



The demographic Profile of Syrian Arab Republic

1. Population Trends:

a. Population Size of the Syrian Arab Republic

The population size of Syria increased from approximately 9.0 million in 1980 to 21.5 million in 2010. It is projected that the population will keep on increasing to reach 36.7 million in 2050.

Table 1: Population Size of the Syrian Arab Republic by Sex, 1980-2050

Year	Population Size (thousands)		
	Males	Females	Total
1980	4,550	4,407	8,956
1985	5,419	5,248	10,667
1990	6,326	6,125	12,452
1995	7,287	7,051	14,338
2000	8,320	8,051	16,371
2005	9,311	8,856	18,167
2010	10,983	10,549	21,533
2015*	11,332	10,933	22,265
2020*	13,051	12,685	25,736
2025*	14,100	13,765	27,865
2030*	15,121	14,813	29,934
2035*	16,080	15,795	31,875
2040*	16,965	16,697	33,662
2045*	17,765	17,509	35,274
2050*	18,476	18,230	36,706

Source: United Nations, World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision, Available on: http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/unpp/panel_indicators.htm

* Projections (medium variant)

b. Population Growth in the Syrian Arab Republic

The growth rate of the population in Syria decreased from 3.50 per cent in the period 1980-1985 to 3.40 percent in the period 2005-2010. It is projected to maintain this downward trend to reach 0.80 per cent in the period 2045-2050.

Table 2: Population Growth in the Syrian Arab Republic, 1980-2050

Period	Population Growth Rate (%)
1980-1985	3.50
1985-1990	3.09
1990-1995	2.82
1995-2000	2.65
2000-2005	2.08
2005-2010	3.40
2010-2015*	0.67
2015-2020*	2.90
2020-2025*	1.59
2025-2030*	1.43
2030-2035*	1.26
2035-2040*	1.09
2040-2045*	0.94
2045-2050*	0.80

Source: United Nations, World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision, Available on: http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/unpp/panel_indicators.htm

* Projections (medium variant)



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2. Indicators of Demographic Transition:

a. Mortality Transition in the Syrian Arab Republic

i. Life Expectancy

Life Expectancy at Birth in Syria gained 7.9 years from the period 1980-1985 to the period 2005-2010, increasing from 67.1 years to 75.0 years. It is projected to reach 81.5 years for the period 2045-2050.

Table 3: Life Expectancy at Birth in the Syrian Arab Republic, 1980-2050

Year	Life Expectancy at Birth (years)		
	Male	Female	Total
1980-1985	66.3	68.0	67.1
1985-1990	68.4	70.3	69.3
1990-1995	70.2	72.1	71.1
1995-2000	71.3	74.0	72.6
2000-2005	72.3	75.7	73.9
2005-2010	73.1	77.3	75.0
2010-2015*	71.6	77.6	74.4
2015-2020*	72.7	78.7	75.5
2020-2025*	73.9	79.6	76.6
2025-2030*	75.0	80.5	77.7
2030-2035*	76.2	81.3	78.7
2035-2040*	77.4	82.1	79.7
2040-2045*	78.5	82.8	80.6
2045-2050*	79.4	83.5	81.5

Source: United Nations, World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision, Available on: http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/unpp/panel_indicators.htm

* Projections (medium variant)

ii. Infant Mortality

The Infant Mortality Rate of the Syrian Population was estimated at 42.9 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 1980-1985 and decreased to 14.9 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2005-2010. It is projected to decline further to reach 5.5 per 1,000 live births in 2045-2050.

Table 4: Infant Mortality Rate in the Syrian Arab Republic, 1980-2050

Year	Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)		
	Male	Female	Total
1980-1985	47.2	38.4	42.9
1985-1990	36.8	29.9	33.5
1990-1995	28.9	23.5	26.3
1995-2000	23.4	19.0	21.3
2000-2005	19.6	15.9	17.8
2005-2010	16.4	13.4	14.9
2010-2015*	19.5	15.8	17.7
2015-2020*	15.8	12.9	14.4
2020-2025*	12.7	10.6	11.7
2025-2030*	10.7	9.2	10.0
2030-2035*	9.0	8.1	8.5
2035-2040*	7.5	7.1	7.3
2040-2045*	6.3	6.3	6.3
2045-2050*	5.4	5.7	5.5

Source: United Nations, World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision, Available on: http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/unpp/panel_indicators.htm

* Projections (medium variant)



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iii. Under-Five Mortality

The under-five mortality rate was estimated at 55 deaths under age five per 1,000 live births in 1980-1985, and has decreased to 17 in 2005-2010. It is projected to continue decreasing to reach 7 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2040-2045.

