Life Expectancy
- 30 - 39 years
- 40 - 49 years
- 50 - 59 years
- 60 - 69 years
- 70 - 79 years
- no data available

Sources:
1960: World Bank
World Development Report 1983
2008: World Bank
World Development Indicators 2010

Literacy Rates
- < 20%
- 20 - 39%
- 40 - 59%
- 60 - 79%
- ≥ 80%
- no data available

Sources:
1960: World Bank
World Development Report 1983
2008: World Bank
World Development Indicators 2010

Primary School Attendance
- < 20%
- 20 - 39%
- 40 - 59%
- 60 - 79%
- ≥ 80%
- no data available

Sources:
1960: World Bank
World Development Report 1983
2008: World Bank
World Development Indicators 2010

Urbanization
- < 10%
- 10 - 19%
- 20 - 29%
- 30 - 39%
- 40 - 49%
- 50 - 59%
- ≥ 60%
- no data available

Sources:
1960: World Bank
World Development Report 1983
2007: World Bank
World Development Indicators 2010

Current country names are used.
Africa's population has grown extremely rapidly over the last fifty years from 289 million inhabitants in 1961 to more than 1 billion today. This is a growth rate of 350% in just half a century and the number of urban residents has increased even more quickly: from 65 million in 1960 to 460 million today, or from 20% to 46% of the population as a whole. Demographers predict that soon more than 50% of all Africans will be living in cities. The average life expectancy, literacy rates and primary-school attendance figures in Africa have also all increased spectacularly. And today there are large numbers of relatively healthy, well-educated young people with a more international view of the world. Changes in the structure of Africa’s population are evident in the continent’s population pyramid. A ‘youth bulge’ can be seen in Southern Africa’s population statistics, with those aged between 10 and 30 far outnumbering those in the 0-10 age group and those over 30 years of age. In other parts of Africa, and for Africa as a whole, the population statistics still have a pyramidal structure and have not yet created the sort of onion shape seen in Southern Africa. This expectation is, however, that a declining birth rate across Africa over the next few decades will lead to a change in the continent’s population structure and there will be a relatively high number of 10-30 year olds compared to other parts of the world. The fact that there are so many youth in Africa today and that they are much better educated than their parents ever were is having a big impact on the labour market. The youth are starting to feel disillusioned about the lack of job opportunities and are realizing that their (reasonably good) level of education is not going to allow them direct or easy access to greater prosperity and a better life.

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Research

The ASC’s research programme last for five years. Its multidisciplinary are empirical in nature and are carried out in cooperation with African colleagues and institutions by the Centre’s researchers and PhD and Research Masters students.

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