



Demographics

Impact of the Demographics and Health scenario on fertility rates

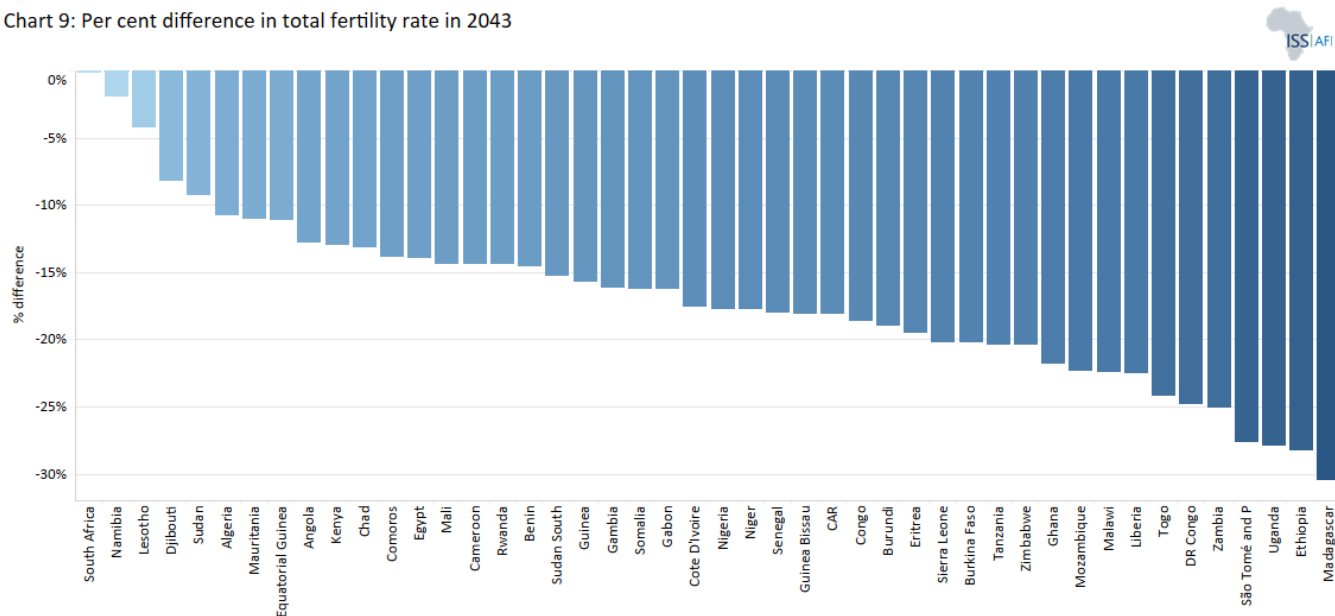
Jakkie Cilliers

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Impact of the Demographics and Health scenario on fertility rates

The combined Demographics and Health scenario would result in a total fertility rate of about 3.2 children per fertile woman across Africa by 2033 (as opposed to 3.7 in the Current Path forecast) and about 2.6 children per fertile woman by 2043 (as opposed to 3.2 in the Current Path forecast). Chart 9 presents the per cent difference in total fertility rates for each African country between the two scenarios. Botswana, Cape Verde, Libya, Mauritius, Seychelles and Tunisia are already close to replacement rates. Eswatini sees rapid reductions before its fertility rate levels off at the replacement level of 2.1 children in 2030.

Chart 9: Per cent difference in total fertility rate in 2043



Source: IFS 7.84 initialising from WDI data

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About the authors

Dr Jakkie Cilliers is the ISS's founder and former executive director of the ISS. He currently serves as chair of the ISS Board of Trustees and head of the African Futures and Innovation (AFI) programme at the Pretoria office of the ISS. His 2017 best-seller *Fate of the Nation* addresses South Africa's futures from political, economic and social perspectives. His three most recent books, *Africa First! Igniting a Growth Revolution* (March 2020), *The Future of Africa: Challenges and Opportunities* (April 2021), and *Africa Tomorrow: Pathways to Prosperity* (June 2022) take a rigorous look at the continent as a whole.

About African Futures & Innovation

Scenarios and forecasting can help Africa identify and respond to opportunities and threats. The work of the African Futures & Innovation (AFI) program at the Institute for Security Studies aims to understand and address a widening gap between indices of wellbeing in Africa and elsewhere in the world. The AFI helps stakeholders understand likely future developments. Research findings and their policy implications are widely disseminated, often in collaboration with in-country partners. Forecasting tools inspire debate and provide insights into possible trajectories that inform planning, prioritisation and effective resource allocation. Africa's future depends on today's choices and actions by governments and their non-governmental and international partners. The AFI provides empirical data that informs short- and medium-term decisions with long-term implications. The AFI enhances Africa's capacity to prepare for and respond to future challenges. The program is headed by Dr Jakkie Cilliers.