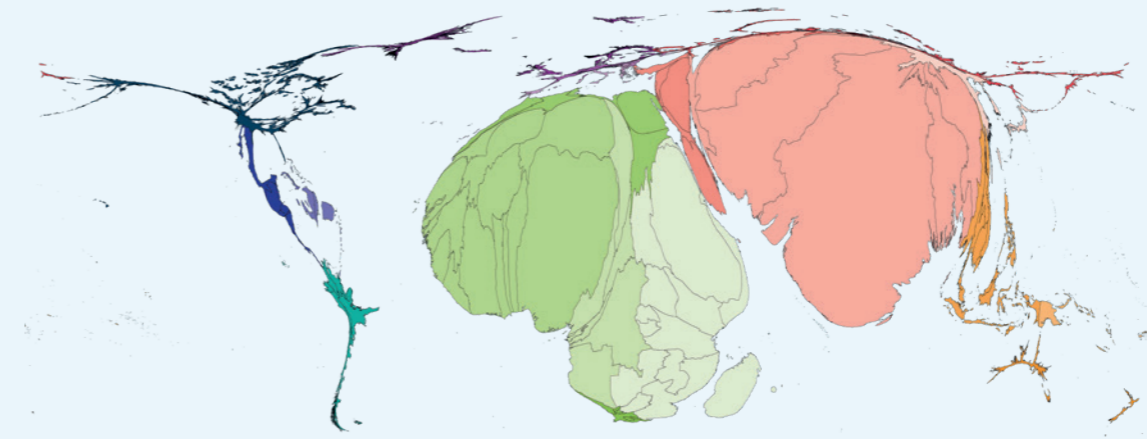


Worldmapper

In April, the Worldmapper project relaunched a revised and updated online platform. The original website, running since 2006, has become a popular and reliable source for cartograms of the socioeconomic state of the world. The new site aims to cover the manifold and diverse shapes of the world in the 21st century.

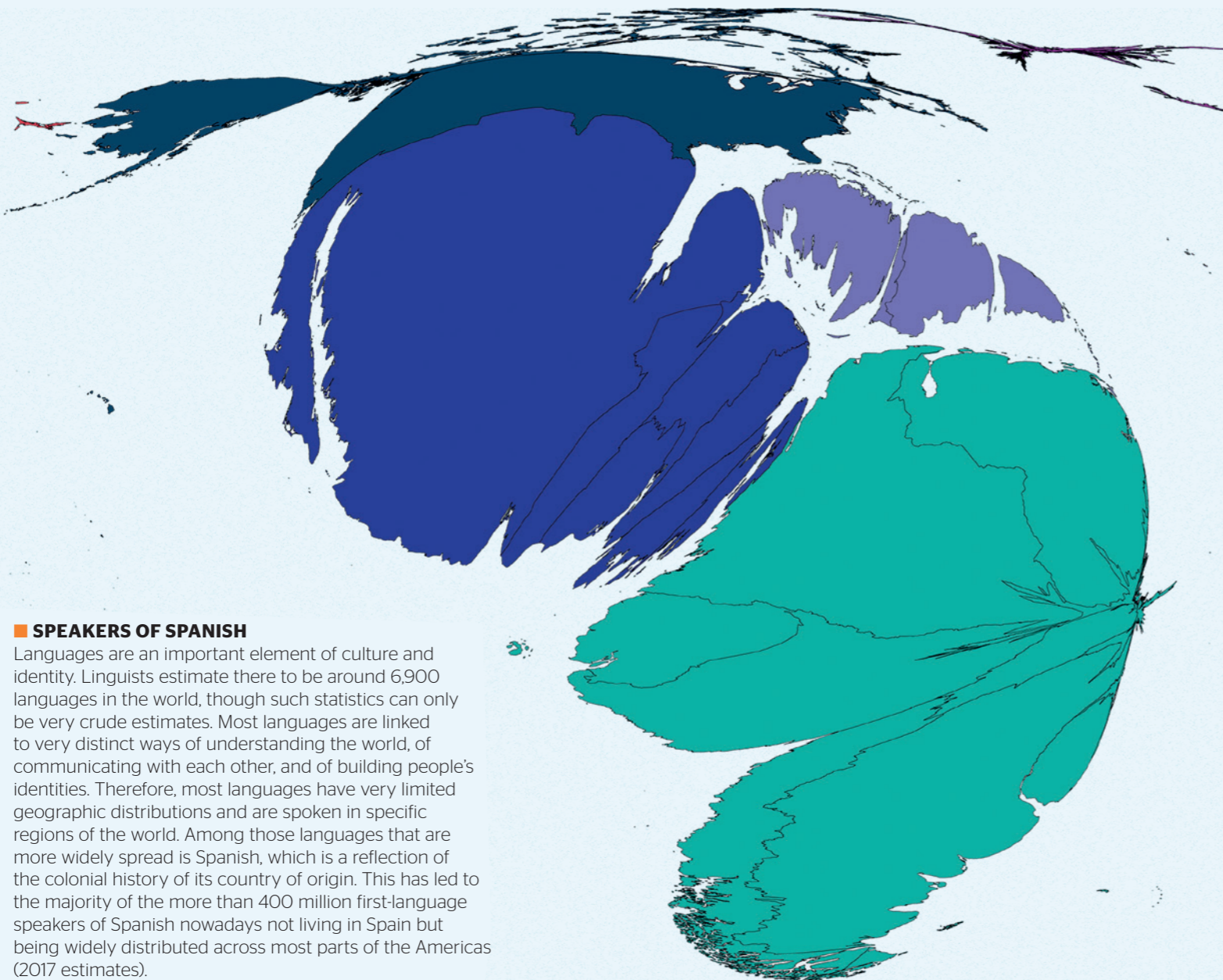
Visit the new site at www.worldmapper.org



