



3.3 Country Information

BANGLADESH

Population Bangladesh has a population of approximately 142 million. It lies in the North-Eastern part of South Asia.

Economy It has a stable economy which is growing but living standards are still terrible for the poorest of the poor.

Life expectancy The average life expectancy for both men and women is 61 years.

Marriage On average men get married at 25 whilst women get married at 18. Due to extreme poverty and cultural norms, however, many girls get married well before their eighteenth birthday, often when they have barely entered their teens.

Contraception and fertility According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the contraceptive prevalence rate increased from 45% in 1994 to 54% in 2000. The contraceptive prevalence rate is the percentage of women between 15-49 years who are using, or whose sexual partners are using, any form of contraception. (www.unfpa.org)

The total fertility rate is the average number of children a woman gives birth to in her lifetime. In Bangladesh the total fertility rate is 3.7.

Abortion and unsafe abortion Officially abortions can only be carried out when continued pregnancy would put the mother's health at risk. But, although abortion is legally restricted in Bangladesh, early menstrual regulation as a means of reducing the risk of a woman's long term poor health or mortality, has been available since 1975.

Bangladesh has seen an huge fall in the maternal mortality rate (the number of women who die in pregnancy and childbirth) over the last three decades due largely to better access to safe abortion services, as well as emergency obstetric care. Maternal mortality has decreased from 850 to 380 per 100,000 births in 1990. Despite these services, unsafe abortion contributes to an estimated 15% of maternal deaths.

HIV/AIDS Bangladesh's HIV/AIDS epidemic is still classified as low level at 1% of the population. According to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the first cases of HIV/AIDS, detected in the late 1980s and early 1990s, were among citizens returning from international travel. UNAIDS estimated that 13,000 people were living with HIV/AIDS in 2002. However, only 465 cases were officially reported in 2004 so there is a significant unreporting of cases because of limited voluntary testing and counselling services as well as the usual fear of stigma.

For additional resources:

Information about population, average life expectancy, contraceptive prevalence rate, female fertility rate, maternal mortality rate and the mean age of marriage can be found on the following sites.

- www.unfpa.org/profile/bangladesh.cfm - The United Nations Population Fund
- www.prb.org/pdf07/07WPDS_Eng.pdf - The Population Reference Bureau website

Information about the number of people in Bangladesh affected by HIV/AIDS can be found at:

- www.youandaids.org

Information about the abortion situation in Bangladesh can be found on:

- www.guttmacher.org/pubs/journals/2412898.html - A report from the Guttmacher Institute



3.3 Country Information

CHINA

Population and location Currently the world's most populous country, China has a population of nearly one and a half billion (1,321,851,888) - almost twice that of the whole of Europe (725 million in 2005). The vast area of the People's Republic of China extends across central and eastern Asia.

Economy The economy of the People's Republic of China is currently the fourth largest in the world and is predicted to overtake Germany to assume third place in early 2008.

Life expectancy The life expectancy for women is 73 years and 69 for men.

Marriage On average men get married at 23 years and women get married at 22.

Contraception and fertility According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) the contraceptive prevalence rate is 83%. (The contraceptive prevalence rate is the percentage of women between 15-49 years who are using, or whose sexual partners are using, any form of contraception.)

As a result of China's one child policy (see below), the total fertility rate per women is 1.83. (The total fertility rate is the average number of children a woman gives birth to in her lifetime.)

The number of women who die in pregnancy or childbirth has decreased from 95 deaths per 100,000 babies born in 1990 to 56 in recent findings.

Abortion Abortion is legal in China without restriction. In 1979 China's one child policy was established by Chinese leader Deng Xiao Ping to try to reduce the country's rapid population growth. Although it was supposed to be a temporary measure, the policy continues to limit couples to one child in most circumstances.

Approximately nine million abortions took place in China between 1995-2003.

HIV/AIDS According to UNAIDS (www.unaids.org), China's HIV level is low with an estimated 650,000 people living with HIV in China in 2007. However, there are some areas of higher prevalence with around 30-50 million people at risk of exposure to HIV - sex workers and injecting drug users especially.

