

2021 RWANDA



DDEI

DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND
EFFORT INDEX

Demographic Dividend Effort Index Report



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Acknowledgment

The authors would like to thank the members of the Community of Practice (CoP) and local experts for their inputs and contribution to the development of the demographic dividend scorecard and demographic dividend effort index. Philip Anglewicz, PhD (Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health) for his comments and feedback on the survey instruments, Ian Salas, PhD (Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health) and Qingfeng Li, PhD (Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health) for their contribution in the conceptualization of the demographic dividend effort index, Mervyn Christian, MPH (Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health) for his feedback on policy recommendations and overall presentation of the report.

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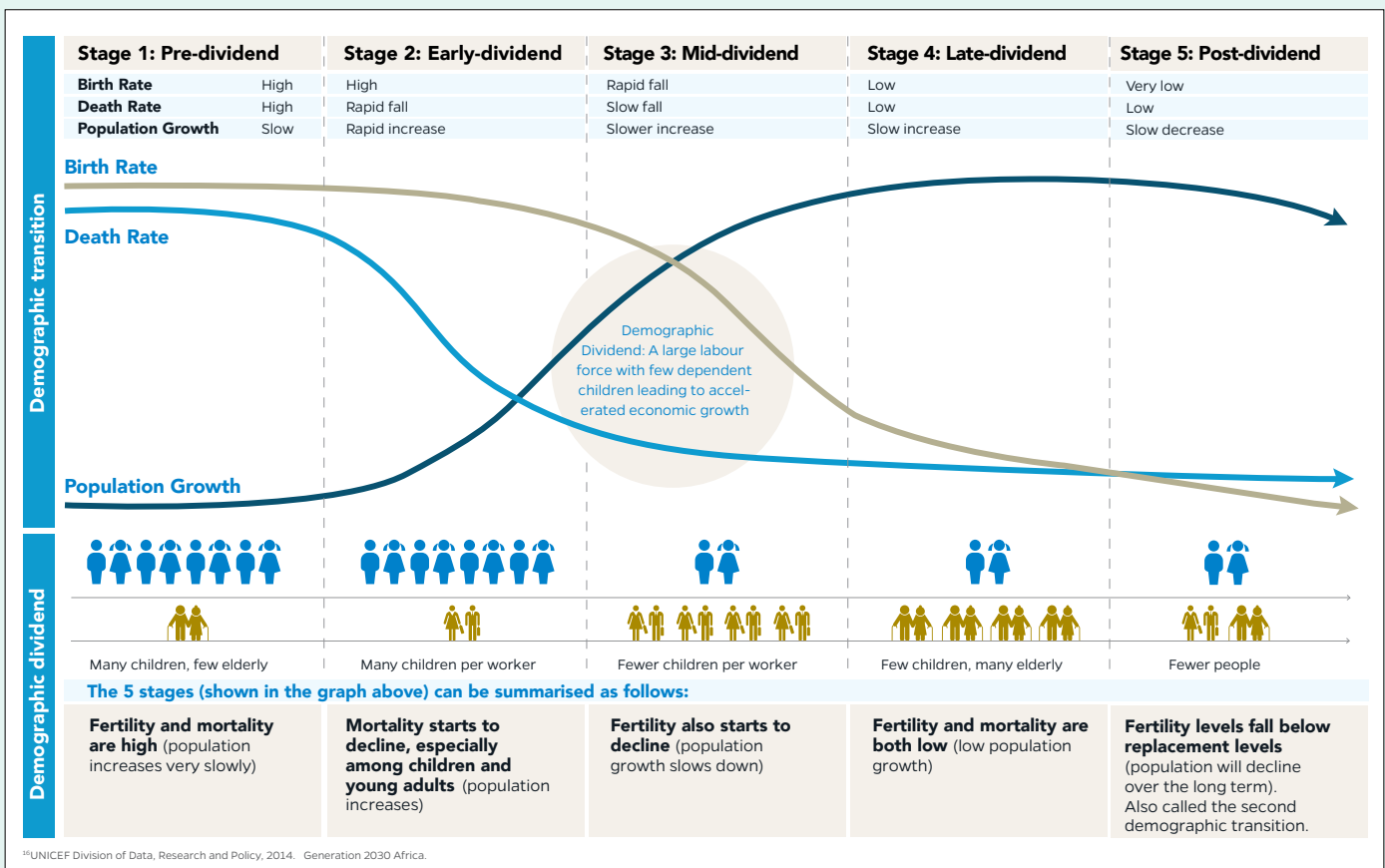
Background

A demographic dividend (DD) presents to 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 period¹. To fully harness the benefits produced by the DD, countries require targeted investments in human, social, and physical capita². 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)³.

