

# Megatrends in Population, Gender and Development in Bangladesh

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Population Council

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**Development, Justice and Freedom**

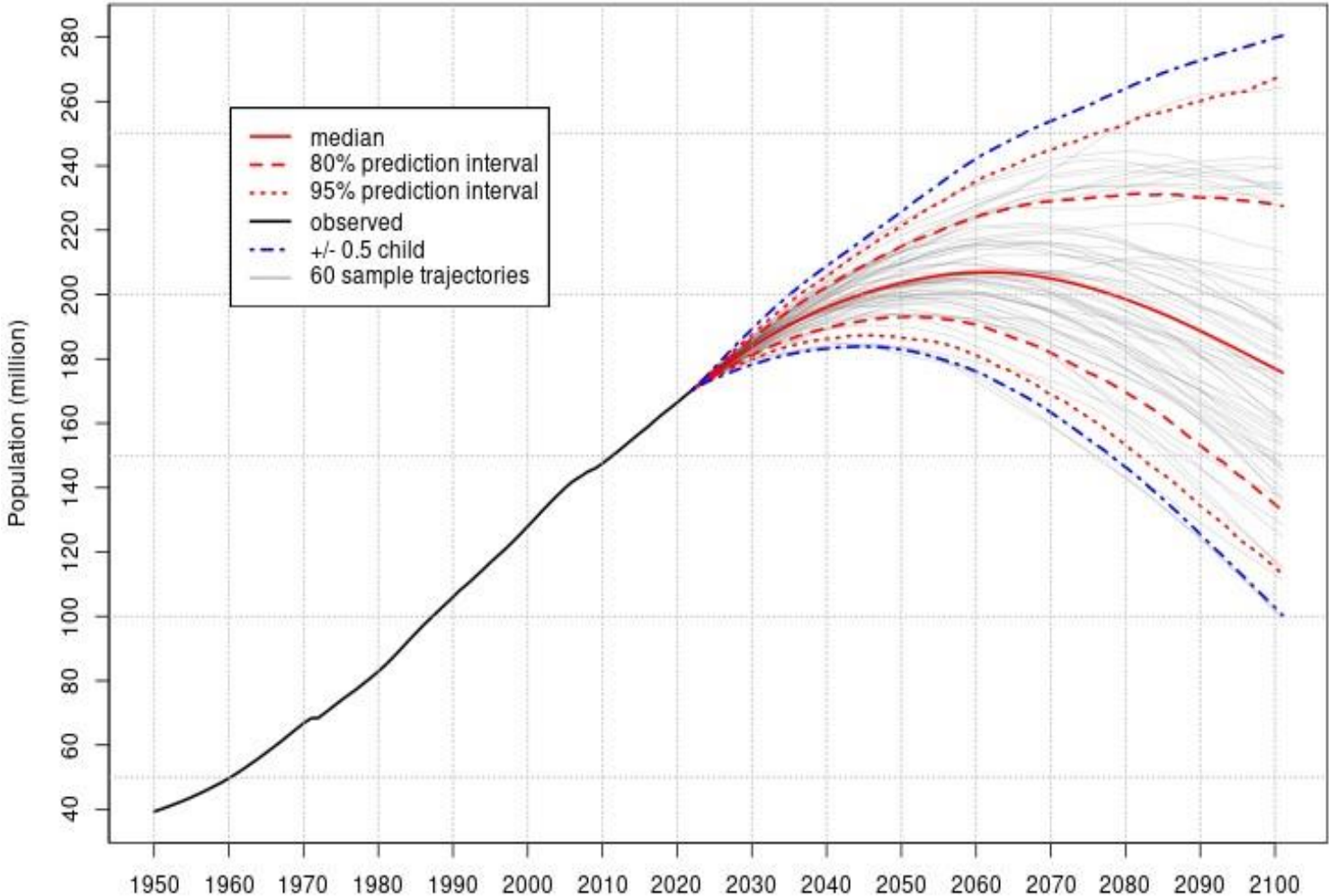
**Dhaka, December 7-9, 2023**

# Outline

- **In the long run (projections to 2100)**
  - Fertility
  - Life Expectancy
  - Dependency
- **Urbanization prospects and projections**
  - Climate Change scenarios
- **Gender and other Inequalities**
  - Who Cares
  - Entry into the workforce
  - Acquiring human capital

