

Practical experience in multi-sectoral approaches in incorporating population dynamics in German International Cooperation

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Abstract

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Federal Institute for Population Research (BiB) and the University of Koblenz-Landau have since 2016 been cooperating in the Demography for Development Planning (D4DP) initiative. This partnership aims at policy integration of demographic trends, putting research findings into practice and improving the use of demographic data in planning for various sectors. In order to facilitate harnessing the demographic potential, German Development Cooperation (GDC) has developed specific approaches with local partners. Pilot experiences have shown promising results in demography-sensitive policy design, improved data use and management, multi-sectoral cooperation, human capacity development and interregional dialogue. Currently, GDC is conceptualizing methods for broad stakeholder engagement and political dialogue on using National Transfer Account data for development planning with UNFPA and for strategic competency development for population councils and municipal planners in coordination and communication of demographic information.

Introduction

Population phenomena like population growth, urbanization and ageing present challenges as well as opportunities for development. In order to harness populations' potential and both recognize and deal effectively with challenges, population dynamics need to be systematically taken into account as a crosscutting issue. The German Development Cooperation (GDC) has developed a number of practical approaches with which it supports its partner countries in integrating population dynamics into policy and programme planning, including through a multi-sectoral approach, data collection and use, and capacity development. The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the German Federal Institute for Population Research (BiB) and the University of Koblenz-Landau have since October 2016 been cooperating as part of the Demography for Development Planning (D4DP) initiative. This knowledge partnership aims at making bi- and multilateral partners aware of demographic trends, putting research findings into practice and making statistics available to be used in planning policies for various sectors. In general, the goal is to embed population dynamics firmly in the programmes of GDC and of other partners.

Approach

How GDC designs its measures within technical and financial cooperation depends essentially on population trends in its partner countries. In order to facilitate harnessing the demographic potential, GDC has developed a number of specific approaches with which it supports its partner countries. To ensure that the crosscutting issue of population dynamics can be considered and integrated as an overarching concept, the GDC offers a holistic perspective. This starts with background analysis and political dialogue about population dynamics with partner countries for bilateral cooperation and regional partners at the point of intergovernmental consultations and negotiations. Additional steps of analysis and recommendations are offered during the commissioning procedure. It ranges from assessing the development potential of a partner country to designing programmes and modules.

The approaches and examples of integrating population dynamics into GDC include:

- studies of single demographic aspects and assessments;
- approaches designed to improve data collection and analysis in specific measures, through international partners like UNFPA or linked to sectoral programmes;
- support for national institutions like population councils, statistical agencies;
- investments in infrastructure for digitization of data collection or in case of large population movements in a situation of flight and migration;
- specific approaches for capacity development and international and national policy dialogue.

Exemplary Results and current concepts

- Mainstreaming Population Dynamics into National Development Policies and Planning

With support from GDC, the **Togolese** Ministry of Development Planning prepared a manual on how to integrate population dynamics into national planning (Ministry for Development Planning, Togo, 2015). The manual has since been introduced to all Togolese ministries as guidance for their respective sectoral planning. Training courses on collecting and analysing demographic data were organised for ministry officials and statisticians in collaboration with UNFPA. Demographic projections were developed for the three priority sectors – namely rural development, governance and democracy and vocational education and training. The manual was used to develop the new Togolese agricultural and education strategies. The directorate is now passing on its experience at international fora like the UN Commission on Population and Development and in direct interaction with its counterpart institutions in neighboring **Mali**.

- Data collection

Through grants to UNFPA, BMZ supported **Myanmar's** Central Statistical Organisation in 2013 in carrying out the country's first national census in 30 years and the census in **Malawi** in 2018. To enable continuous demographic data collection and access to legal identity, GDC supports the strengthening of Civil Registration Vital Statistics in **Cameroon, Togo, Namibia, Nepal** and within a regional program for the promotion of the Rule of law and judiciary.

- Data Management and Use

In **Kenya**, the Support to the Health Sector programme (HSP) and Energising Development (EnDEV) project undertook an inventory and assessment of data collection, management and use in Kisumu County. The results supported the operationalization of the Kenya Health Data Collaborative at regional level.

In **Burundi**, a pilot project with local multi-sectoral networks on demographic data analysis, management and joint use fostered an open discussion about the situation of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and enabled the district health centers to understand better, which age groups they actually reach. Local decision makers are not only sensitized for demographic topics, they now also avail of better information than estimations of population trends they used before. Trainings on data collection and analysis have already been passed on to additional communities, who mobilized their own resources for the necessary IT-equipment.

- Human Capacity Development and interregional dialogue

On study visits to Germany, delegations from **Moroccan** and **Algerian** municipalities and from **Togo** exchanged information with experts from the BiB, the University of Koblenz-Landau and German municipalities on collection, management and use of population data. A delegation from **Cameroon** visited specifically CRVS institutions.

German development cooperation benefits from the annual meetings of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development (CPD) as an international forum where it can underline the importance of population dynamics and other key themes and principles of the Cairo Programme of Action. Likewise, the International Dialogue on Population and Sustainable Development that has been held in Berlin every year since 2002 promotes supra-regional exchanges and cooperation between relevant actors from politics, civil society, research and the private sector on topics such as youth sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and gender equality.

Supported by Germany, the Guttmacher-Lancet Commission on SRHR has made key contributions to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the field of SRHR. The Commission's final report, published in May 2018, presents the first comprehensive definition of SRHR to be embedded in the 2030 Agenda and aligned with human rights, as well as evidence-based recommendations for its effective implementation in policies and programmes.

Outlook

Currently, the GDC is conceptualizing methods for broad stakeholder engagement and political dialogue on using National Transfer Account (NTA) results for demography-sensitive development planning with UNFPA and strategic competency development for population councils and municipal planners to support them in their multi-sectoral coordination role and political communication of demographic trends with decision-makers, sectoral ministries and publicly. These new approaches will be presented at the conference, together with selected partners from respective countries.

References

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