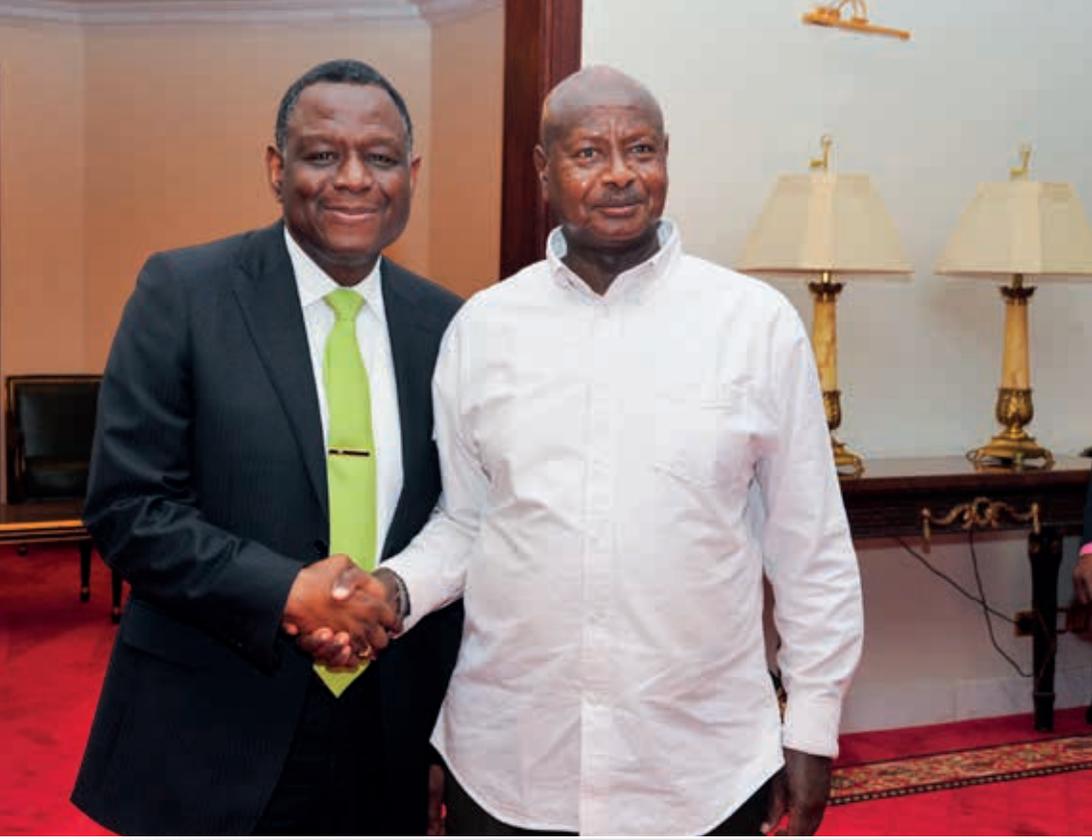




CAPTURING UGANDA'S EFFORTS TO HARNESS THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND



The results: Framing debate

Guided by the various policy scenarios, harnessing the demographic dividend has become the defining message about the connection between family planning and accelerated economic growth for socioeconomic development. The Demographic Dividend report, has continued to guide discussions on population issues in Uganda. The presentations “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend” have catalyzed national discussions on family planning and population issues to the extent that, we see a changed stance on family planning and population messaging by President Museveni, than never before. These presentations have been widely disseminated – to Cabinet, Parliament, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and the Local Development Partners Group, and at high-level events including the African Union, regional conferences and the UN General Assembly. This has led to enhanced policy dialogue in the country about the utility of family planning and good governance practices necessary to achieve a demographic dividend, as part of economic and social development efforts.

H.E. President Museveni’s remarks at the first ever National Family Planning Conference, July 28, 2014.



“I am glad views on population are beginning to converge because for a long time, there has been confusion on population and economic transformation. This is the evidence I have been looking for”.



“Family planning is good for the health of the mother, good for the health of the children. It (family planning) is good for the welfare of the family; (it) is good for the welfare of the country”



“Although I advocate for a big population, I have realized that a poor quality population cannot transform the country.”

The rising interest on the Demographic Dividend:

“I am glad views on population are beginning to converge because for a long time, there has been confusion on population and economic transformation. This is the evidence I have been looking for”, were President Yoweri Museveni’s starting remarks at the opening of the first ever National Family Planning Conference, in 2014.