For additional resources:

Information about the population, the average life expectancy, the contraceptive prevalence rate, the female fertility rate, the maternal mortality rate & the mean age of marriage can be found on the following sites.

- www.unfpa.org/profile/china.cfm - The United Nations Population Fund
- www.prb.org/pdf07/07WPDS_Eng.pdf - The Population Reference Bureau website

Information about the HIV/AIDS situation in China can be found on:

- www.avert.org/aidschina.htm - Avert: Averting HIV and AIDS



MEXICO

Population and location Mexico is the most highly populated Spanish-speaking country in the world. The total population in 2007 was 108 million. About 18% (18,131,000) of the population live in the capital, Mexico City, making it the world's second most populous city.

Covering almost two million square kilometres, Mexico is the 14th largest country in the world. To the north is the United States; to the south Guatemala.

Economy Economic growth over the last decade has made Mexico an upper-middle income country, but there are huge disparities between rich and poor. Approximately 24 million Mexicans, almost a quarter of the total population, live in extreme poverty.

Life expectancy The average life expectancy for men is 70; for women it is 76.

Marriage On average men get married at 26 years while women get married at 22.

Contraception and fertility According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) the contraceptive prevalence rate is 68.4% (The contraceptive prevalence rate is the percentage of women between 15-49 years who are practising, or whose sexual partners are practising, any form of contraception.)

The total fertility rate is the average number of children a woman gives birth to in her lifetime. In Mexico, women have an average of 2.5 children. The number of women who die in pregnancy or childbirth has decreased from 110 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 83 in recent findings.

Abortion In April 2007 Mexico City's Legislative Assembly voted to legalise abortion in the capital. Law makers voted in favour of the bill that permits abortions of pregnancies in the first 12 weeks. Mexico City previously allowed abortion only in cases of rape, if the woman's life was at risk or if there were signs of severe defects in the foetus.

In the rest of Mexico, abortion is illegal, although rape victims have the legal right to a safe abortion under all state criminal codes.

HIV/AIDS Mexico has 11% of the estimated HIV cases in the Latin America region, with 180,000 people living with HIV. Mexico's infection rate has levelled off in recent years but is still largely concentrated among gay communities. There has, however, been a gradual shift towards infections among injecting drug users and women.

For additional resources:

Information about the population, the average life expectancy, the contraceptive prevalence rate, the female fertility rate, the maternal mortality rate and the mean age of marriage can be found on the following sites.

- www.unfpa.org/profile/mexico.cfm - United Nations Population Fund website
- www.prb.org/pdf07/07WPDS_Eng.pdf - The Population Reference Bureau website

Information about the number of people in Mexico affected by HIV/AIDS can be found on:

- www.thebody.com/content/world/art12264.html - The Body: The Complete HIV/AIDS Resource

Information about the abortion situation in Mexico can be found on:

- www.news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/6586959.stm - BBC World website



PAKISTAN

Population and location Pakistan has a population of almost 158 million. It is the sixth most populous country in the world. It is in south-west Asia and it neighbours Iran, Afghanistan, China, and India.

Economy Pakistan suffered from decades of internal political disputes, low levels of foreign investment, and confrontation with India. Over the last five years, however, foreign investment and access to international markets has helped its economic recovery and it is now a rapidly developing nation.

Life expectancy The average life expectancy for both men and women is approximately 61.

Marriage On average men get married at 27 whilst women get married at 22. The law states that the minimum age for women to marry is 18, although in certain communities the traditional practice of early marriage persists, with girls getting married as young as 14-15. Some work is being carried out to eradicate this practice.

Contraception and fertility According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) the contraceptive prevalence rate has increased from 11.9% in 1990 to 27.6% in recent findings. (The contraceptive prevalence rate is the percentage of women between 15-49 years who are using, or whose sexual partners are using practising, any form of contraception.)

