

A watercolor-style illustration of the Earth, showing continents and oceans in various shades of blue and green. The style is soft and painterly, with visible brushstrokes and blended colors. The globe is centered in the frame, with the text overlaid on it.

Climate Justice

 POPULATION
CONNECTION



Review: Population and Climate Change

- Population growth is one important contributor to climate change and increases climate vulnerability throughout the world.
- Some of the world's fastest growing regions are also the most vulnerable to climate change. In this context, population growth means that more people will be exposed to climate impacts who lack the resources necessary to readily adapt and recover.
- High fertility rates result from high rates of unintended pregnancies and a lack of access to quality reproductive health care services, including contraceptives and family planning.
- Investments in comprehensive reproductive health care foster sustainable development and reduce climate impacts around the world.



Climate Justice



- Climate change is a multi-faceted issue with various social, political, and economic associations.
- As a concept, climate change is also ethical and political in nature.
 - The world's most climate vulnerable populations will experience severe climate impacts despite contributing the least to the problem.
- Solving climate change means creating a more equitable future for everyone.

Population and Inequality

- In low-income regions especially, the confluence of high population growth rates, limited access to quality education and health care, and climate impacts like rising sea levels, extreme and unpredictable weather events, and increasing temperatures, presents a humanitarian problem that will only continue to worsen without immediate action.



Climate Vulnerability

Bangladesh

7th

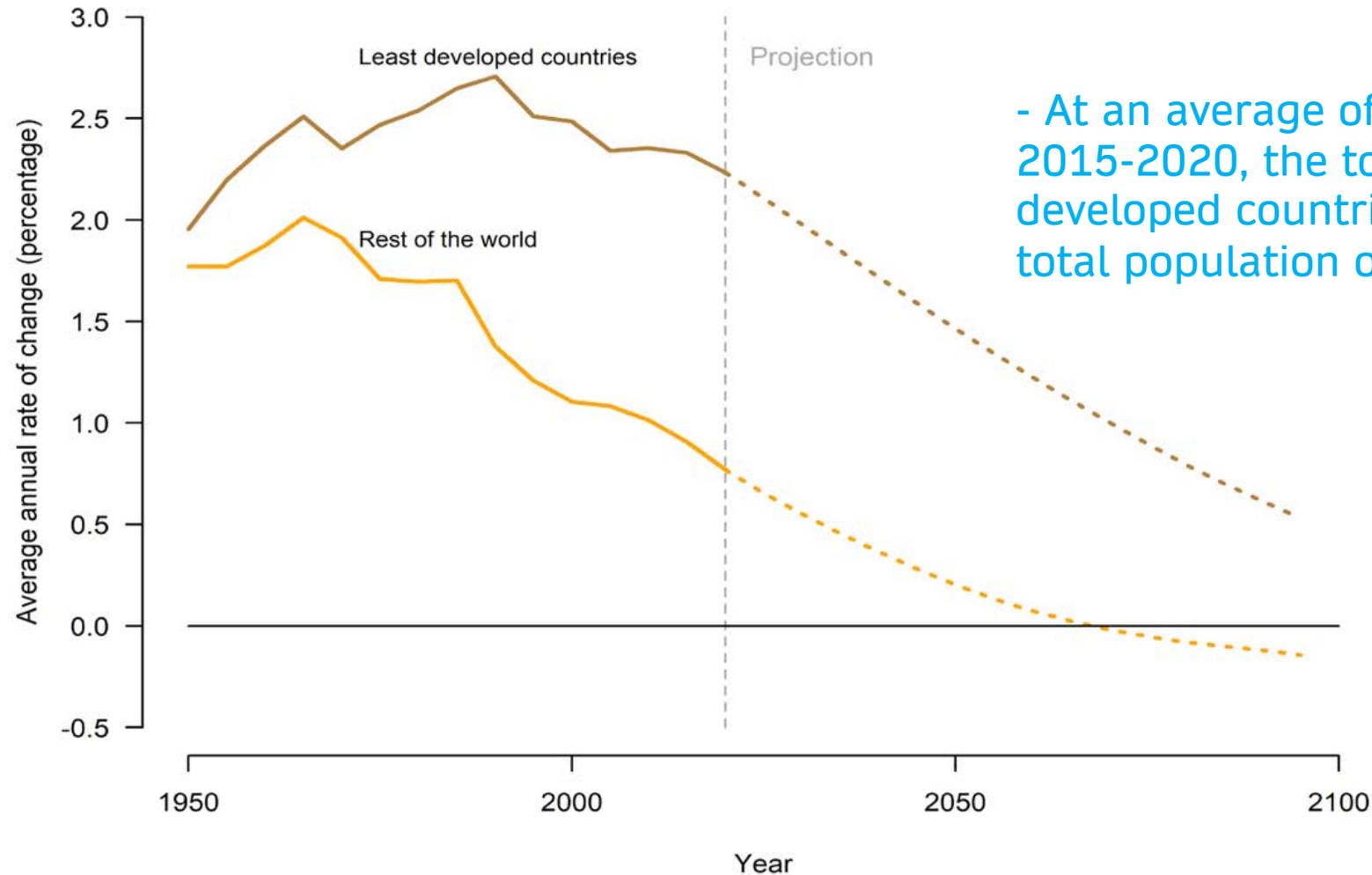
Physical impacts like long-term changes in weather patterns and precipitation

Sensitivity of population based on indicators like poverty levels, quality health care, education, etc.

Ability to adapt as a measure of the strength and stability of a country's institutions, economy and government



Estimated and projected annual population growth rates for the 47 least developed countries and the rest of the world, 1950–2100, according to the UN's medium-variant projection.



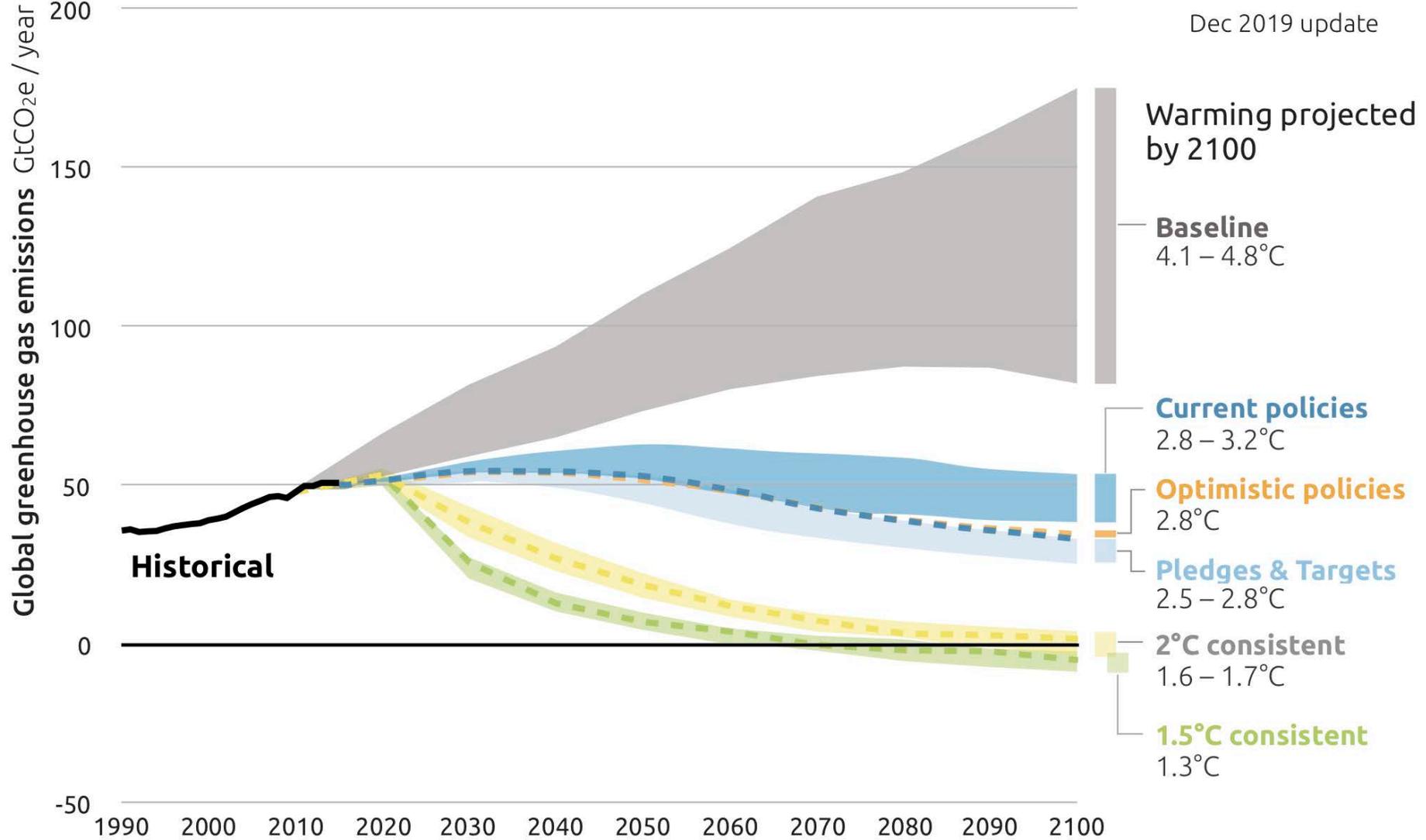
- At an average of 2.3% annual growth rate from 2015-2020, the total population of the world's least developed countries is growing 2.5x faster than the total population of the rest of the world.

