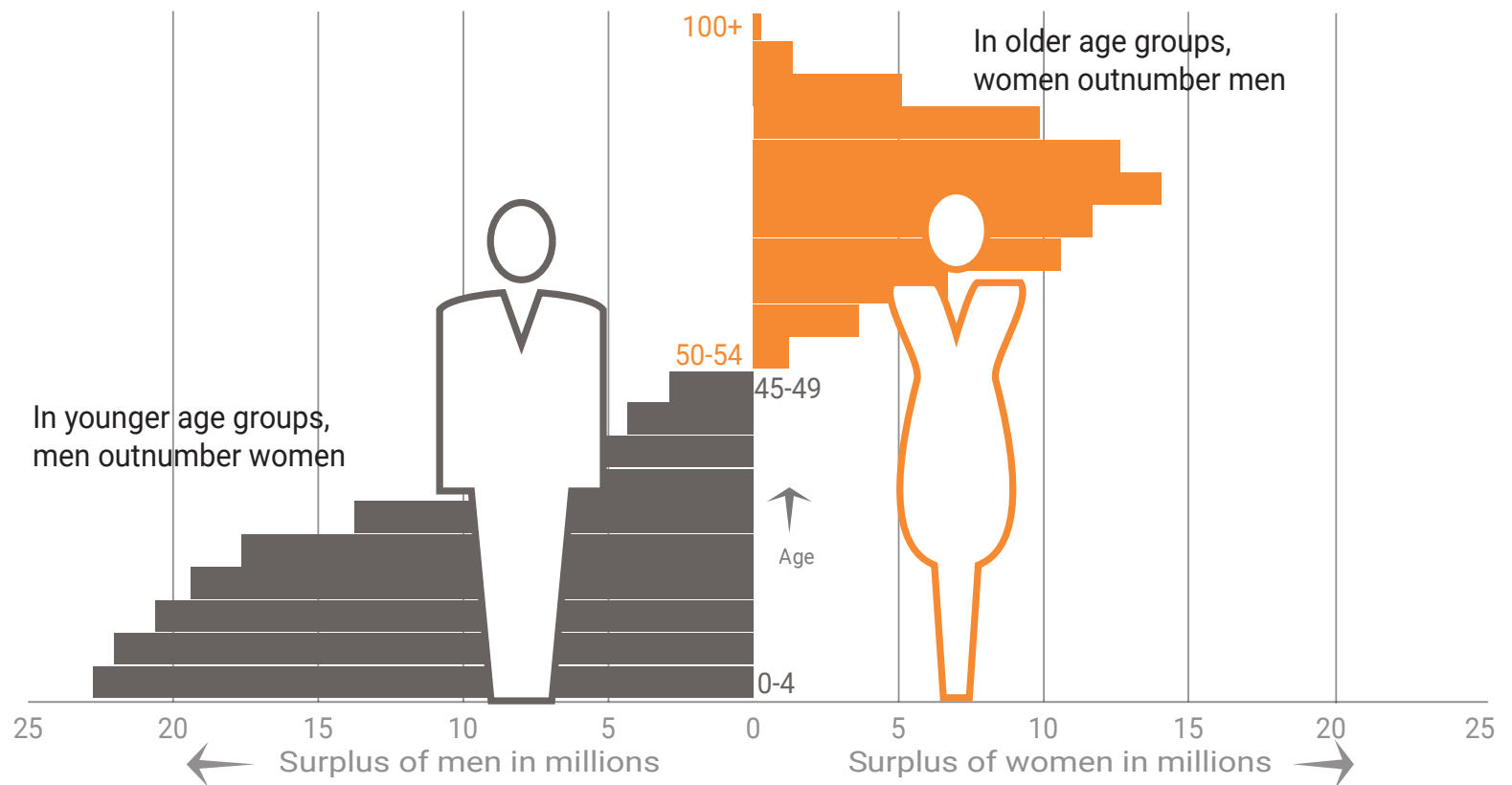


# POPULATION AND FAMILIES

## Population

Globally, there are about 62 million more men than women



## Marriage

Both women and men are getting married later

Average age at first marriage



Yet, more than 1 in 4 women aged 20-24 in developing regions are married before they turn 18. The proportion is higher for Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa



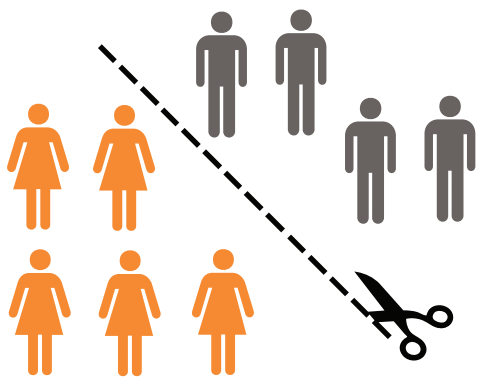
Southern Asia - 44%



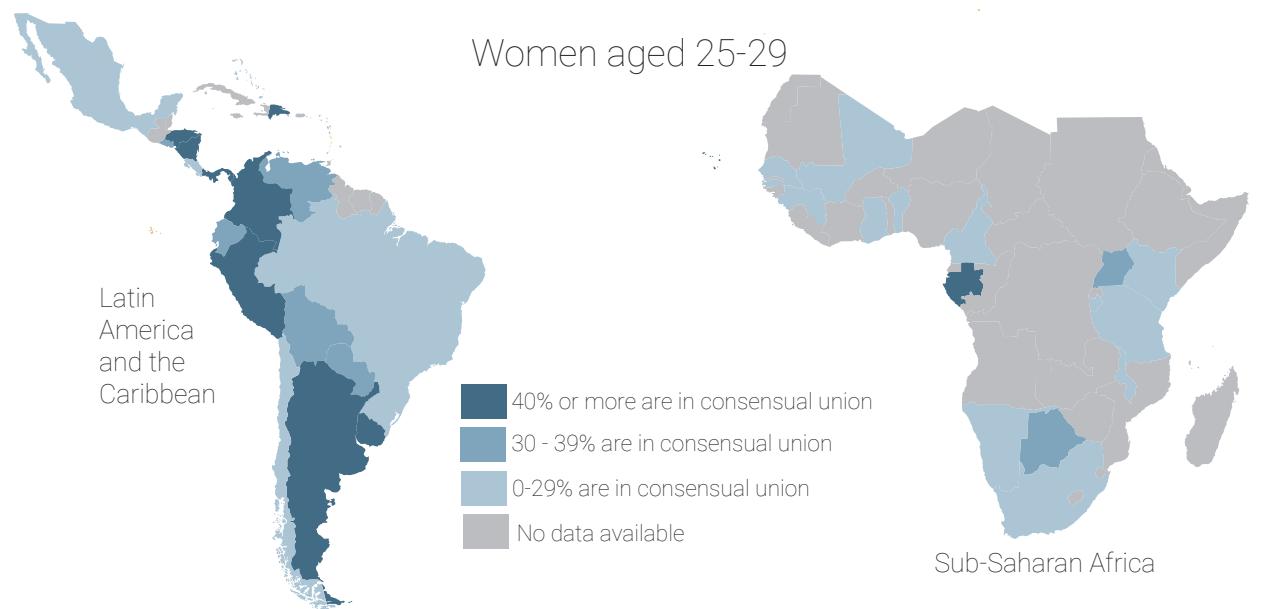
Sub-Saharan Africa - 40%

## Living arrangements

Among divorced or separated aged 45-49, there are at least 5 women for every 4 men in most countries



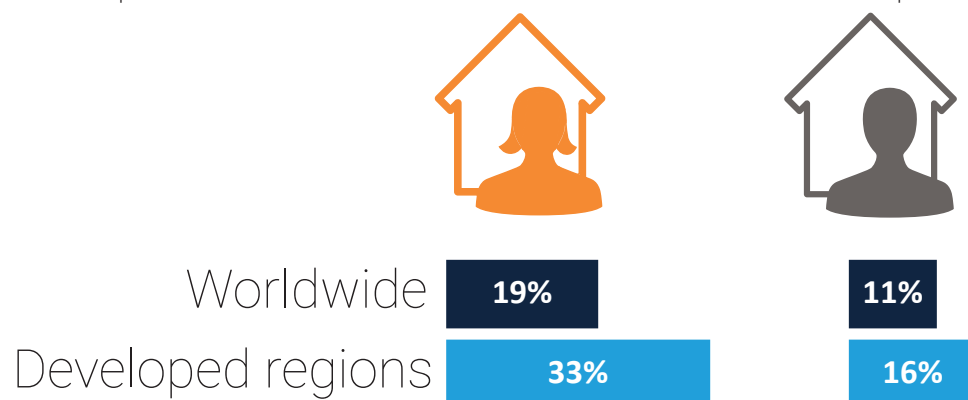
Informal unions are on the rise everywhere, exceeding 30% in many countries