These words had started the paradigm shift, following over two decades of efforts to put the issue of family planning and population dynamics on the agenda of the top political leadership in Uganda.

In 2014, President Yoweri Museveni launched Uganda’s Demographic Dividend Report to respond to the aspirations of Vision 2040 – to become a high middle income nation. The report illustrates that, if Uganda adopts appropriate policies and investments to ensure that the ‘surplus’ labour force is innovative, skilled, healthy and productive, it can lead to a structural shift that can help accelerate economic growth and socioeconomic transformation. The key target for Vision 2040 is to attain a GDP per capita of USD 9,500 from the current USD: 788 - which translates into an average economic growth rate of 8.2 percent (NPA, 2013). Among other factors, Vision 2040, acknowledges high population growth and a high child-dependency burden, as likely strategic bottlenecks to constrain Uganda’s socioeconomic transformation. As such, the report highlights a speedy decline in fertility as a key requisite for this to happen.

Context and process:

Modeling of Uganda’s Demographic Dividend, was centralized within the recommendations of the ICPD@20 review report and the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development in Africa beyond 2014, under the theme “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend: The Future We Want for Africa”. This conference heightened Uganda’s interest on the importance of a demographic transformation. Subsequently, Uganda, developed the Action Plan domesticating the Addis Ababa declaration adopted by Cabinet in 2013 which immediately recommended:

- Formation of a high-level government committee led by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, to oversee the implementation of the demographic dividend. This committee, ensured that, the National Planning Authority (NPA), technically led the modelling process, and the demographic Dividend as a planning strategy was mainstreamed into the National Development Plan (NDP) II. This later formed the basis for mainstreaming the demographic dividend strategy into sectoral and sub-national development and budgeting frameworks.

The other notable step in the process of producing the report and accepting the possibility of a demographic dividend for socioeconomic growth was to ensure that policy makers appreciated population dynamics and their linkage to development. Discussions about family planning was almost “taboo”. Several consultative meetings were held with the Cabinet of Uganda to sensitize the top most political organ on the economic and social benefits of a demographic dividend, way before the modelling process even began.

However, the turning point in building political consensus on the demographic dividend, was the advocacy, by the then, UNFPA Executive Director, Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin. He made two specific meetings to Uganda to meet President Museveni on the need to address high population growth rate through a balanced investment in social and economic development interventions. The 2012 meeting yielded President Museveni’s participation in the first Family Planning London Summit, with the outstanding statement of support to family planning with USD 5 million per year.

“A blue print for multi-sectoral planning”

The Demographic Dividend report, is the guiding multi-sectoral planning document on the linkage between population dynamics and development. Through the technical leadership of the National Planning Authority (NPA) and the National Population Council (NPC), the country is moving towards planning that is more evidence based and population conscious. Among the critical steps include:

- Development of the demographic dividend Theory of Change linked to the National Development Plan (NDP) II and Vision 2040. This supported the process of translating the demographic Dividend policy discussions into actionable interventions at macro level.
- Development of the National Demographic Dividend Roadmap, aligned to the Theory of Change. This further breaks down interventions at sector level, and highlights catalytic interventions that sectors must pursue to accelerate the pace of a demographic transition through lowered fertility levels and human capital development. The roadmap emphasizes “horizontal” as opposed to vertical planning to ensure a multi-sectoral and holistic implementation.
- Modelling of the sectoral investment costs required at a current population growth rate of 3.0 percent. These costs are projected through the life-time of Vision 2040, and therefore run through the various NDP cycles. This has been used as the basis for sector planning and budgeting as well as resources mobilization.
- Development of the Family Planning Costed Implementation that has enhanced fundraising using the gap analysis. The CIP lays out the government’s proposed strategies to increase access to services and reduce unmet need from 34% to 10% and increase the Modern Contraceptive Prevalence from 26% to 50% by 2020.
- Lastly, the National Population Policy (NPP), 2008 is under review, taking into account the demographic dividend Theory of Change and policy recommendations of what Uganda should do to harness from its youthful population.



President Museveni (centre) launching the demographic dividend report at the national family planning conference in 2014. On his left is the chairman National Planning Authority, Dr. Kisamba Mugerwa and on his right is Dr. Jotham Musinguzi, Director General, National Population Council Secretariat.

