

- AFIDEP, participated at the UN General Assembly and related activities during the launch of the Post-2015 Development Agenda - the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - in New York in September 2015. We actively participated in a High Level Consultative African Heads of State side meeting hosted by the Malawian President Arthur Mutharika. The side meeting sought to mobilise African leaders to become demographic dividend champions, galvanise their countries' commitment to harnessing the demographic dividend and investing in the youth in Africa.

## Strategic Partnerships

Our strategic partnerships include a multi-year partnership with UNFPA East and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) to provide technical support on the demographic dividend to the 23 countries in the region. We have also forged partnerships with various national governments through the Ministries for Finance, Planning and Economic Development, and National Population and Statistics Agencies in the continent. Other partners include The Palladium Group (formerly Futures Group), Pathfinder, Hewlett Foundation, the MasterCard Foundation and academic institutions in the region.

## Funding

The demographic dividend programme has been funded by UNFPA ESARO, UNFPA country offices, the Margaret Pyke Trust, and by USAID through Pathfinder.

## About AFIDEP

The African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP), is an African-led, regional non-profit policy think tank, working to help bridge the gaps between research, policy and practice in the areas of population change and sustainable development, and health systems strengthening in Africa.

## Contacts

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## Demographic Dividend Programme



Support for Evidence  
Generation and Policy  
Engagement to Enhance  
Commitment to  
Addressing Population  
Challenges in Africa

# AFIDEP

African Institute for  
Development Policy

Bridging Development Research,  
Policy and Practice

## Project overview

The Demographic dividend (DD) refers to the accelerated economic growth that is initiated by a rapid decline in fertility and mortality that results in a change in the age structure from one dominated by child dependents to one dominated by economically productive working-age adults. However, the dividend is not automatic nor guaranteed. It has to be earned by making strategic investments to enhance education and skills development, health, economic reforms and job creation, and good governance and accountability. These were the ingredients for the positive rapid socioeconomic transformation of countries in East and South East Asia, referred to as the Asian Tigers, who exemplify harnessing a substantial demographic dividend.

The demographic dividend programme, initiated in 2013, was set up within the context of the discourse on the rapid increase of the population of young people in Africa, and whether this presents an opportunity for accelerated socioeconomic development in Africa. The project carries out analytical studies in African countries that have expressed interest in conducting analyses that will help them to better understand their potential to harness the demographic dividend and identify priority policy actions to be implemented to reach this goal. The project also undertakes advocacy engagements at national and regional levels to promote greater understanding of demographic dividend paradigm and to galvanise commitment from governments and other stakeholders to invest in policy actions that will accelerate harnessing the demographic dividend in Africa.

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## Objectives

We generate, synthesise and promote the use of evidence on population and sustainable development dynamics, to support governments in Africa to understand the opportunities and challenges their countries face in the pursuit to harness the demographic dividend, and to inform and ignite policy actions to achieve this goal.

To achieve these goals, we:

- I. Conduct comprehensive national analytical studies on the demographic dividend that includes policy scenario building and modelling and generate national demographic dividend reports and advocacy materials (policy briefs, infographics, video animations etc.).
- II. Provide technical support to governments to develop plans, strategies and roadmaps to harness the demographic dividend.
- III. Engage in advocacy on the demographic dividend via various platforms including active participation/contributions at high level international, regional and national meetings on population and development; engagements with policy makers and political leadership to galvanise commitment to the demographic dividend agenda; and media engagements.

## Interventions

Since 2014, we have conducted comprehensive national analytical studies on the demographic dividend in Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique, Botswana, Malawi, and Senegal. Similar work will commence in Swaziland and Cameroun in 2016, and there are ongoing discussions to conduct studies in other countries in East, Southern and West Africa.

The studies include an intense multisectoral modelling workshop to assess the opportunities and challenges that individual countries have to seize the demographic dividend and generate policy recommendations to achieve the goal in the context of their long term development aspirations. The findings and recommendations from the workshop are supported by rigorous desk reviews and robust policy document analyses.

*“AFIDEP is partnering with various countries to develop roadmaps designed to accelerate the demographic dividend in countries such as Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Malawi and Mozambique”*

We have also supported demographic dividend work beyond country studies in Kenya including providing technical support for the 2015 Kenya National Adolescents and Youth Survey (NAYS) and the development of demographic dividend advocacy materials. AFIDEP is also partnering with various countries to develop roadmaps designed to accelerate the demographic dividend in countries such as Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Malawi and Mozambique. The demographic dividend roadmaps strive to identify priority investment areas and actions and specify mechanisms for effective integrated planning and implementation of priority actions for sustainable development.

We have also been involved in impactful demographic dividend advocacy engagements including the highlights listed below in 2015:

- A key presentation on the demographic dividend by AFIDEP's Executive Director at the UN General Assembly in New York during the 2015 Annual Session of the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS.
- In partnership with the Kenya National Council for Population and Development (NCPD) and the UNFPA Kenya Country Office, we co-hosted the inaugural Demographic Dividend Knowledge Sharing Symposium for East and Southern Africa in August 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting brought together stakeholders from 15 countries and regional economic bodies in the region to facilitate knowledge sharing and learning on the demographic dividend and to establish a knowledge sharing platform.