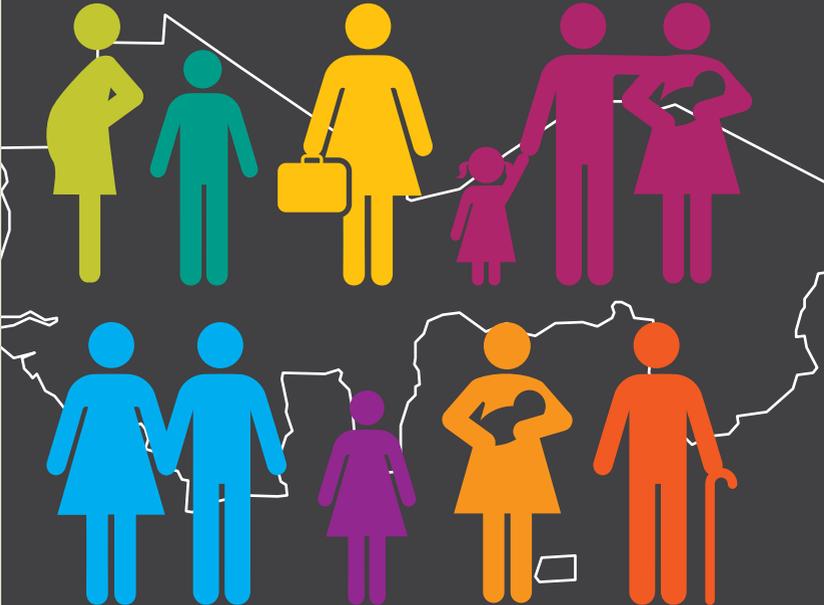


Harnessing
the
Demographic
Dividend:
From Advocacy
to Action



Strengthening Local Capacities across West and Central Africa



June 2016

Acronyms

ASRH: Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health

AfDB: African Development Bank

AfriYAN: African Youth and Adolescents Network

CREFAT: Center for Research in Applied Economics and Finance at the University of Thiès

DD: Demographic Dividend

ECA: Economic Commission for Africa

ECCAS: Economic Community of Central African States

ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States

FGM/C: Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting

ISDB: Islamic Development Bank

MOU: Memorandum of Understanding

NEPAD: New Partnership for Africa's Development

NTA: National Transfer Accounts

ROJALNU: PAN African Youth Leaders Network

SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals

SWEDD: Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend

UNFPA: United Nations Population Fund

WCARO: West and Central Africa Regional Office

WB: World Bank





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4

Foreword

8

Investing in young people for the future we want in Africa

12

Leveraging UNFPA's modes of engagement to advance the demographic dividend

16

Investing in people for Africa's transformation

Setting the ground for transformation and sustainability through the National Transfer Accounts (NTA) Model

Foreword

Mabingue Ngom

UNFPA Regional Director, West and Central Africa

Africa's youth population is growing rapidly. More than 30 per cent of Africa's population is between the age of 10 and 24, and will remain so for at least the next 20 years. This burgeoning youth population is a challenge for the region, but it also could be an opportunity – and the region's greatest asset.

Chronic poverty, high fertility rates and a myriad of constraints on education, employment, health and governance are contributing to a grave 'crisis of hope'. Pushing many young Africans into deadly migration and exposing them to

risks of radicalization, instrumentalisation and manipulation. This is despite the relatively high economic growth experienced by several countries on the continent.

African countries and development partners must focus on this challenge as they strive to transform the continent by rolling back the root causes of fragility, inequality and poverty to bring about shared prosperity, peace and stability. This transformation will be indispensable for achieving meaningful progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

A proactive strategy to overcome these challenges is the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development agreed at the United Nations and the fully aligned African Union Agenda 2063: "The Africa We Want," a shared vision that is seeking to achieve an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa driven by its citizens and a dynamic force in the international arena. Consistent with this vision, Africa's leaders have declared the demographic dividend as the theme of the 2017 Heads of State and Government summits. In so deciding, they made an express request for the African Union Commission, in cooperation with the African Development Bank (ABfD), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), to prepare a road map and contribute to expediting investment in the social and economic policies and strategies required if Africa is to benefit from its potential demographic dividend, build resilience and realize sustainable development.

