



POPULATION DYNAMICS, REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE



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Population in the IPCC Framework

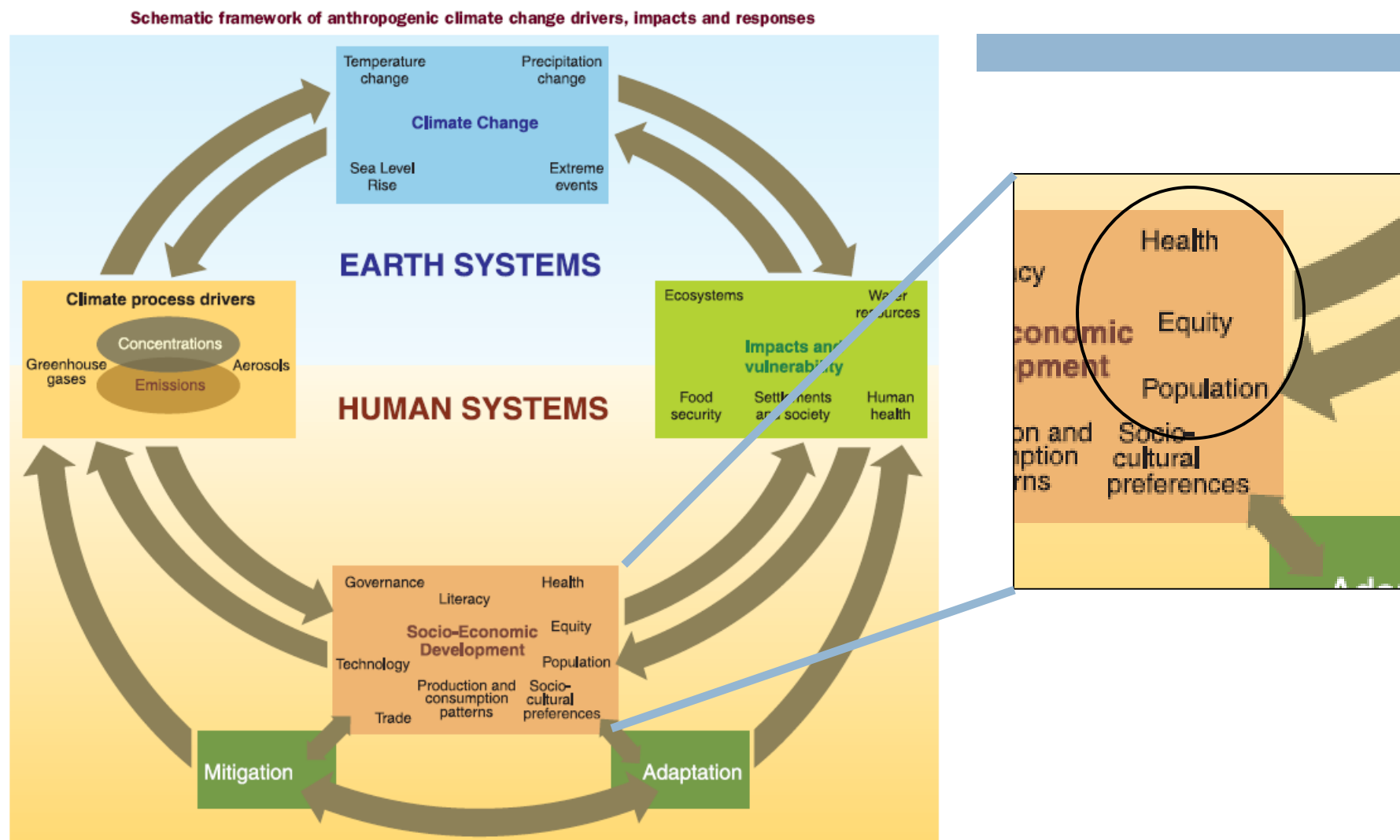


Figure 1.1. Schematic framework representing anthropogenic drivers, impacts of and responses to climate change, and their linkages.

