

Declining Fertility Rates



Professor Sarah Harper CBE
University of Oxford

September 30, 2019

MENA region

The Oxford Institute of
Population Ageing

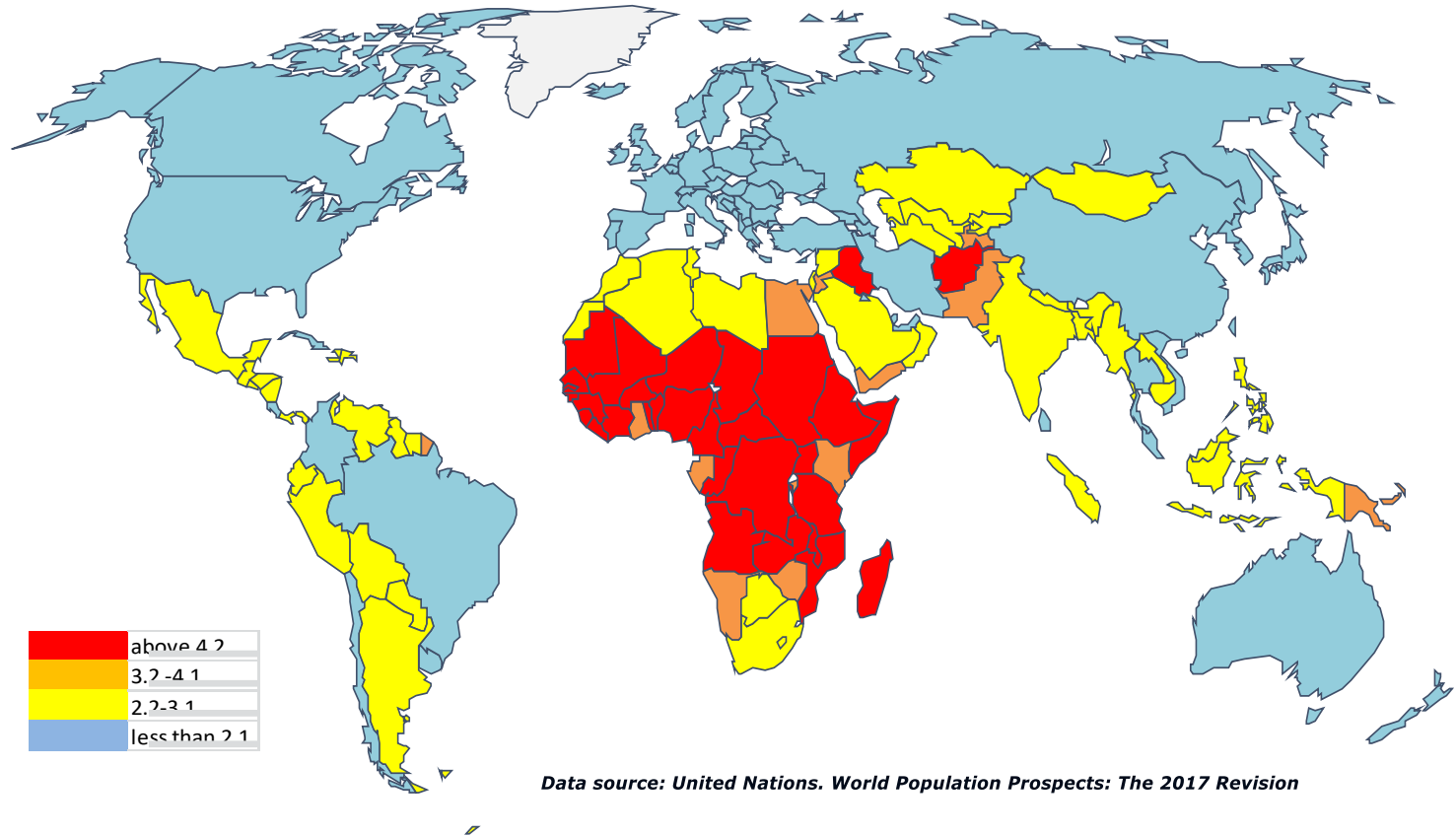


UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD



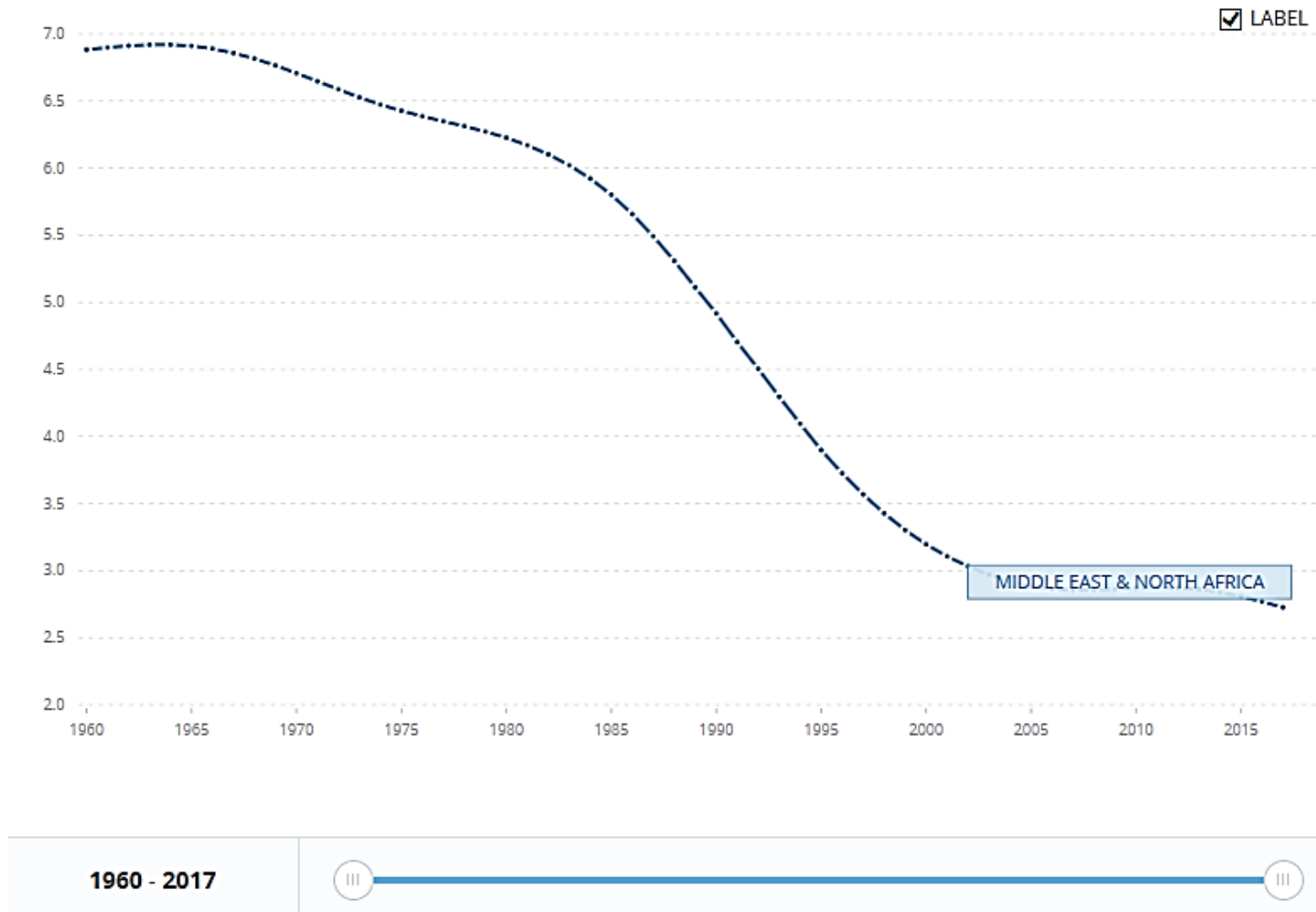
Total Fertility Rates

**Total Fertility Rate
2015-2020**

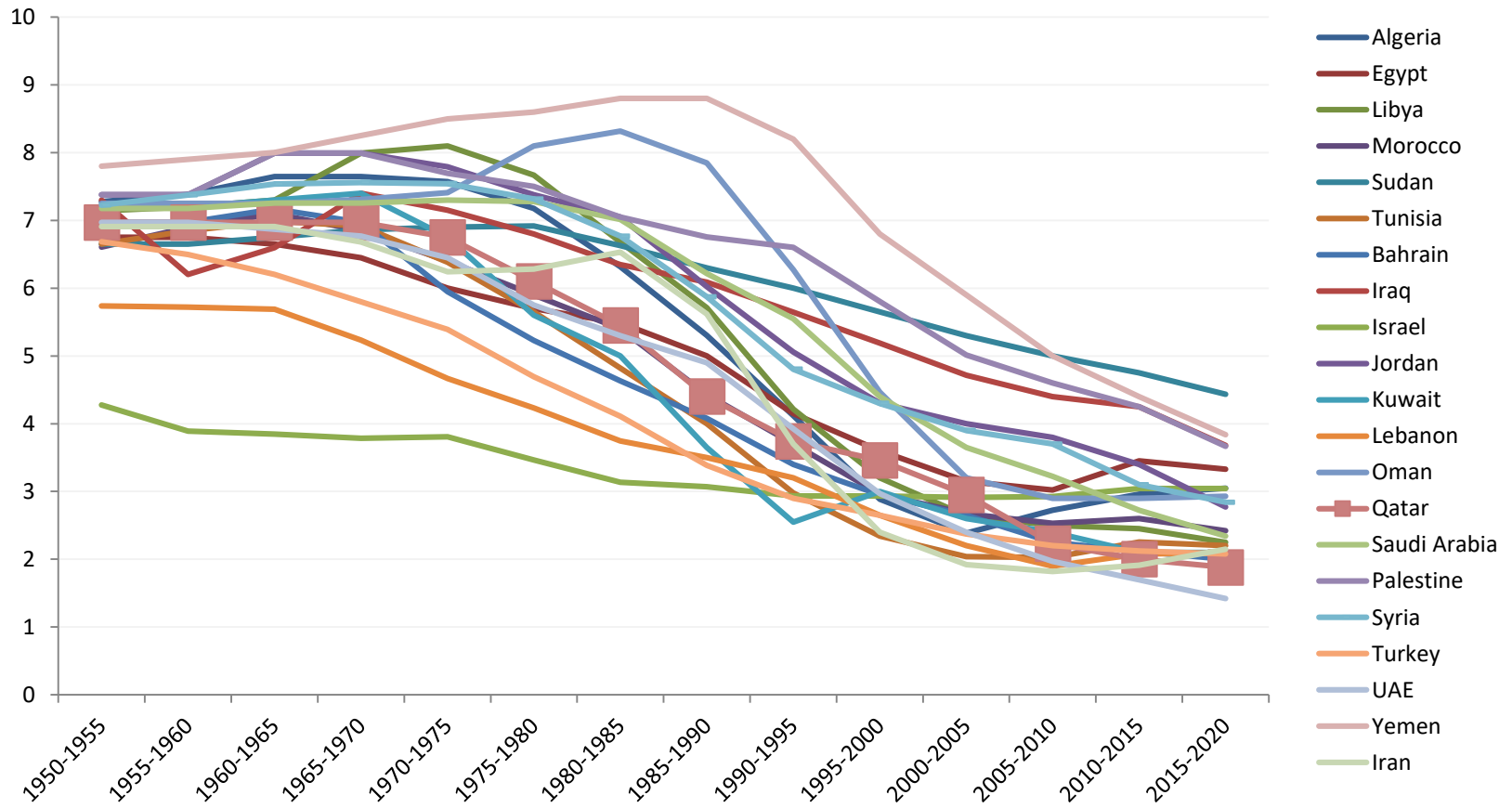