2100 WARMING PROJECTIONS

Emissions and expected warming based on pledges and current policies



Dec 2019 update





- The 47 least developed countries are the fastest growing. Many are projected to double in population between 2020 and 2050.
- 9 out of the 10 most climate-threatened countries are in sub-Saharan Africa, which will add around 1 billion people by 2050.

Source: UN Population Prospects 2019
Time 2019

Projected population increase from 2019-2100 in the 10 most climate change-threatened countries

increase from 2019

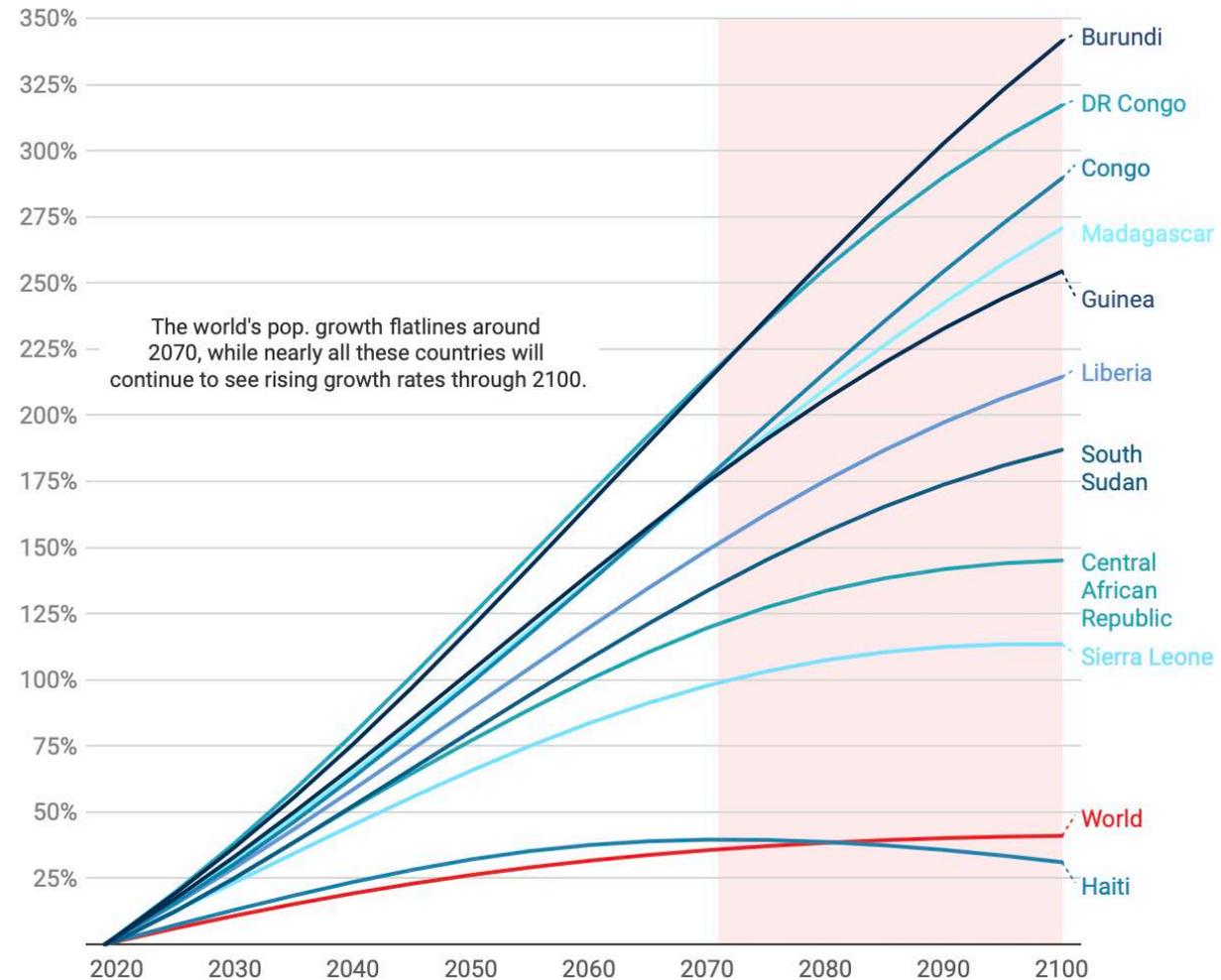
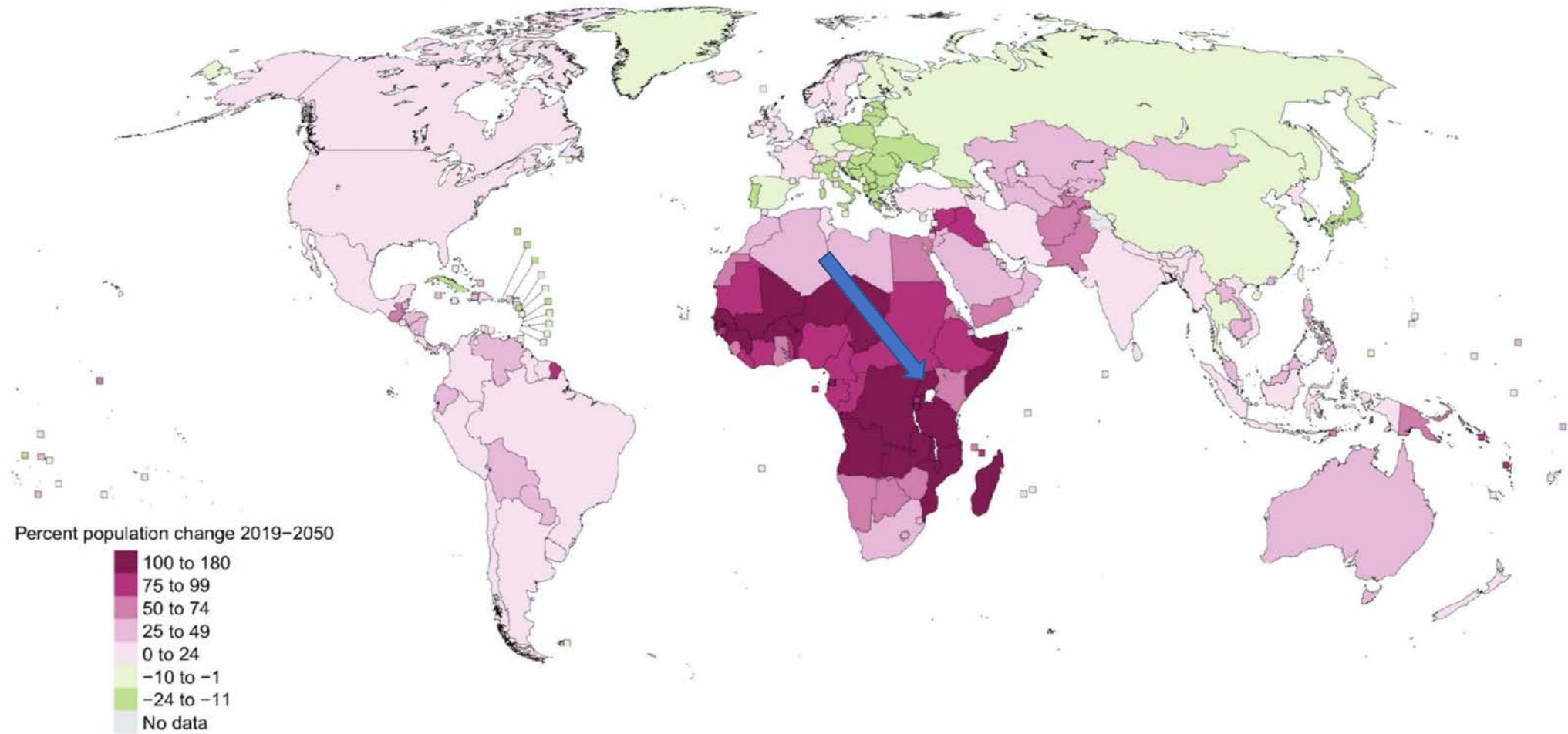


