



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

Demographic Dynamics and Development : Situation and Prospects in West Africa

NTA-AFRICA CONFERENCE 2EME EDITION

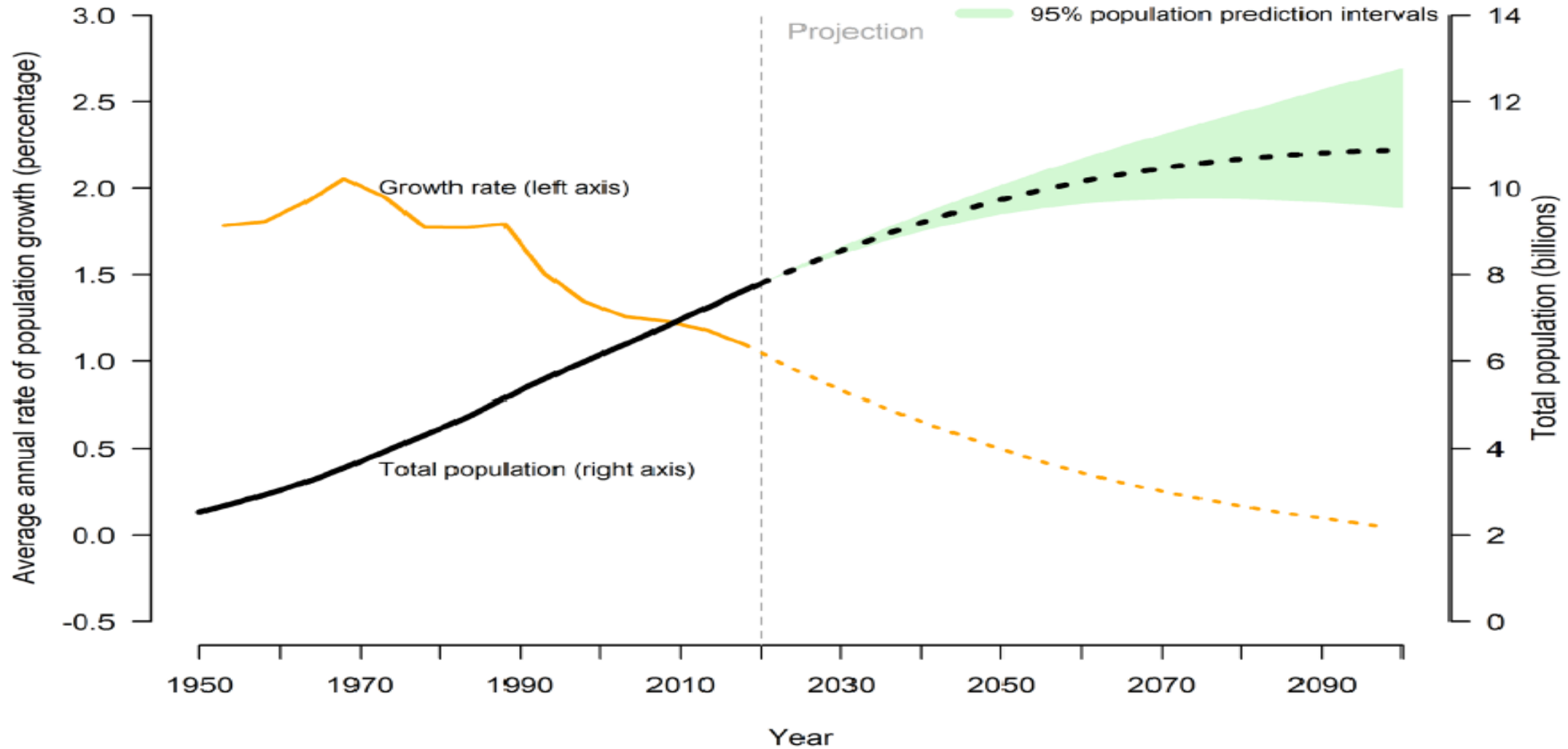
**Bakary DOSSO, Chief Demography Dynamics for Development Centre
(DDD), ECA SRO-WA, 27 October 2021**



Content

- Population Dynamics
- Harnessing Demographic Dividend in West Africa
- Population Dynamics and Sustainable Development
- Key findings and policy recommendations

