

# **Demographic Trends in Bangladesh**

**A K M Nurun Nabi, Ph D  
Professor and Project Director  
Department of Population Sciences  
University of Dhaka  
akmnabi@yahoo.com**

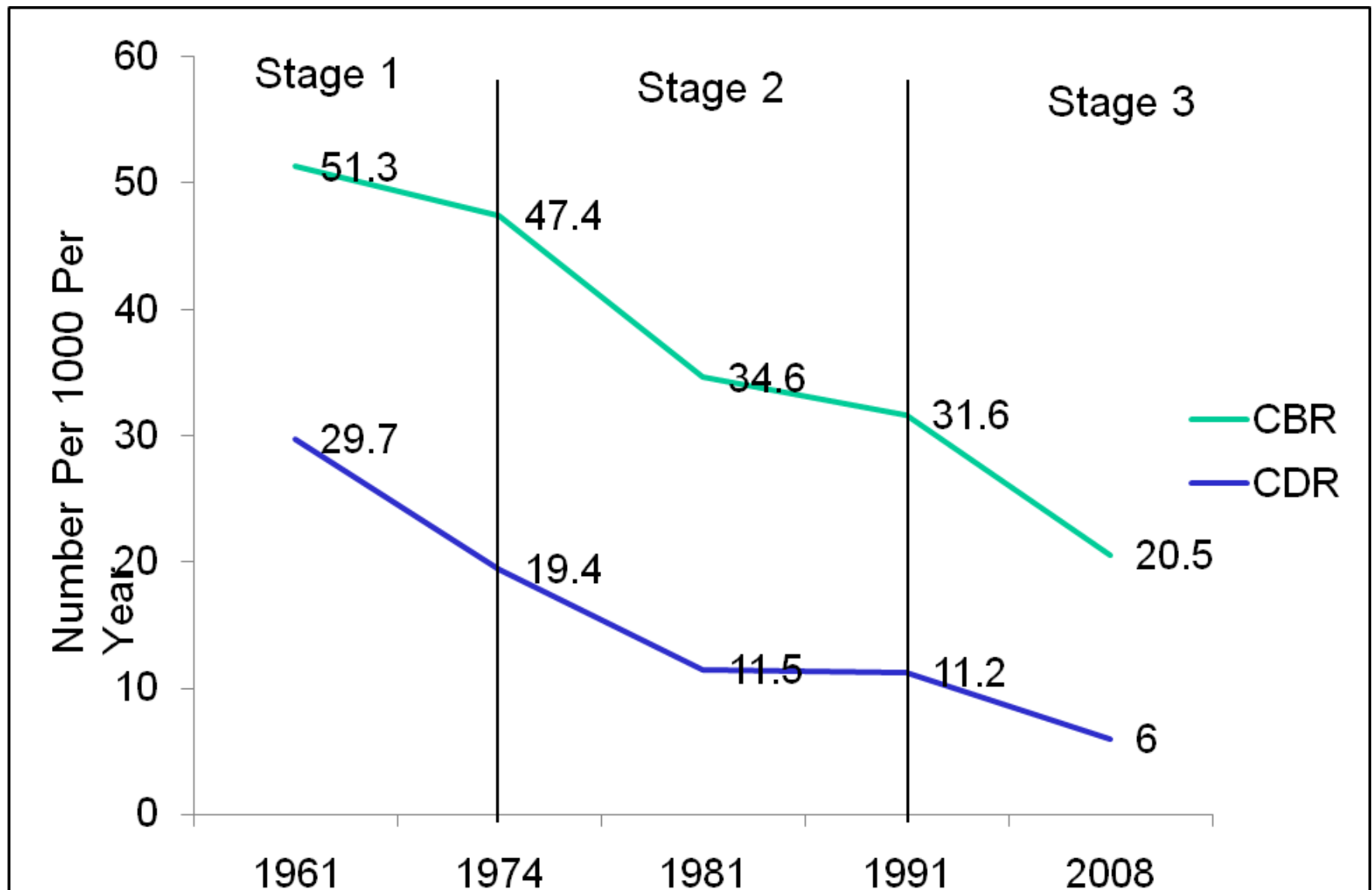
**Population trends in Bangladesh show that Bangladesh is well into third phase of demographic transition, having shifted from a high mortality-high fertility regime to a low mortality-low fertility one.**

