



Population Growth Concentrated Among the Poorest Communities

As sub-Saharan African countries strive to grow their economies, it is critical that they consider their age structures—or more particularly, the age structures of their richest and poorest populations, which are determined largely by fertility rates. Comparing these can unmask an imbalance that, if corrected, could accelerate economic growth and help break the cycle of poverty.

This assessment could be imperative for sub-Saharan Africa, where the population of poor countries continues to grow rapidly. A September commentary by Bill and Melinda Gates in [The New York Times](#) explains that births are increasingly concentrated in places where poverty is high. “Based on current trends, a growing proportion of babies will be born in places where adults have to devote most of their resources to survival, leaving very little to invest in their families, their communities and their countries,” they wrote.