



Transformational Learning Network for Resilience

Enabling Ukrainian higher education to ensure a sustainable

and robust reconstruction of (post-war) Ukraine
Course. Sustainable pathways and risk management in times of crises

Topic. Restoring and developing human potential in times of crisis

Associate Professor Litvak O.A.



Lecture 1. Global risks to human potential development in times of crisis

Lecture outline:

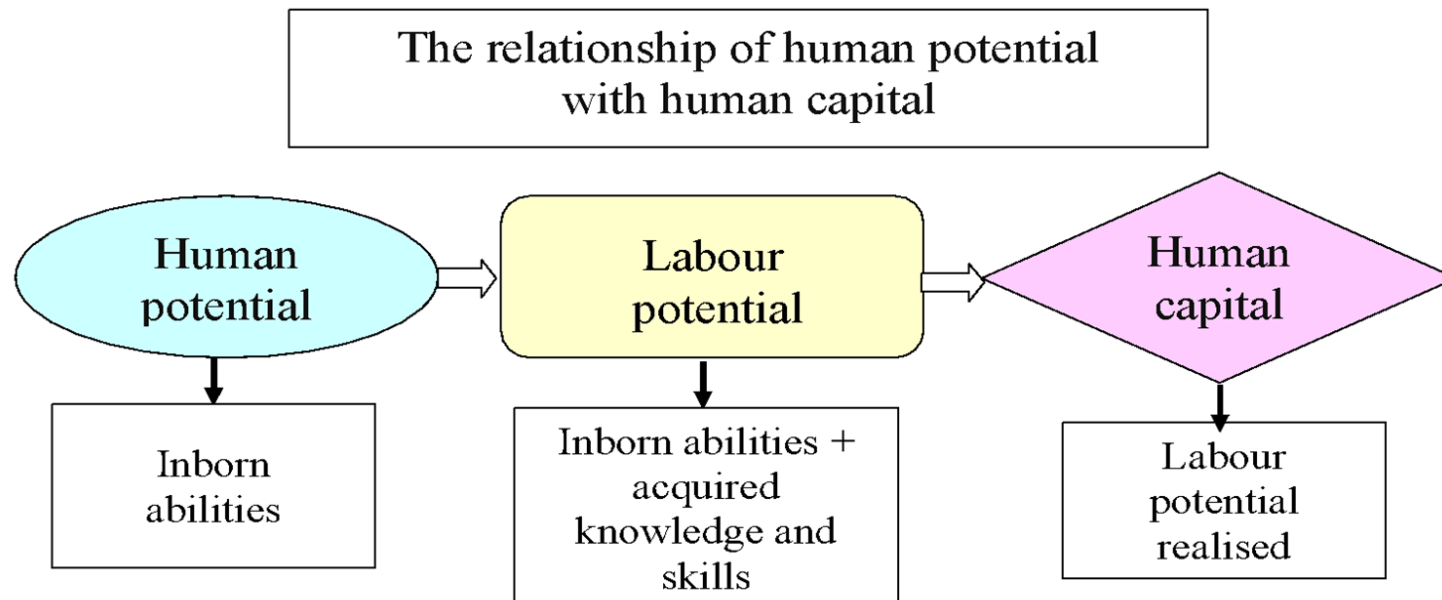
1. Human potential as the main factor of sustainable development
2. Risks of human development in the context of the global crisis
3. Global demographic processes.

