Definition of UN Projection Scenarios

The projections (details here) include a medium scenario based on probabilistic methods that provide prediction intervals (80% and 95%) to reflect uncertainty, plus thirteen deterministic scenarios that test sensitivity to different assumptions.

Medium scenario: Uses probabilistic methods to project fertility, mortality, and international migration, accounting for each country's past experience and uncertainty based on similar countries' experiences. The medium scenario represents the mean fertility and mortality and median net migration across thousands of trajectories.

Fertility scenarios (8 variants): All share the same assumptions for sex ratio at birth, mortality, and migration, differing only in fertility levels:

- **High/Low:** Total fertility is 0.5 births above/below the medium scenario
- **Constant-fertility:** Fertility remains at 2024 levels
- **Instant-replacement:** Fertility set to maintain a net reproduction rate of 1.0
- **No fertility below age 18:** Fertility rates under age 18 drop to zero immediately in 2024
- **Accelerated ABR decline:** Fertility under age 20 declines by 20% annually until adolescent birth rate falls below 10 per 1,000 women aged 15-19
- **Accelerated ABR decline with recovery:** Same as above, but half of the reduced fertility is recovered 10 years later

Mortality scenarios: Include constant-mortality and no-change (constant fertility and mortality) scenarios to isolate mortality effects.

Migration scenarios: Include zero-migration, instant-replacement zero-migration, and momentum scenarios to assess migration impacts and decompose population change by demographic components (fertility, mortality, migration, and momentum from age structure).

Table. Projection scenarios in terms of assumptions for fertility, mortality and international migration

Projection Scenarios	Fertility	Mortality	International Migration
Medium scenario	Medium (based on mean probabilistic fertility)	Medium (based on mean probabilistic mortality)	Medium (based on median probabilistic migration)
Low fertility scenario	Low	Medium	Medium
High fertility scenario	High	Medium	Medium
Constant fertility scenario	Constant as of 2024	Medium	Medium
Instant-replacement fertility scenario	Instant-replacement as of 2024	Medium	Medium
No fertility below age 18 scenario	Age-specific fertility below age 18 = 0 as of 2024	Medium	Medium
Accelerated decline of adolescent birth rate (ABR) scenario	Age-specific fertility below age 20 declines by 20% per year until ABR is below 10 births per 1,000 women aged 15-19	Medium	Medium
Accelerated decline of ABR with recovery scenario	Accelerated ABR decline with recovery of half of reduced fertility once cohorts have aged 10 years	Medium	Medium
Zero-migration scenario	Medium	Medium	Zero from 2024
Instant-replacement zero-migration scenario	Instant-replacement as of 2024	Medium	Zero from 2024
Momentum scenario	Instant-replacement as of 2024	Constant as of 2024	Zero from 2024