■ ILLITERATE YOUNG WOMEN

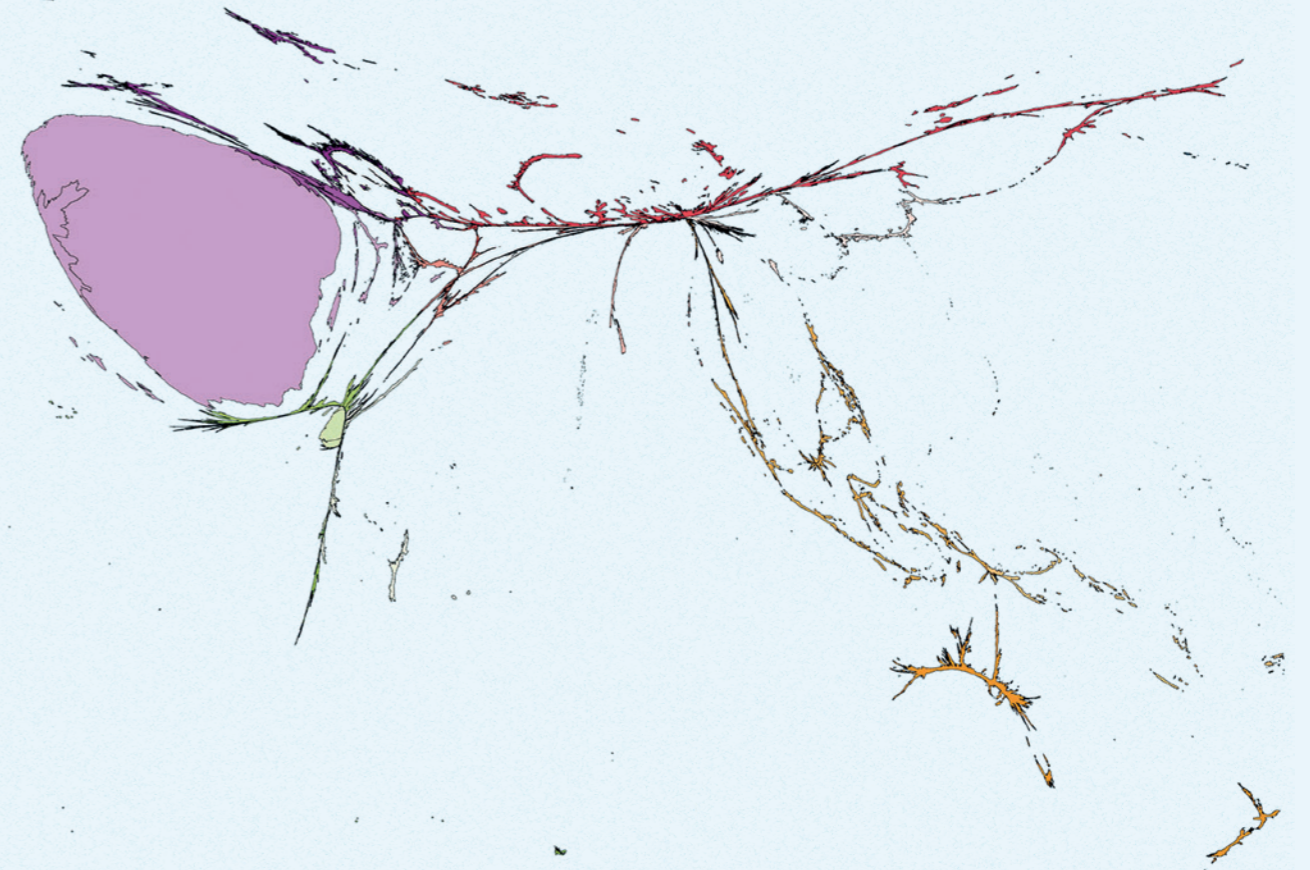
The 2015 World's Women's report found that still almost two-third of the world's illiterate adults are women. This figure has hardly changed in over two decades. Illiteracy rates are highest among older people, but progress among younger people is slow and gender disparity remains persistent in 43 countries of the world. Here young women (aged 15 to

