

Ageing And The Care Ecosystem In Tunisia



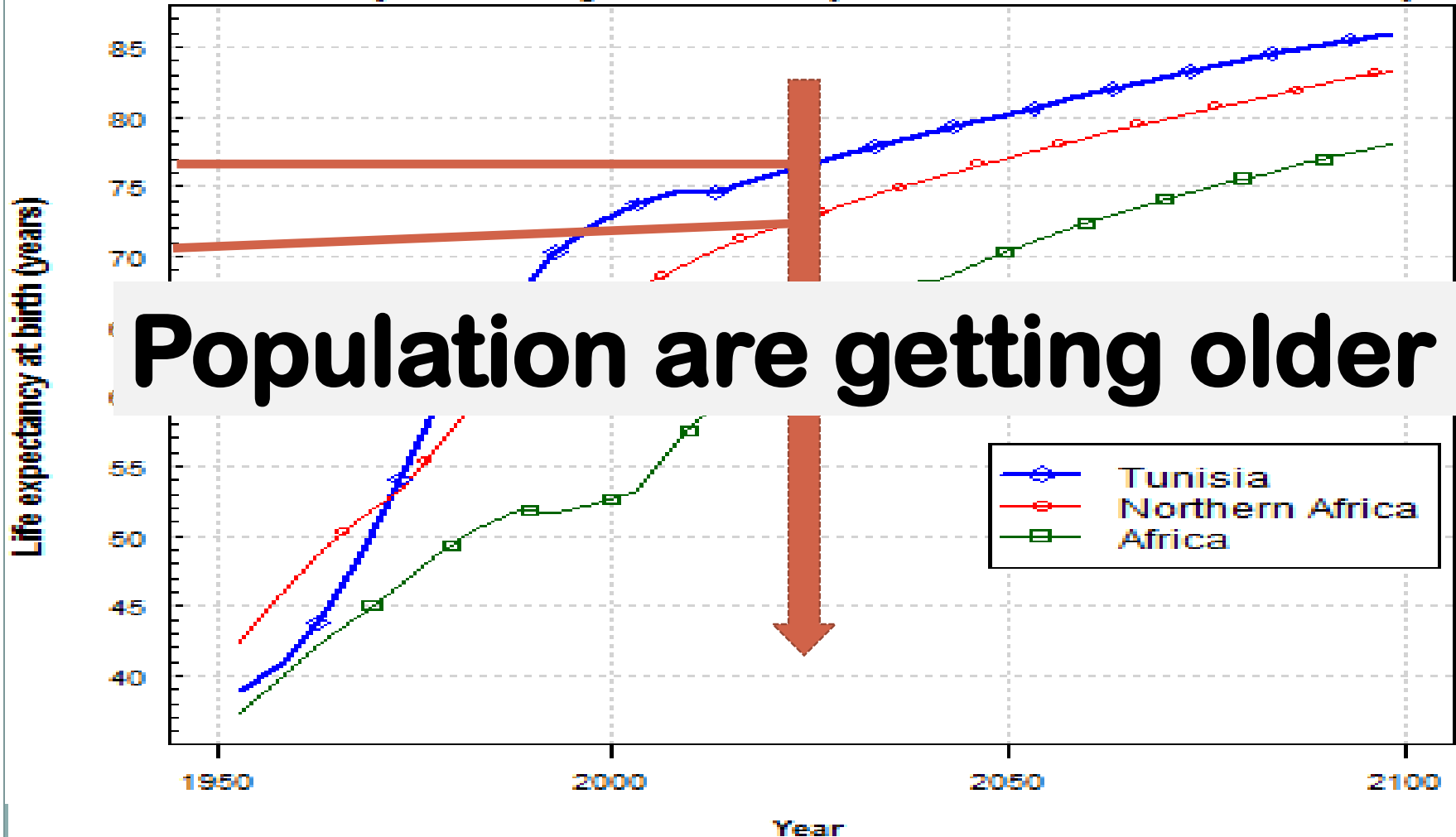
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Life expectancy at birth in Tunisia

Life expectancy at birth (both sexes combined)

