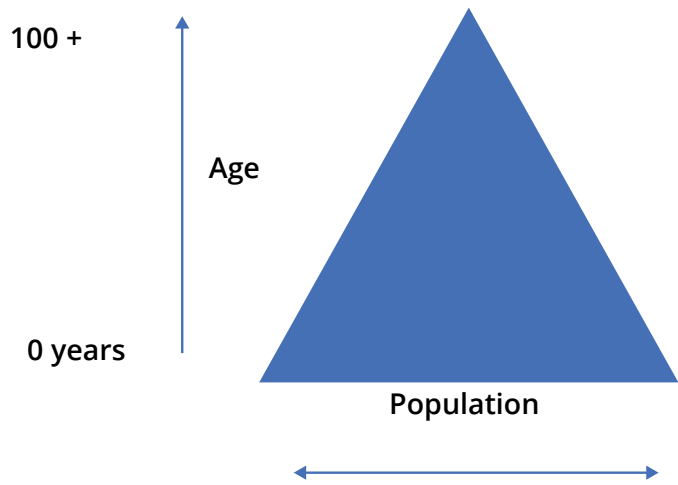


Theme 7.2.1 What challenges face social development in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia? (population)

Changing population in sub-Saharan Africa

Sub-Saharan Africa is characterised by predominantly LICs, where birth rates and death rates are high.

The pyramid below shows the population structure of Nigeria, an NIC in Western Africa.



Interpreting the pyramid:

- The wide base indicates a high birth rate (lack of contraception, child labour is required or there is a high infant mortality rate).
- The population decreases as age increases – indicates a high death rate (disease, poor living and working conditions, and lack of healthcare can all be contributing factors).

Birth rates

The number of global births continues to increase, particularly in regions such as sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), however, in South Asia (SA) the number of births is beginning to slow.

Factors affecting birth rates:

Higher birth rates	Lower birth rates
Lack of contraception	Improved women’s rights
High infant mortality	Later marriage
Child labour	Education about benefits of smaller families

Death rates

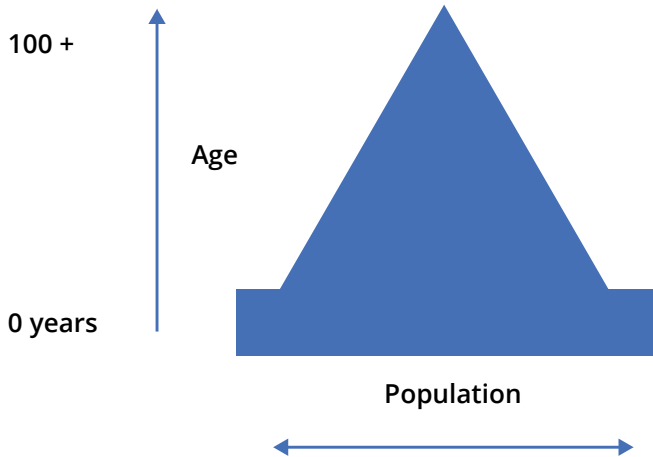
As life expectancy increases, the number of deaths reduces, leading to an overall increase in the global population.

Death rates decrease due to:

- improved health and nutrition
- improved medical care
- vaccination programmes
- better maternal and infant healthcare
- improved sanitation
- better responses to global hazards such as drought and famine.

Changing populations in South Asia

The pyramid below shows the population structure for Pakistan, an NIC.



- The death rate remains high, but bars are taking longer to decrease in size, indicating improved healthcare, sanitation and diet, which leads to an increased life expectancy.
- The wide base indicates a high but decreasing birth rate (improvements in healthcare, reduced infant mortality and reduced need for child labour could all contribute to the decrease).
- Improved rights for women will contribute to a reduced birth rate as they focus more on education and careers.