

Population growth and policy options in the developing world

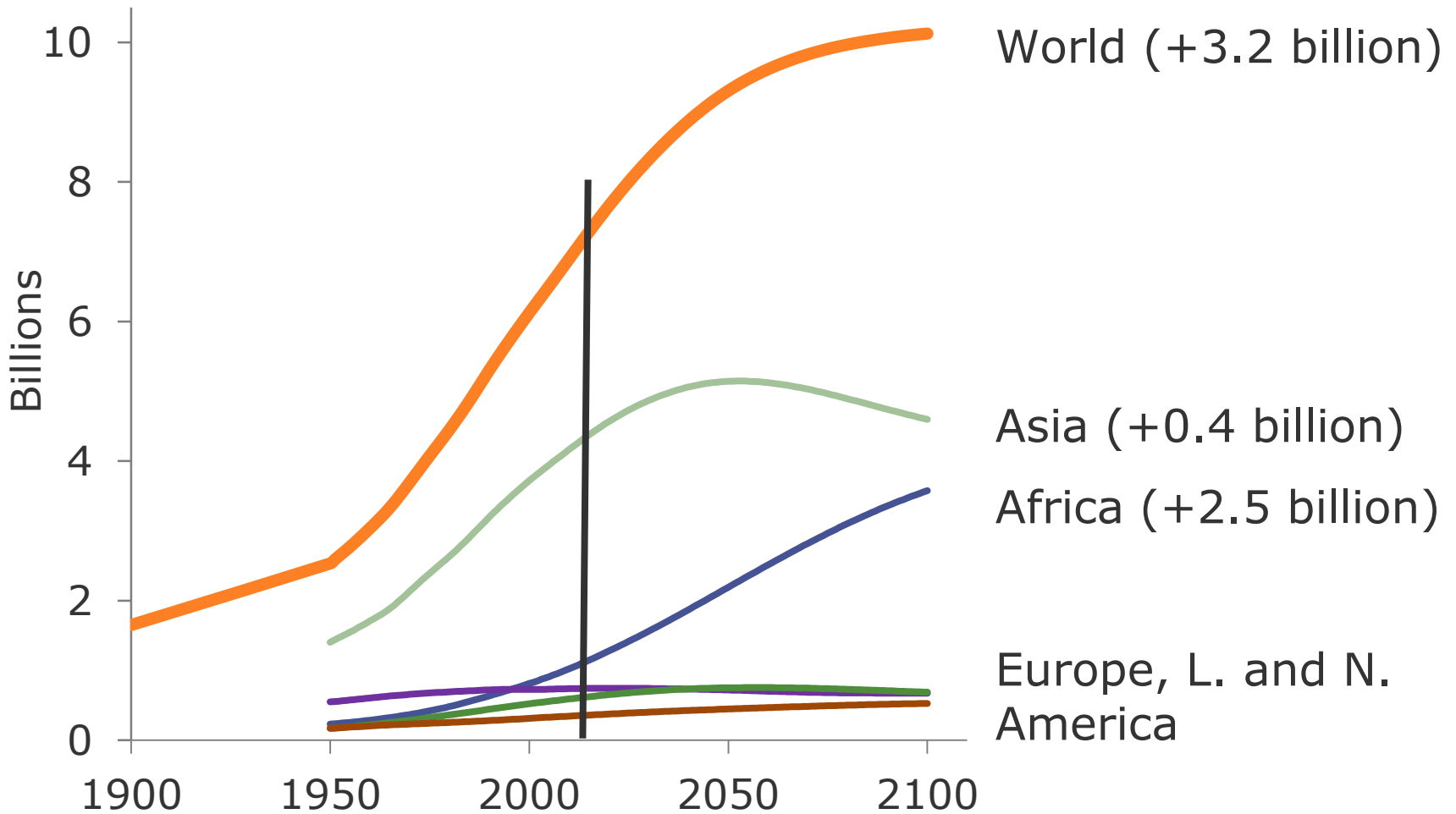
John Bongaarts

Vice President and Distinguished Scholar

Outline

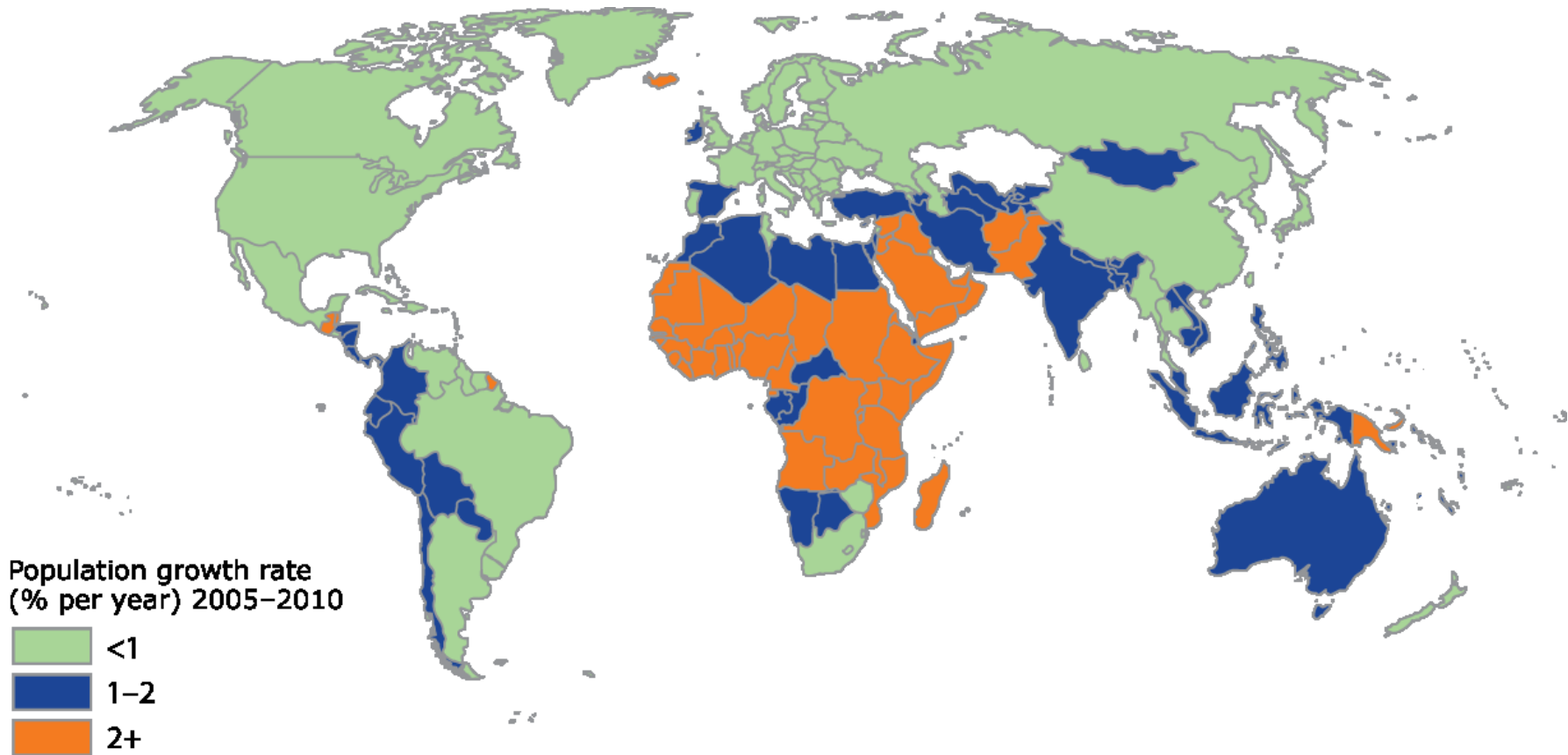
- Population trends
- Evolving policy interest
- Policy options
 - Family planning programs
 - Beyond family planning

Population projections 2010–2100



Source: United Nations 2011.

