Global CENSUS Archive

SPOTLIGHT

July 2026

A newsletter from East View highlighting census data from around the world

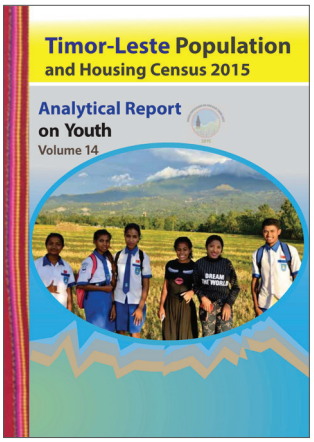
WORLD POPULATION DAY: TRENDS AND ISSUES IN POPULATION RESEARCH

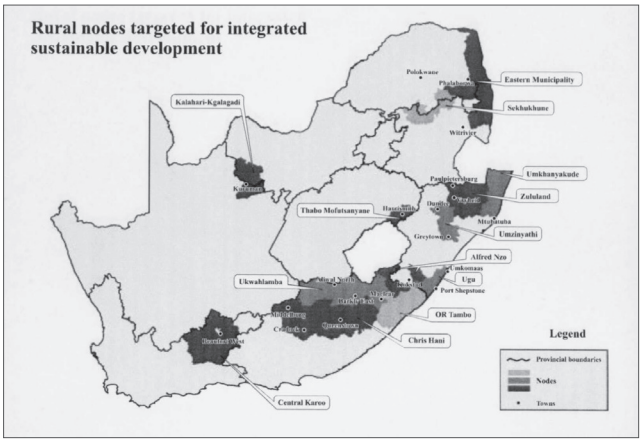
It was estimated that the world population reached 5 billion on July 11, 1987. The press coverage and public interest on that landmark day led to the designation of July 11 as "World Population Day" by United Nations Development Programme in 1989. Today, this day serves to raise awareness to issues that surround the global population such as sustainable development, family planning, and gender equality.

What are the worldwide implications of uneven population growth, and why should these demographic shifts matter to all countries?

Today, the world population is estimated to be 8.3 billion people, having crossed the 8 billion threshold in 2022. Human life expectancy is increasing, and the fertility rate in the world's most economically developed countries is declining. Overall, the global growth rate is declining, but there are significant regional differences in population trends. What are the worldwide implications of uneven population growth in the latter half of the decade, and why should these demographic shifts matter to all countries?

Global demographic trends are closely tied to the future of sustainable development. For instance, while the G20 countries account for roughly 80 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, climate change affects the entire planet regardless of where those emissions originate. Likewise, the success or failure of efforts to sustainably provide for the needs of an expanding global population will have far-reaching effects on every country.

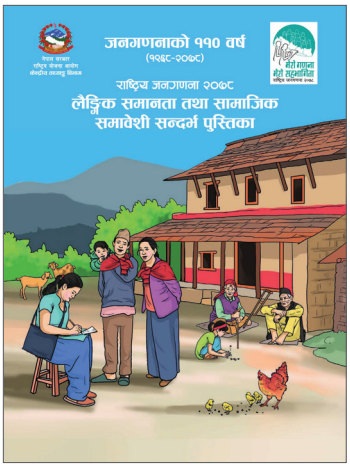


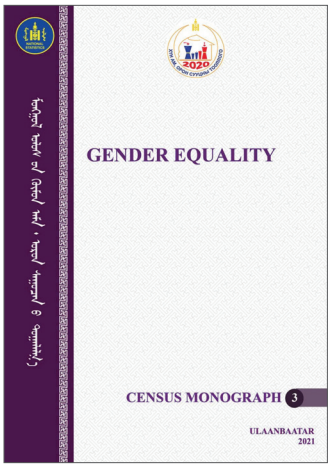


Top left: Timor-Leste, 2015. Thematic Reports. v14. Youth. https://gca.eastview.com/CENSUS-2683686BO.1.1

Top right: Rwanda, 2022. Thematic Report. Refugees. https://gca.eastview.com/CENSUS-2685439BO.1.1

Above: South Africa, 2001. Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Strategy, p.12. https://gca.eastview.com/CENSUS-2540419BO.1.12





Left: Nepal, 2021. Gender Equality & Social Inclusion Reference Book. https://gca.eastview.com/CENSUS-2679364BO.1.1

Right: Mongolia, 2020. Gender Equality. https://gca.eastview.com/CENSUS-2623944BO.1.1

Another global issue closely linked to uneven population growth is immigration. In many countries experiencing low fertility rates and population aging, immigration has become a major driver of population increase and is expected to remain so in the coming decades. Migrants often help offset labor shortages, sustain economic growth, and contribute to the tax base needed to support expanding elderly populations. Because migration flows are shaped by economic disparities, political instability, and environmental change, immigration is likely to keep challenging governments to develop coordinated and sustainable policy responses.

Now more than ever, it is crucial to keep track of global trends in population and understand them in a historical context. Global Census Archive, with over 40,000 official census documents from around the world, preserves the demographic record of humanity across time and place. Researchers and policymakers can now access comparative data essential for understanding long-term demographic, social, and economic change.

Further reading on global population issues:

- "7 Trends Reshaping the Health and Lifespans of America's Rapidly Aging Population," Population Reference Bureau: https://www.prb.org/resource/seven-trends-reshaping-the-health-and-lifespans-of-americas-rapidly-aging-population/
- "Growing diverse and immigrant populations drove the nation's post-pandemic demographic rebound, new census data show," Brookings Institute: https://www.brookings.edu/articles/growing-diverse-and-immigrant-populations-drove-the-nations-post-pandemic-demographic-rebound-new-census-data-show/
- "Population Trends Across the Globe," United States Census Bureau: https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2024/11/idb-population-trends.html
- "World Population Trends," United Nations Population Fund: https://www.unfpa.org/world-population-trends

Global CENSUS Archive

The East View **Global Census Archive**® (GCA) is an innovative program to collect official data and publications issued by the national census authorities of more than 200 countries, from the early 19th century to the present day, providing a key resource for scholars and analysts to find current and historical census data to support critical research into our changing world. GCA provides a single platform experience to explore the world's census publications: all countries and regions, the complete depth of published census materials, including original census publications in e-book form, as well as modern tabular data in Excel format and GIS files for advanced users.