

Age Structure and Development through a Policy Lens

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Book Launch of *Political Demography*

Woodrow Wilson Center

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Presentation Outline

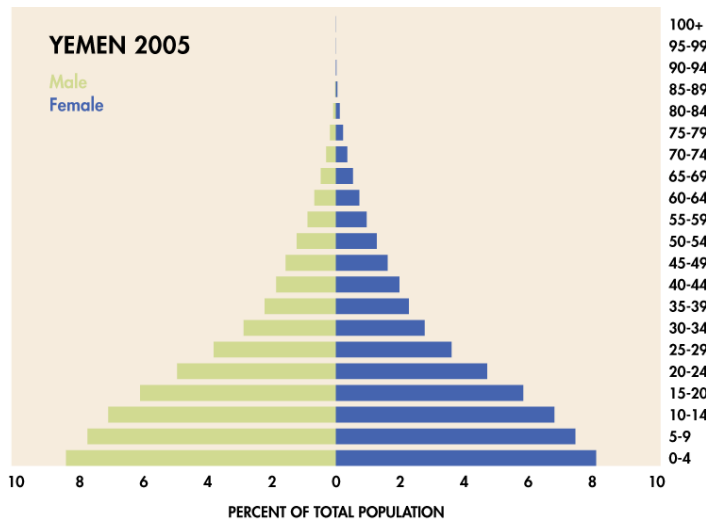
1. Demography within National Policy

- Very Young Age Structure Examples:
 - Rwanda
 - Uganda
- Aging Age Structure Example: South Korea

2. Integrating Demography into the Policy Dialogue

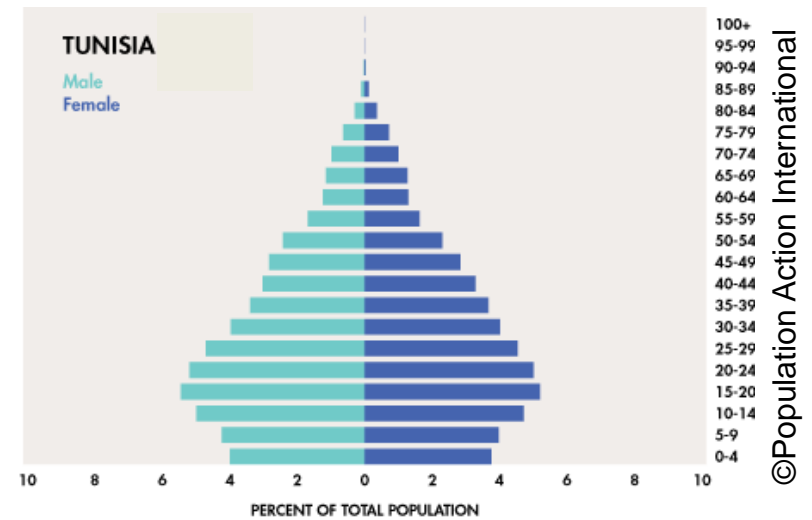
- The Challenge of Projections
 - The Challenge of Recommendations
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Age Structure Variation