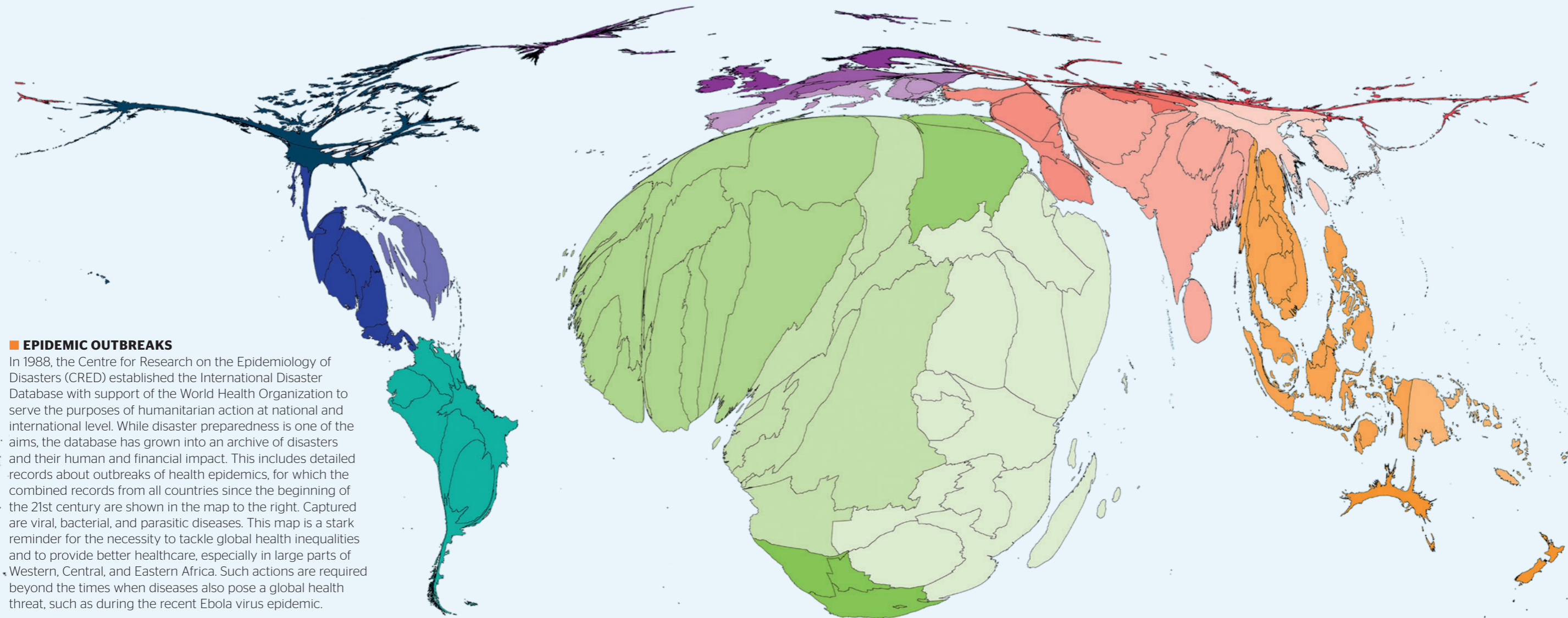
24) are still far less likely than young men to have basic reading skills. In these countries, strikingly visible in the above cartogram, being born a girl remains an important cause for exclusion in society. Literacy and education continue to be important challenges in achieving inclusive and equitable quality education for all.