On average a woman in Pakistan will have around five children. This means the total fertility rate (the average number of children a woman gives birth to in her lifetime) is quite high. The number of women who die in pregnancy and childbirth has increased from 340 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 500 in recent findings.

Abortion In Pakistan, abortion is illegal unless it is to save the life of the mother. However, Pakistan has an estimated abortion rate of 29 abortions per 1,000 women of reproductive age. According to a 2002-2004 study by the Population Council, pregnant women who wish to have an abortion in Pakistan often have no alternative but to visit illegal clinics run by midwives. Some 23% of women who have unskilled providers perform their abortions are later hospitalised for complications. (www.popcouncil.org)

HIV/AIDS Pakistan is currently classified by UNAIDS as a high-risk country for the spread of HIV infection. According to UNAIDS estimates, some 70,000 to 80,000 persons, or 0.1 percent of the population in Pakistan, are infected with HIV. (www.unaids.org)

For additional resources:

Information about the population, the average life expectancy, the contraceptive prevalence rate, the female fertility rate, the maternal mortality rate and the mean age of marriage can be found on the following sites.

- www.unfpa.org/profile/pakistan.cfm - United Nations Population Fund website
- www.prb.org/pdf07/07WPDS_Eng.pdf - The Population Reference Bureau website

Information about the number of people in Pakistan affected by HIV/AIDS can be found on:

- [www.youandaids.org\(Pakistan\)](http://www.youandaids.org(Pakistan))
You and Aids – The HIV/AIDS portal for Asia Pacific

Information about the abortion situation in Pakistan can be found on:

- www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/30301.php - Medical News Today



3.3 Country Information

UGANDA

Population and location Uganda is a landlocked country in east-central Africa, with a population of around 27,269,482.

Economy Uganda is one of the poorest nations in the world. Its economy is agriculture based (in particular coffee) and is on the rise. Despite this economic growth, however, the government cannot support the rapid population growth and relies heavily on foreign aid.

Life expectancy The average life expectancy for men is 45 and for women is 47 years. This is low due to the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the country.

Marriage On average men get married at 24 years whilst women get married at 19.

Contraception and fertility According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) the contraceptive prevalence rate has increased from 4.9% in 1990 to 22.8% in recent findings. (The contraceptive prevalence rate is the percentage of women between 15-49 years who are using, or whose sexual partners are using, any form of contraception.)

The average Ugandan woman gives birth seven times in her lifetime. This is a very high 'total fertility rate'. The number of women who die in pregnancy or childbirth has decreased from 1,200 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 880 in recent findings.

Abortion Currently, abortion is only permitted to save a woman's life. However with the extremely high numbers of unplanned pregnancies on the increase, the number of abortions carried out – in particular unsafe abortions - is becoming very widespread. Unsafe abortion is a leading cause of maternal mortality in Uganda, with one in five women dying from abortion related complications.

HIV/AIDS According to www.avert.org, Uganda is one of the 'few African countries where rates of HIV infection have declined. It is seen as a rare example of success in a continent facing a severe AIDS crisis. Uganda's policies have brought adult HIV prevalence (the proportion of adults living with HIV) down from around 15% in the early 1990s to around 5% in 2001. The country is seen as having implemented a well-timed and successful public education campaign'.

Unfortunately however, there have been indications that the rate of HIV infections is on the increase again in Uganda. The World Health Organisation (WHO) reported in 2006 that infection rates had now gone up again. Latest UNAIDS figures show that 110,000 children aged 14 and under are living with HIV and that there are around one million orphans (aged 0-17) due to the epidemic. (www.unaids.org)

The Ugandan government has attributed the increase to despondency and complacency. Some analysts blame the increase on what they say is excessive promotion of abstinence-only programmes, which do not provide information on safe sex and condom use. The WHO (www.who.org), however, has suggested there is evidence of erratic condom use and more men having unprotected sex with multiple partners.

For additional resources:

Information about the population, the average life expectancy, the contraceptive prevalence rate, the female fertility rate, the maternal mortality rate and the mean age of marriage can be found on the following sites.