# Population of Bangladesh and Growth Rate per Annum 1700- 2011

Year	Population (in million)	Growth rate
1700	17	-
1750	19	0.20
1770	15	-1.20
1800	17	0.40
1850	20	0.30
1881	25	0.90
1891	27	0.80
1901	29	0.69
1911	32	0.94
1921	33	0.60
1931	36	0.74
1941	42	1.70
1951	44	0.50
1961	55	2.26
1974	76	2.48
1981	90	2.32
1991	111	2.17
2001	131	1.54
2011	150	1.37

Sources: M. Obaidullah, n.d.; Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, 1994 and 2011. <sup>3</sup>

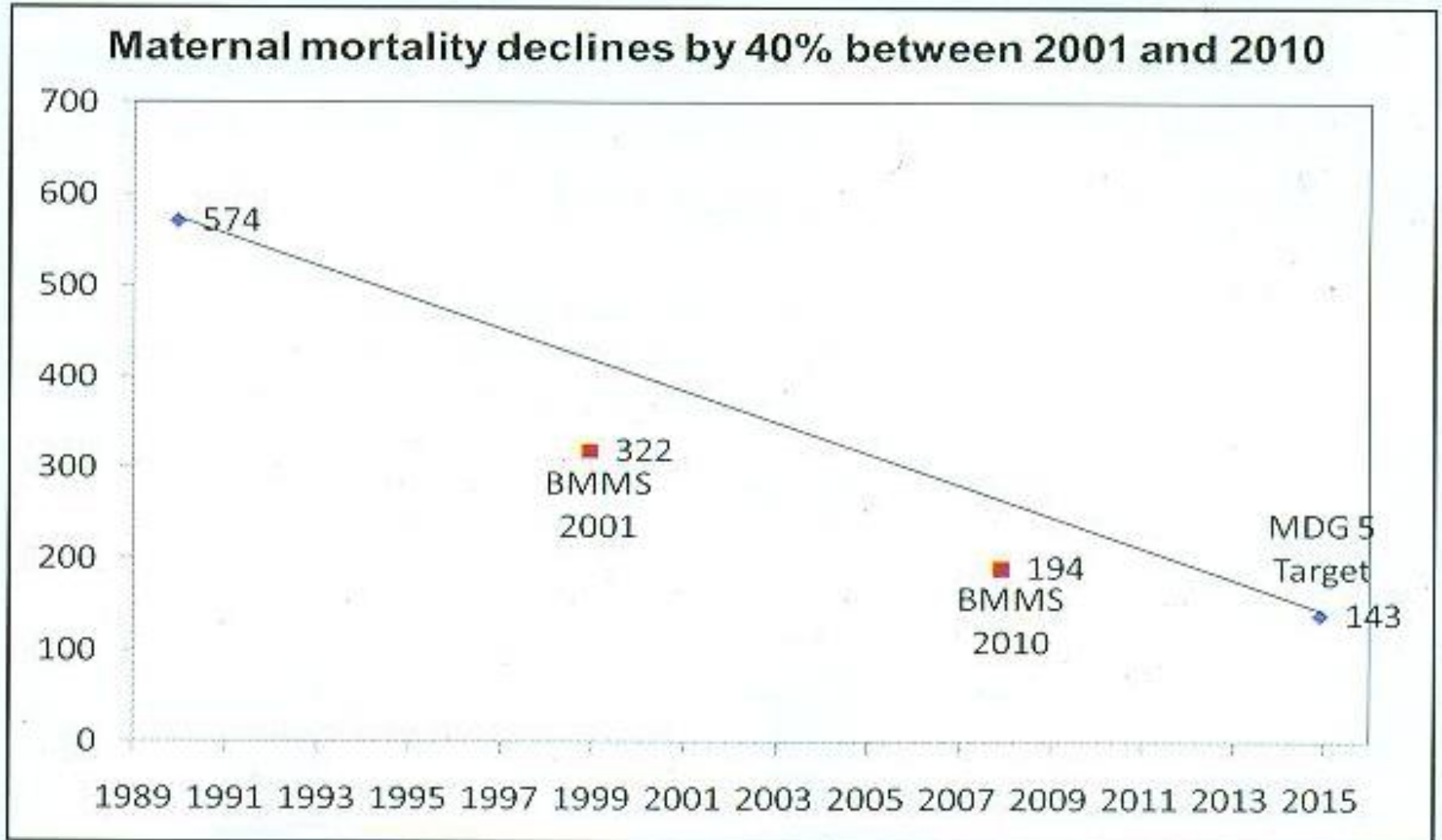
# Demographic Transition in Bangladesh



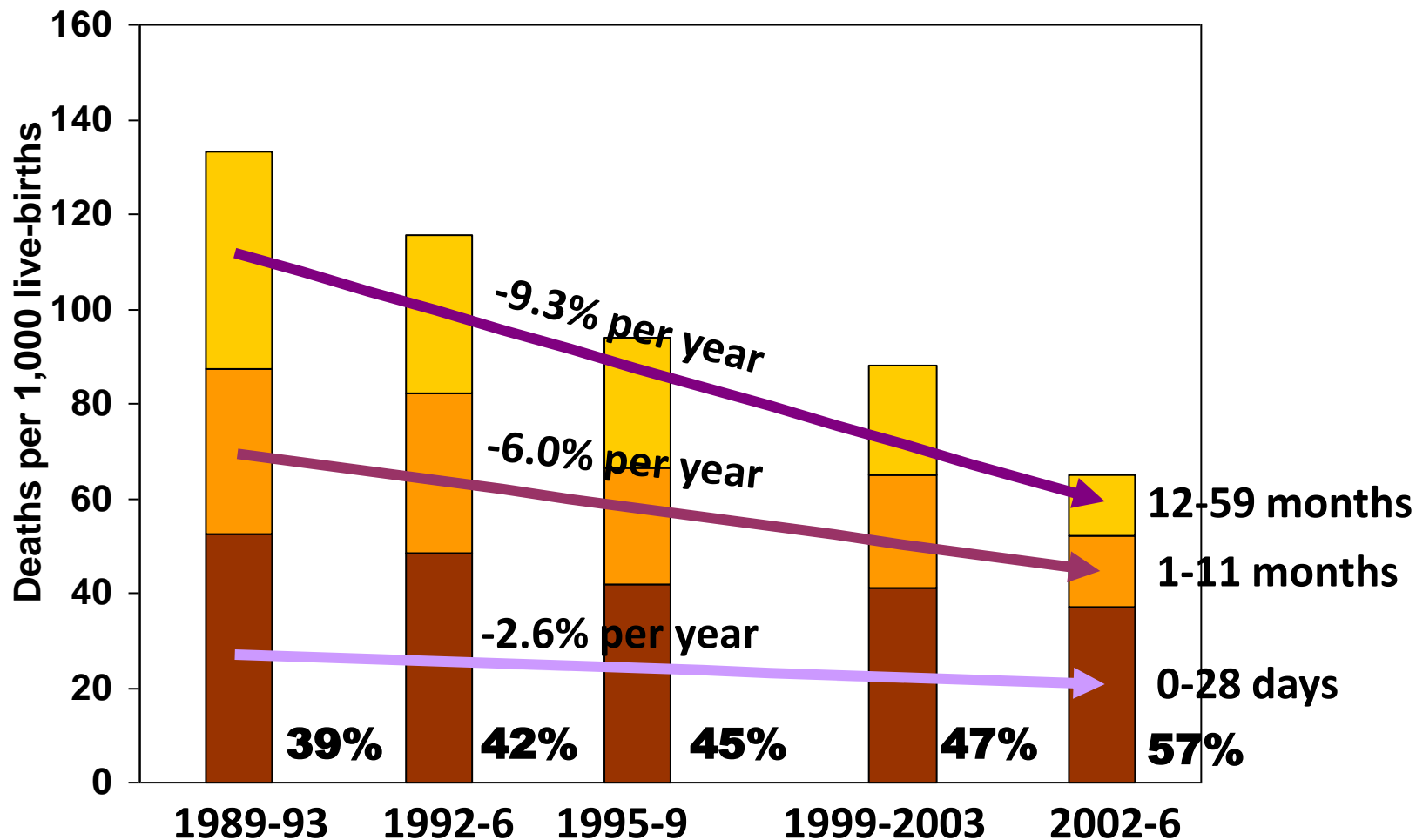
# Declining Fertility and Mortality

<b>Period</b>	<b>CBR</b>	<b>CDR</b>
<b>1901-11</b>	<b>53.8</b>	<b>45.6</b>
<b>1911-21</b>	<b>52.9</b>	<b>47.3</b>
<b>1921-31</b>	<b>50.4</b>	<b>41.7</b>
<b>1931-41</b>	<b>52.7</b>	<b>37.8</b>
<b>1941-51</b>	<b>49.4</b>	<b>40.7</b>
<b>1951-61</b>	<b>51.3</b>	<b>29.7</b>
<b>1961-74</b>	<b>48.3</b>	<b>19.4</b>
<b>1986</b>	<b>38.9</b>	<b>11.9</b>
<b>1991</b>	<b>28.5</b>	<b>8.6</b>
<b>2004</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>6.1</b>
<b>2011</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>4.8</b>