The Oxford Institute of
Population Ageing

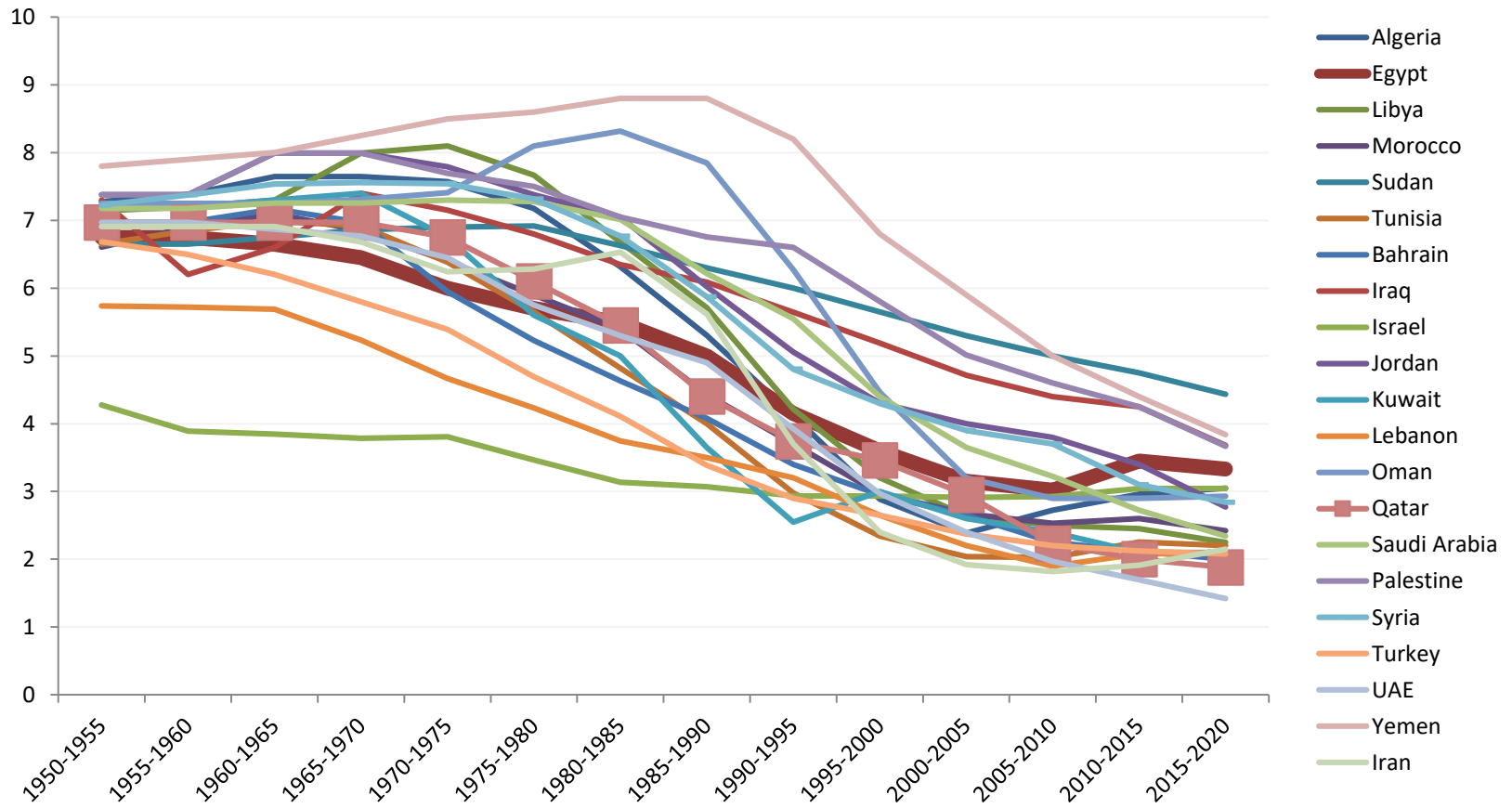
Total Fertility Rate Middle East & North Africa



