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Multi-Sectoral Planning and Programmatic Approach to DD Integration in Uganda: The Progress

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Introduction

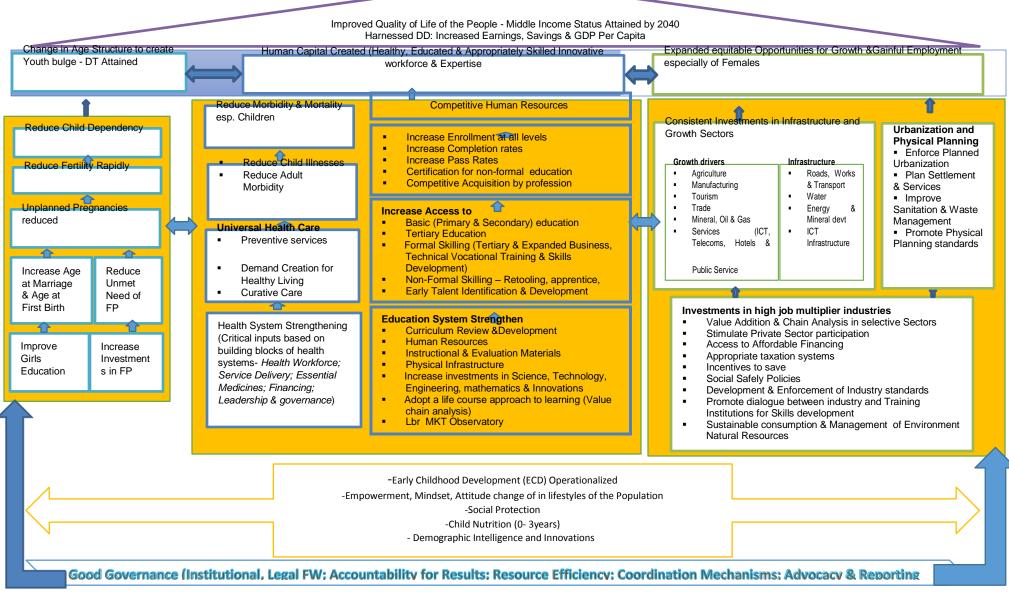
Building on the ongoing advocacy efforts to harness the economic benefits of the demographic dividend in Uganda, the National Planning Authority together with the National Population Council have initiated a drive for embedding demographic dividend drivers in planning and budgeting frameworks at national and subnational level. This is in recognition that no single sector can singly deliver DD. To maximise the opportunity for harnessing the DD, multi-sectoral team of experts are engaging in generating multisectoral interventions framework that will guide implementation at national and sub-national levels. Coordinated multi-sectoral engagements is the foundation for creating stronger partnerships and with a common agenda and agreed multi-sectoral priority interventions to be addressed.

The multi-sectoral interventions are based on a Theory of Change (ToC) established through a systematic analysis of critical factors influencing the desired outcomes and corresponding indicators and targets outlined in Uganda Vision 2040, NDP II and the 2008 National Population Policy (NPP) and its Action Plan. The primary purpose of the ToC is to guide identification of those critical DD drivers in sectoral and local development plans which must be provided for in all annual budgets at all levels. This is being done within the broad framework of the NDPII goal, objectives and strategic interventions.

The Theory of Change

The theory of change premised on the drivers and pathways of harnessing the demographic dividend as presented in DD preposition value model analysis. These include education, empowerment, health, employment and wealth creation

Figure 3: Theory of Change to guide Implementation of DD in Development Plans, Programmes & Initiatives at National & Subnational levels.



Adopted from: Demographic Transition, Human Capital Formation and Social and Economic Change-A framework by David S. Reher, 2011.

The theory of change demonstrates that harnessing the demographic dividend is not automatic. The presence of a large young population or change in age structure is necessary but not a sufficient condition for its harnessing. The other conditions that we need to focus on include: rapid fertility decline, health, education and skills development, economic reforms and employment creation, good governance and sound fiscal policies.

Most, if not all, of the conditions in the theory change have been provided for in NDP II. Currently, government is taking advantage of Programme-Based Budgeting approach to move the demographic dividend agenda from policy and advocacy to action, more specifically translating strategic demographic dividend drivers into Sector and Local-level interventions; developing and adhering to a demographic dividend road map; integrating the identified interventions into budgeting frameworks; and applying multi-sectoral collaboration in order to utilize the economies of scale for resource mobilization and utilization.

This cascading of results is being achieved through the programmatic approach, developing concrete demographic dividend result areas, building consensus or agreeing on the indicators that define and measure success, and developing compliance criteria to guide self-assessment and peer review as well as external evaluation.

Our next Steps

To ensure coherence within each sector and between sectors regarding the prioritised demographic dividend drivers, and in order to concretise and advance multi-sectoral approach to build a strong foundation for reaping the demographic dividend in Uganda, National Population Council and National Planning Authority are taking lead to ensure the following:

- Remodelling of the demographic dividend based on the new data to establish the investments required for harnessing of the DD. Results from the exercise will inform the programme based planning and budgeting at sectoral and local government level
- Implementing the demographic dividend compliance framework and criteria to guide peer review and external evaluations.
- Establishment of a joint mechanism for monitoring and assessment of DD interventions at all levels of planning

and implementation

- Defining the roles of each stakeholder and expected results through stakeholder analysis tools
- Establish and operationalise a coordinated reaping the demographic dividend implementation strategy

Opportunities

- Very high government commitment to steer the process for building a foundation for harnessing the demographic dividend. Technically, the DD drivers have been addresses in planning framework and now working on cascading to sectoral and lower levels
- Political consensus on the demographic dividend has been built through evidence based advocacy. The New Vision of Monday, February 5, 2018 the president declared "Don't have more than four children, Museveni tells women in Uganda" The president implored women especially the young generation to produce not more than four children.
- Presence of strong Institutional mechanism to coordinate integration of population dynamics into development planning at national and sub-national levels and comprehensively respond to population and development issues, and its implications for poverty eradication and sustainable development
- Readiness and willingness of development partners to support the demographic dividend agenda

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