Table 5: Under-Five Mortality Rate in the Syrian Arab Republic, 1980-2050

Year	Under-Five Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)		
	Male	Female	Total
1980-1985	60	50	55
1985-1990	45	38	42
1990-1995	34	29	32
1995-2000	27	23	25
2000-2005	23	19	21
2005-2010	19	16	17
2010-2015*	22	19	21
2015-2020*	18	15	17
2020-2025*	15	13	14
2025-2030*	12	11	12
2030-2035*	10	10	10
2035-2040*	9	9	9
2040-2045*	7	8	7
2045-2050*	6	7	7

Source: United Nations, World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision,

Available on: http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/unpp/panel_indicators.htm

* Projections (medium variant)

iv. Maternal Mortality

The maternal mortality ratio in Syria was estimated at 240 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990. It decreased to reach 70 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2010.

Source: World Health Statistics 2012.

Available on: http://www.who.int/gho/maternal_health/countries/en/#S

b. Fertility Transition in the Syrian Arab Republic

i. Fertility Rate

The total Fertility Rate in Syria declined from 6.77 children per woman in 1980-1985 to 3.19 children per woman in 2005-2010. Projections show that total fertility will decline further to reach 2.10 children per woman in 2035-2040 (Replacement level fertility is 2.10) and 1.92 children per woman in 2045-2050.

Table 6: Total Fertility Rate in the Syrian Arab Republic, 1980-2050

Year	Total Fertility Rate (children per woman)
1980-1985	6.77
1985-1990	5.87
1990-1995	4.80
1995-2000	4.26
2000-2005	3.67
2005-2010	3.19
2010-2015*	3.00
2015-2020*	2.75
2020-2025*	2.54
2025-2030*	2.37
2030-2035*	2.23
2035-2040*	2.10



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Year	Total Fertility Rate (children per woman)
2040-2045*	2.00
2045-2050*	1.92

Source: United Nations, World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision,
Available on: http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/unpp/panel_indicators.htm
* Projections (medium variant)

ii. Contraceptive prevalence

The prevalence of contraceptive use among married or in-union women aged 15 to 49 was estimated at 58.5 per cent in 2010 and increased to 59.4 per cent in 2012. Contraceptive use among women aged 15 to 49 is projected to increase to 60.9 per cent in 2015.

Source: United Nations, World Contraceptive Use 2012
Available on: <http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/WCU2012/MainFrame.html>

c. Migration Transition in the Syrian Arab Republic

i. Internal Migration

The percentage of urban dwellers was estimated at 46.7 per cent in 1980 and increased to reach 55.7 per cent in 2010. Population projections show that this percentage will continue to increase to reach 72.2 per cent in 2050.

Table 7: Urban and Rural Population in Syrian Arab Republic, 1980-2050

Year	Urban (thousands)	Rural (thousands)	Total (thousands)	Percentage Urban (%)	Percentage Rural (%)	Year	Annual Rate of Change of Percentage Urban (%)	Annual Rate of Change of Percentage Rural (%)
1980	4,160	4,747	8,907	46.7	53.3	1980-1985	0.50	-0.45
1985	5,065	5,511	10,577	47.9	52.1	1985-1990	0.43	-0.4
1990	6,030	6,294	12,324	48.9	51.1	1990-1995	0.47	-0.46
1995	7,100	7,071	14,171	50.1	49.9	1995-2000	0.72	-0.75
2000	8,306	7,683	15,989	51.9	48.1	2000-2005	0.69	-0.78
2005	9,941	8,543	18,484	53.8	46.2	2005-2010	0.69	-0.84
2010	11,363	9,047	20,411	55.7	44.3	2010-2015*	0.70	-0.91
2015*	12,789	9,394	22,184	57.7	42.3	2015-2020*	0.70	-1.0
2020*	14,377	9,702	24,079	59.7	40.3	2020-2025*	0.70	-1.08
2025*	16,082	9,927	26,009	61.8	38.2	2025-2030*	0.69	-1.17
2030*	17,832	10,027	27,859	64.0	36.0	2030-2035*	0.66	-1.23
2035*	19,527	9,993	29,520	66.1	33.9	2035-2040*	0.62	-1.27
2040*	21,097	9,825	30,921	68.2	31.8	2040-2045*	0.58	-1.31
2045*	22,533	9,550	32,082	70.2	29.8	2045-2050*	0.54	-1.34
2050*	23,852	9,200	33,051	72.2	27.8			

Source: United Nations, World Urbanization Prospects: the 2011 Revision
Available on: http://esa.un.org/unup/unup/index_panel1.html
* Projections (medium variant)

ii. International Migration

Around 1,394,227 international migrants are expected to live in Syria in 2013, representing 6.37 per cent of the total Syrian population. Female migrants would represent 48.92 per cent of all migrants for that year, and refugees 88.98 per cent.