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 environment³. The demographic dividend effort index (DDEI) fulfills the need for a standard measure to quantify the extent of

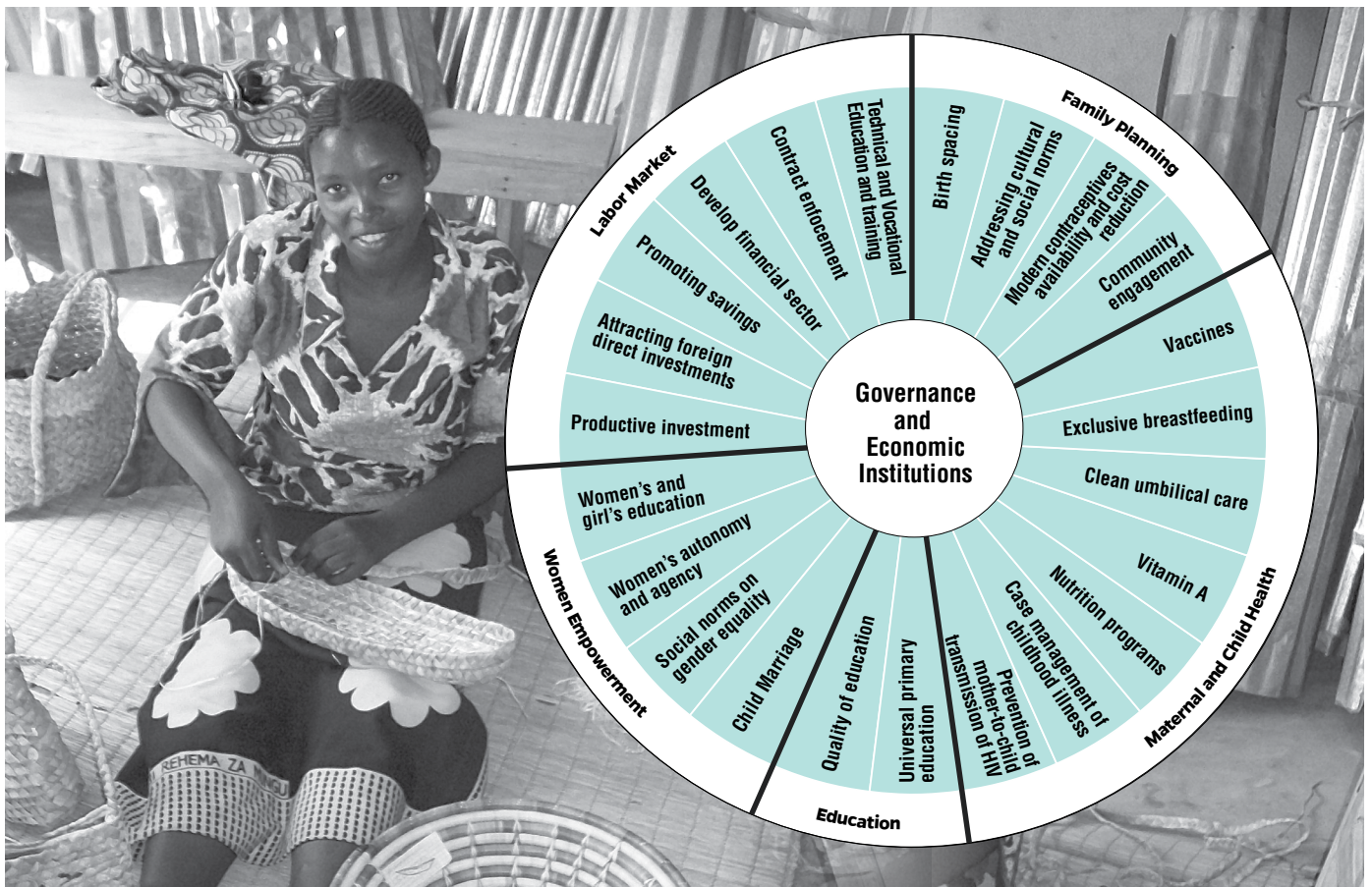
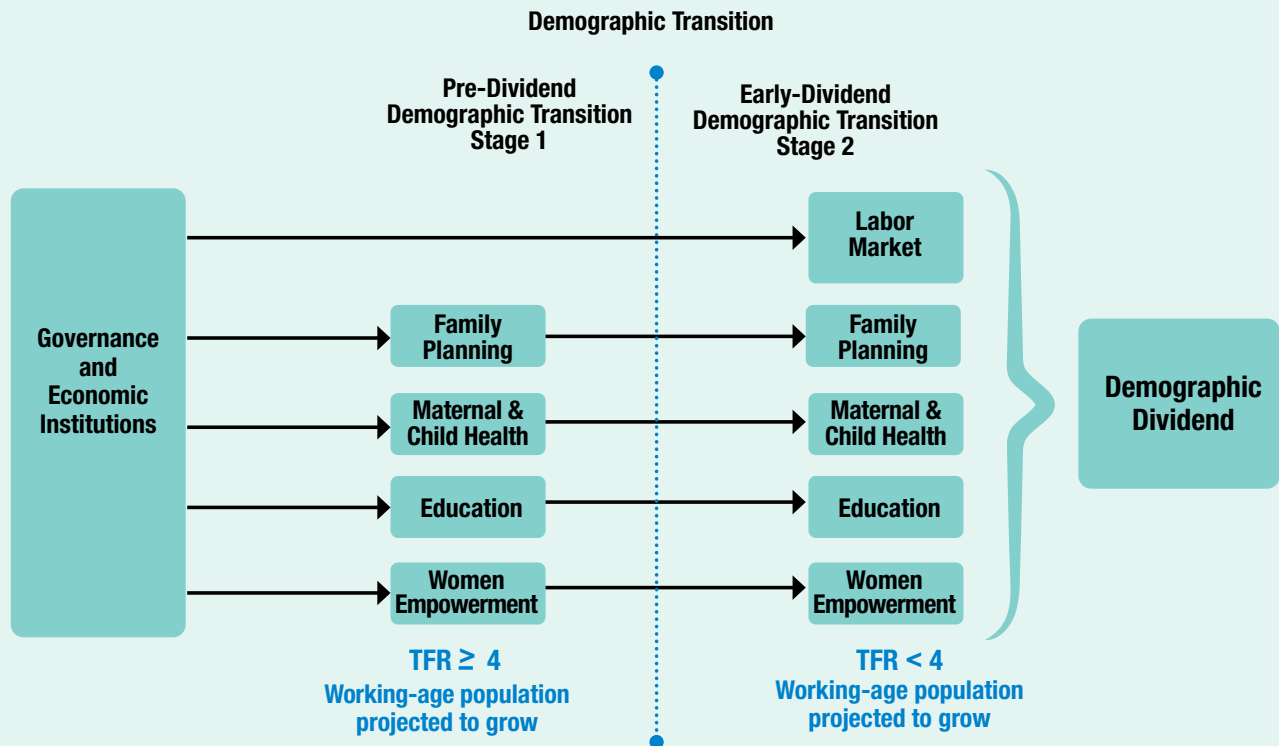
multisectoral national efforts in policies and programs implemented to cultivate, realize and harness the benefits of a DD. Information was collected from sectoral experts across the six sectors identified as being integral to the creation of a favorable environment for the DD namely Family Planning (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 Rwanda: Accelerating Progress

