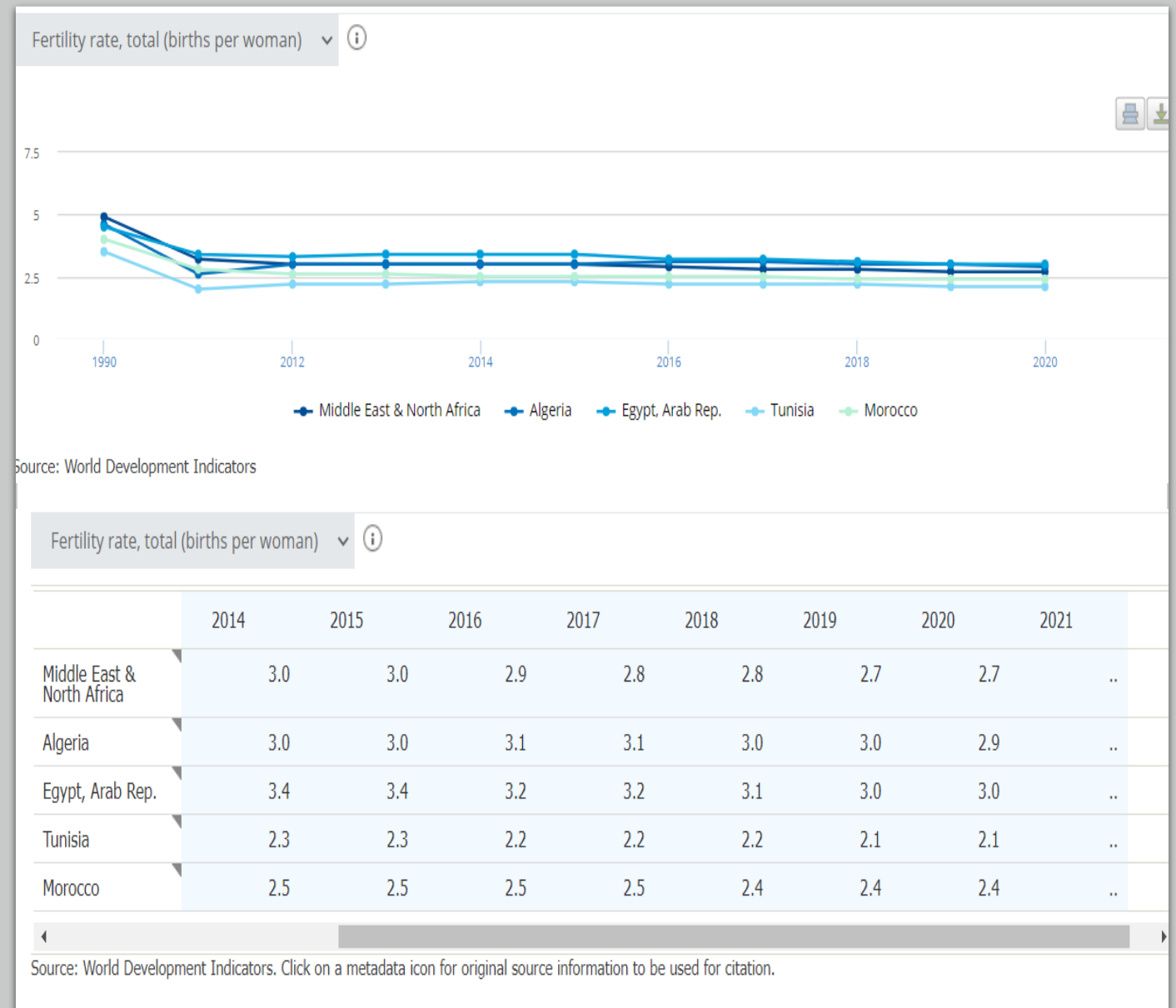
Brookings (2020). Charts of the Week: Africa's changing demographics



Fertility Rates – North Africa

- Although there is a decline in fertility rates in North African Countries, rates are not projected to reach the replacement rates in the near future.

