



# Demographic Dividend Effort Index Report



## Authors and Contributors

### Bill & Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health — Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

- **Jean Christophe Rusatira, MD, MPH**  
Program Officer II — Demographic Dividend Technical Lead
- **Carolina Cardona, MHS**, PhD Candidate
- **Michelle Martinez, MSPH**, PhD Student
- **Carolina Salmeron, MPH**, Program officer
- **Jose G. Rimon, MA, PgDip**, Director
- **Saifuddin Ahmed, MBBS, PhD**, Professor

### Johns Hopkins University Center for Communication Programs — Nigeria

- **Dr. Mojisola Odeku**, Portfolio Director  
Family Planning Portfolio
- **Dr. Olukunle Omotoso**, Program Manager  
The Challenge Initiative (TCI) Nigeria Hub
- **Ms. Oluwayemisi Ishola**, Research, Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist —The Challenge Initiative (TCI) Nigeria Hub
- **Ms. Bridget Maduku**, Programs Associate  
Operations — NURHI 2 Project Nigeria
- **Ms. Olusola Obajimi**, Program Specialist  
Program Specialist — Strategy & Coordination —NURHI 2 Project Nigeria
- **Ms. Charity Ibeawuchi**, Senior Technical Advisor  
Advocacy — NURHI 2 Project Nigeria

### National Population Commission — Nigeria

- **Ms. Margaret Edison**, Deputy Director  
Planning, Population & Development

## Table of Contents

• Background.....	3
• Demographic Transition Status in Nigeria: Accelerating Progress.....	4
• DD Effort Index Summary Results.....	5
• Key DD Effort Levers.....	5
• DDEI Results Across Sectors .....	6
• DDEI Results Across Dimensions .....	6
• Family Planning Efforts Scores .....	7
• Key Family Planning Effort Levers .....	7
• Maternal and Child Health Efforts Scores .....	8
• Key Maternal and Child Health Effort Levers.....	8
• Women Empowerment Efforts Scores for Nigeria .....	9
• Key Women Empowerment Effort Levers.....	9
• Education Efforts Scores.....	10
• Key Education Effort Levers .....	11
• Labor Market Efforts Scores .....	12
• Key Labor Market Effort Levers .....	12
• Governance and Economic Institutions Effort Scores .....	12
• Key Effort Levers in Governance and Economic Institutions .....	12
• Health and Development Resilience in the Face of COVID-19.....	13
• Sectoral Resiliency Summary Results.....	14
• Resiliency Module Results Across Sectors.....	15
• Resiliency Module Results Across Resiliency Dimensions.....	15
• Family Planning Resiliency Scores.....	16
• Maternal and Child Health Resiliency Scores .....	16
• Women’s Empowerment Resiliency Scores .....	16
• Education Resiliency Scores .....	17
• Labor Market Resiliency Scores.....	17
• Key Effort Levers to Improve Health and Development Resilience.....	18
• References .....	19

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Design: Carolina Salmeron, MPH, Erni Peterson

Corresponding author: Jean Christophe Rusatira, [jcrusatira@jhu.edu](mailto:jcrusatira@jhu.edu)



## Background

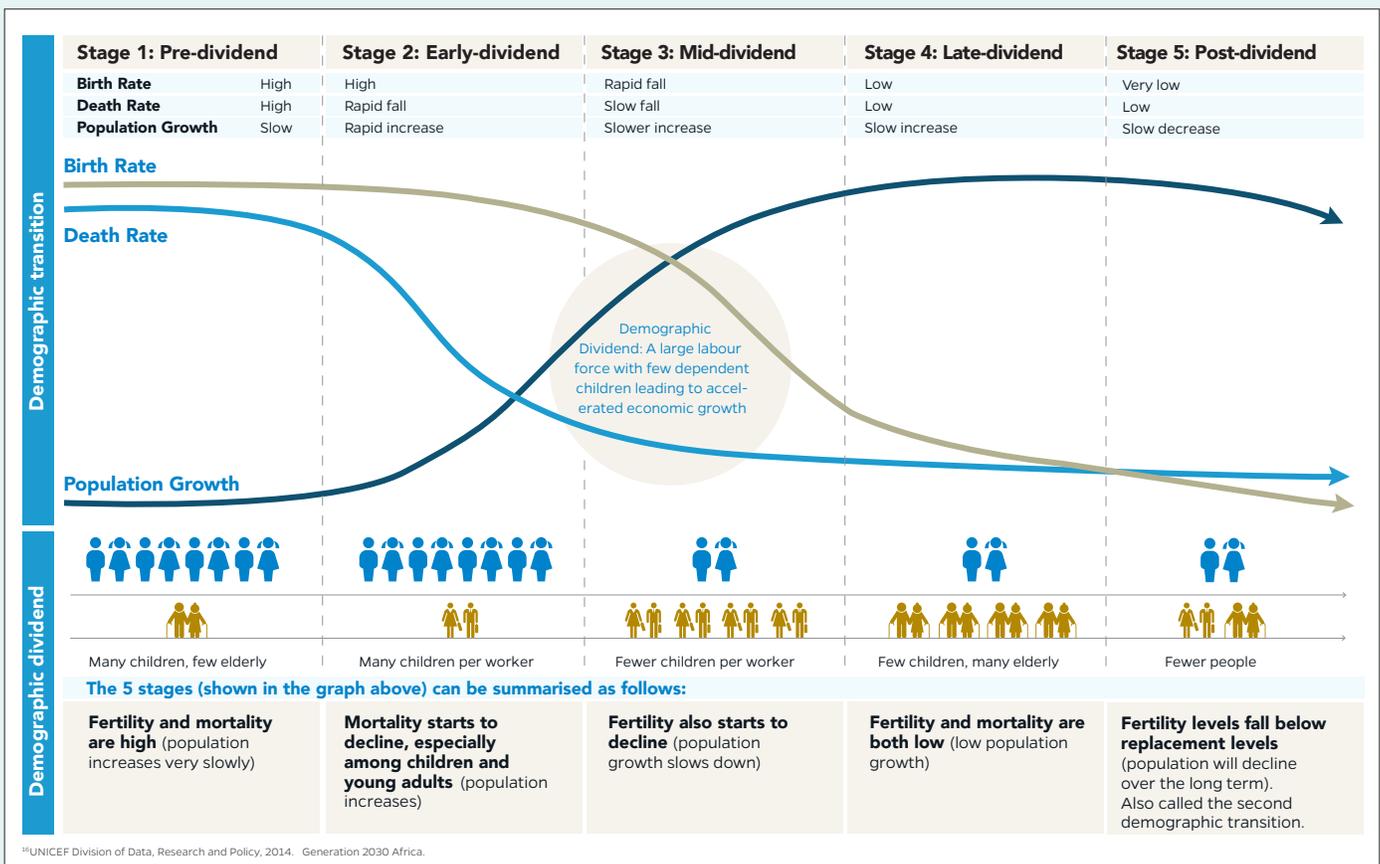
A demographic dividend (DD) presents countries the opportunity to accelerate economic growth and achieve sustainable development and social change. It is the result of changes in the population age structure that occur from declines in both child mortality and fertility during the third stage of the demographic transition period<sup>1</sup>. To fully harness the benefits produced by the DD, countries require targeted investments in human, social, and physical capital<sup>2</sup>.

