Report on the National Launch of the Kenya Demographic Dividend Project Results

Launched on 15th July 2014, Nairobi

National Council for Population and Development

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Background

The demographic dividend refers to the social and economic benefits that a country can derive from her population when most of the people are in the working ages. These benefits result from the output per capita of those in the working ages which in turn contributes to a country's economic performance. For many developing countries, including Kenya, the proportion of children relative to those in the working ages is high and therefore most of the country's resources are devoted to their care which tends to depress the pace of economic growth thereby constraining efforts to improve the quality of life.

In recent years, quite a number of developing countries have endeavored to understand the concept of 'demographic dividend' with a view of taking action to achieve it. In this regard, Kenya has implemented the DemDiv Project so as to generate data that will inform actions aimed at achieving the demographic dividend. The DemDiv model, which quantifies the future expected benefits from investments in strategic sectors, will help the country to achieve middle income status and improve the quality of life for all citizens.

The National Council for Population and Development (NCPD) entered into an agreement in February 2014 with Futures Group, through the Health Policy Initiative, to apply the DemDiv model to Kenya. This activity was implemented from February to June 2014, with financial support from USAID, resulting in a model for Kenya.

For the successful implementation of the DemDiv project, a Technical Working Group was constituted with the aim of ensuring a multi-sectoral consultative approach in populating the DemDiv model for Kenya. The organizations represented in this TWG were: Ministry of Education, Science and Technology; Ministry of Labour; Kenya Institute of Public Policy Research and Analysis; Institute of Economic Affairs; Kenya National Bureau of Statistics; Ministry of Health; Health Policy Project; Population Reference Bureau; Population Studies and Research Institute; African Institute for Development Policy; and National Council for Population and Development. The TWG members were first trained on

how the model works before giving their input on the data to be used in populating the model. They were instrumental in ensuring that the final model represents Kenya's present and future situations.

Opening Remarks

1. Dr. Josephine Kibaru-Mbae, Director General – National Council for Population and Development

Dr. Kibaru-Mbae welcomed the partners and stakeholders to the launch of the DemDiv Project results. She indicated to the participants that the DemDiv model is a generic model that was developed by Futures Group and can be applied to any country by populating it with country specific data. The model makes use of various economic, health, and demographic variables to come up with socio-economic projections for the future. In her remarks she described the key activities that were undertaken by NCPD, USAID and HPP in coming up with the Kenya DemDiv model and projection results. Some of the key activities that she mentioned were;

a. ***Application of the DemDiv Model to Kenya***: This activity was implemented from February to June 2014, with financial support from USAID and technical support from HPP, resulting in a model for Kenya.

b. ***Training of NCPD Technical Staff***: This was among the first activities to be implemented under the DemDiv Project for Kenya. The purpose of this training, which was conducted in March 2014, was to build the capacity of NCPD staff to apply the model. With the generation of more county specific data on economic, health and demographic variables, the model will be applied to each county in the country.

c. ***Technical Working Group***: This group was constituted with the aim of ensuring a multi-sectoral consultative approach in populating the DemDiv model for Kenya. The organizations represented in this TWG were;

 i. Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

 ii. Ministry of Labour

 iii. Kenya Institute of Public Policy Research and Analysis

 iv. Institute of Economic Affairs

 v. Population Studies and Research Institute

 vi. African Institute for Development Policy

 vii. Kenya National Bureau of Statistics

 viii. Ministry of Health

 ix. Health Policy Project

 x. Population Reference Bureau

 xi. National Council for Population and Development

The TWG members were first trained on how the model works before giving their input on the data to be used in populating the model. They were instrumental in ensuring that the final model represents Kenya's present and future situations.

The Director General of NCPD concluded her remarks by thanking USAID and HPP for supporting the Council to develop the model.