# Maternal and Child Mortality



**Under 5 mortality : 65/1000 live Birth**  
**Infant Mortality : 52/1000 live Birth**  
**Neonatal mortality : 37/1000 live Birth**



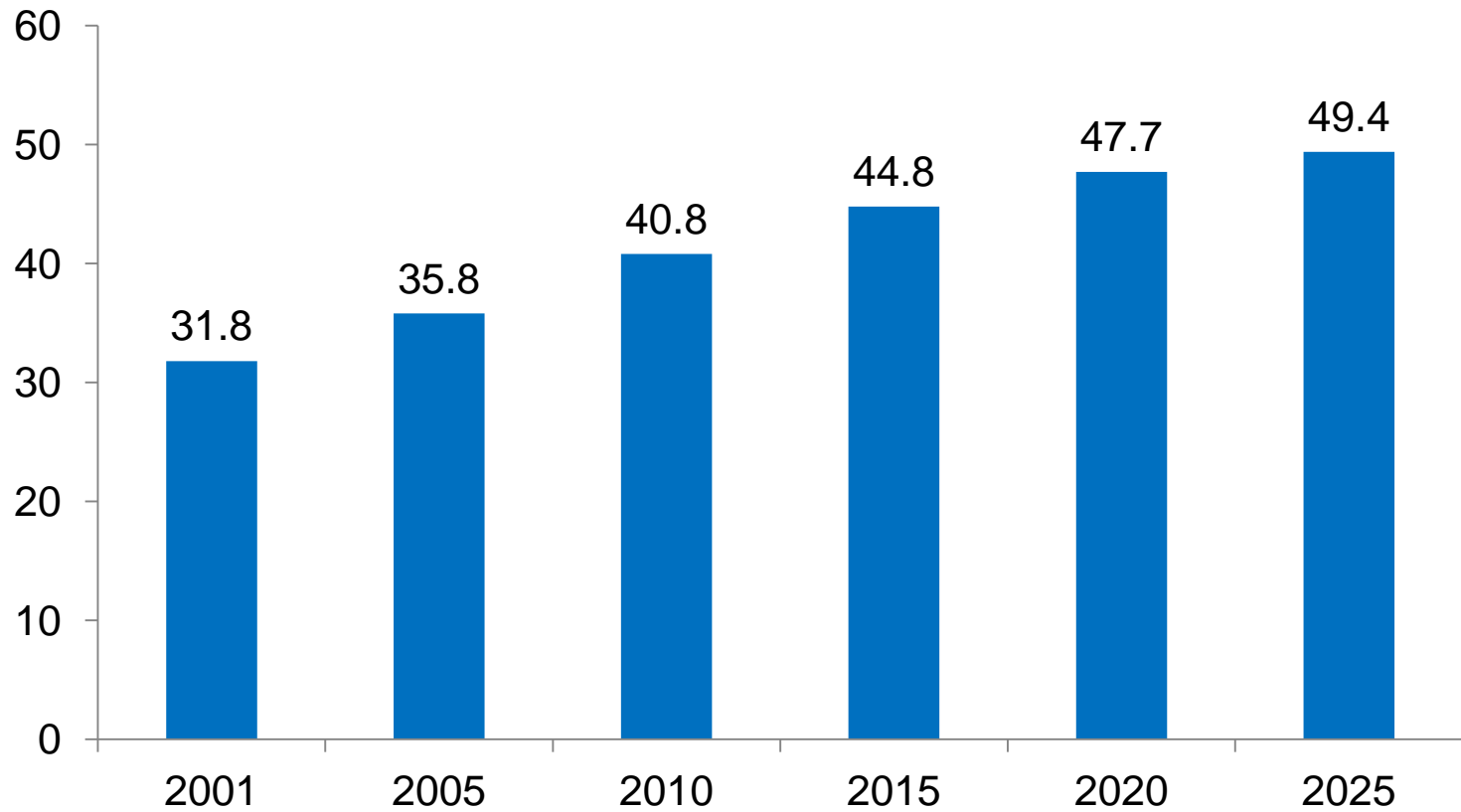
Source: Bangladesh Demographic and Health Surveys, 1993-4, 1996-7, 1999-2000, 2004, 2007