Chart: Elijah Wolfson for TIME • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Many least developed countries will continue to experience rapid population growth between 2019 and 2050



Climate Vulnerability in Uganda



- 40% lives in extreme poverty, earning less than \$1.90 per day.

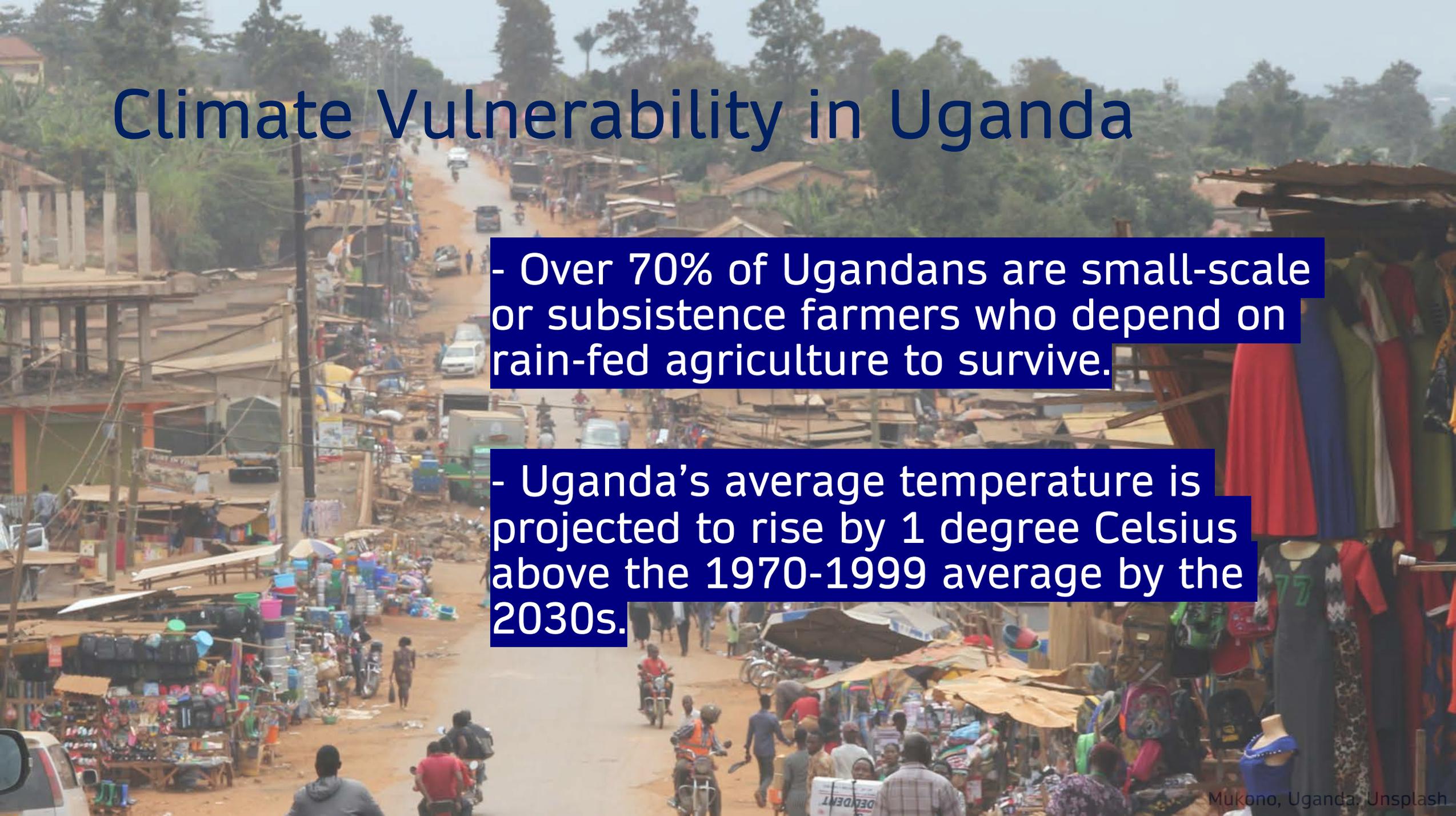
- Over 75% of the country's 45.7 million inhabitants are under the age of 30, portending rapid future population growth.

- Sustained growth rates of 3% indicating population doubling every 23 years.

- With current rates of 3.1%, the country adds close to 1 million people each year.

Kampala, Uganda. Adobe Photos

Climate Vulnerability in Uganda

A wide-angle photograph of a bustling street market in Mukono, Uganda. The street is unpaved and filled with people, motorcycles, and various stalls. On the right, there are several stalls with colorful clothing hanging on display. In the background, there are buildings and trees under a clear sky. The overall scene depicts a typical daily life scene in a rural or semi-urban market.

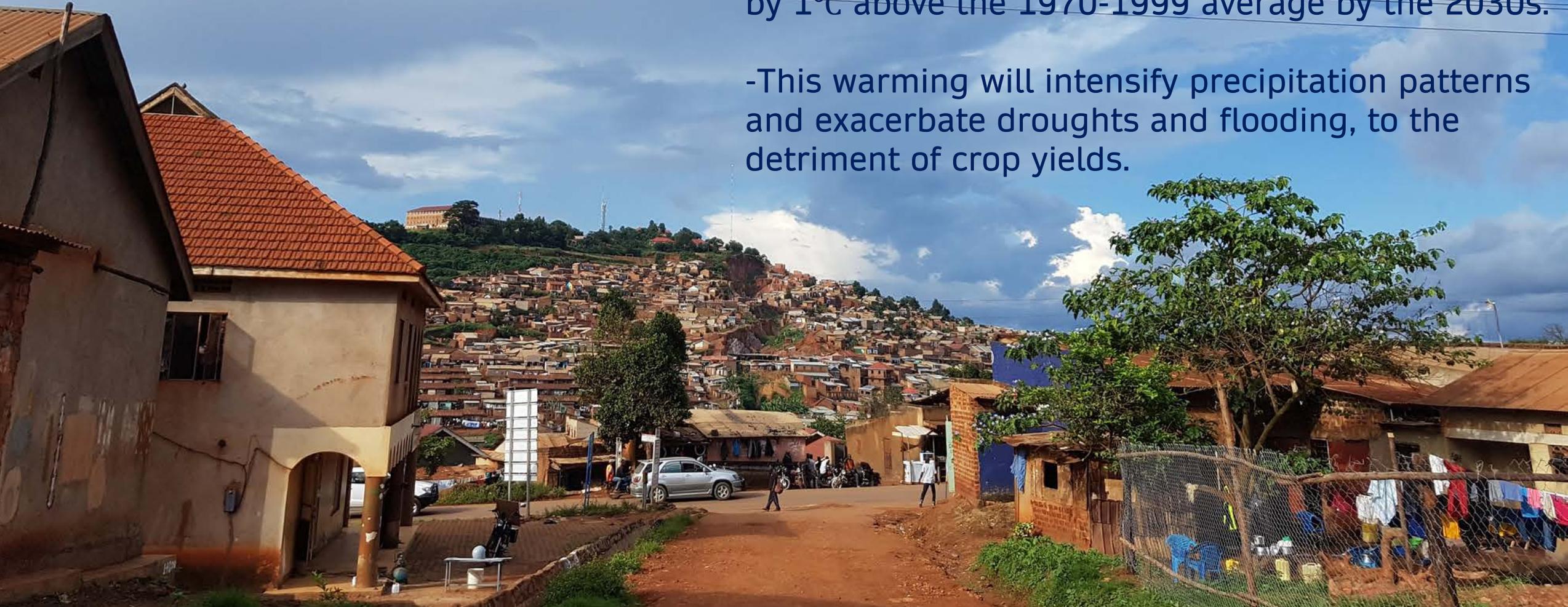
- Over 70% of Ugandans are small-scale or subsistence farmers who depend on rain-fed agriculture to survive.

