



Population and Education Overview 2005

Source: United Nations Population Division, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Global IDP Project, U.N. Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization

	Total Population Estimates and Projections (thousands of people) (a)			Percent of Population in Specific Age Groups 2005		Estimated Total Fertility Rate (a) (children per woman) 2000-2005	Estimated Mortality Under Age 5 (per 1000 live births)	Refugees (b) (thousands)		Internally Displaced Persons (thousands) 2004	Estimated Literacy Rate 2004 (percent)		Net School Enrollment (percent) 2001-2002		
	1980	2005	2030	Under 15	65 & Over			Granted Asylum Elsewhere 2003	Repatri- ations 2003		Over Age 15	Youths Ages 15-24	Primary	Secondary	
														2001	2002
													
World	4,434,682	6,453,628	8,130,149	28	7	2.7	81	9,672	1,095	25,000	77	89	..	..
Asia (excl. Middle East)	2,477,179	3,624,244	4,436,079	28	7	2.5	..	1,327	9	..	76	91	..	..
Armenia	3,096	3,043	2,786	18	10	1.2	35	13	..	50	99	100	85	85	
Azerbaijan	6,161	8,527	10,486	27	7	2.1	105	253	..	570	..	..	80	76
Bangladesh	85,004	152,593	220,321	37	3	3.5	73	6	..	150-520	41	50	87	44	
Bhutan	1,318	2,392	4,030	40	4	5.0	94	104	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cambodia	6,613	14,825	23,555	41	3	4.8	138	31	..	..	69	80	86	21
China	998,877	1,322,273	1,450,521	22	8	1.8	38	132	..	..	91	99	93 c	..
Georgia	5,073	5,026	4,258	17	15	1.4	29	12	< 0.5	260	..	..	91	..
India	688,856	1,096,917	1,416,576	32	5	3.0	90	14	..	650	61	..	83 c	..	
Indonesia	150,128	225,313	277,567	29	5	2.4	43	13	..	535	88	98	92	48 d	
Japan	116,807	127,914	121,017	14	20	1.3	5	< 0.5	..	..	..	..	100	100
Kazakhstan	14,919	15,364	15,258	23	9	2.0	76	7	..	..	99	100	90	84
Korea, Dem People's Rep	17,196	22,876	24,974	25	7	2.0	55	< 0.5	..	..	..	..	..	..
Korea, Rep	38,124	48,182	50,042	19	9	1.4	5	< 0.5	..	..	..	..	100	89
Kyrgyzstan	3,628	5,278	6,711	31	7	2.6	61	3	..	..	..	..	90	..
Lao People's Dem Rep	3,205	5,918	9,282	41	4	4.8	100	10	..	..	66	79	83	31
Malaysia	13,763	25,325	35,191	32	5	2.9	8	< 0.5	..	..	89	97	95	69
Mongolia	1,663	2,667	3,491	30	4	2.4	71	< 0.5	..	..	98	98	87	71
Myanmar	33,705	50,696	61,308	31	5	2.9	108	147	3	600-1,000	85	91	82	35	
Nepal	14,881	26,289	40,740	39	4	4.3	87	1	..	100-200	44	63	70 c	..	
Pakistan	80,781	161,151	271,600	41	4	5.1	104	24	< 0.5	45	42	54	67 c	..	
Philippines	48,088	82,809	113,795	35	4	3.2	37	< 0.5	..	>75	93	95	93	56	
Singapore	2,414	4,372	4,934	20	8	1.4	4	< 0.5	..	..	93	100	..	..
Sri Lanka	14,543	19,366	21,670	24	7	2.0	19	122	5	430- 500	92	97	100	..	
Tajikistan	3,953	6,356	8,548	34	5	3.1	72	59	< 0.5	..	100	100	98	79	
Thailand	46,342	64,081	75,424	25	6	1.9	28	< 0.5	..	..	93	98	86	..
Turkmenistan	2,861	5,015	6,825	32	5	2.7	98	1	..	..	99	100	..	..
Uzbekistan	15,952	26,868	35,031	32	5	2.4	68	7	..	3	99	100	..	..
Viet Nam	53,005	83,585	108,374	29	5	2.3	26	363	..	..	90	..	94	65
Europe	692,430	724,720	685,441	16	16	1.4	..	1,098	36	..	99	..	..	..
Albania	2,671	3,220	3,680	27	7	2.3	30	10	..	..	99	99	97 c	74 c
Austria	7,549	8,120	7,911	15	16	1.3	5	< 0.5	..	..	..	..	91 c	88 c
Belarus	9,659	9,809	8,678	15	15	1.2	20	8	..	..	100	100	94	78
Belgium	9,859	10,359	10,512	17	18	1.7	6	< 0.5	..	..	..	..	100 d	..
