



# Youthful populations, employment challenges and poverty in LDCs

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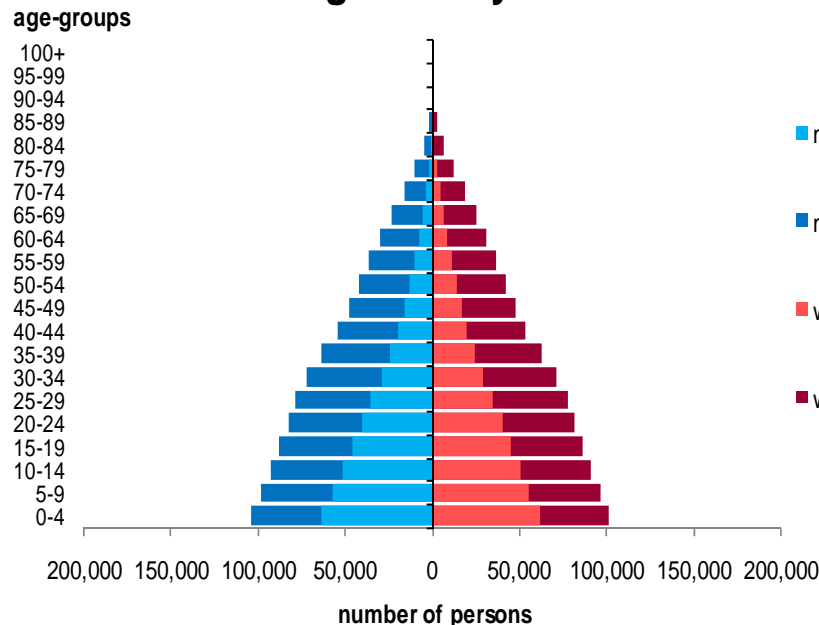
*Michael Herrmann, UNFPA*

**‘Building Employment and Decent Work into  
Sustainable Recovery and Development – The UN  
Contribution’ – Inter-Agency Technical Meeting, ITC-  
ILO, Turin, 30<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

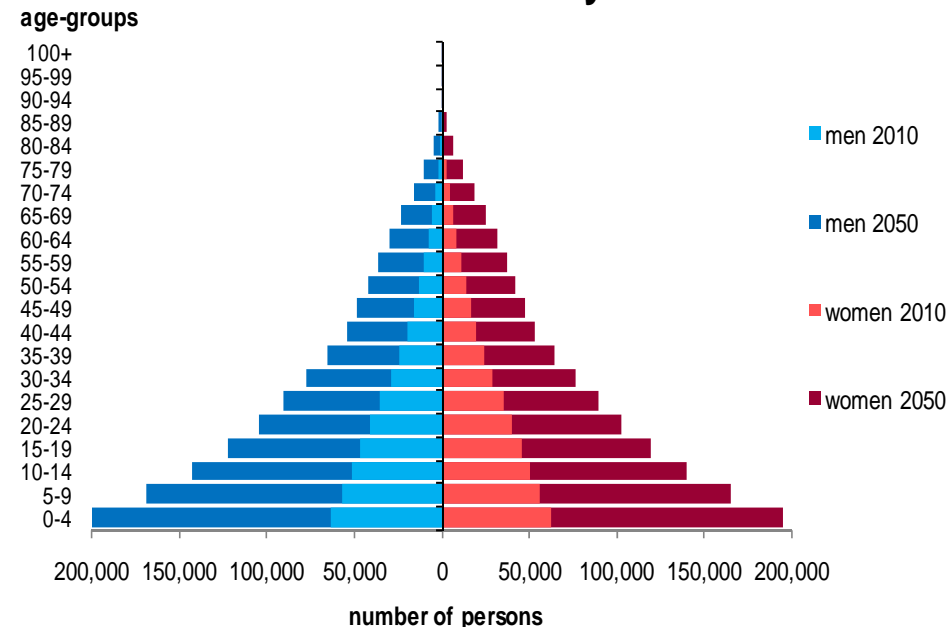
# A pessimistic view

- Impact of stalled fertility decline (esp. in African LDCs) [Now, 4.39, HV2050: 2.9; CFS2050:5.04]
- ‘Demographic trap’ – rapid population growth
- *VERY* young populations and resource crisis