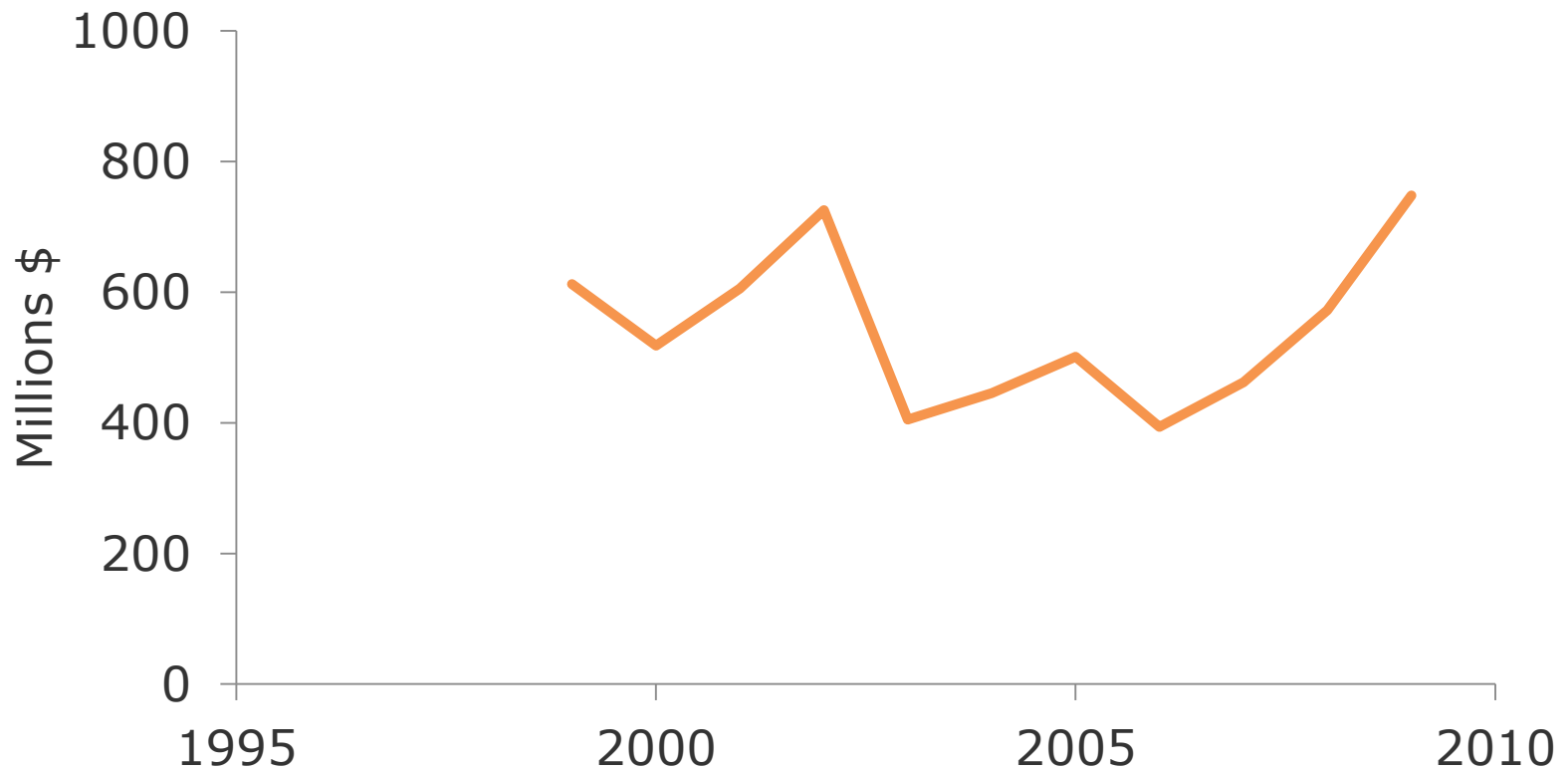
Population growth rates 2005-2010



Adverse effects of rapid population growth and high fertility

- Environmental** → Depletion of natural resources, climate change, pollution
- Economic** → Low wages, unemployment, poverty, inequality
- Governmental** → Inadequate investment in education, health services, and infrastructure
- Health** → High birth rate raises maternal and child mortality
- Political** → Social and political unrest