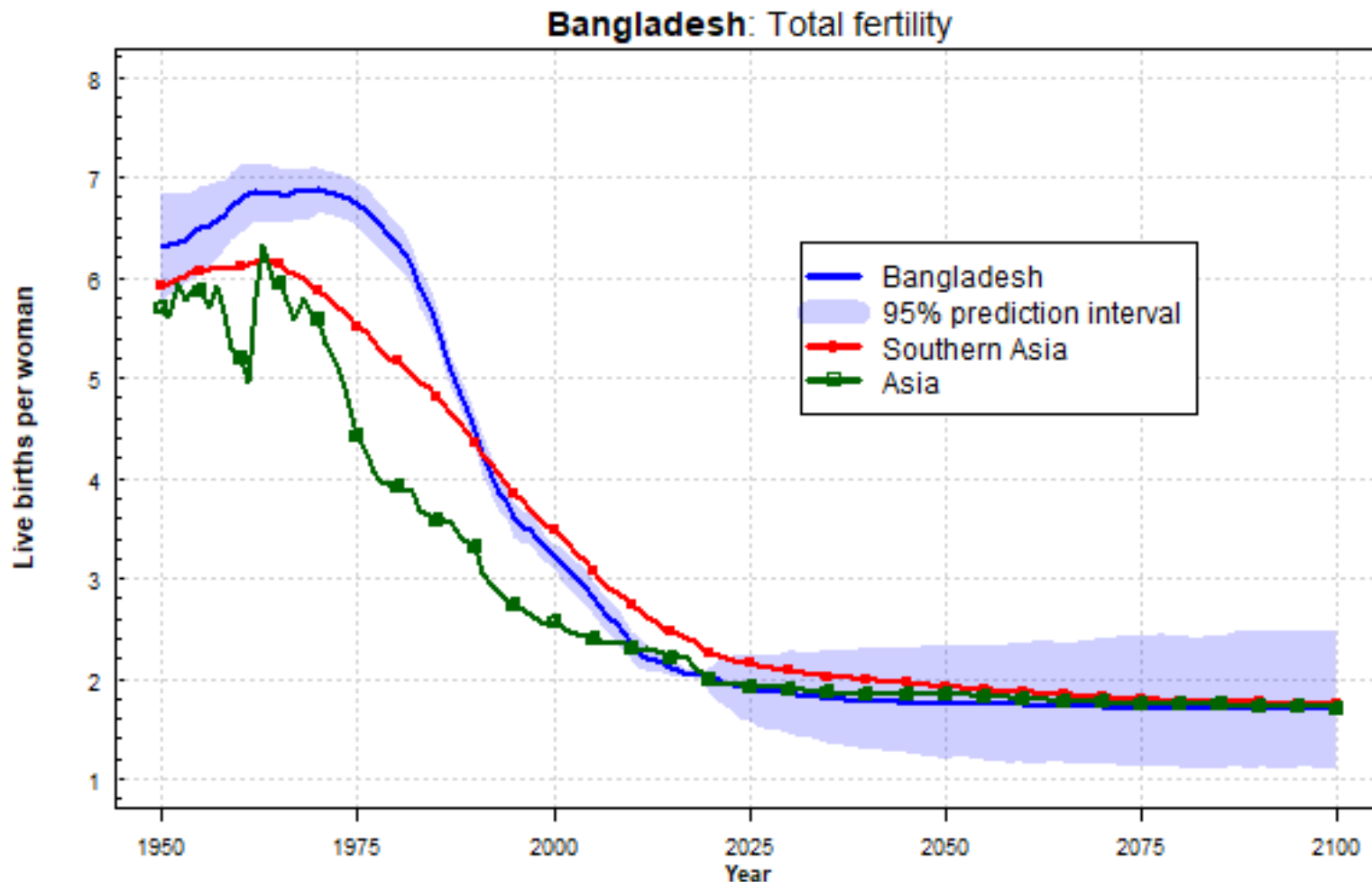
# Bangladesh Total Population

Bangladesh: Total Population



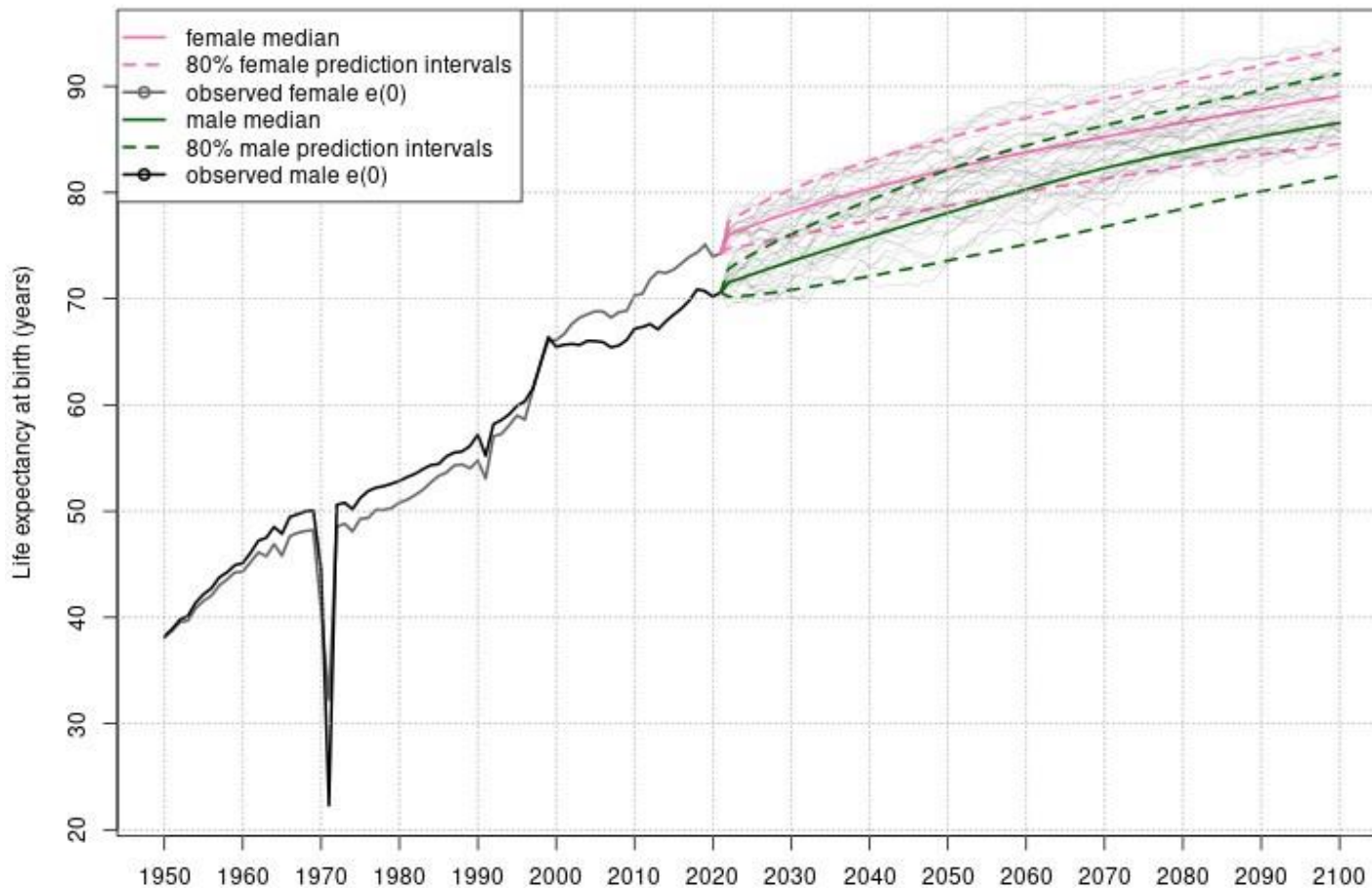
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# Total Fertility in Asia, South Asia and Bangladesh