### High fertility scenario



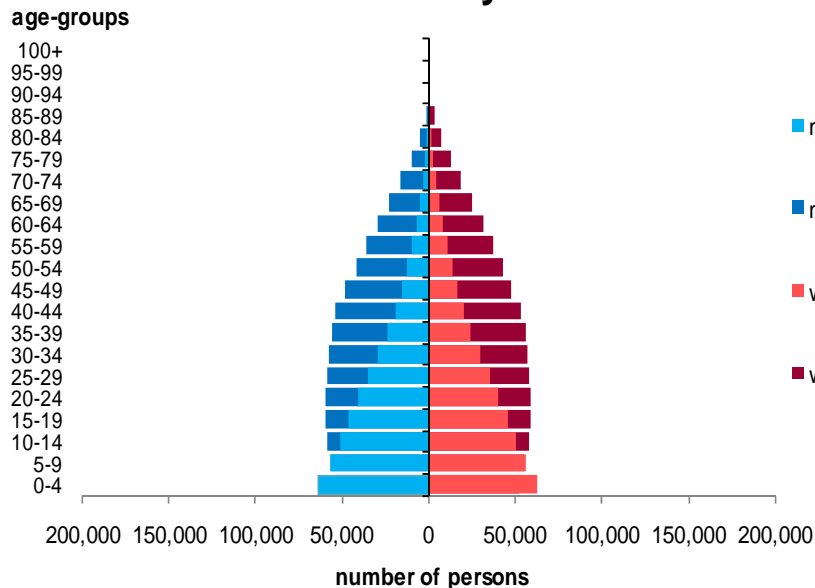
### Constant fertility scenario



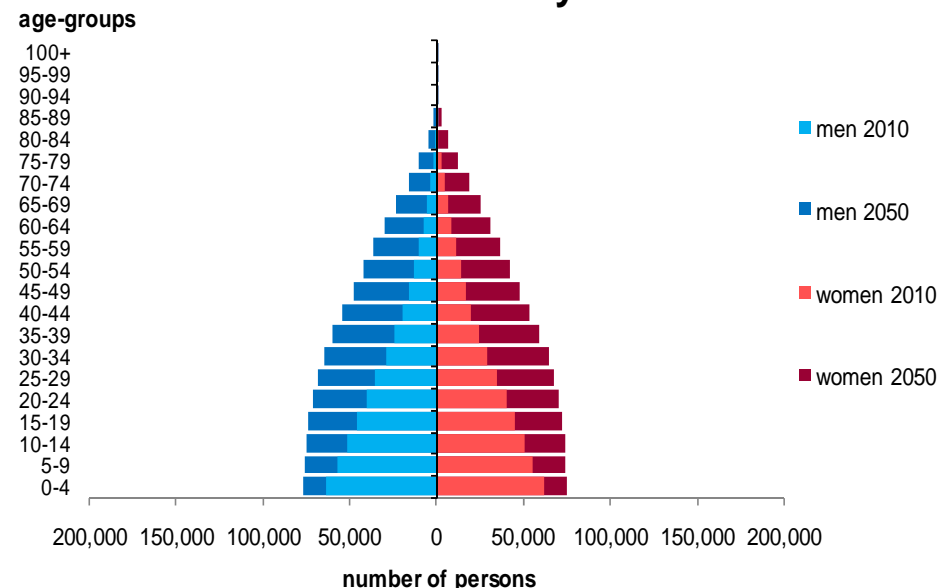
# An optimistic/realistic view

- Fertility decline – [Now, 4.39; LV2050:1.93; MV2050: 2.41]
- Fewer babies being born, not yet impact of significant aging
- Lowering of dependency ratios