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3,914	4,209	4,089	16	12	1.3	18	300	14	330	95	100	..	..
Bulgaria	8,862	7,763	6,335	14	16	1.1	16	3	..	..	99	100	93 c	86 c
Croatia	4,377	4,405	3,990	17	17	1.7	8	230	10	11	98	100	88	86	
Czech Rep	10,283	10,216	9,608	15	14	1.2	5	7	..	..	..	..	88	89
Denmark	5,123	5,386	5,469	18	15	1.8	4	< 0.5	..	..	..	..	99 d	89 d
Estonia	1,473	1,294	943	15	17	1.2	12	1	..	..	100	100	98 c	92 c
Finland	4,780	5,224	5,253	17	16	1.7	5	< 0.5	..	..	..	..	100 c	95 c
France	53,880	60,711	64,577	18	16	1.9	6	< 0.5	..	..	..	..	100 c	92 c
Germany	78,289	82,560	81,511	14	19	1.4	5	1	..	..	..	..	83	88
Greece	9,643	10,978	10,567	14	19	1.3	5	< 0.5	..	..	..	..	95 c	85 c
Hungary	10,707	9,784	8,636	16	15	1.2	9	3	..	..	..	..	91	92
Iceland	228	294	330	22	12	2.0	4	< 0.5	..	..	..	..	100 c	82 c
Ireland	3,401	4,040	4,762	20	11	1.9	6	< 0.5	..	..	..	..	94 c	82 c
Italy	56,434	57,253	51,546	14	20	1.2	6	< 0.5	..	..	..	..	100 c	88 d
Latvia	2,512	2,265	1,750	14	17	1.1	21	3	..	..	100	100	91 c	89 c
Lithuania	3,413	3,401	2,935	18	15	1.3	9	2	..	..	100	100	97 c	92 c
Macedonia, FYR	1,795	2,076	2,205	21	11	1.9	26	6	2	3	..	..	93 c	..
Moldova, Rep	4,010	4,259	4,011	19	10	1.4	32	11	..	1	99	100	78 c	68	
Netherlands	14,150	16,300	17,224	18	14	1.7	5	< 0.5	..	..	..	..	99 c	90 c
Norway	4,086	4,570	4,913	19	15	1.8	4	< 0.5	..	..	..	..	100 c	95 c
Poland	35,574	38,516	36,680	16	13	1.3	9	15	..	..	..	..	98	91 c
Portugal	9,766	10,080	9,721	17	16	1.5	6	< 0.5	..	..	..	..	..	85 c
Romania	22,201	22,228	20,328	16	14	1.3	21	8	..	..	97	98	93 c	80 c
Russian Federation	138,660	141,553	119,713	14	14	1.1	21	96	< 0.5	330	100	100	..	..
Serbia and Montenegro	9,522	10,513	10,094	18	14	1.7	19	297	9	250	..	..	75 c	..
Slovakia	4,976	5,411	5,344	17	12	1.3	9	1	..	..	100	100	87	87
Slovenia	1,832	1,979	1,814	14	15	1.1	5	1	..	..	100	100	93 c	96 c
Spain	37,542	41,184	39,951	14	17	1.2	6	< 0.5	..	..	..	..	100	94
Sweden	8,310	8,895	9,033	17	18	1.6	3	< 0.5	..	..	..	..	100	99
Switzerland	6,319	7,157	6,655	15	17	1.4	6	< 0.5	..	..	..	..	99 c	88 c
Ukraine	50,044	47,782	38,925	15	16	1.2	20	94	..	..	100	100	82	91
United Kingdom	55,530	59,598	64,183	18	16	1.6	7	< 0.5	..	..	..	..	100 c	95 c
Middle East & N. Africa	246,845	448,715	667,291	34	4	3.3	58 e	3,488	705	..	70	85	..	..
Afghanistan	15,117	25,971	49,987	43	3	6.8	257	2,136	646	180-300	..	..	..	..
Algeria	18,740	32,877	44,120	31	4	2.8	49	12	< 0.5	1,000	69	90	95	62	
Egypt	43,915	74,878	109,111	34	5	3.3	39	6	..	..	56	73	90	81
Iran, Islamic Rep	39,343	70,675	94,441	30	5	2.3	41	132	4	..	..	..	87	..
Iraq	12,962	26,555	45,338	40	3	4.8	125	368	55	900	..	..	91 d	33 d
Israel	3,764	6,685	8,970	27	10	2.7	6	1	..	150-300	95	100	100	89	
Jordan	2,225	5,750	8,643	37	3	3.6	33	1	..	..	91	99	91	80
Kuwait	1,375	2,671	4,198	25	2	2.7	10	1	..	..	83	93	85	77
Lebanon	2,669	3,761	4,692	28	6	2.2	32	25	..	300	..	..	90	..
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	3,043	5,768	8,123	30	4	3.0	19	2	..	..	82	97	..	..
Morocco	19,382	31,564	42,505	30	5	2.8	43	1	..	..	51	70	88	31 d
Oman	1,187	3,020	5,223	37	2	5.0	13	< 0.5	< 0.5	..	74	99	75	68	
Saudi Arabia	9,604	25,626	43,193	38	3	4.5	28	< 0.5	78	94	59	53	
Syrian Arab Rep	8,959	18,650	28,750	36	3	3.3	28	20	..	200-500	83	95	98		