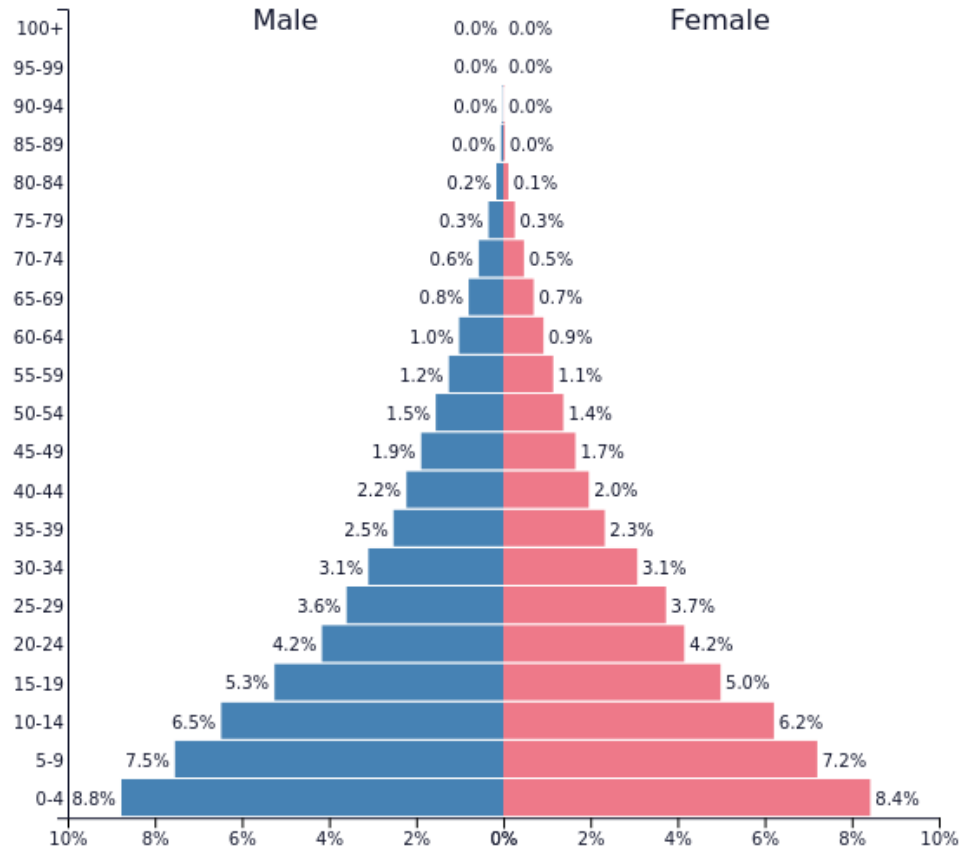


# Life Expectancy

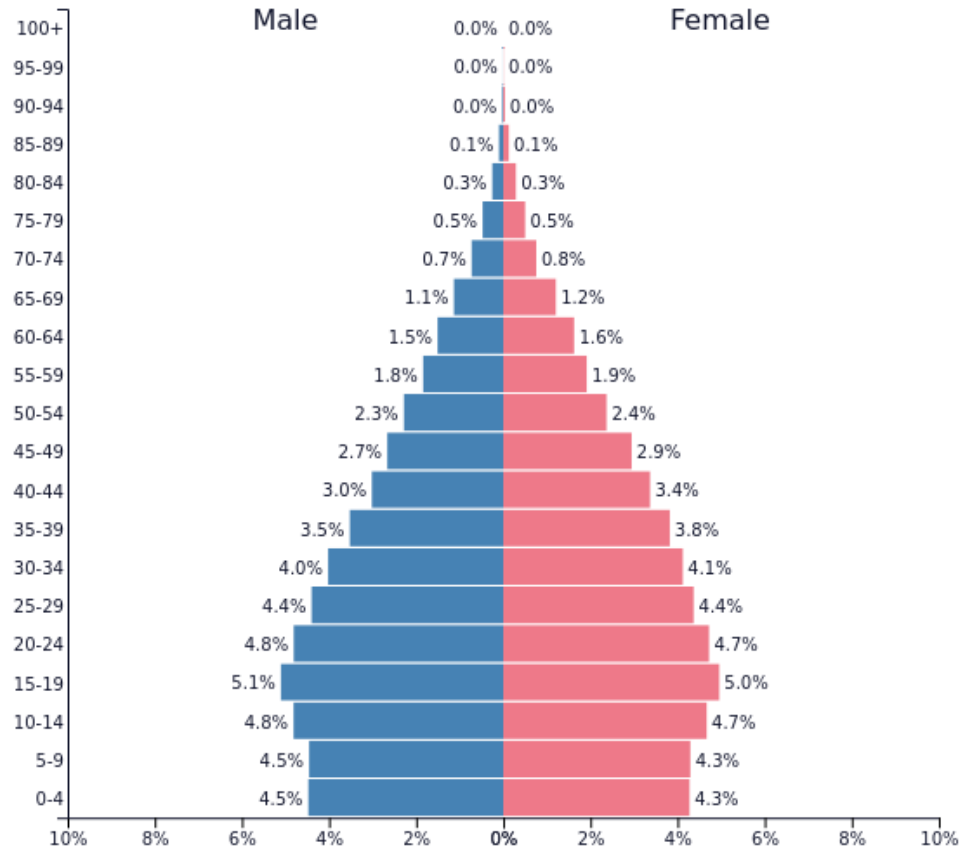
## Bangladesh



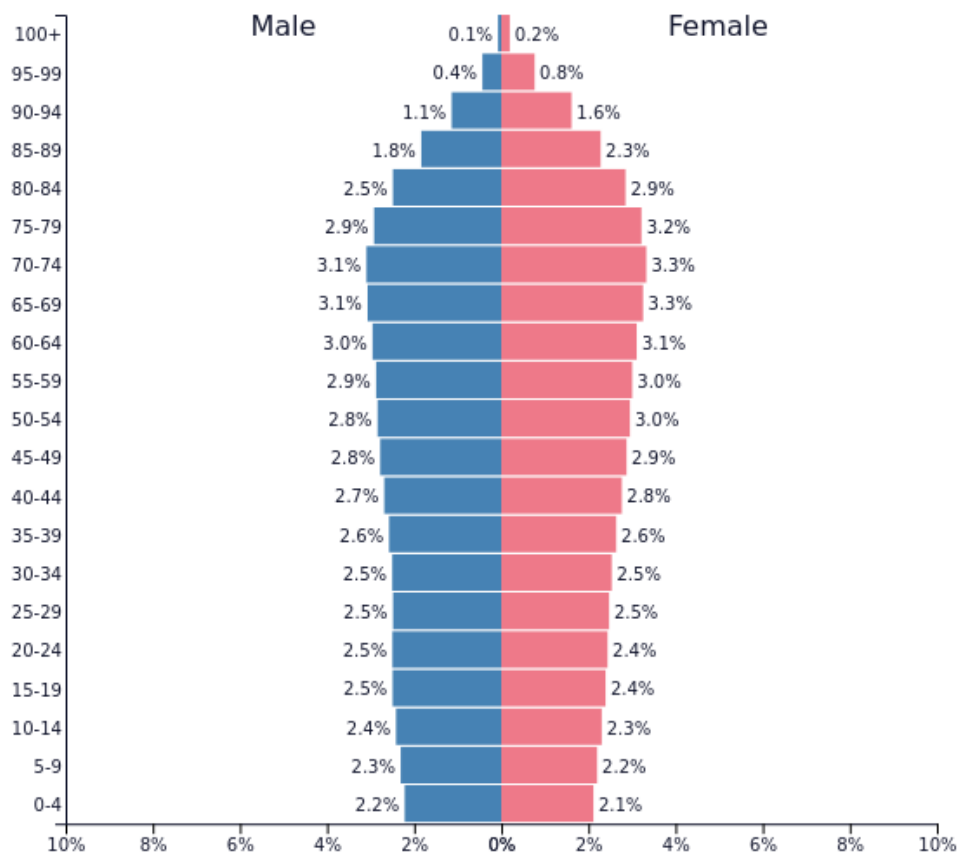
# Population Pyramid 1985



# Population Pyramid 2020

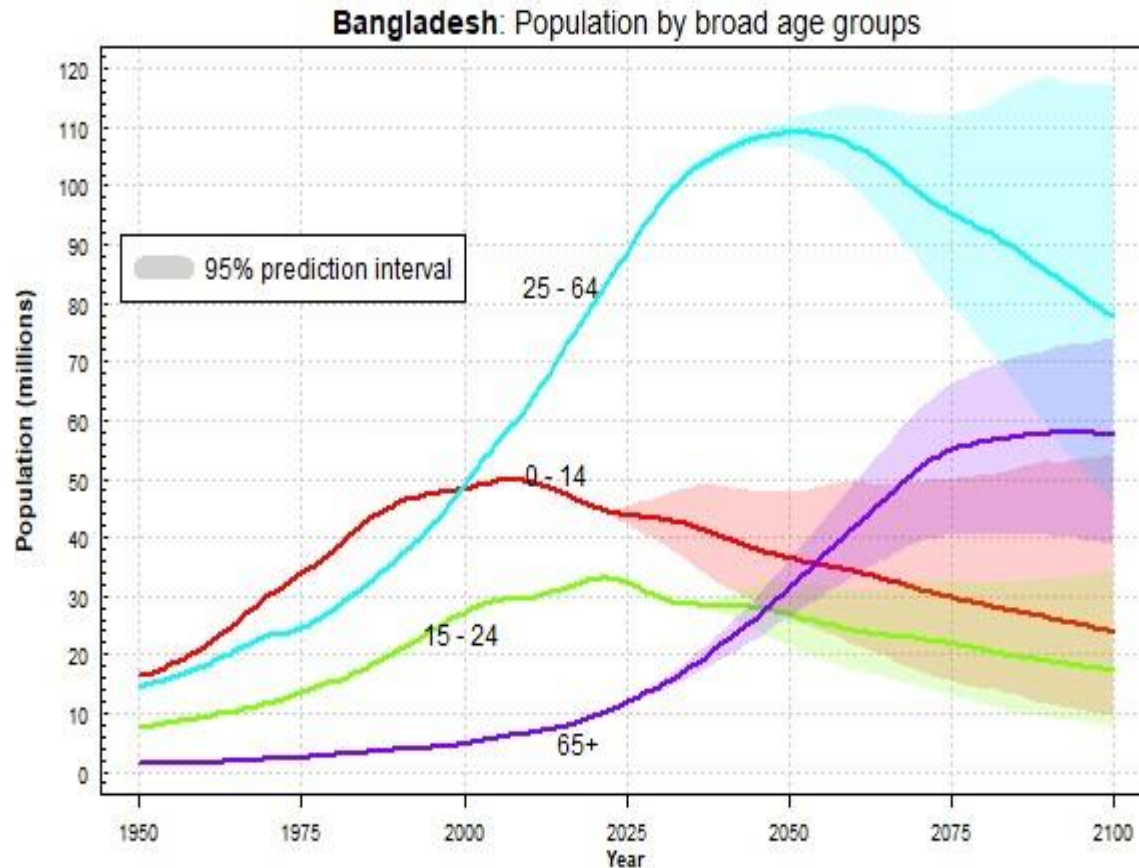


