

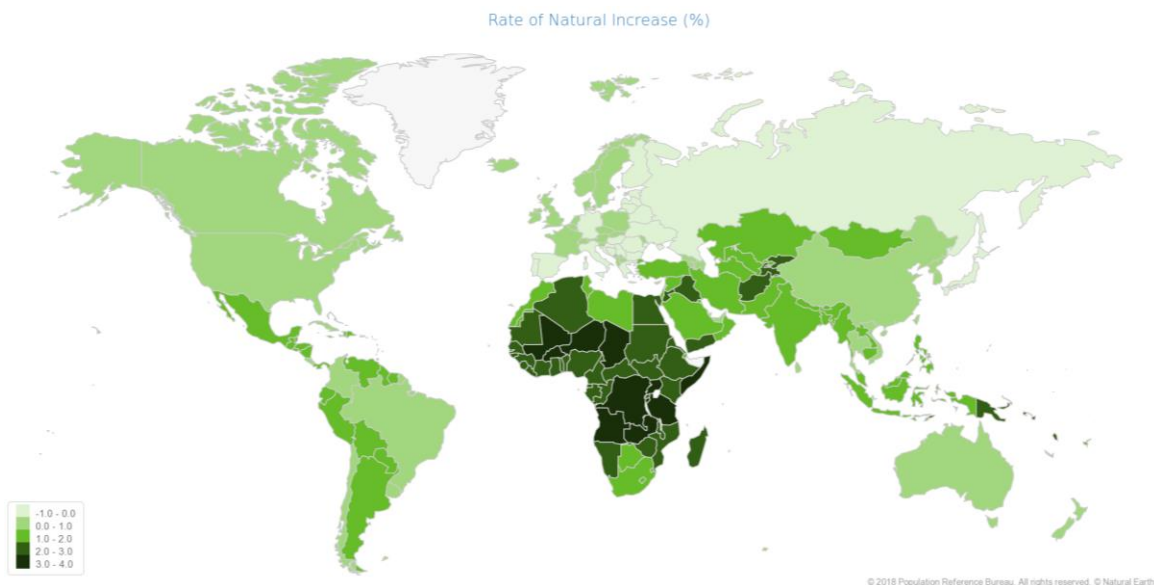
Population and Climate Change Hotspots

Danish Family Planning Association, 2019

High population growth overlaps with climate change vulnerability in many countries. Unmet need for family planning is especially high in African countries. Many of these countries are also particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, such as food insecurity, rising sea levels, droughts and floods. High population growth puts pressure on and increases demand for natural resources and pose a threat to securing basic health and social needs for everyone. Climate change exacerbates these challenges.

On the maps below it is evident that high population growth and climate change vulnerability overlaps geographically. Attention to how the two challenges interact and feed into one another is needed in order to cope with and tackle them. Investing in health services and securing access to family planning can help reduce the vulnerability of countries, which are hotspots of both high population growth and climate change vulnerability.

Population growth, 2018



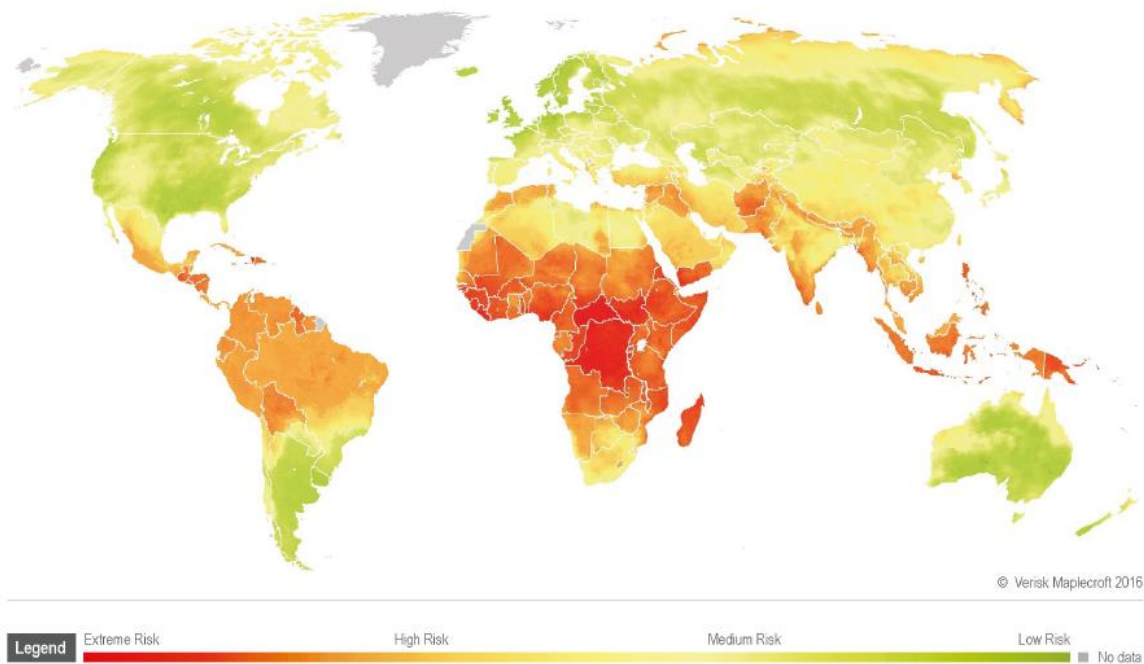
©Population reference Bureau 2018. All rights reserved. © Natural Earth.

