

AUC Directorate of Information and Communication



AUECHO

2017 Edition
Issue 01

HARNESSING THE
**DEMOGRAPHIC
DIVIDEND**
THROUGH
**INVESTMENTS
IN YOUTH**



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Photo AUC

March 14, 2017 was a momentous day in the life of the African Union Commission. It was the day that power changed hands from Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma to the new Commission led by Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat.

In his inaugural speech that ensured continuity of AU's priorities, H.E Mr Faki Moussa stressed that the new Commission has the exceptional good fortune of already having a clear and ambitious roadmap, Agenda 2063. "It articulates what it takes to make the continent realize its potential and play its full role in the concert of nations", he said.

In this regard, the main priorities articulated by the Chairperson for the Commission's four year tenure are:

- To reform the structures of the Commission, to simplify its procedures, to improve its efficiency and effectiveness, to make the Commission a tool capable of translating the vision of African leaders and the aspirations of the peoples into reality. He said administrative procedures must

be adapted to the reform requirements as proposed in the illuminating report of President Kagame.¹

- To silence the weapons and achieve an Africa free of conflicts by 2020.
- To raise women and young people to their rightful place in the promotion of peace, development and the African Renaissance.
- To promote economic integration of the continent and help accelerate its development. Particular emphasis will be placed on increasing intra-African trade and free movement of people so that Africans finally cease to be foreigners in their own continent. The rehabilitation of the African private sector, which is essential for the creation of wealth and jobs, will receive sustained attention.
- To strengthen Africa's place on the international scene. Africa is a continent of one billion people and represents more than a quarter of the United Nations member states. The ambition here is to weigh international balances to better defend Africa's interests, to promote the emergence of a fair and effective multilateral system and to restore international solidarity to its nobility.

These priorities will be translated into sectoral and cross-sectoral programs, with specific timetables. "This will be the first challenge that the Commissioners and my cabinet will have to face as soon as possible", the Chairperson said.

a) Focus on key priorities with continental scope;
 b) Realign African Union institutions in order to deliver against those priorities;
 c) Manage the business of the African Union efficiently and effectively at both the political and operational levels;
 d) Finance the African Union sustainably and with the full ownership of the Member States.

Editorial

Leslie Richer

The children of any nation are its future. A country, a movement, a person that does not value its youth and children does not deserve its future

Oliver Tambo

Africa is changing! The common familiar narrative of a hopeless continent that has been the bread and butter for many naysayers about Africa's prospects no longer holds true. Those in the know are aware of the changing landscape and so the second scramble for Africa is said to have begun.

However this Africa is not the same one from centuries back when the first scramble for the continent's vast resources took place; neither is it the Africa of the colonial era. This Africa is one that recognises its potential and its power and the importance of working collaboratively as Africans to ensure that its resources are better harnessed to benefit Africans. The advancements in ICT, investments in energy and infrastructure and the realisation of the significant potential that exists in Africa's mineral, agricultural land and marine resources have contributed to the increased urgency to better manage and harness the potential of our African resources and as Africans to lead the charge to invest and reinvest in the continent by our rules.

The greatest resource we have no doubt is in our manpower potential. With a population of over 1 Billion people of whom 65% are below the age of 35 years, Africa is indeed a youthful continent and this presents both opportunities and challenges. The need to empower youth by defining and developing the right socio-economic and political environments that will help them to succeed cannot be overemphasised. From access to education to access to funding for innovative entrepreneurial ideas, investing in Africa's youth needs to be more than a popular catch phrase of the day. Those entrusted with policy making must

create the space for inclusion and empowerment of youth in the development agenda.

The population dividend envisaged for Africa tends to circle back to addressing youth employment. This means that at a policy level our education systems need to be overhauled to reflect the needs of countries to industrialise. The issue of skills mismatch between what the markets (industries) require and what is being churned out of our academic institutions needs to be addressed urgently. With the development of ICT led sectors, the need for value added goods through manufacturing and agro-processing as well as the growth of the creative industries, the time is ripe to reevaluate education in terms of equipping youth to be employable. In this aspect, a mindset shift is required of our young people. Africa's potential does not only lie in the white collar jobs that since independence were positioned as the only way to elevate oneself in society. That mindset created a generation of people aspiring to be employed. What Africa needs is a generation of entrepreneurs; people looking to become employers.

The time to embrace technical education which allows individuals to harness their natural abilities and creates opportunities for self-employment is now. Vocational training needs to be positioned as being as important as training to become a lawyer, doctor engineer or architect. Think about it; the architect might work with the engineer to design the building, but it is the technicians or artisans that will bring that building to life. One may aspire to be a fashion designer whose clothes are in the catwalks of major runways; the army of vocational professionals, specialists trained in various aspects of clothing design and production

will bring the dream to life. That fancy car you aspire to own one day, will need a professionally trained mechanical engineer to keep it maintained. When your state of the art computer threatens to crash and lose all that valuable data, your first port of call will most likely be to a person who received training at a polytechnic institution.

For too long we have looked down on vocational training without realising the very close association that in my view this type of training has with the STEM subjects. Craftsmanship, artisanship and creativity can all be brought to bear if we change our minds about the role vocational education has to play. The army of people around us who make our lives comfortable are often in jobs we consider blue collar. And yet these

blue collar jobs are the ones that have driven growth in some of the largest economies in the world. Vocational training needs to be positioned as a pathway to a professional career that can be embraced by young people and position Africa to amass the wealth of technical skills that will be required to achieve our developmental ambitions.

This issue of the AU Echo presents a selection of articles that highlight the various opportunities to harness the population dividend that is represented in Africa's young population and I hope they will be great conversation starters that will lead to action in our various corners of this great land that we call home.

The Power of Youth Volunteerism in Harnessing Africa's Demographic Potential

Daniel Adugna



Africa is at a crossroads in its demographic makeup. Today it is estimated that Africans aged 15-35 make up roughly 40% of its population – earning Africa the title of ‘most youthful continent’. This transformation in the population make up follows the socio-economic gains registered by the continent, which include increased access to improved health services, a growing middle class population and improved life expectancy. These are further accompanied by factors such as rapid urbanization and declining birth and fertility rates – resulting in a huge number of youth relative to the number of children and the elderly.

Such occurrence in any given society (i.e. shift in the population structure) is historic and considered to be a ‘once in a life time occurrence’. The youth bulge currently witnessed in Africa is largely comparable to the ‘baby boomer’ generations of Western Europe and North America in the aftermath of the Second World War, or the Asian Tigers in the 1980’s/90’s, which were accompanied by economic transformation in the regions. Africa stands to reap similar benefits as a result of its largest ever working population – a phenomenon commonly referred to as ‘Demographic Dividend’ (DD). The harnessing of the DD is not automatic and absolutely not to be taken for granted. It requires strategic investments that will exploit this existing potential. It is in this vein that African leaders have dedicated the year 2017 as the year for ‘Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth’ – the key words being ‘investments in youth’.



AU Youth Volunteers doing a community service in Cairo, Egypt

Photo: AUC

In the case of post war Western Europe and the Asian Tigers, the population bulge coincided with an economic boom (economic growth reaching up to 20% for over a decade) – a phenomenon unlikely to be replicated on the continent given the current economic trends (the IMF predicts a 4.5% growth rate over the next 5 years). Africa can however, mobilize its massive working age population for volunteer action. Although in decline amongst educated urban youth, volunteer action constitutes the backbone of most African societies. In the absence of strong institutions, it is community structures which provide refuge in days of anguish, and counsel in days of despair to those in need – thanks to the people who take it upon themselves as their communal duty to be their brother’s or sister’s keeper. Although no monetary value or economic impact is attached to community support schemes, in countries like the US and Canada – where studies have been conducted on the economic impact of volunteerism, it is estimated that volunteerism contributes up to 10% of the countries’ gross domestic product (GDP).

In recognition of this huge potential, African leaders passed a decision at their meeting in January 2010, to ‘promote youth volunteerism’ as a key enabler for youth empowerment and accelerating development on the continent. Volunteerism brings people together to share skills, knowledge and talent that can be directed towards a greater cause such as achieving Agenda 2063. Based on free will and own volition, the level of motivation, passion and energy, volunteerism is second to none when it comes to galvanizing human capital for a common cause.

Africa’s own AU Youth Volunteer Corps came into existence in December 2010 following the January 2010 Assembly decision. Over 300 youths have benefited from the program by gaining professional experience, international exposure and awareness on Africa’s development priorities. Departments

of the African Union Commission (AUC), regional offices and AU organs have benefited from the services of AU Youth Volunteers who bring professional skills, fresh perspectives and youthful energy and vigour to African institutions starved of human resources.

Although the exact impact of the program is yet to be assessed, records show that more than half of AU youth volunteers are retained within the organizations of their service. Currently, close to 50 young professionals who are working in various capacities across the AU Commission have found their way into the organization through the AU Youth Volunteer Corps.

The number of young professionals serving within the Commission and across the African Union is a further testament to AU’s commitment to youth participation and inclusion in the continent’s affairs. Youth volunteer action presents an enormous resource for Africa to tap into: a force packed with youthful energy, creativity and innovation that must be incorporated into the fuel chambers and the heart of Africa’s development engine – Agenda 2063, the Africa we want!

Daniel Adugna is a Program Officer within the Department of HRST

Pan African University: Leveraging Higher Education in Africa with Quality and Excellence

Department of Human Resources Science and Technology

The Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union made a decision to establish the Pan African University (PAU) in 2010. The plan to implement PAU was based on utilizing existing universities of eminence and quality on the continent, to create a network of institutions of excellence that will foster world class research and academic mobility. PAU operates under the direction of the African Union Commission's (AUC) Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology as one University, managed by a single rectorate and supervised by a council.

PAU focuses on Basic Sciences, Technology and Innovation; Life and Earth Sciences, including Health and Agriculture; Water and Energy Sciences,

including Climate Change; as well as Governance, Humanities and Social Sciences – as key drivers of growth and socio-economic development. The university continues to deliver on its mandate of enrolling and graduating students through teaching and research at its four operational institutes in Algeria, Cameroon, Kenya and Nigeria. Below is a summary of PAU's current student enrolment and graduation statistics.

Current Student Population by Institute and Level of Study (2016/2017 Academic Year)

Institute	Level of Study						Total
	MSc./MA			PhD			
	M	F	Sub-total	M	F	Sub-total	
PAUGHSS	80	38	118	38	14	52	170
PAULESI	66	29	95	43	16	59	154
PAUSTI	111	43	154	73	27	100	254
PAUWES	103	25	128	-	-	-	128
Total	360	135	495	154	57	211	706

Graduates from the First Batch

Institute	Number of Graduates			Date of Graduation
	Male	Female	Total	
PAUSTI	48	7	55	24 November 2014
PAULESI	18	2	20	17 November 2015
PAUGHSS	36	15	51	30 March 2016
PAUWES	15	11	26	27 October 2016
Total	117	35	152	

Graduates from the Second Batch

Institute	Number of Graduates			Date of Graduation
	Male	Female	Total	
PAUSTI				
PAULESI	42	22	64	16 Nov 2016
PAUGHSS	34	25	59	20 January 2017
PAUWES				
Total	76	47	123	

Upcoming graduations from the Third Batch

Institute	Number of Graduates			Date of Graduation
	Male	Female	Total	
PAUSTI	48	7	55	January 2018
PAULESI	60	24	84	November 2017
PAUGHSS	70	40	110	December 2017
PAUWES	15	11	26	October 2017
Total	193	82	275	

The Republic of Congo was the First African Union Member State to Launch the 2017 Theme of the Year

Department of Human Resources Science and Technology



Ministers within the Congolese Government, special guests and young people release balloons to mark the official launch of the AU's theme of the year in the Republic of Congo. Image Source: African Union Commission

Photo: AUC

In the 'AU Roadmap on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth', a matrix of a key activities was included with the aim of popularising the theme, incorporating Africa's demographic dividend discourse into high level events and most importantly triggering the deliberate and strategic investments (at national, regional and continental level) that are required to uplift African youth and subsequently pave the way for the realisation of the goals of Agenda 2063 and those of Agenda 2030.

In response to the roadmap's 'Launches of AU 2017 theme of the year country activity', the Republic of Congo launched the theme during a ceremony held on the 24th of February 2017. The event was hosted by the Ministry of Youth and Civic Education and supported by the UNFPA's Country Office as well as the African Union Commission through

the Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology (HRST).

In a well-attended day long ceremony, the audience of 1000 was engaged in a diverse program which also included entertainment from the Congolese National Gymnastics Team. The youth

The Republic of Congo was the First African Union Member State to Launch the 2017 Theme of the Year



H.E. Henri Djombo, Minister of State for Agriculture presents the highest grant awarded on the day

Photo: AUC

empowerment component of the proceedings was achieved through the Intergenerational Dialogue which provided young people and senior officials the interactive space to tackle each of the theme's four pillars, i.e. Employment and Entrepreneurship, Education and Skills Development, Health and Well Being and Rights, Governance and Youth Empowerment. Furthermore, five pre-selected youths were awarded with project funds, ranging from USD 814 to USD 2440.

The event was attended by H.E. Henri Djombo – Minister of State for Agriculture (officially representing H.E. Prime Minister Clément Mouamba), H.E. Destinée Hermella Doukaga - Minister of Youth and Civic Education, Dr. Mahama Ouedraogo – Acting Director in the AUC's Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology, Ms. Barbara Laurenceau – Country Representative for UNFPA Congo and other senior officials within the government and development community.

The African Union Commission envisages that this

activity will serve to galvanise other AU Member States to launch the theme and subsequently utilise it to inform policy formulation and implementation.

Meet the Members of The African Union Commission 2017- 2020

One of the most significant agenda items of the AU summit is the election of the new Commission of the African Union, consisting of a Chairperson, a Deputy Chairperson and eight Commissioners.

During the 28th Ordinary Session of the Summit of the AU held from 22nd to 31st January 2017, a new Commission was elected into office. However, two Commissioners out of the eight will be elected at the thirty-first Ordinary Session of the Executive Council and appointed during the Twenty-Ninth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in July 2017 as follows: i) one (1) male from the Eastern Region; and ii) one (1) female from the Central Region.

The new Commission is indicated below:

African Union Commission ELECTED LEADERSHIP
www.au.int

 H.E. MOUSSA FAKI MAHAMAT Chad CHAIRPERSON African Union Commission	 H.E. QUARTEY Thomas Kwesi Ghana DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON African Union Commission
 H.E. CHERGUI Smail Algeria Commissioner for PEACE AND SECURITY	 H.E. SAMATE Cessouma Minata Burkina Faso Commissioner for POLITICAL AFFAIRS
 H.E. ABOU-ZEID Amani Egypt Commissioner for INFRASTRUCTURE & ENERGY	 H.E. ELFADIL Amira Efadil Mohammed Sudan Commissioner for SOCIAL AFFAIRS
 H.E. MUCHANGA Albert M. Zambia Commissioner for TRADE AND INDUSTRY	 H.E. SACKO Josefa Leonel Correa Angola Commissioner for RURAL ECONOMY & AGRICULTURE

The remaining two (2) portfolios of Commissioners be elected from either one (1) male from Eastern Region or one (1) female from Central Region at the Thirty-First Ordinary Session of the Executive Council to be appointed during the Twenty-Ninth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in July 2017 in accordance with Article 16 (6) of the Statutes of the Commission of the African Union

Major decisions of the 28th African Union Summit January 2017

Afrah Mohamed Thabit



Photo AUC

The 28th African Union Summit held in Addis Ababa in January 2017 adopted a number of decisions on the political, security, economic and social issues that are of concern to African citizens.

1. Specialised Agency Status

Specialised Agency Status was granted to the Pan African Women's Organization (PAWO) and the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF).

2. Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA)

H.E. Mahamadou Issoufou, President of the Republic of Niger was mandated to champion the process of the implementation of the CFTA to ensure that the deadline of the end of 2017 is reached, and report on measures taken to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in July 2017

3. Universal access to immunization as a cornerstone for health and development in Africa

Member States were called upon to allocate

adequate domestic resources and strengthen national immunization programmes in order to ensure and facilitate universal access to immunization.

4. Promotion and protection of African investments to sustain investment in the youth

Member States were encouraged to adopt regulations that will promote the establishment of small and medium enterprises in support of the African youth, thereby creating access to sustainable investment in the youth.

5. Silencing the Guns by 2020

The Summit endorsed the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020, and directed the Peace and Security Council to establish a monitoring and evaluation mechanism, on the basis of which the Assembly will periodically review progress in the implementation of the master roadmap. The Summit also requested

the PSC to take the required steps and mobilize necessary support from all concerned stakeholders, including, in particular the United Nations Security Council and other similar organs, in order to ensure effective follow up and implementation of the master roadmap with a view to realizing the goal of a conflict-free Africa

The Summit emphasised the need for all AU Member States, in particular the Peace and Security Council (PSC), to continue to give more focus on conflict prevention, early warning and early response, in order to prevent the occurrence of full blown conflicts on the continent.

6. State of Peace & Security in Africa

The Summit considered the Report of the Peace and Security Council on its activities and commended the positive developments in a number of African countries including:

- ECOWAS efforts in solving the crisis in the Gambia
- Progress made in the state building and electoral processes in Somalia
- Developments toward holding peaceful, credible and free and fair elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Progress made in the fight against the terrorist group Boko Haram, and
- The policy of openness and promotion of peace and inclusivity by the President of the Central African Republic (CAR), with a view to achieving reconciliation and national development.

On the another hand, the Summit also noted the following situations that require action and resolution

- South Sudan - stressed the need to ensure the all-inclusive character of the National Dialogue initiated by President Salva Kiir Mayardit that will lead to the reconciliation and healing of the nation.

- Libya - the Summit welcomed the outcome of the meeting of High Level Committee on Libya in Brazzaville on 27 January 2017 and reiterated the need for the convening of a meeting of Libyan stakeholders to address the issue of national reconciliation, in accordance with the Kigali Assembly decision of 2016, including the necessary measures for the normal functioning of the government and all institutions of the country. The Summit also decided to expand the Committee by including in its membership the neighbouring countries of Libya, namely Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Niger, Sudan and Tunisia.
- Mali - the Summit urged the Malian parties to redouble efforts to expedite the full implementation of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali.
- Sudan - the Summit urged the Government of Sudan to deploy additional efforts to ensure inclusivity in the next steps following the National Dialogue process, and further strongly called upon the armed movements and the opposition political parties to take part in this national process aimed at bringing lasting peace to the country. The Summit noted with appreciation, the partial lifting of sanctions on Sudan, by the United States government.
- Burundi - the Summit urged the East African Community (EAC), with the support of the AU, to take the necessary steps for the resumption of the Inter-Burundian Inclusive Dialogue and urged the Government of Burundi to sign the memorandum of understanding (MoU) regarding the deployment of AU human rights observers and military experts in the country.
- Guinea Bissau - the Summit called on all political stakeholders to resolve their differences through inclusive dialogue and within the framework of the Constitution of

Guinea-Bissau in line with the agreement. The Summit also emphasized the critical importance of the role being played by the ECOWAS Mission in Guinea-Bissau (ECOMIB) in stabilizing the country, and called for joint efforts to support the mobilization of financial resources to support the ECOMIB operations in Guinea-Bissau.

7. Western Sahara

The Summit reiterated its call to the UN General Assembly to determine a date for the holding of the self-determination referendum for the people of Western Sahara and to protect the integrity of the Western Sahara as a non-self-governing territory from any act which may undermine it. The Summit also urged the UN Security Council to fully assume its responsibilities in restoring the full functionality of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

8. AU Reforms

The Summit adopted the recommendations of the Report on "The Imperative to Strengthen our Union: Proposed Recommendations for the Institutional Reform of the African Union" submitted by H.E. Mr. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, to the 2nd Retreat of Heads of State and Government at the AU Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia held on 29 January 2017;

Reforms are proposed in the following key areas:

- a) Focus on key priorities with continental scope;
- b) Realign AU institutions in order to deliver against those priorities
- c) Manage the business of the AU efficiently and effectively at both the political and operational levels;
- d) Finance the AU sustainably and with the full ownership of the Member States.

The Summit also mandated President Kagame, in his capacity as the lead on the institutional reform

of the Union, in collaboration with H.E. President Idriss Deby Itno, President of the Republic of Chad in his capacity as the outgoing Chairperson and H.E. Alpha Conde, President of the Republic of Guinea in his capacity as the current Chairperson, to supervise the implementation process.

9. Admission of the Kingdom of Morocco

The Kingdom of Morocco was admitted as a Member State of the AU, in conformity with Article 9(c) and Article 29 of the Constitutive Act. The admission of Morocco provides the opportunity to reunite the African community of states around the Pan-African core values of the founders namely solidarity, unity, freedom and equality

10. Financing of The AU

On the financing of the Union, the Summit commended the countries which have already started implementing the Decision on the Financing of the Union adopted in Kigali, Rwanda, in July 2016, and urged other Member States to speed up implementation. The F10 Committee of Ministers of Finance were asked to address the concerns raised by Member States facing challenges in meeting their obligations.

