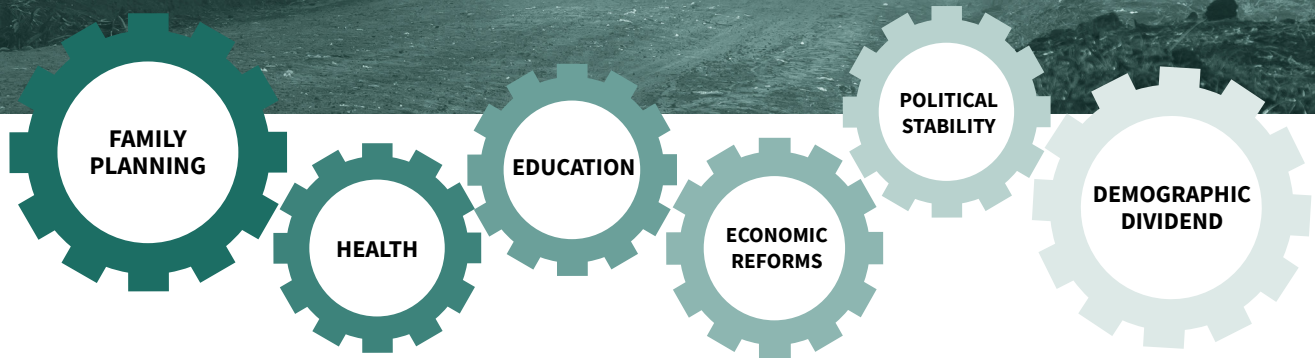


INVESTING IN HUMAN CAPITAL IS THE KEY TO ELIMINATING POVERTY IN BULAMBULI DISTRICT



Uganda aspires to become a competitive upper middle-income country by 2040. Aligned with this goal, Bulambuli District, in the Bugisu Region, seeks to become a transformed and prosperous society by 2040. By investing in human capital, Bulambuli can accelerate progress toward Uganda’s goals and help the country achieve a demographic dividend.

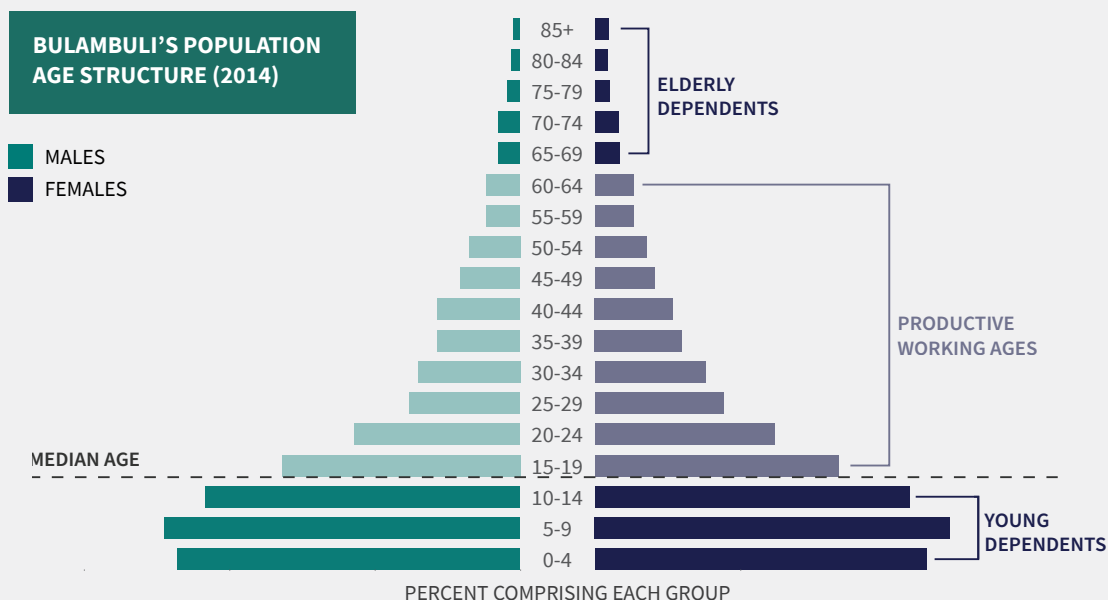
The demographic dividend is the accelerated economic growth that can result from a decline in a country’s birth and death rates and the subsequent change in the age structure of the population. With fewer births each year, the share of the population in the young dependent age groups grows smaller relative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

SPOTLIGHT ON BULAMBULI

Population Age Structure and Human Capital Development

Bulambuli’s population age structure is young, as seen in the broad base of the population pyramid. Fertility in the Bugisu Region (including Bulambuli District) is high, with an average of 5.5 births per woman.

The median age of the population in Bulambuli, or the age at which half the population is older and half is younger, is 15. When the median age of the population is between 25 and 40, Bulambuli is more likely to achieve its goals to improve child survival, increase educational attainment, accelerate economic growth, and reduce poverty.

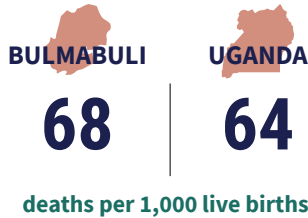


Source: Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), National Population and Housing Census 2014–Main Report (Kampala, Uganda: UBOS, 2016).

Family Planning Is Critical to Achieve a Demographic Dividend

Investments in family planning, education, and skills development are the surest way to help Uganda achieve a demographic dividend. Access to voluntary family planning can drive rapid improvements in maternal health and child survival by enabling healthy timing and spacing of pregnancy. With fewer children to support, couples are more likely to keep their children in school and are able to grow household wealth.

UNDER 5 MORTALITY



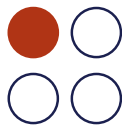
DROP OUT RATE



1 in 3 children drop out of school before completing Primary 7

Access to Family Planning Among Women and Couples in Bulambuli Is Improving

Bulambuli can accelerate progress towards its five-year development goals by prioritizing family planning as a key human capital investment in the district development plan. While the district has successfully increased the number of health centers over the last decade, the total number of service provision locations remains insufficient compared to the growing population, which negatively impacts access to family planning.



over 1 in 4 women who want to prevent pregnancy are not using family planning*



15% of teenagers have given birth or are pregnant*

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BULAMBULI

- Increase recruitment of health extension workers to better link rural women and girls to health facilities and family planning services.
- Strengthen health and family planning data collection capacity through supplemental funding and resources.
- In response to school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic, adopt alternative approaches recommended by the Ministry of Education and Sports to sustain education, including home study opportunities via radio and television at both primary and secondary levels.
- Establish policies that enable girls to complete school, including after giving birth.

NOTE

Asterisk (*) indicates cases where data were not available at the district level so data from the region in which the district is located are applied.

SOURCES

Government of Uganda, *Uganda Vision 2040*, accessed at: <http://library.health.go.ug/publications/leadership-and-governance/uganda-vision-2040>.

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