Source: IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, 2007.

The history of population in the climate change talks

- The links have not been adequately addressed in international circles
- When they are addressed, it is often simplistically
 - ▣ Media reports swirling about the risks of population growth
- UNFPA is working with partners to establish a nuanced, evidence-based, and human-rights based perspective on the operational links between population, reproductive health and climate change

Outline of the presentation



- Part 1: Population, RH and vulnerability/adaptation
- Part 2: Population, RH and emissions/mitigation
- Conclusion: Avenues for the links between RH and environment

Population, reproductive health, vulnerability and adaptation



A woman in Bangladesh hangs bottles of grain and other goods from her roof to protect them from flooding

The importance of adaptation

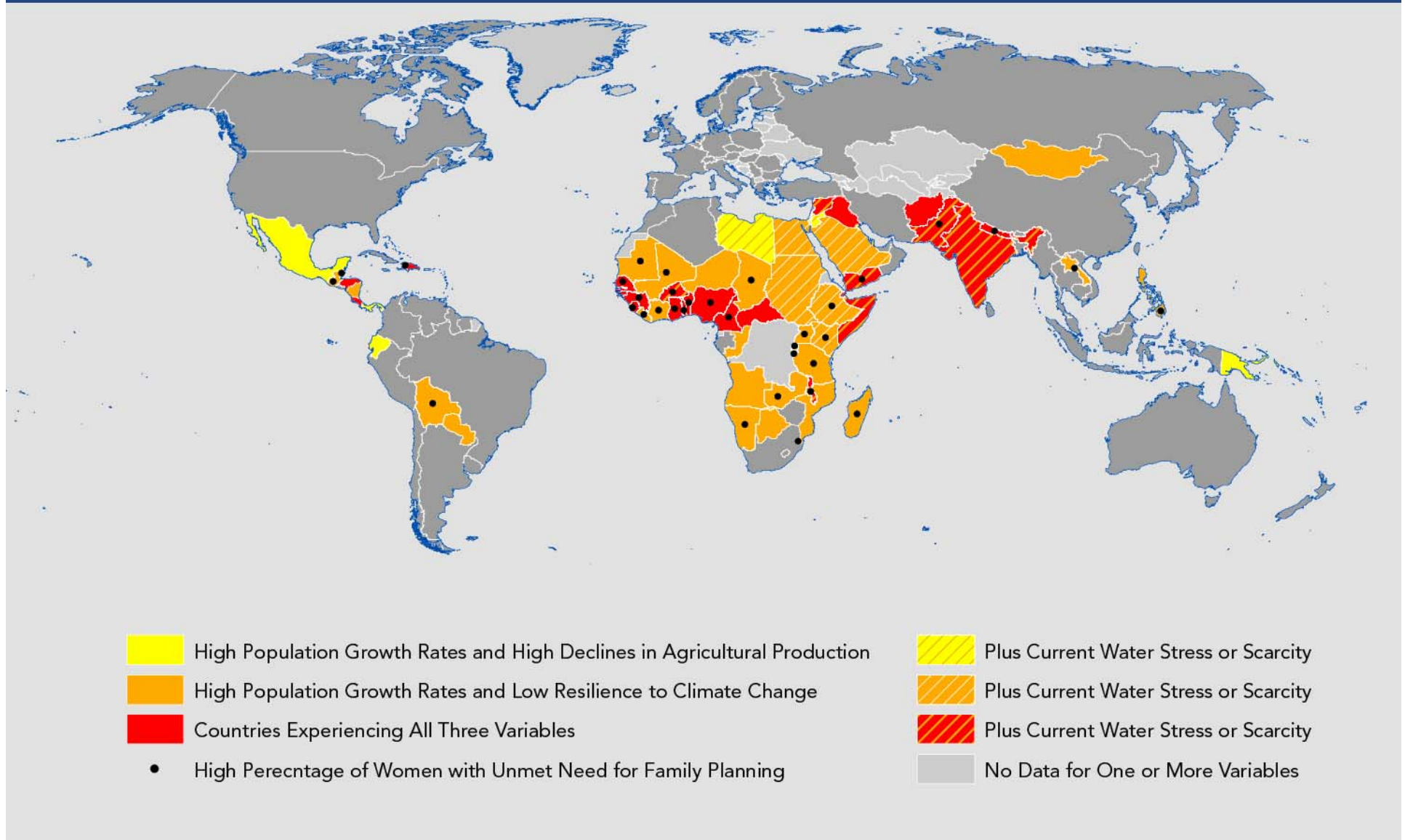
- The impacts of climate change have already begun, and will accelerate; adaptation is a necessity
- We have good projections of **what** and **where** the impacts of climate change will be:
 - ▣ Temperature increase, sea level rise, change in precipitation, storm severity, spread of vector borne disease, decreased agricultural production, etc.
 - ▣ Low elevation coastal zones, floodplains, drylands, mountain areas relying on glaciers/snowfall
- Missing or incomplete: **who** will be impacted, and **how** to help vulnerable people adapt to climate change

