Investing in youth to harness the Demographic Dividend in Africa

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OUTLINE

• What is Demographic Dividend (DD)?
• What are the key pillars to harness the DD?
• What should Africa do to reap DD?
• Case study
What is Demographic Dividend (DD)?

Demographic Divided refers to Rapid Economic Growth in a country as consequence of:

- Demographic transition from high fertility and high mortality to low fertility and low mortality;
- Increase of the size of the working age population and
- Reduction of the dependency ratio.
What is Demographic Dividend (DD)? (cont..)

- DD is an opportunity and is not automatic

- Decline of fertility and change in population structure is a pre-condition and not enough
Demographic Transition
What are the key pillars to harness the DD?
WHAT AFRICA SHOULD DO TO HARNESS DD

*The delay is not an option and it is time for action*

- **Invest in health**: Correlation between health and wealth
  - Reproductive health and family planning, youth friendly services
  - Child survival
  - Health system strengthening

- **Improve access to quality education equally for boys and girls**
  - Higher education
  - Training that meets the needs of the labor market (skilled labor force)
  - Review of training methods and curricula
  - Focus on education of girls (decrease fertility)
WHAT AFRICA SHOULD DO TO HARNESS DD

The delay is not an option and it is time for action

- Adopt appropriate economic policies
  - Job creation through a modernized labor market
  - Openness to trade and investment in productive sectors
  - Innovative and competitive private sector
  - Reduction of government public expenditures

- Improve governance, accountability and transparency
  - Management system anchored around transparency, accountability, in all sectors
  - Respect for human rights and democracy
  - Gender Equality
  - Strengthen citizenship by encouraging political participation, respect for cultural differences
  - Fight against corruption
RECOMMENDATIONS

The delay is not an option and it is time for action

- Without the right policies the demographic transition could translate into an army of unemployed youth which may increase social risks and tension

- Young people are central to the Demographic Dividend. Therefore it is a must to fulfill and protect their rights for education, employment and health including access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services and information
## Case Study: Uganda
### Three policy scenarios

<table>
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<th>Scenario</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Business As Usual”</td>
<td>✦ Modest investments in family planning, education, and economic reforms</td>
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<td></td>
<td>✦ Slow progress in economic development and demographic transition</td>
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<td>Economic Emphasis</td>
<td>✦ Maximize economic investment</td>
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<tr>
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<td>✦ Modest investments in family planning and education</td>
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<td>Combined scenario (vision 2040)</td>
<td>✦ Maximize economic competitiveness</td>
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<td>✦ Simultaneous prioritization of family planning and education</td>
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Case study: Uganda
GDP per capita

Vision 2040
Demographic Dividend
Economic Emphasis
Business As Usual

US$
Thank you