Bursary Note:

<u>**APPLICATION FOR FUNDING SUPPORT TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE**</u>

Iam a young professional population health researcher and a public sector-economy analyst working on developing vital statistics for budget and national planning in Nigeria and lake chad region

Iam conducting a research to determine population dynamics in relation to poverty, migration, high fertility, gender inequality, wide range inequality and social inclusion in Nigeria and lake-chad region

Iam also interested in presenting my research findings and to develop my research capacity through participation in IUSSP research conference on Africa's demographic challenges. But I have difficulty to obtain travel fund.

I hereby apply for financial support to attend the international conference. I shall be grateful to receive this offer of opportunity to learn and develop my capacity to contribute to global development.

2) My prefer presentation is Oral regular or Poster

3) POSITION: Senior Technical Officer, Planning, Research and Statistics

(Akwa Ibom State Government of Nigeria)

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BIO DATA

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- MSc – **Social Statistics** – Cross River University of technology, Nigeria
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An Empirical review of Africa's Demographic Challenges: Harnessing Africa's Demographic Dividend through scaling strategic Policy Reformations on Population dynamics, Fertility Transition and Poverty in sub-Saharan Africa in a SDGs Era

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Preamble

Sub-Saharan Africa is one of the Africa's largest and most populous region, geographically, it is the area of the continent that lies south of the Sahara. According to the UN 2017 revision of the world population prospects, the population of the region was 995,694,907 in 2016 with growth rate of 2.3%, projected to thrive between 1.5 and 2 billion by 2050 with a population density of 80 per km^2 compare to 170 for Western Europe, 140 for Asia and 30 for the Americas. It is an extremely diverse region with people living in hugely varied and natural environments, representing a striking array of demographic characteristics and stages of demographic transition. Given the crucial link between population dynamics, wide range inequality and poverty in the Africa, there is an overwhelming need to address the prevailing high fertility and mortality rate, slow decline in population age structure, poor access to reproductive health services, household structure, aging, migration, wide-range gender gap and social inclusion in the region. This paper provides a comprehensive study of population change in the lake-chad region of Sub-Sahara Africa and related theoretical issues through systematically examining the demographic transitions in the region and their relationship with a wide range of social, cultural, economic and political factor.

Abstract:

Background: The Lake-Chad region is a large entity representing about 8% of the total size of the African Continent with a population estimate at 40 million inhabitants according to statistics of 2010. Despite adoption of international strategies and approaches to reduce rapid population growth, high fertility rate, gender gap, high maternal and child mortality rate, household, population age structure and migration have not sufficiently declined.

Objectives: To conduct a uniform review that identifies interventions in low and middle-income countries with high quality evidence base that addresses the regional huge demographic challenges ranging from- population age structure, high fertility, maternal and child mortality, poverty, social inequality, aging, economic and environmental migration as well as strategic guidelines and document for an integrated, holistic and sustainable response in the region. This document also aims to achieve SDG goal No: 1,2,3,4,5,10 as well as bringing clarity on the multiplicity of the underlying dynamics which gives pertinence to the implementation of a targeted action that extend beyond military action within which demography is an essential and structuring variable.

Method: The study uses a mixed methodology approach, including review of general literature on demographic dividend, population dynamics and economic growth from- UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, UKAID, USAID and AFIDEP development program around lake –chad region, Collation of various national demographic Health Survey(DHS) and socioeconomic indicators from various data sources, a search of all local high-level documents was done and these were assessed to determine the alignment of the recommendations to the evidence as well as modelling the potential demographic dividend that countries comprising the lake-chad region can earn under different policy reformation, guideline and strategic investment to harnessing Africa's demographic dividend in a SDGs era.