2. Ms. Karen Freeman – Head of USAID Mission, Kenya

Ms. Freeman began her remarks by appreciating the long standing partnership between the Government of Kenya and USAID. She noted that the DemDiv Model, which is part of USAID's Health Policy Project, was a tool that would help Kenya generate data for use in developing sound policies that would facilitate a demographic dividend. She added that for Kenya to benefit from the demographic dividend, the policies and programmes outlined in the Vision 2030 blueprint have to be implemented. These actions coupled with an increase in the provision and utilization of family planning services would ensure the prosperity of the country. In conclusion, Ms. Freeman appreciated the good working relationship between NCPD and USAID. She reaffirmed that USAID would continue to support Kenya's population programme, including activities that seek to engage parliamentarians and county leaders on population issues.

3. Mr. Stephen Wainaina – Economic Planning Secretary, Ministry of Devolution and Planning

In his remarks, Mr. Wainaina expressed the Government of Kenya's appreciation for the support being provided to the population programme by development partners. He also expressed appreciation for the work being done by Hon. Dr. Rachael Nyamai, who is the Member of Parliament for Kitui South and Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Health, in advancing Kenya's population and health agenda. Other comments made by the Economic Planning Secretary include;

a. Youths are the agents of change and development in the country and therefore Kenya needs to take advantage of her demographic position where youths form a large proportion of the population. This requires that policy makers take action to create opportunities for the youths so that they can be gainfully engaged in development

b. Kenya's population growth is not in tandem with the economic growth. With the current population growth rate of about 3 percent, the country's economy should be growing at 10 percent. Unfortunately, the country's economic growth rate has averaged 5 percent in the recent years and this cannot sustain the current population

Mr. Wainaina concluded his remarks by reiterating that the right policies and investments are needed to improve the quality of life of all citizens in Kenya.

DemDiv Project Results Presentation

This presentation was made by Hon. Dr. Rachal Nyamai, Member of Parliament for Kitui South and Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Health. The presentation highlighted the following;

a. A demographic dividend does not come automatically. Kenya must make sound investments beginning today to reap the benefits of a dividend in the future. These investments must come from multiple sectors: family planning to promote a favorable age structure, education, economic policies, and governance.

b. For Kenya to achieve a middle-income status, the fertility levels will need to be reduced to below 3 children per woman, average years of schooling

increased to at least 8 years, and the per capita gross domestic product increased to US$ 4,000 or more.

c. The DemDiv model uses policy inputs from three sectors—family planning, education, and the economy. These inputs are used to project outputs related to population and economic development.

d. Combined investments in the economy, education, and family planning are projected to produce the following results by 2050;

    i. Investments per capita will increase to about US$ 2,000 from the current figure of about US$ 200

    ii. Fertility levels will decline to an average of 2.1 children per woman from the current 4.7 children per woman

    iii. Even with an increase in the population size, the employment gap (i.e. people in the labour force who are not active) will be 8 million which is less than the current gap of 10 million

e. Family Planning recommendations;

    i. Implement Kenya's FP2020 commitment to increase the contraceptive prevalence rate to 56% by 2015, and to 70% (modern methods) by 2050

    ii. Increase the national and county government budgets for family planning and reduce stock-outs

f. Education Recommendations;

    i. Reduce dropouts, increase secondary completion rates, and increase transition rates from primary to secondary and secondary to tertiary

    ii. Re-establish mid-level colleges to meet the needs of the changing labor market

    iii. Reduce the barriers and costs of tertiary education

g. Economic Policies Recommendations;

   i.   Reduce reliance on imports
   ii.   Reduce taxes on new businesses, improve labor-employer relations, and lower service fees
   iii. Invest in the ICT sector to improve Internet and mobile phone infrastructure
   iv.   Improve transparency in public services

h. Conclusion;

   i.   Policies focused on single sectors contribute to development, but are most powerful when combined with other socioeconomic strategies.
   ii.   Economic, education, and FP policies promote a demographic dividend by increasing investment, GDP, and GDP per capita, and significantly reducing the employment gap.
   iii. Policy changes in these areas must begin now to see the benefits of a demographic dividend in coming decades.