- www.unfpa.org/profile/uganda.cfm - United Nations Population Fund website
- www.prb.org/pdf07/07WPDS_Eng.pdf - The Population Reference Bureau

Information about the number of people in Uganda affected by HIV/AIDS can be found on:

- www.avert.org/aidsuganda.htm - Avert: Averting HIV & AIDS

Information about the abortion situation in Uganda can be found on:

- www.guttmacher.org/pubs/rib/2005/03/08/rib1-05.pdf - A report from the Guttmacher Institute



VIETNAM

Population and location Vietnam occupies the eastern and southern part of the Indochinese peninsula in Southeast Asia, with the South China Sea along its entire coast. Its population is estimated to be over 85 million.

Economy Over the past 20 years, the Vietnamese economy has experienced incredibly rapid growth. While still not a wealthy country, high levels of foreign investment have helped to make Vietnam much better off.

Life expectancy The average life expectancy for men is 67 and for women is 72 years.

Marriage On average men get married at 24 years whilst women get married at 23.

Contraception and fertility According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) the contraceptive prevalence rate has increased from 53% in 1990 to 78% in recent findings. (The contraceptive prevalence rate is the percentage of women between 15-49 years who are using, or whose sexual partners are using, any form of contraception.)

The average Vietnamese woman gives birth twice in her lifetime. The number of women who die in pregnancy and childbirth has decreased from 160 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 130 in recent findings.

Abortion Legal abortion has been available in Vietnam since 1975. According to the Vietnam Family Planning Association, the country has one of the world's highest abortion rates. About 1.4 million abortions are performed annually in the country. Although contraceptives have been extensively promoted through various awareness campaigns, they are not widely used or well-understood by most Vietnamese people.

HIV/AIDS The first case of AIDS was discovered in 2000 in Ho Chi Minh city. By 2005 approximately 15,000 cases had been diagnosed and nearly 6,000 people had died. Although this is a relatively low percentage of HIV infection in the general population, the HIV/AIDS epidemic is spreading rapidly, especially amongst injecting drug users and female sex workers. (www.unaids.org)

For additional resources:

Information about the population, the average life expectancy, the contraceptive prevalence rate, the female fertility rate, the maternal mortality rate and the mean age of marriage can be found on the following sites.

- www.unfpa.org/profile/vietnam.cfm - United Nations PopulationFund website
- www.prb.org/pdf07/07WPDS_Eng.pdf - The Population Reference Bureau

Information about the number of people in Vietnam affected by HIV/AIDS can be found on:

- www.youandaids.org

Information about the abortion situation in Vietnam can be found on:

- www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/27187.php - Medical News Today



3.3 Country Information

ZAMBIA

Population and location Zambia is a landlocked country in south-central Africa. It is one of Sub-Saharan Africa's most highly urbanised countries, and its current population stands at around 11.5 million.

Economy Zambia is one of the world's poorest and least developed nations. Around two-thirds of the population live on less than a dollar a day.

According to www.wikipedia.org 'The country's rate of economic growth cannot support rapid population growth or the strain which HIV/AIDS-related issues (i.e. rising medical costs, street children, and decline in worker productivity) places on government resources.'

Life expectancy Because of the high AIDS related death rate, the average life expectancy for men and women is only 38 (www.prb.org).

Marriage On average men get married at 26 years whilst women get married at 21. Child marriage is widespread in Zambia, even though the legal age of marriage is 21 for both males and females. Around 8% of girls are married by age 15, and 42% by age 18. (www.popcouncil.org)

Contraception and fertility According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) the contraceptive prevalence rate has increased from 15.2% in 1990 to 34.2% in recent findings. (The contraceptive prevalence rate is the percentage of women between 15-49 years who are using, or whose sexual partners are using, any form of contraception.)

The average Zambian woman gives birth 5.6 times in her lifetime. The number of women who die in pregnancy and childbirth has decreased from 940 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 750 in recent findings.