Result: The findings were Population and age structure challenges: Three explanation for the region slow fertility decline were slow progress in health and socio-economic development, pronatalism, poor investment on family planning and social emphasis towards universal access to sexual and reproductive health services. In addition, working age population and job creation challenges linking to lack of evolution in the structure of the local economic and of non-sustainable demographic growth overtime couple with poor infrastructural development, human capital investment and challenges of wide- gender gap

Conclusion: The influence of economic thinking in a dense populated lake-chad region with huge demographic challenges has certainly maintained its ascendency on alternative approach to development, thus the centrality of the structural adjustment that was part of the Doxia of the 80s is no longer appropriate**.**

Study Area: Map of Lake-Chad region

Source UNFPA- AOC 2017

Background

The Lake-Chad region is a large entity representing about 8% of the total size of the African Continent with a population estimate at 40 million inhabitants according to statistics of 2010. Despite adoption of international strategies and approaches to reduce rapid population growth, high fertility rate, gender gap, high maternal and child mortality rate, household, population age structure and migration have not sufficiently declined. In addition, like the sub-region of the Sahel, the countries around Lake-Chad namely (Chad, Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria) are within an area of high demographic growth rated as one of the highest in the world[3]. According to UNFPA-AOC, in less than 60 years the population of the four countries was more than quadrupled from 60million in 1960 to more than 243 million inhabitations in 2017. Furthermore, the region is facing climatic changes, which aggravate the pressure on the land, agriculture, fisheries and water resources, the size of the lake-chad is only a tenth of 25,000sqkm it was fifty years ago, now with a surface area being only 2500sqkm in 2017, fishing, agriculture and related means of livelihood and value chain has been reduce drastically[5]

Rapid population growth around the lake-chad region from 60million in 1960s to about 243million in 2017

Depletion of water area in the lake-chad region from 25,000sqkm in 1963 to 2,500sqkm in 2017

Material and Methods:

Three interlinked methods were adopted; including detailed review of the literature on global, regional and national data source: The strategic review(SR) which summarizes and present findings on the current situation, the analysis of DHS uses data from three DHS conducted in Nigeria in 2003, 2008 and 2013; Cameroon DHS 2014, Chad DHS 2014-2015 and Niger DHS 2012, 2015-2016. These surveys include standardized questions that can be used to measure trends in demographic dividend reflecting key indicators such as Population, Reproductive health, Fertility Mortality, Age-structure, poverty, employment and labor market. We compare data from four countries recent (DHS) to assess demographic dividend overtime in key maternal health indicator using socio-demographic variables such as maternal age at birth, parity, education, household wealth quintile, urban-rural locality, region and geographical zone. All estimate weighted and statistical tests adjusted for the clustering and stratification in the DHS sample design across the region.

Result and Key Findings:

 Population and Age-structure Changes[1] the changing dynamics of these population age groups have implications for crafting sound and sustainable public policies as well as profound effect on wellbeing and economic growth. For instance, as fertility declines and the proportion of children goes down, countries have an opportunity to invest more in each child, support the elderly and determine the extent to which families and government meet the needs of children, the elderly and the working age adult as a group who consume more than they produce. Three explanations for the region's late fertility decline were: **Slow progress in health and Socio-economic development**[1-1]**, the pronatalism**[1-2]- many see as intrinsic to African social and cultural systems as well as **lack of adequate investment in family planning program**[1-3] (see Fig1)
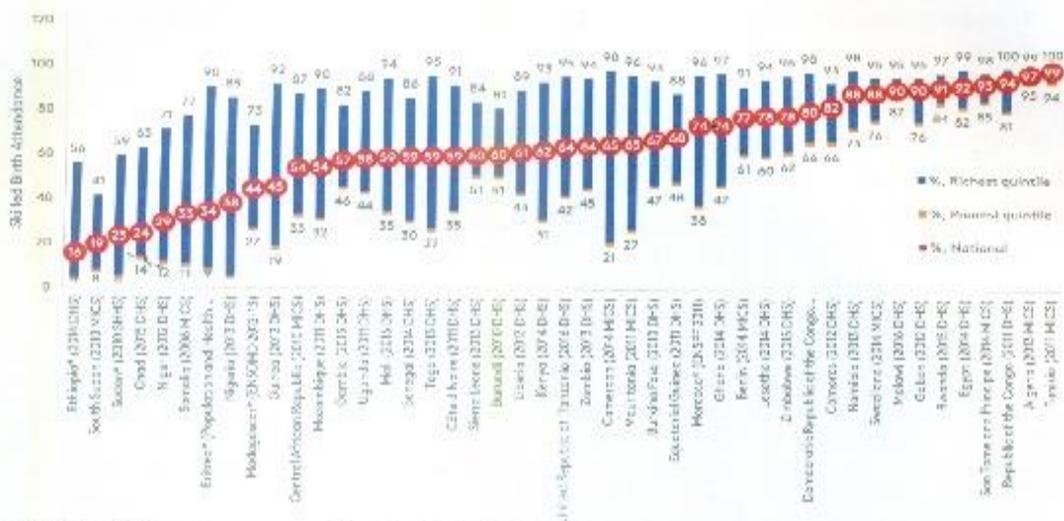
Fig 1

