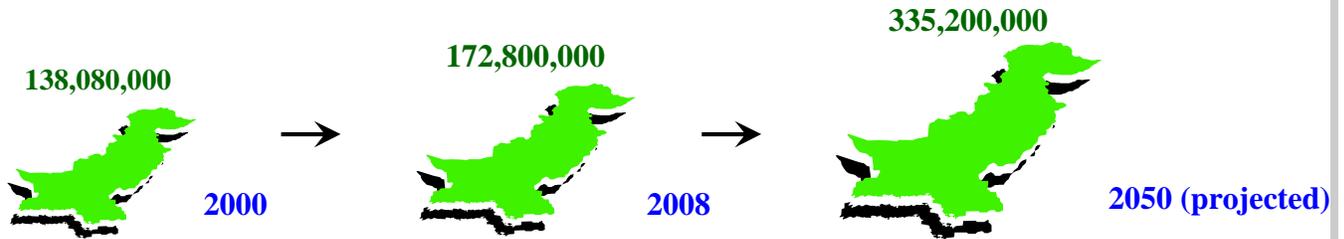




Population and Failing States Pakistan



Population and Failing States

Failing nations, almost without exception, have high population growth rates. *Foreign Policy* and the Fund for Peace publish an annual ranking of failed states. All of the top ten countries in the 2009 Failed States Index have total fertility rates (the average number of children born by a woman over her lifetime) substantially higher than the global average (2.6). Six of them had TFRs of 5.0 or higher. High fertility rates are often associated with high maternal and infant mortality rates. Early teenage pregnancy and unhealthy birth spacing, in particular, are associated with poor health outcomes for mothers and infants. High population growth rates may make it more difficult for failing states to provide adequate schooling, nutrition, immunization, and other essential services. Population pressures can also lead to environmental degradation, food insecurity, and even conflict.

Pakistan's Population Profile

- Population as of mid-2009: 180,800,000 (PRB)
- Projected Population mid-2050: 335,200,000, a projected increase of 85% from 2009 levels (PRB)
- Population growth rate: 2.3% (PRB)
- Percent of population living in urban areas: 35% (PRB)
- Population under the age of 15: 38% (PRB)
- Life expectancy at birth (both sexes): 66 years (PRB)
- Percent of the Pakistani population living below the poverty line of \$1 a day : 31% (PRB)

Maternal and Child Health Trends

- A Pakistani women's lifetime risk of dying from maternal causes is 1 in 74 (PRB)
- 39% of births are attended by a skilled health personnel (PRB)
- Infant mortality rate: 67 per 1,000 live births (PRB)
- Child mortality rate under age 5: 128 per 1,000 children in 2005 (PRB)

- 31% of children under the age of 5 are underweight. (PRB)
- 37% of children have had their growth stunted (UNICEF)

Fertility in Pakistan

- 33% Unmet need for family planning (PRB)
- Current total fertility rate: 4.0 (PRB)
- 32% of girls are married before 18 years of age from 1998-2007 (UNICEF)
- 30% of married women ages 15-49 use contraceptives (PRB)
- 22% of married women ages 15-49 use modern contraceptives (PRB)

Sources:

[Population Reference Bureau](#)

[UNICEF](#), [Info By Country: Pakistan Statistics](#)

Family Planning and Reproductive Health

Fertility Trend

Pakistan's total fertility rate (average number of children born by a woman in her lifetime) has declined in the past few decades. UNICEF estimated the total fertility rate at 6.3 in 1990 and 3.5 in 2007. The Population Reference Bureau estimates the current TFR at 4.0 (2009).

Family Planning

Family planning knowledge is high in Pakistan, in 2000-2001, 96% of married women were aware of at least one contraceptive method. However, with the highest fertility rate in South Asia, it is evident women are not sufficiently using them. One reason for this is that women perceive contraceptives as culturally or socially inappropriate

(Gutmacher, "Provider and Health Influences on Contraceptive Adoption in Urban Pakistan"). Many of these misconceptions originate during childhood from lack of communication with parents or other adults, as only one-third of mothers discuss puberty with their daughters (World Bank, "Sparing Lives").