As of midyear 2020, Rwanda had a population of 12.66 million⁴, annual population growth rate of 2.6%⁵, and 39.98% of Rwanda's population was under age 15⁶. The Total Fertility Rate, or the average number of children per woman over the course of her lifetime, had declined from 6.1 children in 2000 to 4.1 children per woman in 2020⁷. Rwanda is on the path to a population age structure that may enable it to experience a demographic dividend.

The broad base of Rwanda's 2020 population pyramid (Figure 3) represents a large number of children in relation to the working age population. However, compared to past decades the base is beginning to both smooth out and narrow at the youngest ages while widening at the older ages, representing a fertility decline and an overall population shift to older ages.

United Nations projections based on assumptions of continued moderate fertility decline demonstrate that by 2025/30, fertility will decline to an average of 3.4 children per woman over her lifespan⁸. Further projections to 2045/50 show fertility to decline further to 2.6 children per woman⁹. In these 2030 and 2050 scenarios alike, Rwanda would have a proportionately larger working age population compared to the number of dependent children and elders, creating a window of opportunity for rapid socio-economic growth. For the last twenty years, Rwanda has been progressing well on a number of aspects towards the demographic transition and economic transformation thus it is in 2nd stage of its demographic transition.

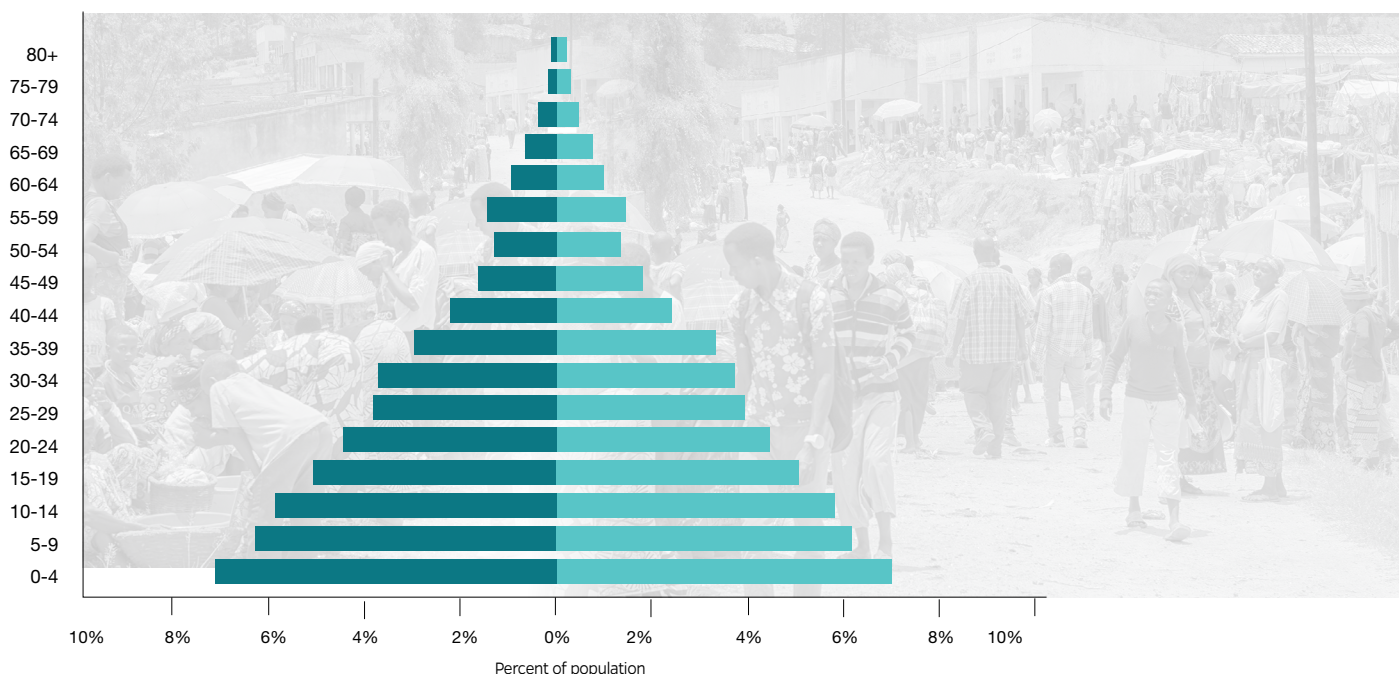
As a pre-dividend country, data show that Rwanda has made substantial strides on contraceptive use prevalence, which is important for achieving a demographic dividend. Contraceptive use has increased among married women from 13% in 2000 to 48% in 2015¹⁰ then to 58.4% in 2020.¹ Taking this further, it is important to consider the demand for contraceptives that is satisfied by modern methods. In Rwanda in 1992, 21.7% of demand for contraceptives was satisfied by modern methods, which increased to 66% in 2015 and 75.2% in 2020¹⁰. Additionally, there are noted trends in desired family size over the past decades that likely impact trends in fertility and population size. The ideal number of children among (all) women was 4.2 children in 1992, which had decreased to 3.4 in 2015¹¹. As a result of the noted trends, as we can see from population pyramids, fertility is declining and Rwanda's age structure is beginning to shift.

To ensure that a favorable environment is created for the DD to happen, Rwanda will need to continue strengthening its efforts in supporting reproductive health and family planning so that fertility levels may continue to decline and allow mothers, children and the population as whole to enjoy better health status. Additionally, with spurred investments in health and education and economic initiatives to facilitate human capital development and productive labor market, Rwanda may be able to progress towards a DD.

Ultimately, the FP, MCH, ED, WE, GEI and LM sectors in combination are essential for a DD and to set the stage for success.

Figure 3. Rwanda's population pyramid, 2019 Census.⁴

¹2020 DHS



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2020). World Population Prospects: The 2019 Revision, custom data acquired via website.