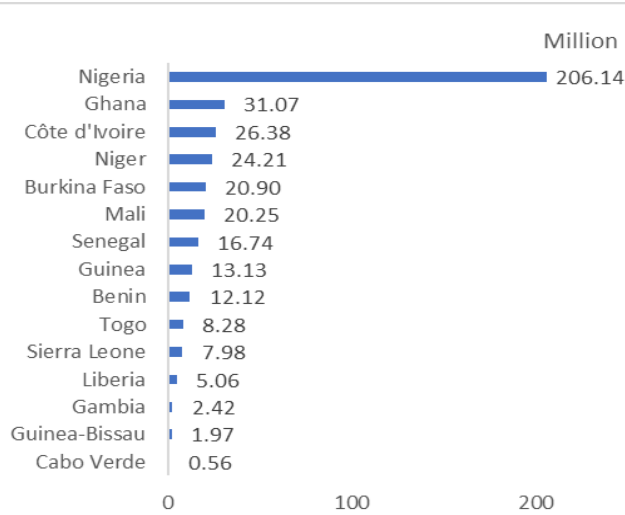
Population Growth in the World



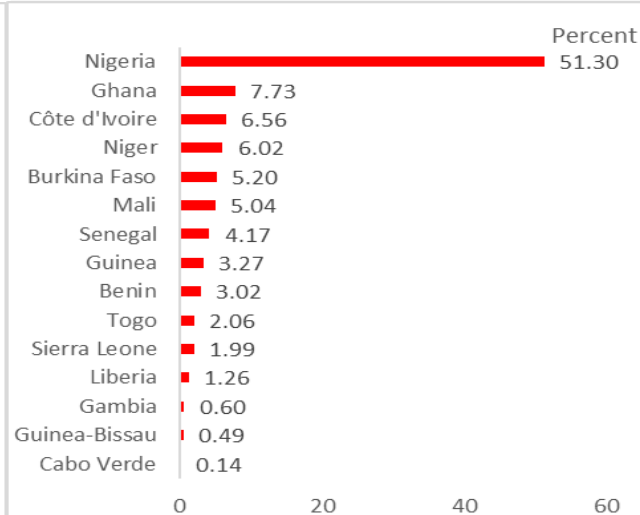
a source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). *World Population Prospects 2019*.

Population Dynamics in West Africa

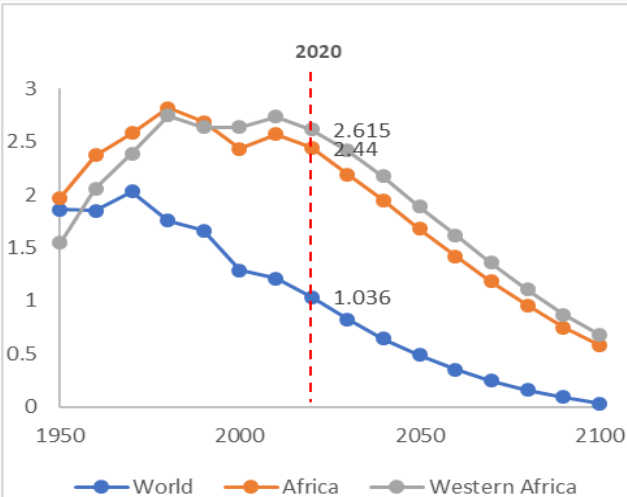
A-Population in West African countries, 2020



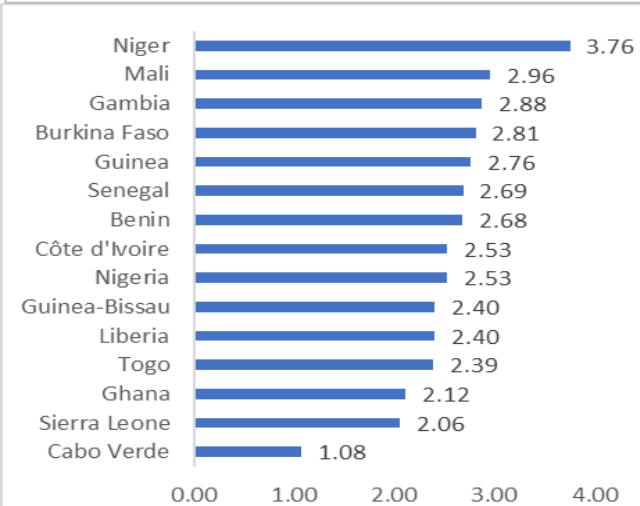
B-Share of population in west Africa, 2020



C- Evolution of population growth (1950-2100)



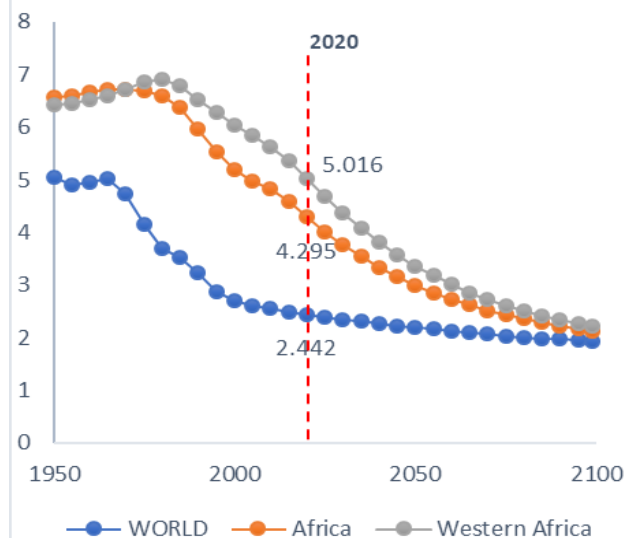
D-Population growth in West Africa, 2020



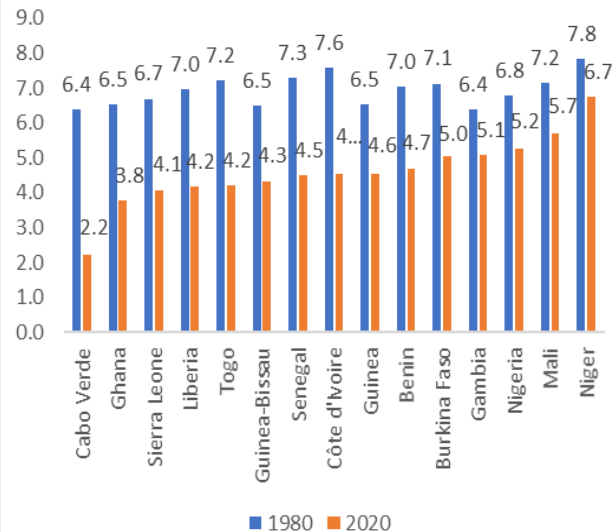
- Population growth estimated at 2.6% compared with African growth rate (2.44%) and world growth (1.04%)
- Population estimated at 402 million in 2020; 5.1% of world population and 30% of Africa's population
- Nigeria represents half of West African population (51.3%)