Women's Rights and Reproductive Health

Pakistani women suffer from domestic violence, child marriage, honor killings, and other gender based discriminations. Each year hundreds of women are victims of honor killings, where a woman is killed for shaming her family by marrying of her own choice, divorcing an abusive husband, or being a victim of rape. Honor killings, although illegal, often go unpunished and unreported (Amnesty International, "Pakistan: Honour Killings of Girls and Women").

Development Goals

High fertility rates pose a significant challenge to economic advancement and the attainment of the U.N. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Pakistan.

Health

Each year almost 400,000 infants and 16,500 mothers die from pregnancy-related causes. The infant mortality rate (75 deaths per 1,000 live births) is way above the world average of 52 deaths, and in more developed countries this rate is around 6 deaths (PRB, "Pakistan Still Falls Short of Millennium Development Goals...").

Food Security

Rising food prices are of serious concern, and it is estimated that every day one in three Pakistanis fails to consume enough food to lead a healthy and productive life (WFP, "Pakistan Country Study"). Pakistan is also one of 32 countries predicted to have a severe food crisis and social unrest if domestic policies are not changed (WHO, "Impact of Food Crisis on Health").

Poverty

Almost 74% of the population lives below \$2 per day (UNDP, "Human Development Report") with 31% below the poverty line of \$1 per day (PRB). Due to increased food prices and poor access to affordable health care, progress in reducing poverty has been set back seven years (WHO, "Impact of Food Crisis on Health").

Education and Literacy

Pakistan has the highest number of out-of-school children in South Asia, with over 8 million of the almost 20 million school-age children out of school (UNESCO, "Children out of School"). From 1975 to 2000 the school-age population in Pakistan doubled,

with poor families turning to religious schools (madararas) for their sons as the only affordable alternative. In these schools boys receive no scholastic or technical training, leaving them under qualified for the workforce (PAI, "The Shape of Things to Come").

Gender Disparity

Only 22.5% of seats in the National Parliament are filled by women, with 3.6% in Ministerial Positions (UNIFEM, "Who Answers to Women?"). In the February 2009 elections, women were barred from polling stations in the Northwest Frontier Province and discouraged in others. The "turnout of women was depressed throughout the country, even at female polling stations" (U.S. Dept. of State "2008 Human Rights Report").

Environment

According to the "Failed States Index," 25 years from now, water scarcity will cause severe instability in Pakistan. Since 90% of Pakistan's irrigation depends on rivers originating in Kashmir, a region contested with India, global warming will likely incite competition over control of this main source of water. Glaciers supplying water for these rivers could disappear by 2035, likely plunging South Asia into chaos (FP, "Failed States Index: The Law Straw").

Conflict

Pakistan has experienced many civil conflicts in recent decades, including continued hostility with India over the contested Kashmir region. Moreover, the government has lost control of many remote regions to Taliban rule, while many of the areas still controlled by the government are very politically divided (Fund for Peace).

Special Reports

[Population, Fertility and Family Planning in Pakistan: A Program in Stagnation](#)

This Population Action International working paper (2008) examines the large unmet need for family planning in Pakistan. The following is a brief excerpt from the paper:

"...few outsiders may realize the significant role that demographics play in Pakistan's overall development and security. And few are likely aware of the stagnation of Pakistan's family planning program, which provides key services to Pakistani families and affects the country's larger demographic trajectory. The provision of comprehensive, voluntary family planning and reproductive health services is a fundamental human right, and yet today these services still remain out of reach for millions of Pakistanis."

[Failed States Index 2009, Fund for Peace, \(June 2009\).](#)

In partnership with *Foreign Policy*, the Fund for Peace produces an annual ranking of failed and failing states. Using a scale of 1-10, the study looks at 12 indicators of instability, including demographic pressures. The 2009 FSI, ranks Pakistan as the 10th most unstable state. The 2009 report finds that:

The demographic pressures indicator worsened from 8.0 in the FSI 2008 to 8.3 in the FSI 2009. Pakistan is the world's seventh-most populous country, with a population density of over 226 people/km². Most of the population is concentrated in the plains surrounding the Indus River and its tributaries. The country has a moderate youth bulge; the average age is 21 and over 37% of Pakistanis are under 15 years of age.