Vulnerability to climate change



- Vulnerability is unevenly distributed between:
 - ▣ The wealthy and poor
 - ▣ Men and women
 - ▣ The young, the middle-aged and the elderly
 - ▣ Urban and rural populations
- Population change therefore matters for vulnerability
- Understanding this changes the nature of adaptation
 - ▣ Building adaptive capacity among people and communities

FAMILY PLANNING NEEDS IN POPULATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE HOTSPOTS

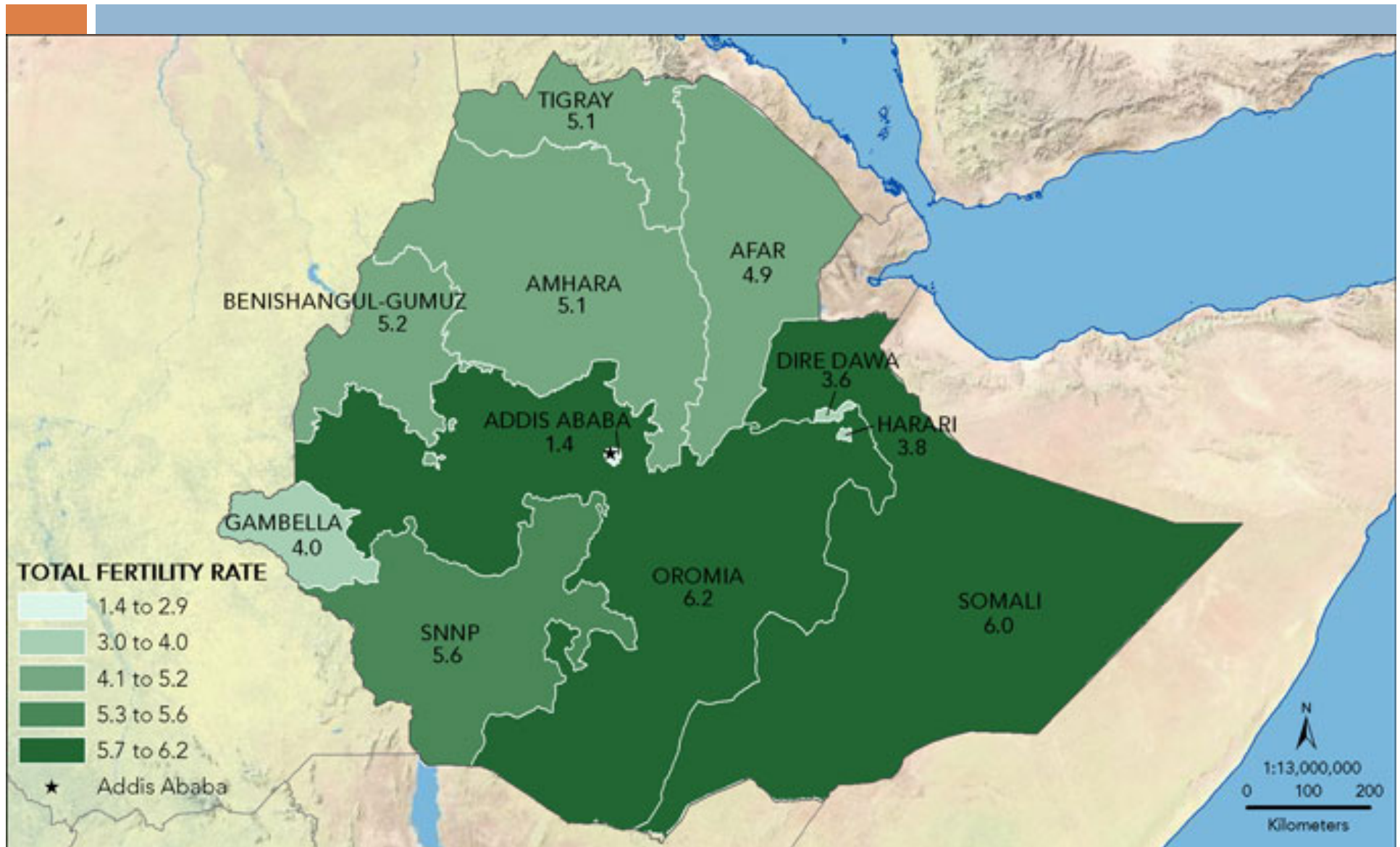


DROUGHT RISK

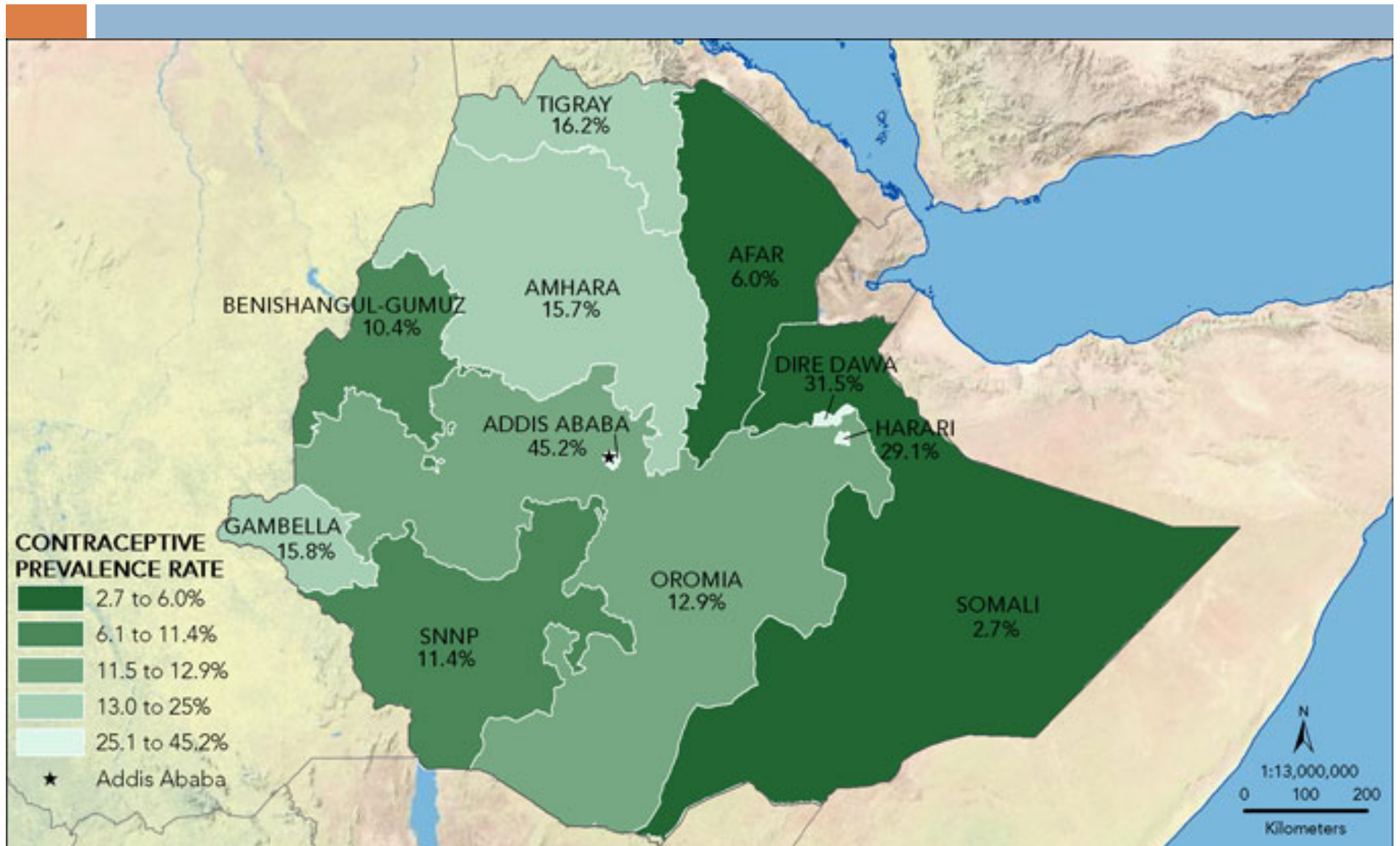
- Low
- Moderate
- High
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Zooming in: Ethiopia TFR



