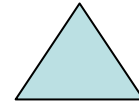


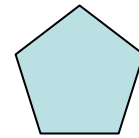
# Gender, Poverty, and Demography: the analytical framework

***Organization of the research agenda:***  
**gender and poverty/growth dynamics in different**  
**demographic contexts**

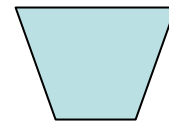
1. High fertility (rapid population growth)



2. Demographic “window of opportunity”



3. Population Aging



4. Demographic “Hourglass”



The working-age population shrunk due to disease or conflict ---

an exaggerated version of the aging problem, and also a lot of children left vulnerable

# 1. Rapid population growth

What do we know?

1. High youth dependency ratio reduces available funds per capita for public investment in health and education services, and for investment in increasing growth and employment (an arithmetic truth)
2. Women pay a price for high fertility:
  - Women's health
  - Lower labor-force participation, productivity, and lifetime earnings

Schultz's work on Bangladesh shows that lower fertility is associated with:

- better health status for mothers and their daughters (not sons)
  - higher child survival, higher schooling for sons (not statistically significant for daughters)
  - women's earnings rise (mostly through home-based work), and household assets rise.
3. Children pay a price for high fertility:
    - Lower birthweight associated with lifetime disadvantages in health, learning, and earnings
    - The quantity-quality tradeoff in investment in children (and especially in girls): much theory, less empirical work. Some of the papers here focus on this research gap.

## 2. Demographic “window of opportunity”

- What do we know?
  - In principle:
    - Lower dependency ratios (of youth, of aged) increases per capita availability of funds for investment in human capital and in economic growth
    - Higher proportion at working ages increases scope for rapid economic growth
  - This requires:
    - Growth of less-skilled jobs, and investing in health and education of the labor force
    - Policies that expand women’s labor-force participation, e.g.:
      - Reduce female disadvantages in schooling (e.g. subsidies), and in health
      - Legislation to facilitate women’s participation in the labor-force
    - Ideally, create conditions for rapid growth by land reform and other reduction of inequalities
- Research gap explored in the papers here: What are the gender-disaggregated implications of different policy environments for (1) investment in human capital, and (2) growth of employment opportunities?

# 3. Population Aging

- What do we know?
  - Higher proportion of aged strains public and private resources for old age support
  - Migration, urbanization, and “modernization” shrink informal sources of old age support (though they remain strikingly high in Asia)
  - Few developing countries are able or willing to divert the resources needed for supporting the aged
  - Problem exacerbated by fact that:
    - Developing countries were largely agrarian till recently, so little access to formal support systems
    - Women additionally disadvantaged because live longer, have lower earnings, own fewer assets, and participate less in formal labor force so less access to formal support systems

*Women make large non-monetary contributions, but more dependent on families for support*
- Some research gaps examined in these papers:
  - Review of the evidence for the gender gap in old age support (formal and informal). Including analytical review of the literature, not presented here.
  - Formal support systems: How can the gender gap in access to these be reduced?
  - Informal support systems: How do these differ between developing country settings, and in what types of setting is supplementation by public support more likely to be necessary?

## 4. Demographic “hourglass”

- What do we know?

If the working age population is shrunk due to factors such as HIV or conflict:

- Diminished labor supply and support for:
    - the aged, other adults in the household, and
    - children (nutrition, schooling) --- consequences for orphans especially severe if lose their mother
  - Other adults (e.g. parents, spouses) have additional demands on their resources
  - Negative feedback for economic growth (Bell and Devarajan): the reverse of the “demographic dividend”
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- Some research gaps explored in these papers:
    - Review of gender differentials in outcomes for the aged / other adults / children from HIV, from conflict (including analytical reviews of the literature, not presented here)
    - Gendered impact of prime-age illness and mortality on the aged / other adults / children
    - Gendered effects of migration
    - Effects of “missing women” on male health outcomes

# For today's discussion

1. Feedback on individual paper outlines: including hypotheses, methods and datasets
2. Review the papers as a whole, and build synergies where possible (with a view to publication)