**Bangladesh**

Use this video and the following quotes and article to help you summarise the significant points about Bangladesh’s population and how it has changed over the past 50 years.

What is unique about their demographic change?

What are the challenges and opportunities of the ‘Youth bulge”?

1. Interesting character talking about Bangladesh’s population:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPTwE0qIuNA>

Note that his final data point for the Child death rate and CBR are from 2003- they have continued to drop to 2.04 and 3.2 respectively.

1. Quotes:

Bangladesh currently has a population approaching 150 million and will add another 100 million before stabilizing, unless fertility can soon drop below replacement level. This level of fertility decline will require a change in marriage patterns, which have been minimal so far, even with increasing female schooling. It would also benefit from a long-awaited shift to long-term contraception. In addition to the consequence of huge population size, the density of population is already five times that of any other ‘mega’ country (>100 million), a very challenging situation for an agricultural society. Most of the future growth will be urban, increasingly in slums. Numbers of young people will not increase, but numbers of older people will increase 10-fold this century, creating a large burden on the health system, especially for chronic illnesses. High density of population means that agricultural land is virtually saturated, with very limited capacity to expand food production. Climate change may have dramatic impacts on agriculture, through flooding and drought resulting from weather changes and geopolitical influences on transborder rivers. Rising sea-levels and consequent salinity will affect crops and require shifts to alternative land use. Serious long-term planning is needed for meeting the growing needs of the population, both for distribution and consumption.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2740702/>

*Because of its poverty, it has long been a recipient of vast amounts of aid. With around 150m people crammed into a silted delta frequently swept by cyclones and devastating floods, it is the most densely populated country on Earth outside city states. Hardly any part is isolated by distance, tradition or ethnicity, making it easier for anti-poverty programmes to reach everyone. Unusually, it has a culture that is distinct from its religion: although most Bangladeshis are Muslims, their culture and language are shared with the non-Muslim Indian state of West Bengal. Religious opposition to social change has been mild.*

<https://jrahman.wordpress.com/2013/12/02/decoding-the-bangladesh-paradox-a-research-agenda/>

1. Article: Bangladesh’s demographic “Youth Bulge” (posted on website).