Zooming in: Ethiopia CPR



Intersecting vulnerabilities



- Vulnerability is seldom just about climate hazards
- Poverty, limited access to services and climate vulnerability co-occur
- In many places, this is happening in a context of rapid population change
- “Mainstreaming” climate into the development project

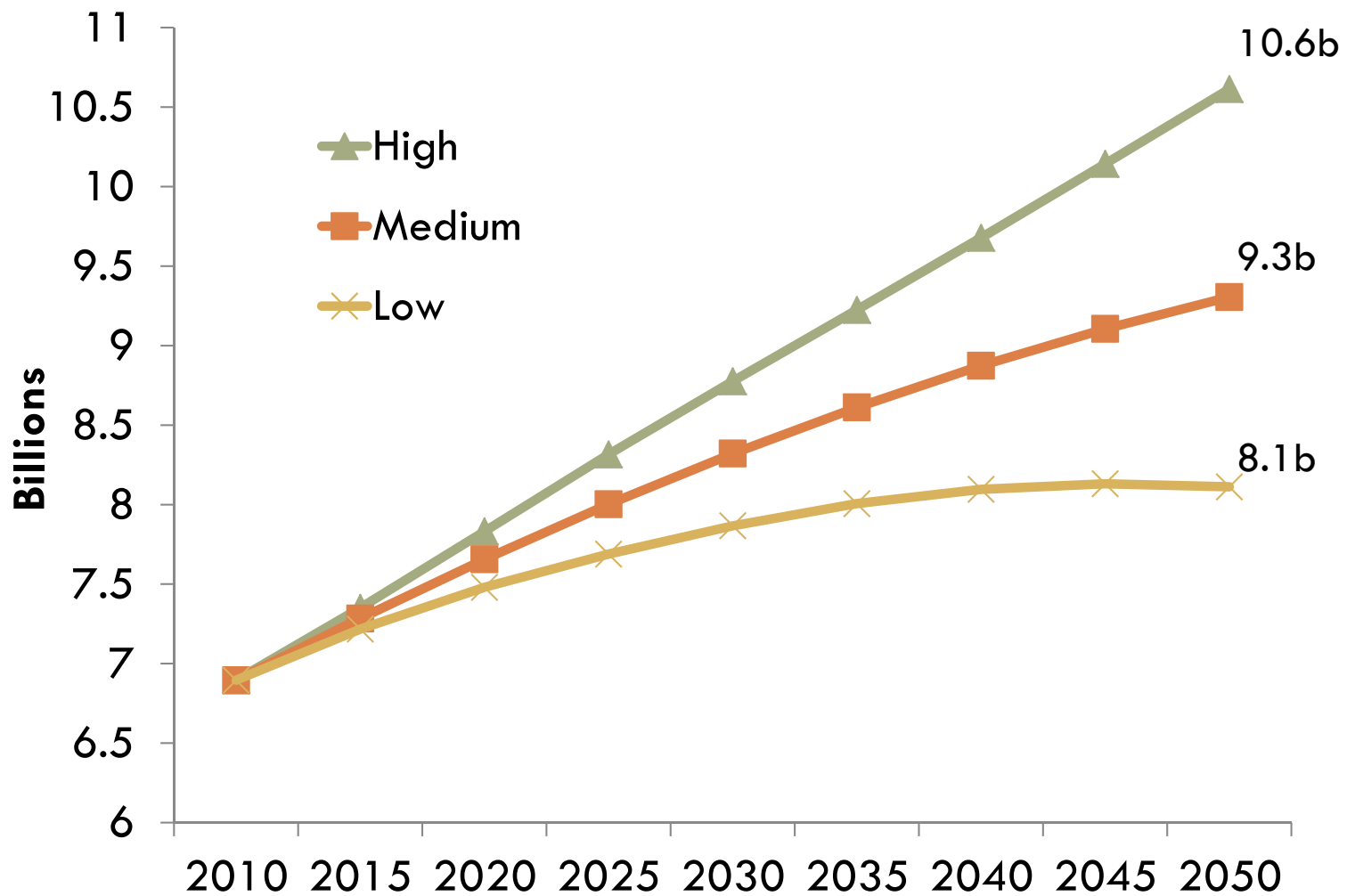
Population and emissions: What role for reproductive health?

Deepening the conversation



A Bangladeshi woman, with her child, gardens on her roof to prevent losses during flooding