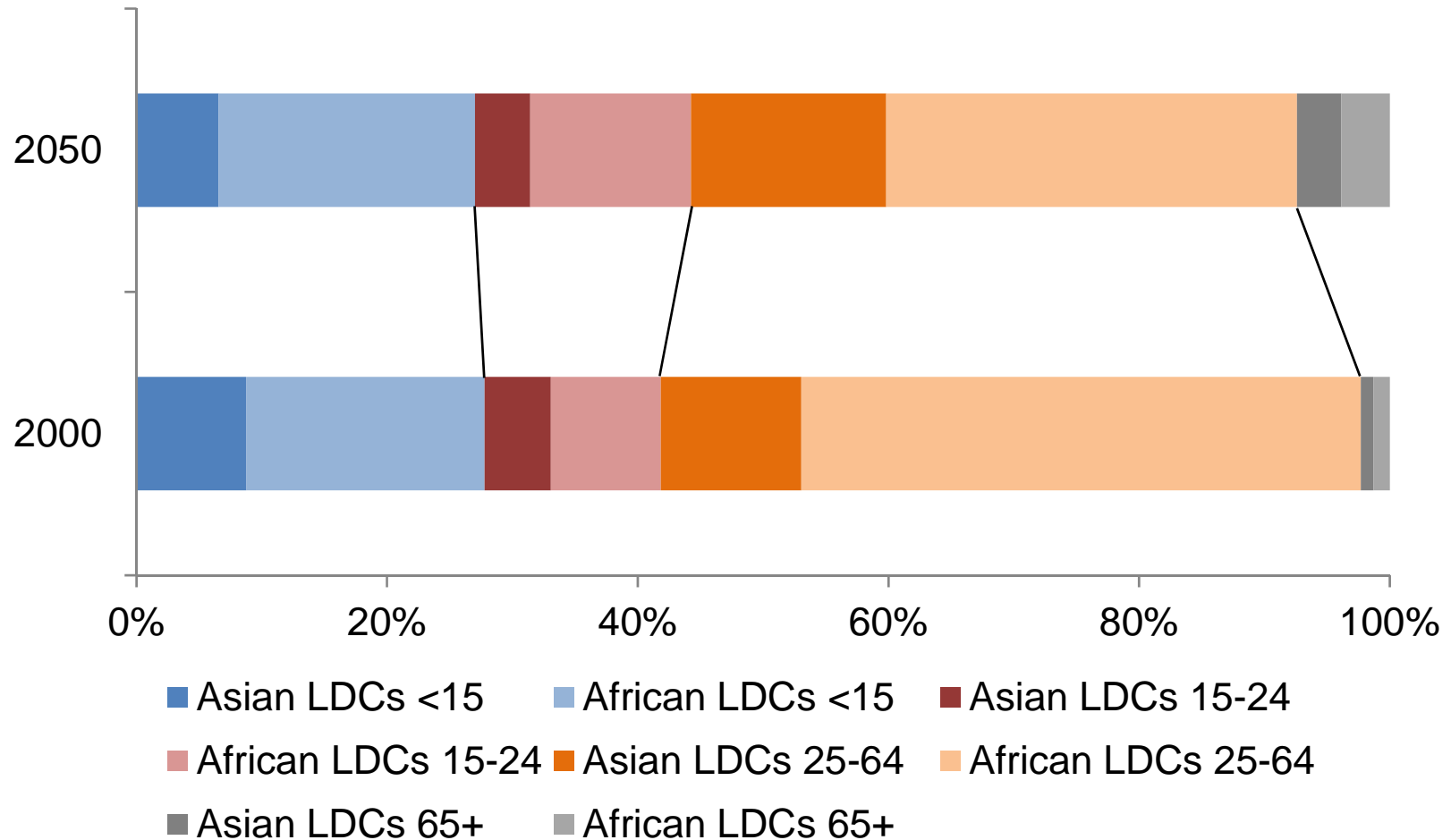
Low fertility scenario



Medium fertility scenario

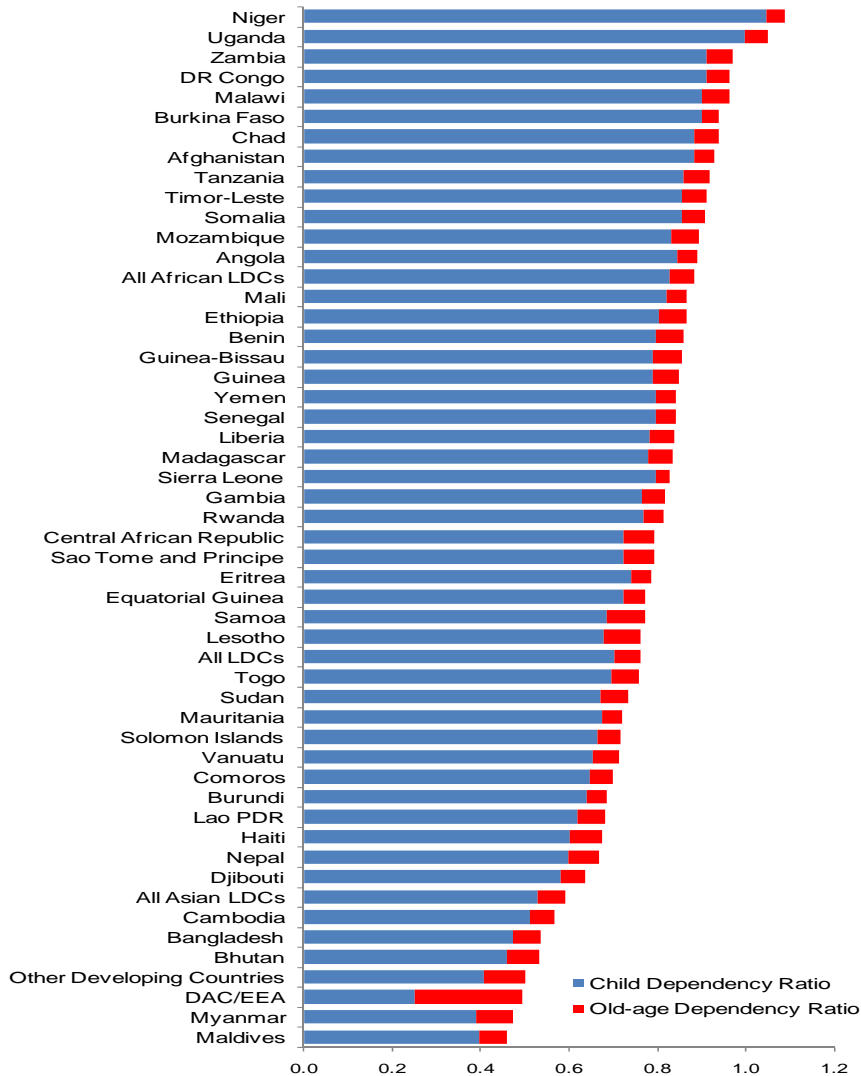