Human potential as the main factor of sustainable development

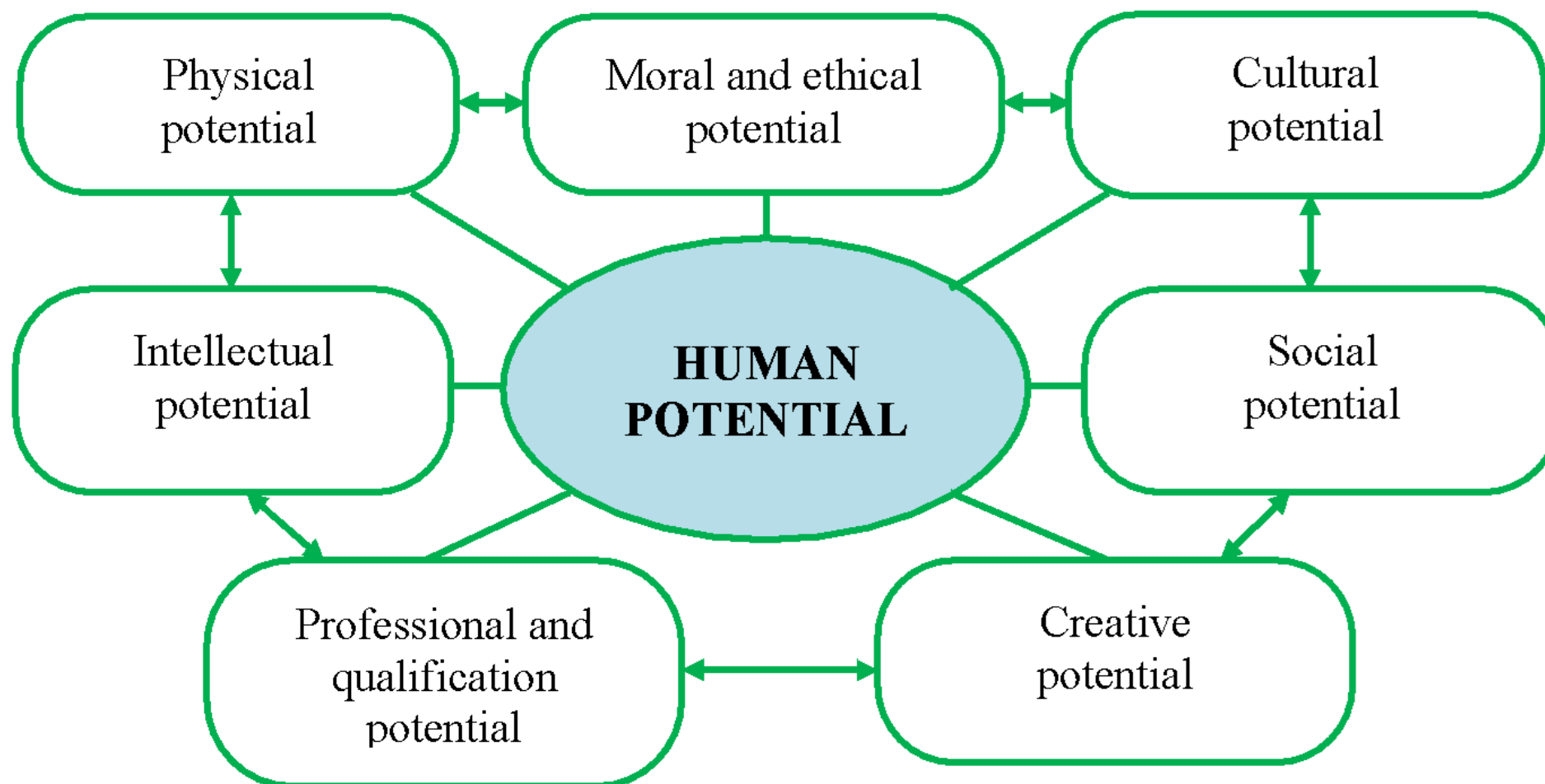
Human potential is a fundamental resource of society, without which social and economic development, achievements in science and culture, and the country's competitiveness in the international arena are impossible.

The consideration of the human potential category is inextricably linked to the study of the human capital category, the interrelation of which is reflected in the framework of the realisation of human potential in labour activity.

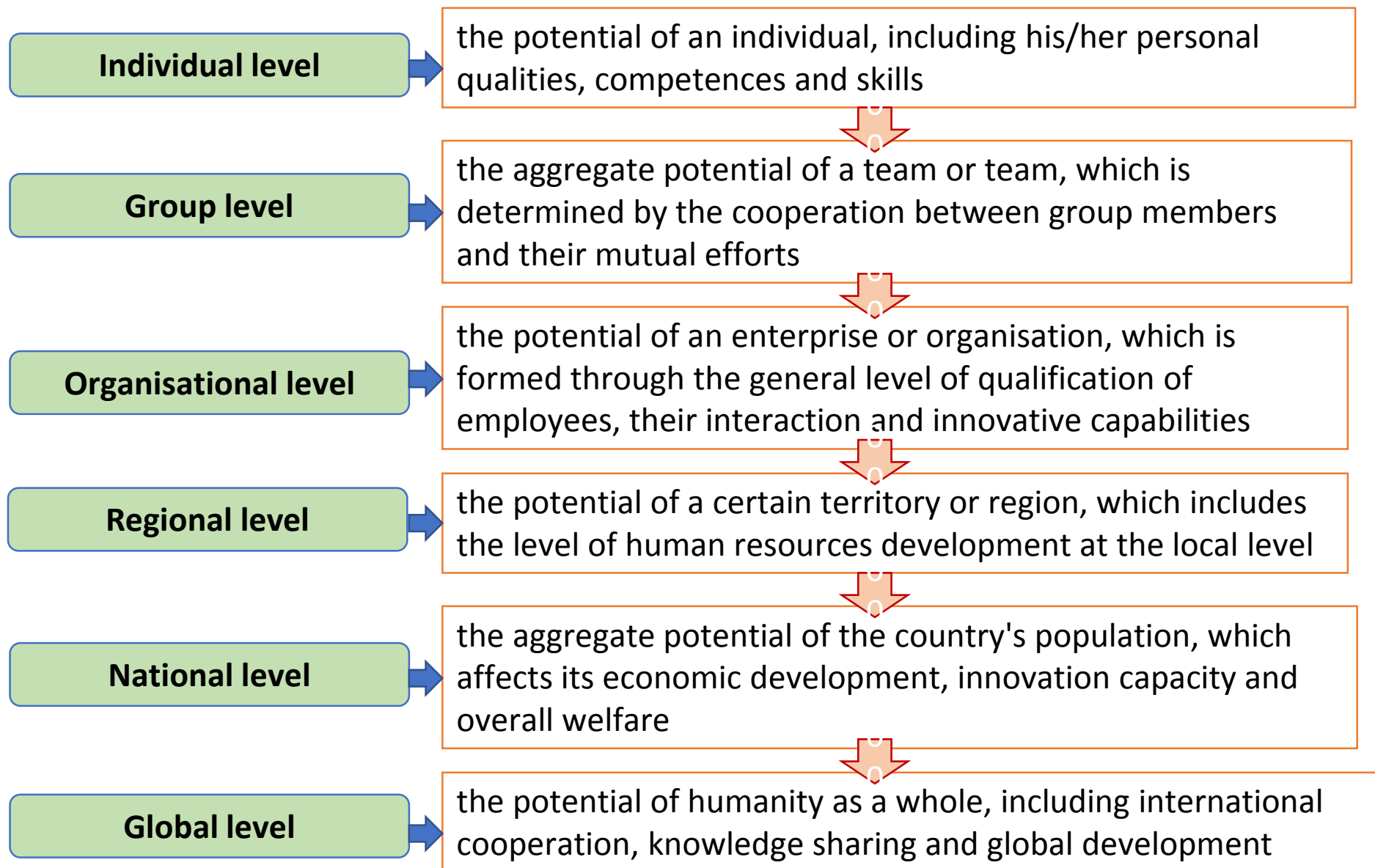
According to the World Bank, in developed countries, human capital, as an economic expression of a country's human potential, accounts for 68% to 76% of all national wealth. That is, the main share of national wealth is in people.