The majority of Sub-Saharan African countries are in the first, second or third stage of their demographic transition, which positions them as pre- and early dividend countries (Figure 1)<sup>3</sup>.

Evidence has shown that countries need to approach the DD as an interrelated system in which multiple sectors work together to create a favorable policy environment<sup>3</sup>. The demographic dividend effort index (DDEI) fulfills the need for a standard measure to quantify the extent of

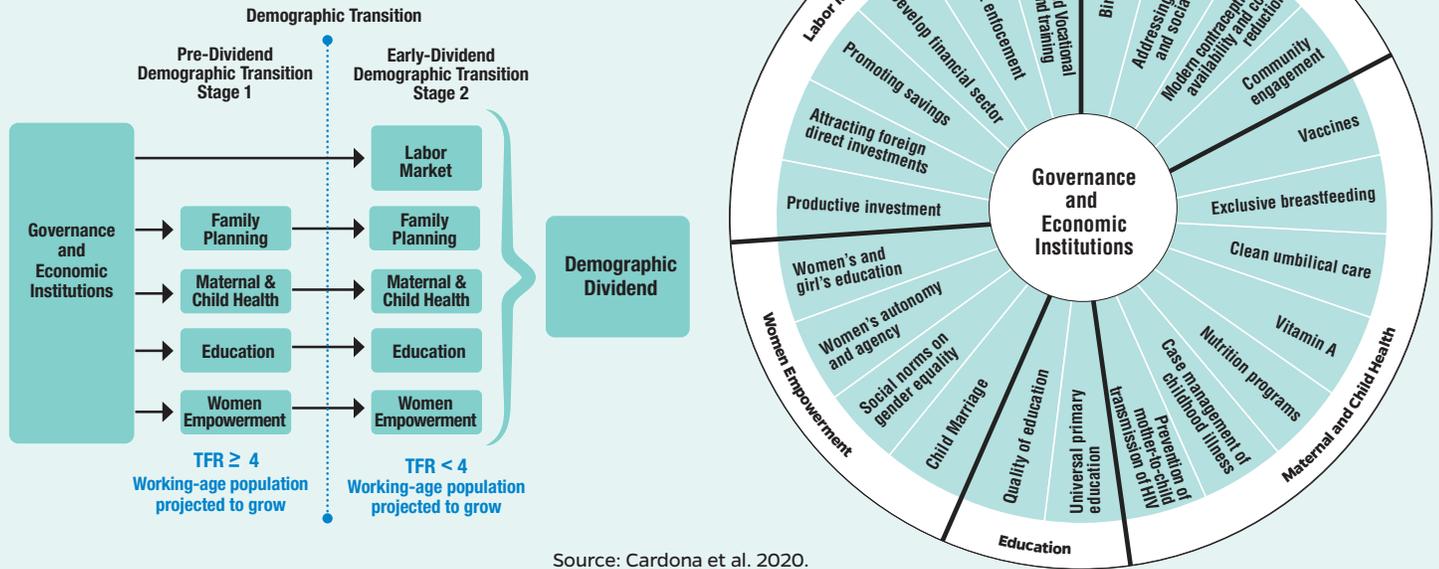
multisectoral national efforts in policies and programs implemented to cultivate, realize and harness the benefits of a DD. Information was collected from sectoral experts across the six sectors identified as being integral to the creation of a favorable environment for the DD namely Family Planning (FP), Maternal and Child Health (MCH), Education (ED), Women’s Empowerment (WE), Labor Market (LM) and Governance and Economic Institutions (GEI). The DDEI uses a Likert scale to measure efforts from 1 to 10, with 1 representing non-existing or weak effort, and 10 a very strong effort. Figure 2. “DD Framework and Wheel of Prosperity” illustrates sector-specific intervention areas that informed the DDEI survey questionnaires. Each sector-specific survey is divided into 5 selected dimensions: policymaking, services and programs, advocacy, research, and civil society, selected based on a review of the literature that demonstrates their influential placements throughout a society, and their potential for fostering a DD-favorable environment.

**Figure 1.** Demographic transition and demographic dividend



Source: UNICEF. “MENA Generation 2030: Investing in Children and Youth Today to Secure a Prosperous Region Tomorrow,” 2019.

**Figure 2.** Demographic Dividend framework and wheel of prosperity that summarizes potential high impact sector-specific programs and interventions.



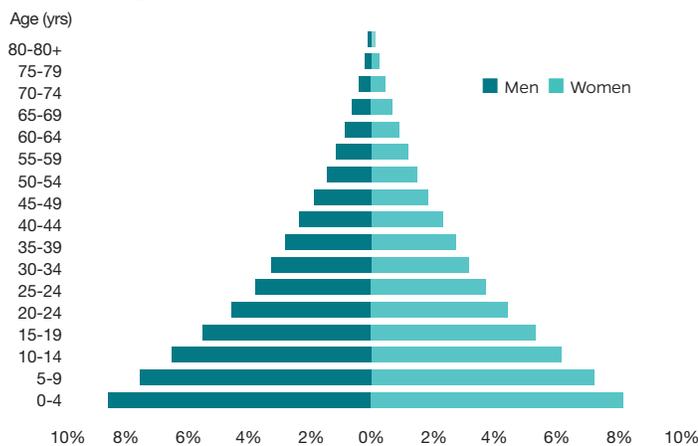
Source: Cardona et al. 2020.