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	1980	2005	2030	Under 15	65 & Over			Granted Asylum Elsewhere 2003	Repatri- ations 2003		Over Age 15	Youths Ages 15-24	Primary	Secondary	
														2001	2002
													
Sub-Saharan Africa	377,926	732,512	1,181,279	44	3	5.4	174	e	3,306	345	..	62	77	..	..
Angola	7,048	14,533	28,588	48	3	7.2	260		324	133	450	..	..	30 d	..
Benin	3,459	7,103	12,091	45	3	5.7	156		< 0.5	..	..	40	56	71 d	20 c
Botswana	987	1,801	1,562	39	3	3.7	110		< 0.5	..	..	79	89	81	55 c
Burkina Faso	6,820	13,798	27,910	49	3	6.7	207		1	..	..	13	19	35	8 c
Burundi	4,130	7,319	13,652	45	3	6.8	190		532	82	381	50	66	53	8
Cameroon	8,754	16,564	21,760	41	4	4.6	166		6	< 0.5	..	68	..	..	..
Central African Rep	2,306	3,962	5,475	43	4	4.9	180		35	5	200	49	59	..	..
Chad	4,505	9,117	17,722	47	3	6.7	200		52	1	..	46	70	58	8 d
Congo	1,804	3,921	7,558	47	3	6.3	108		29	2	100	83	98	..	..
Congo, Dem Rep	27,909	56,079	106,988	47	3	6.7	205		453	3	3,400	..	..	..	..
Côte d'Ivoire	8,427	17,165	23,258	40	3	4.7	191		34	17	500-800	..	60	63	..
Equatorial Guinea	219	521	888	44	4	5.9	152		1	< 0.5	..	..	..	85	26 d
Eritrea	2,381	4,456	7,942	45	2	5.4	89		124	10	59	..	..	43	21
Ethiopia	35,688	74,189	127,220	45	3	6.1	171		63	< 0.5	132	42	57	46	15
Gabon	695	1,375	2,044	40	4	4.0	91		< 0.5	..	..	..	..	78 c	..
Gambia	652	1,499	2,338	40	4	4.7	126		1	..	..	..	..	73	28
Ghana	11,043	21,833	32,648	39	3	4.1	97		16	..	..	74	92	60	32
Guinea	4,688	8,788	14,921	44	3	5.8	165		4	..	100	..	..	61	..
Guinea-Bissau	793	1,584	3,154	47	3	7.1	211		1	..	..	..	..	45 d	..
Kenya	16,368	32,849	41,141	40	3	4.0	122		3	< 0.5	350	84	96	70	24
Lesotho	1,277	1,797	1,555	39	5	3.8	87		< 0.5	..	..	81	..	84	22
Liberia	1,869	3,603	6,830	47	2	6.8	235		353	21	500	56	71	70 d	..
Madagascar	9,048	18,409	33,464	44	3	5.7	135		< 0.5	..	..	..	..	69	..
Malawi	6,183	12,572	19,834	47	4	6.1	182		< 0.5	..	..	62	73	81	29
Mali	7,044	13,829	29,572	49	2	7.0	222		< 0.5	..	..	19	24	..	..
Mauritania	1,609	3,069	5,482	43	3	5.8	183		31	..	..	41	50	67	15
Mozambique	12,084	19,495	26,620	44	3	5.6	205		< 0.5	..	..	47	63	60	11
Namibia	1,018	2,032	2,418	43	4	4.6	67		1	< 0.5	..	83	92	78	38
Niger	5,586	12,873	30,337	50	2	8.0	264		1	..	..	17	25	34	5
Nigeria	64,325	130,236	206,696	44	3	5.4	201		24	< 0.5	250	67	89	..	..
Rwanda	5,157	8,607	13,453	45	3	5.7	203		75	23	..	69	85	84	..
Senegal	5,538	10,587	16,926	42	2	5.0	138		8	< 0.5	5	39	53	58	..
Sierra Leone	3,239	5,340	8,206	44	3	6.5	284		71	33	..	..	..	..	..
Somalia	6,487	10,742	24,407	48	2	7.3	225		402	10	375	..	..	..	..
South Africa	29,140	45,323	42,170	32	4	2.6	65		< 0.5	..	..	86	92	90	62 c
Sudan	19,387	35,040	50,525	39	4	4.4	94		606	< 0.5	4,000	60	79	46 d	..
Tanzania, United Rep	18,838	38,365	56,903	44	2	5.1	165		1	< 0.5	..	77	92	54	..
Togo	2,519	5,129	8,117	43	3	5.3	141		11	< 0.5	..	60	77	92	..