Forms of human potential



Levels of human potential



Components of the country's human potential

Human potential component	Indicators
Demographic potential	Population: the size of the population and its distribution in the regions.
	Age structure: the ratio of the working-age population to citizens of retirement or younger age.
	Migration processes: internal and external migration of the population, which can affect the distribution of labour resources.
Public health	Physical health: average life expectancy, morbidity, access to medical services.
	Mental health: the state of mental health of the population, the level of stress, depression and other mental disorders.
Education and qualifications	Education level: percentage of the population with primary, secondary, higher and vocational education.
	Professional qualifications: the availability of technical and professional skills required by the economy.
	Scientific and technical potential: the level of development of scientific knowledge, availability of research personnel and institutions.
Economic activity	Employment: the level of participation of the working-age population in the country's economy, the percentage of unemployment.
	Labour quality: level of productivity, working conditions, salaries.
	Innovation activity: ability to implement innovations, level of entrepreneurial activity.
Social capital	The level of trust in society: interaction between different social groups, the degree of social cohesion.
	Quality of social institutions: the effectiveness of the healthcare, education, and social protection systems.
	Citizen participation in social and political life, volunteering.
. Cultural and ethical values	Level of tolerance: openness of society to diversity, cultural and ethnic differences.
	Work ethic and motivation: people's attitude to work, motivation for professional growth and development.
Infrastructure for human potential development	Educational institutions: accessibility and quality of the education system at all levels.
	Healthcare: accessibility and quality of medical services
	Social infrastructure: housing conditions, transport infrastructure, access to cultural and sports facilities.
Environmental component	The presence of public diseases associated with anthropogenic pollution of environmental components.
	Level of environmental education and awareness of the population
	Level of implementation of green technologies



Types of security for human development

No	Type of security	Target
1	Economic security	ensuring income sufficient to meet immediate needs
2	Food security	availability of basic foodstuffs, which implies their sufficient quantity and free access to them, and sufficient purchasing power of the population
3	Environmental security	freedom and protection from the threats of environmental pollution, primarily the availability of clean air and clean water
4	Personal security	freedom and protection of people from threats of violence
5	Political security	the opportunity to live in a society that recognises fundamental human rights



Risks to the development of the country's human potential in the context of the crisis

	Group of risks	Risks
1	Demographic risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population ageing. Declining birth rates and increasing life expectancy lead to an increase in the proportion of elderly people, which puts pressure on the pension system and labour market. • Declining population. A demographic decline caused by low birth rates and high levels of out-migration may result in a shrinking labour force and slower economic development. • Migration. Intensive migration processes can lead to a loss of skilled labour, especially in countries with lower living standards, which affects the development of the economy and social infrastructure. • Changes in family structure. Changes in traditional family patterns can affect demographic indicators, such as decisions about childbearing. • Regional imbalances. Uneven demographic development in different regions of the country can lead to a concentration of population in large cities, which creates additional challenges for regional development.
2	Economic risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job cuts and unemployment. During crises, many businesses may lay off staff or reduce investments in human resources development. • Decrease in wages. Crises can lead to a drop in income, which reduces the motivation of employees to develop professionally. • Lack of investment in education and training. Limited financial resources reduce opportunities for professional development and retraining.



Risks to the development of the country's human potential in the context of the crisis



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	Group of risks	Risks
3	Social risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Increased social tension. Rising unemployment and declining living standards increase social conflicts and instability. · Migration of qualified personnel. In times of crisis, there can be a brain drain when the most skilled professionals seek better opportunities abroad. · Degradation of social infrastructure. Healthcare, education and social protection systems may be overburdened or underfunded. · Inequality in access to education and healthcare, which affects the quality of human capital.
4	Political risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Instability of legislation. Changes in tax, labour or social policies during times of crisis can create additional barriers to human development. · Corruption and mismanagement. In times of crisis, the risk of corruption and abuse in the social protection sector may increase, leading to fewer opportunities for people. · Authoritarianism and human rights violations. In an environment where the authorities do not respect the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens, people do not have opportunities for self-realisation, business development or quality education · Political conflicts and wars. Hostilities and political instability lead to mass migration, loss of labour, destruction of infrastructure, and a decline in education and healthcare. · Insufficient investment in education and healthcare, and lack of access to quality social services can significantly limit opportunities for human development. · Unbalanced reforms. Reforms that are too fast or unprepared can have negative consequences for development, especially if they do not take into account the interests of the population or create new inequalities.