## Demographic Transition Status in Nigeria: Accelerating Progress

As of midyear 2019, Nigeria had a population of 201 million, with an annual population growth rate of 2.5%. Overall, 44% of Nigeria's population was under age 15. Nigeria is on the path to a population age structure that may enable it to experience a DD<sup>1</sup>. Its realization relies on enabling a favorable policy environment. The Total Fertility Rate (TFR), or the average number of children per woman over the course of her lifetime, has declined from 6.5 children in 1990 to 5.3 children per woman in 2015.

The broad base of Nigeria's 2020 population pyramid (Figure 3) represents a large number of children in relation to the working age population<sup>4</sup>. However, compared to past decades the base is beginning to narrow at the youngest ages, representing a

**Figure 3.** Nigeria population pyramid, 2020.



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). World Population Prospects: The 2019 Revision, custom data acquired via website.

fertility decline. United Nations projections based on assumptions of continued moderate fertility decline demonstrate that by 2030, fertility will decline to an average of 4.9 children per woman over her lifespan<sup>5</sup>. Further projections to 2050 show fertility to decline further to 3.7 children per woman. In this 2050 scenario, Nigeria would have a larger proportion of the population working-age and, if able to secure employment, able to contribute to economic growth.

As a pre-dividend country, trend data shows that Nigeria has yet to make substantial strides on an issue that is important to cultivating and achieving a DD: contraceptive use prevalence. Contraceptive use has increased from 12.6% among married women to 16.6% among married women between the 2003 and 2018 DHS<sup>6,7</sup>. Taking this further, it is important to consider the demand for contraceptives that is satisfied by modern methods. In Nigeria in 1999, 24.4% of demand was satisfied by modern methods, which increased to 31.3% in 2013<sup>8,9</sup>. Additionally, there are noted trends in desired family size over the past decades that likely impact trends in fertility and population size. Desired family size was 5.8 children in 1990<sup>10</sup>, which increased to 6.7 in 2003<sup>11</sup>, then 6.1 in 2008<sup>12</sup> and has reached 6.5 as of 2013<sup>13</sup>. As a result of the noted trends, the fertility decline has been slower. Thus, Nigeria's age structure, while it is beginning to shift, is not doing so dramatically. To create a favorable environment for the DD to happen, Nigeria will need to strengthen its efforts to ensure family sizes that can be supported by available resources and more investments in human capital development with special focus on women and girls. The FP, MCH, ED, WE and GEI sectors are essential for a DD and to set the stage for labor market success.



## DD Effort Index Summary Results

### Approach and Results

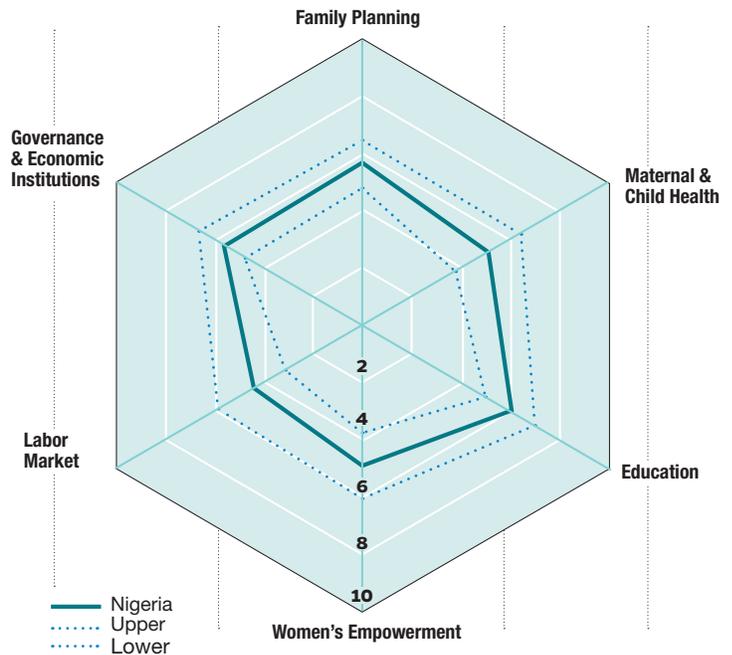
The Gates Institute partnered with the Center for Communication Programs in Nigeria that collaborated with the National Population Commission and DD Community of Practice, to locate experts working in all FP, MCH, ED, WE and GEI and LM sectors across five dimensions: policymaking, services and programs, advocacy, research, and civil society. This resulted in **67** completed surveys across the six sectors: FP (18), MCH (8), ED (12), WE (9), LM (8) and GEI (12).

Summary results demonstrating perceived level of effort towards the DD within each sector are presented in Figure 4. The average scores on a scale from 1 to 10 for each sector are as follows:

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. FP: <b>5.7</b>  | 4. WE: <b>4.9</b>  |
| 2. MCH: <b>5.1</b> | 5. LM: <b>4.4</b>  |
| 3. ED: <b>6.0</b>  | 6. GEI: <b>5.6</b> |

Confidence intervals are presented in the dotted lines to show the upper and lower bounds. The overall DDEI score of Nigeria's six sectors is 5.4 (95% Confidence Interval [CI]: 5.0-5.8).

**Figure 4.** Radar plot of DDEI results across all sectors in Nigeria.



## Key DD Effort Levers

The summary results demonstrate that there is a moderate level of effort being devoted towards creating an enabling environment that would allow Nigeria to harness the benefits of the DD. The moderately high levels of effort are being demonstrated in the GEI sector (5.6), followed by the ED sector (6.0). The moderate levels of effort are seen in the FP sector (5.7), followed by the MCH sector (5.1). Moderate to less-than-moderate levels of effort are being undertaken in the WE and LM sectors (4.9 and 4.4, respectively). To accelerate progress, Nigeria should consider the following policy levers to improve efforts toward cultivating and harnessing the DD:

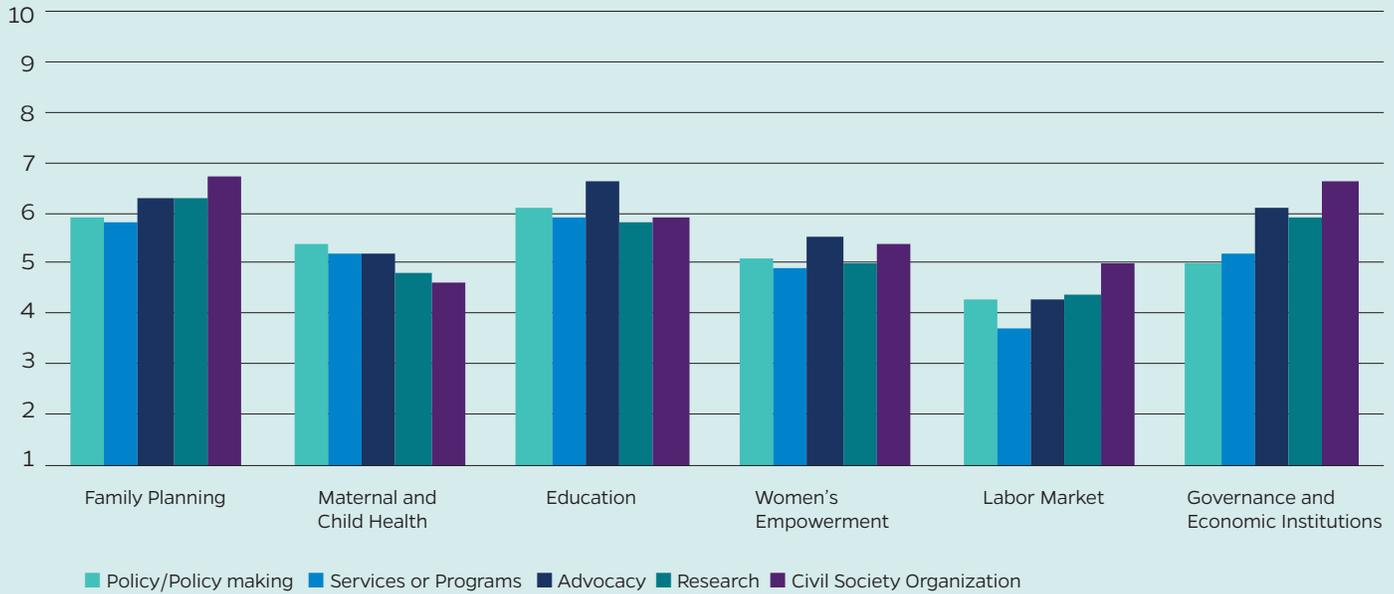
- Strengthen family planning programming as a key investment priority for fertility reduction, improved health, family wellbeing and national economic growth.**
- Implement the policy of zero-tolerance to maternal, newborn and under-5 mortality and morbidity by ensuring universal access to quality and free/subsidized services under the Universal Health Care package supported by the Basic Health Fund Scheme.**
- Increase education resources to meet the demands of universal basic school education and ensure 100% completion of secondary education for all Nigerian children.**
- Promote gender parity in politics and in all spheres of decision making as a national priority agenda through empowering women for accomplishments in the workforce, economic and political sectors.**
- Implement policies and strategies that promote job creation and entrepreneurship to harness the productive potentials of the large youth population.**
- Implement sustainable institutional mechanisms and systems that promote transparency, good governance, accountability and rule of law at all levels.**

Ultimately, achieving progress will require multi-dimensional, multisectoral collaboration to ensure that all aspects of Nigerian society move forward together. In the future, the DDEI should be used regularly to provide data informed discussion points for stakeholders and a timely assessment of successes and gaps while documenting best practices and areas of improvement. Country stakeholders may consider conducting the DDEI annually or bi-annually at the national level as well as utilizing the DDEI at the subnational level to facilitate performance and mutual learning within the country.

## DDEI Results Across Sectors

The DDEI results across sectors, by societal dimension, are presented in Figure 5. This demonstrates the variations in scores within DDEI sectors and across dimensions .

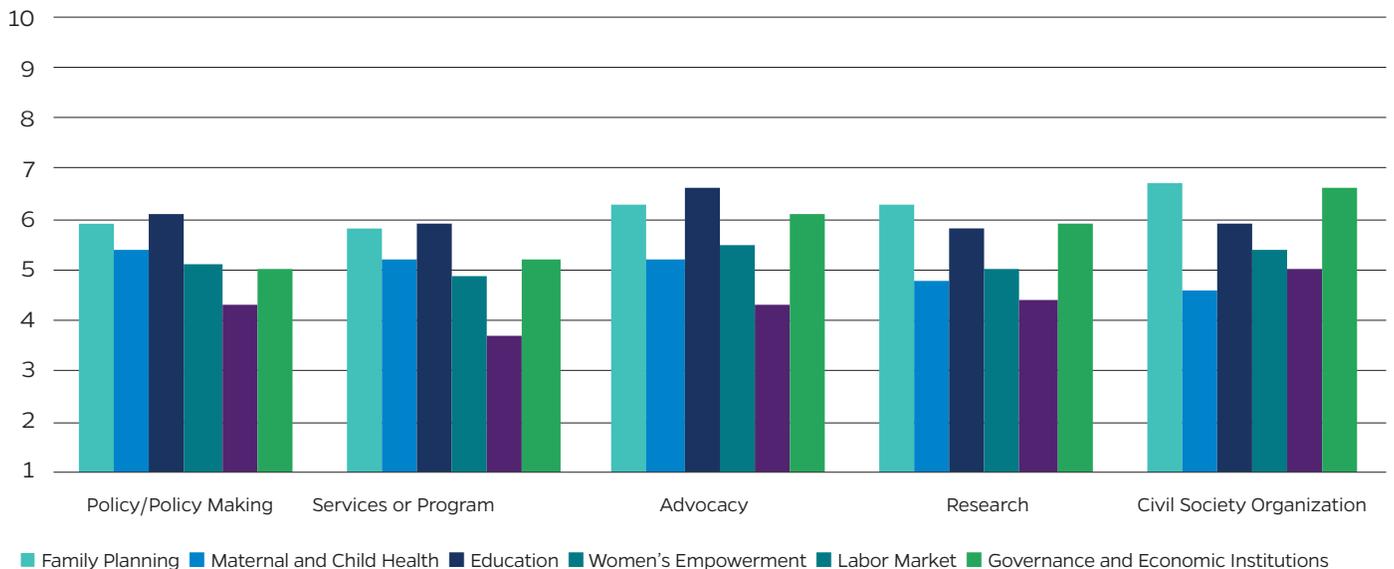
**Figure 5:** Bar chart of DDEI results across sectors, by societal dimensions in Nigeria.



## DDEI Results Across Dimensions

The DDEI results across societal dimensions, by DDEI sector, are presented in Figure 6. This demonstrates the variations in scores within dimensions across sectors.

**Figure 6:** Bar chart of DDEI results across societal dimensions, by sector in Nigeria.





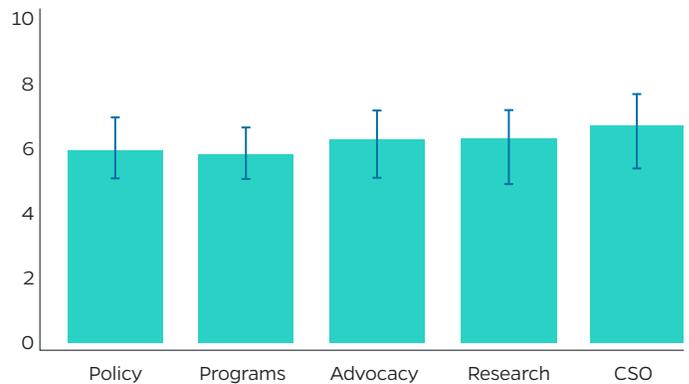
## Family Planning Efforts Scores

The FP sector survey included questions ranging across the five societal dimensions: policies, services and programs, advocacy, research and civil society. Perceived levels of effort within the FP sector by dimension are presented in Figure 7. The results are based on responses from **18** FP experts working in Nigeria. The scores for each dimension within FP are as follows:

1. Policy/policymaking: **5.9** (CI: 5.0-6.9)
2. Services/Programs: **5.8** (CI: 5.0-6.6)
3. Advocacy: **6.3** (CI: 5.3-7.4)
4. Research: **6.3** (CI: 5.1-7.4)
5. CSOs: **6.7** (CI: 5.6-7.9)

Based on weighted statistical analysis, the overall effort towards an enabling environment to harness the benefits of the DD in the FP sector is **5.7** (CI: 4.8-6.5).

**Figure 7.** Bar chart of DDEI results in the FP sector in Nigeria, by dimension. (95% Confidence Interval)



## Key Family Planning Effort Levers

**F**amily planning programs are highly effective at managing fertility levels to allow couples to attain their desired family size. Focusing on fertility management, particularly in pre-dividend countries with a Total Fertility Rate greater than 4, can accelerate a shifting age structure and pave the path to harness greater gains from a demographic dividend. Noting the multisectoral nature of progress towards the DD, higher socioeconomic status (SES) is positively associated with declining fertility. As families become smaller, household members have greater resource allocation per capita, which, for children, can be translated into higher educational investments and higher parental time per child. Furthermore, the pace of fertility decline is subject to contraceptive practices and women's demand for contraception; however, overall demand is greatly affected by the supply of quality services and methods. Finally, understanding the social context of a community and the local perceptions of family planning can help guide the development of successful family planning programs to reduce national fertility rates.<sup>2</sup>

Survey results demonstrate that the civil society dimension is perceived to be devoting the greatest level of effort towards improvements in the FP sector, closely followed by the dimensions of advocacy and research. The dimensions of policy/policymaking and services and programs are demonstrating moderate levels of effort as well.

To accelerate progress, country stakeholders should consider the following policies to improve efforts specific to the FP sector to cultivate and harness the DD:

1. **Increase domestic financing for expanding the range of contraceptive options, consumables and quality service provision within a strengthened and functional primary health care system.**
2. **Ensure unhindered and voluntary access of young persons to quality FP information and services with full availability of the methods mix and integrated within the Universal Health Care Package and PHC.**
3. **Promote family planning as a national priority for achievement of improved quality of life and sustainable development, and a demand for FP as a social norm.**
4. **Expand dialogues with all stakeholders, including the faith and traditional leaders, to promote inclusive decision making and accountability.**
5. **Promote research, information and knowledge to mitigate misinformation and to promote advancements in technologies, service provision and program monitoring.**

Lastly, a multi-dimensional and multisectoral collaboration is crucial to ensure that the FP sector can benefit from and complement the progress and efforts being made in other domains and sectors.



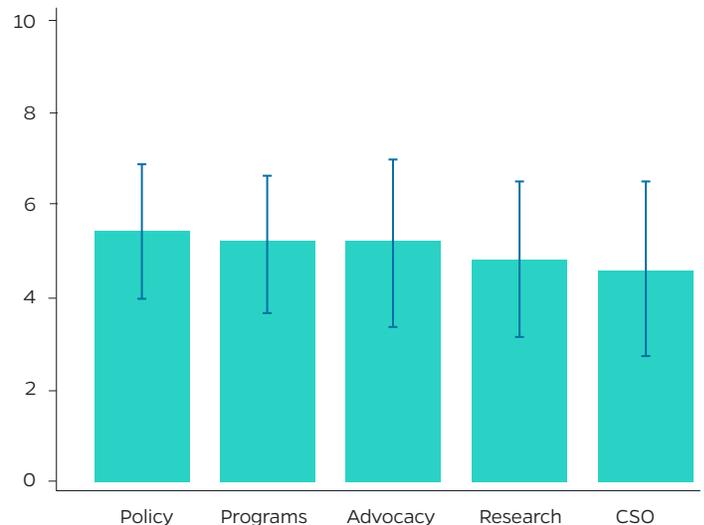
## Maternal and Child Health Efforts Scores

The MCH sector survey included questions ranging across the five societal dimensions: policies, services and programs, advocacy, research and civil society. Perceived levels of effort within the MCH sector by dimension are presented in Figure 8. The results are based on responses from **8** MCH experts working in Nigeria. The scores for each dimension within MCH are as follows:

1. Policies: **5.4** (CI: 4.0-6.9)
2. Services/Programs: **5.2** (CI: 3.7-6.6)
3. Advocacy: **5.2** (CI: 3.4-7.0)
4. Research: **4.8** (CI: 3.2-6.5)
5. CSOs: **4.6** (CI: 2.8-6.5)

The overall score for the level of effort towards an enabling environment to harness the benefits of the DD in the MCH sector is 5.1 (CI: 3.8-6.4).

**Figure 8.** Bar chart of DDEI results in the MCH sector in Nigeria, by dimension. (95% Confidence Interval)



## Key Maternal and Child Health Effort Levers

**R**educing infant and child mortality, along with maternal mortality, is a global goal that is part of the Sustainable Development Goals and included in the national plans and policies of developing countries. Although there is disagreement in the direction of the causal path, there is a consensus that the achievement of reduced child mortality, fertility decline, and lower maternal mortality are key to achieving fertility management and attaining a demographic dividend.<sup>2</sup>

Survey results demonstrate that the policy/policymaking dimension is perceived to be devoting the greatest level of effort, at the moderate range of effort, towards improvements in the MCH sector, closely followed by the dimensions of services and programs and advocacy. The dimensions of research and civil society organizations are demonstrating moderate levels of effort as well.

To accelerate progress, country stakeholders should consider the following policies to improve efforts specific to the MCH sector to cultivate and harness the DD:

1. **Increase domestic financing to support achievement of Universal Health Coverage and PHC package.**
2. **Strengthen universal access to full maternal, newborn and child health services, complemented by sustainable routine immunization, breastfeeding, nutrition and other preventive and promotional services.**
3. **Strengthen and promote inclusive accountability mechanisms with full community participation at all levels of the program and at community levels.**
4. **Promote safe individual and community-based and healthy self-care behaviors and practices to bridge identified gaps at the household and community levels.**
5. **Strengthen private sector, CSO and community participation in policy decision-making, budgeting and accountability processes and in quality information and service provisions.**

Lastly, a multi-dimensional and multisectoral collaboration is crucial to ensure that the MCH sector can benefit from and complement the progress and efforts being made in other domains and sectors.



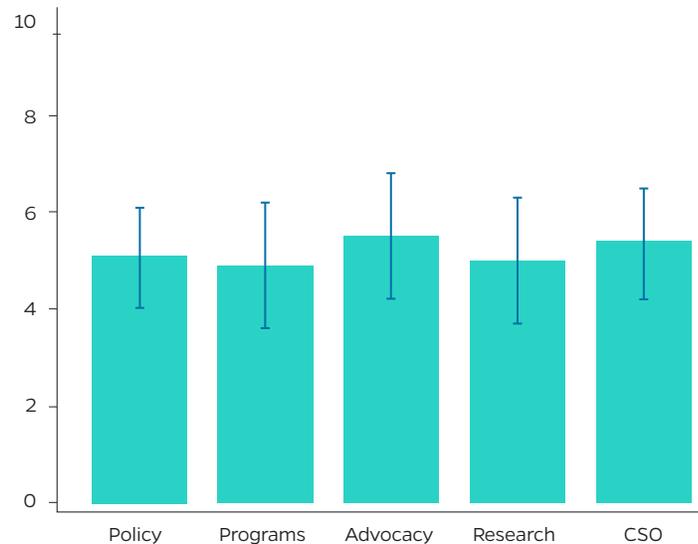
## Women Empowerment Efforts Scores for Nigeria

The WE sector survey included questions ranging across the five societal dimensions: policies, services and programs, advocacy, research and civil society. Perceived levels of effort within the WE sector by dimension are presented in Figure 9. The results are based on responses from 9 experts working in the area of WE in Nigeria. The scores for each dimension within WE are as follows:

1. Policies: **5.1** (CI: 4.0-6.1)
2. Services/Programs: **4.9** (CI: 3.6-6.2)
3. Advocacy: **5.5** (CI: 4.2-6.8)
4. Research: **5.0** (CI: 3.7 -6.3)
5. CSOs: **5.4** (CI: 4.2-6.5)

Although the WE is essential to create an enabling environment to harness the benefits of the DD, the average score for the level of effort in WE sector is as low as 4.9 (CI: 3.8-6.0).

**Figure 9.** Bar chart of DDEI results in the WE sector in Nigeria, by dimension. (95% Confidence Interval)



## Key Women Empowerment Effort Levers

**W**omen's and girls' empowerment are required to create and capitalize on the benefits of a DD through improvements in health, education and decision-making power. Critically, empowered women have the potential to transform countries' economies from states of high fertility, low education and slow economic growth towards states of high education and rapid economic growth. Characteristics of empowered women include the autonomy to make their own reproductive health decisions, economic self-reliance and household decision-making, among components of increasing levels of education, which can all be reached through societal shifts in gender norms.<sup>2</sup> In the WE sector, survey results demonstrate that the advocacy and civil society organizations dimensions are perceived to be devoting the greatest levels of effort, just above the moderate level, towards achievement of the DD. This is followed by the dimensions of policy/policymaking, research and services/programs.

To accelerate progress, country stakeholders should consider the following policies to improve efforts specific to the WE sector to cultivate and harness the DD:

1. **Adopt and implement focused laws, and strategies that promote women's rights and girl's education, gender parity and equal opportunities across all sectors.**
2. **Implement policies and programs that expand opportunities for women to access 21st century entrepreneurial skills, affordable credits, market and innovative technologies. policies and programs.**
3. **Implement strategies that address cultural and traditional practices that promote gender disparity, including gender-based violence, female genital mutilation and other harmful practices that prevent the girl child and women from achieving their life goals and wellbeing.**
4. **Create opportunities to promote women's excellence in research, technology innovations, knowledge and wealth creation.**
5. **Promote civil society participation in identifying negative practices and promotion of positive behaviors that protect women, girls and other vulnerable groups in the society.**

Lastly, a multi-dimensional and multisectoral collaboration is crucial to ensure that the WE sector can benefit from and complement the progress and efforts being made in other domains and sectors.



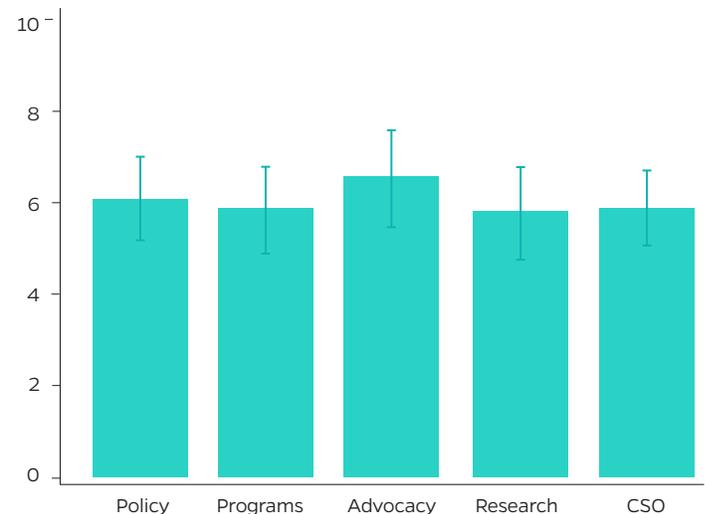
## Education Efforts Scores

The ED sector survey included questions ranging across the five societal dimensions: policies, services and programs, advocacy, research and civil society. Perceived levels of effort within the ED sector by dimension are presented in Figure 10. The results are based on responses from **12** experts working in the sector of ED in Nigeria. The scores for each dimension within ED are as follows:

1. Policies: **6.1** (CI: 5.2-7.0)
2. Services/Programs: **5.9** (CI: 4.9-6.8)
3. Advocacy: **6.6** (CI: 5.5-7.6)
4. Research: **5.8** (CI: 4.8-6.8)
5. CSOs: **5.9** (CI: 5.1-6.7)

Demonstrating that ED is essential to create an enabling environment to harness the benefits of the DD, the average score for the level of effort in ED sector is as high as 6.0 (CI: 5.0-7.0).

**Figure 10.** Bar chart of DDEI results in the ED sector in Nigeria, by dimension. (95% Confidence Interval)



## Key Education Effort Levers

Countries between the second and third stages of the demographic transition have the unique opportunity to boost their economies by taking advantage of the large “youth bulge” in their populations. Investing in education and tailoring education to the labor market can increase output per work, maximize productivity, and drive development. Critically, individuals with higher levels of education are more efficient producers of health, which in turn is translated into a healthier population with higher productivity levels. Issues around education will need to consider gender equality in the acquisition of education, as well as the quality of education that is be provided.<sup>2</sup>

In the ED sector, survey results demonstrate that the advocacy dimension is perceived to be devoting the greatest levels of effort, at the high-moderate level, towards achievement of the DD. This is followed closely by the policymaking dimensions. In the moderate range of effort are the dimensions of services and programs, civil society organizations, and research.

To accelerate progress, country stakeholders should consider the following policies to improve efforts specific to the ED sector to cultivate and harness the DD:

1. Review and update educational curricular to align with the innovations, information and communications technology (ICT) and other technologies that support productive performances.
2. Expand access to quality alternative vocational skills training for young people to enhance their employability (including self-employment), productivity and competitiveness.
3. The multisectoral stakeholders’ coordination platforms should be strengthened to scale up policy dialogues and broad-based stakeholders’ participation in decision making.
4. Review the curricula of educational institutions to increase their quality, flexibility and relevance to labor market and national developmental needs and sustainable quality assurance.
5. Ensure multi-dimensional and multisectoral collaboration to complement and integrate the progress and efforts being made in the sectors to improve educational content.

Lastly, a multi-dimensional and multisectoral collaboration is crucial to ensure that the ED sector can benefit from and complement the progress and efforts being made in other domains and sectors.



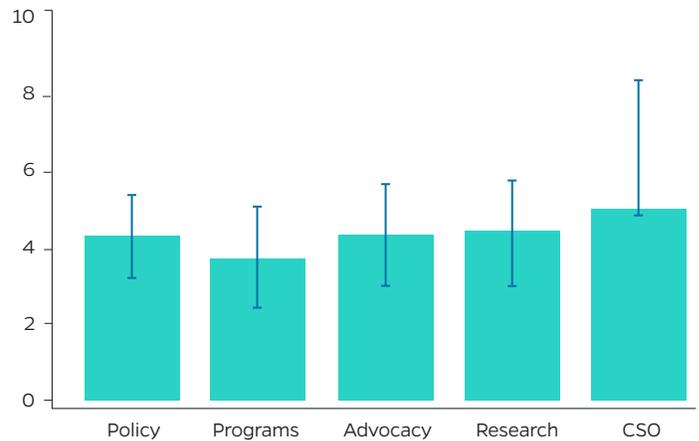
## Labor Market Efforts Scores

The LM sector survey included questions ranging across the five societal dimensions: policies, services and programs, advocacy, research and civil society. Perceived levels of effort within the LM sector by dimension are presented in Figure 11. The results are based on responses from **8** experts working in the sector of LM in Nigeria. The scores for each dimension within LM are as follows:

1. Policies: **4.3** (CI: 3.2-5.4)
2. Services/Programs: **3.7** (CI: 2.4-5.1)
3. Advocacy: **4.3** (CI: 3.0-5.7)
4. Research: **4.4** (CI: 3.0-5.8)
5. CSOs: **5.0** (CI: 3.2-6.8)

Although the LM increasingly becomes a priority as the country goes through its demographic transition, the average score for the level of effort in the LM sector is as low as 4.4 (CI: 3.1-5.8).