- Uganda's average temperature is projected to rise by 1 degree Celsius above the 1970-1999 average by the 2030s.

Climate Vulnerability in Uganda

-Uganda's average temperature is expected to rise by 1°C above the 1970-1999 average by the 2030s.

-This warming will intensify precipitation patterns and exacerbate droughts and flooding, to the detriment of crop yields.

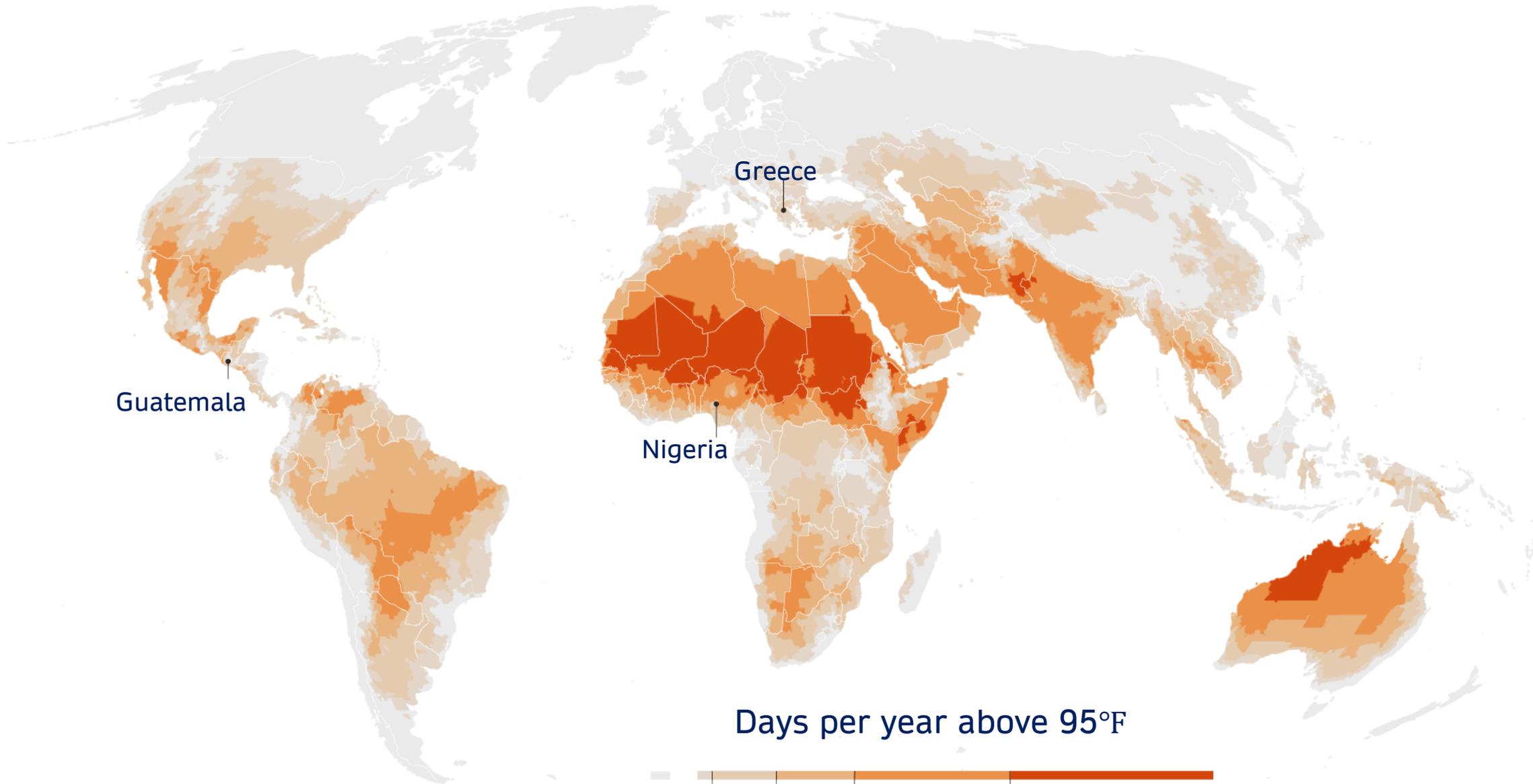


Climate Justice

- Bangladesh contributes 0.19% of global emissions. Per capita, the average Bangladeshi consumes 33% less than the average U.S. citizen.

- Uganda's emissions represent 0.07% of the global total. It is the 14th most vulnerable and the 48th least ready country – meaning that it is extremely susceptible to climate impacts but does not have the capacity to address the effects of climate change.