The annual rate of change of the migrant stock increased from 1.53 per cent for the period 1990-2000 to 6.92 per cent for the period 2000-2010. Projections show that it will change to negative at -5.85 per cent by 2013.



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The annual net migration rate in Syria stood at 11.5 migrants per 1,000 population for the period 2005-2010. Projections show that the trend will be reversed for 2010-2015 with the annual migration rate reaching -13.7 migrants per 1,000 population, but will change to positive again for the period 2015-2020 and will get to 10.4 migrants per 1,000 population. It is expected that the annual net migration rate in Syria will become negative afterwards reaching -1.3 migrants per 1,000 population in 2020-2025 and will decrease to reach -0.4 per cent in 2035-2040, staying at this level up to 2050.

Table 8a: The Syrian Arab Republic's International Migrant (IM) Stock, 1990-2013

Indicator	1990	2000	2010	2013*
Estimated Number of IM at Mid-Year (total)	714,140	832,273	1,661,922	1,394,227
Estimated Number of IM at Mid-Year (male)	364,077	424,690	848,834	712,219
Estimated Number of IM at Mid-Year (female)	350,063	407,583	813,088	682,008
Estimated Number of Refugees at Mid-Year	282,794	388,168	1,481,547	1,240,574
IM as Percentage of the Population (%)	5.74	5.08	7.72	6.37
Female Migrants as a Percentage of all IM (%)	49.02	48.97	48.92	48.92
Refugees as a Percentage of IM (%)	39.60	46.64	89.15	88.98

Source: United Nations, World Migration Stock: The 2013 Revision,
Available on: <http://esa.un.org/unmigration/migrantstocks2013.htm?mtotals>

* Projections

Table 8b: Annual Rate of Change of the Migrant Stock in the Syrian Arab Republic, 1990-2013

Year	Annual Rate of Change of the Migrant Stock (%)
1990-2000	1.53
2000-2010	6.92
2010-2013*	-5.85

Source: United Nations, World Migration Stock: The 2013 Revision,
Available on: <http://esa.un.org/unmigration/migrantstocks2013.htm?mtotals>

* Projections

Table 9: Net Migration in the Syrian Arab Republic, 1980-2050

Year	Net Migration (average annual)	
	Rate (per 1,000 population)	Number (thousands)
1980-1985	-1.8	-17
1985-1990	-2.5	-29
1990-1995	-1.0	-14
1995-2000	-1.7	-26
2000-2005	-4.4	-76
2005-2010	11.5	228
2010-2015*	-13.7	-300
2015-2020*	10.4	250
2020-2025*	-1.3	-35
2025-2030*	-0.9	-26
2030-2035*	-0.6	-19
2035-2040*	-0.4	-15
2040-2045*	-0.4	-15
2045-2050*	-0.4	-15

Source: United Nations, World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision,
Available on: http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/unpp/panel_indicators.htm

* Projections (medium variant)



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3. Population Structure:

a. Syria's Population Age composition

The proportion of the population under 15 years of age has been decreasing since 1980 and is projected to continue this downward trend to the year 2050. At the same time, the proportion of the working-age group (15-64) has been increasing since 1980, where it rose from 48.3 per cent to reach 60.5 per cent in 2010. It is projected to continue this upward trend to reach 67.3 per cent of the population in 2040, and will remain at this level in 2045. It will then decrease to 66.6 per cent in 2050. As to the proportion of the elderly (65+) population, it has been increasing since 1980 where it stood at 2.9 per cent and reached 3.7 per cent in 2010. It is expected to continue increasing to get to 12.9 per cent in 2050.

