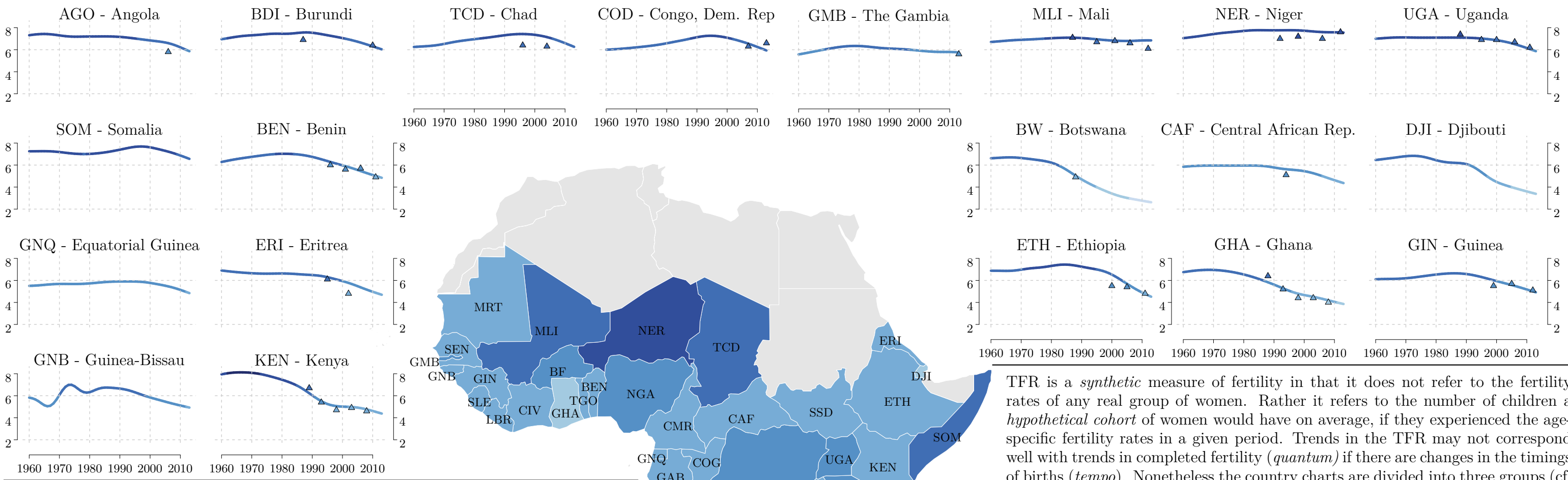


Total Fertility Rate Trends and Figures for Sub-Saharan Africa



This factsheet summarizes the main estimates of total fertility rates (TFRs) in Sub-Saharan Africa. The trends from 1960 to 2013 (last year available) are taken from the United Nations Population Prospects (UN 2013). These estimates are typically based on a large number of different sources, one of which are usually also available DHS datasets. They should therefore not be seen as independent sources of data. The DHS TFR estimates, which are also marked on the charts, refer to the three years preceding the survey (ICF International 1986-2013). The map shows the current (2013) UN estimates.

TFR is a *synthetic* measure of fertility in that it does not refer to the fertility rates of any real group of women. Rather it refers to the number of children a *hypothetical cohort* of women would have on average, if they experienced the age-specific fertility rates in a given period. Trends in the TFR may not correspond well with trends in completed fertility (*quantum*) if there are changes in the timings of births (*tempo*). Nonetheless the country charts are divided into three groups (cf. Howse, this issue): pre-transitional (top), declining (middle) and stalling (bottom).