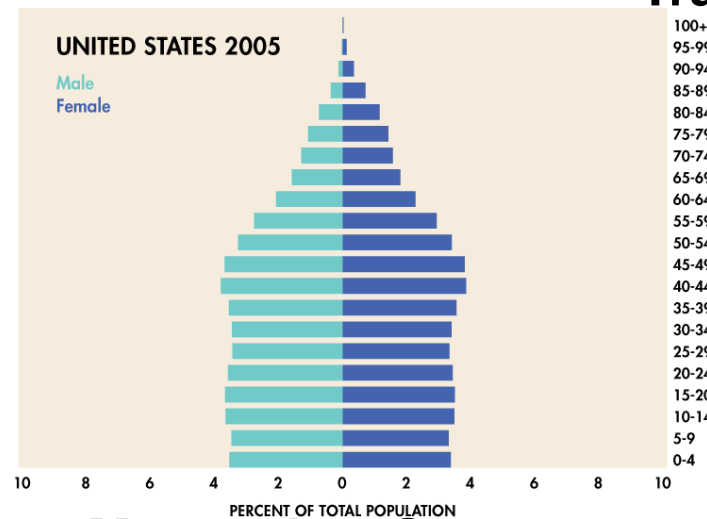
Very Young Age Structure

75% under age 30
5.5 children per woman



Transitional Age Structure

52% under age 30
2.04 children per woman



Mature Age Structure

41% under age 30
2.07 children per woman

Demography within National Policy

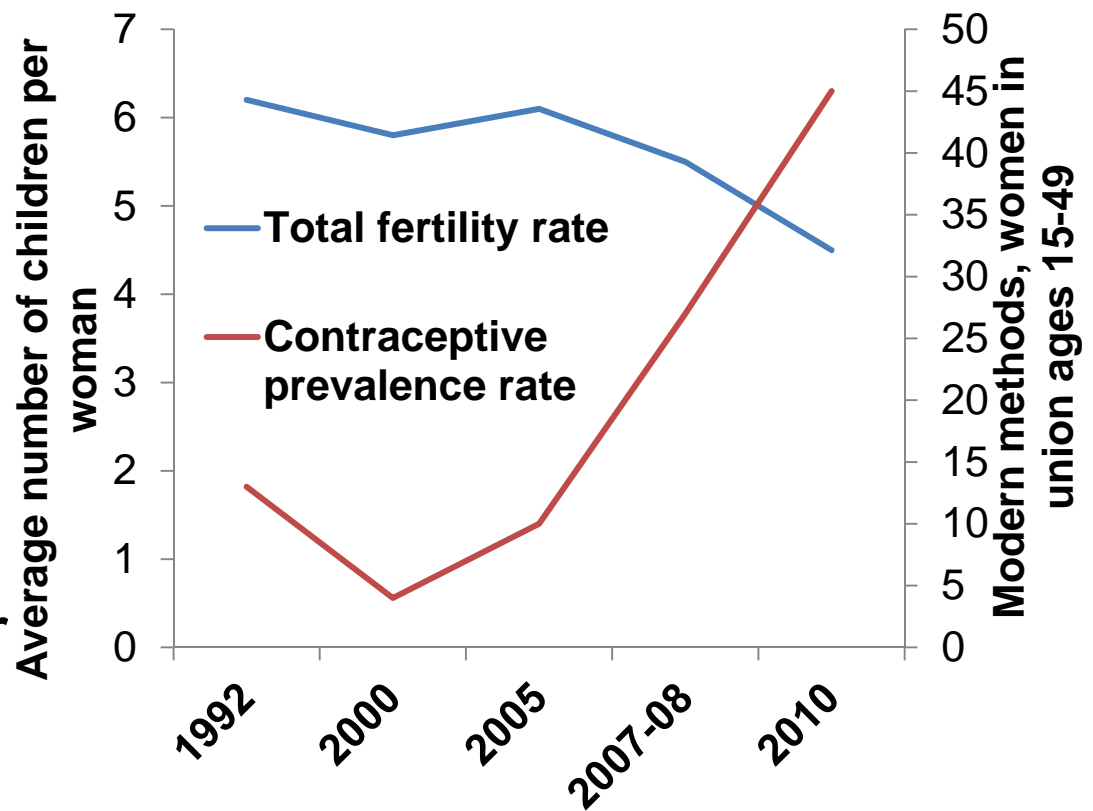
- National responses to domestic demographic trends are varied (UN Population Division survey 2009)
 - Government views of their own population growth:
 - 22% too low
 - 42% satisfactory
 - 35% too high
 - Developed regions: 79% say aging is a major concern
 - Developing regions: 90% say HIV/AIDS, 50% say high population growth are major concerns
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Policy Issues in Very Young Age Structure Countries: Rwanda

- Population declined by 1.5m between 1990-1995
 - Contraceptive use fell to 4% in 2000
 - Total fertility rate six children per woman
 - Population almost doubled between 1995-2010
 - Then...dramatic change
 - Fertility declined 25% in 5 years
(6.1 in 2005 → 4.6 in 2010)
 - Effective contraceptive use more than quadrupled
(10% in 2005 → 45% in 2010)
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Rwanda continued