The African Union at Work

Wynne Musabayana

Many newspaper columns and broadcast minutes have been dedicated to analysing what difference the AU had made to the lives of ordinary Africans. In other words, why does the AU matter?

Those within the Commission and close watchers of African development will have appreciated the great work that was done, especially in the context of an ever changing world and ever present challenges, especially the quest for equitable development, capacity and capability development, conflict, poverty and hunger, efficient exploitation of the continents' human and material resources, mainstreaming of youth and women etc.

Perhaps the biggest achievement of the Commission in the past four years, and one that was heralded by continental leaders at the Union's January 2017 summit, was the formulation of Agenda 2063. Encapsulating the aspirations of Africans and taking

lessons from the past and present, as well as most of the major development frameworks at national, regional and continental level, Agenda 2063 lays out a framework for the continent's development over a period of 50 years from 2013 to 2063. Its first ten year implementation plan is currently being domesticated and popularized among all 55 AU member states.

The agenda aims to help Africa achieve 'the Africa we want' as captured in the AU vision of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena.

The past four years have seen a strengthening in the Commission's capacity to monitor and observe elections across the continent, thereby strengthening democracy. In 2016, 18 elections were held in Africa. They were observed by the AU in



Angolans line up to vote in an AU monitored election

Photo AUC



AU health volunteer Dr. Ssentamu presenting a certificate of discharge to an Ebola survivor in Liberia in 2014

Photo AUC

accordance with the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.

In terms of conflict prevention, towards the end of 2016 and into 2017, the African Union worked successfully with ECOWAS and the United Nations to reach a peaceful resolution to the political situation in The Gambia. In order to assist a peaceful and orderly transition and transfer of power and the establishment of a new government, the three institutions agreed that former President Jammeh would temporarily leave The Gambia on 21 January 2017, without any prejudice to his rights as a citizen, a former President and a political party Leader.

In the fight against impunity, a guilty verdict was delivered in May 2016, in the Hissen Habre trial, by the African Extraordinary chamber, established between the AU and Senegal, to prosecute persons most responsible for international crimes committed in Chad between 1982 and 1990. The chamber has since upheld the life imprisonment sentence passed on Mr. Habré.

The AU's involvement in Somalia shows how the AU is working to silence the guns, a key project of Agenda 2063. Significant gains having been made

against Al Shabaab by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). The Commission has also recently published the Africa Peace and Security Architecture Roadmap 2016–2020, which paves the way for future collaboration between the AU, the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms, to effectively address security issues and contribute to a more peaceful Africa.

The mainstreaming of women and youth in Africa's social, cultural and economic spheres is a defining contribution of the Commission to Africa's development. It has come up with a gender score card, a tool through which member states can report on their progress. Within Agenda 2063, the Commission is also pursuing various programmes such as relegating the handheld hoe to the dustbin by 2020, a campaign meant to expedite the adoption of mechanized agriculture and free women to pursue other development work.

The AU has seen advances in developing the human resource base through the Pan African University that has so far graduated 275 students at post graduate level, through its 4 centres around the continent.

From 2014 to 2016, the African Union led the fight against the Ebola Virus Disease that affected some parts of the continent and killed over 11 000 Africans. Through the interventions and advocacy of the African Union Commission, 855 highly qualified African health workers were sent into the worst affected countries. The fight against Ebola gave impetus to the formation of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, or Africa CDC – a specialised technical institution with a vision for a safer, healthier, integrated and prosperous Africa in which Member States can prevent and detect disease and respond together to public health crises.

The Commission has also invested heavily in promoting integration, a major pillar of the AU. Indeed, some say it is the *raison d'être* of the Union. One of the major steps forward was on free movement of people. In January 2016, the Union took a decision to encourage a 30 day visa on arrival policy for all citizens from Africa and to launch the African passport. In 2016 alone, 4 countries i.e. Ghana, Benin, Togo and Namibia, joined the movement to offer either visa free access or visas

on arrival. Countries such as Rwanda, have started to register an increase in tourism from other African countries. In a related development, the African Union passport was launched at the AU summit in Kigali in July 2016, and a process to convert this into an e passport has started with the International Civil Aviation Authority.

The African Internet Exchange System project aims to promote keeping of intra-Africa's internet traffic within the continent by supporting the establishment of National Internet Exchange Points and Regional Internet Exchange Points in Africa. Through this project, AU Member States with internet exchange points (IXPs) have increased from eighteen to thirty two.

Within the Union, there are ongoing initiatives to strengthen its operations and performance. At the January 2017 summit, President Paul Kagame of Rwanda presented his report titled, "The Imperative to Strengthen our Union: Report on the Proposed Recommendations for the Institutional reform of the African Union"¹. His recommendations, which were adopted by the Assembly were summarized as follows:

- Focus on key priorities with continental scope;
- Realign African Union institutions in order to deliver on key priorities;
- Manage the African Union efficiently at both the political and operational levels;
- Finance the African Union ourselves and sustainably.

As a follow up, the AU convened a consultative meeting on the reforms on the 7th of May in Kigali.

In spite of these achievements however, there is still a long road ahead before the achievement of a prosperous, integrated and peaceful Africa, which is the vision of the AU. In this light, the Heads of State and Government dedicated a lot of their time during their two day Assembly meeting in January 2017, towards reviewing and offering

solutions to some of the most pressing issues. One universally agreed way of assisting the Union to tackle the challenges ahead is to implement the Assembly decision on financing the African Union. The initiative aims to provide an equitable and predictable source of financing for the Union; to provide reliable and predictable funding for continental peace and security through the Peace Fund; reduce dependency on partner funds for implementation of continental development and integration programmes and to relieve the pressure on national treasuries with respect to meeting national obligations for payment of assessed contributions of the Union².

Reference

- 1 See the report at http://www.gsdpp.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/image_tool/images/78/News/Final%20AU%20Reform%20Combined%20report_28012017.pdf
- 2 See article on "Financing of the African Union" on page 18

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18 elections were observed by the AU in 2016. In this picture a woman shows the cameras that she has just voted

Photo: AUC

Financing of the Union: By Africa, for Africa

It is important to note that some countries have already initiated action to implement. These include Kenya, Rwanda, Chad, Ethiopia and the Republic of Congo

What is Financing of the Union

Financing of the Union is a historic decision adopted by Heads of State and Government (HOSG) in a "Retreat on Financing of the Union" during the 27th African Union Summit held in Kigali, Rwanda in July 2016. The Decision directs all African Union Member States to implement a 0.2% levy on eligible imports to finance the African Union. The High Representative on the Peace Fund Dr. Donald Kaberuka presented comprehensive proposals on financing the Union including the Peace Fund.

The purpose of the decision is:

- I. To provide reliable and predictable funding for continental peace and security through the Peace Fund;
- II. To provide an equitable and predictable source of financing for the Union;
- III. To reduce dependency on partner funds for implementation of continental development and integration programs; and

IV. To relieve the pressure on national treasuries with respect to meeting national obligations for payment of assessed contributions of the Union

The decision will enter into operations for each Member State from January 2017. The above notwithstanding, it is important to note that some countries have already initiated action to implement. These include Kenya, Rwanda, Chad, Ethiopia and the Republic of Congo.

Why Introduce a Levy?

The continued and successful implementation of the Union's programmes requires adequate and predictable, sustainable funding. However under existing arrangements, the Union's budget continues to be underfunded by both the Member States and development partners.

On average, 67 percent of assessed contribution is collected annually from Member States. About 30 Member States default either partially or completely on average, annually. This creates a significant funding gap between planned budget and actual funding, which hinders effective delivery of the African Union's agenda.

How The 0.2% on Imports was Arrived at

In the search for a viable, equitable, sustainable and predictable source of financing the Union, the African Union Commission (AUC, working in close collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) undertook several simulations with different sources of funding in line with the original proposal from President Obasanjo. Several options were considered. These include surcharge on SMS, hospitality levy for hotels stays, levy on all air tickets to and from Africa and the levy on imports, among a basket of others.

The purpose of the decision on financing the African Union is:

- i. To provide reliable and predictable funding for continental peace and security through the Peace Fund;
- ii. To provide an equitable and predictable source of financing for the Union;
- iii. To reduce dependency on partner funds for implementation of continental development and integration programs; and
- iv. To relieve the pressure on national treasuries with respect to meeting national obligations for payment of assessed contributions of the Union

After a careful evaluation of the potential of all the options, the 0.2% came out as the most viable in the sense that it was doable; equitable in the sense that the rate was the same across all the countries; sustainable in the sense that it would be available over the short, medium and long term; predictable in the sense that one could assess the expected inflows from existing national data and also the AU could expect to receive funding on time once the scheme sets in.

The Utilization of the Levy

The levy is to be derived from 0.2 percent of the value of the eligible goods imported into a Member State from a non- Member State (therein stated as from outside the continent). The levy is applicable and is to be instituted in 2017 to finance 100% of the operational budget, 75% of the program budget and 25% of the budget of the peace support operations of the African Union, as well as any other expenditure of the Union that may be determined by the Assembly.

The Rationale of each Budget

1. Operational Budget

The operational budget is mainly to finance the cost of running the Union, its organs, specialized technical agencies, its representational offices and agencies across the world including the New Partnership for Africa's development (NEPAD) and the Africa peer review Mechanism (APRM). Expenditures cover administrative, utility, service delivery, investment and maintenance costs and statutory payments for all AU organs. Operational costs have amounted to around 110 million USD on average annually for the last five years and are financed exclusively by member states.

2. The Program budget

The programme budget of the Union covers the execution of programmes approved by the Assembly and can be broadly grouped as follows:

- a. Programmes of cross continental importance. These include the AU role in projects such as the Continental Free Trade Area
- b. Implementation of directives and decisions from summits as a mandatory prerogative and which

- quiet often requires financial resources
- c. Maintaining continental response readiness for emergencies either political (for instance the Mali, Burundi and CAR situations), or social aspects such as the outbreak of Ebola and other unforeseen emergencies.
 - d. Coordinating common positions on the international arena on matters sensitive to the development and social stability of the continent, such as climate change, migration and intercontinental partnerships.

3. The Peace Fund

The Peace Fund is established under Art 21 of the protocol establishing the Peace and Security Council of the AU to finance the AU's peace and security operations.

The Peace Fund covers operational activities: Mediation and Preventive Diplomacy, Institutional Capacity and Peace Support Operations.

The July 2016 Assembly decided that the Peace Fund would be endowed with \$325m in 2017, rising to a total of \$400m by 2020 from the 0.2% levy. The endowment represents a maximum amount that will be replenished annually as needed. The Peace Fund covers more than just the peace support operations. This endowment will enable the AU to fully finance mediation and preventive diplomacy activities, institutional readiness and capacity, maintain a crisis reserve facility as well as meet its commitment to finance 25% of its peace operations budget.

Will The Proposed Regional Contributions to the Peace Fund Create an Unfair Burden for some Regions

AU Heads of State and Government were keen to emphasise the importance of the AU regions and the fact that Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms (RMs) have often constituted the first line of response. To this end, the Peace Fund will also support regional responses to conflict and insecurity.

However, in recognition of the concerns raised by some Member States regarding burden-sharing, particularly in AU regions that have fewer Member States, the following 2017 transitional implementation approach is proposed:

- Member State contributions to the 2017 AU budget will be made in line with the existing scale of assessed contributions.
- Member States will remit their annual contributions to the AU Accounts held within their central banks or equivalent institutions.
- Member States' annual contributions will be transmitted to the AU thereafter.

The Application of the Levy

The taxable base of the AU import levy will be the value of eligible goods originating from a non-Member State imported into the territory of a Member State to be consumed in the Member State. The revenue collected under the import levy is then remitted in accordance with each Member

State's approved assessed contribution including the Peace Fund. Any surplus collected by Member States after the fulfillment of obligations under the assessed contribution are to be retained by the state while any deficits between the assessed contribution and revenues collected under AU import levy by a Member State shall be covered by the Member State.

The revenue collected under the import levy is then remitted in accordance with each Member State's approved assessed contribution including the Peace Fund. The Peace fund has been allocated three hundred and twenty five million US dollars (\$325,000,000) in 2017 expected to incrementally rise to four hundred million US dollars (\$400,000,000) in 2020. The Peace Fund will be distributed equally among the five AU regions as defined in the relevant instruments

What Constitutes Eligible Goods?

The AU import levy will apply to the Cost Insurance and Freight (CIF) value at the port of disembarkation for imports arriving by sea and road and the customs value at the airport of disembarkation for goods arriving by air. The criteria for exemption are contained in the draft guidelines on AU import levy adopted by the committee of 10 finance ministers and sent to all member states. In essence, the eligible goods at this point shall be determined by member states in line with national priorities. And while the taxable base targets the value of eligible goods originating from a non-Member State imported into the territory of a Member State, a few exemptions are made to the following:

- a) Goods originating from outside the territory of a Member State for home consumption in a Member State and re-exported to another Member State;

- b) Goods received as aid, gifts and non-repayable grants by a state or by legal entities constituted under public law and destined for charitable works recognized as being for the common good;
- c) Goods originating from non-Member States, imported as part of financing agreements with foreign partners, subject to a clause expressly exempting the said goods from any fiscal or para-fiscal levy;
- d) Goods imported by enterprises before the entry into operations of these guidelines;
- e) Goods on which the AU import levy has been previously paid.

How does The African Union access its Dues from Member States?

Each country will select the appropriate financial institution(s) or customs authority responsible for assessment and collection of the AU import levy. Once the revenue is collected as AU import levy, it is then deposited into an account opened in the name of the 'African Union' with the central, national or reserve bank of each Member State. Once the fiscal authorities give the authorization such accounts will be opened. The funds therein are then remitted to a designated bank account of the Union in accordance with each Member State's assessed contribution. The amount the AU can access from the national accounts shall however be limited to the assessed contributions for the financial year.

Does The 0.2% Levy Contradict International Norms?

The 0.2% levy is not in contradiction of other international agreements. Infact, the levy is not new, and variations of such levy are already being used by several regional organizations globally. In Africa, levies on imports are being used by ECOWAS, ECCAS and CEMAC and have proven reasonably effective. Such levies are ordinarily applied within the framework of customs unions and free trade areas and do not conflict with international norms. With the intended introduction of the Continental Free Trade Area in 2017, which will in essence include an Africa-wide customs union, such a levy therefore becomes possible and fully justifiable.

Accountability of The African Union Commission

For purposes of oversight, and in accordance with the AU Financial Rules and Regulations, the Commission is tasked with ensuring strong accountability mechanisms for the effective, transparent and prudent use of resources through stringent implementation of Executive Council and Assembly decisions in all its aspects on the establishment of external and internal controls. From the decision, the Commission was tasked with establishing a Committee of Ministers of Finance from the Member States; two per each of the five regions will be involved in the preparation, monitoring and evaluation of the annual budget of the Union. Further, the Commission is expected to report annually to the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Finance, Monetary Affairs,

Economic Planning and Integration on the progress of the implementation of the decision.

The Committee of Ten Ministers of Finance

The Committee of Ten Ministers of Finance, otherwise referred as the F10, was first convened in September 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The duties of the F10 are to:

1. Review and evaluate the annual budget of the African Union before submission to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union;
2. Propose implementation mechanisms of the current decision on financing the African Union (Import Levy) in particular;
3. Define a roadmap for the implementation of the decision;
4. Review the status of the implementation and compliance and adopt policies for enhancement;
5. Propose various resource mobilization strategies for the Union.

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention: Safeguarding Africa's Health

Wynne Musabayana

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) was established to support African countries in their efforts to address complex health challenges, and build the needed capacity. The Africa CDC, as an Africa-owned institution, provides a strong platform for technical coordination, strengthening public health systems and interventions across the continent, including enhancing the response to public health emergencies, outbreaks, and public health events of regional and international concern.

What are the strategic goals of the Africa CDC?

The Africa CDC will pursue the following strategic goals to strengthen the public health systems of member states:

- Surveillance and disease intelligence to address health emergencies in a timely and effective manner;
- Laboratory systems and networks;
- Innovative information systems;
- Pandemic preparedness;
- Public health institutes; and
- Public health research

Who owns the Africa CDC?

The Africa CDC is an Africa owned institution, making it uniquely positioned to help protect the health of the continent. Its establishment was endorsed in January 2015 by the African Union Heads of State and Government.

The Africa CDC's strongest asset is the trust it cultivates with its beneficiaries and stakeholders as a respected, evidence based institution. Member States will maintain ownership of the Africa CDC through an advisory role in the shaping of Africa CDC priorities and through direct programmatic engagement.

What will the Africa CDC do for me and my community?

The Africa CDC will work with ministries of health to respond to health emergencies and put into place systems that will protect Africa and people across the globe from health threats.

Although the Africa CDC will be headquartered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, there will be five regional collaborating centres across Africa. These collaborating



Africa CDC epidemiologists in a planning session at the AU

Photo: AUC

centres will connect to headquarters and provide “boots on the ground” across the continent through the national public health institutes to provide assistance and guidance.

What are the disease focus areas of the Africa CDC?

Africa CDC will support member states to build capacity to meet the International Health Regulation and Universal Health Coverage. In addition to supporting Member States in response to health emergencies like Ebola, the Africa CDC will promote health and disease prevention, including:

- Infectious diseases (HIV, Malaria, Tuberculosis, Yellow Fever, Cholera, Viral Haemorrhagic Fever, Neglected Tropical Diseases like Guinea worm, lymphatic filariasis, and rabies)
- Non-communicable diseases (cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and chronic lung illnesses), and
- Environmental health and Antimicrobial resistance.

How is the Africa CDC structured?

The structure of the Africa CDC consists of 1) a Governing Board, 2) an Advisory and Technical Council, 3) and a Secretariat.

Where are the offices of the Africa CDC?

The seat of the Africa CDC is at the Headquarters of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia until the Assembly decides otherwise

While the Africa CDC Coordinating Office in Addis Ababa has primary responsibility over the programs resulting from each strategic activity, Regional Collaborating Centres (RCC) will support the day-to-day execution of the Africa CDC strategic work plan. The vision for an Africa CDC composed of Regional Collaborating Centres is an “Africa CDC without walls” that supports the continent at the point of need, rather than from a centralized, distant location.

The five Regional Collaborating Centres are in Egypt

(North), Nigeria (West), Kenya (East), Gabon (Central) and Zambia (Southern).

How will the Africa CDC help Africa respond to future public health threats?

The Africa CDC Surveillance and Response Unit (ASRU) is designed to have primary responsibility to conduct Event Based Surveillance (EBS). The Africa CDC also has a functional Emergency Operations Centre in Addis Ababa.

EBS is an active surveillance mechanism to detect signals that may represent a threat to human health at the earliest possible stage using unstructured, informal sources outside of the official health sector. The EBS approach represents a new and complementary direction for the continent. EBS can enhance the traditional indicator-based surveillance or disease reporting systems (DRS) within each Member State.

Building on the success of the African Union Support for the Ebola Outbreak in West Africa mission deployments (ASEOWA), the Africa CDC will compile and maintain a reserve roster of qualified professionals across the continent who are prepared to respond to emergent needs. The Africa CDC will build capacity of Member States to develop or implement their own PHEPR plans; for example, these plans should promote policies and activities that will prevent public health emergencies from occurring. The Africa CDC could also provide comprehensive training and technical assistance during non-emergency periods so that countries are familiar with incident management principles and identify persons ready to assume those roles during crisis times.

How does the Africa CDC work with the World Health Organisation, other CDCs and public health institutes around the world?

The Africa CDC is connected into the international networks of public health institutes to share information and improve surveillance of public health threats.

How is the Africa CDC funded?

The African Union Assembly (June 2015) adopted the creation of an Africa CDC Fund composed of the following:

- Contributions from the African Union’s annual operational budget
- Voluntary contributions and donations from Member States
- Financial support from the African private sector
- Financial support from development partners

What are the major milestones of the Africa CDC to date?

