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Harnessing Demographic Dividend Guidelines on the Formulation of National Population Policies



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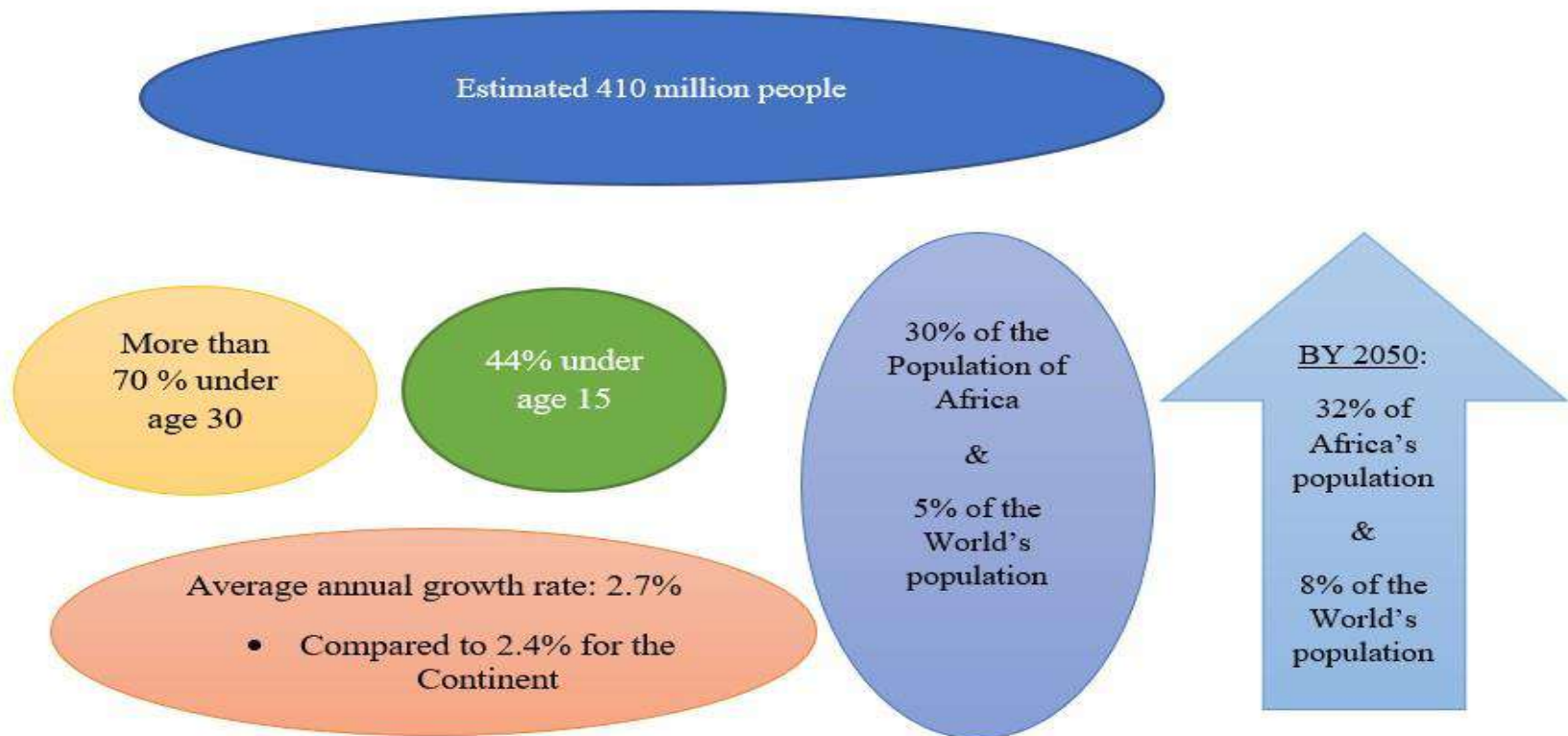
Objectives

- ECA intends to support Member States, upon requests, that are planning to develop new population policies or to revise the existing ones by developing **Guidelines on the formulation of “New Generations” of national population policies**
- ✓ i.e., population policies that are conducive to **harnessing the DD** as guided by the 2017 AU roadmap on DD.
- Therefore, the overall objective of this session is to present the rationale for the guidelines as well as the methodological approach with the view to get feedback and insights for their finalization.
- **Specifically, the aim is twofold:**
 - ☐ Gather ideas and views from researchers, national experts and policy makers regarding the gaps and areas of need of technical support from the existing national population policies
 - ☐ Discuss the way forward and best practices for the formulation of “**new generations**” of national population policies, basing on the existing gaps, to enable the finalization of the guidelines.

2. Background

- West Africa: A demographic profile characterized by rapid population growth, high fertility rates and high proportion of youth.