■ SPEAKERS OF SPANISH

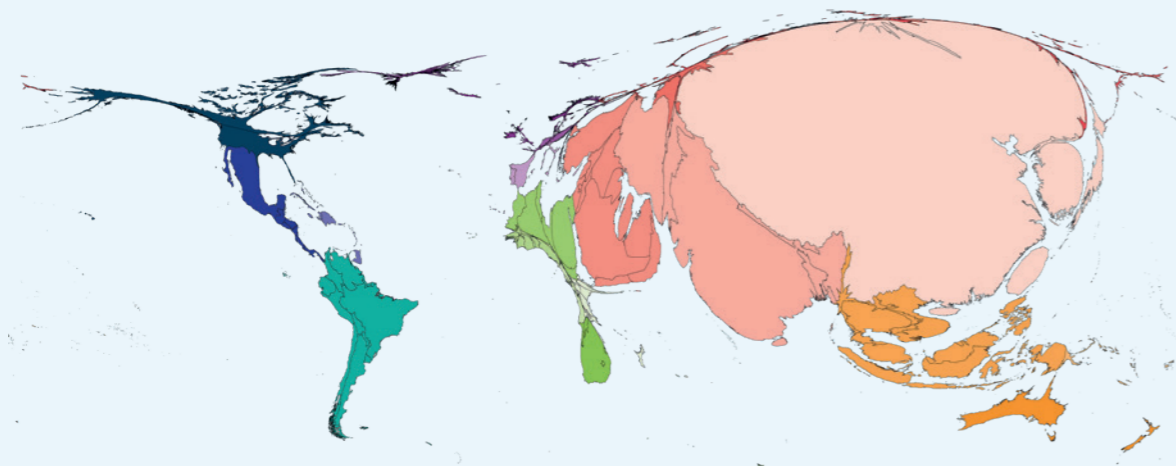
Languages are an important element of culture and identity. Linguists estimate there to be around 6,900 languages in the world, though such statistics can only be very crude estimates. Most languages are linked to very distinct ways of understanding the world, of communicating with each other, and of building people's identities. Therefore, most languages have very limited geographic distributions and are spoken in specific regions of the world. Among those languages that are more widely spread is Spanish, which is a reflection of the colonial history of its country of origin. This has led to the majority of the more than 400 million first-language speakers of Spanish nowadays not living in Spain but being widely distributed across most parts of the Americas (2017 estimates).