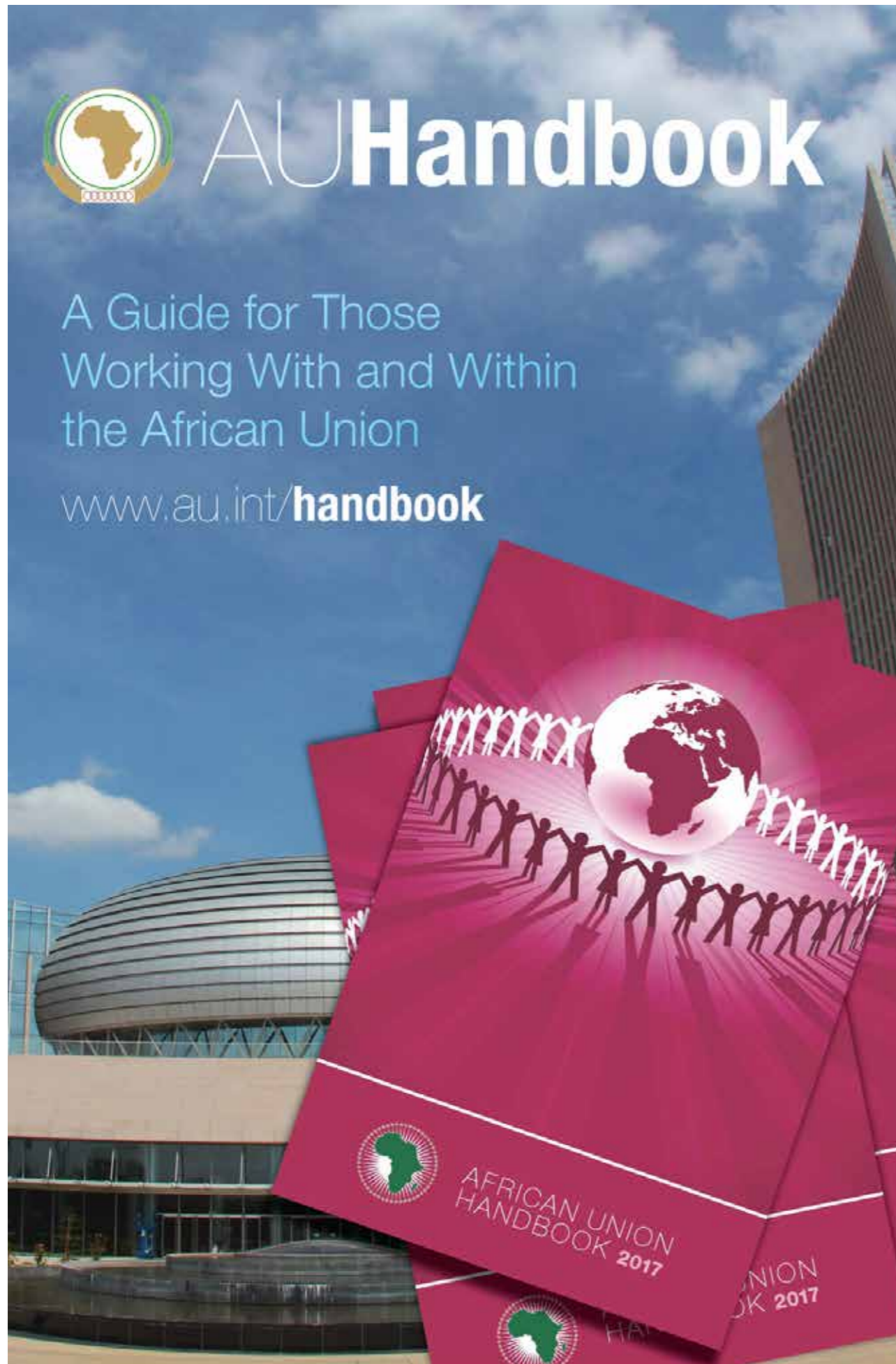
- Africa CDC was launched on January 31st 2017
- A symposium to launch the Strategic plan was undertaken in March 2017
- A partnership meeting to operationalise the African Health Volunteer Corps (AVoHC) was undertaken in February 2017

- A workshop to develop event-based surveillance framework was held in May 2017
- The Africa CDC is supporting Member States experiencing the following outbreaks: Lassa fever and Meningitis in Nigeria, Malaria in Namibia and Mozambique, Cholera in Ethiopia and Ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- The Africa CDC is also working with the WHO and the Africa Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM) to support the Member States in laboratory quality improvement toward accreditation

Where can I get more information about Africa CDC?

Africa CDC website: <http://africacdc.au.int>
Twitter at @AfricaCDC

Africa CDC. Safeguarding Africa's Health



Dr. Tedros Adhanom is appointed as first Director-General of the World Health Organisation from Africa

Ebba Kalondo



File photo of Dr Tedros Adhanom celebrating 50 years of the OAU in 2013

Photo: AUC

On the 23rd of May Dr Tedros Adhanom was elected as the first ever Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO) from the African region. African Union Commission Chairperson H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, conveyed the African Union's (AU) congratulations on the same day.

"The world has chosen a consummate global health statesman with a strong track record of embedding global public health and health security as a vital cornerstone of human development," said the AUC Chairperson.

Dr Adhanom, who hails from Ethiopia and was the AU endorsed candidate for the post, emerged victorious

in a tough election against two strong candidates; Dr Sania Nishtar from Pakistan and Dr David Nabarro from the United Kingdom.

While serving as Chair of the Executive Council of the AU, Dr Adhanom was at the helm of drafting Agenda 2063, which represents the strategic framework guiding Africa's development priorities, (<http://www.au.int/web/agenda2063>).

H.E. Moussa Faki wished Dr Tedros a successful tenure at the helm of WHO, robustly working towards a better, healthier future for all people around the globe. The AU Commission affirmed its support of Dr Tedros' priorities, which include WHO reform; universal health coverage; health security; women, child and adolescent health; and the focus on the health impact of climate and environmental change.

The AU Commission Chairperson also thanked African Ministers of health for their united and steadfast support for Dr Tedros during the campaign.

When Africa speaks with one voice, she wins.

Ebba Kalondo is Spoksperson in the Bureau of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

Youth Bulge in Tanzania: Towards Investing in Young People to Harness the Demographic Dividend

Colman T. Msoka

“...As fertility rates fall during the demographic transition, if countries act wisely before and during the transition, a special window opens up for faster economic growth and human development”

Ross, J. (2004).

Introduction

The number of youth in Tanzania is steadily bulging as a result of achievements in the area of mortality decline. This presents both an asset and a liability. They are assets because they can be exploited; and a liability if not exploited. Tanzania has developed



Tanzania is strategically prepared to take advantage of demographic transition which is unfolding in the country

two key strategies to take advantage of the emerging demographic transition as a result of a decline in mortality. The first strategy is to invest in the bulging youth group directly, for them to contribute effectively to the economy. The second strategy is to open opportunities for youth to remain meaningfully engaged. The point is, when the two strategies coincide, the country would be able to harness more from the demographic dividend which is in its infant stages in Tanzania.

Youth in Tanzania make up 59% of the active labour force in the country, which is a substantial sizeⁱ. Within the next two decades, more youth will join the active labour force. Although Tanzania is experiencing a mortality decline, it lags behind in fertility decline, hence a distant demographic dividend which calls for a need to invest heavily in family planning programs and education, in order to lower fertility to increase the benefits of the demographic dividendⁱⁱ. This gap provides a window of making solid preparations.

Demographic dividend accrues to a country when the share of the working population has grown bigger than the proportion of the dependent children in the total populationⁱⁱⁱ. This dividend is set to accelerate economic growth of the country due to the resources gained for a limited period. The contribution of the active population is substantial in the economy and allows critical growth leaps.

Stimulants of the demographic dividend

The demographic dividend is stimulated by the onset of two major processes in the general population namely, fertility and mortality decline^{iv}. Fertility decline can be stimulated by child mortality decline when survival chances of infants and the under-fives increase sharply. A sufficient fertility decline that stimulates demographic dividend should leave the proportion of working youth bigger than the dependent children hence a youth bulge. In economic terms, this decline creates savings in resource and time which would have been used to support the now absent children in the form of health services, education, food, shelter and basic needs. The saved resources should then be put into economically productive investments to expedite the process of economic growth. Equally, as a result of a small family, the amount of resources available for investment in education per child increases. Further, due to fertility decline, there is a saving in time retrieved from nursing pregnancies and children. Simultaneously, women have better health and therefore more time to participate in productive economic activities for the family and the nation.

Mortality decline implies that people live longer and have more time to productively contribute to the economy. When individuals live for 75 years or more, they are able to actively contribute about 40-45 years of work. Such an extended period of active work helps to boost the economy. When people die too young, it is expensive to the economy since they have neither paid back what was invested in them nor contributed enough into the economy. Mortality declines in Tanzania are associated with

investments made in the health sector^v.

Achievements in mortality decline are associated with morbidity decline, implying that time and resource are saved in caring for the sick. These are translated into productive time and resources in the economy. Thus, mortality and fertility decline opens a window of economic growth. However, the growth of the economy will very much depend on how the country has aligned its success factors.

What is Tanzania doing?

Tanzania is aware of the onset of the demographic transition led by mortality and fertility declines, and it is aligning its policies and programs to expedite and harness the benefits of the unfolding demographic transition. A number of steps have been taken by the government.

Invest to develop human resource

The fifth phase government has consolidated the initiatives of primary and secondary education development and is offering free education to all public primary and secondary school students in the country^{vi}. This is aimed at making sure that young people are able to attend school and gain the necessary skills required in the economy. Further, the government is investing to build more classrooms, school laboratories and other support infrastructure to allow students to study

Looking at the policies and strategies in place, Tanzania is strategically prepared to take advantage of the demographic transition which is unfolding in the country

efficiently^{vii}. The education improvement initiative has double benefits, since education contributes to fertility and mortality declines and it makes the country more competitive in the global knowledge economy.

Along the same line, the government is strengthening higher education to expand the number of tertiary graduates. Apart from building new universities¹, it has allocated more resources to the Higher Education Student Loan Board so that more students can finance their college education². Furthermore, a bold campaign has been launched to promote loan repayment by former beneficiaries, in order to allow more students to access funds for their studies. Good tertiary education would empower young Tanzanians with knowledge and skills required in the economy, which will boost the economic growth spurred by the onset of the demographic transition. Individuals with higher education would be able to access high paying jobs and increase their upward mobility in the society; trends associated with further fertility and mortality decline^{viii}.

Skills development initiative

The government is implementing a new skills improvement program which is aimed at boosting youth skills so that they can contribute more to the economy. The Education and Skills for Productive Jobs (ESPJ) Program will see about 30,000 youth trained in select sectors^{ix}. This program will close the gap in the mismatch between labour demands, labour supply and skills shortage in the job market.

Investments for job creation

Youth unemployment is a problem in Tanzania and if it is not strategically attended to, it would wipe out the benefits of demographic dividend. Incidences of 8,000 or more interviewees contesting for less

than 100 vacant positions are not rare in Tanzania^x. The government is attracting and encouraging the development of small and large scale enterprises so as to create employment opportunities which would take advantage of the bulging active labour force^{xi}. District level leaders are responsible for identifying existing economic opportunities and develop programs to enable young people to exploit them. Enterprises have forward and backward linkages in the economy and hence will further open and stimulate opportunities in different sectors of the economy such as agriculture, mining, forestry, fishing and the service sector. Combined, more opportunities would be created for the youth in the economy^{xii}.

Youth development funds

The government has set aside resources to be used as youth development funds to solve the problem of shortage of start-up capital. Some areas have opportunities in agriculture, trade and the service sector but youths are not able to use them due to shortage of capital. The government has put in place a policy where all local government authorities, rural and urban, have to set aside 5% of their internal revenue as a loan fund to Youth Economic Groups (YEGs).

Besides government funds, there are resources for youth from private foundations and Corporate Social Responsibility programs (CSR). To access these funds, youths have to form YEGs and register with the local authorities. This strategy is aimed at making sure that more youth are able to benefit from the revolving funds.

In 2012, the government started, the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB). Among the objectives of the bank is: transformation of agriculture from subsistence to commercial in order to effectively and sustainably contribute to economic growth and poverty reduction. The bank provides loans to Youth Economic Groups which are strategically positioned to engage in agricultural projects. As a support, the bank offers training to

such groups so that they can use loans to advance their agricultural projects. The initiative by the TADB is an addition to other initiatives by development finance institutions, commercial banks and micro finance institutions which have active programs supporting youth initiatives.

Arts and sports for development

The government has recognized youth development opportunities which are rooted in arts and sports and if fully exploited, would make a contribution in the economy. The government has pinpointed this as a priority area under the Ministry of Information, Culture, Artists and Sports with a new department of Arts Development^{xiii}. The goal is to highlight the role which arts and sports can play in solving youth problems and in particular, unemployment. Arts and sports is a sector which has the potential to employ a good number of young people but it has not been fully exploited. The Ministry is set to see that young men and women in these sectors are not left out and there is a favourable environment for them to grow. Growth of arts and sports would have a multiplier effect in the economy, and hence contribute to further economic growth.

Mainstreaming youth in governance for development

Besides direct initiatives of investing and

supporting youth in Tanzania, the government has purposely mainstreamed youths in government administration. Young people have been appointed into various positions of leadership at the local and central government levels as a way of recognizing and appreciating what they are doing. These would serve as a role model to others too and they will have someone who can speak with them in their own language. Having youths in the central and local government leadership helps to unite the country, and has the potential of unleashing the energies of youth in various sectors to work hard and further contribute to economic growth.

Conclusion

Looking at the policies and strategies in place, Tanzania is strategically prepared to take advantage of the demographic transition which is unfolding in the country. The government is fully aware of this and it is keen not to waste the opportunity. The decision to invest in education and skills development is a sustainable one because in the long run, the country needs a skilled and competent labour force. The approach of Tanzania is similar to what newly industrializing countries are leaning on. With good implementation, the country is set to harness the benefits of the demographic dividend.

- i. See URT. (2016). Budget Speech 2016/2017. Office of the Prime Minister
- ii. See Oucho, J.O. And Mtatifikolo, F. P. (2009). Analysis of Population Dynamics and Poverty Reduction in the United Republic of Tanzania in the Context of MKUKUTA and MKUZA. Final Report.
- iii. See Westley, S.B. (2012). Lower-Income Countries and the Demographic Dividend. National Transfer Accounts Bulletin . December 2012 Number 5
- iv. See Ross, J. (2004). Understanding the Demographic Dividend, POLICY Project, Washington, DC Futures Group One Thomas Circle, NW, Suite 200.
- v. See Croke K.2012. Governance and Child Mortality Decline in Tanzania and Uganda, 1995-2007. Studies in Comparative International Development. 47 (4):441-463.
- vi. See URT. (2016). Budget Speech 2016/2017. Office of the Prime Minister.
- vii. See URT (2010). Education Sector Development Programme. Secondary Education Development Programme II. Dar es Salaam (July 2010 – June 2015). Final Report.
- viii. See African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) (2014). Opportunities for Harnessing the Demographic Dividend in Tanzania. Research Brief. AFIDEP
- ix. See World Bank (2016). Press Release: New Skills Development Program to Improve Employment Prospects for 30,000 Tanzanian Youth, Washing DC. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2016/06/16/new-skills-development-program-to-improve-employment-prospects-for-30000-tanzanian-youth> retrieved January 27, 2017
- x. Along the same line, the government is fighting corruption and cracking ghost workers in civil service which in effect are obstructing young graduates from getting jobs. Close to 20,000 ghost workers have been identified and taken out of civil service registers.
- xi. See URT. (2016). Budget Speech 2016/2017. Ministry of Finance and Planning
- xii. See URT. (2016). Budget Speech 2016/2017. Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment
- xiii. See URT. (2016). Budget Speech 2016/2017. Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports.

1 Besides the newly created University of Dodoma, the Government is finalizing another University, The Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere University of Agriculture and Technology (MJNUAT).

2 Student loan for Diploma studies is a new addition which was not applicable in the past. Minister of Education 20th January 2017

Harnessing the Demographic Dividend of Youth: A Case Study of Kenya

Nicholas Ruto¹ & Maulline Gragau²

Abstract

On March 29, 2015, African ministers and development partners converged in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to discuss how the continent can harness the demographic dividend and achieve the goals of Agenda 2063 through investing in quality education, health, job creation, entrepreneurial skills of young people and empowerment of women and girls. The leaders called on the United Nations' member states to adopt policies that will translate the youth bulge into demographic dividends.

Some of these policies and strategies include strengthening entrepreneurial skills and capacity; increasing youth's access to financial services; promoting decent and well-paid jobs; increasing access to business advisory services and credit facilities; promoting participation in decision-making processes; and supporting the African Union initiative to create a continental framework on demographic dividend.

Dr. Eliya Zulu, Executive Director of the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP)³, made a technical presentation that provided key facts and data on the Africa population structure, and highlighted what is required to realise the demographic dividend. Since 2013, several countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have embarked on initiatives to work out the details of what harnessing this potential entails for both investments and policy focus. In so doing, they have begun to translate these continental commitments into concrete actions, linked to their own visions and towards Agenda 2063.

This paper mainly analyses the programmes and policies that Kenya is putting in place on its path to realise the demographic dividend. We have chosen Kenya for the case study primarily because of its mushrooming population which presents an extraordinary opportunity and several challenges. The opportunity lies in the potential for a demographic dividend of sustained rapid economic growth. There is reason for optimism that Kenya can benefit from a demographic dividend within 15 to 20 years⁴. It is estimated that Kenya's working age population will grow to 73 percent by year 2050, potentially bolstering the country's GDP per capita to 12 times higher than the present, with nearly 90 percent of the working age in employment.⁵

Introduction

The demographic dividend describes the interplay between changes in a population's age structure due to the demographic transition and rapid economic growth⁶. Declines in child mortality, followed by declines in fertility, produce a "bulge" generation and a period when a country has a large number of working-age people and a smaller number of dependents. Having a large number of workers per capita gives a boost to the economy provided there are labour opportunities for the workers.

More important for a sizable dividend however, are changes in worker productivity. Smaller family sizes mean that both families and governments have more resources to invest in health and education per child. It also means that women are more able to join the labour force. If the economic environment

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⁴ Dr Josephine Kibaru-Mbae & Siddharth Chatterjee: With Kenya's youth, the future is here: Invest to reap demographic benefits – Available at <<http://kenya.unfpa.org/news/kenya%E2%80%99s-youth-future-here-invest-reap-demographic-benefits#sthash.qhbdokde.dpuf>> Accessed 21 February 2017

⁵ NCPD (2014) 'Demographic dividend opportunities for Kenya'. NCPD Policy Brief No.44. Nairobi: National Council for Population and Development

⁶ Canning, David J.; Jobanputra, Sangeeta Raja; Yazbeck, Abdo S. (2015) Africa's demographic transition : dividend or disaster?



In 2015, Kenya announced plans to create more job opportunities for the country's unemployed youth population by giving fresh graduates a tax rebate

is conducive, and this large and well-educated group finds well-paying jobs, a first dividend comes as this productivity not only boosts family but also national income. Longer life spans mean that this large, better-earning group will also want to save for retirement. And with the right policies and a well-developed financial sector, a second dividend can come from higher savings and investments, leading to further productivity gains.

Kenya's potential demographic dividend

Background

The Republic of Kenya, is a country in Africa and a founding member of the East African Community (EAC). Its capital and largest city is Nairobi. Kenya's territory lies on the equator and overlies the East African Rift, covering a diverse

and expansive terrain that extends roughly from Lake Victoria to Lake Turkana (formerly called Lake Rudolf) and further south-east to the Indian Ocean. It is bordered by Tanzania to the south and southwest, Uganda to the west, South Sudan to the north-west, Ethiopia to the north and Somalia to the north-east.⁷ Kenya covers 581,309 km² (224,445 sq mi), and has a population of approximately 48 million people.

Kenya is classified as a lower-middle income country. With a 2013 gross domestic product (GDP) of USD53.4 billion and per capita income of USD1 246, the country is ranked the ninth largest economy in Africa and the fourth in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). Presently, Kenya is the dominant economy in the East African Community (EAC) and the primary source of foreign direct investment (FDI) for some of the countries within the community. In the recent years, Kenya has made major progress in financial deepening and financial inclusion. Increasingly,

⁷ Central Intelligence Agency (2012) "Kenya"

Kenya is well on its way to creating an economic environment where the educated youth will find well-paying jobs

Kenya has become a centre of innovation especially in mobile phone-based financial services such as M-Pesa, M-Shwari and M-Kesho⁸, whose growth and employment opportunities have ignited economic growth in the economy. Despite the country's youthful population which positions it to reap the population dividend, Kenya's future growth faces several pitfalls even with the above set of opportunities. Although the country has recorded high rates of economic growth, poverty, joblessness and inequality among the youth also remain high and pose threats not only to sustained growth but also to stability.

Kenya has been disadvantaged by a rapid population growth⁹. Up to the 1980s, Kenya had one of the most rapid population growth rates in the world. In the 1990s, the average population growth rate was 2.9 per cent, declining to about 2.7 per cent in the new millennium. World Bank statistics show that the population aged 0–14 years, 15–34 years, and 35–64 years has been on an increasing trend since 1960 while the population aged 65 years and above has stagnated.¹⁰ The

population aged 0–14 years continues to remain higher than the other age groups, followed by the youth population (ages 15–34 years) and those aged 35–64 years. This trend indicates that Kenya is likely to experience a youth bulge as more of those aged 0–14 years move into the youth age group. In 2014, the population aged 0–14 years stood at 19.1 million while that aged 15–34 years stood at about 16.1 million. The population aged 35–64 years stood at about 8.9 million. On the other hand, the population aged 65 years and above has remained at below 3 per cent of the total population since 1981 with the 2014 figure being 1.2 million.¹¹

It is also worth noting that Kenya has witnessed declining fertility rates from eight births per woman in the 1960s to seven births per woman in the 1980s, and finally to 4.4 births per woman in 2013. In 2014, Kenya had a 46 per cent contraceptive prevalence rate (all methods) and a fertility rate of 4.6 children per woman.¹² The crude mortality rate has also declined from 20 per 1,000 people in 1960 to 8 per 1,000 people in 2013.¹³ Consequently, the life expectancy has improved from 46.4 years in 1960 to 61.7 years in 2013. With the increase in share of the working age population which has accelerated since 1993 from 49.8 per cent of the total population to 55.1 per cent in 2013, these trends indicate that demographic transition has taken effect in Kenya. This sets the country on the path to realization of demographic dividend if other contributing factors are adequately provided for.