Table 10: Population Distribution by Broad Age Groups in the Syrian Arab Republic, 1980 to 2050

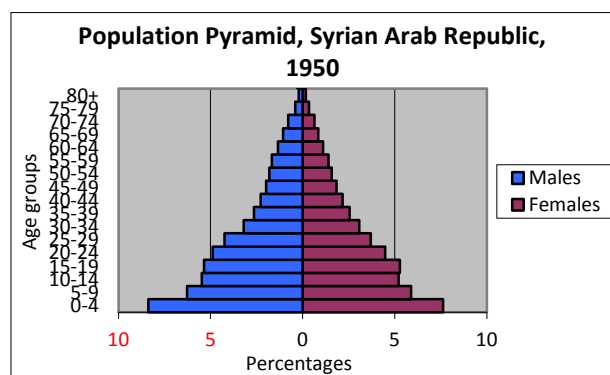
Year	Population by Age Group (%)			
	0-4	5-14	15-64	65+
1980	19.6	29.1	48.3	2.9
1985	18.7	29.7	48.7	2.9
1990	17.2	29.8	50.1	3.0
1995	15.2	28.6	53.0	3.2
2000	14.7	26.2	55.8	3.4
2005	13.4	25.3	58.0	3.4
2010	12.3	23.5	60.5	3.7
2015*	11.5	23.0	61.2	4.3
2020*	10.4	20.2	64.4	4.9
2025*	10.0	19.0	65.3	5.7
2030*	9.20	18.2	65.9	6.7
2035*	8.40	17.3	66.5	7.8
2040*	7.70	16.1	67.3	9.0
2045*	7.10	14.9	67.3	10.7
2050*	6.70	13.8	66.6	12.9

Source: United Nations, World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision, Available on: http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/unpp/panel_indicators.htm

* Projections (medium variant)

b. Changing Age Structure¹

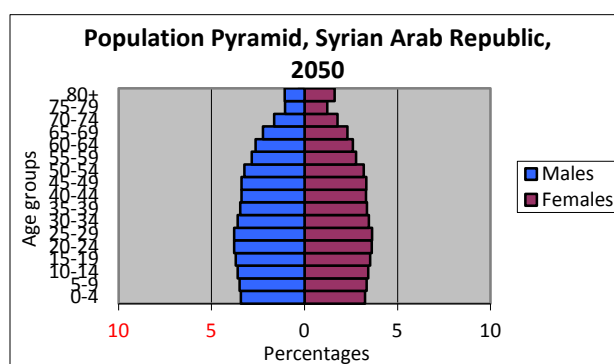
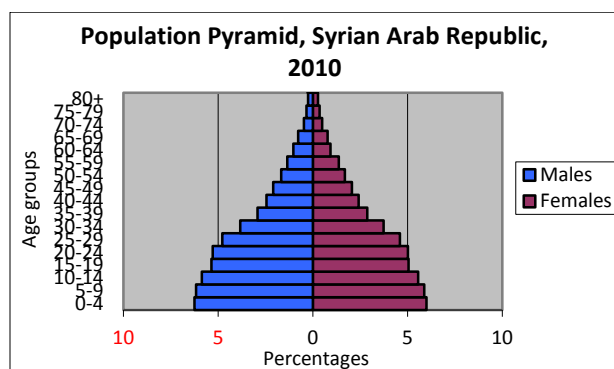
The population pyramid of Syria in 1950 shows a typical wide-based structure signaling a very young population. For 2010, it shows that the youth bulge is underway. By 2050, the population pyramid of Syria is expected to narrow down.



¹ Source for all pyramids: United Nations, World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision; Projections (medium variant). Available on: <http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/wcu2010/Main.html>



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c. Syria's Youth Population

In Syria, the percentage of youth (15-24) was estimated at 20.2 per cent of the total population in 1975 (or 41.3 per cent of the working-age group). It then increased to reach 22.3 per cent of the total population in 2000, and remained at this level in 2005, after which it started decreasing to reach 20.7 in 2010 (or 34.2 per cent of the working-age group). It is projected to continue this downward trend and will get to 14.6 per cent in 2050 (or 22.0 per cent of the working-age group).

Table 11: Youth (15-24) in relation to total population and to working-age population (15-64), the Syrian Arab Republic, 1950-2050

Year	Youth (thousands)	Youth (% of total population)	Working-Age Population (thousands)	Youth (% of working-age group)**
1950	684	20.0	1,934	35.4
1955	697	17.8	2,064	33.8
1960	745	16.2	2,282	32.6
1965	887	16.4	2,593	34.2
1970	1,202	18.8	3,118	38.6
1975	1,526	20.2	3,695	41.3
1980	1,771	19.8	4,330	40.9
1985	2,108	19.8	5,193	40.6
1990	2,546	20.4	6,233	40.8
1995	3,117	21.7	7,604	41.0
2000	3,648	22.3	9,140	39.9
2005	4,058	22.3	10,531	38.5
2010	4,462	20.7	13,035	34.2
2015*	4,358	19.6	13,617	32.0
2020*	5,164	20.1	16,581	31.1