The Population of West Africa Region (2022)



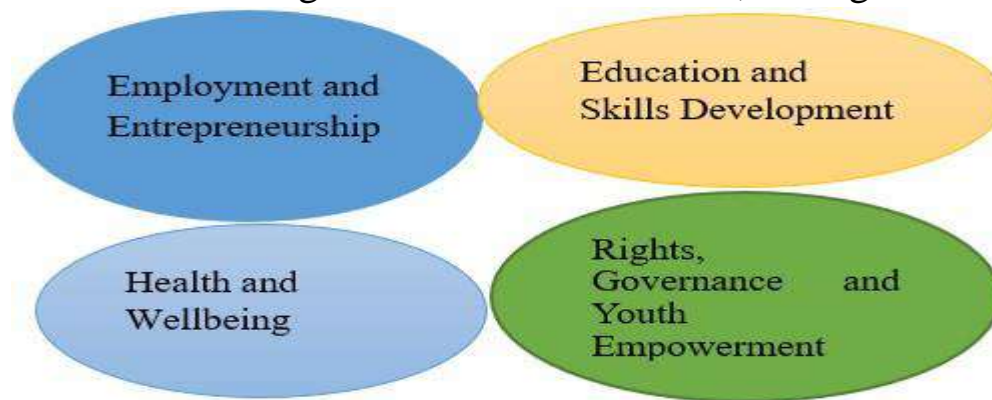
Source : UN, World Population Prospects, 2022

2. Background (Cont'd – 2/3)

- To tackle the issues of high fertility and rapid population growth through family planning, West African countries developed what can be called the **first generation** of population policies since the 1970's,
- **The second generation** of population policies resulted from the 1994 International Conference of Population and Development, and focused on the paradigm of reproductive health, alongside the family planning
 - ✓ In general, the population policies developed were not effective in achieving their primarily objectives articulated on controlling the rapid population growth, reducing poverty and improving the quality of life of the populations.
 - ✓ **Population policies** are generally recognized as a set of coherent measures and orientations that a government adopts for an effective planning and management of country's population.

2. Background (Cont'd – 2/3)

- **With the view to transform the galloping demography into opportunities, the AU Summit of Heads of States and Governments adopted in 2017 a roadmap on harnessing the Demographic Dividend**
- ✓ The roadmap is guided by the Common African Position expressed in the Agenda 2063 (The Africa We Want) as well as the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development
- ✓ Roadmap's overall objective is to guide and facilitate the AU Summit Decision on “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through investments in Youth”, through Four Pillars:



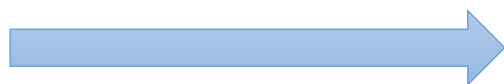
- **Population policies** constitute a comprehensive development framework for the integration of population dimensions into national development planning, with the view to harness demographic dividend.
- As part of the ECA support to the implementation of the 2017 AU roadmap on harnessing the DD, some Member States requested ECA to assist them in the formulation of the population policies (e.g., The Gambia)

3. Stocktaking on Existing National Population Policies in WA (1/4)

- In West Africa region, only eight (8) countries have Population Policies in place:

Countries	Year of adoption/ effective period	Observations
Benin	2013-2025	Before the adoption of the 2017 AU roadmap on DD
Burkina Faso	2010-2030	
Cote d'Ivoire	From 2015, revision every 10 years.	
Ghana	From 2018	After the adoption of the 2017 AU roadmap on DD
Mali	From 2017	
Niger	From 2021, revision every 10 years	
Nigeria	From 2018	
Sierra Leone	From 2018	

- Population policies not in place in seven (7) countries: Guinea-Bissau from 2002, Liberia from 2015, Senegal from 2002, The Gambia from 2011, and Togo (latest version 1998) as well as in Guinea and Cabo Verde where any population policy was developed previously.



Almost 50% of WA countries do not have in place population policies

3. Stocktaking on Existing National Population Policies in WA (Cont'd - 2/4)

- A review was conducted to analyze *“To What Extent Policy goals/objectives and Priority areas integrate the DD pillars? What are the implementation challenges?”*
- Key Findings:
 - ❑ The population policies developed from 2015 onwards majorly refer to the aspirations of the 2017 AU roadmap for harnessing the DD, through investments in youth.
 - ❑ Limited in-depth analysis on the potential of capturing the DD to inform the formulation of the population policies.
 - ❑ Missing linkages between population policies and relevant sectoral policies i.e., education, health, youth, gender, migration, urbanization, land, etc.
 - ❑ Although the main goal of population policies to harness DD, in most cases missing targets and timeframes to achieve the goals and objectives therein

3. Stocktaking on Existing National Population Policies in WA (Cont'd - 3/4)

- ❑ All the existing 8 national population policies outline the implementation plans and strategies: need to cater for a regular review to ensure their effective implementation
- ❑ The policies provide for communication and resource mobilization strategies as well as inter-agency coordination, collaboration, and partnerships to ensure that several stakeholders and partners are involved in the implementation process
- ❑ National Population Commissions (NPC) were established to coordinate the implementation of the population policy, given its multi-sectoral nature.
- ❑ **Key implementation challenges identified:** Lack of coordination, limited financial resources, weak interlinkages with relevant sectoral policies and weak institutional arrangements.