Evidence and policy Advocacy

To ensure sustained advocacy on the demographic dividend, specific studies on the National Transfer Accounts, further analysis of census data on population dynamics, health, youth and education were undertaken to provide more evidence. The State of Uganda's Population Reports (SUPRE) have become a popular mechanism for popularizing the demographic dividend and analyzing policy actions. From 2014, the themes of the SUPRE and World Population Day (WPD) celebrations have focused on the pillars/wheels of the demographic dividend. The policy briefs on Population Matters and Uganda's Investment case on family planning are on high demand and have continued to shape the policy debate and planning actions on the demographic dividend.

State of Uganda Population Report Themes since 2014:	
2014	"Harnessing Uganda's Demographic Dividend for Socio-Economic Transformation"
2015	"Quality Education; A foundation for achieving Uganda's middle income status"
2016	"Quality Healthcare: key for Sustainable Development"
2017	"Transforming Uganda's Economy: Opportunities to harness the Demographic Dividend for Sustainable Development".

World Population Day Themes, since 2014	
2014	"Invest in Young People today, to ensure a Bright Future for Uganda"
2015	"Prioritizing Community Transformation: Addressing the needs of Vulnerable Populations"
2016	"Harness Demographic Dividend: Invest in Teenage Girls"
2017	Strengthening Youth Competitiveness for Sustainable Development"

Government commitment and response

Since the launch of the demographic dividend publication, the following actions have happened:

- Government commitment to family planning budget increased by 30 percent and its allocation for family planning supplies grew from US \$3.3 million to US \$5 million projected for five years.
 - In the FY 2013/2014, government also lived up to its promise and allocated USD 6.9 million surpassing the 5 million pledge during the FP London summit.
 - In 2015, the total expenditure on Family Planning by Government and Development Partners was estimated at \$18.0 million.
- These funding milestones to fast-track achievement of the FP2020 targets, are crucial and contribute directly to the achievement of an accelerated demographic transition necessary to create the demographic bonus.
- In the education area, Uganda is witnessing increased public and policy pro-youth skilling and vocational training debate, which has led to the strengthening of the skilling Uganda programme targeting the bulging youth population under the Ministry of Education.

- On the economic front – the government has set aside 72 million USD for the youth livelihood programme, and another 410,000 USD for the Youth Venture Capital Fund. The creation of these programmes has enabled, young people access business and entrepreneurship skills, and start-up credit for business generation.
- Expanding access to family services through the Alternative Distribution Strategy (ADS). The country has made changes in the National Reproductive Health Commodity Distribution Strategy opening up the private sector window to distribute free family planning commodities through the Alternative Distribution Mechanism and subsidies through the social marketing approach. As well as adoption of innovative approaches in services delivery –through the voucher system, community outreaches, community-based distribution strategies, social marketing and social franchising stakeholders. These have increased availability of commodities in rural and hard to reach areas.
- Government is undertaking a deliberate action to increase demand and uptake of Long Acting Reversible Contraceptive (LARC) methods. Discussions are on-going to lower the median age to as early as 25 years for women in rural areas who have already had three children.

Lesson learned

- 1. Evidence:** robust evidence is required to support the modelling and compelling arguments on the various policy scenarios and especially on the utility of family planning in socio-economic transformation.
- 2. Communication:**
 - Concise, nontechnical information empowers leaders and decision makers with a better understanding of the demographic dividend and the investments required to achieve sustained social and economic growth.
 - Using a variety of materials and tools for policy communication makes it easier to reach a broad range of audiences. A part from the report and the technical presentations, policy briefs on population matters and the Investment case on family planning have not only supported to popularize the concept but reinforced the policy advocacy and influenced sectoral planning and budgeting processes.
- 3. Technical leadership:** the technical leadership by the national planning authority (NPA) has centralized the achievement of the demographic dividend as a planning strategy and enforced its mainstreaming into national, sectoral and subnational development and budget frameworks.
4. Partnerships especially with government institutions, CSOs, media and the academia eased the communication barriers in understanding and appreciation of the demographic dividend; and reinforced advocacy for the realization of the paradigm shift about the role of family planning and population for development.
5. Alignment to the national planning framework ensures that all sectors and local governments integrate the demographic dividend interventions in respective development plans and gives room for monitoring and assessing for compliance.