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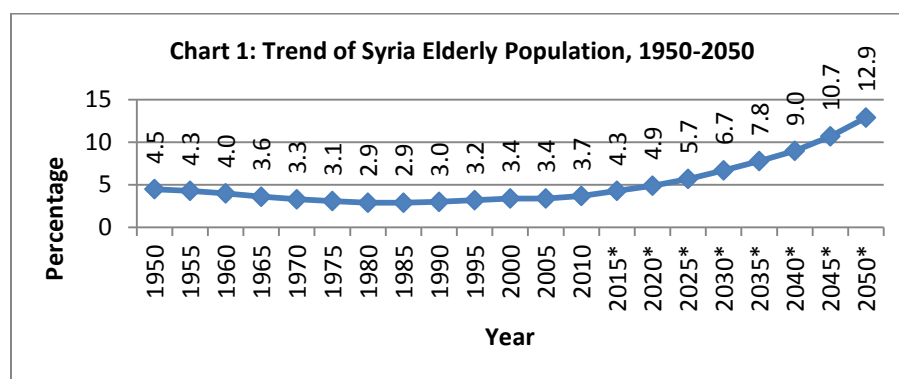
Year	Youth (thousands)	Youth (% of total population)	Working-Age Population (thousands)	Youth (% of working-age group)**
2025*	5,164	18.5	18,196	28.4
2030*	5,135	17.2	19,720	26.0
2035*	5,225	16.4	21,205	24.6
2040*	5,404	16.1	22,655	23.9
2045*	5,481	15.5	23,748	23.1
2050*	5,371	14.6	24,437	22.0

Source: United Nations, World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision, Available on: http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/unpp/panel_indicators.htm

* Projections (medium variant)

d. Syria's Elderly Population

In Syria, the percentage of the population aged 65+ decreased from 4.5 per cent in 1950 to 2.9 per cent in 1980. It remained at the same level in 1985 and then started increasing and reached 3.7 percent in 2010. It is projected to continue increasing to reach 12.9 per cent by 2050.



Source: United Nations, World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision, Available on: http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/unpp/panel_indicators.htm

* Projections (medium variant)

e. Syria's Dependency Ratios

The total dependency ratio in Syria decreased from 107 per cent in 1980 to 65 per cent in 2010 mainly due to the decrease in child dependency ratio. It is projected to continue decreasing to reach 50 per cent in 2050.

Table 12: Dependency Ratios in the Syrian Arab Republic, 1950-2050 (per cent)

Year	Child Dependency Ratio	Old-Age Dependency Ratio	Total Dependency Ratio
1950	69	8	76
1955	82	8	90
1960	93	8	101
1965	101	8	108
1970	98	7	105
1975	98	6	105
1980	101	6	107
1985	99	6	105
1990	94	6	100
1995	83	6	89
2000	73	6	79



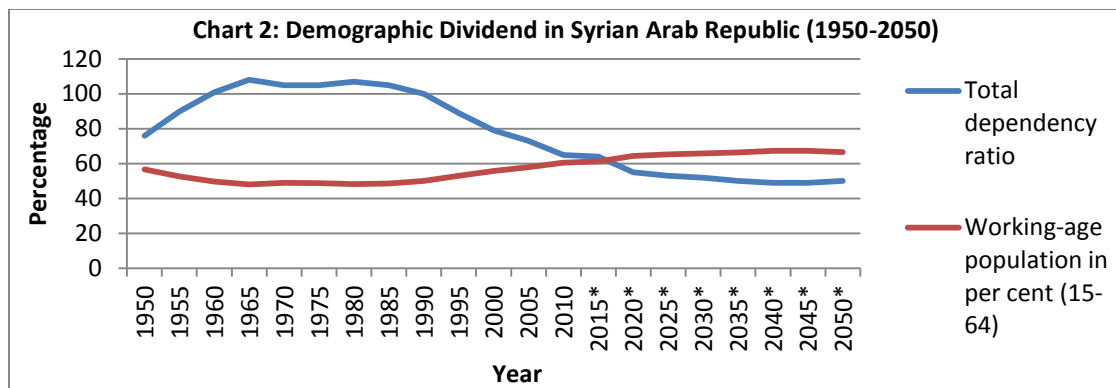
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Year	Child Dependency Ratio	Old-Age Dependency Ratio	Total Dependency Ratio
2005	67	6	73
2010	59	6	65
2015*	56	7	64
2020*	48	8	55
2025*	44	9	53
2030*	42	10	52
2035*	39	12	50
2040*	35	13	49
2045*	33	16	49
2050*	31	19	50

Source: United Nations, World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision,
Available on: http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/unpp/panel_indicators.htm
* Projections (medium variant)

f. Syria's Demographic Dividend

Syria is expected to reach the demographic window of opportunity after the year 2015. Projections show that the demographic window of opportunity will continue to the year 2050.



