



## Economic and Social Development, Employment

# Population Dynamics in German Development Cooperation

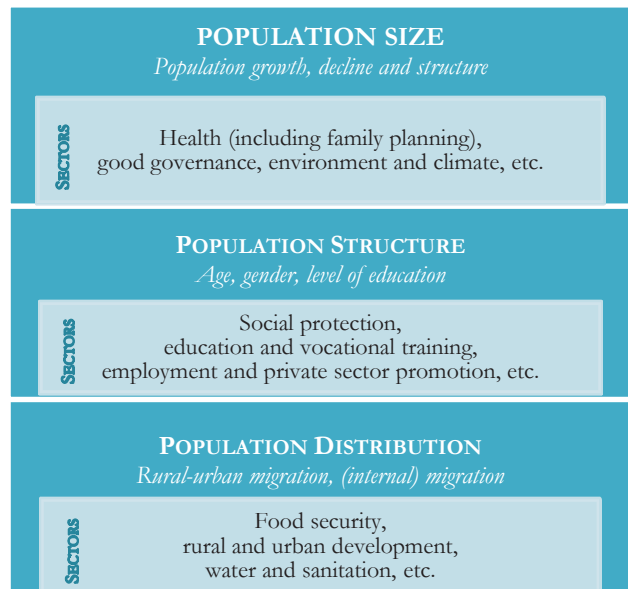
### The challenge

- **World population:** By 2050, an estimated 9.7 billion people will inhabit the planet. Each individual needs equal access to resources and public goods.
- **Children and youth:** One quarter of the world's total population is aged under 15 and 42% under 25. Young people have the potential to make a major contribution to social and economic development, provided that they remain healthy and have access to education, training and good jobs.
- **Ageing:** The number of over-60s will increase between now and 2050 from 780 million to 2 billion. Social systems around the world need to be prepared for this shift.
- **Urbanisation:** By 2050, approximately 70% of the world's population will be living in towns and cities. Mass migration movements pose challenges to the supply of goods and services to rural and poor urban areas.
- **Migration:** More than 250 million people currently live outside the country of their birth. Most migrants remain within their region of origin but move between countries. Natural disasters, war and humanitarian crises are triggering rising flows of refugees.

### Our approach

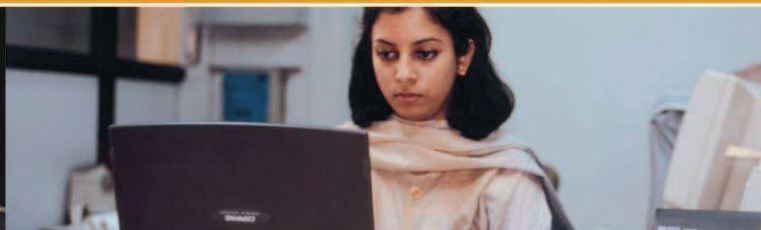
Demographic trends require sustainable development planning involving politicians, civil society and the private sector. Responding to the population's changing needs relies on disaggregated data and cross-sectoral approaches. On behalf of the German Government we help to tailor development cooperation measures to make use of opportunities and to find ways of tackling tomorrow's challenges today. For example, the large number of young people worldwide can be seen as representing labour market potential.

*'Population dynamics' describes how populations change over time with regard to size, structure, and geographic distribution. This has an impact on many issues in German development cooperation:*



### *Cross-sectoral analyses and adaptation of programs*

Population dynamics in partner countries form a key orientation for German development cooperation. Nonetheless, the comprehensive data and strategies required to adapt national development plans are often lacking. A cross-sectoral review captures available data sources and their use and also identifies the capacity within relevant national institutions. Combined with an analysis of the population dynamics of a particular partner country, this cross-sectoral analysis facilitates the integration of demographic trends into development programmes.



### ***Advice on evidence based planning***

In the long term, we aim to empower our partners routinely to record, collect and analyse demographic data and to use it for development planning across a range of sectors. For example, we contribute to the organisational development of national statistical offices and population councils, we support the development and integration of databases, and we link policy advice at national level with cooperation between regional and local authorities, civil society and the private sector.

### ***International agenda setting***

A Programme of Action was adopted by 179 states at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo in 1994. It recognised the individual right to sexual and reproductive health. Its objectives in the area of sustainable, human rights-based and gender-sensitive policies represent a guiding principle for German development cooperation in the field of population dynamics. At international level, Germany is campaigning for recognition and implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. In this context, we advise the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and collaborate with civil society and the private sector at international and regional level and within partner countries. The majority of our partner countries have committed themselves to implementing the Programme of Action. We promote agenda-setting and policy dialogue at a number of levels and foster alliances between stakeholders. Moreover, during the World Assembly on Ageing in 2002, national governments agreed on the following targets specified in the *Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing*: (a) to better integrate the special needs of elderly people in national development processes, (b) to improve their health and economic situation, and (c) to enable them to play an active part in social life.

### **Your benefits**

As a partner of GIZ you benefit from our longstanding international experience. We cooperate with recognised organisations, can draw on skilled experts, and use a wide range of methods. We strengthen the capacities of our partners, of governments and of state institutions to equip them to react to demographic scenarios but also to identify interfaces with relevant related areas and to reflect the population's needs in national policy-making. This helps ensure that social development is promoted sustainably and that there is greater inclusion of vulnerable population groups. However, many partner countries still need support to provide the required demographic data. In the long term, national statistical systems should be able systematically to register births and deaths, family status, residence and migration flows. Based on our long experience of cooperation at local, regional, and national level, we are well equipped to support our partners in the use of available data and projections for sustainable development.

### **An example from the field**

In Togo, internal migration from rural to urban areas, particularly involving young people, concerns all three priority areas for German development cooperation with the country (agricultural and rural development, good governance and decentralisation, and vocational training and youth employment). National registration systems and statistical institutions still lack the capacity to record demographic data in a standardised manner.

A comprehensive review has provided an overview for the responsible authorities of the data collected in this area and how it is used. Analysis of Togo's population dynamics also provides evidence of how demographic trends influence development planning in a range of sectors. The outcomes enable national planning to be adapted. A training module has been developed to strengthen the capacities of the ministries involved in using demographic data for policy-making and strategic development. A handbook is also currently being produced.

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