After concluding the presentation on DemDiv, Hon. Dr. Nyamai made the following remarks;

a. Actors in the population sector need to continue engaging with politicians who have a great potential of communicating the population message to all parts of the country. Another potential avenue for propagating these messages is the Kenya National Union of Teacher (KNUT) who have a countrywide reach.

b. It is important for children in the country to be empowered with information on sexual reproductive health. This will help them to be able to make the right decisions about their health.

Discussion and Way Forward

This session was led by Mr. George Kichamu, NCPD's Director of Technical Services. Here below are the main issues brought out by the participants during this session;

1.   Dissemination of the DemDiv Model: This is a useful tool for advocacy purposes. The dissemination of the model should now target the counties with a view of influencing policies in the health, education, and economic sectors. With this information, counties will be empowered to come up with county specific solutions to achieving the demographic dividend. This activity will require the support of partners.

2. UNFPA indicated that it has given priority to activities on demographic dividend and would therefore provide support to these activities.

3. Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT): This orgamization needs to be incorporated in the country's population programme given the large number of people it is able to reach countrywide i.e. teachers and students. The KNUT officials present at the launch indicated their willingness to support the population programme.

4. Rural –Urban migration needs to be incorporated in the DemDiv model because this type of migration is increasingly having an effect on economic activities both in the rural and urban areas.

5. The DemDiv model also needs to capture information on health because of its effect on the quality of life. One way of doing this is by factoring in the main diseases that cause morbidity and mortality in the country.

6. DemDiv Model Assumptions: These need to be documented alongside the results for sharing with those interested in the details of the model.

7. 2014 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey results, alongside other county data, will be used to develop county specific DemDiv models.

8. Family Planning seems to have lost out on government funding as a result of devolution. In this regard there is urgent need to engage the county governments to set aside funds for family planning in their respective budgets.

9. For Kenya to fully achieve the demographic dividend there is need to ensure that investments made bridge the gap between the rich and the poor. In addition to this, efforts must be made to reduce wastage and loss of available resources

Closing Remarks

The closing remarks at the conclusion of the launch were given by Mr. Stephen Muchiri from HPP and Dr. Josephine Kibaru-Mbae, the Director General of NCPD. In appreciating the participants for attending the launch, Mr. Muchiri informed them that NCPD and HPP were ready to continue with further engagement on DemDiv and other population issues with individual organizations that are interested. On her part, Dr. Kibaru-Mbae expressed the Council's appreciation for the support it was getting from development partners, parliament, and other stakeholders. She specifically thanked USAID for supporting the development of the DemDiv model for Kenya. In addition to the above, NCPD's Director General also said the following;

- The Comments and Way Forward on DemDiv given to NCPD and HPP by the participants will be taken into consideration with a view of improving the model and disseminating its findings
- In 2014-15, NCPD will disseminate the DemDiv model results to the counties. The partners and stakeholders were requested to support this activity
- NCPD is in the process of strengthening the public education component of the population programme with a view of reaching people at the grassroots with

population messages. Stakeholders such as KNUT will be an integral part of this process

The function ended at 9:30 am after Dr. Kibaru-Mbae had thanked all those present for their participation.

Attendance List

Forum: **LAUNCH   OF DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND OPPORTUNITIES FOR KENYA**

Venue: PAN AFRIC HOTEL   Date: 15TH JULY 2014

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Programme

THE LAUNCH OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND OPPORTUNITIES FOR KENYA

Venue: Sarova Panafric Nairobi

15TH JULY 2014

TIME	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE
7.00 - 8.00 a.m.	Arrival/ Registration/ Breakfast	NCPD/Hotel
8:00 - 8.20 a.m.	Remarks	Dr. Josephine Kibaru Director General NCPD **Representatives**: • USAID • Ministry of Planning and Devolution
8.20 - 8.45 a.m.	Demographic Dividend Opportunities for Kenya	Hon Dr. Rachael Nyamai, MP Chair, Parliamentary Health Committee
8.45 -9.00 a.m.	Way Forward	All
DEPARTURE		