International donor expenditures for family planning

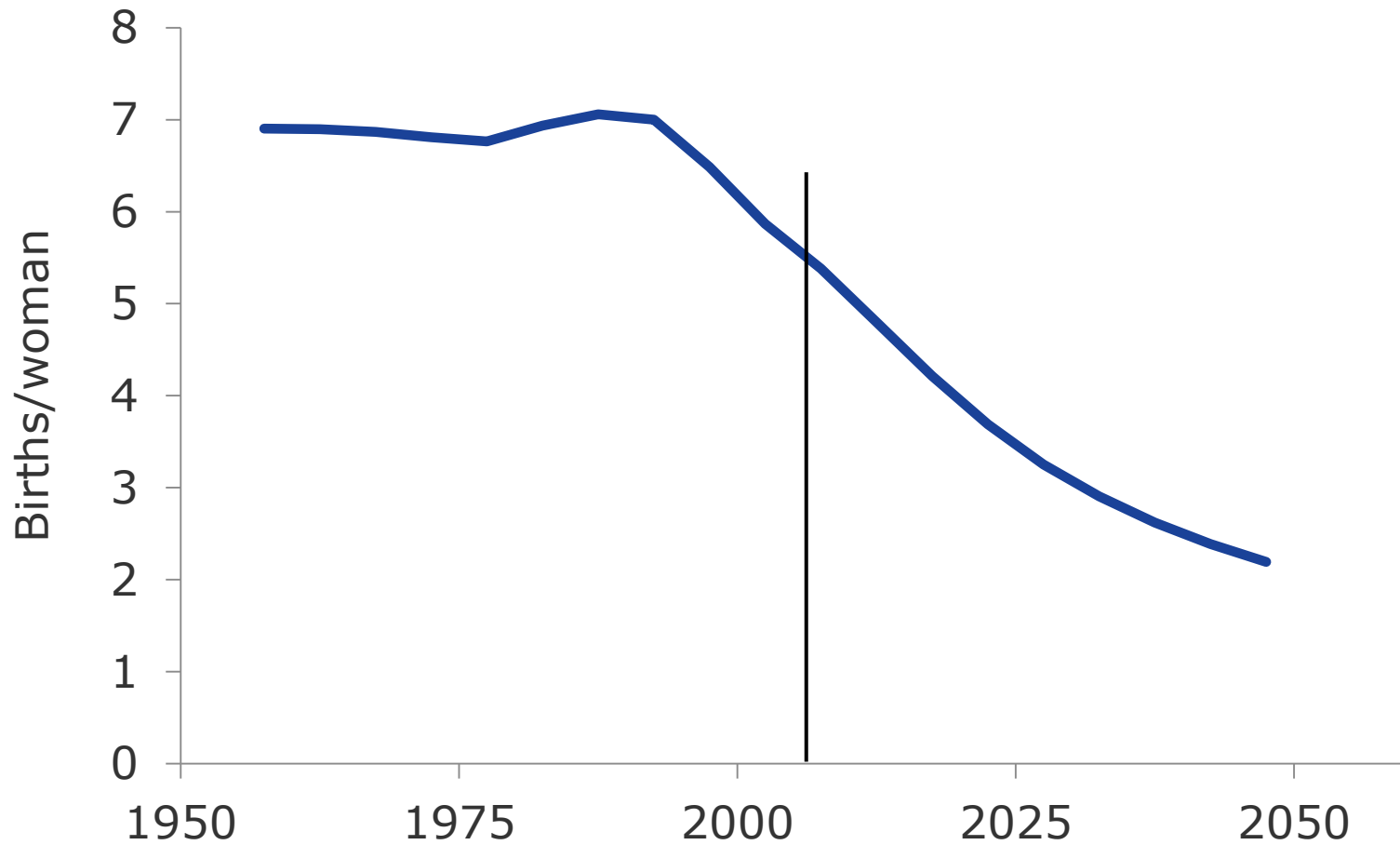


Recent return of interest in population and family planning

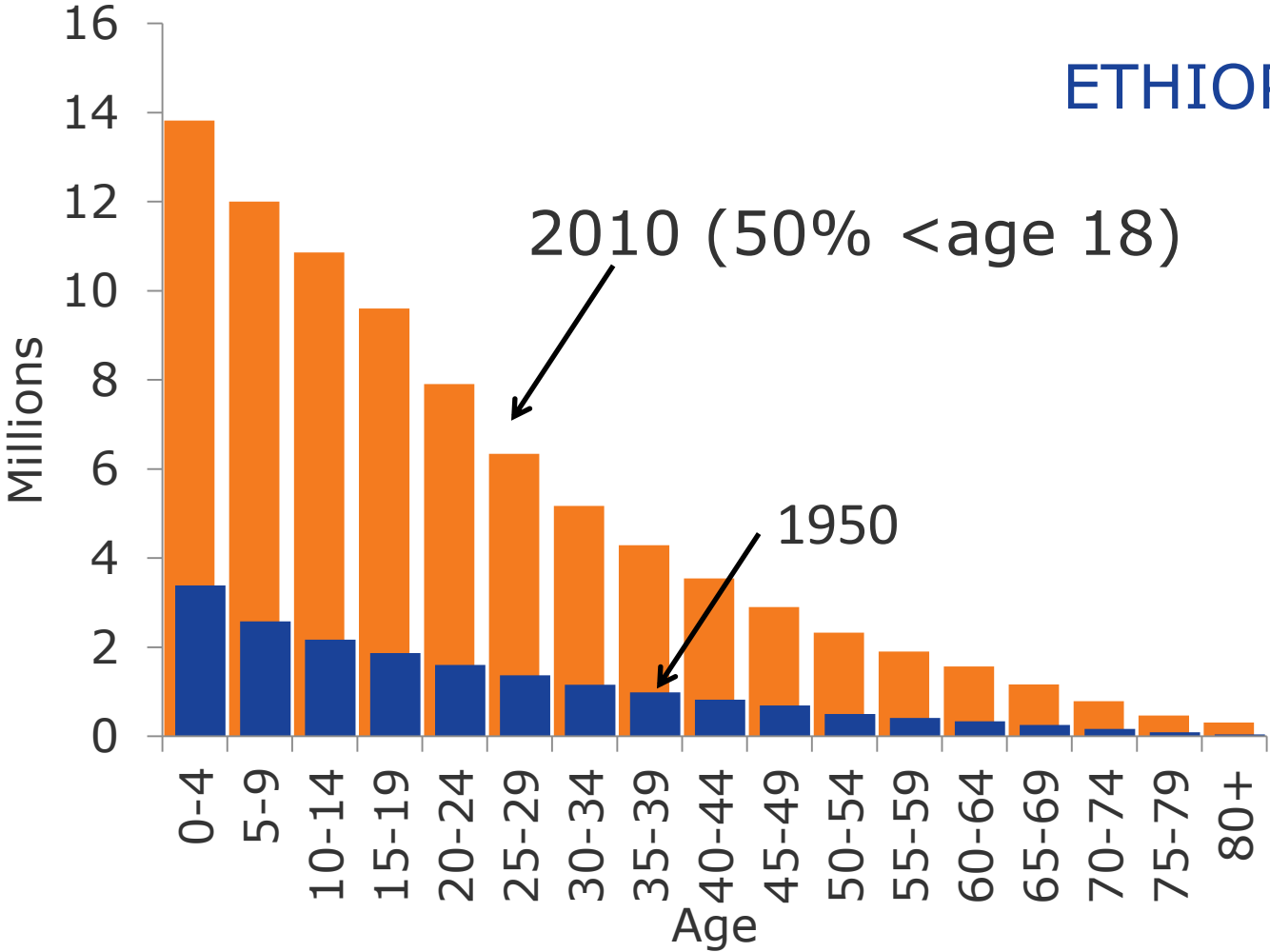
- Sub-Saharan Africa expected to add 1 billion by 2050 despite AIDS epidemic
- Environmental concerns return: global warming, spikes in food and energy prices
- Economists discover the “demographic dividend”

Demographic dividend

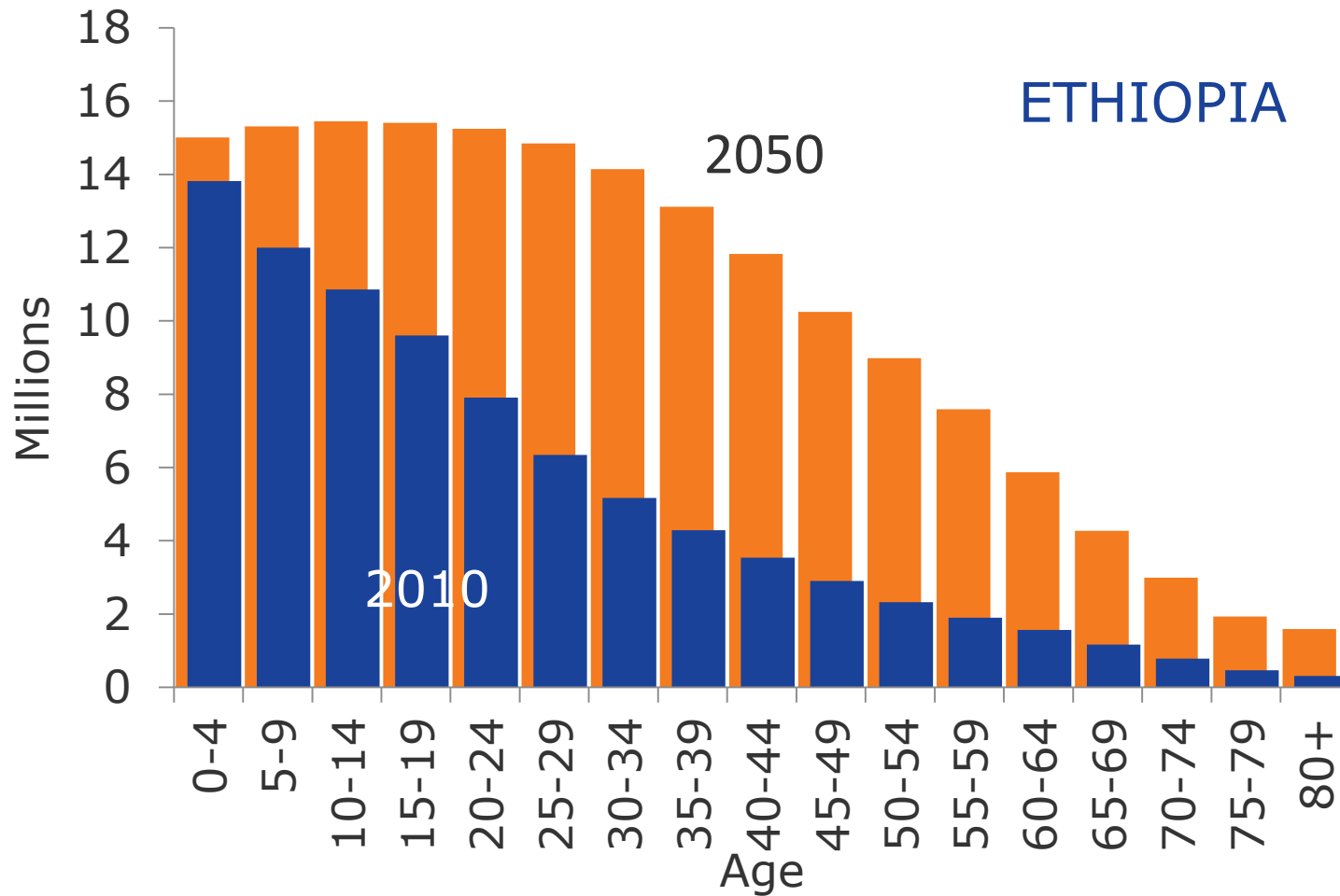
Fertility trend Ethiopia



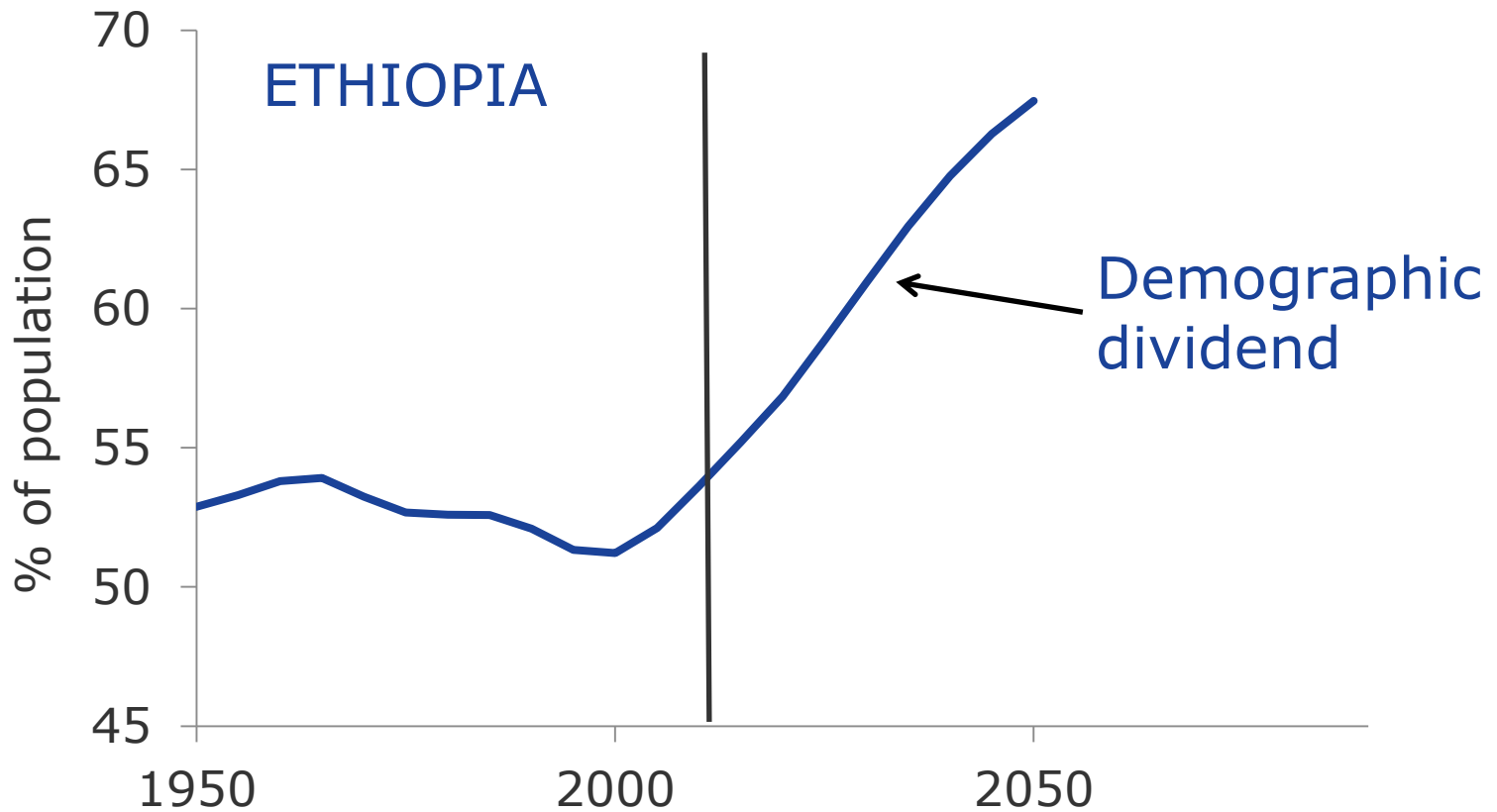
Population by age, 1950 and 2010



Population by age, 2010 and 2050



Percent of population of working age



Conclusions

- Rapid fertility decline results in large changes in population age structure
- Rising proportion of workers leads to a “Demographic dividend” for a few decades
- Size of demographic dividend depends on speed of fertility decline and on ability of economy to productively employ workers

