

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are under 15 years of age has increased from 1.1 billion to 1.5 billion, and the number of people aged 65 and over has increased from 0.5 billion to 0.7 billion (United Nations 2002).

There are a number of reasons why the world's population is ageing. First, the number of people who survive to old age has increased. In 1950, the life expectancy at birth was 47 years for men and 51 years for women. By 2000, life expectancy at birth had increased to 72 years for men and 77 years for women (United Nations 2002).

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