Topic 4 Population and migration

Topic glossary: 4.1 Global population

**Carrying capacity** is the largest population that the resources of a given environment can support.

**Child mortality rate** is the number of children who die before their fifth birthday per thousand live births.

**Crude birth rate** (generally referred to as the *birth rate*) is the number of births per thousand population in a given year. It is only a very broad indicator as it does not take into account the age and sex distribution of the population.

**Crude death rate** (generally referred to as the *death rate*) is the number of deaths per thousand population in a given year. It is only a very broad indicator as it is heavily influenced by the age structure of the population.

**Cumulative causation** is the process whereby a significant increase in economic growth can lead to even more growth as more money circulates in the economy.

**Demographers** are professionals who study the characteristics of human populations.

**Densely populated** refers to regions with a high population density.

**Fertility rate** is the number of live births per 1000 women aged 15–44 years in a given year.

**Infant mortality rate** is the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per thousand live births in a given year.

**Life expectancy at birth** is the average number of years a newborn infant can expect to live under current mortality levels.

**Natural change** is the difference between the number of births and the number of deaths in a country or region.

**Natural decrease** is when the number of births is lower than the number of deaths.

**Natural increase** is when the number of births is higher than the number of deaths.

**Net migration** is the number of immigrants entering a region or country minus the number of emigrants who leave the same region or country. The balance may be either positive or negative.

**Population density** is the average number of people per square kilometre (km2) in a country or region.

**Population distribution** is the way in which population is spread out over a given area, from a small region to the Earth as a whole.

**Population momentum** is the tendency for population growth to continue beyond the time that replacement-level fertility has been achieved because of a relatively high concentration of people in the childbearing years. This situation is due to past high fertility rates, which result in a large number of young people.

**Population projections** predict the future population, based usually on current and past trends.

**Replacement level fertility** is the level at which each generation has just enough children to replace themselves in the population. Although the level varies for different populations, a total fertility rate of 2.12 children is usually considered as replacement level.

**Rural population** describes those people living in the countryside in farms, isolated houses, hamlets and villages. Under some definitions, small market towns are classed as rural.

**Sparsely populated** refers to regions with a low population density.

**Total fertility rate (TFR)** is the average number of children that would be born alive to a woman (or group of women) during her lifetime, if she were to pass through her childbearing years conforming to the age-specific fertility rates of a given year.