The anticipated decisions from these summits and the actions undertaken by member states will be instrumental in delivering Agenda 2063 - building on the experience of the "Asian Tigers"¹ and giving the more than 200 million young Africans aged 15 to 24 hope and alternatives to migration, crime and radicalization.

Guided by the UNFPA business model and modes of engagement, the West

and Central Africa Regional Office (WCARO) is undertaking advocacy, building partnerships, engaging in policy dialogue and knowledge sharing, providing service and preparing countries to scale up investments in human capital. This does not entail a shift from our focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights and other issues at the heart of the UNFPA mandate. Rather, it is in line with the aspirations of the Strategic Plan 2014-2017, in particular advancing rights-based national policies that will deliver a world where the potential of every young person is fulfilled. We are therefore focusing on strengthening local capacities for rights-based planning, policies and actions that will 'put young people first' and lead to the harnessing of the demographic dividend.

In this brochure, we share some of our recent experiences, for the consideration of others who wish to promote the ambitious integration framework of the Sustainable Development Goals and the aspirations of Agenda 2063 through broad-based multi-stakeholder partnerships to support country-led and country-owned initiatives across many sectors. By walking the talk, our actions have sought to address the pressing need for implementation capacity development and have strengthened local institutions to handle their own issues in their own way and to leverage their own local experts, leaders and communities. Pursuit of the demographic dividend is the optimum pathway to realizing the new Africa, "The Africa We Want".

¹ The Asian Tigers are referenced as the highly free market and developed economies of Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, and Taiwan.



Investing in young people for the future we want in Africa

African countries have experienced sustained economic growth over the past decades. In recent years, African countries' economies have grown on average by 5 to 8 percent. A number of countries in West and Central Africa have been amongst the fastest growing economies in the world.

These include: Chad (6.9 per cent), Congo Brazzaville (6.8 per cent), and Côte d'Ivoire (8.2 per cent).



Chad



Congo Brazzaville



Côte d'Ivoire

Unfortunately, poverty levels remain high despite a slight decrease from 56.8 per cent in 1990 to 42.7 per cent in 2012.

Amongst the reasons African countries are not translating high Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth into greater prosperity of its population is the simultaneous high population growth rate. In addition Africa has a very high unemployment ratio and dependency ratio. Inadequate investments, particularly in social sectors and human capital, place the region at a very high risk of extreme poverty, growing inequities, slower economic growth and a potential increase in internal insecurity.

Africa has an opportunity to achieve the demographic dividend (DD) through its large youthful population, which is its greatest asset. Africa can trigger a demographic dividend by reducing the dependency ratio and by investing in young people. When the age structure of a country shifts through the right social and economic investments so that there are more people of working age than dependents, the country may experience an economic boom, known as the demographic dividend.

Investments in sound economic policies to foster human capital would reverse the dynamic of the youth population from a dependent burden to a population that is actively contributing to the well-being of their families and the economic growth of their countries. This requires targeted

evidence-based policies and investments in adolescents and youth such as improved education, health, decent jobs and good governance. This is the path followed by many East Asian countries, the 'Asian tigers'², which has pulled them out of poverty and transformed their economies.

For the African continent, harnessing the demographic dividend would be a key step towards achieving an integrated, prosperous and peaceful continent driven by its citizens. It will also contribute to the realization of sustainable development. Guided by the modes of engagement of its strategic plan, UNFPA has adopted the concept of the demographic dividend as an overarching framework to support countries in the region as they work towards empowering young people to fulfil their potential.