The opportunity to further advance the demographic dividend

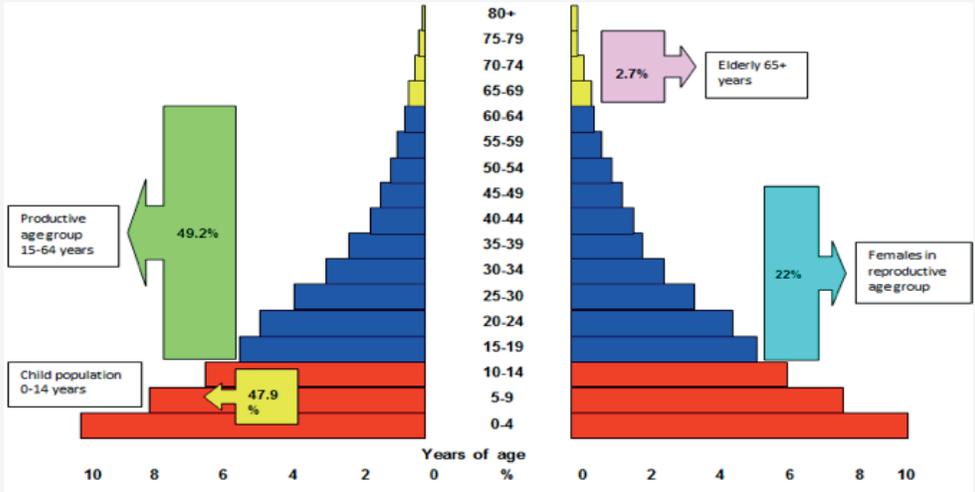
To further leverage from the demographic dividend as a planning strategy, Uganda needs to:

- Overcome institutional inertia in the way of doing business. Realization of a demographic dividend is bench marked on mainstreaming, which government institutions must be ready to embrace as opposed to vertical and or silo planning and implementation.
- Create new capacities to manage the process. The increasing enthusiasm about the prospect of benefiting from a demographic dividend, requires advocates and leaders to unlearn the old ways and be equipped with new techniques and tools, accurate data to understand how to achieve and benefit from a demographic dividend, as well as how to effectively communicate this information to policy and decision makers.

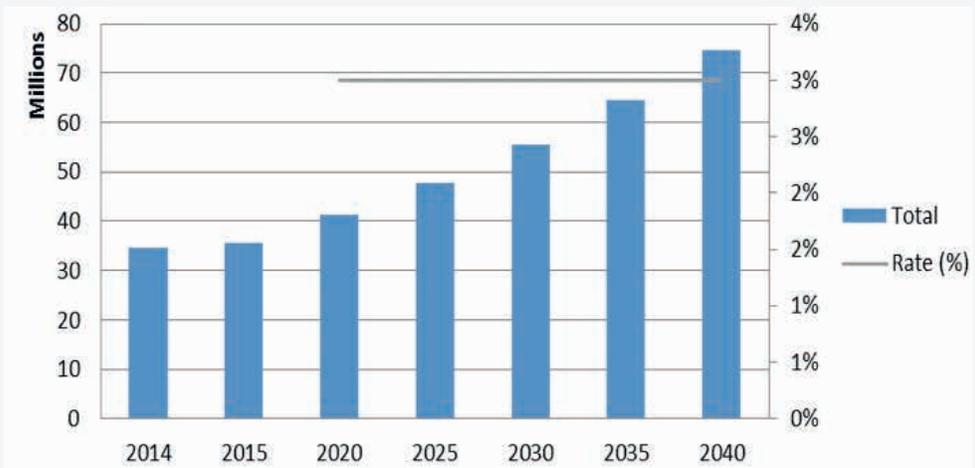
- Enforce a coordinated sectoral implementation of the national roadmap on the demographic dividend.

Related publications

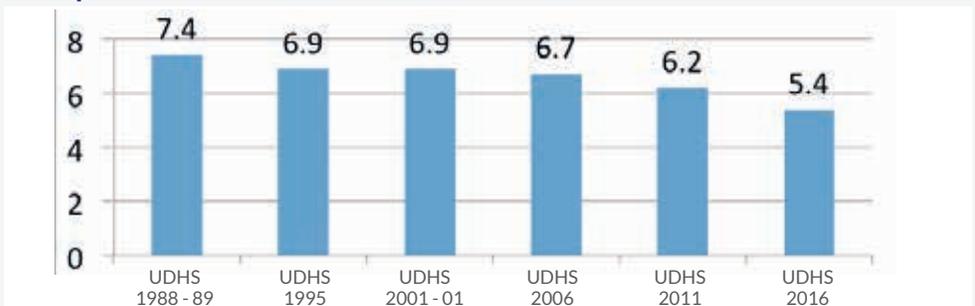
- Policy briefs on Population Matters
- Uganda's Investment Case on Family planning
- The Family Planning Costed Implementation Plan
- The Demographic Dividend Report