# A younger population

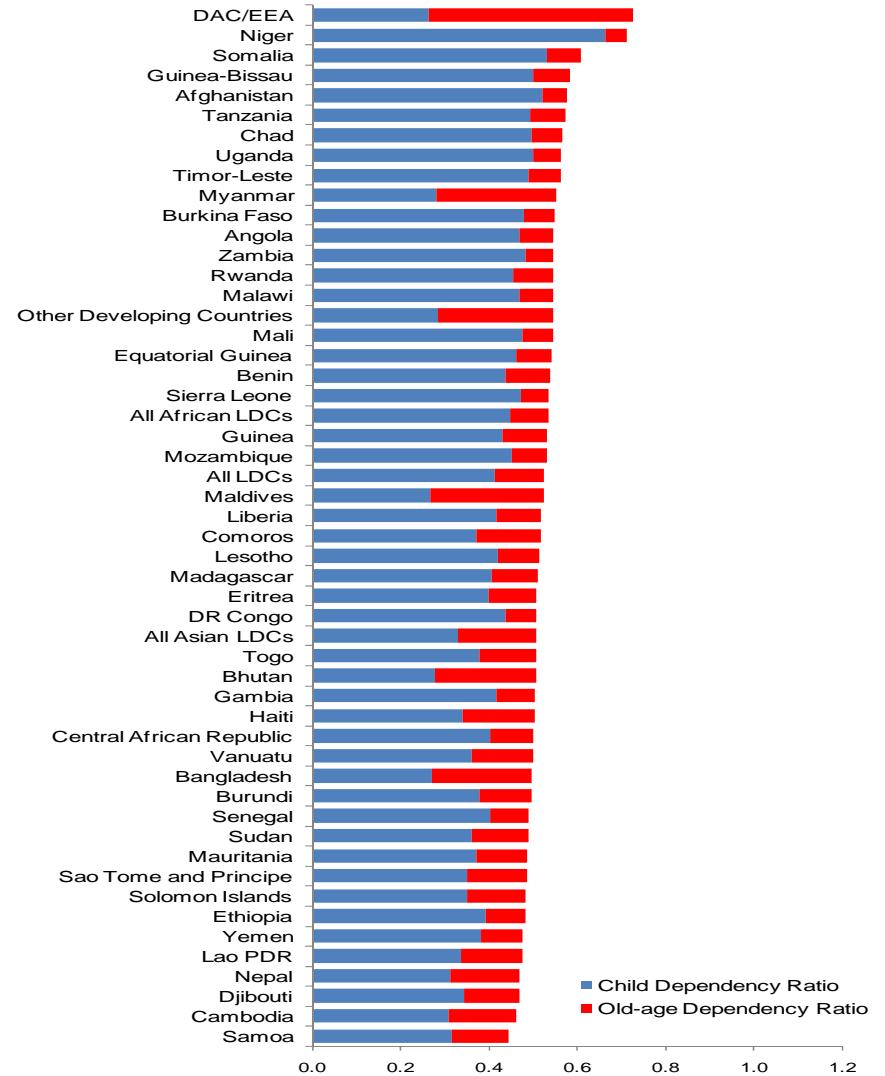


# Dependency ratios (DRs)

2010



2050



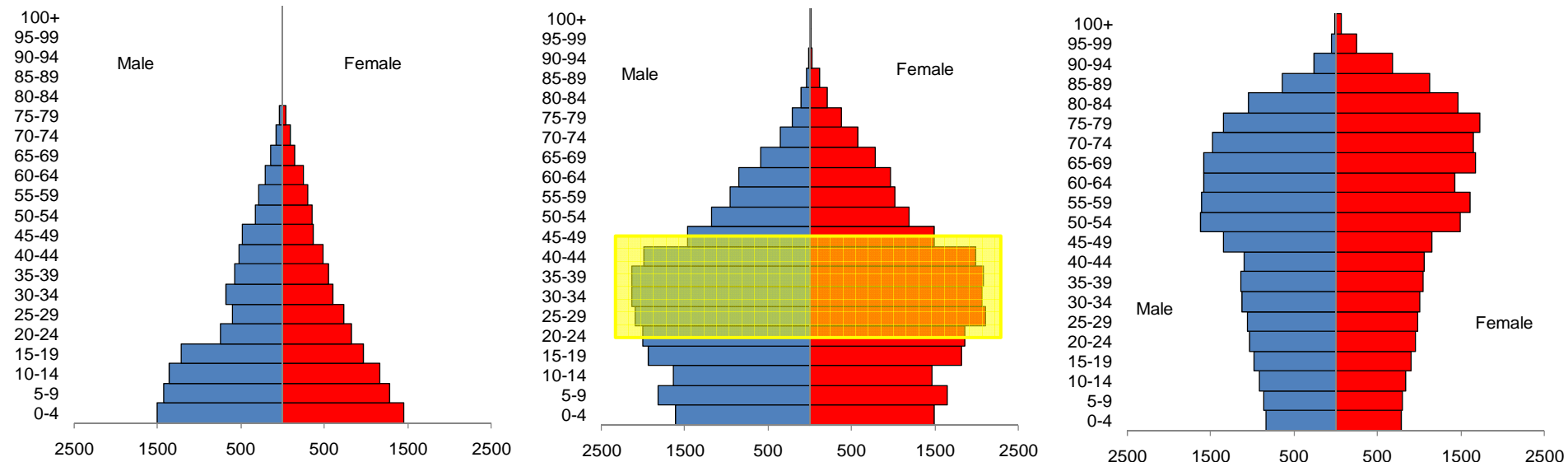
# Rep. Korea, 1950-2050

- *Demographic Dividend*
- Rapid fertility decline; reallocation of resources to secondary/tertiary education; large, highly skilled workforce; economic miracle