# Population Pyramid 2100





# Bangladesh Population by Broad Age Groups



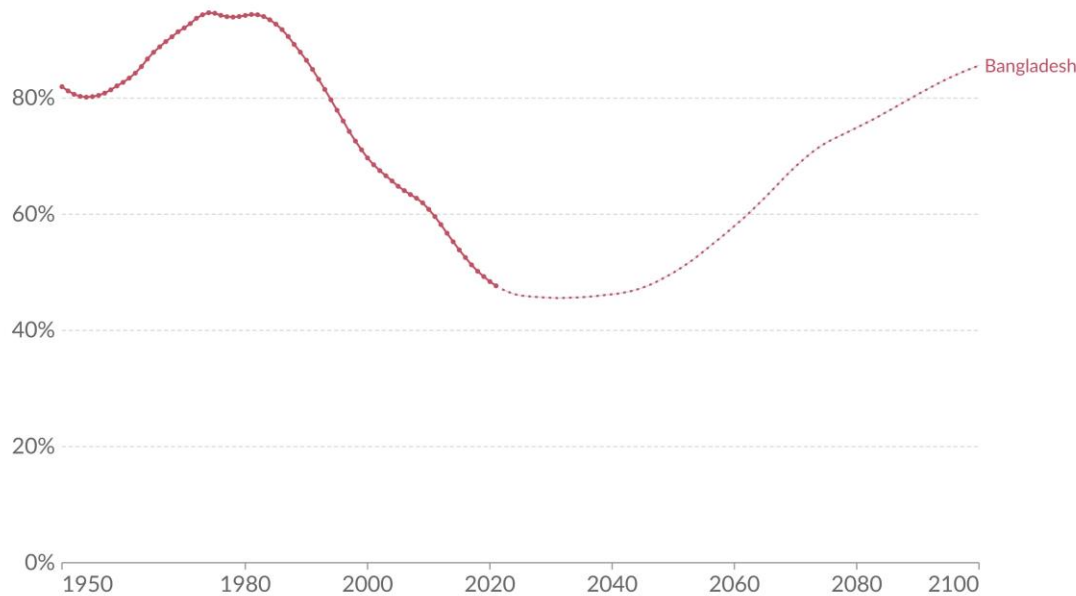
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United Nations, DESA, Population Division. *World Population Prospects 2022*. <http://population.un.org/wpp/>