Guatemala

Greece

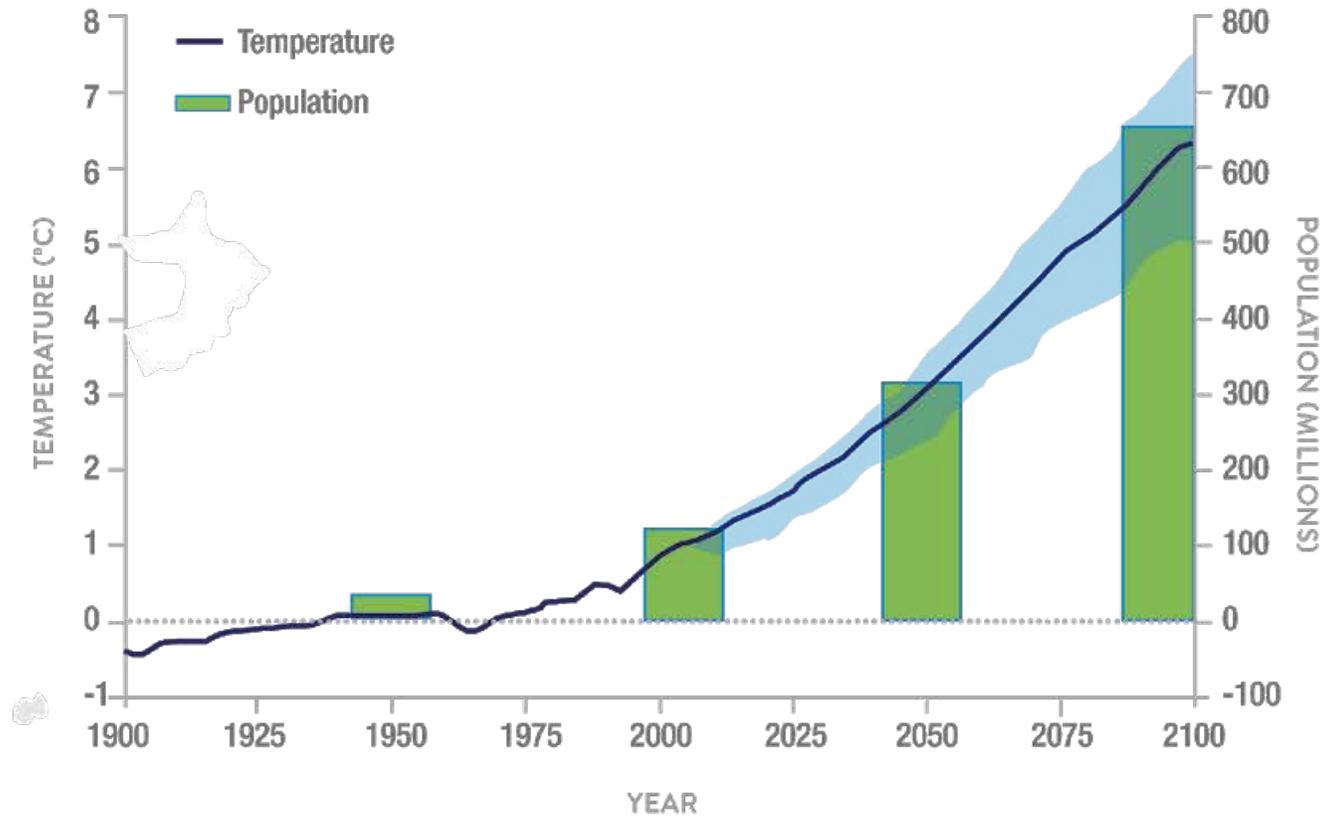
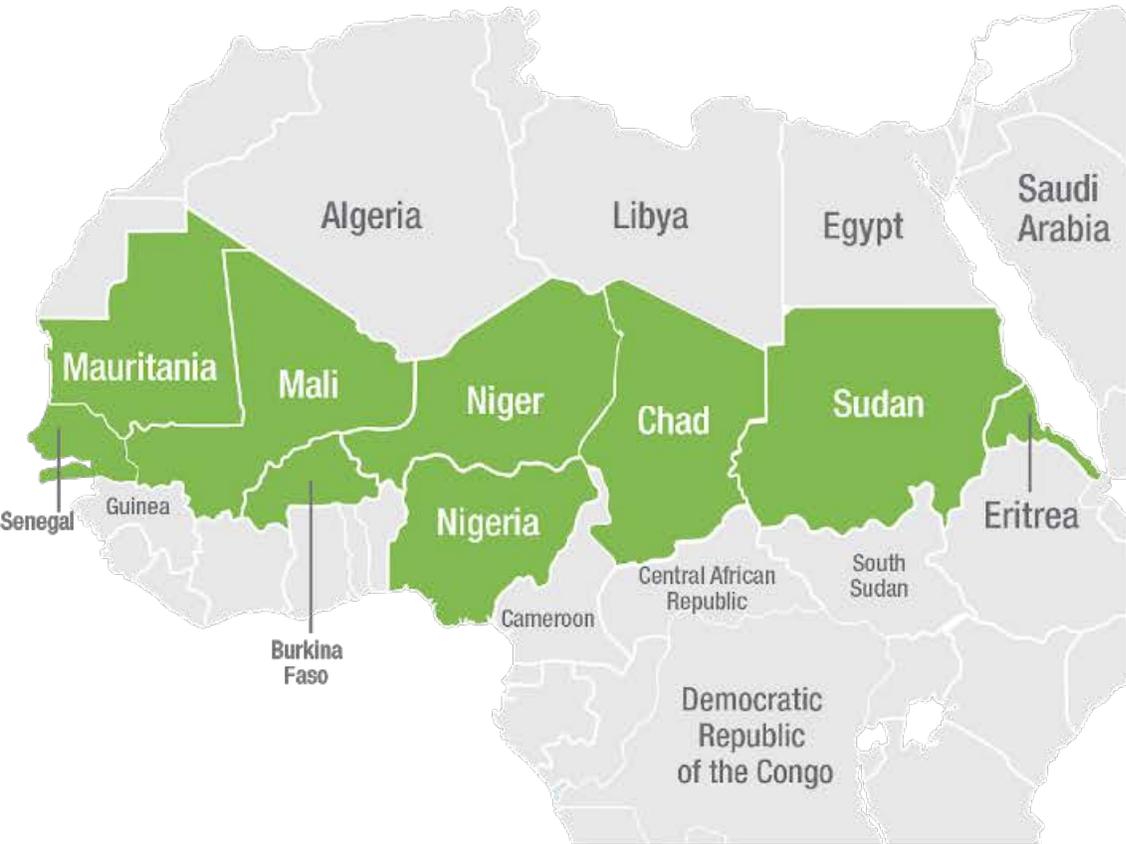
Nigeria

Days per year above 95°F



The average number of extremely hot days expected per year between 2020 and 2039 under a moderate warming scenario

Temperature Rises Alongside Population In the Sahel Region



Heat and Inequality

- Nearly everywhere in the world, heat waves are more frequent and longer lasting than they were 70 years ago.
- Extreme heat is one of the most dangerous effects of climate change and is life-threatening for both human populations and economies around the world.
- Vulnerability to extreme heat varies globally and is worst for low-income, marginalized populations.