1950

2000

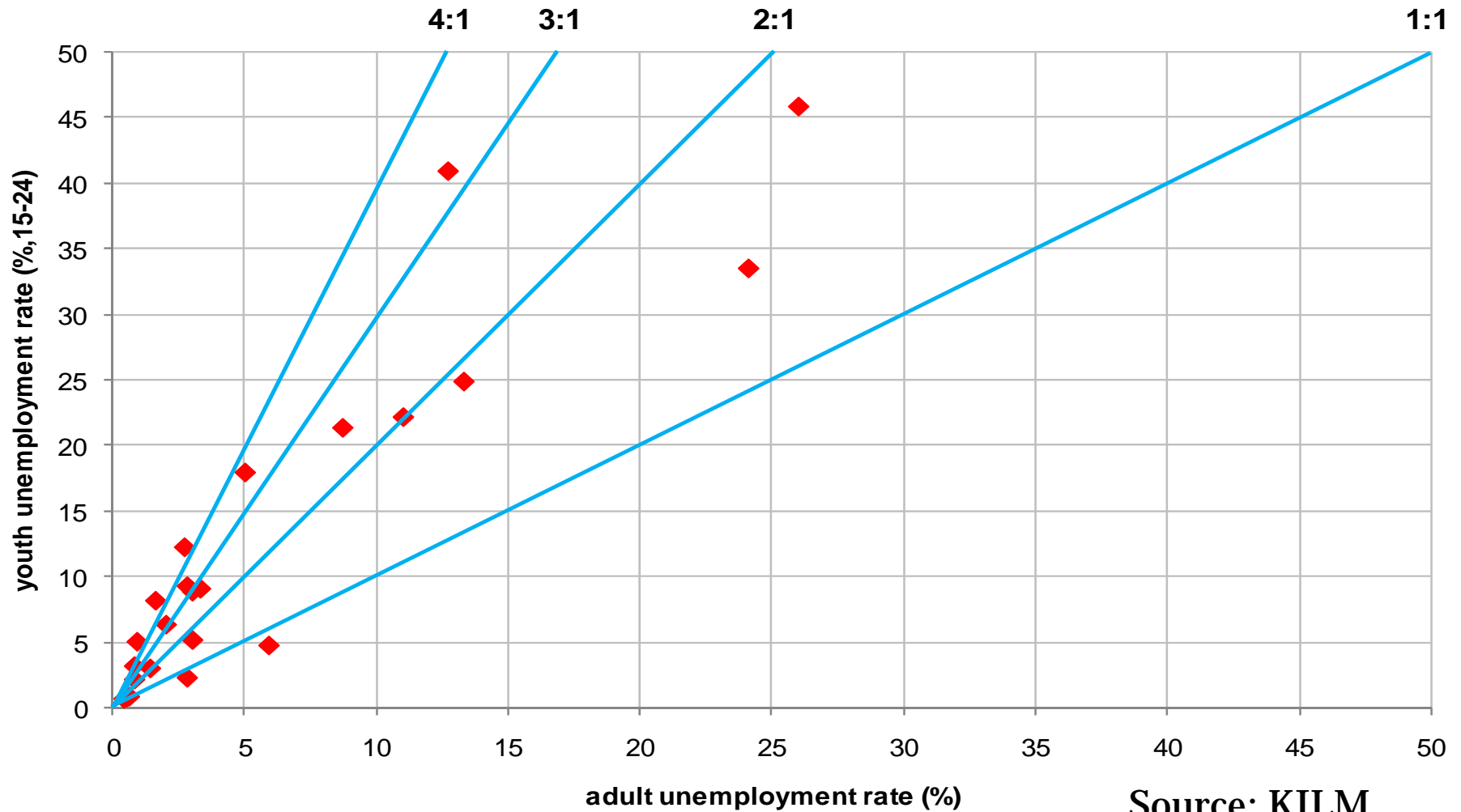
2050



# BUT...

- Economic growth **not** guaranteed by demographic dividend
- Need **productive and remunerative employment**
- Close link to human capital development
  - Positive feedback effects
    - Productive employment – economic growth – greater ability to invest in health & education – more skilled workforce (and better governance?) – more productive employment (and associated demographic changes)

