

Demographic dividend in achieving the ICPD and the SDGs in Africa: A South-South perspective

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SDGs: A Call to Action

- End poverty
- Protect the planet
- Ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity
- Require sustained economic growth and reduction of inequalities:
 - Leave no one behind

ICPD PoA: A means for achieving SDGs

- Shift of focus from human numbers to a focus on human lives
- Three major goals
 - Reduction of infant, child and maternal mortality
 - Universal access to quality education particularly for girls
 - Universal access to RH services including FP
- Achieving these 3 goals will go along way in achieving SDGs
- These goals also central to efforts aimed at harnessing a DD

A continental initiative to harness a DD

- SDGs cannot be achieved without accelerated economic growth
- Changing demographics provide a unique opportunity
- Window of opportunity open almost everywhere
- Will remain open in many countries for decades
- Need to seize the opportunity to reap a DD
- Big questions:
 - what needs to be done?
 - How do we gauge progress?

Role of South-South Cooperation

- Cooperation among developing countries that allows them to “create, acquire, adapt, transfer and pool knowledge and experience for their mutual benefit” (Buenos Aires Plan of Action, 1978)
- SSC central to advancing the Cairo agenda and guiding DD policy development and implementation
 - Learn from the experience of those who are at more advanced stages of the demographic transition
 - TA and skills transfer
 - Financial support
- Multi-country/regional strategies help exploit economies of scale

UNFPA: A leader in DD work in Africa (1)

- Two CoEs helping countries develop, implement and monitor DD policies with UNFPA support
- Focus on research, research capacity strengthening and policy dialogue
- Use population data to
 - Develop NTA country profiles
 - Guide policy formulation and program design
 - Guide prioritization and resource allocation
 - Help keep programs on track through M&E
 - Strengthen country capacity for self-reliance

UNFPA: A leader in DD work in Africa (2)

- AFIDEP, Nairobi
 - Focus on ESARO countries/English speaking
 - Support development of country roadmaps and policy formulation
- CREFAT, Thiès, Senegal
 - Focus on WCARO countries/French speaking
 - Development of DD profiles for 22 countries
 - Methodology to measure progress (NTA-based DDMI)
 - Train country research teams (450 experts trained)
 - Support setting up of observatories in 9 countries
 - Work with AU to develop a gender component

Challenges in current DD work

- Very young and under-staffed institutions
- Limited resources and difficulty to attract and retain high-level expertise
- Existing resources go to support CoE activities with not much left for institutional strengthening
- Difficulty to get access to relevant datasets

UNFPA can use its outstanding experience in institution building to address these challenges

The UN experience in institution building. The example of demographic training

- **Bold initiative** in the 1960s and 70s: large scale training of population scientists in Africa
- Creation of 3 CoEs
 - Cairo Demographic Centre, 1963 → Arab countries
 - IFORD, Yaoundé, Cameroon, 1971 → Francophone SSA
 - RIPS, Accra, Ghana, 1971 → Anglophone SSA
- Train the first generation of demographers in Africa
 - Expertise in census and survey design across continent
 - Expertise in demographic analysis and policy formulation

Lessons from UN experience

- Need a regional approach to:
 - pool resources both human and financial
 - realize economies of scale
 - address language barriers
- Need a critical mass of expertise
- Attractive remuneration to
 - retain the scarce expertise
 - reinforce capacity to attract donor funding
- Long-term investment in institutional strengthening
- Country commitment is critical
 - all centers sustained after UN withdrawal in 1999

Transforming UNFPA support to DD work

- Countries are contributing to financing the TA from AFIDEP and CREFAT but almost all resources go to activities
- UNFPA support needs to go to the next level:
 - Help reduce challenges of access to data
 - Support resource mobilization through SSC mechanisms
 - Foster synergies between the two CoEs
 - **A more intentional effort in institutional strengthening**
- Use lessons learned from past experience

Thank you