# Overall Age Dependency Ratio

## Age dependency ratio projections, 1950 to 2100

Our World in Data

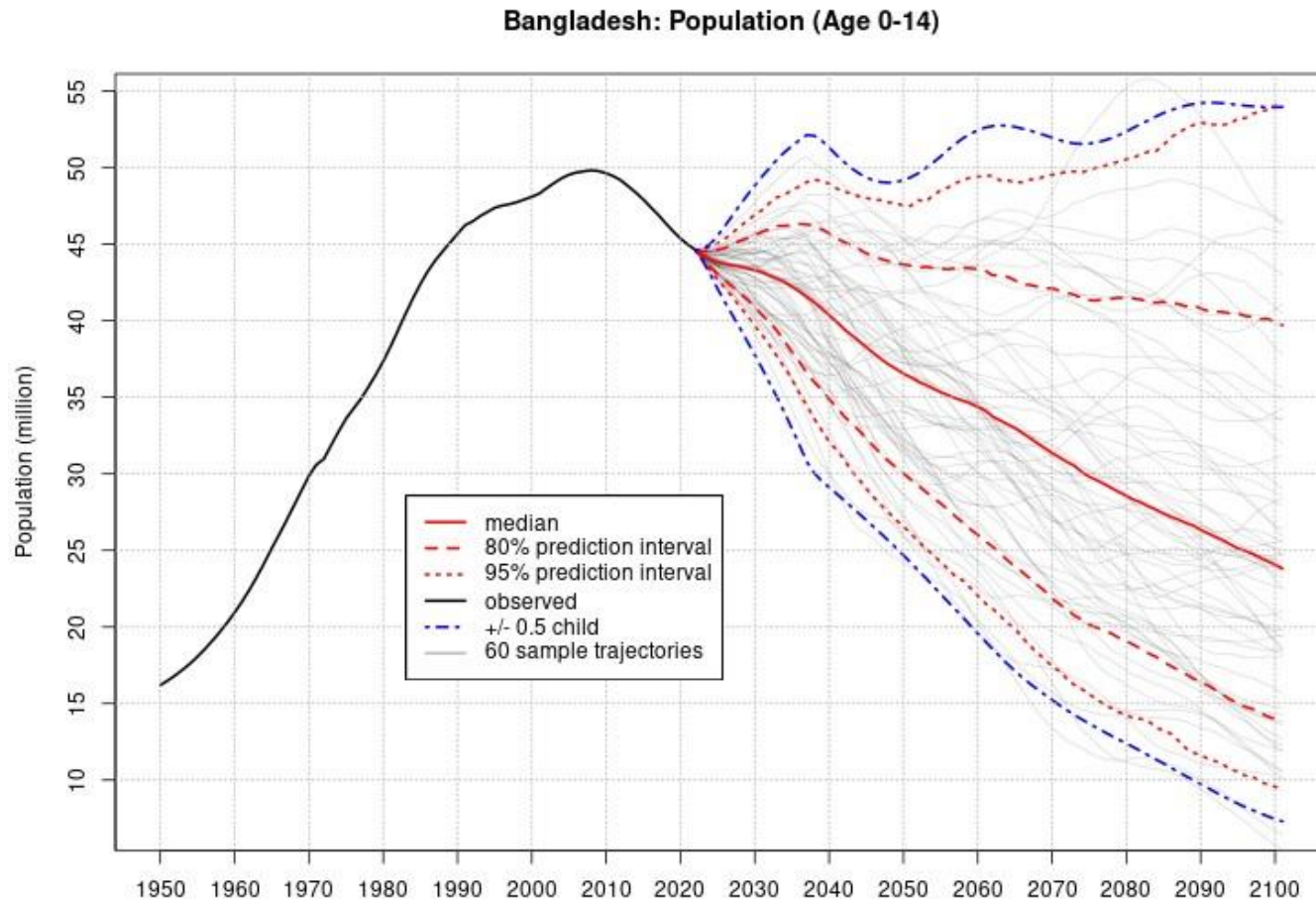
The age dependency ratio is the sum of the young population (under age 15) and elderly population (age 65 and over) relative to the working-age population (ages 15 to 64). Data are shown as the number of dependents per 100 working-age population. Projections to 2100 are based on the UN's medium population scenario.



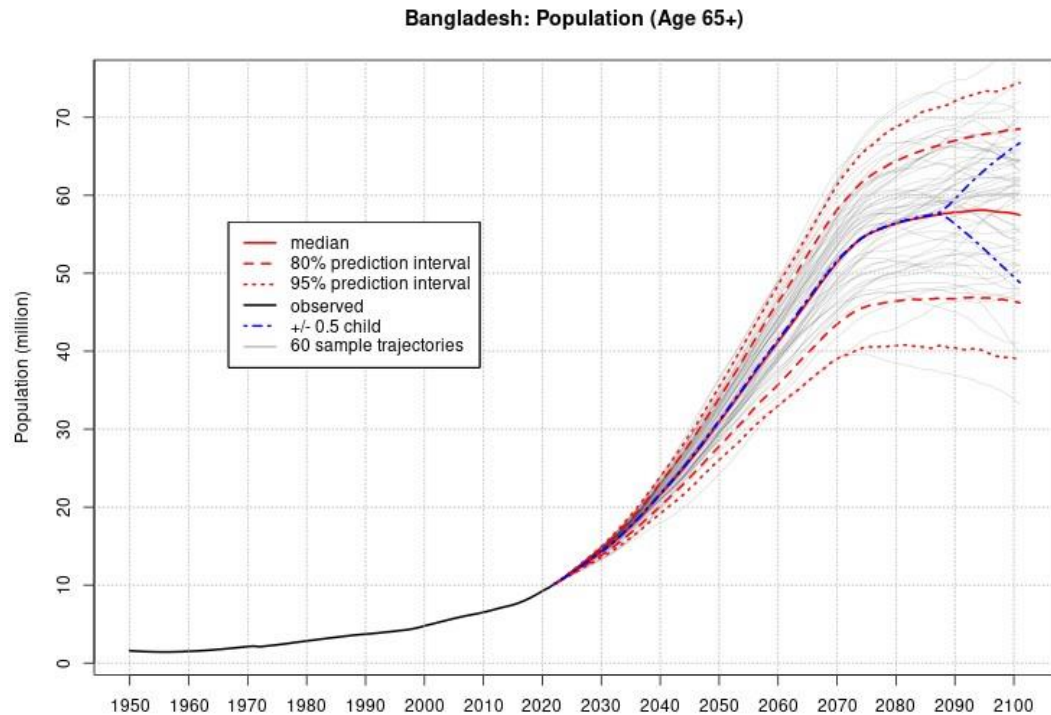
Data source: United Nations, World Population Prospects (2022)

[OurWorldInData.org/population-growth](https://OurWorldInData.org/population-growth) | CC BY

# Population (Age 0-14) (millions)



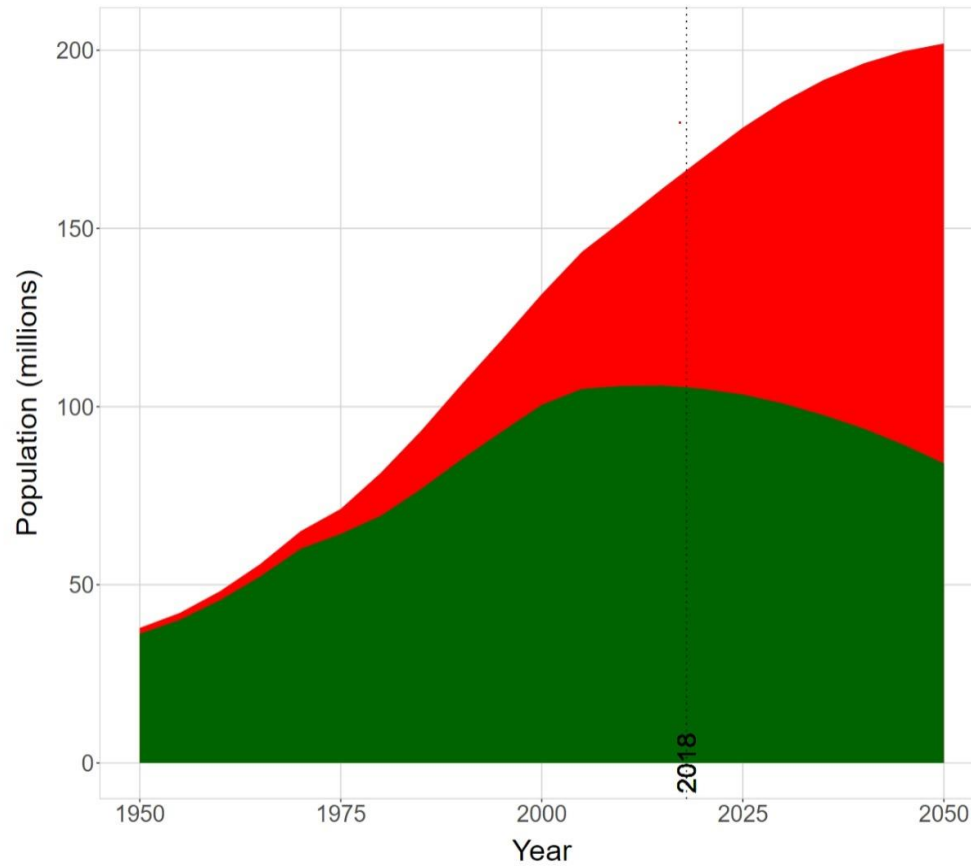
# Population 65+ (millions)



