

**Linkages between
Population & Sustainable Development
in the Post-2015 Development Agenda**

Monica Das Gupta

University of Maryland

Presented at the UNFPA Plenary on Population in the post-2015 Development Agenda,
IUSSP International Population Conference, Busan 27 August 2013

Outline

- High-level Panel on the post-2015 Development Agenda report focused on:
 - *poverty reduction, economic transformation & sustainable development*
- Population dynamics linked to the Report's goals, incl:
 - Women's empowerment
 - Jobs & livelihoods
 - Increase agricultural productivity
 - Limit further global warming

Linked through the demographic dividend

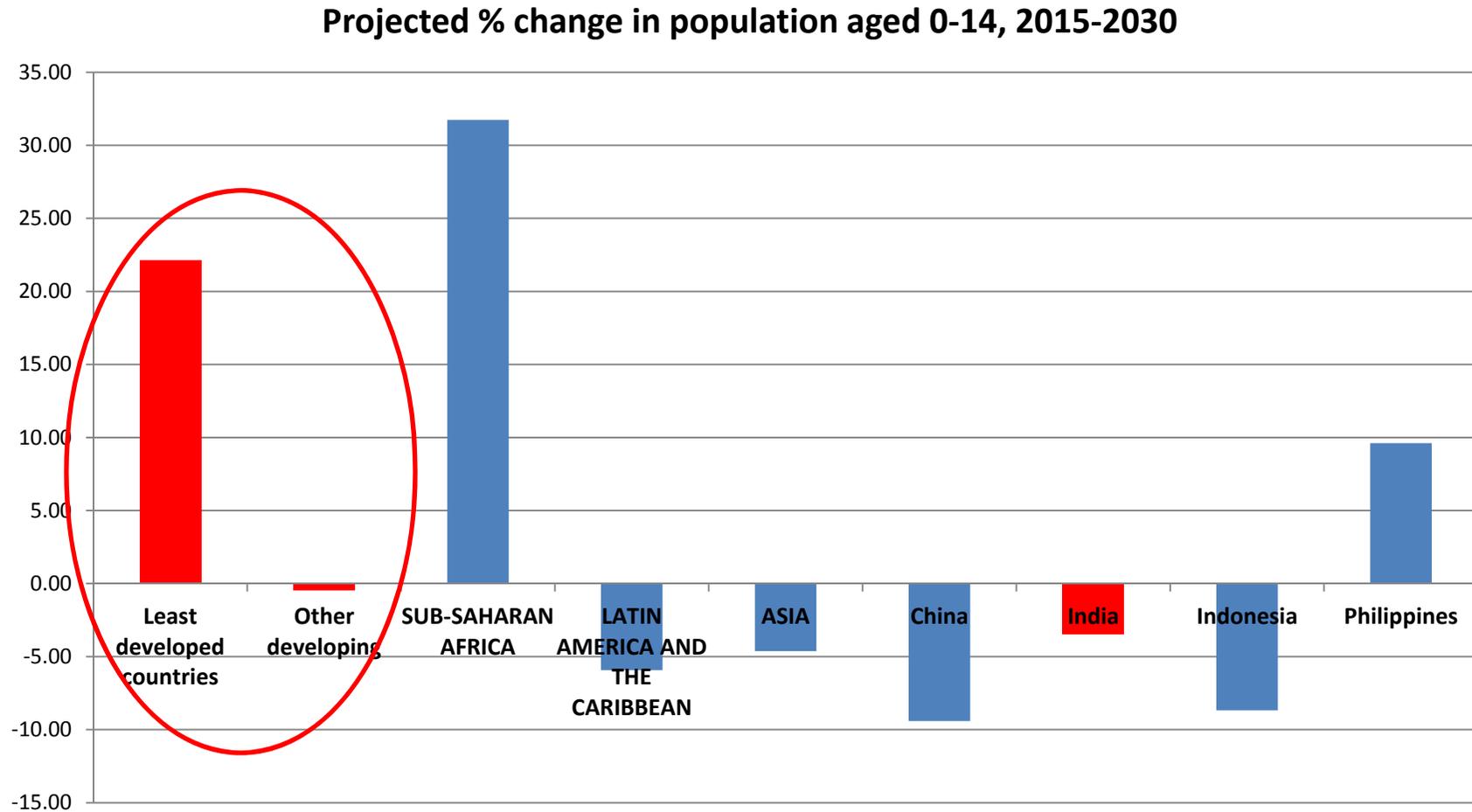
Population links with Goals on Women's Empowerment & Poverty