Population Drivers in West Africa: Fertility

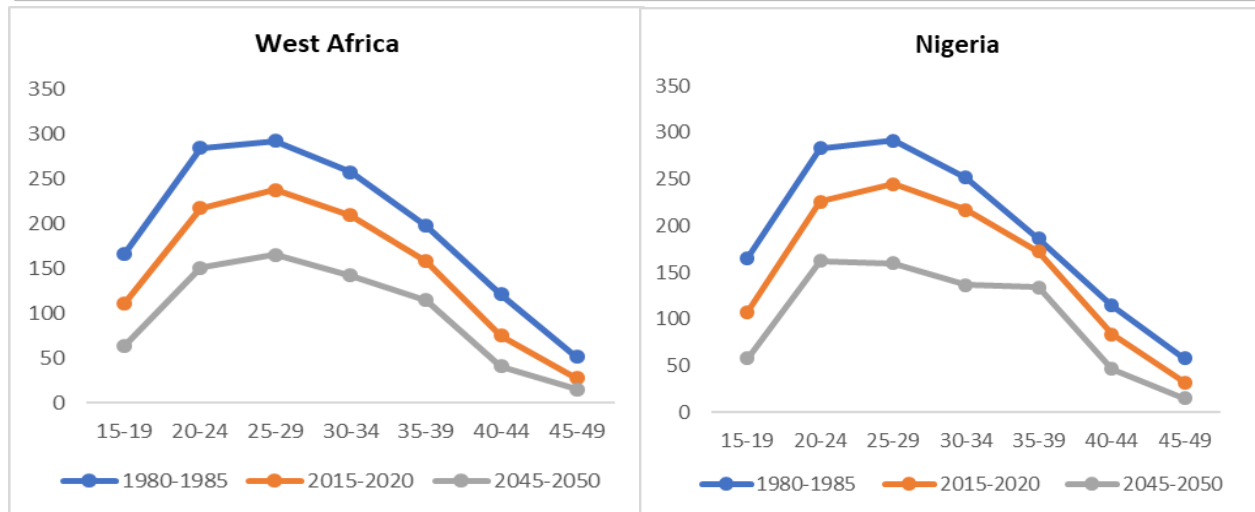
A-Live births per woman, 1950-2100



B-Live births per woman in West Africa, 2020



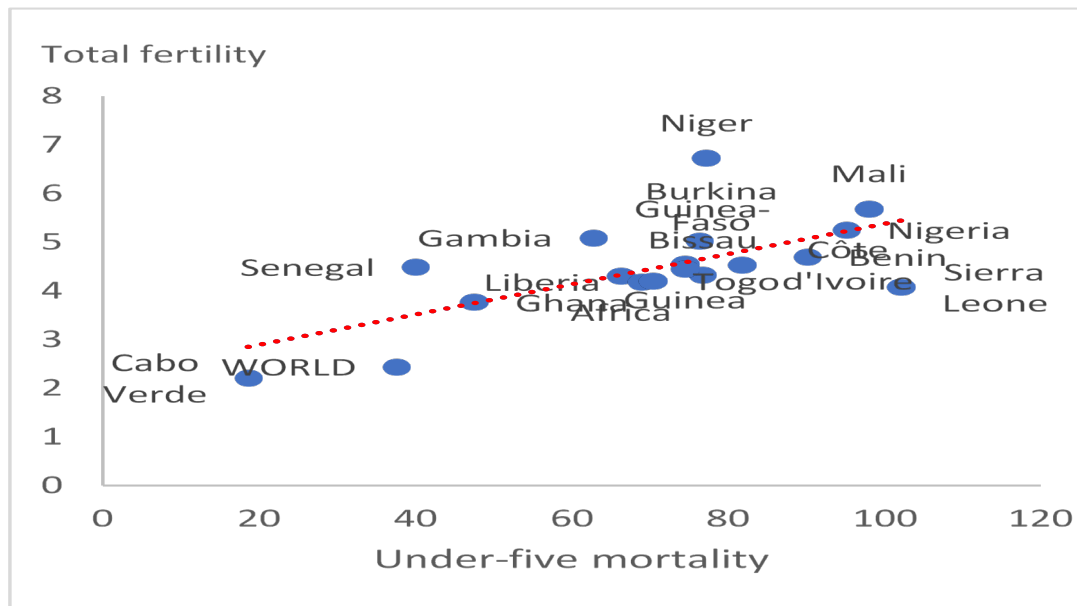
C-Trend in Age Specific Fertility Rate (ASFR) per thousand women in West Africa, 1980-2050