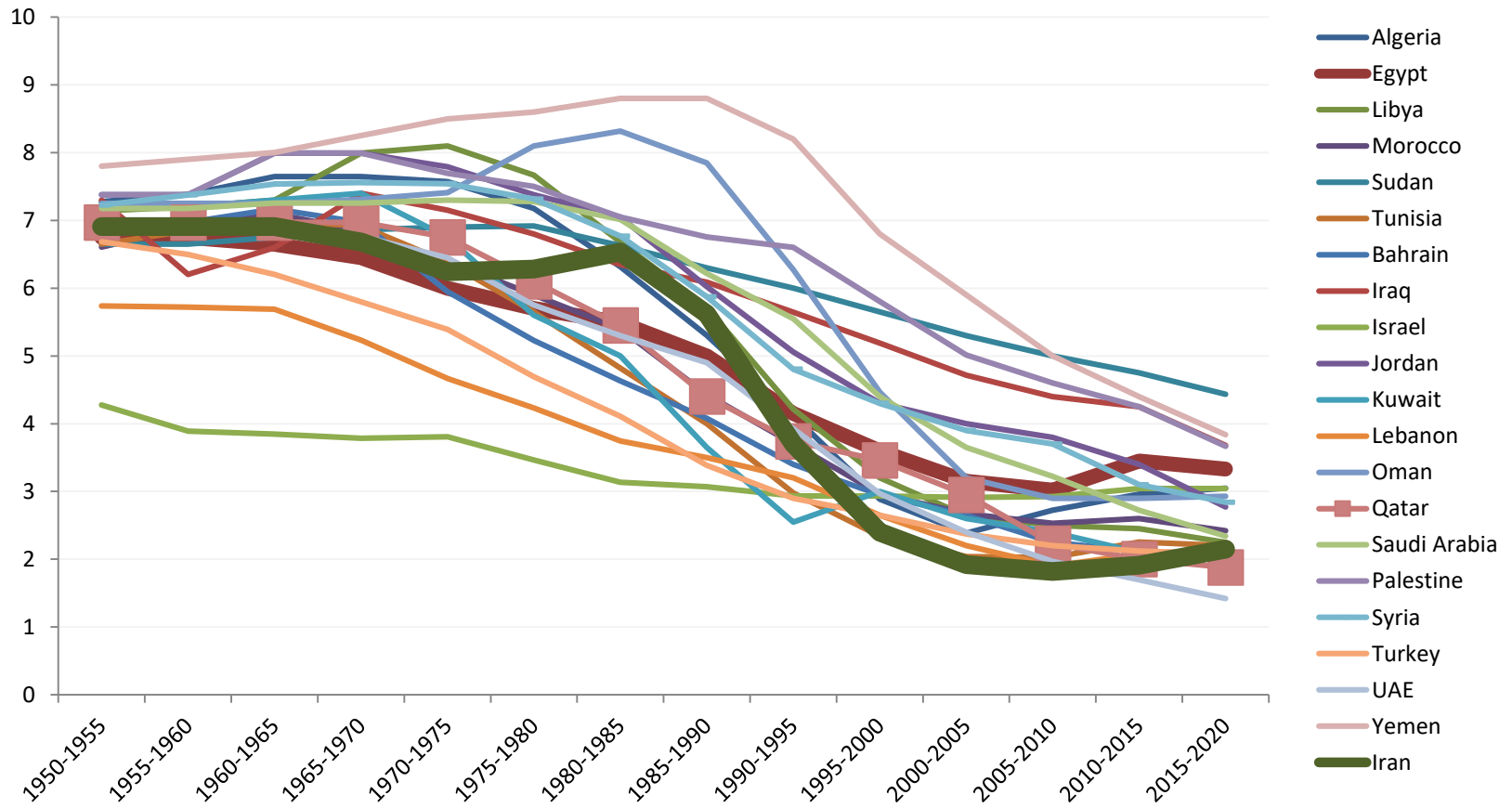
Total Fertility by country QATAR Middle East and North Africa



Total Fertility by country QATAR Middle East and North Africa



Total Fertility by country QATAR Middle East and North Africa



Group I: countries with levels still above 2.5.

Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Oman, the State of Palestine, Syria and Yemen

Iraq (4.27) to Oman (2.54)

Group II: countries around replacement level

Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Saudi Arabia (2.48) to Islamic Republic of Iran (1.62).

Qatar 1.88 (same as UK)

Drivers

Education especially of women

Availability and use of modern methods of contraception

Falling infant mortality

Resulting in

Delayed marriage

Increased female labour force participation

Empowerment of women

Leading to

Delay / Postpone / Space / Cease child bearing

Fertility fall is good....

- Planet and consumption of earth's resources
- Wellbeing of women
- Quality of human capital
- Productivity

Fertility fall is compensated ...

- Quality of population
- Modern economy not need large numbers of workers
- Older educated workers have high productivity
- Female workers boost national productivity
- Technological innovation
- Migration

Northern Africa: almost **50%** of the populations of Algeria, Egypt, Libya and Morocco is under 25 years

Middle East: almost **60%** of the populations of Palestine, Iraq and Yemen under age 25

Gulf States: lower proportions United Arab Emirates 24%, Qatar 28%, Kuwait 32%, Bahrain 34%.

Youth numbers will continue to grow

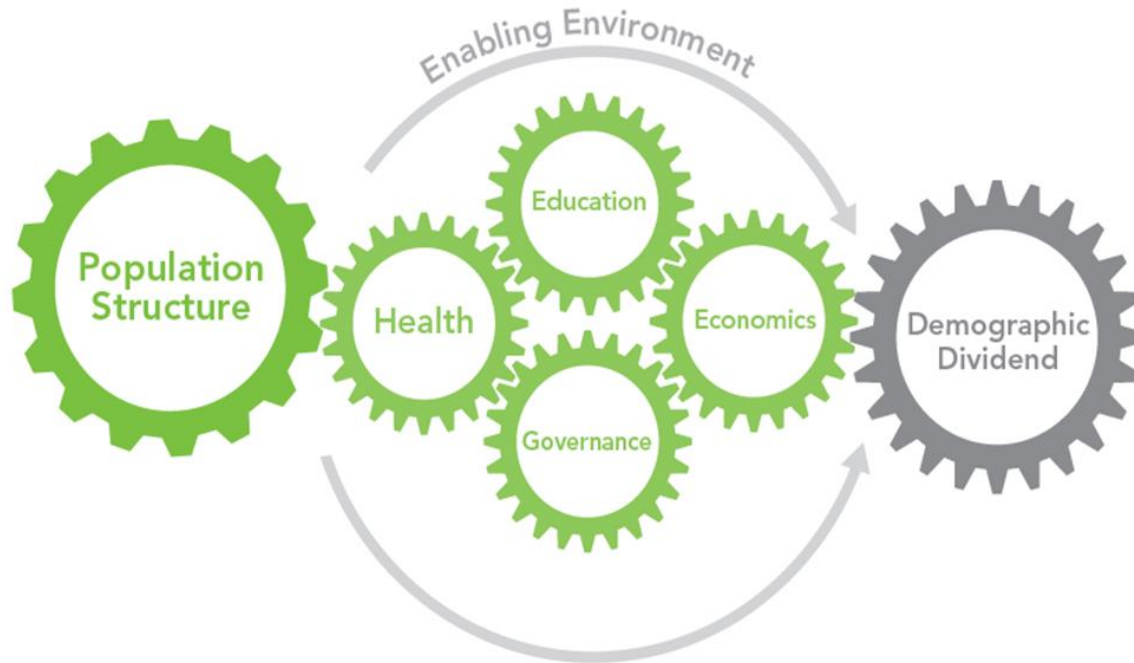
Algeria Libya, Morocco and Tunisia will peak in 2030