Goal to “ensure sexual & reproductive health and rights” – empowers women, especially poor women

- “Natural experiments” with policy shifts in developed & developing world find:
 - poor women worst hit when access to contraception reduced
 - giving young women access to contraception helps them get more schooling and better jobs
- Unplanned children and those in larger families:
 - poorer health and schooling (*more likely to remain poor*)

Population links with Goal on Jobs & Livelihoods

Largest numbers entering the laborforce in the least developed countries

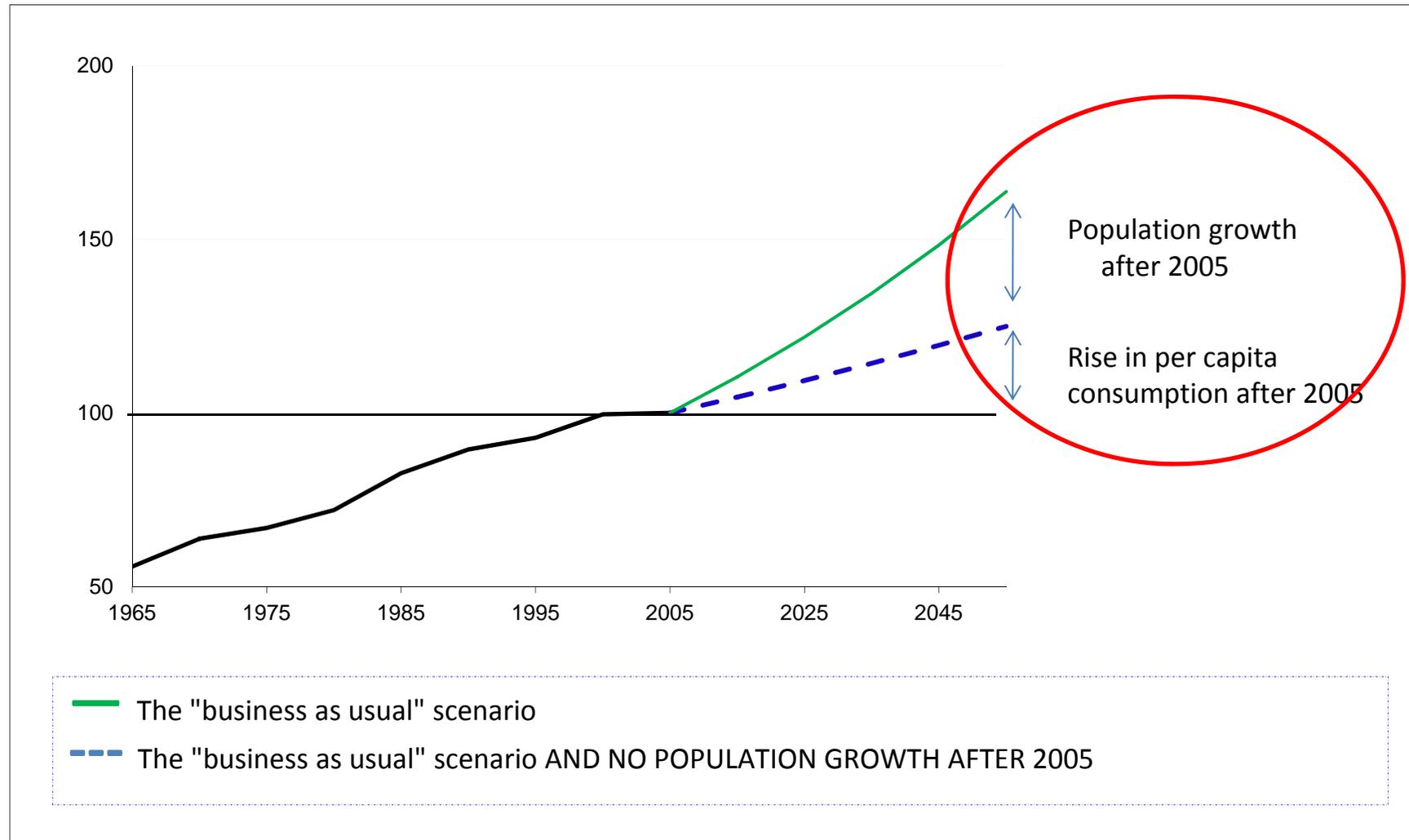


Source: UN World Population Prospects 2012

Population links with Goal to increase agricultural productivity sustainably

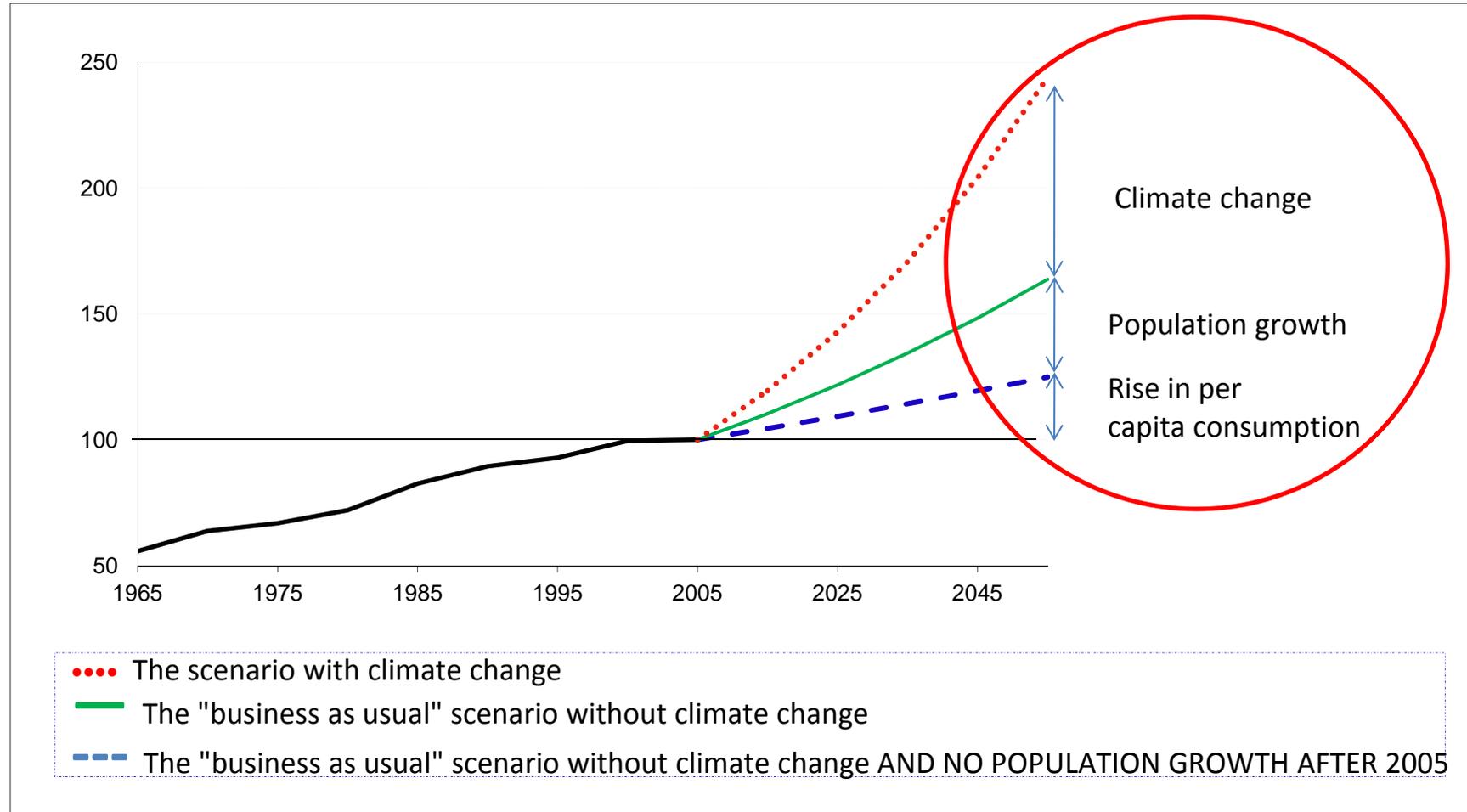
- Harder to increase productivity:
 - People moving into more marginal lands; soil degradation
 - Global warming reduces yields most in the tropics
- Hard to increase productivity *sustainably* –
e.g. fertilizer runoff affects fish
- ...and much of the needed productivity increase is for feeding growing populations