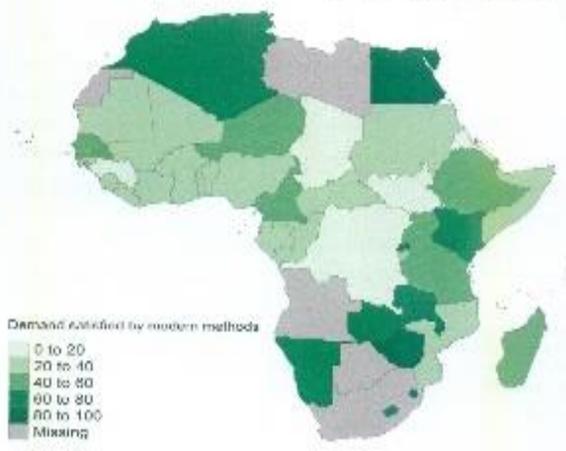| Countries	Total Fertility Rate(Child/Women)	Contraceptive Access (Age 15-49)	Infant Mortality	Maternal Mortality	Children Marriage (Before 18yrs
Niger	7	13.5%	57 per 1000	553 per 1000	76.3%
Nigeria	6	13.5%	69 per 1000	814 per 1000	42.8%
Chad	6	5.2%	85 per 1000	856 per 1000	66.9%
Cameroon	5	20.2%	67 per 1000	596 per 1000	31%

Source UNFPA –AOC 2017

Fig 1b: Shows percentage of skilled Birth and Demand for family Planning by countries

Figure 5. Skilled Birth Attendance, by Wealth Quintile

Source: DHS and MICS, and for countries marked with an *, the WHO/UNICEF Joint Global Database 2017.

Figure 6. Demand for Family Planning Satisfied by Modern Methods

Demand satisfied by modern methods
- 0 to 20
- 20 to 40
- 40 to 60
- 60 to 80
- 80 to 100
- Missing

Source: DHS and MICS.