# Trends in TFR and CPR, Bangladesh, 1975-2011

	<b>1975 BFS</b>	<b>1989 BFS</b>	<b>1991 CPS</b>	<b>1994 BDHS</b>	<b>1997 BDHS</b>	<b>2000 BDHS</b>	<b>2004 BDHS</b>	<b>2007 BDHS</b>	<b>2011 BDHS</b>
<b>TFR</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.3</b>
<b>CPR</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>30.8</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>44.6</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>53.8</b>	<b>58.1</b>	<b>55.8</b>	<b>61.2</b>



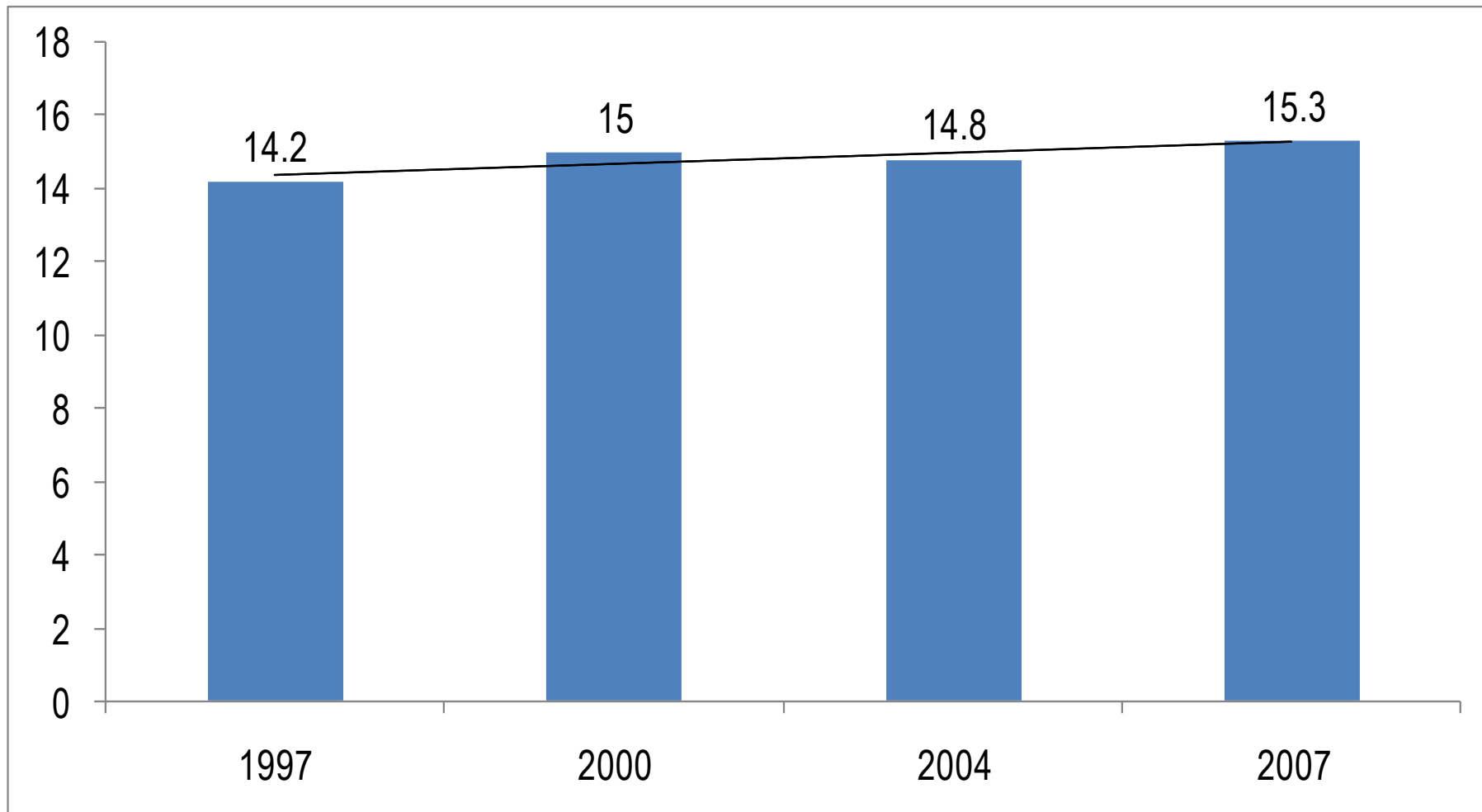
# Estimated Number of Women of Reproductive Age (million)