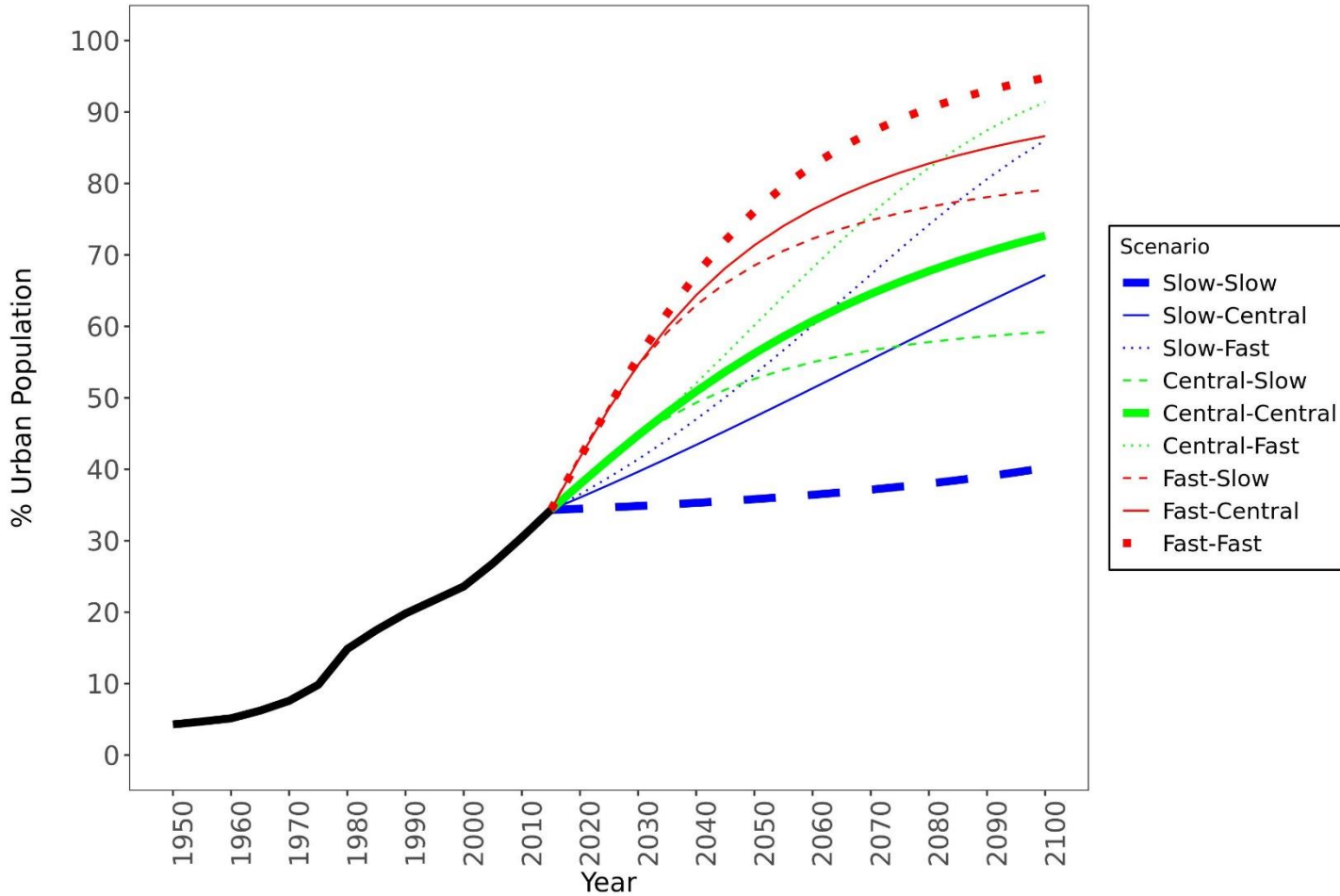
## Urban and rural population

Bangladesh

Urban Rural



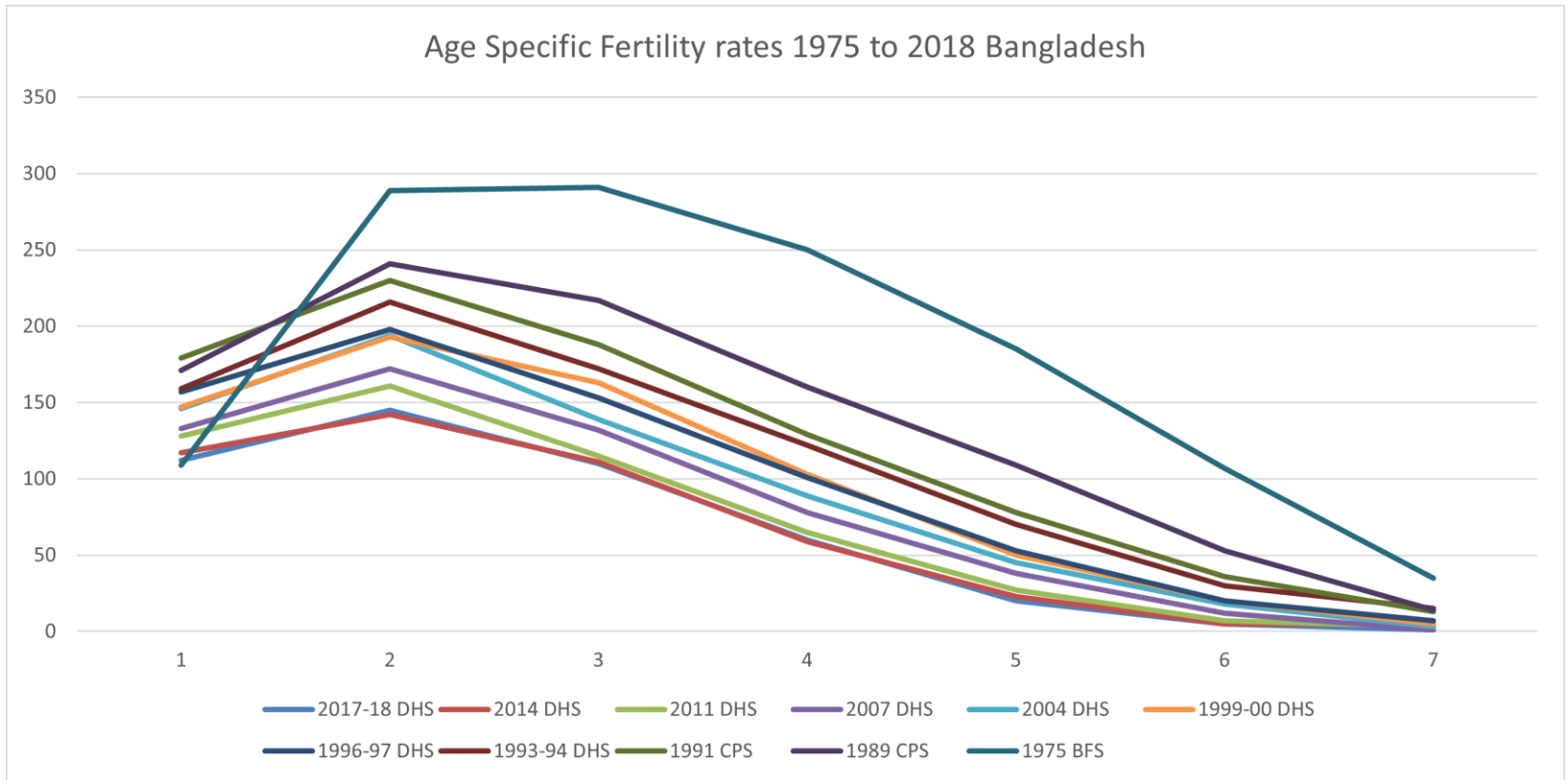
### Trends of Urbanization Projection in Bangladesh



# Key Question - #1

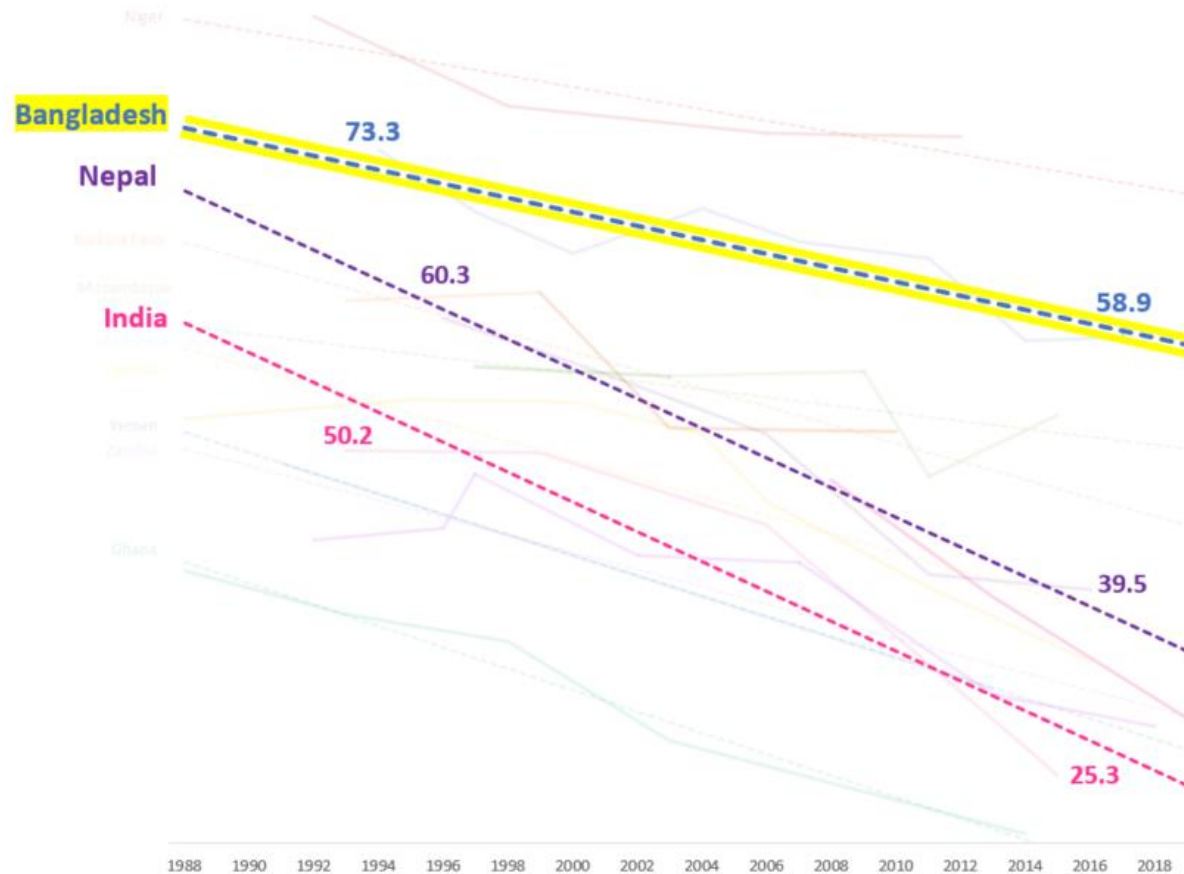
- What are strategies for fertility change?
  - limits to further increases in birth control
  - timing of marriage and childbearing
  - greater choice for women to decide when and how many children to have