Rwanda 2019
 ■ Men ■ Women



DD Effort Index Summary Results

Approach and Results

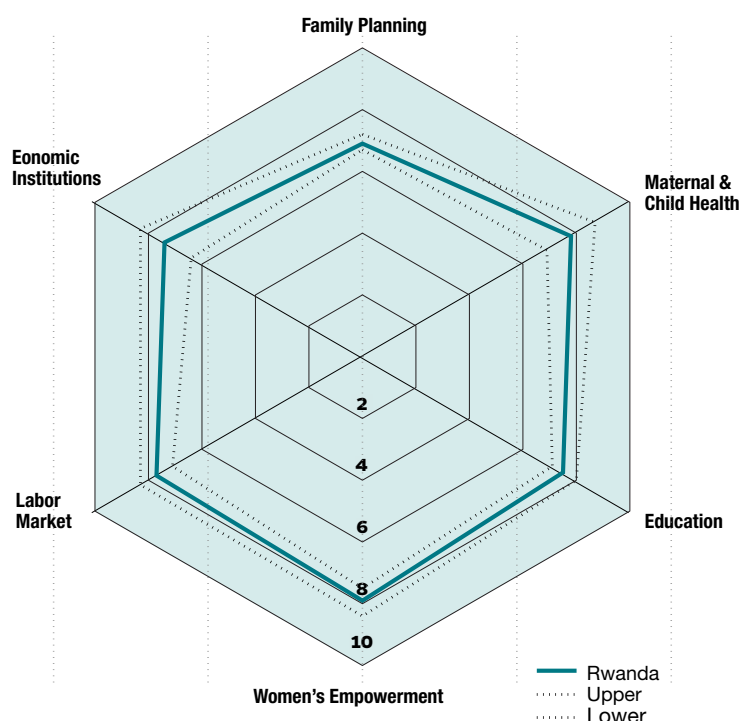
The Gates Institute partnered with the Centre for Integrated Development Research and Action-CIDRA Ltd (www.cidragroup.com) in Rwanda to locate experts working in the FP, MCH, ED, WE and GEI and LM sectors across five dimensions: policymaking, services and programs, advocacy, research, and civil society. This resulted in **54** completed surveys across the six sectors: FP (7), MCH (9), ED (7), WE (16), LM (9) and GEI (6).

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: 6.6 (95% CI: 6.3-6.8) | 4. WE: 8.2 (95% CI: 7.9-8.5) |
| 2. MCH: 7.5 (95% CI: 7.1-7.8) | 5. LM: 7.6 (95% CI: 7.3-8.0) |
| 3. ED: 8.0 (95% CI: 7.3-8.8) | 6. GEI: 7.7 (95% CI: 7.1-8.3) |

Confidence intervals are presented in the dotted lines to show the upper and lower bounds. The overall DDEI score of Rwanda's six sectors is **7.7** (95% Confidence Interval [CI]: 7.5-7.9).

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



The summary results demonstrate that there is a moderate level of effort being devoted towards creating an enabling environment that would allow Rwanda to harness the benefits of the DD. The highest levels of effort are seen in the WE sector (8.2) followed by the ED sector (8.0). In the high-moderate levels of effort are the sectors of GEI (7.7), LM (7.6) and MCH (7.5). The lowest, but still in the high-moderate range of effort level is the FP sector (6.6).

To accelerate progress, Rwanda should consider the following policy levers to ensure a favorable environment for harnessing a DD:

- Reinforce the decentralized entities, good governance, national cohesion, and reinvigorate the accountability in use of public resources and service delivery.
- Continue diversifying the national economy beyond the overdependence on agriculture and enhance value-addition and manufacturing, attract the investment in infrastructure development favourable to the creation of decent jobs.
- Ensure universal education and mobilize resources to improve progression from primary to secondary school with a focus on the promotion of girls' enrolment, invest in TVET institutions to provide quality and attractive market-oriented skills, improve access to quality of tertiary education.
- Policy Recommendation 4: Ensure sustainable funding of the health sector and continue efforts towards improving maternal and child health.