# Contribution of Adolescent Fertility

<b>Year</b>	<b>Age specific fertility rate</b>	<b>TFR</b>	<b>Contribution to TFR (%)</b>
<b>1991</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>20.8</b>
<b>1994</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>20.6</b>
<b>1997</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>22.3</b>
<b>2000</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>21.8</b>
<b>2004</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>22.5</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>23.3</b>

# Female Median Age at Marriage



Source: BDHS 1997, 2000, 2004, 2007

# Urbanization

## National & urban population growth in Bangladesh 1901-2008

Census Year	National Population (million)	Growth Rates	Urban Population		Annual Growth Rate
			Number	Percent	
1901	28.93	-	0.70	2.43	-
1911	31.56	0.87	0.81	2.55	1.39
1921	33.25	0.52	0.88	2.64	0.85
1931	53.60	0.68	1.07	3.02	2.00
1941	42.00	1.65	1.54	3.66	3.59
1951	44.17	0.50	1.82	4.33	1.69
1961	55.22	2.23	2.64	5.19	3.72
1971	76.40	2.50	6.27	8.78	6.66
1981	89.91	2.33	13.23	15.18	10.66
1991	111.46	2.15	20.87	19.63	4.56
2001	130.03	1.54	28.61	23.10	3.15
2008	144.66	1.32	36.31	25.10	3.37 <sup>12</sup>

**Rate of population movement is much higher than the national population growth rate.**

**National population growth rate is 1.37% per annum, while the national internal migration rate is 4.5%. For Dhaka, the in-migration rate is about 6.0%.**

**The urban growth rate is 3.5% per annum, while the slum growth rate is 7.0%.**

**Dhaka was the second fastest growing mega city between 1975-2007 with 5.65% urban growth and Dhaka would be the fastest growing mega city up to 2025 in spite of having lower growth rate of 2.72% from 2007 to 2025.**

# Age Structure: Young and Old

<b>Year</b>	<b>Broad Age Groups</b>		
	<b>0-14 Yrs. (%)</b>	<b>15-59 Yrs. (%)</b>	<b>60+ Yrs. (%)</b>
<b>1911</b>	<b>42.3</b>	<b>53.3</b>	<b>4.4</b>
<b>1921</b>	<b>42.3</b>	<b>53.6</b>	<b>4.1</b>
<b>1931</b>	<b>41.9</b>	<b>54.9</b>	<b>3.2</b>
<b>1941</b>	<b>41.4</b>	<b>55.1</b>	<b>3.5</b>
<b>1951</b>	<b>42.2</b>	<b>53.5</b>	<b>4.4</b>
<b>1961</b>	<b>46.0</b>	<b>48.8</b>	<b>5.2</b>
<b>1974</b>	<b>48.0</b>	<b>46.3</b>	<b>5.7</b>
<b>1981</b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>47.8</b>	<b>5.5</b>
<b>1991</b>	<b>45.1</b>	<b>49.5</b>	<b>5.4</b>
<b>2001</b>	<b>39.4</b>	<b>54.9</b>	<b>5.7</b>
<b>2005</b>	<b>37.9</b>	<b>55.9</b>	<b>6.2</b>

Sources: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, 1994 and 1999 and 2006

As a result of declining population growth and consequent changes in age structure, the proportion of working age population is increasing and offering a window of opportunity, referred to as the 'demographic dividend'.

The 'demographic dividend' is defined as the potential economic benefit offered by changes in the age structure of the population during the demographic transition, when there is an increase in working age population and an associated decline in the dependent age population.

**The demographic structure of Bangladesh population suggests that its population will continue to grow for decades to come due to the population momentum inherent in the young age structure, even if replacement level fertility is achieved by the year 2015.**

**However, this young population is a blessing in the sense that it implies strength, energy, vigor, pool of work force and a full potential for future leadership. For Bangladesh, this is a demographic bonus.**

**This demographic bonus could bring a huge dividend, if this raw capital is converted into circulatory capital. This window of opportunity opens for a population only once.**

**If we fail to grab this opportunity immediately, this young population could create a disastrous hazard for the nation.**



# Challenges Remain

Although the demographic transition creates the demographic dividend, it also brings significant challenges with it.

Among these are the areas of education, health, nutrition, ageing, inequality, housing, food, social and political unrest, status of women, and employment.

