

Afghanistan's

Youth Bulge Dilemma

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Frankly, I've never understood why we give a damn whether a girl goes to school in Afghanistan or not.

That's not a national interest of the United States.

It's no interest to the United States.

MICHAEL SCHEUER
Former-head of a CIA special unit

Conference on US Foreign Policy
JUNE 28, 2006

To the Taliban:

Give us Osama Bin Laden or we'll send your women to college.



Cartoon by: John Deering, Arkansas Gazette, 2001

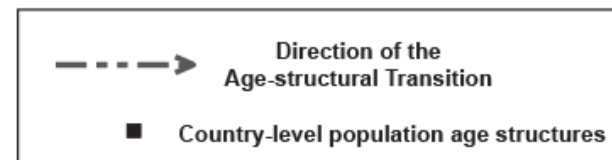
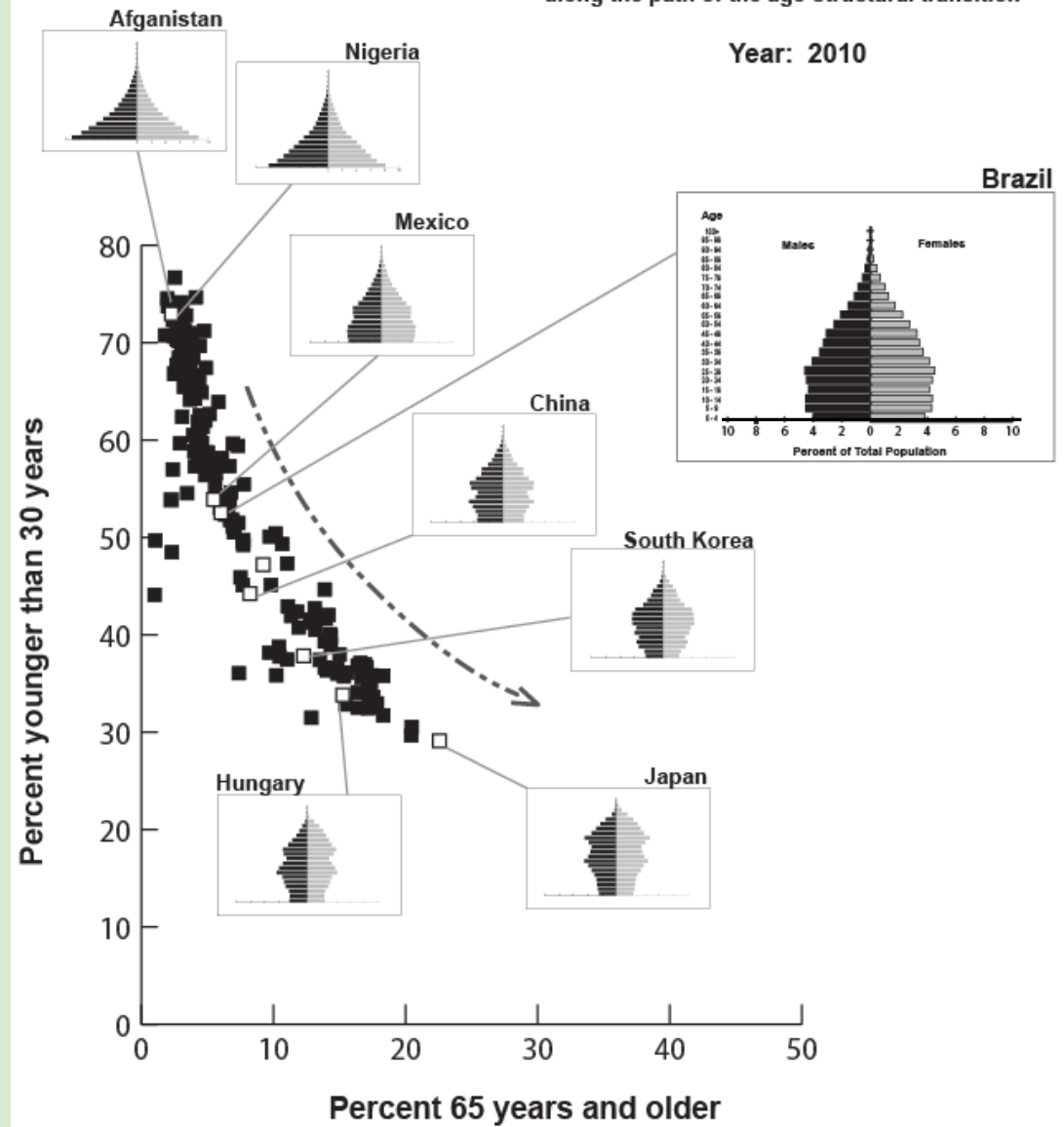
Age structural transition

