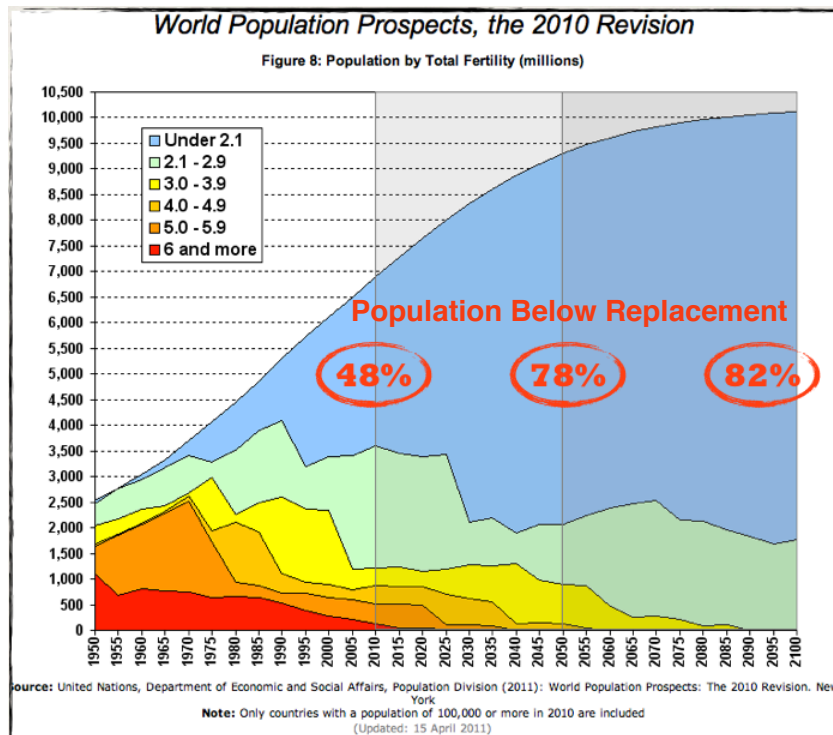


# What do **YOUTH** have to do with the **ECONOMY?**

Today, 48% of the world's population is below replacement. By 2100, it will be 82%<sup>1</sup>. In the short term, nations reap a "demographic dividend" from lower fertility rates, but in the long run this dividend must be repaid as a large elderly population retires and a smaller younger population struggles to support them. The economic and social impacts of fewer and fewer youth are massive.

Over the next 40 years, 53% of world population growth will come from increasing numbers of people age 60+, while only 7% will come from people under age 30<sup>2</sup>. The world is aging and youth hold the key to sustainability.



## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Next year, health programs for the elderly in the USA alone will cost \$2.4 trillion. By 2023, they will cost \$4.1 trillion<sup>3</sup>. As in most countries with rising health care costs, the burden of social service programs is economically unsustainable without a young working population.

In light of low fertility rates around the world, contraception shouldn't be the primary focus of health care. Instead, **"governments should ensure community participation in health policy planning, especially with respect to the long-term care of the elderly."**<sup>4</sup> Youth productivity is necessary to ensure access to health care for themselves and older generations.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP? **1. EDUCATION**

"Broader access to education is also a factor in the composition of the working population"<sup>5</sup> that is necessary to sustain an aging population and to contribute productively to the economy. Indeed, "the relationship between education and demographic and social changes is one of interdependence,"<sup>6</sup> yet the report of Secretary General focuses on sexual education at the expense of basic education that raises living standards and guides development.

We should **"encourage youth to continue education in order to equip them for a better life and increase their human potential."**

## **2. FAMILY**

We affirm that "the family is the basic unit of society...entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support" so it may "fulfill its vital role in preparing the next generation of youth to become positive contributors to society."<sup>7</sup> When family ties break down, youth are "increasingly exposed to risks such as dropping out of school, labour exploitation, sexual exploitation, premature pregnancies and STDs."<sup>8</sup> Marriages where husband and wife are equal partners **create the stable environment necessary to provide adequate health and education for youth.** Youth are the creators of economic growth that will lead the world into a brighter future.

<sup>1</sup>UN Population Division, 2011 <sup>2</sup>Social Trends Institute, 2011 <sup>3</sup>LifeStar Institute, 2010 <sup>4</sup>ICPD 8.7 <sup>5</sup>ICPD 11.3 <sup>6</sup>ICPD 2.9 <sup>7</sup>ICPD 5.7