Working Age Population and Job Creation Challenges[2] (Graph 1) This was linked basically to three key factors centered on population and policy challenges in Africa such as: **Poor Economic Growth and Slow Diversification Approach**[2-1]: (Fig 2) For Instance, the lake Chad region faces huge challenges in creating job for a rapidly growing labor force due to non- economic diversification policies to create new opportunities for skill development, Vocational training, entrepreneurship, Empowerment scheme to curb both formal, informal and aged population into a wide demographic spectrum yielding more dividend and realistic economic opportunities for survival in the context of an economic that barely transformed itself, reliant solely on crude earning and extensive subsistence activities, like fishing and agriculture resulting in food insecurity, hunger, wide-range inequalities, poverty and crisis in the region. **Trans-Boarder Migration pressure**[2-2]:(Table 3 -4) resulting from a very high population growth rate reinforce by environmental migration due to climate change, depletion of farmland and water resources coupled with lack of evolution in the structure of the local economics, non-sustainable demographic growth overtime with poor social tolerant and management of its diversities to the extent of the region religious sociology of its population popularly called Boko-Haram is an expected source of tension and conflict in the region. More so, the fact that the border area around lake-chad is also a stopover zone for aspiring migrant towards Europe.
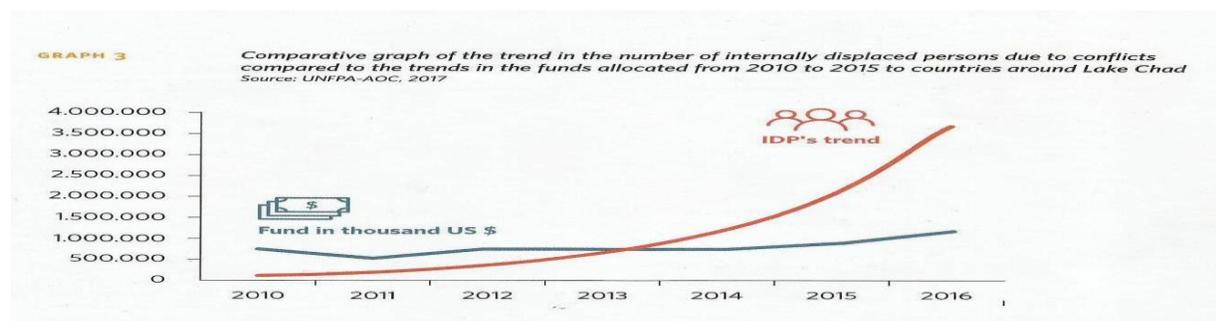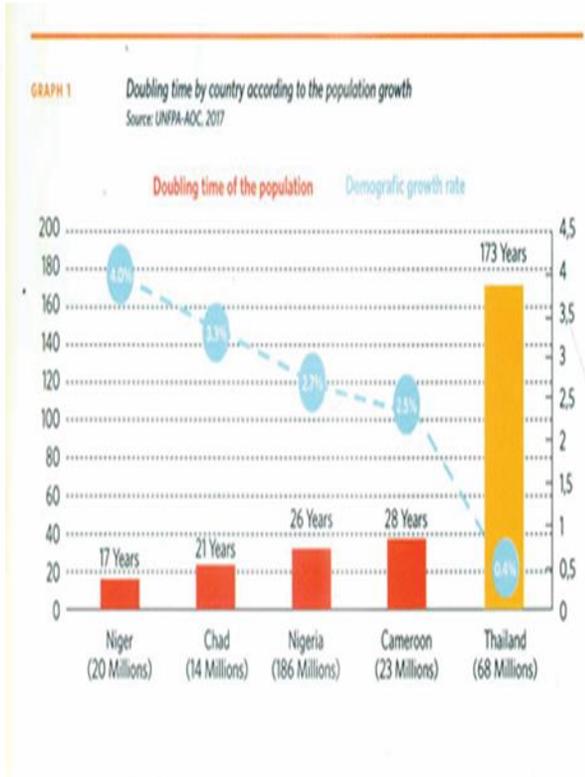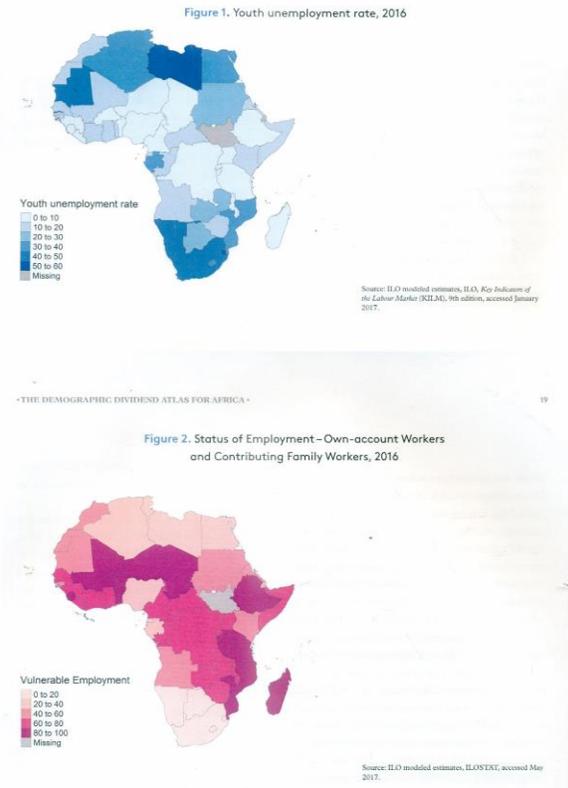
Table 3