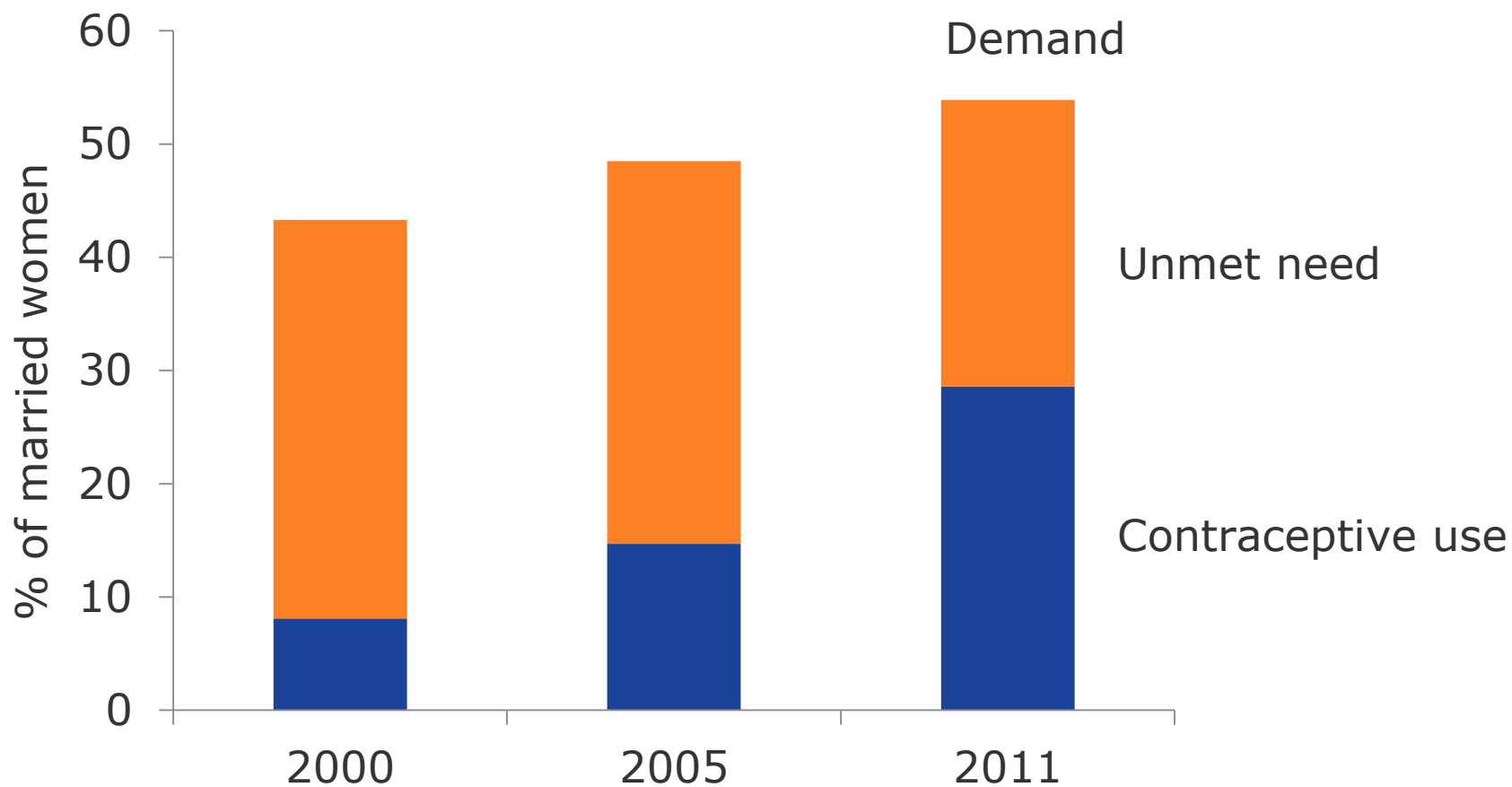
Population policy options

- Family planning programs
- Beyond family planning

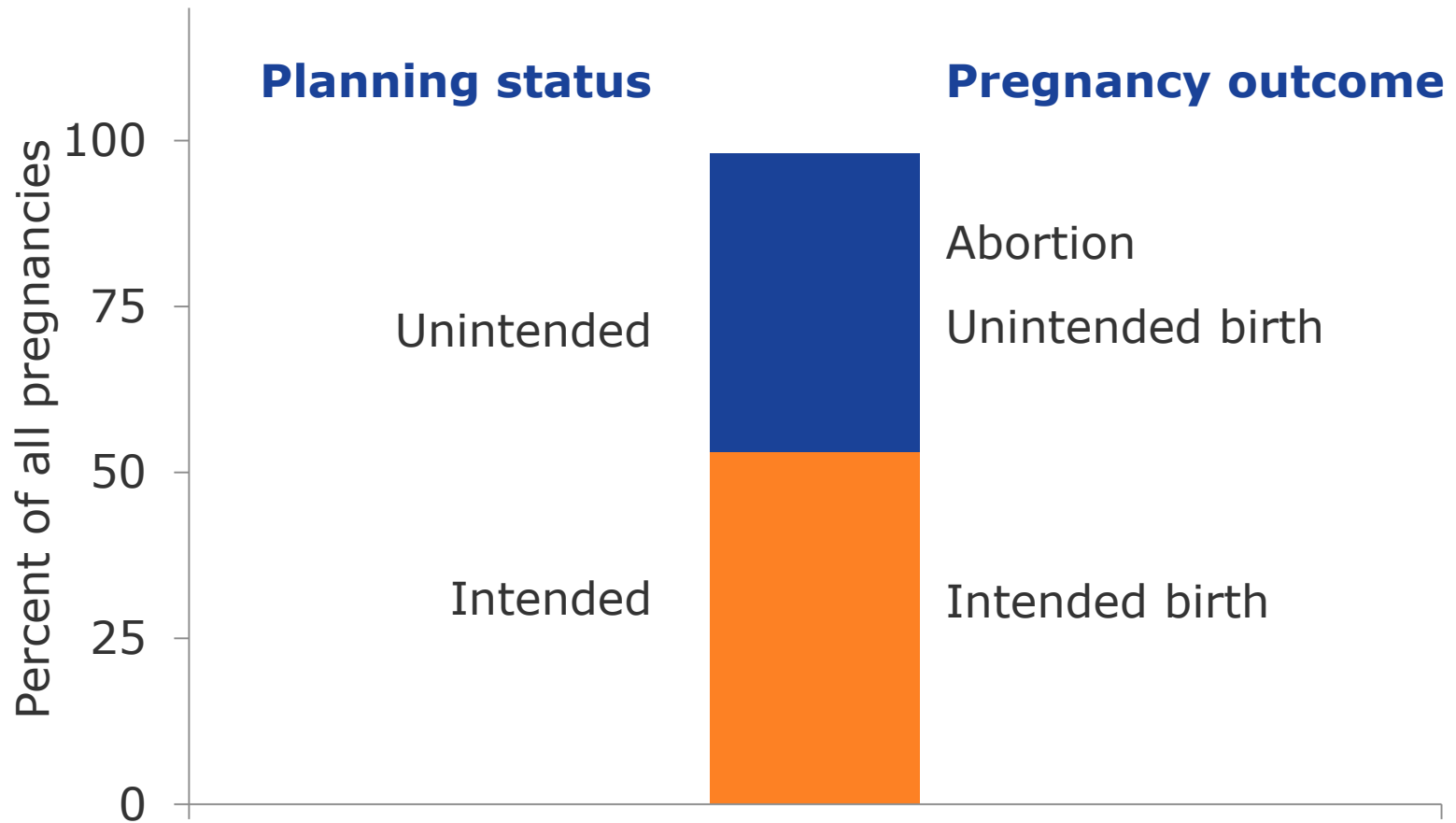
Objectives of voluntary family planning programs