Egypt in 2060

Palestine in 2075

Iraq by 2090

Issue of Youth Bulges



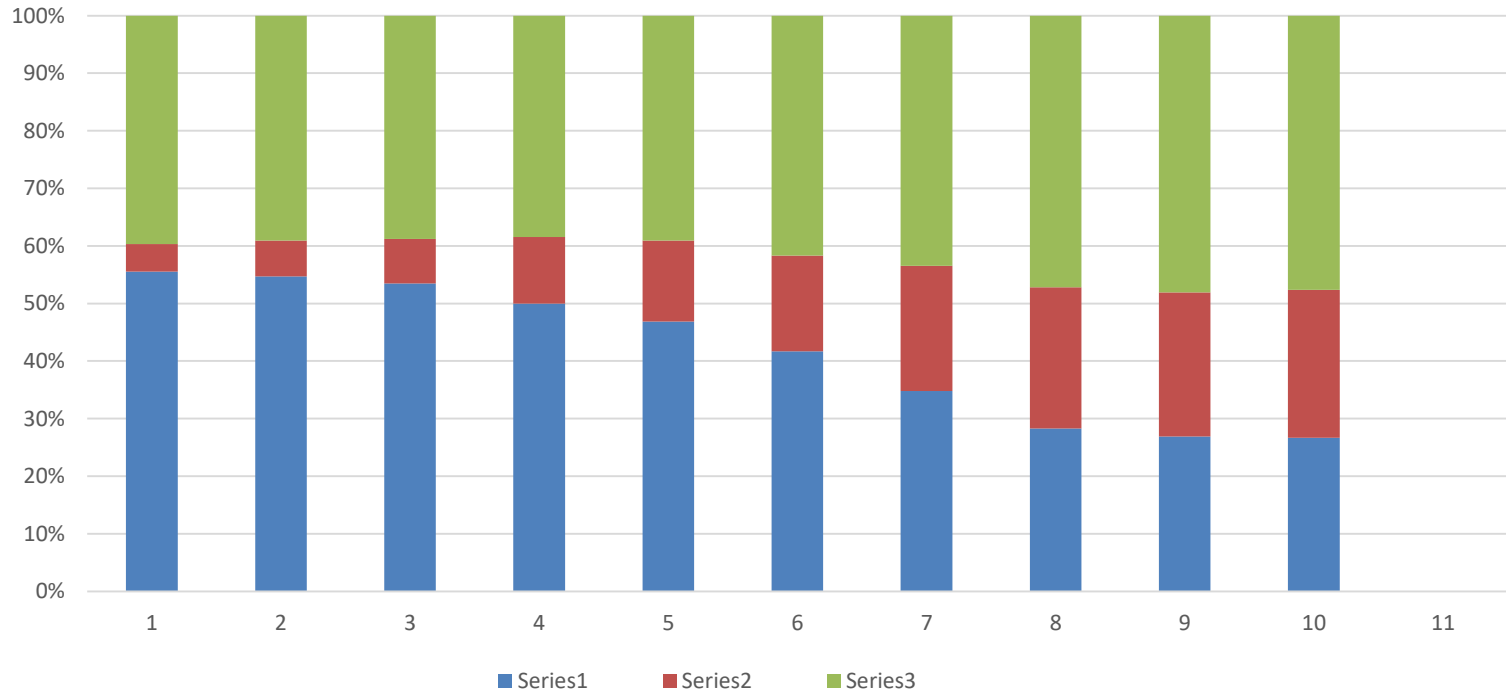
Problems arising from weak institutional structures and governance - barriers to the educational, fiscal, regulatory and administrative reforms needed to increase employment opportunities for these large cohorts of youth.

