

# By the end of the century, nearly half the world's children will be in Africa.



## Children in the world

World's child population peaked in 2022:

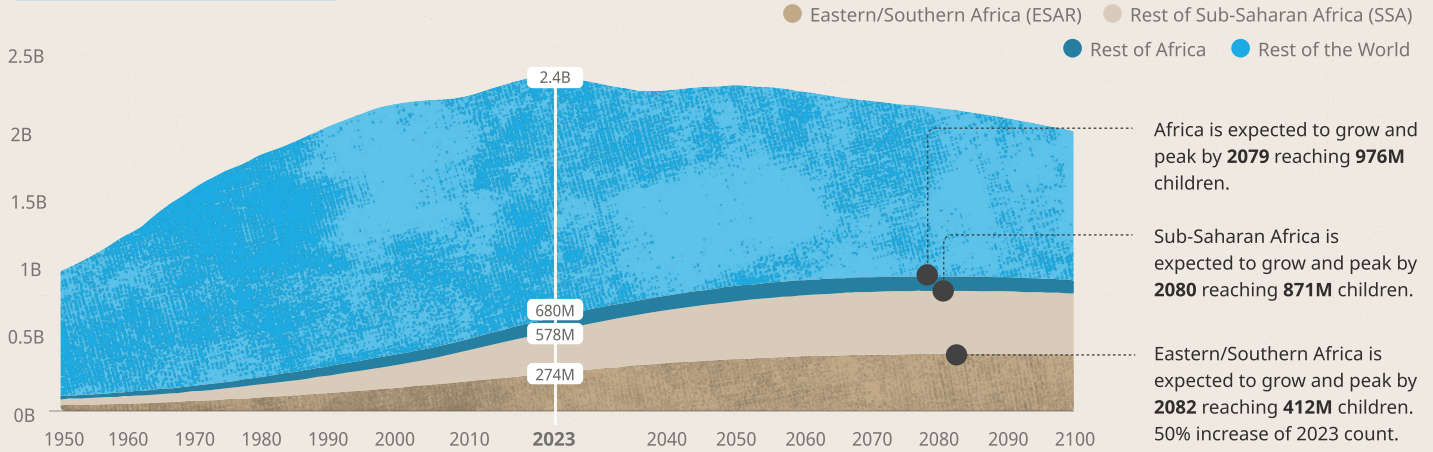
Largest cohort of children to have ever lived on the planet, and probably ever will.

# 2.416B

While the world's child population\* reached its peak in 2022 and is expected to decrease from now on, Africa will continue to increase its child population.

\*Child population: children aged 0-17 years.

## Number of children by region



## Average annual child population growth for the next 10 years (2025-2034)

Rest of world  
(without Africa)

# -17.5M/year

Eastern and Southern Africa

# +4.5M/year

Today, 30% of the world's population are children



By the end of the century, it is expected to decrease to 20%



Today, in ESAR and SSA, 46% and 48% of the population are children



By the end of the century, it is expected to decrease to 25% both in ESAR and SSA.



## Invest in a prosperous future for all

### Key Takeaways

1

Countries in Eastern and Southern Africa need to accelerate investments in all social sectors to improve outcomes and to accommodate the growing child population with a long-term horizon.

2

In the next 10 years, 45 million children will be added to ESA child population. Education systems need to be adapted to provide children and young people with strong foundational learning, and skills adapted to changing job markets.

3

There is an opportunity to capitalize on this large youth bulge but without investment the chance of a productive and motivated workforce could be lost resulting in downward spirals in economies and civil society.