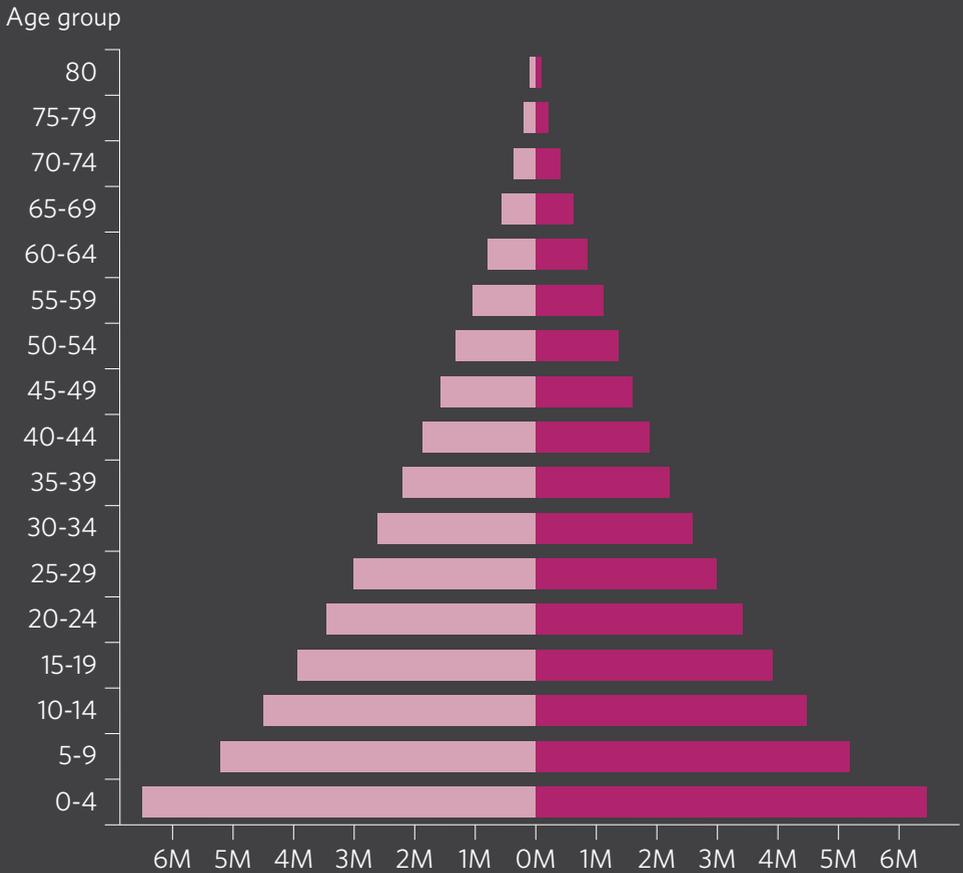
One of the ways UNFPA is taking action to help accelerate planning and targeted investments leading to the demographic dividend is by working with the Centre for Economics and Applied Finance Research at the University of Thiès (CREFAT)³ to advance the National Transfer Accounts. This is an analytical method that informs planning and policies⁴ by focusing on the influence of population growth and changing age structure on economic growth, gender and generational equity, public finances, and other important features of a country's macroeconomy.

² Such as Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan

³ Centre de Recherche en Economie et Finance Appliquées de Thiès (CREFAT)

⁴ The National Transfer Accounts project is shedding new light on many areas of importance to policymakers. These include the evolution of intergenerational transfer systems; public policy with respect to pensions, health care, education, reproductive health, and social institutions, such as the extended family; and the social, political, and economic implications of population aging.

Figure 1: Population Pyramid of West and Central Africa





Leveraging UNFPA's modes of engagement to advance the demographic dividend

UNFPA in West and Central Africa is continuously working towards positioning the demographic dividend not only as a development issue but also as a resilience-building tool for our fragile region. Our work is based on this engagement and is in line with UNFPA's strategic focus and business model. UNFPA's modes of engagement, as

defined by the Strategic Plan, feature four key programming strategies:

- **advocacy and policy dialogue/advice**
- **knowledge management**
- **capacity development**
- **service delivery**

The diagram summarizes our efforts to advance the demographic dividend agenda using the modes of engagement of the UNFPA strategic plan.

Advocacy and policy dialogue/advice

- Engagement with high-level officials including Heads of State, Prime Ministers, Ministers, Ambassadors leading to high-level adhesion and political commitment
- Engagement with traditional and faith leaders, parliamentarians, the private sector, civil society, media and young people through AFRIYAN and ROJALNU
- Engagement with international and regional banking and political institutions (African Development Bank, African Union, Islamic Development Bank and World Bank)
- Engagement with regional institutions covering the Mano River, Lake Chad Basin, Sahel, ECOWAS and ECCAS
- Engagement with governments and their national development planning processes leading to the integration of the DD framework in their mid- to long-term plans, e.g. Benin, Cameroun, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal
- Engagement with sister UN agencies and stakeholders including Special Envoys, Special Representatives of the Secretary-General, UN Country Teams and Regional UN Development Group Teams
- Advocacy to end harmful practices leading to laws to ban child marriage in Chad and female genital mutilation in The Gambia
- Reinforced youth engagement at ACSRH and Banjul+10 deliberations on enhancing investments in young people
- Organization of high-level symposium on the demographic dividend leading to an action platform to move the DD

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Service delivery

- Empowering women and girls to access quality reproductive, child and maternal health services, information and commodities through the SWEDD and Muskoka French Fund initiatives ensuring 5 216 100 new family planning users, 2 248 226 averted unintended pregnancies, 1 675 902 adolescents reached with SRH services
- Empowering young people to become agents of change in post-Ebola countries
- Improving girls access to life skills, age-appropriate sexuality education and reproductive health services
- Delivery of Joint programme on FGM/C and child marriage to accelerate abandonment of this harmful practice

Knowledge management

- Technical guidance on DD programming and consultations on the development of a DD programming toolkit
- Provision of support to improve understanding of DD and its inclusion in national strategy documents
- Support to governments to develop cross-sector national committees and setup national DD observatories⁵, which are platforms for monitoring and evaluating progress on the DD
- Development of national committees and the setup of national and regional observatories through the Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend (SWEDD) Project
- Experience sharing visit to Bangladesh of senior decision makers including Ministers from SWEDD countries to assess replicability of family planning and population management experience mindful of religious considerations

⁵ Through the Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend (SWEDD) Project

Capacity development

- Orientation and technical support for country teams in partnership with AFRIDEP, CREFAT, IFORD, AFRISTAT and other partners on use of demographic projections to sensitize policy makers and ensure planning reflects the challenges of changing population structures.
- Training on the National Transfer Accounts⁶ model and development of country profiles of over 14 countries including SWEDD countries.
- Supported African Union led trainings to end child marriage and other harmful practices
- Training of media and other stakeholders to amplify concept of DD
- Training of countries in results-based management and country program evaluation
- Support to the Ouagadougou Partnership on advancing family planning and use of modern contraceptive methods

⁶ See case study on page 13



POUR LA RÉALISATION DU POTENTIEL DES ADOS JEUNES,
S'ENGAGE À CÔTÉ D'...
LA CAPTIVITÉ...



CPD 48
Soyons Osés!!!

Investing in people for Africa's transformation

Setting the ground for transformation and sustainability through the National Transfer Accounts (NTA) Model

This example of a successful regional **capacity development initiative** illustrates the importance of investing in local institutions to build cross-sectorial expertise on National Transfer Accounts as countries make strategic choices to harness the demographic dividend.

Summary

Training a broad spectrum of national experts is a key component of an ongoing regional initiative to strengthen national capacities to harness the demographic dividend in West and Central Africa. At the centre is an analysis method – National Transfer Accounts – that focuses on the economic impact of changes in population age structure, shedding light on Africa's youthful population and supporting evidence-based advocacy to improve the lives of adolescents and

youth. From September 2015 to May 2016, a total of 125 national experts from 14 countries in West and Central Africa participated in training sessions on the NTA model. This is provided in partnership with the Centre for Economics and Applied Finance Research of the University of Thiès (CREFAT)⁷. These trainings were supported by UNFPA through the Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend (SWEDD) Project.

⁷ Centre de Recherche en Economie et Finance Appliquées de Thiès (CREFAT)

Walking the talk

The window is open for demographic transition in several countries in West and Central Africa. There is a unique opportunity to capitalize on this moment in time to achieve the demographic dividend and benefit from accelerated economic growth as a result of demographic changes.

Harnessing the demographic dividend in the region requires skilled national experts to support country-led initiatives. One area of required expertise is the National Transfer Accounts (NTA) model. The NTA approach focuses

on the economic impact of changes in population age pyramid structure. It can be used to shed a light on how countries can benefit from the demographic dividend. NTA adds an important dimension to aggregate measures of GDP and other economic indicators by providing estimates, measuring how people at each age produce, consume, and share resources, and save for their future. Practitioners can create 'country profiles' to provide compelling perspectives on areas of importance to policy makers within their national context.

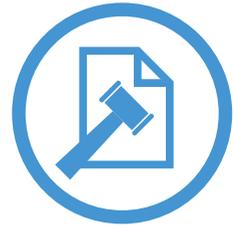
Objectives



To establish a cadre of skilled national experts to support country-led initiatives to harness the demographic dividend;



To establish a regional community of practice on the NTA approach;



To serve as an instrument to influence national development plans and governments' decision making process on achieving the demographic dividend.

Strategic focus in action

UNFPA has embarked on a process of capacity development across the region in collaboration with local institutions. Training is carried out by UNFPA's strategic partner: a local research institution in Senegal, the Centre for Economics and Applied Finance Research of the University of Thiès (CREFAT)⁸, a research institution that uses the National Transfer Accounts approach. The Timbuktu Institute⁹ is also undertaking complementary analysis on the resilience and security implications of the youth bulge. This partnership is proving to be critical in providing governments with the necessary expertise to analyse demographic trends, forecast, put in place monitoring frameworks and implement appropriate strategies that will lead them to the pathway of a demographic dividend.

Capacity development workshops are fostering expertise in multi-sectorial country teams across the region, with training that provides clear guidance on the NTA model; how to analyse, monitor and respond to the demographic trends; and how to effectively engage in advocacy and policy dialogue in their countries regarding the demographic dividend.

The regional effort is part of the National Transfer Accounts Project,

which has research teams in more than 40 countries. Training is supported by UNFPA through the Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend Project, an initiative to improve women's reproductive health and girls' education in Africa's Sahel region.

Implementation follows these basic steps:

- Signature of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between UNFPA WCARO and CREFAT;
- Development of a training manual on the NTA project;
- Sensitization of the SWEDD project countries on the importance of using the NTA approach to design country profile;
- Definition of the national experts profile to be trained;
- Planning and organization of training sessions for multi-sectorial teams across the region;
- Consultations with and analytical backstopping from the Timbuktu Institute;
- Communications to amplify impact

⁸ Centre de Recherche en Economie et Finance Appliquées de Thiès (CREFAT)