Uganda	12,465	27,623	63,953	50	2	7.1	141		35	4	1,600	69	80	..	14 c
Zambia	5,977	11,043	15,224	47	3	5.6	182		< 0.5	< 0.5	..	80	89	66	20
Zimbabwe	7,226	12,963	12,773	42	4	3.9	123		7	..	100-200	90	98	83	40
North America	256,068	332,156	407,530	21	12	2.0	..	..	< 0.5	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canada	24,516	31,972	36,980	17	13	1.5	7		< 0.5	..	..	..	..	100 c	98 c
United States	231,428	300,038	370,396	21	12	2.1	8		< 0.5	..	..	..	..	93	85
C. America & Caribbean	119,135	186,222	239,093	32	6	2.7	34	e	43	< 0.5	..	86	93	..	..
Belize	144	266	373	36	4	3.2	40		< 0.5	..	..	77	84	96 c	60 c
Costa Rica	2,347	4,327	5,872	28	6	2.3	11		< 0.5	..	..	96	98	91	51
Cuba	9,710	11,353	11,338	19	11	1.6	9		16	..	..	97	100	96	83
Dominican Rep	5,696	8,998	11,290	31	5	2.7	38		< 0.5	..	..	84	92	97	41
El Salvador	4,586	6,709	8,802	34	5	2.9	39		6	< 0.5	..	80	89	89	46
Guatemala	6,820	12,978	21,002	42	4	4.4	49		7	< 0.5	250	70	80	85	29
Haiti	5,453	8,549	11,094	37	4	4.0	123		8	< 0.5	..	52	66	..	..
Honduras	3,568	7,257	10,715	39	4	3.7	42		1	< 0.5	..	80	89	87	..
Jamaica	2,133	2,701	3,380	30	7	2.4	20		< 0.5	..	..	88	95	95	75
Mexico	67,569	106,385	133,591	31	5	2.5	29		2	..	10-12	91	97	99	60
Nicaragua	2,919	5,727	8,929	41	3	3.8	41		4	< 0.5	..	77	86	82	37
Panama	1,949	3,235	4,514	30	6	2.7	25		< 0.5	< 0.5	..	92	97	99	62
Trinidad and Tobago	1,082	1,311	1,327	21	7	1.6	20		< 0.5	..	..	99	100	94	..
South America	242,247	372,042	471,942	29	6	2.5	34	e	48	< 0.5	..	89	96	..	..
Argentina	28,094	39,311	48,611	27	10	2.4	19		1	..	..	97	99	100	81
Bolivia	5,355	9,138	13,275	38	5	3.8	71		< 0.5	< 0.5	..	87	97	94	67 c
Brazil	121,614	182,798	222,078	27	6	2.2	37		< 0.5	..	..	86	94	97	72
Chile	11,147	16,185	20,311	27	8	2.4	12		2	< 0.5	..	96	99	89 c	75 c
Colombia	28,447	45,600	60,843	31	5	2.6	23		38	< 0.5	3,100 d	92	97	87	54
Ecuador	7,961	13,379	17,335	32	5	2.8	29		1	..	..	91	96	99	50
Guyana	761	768	695	29	5	2.3	72		< 0.5	..	..	..	..	98 d	75 c
Paraguay	3,114	6,160	9,890	38	4	3.8	30		< 0.5	..	..	92	96	92	50
Peru	17,324	27,968	37,170	32	5	2.9	39		6	< 0.5	60	85	97	100	66 c
Suriname	355	442	489	30	6	2.5	40		< 0.5	..	..	..	..	97	63
Uruguay	2,914	3,463	3,958	24	13	2.3	15		< 0.5	..	..	98	99	90	72
Venezuela	15,091	26,640	36,991	32	5	2.7	22		1	..	..	93	98	92	57
Oceania	22,808	32,969	41,437	24	10	2.3	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Australia	14,569	20,092	23,833	19	13	1.7	6		< 0.5	..	..	..	..	96	88
Fiji	634	854	982	32	4	2.9	21		1	..	..	93	99	100	76
New Zealand	3,113	3,932	4,457	22	12	2.0	6		< 0.5	..	..	..	..	98	92 c
Papua New Guinea	3,241	5,959	9,075	40	2	4.1	94		< 0.5	..	..	..	..	77	23
Solomon Islands	229	504	850	42	3	4.4	24		< 0.5	..	0.35	..	..	..	..
Developed	1,171,410	1,336,153	1,383,167	18	14	1.6	8	e	1,455	36	..	98	..	..	..
Developing	3,272,787	5,127,115	6,7												