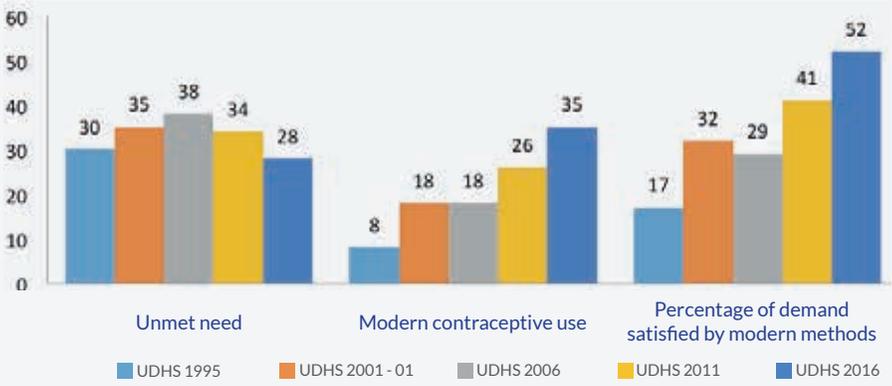
Trends in population growth rate Total population and rate 2014 - 2040



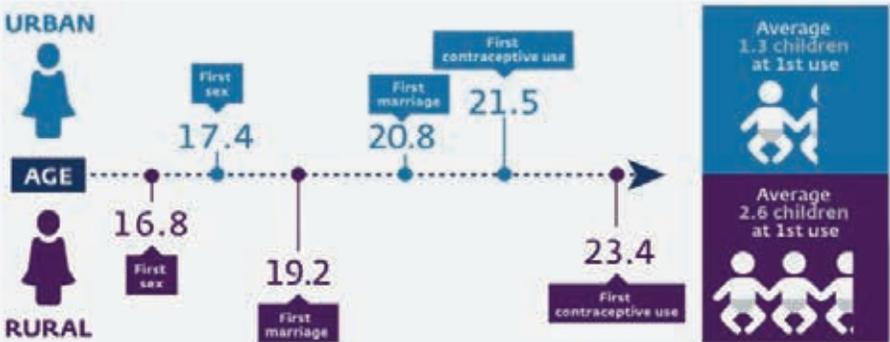
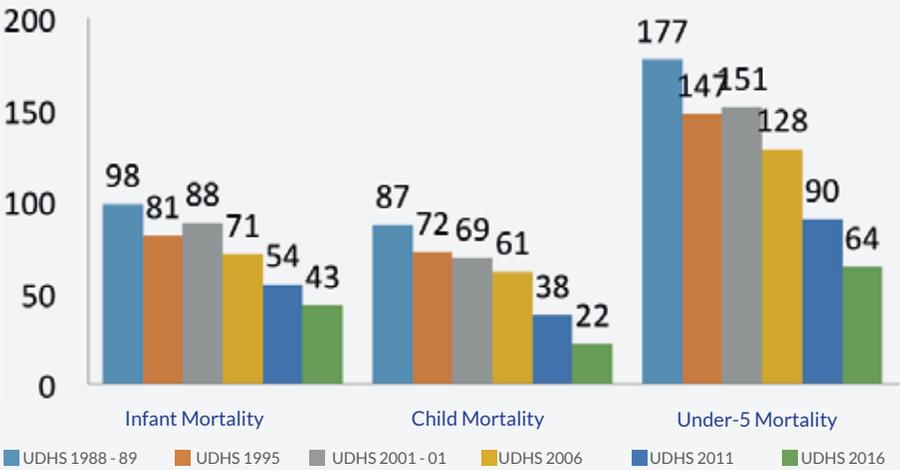
Trends in total fertility rate, 1988-89-2016 Births per woman



Trends in unmet need, modern contraceptive use, and percentage of demand satisfied with modern methods, 1995-2016



Trends in childhood mortality, 1988-89-2016 (Deaths Per 1000)



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United Nations Population Fund
 Plot 12A Baskerville Avenue, Kololo
 P.O. BOX 7184, Kampala, Uganda
 Tel: +256-4177-44500
<http://uganda.unfpa.org/>