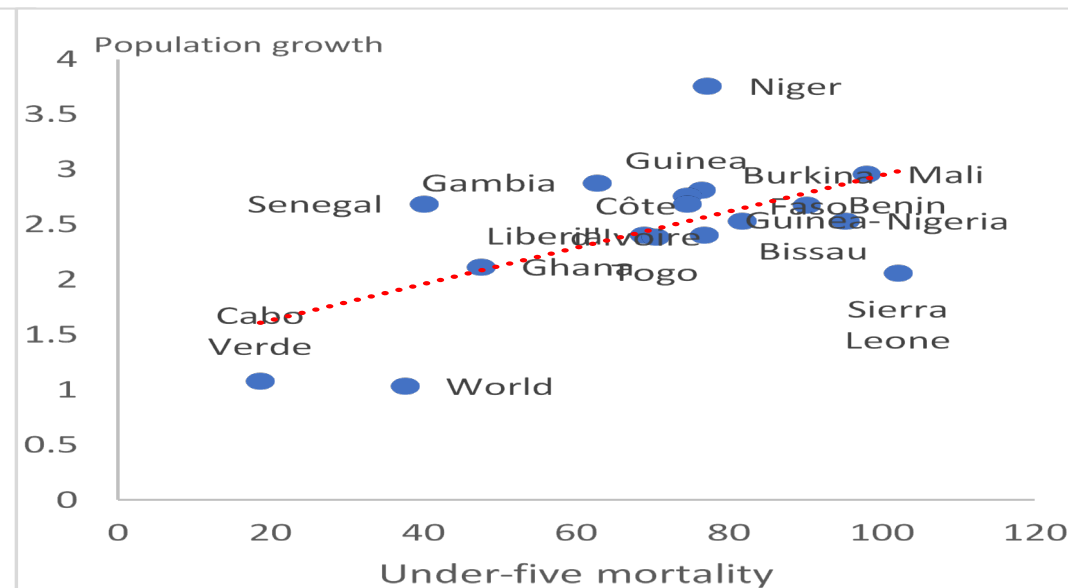
- Fertility is the strongest determinant of population growth
- A stall in fertility which declined only by 0.77 over 2000-2020
- Cabo Verde and Ghana have the lowest fertility rate
- Niger's highest fertility rate is a growing cause of concern
- Countries continue to experience high levels of adolescent fertility (15-19 years)

Pop. Drivers in West Africa: Child mortality

A Fertility rate vs child mortality in West Africa, 2020



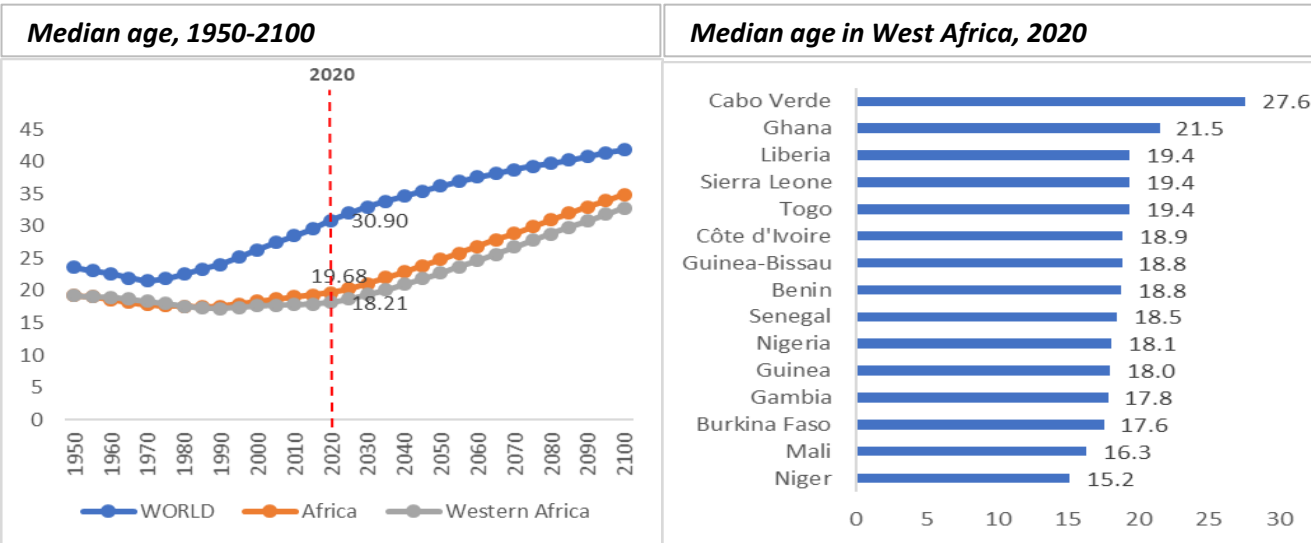
B Population growth vs child mortality in West Africa, 2020



