

Prioritizing the Demographic Dividend

Subnational Advocacy With District Decisionmakers in Uganda

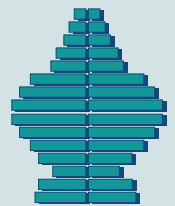
UGANDA'S VISION 2040 STRATEGY

envisions a path of transformation into a modern and prosperous upper-middle-income country by 2040. Reaching this goal starts with changes in Uganda's population age structure. By investing in the human capital of its population, Uganda can accelerate progress toward its goals and achieve a demographic dividend.

Investments in human capital development, including voluntary family planning, are increasingly determined by decisionmakers at the district level. Using evidence to support decision-making is key to securing such investments. The National Population Council of Uganda has leveraged a multipronged approach—across national, subnational and civil-society audiences—to advocate for increased family planning funding to better support achievement of the demographic dividend.

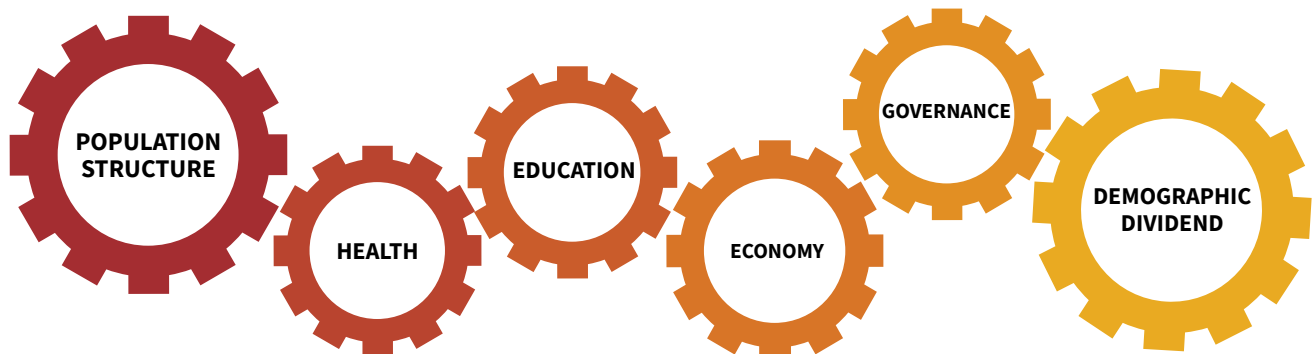
What is the demographic dividend?

The demographic dividend is the accelerated economic growth that can result from a decline in a country's birth and death rates and the subsequent change in the age structure of the population. With fewer births each year, the share of people in the young dependent age groups grows smaller relative to the share in the working ages, thereby reducing the dependency burden. This shift creates a window of opportunity to attain the dividend if strategic investments in health, education, the economy, and good governance are made.



Uganda's Opportunities for Growth in Subnational Family Planning Investments

- Government of Uganda budget allocations cover 10% of the funds needed to implement national family planning strategies.
- At the district level, allocations for family planning often make up less than 1% of the total health budget and most districts have no family planning budget line item at all.
- Districts are starting to develop Family Planning Costed Implementation Plans, multi-year action plans highlighting the strategies and resources needed to achieve district family planning goals.



Approaches to Increasing Subnational Investment in Family Planning

Policy advocacy initiatives focused on achieving the demographic dividend often focus on national policymakers. Yet many of the budget and policy commitments that will accelerate progress toward the dividend are determined at the district level. The National Population Council of Uganda recommends four core strategies to increase commitment to invest in human capital development, including voluntary family planning, among district decisionmakers:

1



PACKAGE DATA AND KEY MESSAGES IN SIMPLE, COMPELLING FORMATS.

NPCU produced the video “[Building a Stronger Uganda Through Investments in People](#),” and a related fact sheet, to outline the interventions needed to harness the demographic dividend and achieve Vision 2040 targets. The video featured data and information tailored to five focus districts, with specific recommendations designed for each district’s unique situation.

2



MAINTAIN CONSISTENT ENGAGEMENT WITH DISTRICT AND COMMUNITY LEADERS.

District decisionmakers face many competing priorities, and this became especially apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic. Sustaining attention and commitment to human capital investments, including family planning, requires ongoing engagement with decisionmakers. NPCU achieved this through short workshops and regular district outreach and assistance. NPCU also routinely engaged religious and cultural leaders as champions of these efforts; such individuals are often highly respected and wield significant influence within communities, boosting civic support for achieving goals.

3



BRING TOGETHER TECHNICAL AND POLITICAL GROUPS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

NPCU helped to generate political priority by bringing together technical leaders and political decisionmakers in the local government through tailored technical assistance. District executives were convened with technical department heads, enabling both stakeholder groups to collaboratively build a case for achieving the demographic dividend and agree on district planning priorities.

4



GENERATE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY BY ENGAGING MEDIA PROFESSIONALS.

NPCU updated media professionals on demographic dividend priorities to [elevate awareness](#) around this topic among citizens and policymakers alike. These investments help support accountability in executing implementation and budget commitments by promoting accurate and compelling media reporting to increase public knowledge of district financial and [programmatic](#) commitments for family planning.

Kasese and Lwengo Districts Develop Action Plans

Tailored to the district context by political and technical district leaders, the Kasese and Lwengo Demographic Dividend Action Plans 2021-22 include specific recommendations addressing girls’ education, improved access to family planning methods at the community level, workforce development, and investment in job-multiplier industries. As official resolutions, the plans define priority strategies for districts to implement.

Agago District Introduces Indicators for Monitoring the Demographic Dividend

District leaders mainstreamed a set of demographic dividend indicators in their District Development Plan’s monitoring and evaluation framework, which will be tracked quarterly. The development plan is the guiding strategy establishing the direction of public investments and tracking implementation of programs at the district level.

SOURCES

Government of Uganda, [Uganda Vision 2040](#).

“Building a Stronger Uganda Through Investment in People,” Population Reference Bureau, January 15, 2021. Video, 10:35.

“Building a Stronger Uganda By Investing in People,” Population Reference Bureau, 2019.

CONTACT

Stella Kigozi Makumbi

Director, Information and Communications Unit

National Population Council, Uganda

Email: stella.kigozi@npcsec.go.ug



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