■ EPIDEMIC OUTBREAKS

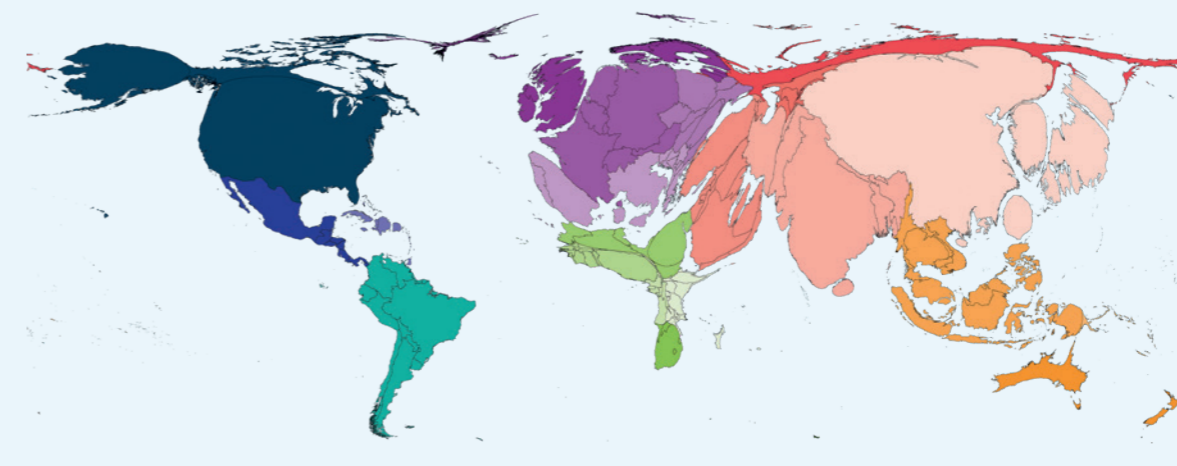
In 1988, the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) established the International Disaster Database with support of the World Health Organization to serve the purposes of humanitarian action at national and international level. While disaster preparedness is one of the aims, the database has grown into an archive of disasters and their human and financial impact. This includes detailed records about outbreaks of health epidemics, for which the combined records from all countries since the beginning of the 21st century are shown in the map to the right. Captured are viral, bacterial, and parasitic diseases. This map is a stark reminder for the necessity to tackle global health inequalities and to provide better healthcare, especially in large parts of Western, Central, and Eastern Africa. Such actions are required beyond the times when diseases also pose a global health threat, such as during the recent Ebola virus epidemic.



■ CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS

The Kyoto Protocol was the first serious effort to not only acknowledge the role of humans in global warming, but to implement measures to reduce this impact. Since then, carbon emissions have been rising constantly, largely fuelled by economic growth. The above map looks at where most of these changes took place between 1990 and 2015,

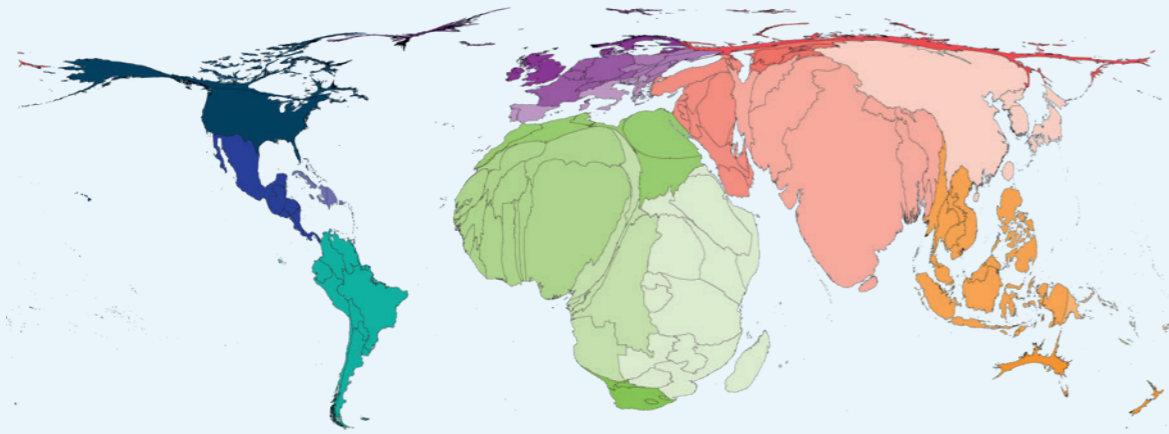
with the emerging economies standing out as having contributed most to the recent increases in carbon emissions. Looking at the changes rather than the *total* emissions - which would instead feature the industrialised world much more prominently - highlights the difficulties in coming to international agreements to tackling climate change.



■ GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

GDP as a monetary measure of all goods and services produced in a country remains the most important measure when a country's economic progress is observed. At the same time, it is an indicator for the prevailing global inequalities, with the high-income countries staying far ahead of the low-income countries. In the decade following

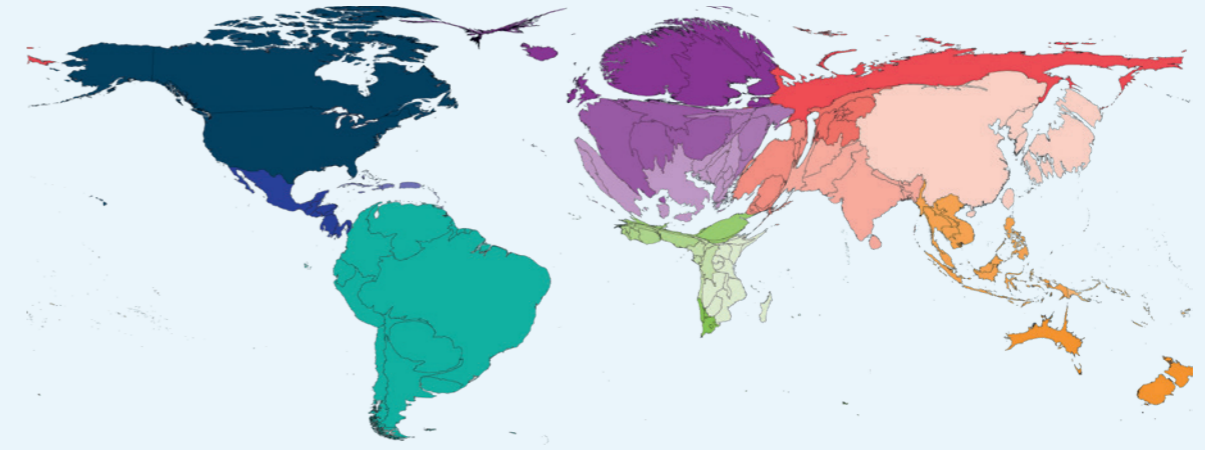
the financial crisis, the total additional wealth generated remains largely concentrated in those nations that have already accumulated the global dominance in productivity. Emerging economies such as China are slowly growing in proportion, while the poorest parts of the world remain the smallest and hardly catch up in today's global picture.



WORLD POPULATION BY 2100

For most socio-economic topics, a population cartogram provides the real reference map to understand how countries compare: The world's population is changing slowly, a reminder of the constantly shifting powers in societies and global challenges. In 2100, the world population is estimated to reach 11.2 billion. By the end