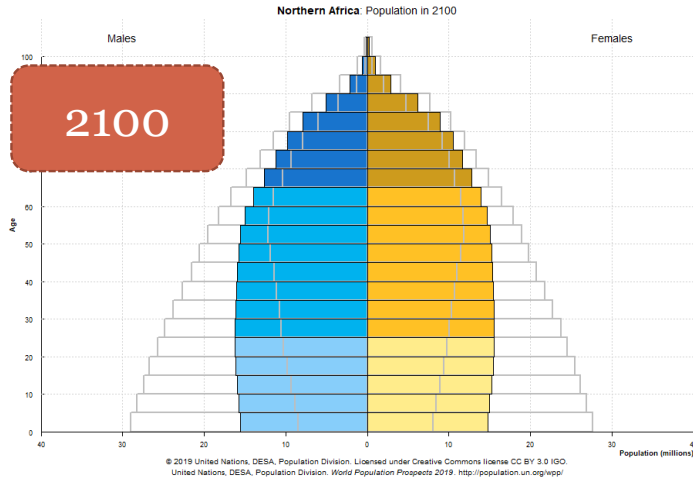
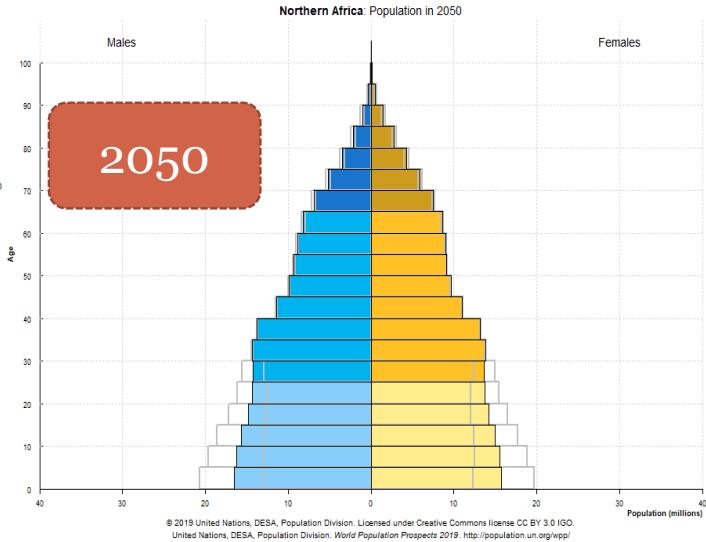
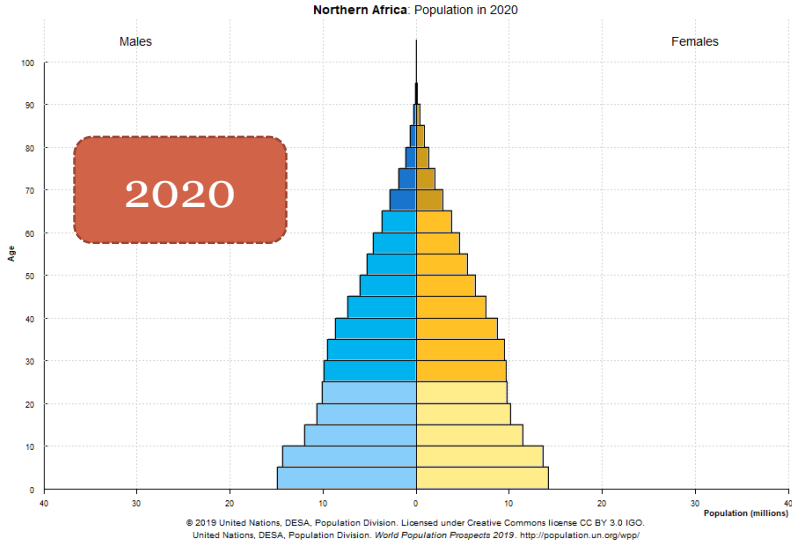


North Africa & Tunisia demographic ageing



- represents an emerging question
- little attention has been devoted to that issue
- The number of older persons is predicted **to more than quadruple by 2050,**