Environmental Justice



Afton protesters lie in the street, blocking dump trucks of contaminated soil

Environmental Justice



Environmental Justice

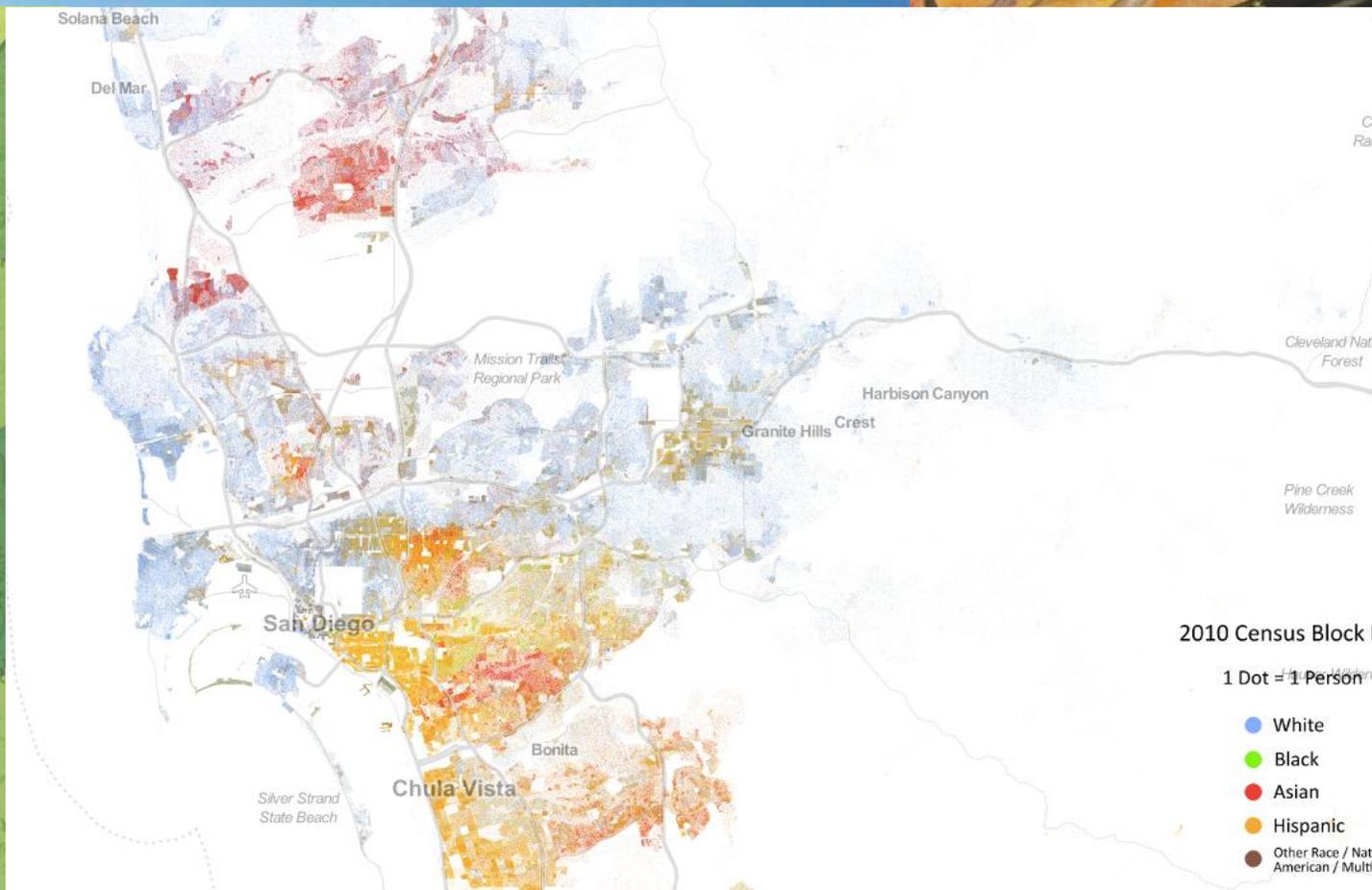
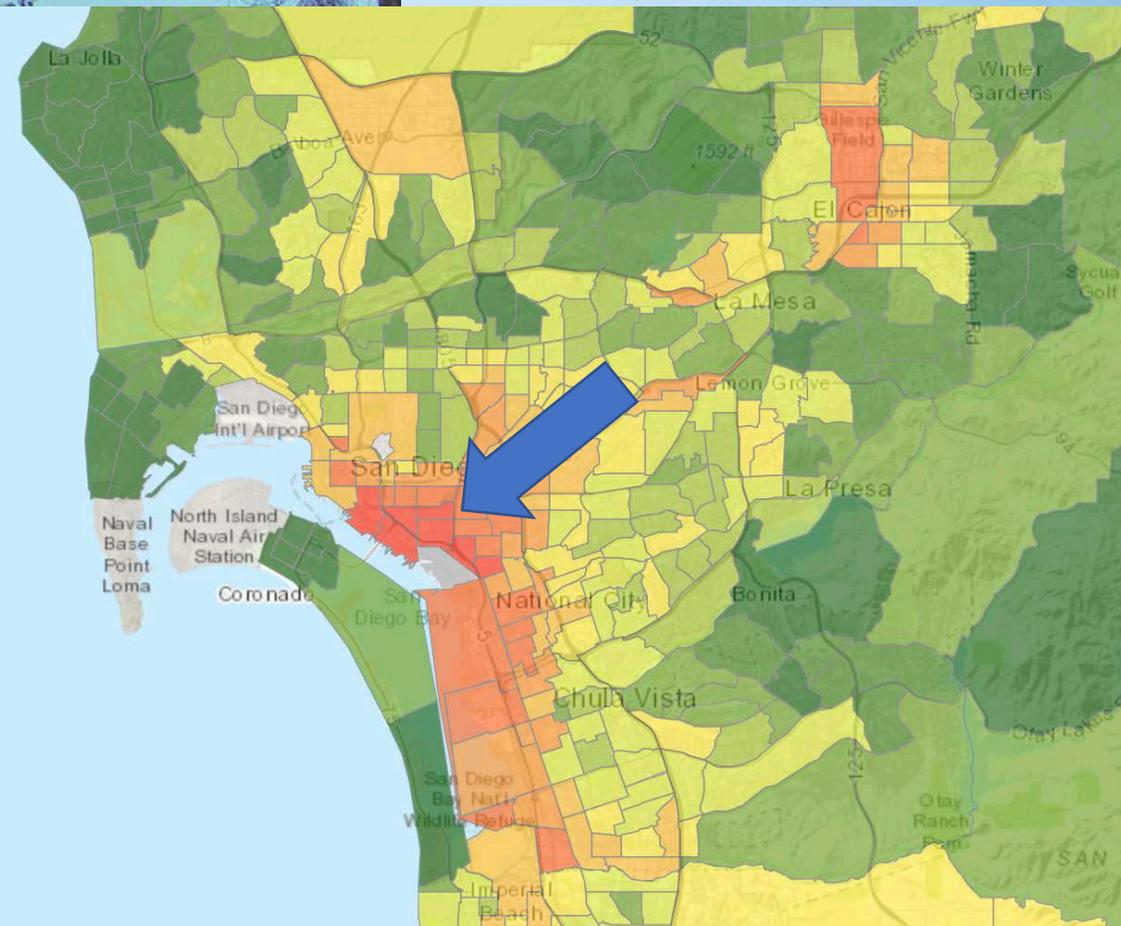
- Communities of color in the US are disproportionately impacted by hazardous pollution.
- Studies show that Black and Hispanic communities are exposed to higher proportions of air pollution, toxic waste sites, landfills, lead poisoning, and other industrial complexes compare to white counterparts.
- An estimated 70% of contaminated waste sites are located in low-income neighborhoods, and upwards of 2 million Americans live within a mile of sites that are vulnerable to flooding – the majority of which are in Black and brown communities.