DEFINITIONS AND METHODOLOGY

Total Population refers to estimates and projections of de facto population as of July 1 of the year indicated.

Percent of Population under Age 15 is the proportion of the total population younger than 15 years of age.

Percent of Population Age 65 and Over is the proportion of the total population 65 years of age and older.

Total Fertility Rate is an estimate of the average number of children a woman would have over the course of her entire life if current age-specific fertility rates remained constant during her reproductive years.

The four variables defined above are estimated by the United Nations Population Division (UNPD) for the years 1950-2000 and forecasted based on the assumptions enumerated below for the years 2001-2050.

Past estimates are calculated using census and survey results from all countries. The UNPD compiles, evaluates, and adjusts these data when necessary. Adjustments incorporate data from civil registrations (in developed countries), population surveys (in developing countries), earlier censuses, and, when necessary, population models based on information from similar countries.

The projections reported here assume medium fertility (the "medium-fertility assumption"). All future population projections are based on estimates of the 2000 base-year population and incorporate the three main components of population growth: fertility, mortality, and migration. *Fertility* is estimated by applying age-specific fertility rates to the projected female population using models based on past trends in fertility to project future declines. *Mortality* is projected on the basis of the models of life expectancy that assume a medium pace of mortality decline. For countries affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, mortality rates are predicted using a model developed by the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). *Migration* rates are estimated on the basis of past international migration estimates and an assessment of the policy stance of countries with regard to future international migration flows. The UNPD incorporates information on official immigration and emigration, labor migration, undocumented migration, and refugees.

For more information on methodology, see *World Population Prospects, 2002 Revision*. Volume III: Analytical Report. Online at http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/wpp2002/WPP2002_Vol3.htm.

Mortality under Age 5 is the probability of a child dying between birth and age five expressed per 1,000 live births. Data for estimating mortality of children under age 5 is typically obtained from population census information, civil registration records on deaths of young children, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) and Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS). For each country, UNICEF and its partners plotted all data from 1960 to the present on a graph; a curve was fitted through these data using a weighted least-squares regression model.

Refugees Granted Asylum Elsewhere is the number of refugees leaving a country who have been granted asylum status by a foreign government.

Refugees Repatriations is the number of refugees who have successfully returned (repatriated) to their home country.

In both columns, refugees are counted according to their home countries ("country of origin"), not their country of asylum. Data were collected in 2003 but include all persons that have migrated as refugees without returning to their home country. According to Article 1 of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the related 1967 Protocol, a refugee is a person who "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country." This variable reflects the number of refugees recognized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which generally relies on host government reporting to obtain data, supplemented with information collected by aid workers.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are defined by the United Nations as "persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized

State border." The UNHCR estimates that globally there are 25 million internally displaced people in over 50 countries. Since they have not crossed into another country, IDPs are generally not afforded the same protections and assistance given to refugees. Estimates are from the Global IDP Project and incorporate a wide variety of sources, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academic research, governments, and news agencies.

