

# Fertility forecasts and their implications for population growth

## Highlights

Most countries will experience below-replacement\* levels of fertility by mid-century.

Researchers anticipate a massive shifting of births from high-income countries to low-income countries.

Unless countries facilitate ethical immigration, populations are expected to contract in areas where fertility is below 2.1 children per person who could give birth.

Increasing support for parents and caregivers could prevent ultra-low fertility.

## What's new in this study?

Innovative, more accurate forecasting methods grounded in real-world evidence.

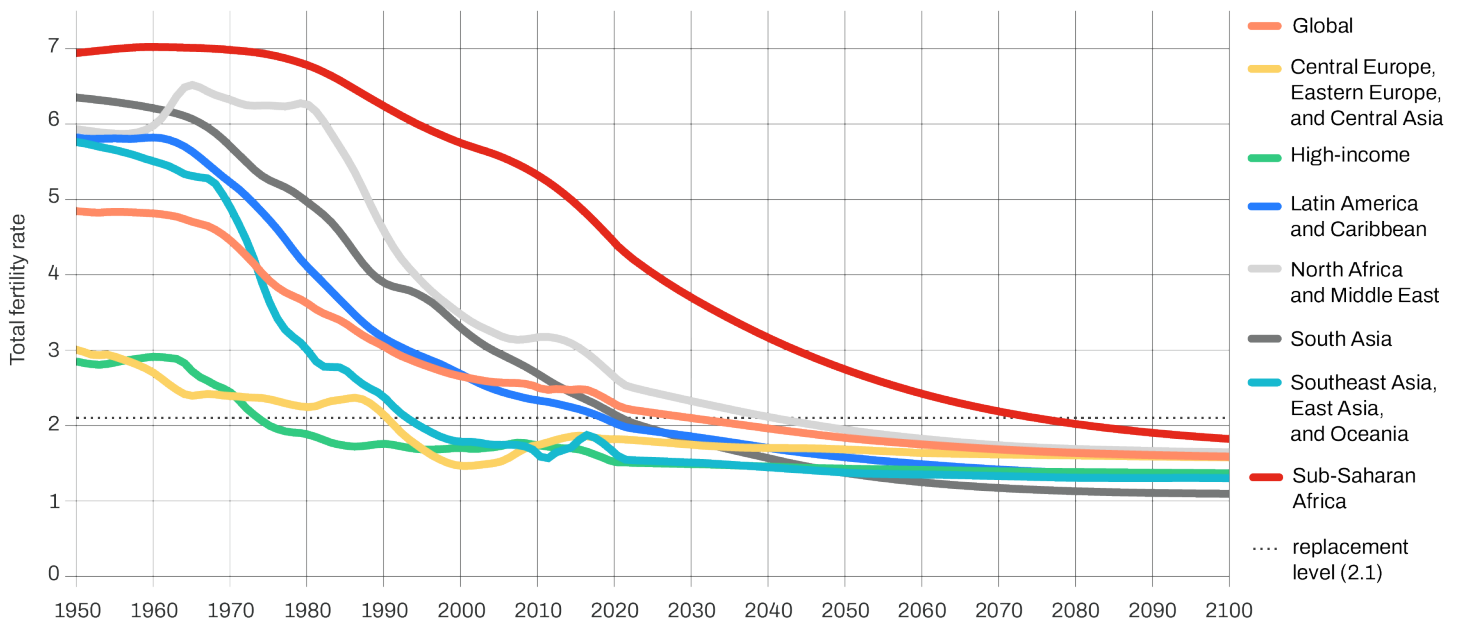
Study incorporated hundreds of new data points from surveys, censuses, and vital and sample registration.

Pro-natal alternative scenario for policymakers in countries with low fertility (see [Table 2 in study](#) for country results).

\*Fertility below replacement levels is defined as fewer than 2.1 children per person who could give birth.