<https://databank.worldbank.org/reports.aspx?source=2&series=SP.DYN.TFRT.IN&country=MEA>



Urbanisation and Fertility: Dilemma of Household Size and Family Size

- Most of the literature on urbanisation and social dynamics proves that families tend to have fewer children in urban cities. This would affect fertility rates at the state level, especially in high-income countries.
- For instance, a study, that covered **Near East/North Africa and Latin America, used data from household surveys in 43 developing countries** to describe the main dimensions of household size and composition in the developing world. **The 'household size' was found to be positively associated with the level of fertility.**

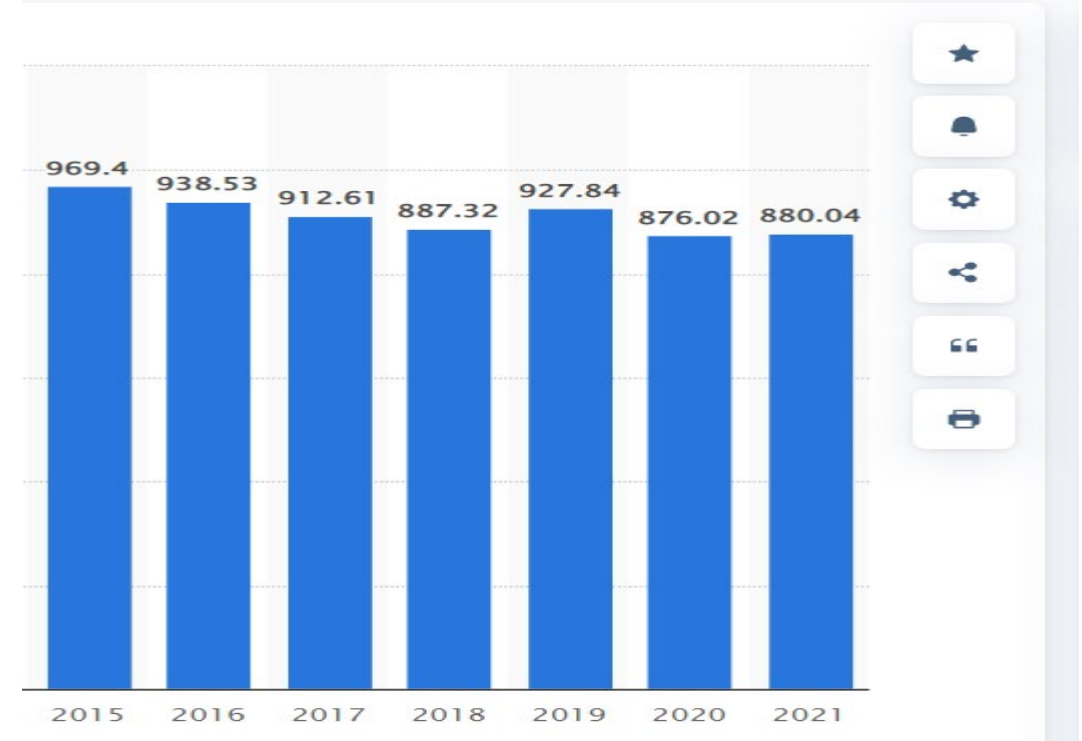
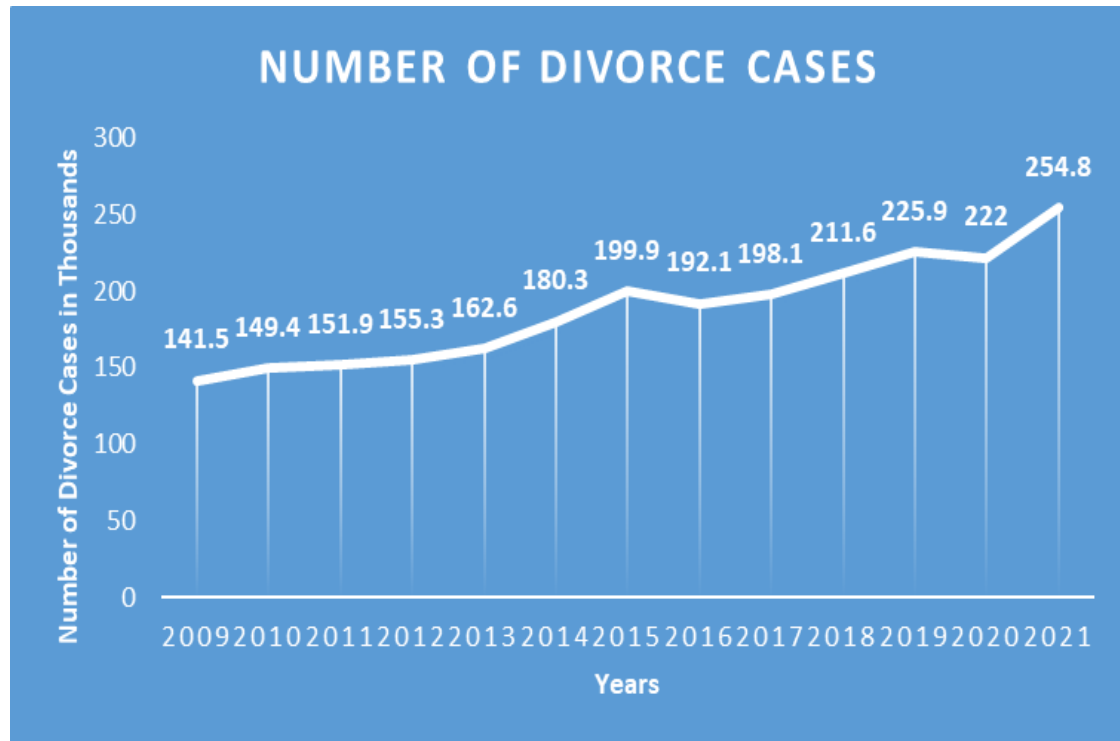
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- It is evident that in some low to middle-income countries in North Africa, with family planning policies such as Egypt; subsidized housing units are very small (60 – 80 square meters), in a governmental attempt to reduce family size. Also, the current introduction of marriage fund policies will discourage and undermine marriage opportunities.