**Figure 11.** Bar chart of DDEI results in the LM sector in Nigeria, by dimension. (95% Confidence Interval)



## Key Labor Market Effort Levers

Countries need productive and supportive labor markets to optimize their production capacity to absorb the growing young population. With declining fertility, a “youth bulge” is anticipated, which will create a large proportion of working youth compared to lower numbers of dependent children. For countries at the early dividend stage, this “youth” bulge can maximize the benefits of a DD through employment. Thus, the labor market is a critical sector as the benefits of a DD can be greater if young adults are able to accumulate human capital for when they enter the labor force, and if the labor market is in fact able to offer productive jobs. It will be critical to consider the growth in formal labor areas, as well as women’s participation in labor.<sup>2</sup>

Overall, scores in the LM sector are lower than all other sectors. By dimension, the survey results demonstrate that the civil society organization is perceived to be devoting the greatest levels of effort, just below the moderate level, towards achievement of the DD, which is closely followed by the advocacy dimension. This is followed somewhat closely by the policy/policymaking dimension. The lowest perceived levels of effort are seen in the services and programs and research dimensions.

To accelerate progress, country stakeholders should consider the following policies to improve specific to the LM sector to cultivate and harness the DD:

1. **Implement economic policies that will promote investment, human capital development and increase productivity and livelihood.**
2. **Invest in sectors with high job multiplier effects, including ICT, manufacturing, agriculture and agro-industries to generate employment and spur inclusive growth.**
3. **Promote inclusive accountability on all matters affecting the labor markets.**
4. **Facilitate youth involvement and engagement in decisions that affects them – participation that will promote inclusiveness, ownership and sustainable ownership.**
5. **Promote active and inclusive civil society participation and liaisons that support equal participation of stakeholders in labor matters to promote industrial harmony.**

Lastly, a multi-dimensional and multisectoral collaboration is crucial to ensure that the LM sector can benefit from and complement the progress and efforts being made in other domains and sectors.



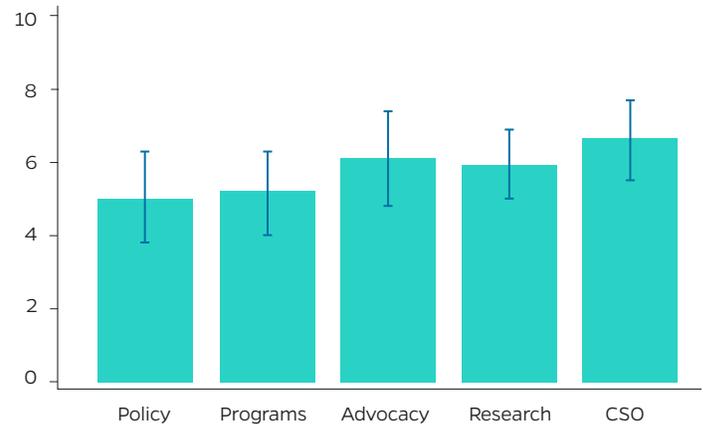
## Governance and Economic Institutions Effort Scores

The GEI sector survey included questions ranging across the five societal dimensions: policies, services and programs, advocacy, research and civil society. Perceived levels of effort within the GEI sector by dimension are presented in Figure 12. The results are based on responses from **12** experts working in the sector of Governance and Economic Institutions in Nigeria. The scores for each dimension within GEI are as follows:

1. Policies: **5.0** (CI: (3.8-6.3))
2. Services/Programs: **5.2** (CI: 4.0-6.3)
3. Advocacy: **6.1** (CI: 4.8-7.4)
4. Research: **5.9** (CI: 5.0-6.9)
5. CSOs: **6.6** (CI: 5.5-7.7)

Good governance and strong economic institutions are essential to create an enabling environment to harness the benefits of the DD. The average score for the level of effort in GEI sector is as high as 5.6 (CI: 4.7-6.6).

**Figure 12.** Bar chart of DDEI results in the ED sector in Nigeria, by dimension. (95% Confidence Interval)



## Key Effort Levers in Governance and Economic Institutions

The most cross-cutting sector in the DDEI framework is GEI, which undergirds an essential precondition to ensure that a favorable policy environment is in place for achievement of a DD. Changes within any other sector are not guaranteed without such an environment, so the significance of governance and economic institutions cannot be overstated. Good governance and strong institutions can encourage civil participation and enable policies that will make a favorable policy environment across all economic sectors to benefit from the DD. The multi-sectoral complexity of the demographic dividend poses additional challenges to close the gap between policy design and policy implementation. Political commitment and strong leadership are needed to ensure coordination across all sectors and levels<sup>2</sup>

Overall, the scores in the GEI sector are higher than all other sectors. By dimension, the survey results demonstrate that the dimensions of advocacy and civil society organizations are perceived to be devoting the highest levels of effort. These are closely followed by the dimensions of policy/policymaking and research, which are followed further behind by services/programs.

To accelerate progress, country stakeholders should consider the following policies to improve efforts specific to the GEI sector to cultivate and harness the DD:

1. **Strengthen public institutional frameworks and operationalization of effective and responsive governance to promote democracy, transparency and accountability.**
2. **Strengthen public accountability systems for planning, spending, and oversight on priority public investments and decisions.**
3. **Create social protection systems to support Nigeria's most vulnerable groups, including young people, persons with disabilities, women, adolescent, children and those in emergency spaces.**
4. **Ensure consensus-building and strategic review mechanisms and implementation of stakeholder reviews to advance progress in harnessing the demographic dividend.**
5. **Strengthen multi-institutional and multisectoral frameworks for advancing efforts that accelerate economic growth.**

Lastly, the GEI provide stability to other sectors and high level of efforts in this sector may boost other sectors and may catalyze multisectoral collaborations.



**JOHNS HOPKINS**  
BLOOMBERG SCHOOL  
*of* PUBLIC HEALTH

**Bill & Melinda Gates Institute for  
Population and Reproductive Health**  
**Department of Population, Family  
and Reproductive Health**