- Provide access to and information about contraception
- Reduce “unmet need” for contraception
- Reduce unplanned pregnancies and their adverse consequences

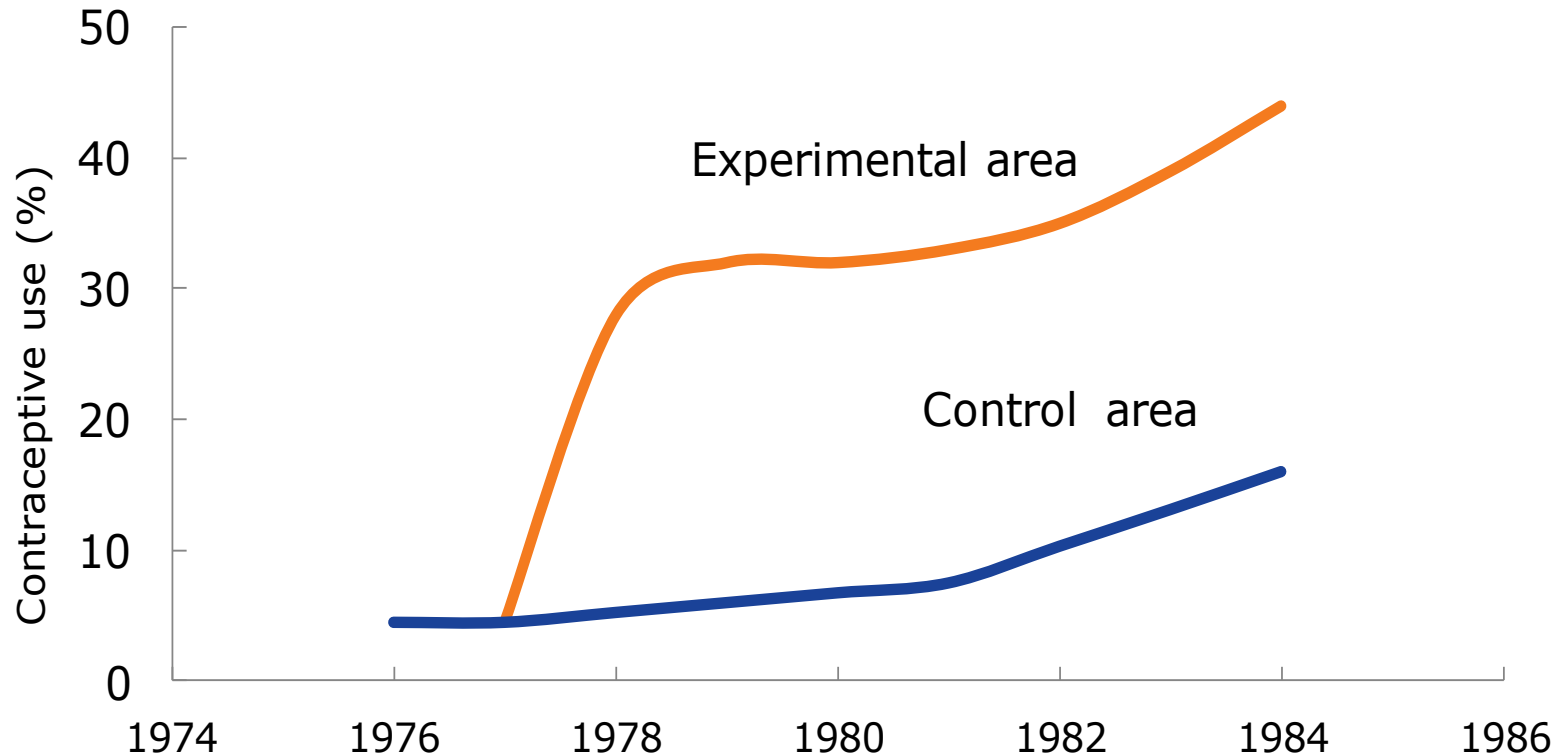
Contraceptive use and unmet need, Ethiopia



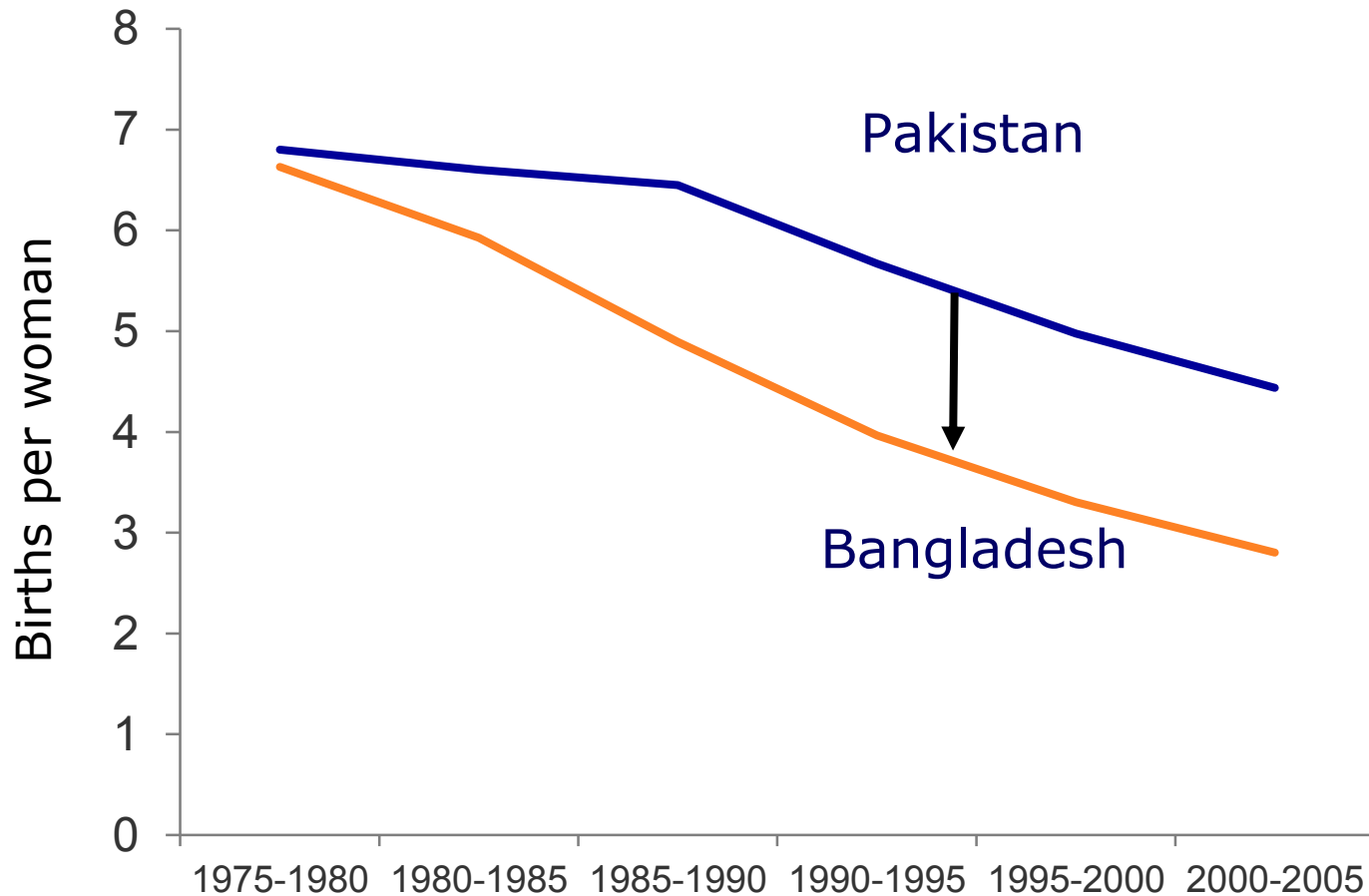
Planning status of all pregnancies, East Africa 2008