Other population dynamics' Challenges

Increased Divorce Rates in North Africa – Egypt (Case)

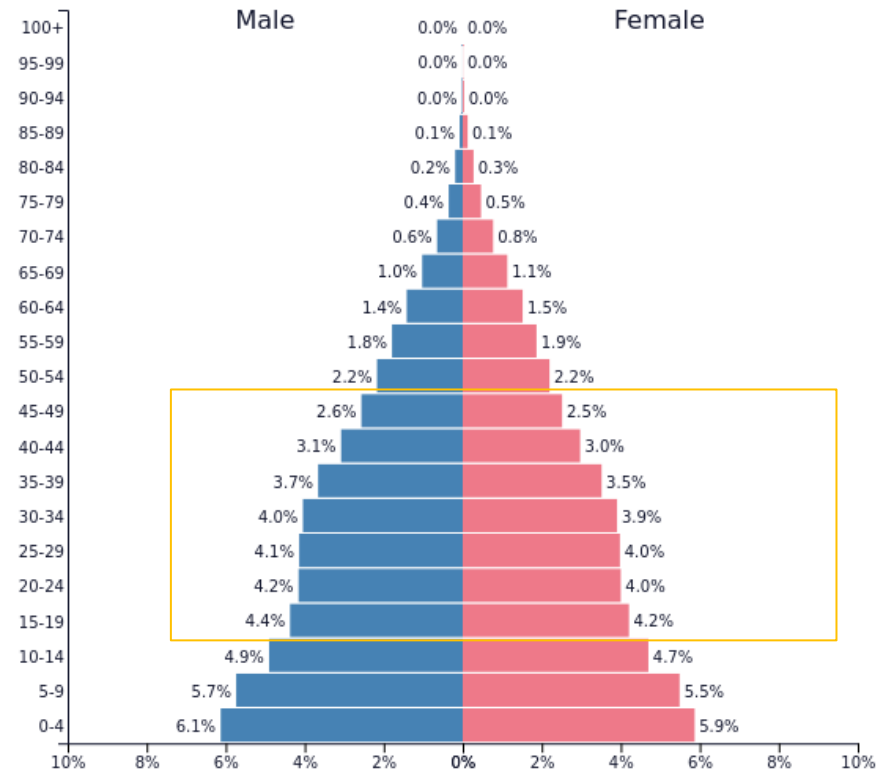
Decreased Marriage Rates in North Africa – Egypt (Case)



Other Missed Opportunities

Demographic dividend – North Africa

- Demographic dividend, as defined by the United Nations Population Fund, is "the economic growth potential that can result from shifts in a population's age structure, mainly when the share of the working-age population is larger than the non-working-age share of the population.