# Youth:Adult UE Rates, LDCs, 2000-2009



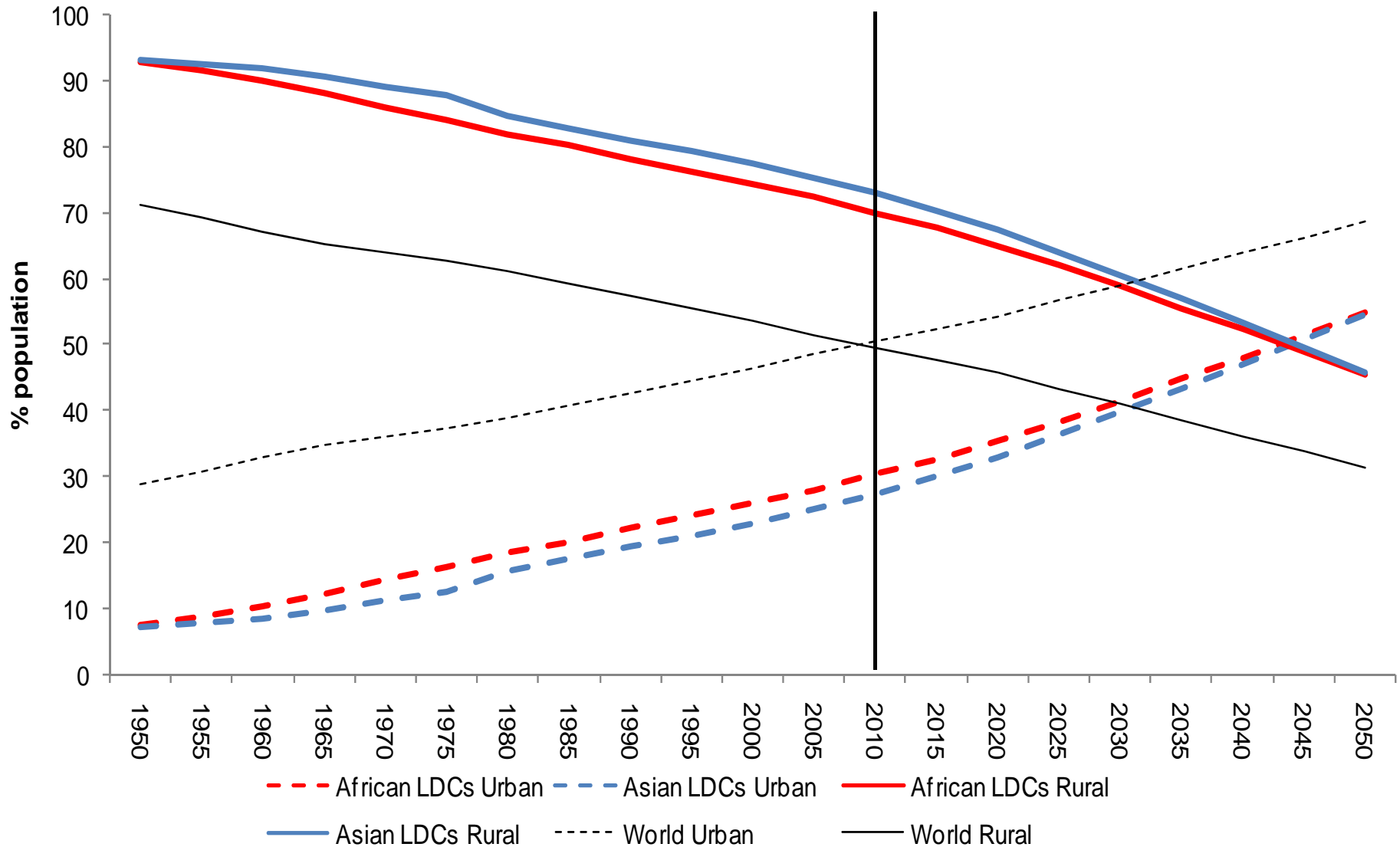
Source: KILM



# Youth and women

- Suffer from same issues, *and more*
- Lower employment rates, higher UE rates
- Women – greater time poverty works against Labour market participation, and greater independence
  - Household/family commitments
  - Especially transport inputs
- Female education (and wealth/independence) key to contraceptive use and fertility decline

# Growing urbanisation in LDCs



# Type of structural change matters

- Increased urbanisation *is projected to* happen
  - But semi-urban, agricultural income
- But population pressures in *both*
- Need to address urban challenges [*informal*], BUT rural challenges will also remain
- *Rural economy and urban economy intertwined*
- Need to develop productivity in urban settings, but need to develop productivity in rural (agriculture) to raise living standards

# What investment needed?

- Investment in Human *and* Physical Capital together
- Human Capital – investment in younger people
- Education beyond Primary
- Health and SRH
- Physical Capital – can contribute to female empowerment too

# Women and Time Poverty

- Infrastructure development
  - Electricity, Water

## Women's transport inputs in 3 LDCs (Edmonds 2003)

	<b>Kasama, Zambia</b>	<b>Lusaka, Zambia</b>	<b>Uganda</b>	<b>Kaya, Burkina Faso</b>	<b>Dedougou, Burkina Faso</b>
<b>Hours spent per day on transport</b>	2.67	2.05	2.71	1.26	0.98
<b>Share of total active time (% per 12 hours)</b>	22%	17%	23%	11%	8%
<b>Kg-km moved per day</b>	97.8	83.0	106.8	28.2	56.4