Round table to mobilise resources
On the sidelines of the African Union Summit

Investing in the empowerment of women and human capital as a development strategy for growth

Niamey, 6 July 2019
Overview

- The Sahel: Challenges in harnessing the Demographic Dividend
- SWEDD: A Strategic Vision / Partnership for Development
- SWEDD: Progress achieved
- SWEDD: Proposals for consolidation and scaling-up by 2023
In just a few years, the implementation of the ‘Sahel Women’s Empowerment and Demographic Dividend Project’ (SWEDD) has progressed remarkably.

The first phase of the project showed the importance of investing in the empowerment of women and human capital as a development strategy for growth.

Scaling-up the SWEDD project will require more resources: from governments, technical and financial partners, the private sector and economic communities.

To this end, an investment framework has been developed to consolidate and increase the progress made and scale-up the project.
The Sahel: Challenges in harnessing the Demographic Dividend

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Sustained economic growth

Decrease in child mortality rates from 167 per 1,000 to 90 per 1,000 in 25 years

A 31% reduction in poverty in 25 years

A reduction in gender-based inequality

Significant increase from 53% to 80% in access to primary education

Investing in the empowerment of women and human capital as a development strategy for growth...
...But there are still challenges to overcome to harness the DD (1/2)

Loss of 90% of the area of Lake Chad
Coastal erosion

CLIMATE CHALLENGES

HEALTH & NUTRITION CHALLENGES

High maternal mortality rates
Famine, Malnutrition, Undernutrition
Epidemics (e.g. cholera caused by floods)
...But there are still challenges to overcome to harness the DD (2/2)

High fertility rates among adolescents (in %)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Fertility Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa North-East</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>103%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern &amp; East Africa</td>
<td>109%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West and Central Africa</td>
<td>128%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Strong demographic growth (in millions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Africa North-East</th>
<th>World</th>
<th>Sub-Saharan Africa</th>
<th>Southern &amp; East Africa</th>
<th>West and Central Africa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>632</td>
<td>920</td>
<td>1,250</td>
<td>1,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>632</td>
<td>920</td>
<td>1,250</td>
<td>1,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>632</td>
<td>920</td>
<td>1,250</td>
<td>1,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2030</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>632</td>
<td>920</td>
<td>1,250</td>
<td>1,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2060</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>632</td>
<td>920</td>
<td>1,250</td>
<td>1,680</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Low prevalence of modern contraceptives (in %)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Contraceptive Prevalence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa North-East</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West and Central Africa</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Achieve demographic transition by reducing the number of dependents in households

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Faced with the challenges of the Sahel, President Mahamadou Issoufou issued a call on 6 November 2013, which has received a positive response from his counterparts.

With the Technical and Financial support of the UNFPA, the World Bank and the West African Health Organization, a financial commitment of more than 297 million USD was made from 2015 to 2018.

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SWEDD: progress achieved
Creating demand for RMNCHN products and services through social communication and the empowerment of women

+627 million people received information on reproductive, maternal and child health.

106 263 girls and adolescent girls benefit from support for schooling and staying in school.

99 704 girls and young women have been trained in income-generating activities.

102 600 out-of-school girls benefit from a second chance as a result of the establishment of 3 420 safe spaces.
Strengthening the supply chain to the last kilometre and building the capacities of health workers

- Standardisation of the registration and quality control of products in the SWEDD area.
- 10,154 midwives trained in new technologies.
- 15.2% increase in the number of midwives.
- Strengthening health training by establishing three (3) regional centres of excellence.

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Raising awareness among decision-makers

The establishment of regional networks: religious and traditional leaders, members of parliament, young people and journalists.

The establishment of six (6) national Demographic Dividend observatories.

The development of a programming guide on the Demographic Dividend.

+483 national experts trained to oversee the national observatories on the Demographic Dividend.
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**Significant progress achieved**

- Increase in contraceptive prevalence with +4 302 000 additional women using birth control
- Increase in the rates of girls completing secondary school from 35.1% to 40.3% between 2015 and 2018
- Increase in the average income of women
- Reduction in the number of child marriages
Proposals for scaling-up based on the target segmentation method
Theory of change: investing in the empowerment of girls for economic growth

**KEY AREAS OF NEED**

- **Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRH)**
  - Improve essential skills and knowledge in SRH
- **Gender Equality**
  - Enable access to school and keep girls in school
  - Expand economic opportunities
- **Education of Girls**
  - Improve education and teaching
- **Social Protection and Economic Opportunity**
  - Increase engagement in subsistence activity

**MAIN DETERMINANTS**

- **Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRH)**
  - Bring about change in fertility preferences
  - Increase the rate of contraceptive prevalence among adolescents
  - Improve girls’ negotiating power

**LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT RESULTS**

- **Delay marriage and pregnancy until adult age has been reached**
- **Increase productivity and income**
- **Accelerate the demographic transition and capitalise on better human development (HD) results, improved gender relations and equitable economic growth**

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# Approach to understand the issues and avenues of intervention

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories of classification</th>
<th>Considerations for interventions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>KEY ELEMENTS OF CHOICE</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **ACUTENESS OF NEEDS > AVERAGE** | • Acuteness of needs, difficulty of change.  
• Address some needs to create momentum, then roll out a behavioural change programme. |
| **POTENTIAL CHANGE OF BEHAVIOUR > AVERAGE** | • Increased change potential, weak overall impact.  
• Address behavioural change factors. |
| **ACUTENESS < AVERAGE CHANGE < AVERAGE** | • Relatively weak potential impact.  
• Less intensive interventions or serve these regions after momentum has been created in other regions. |
| **ACUTENESS > AVERAGE CHANGE > AVERAGE** | • Strong potential for impact.  
• It is wiser to focus on these regions first. |
| **MORE DIFFICULT TO ACCESS** | • A virtual approach may be required for the interventions (digital, television, radio, etc.). |
| **EASIER TO ACCESS** | • High density of population, more frequent consumption of media and low risk of problems means targets are easier to attain. |
An evaluation in 10 countries revealed that 13.5 million girls are not reaching their potential.

Young women (10-19 years old) at risk of child marriage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>2,094,346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Côte d'Ivoire</td>
<td>1,780,462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>1,743,479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>1,647,056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>1,626,132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chad</td>
<td>1,458,481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guinea</td>
<td>1,125,965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>969,211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benin</td>
<td>708,115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauritania</td>
<td>297,581</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. The estimated number of girls at risk of child marriage is based on the percentage of women aged 20 to 24 who stated they were married before 19 years of age; Source: EDS, UN Population Data, Camber analysis, note: being revised currently with data from national statistics institutes which may result in higher totals.
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Benin

TARGET POPULATION

143,576  Acuteness > average
306,584  Potential change of behaviour > average
57,817   Acuteness < average  Change < average
200,138  Acuteness > average  Change > average

Data being evaluated and verified through an in-country consultative process. These data will be used in the design of SWEDD 2.
Burkina Faso

**TARGET POPULATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Acuteness</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>538,297</td>
<td>&gt; average</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140,578</td>
<td>&gt; average</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>736,026</td>
<td>&lt; average</td>
<td>&lt; average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>211,232</td>
<td>&gt; average</td>
<td>&gt; average</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data being evaluated and verified through an in-country consultative process. These data will be used in the design of SWEDD 2.

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Investing in the empowerment of women and human capital as a development strategy for growth

**TARGET POPULATION**

897,288  Acuteness > average

609,410  Potential change of behaviour > average

329,015  Acuteness < average
          Change < average

103,890  Acuteness > average
          Change > average

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Data being evaluated and verified through an in-country consultative process. These data will be used in the design of SWEDD 2
Guinea

TARGET POPULATION

330 283 Acuteness > average
431 701 Potential change of behaviour > average
233 646 Acuteness < average Change < average
130 334 Acuteness > average Change > average

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**TARGET POPULATION**

- **516,412** Acuteness > average
- **634,140** Potential change of behaviour > average
- **247,466** Acuteness < average \ Change < average
- **249,038** Acuteness > average \ Change > average

Data being evaluated and verified through an in-country consultative process. These data will be used in the design of SWEDD 2.
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TARGET POPULATION

132,038 Acuteness > average

86,853 Potential change of behaviour > average

48,087 Acuteness < average Change < average

30,603 Acuteness > average Change > average

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TARGET POPULATION

1,359,454 Acuteness > average
415,299 Potential change of behaviour > average
265,989 Acuteness < average
53,595 Change < average
265,989 Acuteness > average
53,595 Change > average

Data being evaluated and verified through an in-country consultative process. These data will be used in the design of SWEDD 2
Investing in the empowerment of women and human capital as a development strategy for growth

**TARGET POPULATION**

- **255 670** Acuteness > average
- **425 035** Potential change of behaviour > average
- **247 879** Acuteness < average
  Change < average
- **40 626** Acuteness > average
  Change > average

Data being evaluated and verified through an in-country consultative process. These data will be used in the design of SWEDD 2
Chad

TARGET POPULATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Acuteness</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>723,158</td>
<td>&gt; average</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>628,386</td>
<td></td>
<td>&gt; average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,998</td>
<td>&lt; average</td>
<td>&lt; average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95,939</td>
<td>&gt; average</td>
<td>&gt; average</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data being evaluated and verified through an in-country consultative process. These data will be used in the design of SWEDD 2.
Overview: acuteness, change of behaviour and access

13.5 million girls cannot achieve their potential; the challenge is huge but so is the opportunity.

TARGET POPULATION

- **5.5M** Acuteness > average
- **4.3M** Potential change of behaviour > average
- **2.6M** Acuteness < average
- **1.1M** Change < average
- **1.1M** Acuteness > average
- **Change > average**

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Partnership for overcoming the challenge: governments, private sector and donors

Accelerate the demographic transition

Commitments received for:
- Sexual and reproductive health
- Education of girls
- Economic empowerment

Means of engagement/contribution
- Financial support to keep girls in school.
- Training and capacity-building.
- Creation of jobs and increased employability of girls with training.
- Strengthening the supply chain for Reproductive Health products.
- Communication: support for awareness-raising of SRH, education and early marriage
- Creating favourable environments for activities to empower girls.

NGOs

Gov.

Private sector

Civil society

Capital-providers
The SWEDD project, which holds great promise for reducing the vulnerability of young women and adolescent girls and reducing gender inequality, is laying the foundations to harness the Demographic Dividend in the Sahel.

Extending SWEDD until 31 December 2023 is an additional opportunity to consolidate and scale-up best practices.

Investing in SWEDD means playing a part in improving the opportunities offered to women and also contributing to economic growth.