Population growth accounts for much of estimated need for growth in agricultural productivity 2005-2025



Source: *World Development Report 2010*: Figure 3.5 (derived from Lotze-Campen et al 2009). We thank Dr Lotze-Campen for disaggregating the "business as usual" scenario into two estimates: (1) with population held constant at the 2005 level, and (2) the WDR 2010's "business as usual" scenario, which includes anticipated population increase to 9 billion by 2055.

... and climate change makes it far harder to achieve



Source: *World Development Report 2010*: Figure 3.5 (derived from Lotze-Campen et al 2009). We thank Dr Lotze-Campen for disaggregating the "business as usual" scenario into two estimates: (1) with population held constant at the 2005 level, and (2) the WDR 2010's "business as usual" scenario, which includes anticipated population increase to 9 billion by 2055.

Population links with Goal to Limit Further Global Warming

Global warming emissions shaped by:

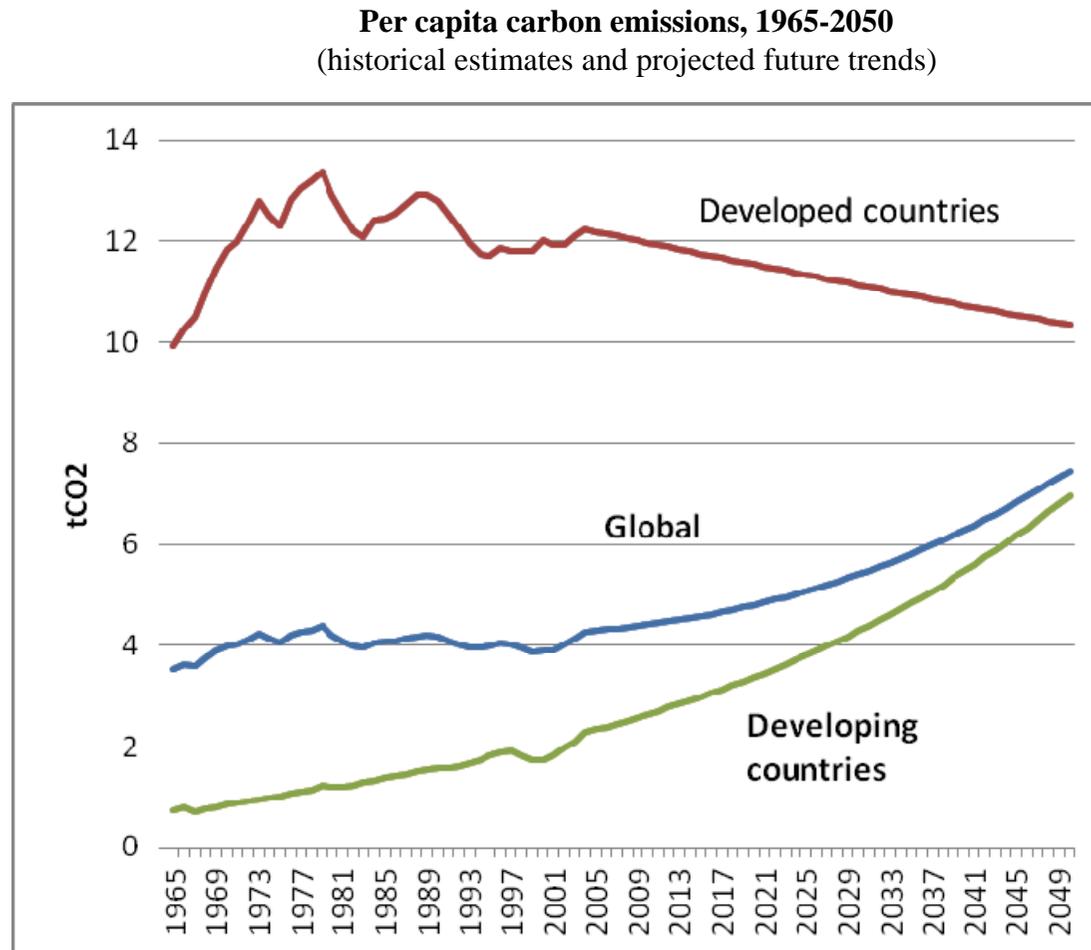
(a) Emissions per person

&

(b) The number of persons

(a) Emissions per person

Per capita carbon emissions highest in developed world & fast-growing developing countries



Source: Stern (2006), based on Holtsmark (2006)

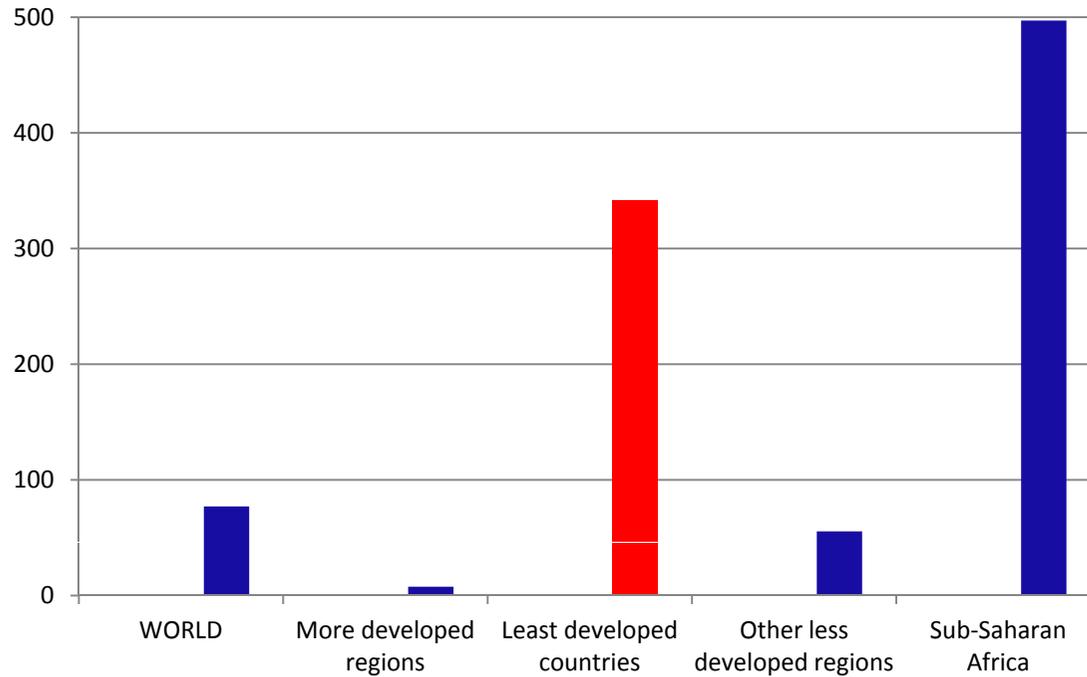
(b) Number of persons

Poorest countries add to emissions through rising numbers of consumers

- even if no change in consumption levels
- fortunately economic growth picking up widely

% increase in population 2000-2100

(UN (2012) medium fertility projections)