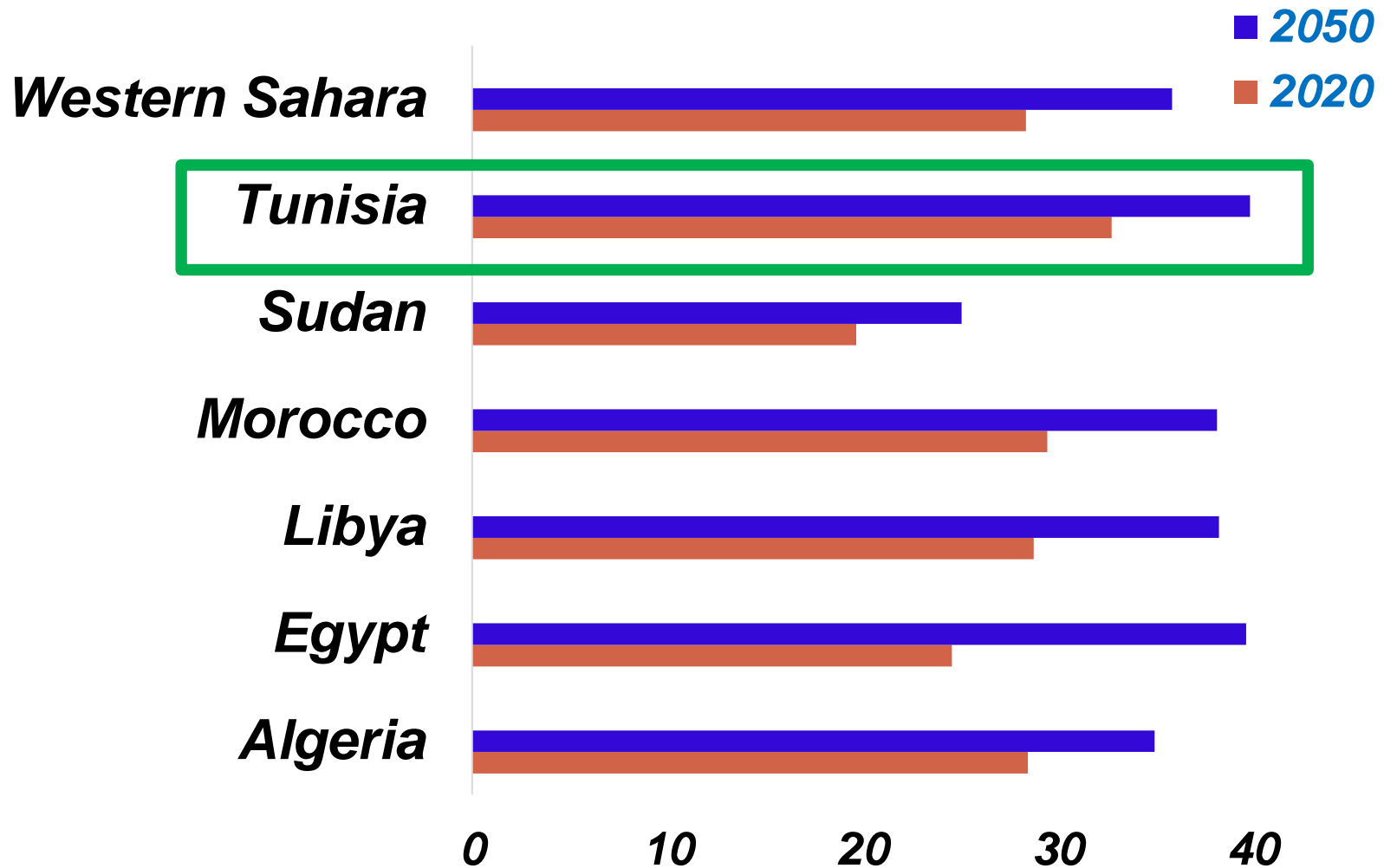
Population Pyramids North Africa



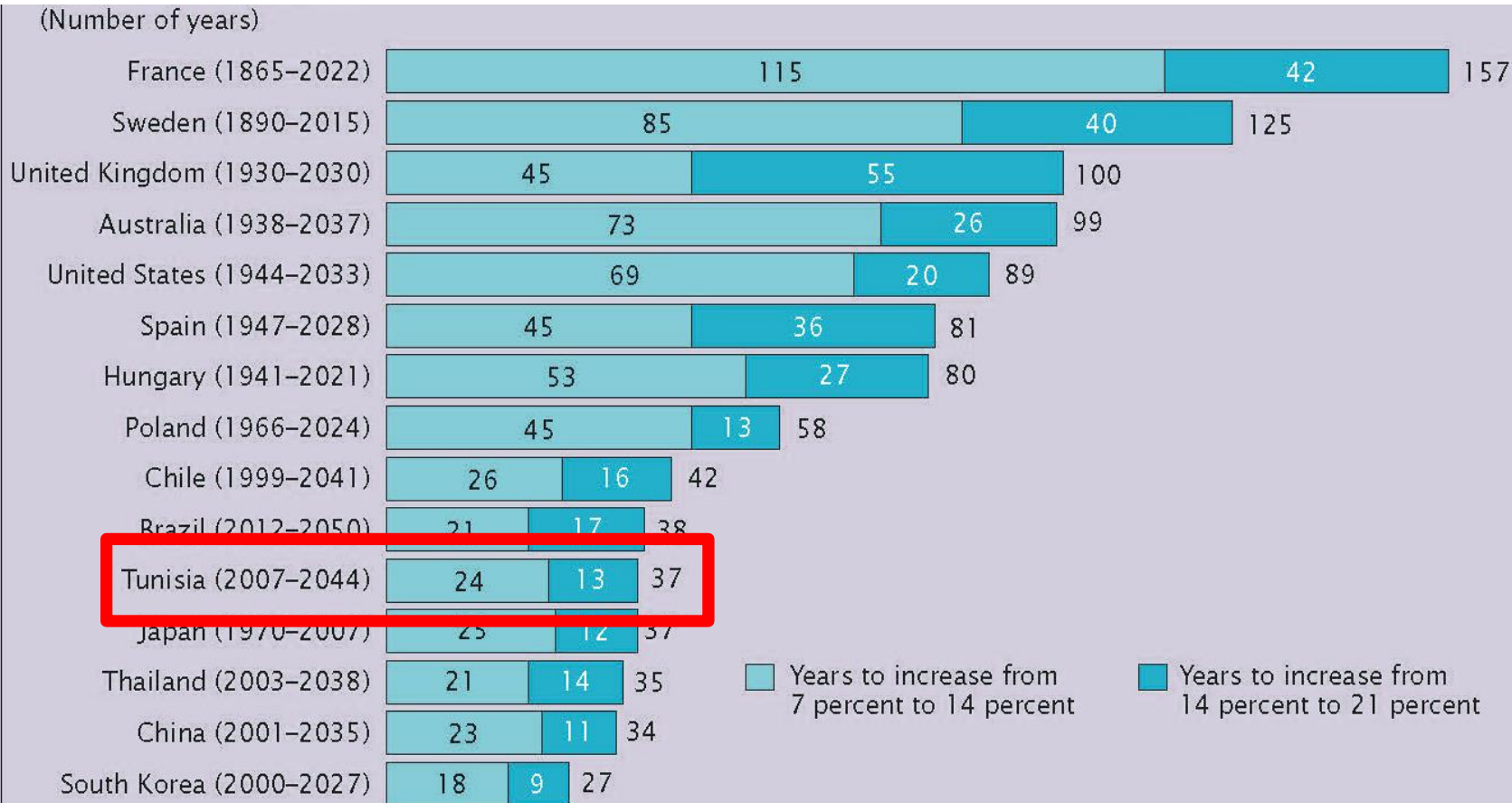
***Ageing in North Africa is the result of many
contributing factors***

- Rapidly declining in fertility rates;
- Rapidly declining in death rates
- An increasing life expectancy;
- Rising median age

Median age (Years) of the population in North Africa



Older population in NA countries are increasing faster than they did in rich countries (Triple)



Sources: Kinsella and Gist, 1995; U.S. Census Bureau, 2013, 2014; International Data Base, U.S. population projections.