3 in 4 one-parent households are lone mothers with children



At older ages (60+), women are more likely than men to live in one-person households, more so in developed regions



## Population and families – Key findings

- Worldwide, **men outnumber women** by some 62 million. More baby boys are born than baby girls (about 105 boys for each 100 girls), a by-product of enduring natural selection processes. The slight male advantage in numbers of births progressively disappears during childhood and young adulthood, owing to generally higher male than female mortality. While in younger age groups, boys and men outnumber girls and women, after age 50, globally, women outnumber men. Women represent 54 per cent of the population aged 60 and over and 62 per cent of those aged 80 and over.
- About half (48 per cent) of the 232 million **international migrants** in 2013 were women. Women represented slightly more than half of international migrants in developed regions (52 per cent), while their share remained lower among international migrants in developing regions (43 per cent), particularly in Northern Africa (41 per cent), Oceania (45 per cent), Southern Asia (43 per cent) and Western Asia (34 per cent).
- The **age at marriage** has increased to 25 years for women and 29 years for men, about 1 year later for both compared to two decades ago, a reflection of increases in education levels, later entry into the labour force, greater economic independence of women and a rise in informal unions. Age at marriage has been the highest and has increased the most in developed regions, where women marry at age 29 and men at age 31, on average. Women continue to marry at the youngest ages in Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Currently, for women in these regions, age at marriage averages 21 and 22 years, respectively, while men on average marry at age 26 and 27, respectively.
- **Child marriage**, a fundamental violation of human rights that limits girls' opportunities for education and development, has declined from 31 per cent in 1995 to 26 per cent in 2010 of women aged 20 to 24 married before age 18. Yet almost half of women aged 20 to 24 in Southern Asia (44 per cent) and two fifths in sub-Saharan Africa (40 per cent) marry before age 18.
- Globally, the total **fertility** rate declined from 3 children per woman in 1990–1995 to 2.5 children per woman in 2010–2015. In developed regions, the total fertility rate was lowest in 1995–2000, but in 2010–2015, it returned to the level observed 20 years earlier of 1.7 children per woman. Childlessness is particularly high in developed regions, and in some countries, nearly 1 in 5 women are childless at the end of their reproductive lives. In the developing regions, the average number of children per woman declined by 0.7 children, to reach 2.7 in 2010–2015. Despite a decline of more than one child on average over the past 20 years, sub-Saharan Africa is still by far the region where women have the highest number of children – 4.6 in 2010–2015. Within that region, the total fertility rate varies from less than 2.5 in Southern Africa to more than 5.6 in Central and West Africa.
- **One-parent households** (households in which children are raised by only one parent) are increasingly common in many countries in both developing and developed regions, as a result of increases in extramarital fertility and divorce. In some countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and Northern Europe, there are more births outside of marriage than within. **Divorce** is on the rise globally, and particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean and developed regions. Once divorced, women are less likely than men to re-marry: In most countries with available data, the proportion of women aged 45 to 49 who are divorced or separated is at least 25 per cent higher than that of men in the same age group. Mothers are usually awarded custody of children, and, as a result, lone mothers with children constitute about three quarters of one-parent households.
- **Widowhood** is about three times higher among women aged 60 to 64 than among men in the same age group. This is a direct result of the higher survival rates among women than men and the lower probability of women than men remarrying after the death of their spouse. Widowhood among women of this age group is most prevalent in developing countries, particularly in some parts of Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, where mortality levels are higher, women often marry older men, and remarriage after the death of a male spouse is less common than in other regions. In some sub-Saharan African countries, particularly those experiencing conflict or high HIV prevalence, the proportion of women aged 60 to 64 who are widowed is above 40 per cent.
- Closely linked to gender differences in survival at older ages and marital status are the differences in **living arrangements** between women and men. At older ages (60+), women are more likely than men to live in one-person households, and more so in developed regions. The proportion of older persons living alone is 19 per cent for women and 11 per cent for men; in developed regions the proportions are 33 per cent for women and 16 per cent for men.