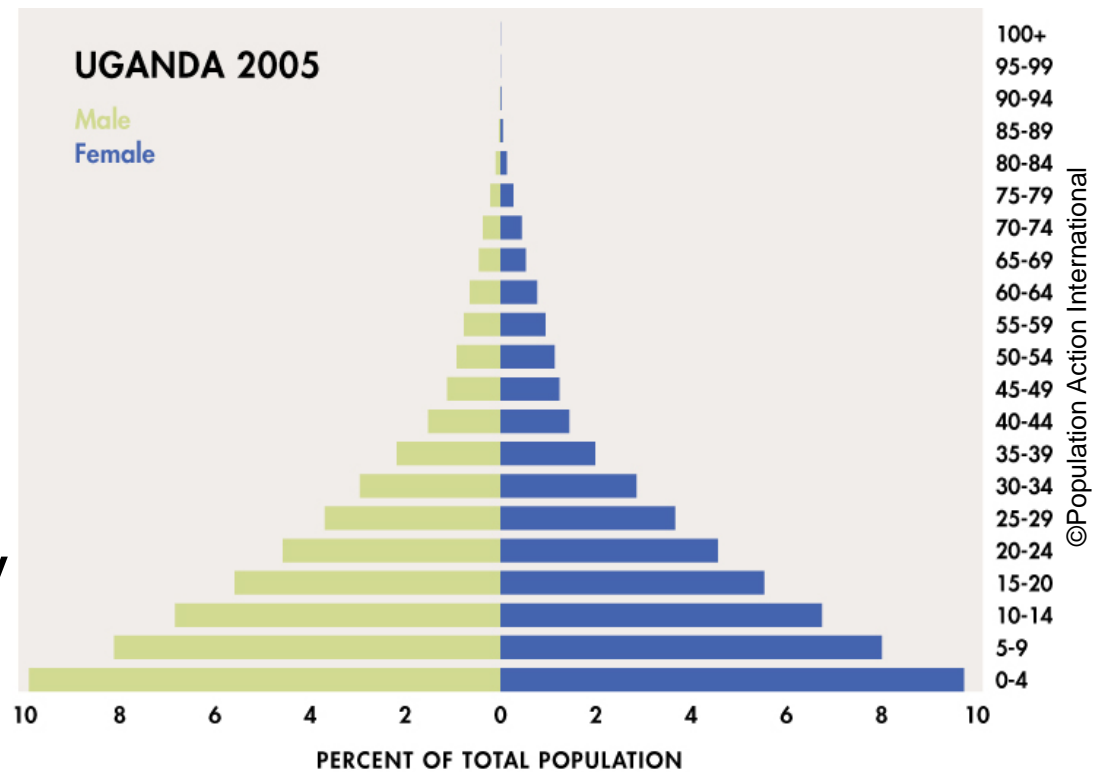
- Policies to expand access to health services + political will made the difference
- Community-based health insurance and donor support
- RAPID model: Smaller family size increases health and education opportunities
- President Kagame: “Priority number one”



Source: MEASURE DHS

Policy Issues in Very Young Age Structure Countries: Uganda

- Youngest age structure in the world
- 76% under age 30
- 15-24 age group doubled 1990-2010
- At current fertility, population will triple by 2040 (~100 million)
- Fertility stagnant: Less than 10% decline since late 1980s