*As a consequence,
Population ageing is highly correlated with:*

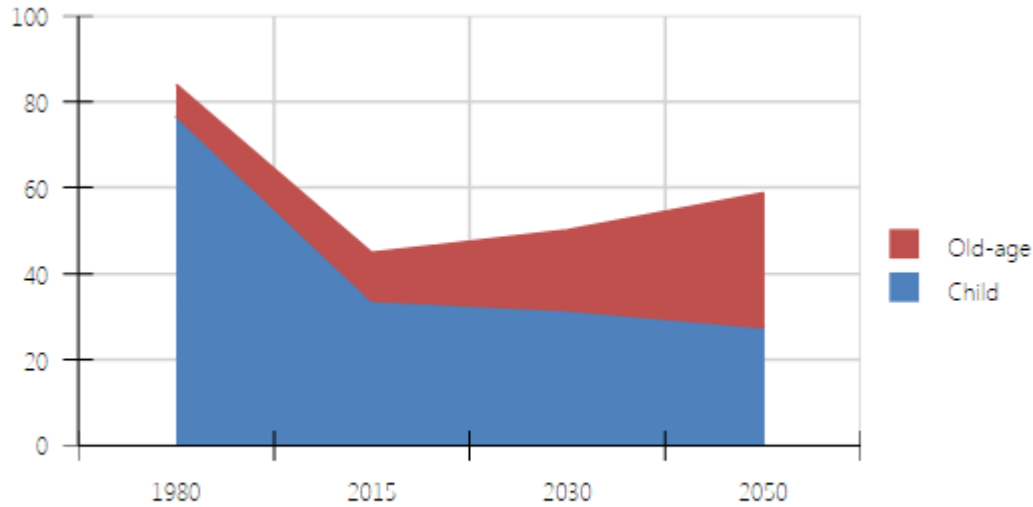
- an increase in the prevalence of a number of **long-term chronic conditions**;
- **physical and mental disability**;
- **increased personal care needs**.

Other significant transformations

- urbanization,
- changes in patterns of fertility,
- **changes in family structure including living arrangements**
- **migration for economic, political and other reasons.**



Dependency ratio



Change in family structure



Role of the family



- Changing family structures resulting in shrinking social support networks that many older have depended upon for generations.
- With increasing urbanization, this support network is being dismantled.
- rapidly increasing new category of **neglected elderly individuals or older adults living alone without any caregivers.**



vulnerability of aged women

Care roles and responsibilities of Men and Women in Tunisia

- Care roles of men and women in the context of population ageing are varied.
- The general perception is that older people are care receivers while younger ones are care givers.
- Islam also places a considerable duty of elderly care, particularly financially, on male sons
- **Recent evidence**, in N Africa, suggests that older people are increasingly playing the role of care givers as much as they are care receivers.



The Role of Women in Long-Term Care Provision

- **Women with their traditional roles** of wives and mothers, are usually portrayed and expected to be **the main source of emotional and care support**
- women **provide most formal and informal care.**(the most common form of care provision within the region)
- **Even when hospitalization** is necessary (help with eating and washing, is often provided by relatives rather than nursing staff)

Growing number of old people will live in senior charity homes



the day we open the first **nursing home** in Morocco, our Society will be in the process of disappearing



“le jour où l'on ouvrira la première maison de retraite au Maroc, notre société sera en voie de disparition”.

Hassan II



Ageing and pensions coverage in NA countries

- ❖ **NA has one of the lowest levels of pension benefits and health insurance in MENA**
- ❖ populations are not able to afford the cost of access to healthcare and housing.
- ❖ **social protection system covering a small proportion of the population**
- ❖ pension system covering fewer than 20% of retirees,
- ❖ the elderly, particularly **older women**, represent a very vulnerable population.
- ❖ Seniors, in most cases, do not enjoy a pension or healthcare coverage.

Barriers to Healthy Ageing in NA

- Outdated and ageist stereotypes
- Inadequate policies
- Lack of accessibility
- Inadequate or absent services
- Lack of consultation and involvement



Egypt



Tunisia



Libya



Syria

Main causes for the uprisings in the region



- **BAD GOVERNANCE & CORRUPTION.**
- **YOUNG UNEMPLOYMENT** (the uprising is often called the Youth Revolution).
- **LACK OF FREEDOM OF OPINION** (palliated by the internet and the social networks).
- **FOOD PRICES** (mainly bread).
- **POVERTY.....**

Priority areas for action

Improve understanding of the health status

Needs of older populations

Measurement, monitoring and understanding

Place older people at the centre of health care

Align health systems to the older populations they now serve



Support Healthy Ageing
Combat ageism

Ensure everyone has a safe and age-friendly environment

Develop the long-term care workforce

Develop long-term care systems

Ensure the quality of long-term care





Thank you for your attention