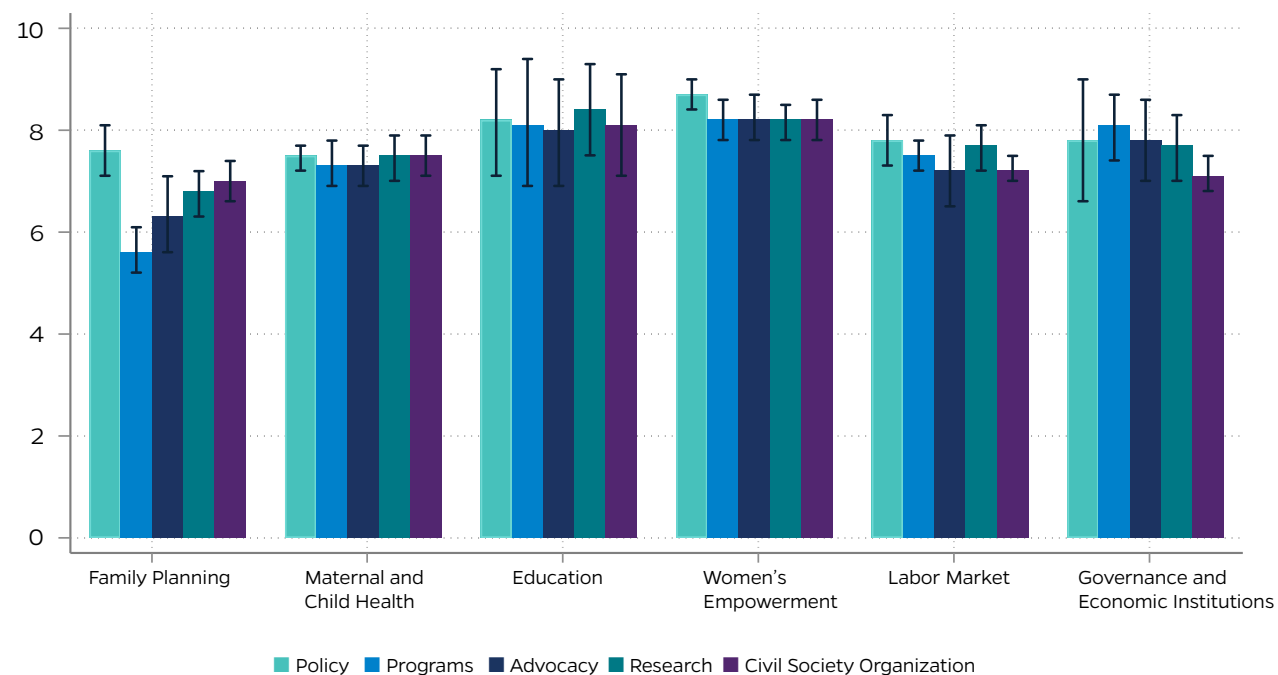
- Through the support of Community Health Workers, address the needs of underserved populations on good quality of FP and RH services and provide long-acting and permanent methods of contraception.
- Strengthen coordination among government, Private sector, civil society, and communities to promote efficient use of available resources for FP and enhance IEC in Reproductive health.

Ultimately, achieving progress will imply multi-dimensional, multisectoral collaboration to ensure that all aspects of Rwanda's society move forward together. In the future, the DDEI should be used regularly to provide data on 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 wide variations in scores within and across DDEI sectors. See sector-specific results for details.

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





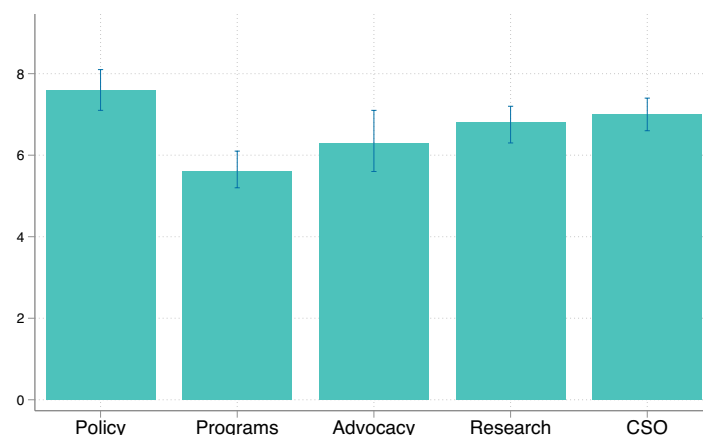
Family Planning Efforts Scores

The FP sector survey included questions ranging across the five societal dimensions. These include policies, services and programs, advocacy, research and civil society. Perceived levels of effort within the FP sector by dimension are presented in Figure 6. The results are based on responses from **7** FP experts working in Rwanda. The scores for each dimension within FP are as follows:

1. Policy/policymaking: **7.6** (95% CI: 7.1-8.1)
2. Services/Programs: **5.6** (95% CI: 5.2-6.1)
3. Advocacy: **6.3** (95% CI: 5.6-7.1)
4. Research: **6.8** (95% CI: 6.3-7.2)
5. CSOs: **7.0** (95% CI: 6.6-7.4)

Based on weighted statistical analysis, the overall score for the level of effort towards an enabling environment to harness the benefits of the DD in the FP sector is **6.6**.