GRAPH 3 — Comparative graph of the trend in the number of internally displaced persons due to conflicts compared to the trends in the funds allocated from 2010 to 2015 to countries around Lake Chad
Source: UNFPA-AOC, 2017

Table 4: Shows the rate of Migration in the region between (2016-2017) Source UNFPA _AOC -2017

Indicators (2016-2017	Cameroon	Chad	Niger	Nigeria
IDPs	196,538	52,000	225,000	2,151,979
No. Benefiting from Assistance	15,168	28,750	135,621	41,359
Refugee Pop by Asylum Country	342,973	369,540	124,721	1,395
Refugee Pop by Country of Origin	10,581	14,940	1,390	167,988

Source UNFPA_AOC 2017

Fig2 and Graph 1: Shows doubling population per country and Job creation Challenges

Source UNFPA_AOC 2017

Poor Infrastructure, Human Capital investment and Challenges of wide Gender Gap[3]: **(Table 4)** Countries that invest significantly in infrastructural development, human capital and developing public policies that tend to close gender gap as well as offering equal opportunities for all gender is already on the fore-front of replacing large cohorts of less productive workers with smaller cohorts of more productive workforce as their population age. By so doing may achieve a second demographic dividend that will boost economic growth even as the support ratio begins to decline. More so, a drop in the proportion of dependent children in a population frees up resources that families and government can invest in the health and education of each child for proportional increase productivity and strong positive economic impact in a long term[3-2]. There were three explanations for the region high poverty rating, wide-range inequality, gender, social inclusion and poor technological advancement were: **Poor Human Capital Investment**[3-3]- education, skills development, and entrepreneurial development, as well as **persistence gender gap and poor infrastructural development**[3-4] **(See Fig 5)**

Table 4: shows Increasing working age Population, High dependency, Poverty and low income per capita

Countries	Population 2015	Projected Population 2030	Population Resident In Urban	Population Under International Poverty line	Youth 15-24 yrs. (2012)	Gini Index
Niger	19.897m	34.994m	19%	45.7%	11.3%	33.99%
Nigeria	181.182m	264.068m	48%	53.47%	16.1%	42.97%
Chad	14.009m	21.460m	23%	38.43%	15.3%	43.32%
Cameroon	22.835m	32.980m	54%	23.98%	18.7%	46.54%

Source UNFPA-AOC 2017

Table 5: Shows Population Growth and Demographic Dividend Chart for lake-chad region

Nations	Pop 2015	Project pop 2030	T-Fert.	Contra Age-15-49	P-Urban Res.	Pop Under Int'l poverty	Gini Index	Life Exp. 2010/15 (M)	Life Exp. (F)	Infant Mort	Mat Mort	Youth -Pop (15-24) 2012	Child marriage <18yrs(2012)
Niger	19.897	34.994	7	13.5%	19%	45.7%	33.99%	57.64%	59.49%	57	553	11.3%	76.3%
Nigeria	181.182	264.068	6	13.5%	48%	53.47%	42.97%	51.16%	52.61%	69	814	16.1%	42.8%
Chad	14.009	21.460	6	5.2%	23%	38.43%	43.32%	50.52%	52.83%	85	856	15.3%	66.9%
Cameroon	22.835	32.980	5	20.2%	54%	23.98%	46.54%	55.11%	57.68%	57	596	18.7%	31%