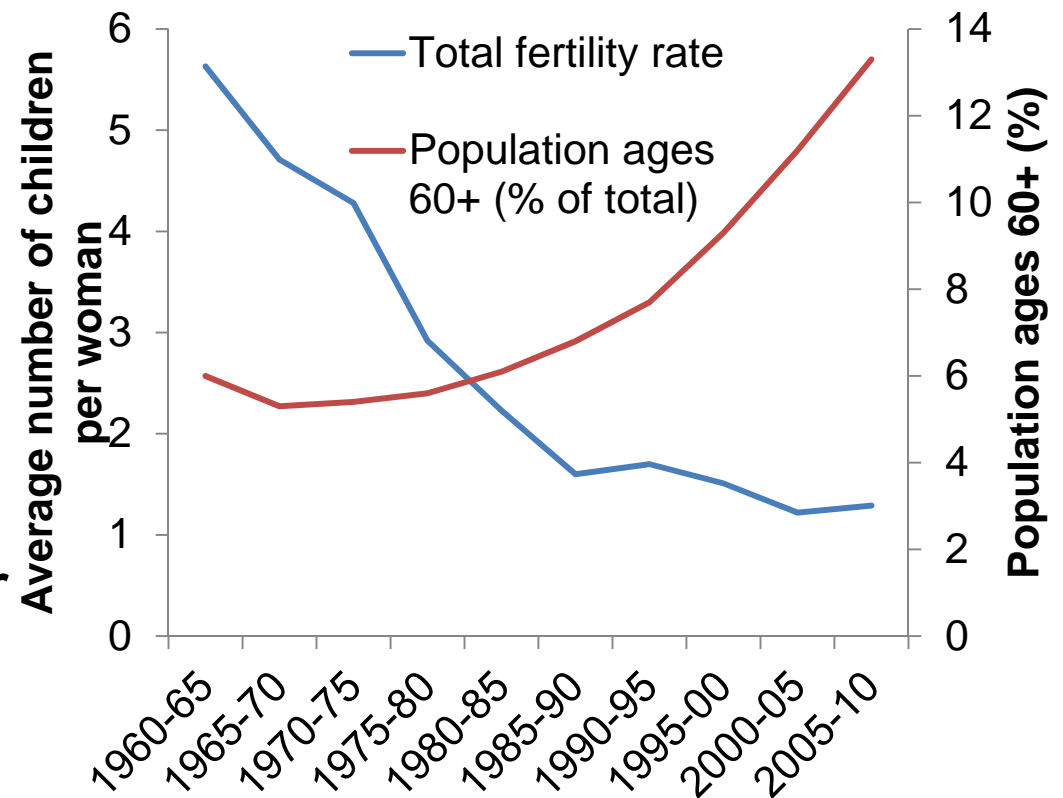
Source: UN Population Division

Uganda continued

- More than $\frac{3}{4}$ population lives on <\$2/day
 - If fertility remains above 6, Uganda will need to generate 1.5 million new jobs annually by 2030
 - In 2009, only 100k new job seekers found employment
 - President Museveni (2008): “To some extent, even underdevelopment is caused by underpopulation”
 - Human capital: the missing link in the demographic dividend
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Policy Issues in Mature Age Structure Countries: South Korea

- Fertility fell from 5.6 in early 1960s to replacement in 20 yrs
- Below-replacement since 1985; now 1.15
- At current fertility, population would enter decline in early 2020s
- Projected decline from 48 to 43m by 2050



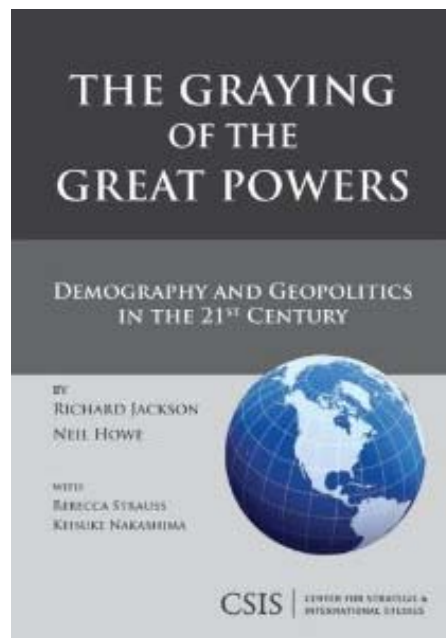
South Korea continued

- Factors in fertility decline
 - Later age at marriage (mean age 29 for women)
 - More women remaining unmarried
 - Inflexible gender roles
 - Cost of education
 - Policy response
 - Pronatalist stance implemented in 2005
 - Various incentives (tax breaks, child care, etc.)
 - Goal of increasing fertility to 1.6
 - TFR has continued declining
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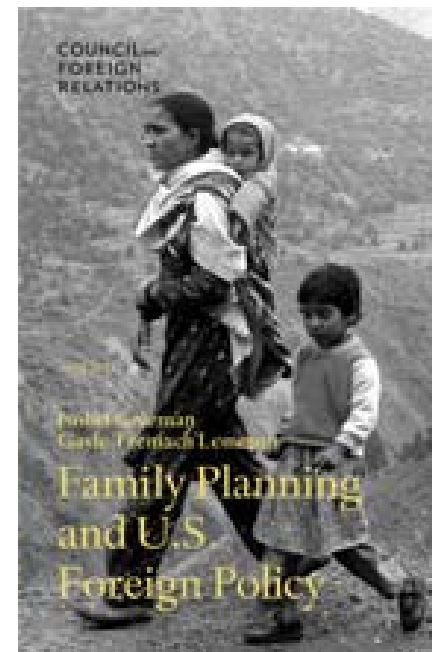
Integrating Demography into the Policy Dialogue

Issues for researchers and practitioners

- The challenge of projections
- The challenge of recommendations



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Population Projection Challenges

- No crystal ball: Assumptions often left out of the discussion
 - World is getting demographically diverse: Convergence is unlikely
 - Population trends driven largely by fertility, which does not operate in a vacuum
 - To achieve population projections (or alter their trajectory), we must have effective policies backed up with funding
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Policy Recommendation Challenges

- First and foremost, must respect human rights
 - Demography's impact on political factors is complex – but that doesn't mean it should be ignored
 - Research points in useful directions, but much remains unknown (impact of aging, future demographic dividends, stalled high fertility)
 - Policymakers typically focus on immediate-term
 - Easy to deflect “sensitive” issues
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