Session 1105: Case studies on operationalizing the DD within the context of Agenda 2063 and 2030 Agenda for sustainable development

Title: Domestication of Demographic Dividend at Country Level - Kenya's Pathway

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1. Background

The African Union has recognized the importance of the demographic dividend in enabling African countries to achieve the Social Development Goals by 2030 and the continental aspirations as articulated in Agenda 2063 on *"the Africa we want"*. In this regard the African Union is advocating for all the countries on the continent to incorporate the demographic dividend in their respective national development plans as a way of accelerating socio-economic development and improving the quality of life for their respective populations. To facilitate this, in 2016 the African Union developed a demographic dividend roadmap for the continent for the purpose of guiding individual countries to domesticate this important development concept. Kenya heeded the call by the African Union and has taken a number of steps to actualize the demographic dividend given that the goals of this concept will complement the country's Vision 2030 development blue print, Population Policy for National Development, as well as other national policies and strategies.

2. Domestication of Demographic Dividend

From the year 2014, Kenya has taken a number of steps to domesticate the demographic dividend concept at both the national and county levels. The steps taken so far are;

Modelling of Kenya's Demographic Dividend Potential: In an effort to inform the demographic dividend activities in Kenya, the National Council for Population and Development (NCPD) partnered with Futures Group and other stakeholders, through the USAID funded Health Policy Project, to develop a demographic dividend model for Kenya. This project, known as the DemDiv Model Project, was implemented between February and June 2014. The results of this project were launched at the national level on 15th July 2014. The DemDiv model uses policy inputs from three sectors (health, education, and the economy) to project outputs related to population and socio-economic development. The results of the model showed that combined investments in these three sectors will produce the following key results by 2050; Investments per capita will increase to about US$ 2,000 from the current figure of about US$ 200, fertility levels will decline to an average of 2 children per woman from the current 4 children per woman, and, even with an increase in the population size, the employment gap (i.e. people in the labour force who are not active) will be 8 million which is less than the current gap of 10 million. The results of the DemDiv model showed that Kenya has the potential to attain a demographic dividend. A case was therefore made for the national and county governments to make strategic investments in the economic, education and health sectors in order to for the country to achieve rapid socio-economic development and improvements in the quality of life.

2015 National Adolescent and Youth Survey: This was a national survey whose aim was to identify key health, education, skills development, income and employment, and governance issues that need to be addressed if Kenya is to harness the potential of its young people. Both qualitative and quantitative techniques were employed in carrying out this survey. The national and county specific reports for this survey were completed in 2016 and are available for development planning purposes by the various sectors and counties. One of the key highlights of these reports is the year when the national and county "demographic windows" are expected to open. This "windows" refers to the periods when the country and each county can expect to reap maximum socio-economic benefits from the potential of its young people. At the national level, the window is expected to open in the year 2038.

Demographic Dividend Policy Briefs: As a way of deepening the understating of the demographic dividend among policy makers, in 2015 the National Council for Population and Development came up with several briefs on the health, education, skills development, and economic empowerment status of young persons in the country. These briefs have recommendations on the actions that policy makers at various levels need to undertake in order to enhance Kenya's progress towards the attainment of the demographic dividend.

Demographic Dividend Knowledge Sharing Symposium for Eastern and Southern Africa Region: The National Council for Population and Development, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund, hosted the above mentioned symposium in Nairobi from 24th to 26th August 2015. The aim of the symposium was to share country status and experiences in domesticating the demographic dividend concept. A total of 16 countries from the continent participated in this forum which was used by Kenya to share its experiences in promoting youth issues while learning from other countries.

Multi-Sectoral National Demographic Dividend Steering Committee: This muti-sectoral committee was set up in May 2016 by National Council for Population and Development, under the auspices of the Ministry of Devolution and Planning, for the purpose of bringing together key actors in the implementation of the demographic dividend agenda in Kenya and ensuring a coordinated approach in the implementation of demographic dividend activities in the country. The actors include government, civil society organizations, development partners, and the private sector. This committee met severally in 2016 to discuss and agree on the strategies of promoting the demographic dividend agenda at both national and county levels.

National Demographic Dividend Forum: This forum was convened on 18th and 19th October 2016 by Ministry of Devolution and Planning, National Council for Population and Development, and the United National Population Fund. Participants were drawn from the national and county governments, development partners, civil society organizations, and the private sector. The main objective of the forum was to enhance support for the country's demographic dividend agenda among policy makers in the health, education, economic, and governance sectors.

Kenya's Demographic Dividend Roadmap: One of the key outputs from Kenya's efforts to accelerate the achievement of a demographic dividend was the development of a national demographic dividend roadmap. This roadmap was developed in 2016 through a consultative process by the National Demographic Dividend Steering Committee. The roadmap identifies key activities in the health, education, economic, and governance sectors that are critical for the attainment of a demographic dividend in Kenya. It also provides an estimated cost for the implementation of these activities.

Integration of Demographic Dividend in National and County Plans: In 2017, the Kenya began the process of developing the 5 year cycle of development plans covering the period 2018 – 2022. Through the National Council for Population and Development and the Ministry of Devolution and Planning, guidelines for the integration of demographic dividend into the national and county plans were developed and issued for use. These plans were launched in 2018 and are currently being implemented.

3. Challenges

Despite the efforts made to domesticate the demographic dividend concept in Kenya, a number of challenges stand in the way of achieving this benefit. Among these challenges are; Low understanding of demographic dividend concept among policy makers and programmers thereby hampering effective implementation of DD activities; absence of standard DD indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the progress being made towards the attainment of a demographic dividend; Unintended pregnancies births which stand at about 36 percent of annual births; and drug and substance abuse among youth.

4. Opportunities

The above mentioned challenges notwithstanding, Kenya has opportunities that will enhance the attainment of a demographic dividend. These opportunities are; Declining fertility levels; Government's Big 4 Agenda that focuses on Universal health coverage, Employment creation in the manufacturing sector, food security, and affordable housing; Government's increased focus on addressing youth issues including provision of credit facilities, creation of business opportunities, and training and skills development; existence and implementation of ageing and older persons policy; renewed efforts to curb corruption; and inclusion of DD in development plans.

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