Transitional Population age structures

2010

Country-level Age Structures along the path of the age-structural transition

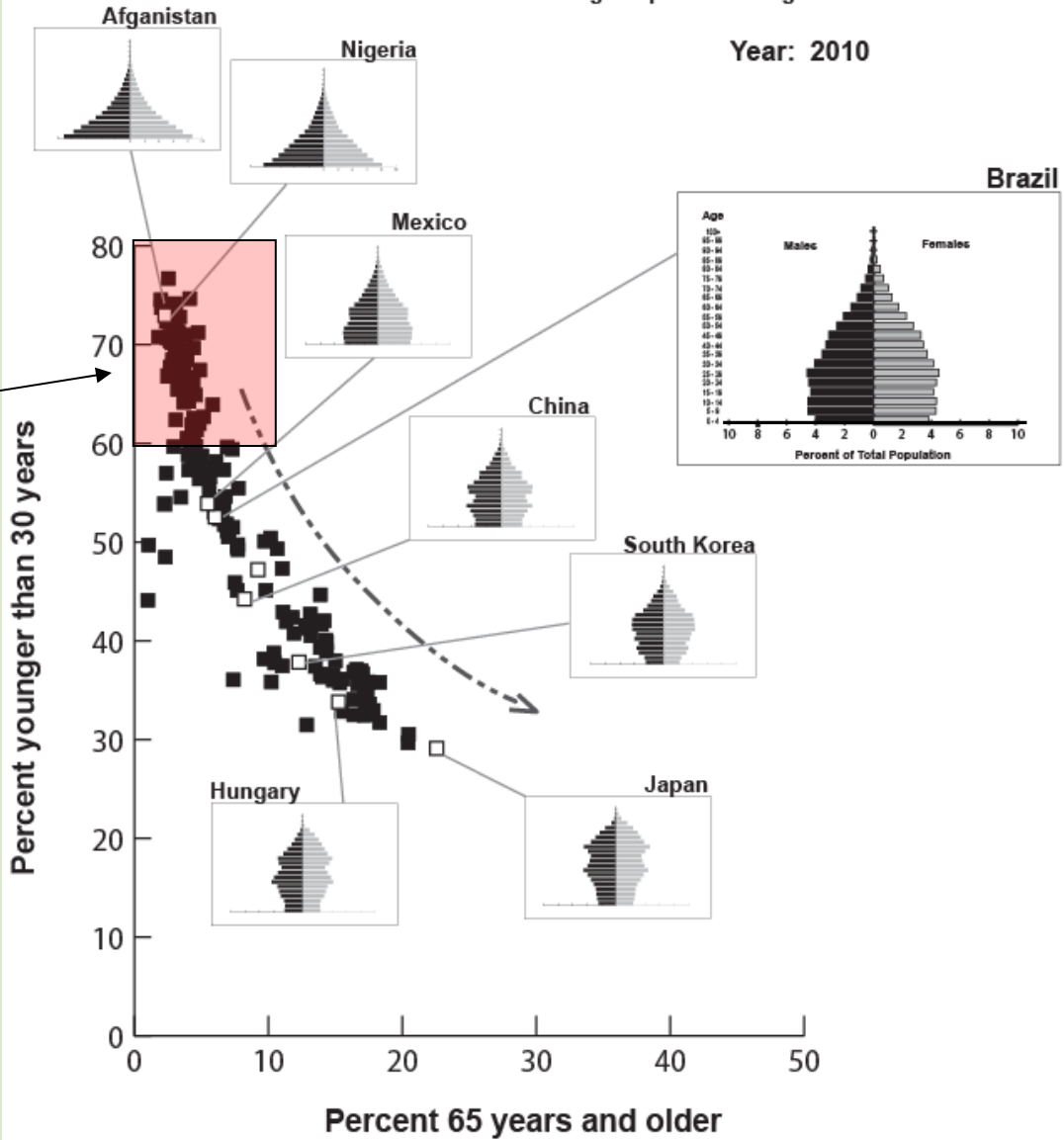
Year: 2010



Age structural transition

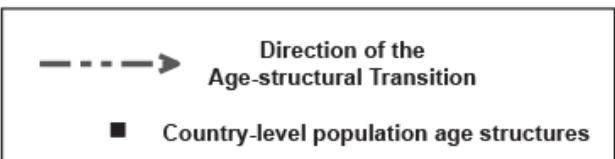
