

Demography for Development Planning (D4DP)

An Initiative for Capacity Development and Research in Africa

Abstract

Demographic change has an impact on every country's socio-economic progress. Development planning must reflect these changes in population dynamics across sectors in an informed and data-driven approach.

Demography for Development Planning (D4DP) aims to ensure that population dynamics is better embedded in African countries' policy planning. It brings together four German institutions working in development cooperation, population research and demography (see box).

Approach

D4DP aims to strengthen African partners' capacities in:

- applied socio-demographic research;
- data analysis, projection and interpretation, and
- demography-integrated policy and programme design.

For demography-sensitive programme and policy planning, the D4DP initiative aims to strengthen:

- **socio-demographic data** that is timely, disaggregated and of high quality,
- **capacities for analysis, interpretation and use** of population data by researchers and policy experts as a basis for multi-sectoral planning,
- **effective cooperation** between statistical or demographic research institutions and/or policy advisory bodies with governments and sectoral ministries, and
- **public awareness and access** to population data, including **data literacy** to enable an active public and civil society participation and improve transparency.

Initiative	Demography for Development Planning (D4DP)
Partner agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Division for Health, Population Policy and Social Protection ■ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Sector Initiative on Population Dynamics, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights ■ Federal Institute for Population Research (BiB), Research Group: Demographic Change ■ University of Koblenz-Landau (UKL), Department for Geography (Human Geography)
Focus region	Africa (Northern and sub-Saharan Africa)
Objective	Capacity development for population research, analysis and interpretation and for demography-sensitive policy and programme design
Active since	10/2016

In focus: Africa's demographic dividend

Africa has the youngest population worldwide. Following the example of the four Asian Tigers – South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong – African countries started preparing for the demographic dividend, a stimulus for economic development which, given favourable conditions, can derive from contributions made by a large number of young people of working age.

In addition to its changing age structures, Africa is experiencing both growing urbanisation and increasing internal migration. A prerequisite for all policy planning is reliable population data. In most cases, population data stems from national sources, such as Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS), which can be used to produce timely, regular and disaggregated data from local to national level.



From left to right:

A group of inquisitive children in a village near Kaolack in Senegal, 2013.

Villagers gathering for participatory development planning in a rural area in Chad, 2010.

Strategy

In order to better incorporate population dynamics into policy and development programmes in African countries, D4DP promotes an integrated development approach. To this end, the initiative's partner agencies with its development practitioners and academic researchers draw on:

- experience in providing technical advice at various policy levels,
- technical and methodological expertise in demography-sensitive sectors and disciplines, and
- participation in a large number of networks.

In practice, D4DP aims to act as a catalyst and to support a number of partner countries committed to improving their demography-sensitive policy planning. It sets out to:

- organise national kick-off workshops to gain an overview of national strategies, available population data and demographic trends; and identify needs for technical support and capacity development,
- provide its partners remotely with technical advice, for example on data gaps, data use and implementation challenges, through electronic communication,
- facilitate partner countries' capacity development to embed population dynamics into national, regional or local policy and programme planning, for example by sharing well-proven tools and approaches and by supporting their customisation,
- foster regional dialogue, networking and south-south and north-south exchange, learning and innovation,
- conduct research to identify gaps in human capacities, resources and structures in partner countries in order to analyse demographic trends and their implications for future development in various sectors,
- process, share and disseminate its learning experience with the wider development community, and
- generate synergies with other development partners for country-level cooperation and joint advocacy to increase recognition of population dynamics in policy design and planning, also in the global debate on the implementation of Agenda 2030.

Recent activities

Municipal representatives from **Algeria** and **Morocco** came for a study visit to Germany in October 2017. Co-organised by GIZ's "Knowledge-sharing at Municipal Level" project in conjunction with the Service Agency "Communities in One World" at Engagement Global, D4DP focused on the use of demographic data in national and municipal planning.

In **Burkina Faso**, the initiative has started a technical and strategic dialogue with a ministerial population expert on the national strategy for a demographic dividend.

In **Rwanda**, D4DP is planning a capacity development workshop for early 2018 on socio-demographic modelling and projections, simultaneously kicking off an assessment exercise on the country's demographic dividend.

At the European Development Days in June 2017, BiB and GIZ, together with the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP), co-organised a lab debate entitled *Investing in Africa's Youth to Harness the Demographic Dividend*. EU and African Union (AU) representatives and a youth panellist from the AfriYAN network discussed the conditions required for the realisation of the demographic dividend in Africa and possible multi-sectoral approaches.



The AU Commission was presented with a graphic protocol depicting some of the debate's key insights: identifying a holistic approach, reducing inequality and investing in human capital are among the prerequisites for harnessing the demographic dividend.

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Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany
Sector Initiative Population Dynamics, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 36
53113 Bonn
T +49 (0)228 4460 - 3652
bdsrgr@giz.de
www.giz.de | www.health.bmz.de
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On behalf of Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Division Health, Population Policy and Social Protection
Addresses of the BMZ offices
BMZ Bonn
Dahlmannstraße 4
53113 Bonn, Germany
T +49 (0)228 99 535-0
F +49 (0)228 99 535-3500
poststelle@bmz.bund.de
www.bmz.de
BMZ Berlin
Stresemannstraße 94
10963 Berlin, Germany
T +49 (0)30 18 535-0
F +49 (0)30 18 535-2501

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