Figure 6. Bar chart of DDEI results in the FP sector in Rwanda, by dimension.



Key Family Planning Effort Levers

Family planning programs are highly effective at managing fertility levels to allow couples to attain their desired family size. Focusing on fertility management in pre-dividend countries remains crucial to maintain the demographic transition, accelerate progress towards early-dividend stage 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 achieve national fertility rates favorable to attaining the DD.²

Overall, the FP sector is perceived to be demonstrating the lowest levels of efforts towards the DD. Within the FP sector, survey results show that the policy/policymaking dimension is perceived to be devoting the greatest level of effort, followed by the civil society dimension, and further behind by the research and advocacy dimensions. The services/programs dimension ranks last.

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

- Keep up momentum on increase in contraceptive use and foster youth friendly reproductive health IEC messages.
- Address needs of underserved populations, improve quality of services and strengthen the capacity of the FP programme to promote and provide long-acting and permanent methods of contraception.
- Setting up a comprehensive sexuality education programme for the entire population, and reinforce access to youth friendly RH services.
- Harmonise all reproductive health policies and ensure adequate availability of commodities and consumable supplies and involve private sector, CSOs, and faith-based organizations.
- Address the structural and cultural factors that cause repetition, dropout from school among girls and exposing to teenage pregnancies and early marriage.



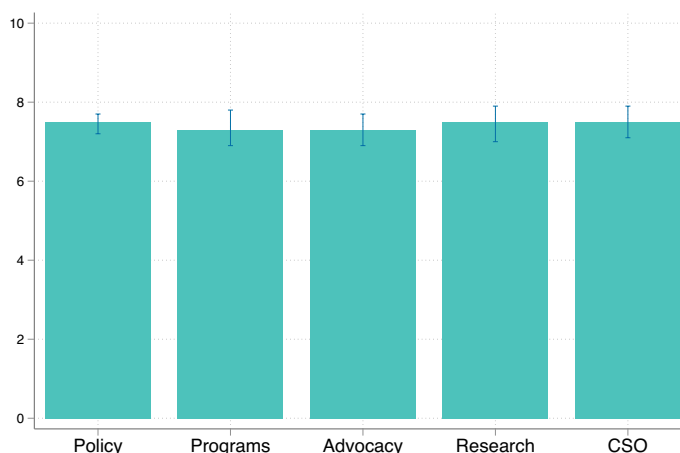
Maternal and Child Health Efforts Scores

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 7. The results are based on responses from **9** MCH experts working in Rwanda. The scores for each dimension within MCH are as follows:

1. Policies: **7.5** (95% CI: 7.2-7.7)
2. Services/Programs: **7.3** (95% CI: 6.9-7.8)
3. Advocacy: **7.3** (95% CI: 6.9-7.7)
4. Research: **7.5** (95% CI: 7.0-7.9)
5. CSOs: **7.5** (95% CI: 7.1-7.9)

The overall score for the level of effort towards an enabling environment to harness the benefits of the DD in the MCH sector is **7.5** (95% CI: 7.1-7.8).

Figure 7. Bar chart of DDEI results in the MCH sector in Rwanda, by dimension.



Key Maternal and Child Health Effort Levers

Reducing 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. 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 dividend².

Survey results show that all dimensions are perceived to be devoting moderate-to-high levels of effort being led by the policies, research and civil society dimensions. These are closely followed by the services/programs and advocacy dimensions.

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

- Reinforce interventions to improve maternal and child health, focusing on improving maternity and delivery care, post-partum care and strengthening management of post-partum health complications to reduce maternal, neonatal and infant deaths.
- Conduct regular recruitment and training of CHWs and put in place retention incentives
- Strengthen multi-sectoral collaboration for the nutritional programme involving CSOs and religious leaders,
- Operationalize the health financing strategy to ensure sustainable funding of the health sector and increase the number of qualified health personnel
- Strengthen the health administrative data system for the management of health information and use data for evidence based and decision making.