Risks to the development of the country's human potential in the context of the crisis



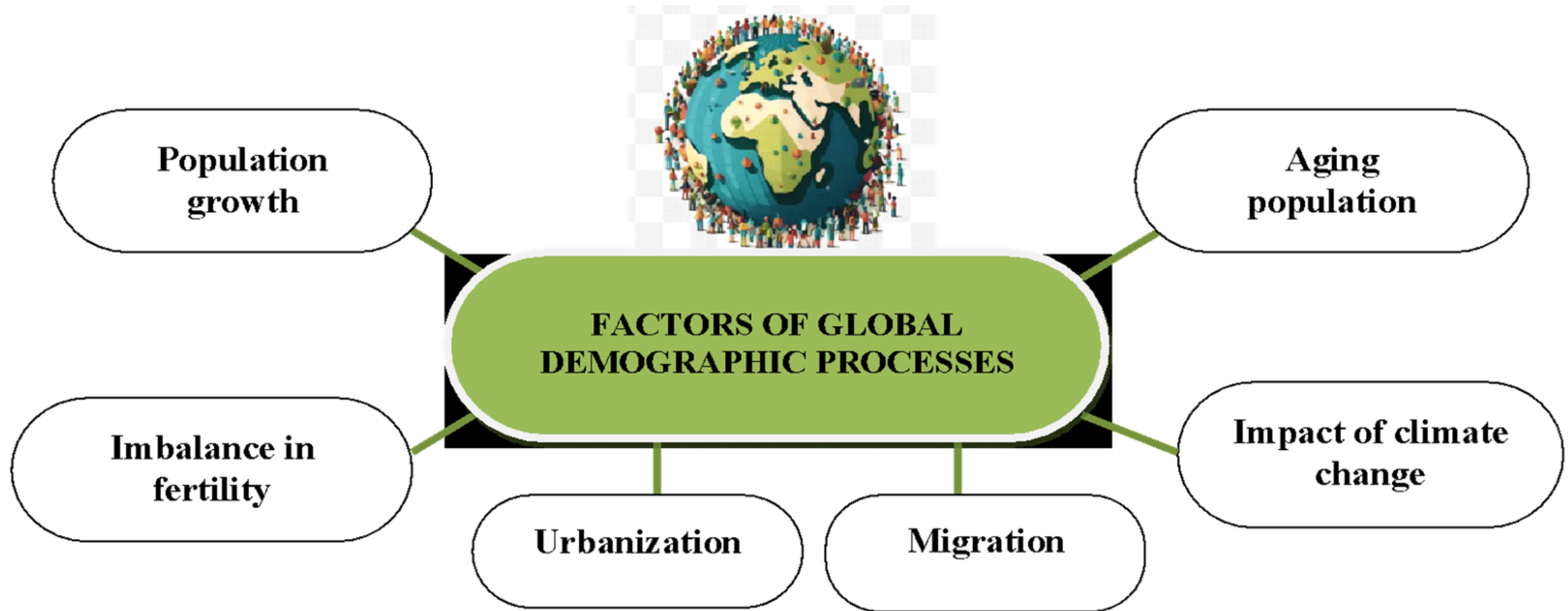
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	Group of risks	Risks
5	Psychological risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decreased motivation and professional burnout. Constant stress and uncertainty can have a negative impact on the psychological state of employees. • Decreased trust in government institutions and employers. Lack of support from the government or business during a crisis increases distrust, which affects the overall social climate.
6	Technological risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdated technologies and management methods. If investments in technology are reduced, businesses may use outdated methods, which limits the ability to develop skilled personnel. • Cybersecurity risks. In times of crisis, the number of cyber threats is growing, which can lead to the loss of important data and disruption of critical systems.
7	Environmental risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental pollution. Economic or political crises often lead to neglect of environmental standards. Deterioration of air, water and soil quality can have serious consequences for public health, causing disease, reduced work capacity and reduced quality of life. • Climate change. In periods of crisis, investments in the fight against climate change may be reduced, which deepens environmental problems. Climate change can affect the availability of resources, agriculture and infrastructure, which in turn affects the development of human potential. • Reduction of access to resources. Crisis conditions can make access to clean water, food and other natural resources difficult. This negatively affects the health of the population, increases the level of hunger and poverty, which significantly limits the opportunities for the development of human capital. • Land degradation. Economic decline can lead to careless use of natural resources, including land degradation through unsustainable land use, which complicates agricultural development and affects food security. • Growth of epidemics. Environmental crises contribute to the spread of infectious diseases due to the deterioration of sanitary conditions, environmental pollution and a decrease in the quality of health care. • Migration and urbanization. Environmental risks can lead to the displacement of the population, which is looking for better living conditions, which creates a load on the urban infrastructure, worsening the ecological conditions in megacities.



Global demographic processes



Today, the world's population is more than three times higher than it was in the mid-twentieth century. In mid-November 2022, the world's population reached 8 billion people, up from 2.5 billion in 1950, adding 1 billion people since 2010 and 2 billion since 1998. In October 2024, the world population stood at 8.16 billion people. Over the next 30 years, the world's population is expected to increase by almost 2 billion people, from the current 8 billion to 9.7 billion in 2050, and could peak at almost 10.4 billion in the mid-2080s.

Africa will account for most of the population growth by 2050. Africa is showing the highest growth rates compared to other major regions. The population in sub-Saharan Africa will double by 2050.