Population projections to 2050



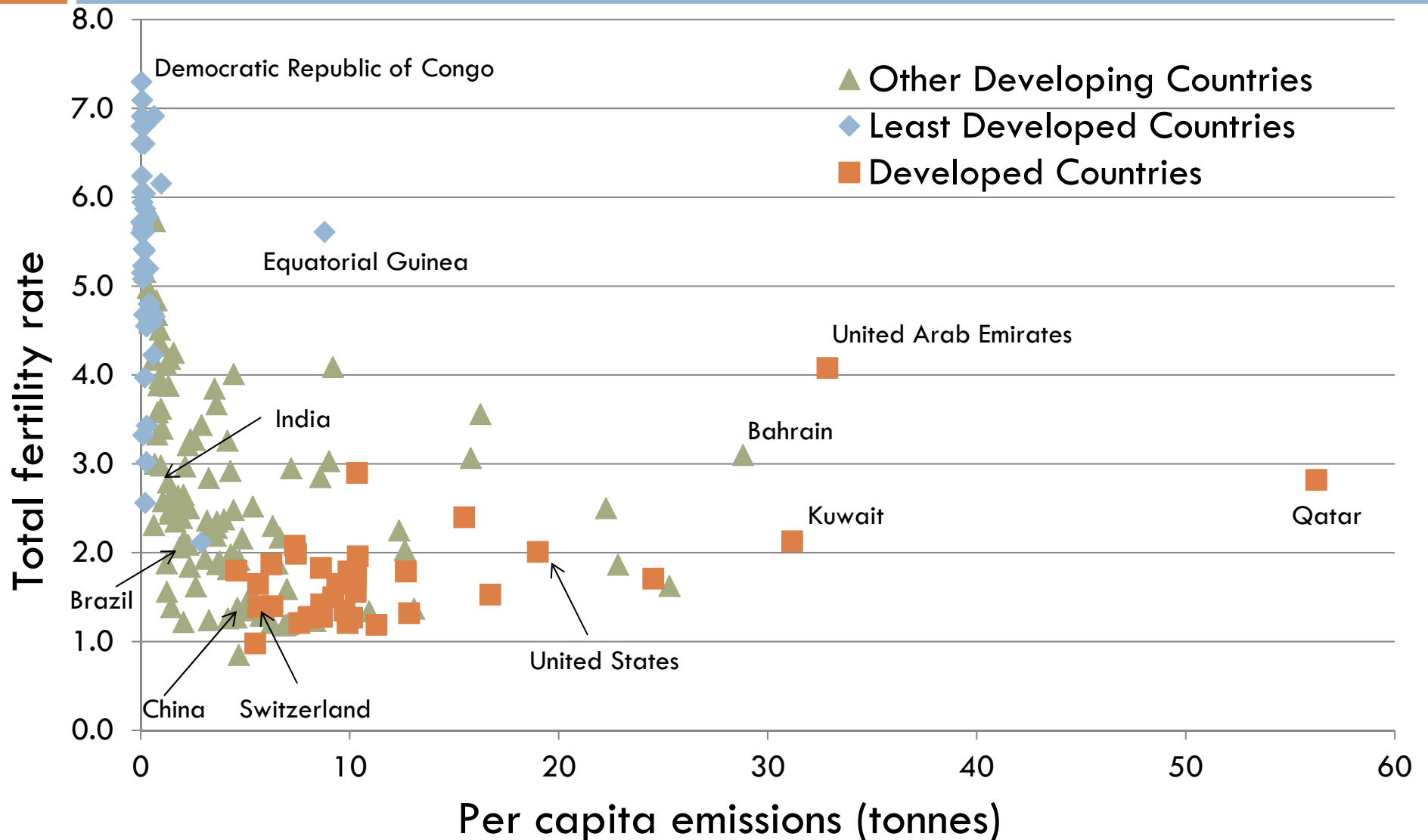
UN Population Division, 2011

Population, emissions and mitigation



- Population size and growth matter for emissions
- Population acts as a multiplier, with consumption and technology; there is no set relationship between the number of people and the amount of emissions
- Example: USA versus Democratic Republic of Congo
- Where population growth has occurred, and where it will occur, matter for the resulting emissions growth

Fertility and per capita emissions



Population, climate change and sustainable development

- Population growth will occur in the lowest emitting countries
- How much slowing population growth reduces emissions depends on consumption growth and poverty reduction
- Climate change is global; sustainable development is both global and local
- Every country and person has the right to development
- Slowing population growth will reduce pressure on natural resources, and give governments time and resources for sustainable development

How to link RH and environment?

- We must achieve universal access to reproductive health
- Rio+20 should include population and reproductive health – Agenda 21 covered it in depth
- Funding and implementation for Rio+20 may be limited, though the emerging Sustainable Development Goals may have more support
- The mitigation negotiations are complex and contested – and population has never been included
- There are major opportunities in adaptation – and RH provides mitigation co-benefits in the long term
- **Our key avenues for RH linked to environment are Rio+20 AND climate change adaptation**

UNFPA work on climate change

- 2009 *State of World Population*, “Women, Population and Climate”
- *Population Dynamics and Climate Change*
- *Climate Change Connections*, resource kit on gender and climate change
- Supporting UN CC:Learn and climate change training
- Census data for climate adaptation analysis
- Country projects, e.g. Indonesia, Malawi, Vietnam, Dominican Republic
- COP14-17: leading in UNFPA mandate areas
- Rio+20



Thank you!

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