# Fertility trends over time





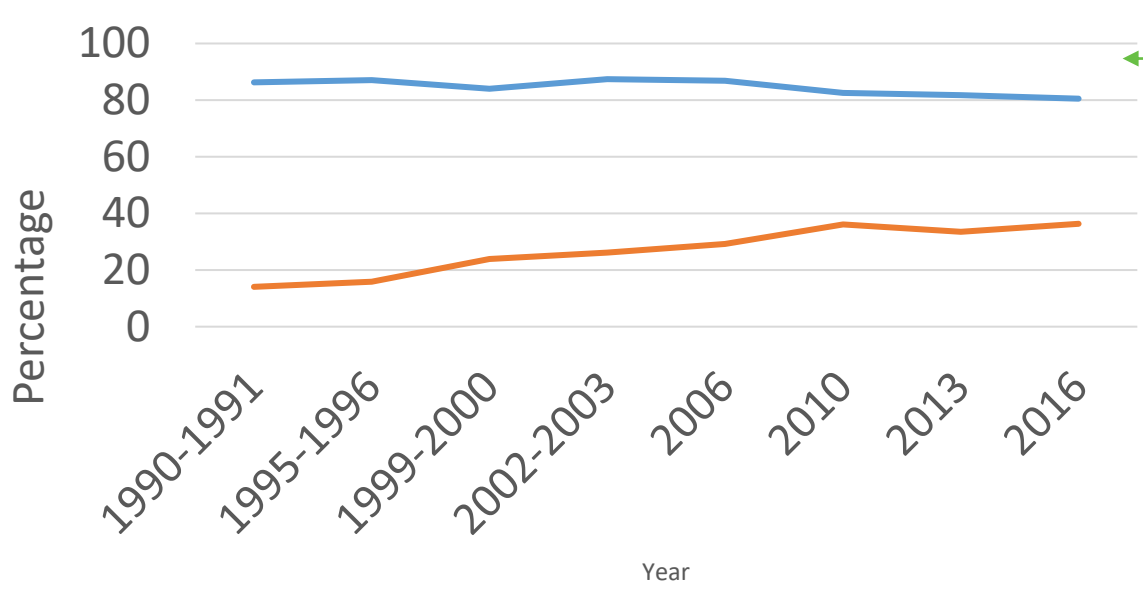
# Bangladesh Child Marriage in Comparative Perspective



# Key Questions- #2

- What are policies that can alleviate dependency burdens?
  - Increasing opportunities for productive work for women currently not in the workforce
    - Invest in and support home based work
    - Address care responsibilities
    - Social change for more equitable distribution of work across age and gender categories

# Male (MLFPR) and Female (FLFPR) labor force participation rate over time



Male LFP high

Female LFP but still less than half of men

— MLFPR — FLFPR

# Need for more equitable distribution of care

- Care work (childcare, household management, elder and indigent care) has important implications for women's labor market participation
- Time-use, spending increasing time in care responsibilities is linked with lower participation in the labor market. We find that women who work outside spend less time in care responsibilities.
- The pattern of time spent on such responsibilities is largely invariant across education categories and age group
- Women choose occupations that best accommodate their caregiver roles both in terms of location and flexibility of hours. Women's care work drives their preference for home-based work.
- Young men and women aged 15-24 differ greatly in terms of why they stay out of labor force or unemployed, due to this being the prime age for childbearing, while men enter child-bearing later. While men cite further schooling as the reason, women say they are out of the labor force because they have to fulfill household responsibilities.
- Policies to delay marriage and childbirth can have strong follow-on effects on women's workforce participation and deserves further investment.
- joint families reduce the time spent in care responsibilities for women

(Rahman, M.A, N. A. Shashi and S. Amin (forthcoming) "Care Responsibilities and Women's Work in Bangladesh", BIDS research report.

# Key Question - #3

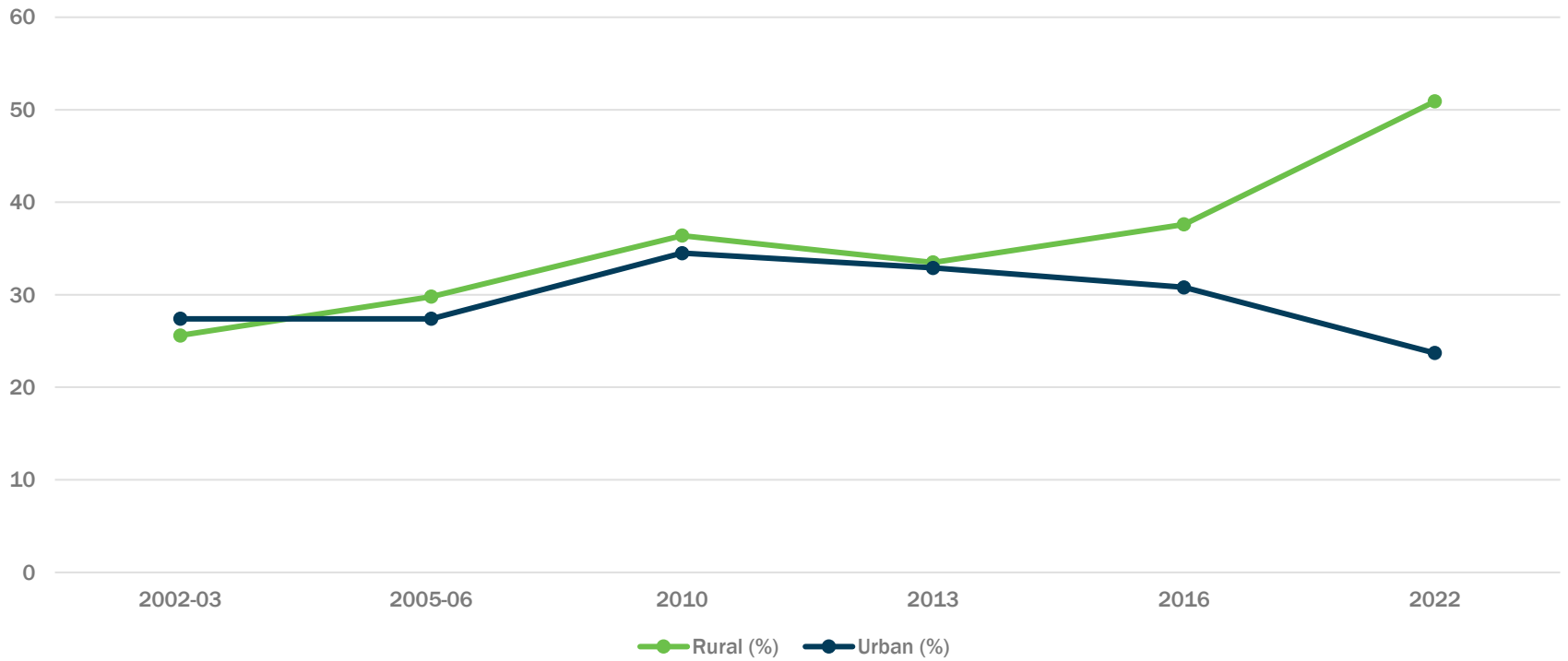
What are the implications of urbanization for

Women's productive roles

Women's dependency and care burdens

Family as the locus of child and elderly care

### Rural-urban distribution of FLFP



# Key Question - #4

What are some key implications and solutions to ageing?

- Social protection, pension and social security
- Increased awareness of unpaid work and policies to address them
- Workforce solutions— later retirement, accommodations
- Shift in health policies to address healthy ageing

# Key Takeaways

Beyond reaping demographic dividends

Equity (and not just growth) needs to be primary consideration in the formation of supportive policies

Gender and age-related equity for a Just Transition

In the backdrop of climate change and urbanizations prepare for the impact of shocks and displacement



# Thank You!

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