The potential gains from the "demographic dividend" will be at risk due to continuing poverty and poor living standards.

**Demographic dividend is not prearranged. Rather it is an opportunity provided by the age structural transition.**

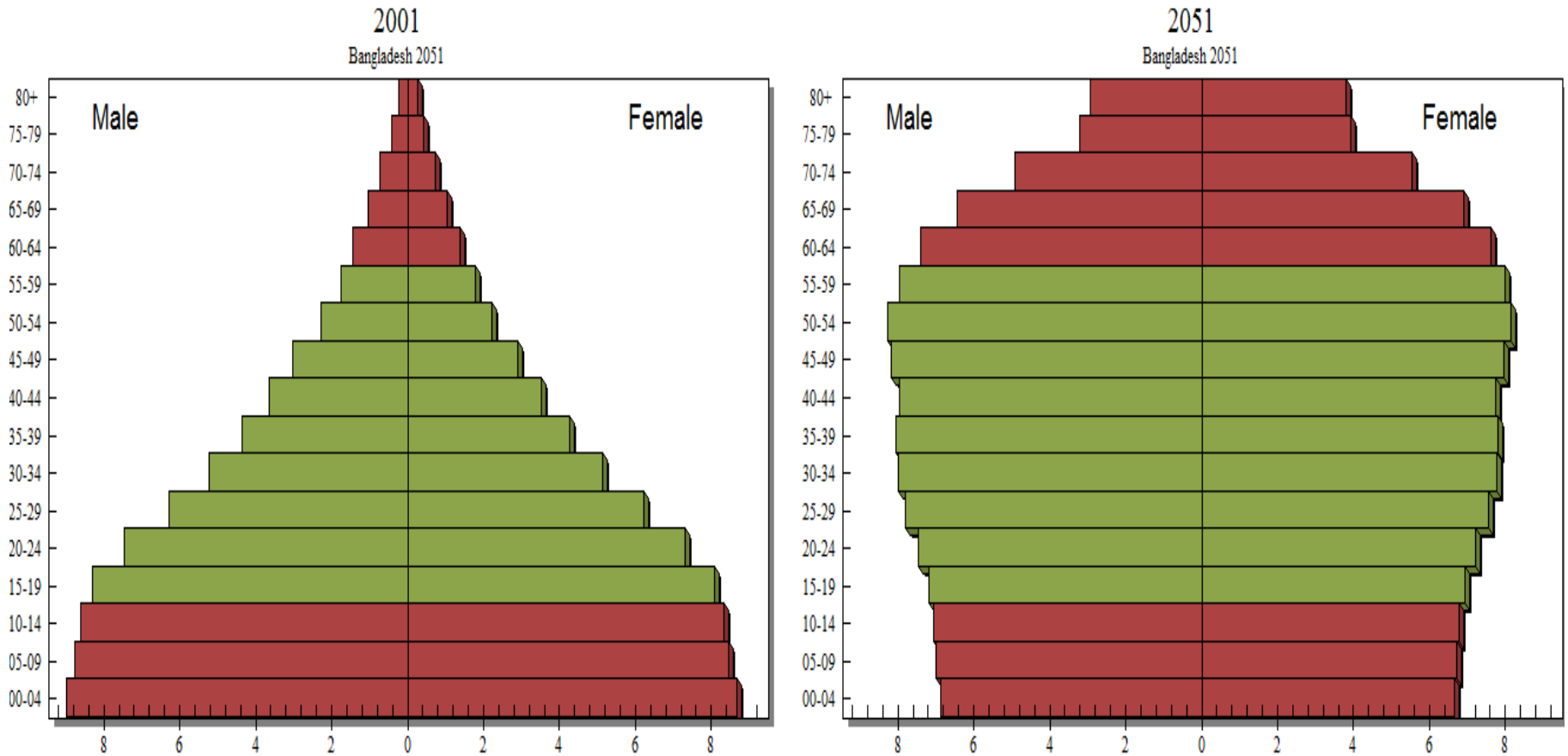
Meeting future challenges depends on ability to take advantage of the **window of opportunity offered for a plausibly tiny period for once in a life-time** with pertinent economic and social policies.