Depopulation in Europe

The opposite trend is observed in 61 countries and regions of the world where the population is expected to decline by 2050. In 26 countries, the population will decline by 10%. In a number of countries, including Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Hungary, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Ukraine and Ukraine, the population will decline by more than 15% by 2050.

Birth rate



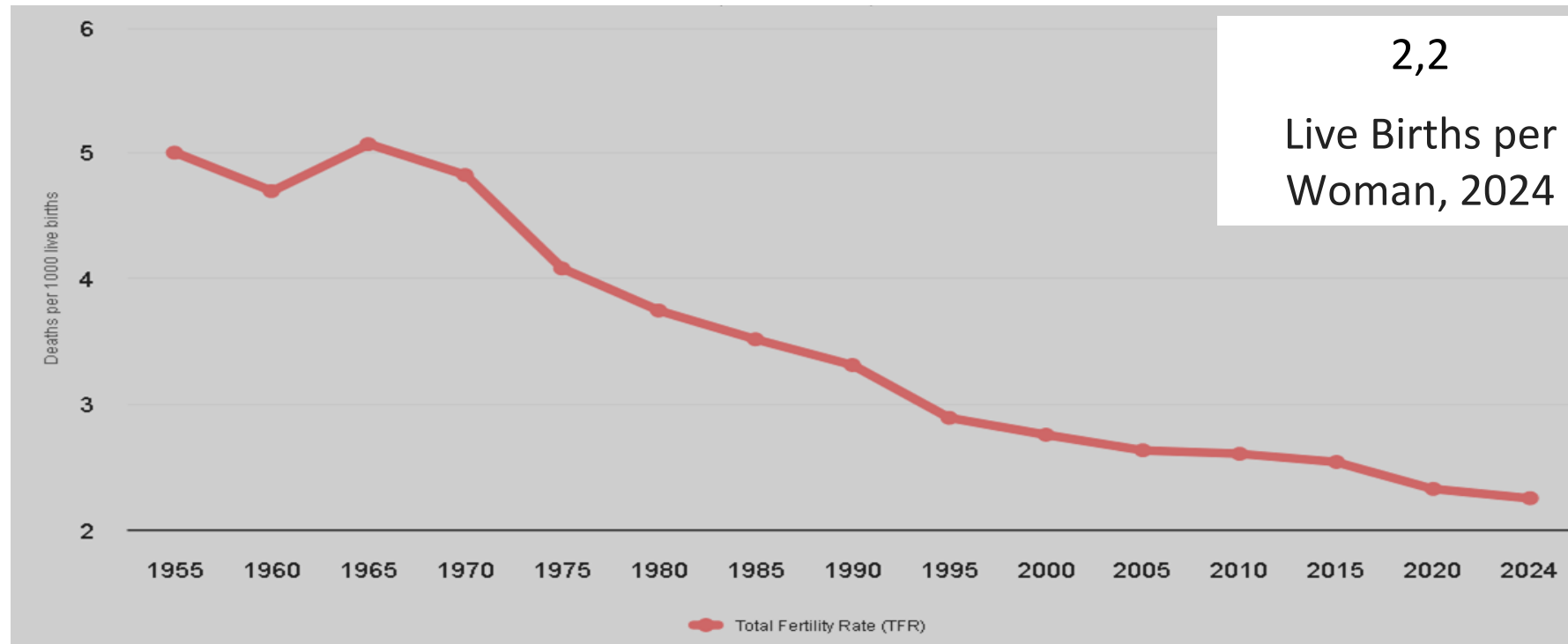
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According to the World Population Prospects: Revision 2022, the fertility rate will decline from 2.2 children per woman in 2024 to 2.1 children in 2050. A value below 2.1 leads to a reduction in the size of the indigenous population. For example, in 1955, women had an average of 5 children.

In more than half of all countries and regions, the average number of live births per woman (fertility rate) is less than 2.1, the level required to maintain a constant population over time without migration. At the same time, almost a fifth of all countries and regions now have ultra-low fertility rates - less than 1.4 live births per woman in her lifetime.