The DemDiv Model

The DemDiv is a modelling tool that was developed by the USAID-funded Health Policy Project (HPP) that projects the potential demographic dividend

for a country based on interacting policy changes in the family planning, education, and economic sectors. The DemDiv model was piloted in Kenya by a multi-sectoral Technical Working Group chaired by the National Council for Population and Development. The model shows that a combined scenario of investments in family planning, education, and economic policies would provide the greatest benefits to Kenya.

The sustained increase in GDP per capita since 2008, after the post-election violence, is an indication that the prospects of Kenya reaping demographic dividend by 2050 is real with an improved political and economic framework. According to DemDiv, Kenya will benefit from demographic dividend by 2050 if the institutional qualities alluded to herein are implemented. The model integrates key elements needed for Kenya to achieve the demographic dividend that include family planning, education, and economic policies especially on financial efficiency, information and communications technology (ICT) use, imports, labour flexibility, and public institutions. The model presents a base scenario with no investment in family planning and a combined scenario of investments in family planning, education, and economic policies.

In the base scenario, with no investments in family planning, the fertility rate would be the same in 2050 as it is today - more than four children per woman. Kenya's age structure would remain very young and will be dominated by dependents. In contrast, the combined scenario, which includes increased use of family planning, produces a youth bulge, which moves into the working age years in 2050. An increase in healthy, educated, and productive working age population will put Kenya on the path to realization of a demographic dividend.¹⁴

Realising the Potential Demographic Dividend in Kenya

At present, Kenya has put in place affirmative action policies by setting aside certain portions of procurement as well as empowering the youth through youth funds. It has also set up programmes such as the Kenya National Family Planning Program¹⁵ increasing access to family planning and preventing unintended pregnancies, leading to fewer births. Reductions in fertility coupled with child and maternal mortality declines have resulted in greater power for women to make decisions about how many children they want to have and how to raise them. As they stop spending their most productive years bearing and raising children, they have been able to join the workforce and contribute to economic production.

The Kenyan government has also invested in educating the youth through various projects such as the Digital Literacy Programme (DLP) in primary schools which was part of the government's pre-election manifesto.¹⁶ In the 2015/2016 budget, National Treasury Cabinet Secretary Henry Rotich announced the government's plan to create more job opportunities for the country's unemployed youth population by giving fresh graduates a tax rebate. The move would also enable companies to claim tax rebates by paying a lower corporate tax. For companies to qualify for a tax break, the companies would have to hire at least ten recent graduates for at least one year. The rebate is to apply in the year subsequent to the year of such engagement. This move will enable the youth to

8 It is a mobile phone-based money transfer, financing and microfinancing service, launched in 2007 by Vodafone for Safaricom and Vodacom, the largest mobile network operators in Kenya and Tanzania

9 Mwega, F.M., and N.S. Ndung'u (2008). 'Explaining African Economic Growth Performance: The Case of Kenya'. In B.J. Ndulu, S.A. O'Connell, J.-P. Azam, R.H. Bates, A.K. Fosu, J.W. Gunning, and D. Njikeu (eds), *The Political Economy of Economic Growth in Africa, 1960–2000. Volume 2: Country Case Studies*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

10 Mwangi S. Kimenyi, Francis M. Mwega, and Njuguna S. Ndung'u "The African Lions Kenya country case study" WIDER Working Paper 2015/134

11 See note 7 above, page 8

12 Republic of Kenya (2014). 'Demographic Dividend Opportunities for Kenya: Results from the DemDiv Model'. Policy Brief, July 2014. Nairobi, Kenya: National Council for Population and Development, and Health Policy Project

13 See Note 3 above.

14 Republic of Kenya (2014) Policy Brief on How Demographic Change can spur development in Kenya

15 Kenya National Family Planning Program Costed Implementation Plan (2012–2016) which aims to increase access and improve quality, efficiency, and effectiveness of the Family Planning services offered at all levels

16 "Its' all systems go for Kenya's Digital Learning Project as devices arrive from China" Available at <<http://www.iafrican.com/2016/10/04/kenya-lap-top-project/>> Accessed on 24th February 2017

Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth

Onuwa Godfrey Chiabuotu

acquire appropriate skills and participate in the economy by providing relevant expertise.¹⁷ In addition, studies have shown that girls' education, particularly at the secondary school level, and empowerment, will delay early marriage and slow adolescent stage. Cultural, social and economic barriers that hinder empowerment of girls and women should be addressed.

Women are half of Kenya's population; if they are given the right tools and community support, they will not only become financially independent, but also become the engines that will drive Kenya's economy.

Kenya is also well on its way to creating an economic environment where the educated youth will find well-paying jobs. It has created economic policies which target job creation in areas that have potential for longer term returns such as technical and vocational education centres. The government through the Ministry of Science and Technology offers scholarships for young people to train in technical and vocational courses which ensure that young people, both boys and girls, no longer remain passive beneficiaries of development but become equal and effective partners of development.

Conclusion

The demographic transitions experienced over the years have put Kenya on the path to reaping the demographic dividend. If the country continues to put in place more measures to enhance institutional quality and provide productive employment opportunities to the large working population, Kenya is likely to realize her demographic dividend even before 2050.

¹⁷ <<http://www.businessdailyafrica.com/Tax-rebate-for-10-interns-as-new-jobs-plan-kicks-off-/539546-3280024-gilt1fz/index.html>> Accessed on 25th February 2017



Skills acquisition is important for the effective utilization of the youth for economic growth and development

Introduction

Generally, economic development strategies differ among countries and tend to be centered on the dominant resource endowment of the particular country. Traditional development models emphasized the effective combination of physical factors of production including land, labour and capital as important catalysts of economic growth. However, the recent surge in growth in most emerging markets indicate that growth could be primarily driven by innovation or factor efficiency – through research or improved productivity; which is principally facilitated by human capital development.

Human capital has come to take centre stage as a principal driver of economic growth and development (Oviawe, 2010). There are numerous examples of innovation driven growth in many advanced economies including emerging economies like India, China, Brazil and South Korea. African economies on the other hand, have generally enhanced economic growth through factor intensity rather than through factor efficiency, technology and innovation (Oviawe, 2010). Development strategies in Africa have centered on the major natural resource endowment of the particular country – mostly depleting export primary commodities or raw materials. The shortcomings of this approach are clear. The resource base is finite, value added is insignificant, and commodity prices are in the most part highly volatile and exogenous, such that that the continent is a price taker. The implication of this has been a slower and less efficient pace of growth with widening income inequality and increasing impoverishment of the larger population.

To unlock Africa's growth potential, investment in human capital development, particularly the youth is very key. The youth constitute a significant proportion of the entire labour force; however, skills acquisition is important for the effective utilization of the youth for economic growth and

development. African economies have evidently underperformed in terms of investing in youth to support economic development. The existence of public institutions that support the cause of youth development is therefore mere political rhetoric (Sanusi, 2012).

Forms and Benefits of Investment in Youth

Investing in youth involves strategies aimed at building both their skills and capacities, and providing them with opportunities that enable them to effectively engage in society. Such investment provides an opportunity to achieve economic and social goals, as it implies the regeneration of human and social capital. Investing in youth should start early and remain continuous, since human capital needs permanent upgrading over time.

Education is a major priority in the development of the youth. Early education is the first issue which

requires investment if the best development chances are to be given to all children to seize future opportunities. This is because studies have shown that the level of education attained by individuals determine their level of exposure to poverty, and the extent to which they contribute to economic growth. Education transforms an individual's values, beliefs and behavior and generally enhances his/her attitude, thus making them more productive. The personal development of youth, along with the development of the immediate local community and the country at large, is linked to the quality of education that is availed. Education is the single most important factor contributing to the ability of young people to live a productive and responsible life. Investing in youth also involves informal education, which is considered a positive, efficient and attractive complement to formal education. This includes technical and vocational education with renewed emphasis on life-long learning schemes.

Another form of investing in youth is in their health. Sound health not only improves productivity but

also increases the supply of labour in the market. Therefore, the healthier the youth population, the more productive the workforce. Productivity could increase directly due to enhanced physical and mental activity, which could be reinforced by the efficient use of technology, machinery or equipment. Also the discretionary time of youth should be devoted to positive skill-building activities such as participation in sports. Sport helps to sustain the health of the people, provides a useful avenue to channel the physical energies of youth and creates an atmosphere for relaxation.

Expenditure on education is relatively low in Nigeria. A comparative analysis of the expenditure on education at various levels of development between 2004 and 2009, reveals that only 7% of total government budgetary allocation went to education in the period 2004-2009, compared to 16% in Togo, 18% in Cameroon, 17% in Benin Republic and 23% in Cote d' Ivore. Available information by the National Universities Commission (NUC) (2004) highlights the massive unemployment of Nigerian university graduates in the country. This problem is said to be traceable to the disequilibrium between labour market requirements and lack of essential employable skills by graduates.

A paper presented at the Fifth African Development Forum (2006) identified other challenges to include the following:

- i. Lack of a policy framework with specific benchmarks that reflect challenges of youth;
- ii. Weak design and implementation of youth capacity building activities;
- iii. Absence of youth participation in policy design;
- iv. Corruption, resulting in diversion of resources meant for youth programmes by stakeholders for personal use;
- v. Political instability which has affected continuity of youth policies, shifting government attention from youth to other sectors;
- vi. Lack of monitoring and evaluation machinery in place to ensure implementation of youth policies;

- vii. Neglect of rural areas which account for over 60% of the population;
- viii. Poor youth policies which are usually targeted at single sector issues mainly focusing on education cum vocational training and employment generation, neglecting other important areas like health, sports etc.;
- ix. Absence of reform machinery for policies that have not worked and lack of engagement of relevant stakeholders including parents, teachers and local entrepreneurs.

The Nigerian Experience

Nigeria like most developing nations of the world is faced with a myriad of developmental challenges. The recognition of the importance of investment in youth has led the various tiers of government in Nigeria to channel resources for the development of this segment of the society. Government efforts in this regard have also been complemented by private sector efforts and initiatives. Analysis of school enrolment, which is indicative of the primary level of investment in the development of youth, showed that there has been an expansion in the number of educational institutions. However,

Experience worldwide has shown that no nation has achieved technological and socio-political advancement where less than 15% of its qualified young citizens have access to tertiary education



Entrepreneurship should be taught from an early age

available information revealed the inadequacy of existing institutions to cope with the demand for education by Nigerian youth.

For example, data from the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) showed that of the 1,046,940 applications into Nigerian Universities in 2003/2004, only 107,860 (amounting to 10.3%) were successful. In 2004/2005, out of 838,051, only 122,496 (14.6%) were admitted. In 2005/2006, 2006/2007 and 2007/2008, only 8.4%, 12.9% and 4.6% respectively of total applicants were successful. Experience worldwide has shown that no nation has achieved technological and socio-political advancement where less than 15% of its qualified young citizens have access to tertiary education. The US has achieved over 80% access while in Europe the average is 35%. In emerging economies like South Africa and Brazil, the percentage of access to tertiary education is 18% and 25% respectively (Ruhl, 2011).

Primary school enrolment is also relatively low in Nigeria. For instance, UNDP estimates show that in 2007, 62% of children of primary school age were enrolled in Nigeria compared to 97% in Finland, 72% in Ghana, 99% in Korea Republic, 97% in Sweden, 97% in UK and 96% in the US in the same year. Secondary school enrolment estimates were 26% in Nigeria, 48% in Ghana, 96% in Finland, 95% in Korea Republic, 99% in Sweden, 92% in UK and 91% in the US.

The Central Bank of Nigeria's Youth Development Initiatives

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), recognizing the gap in youth entrepreneurship, and in support of the government's initiatives to grow the critical mass of youth entrepreneurs to take advantage of the opportunities in the economy, it has established

Entrepreneurship Development Centres (EDCs) in three geopolitical zones (North West, South East, South West). The CBN-supported EDCs aim at developing the entrepreneurship spirit in Nigerians and providing insight into the tools, techniques and framework for managing business enterprise, including production, marketing, personnel and finance. They also develop skills of would-be-entrepreneurs to successfully start, expand, diversify and manage business enterprises, as well as link them with financial institutions for accessing start-up capital, especially from the microfinance banks; and to generate employment opportunities for Nigerians.

Prior to this initiative, the Bank had launched the Microfinance Policy, Regulatory and Supervisory Framework for Nigeria, which is expected to improve financial services to micro, small and medium entrepreneurs. The EDCs aim to equip the youth to run businesses successfully, thereby ensuring the success, profitability and sustainability of the financial institutions that provide services to them. As at December 2011, a total of 101,847 youth had been trained by the three pilot EDCs and a total of 4,373 jobs had been created. As part of its developmental function, the CBN also introduced between 2006 and 2008, the NYSC sensitization, Venture Prize Competition and NYSC Entrepreneurship Training Programmes. The main thrust of the programmes are to sensitize and

As at December 2011, a total of 101,847 youth had been trained by the three pilot EDCs and a total of 4,373 jobs had been created

create awareness in the Nigerian youths, awaken their entrepreneurship expertise, and orientate serving youth corps members towards seeking alternative employment options, in particular, self-employment. The corps members are exposed to the rudiments of writing good investment feasibility reports, which is expected to enhance their chances of accessing financial services from banks. Corps members are trained to develop and nurture their pet projects into big business outfits that can eventually contribute to the development of the nation's economy.

Furthermore, the CBN has initiated a strategy known as the Financial System Strategy 2020 (FSS 2020) to implement a financial system that would transform Nigeria into an international financial centre and provide the safest and the fastest growing financial system among emerging economies. In addition, the CBN, in recognition of its developmental role has executed intervention projects in selected federal universities. The idea is to assist the universities to evolve as centres of excellence in training youth.

Conclusion and the Way Forward

In conclusion, since the youth population is the heart of any economy, it must be restated that investing in youth should not just be seen as enabling them to grow, rather it should be approached with a comprehensive set of policies and programmes coordinated in the form of an economic strategy. While investing in education is a priority in youth development, other areas such as health and sports also need to be accorded special attention. Youth entrepreneurship is also an important area that would bridge the skill gap among the youth and so requires reinvigorated zeal among all the stakeholders. Mentors should teach entrepreneurship and creativity at an early age; organize for curricular integration of education, entrepreneurship and community development. Finally, the ideal profile for emerging professionals with respect to entrepreneurial education would include strong scientific, technical and research skills. Also individuals who opt for non-degree training in skills acquisition with entrepreneurial background should not be excluded.

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Africa Needs the Right kind of Policies and Systems to Harness the Demographic Dividend

Aduku, Emmanuel Baba & Ogunmodede Olaoluwa Christopher



To harness the demographic dividend, political leaders must design the right kinds of policies and systems

Introduction

The idea of a “demographic dividend” is a phenomenon based on the premise that economic growth in a country is linked to an increase in the share of its working-age population. In East Asia, this increase is associated with driving much of the region’s economic boom.^{1,2} Nonetheless, the notion of the demographic dividend is as important as it is inaccurate – there is little doubt

1 Bloom, D., D. Canning, and P. Malaney. 2000. “Demographic change and economic growth in Asia.” *Population and Development Review* 26:257-290.
2 Mason, A, ed. 2001. *Population change and economic development in East Asia: challenges met, opportunities seized*. Stanford University Press.

that demographic changes can have a resounding impact on health, economic growth, poverty and human development, but the nature of this impact is not a given. Political leaders must still design the right kinds of policies and systems that will help their countries yield the most favorable outcomes of demographic changes.

Like most economies in sub-Saharan Africa, Nigeria faces the double whammy of a youth bulge and limited economic transformation. Already, Nigeria is the 8th most populous country, with a population of roughly 170 million people. Nigeria has a very youthful age structure, with nearly three-quarters

of its population under the age of 30. Even with a substantial decline in fertility and mortality rates, Nigeria’s young population is projected to increase by 40% in 2025 and according to a United Nations estimate, Nigeria will become the fourth or fifth most populous country in the world by 2050, with a projected population of almost 400 million. These demographic changes have major implications on economic development because the young population will consist of dependents who will need access to education, healthcare, and other social services, potentially putting a strain on the country’s capacity to build and maintain schools and clinics, protect the environment and provide adequate sanitation as well as guarantee food security. Moreover, the economy will need to generate enough jobs to absorb the millions joining the labor market. In the era of automation, slow growth and dispersed global value chains, what will happen to developing countries like Nigeria?

Conversely, the “Africa Rising” narrative of emerging African economies has largely fizzled out, as challenges of good governance, dependence on natural resources, non-inclusive growth, terrorism and civil conflict linger. To be sure, many African countries have seen an increase in GDP, although per-capita income in sub-Saharan Africa still remains paltry, even compared with the rest of

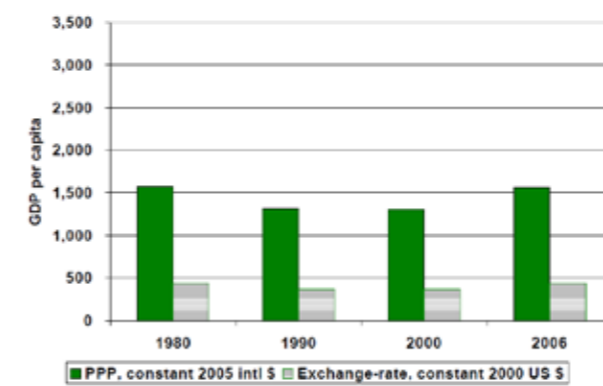


Figure 1: Nigeria's GDP per capita 1980-2006 (Source: World Development Indicators 2008).

Box 1

the developing world, and Nigeria is no exception. Inequality is rampant, and growth has been bleak: Nigeria’s GDP per capita in 2006 was roughly the same as it was in 1980 (Box 1). Moreover, Nigeria’s GDP per capita was slightly higher than that of Pakistan and Indonesia in 1980; nearly 25 years later, Indonesia and Pakistan had witnessed substantial growth, while Nigeria has stagnated (Box 2).

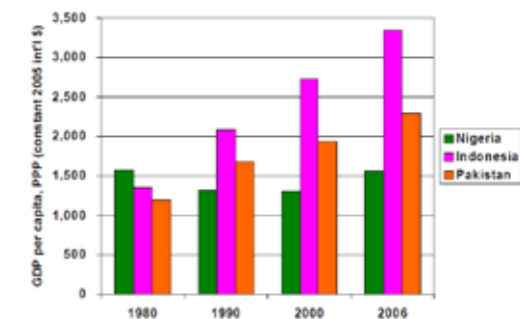


Figure 2: GDP per capita for Nigeria, Indonesia and Pakistan (Source: World Development Indicators 2008).

Box 2

Source: Bloom et al (2000)

Understanding the Demographic Dividend

Africa’s current population dynamics reveal an opportunity and a challenge. The opportunity presents itself as the demographic dividend, while the challenges are the attendant adverse consequences of failing to generate or take advantage of a demographic dividend. According to Ross, the demographic dividend occurs when there is a fall in the birth rate of a country. Such a fall creates a situation in which there are less cohorts of the population in the young and dependent age groups and relatively more people in the adult age groups (who make up the productive labor force).^{3,4}

3 Ross, J. (2004) *Understanding the demographic dividend. Policy*.
4 Bloom, D., D. Canning, and J. Sevilla. 2003. “The demographic dividend: a new perspective on the economic consequences of population change.” *Population Matters Series*.

It is argued that such a shift in the structure of the population could lead to increase in productivity, greater household assets and lowered costs of providing basic social services to dependent segments of the population.⁵ Achieving or benefitting from a demographic dividend requires strategic policy formulation and implementation that takes into account population changes in African countries.

The demographic dividend involves, among other things understanding the impact of the age structure and composition of the population. Where there was once pessimism about the possibility that population growth and size constituted an impediment to development, the demographic dividend, if harnessed, can accelerate economic growth and development. The demographic dividend demonstrates the economic benefit inherent in the working age population of a country. It should be noted that this benefit can only be fully maximized with human capital development. This is important for Africa, especially Sub Saharan Africa, where the young adult segment of the population is the largest cohort. Reed⁶, for example, notes that Nigeria is on the verge of experiencing a demographic dividend, but is cautions that policy actions stand to make or mar Nigeria's engagement with the demographic dividend.

One major lesson for Africa is that population plays a crucial role in economic growth and development. Therefore, policy formulation and implementation of population policies need to be forward thinking and innovative. Formulation and implementation of population policies should not be formulated in isolation, or disconnected from policies pursuing economic growth and development. Arguments and data abound on the

⁵ World Economic Forum (2014) Prospects for reaping a demographic dividend in Nigeria. Geneva: World Economic Forum

⁶ Reed, H. E. (2014) Capitalizing on Nigeria's demographic dividend: reaping the burdens and diminishing the returns. *Etudes Population Afrique* 27(2): 319-330

effect of demographic transition on the economies of East Asian nations and subsequent economic growth and development leading those countries to benefit from a demographic dividend. African countries have a lot to learn from the experiences of East Asian countries when it comes to harnessing the demographic dividend.

The Demographic Dividend in Sub Saharan Africa: The Nigerian Situation

The demographic dividend represents a window opportunity for Africa to leapfrog in terms economic growth and development. However, what is the policy response on the continent to anticipating and developing policies, both population and otherwise, that take advantage of the demographic dividend? Nigeria, as a country located in Sub Saharan Africa has not fared well in this regard. The country's population policy has not shown a clear path let alone anticipate the demographic dividend. This is despite warnings from the academia and larger knowledge community, both within and outside the country. Efforts have not been coordinated to develop the human capacity, which is located in the youth segment of the population. The World Economic Forum in 2014, in its case study on the possibility of a demographic dividend in Nigeria, warned that the demographic dividend represents a one- time opportunity window which will not last forever.

The current situation, if not addressed, is likely to lead to an army of young people without the requisite skills and competencies needed to compete in the global economy. This neglect of the demographic dividend portends grave social and

One major lesson for Africa is that population plays a crucial role in economic growth and development. Therefore, policy formulation and implementation of population policies need to be forward thinking and innovative

economic consequences in future. Another lesson from the Nigerian situation is that policy making and the response of policy makers to emergent opportunities of threats to a country is important. In the case of Nigeria, the country seems oblivious to the emerging opportunity that the demographic dividend brings. More information on other African countries demonstrating best practices when it comes to harnessing the demographic dividend need to be publicized.

Youth as Engine of Structural Transformation in Africa

However, the most crucial element for Nigeria and other African countries to realize the demographic dividend is the issue of structural transformation.

Structural transformation refers to the process by which countries move from unproductive, low-yield activities towards high-productivity, high-income ones. If sub-Saharan African countries can reduce their reliance on unproductive, highly volatile sectors, they can get on a path towards an inclusive and sustainable growth. Currently, the Nigerian economy is reliant on natural resources, agriculture and a fledgling service sector. Indeed, many other economies in sub-Saharan Africa still depend on natural resources, which come with the usual burdens of financial instability, rent-seeking behavior and an increased risk of conflict. Even in the service sector, most of the jobs are largely informal, low-yield, unstable and cannot form the bedrock of sustainable economic growth.

Developing countries like Nigeria are stuck in a quandary - many economists believe that the factory-led model of economic development is no longer feasible for today's low-income countries, but these countries have not achieved the level of human capital development and institutional capabilities to sustain a services-driven growth where the industrialization cycle has been completed. This has led to a phenomenon Dani Rodrik describes as "premature de-industrialization", where developing countries are attempting to leapfrog the linear stages-of-growth and the structural change theories of development, by becoming service economies without having developed a manufacturing base.⁷

This might not necessarily be a problem, according to some economists. For one thing, manufacturing employment isn't nearly as lucrative as it was in the 1950s, 60s and 70s, when the OECD economies of Europe, North America and East Asia witnessed their high growth rates. Due to advancements in technology, declining tariffs and integrated global production networks, late comers to

⁷ Rodrik, D. (2016). Premature deindustrialization. *Journal of Economic Growth*, 21(1), 1-33.

Indeed, many other economies in sub-Saharan Africa still depend on natural resources, which come with the usual burdens of financial instability, rent-seeking behavior and an increased risk of conflict

industrialization may face steeper challenges than existed for other countries when they were experiencing their industrialization. Furthermore, the model of labor-intensive industries which gave many early emergent economies a springboard (Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, China, and Mexico) to development may be losing its allure. There are many more countries with a large, young low cost labor force determined to climb the development ladder (Myanmar, Vietnam, Egypt, post- conflict Liberia and Sierra Leone) while the labor force in countries like Pakistan and India – a country expected to displace China as the world’s most populous nation by 2022 - continues to increase in numbers, if not size. Given that Nigeria never went through industrialization to begin with and the reality of a country brimming with young people in need of good jobs, the question becomes what are the industries of Africa’s future around which it can build a new economy?

Hausmann & Hidalgo⁸ argue that there is a systematic relationship between the number of different products a country makes and the ubiquity of those products (ubiquity refers to the number of other countries that make those products). Looking at Nigeria from the point of view of absorptive capacity, capabilities in STEM, economic complexity and its factor endowments, a transition to a service and knowledge-based economy has the potential to be the rising tide that can lift many more boats than a manufacturing-led model could, without necessarily needing to completely abandon labor-intensive growth altogether. This transformation will help Nigeria and Africa capitalize on improved growth fundamentals and truly reap the benefits of the demographic dividend.

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⁸ Hausmann, R., & Hidalgo, C. A. (2010). Country diversification, product ubiquity, and economic divergence. SSRN Electronic Journal, RWP10-045, 1-43.

State of Investment in Youth in Africa: A Focus on Nigeria

Ajayi I. P and Achife I.J.

Introduction

With 200 million people aged between 15 and 24 years, Africa maintains the youngest population in the world. According to African Economic Outlook, this current trend indicates that this population will double by 2050. Youth can be a driving force for the development of the African continent if adequate investments are made in education, health, employment and good governance.

Africa’s youth are full of innovative ideas that seek to address a variety of societal challenges. With upwards of 10 million young people entering into the job market each year on the continent, vastly outnumbering the jobs available in both public and private sectors, many of these youths have turned to entrepreneurship. Yet the fact still remains that without an establishment of credit history, significant assets or business experience required by traditional investment models, young entrepreneurs are constrained by access to affordable capital to start or expand a business.

The African Union declared 2017 as the year for “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth”. This theme was chosen to acknowledge that young people in Africa are an enormous resource for the continent’s development. Harnessing this human potential for Africa would be very crucial for its development in a context where the continent is struggling to emerge from poverty.

This article examines the state of investment on African youth with Nigeria as a reference point. It examines some of the problems faced by the Nigerian youth, the strategies of the Nigerian government on the investment on youth, problems of investing in youth in Nigeria and some recommendations on the way forward.

Problems Facing the Youth in Nigeria

There are general problems facing the youth in most developing countries and these are very similar to what the youth in Nigeria are facing since the country is equally classified as a developing economy.

There is poor education leading to high unemployment and giving rise to identity crises, lack of self-esteem and hopelessness and increased criminal activities. About 60 percent of youth did not go past secondary education. Also, there are inadequate vocational training centres to absorb the 85 percent of youth who do not get admitted into universities annually (Nigerian Bureau of Statistics 2012). There is equally low computer literacy in an increasingly ‘computer world’. There are inequalities and exclusion especially for youth; the youth make up about 60 percent of the population but are not always involved in government; about 49.4 percent of male youths are not registered when compared to about 50.6 percent of their female counterparts. There is also social exclusion and armed conflict, prevalence of diseases such as HIV/AIDs, youth migration, gender discrimination, corruption, cultism, and drug addiction.

Government Strategies on Investment in Youth in Nigeria

The youth are in the prime of their lives with a lot to offer, given their fresh outlook to life. The Nigeria National Youth Development policy (NYDP) 2001 says ‘Youth are one of the greatest assets that any nation can have; the greatest investment for a country’s development...’ They are expected

to develop human capital, integrate the nation, become entrepreneurs and employers of labour. The United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) 'Empowered Youth, Sustainable Future' 2014-2017 strategy is aimed at increasing economic empowerment of youth and youth civic engagement and participation in decision making and political processes and institutions. The approach involves capacity development in thought leadership and national policy.

The Nigerian Government created the Federal Ministry of Youth Development in 2007 to promote socio-economic development of the Nigerian youth through advancement of welfare and provision of opportunities for self-actualization. The aim is for the youth to become self-reliant and socially responsible citizens.

The former governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Lamido Sanusi in 2011 noted that economic developments do not amount to much if the youth who are the real economic agents are not part of the economic transformation. So, the youth need to be empowered for sustainable development. The CBN released 200 billion naira in 2012 to the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) development fund.

The minister of Youth Development in 2012 stated that the Federal Government will partner with states in the federation to address the issue of youth unemployment in the country. The World Bank set aside \$150 million and requested that states in Nigeria should have youth empowerment proposals to benefit from the fund.

In 2016, the Buhari administration launched the 10 billion naira Youth Entrepreneurship Support (YES) project which is expected to create up to 36,000 jobs annually. The youth would be allowed to access loans of up to 10 million naira with single digit interest rates payable over three to five years.

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The N-power was also launched in 2016 as part of the programme to address youth unemployment in the country. It is divided into three segments: the N-power teacher corps, the N-power knowledge and the N-Power Build. The N-Power Teacher Corps is expected to engage and train 500,000 young unemployed graduates. It is a volunteering programme of a 2-year duration. Participants will provide teaching, instructional, and advisory solutions in primary and secondary education, agriculture, public health and community education (civic and adult education). The N-Power Knowledge will work alongside the planned eight innovation hubs across the country, to provide

incubation and acceleration of the technology and creative industries. The N-Power Build is a training and certification programme expected to train 75,000 young unemployed Nigerians in order to build a new crop of skilled and highly competent workforce of technicians, artisans and service professionals.

As at 2016, the government released 25 billion naira for social investment programmes for the purpose of creating jobs for the unemployed till 2017.

The programme is expected to focus on industries like building services, built environment services, utilities and engineering, hospitality and catering, automotive, aluminium, gas and construction.

There have been many other programmes aimed especially in education, such as the Universal Basic Education, poverty eradication, agricultural development etc.

The National Directorate of Employment (NDE) which trains unemployed youths and retired persons in vocational skills, entrepreneurship/business development, labour-based works, rural employment promotion and job placement guidance and counselling. There is also the Youth Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria 'YouWin' programme, which is an annual business plan competition for aspiring Nigerians looking to be entrepreneurs. It gives an amount between 1-10 million naira to the selected entrepreneurs, which is expected to help generate more employment. Then there is the National Youth Service Corps' (NYSC) Venture Price Competition which was introduced to encourage entrepreneurship and motivate youth to move towards self-employment. The Federal Government set aside 100 billion naira for the Textile Revival Fund which used to be among the largest employers of labour in the country.



The National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Director General inspecting the work of some corps members in the Skills Acquisition Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) Programme

Photo: Ajayi & Achife



The youth are in the prime of their lives with a lot to offer

Photo: AUC

Problems facing Investment in Youth in Nigeria

The Nigerian government keeps poor records of births and deaths so it is difficult to plan for the growing youth population. There is a classification of the youths in Nigeria as 18-35 years of age but the Nigerian Bureau of Statistics uses the African Charter classification of 15-35 years. It doesn't allow for good planning.

There is a low budget allocation to the education sector, less than that required for developing economies, and this has effects on the future of the employability of this group of the population. There is also weak entrepreneurship amongst the youth, probably stemming from the lack of entrepreneurship curricula in schools.

There is also the problem of lack of continuity in programmes as most times new administrations choose to start their own programmes rather than continue the implementation of previous programmes.

Finally, there is poor feedback and poor record keeping and it is difficult to measure the impact of past investment in youth programmes, making it difficult for government to decide which programmes to keep and which need to be dropped or modified.

According to the former Central Bank of Nigeria governor, Lamido Sanusi, "corruption also means that funds meant for particular projects are diverted; there is an absence of youth participation in the design of policies; policies are usually parochial, focusing mainly on education and unemployment and neglecting health and sports and other things".

Conclusion and Recommendation

The implications of under investment for growth and well-being provide a strong incentive to allocate sufficient public resources for child and youth development, with particular attention to vulnerable groups. To guide public investment decisions, several principles can be considered.

First of all, children require the right foundation from an early age. Prevention, in terms of spending now to avoid the onset of expensive social problems later, is far more efficient than remediation. Abilities, preferences, and behaviour are formed in early life, and programmes promoting human capital formation and preventing risky behaviour should start at an early age. By combining short-run and long-run policies, the need for second chances will be reduced.

Secondly, policies should address factors beyond the young person. People are a product of the social and economic influences that surround them. Some of the most effective child and youth development programs address those factors that help shape behaviours, such as families, communities, schools, the media, the legal system, and social norms.

Investment should be made on grounds of empirical evidence. Investing in children and youth can be made more effective by focusing on programmes for which there is demonstrated positive impact.

Finally, re-prioritizing the national investment strategy to emphasize the early years in the lifecycle of an individual would increase the size of the child and youth investment portfolio. In addition, governments can raise money through bonds or external funds when used for investments where "returns" exceed the cost of paying off the loan.

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Massive Open Online Courses: Potential for Closing the Educational and Skills Deficits in Africa

Jonathan Brady

It has been estimated that the introduction of MOOC could boost GDP across the continent by as much as 12%

Introduction

The proliferation of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) in recent years has been painted as the panacea to educational barriers the world over. Recent social movements in South Africa like #FeesMustFall and others have precipitated calls for more accessible forms of education. Additionally, calls for a decolonized curriculum have abounded with this movement as well. It is in this vein that some have painted MOOCs as a possible panacea for these demands, and the larger challenges of up-skilling African youth. The African Union (AU) policy frameworks aimed at addressing some of these challenges have been positive in some areas. Frameworks aimed at increasing telecom infrastructure, as well as integrating online, into institutional and national content has occurred quite rapidly in some areas, perhaps leaving a trail for other AU member states to follow. This paper dissects some of these events and what they could mean for online learning in the future of the continent.

Policy Frameworks

Suggestions and action around MOOC integration have been tentative across the continent, with some policy suggestions having been formed years ago (like the African Youth Charter's article 13).¹ Recent attempts to address the MOOC opportunity have come in the form of last year's Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA). Strategic Objective 3 in the document pays heed to the necessary expansion of internet and communication

technology to "Create mobile and online education and training platforms and accessibility to all students regardless of their circumstances".² The majority of youth across Africa are faced with circumstances that prevent their attendance of schools to get decent education. The lack of access to information enabling technologies, until recently, has excluded many from attaining educational and skills advancement. National initiatives through another development organ – The World Bank, have begun to recognize the importance and versatility of utilizing MOOCs, both as a core and complimentary component in education and skills development. It's "New Economy Skills for Africa Program (NESAP), specifically targeted the ICT sector for up-skilling of individuals in Tanzania, where skills mismatching has been considerable these past few years. Contributions and co-operation between institutions, government and business have combined to address the problem of institutional shortcomings where courses do not equip learners for meeting market demand.³ The platform used in this instance, Coursera - one of the largest online content providers currently operating – does present a challenge to other strategic objectives of the CESA. The document in SO.3/d clearly states the desire for online content to be developed which "takes into account local and African specificities".



MOOCs, though still in their infancy in Africa, have great potential to up-skill Africa's youth

Developments and Challenges in Africa's Telecoms Infrastructure

Telecommunications companies, in their expansion across the continent however, have begun to address these concerns, as they continue expanding both landline and wireless connectivity through fibre optics and LTE services.⁴ Such expansion, according to Deloitte, makes Africa the fastest growing region in terms of telecom expansion in the last 6 years. Such expansion is driven by mobile connectivity, where aspects like multi-sim capability, increased rural access and data connectivity have enabled more productivity and slightly increased incomes.⁵

Challenges in this expansion are still present however. Market demand has grown to such an extent that urban connectivity has now stagnated, leaving rollouts for rural access the only remaining option. Programmes adopted by the African Union, such as

the Programme for Infrastructure and Development in Africa (a joint effort between the AU, the African Development Bank and NEPAD), is set to monitor the progress of infrastructural developments up until 2030⁶.

MOOC Enrolment in Africa

However, it seems as though levels of enrolment in Africa seem skewed in favour of young professional men. This is already compounded by statistics which indicate the majority of MOOC access in BRICS countries (including South Africa) consisting of those with higher degrees⁷. This presents a worrying aspect for the intended use and dispersal of online course content as one which is meant to bridge the knowledge and income gap. Besides access, the creation and distribution of online content is dominated by North American and European developers.

1 AYC Article 13 – Education and Training. pp. 20 http://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/pdf/au/african_youth_charter_2006.pdf

2 CESA 2016-2025. pp. 23. Strategic Objective 3 https://www.au.int/web/sites/default/files/documents/29958-doc-cesa_-_english-v9.pdf

3 Trucanço, M., 2013, MOOCs in Africa. Edutech – World Bank Blog on ICT use in education. <https://blogs.worldbank.org/edutech/moocs-in-africa>

4 Steve Song. 2015. Blog Website <https://manypossibilities.net/2016/01/africa-telecoms-infrastructure-in-2015/>

5 Deloitte, 2014, the Future of Telecoms in Africa: "Blueprint for the Brave". <http://deloitteblog.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Deloitte-article-The-future-of-telecoms-in-Africa.pdf>

6 African Development Bank Group. <https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/initiatives-partnerships/programme-for-infrastructure-development-in-africa-pida/>

7 Christensen, G., Steinmetz, A., Alcorn, B., Bennett, A., Woods, D., Emmanuel, E.J., 2013, The MOOC Phenomenon: Who Takes Massive Open Online Courses and Why?

Online content which “takes into account local and African specificities” should be developed

The imbalance of online content across global dispersal and consumption levels clearly indicates Africa is not yet in a position to do this, currently relying on course content providers from North America and Europe to provide online course content⁸. This clearly leaves much to be desired with regard to some of the strategic objectives expressed in documents like CESA. Strategic Objective 3.a – “promote the development of online content taking into account African and local specificities” – might not be met when online content, however limited, is not of African origin nor considers local conditions or specificities.



<https://globalhighered.wordpress.com/2013/11/19/mapping-courseras-global-footprint/>



[Commercial] course content as provided by country/region. Source: <http://edutechnica.com/moocmap/#>

South Africa’s MOOC Journey: Leading the Charge

South Africa’s adoption of MOOCs has been relatively positive compared to the rest of the continent. The 2012 Council on Higher Education’s white paper outline steps to higher education institutions to involve themselves in opening up their content through MOOC platforms, with subsequent responses proving positive in the years that followed⁹. Provisions made by some of the country’s top institutions already, include the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) (Partnering with the biggest online content provider edX), University of Cape Town (UCT) (encompassed in the Get Smarter umbrella provider which includes Wits University, and other leading internationally recognized institutions), and the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) (through its own extended learning portal). Additionally, the South African government has created an MOOC website, facilitating course creation, accreditation and monitoring for prospective digital entrepreneurs¹⁰. Such developments are encouraging, but with content still developed within the nexus of higher education institutions, access to learners at primary level may still need further development. Technical subjects needed for social and economic transformation – i.e. maths and sciences – may still be required to undergo the MOOC facelift in order for students at foundational levels to access them.

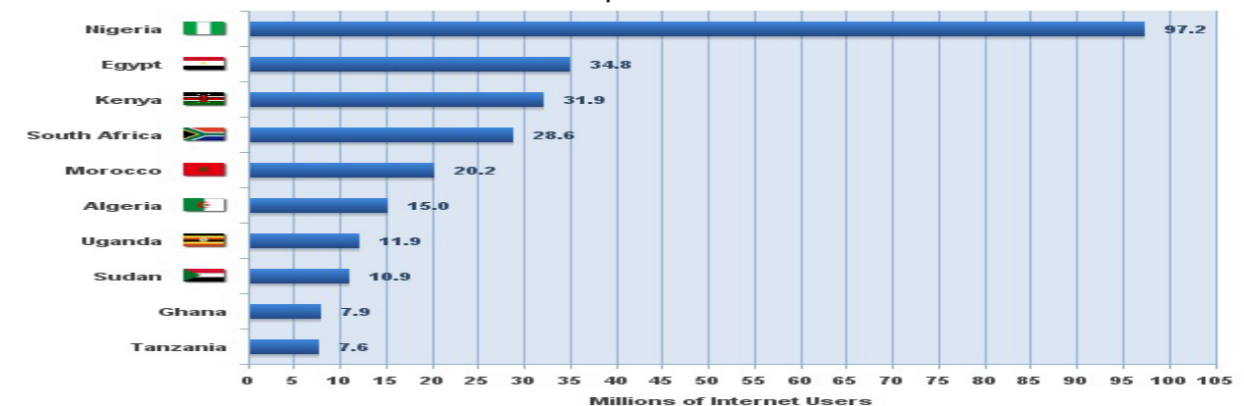
⁹ <http://www.dhet.gov.za/SiteAssets/Latest%20News/White%20paper%20for%20post-school%20education%20and%20training.pdf>

¹⁰ <http://moocs.org.za/>

Higher levels of enrolment across Africa (South Africa included) do not reflect higher performances all round, as literacy and numeracy skills leave much to be desired. MOOCs are in a position to address these challenges. Rising telecom commitments and infrastructural rollout could signal rising access across all regions and geographies, thereby allowing greater access to educational tools, equipping students with the capacity to meet higher education and market demands. It has been estimated

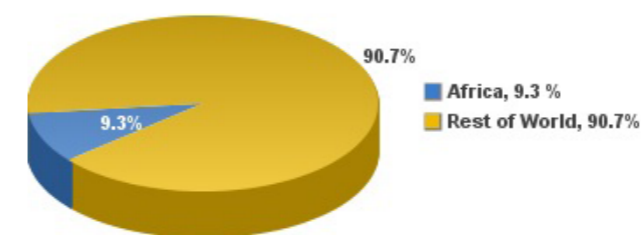
that MOOC introduction could boost GDP across the continent by as much as 12%. It is hoped South Africa’s foresight and quick adoption of MOOCs will help address learner development, as foundational education is regarded one of the main stumbling blocks to educational advancement and labour market absorption.

Africa: Top Ten Internet users: June 2016



Source: Internet World Stats - www.internetworldstats.com/stats1.htm
340,783,342 Internet Users in Africa estimated for June 30, 2016
Copyright © 2016, Miniwatts Marketing Group

Internet Users in Africa June 2016



Source: Internet World Stats - www.internetworldstats.com
340,783,342 estimated Internet users in Africa in June 30, 2016 with a 28.7 % penetration and 9.3% of total world users.
Copyright © 2016, Miniwatts Marketing Group

Capacity for MOOC development in Africa: A Roadmap

Major challenges abound in Africa with regard to streamlining and availing MOOCs as part of the educational landscape. A recent interview with the Nigerian Ambassador to UNESCO and member of the Commonwealth governing board of learning, Ms Mariam Y Katagum, revealed some of these. Her response when asked about some of these challenges are

- i) **Internet access**, where many areas have relatively no access (6.7% of households across the continent are thought to have access – mostly in urban areas). Where households do have access, bandwidth is relatively slow
- ii) **Ivory tower mentality** still pervades thinking surrounding access and accreditation to education. Orthodox lectures and instruction are still viewed as the best access methods.
- iii) **Privatization of the higher education** sector. Many colleges have sprung up which preclude financially incapacitated students.
- iv) **Government funding** and policy streamlining, which facilitates the rollout of MOOCs is still relatively low¹¹.

Scholars Oyo and Kalema, suggest the following solutions for MOOC dispersal in Africa.

- i) Gradual access points in schools with computer access, where local area networks with computer access are available
- ii) Formation of a national MOOC coordination secretariat, responsible for:

- Conceptualizing, rolling out and monitoring MOOC content and use
- Transitioning MOOCs from their initial ad-hoc, to fully centralized phase where dedicated centres house digital libraries, instructors, assistants and content developers
- Streamlining MOOC content to be complimentary with university content in African countries, in accordance with pedagogical values and challenges particular to African societies across the continent.

Conclusion

Political will in rolling out and integrating MOOCs into formal educational structures is imperative if one considers the numerous aforementioned challenges. Even where cultural acceptance among the public is required, government funding could well provide shifts in this mentality. Oyo & Kalema provide suggested frameworks for African countries which are easily replicable across most of Sub-Saharan Africa¹². The challenge of educating African youth is already proving a daunting task, as one estimation by Ms Mariam Katagum refers:

“The African student population of 18-25 year olds is presently estimated at 200 million. This is expected to double by 2045. With this, only 5% of the African students are enrolled in higher education. High-school drop-out, affordability and lack of student support are reasons for this low enrolment rate.”¹³

The MOOC phenomenon is still relatively new in Africa. Although this might be seen in negative terms, the opportunity for African pedagogical nous to be imparted in this is still there. This, in tandem with rolling out technological availability to poorer

rural areas is something governments must be tactful and speedy about in their response to raising education and skills levels of their burgeoning work population. Research collaborations like Resource on Open Educational Resources for Development are already fostering cross border collaborations between countries of the global south. African countries involved in the project include South Africa, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Mauritius, Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Ethiopia, Somalia, Ghana and Senegal. As economies of scale make technologies more

available, Africa is ideally placed to harness these for the benefit of her own people. MOOCs are but one (yet powerful) example of how to achieve this.



Research on Open Educational Development Resources for the Global South. Source: <http://roer4d.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/ROER4D-Infographic-2-pages-23.3.2015.pdf>

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11 Marshall, J, 01 July 2016, MOOCs have a massive potential market in Africa. <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20160630195218201>

12 Oyo & Kalema, 2014, Massive Open Online Courses for Africa By Africa, the International Review of Research in Open Distance Learning, Vol. 5 No. 6

13 Marshall, J, 01 July 2016, MOOCs have a massive potential market in Africa



African led Initiatives will help the Continent Harness the Demographic Dividend

Martin Namasaka

Africa is projected to have a population of 1.3 billion by 2050, adding more to its population than any other region in the world (PRB, 2013: 6). While the coinciding increase in its working population presents an opportunity for increased innovation, many fear that the relentless population pressure threatens to heighten youth underemployment,

political instability and prevent the possibility of reaping a sizeable demographic dividend. The underlying limitations in the Afro-optimist and Afro-pessimist perspectives lie in understanding precisely how Africa can harness the demographic dividend though investment in youth. This article attempts to fill this gap.

Using examples from African led initiatives that are investing in the youth, this article argues that, to ensure Africa's youth bulge is translated into a demographic dividend, we must put in place policies and strategies that: strengthen entrepreneurial skills and capacity; increase youth's access to financial services; promote decent and commensurate jobs; increase access to business advisory services and credit facilities as well as promote youth participation in political and economic decision-making processes. With this in mind, it's fundamental to note that each country in Africa is at a different stage of the demographic transition, which means, there is no one-size fits all solution to harnessing the demographic dividend.

The demographic dividend arises when the share of the working population grows more rapidly than the number of children and the elderly, as dependents, (Bloom et al. 2003). It occurs, not only when a fertility decline yields an immediate drop in the rate of growth in the number of children, but also when there is a substantially delayed decline in the rate of growth of the working population. A large workforce with fewer children creates a window of opportunity for young adults to invest in the education and health of their children, increase economic outputs (as more people are working) and invest more in technology and skills to strengthen the economy. The window eventually closes when the workforce ages and relatively fewer workers are available to support increasing numbers of old people. The East Asia "economic miracle" provides the best evidence of the potential impact of the demographic dividend.

The debate on population and development has evolved to create a divide between two

It's important for African governments to continue supporting the African Union's endorsement of the demographic dividend as a key framework for achieving the continent's Agenda 2063

main theoretical propositions. On one hand, the population pessimists, forerun by Thomas Malthus, argue that excessive population growth leads to economic stagnation (Preston 1986; Yousif 2009). This is because resources cannot expand at the same rate to keep up with the rate of increase in population. On the other hand, the optimists, led first by Esther Boserup and then Julian Simon, posit that population pressure is in fact beneficial to development (Simon 1986, 2014). The supporting explanation to their argument is that population pressure induces technological innovations which tend to increase the level of output and resource availability, effectively diminishing the alarmist's threat of population increase (Bloom et al. 2003:16).

A critical examination of both claims reveals serious analytical weaknesses. While the pessimists' view illuminates the possibility that population growth might indeed pose risks to resource availability and thus human progress, what the proponents of this view fail to foresee, is the ability of societies to expand their production capabilities which in fact tends to diminish the 'population problem'. While the optimists' view apparently attempts to address this analytical weakness, they fail to clearly explain how societies induce innovations. Their emphasis on population pressure as the prime catalyst to innovations and thus development, is not exactly a sophisticated argument both theoretically and empirically.

African led initiatives and many more across the continent focusing on: employment and entrepreneurship; education and skills development; health and well-being; rights, governance and youth empowerment, are solid foundations helping countries experiencing the youth bulge to optimise their demographic dividend

Fortunately, by 2035 Africa's labour force will be bigger than China's, greater than India's, and it will be 3 times larger than Europe's by 2050 (Ibrahim, 2012). If this projected workforce of 1 billion Africans by 2050 (Kirba, 2014), makes significant investments in their home countries, while working in the developed world, Africa might make positive steps towards turning its population towards economic growth. But, achieving a demographic dividend depends on how this working population can ideally be turned into a productive labour force to fit the international context. Undoubtedly, Africa's economic future

depends on a sufficiency of technical and vocational skills (ILO, 2012) for its human resources. The time is now, to invest in education and skills development of the youth. Various African led initiatives below are providing the necessary knowledge and skills to the growing labour force.

First, the Alternative Learning and Skills development Project in Zanzibar financed by an African Development Fund (ADF) loan of UA5.560 million and a grant of UA1.010 million, is considered highly successful in; establishing a school for alternative learning which will ultimately absorb close to 600 young men and women who lost opportunities to attend school; establishing skills development centers and rehabilitation of vocational training centers that will train and provide necessary skills to 800 out of school youth; as well as the establishment of business incubators in the two skills development centers, expected to provide vocational training for youth graduates, mentoring, tools and working capital.

Second, in Egypt and Morocco, Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) offers YouthInvest, which is designed for low-income youth with some education. In response to the high youth unemployment rates in the two countries (15- 29 year-olds make up 59.5 and 37 percent of the countries' total unemployment proportions in Egypt and Morocco, respectively), the YouthInvest Project builds youth's long-term economic prosperity, improves their employability and entrepreneurship skills, increases their ability to seek out and secure meaningful work or entrepreneurial activities, and ultimately leads to a better quality of life for their families and themselves.

The project prepares youth for business and enterprise development. Youth receive training in life skills, business, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy. Additionally, Youth Invest increases youth's access to loans and savings, develops products that are appropriate to economically active youth, and



encourages on-the-job skills training by placing youth in safe, appropriate, and active businesses as interns. From 2008 to 2014, YouthInvest has been able to reach over 63,000 youth in Morocco and Egypt with savings, loans and skills training.

Third, if adequately incentivised to participate meaningfully in political and economic decision making processes as well as in observing human rights on the continent, Africa's youth is a huge resource. Nevertheless, the challenge remains the limited participation of this huge resource in formal political processes and insufficient enjoyment of their rights. While this challenge often leads to disenfranchisement and frustration if not effectively addressed, it threatens social cohesion, peace and security of the society. In laying the foundations for harnessing the demographic dividend, there is need for investments in ensuring participatory, representative and inclusive political processes as well as responsive state institutions. This direction of travel must be premised on the enjoyment, protection and respect for fundamental civil, political and socio-economic rights of young people including young women, who experience dire rights-based challenges.

On the brighter side, the African Union, Regional Economic Communities and Member States have already adopted several normative instruments and policy directives, including the African Governance Architecture – Youth Engagement Strategy (AGA-YES) to accelerate progress in these areas. A good case in point of an African led initiative that encourages the youth participation in politics and policy making is the Pan African Leadership Incubator (PALI) in Kenya. It was established by future young leaders across Africa who participated in the 2014 Mandela Washington Fellowship, Civic Leadership Institute at the Presidential Precinct. PALI builds the capacity of youth in the role of leaders in ethics and anti-corruption, entrepreneurial culture and enterprise development in leadership, negotiation and consensus building processes. So

Cashing in on the Demographic Dividend: Lessons learned from India and China

Makda Mikre Tessema

What is a Demographic Dividend?

A demographic dividend is defined as an accelerated economic growth that may result from a decline in a country's birth and death rates and the subsequent change in the age structure of the population.¹ The age structure should have a lesser percentage of a young dependent population in relation to a working age population. This presents a window of opportunity for the working age population to ensure rapid economic growth; accompanied by the development of progressive social, economic and political policies and investments.²

To reap the benefits of the demographic dividend, there are factors to take into consideration. A demographic dividend is not automatic; it depends on deliberate investments that need to be made. These investments vary; from decreasing birth rate and infant mortality, to increasing girls' education, to providing economically strong institutions and strengthening the rule of law and good governance. The demographic dividend is also time bound, and usually lasts from three to five decades.³ The fact that the period of a demographic dividend is limited necessitates deliberate and conscious decisions made timeously.

This article will explore the journey of two countries and draw lessons from their successes and challenges.



Africa should gear up for the demographic dividend through investments in girls and young women

Photo: AUC

far, the initiative has built the capacity of over 160 young current and aspiring leaders representing special interest groups (youth, women and persons with disabilities – PWDs) with political and public leadership skills.

The African Leadership Academy (ALA), known as the 'Harvard of Africa' founded by Fred Swaniker is also transforming Africa by developing and connecting the youth as the continent's future leaders. The academy is developing a powerful network of over 6,000 leaders who will work together to address Africa's greatest challenges, achieve extraordinary social impact, and accelerate the continent's growth trajectory. Since inception, over 131 profit and non-profit ventures have been founded by ALA students and alumni thriving in over 21 countries across the continent, creating 253 quality jobs and impacting 6 million stakeholders through their work. Moreover, 835 young leaders in the ALA network representing 45 countries in Africa are catalyzing transformative change on the African continent.

These African led initiatives and many more across the continent focusing on: employment and entrepreneurship; education and skills development; health and well-being; rights, governance and youth empowerment, are solid foundations helping countries experiencing the youth bulge to optimise their demographic dividend. Overall, it's important for African governments to continue supporting the African Union's endorsement of the demographic dividend as a key framework for achieving the continent's Agenda 2063, national development aspirations as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To build up on these, African countries should conduct in-depth analyses to understand their stage of demographic transition. This will inform which country-specific roadmaps are to be taken as necessary steps to harness the demographic dividend, ensuring that no one is left behind and the gains made are sustained.

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Back in the 1960s and 70s, India and China had similar population growth rates and income trajectories. Both countries had uniquely different approaches to controlling their population and as a result both found themselves at what demographers and economists call a sweet spot⁴ - the period for returns from the demography. This article explores the methods these countries have employed to effectively prepare for and use the dividend to ensure economic vitality. Most African countries will not be able to reach the sweet spot to realize the demographic dividend in the next 30-50 years' time but the question still remains - how will the continent work towards setting the stage for the successful realization of the demographic dividend.

The Case of China

In the 1960s, China had the highest fertility rate with two baby boom periods, whereby the birth rate was at a record high.⁵ Alarmed by the increasing population, increasing food insecurity and the fact that the country could not keep up with the needs of the ever increasing population - the one child policy was introduced in 1978.⁶ Consequently, the fertility rate plummeted and it gave China a comparative advantage to realize the demographic dividend ahead of India.

China was successful in using its demography by making important linkages to the structure of the population to translate it into economic gains. Labour supply being one of them, China enjoyed a young and vibrant labour force and the market was ready to absorb the size of the labour force with ample employment opportunities and a competent workforce. China had no missed opportunities and used the dividend to catapult itself to become one of the economically strongest and most influential nations in the world. Perhaps one of the strongest reasons was that the country made the appropriate investments in human capital. China became a

India was successful in gearing up for the dividend through investments that allowed for a decrease in infant mortality, family planning and educating girls and young women

shining beacon in driving the economic agenda and fundamentally reshaped its economy and society.⁷

Fast forward to today. The demographic dividend in China is running its course and facing some unintended consequences. A rapidly aging population that will need a robust social security and pension system, increased child obesity and individualistic tendencies that will deeply affect the social construct are some of the challenges being faced. Looking into the future, some demographers and economists believe there might still be hope for China as it can take advantage of a second demographic dividend.⁸ According to experts, the second demographic dividend materializes when a population concentrated at an older working age faces a higher age of retirement.⁹

These lessons are useful for Africa; the continent needs deliberate actions that will prepare it for not only the first demographic dividend but for the second and others to come. Years down the line,

Africa will know if the appropriate investments in its human potential gives it an advantage; whether strong systems and institutions were put in place to handle all that lies ahead. It is time for Africa to get absolute control of the results of the demographic dividend.

The Case of India

India is currently the only country in the world that is on the cusp of a demographic dividend.¹⁰ Like China, India was also under the same global pressure during the end of 1960s and 1970s to start a family planning program and to limit the size the population. As a result, India was one of the first countries that started a family planning program.

Despite its family planning past, India's population eventually declined because of other progressive reasons including increased literacy of women, which led them to delay marriage and give birth to fewer children. Urbanization and the fact that space was and still is an issue in cities, forced families to end up having less children. Furthermore, the marriage age increased with high literacy rates, contributing to India's fertility decrease.

India was successful in gearing up for the dividend through investments that allowed for a decrease in infant mortality, family planning and educating girls and young women. In addition, India made investments in opening up the country for trade and investments and enacted favourable policies for improving access to services. The education system also identified with the trends in the economy and responded by having a competent labour force to help accelerate the economic growth. India made provisions for sound economic reform, opening up the economy for trade and investments; good governance, rule of law and constitutionalism also played a part in addressing the needs of the demographic dividend.

What is the status of Demographic Dividend in Africa?

Africa is now the youngest continent in the world. It is projected that by 2020, three out of four people will be on average 20 years old.¹¹ As the population of the world ages - it presents an opportunity for Africa to take full advantage of its impending demographic dividend. As was the case with India and China, Africa is also under enormous global pressure to decrease its fertility rate and employ family planning services.

Until the year 2050, the size of the working-age population (15-64) relative to the younger dependent-age population (under age 15) is projected to increase significantly, helping to set the stage for a demographic dividend

African states have shown their commitment to cash in on the demography by making appropriate investments. This was also reflected through the African Union's theme of the year 2017- "**Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth**". Agenda 2063, also indicated the importance

of relying on the potential of the African youth and children through Aspiration 6.

However, investing in youth is just one component to ensuring that Africa gets the best of the demographic dividend and doesn't turn into a disaster.¹² Data suggests that the demographic dividend is not going to be realized within the next 50 years. However, what happens now greatly determines countries' readiness for the dividend.¹³ Until the year 2050, the size of the working-age population (15-64)¹⁴ relative to the younger dependent-age population (under age 15) is projected to increase significantly, helping to set the stage for a demographic dividend.¹⁵

What does it take to ensure the Demographic Dividend doesn't turn into a Demographic Disaster?

As Africa sets the stage for the demographic dividend, it is imperative that certain preconditions have to be fulfilled. These preconditions include the importance of investing in youth and children. The African Union Youth Charter defines youth as those in the 15-35 age group.¹⁶ In the next 40 or 50 years, when Africa finds itself on the verge of reaping the benefits of the dividend, the people who will be in the enclave of the working age population are currently children. The investment should start from the bottom up, and be inclusive of children as well.

Learning from China and India, there are elements that must be considered to prepare for the opportunities of the demographic dividend. First, investing in the health system: increasing family

planning programs to decrease fertility and infant mortality and maintaining a healthy childhood and adolescence which translates into a productive adulthood should be prioritized.

Second, investments in quality education from primary: secondary and tertiary level institutions that produce responsive and capable workforce must be instituted. Countries in Africa will also have to be cognizant of the specific expertise needed to drive Africa's future and ensure there is no skills and needs mismatch in terms of human resources.¹⁷ Addressing the gender based barriers and levelling the playing field by investing in girls and young women without undermining the role of boys and men will be important. Girls will be more likely to delay marriage and limit as well as space children when they are more educated; girls are also more likely to support their families and dependents and invest their earnings back into their family and society.¹⁸

Third, providing more favourable and sound economic policies that promote trade and free movement of people, goods and services.¹⁹ The provision of microfinance, support of small and large scale industries, promotion of local and foreign direct investment and public private partnership will also promote economic development and will open countries up to accelerated economic development. Increasing employment and putting in place a favourable policy environment for enhanced investment and creation of jobs will also go a long way.

Finally, the civil and political space must improve. Civic spaces have to be opened and people need to feel secure and protected by a strong rule of law. Young people need to be meaningfully engaged in democratic governance processes, ensuring their voices are heard. Governments should set the bar high and work on having strong and transparent institutions that fight corruption and mismanagement.

Conclusion

As Africa awaits with bated breath for the demographic dividend to arrive, it is imperative to start investing in its huge human potential. What Africa puts in as an investment today will pay off

many fold in the future. It is high time Africa takes key lessons from countries such as India and China and replicate the practices that can alter our future for the better.

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The African Youth Paradox: Education is an indispensable variable to economic development

George Mulingi Mugabe

Abstract

While, today, Africa is witnessing tremendous progress in its higher education spheres, youth unemployment in the continent remains rampant. However, the role of education in propagating economic growth is unquestionable. Even though scholarship on the role of education in development has received its fair share of investigative enquiry from multi-dimensional perspectives, the direction adopted in this paper intends to present the cross cutting factors that need to be taken into consideration, parallel to increased investments in education, to allow the continent to realize and tap into its growing youth. Cognizant of the empirical evidence of the benefits of youth dividend to an economy, both at micro and macro level, it becomes imperative to highlight the hiccups Africa's youth and the academic system continue to encounter, and the way forward to achieve the dream and vision of the continent.

Keywords: Demographic Dividend; Economic Growth; Decolonization; Brain Drain.

Introduction

Investments in youth, particularly education, foster opportunities for developing a more capable and skilled labour force. Through strengthening education systems and programs that address the different needs of the market, a country can raise its population to use and develop economic resources that can contribute more actively and significantly to economic growth. The correlation between education and development has received a healthy amount of scholarship that agrees on the role it plays in achieving sustainable economic development through improving standards of living. This also later translates into increased people's productivity, entrepreneurship, technological advances and other broad social benefits to the economy.

Africa, today, is witnessing tremendous progress in its higher education spheres. This is due in large measure, to the increased recognition by the continent's stakeholders, of the value of education

in achieving the African dream and vision of full integration, peace and economic prosperity. However, this progress often comes at a cost of a fall in the quality of education. Furthermore, while Africa's sons and daughters keep flocking to the schools with the hopes of improving their lives and that of others while playing an important role to the economic growth of the continent in general, the job creation potential of the continent for its young generation continues to be poor. Thus, with its tantalizing youth population growth, the demographic trend will only compound the problems of the continent, as the pressure to create new jobs continues to also increase. Unless Africa devises sustainable plans to tap its demographic dividend and streamline their fruits into all spheres of the economy, Africa will continue to look to the West to find solutions for its problems.

Gribble and Bremmer (2012) identify demographic dividend as the accelerated economic growth that may result from a rapid decline in a country's

fertility and subsequent change in the population age structure. With fewer births each year, a country's working age population grows larger in relation to the young dependent population. They also go further to add that, with more people in the labor force, and fewer young people to support, an economy has a window of opportunity for rapid economic growth if the right social and economic investments and policies are made in health, education, governance, and the economy. Thus, investing in today's youth positions a country to achieve a demographic dividend, but these gains remain neither automatic nor guaranteed. The United Nations (UN) also estimates that 30 per cent of Africa's population today is between the ages of 10 – 24, and will remain so for at least the next 20 years. They also posit that, if smart investments are made, \$500 billion every year will be added to the African economy for 30 years (United Nations, 2016). This is simply mind blowing.



The African education system should focus on building skills, fostering entrepreneurs and championing new research



Girls' and women's education creates a multitude of positive remunerations for families

Africa's Demographic Paradox

Africa has seen an extraordinary increase in access to education in the past few decades. In one particular sphere, Ozturk (2001) looks at the role of gender in contributing to economic growth. To Ozturk, investing in girls and women education is effective, whether or not the beneficiaries work outside the home. This is because, girls' and women's education creates a multitude of positive remunerations for families, including better family health and nutrition, improved birth spacing, lower infant and child mortality, and enhanced educational attainment of children.

Furthermore, it is clear that, the educational provisions within any given economy represent one of the main factors for the composition and growth of output and exports, and constitute an important component in a system's capacity to import foreign technology effectively. For example: health and nutrition, and primary and secondary education all raise the productivity of workers both

Universities in many African countries are experiencing a surge in their enrolment. Between 2000 and 2010, higher education enrolment more than doubled, increasing from 2.3 million to 5.2 million

rural and urban; secondary education, including vocational, facilitates the acquisition of skills and managerial capacity; tertiary education supports the development of basic science, the appropriate selection of technology imports and the domestic adaptation and development of technologies; secondary and tertiary education also represents a critical element in the development of key institutions of government, the law, and the financial system, among others: all essential for economic growth.

Empirical evidence at both micro and macro levels further illuminates these relationships. At a micro level, numerous studies indicate that increases in earnings are associated with additional years of education, with the rate of return varying with high level of education (Behrman, 1990). The returns to primary schooling tend to be greater than returns to secondary and tertiary education (Psacharopoulos, 1994).

Today, Africa is at a cross road with its growing young generation, with education and job creation at the forefront of the discussions. The continent has seen more students than ever before enrol in schools throughout Africa. This is a good sign. However the channels of trained teachers, instructional materials, and infrastructure development have not kept pace with the heavy demand. Rising enrolment rates have drastically outpaced an increase in education funding, resulting in shortages of instructional materials and supplies, poorly stocked libraries and overuse of school facilities.

On the other hand, recognizing the strong correlation between education and socio-economic development, countries in sub-Saharan Africa have gradually increased public spending on education by more than 6 percent each year. African countries devote a substantial proportion of the government budget to the education sector despite relatively low GDPs and a host of competing development challenges. Increases in government education spending are often not enough to meet

key education targets and to provide a decent education for its young people. There is also increased commitment towards education investment in Africa. The Africa America Institute report on state of education (2015) finds that, Africa devotes 5.0 percent of total GDP of about \$1.5 trillion to public education expenditure. This expenditure is the second highest percentage after North America with a total \$32 trillion GDP per capita and Europe at 5 percent with a total \$24 trillion GDP per capita.

This commitment is echoed through different initiatives that countries and regional bodies in Africa have embarked on, to make education a priority and a significant part of the development agenda. African institutions such as the Association of African Universities, CODESRIA (the Council for the Development of Social Science in Africa), the African Academy of Sciences and ADEA (the Association for the Development of Education in Africa) are some of the critical actors advocating for the revitalization of the African higher education sector. Similarly, a number of African countries and sub-regional bodies such as the Inter-University Council of Eastern Africa, the Southern Africa Universities Association, the Arab Association of Universities, and CAMES (Conseil africain et malgache pour l'enseignement supérieur) have been organizing higher education programmes with the aim of transforming the sector.

One other notable example is that of the Pan African University (PAU) established in 2008 under the African Union. The PAU strives to stimulate fundamental and applied research of the highest quality in areas critical to African technical, economic and social development. The PAU focuses on African challenges and promotes integration amongst African scientists, students, academic

PAU stands as a tool to trigger a paradigm shift towards decolonizing the "African University" whose curricula remains leaned toward Euro – American centric perspectives

staff and the diaspora. Furthermore, the aspiration of the PAU is to position African Higher Education as a driver for social and economic development, and the attainment of Africa's collective vision that will answer its long-standing economic problems. Although making moderate progress, PAU stands as a tool to trigger a paradigm shift towards decolonizing the "African University" whose curricula remains leaned toward Euro – American centric perspectives.

In addition, while Africa continues to pour more and more graduates and skilled youth into the job market, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) finds the youth unemployment rate to hover around 12 percent in Sub Saharan Africa. While this is slightly lower than the global youth unemployment rate of 12.4 percent, the African region has the world's highest rate of working poverty; people who are employed but earning less than US\$2 a day (ILO). This marginalization of the youth from the labour force exacerbates generational cycles of poverty and also breaks down social cohesion and can be associated with higher levels of crime, a growing informal sector with low productivity, a smaller share of wage-employed workers and violence among idle youth.

The paradox of Africa's graduates not finding jobs is due, not just to lack of opportunities in the labour market, but also to the imbalances that exist between the demand for and supply of the needed skills, e.g. vocational qualifications. According to

Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investment in the Health of Youth

Ayomide J Owoyemi (M.B.Ch.B)

What is the demographic dividend?

Demographic transition is the shift in fertility and mortality from high and unstable levels to low and stable ones. This involves an initial decline in mortality, followed by a decline in fertility decades later. This results in continuous changes in population growth rates, age distribution and size.¹ Demographic dividends refers to an opportunity that occurs when there is a higher proportion of working population which, if properly used, results in a more productive population structure, increasing the labour supply, savings rate and consequently stimulating positive economic growth.² Harnessing the demographic dividend requires concerted and strategic efforts on the part of the nation in making significant reforms and investments in health, education, governance and economic policies.^{3,4}

Africa's population structure

Africa is the second largest and second most populous continent in the world, it has an estimated population of over 1 billion people. Its population has grown 5 times its size in 1950 and it is projected to hit 2.4 billion by 2050 and 4.2 billion by 2100.⁵ This growth is expected to be maintained at a projected fertility rate of 2% through to 2030 compared to that of Asia at 1%, Latin America and the Caribbean at 1.2%, Eastern Europe, -0.8% and the world as a whole at 1.5%.⁶

There has been a decline in GDP per capital coupled with poor performance of the economies. The AIDS pandemic has contributed to mortality rates across the continent. Altogether, these have resulted in stalled demographic transition and are

posing challenges to possibilities of harnessing the demographic dividend.⁷

The youth population of Africa is rapidly growing; 226 million young people between the ages of 15-24 lived in Africa in 2015, accounting for about 19% of the global youth population. This youth population is expected to grow by over 42%, and to more than double the present figures by 2055.⁸ In sub-Saharan Africa, this youth population represents about 20% of the total population, 40% of the workforce and 60% of the unemployed.⁹

This paper seeks to make a case for increased focus on the need to invest in youths especially in the aspects of their healthcare, to ensure that the window of opportunity for the demographic dividend is secured and harnessed to ensure development and economic growth.

Investment in the health of youths to harness the demographic dividend

Harnessing the demographic dividend requires a series of successive steps, which include creating a window of opportunity through appropriate health policies.¹⁰ Young people are integral to the success of harnessing the demographic dividend. To this end, it is important to protect and improve the rights of youth to health services for sexual and reproductive well-being, and to lifelong health, to ensure a productive and competitive labour force.¹¹ These policies and interventions should include improved access to contraceptives and other family planning services and information, promotion of later marriage, investment in child health etc.¹²

recent estimates by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), a global shortage of 45 million workers qualified to work in labour-intensive manufacturing and services is predicted in developing economies by 2020. This distorted trend suggests structural labour-market problems, lower returns on skill investments and loss of productive employment. Therefore, unemployment among better-educated workers can partially be traced back, for example, to lack of private-sector jobs and the large size of the informal economy. Educational pathways that lead to employment in the public sector, on the other hand, seen as more attractive, pose another challenge. In some cases, family income allows graduates to queue for better jobs (typically in the public sector) rather than accept private-sector employment that is often perceived to be of lower quality.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Without a doubt, education is an indispensable variable to economic development. And no economic development is possible without good education. Furthermore, a balanced education system and research promotes not only economic development, but also productivity, and generates higher individual income per capita.

As Africa implements its Agenda 2063, unleashing the potential and power of Africa's youth should be a critical module of the continent's developmental strategies, as reflected in the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development - the regional outcome of ICPD beyond 2014 - and the Common African Position on the post-2015 development agenda.

Furthermore, Africa's youth are vital to the realization of the demographic dividend. It is therefore important to protect them, and to provide them

with proper and quality education that will equip them with skills to meet the market needs. The potential gains offered by the youth demographic shouldn't be taken for granted, or wasted.

To seize the potential of its youth, urgent action is recommended though stepping up more efforts to invest in academic scientific research and development. The African education system needs to be reinvented and should start focusing on building skills, fostering entrepreneurs and championing new research. This is achievable through offering courses that impart life skills and science in line with the continent's increasing need for professionals, particularly in energy, agribusiness, industry, services and healthcare. Indeed, Africa's destiny is and always has been in the hands of its own people.

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It is important to protect and improve the rights of youth to health services for sexual and reproductive well-being

A study has shown that approximately half of the decline in fertility in developing countries between the 1960s and 1980s can be attributed to family planning efforts.² An increased pace of fertility declines ensures the opening of the window of opportunity, which will create the favourable youth bulge and reduce the youth dependency ratio (YDR).¹³ A study done in Nigeria showed that a decrease in Nigeria's fertility rate by one child per woman would boost the GDP per head by 13% over 20 years. This will be due largely to the dependency effect.¹⁴

Harnessing the economic dividend without ensuring and investing in the healthcare of youths will be impossible. To achieve success in this regard, it is imperative that African nations take pragmatic approaches to ensuring the following:

- African governments will need to increase budgetary allocation to healthcare, to improve the quality of healthcare delivery. They will need to work more actively towards universal health coverage to ensure that youth can access

healthcare when and where they need to and at a cost that wouldn't be catastrophic to their finances. This will help them transition to healthy and reproductive adults.

- African governments should step up their education campaigns on safe family planning, sexual practices, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections to promote healthy lifestyles among youth.
- Increased allocation to family planning and reproductive health services to help young people protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections and avoid unintended pregnancies and the attendant complications.
- African governments should invest in creating more youth friendly centres to increase youth's access to reproductive health services. Improving existing reproductive health clinics in government hospitals to make them comfortable and easy to use for youth would also help.

Conclusion

Significant investments must be made to the health of youth to fast track and maintain the decline in fertility and to also make sure that they are able to offer their human capital sufficiently for economic development.

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Investing in African Youth through African led initiatives

Bello Sarafadeen

“The youth of today are the Leaders of tomorrow”

Nelson Mandela

Introduction

Presently, an estimated 65 percent of Africa’s population is below the age of 35. According to the United Nations, in the next 35 years over half of the world’s population growth is expected to be in Africa. Also in this period, population is expected to more than double in 28 African countries. By 2100, 10 African countries namely Angola, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Somalia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia are estimated to have increased by at least a factor of five.

This rapid population growth will further increase the large youthful population on the continent and is likely to present challenges if not managed properly. Therefore, the African Union theme for the year 2017 “Harnessing the demographic dividend through investments in youth” is timely and of great importance in maximizing this large workforce for the benefit of African nations. Through greater involvement in politics, leadership, business, entrepreneurship, science, technology, peace and conflict resolution etc., Africa’s youthful population will serve as an impetus for sustainable future developments across the continent.

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Youth initiatives can be bolstered through African led initiatives which are familiar with the challenges across the continent

African led initiatives

Despite the many challenges, various institutions, organizations, foundations, governments, youth led initiatives are making tremendous efforts by investing in and developing the capacity of young people across Africa. These efforts can further be bolstered through African led initiatives which are familiar with the challenges across the continent, and are willing to solve them using our human and local resources sustainably.

Promoting Entrepreneurship in Africa

An increase in population growth will consequently lead to a rise in the demand for jobs. Already, youth unemployment on the continent is at a critical level. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), 70 percent of workers in Sub-Saharan Africa are in vulnerable employment in comparison to a 46.3 percent global average. Across the continent, it is obvious that governments cannot address the problem of job creation alone. Hence, the need for private sector participation and entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship is seen as a sustainable means of job creation across Africa. And one of the many programmes promoting African entrepreneurship is the Tony Elumelu Entrepreneurship Programme (TEEP). Run by the Tony Elumelu Foundation, TEEP is an entrepreneurial initiative founded by entrepreneur, investor and philanthropist Tony O. Elumelu. The programme was created on the premise that the African private sector is key to unlocking the continent’s economic potential, thereby leading to positive transformation, job creation and fostering economic growth. The \$100 million initiative which was launched in 2014, aims to empower the next generation of African entrepreneurs over the next decade

by discovering and supporting 10,000 African entrepreneurs. TEEP’s target is also to contribute an additional \$10 billion to Africa’s GDP through the creation of an estimated 1 million jobs.

Presently in its 3rd application cycle, the programme has so far supported many entrepreneurs spanning areas such as agriculture, ICT, manufacturing, fashion, transportation and entertainment. Also, through the Africapitalism Institute, extensive research and expert perspectives on the challenges affecting the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Africa and plausible solutions are being proffered. Indubitably, the laudable effort of TEEP will play a crucial role in Africa through investment in youth across Africa, job creation and unlocking the huge economic potential on the continent.

Advancing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education for African Women and girls

Annually, on the 11th of February, the world marks the International day of Women and Girls in Science. The aim is to promote education, employment, training and policy making in the field of science for girls and women. The Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and Africa’s Agenda 2063 both acknowledge the significant role of girls and women in STEM, yet the number of girls and women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) still remains low, based on statistics and various researches.



African girls and women have so much to offer the continent if given the chance

This situation is often linked to the perception of STEM jobs as solely a male oriented field, the low level of exposure of females to STEM opportunities in comparison to their male counterparts and societal bias. According to a report on the 'Situation Analysis of Energy and Gender Issues in ECOWAS Member States, published by the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) in 2015, deep-rooted social norms are barriers to achieving gender equality in West Africa.

It is based on this knowledge that African girls and women have so much to offer the continent if given the chance, equipped with relevant skills and encouraged through programs and policies, that several organizations are promoting gender inclusive initiatives and addressing the low participation of African girls and women in STEM.

An example of such organizations is the Working to Advance STEM Education for African Women (WAAW) foundation. An international non-profit organization founded in 2007 with the aim of increasing African women in science, technological innovation and entrepreneurship for the benefit of the African continent. Through its offices in Lagos and Abuja, the foundation has been able to reach out to more girls and women via its programmes.

Last year for the first time, the foundation was able to provide computer training, pedagogy skills, curriculum development and hands on STEM exercises to 15 STEM public/ government secondary school teachers. The training program was designed to increase teachers' ability and competence to teach STEM at secondary school level. By introducing this program, WAAW is addressing a crucial aspect needed in increasing females in STEM, which is teacher training and development.

Studies have shown that poor approaches of teachers and failure to relate concepts to real life often discourage many girls and boys from pursuing a career in STEM. Hence, the level of preparedness of the teachers who will impact STEM knowledge is very crucial. The training involved hands-on experiences with STEM professionals who provided insight into the development and implementation of inquiry-based STEM lessons. The training also covered many STEM topics with a major focus on computer programming using applications such as the Blockly, Raspberry Pie and Arduino, and tackling real life African problems using technology e.g. renewable energy. The teachers were also exposed to STEM technologies which they had

not used before. The workshops focused on using locally available resources and relating topics and technologies with African societies.

In 2016, the foundation also spun off the Awele academy (a software training institute for those ready to pursue careers in software programming) in order to bridge the skills gap of university/ college graduates, entrepreneurship in STEM areas and software programming. The WAAW scholarship program which provides support to need based female Africans in the area of STEM admitted to universities, colleges and institutes of higher learning in 2016, attracted over 900 applications from 17 countries, with WAAW providing 4 scholarships valued at \$500/year after a thorough selection process.

The foundation's College-to-Secondary STEM Outreach program grew to include 2 new chapters in 2016. And this program now spans several African countries such as Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Uganda, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, and Kenya. There was also the successful execution of the foundation's After School Clubs & Weekend Coding Workshop as well as its STEM Camp Program.

The WAAW foundation through its programs, is making great strides in ensuring that women and girls are being represented in the area of STEM across Africa. Such organizations should therefore be encouraged and supported. It is also a clarion call to many other organizations seeking to promote gender parity in STEM.

Reaching out to African youths through online platforms

The world has changed tremendously. Most of us can hardly imagine a day without our mobile

phones and electronic gadgets. According to some surveys, many youths and young adults even spend more time on their laptops and phones than they do sleeping.

A lot of youth development and empowerment activities take place online. And there are huge advantages to this. Firstly, online platforms have a wider reach. With the proliferation of mobile devices and increasing connectivity amongst African youth, online platforms have become a great means of connecting youth with life changing opportunities, fostering constructive dialogue, youth engagement, as well as improving their personal and professional skills.

There are many online portals connecting youth to various opportunities and trainings across the globe. Examples are the Opportunity Desk (OD) website, Opportunities for Africans website, Google digital skills training for Africans etc. These platforms link youth to various opportunities such as fellowships, scholarships, jobs, internships, training, volunteer opportunities, grants and so on. In addition, some of them also help demystify how attainable these opportunities are for youth through documentation of success stories, providing useful tips, support and sharing of experiences through interviews.

For example, through the Opportunity Desk mentorship program, users of the OD website can seek advice on their applications from mentors from across the globe. The program matches mentors with mentees, thereby helping the mentees achieve their goals of successfully getting an opportunity.

Another wonderful thing I have observed is that these online platforms are often founded and run by youth who are passionate about helping other youth succeed by creating a platform for the exchange of ideas.

The above mentioned initiatives are just a few of the many initiatives investing in and developing

#2017's Theme & Beyond: This is how Africa will yield the Demographic Dividend

Lesego Motlhako

Introduction

The declaration by African Heads of State and Government to designate 2017 as the year for 'Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth' seeks to build on past initiatives that sought to ensure that youth issues are integral to developmental policies. In 2006, the African Youth Charter was adopted and three years later, a decision was taken by the African Union Assembly to declare 2009-2018 as the 'Decade for Youth'. This declaration was strengthened by the launch of the 2009-2018 Decade Plan of Action (DPoA), a framework for multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional engagement of all stakeholders towards the achievement of the goals and objectives enshrined in the African Youth Charter. Today, the Charter remains the principal African instrument that outlines the rights, roles and responsibilities of governments as well as young people towards a peaceful, united and prosperous continent. Successfully implementing the 31 Articles of the Charter along with the various youth related decisions feeds into the realisation of Agenda 2063, Africa's 50 year framework for inclusive and sustainable development.

This article will highlight the positive strides made in the realm of youth development and empowerment on the continent, while proposing recommendations that would place Africa in an opportune position to harness the demographic dividend.

According to the 2017 roadmap on the theme¹, the demographic dividend can be defined as 'the benefit that can arise when a country has a relatively large proportion of working-age population due to declining fertility, and effectively invests in their health, empowerment, education and employment through public action and private sector

¹ AU Roadmap on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth – In response to AU Assembly Decision (Assembly/AU/Dec.601 (XXVI) on the 2017 theme of the year.

Africa is attempting to avoid an undesirable environment where youth with disabilities are excluded from the developmental agenda

involvement'. Worth noting is that this benefit, often referred to as a 'window of opportunity', will not be reaped automatically. All interventions in the quest to harness the demographic dividend need to be strategic, cross-cutting, deliberate and consistent.

Challenges faced by Youth

In a top 10 list of the countries with the youngest populations in the world, all are in Africa.² Unfortunately, as the world is experiencing and benefiting from the fourth industrial revolution where technology is the driving force in all socio-economic and political aspects, large numbers of African youth remain marginalised. It must be recalled that development is a human right³ which cannot be denied to anyone, and this section will identify challenges faced by young Africans, with the aim of recommending sustainable solutions.

The importance of formal education can never be over emphasised. It is a well-documented fact that quality formal education can have a positive impact on a child in a multitude of ways. In 2015,

² World Economic Forum: <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/05/the-world-s-10-youngest-countries-are-all-in-africa/>

³ African Charter on Human and People's Rights, Article 22

youth across Africa. However, much more still needs to be done to help the growing youth population across the continent maximize their potential. Youth investment/empowerment and access to opportunities is a human right that is guaranteed by the African Youth Charter (AYC) which was adopted by African Heads of State and Government on the 2nd of July 2006 in Banjul (Gambia) and which entered into force on 8 August 2009. The AYC provides the political and legal framework for African States, giving guidelines for youth development and empowerment at various levels. Commitment to the charter will yield tremendous benefits for the continent.

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the adult literacy rate in Africa stood at 37.03%⁴, with women and the girl child remaining the most vulnerable. In the context of harnessing the demographic dividend, such figures are alarming. In resolving our education challenges, we cannot simply resort to building more schools and flooding them with pupils. Our focus should be on ensuring that the curriculum responds to market needs, on the overall quality of education and on ensuring a healthy teacher to pupil ratio.

In relation to higher education, Africa needs a paradigm shift on how we view Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET). The entire TVET system needs to be rebranded to appeal to young people as a viable path to success. At the moment, TVET qualifications are commonly perceived as inferior to university degrees, leading to economies that lack vital skills and are forced to import those skills from abroad. This trend is one of the direct contributors to the high unemployment figures on

the continent.⁵

The lack of basic service provision compounds the challenges facing the youth on the continent. From lack of comprehensive access to health care, sanitary environments and reliable food sources, livelihoods are adversely impacted and abilities to participate in the economy are hampered. However, African states have taken great strides to respond to challenges such as the HIV pandemic. In 2015, the World Health Organisation (WHO) estimated that Africa had 800,000 HIV related deaths⁶ in that year, indicating a mortality rate that had been halved compared to figures from the previous decade.

In governance related issues, the youth continue to feel marginalised, particularly in decision making processes that affect their current challenges and future aspirations. Such exclusion is significantly worse among youth living with disabilities. For the continent to move forward, attention needs

to shift towards creating an enabling and healthy environment that accommodates and anticipates their needs.

The consequences of failing to prioritise youth involvement in all aspects of development are evident today through migration, brain drain, poverty and resorting to violent extremism (an area that the AU is trying to address)⁷

What Africa is Doing and Needs to Do

In light of this year's theme, Africa has placed the need to empower and develop its youthful population squarely on the agenda. The question remains, how can we do it?

Education

As indicated in a previous section, quality education is critical as a foundation in the development of young people, and learning methods need to be responsive to the demands of today's labour market. Emphasis needs to be placed on experimental learning which encourages learners to think, question and create. The importance of restructuring the continent's education system is covered in the AU's Continental Strategy for Africa.⁸ Furthermore, African organisations are joining the response and are playing a part in growing and sustaining innovative learning methods in classrooms across the continent.⁹

The need to repackage TVET has also been a top priority through the TVET Continental Strategy which seeks to be a catalyst in preparing young people to be job creators (entrepreneurs) and not just job seekers.¹⁰ The strategy also stresses

the importance of partnerships and collaboration 'between the productive sectors, social partners, training institutions and professional associations'¹¹ as well as paying special attention to the needs of girls and women.

On tackling issues of youth with disabilities, AU Member States are encouraged to scale up or introduce education service models that suit the needs of their populations. The African Child Policy Forum Report recognises three modalities; an inclusive system that serves pupils regardless of physical or mental ability; a dual track system that separates abled and disabled pupils and a multi-track system which serves different groups in different systems.¹² By recognising this from the onset, Africa is attempting to avoid an undesirable environment where youth with disabilities are excluded from the developmental agenda.

Health

Although Africa cannot exclusively focus on youth health issues since health is a concern for all, the size of the youthful population in many African countries justifies the need for special attention to be given to this group.

As African countries continue to tackle their respective health challenges, the discourse on sexual and reproductive health & rights (SRHR) needs to be open and responsive to the challenges. Providing universal access to SRHR services, harmonising policies¹³, Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) within curriculums and extensive sensitisation campaigns will go a long way in addressing HIV infection, teenage pregnancy and unsafe abortions.



Lesego- 6th batch of AU YVC trainees
Johannesburg 2015

Photo AUC

4 African Statistical Yearbook 2016, Page 43

5 African Development Bank, "Africa's Youth in the Labour Market" Page 123
6 World Health Organisation, http://www.who.int/gho/hiv/epidemic_status/deaths_text/en/

7 <https://www.au.int/web/en/newsevents/20170221/interfaith-dialogue-violent-extremism-idove-youth-forum>
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10 TVET Continental Strategy 2015, Page 20

11 TVET Continental Strategy
12 Educating Children with Disabilities in Africa: Towards a Policy of Inclusion
13 UNFPA: http://www.up.ac.za/en/speakoutup/news/post_2391464-harmonising-the-legal-environment-for-adolescent-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights

Policies targeting the reduction of HIV infection rates and management of AIDS in the education sector are also critical, and countries such as Rwanda¹⁴, Kenya¹⁵, South Africa¹⁶, Ethiopia¹⁷ and Namibia¹⁸ have embarked on paths that others should emulate.

Employment and Youth Empowerment

Economic challenges related to employment cannot be left in the hands of governments alone. A comprehensive response to this should involve the private sector, as well as creating conducive environments that will allow young people to not only be able to start businesses, but to also be in a position to employ their peers.

Internship programmes are an effective way to develop young people's skills through private sector involvement. To ensure that these internship opportunities are sustainable and reach as many youth as possible, governments should consider offering incentives that companies can tap into by recruiting young people. These incentives can include tax breaks that would be calculated on the number of interns recruited, among other measures. In addition to this, governments should also devise mechanisms that will track the progress of these young people.

In 2010, the African Union launched its flagship African Union Youth Volunteer Corps (AUYVC) which seeks to increase the employability of young Africans through one year deployments to organisations including the African Union Commission (AUC). As of 2016, the corps had deployed 182 volunteers specialising in various fields such as finance, project management and communication. Additionally, the Report on the Proposed Recommendations for the Institutional Reform of the African Union compiled by H.E. Paul Kagame of Rwanda, recommends the establishment of women and youth quotas in all AU organs.¹⁹

Revitalising the informal sector should also be a top economic priority for African governments, considering that recognizing its role as a profitable activity may contribute to economic development. This can also improve the capacity of informal workers to meet their basic needs by increasing their incomes and strengthening their legal status. This could be achieved by raising government awareness, allowing better access to financing, and fostering the availability of information on the sector.²⁰

Through the African Development Bank, the AU has noted the informal sector as a means of promoting entrepreneurship²¹. The bank is leading investment in youth employment by providing capital funding and investment in their business start-ups, an approach that should be adopted by other institutions.

Conclusion

In light of the above, the Africa We Want as expounded in Agenda 2063, can be achieved when its young people are actively engaged in all issues of the broader society. Keeping with the spirit of Agenda 2063 and the African Youth Charter, it is imperative that the responsibility of developing Africa is not solely on the shoulders of governments but also on their people as well as those in the Diaspora. The 6th aspiration of Agenda 2063 sums it up perfectly, calling for 'An Africa where Development is People-Driven, Unleashing the Potential of its Women and Youth'.

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Youth in economic governance: a viable tool for combating youth unemployment in Africa

Romola Adeola, LLD

Introduction

One of the notional paradoxes of the Africa rising narrative is the rhetoric of youth unemployment in a continent where about 65 to 70 percent of its population are young people. While the economic growth rate of the continent, in recent times, has been promising, the unemployment rate of its youth population has raised a daunting cloud over the sustainability of the continent's growth. Recent estimates indicate that out of the 200 million youths in Africa within the ages of 15 and 24, 53 million are in 'unstable employment' and an estimate of about 40 million are unemployed.¹ With the reality that Africa's 200 million youth population will double by 2045, the need to pay urgent attention to the issue of youth unemployment resonates.

In addressing the problem of unemployment in Africa, several arguments have emerged on measures which states should adopt, not least, in

building resilient economies, creating jobs and addressing structural governance challenges including corruption and poor infrastructure.

While these measures are important, this paper argues that a key strategy, which states should adopt, is to proactively engage the youth population in the advancement of economic development on the continent.

A 'youth-driven' economic governance approach

Between 2000 and 2008, an estimated 73 million jobs emerged on the continent; however, the youth population between 15 and 24 only received around 16 million of these jobs.² With more than 10 million youth entering the labour market each year, the unemployment figures are prone

¹ *Steinberg Postdoctoral Fellow, Faculty of Law, McGill University, Montreal, Canada. Email: romola.adeola@mcgill.ca
J Rieländer and H Solignac-Lecomte 'An economist's answer to the youth employment crisis in Africa' *The Guardian* 21 March 2014 <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2014/mar/21/job-crisis-in-africa> (accessed 28 February 2017).

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The recognition of young people as drivers of Africa's renaissance is laudable

to worsen if current trends remain. Such figures will not only result in economic downturns on the continent, they will equally affect the realisation of policy goals including poverty eradication and economic sustainability. In recognition of the need to address this problem, Agenda 2063 emphasises the commitment of states to support the youth population as "drivers of Africa's renaissance, through ... concerted strategies to combat youth unemployment".³ Article 15 of the African Youth Charter recognises the right of all young persons to gainful employment and the need to take appropriate steps in realising this right.⁴

Much of the discourse on the role of youth in Africa has centred on political governance, which indeed, is an imperative. Participation of young people in politics is essential for positive changes in politically unstable societies and for continuity of good governance in states where strong institutions have been built.

However, beyond the rhetoric of youth participation in political governance, addressing youth unemployment in Africa requires states to ensure that their economies are youth-driven. A youth-driven economy moves from the narrative of creating jobs for young people to utilising young people for the creation of jobs. At the World Economic Forum on Africa held in

³ African Union Commission *Agenda 2063: the Africa We Want* (2015).

⁴ African Youth Charter, adopted by the Seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of States and Governments, Banjul, the Gambia on 2 July 2006. The African Youth Charter entered into force on 8 August 2009. As at 2016, 38 states of the African Union had ratified the Charter while 42 had signed. See: African Union 'List of countries which have signed, ratified/acceded to the African Youth Charter' https://au.int/web/sites/default/files/treaties/7789-sl-african_youth_charter_2.pdf (accessed 28 February 2017).

Cape Town, South Africa in 2015, there was a strong emphasis on integrating youth into the continent's developmental goal.⁵ While laws and policies are imperative in advancing this rhetoric, a pragmatic approach to the realisation of economic development requires states to place young people at the centre of their economic governance. What this implies is a two-pronged approach. First, the youth must drive local production of goods and services within national jurisdictions. Second, the youth must lead decision-making processes on the economic trajectory of states.

A relevant point raised by this narrative is how should states realise this? There are four imperatives. The next section discusses these imperatives.

Article 15 of the African Youth Charter recognises the right of all young persons to gainful employment and the need to take appropriate steps in realising this right

The approach imperatives

First, in combating youth unemployment through youth-led economic governance, states need to create space for the youth population to lead national economic governance structures. Creating space for young people to lead these structures will require national institutions to respond to **youth leadership** in core economic sectors within

⁵ 'WEF Africa prioritizes role of youth in economic development' *Xinhua* 4 June 2015.

Africa's Technological Revolution; Turning a Demographic Divide into a Dividend

Ivan Allan Ojakol

Due to the fact that Africa has the world's youngest population, the ground is fertile for the digital technological revolution to take root

Africa has the world's youngest population. This demographic statistic coincides with the "Africa-rising" narrative that has been around for some time now. However, in stark contrast are other glaring negative statistics that are standing in the way of what could be a demographic dividend; the high unemployment levels of the youth in Africa lead the way as far as these negative statistics are concerned. It is important that Africa addresses this challenge in order to prevent social uproar as

exemplified by the "Arab Spring". Besides being a stumbling block to economic growth, the high unemployment rates also destroy the desire and abilities of young people to lead productive and fruitful lives.

Tapping into the ever growing Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) industry could be the answer. This era has been aptly termed as the "Fourth Industrial Revolution" by



High youth unemployment is standing in the way of the demographic dividend

Photo: AUC

states. Creating such spaces will also require states to promote mentorship programmes for young people to lead these sectors effectively. Second, states should require corporate actors to place young people at the helm of corporate affairs. This is important not only to ensure that the youth population understand the dynamics of business, but also in order to foster effective management of business operations by young people. Third, states must review educational curricula to promote industry-relevant skills acquisition.⁶ Fourth, states should provide capital for entrepreneurial activities by youths and provide incentives to financial institutions engaged in the provision of such capital.

3. Conclusion

While time will tell whether states will harness the dividend of youth in propelling the wheels of economic development, the recognition of young people as drivers of Africa's renaissance is laudable. However, it is imperative for African leaders to translate this recognition into action both through normative and institutional arrangements at the national, regional and continental levels. On the continental front, such translation will further require collective action of the African Union member states through the adoption of a common position in favour of a youth-driven economic governance approach.

⁶ In two of the continent's largest economies, one of the reasons for youth unemployment is the mismatch between educational skills and the demands of the labour market. OS Pitan & SO Adedeji 'Skills mismatch among University graduates in the Nigeria labour market' (2012) US-China Education Review 90-98; Vignesh Shankar, Ansulie Cooper & Harvey Koh Reducing youth unemployment in South Africa (2016) 9.

Klaus Schwab¹. This is in reference to the manner in which technology has pervaded all the spheres of our lives thus creating endless possibilities like increased productivity. Due to the fact that Africa has the world's youngest population, the ground is therefore fertile for the digital technology revolution to take root seeing as the demographics favour it. This digital technology revolution however has its pros and cons and there will be winners and losers.

It has been postulated by many experts that this revolution is disruptive. It has already caused and is going to cause a lot of unemployment in its wake. A 2013 Oxford University study concluded that "47% of jobs in the US could potentially be replaced by machines within 10-20 years". So yes, increased productivity is going to come with its challenges for Africa whose unemployment rate as of 2013 stood at 22.8%. The high levels of technological illiteracy in Africa of course do not help matters at all. This threatens to further widen income inequality in Africa.

There is a lack of serious political will from the powers that be in the form of very clear, well thought out policies and plans with achievable timelines geared towards comprehensively implementing digital technology in many an African country. This has occasioned an environment that does not favour this revolution. It has also been contended that Africa seems not to have left the second and third industrial revolutions. We seem to be caught up in a time warp.

However, the situation is not as dire as it may seem. In the words of Sheryl Sanberg, at the World Economic Forum 2016, "It is the triumph of hope over fear." President Paul Kagame of Rwanda reiterated this sentiment at the same event by stating that "we can have a leg in both revolutions". We should never let the cynics and pessimists get one over us.

For the solutions to the aforementioned challenges,

The rest of the continent must follow the examples of the "Singapore of Africa" in the likes of Mauritius, Rwanda and Kenya. These countries are a few shining lights at the helm of the fourth industrial revolution in Africa

Africa should just look within itself. We have our own champions on the continent leading the way. Rwanda for example developed a national plan that was aimed at "the use of information technology to deliver better services, create jobs and transform the Rwandan society and economy". Thankfully this plan has not just remained on paper, as the case usually is. There has been a concerted effort to bring it to fruition through able leadership from the top and strategic public private partnerships directed towards improving internet access and the skills of ordinary Rwandans to enable them co-exist, augment and take advantage of the opportunities that come with digital technology. An ICT Centre of excellence in the Carnegie Mellon University is in Rwanda offering world-class training in ICT to Rwandans so as to develop the human capital in that country because, as they say, there is no development without human capital development. Kenya has its answer to "Silicon Valley" in what

is dubbed "Silicon Savannah". This tech hub has incubated over 152 companies and has a huge membership base of approximately 20,000. It has been the inspiration for all the other fledgling tech hubs across the continent.

The digital revolution in the region is epitomized at best by mobile technology. At the forefront of this mobile technology, is the mobile money phenomenon that has conquered East Africa. Kenya's M-PESA has led the pack in this regard with almost a half of Kenya's GDP being transacted through this service. Mobile money has been pivotal in promoting financial inclusion in Africa, where less than 20 per cent of households have access to formal financial services. Mobile phone and internet penetration has immensely increased in Africa with the liberalization and coming into the market of more telecom companies and the availability of cheaper handsets. Internet penetration has gone a notch higher with the expansion of bandwidth and laying of fibre optic cables across the coasts of Eastern and Southern Africa.

This investment has come with its attendant benefits; the use of e-commerce has become more frequent with the increased use of services offered by start-ups such as Jumia and Konga thus improving upon trade, something that is in line with the African Union's Agenda 2063. Unfortunately, there are two statistics that take the shine off this; the use of e-commerce is the lowest in Africa and only one in 5 people use the internet in comparison to 2 in 5 in Asia.

With mobile broad band's extension into rural areas, a number of apps, projects and initiatives

have been developed that are helpful to farmers as far as getting information in real-time on farming best practices, climate hazards, market prices and analysis is concerned. This is critical since agriculture is the livelihood of 70% of the people in Africa. There is still a problem however of many farmers who have not embraced modern technology despite their ownership of smart phones.

The Verdict:

If Africa is to cash in on this digital technology revolution and shift from labour-based economies to knowledge based economies, the revolution must be people-based. This means that women who are the majority on the continent and often discriminated against must be roped in. In addition, a deliberate and aggressive double digit investment in research and development, which obviously is hand in glove with education in the ICT sector, must be put in place. Above all this, there should be leadership. The leaders must be interested in moving their countries forward and improving their societies. Leaders should by and large have a 21st Century mind set. This zero-sum mind set that borders on an aversion to technology, that looks at technology as a thing for the "millennial" generation must be dropped. This means that we are not only clamouring for a digital technology revolution so as to harness Africa's demographic dividend, but also a cultural revolution.

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Reference

1 The Fourth Industrial Revolution by Klaus Schwab

State of Women's Rights in Africa: Gender Based Violence

Women, Gender and Development Directorate

This article is based on the report on the "State of Women's Rights in Africa" launched on 07 March 2017 as part of the African Union (AU)'s celebrations of International Women's Day. The report was developed with the technical support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the contribution from UN Women. It assesses progress made using specific thematic areas where protection gaps currently persist and where action is needed. The report uses the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) as a guiding framework to illustrate examples of areas where there is a need for acceleration of full implementation to ensure that women are able to benefit and participate equally in all aspects of society. One such area which the report has identified as a gap requiring attention, relates to sexual and gender based violence.

The rights of women against gender-based violence are explicitly provided for in Article 4 of the Maputo Protocol, which deals with the rights to life, integrity and security of the person. The Maputo Protocol notes a number of violations related to these rights, including, among others, prevention and condemnation of trafficking of women, as well as prohibition of all medical and scientific experiments on women without their consent.

According to the report, women in all countries in the world regardless of race, class, ethnicity, religion or belief, health, marital status, age, and other statuses continue to experience violence in all spheres of life, whether in the home, at school, at work, on the street, in government institutions and in times of peace or conflict. More than 1 in 3 women (36.6%) in Africa report having experienced physical, and/or sexual partner violence or sexual violence by a non-partner. Often, violence is worsened by the intersection of many socio-economic factors. On the continent, in six countries there is no legal protection for women against domestic violence, these are Burkina Faso,

Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Lesotho, Mali and Niger.¹

The African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) has issued several decisions on the failure of states to protect women from violence. These decisions have made a valuable contribution towards ensuring that states are held accountable when they fail to protect women from violence.

At the national level, several national laws and policies contain provisions against violence against women including domestic violence, gender-based violence in conflict situations and in a number of countries, marital rape and provisions for services for women victims of violence. These include support services that empower victims and survivors, and access to appropriate civil remedies and redress. However, in many contexts, a comprehensive legal framework to eliminate all forms of violence against women is often lacking and where they exist, are often not implemented. In several countries, legislations do not address the whole spectrum of violence that women experience particularly those deemed to take place in the private sphere.

The report lists a number of recommendations for African Union Member States. These include, among others, to:

- Adopt and enforce targets to end all forms of discrimination and violence against all women and girls, including domestic and sexual violence as well as harmful practices such as child and forced marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).
- Strengthen domestic criminal accountability, responsiveness to victims and judicial capacity;
- Affirm the primacy of international and regional human rights law and constitutional laws over religious, customary and indigenous laws as a means to ensuring women's emancipation and autonomy.

The full report is available on the AU website www.au.int

¹ State of Women's Rights Report, p 30 - World Bank Group, Women, Business and the Law 2016.

"women in all countries in the world regardless of race, class, ethnicity, religion or belief, health, marital status, age, and other statuses continue to experience violence in all spheres of life"

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