**What needs to be emphasised here is that economic gains from demographic dividend are not certain, as the term might misleadingly imply.**

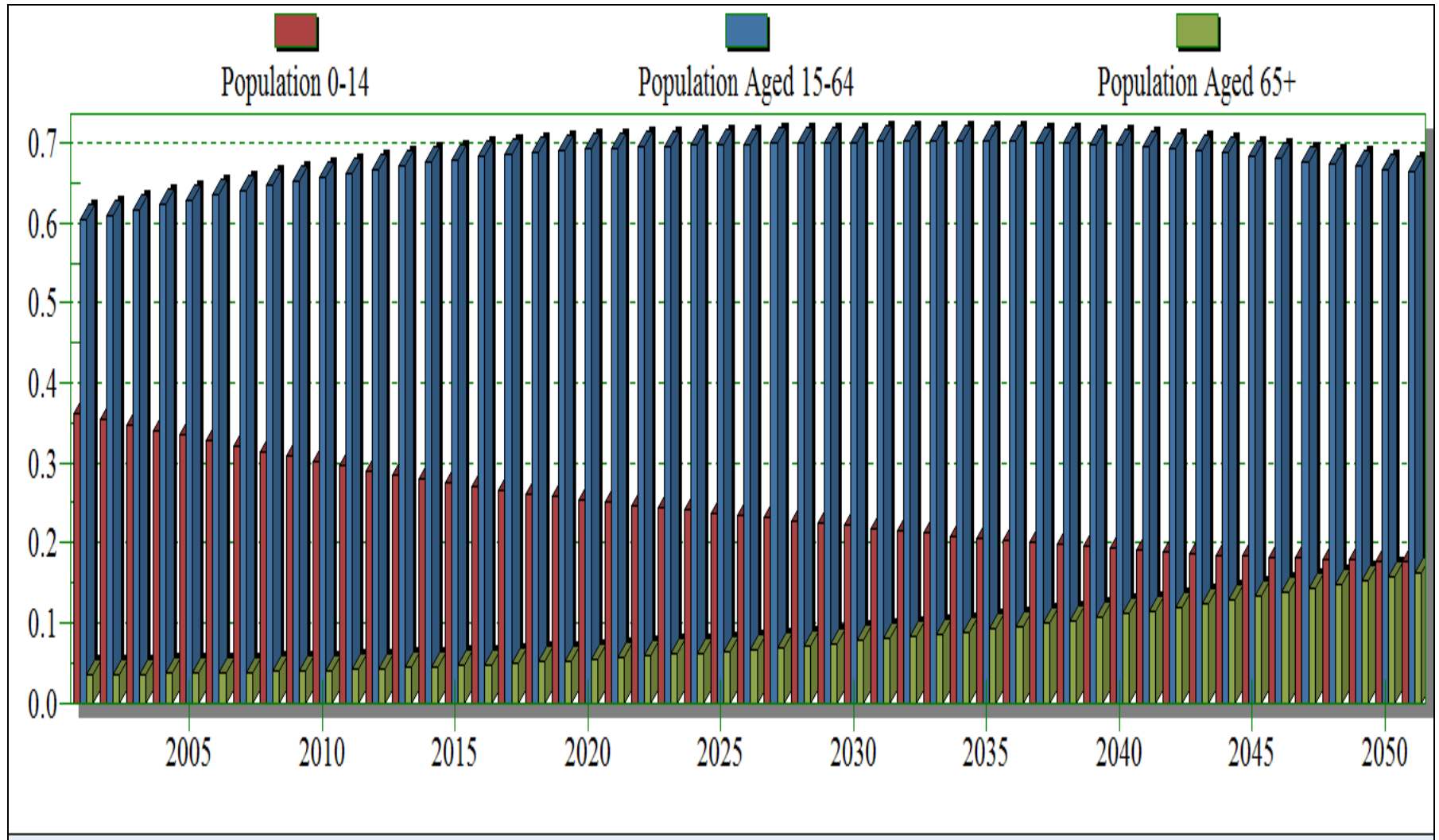
**Economic returns are not solely function of demographic dividend.**

# Projection of Changing Age-Structures for 2051

## All Age Groups (Millions)



# Distribution of Population by Age and Demographic Window of Opportunity in Bangladesh, 2005-2050



**To materialize the benefit of the window of opportunity,  
some strategic priorities could suggested:**

**Ensuring enabling policy environment**

**Reducing poverty**

**Creating environment for external investment**

**Generating employment opportunities**

**Creating enabling environment for women's employment**

**Eliminating all kind of inequality**

**Ensuring access to health, and Education**

**Expanding safety net for elderly**

**Reaching replacement level fertility**

**Creating space for human resource development**

**Creating institutional framework for accessible savings  
mechanism**

*Thank You*