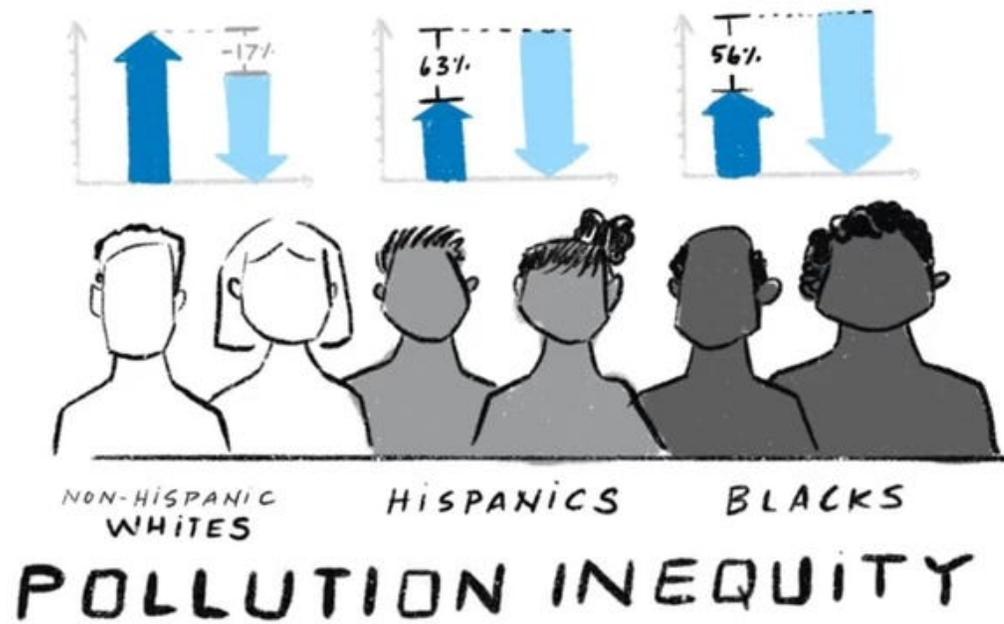
Barrio Logan, San Diego

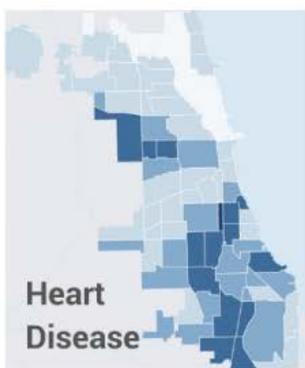
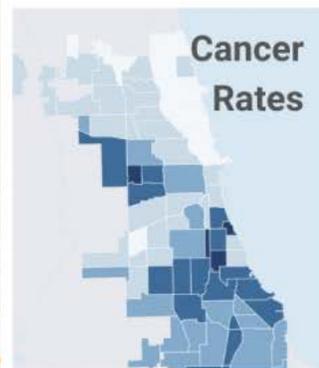
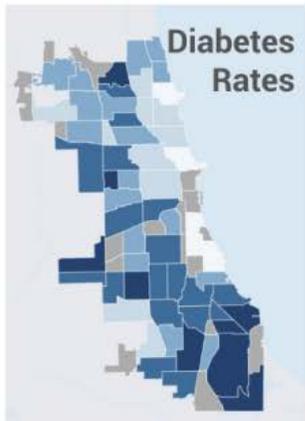
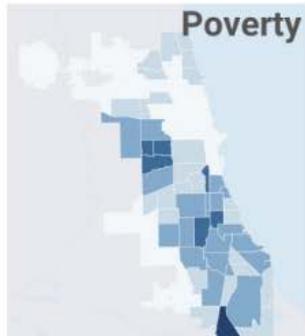
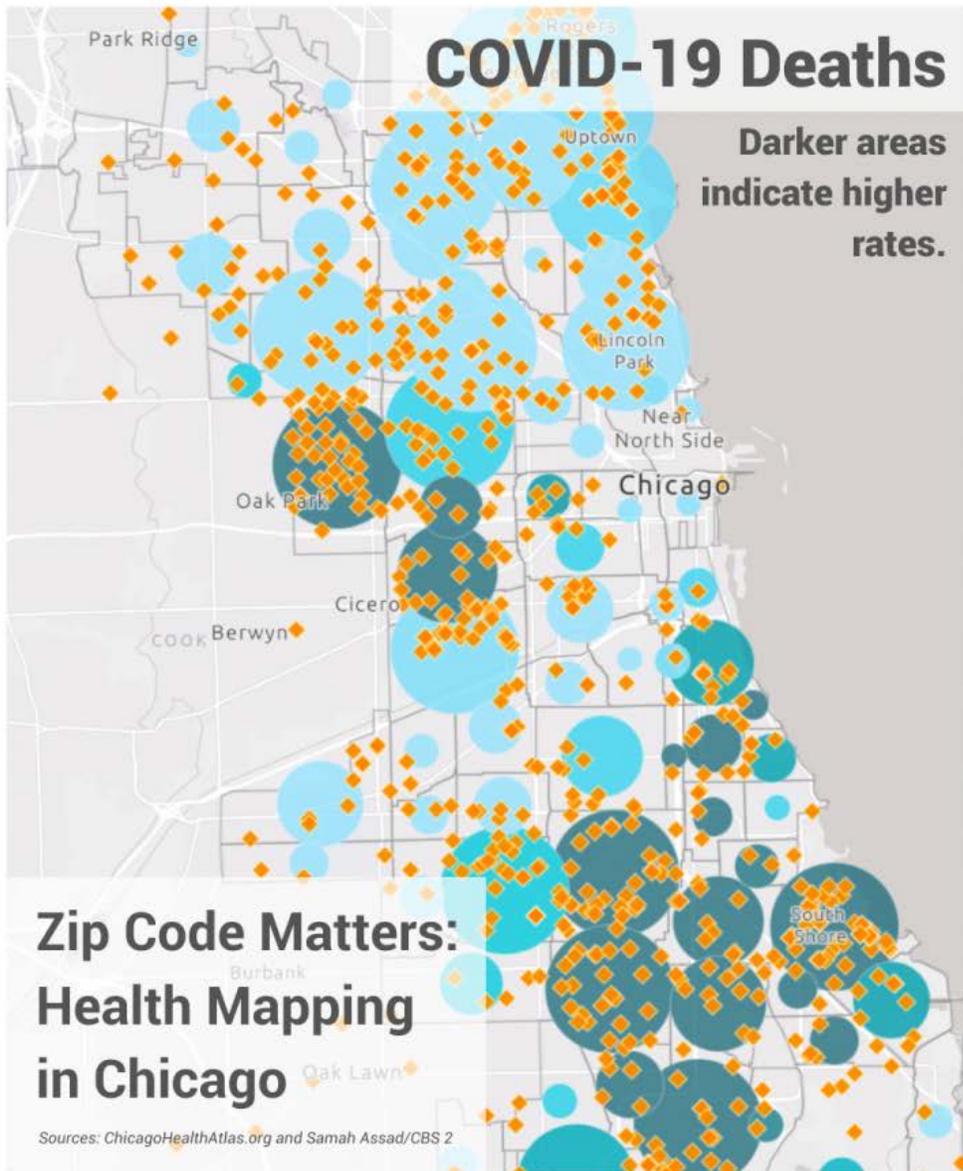
Pollution Rates in San Diego, CA

Racial Composition in San Diego, CA

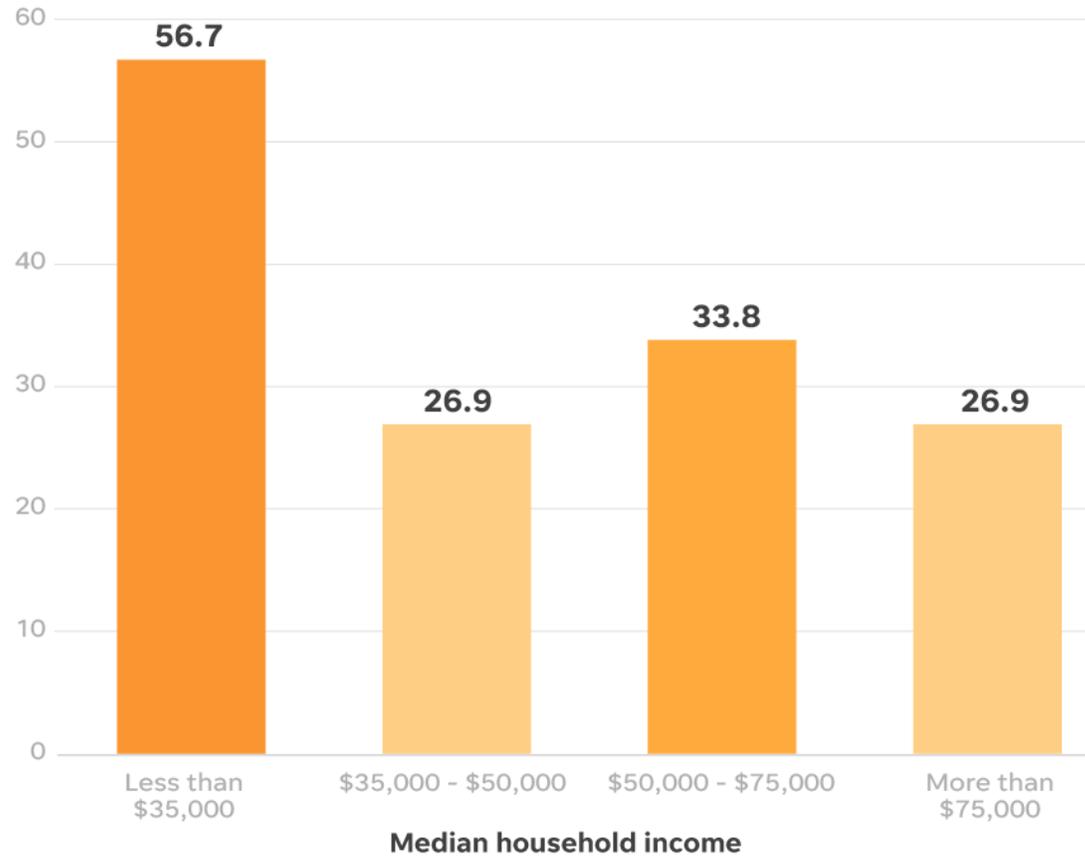


Black and Hispanic Communities in the US are disproportionately exposed to air pollution caused by white people