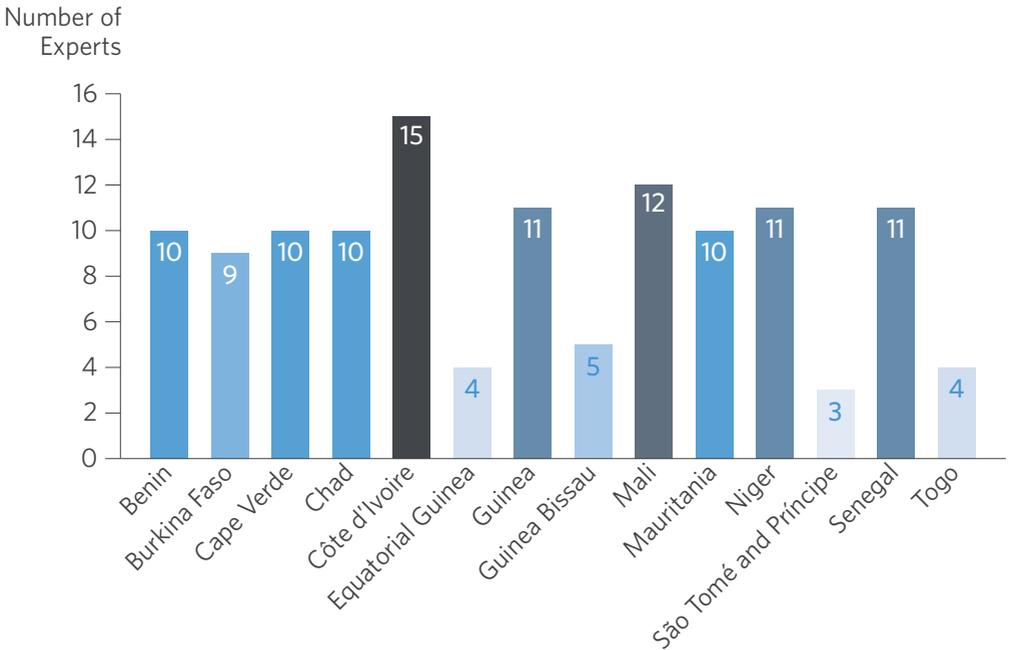
⁹ African Center for Peace Studies

Results

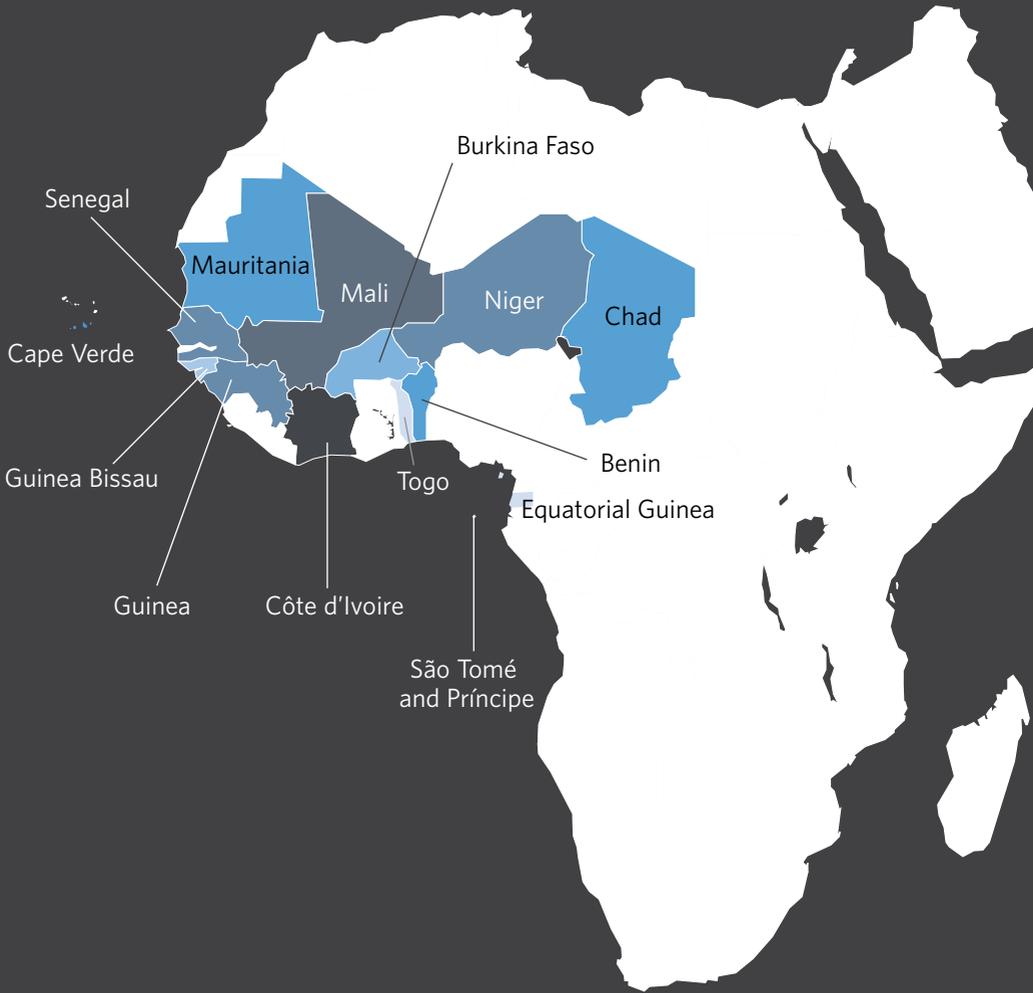
Between September 2015 and May 2016, 125 national experts from 14 countries out of 23 in the region covered by the UNFPA West and Central Africa Regional Office received training in the NTA model. All six countries covered by the SWEDD project participated in the training.

The distribution of national experts trained by countries showed that countries have mobilized strong teams for the NTA training. The majority of countries brought nine or more participants to the training. Four countries brought three to five participants. The country with the highest number of trainees was Côte d'Ivoire, with 15 participants.

Figure 2: Distribution of national experts per country



Source: UNFPA/CREFAT NTA training reports





National experts are from a variety of sectors including health, education, population issues, economy and development and planning, and governance. Some 58 per cent of trainees come from the economic sector including planning and finance ministries, statistical institute, population and financial cooperation institutions. The multi-sectorial and integrated aspect of the demographic dividend is represented by the participation of sectors such as education (7 per cent of trainees), health (9 per cent), justice (3 per cent), communication (3 per cent) and youth (2 per cent).