Total Dependency Ratio

The Oxford Institute of
Population Ageing



Total Dependency ratio with steady reduction in TFR



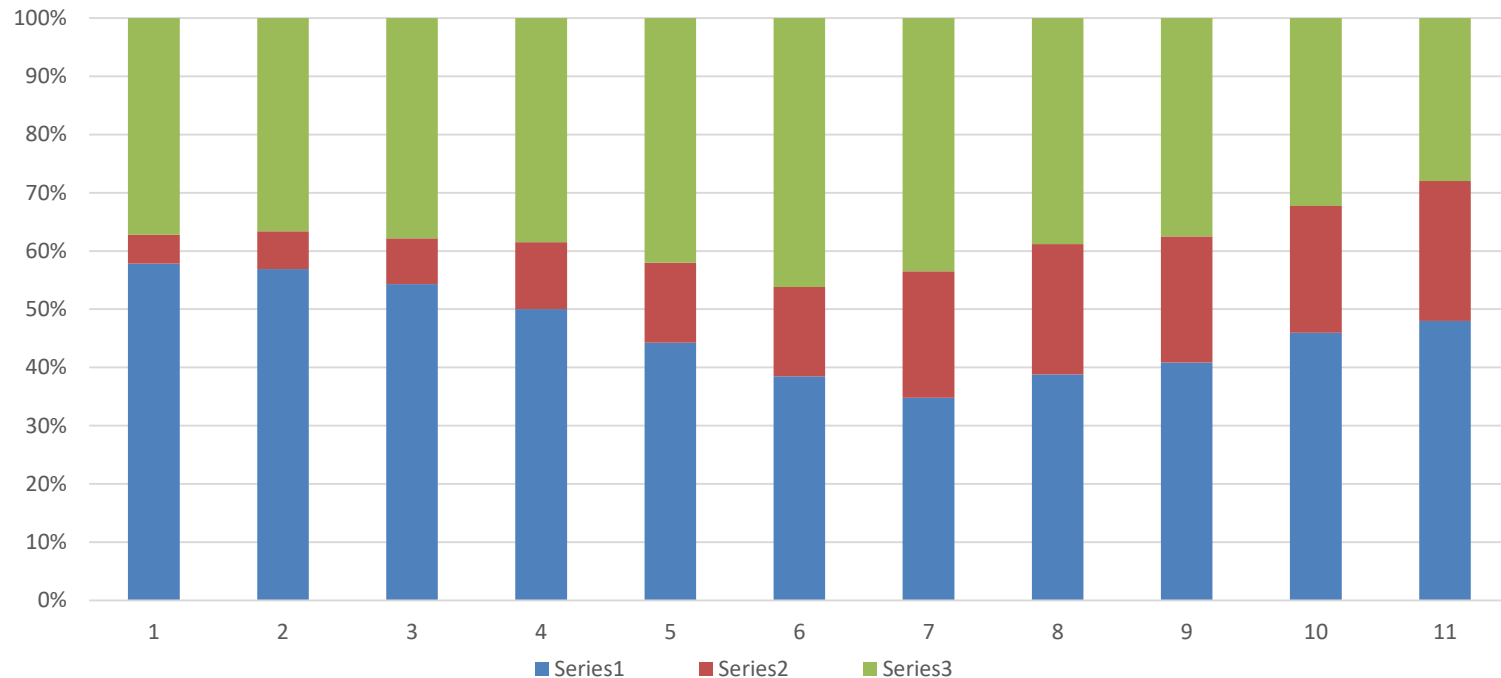
Blue <15 Orange > 60 Green 15-59

Total Dependency Ratio

The Oxford Institute of
Population Ageing



Total Dependency ratio with increased TFR in later decades



Blue <15 Orange > 60 Green 15-59

Demographic and Health Surveys reveal that as TFR declines so Desired Family Size settles at around 2 children.

Policies to support women in education and the labour market thus combining childbearing with economic contribution is the way forward.

The Oxford Institute of

Population Ageing



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD