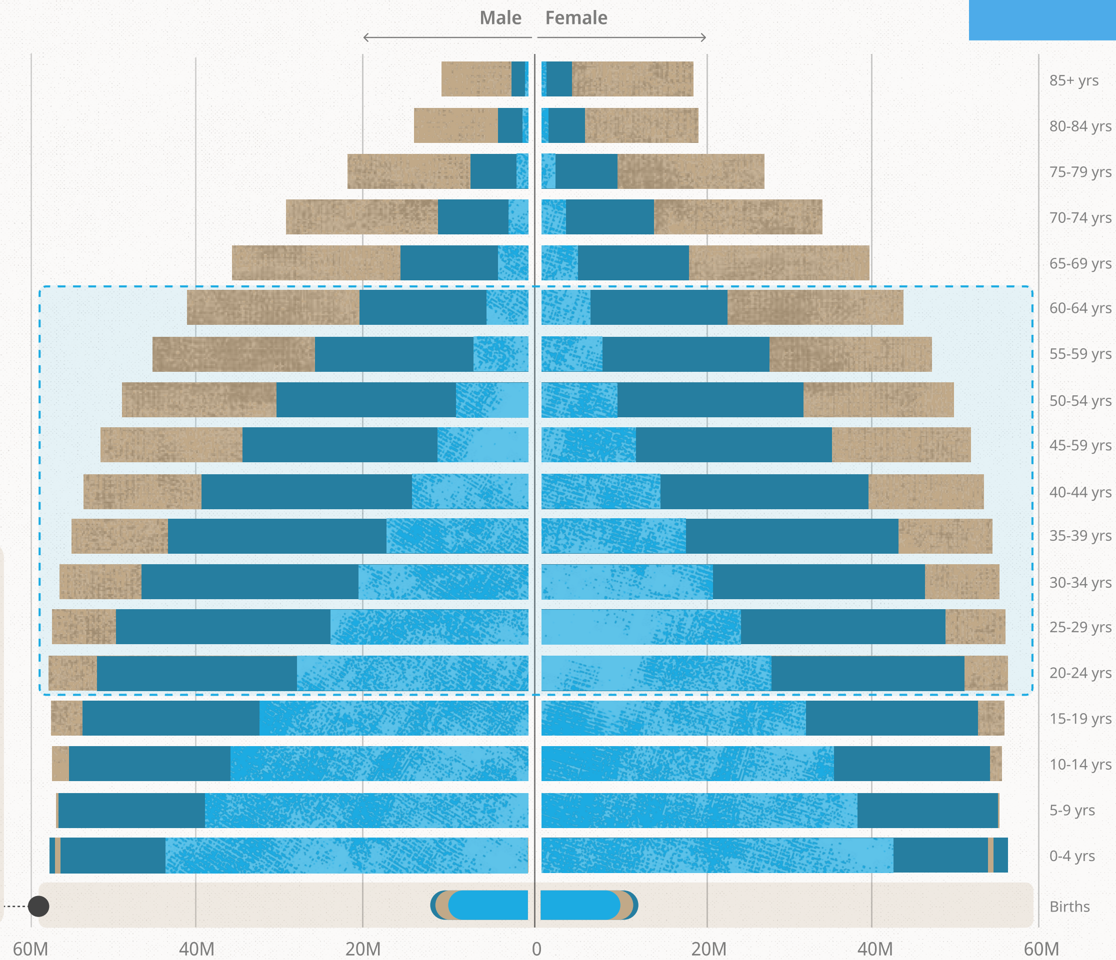
Tripling the working-age population.

The Eastern and Southern Africa region will more than triple its working-age population **(20-64)** between now and the end of the century **(274M to 937M)!**

2023 2063 2100
working-age



Rising Births Amid Global Decline

In 2023 there were almost **19M** births in ESAR.

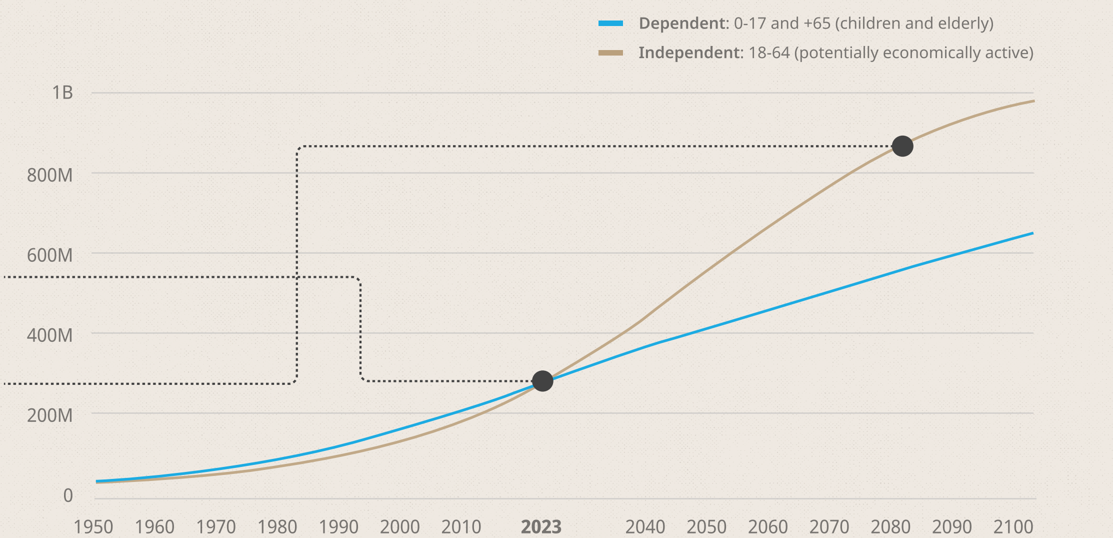
While the global trend is decreasing, ESAR births are projected to increase to reach **25M births per year by 2071** - a fifth of all newborns globally.

Dependency Ratio

The active population cohort momentum is driven by the historic high fertility rates and decreasing mortality.

Currently, for every **1 dependent** person, there is **1 independent.**

In 2082 the dependency ratio will reach its minimum, where for every **64 dependent** there will be **100 independent**.



To benefit economically, the time to invest for children is now!

Key Takeaways

1

With a large child population and declining fertility, countries have a window of opportunity to supercharge economic growth and improve the situation of children and adolescents in Eastern and Southern Africa through investing in strengthening their health and education systems.

2

A key precursor for countries to reap the benefits of the demographic dividend down the line is ensuring all children grow up to their full potential starting with their right to name, registration and nationality.

3

Ensuring healthy lives with nutritious first foods is a cornerstone for continuous life-long development starting in early life to developing foundational skills at school and transitioning to productive members of societies.

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2024). World Population Prospects 2024, Online Edition based on UNICEF ESARO calculations.