3. Stocktaking on Existing National Population Policies in WA (Cont'd - 4/4)

- Some selected specific findings

Countries	Specific key findings
Cote d'Ivoire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy identifies 10 programmatic pillars for harnessing DD and promoting economic development, through social transformation including Education, health, employment, well-being, governance, gender equality and women empowerment, nutrition, and food security.
Ghana, Mali, Nigeria & Sierra Leone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current Population Policies explicitly highlight that they derive from the 2017 AU roadmap on harnessing the DD, among other guiding principles
Sierra Leone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2018 National Population Policy states targets to be achieved and timeframes (in general by 2023 and 2028) to attain the DD and achieve the SDGs • The Policy focuses on increasing investments in youth through the following four entry points: Education, Health, Economy, and Governance (same pillars from the 2017 AU roadmap on DD)
Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population policies explicitly emphasize on the interlinkages with the sectoral policies, strategies and plans: education sector plan, land policy, youth policy, social protection policy, environment, etc.
Cote d'Ivoire & Niger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population policies provide for a revision of the policy every 10 years to adjust with emerging issues and address implementation issues

4. Why the Guidelines?

- i. **Interlinkages of the population policies with the related-sectoral policies** such as education, health, youth, social protection and employment, suggesting the need to integrate DD pillars that encompass all the aspects of development planning, as recommended by the AU roadmap on harnessing the DD.
 - ii. **Quantifiable targets and timeframes to achieve the policy goals and objectives**, in most cases, even for the population policies that explicitly envision to harness DD, implying the need for SMART targets and clear implementation timelines of the DD pillars.
 - iii. **Effective coordination and institutional arrangements to implement the population policies**
 - iv. **Seven (7) West African countries do not currently have in place population policies**
- **The Guidelines aim to support the formulation of population policies that are conducive to harnessing the demographic dividend**, as guided by the 2017 AU roadmap on DD and consistent with other guiding principles, mainly the Agenda 2063 of the AU and Agenda 2030 for sustainable development.

5. Methodological Approach – Guidelines articulated around Five Steps

Ensure that coordination mechanisms and institutional arrangements are in place for the effective implementation of the identified actions and targets within the specified timeframe. The policy to provide for M&E on regular basis

Step 5:
Implementation plan and M&E framework

Identify actions and set targets and timeframes as well as quantifiable indicators, in alignment with the other guiding principles, mainly the national development plans, related-sectoral policies as well as the Agenda2063 of the African Union and Agenda 2030 for sustainable development

Step 4:
Identification of Actions

Define the Vision, Goals/Objectives and Policy Priority areas that integrate the DD pillars

Step 3: Vision, Goals/Objectives and Policy Priority areas

Step-by-Step Methodological Approach of the Guidelines

Step 1:
Stocktaking of key actions proposed under the 2017 AU roadmap on DD

Take Stock of the key actions proposed under each thematic pillar of the roadmap and selection of the actions that fit the country context (the roadmap being itself a guide)

Step 2:
Situational Analysis

Assess the macroeconomic environment, existing population policy and relevant sectoral policies in place. Perform the Stakeholder mapping and analysis to include all relevant stakeholders.

5. Methodological Approach (Cont'd) - Example

Step 1: Stocktaking of the key actions proposed under each thematic pillar of the 2017 AU roadmap on harnessing the DD and selection of the actions that fit the country context (the roadmap being itself a guide)		Step 2: Situational analysis to assess the macroeconomic environment, existing population policy and relevant sectoral policies in place. Perform the stakeholder mapping and analysis	Step 3: Definition of the Vision, Goals/Objectives and Policy Priority areas that integrate the DD pillars	Step 4: Identification of Actions, and setting up Targets and Timeframes as well as quantifiable indicators	Step 5: Implementation plan/strategy and Monitoring & Evaluation framework
Thematic Pillar	Key actions proposed				
Pillar 2: Education and Skills Development	Improve inclusive access to education at all levels and provide viable alternatives for the many young people, particularly adolescent girls, who drop out of the formal educational system, by facilitating re-entry, revamping informal education, and training through standardized certification within and between African countries.	Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify key policy issues to be integrated in the vision, strategic goals, objectives, or policy priority areas, given the country context. Ensure alignment with other relevant guiding principles such as national development plan, the AU Agenda 2063, and Agenda 2030 for sustainable development for policy consistency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specify the key actions and define targets and timeframe to implement the actions, in line with the targets set in the related-sectoral policies/plans or strategies, if any, as well as the targets specified in the national development plans to achieve the SDGs. Provide for measurable/quantifiable indicators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that coordination mechanisms and institutional arrangements are in place for the effective implementation of the identified actions and targets within the specified timeframe. Undertake Monitoring and evaluation on regular basis
Pillar 3: Health and Wellbeing	Prioritize national investments to ensure universal access to family planning services, including expanding the use of modern contraceptives as stated in the Extended Maputo Plan of Action on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (2016-2030) and reiterated by Article 14(g) of the Maputo Protocol on the Rights of Women.	Health			



Your valuable ideas, suggestions, views, comments and any feedback will allow ECA to finalize the Guidelines on the formulation of new generations of population policies, that are conducive to harnessing the DD

Merci!

Thank you!

**Ideas
to
Action**