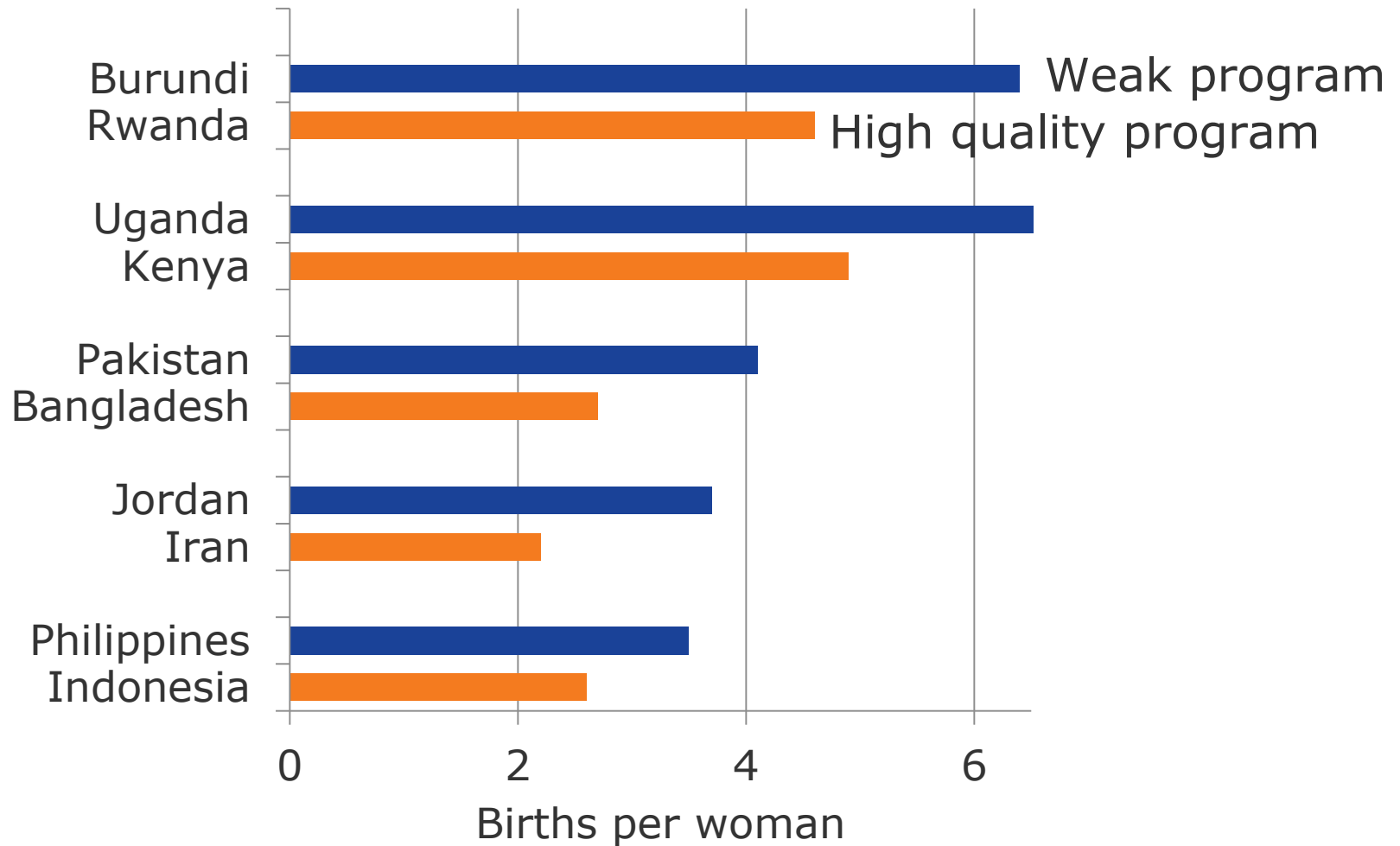
Successful family planning experiment in Matlab, Bangladesh



Fertility: Pakistan vs. Bangladesh



Fertility impact of family planning programs



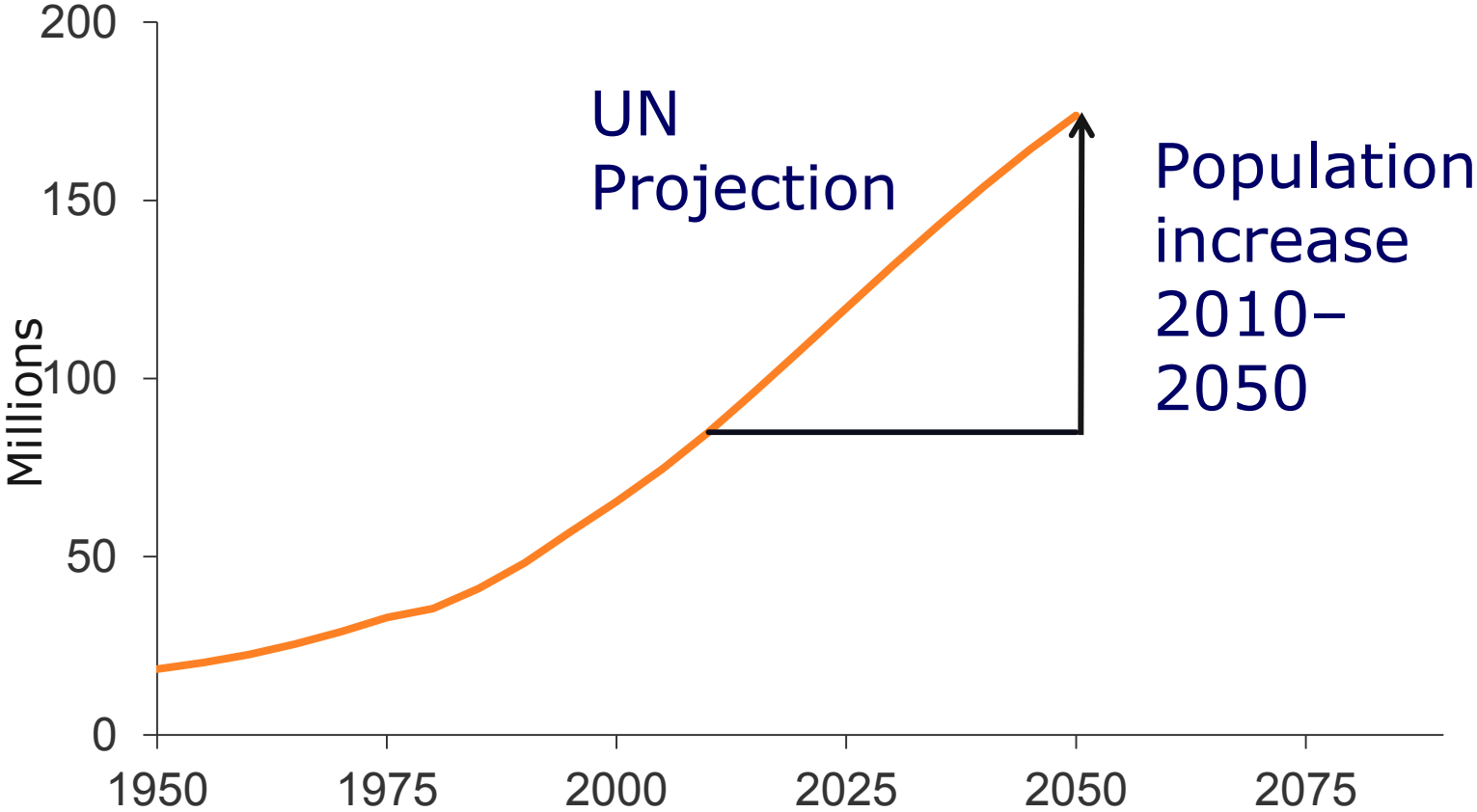
Providing family planning to all women with an unmet need would prevent:

- 23 million unplanned births
- 22 million abortions
- 7 million miscarriages
- 1.4 million infant deaths
- 142,000 pregnancy-related deaths (53,000 from unsafe abortion)
- 505,000 children from losing their mothers

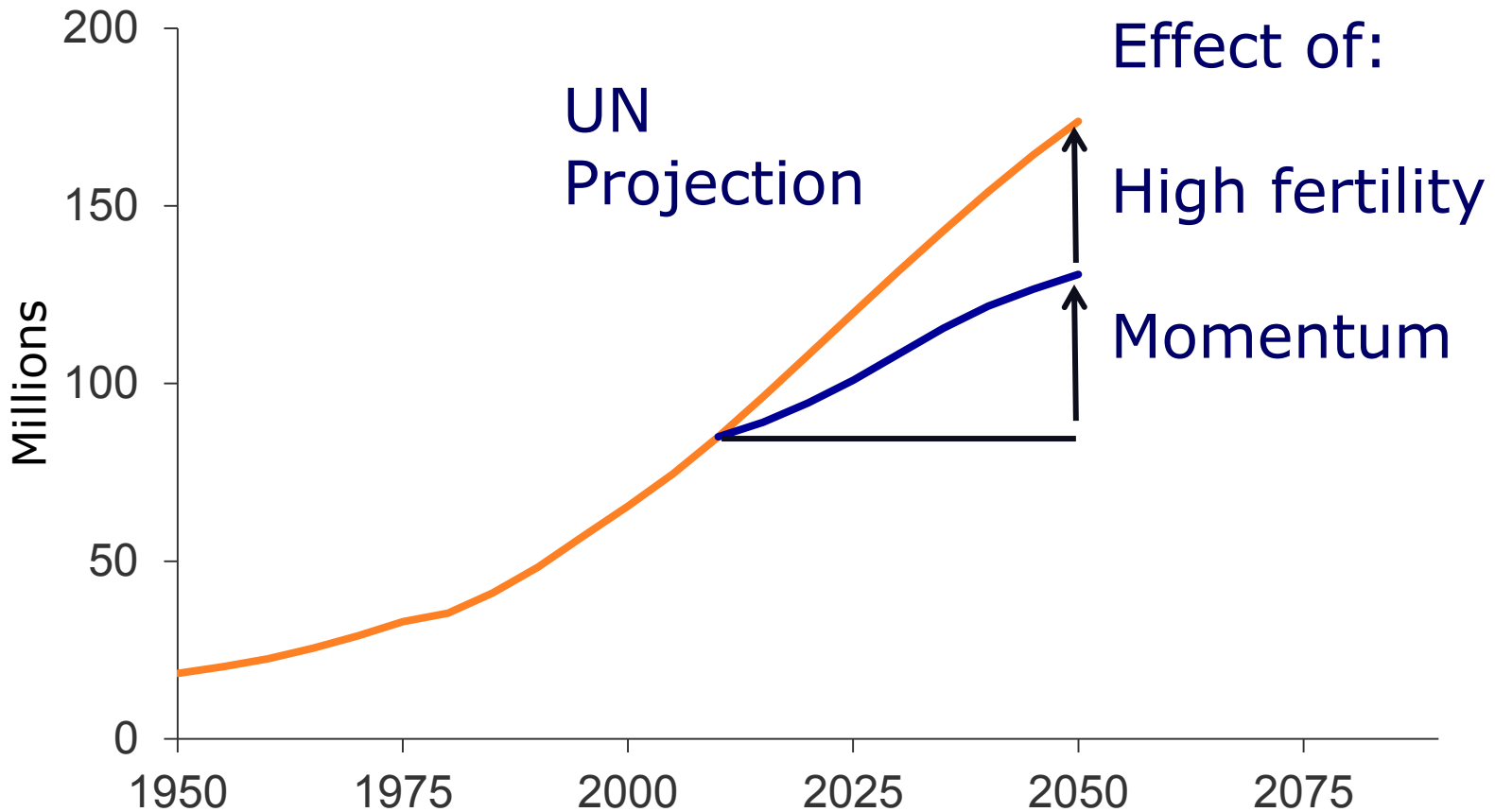
Source: Guttmacher Institute 2008.