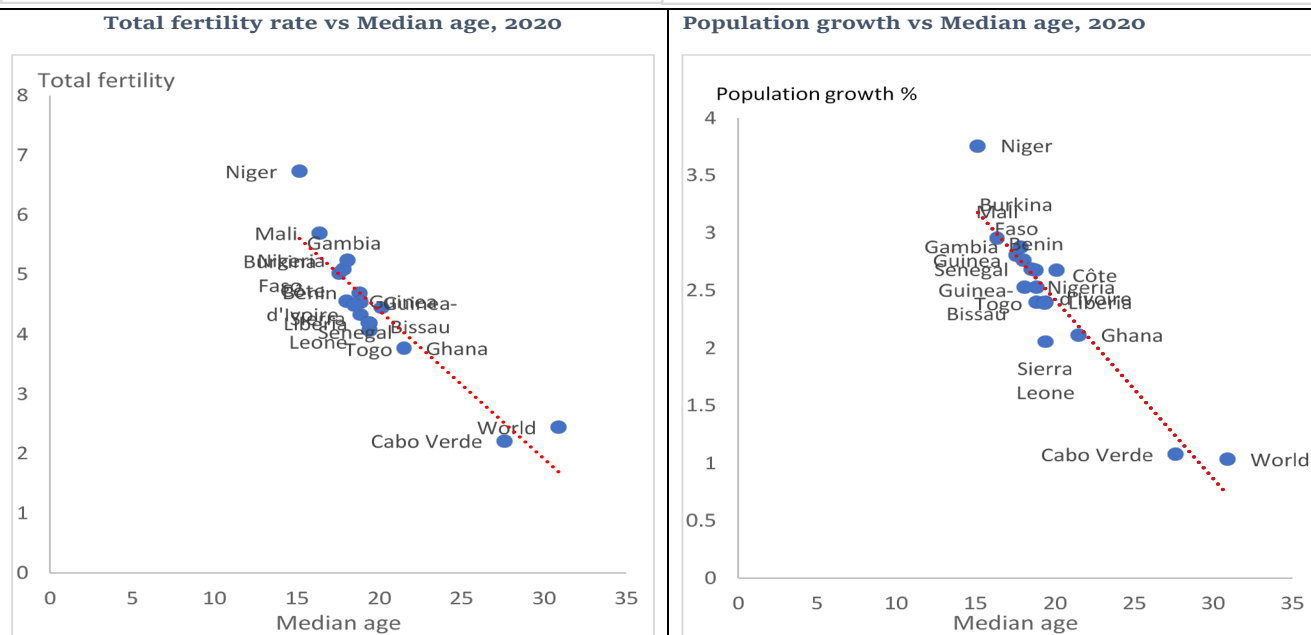
Source: ECA calculation based on World Population Prospects 2019

- Child mortality is a hindrance to low fertility rates in West Africa
- Under-five mortality rates exerts positive influence on population growth
- Which starts by its positive correlation with total fertility rates

Population Drivers in West Africa: Age structure



- Youth make up a large proportion of the West African population with an average median of 18 years
- Young population is conducive to rapid population growth due to large population at the reproductive age
- Low median age tends to increase fertility rates



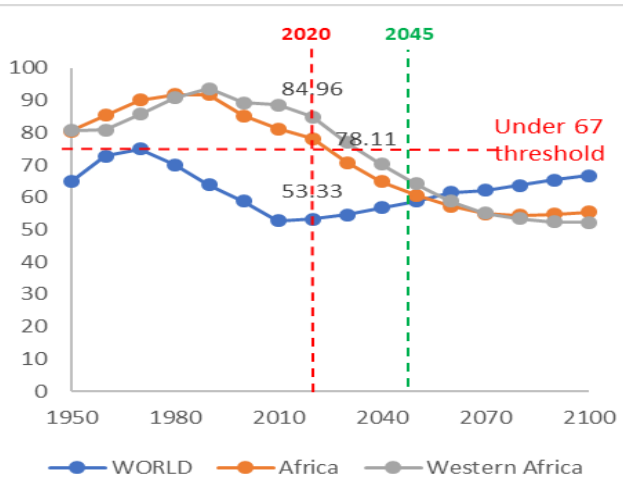
Harnessing Demographic Dividend in West Africa

Harnessing Demographic Dividend in West Africa

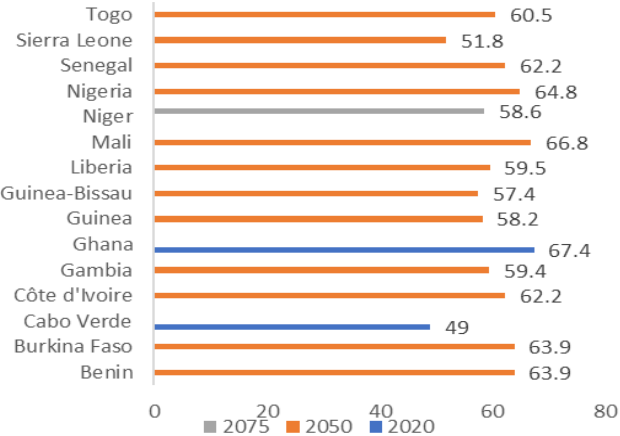
- 2017 the year of “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend Through Investments in Youth”.
- Demographic dividend : prospect for accelerated economic growth.
- Need for guidance on specific actions that will help countries achieve the dividend.
- Pessimistic view about the capacity of West African countries to take advantage of the demographic dividend.

Demographic Dividend: Total dependency vs Economic Support Ratio

A-Annual total dependency ratio, 1950-2100



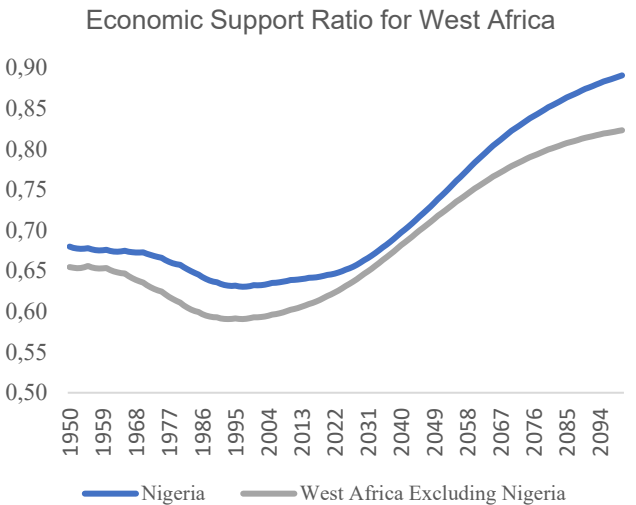
B-Starting date of DD in West Africa based on annual total dependency ratio



