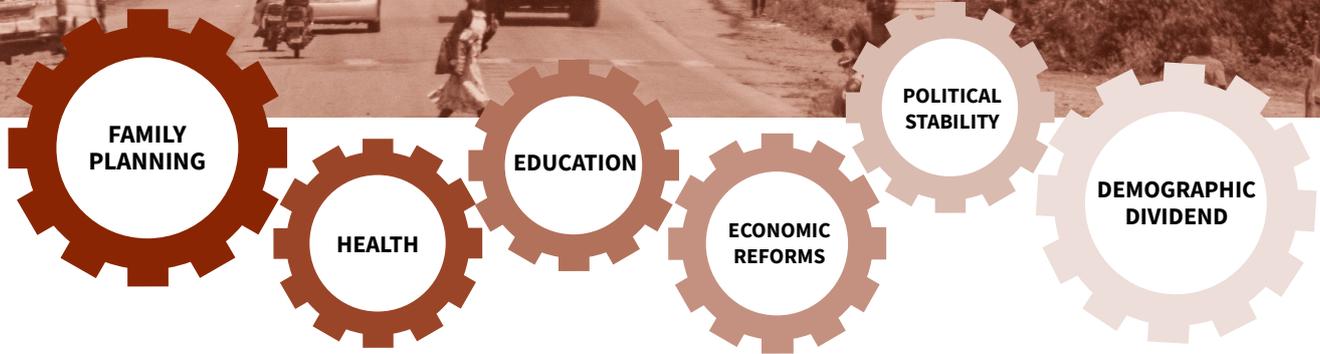


# INVESTING IN HUMAN CAPITAL IS THE KEY TO ELIMINATING POVERTY IN TORORO DISTRICT



Uganda aspires to become a competitive upper middle-income country by 2040. Aligned with this goal, Tororo District seeks to coordinate national and local priorities that promote sustainable development. By investing in human capital, Tororo can accelerate progress toward Uganda’s goals and help the country achieve a demographic dividend.

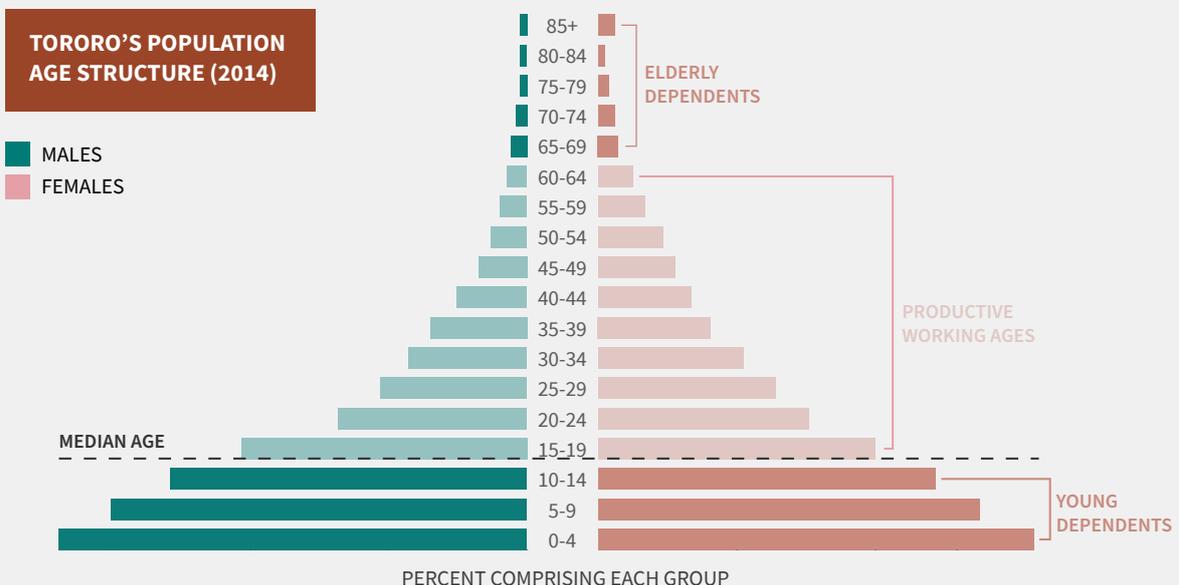
The demographic dividend is the accelerated economic growth that can result from a decline in a country’s birth and death rates and the subsequent change in the age structure of the population. With fewer births each year, the share of the population in the young dependent age groups grows smaller relative 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 TORORO

### Population Age Structure and Human Capital Development

Tororo’s population age structure is young, as seen in the broad base of the population pyramid. Fertility is high, with an average of 5.8 births per woman.

The median age of the population in Tororo, 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, Tororo 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. When girls are able to stay in school, they are more likely to go on to participate in the workforce and rates of child marriage decline.

## CHILD MARRIAGE



20% of all girls are married before age 18

## DROP OUT RATE



5 girls drop out of school for every 3 boys

## EMPLOYMENT



50% of the population live on less than \$1 per day

## Access to Family Planning Among Women and Couples in Tororo Remains Limited

Tororo can accelerate progress towards its five-year development goals by prioritizing family planning as a key human capital investment in the district development plan.



1 in 3 women want to prevent pregnancy but are not using family planning\*



28% of girls ages 15-19 have given birth or are pregnant\*



health facilities are staffed at 61%

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TORORO

- Increase the health budget allocation to improve overall service delivery and establish a dedicated budget line for family planning.
- Increase employment opportunities, particularly within Tororo's primary sector of commercial farming.
- Bolster existing national law on school attendance by developing an education ordinance to keep girls in school.
- Invest in skills development for youth, specifically to improve literacy.
- Advocate for an increased wage bill to improve health staffing levels.

### 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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### CONTACT

National Population Council, Uganda  
npsec@npcsec.go.ug