The total fertility rate



Increased life expectancy



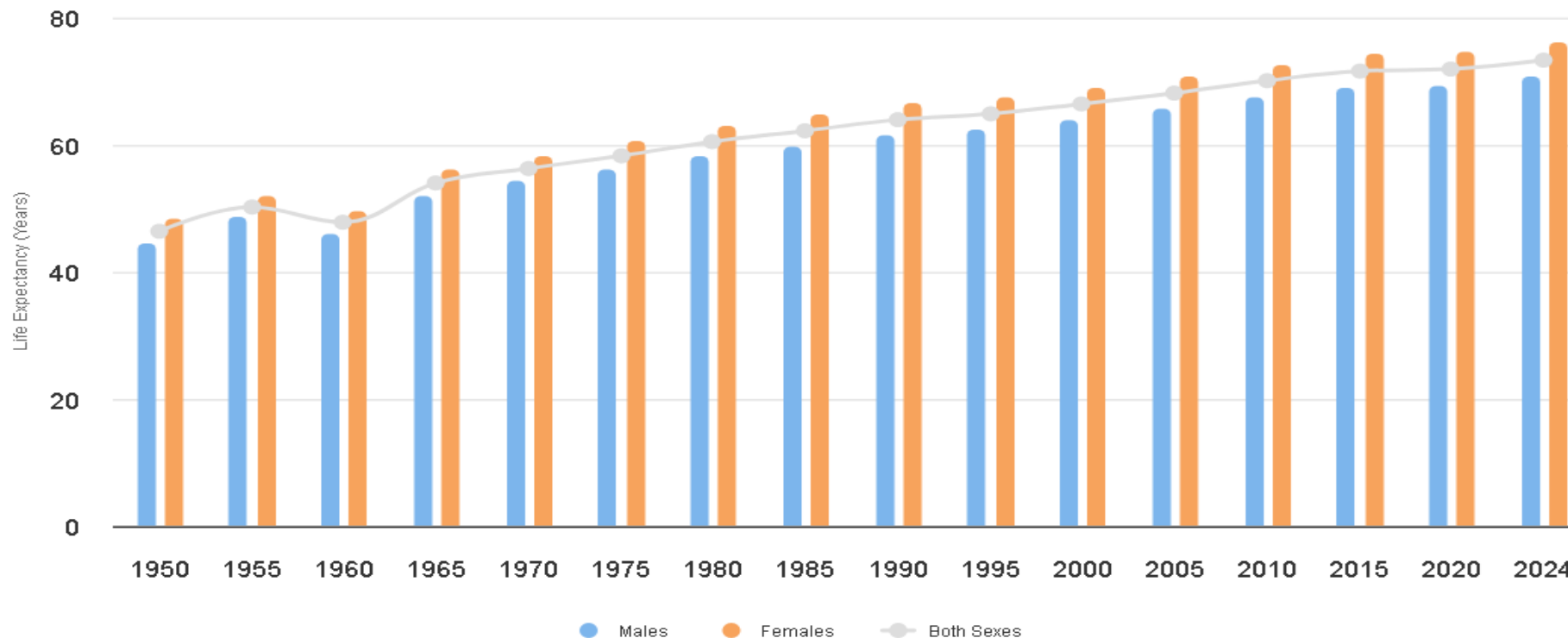
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Life expectancy at birth will increase from 72.8 years in 2019 to 77.2 years by 2050. Despite significant progress in narrowing the gap in life expectancy across countries, the situation continues to be very uneven. In 2021, life expectancy at birth in the least developed countries was 7 years lower than the global average. This is mainly due to high infant and maternal mortality rates, as well as high levels of violence, conflict and the ongoing HIV epidemic in these countries.

Life Expectancy in the World from 1955 to Present

Males, Females, and Both Sexes combined



Life Expectancy in the World, 2024

Both sexes

73,3 years

Females

76,0 years

Males

70,7 years



Top 10 countries and regions with the highest life expectancy in the world, 2024

№	Country	Life Expectancy (both sexes), years	Females life Expectancy, years	Males life Expectancy, years
1	Hong Kong	85,63	88,26	82,97
2	Japan	84,85	87,88	81,83
3	South Korea	84,43	87,28	81,32
4	French Polynesia	84,19	86,62	81,90
5	Switzerland	84,09	85,95	82,17
6	Australia	84,07	85,85	82,28
7	Italy	83,87	85,87	81,75
8	Singapore	83,86	86,36	81,38
9	Spain	83.80	86,44	81,10
10	Reunion	83,67	86,45	80,67



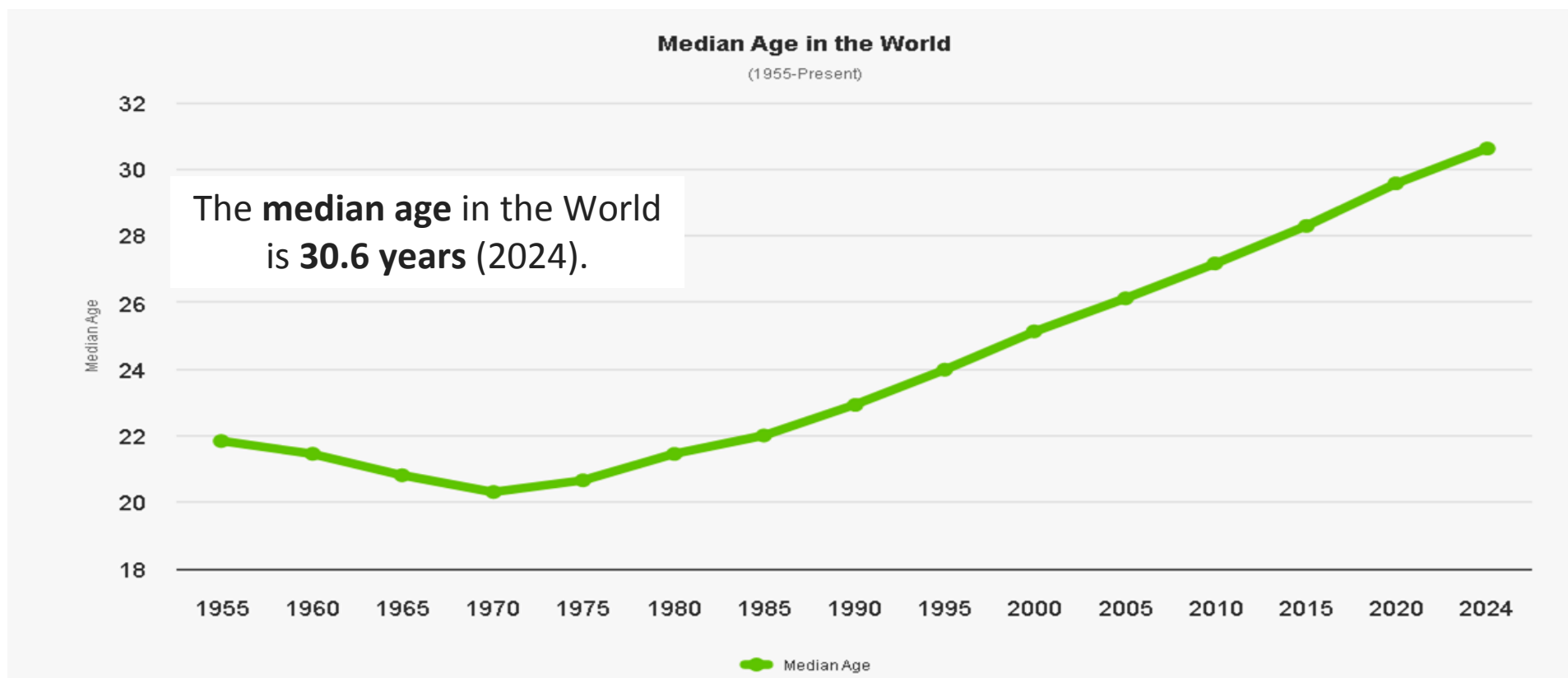
Rising average age of the world's population