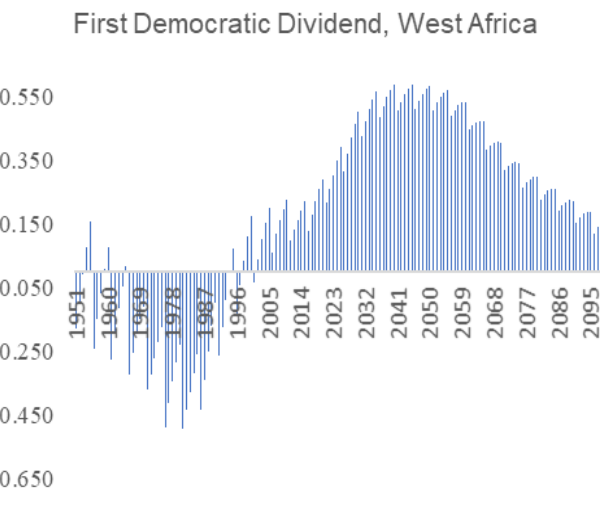
Age-dependency ratio

- Based on total dependency ratio under 67 dependents per 100 population, DD will start from year 2045 for many countries

C-Economic Support Ratio, West Africa



D-First Democratic Dividend, Nigeria



Economic Support Ratio

- Economic support ratio derived from NTA indicates an earlier starting date (2002) of the Demographic Dividend

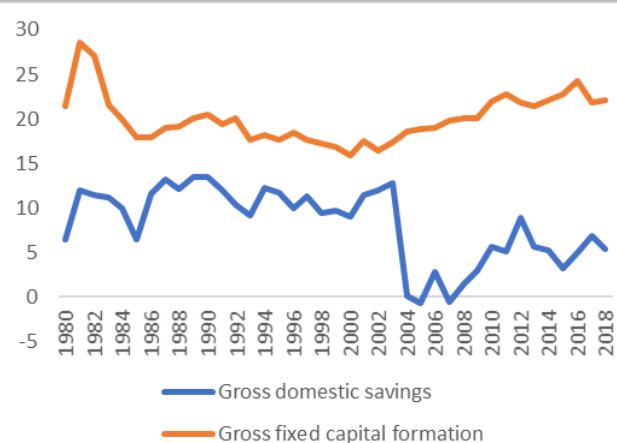
Implications of COVID-19 for Key Drivers of Demographic Dividend

- Unhealthy labor force and bearing on health systems and public finances;
- Disruption to education and erosion of human capital;
- Job losses and reduced working hours, worsening gender inequality and rising unemployment for women;
- Weakening of foreign and domestic demand, contraction in trade and FDI.

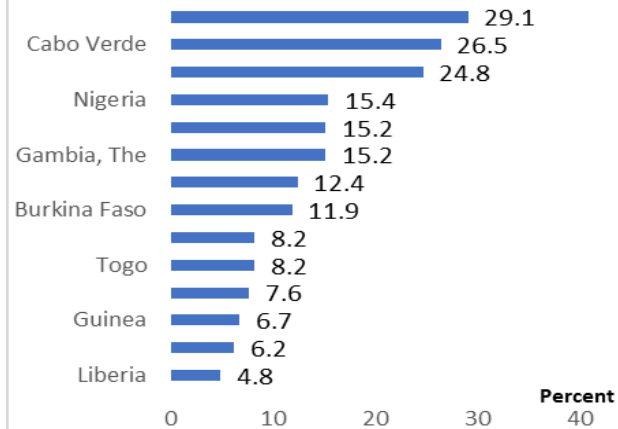
Population Dynamics and Sustainable Development

A. Economic Sustainability

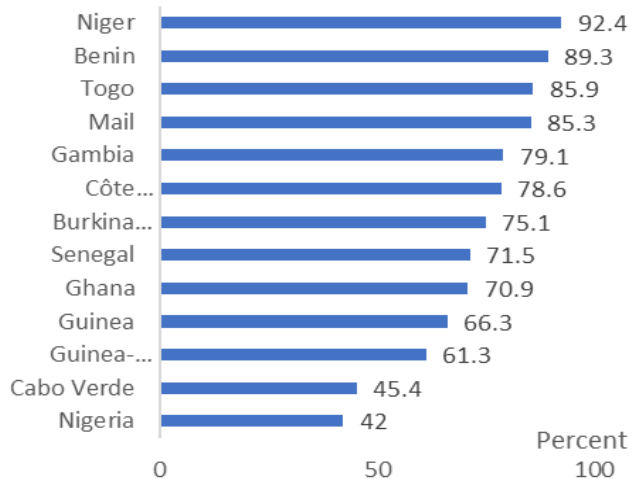
A-Domestic Savings and Capital Formation in West Africa (Gross: % of GDP)



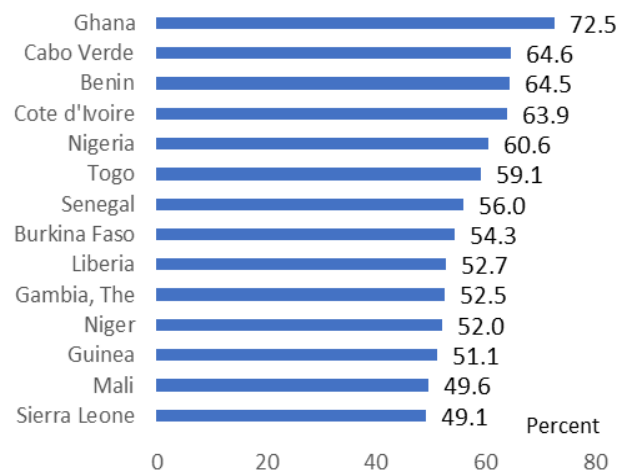
B-Progress towards Achieving SDG9 in West Africa, 2019