Source: United Nations, World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision,
Available on: http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/unpp/panel_indicators.htm
* Projections (medium variant)



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4. Population Policy Profile of the Syrian Arab Republic

Population policy Variable	1976	1986	1996	2011
Population Size and Growth				
View on growth	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Too high
Policy on growth	No intervention	No intervention	No intervention	Lower
Population age structure				
Level of concern about working-age population	..	..	..	Major concern
Level of concern about aging of the population	..	..	..	Minor concern
Measures to address population ageing*	..	..	..	Neither
Fertility				
View on fertility level	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Too high
Policy on fertility level	No intervention	No intervention	No intervention	Lower
Level of concern about adolescent fertility	..	..	..	Major concern
Policies to reduce adolescent fertility	..	..	..	No
Reproductive health and family planning				
Government support for family planning	Direct support	Direct support	Direct support	Direct support
Grounds on which abortion is permitted**	..	..	1	1
Level of concern about violence against women	..	..	..	Major concern
Policies to prevent domestic violence***	..	..	..	2
Health and mortality				
View on life expectancy at birth	Unacceptable	Acceptable	Acceptable	Acceptable
View on under-five mortality	..	..	..	Acceptable
View on under nutrition in children	..	..	..	Acceptable
View on maternal mortality	..	..	..	Acceptable
Level of concern about overweight and obesity	..	..	..	Major concern
Level of concern about non-communicable diseases	..	..	..	Major concern
Level of concern about tuberculosis	..	..	..	Major concern
Level of concern about malaria	..	..	..	Not a concern
Level of concern about HIV/AIDS	..	..	..	Major concern
Measures to address HIV/AIDS****	..	..	..	1,2,3,4,5,6
Spatial distribution and internal migration				
View on spatial distribution	Minor changed desired	Minor changed desired	Minor changed desired	Satisfactory
Policy on migration from rural to urban areas	..	..	..	Lower
Policy on migration into urban agglomerations	..	Lower	..	Lower
International migration				
View on immigration	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Policy on immigration	Maintain	Maintain	Maintain	Maintain
Policy on permanent settlement	..	..	..	Maintain
Policy on temporary workers	..	..	..	Maintain
Policy on highly-skilled workers	..	..	..	Maintain
Policy on family reunification	..	..	..	Maintain
Policy on integration of non-nationals	..	..	..	No
Policy on naturalization	..	..	..	Yes
Level of concern about irregular migration	..	..	..	Minor concern
Prgms. to facilitate migrants' return to home countries	..	..	..	..
View on emigration	Too low	Too high	Too high	Too high
Policy on emigration	Raise	Lower	Lower	No intervention
Policy to encourage the return of citizens	..	..	..	Yes
Acceptance of dual citizenship	..	..	..	Restricted
Special governmental unit dealing with Diaspora	..	..	..	Yes
Measures to attract investment by Diaspora*****	..	..	..	None of these

* Measures to address population ageing: (1) change in statutory retirement age in the last 5 years; (2) pension system reform in the last 5 years.

** Grounds on which abortion is permitted: (1) to save a woman's life; (2) to preserve a woman's physical health; (3) to preserve a woman's mental health; (4) in case of rape or incest; (5) because of foetal impairment; (6) for economic or social reasons; (7) on request.

*** Policies to prevent domestic violence: (1) legal provision; (2) policy.

**** Measures to address HIV/AIDS: (1) blood screening; (2) information/education campaigns; (3) antiretroviral treatment; (4) non-discrimination policies (legal measures); (5) Distribution of condoms; (6) prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT).

***** Measures to attract investment by Diaspora: (1) tax exceptions or breaks; (2) reduction of tariffs on goods or import duties for Diaspora companies; (3) preferential treatment in providing credit; (4) preferential treatment in allotment of licenses; (5) streamlined bureaucratic procedures for investment; (6) Diaspora bond/mutual fund.

Source: United Nations, World Population Policies, 2011.