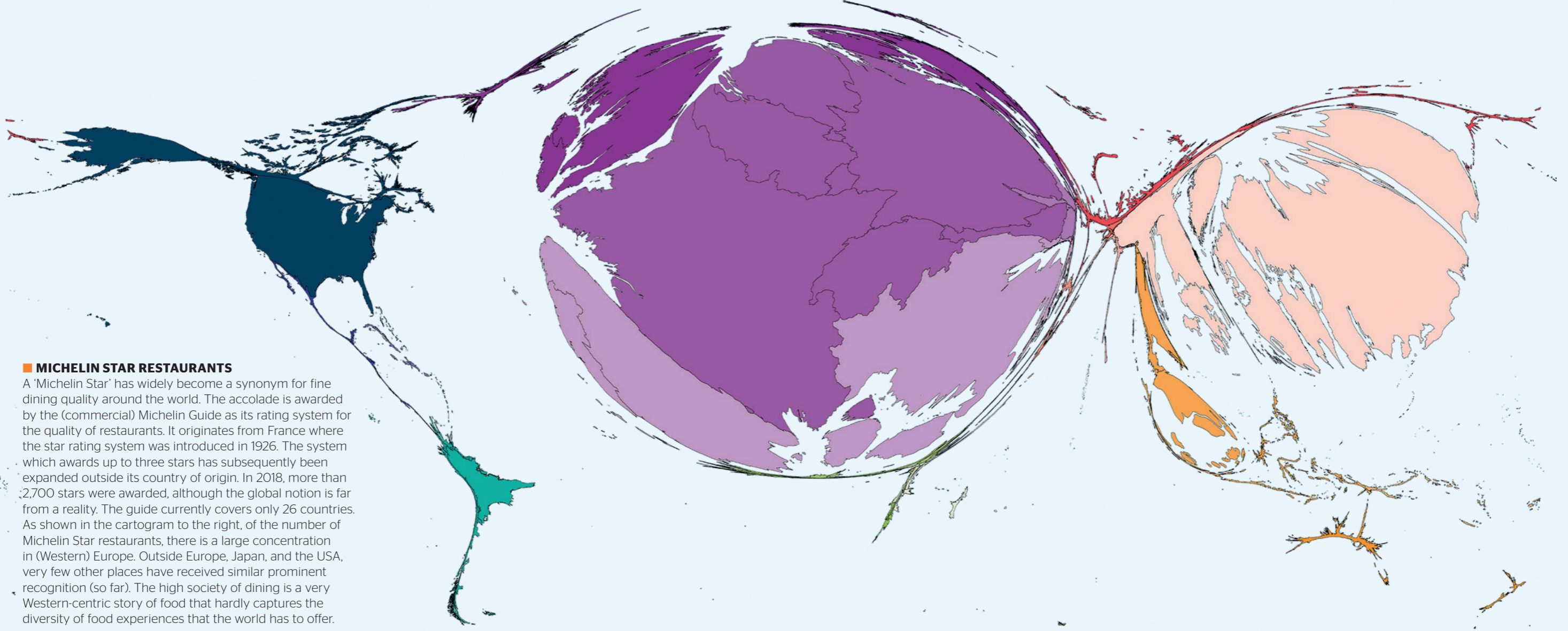
of the century, the African continent's share of the global population will have risen to 49 per cent, increased from 16 per cent in 2018. At the same time, the global population growth is expected to have almost flatlined, meaning that the year 2100 could be the year of peak population after which the world's population is expected to decline.



HYDROELECTRIC POWER

Hydroelectric power is generated by transforming the energy from moving water into electricity. Large dams and steep rivers facilitate the generation of hydroelectric power from this natural resource. Sometimes other sources of electricity are used to pump water back up into dams which store this energy, acting as batteries.

The most hydroelectric power is generated in China, Brazil, Canada and the US. Notable are also the relatively large sizes of smaller countries such as New Zealand, or Iceland, the latter of which utilises hydropower as well as geothermal energy to generate almost 100 per cent of its electricity production from renewable resources.



MICHELIN STAR RESTAURANTS

A 'Michelin Star' has widely become a synonym for fine dining quality around the world. The accolade is awarded by the (commercial) Michelin Guide as its rating system for the quality of restaurants. It originates from France where the star rating system was introduced in 1926. The system which awards up to three stars has subsequently been expanded outside its country of origin. In 2018, more than 2,700 stars were awarded, although the global notion is far from a reality. The guide currently covers only 26 countries. As shown in the cartogram to the right, of the number of Michelin Star restaurants, there is a large concentration in (Western) Europe. Outside Europe, Japan, and the USA, very few other places have received similar prominent recognition (so far). The high society of dining is a very Western-centric story of food that hardly captures the diversity of food experiences that the world has to offer.