C-Unemployed and Vulnerable Jobs in West Africa, 2000-16 (Percent of labour force)



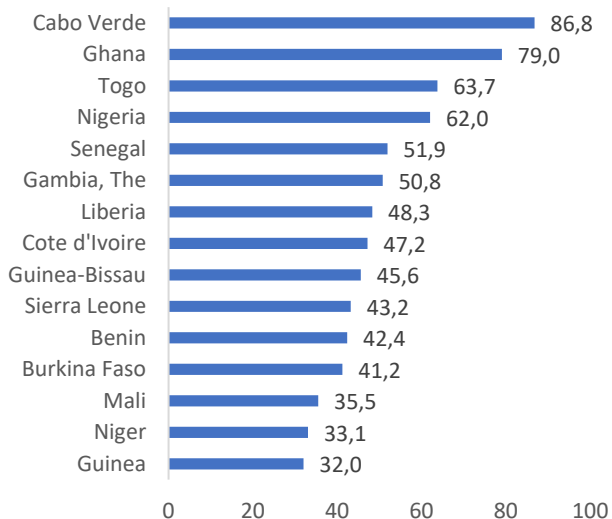
D-Progress towards SDG 8 in West Africa, 2019



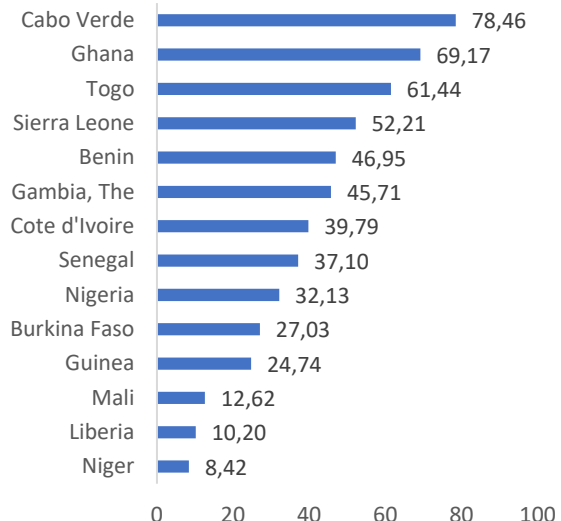
- High dependency ratio makes domestic savings insufficient to finance investment in innovation, infrastructure and structural transformation
- Therefore, West African countries are making slow progress towards achieving SDG 9
- Utilization of working age population at full capacity undermined by unemployment and vulnerable job
- Thus, more effort is needed to provide full decent work, thereby reaching SDG 8

B. Social sustainability

A-Literacy rate, adult total (% of people aged 15 and above: 2010-2017)

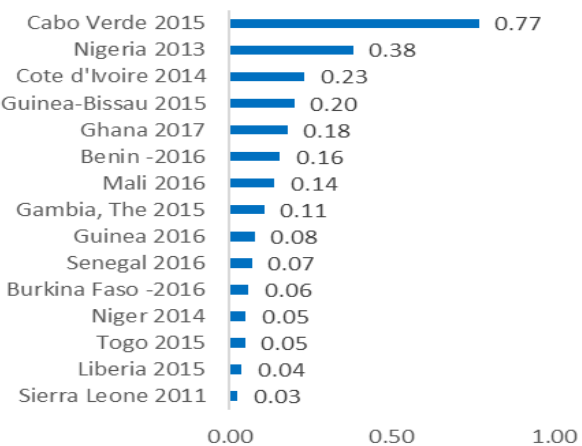


B-Progress towards SDG 5 in West Africa, 2019

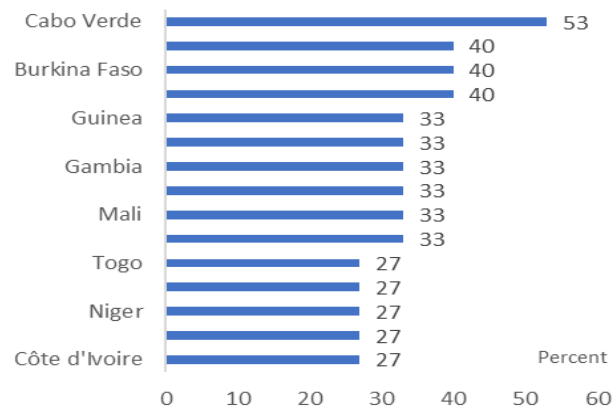


- Adult literacy rate was below 50% between 2014 and 2018 in many countries in West Africa.