Beyond family planning

Components of population growth, Ethiopia



Components of population growth, Ethiopia



Causes of growth

Policy options

Unwanted fertility →

- Strengthen family planning programs

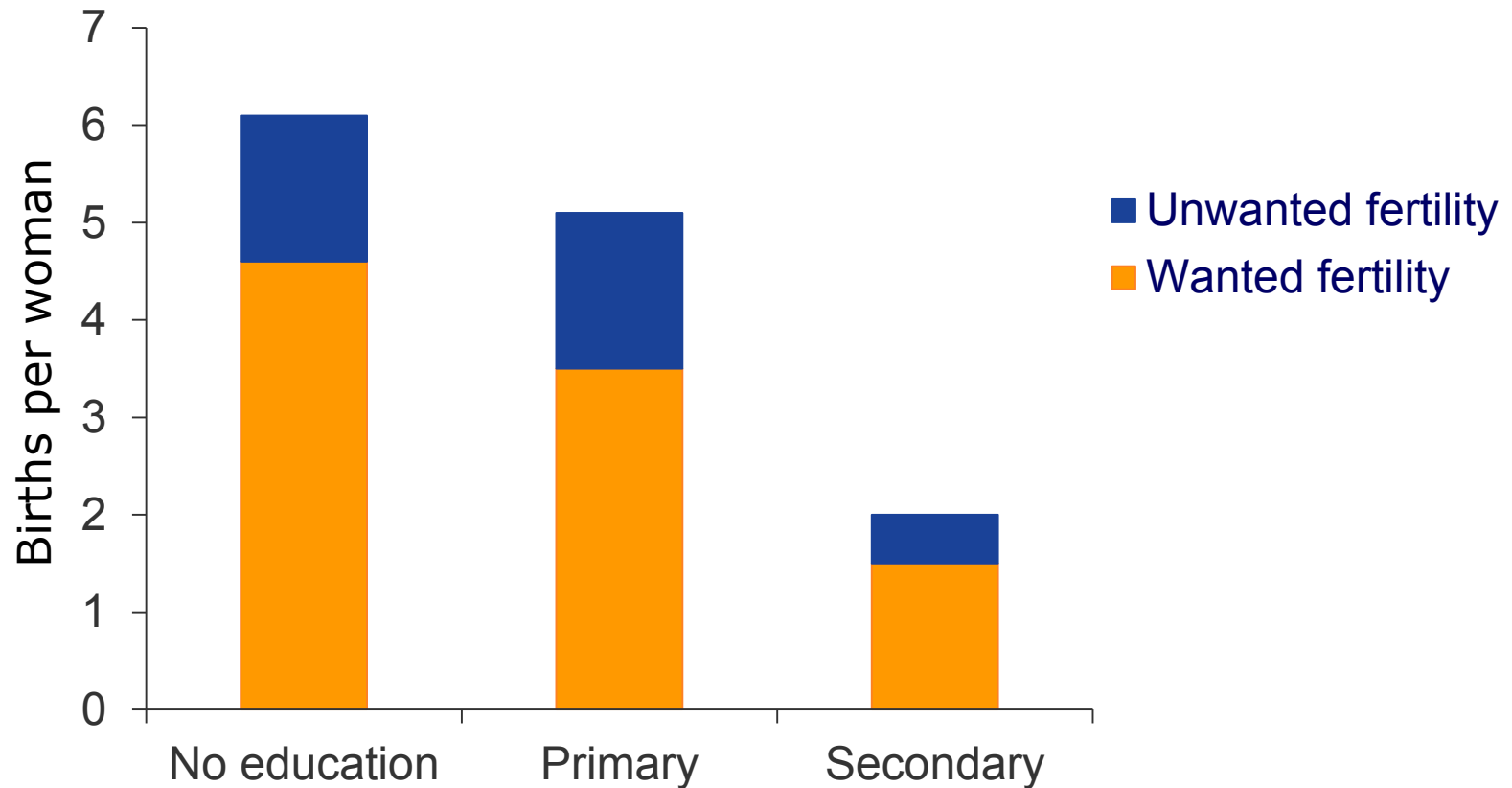
High wanted fertility →

- Invest in human capital (e.g. girls' education)
- IEC messages

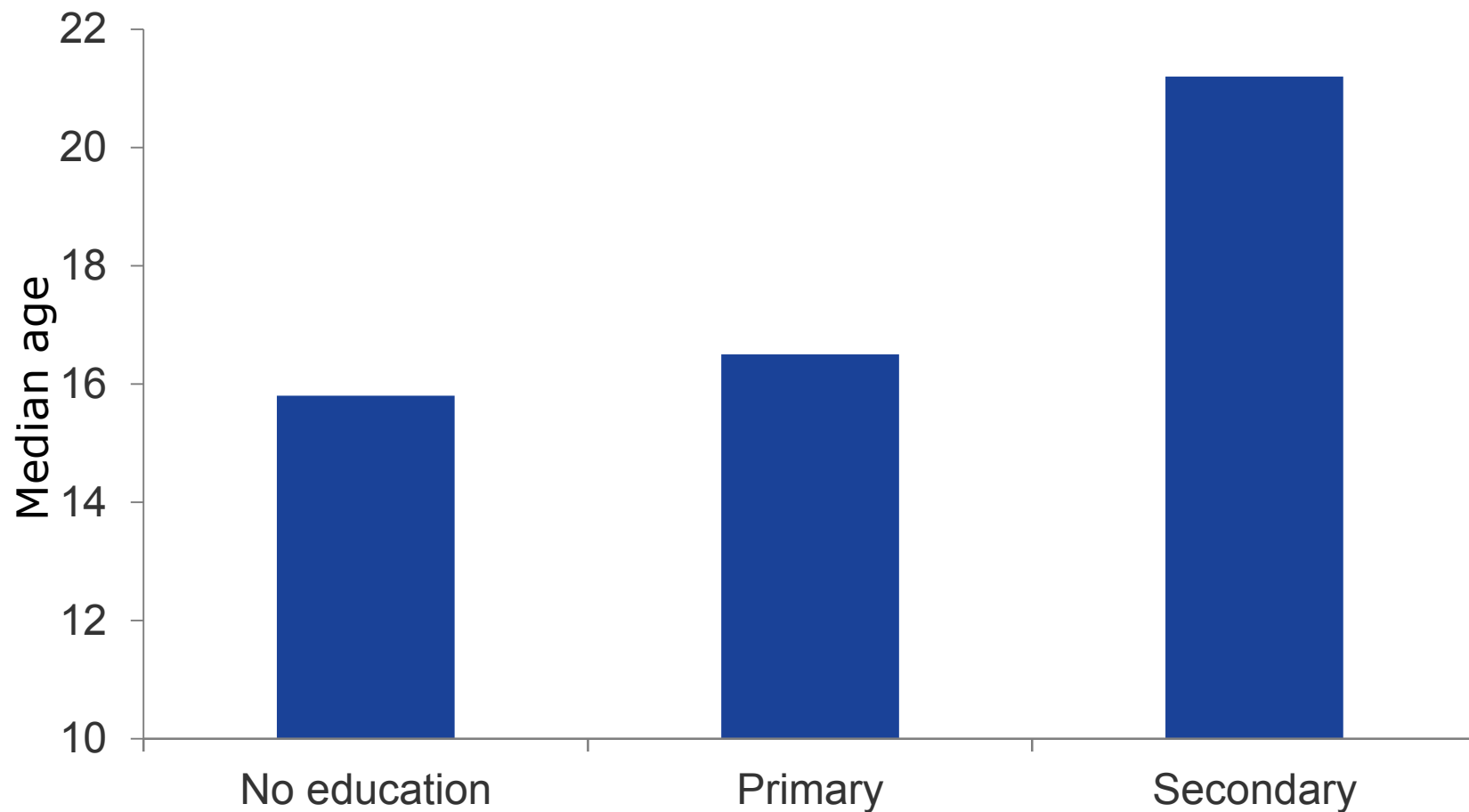
Momentum due to young age structure →

- Delay first birth and space births
- Address the needs of adolescents

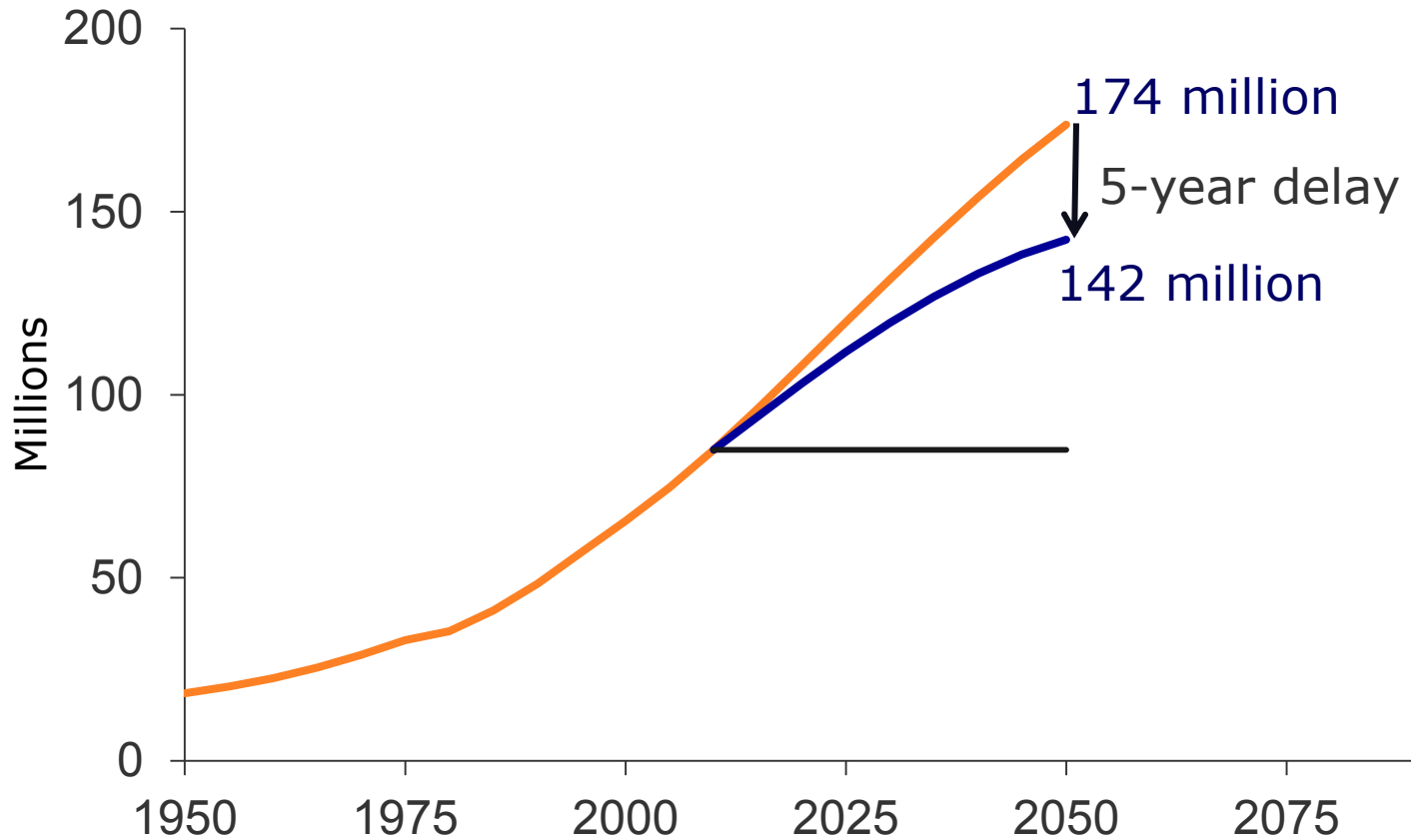
Wanted and unwanted fertility by level of education