The rate of natural increases in population considers the amount of live births and the number of deaths during a year. As evident on the map above, population growth is especially high in Africa and some Asian countries. Some of these areas are also places with particular risk of climate change impacts.

In addition to the effects of climate change, a high and rapid population growth can become decisive to the sustainable development, resilience and adaptive capabilities of countries - especially for the most vulnerable groups.

The global fertility rate is at 2.5 children per womanⁱ, but national and regional fertility rates need to be considered in relation to local and regional climate change effects.

Climate Change Vulnerability Index, 2017



Verisk Maplecroft 2016.

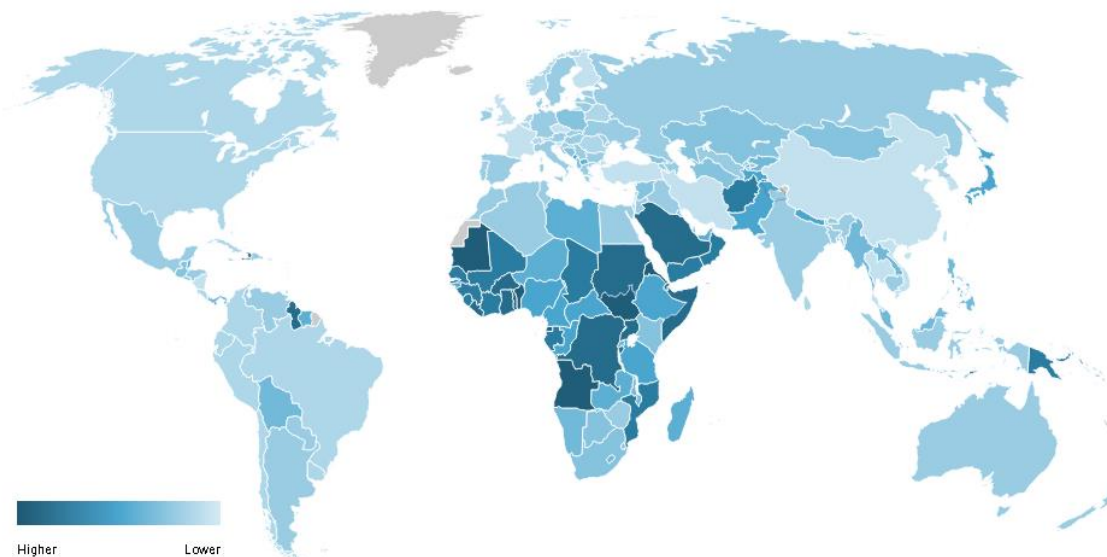
Globally, heat waves, floods, and other extreme weather events related to climate change have already been observed and are expected to increase in the future according to the IPCC 5th Assessment Report (AR5).ⁱⁱ While climate change is global, the effects vary geographically.

Africa is the region with the highest risk, and central Africa is particularly vulnerable to climate change effects. In some countries like Ethiopia the main risks are increases in temperature, frequency of droughts and changes in raining pattern.ⁱⁱⁱ In other countries like Kenya, sea level rise is amongst the primary risks.^{iv}

Common to the developing regions, where climate change is already felt, is that the threat to natural and human systems is high. Tackling these current and future challenges means strengthening resilience and reducing the vulnerability of people to the effects of climate change. The means of adapting to climate change varies with the geographical context, as climate change effects vary, but where human systems put pressure on natural systems, climate change will exacerbate these challenges.

Unmet need for family planning in 2018

Unmet need for family planning, women aged 15-49, per cent, 2018



UNFPA. World Population Dashboard. 2018.

Globally, the unmet need for modern contraception accounts for 84% of all the 89 million unintended pregnancies in developing regions.^v In the developed regions the unmet need for family planning among women aged 15-49 is 10%, while it is 12% for less developed regions, and 21% in the least developed regions.^{vi}

In Uganda for instance the unmet need for family planning among women aged 15-49 is 29%, and the fertility rate is at 5.4 children per woman.^{vii} Furthermore, 47% of the population of Uganda is under the age of 14^{viii}, and the population is expected to grow from 42.863.000 in 2017 to 105.698.000 people in 2050.^{ix} Ensuring access to family planning including contraception and abortion could help counter the social and environmental effects of climate change and population growth.

ⁱ <https://www.unfpa.org/data/world-population-dashboard>

ⁱⁱ https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/AR5_SYR_FINAL_SPM.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ https://www.climatelinks.org/sites/default/files/asset/document/2016%20CRM%20Factsheet%20-%20Ethiopia_use%20this.pdf

^{iv} https://www.climatelinks.org/sites/default/files/asset/document/kenya_climate_vulnerability_profile_jan2013.pdf

^v <https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/adding-it-up-contraception-mnh-2017>

^{vi} <https://www.unfpa.org/data/world-population-dashboard>

^{vii} <https://www.unfpa.org/data/world-population/UG>

^{viii} <https://www.unfpa.org/data/world-population/UG>

^{ix} https://population.un.org/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2017_KeyFindings.pdf