Figure 3: Distribution of participants by sector of activity

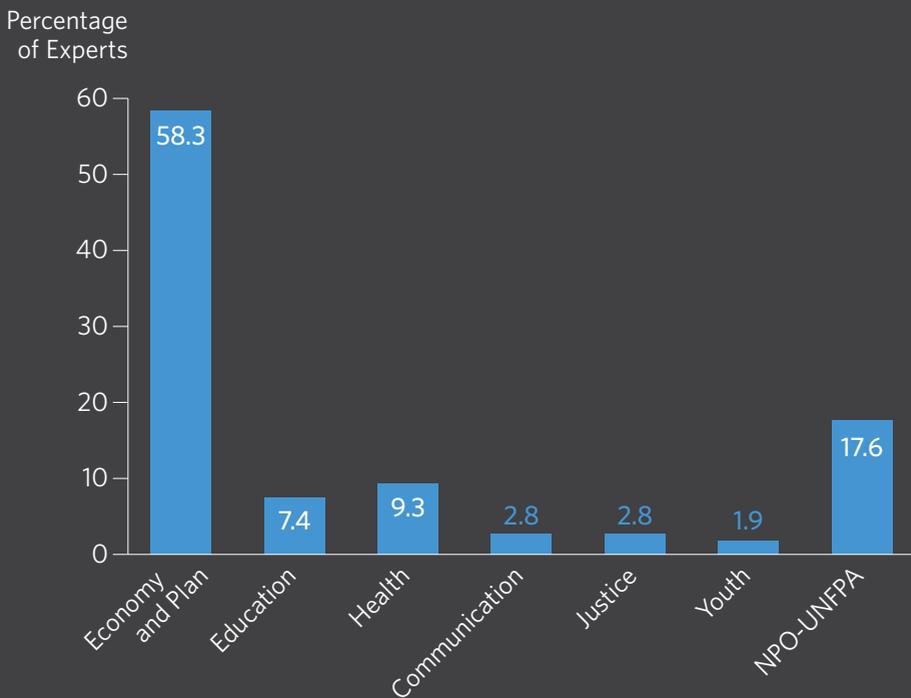
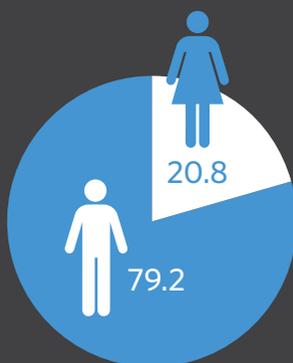


Figure 4: Distribution of participants by sex



Lessons learned

- The NTA model is a practical learning approach that uses the learning-by-doing philosophy by providing immediate and take home expertise in demographic dividend programming;
- NTA constitutes a multi-sectorial approach that brings together expertise from diverse areas¹⁰ to reflect the integrated principle of the demographic dividend concept;
- The fruitful collaboration between UNFPA and research institutions such as CREFAT with its economists and Timbuktu Institute with its socio-anthropologists could be instrumental in enriching and adapting future capacity development sessions through, for example, the inclusion of social and security considerations such as youth, forced migration, crime and radicalisation;
- The NTA provides a systematic country profile and perspectives generation tool for national teams of experts;
- The NTA enables full country-driven control and domestication over the generation of country accounts for demographic dividend measurement.

¹⁰ These include health, economy, education, socio-anthropology, demography, and governance.



National experts at a training session in Saly, Senegal. © UNFPA

The steps that will change everything

Build a community of practice around

NTA across the region: In order to provide further technical support across the region, it is essential to establish a regional network of NTA and demographic dividend experts as a community of practice to serve as technical advisors in South-South cooperation and knowledge exchange.

Support the national team of NTA-DD

experts: A country-level pool of national DD multi-sectorial teams capacitated in NTA model programming and implementation is strongly needed to develop national demographic dividend country profiles and to use the outcomes to conduct advocacy and transformational DD oriented development strategies.

Build relevant partnerships: Promoting the NTA as a promising model in support of DD initiatives through the continent

will require UNFPA and partners to work closely with governments, especially finance, planning and health ministries as well as relevant stakeholders, development partners, and actors from private sector and civil society. Such partnership is needed in order to improve data collection and analysis of the effects of population dynamics on national economy. Partnerships with national statistical and development agencies will be instrumental in integrating National Transfer Accounts into their basic national accounts systems.

Document lessons learned and good

practices: Monitoring, documentation and broad dissemination of good practices and lessons learned across the region in leveraging the NTA model and advancing DD programming will help ensure knowledge exchange and instigate replication of successful initiatives.



National experts at a training session in Saly, Senegal. © UNFPA

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Delivering a world where
every pregnancy is wanted
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