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By the end of the 2050s, more than half of all deaths in the world will occur at the age of 80 or older, up from 17 percent in 1995. By the end of the 2070s, the number of people aged 65 and over is projected to exceed the number of children under the age of 18, while the number of people aged 80 and over is estimated to exceed the number of people aged 80 and over by the mid-2030s. will exceed the number of infants under 1 year of age. Even in countries that continue to grow rapidly and have relatively young populations, the number of people aged 65 and over is expected to increase over the next 30 years. This causes an increase in the average age of the global population.



Ageing of the world's population

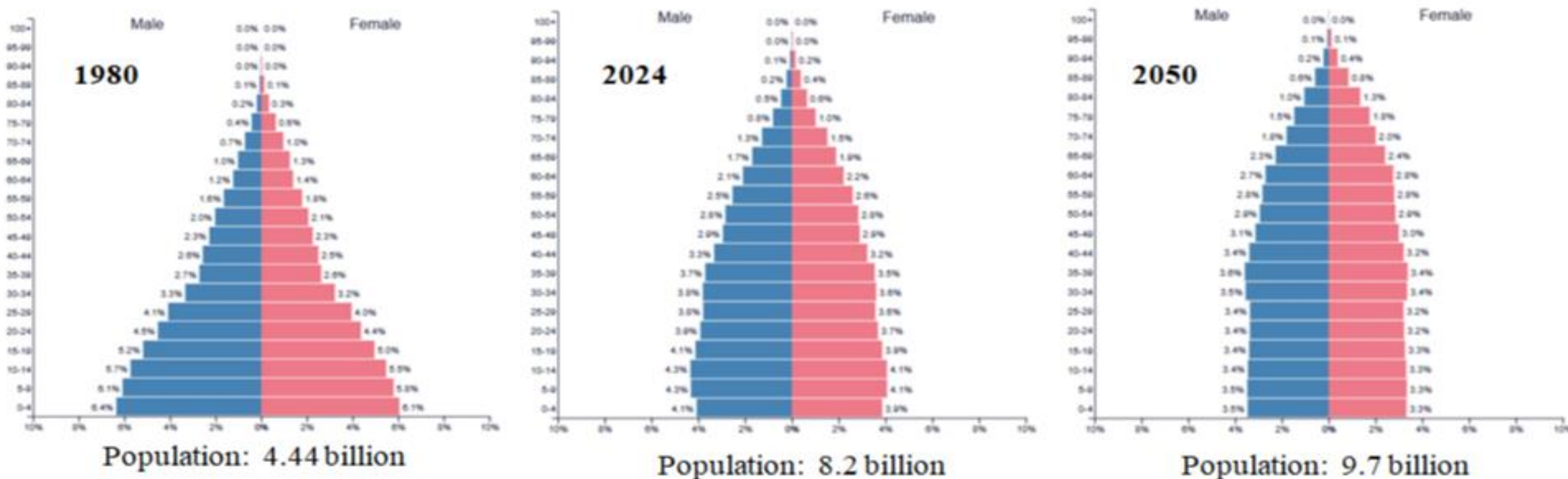


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Today, the elderly (age 65 and older) are the fastest growing age group in the world. In 2018, for the first time in the world, the number of elderly people exceeded the number of children under the age of five, and by 2050 they will be more than teenagers and young people combined (from 15 to 24 years old). In some regions, such as Europe and East Asia, there is already a significant challenge to support and care for older people. As life expectancy increases, older people are likely to play a more significant role in society and the economy. Therefore, a modification of the system of education, health care and social protection is necessary to provide everything necessary for this growing population of the age group.

Dynamics of changes in the world population pyramid



International migration

International migration is a less significant factor in population change than births and deaths. Nevertheless, in some countries and regions, the impact of migration on population is very significant.