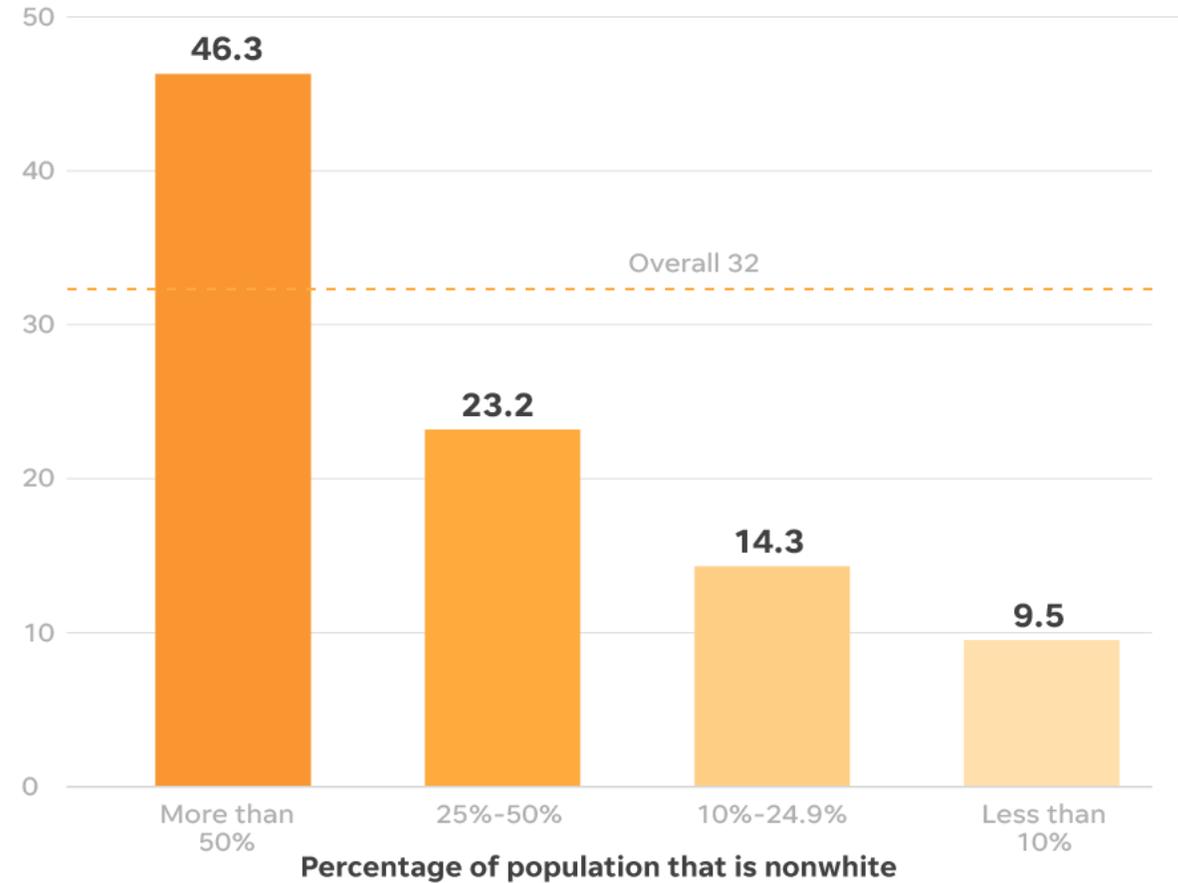




Covid-19 Infection Rate by Household Income



Covid-19 Infection Rates 5x Higher in Majority-Minority Zip Codes



WHY SOME COMMUNITIES ARE HARDER HIT BY COVID-19

**LESS ACCESS
TO QUALITY
HEALTH
CARE.**

**MORE LIKELY
TO HAVE A
PRE-EXISTING
CONDITION.**

**MORE
CHALLENGES
ACCESSING
HEALTHY
FOOD.**

**SUFFER
GREATER
EXPOSURE TO
AIR
POLLUTION.**

**MAKE UP A
DISPROPORTIONATE
NUMBER OF
FRONTLINE
WORKERS.**

**HARDEST HIT BY
GROWING LEVELS
OF POVERTY AS
LAYOFFS AND
FURLOUGHS
CONTINUE TO
RISE.**

**HAVE LESS
ACCESS TO
CAPITAL.**

**ARE MORE LIKELY TO
LIVE IN
MULTIGENERATIONAL
FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS
WHERE SELF-
ISOLATION IS NEARLY
IMPOSSIBLE.**

STANDING ROCK

WATER IS LIFE



ALL BUBBLES BURST



Climate Justice is Social Justice



“The people who live in these areas who would be affected by a spill, who call these places home---they are the experts, and they can tell you what the impact is on their land. Those voices can’t be ignored.”

- Larry Wright, Jr.

A Tribal chairman for the Ponca tribe who lives near the proposed Keyston XL’s route in Nebraska and has led opposition to the project for years

An aerial photograph of a river delta, showing a central river channel that branches out into numerous smaller channels and distributaries. The water is a deep teal color, while the land is a mix of brown and light tan, indicating different soil types or vegetation. The overall pattern is a complex, tree-like structure.

**POPULATION
HEALTH
ENVIRONMENT**

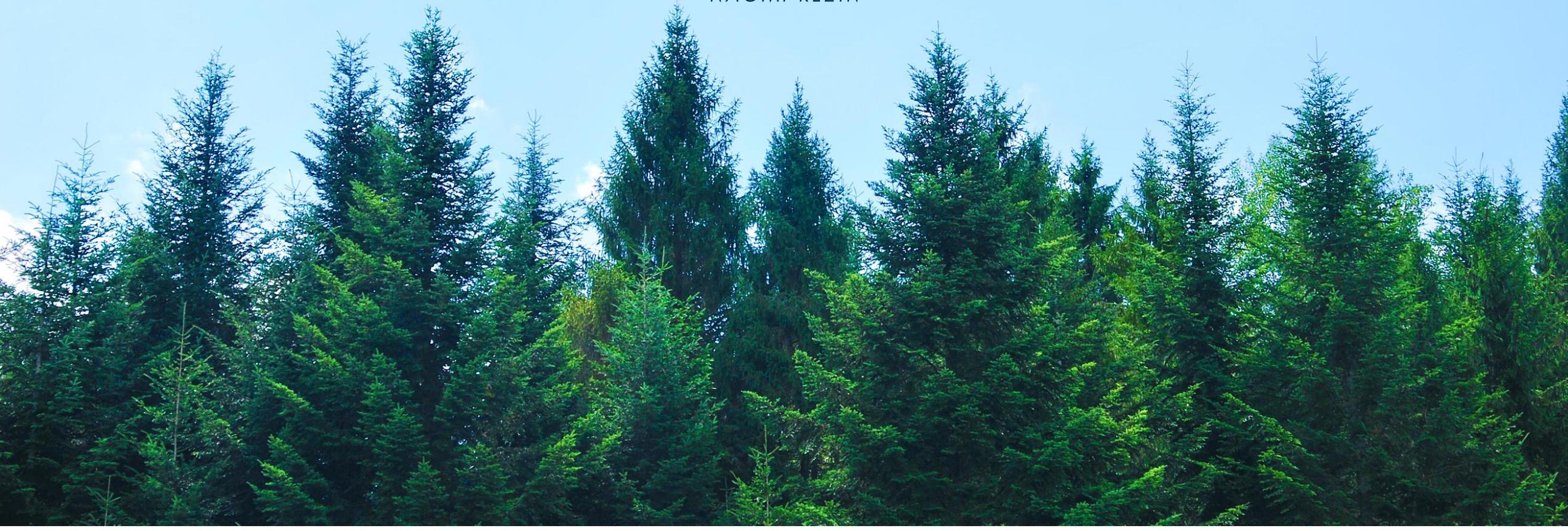
Climate Justice is Social Justice

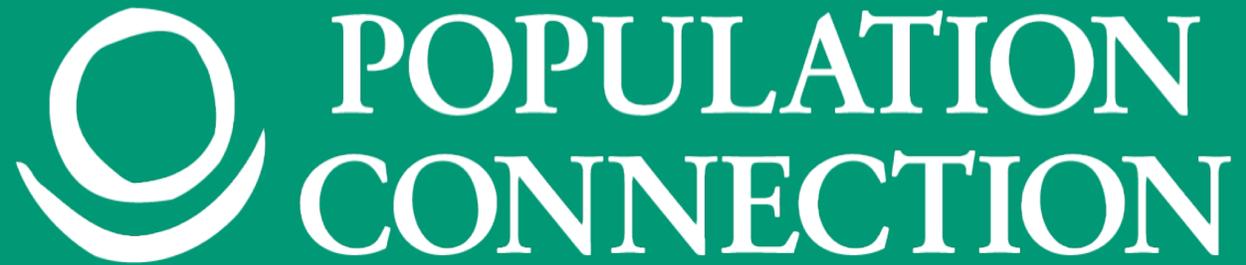


- Climate solutions must be rooted in principles of human rights and social justice.
- Addressing climate change necessarily means addressing systemic inequalities that contribute to marginalization and worsen impacts.
- Climate justice means changing our relationship with other humans, animals, and the planet to facilitate a better, more equitable future.

If the ideas that rule our culture are
stopping us from saving ourselves, then it is
within our power to change those ideas.

NAOMI KLEIN





climate@populationconnection.org
hannah@popconnect.org

IG: [@populationconnection](https://www.instagram.com/populationconnection)

FB: [facebook.com/populationconnection](https://www.facebook.com/populationconnection)