The Demographic Dividend

- Since 1990s, much written on demographic “window of opportunity” as fertility declines:
 - Low dependency ratios raise potential for savings & growth
 - Sound policies and institutions needed to fully realize this potential

If maximize investments during this window, can permanently lock in higher income levels

The Demographic Dividend

- Since 1990s, much written on demographic “window of opportunity” as fertility declines

... but this theory came decades after most Asian countries began intensive family planning programs

- *Motivated by sharp rise in population growth, amidst widespread poverty*

- Integral part of development strategy to raise living standards

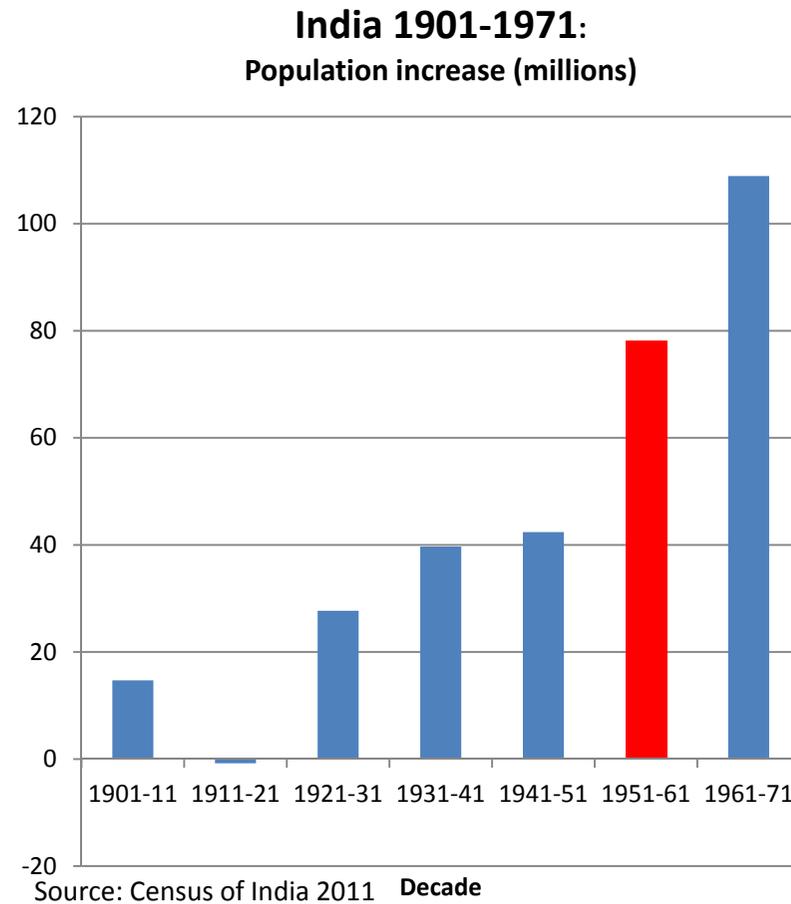
- *Programs catalyzed demand through advocacy blitz*

persuaded mothers-in-law etc, of how “smaller families are happier families”

— so empowering younger women to have the smaller families they wanted

... and expanded accessibility of supplies

Motivation: Shock of sharp rise in population growth rate in 1950s



Asia increases similar to India (UN estimates 1950-60, 1960-70)

Sub-Saharan Africa faced little pressure

- *similar growth rates to Asia, but on small base*
- *now changing fast*

	% increase		Billions added	Population (billions)	
	1950-60	1960-70	1950-60	1950	2100
Asia	21	26	0.3	1.4	4.7
Sub-Saharan Africa	23	28	0.04	0.2	3.8

UN (2012) estimates and medium fertility projection

Conclusions

1. Population dynamics central to achieving the goals of the Report on the post-2015 Development Agenda:
poverty reduction, economic transformation & sustainable development

2. Works through two aspects of demographic dividend:
 - a) Fertility decline (*need for food, jobs, human capital development*)
- a substantial dividend for poor / high fertility countries

 - b) Fertility decline + **good policy settings**
- far larger potential dividends