Country-level Age Structures along the path of the age-structural transition

Year: 2010

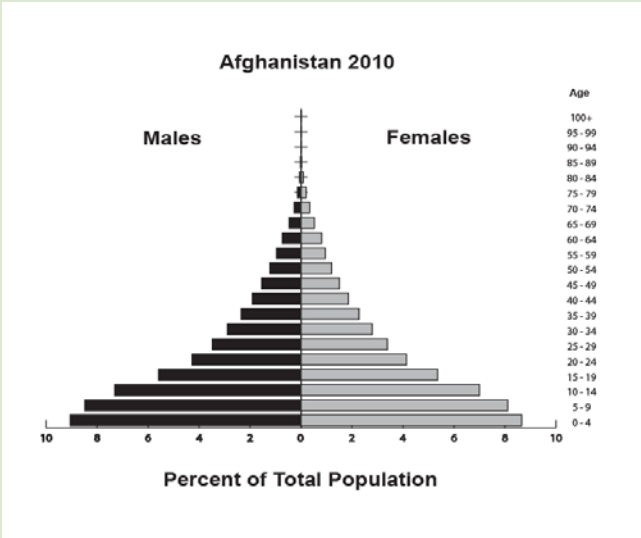
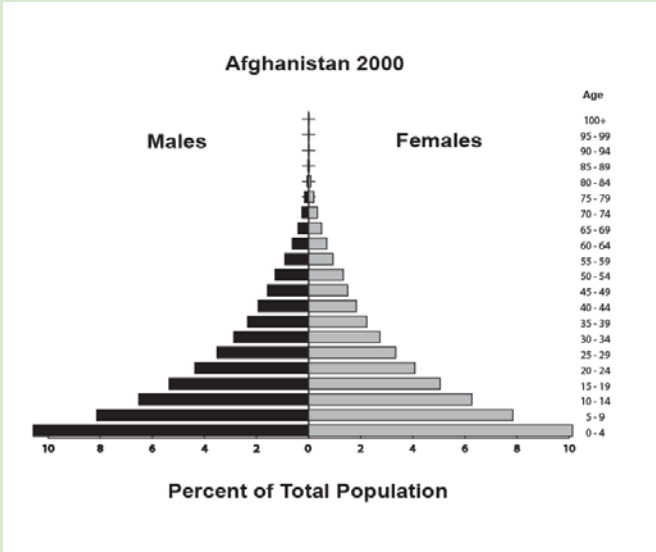
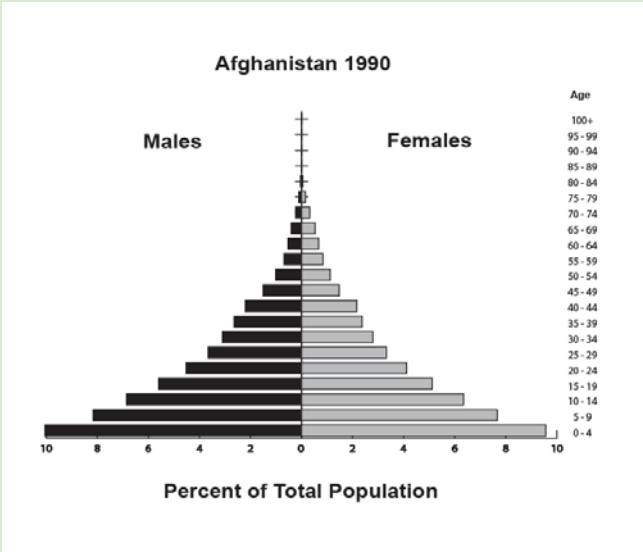