C-Physicians (per 1,000 people)

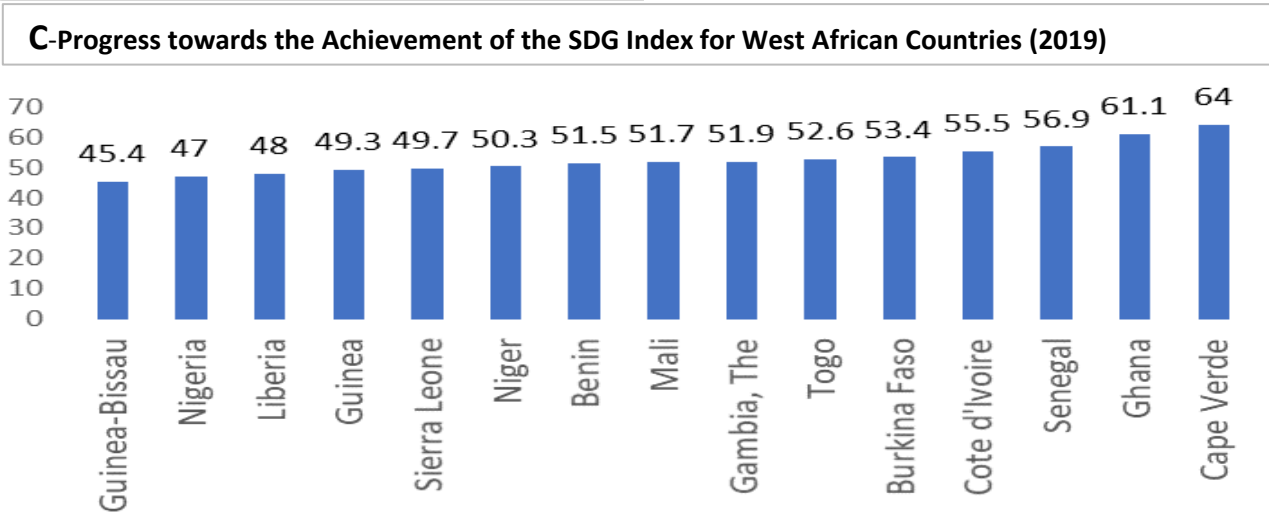
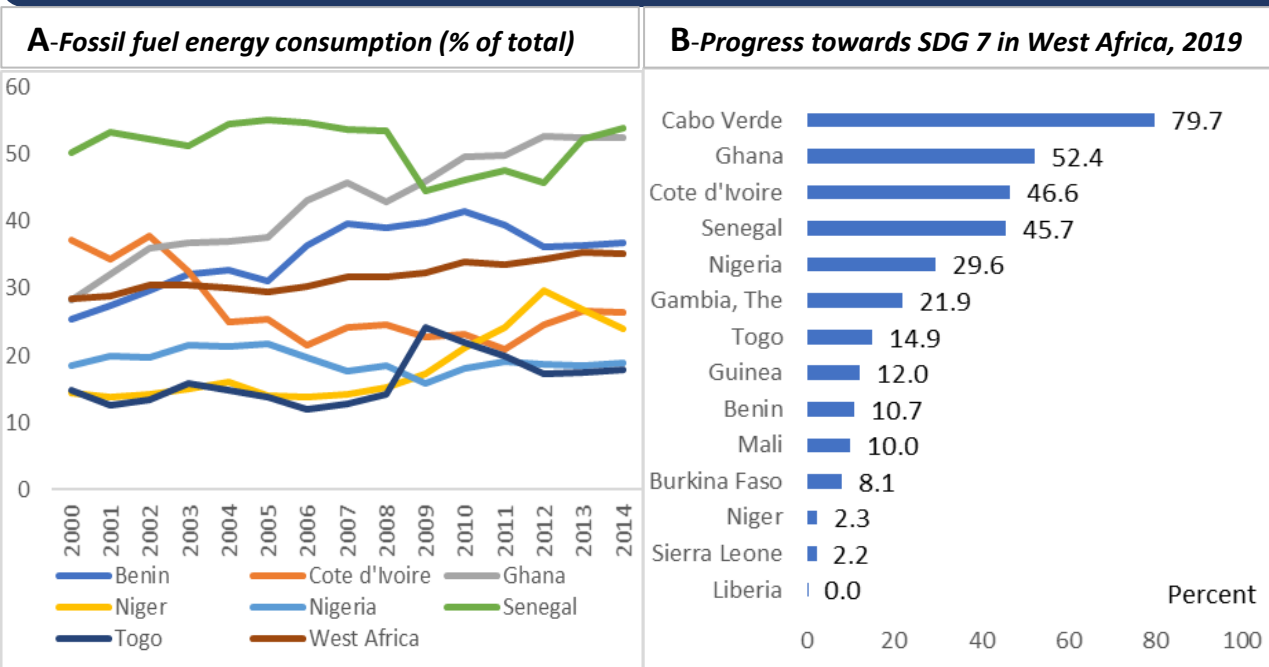


D-Progress towards Health Service Provision, 2019



- Low quality of health systems exacerbated by the covid-19 pandemic

C. Environmental sustainability



- Consumption of fossil fuel energy pollutes the environment, hence its negative effect on sustainable development
- Slow progress made by West African countries towards affordable and clean energy
- Global SDG index shows that many countries in West Africa are just halfway to achieve SDGs (fig. C)

Key findings and policy recommendations

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- West African countries must accelerate investment in the four pillars spelled out by the African Union road map to harness demographic dividend namely: Employment and Entrepreneurship; Education and Skills Development; Health and Wellbeing (including family planning) and Governance and Youth Empowerment.
- Country to make the Prospective-Planning-Programming-Budgeting-Monitoring and Evaluation (PPPBSE) chain sensitive to the pillars of the Demographic Dividend.
- Countries to accelerate the demographic transition by encouraging family planning, women's empowerment, and secondary education for young girls to prevent them from early marriage and pregnancy.
- Identify policy actions targeted at the category of the youth population. Engage in the production of knowledge about the adolescent category due to their size and growth prospects



THANK YOU!

Ideas
to
Action