

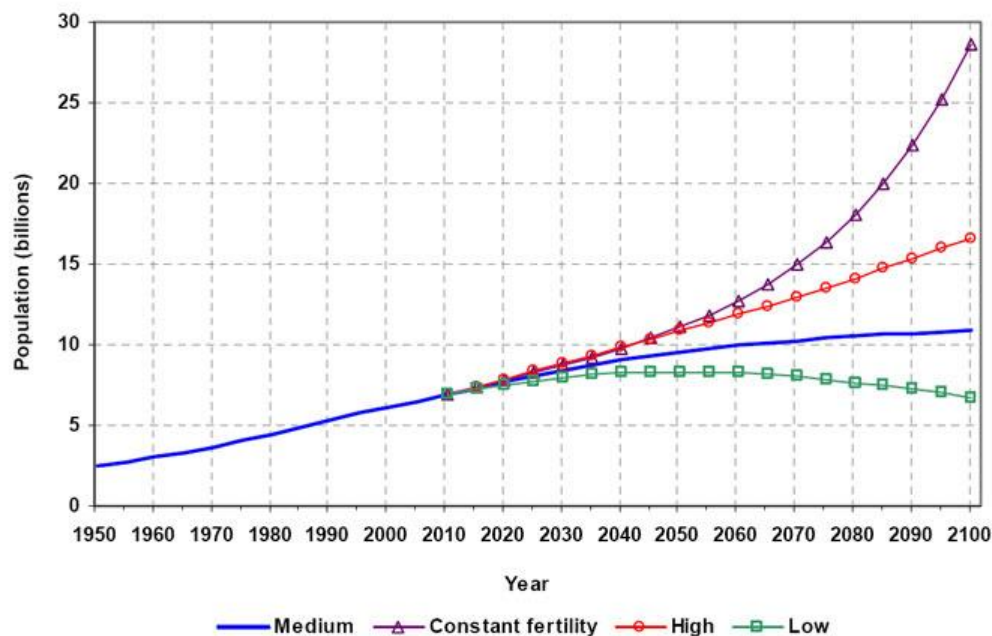
# Food Security and Population Growth ...



are they connected?

# Population trends and dynamics

Figure 1. Population of the world, 1950-2100, according to different projections and variants



Source: Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat (2013). *World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision*. New York: United Nations.

If fertility declines:

2050: 9.6 billion

2100: 10.9 billion

If fertility remains or increases:

2050: 10.9 billion

2100: 16.6 billion



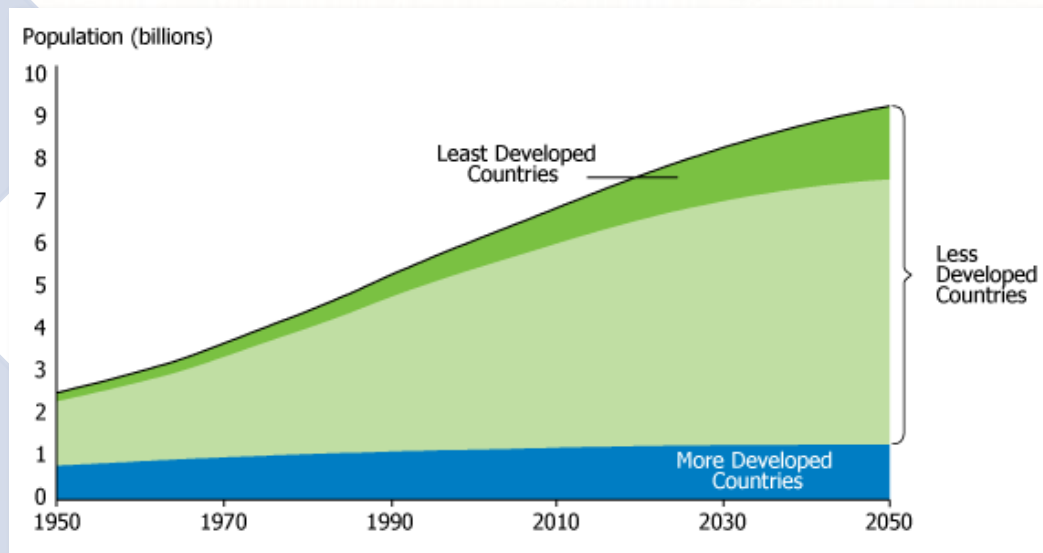
# Population trends and dynamics

## Less Developed countries

- 2013 - 5.9 billion
- 2050 - 8.2 billion

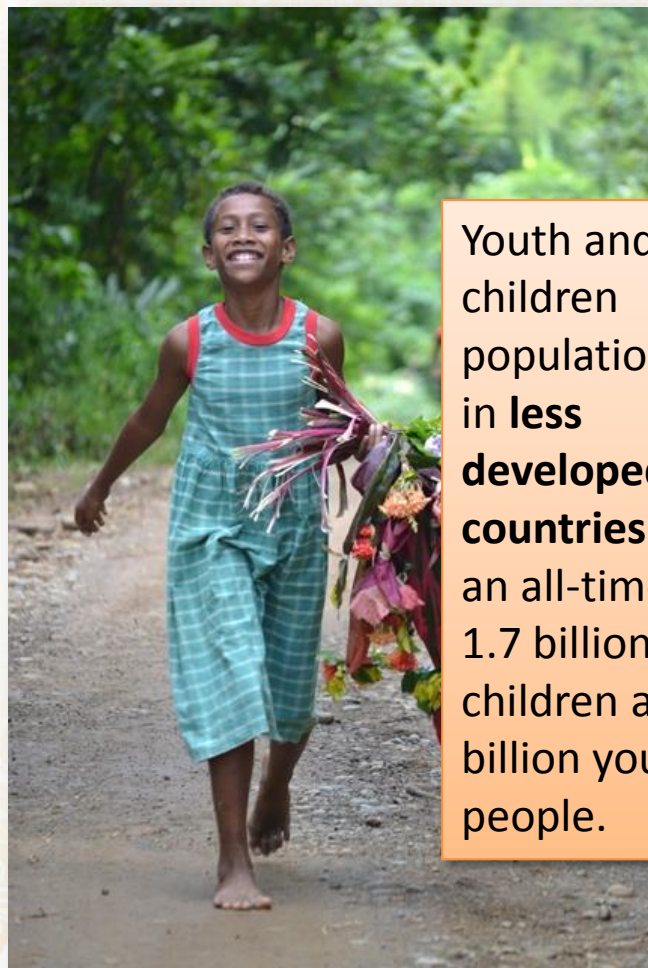
## Least developed

- 2013 - 898 million
- 2050 - 1.8 billion



Source: Population Reference Bureau

## Youth and Ageing – two critical cohorts



Youth and children population **now** in **less developed countries** are at an all-time high: 1.7 billion children and 1.1 billion young people.



Globally, population aged 60 or over is the fastest growing cohort: **developed** regions' increasing at 1.0 per cent annually (before 2050)

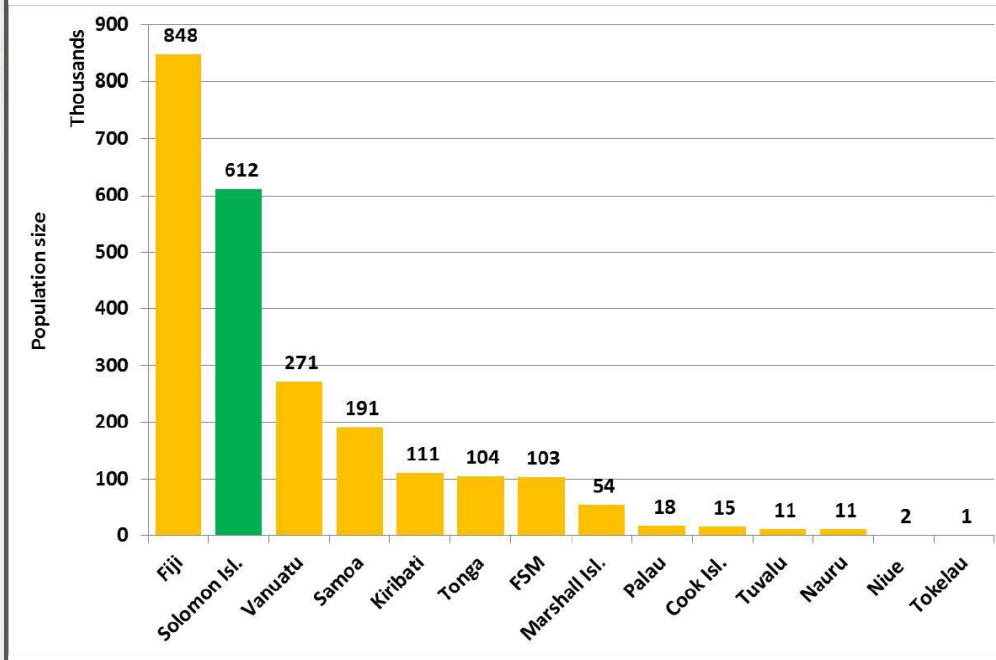
While **less developed** regions' 60 or over-60 cohort are increasing at the fastest pace ever.



# Pacific-Specifics

- Population growth & food insecurity - potential conflict flash points
- Negligent gender equity status
- Formative governance & accountability
- High adolescent fertility rates (85 RMI/5 in France
- Small population base but high density
- Minimal infrastructural development
- Youth (15-24) comprise 15-20% of populations
- Ageing: a new & challenging demographic
- Contraceptive prevalence rate (Australia 71/Kiribati 22)
- In all Pacific Island Countries, women outlive men: an opportunity?

Population size, PIC: 2014 (excl. PNG)



# Moving forward

Natural resources:  
Climate Change &  
Increased Production

Enough food for All  
but 1 in 7 Chronically  
Hungry

High fertility rate =  
Most urgent food  
security

Women can increase  
yield 20-30% = 150  
million mouths

Enabling environment:  
food security does not  
equal lower  
population growth



## Partnership opportunities

Centralize people  
(population dynamics) in  
national, regional &  
global responses

Socio-Economic Equity:  
To address  
access/distribution &  
empower individuals to  
feed themselves

Gender Equity plays a  
huge role in food  
security: Invest in SRHR  
& Women's access to  
Agro-financing /Support

Private Sector  
Engagement CRITICAL

Stable Governance &  
Effective Accountability

## Concluding Remarks

- A food-secure world must also have policy interventions which addresses other challenges like urban planning, sustainability in the face of instability.
- Child-bearing by choice and not chance allows planning considerate of available resources & time for personal and national investment in food security.
- Food security is about access, not necessarily about a declining population growth for there is enough food for everyone as it is.

Investment in international family planning and reproductive health can improve families' well-being at the household level, while helping to slow population growth in areas most affected by food security.



## Innovation, Partnerships & Human Development

- Invest in gender equality initiatives for social equity that can address food security in terms of access and distribution;
- Centralize humanity, invest in sexual and reproductive health and rights issues to address the well-being of the fundamental unit of society, the family in whatever form;
- There is no harm in the specificity of direct investment in women's agricultural capacity for once women have access to credit, land and other basic tenets of food production, they can do incredible things in terms of securing food security for themselves and their families;
- Population must not always be seen as a threat, it is about managing it.



United Nations Population Fund  
Pacific Sub-Regional Office

# Thank you