Zone of instability:

- high risk of civil conflict
- low probability of attaining FH's "Free" status
- high risk of losing FH's "Free" status



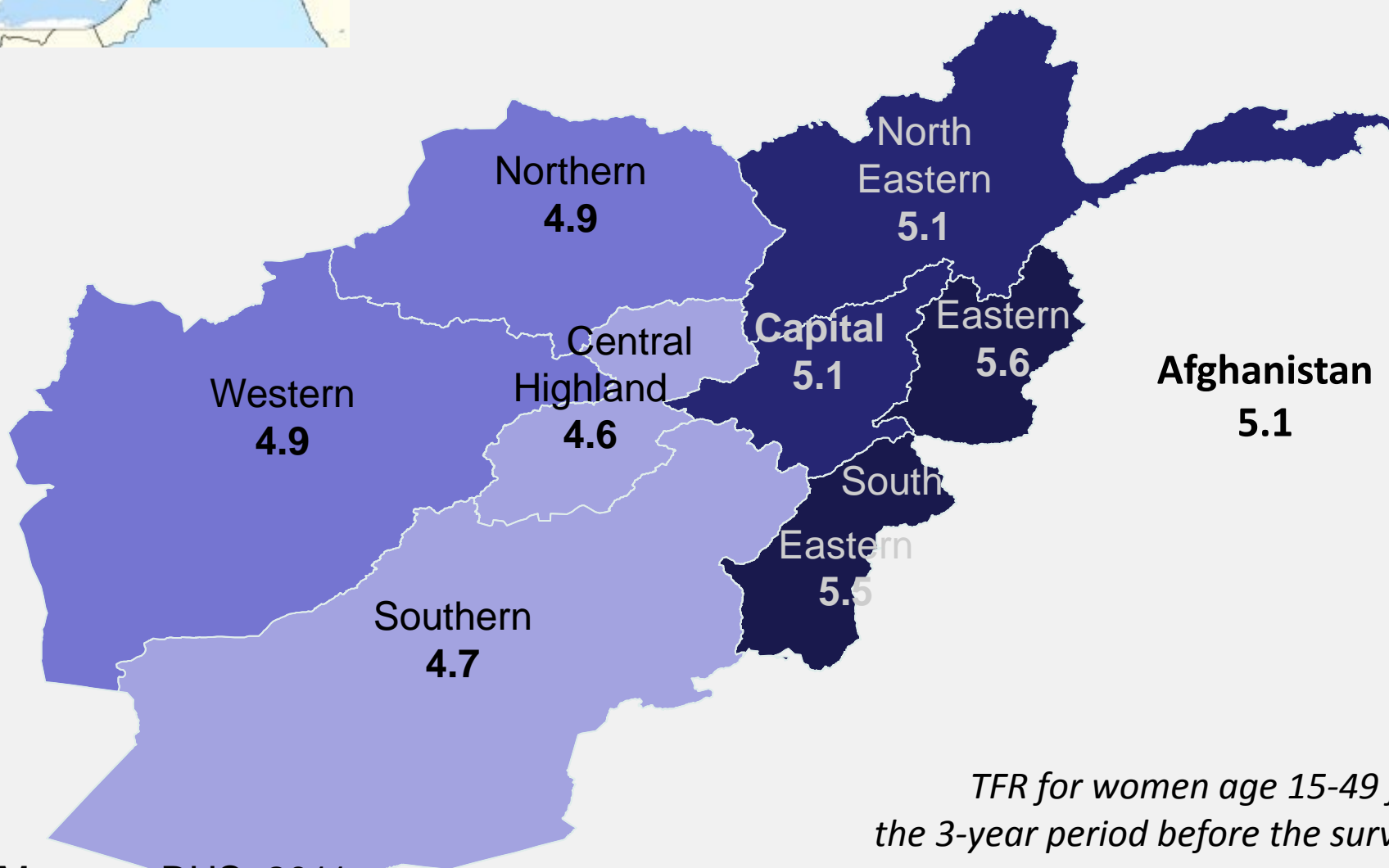
Data: UN Population Division, 2013



Pashtun-speaking region



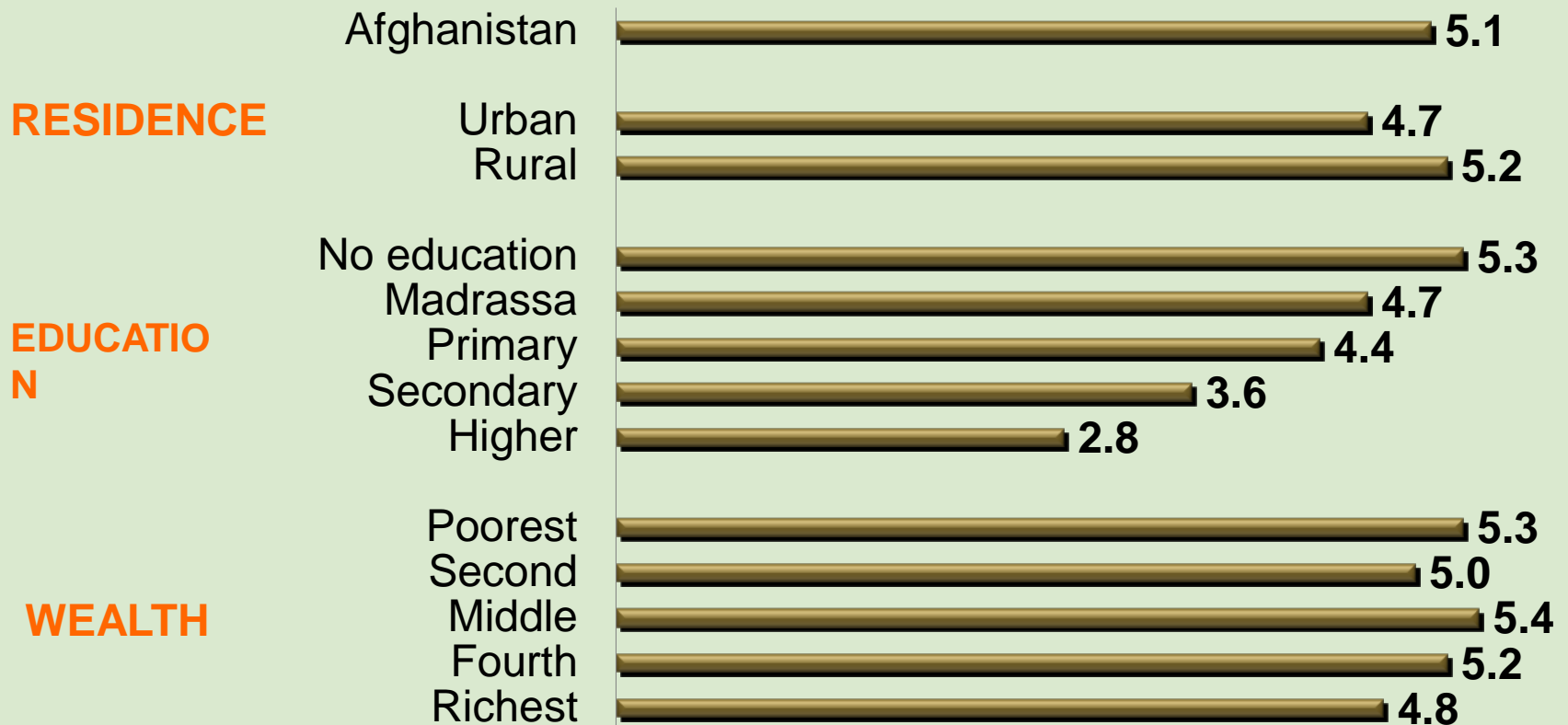
Fertility by Region



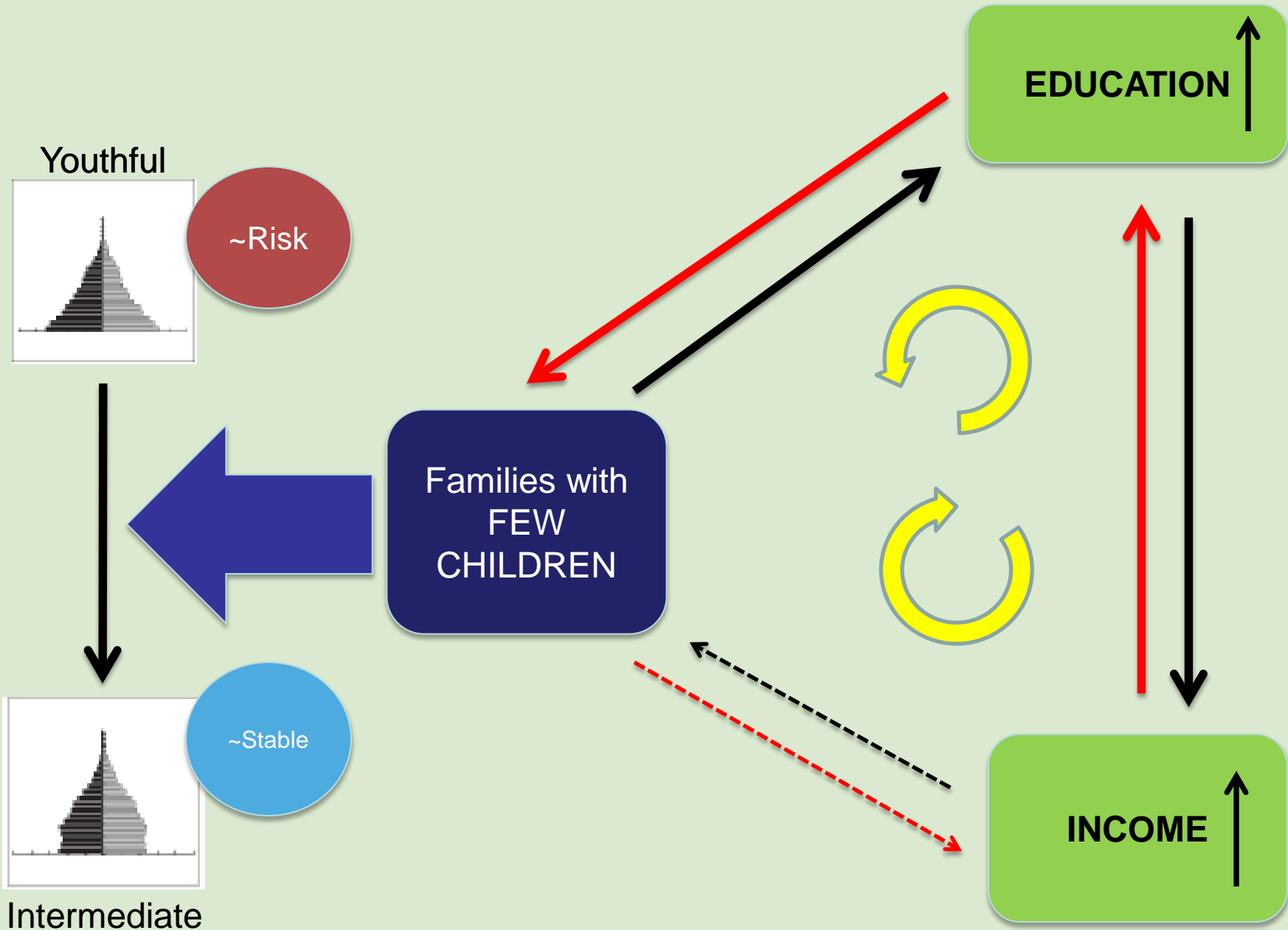
TFR for women age 15-49 for the 3-year period before the survey

Measure DHS, 2011

Fertility by Background Characteristics



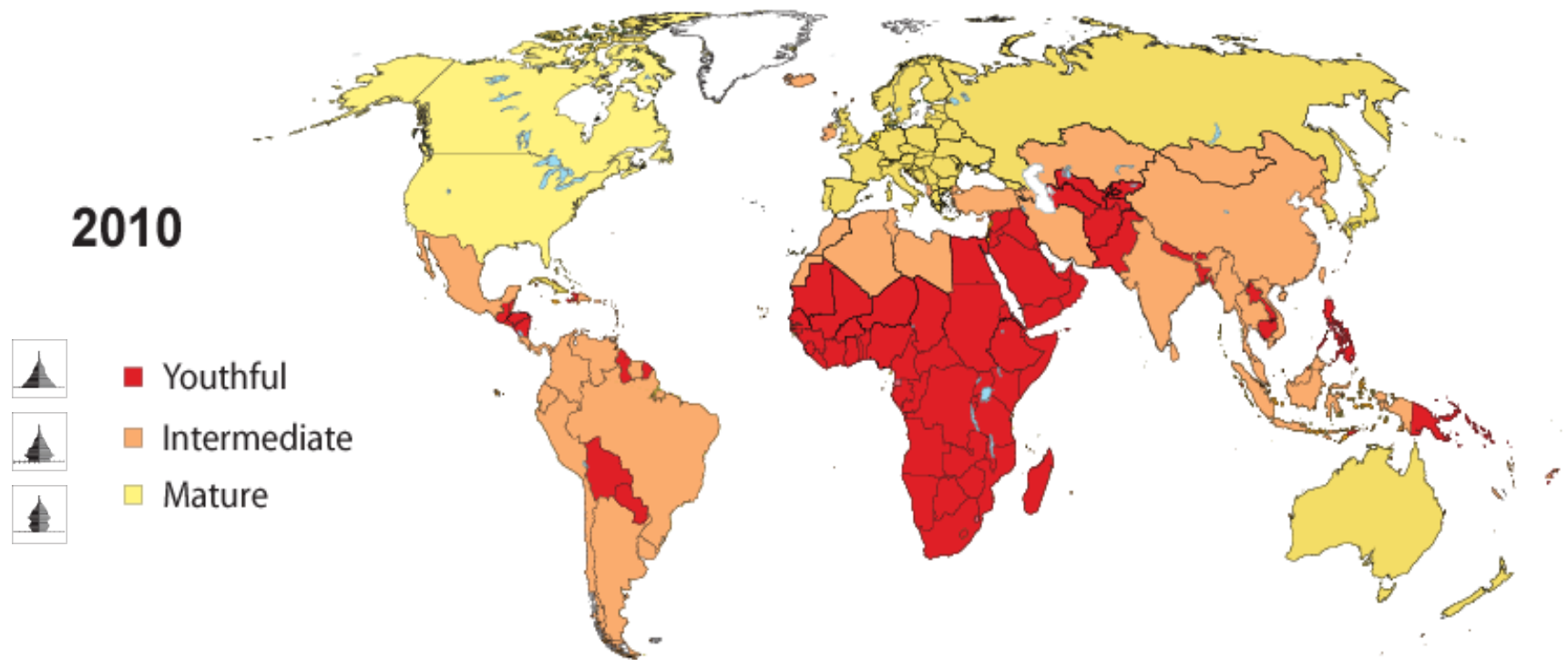
*TFR for women
age 15-49*



The Youth Bulge Dilemma:

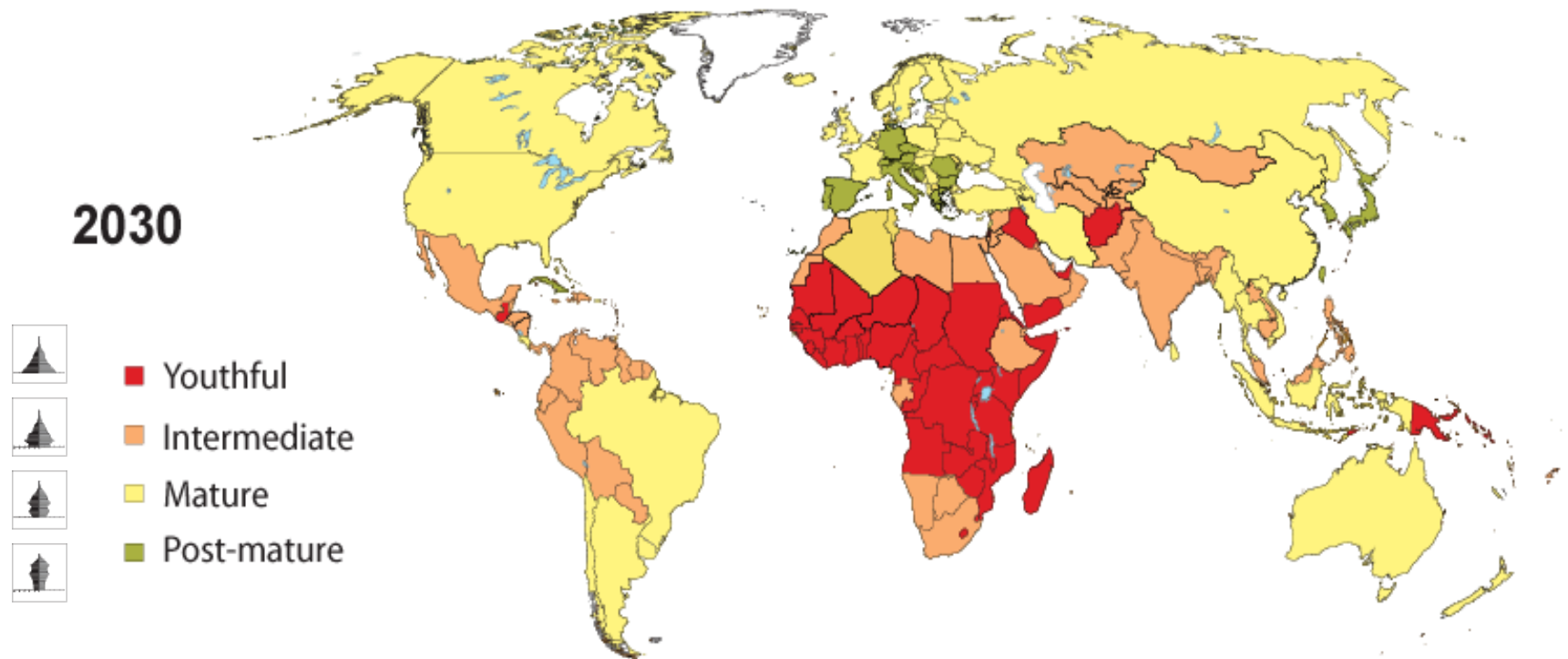
1. LONG TERM Goal: The middle of the age-structural transition, reducing the risk of political violence. [*women's issues*]
1. SHORT TERM Goal: Immediate end to armed conflict. [*men's agenda*]
1. THE DILEMMA: Are they compatible?

Age structures: 2010



Data: UN Population Division, 2010 Rev.

Age structures: 2030



Data: UN Population Division, 2010 Rev. (medium fertility variant)