Abortion Zambia has one of the most liberal abortion laws in sub-Saharan Africa. Abortion is permitted on health, as well as on social and economic grounds. Unfortunately, complicated procedural requirements (e.g. a woman's need to get three doctors to consent to the abortion) and inadequate services limit the number of legal abortions performed. Therefore, there are still many illegal and frequently unsafe abortions taking place which often lead to severe and/or long term health complications or death.

HIV/AIDS Zambia's social and economic problems have been compounded by one of the world's most devastating HIV/ AIDS epidemics. The statistics alone are shocking (www.avert.org):

- One in every six adults is living with HIV
- 98,000 people died of AIDS in 2005
- Life expectancy has fallen below 40 years

For additional resources:

Information about the population, the average life expectancy, the contraceptive prevalence rate, the female fertility rate, the maternal mortality rate and the mean age of marriage can be found on the following sites.

- www.unfpa.org/profile/zambia.cfm - United Nations Population Fund website
- www.prb.org/pdf07/07WPDS_Eng.pdf - The Population Reference Bureau

Information about the number of those in Zambia affected by HIV/AIDS can be found on:

- www.avert.org/aids-zambia.htm - Avert: Averting HIV & AIDS

Information about the abortion situation in Zambia can be found on:

- www.un.org/esa/population/publications/abortion/doc/zambia.doc - A report from the United Nations website



ZIMBABWE

Population and location Zimbabwe is a landlocked country in South-central Africa. It has a population of about 12,746,990.

Economy Zimbabwe used to have one of Africa's strongest economies but since President Robert Mugabe's leadership (which began in 1980), it has deteriorated to just about the world's worst. It has 85% unemployment and the highest rate of inflation in the world.

Life expectancy The average life expectancy for men is 38 and for women is 37 years (www.prb.org) as a result of the high death rate from AIDS related infections.

Marriage On average men get married at 26 years whilst women get married at 21.

Contraception and fertility According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) the contraceptive prevalence rate has increased from 43% in 1990 to 53% in recent findings. (The contraceptive prevalence rate is the percentage of women between 15-49 years who are practising, or whose sexual partners are practising, any form of contraception.)

The average Zimbabwean woman gives birth four times in her lifetime. The number of women who die in pregnancy and childbirth has increased from 570 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 1,100 in recent findings. (www.unfpa.org)

Abortion Since 1977 women can access abortion if the pregnancy will endanger their lives, if their child might suffer a permanent physical or mental defect, or if the foetus was conceived as a result of rape or incest.

Access to legal abortion is incredibly difficult, however, and only available at specially designated hospitals. If the foetus has suspected birth defects, the woman needs written permission from a hospital superintendent. If the woman's life is in danger, she requires the authority of two medical practitioners to access an abortion as well as written permission from a hospital superintendent. In cases of rape, a certificate by a magistrate is needed, and is issued only after consideration of a police report and an interview with the victim.

Unfortunately, because this process is so complicated and because legal abortions are not free, there is a growing number of unsafe backstreet abortions. According to a new report by UNICEF, an estimated 70,000 illegal abortions take place in Zimbabwe every year. (www.unicef.org)

HIV/AIDS Zimbabwe is now one of the worst HIV/AIDS affected countries in the world. By the end of 2001, 33.7% of the adult population was affected. Population growth declined to 1.9% between 1995-2000 and thus became the lowest in Africa. Life expectancy rates have also dropped considerably.

For additional resources:

Information about the population, the average life expectancy, the contraceptive prevalence rate, the female fertility rate, the maternal mortality rate and the mean age of marriage can be found on the following sites.

- www.unfpa.org/profile/zimbabw.cfm - United Nations Population Fund website
- www.prb.org/pdf07/07WPDS_Eng.pdf - The Population Reference Bureau

Information about the number of people in Zimbabwe affected by HIV/AIDS can be found on:

- www.avert.org/aids-zimbabwe.htm - Avert: Averting HIV and AIDS

Information about the abortion situation in Zimbabwe can be found on:

- www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportid=53659 - A report from IRIN
– Humanitarian News & Analysis