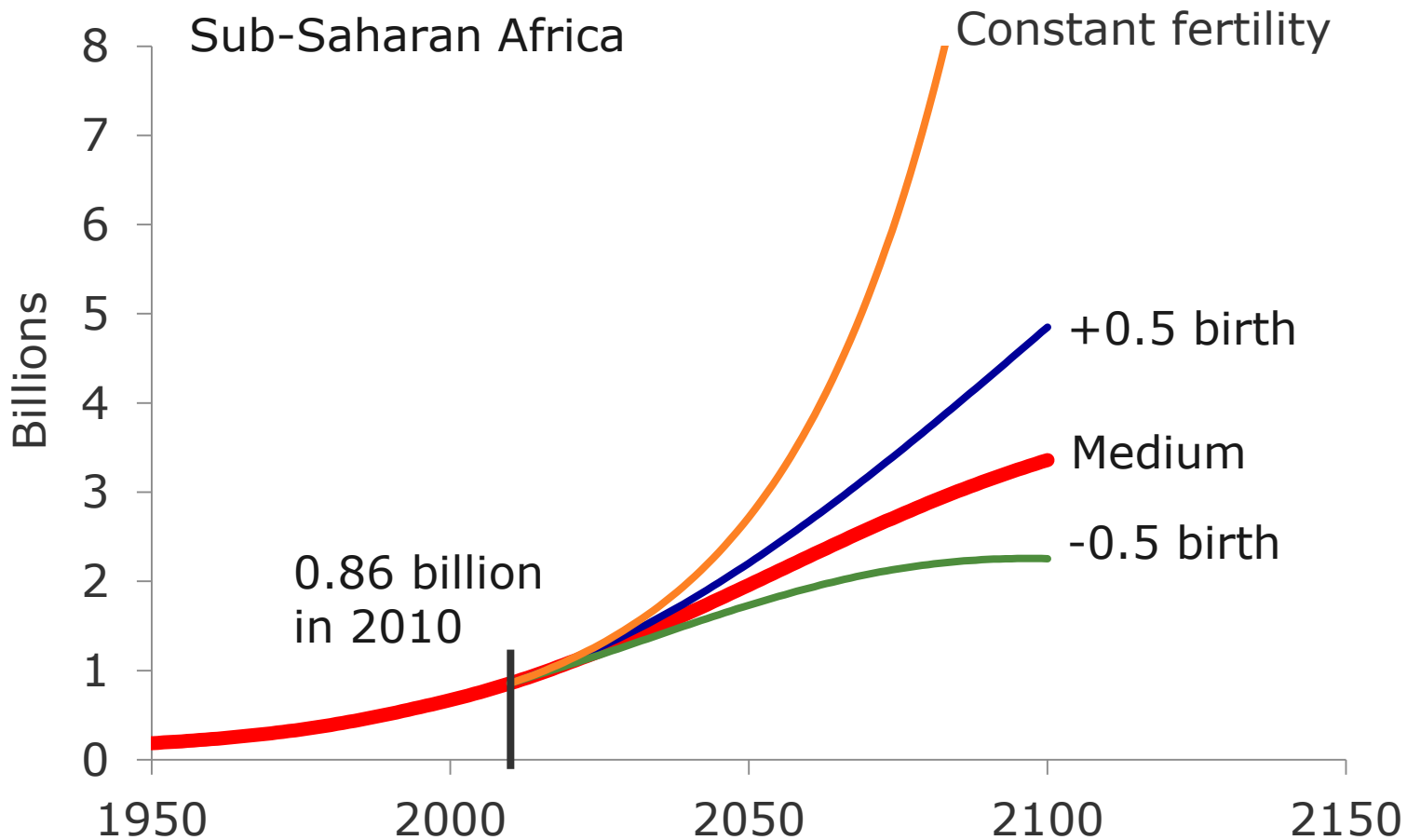
Median age at first marriage, Ethiopia (women aged 25–49)



Impact of 5-year delay in age at childbearing



Small fertility changes have large future population impact



Conclusions

- Population size of poorest countries is expected to double between 2010 and 2050
- Substantial adverse health, socioeconomic, environmental, and political consequences
- Policy options:
 - strengthen family planning/RH programs
 - invest in human capital (girls education)
 - delay childbearing, address needs of adolescents
- Potentially large demographic dividend