



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

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**Presentation on the DA11 project on:
Harnessing Demographic Dividends with a Gender Dimension**

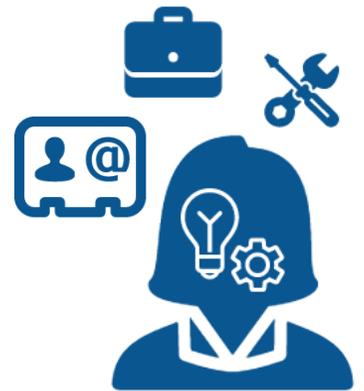
Presentation for session 2



**Virtual Workshop
22 June 2022**

Outline

1. The project regions
2. The five project countries and their institutional architecture
3. The five project countries and their national coordination
4. The four pillars of DD and human capital
5. Policy tools to help harness demographic dividends
6. Lessons learned in developing knowledge products
7. Project findings/outcomes
8. Recommendations from the project



The project regions

Covering two regions through their respective UN Regional Economic Commissions:

- 5 countries in Africa (distinct youth bulge)
- 2 countries in Asia-Pacific (concerns for aging)

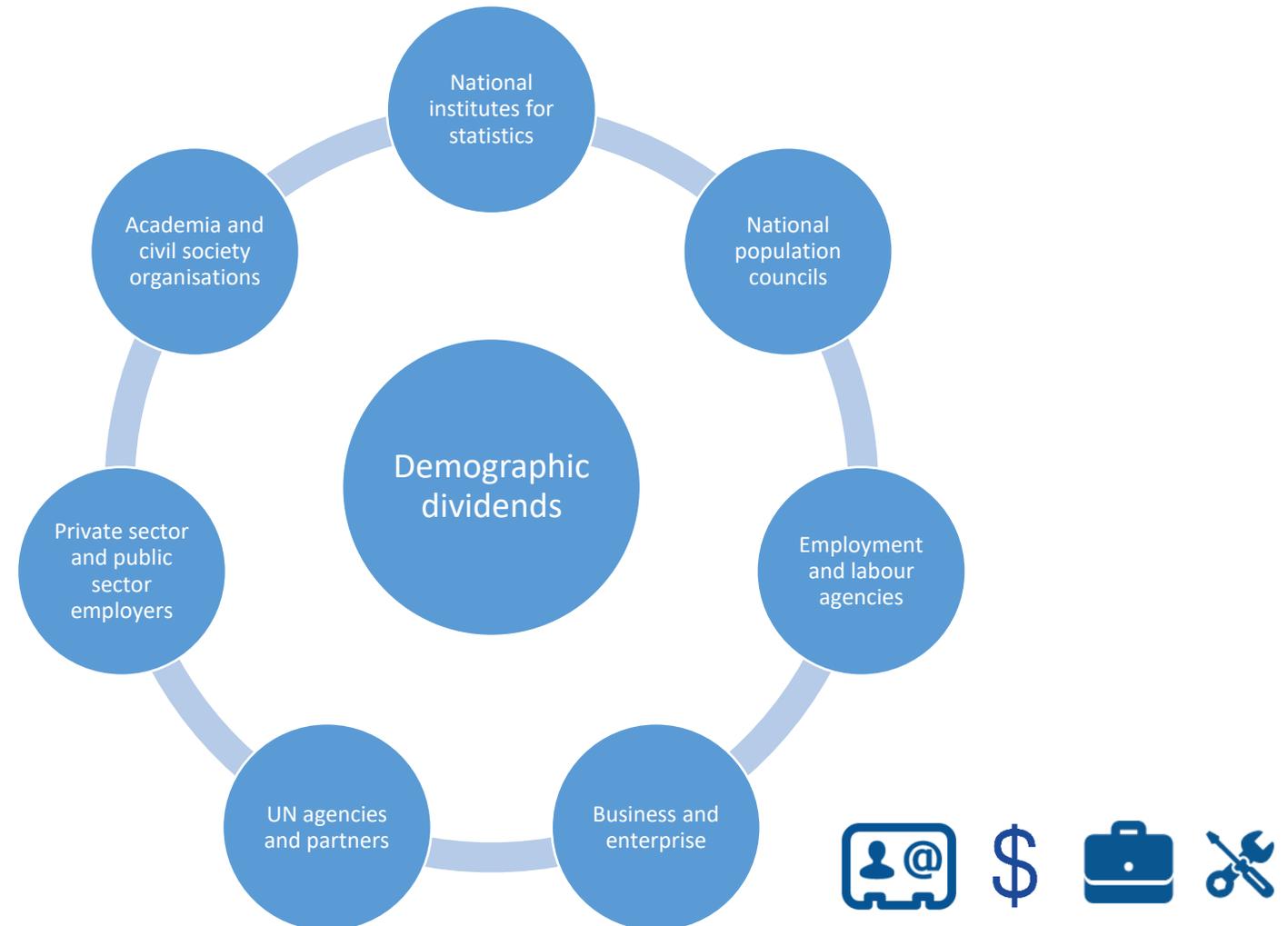


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5 project countries and their institutional architecture

The five project countries include:

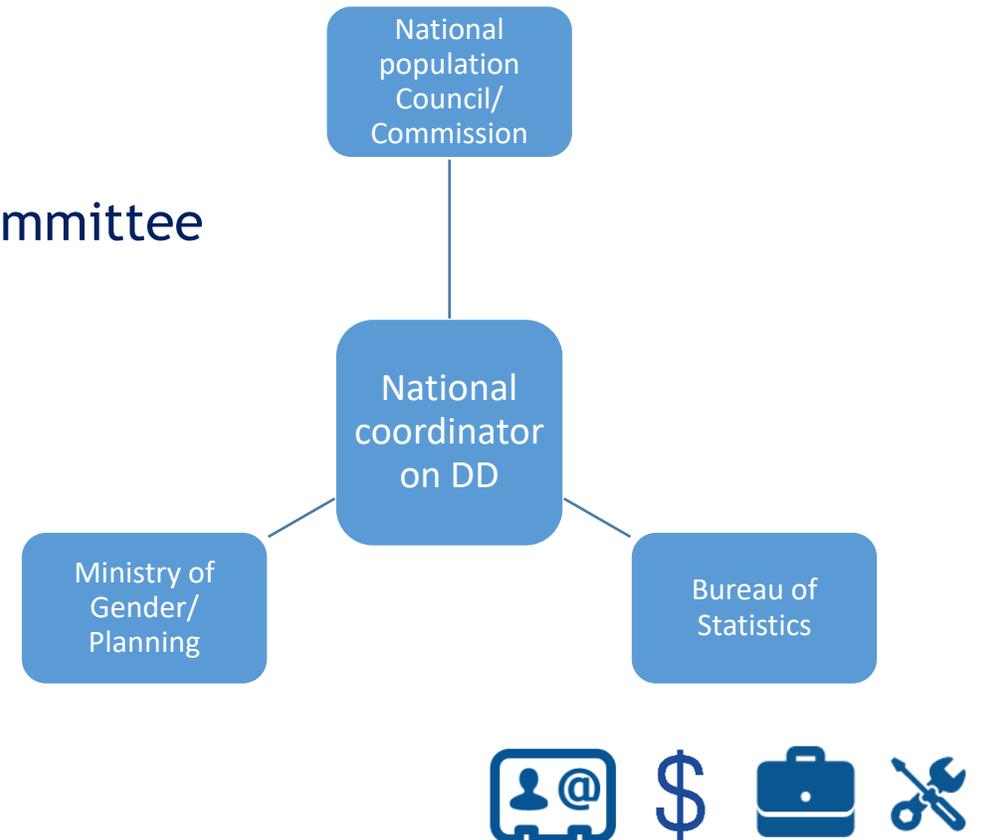
- Ghana
- Nigeria
- South Africa
- Uganda
- Zambia



5 project countries and their national coordination

Our approach focused on a tripartite approach in each country. Consisting of a steering committee of stakeholders where possible:

- Ghana - national coordinating UN agency
- Nigeria - national coordinator
- South Africa - national coordinating agency, steering committee
- Uganda - national coordinator, steering committee
- Zambia - national coordinator



The 4 pillars of demographic dividend and human capital

The African Union (AU) dedicated 2017 to campaigning on the demographic dividend under the theme: ‘Harnessing Demographic Dividend Through Investment in the Youth’. Four pillars were then identified for the Demographic Dividend Roadmap:

- **Pillar 1:** Employment and Entrepreneurship.
 - **Pillar 2:** Education and Skills Development.
 - **Pillar 3:** Health and Wellbeing.
 - **Pillar 4:** Rights, Governance and Youth Empowerment.
- The approach to DD for this project is based around these pillars



Policy tools to help harness demographic dividends

Factoring in gender equality and youth empowerment

Situation Analysis

In-depth country specific reports that look at the demographic dynamics as well as policy challenges related to human capital and the demographic dividend pillars

Gender and Demographic Dividend Index (GDDI) and dashboard

A data framework for gathering information that provides a holistic picture of the pillars of harnessing demographic dividends to reporting, monitoring and to support evidence-based policy intervention

Operational manual

A step-by-step guidebook on advocating for gender equality and youth empowerment, increasing policy influence and effecting policy change to harness demographic dividends in African countries

Policy briefs

Short country briefs that provide a high-level overview of the potential for reaping demographic dividends in each country

Policy framework on education, training and employment

A suite of policy options based on common policy considerations in each of the five project countries, helping to develop targeted policy intervention to increase human capital and ensure better social protection

Lessons learned in developing knowledge products

Situation analysis

- Countries have a fragmented approach to addressing demographic dynamics nationally
- There is inconsistency in the definition and approach to addressing factors related to DD

Policy briefs

- There is a need for high-level advocacy still with regard to harnessing DD
- Briefs are needed at many levels including political, policy and technical

Index and dashboard

- There is a need for a harmonized index when monitoring and evaluating the DD situation
- Minimum set of indicators to be used for regional comparison with flexibility to contextualize

Operational manual

- Need for guidance to operationalize the integration of DD into population and development
- Different procedures and approaches in each country on pursuing policy change

Policy framework

- Need for a comprehensive approach to addressing education, employment, health and governance
- Many countries are struggling with policy options to harness DD with a gender dimension

Infographics and advocacy

- Advocacy remains key in mainstreaming concepts related to population and development, all levels
- DD considers many factors and subsequently multiple data points need to be digested/understood

Project findings/outcomes

- Youth make up a significant portion of the population with a large portion considered NEET.
- Fertility is a key factor in harnessing the DD where TFR remains high for many.
- Gender dimensions are central to demographic dynamics in Africa, with a youthful population that continues to grow.
- Education for women and girls, can recalibrate the population balance between those considered in the working age and those considered as dependents .
- Access to education remains a challenge for women and girls, especially tertiary education, with additional underlying safety and security concerns.
- Participation of women in the labour force can be lower than men where occupational segregation is still persistent for women.
- More women are found in informal employment compared to men, while more women in household employment than in formal or informal.
- HIV/AIDS is especially prevalent among females of the working age population.
- Gender-based violence remains a persistent issue and hinderance to women's participation and empowerment.
- Crime and corruption are factors that continue to complicate focus on economic productivity.

Recommendations from the project

African countries are only just beginning to grapple the challenges of harnessing the DD

Recommendation from the project include, to:

- Continue the project on harnessing DD, in some form or another, in the African region
- Share country analysis more closely with national stakeholders
- Develop infographics and media to support the findings of the project in more visual and impactful ways
- Disseminate advocacy material to various stakeholders who can continue to advocate at the national levels
- Support the establishment of country coordinating mechanisms which are yet to be established
- Provide further training workshops on the DD index and dashboard so that countries can more closely monitor and report on the situation
- Provide gender sensitization training to policy makers on integrating gender dimensions into sectoral policies
- Develop a comprehensive set of policy options to address DD in a more holistic manner



THANK YOU

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Ideas
to
Action