Source UNFPA AOC 2017

Key Finding:

1. High Fertility rate and Increase dependency on working age group with fertility rate of Adolescent girls (15-19yrs) representing 15% of the general fertility rate compare to 10% in Senegal, Adolescent who have access to contraception represent 2% compare to 39% in Kenya and 64% in Indonesia

2. Rapid population growth, representing 243million with average population under international poverty line at 40.28% with Significant Increase in the size of the working

population age (15-49yrs); showing huge challenges in creating jobs for the rapidly growing labor force
3. Poor Investment on Human Capital, Infrastructural development and Challenges of wide-gender gap and social inequalities and inclusion.

Discussion:

The study assesses the prospect for harnessing the demographic dividend in the lake chad region comprising, Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon and Chad and demonstrating policy options for optimizing the possibility of a demographic divided. The analysis reviews demographic, economic, human capital trend, challenges, opportunities and their implications for the region's development covering also indicators directly related to the risk of maternal mortality, high risk fertility behavior and their association with selected socio-demographic characteristics of women. These include women's age and parity at the child's birth, educational level, household wealth quintile, residence (urban-rural) and geographic zone. The analysis found large and persistence disparities by women's characteristics especially by wealth, residence, education, mortality rate and geopolitical zone. The review will be beneficial to the UN, AU, ECOWAS, Development Partner, Policy makers and relevant regional organizations wishing to understand the demographic, economic and human capital trends in the countries that comprises the lake-chad region.

Recommendations:

The following were recommendations:

1. **Scaling Policy Frame-work for Prompt Actions:** Demographic dividend is not guaranteed and is time bound, therefore, it is recommended that the countries act quickly by prioritizing policies and investments to accelerate fertility decline, age structure change, improve human capital, accelerate economic growth, job creation, close gender gap as well as enhancing good governance and accountability in service and use of public resources[13]. Moro so, building community resilience through youth and women empowerment to oppose violence in the context of social disparity and inequality[15] while promoting political commitment of regional government to accompany the implementation of the AU road map for demographic dividend (health, Education, Employment and Governance)
2. **Developing Public Surveillance System:** Public surveillance system needed to centrally analyses and disseminates service delivery data collected by various government departments and to respond to the indictors mentioned in this review, a number of policy intervention, if implemented, could have a significant positive impact on violence

against women and socioeconomic empowerment. For instance, not enough is known about the economic and social development impact of gender base violence in the region. In addition, adopt an integrated and holistic approach of partnership for development within the region as well as promote the commitment of the funders, public and private donors to invest more for durable solutions to the challenges for development in the countries.

3. **More so, Scaling- up Communication and Social Emphasis**[15] Best Practices**,** Improved monitoring, evaluation, better funding and coordination of existing government, donor, technical partner and civil society program and improvement to legal frame-work is also crucial to harnessing Africa's demographic dividend.

Conclusions:

 The influence of economic thinking in a dense populated lake-chad region with huge demographic challenges has certainly maintained its ascendency on alternative approach to development, thus the centrality of the structural adjustment that was part of the Doxia of the 80s is no longer appropriate, thus underscoring the current demographic dynamics and associated window of opportunities in the lake-chad region, implies therefore to structure development thinking with related actions such as multi-dimensional process to reference the five area of demographic dividend that included acceleration of decline of fertility rates, the economy, health, education and good governance. This means prioritizing policy to scale up best practices, improved monitoring, evaluation, better funding and coordination of the existing government, civil societies program and improvement on the existing challenges to the legal frame-work are crucial mile-stone to be accomplished through regional corporation and partnership

Appendix

Demographic Dividend Chart for the four Countries in the Lake Chad Region

Source UNFPA-AOC 2017