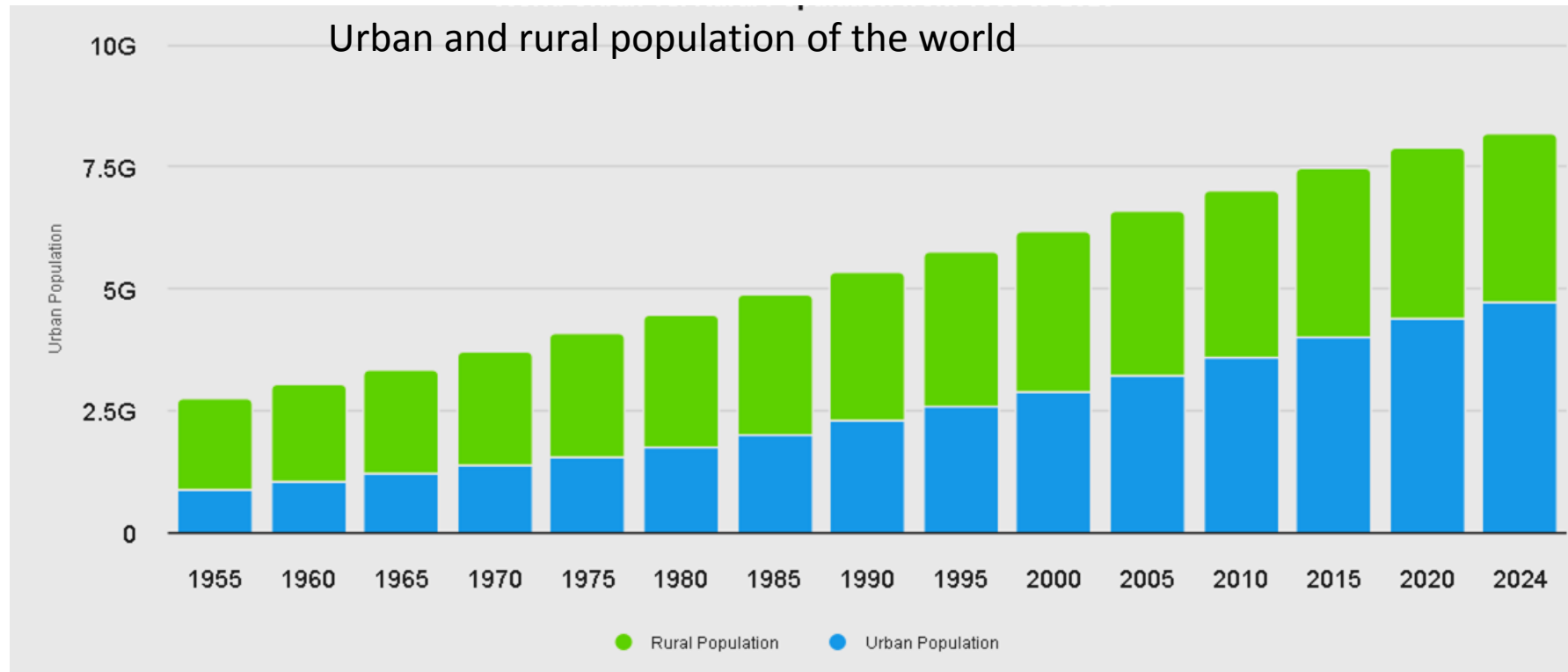
People move for a number of reasons, including in search of employment, educational opportunities and family circumstances. At the same time, more and more people are fleeing their homes and communities as a result of violence, persecution, armed conflict, deprivation or natural disasters, including those caused by climate change. Together, these factors have led to a record high number of forcibly displaced people in recent decades. Since 2012, the number of refugees under the care of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has almost doubled.

Eighty per cent of refugees live in countries that share a border with their country of origin. According to the UN Refugee Agency, at the end of 2022, there were about 35.3 million refugees in the world.



Urbanization

Currently, 57.5% of the world's population lives in cities (4695752643 people in 2024). Moreover, by 2050, the degree of urbanisation is projected to reach almost 70%. Urban population growth will mainly be in Asia and Africa, especially China, India and Nigeria, where fertility rates are still high



57,5%
of the population of
the World
is **urban** (4,69 billion
people in 2024)

Like migration, urbanisation requires effective management by national and local governments. Currently, cities occupy less than 2% of the world's land area, but they account for 80% of global GDP and over 70% of carbon emissions. The speed and scale of urbanisation is causing problems with the provision of adequate housing, infrastructure and transport, as well as problems related to conflict and violence. Almost 1 billion people are classified as the 'urban poor' and mostly live in informal urban settlements.



FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO URBANISATION

Forced relocation from rural areas as a result of extreme poverty, destitution, lack of work. The whole family or one family member may move to the city in order to find a job and provide a better life for the whole family.

Involuntary resettlement as a result of climate change and environmental degradation (natural disasters, accidents, catastrophes). If agriculture, forestry, fisheries and land use are affected by climate change and biodiversity loss, residents of these regions may be forced to move to urban areas in search of employment²⁰. As the impacts of climate change increase, rural-urban migration may become more important. In the case of recurrent climate shocks, movements may become cyclical due to a perception of future threats (floods, tsunamis, coastal erosion, etc.).

Forced displacement as a result of conflict.

As cities expand and road and communication infrastructure improves in many rural areas, the distinction between rural and urban areas is gradually blurring. It is expected that a significant share of new urban residents will live in suburban areas, including small towns and agglomerations of villages. Rural and urban areas are increasingly becoming not separate spaces, but two extreme points of a single spectrum, connected by links within the rural-urban continuum (a continuous continuous object).



Thank you for your attention!