PopulationPyramid.net

Northern Africa - 2019
Population: **247,023,817**

Other Missed Opportunities

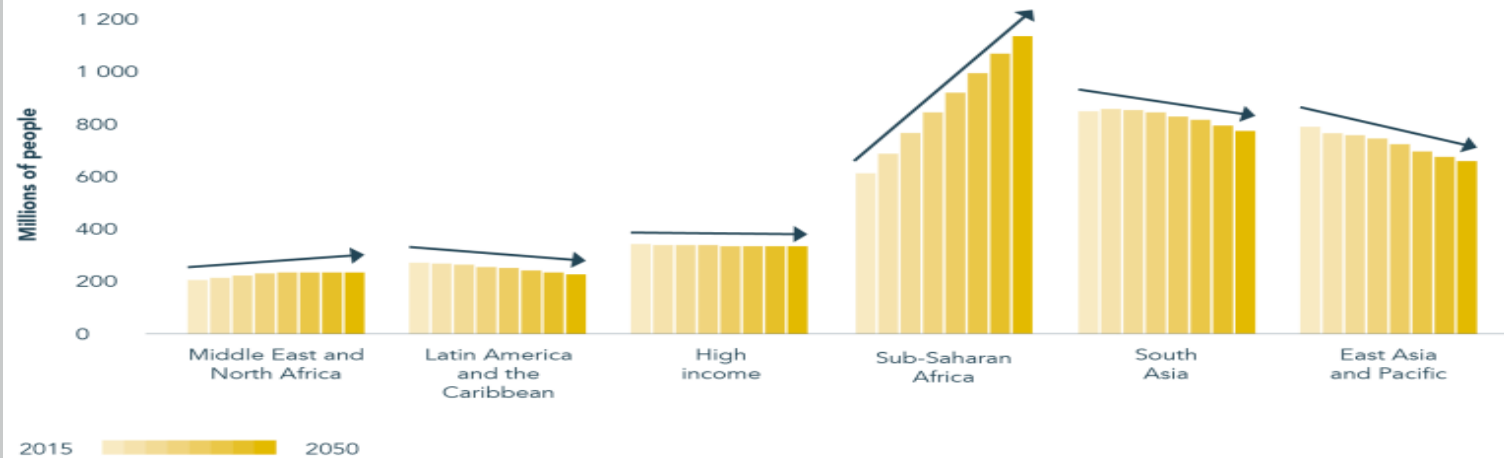
Youth Bulge – North Africa

- Youth bulge refers to a demographic pattern where a large share of the population is comprised of children and young adults.

Brookings (2019). Charts of the Week: Africa's changing demographics

Figure 3.3 Global youth population projections

Over the next three decades, sub-Saharan Africa's youth population will grow faster than any other region. By 2050, sub-Saharan Africa will make up 33 percent of the world youth population, up from 19 percent in 2015. During this period, sub-Saharan Africa's youth population will increase by 522 million while the rest of the world's youth population declines by 220 million.



Note: Country groups follow World Bank classifications. Youth defined as population age 0 - 24 years old.
Source: U.N. World Population Prospects 2017 Revision, Medium Variant Projections.

The youth bulge in the Middle East

Total population of selected countries* by age and sex, 1960-2020 (m)

2020

Today, there are about **18 million** more adults aged under 40 in the region than when the Arab Spring began

Aged 15-39
207.7m
41.0% of total



Key Takeaways

1. The resulting pressures on the North African economies, governance, and social stability due to population growth that was not accompanied by proper development plans, must have been a key factor affecting their stability.
2. Rethinking national development agendas to preserve and utilize the value system in the rural areas, which encourages families to stay at their inherited houses and lands and retain their traditional occupations and crafts.
3. To effectively address the gaps in caring for an aging society, African governments must support the cohesive development of long-term care systems. While the tradition of relying on extended family to care for older adults should be respected, governments and community organizations need to consider ways to ease the burden with new policies and programs.
4. Investment in human capital is a must to take advantage of the population dividend and mobilize the youth bulge. Poverty and unemployment rates will be decreased accordingly as a byproduct of human development processes.
5. Countries' strategies that focus on the development of urban areas and leaving the rural areas behind intensify the aspiration to migrate. Improving the quality-of-life standards in rural areas including the enhancement of infrastructure, educational, and health systems, transportation, and career opportunities will generate equitable development plans and sustain balanced population dynamics.
6. Family planning policies should not restrict people's reproductive rights. Such policies should be addressed from a comprehensive perspective without neglecting the necessity of socio-economic development policies.
7. More collective institutional research is needed to address population dynamics challenges and put in the policy agenda proper evidence-based solutions.

Thank you

Discussion