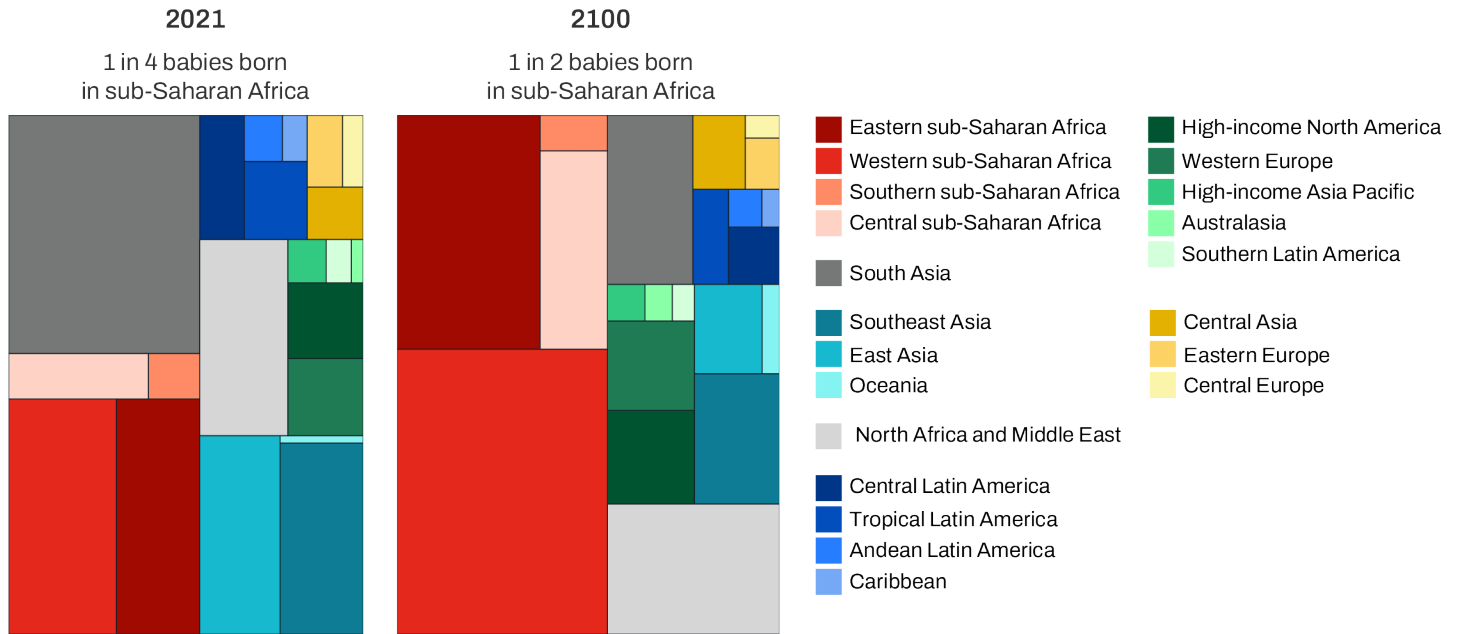
By 2100, fertility rates will not be high enough to sustain population growth over time in 97% of countries and territories.

Total fertility rate, 1950–2100, by GBD super-region and for the globe



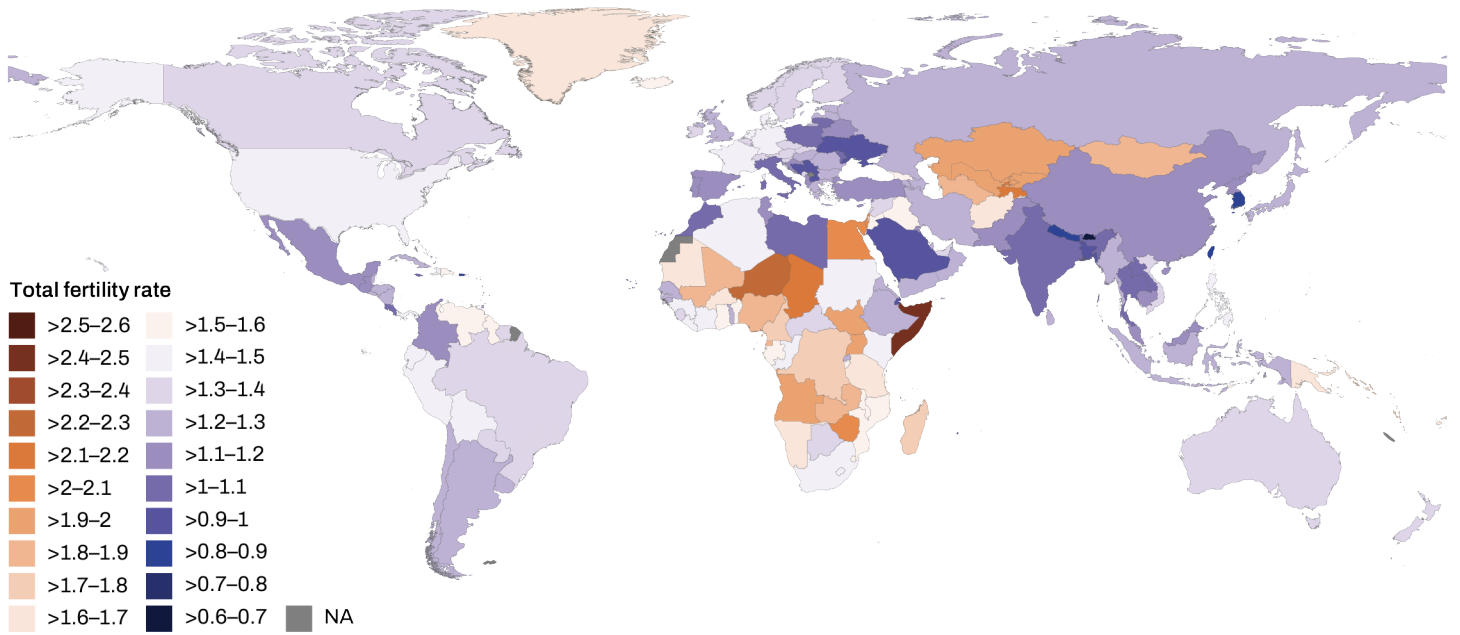
By 2100, more than half of all babies will be born in sub-Saharan Africa, primarily in Western and Eastern sub-Saharan Africa.

Proportion of births by GBD region in 2021 and 2100



Only six countries are projected to experience fertility rates above replacement levels (2.1 children per person who could give birth) by 2100.

Projected fertility rates by country in 2100



Source: <http://bit.ly/FertilityGBD21>, *The Lancet*.