Literacy Rates measure the proportion of the population in a specific age group who can both read and write with understanding a short, simple statement on their everyday life. **Adult Literacy Rates** refer to all residents of a country or region over the age of 15; **Youth Literacy Rates** evaluate the population of a country between the ages of 15 and 24 in the year specified. Youth literacy rates are increasingly used to gauge the impact of primary education as well as the speed with which illiteracy can be eradicated. Most literacy data are collected during national population censuses and supplemented by household surveys, labor force surveys, employment surveys, industry surveys, and agricultural surveys when they are available. UNESCO uses these data to graph a logistic regression model. When census and survey data are not available, literacy rates for a specific country are estimated based on neighboring countries with similar characteristics.

Net School Enrollment Ratio (NER) is defined as the enrollment of the official age group for a given level of education expressed as a percentage of the population from the same age group. The theoretical maximum value is 100 percent. A high NER denotes a high degree of participation of the official school-age population. If the NER is below 100 percent, users should not assume that the remaining school-age population is not enrolled in any school; they could be enrolled in school at other grade levels. **Primary Education** is defined by the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) as the "beginning of systematic apprenticeship of reading, writing and mathematics." Programs are typically six years long and represent the beginning of compulsory education in many countries. **Secondary education** follows primary education, and is characterized as being subject-oriented with specialized fields of learning. Students achieve a full implementation of basic skills. Programs may be academic, vocational, or technical in nature. Net enrollment ratio is calculated by dividing the number of pupils enrolled who are of the official age group for a given level of education by the total population of the same age group. National governments provide the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) with enrollment data based on a series of electronic questionnaires. When data from national governments are not available or are of inferior quality, UNESCO will estimate enrollment ratios from background data, if available.

FREQUENCY OF UPDATE BY DATA PROVIDERS

Both UNPD and UNAIDS publish country-level statistics every two years with annual revisions of key estimates. UNICEF and UNHCR publish the most recently available data in an annual report, with more frequent updates online. Education, literacy and IDP data are updated irregularly. Most updates include revisions of past data.

DATA RELIABILITY AND CAUTIONARY NOTES

Total Population, Fertility, and Life Expectancy. Since demographic parameters are estimated on a country-by-country basis, reliability varies among countries. For some developing countries, estimates are derived from surveys rather than censuses, especially when countries lack a civil registration system or have one that does not achieve full coverage of all vital events. Also, for developing countries the availability of detailed information on fertility and mortality is limited and the data on international migration flows are generally inadequate. Although estimates are based on incomplete data and projections cannot factor in unforeseen events (i.e., famine, wars), U.N. demographic models are widely accepted and use well-understood principles, which make these data as comparable, consistent across countries, and reliable as possible.

Mortality Under Age 5: Estimates were calculated based on a wide variety of sources of disparate quality. For information on the underlying data for each country's regressions, refer to the country estimates and new country data available from UNICEF online at <http://www.childinfo.org/cmr/kh98meth.html>.

Refugees: Since the determination of refugee status varies among countries, UNHCR will estimate numbers in order to provide a normalized dataset. Data are "provisional and subject to change," and accuracy is limited by the politically sensitive nature of refugee estimates and the circumstances under which many refugees live. UNHCR attempts to harmonize the data in order to allow cross-country comparisons.

Internally Displaced Persons: Due to the highly political nature of displacement and the conditions in which many displaced peoples find themselves, accurate data are difficult to collect. While the numbers presented are broad estimates, these data are the best Online on the topic.

Adult Literacy Rate: The availability and quality of national statistics on literacy vary widely. National census and survey data are typically collected only once every decade. In addition, many industrialized countries have stopped collecting literacy data in recent years, based on the sometimes incorrect assumption that universal primary education means universal literacy. When census and survey data are not available for a particular country, estimates are sometimes made based on neighboring countries. Actual definitions of adult literacy are not strictly comparable among countries. Some countries equate persons with no schooling with illiterates, or change definitions between censuses. In addition, UNESCO's definition of literacy does not include people who, though familiar with the basics of reading and writing, do not have the skills to function at a reasonable level in their own society.

Net School Enrollment: Even though UNESCO has applied the same methodology to analyze all of the country data, definitions of "schooling" and "enrollment" are not strictly comparable among countries. As net enrollment ratios approach 100 percent, inconsistencies with enrollment and/or population data are more likely to skew the resulting ratios. As a result, some net enrollment ratios are greater than 100 percent. Difficulties also arise when a substantial proportion of students begin school earlier than the prescribed age, or when the reference date for entry into primary education does not coincide with the birthdays of all eligible students.

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