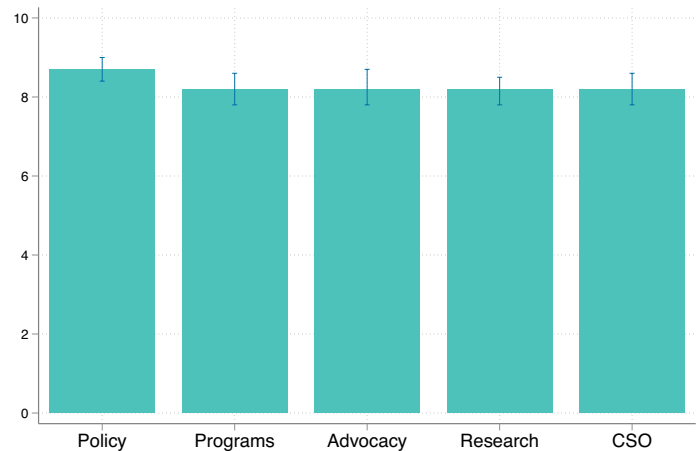
Women Empowerment Efforts Scores

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 8. The results are based on responses from **16** experts working in the area of WE in Rwanda. The scores for each dimension within WE are as follows:

1. Policies: **8.7** (95% CI: 8.4-9.0)
2. Services/Programs: **8.2** (95% CI: 7.8-8.6)
3. Advocacy: **8.2** (95% CI: 7.8-8.7)
4. Research: **8.2** (95% CI: 7.8-8.5)
5. CSOs: **8.2** (95% CI: 7.8-8.6)

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 **8.2** (95% CI: 7.9-8.5).

Figure 8. Bar chart of DDEI results in the WE sector in Rwanda, by dimension.



Key Women Empowerment Effort Levers

Women's and girls' empowerment are required to create and capitalize on the benefits of a DD through improvements in health, and girls' empowerment are required to create and capitalize on the benefits of a DD through improvements in health, education and decision-making power. In fact, 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.²

Overall, this sector is perceived to be devoting the highest levels of effort towards the DD. Survey results demonstrate that the policies dimension is perceived to be devoting the greatest level of effort, from high-to-moderate levels, followed closely behind the equal scoring dimensions of services/programs, advocacy, research and civil society organizations.

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

- Deploy more efforts in covering all gender gaps in education especially at secondary, tertiary and TVET institutions and gender disparities in the formal employment.
- Scale up efforts to enhance economic empowerment of the most vulnerable poor women and youth by focusing on interventions that will steadily shift women and youth into the formal sector and labour market.
- Improve reproductive health services to reduce the disproportionate burden that women endure due to lack of services and imbalanced gender relations that are rooted in outdated cultural values and roles.
- Improve access to finance for women and youth by removing barriers to them to find start-up capital
- Establish viable mechanisms to engage and strengthen the capacity of CSOs and their effectiveness in their endeavors in supporting women's rights, campaigns/programmes against GBV.

Lastly, a multi-dimensional and multi-sectoral 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.



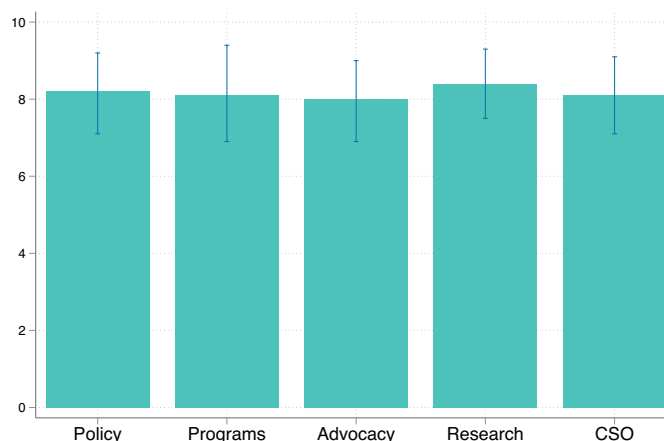
Education Efforts Scores

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 9. The results are based on responses from **7** experts working in in the sector of ED in Rwanda. The scores for each dimension within ED are as follows:

1. Policies: **8.2** (95% CI: 7.1-9.2)
2. Services/Programs: **8.1** (95% CI: 6.9-9.4)
3. Advocacy: **8.0** (95% CI: 6.9-9.0)
4. Research: **8.4** (95% CI: 7.5-9.3)
5. CSOs: **8.1** (95% CI: 7.1-9.1)

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 **8.0** (95% CI: 7.3-8.8).

Figure 9. Bar chart of DDEI results in the ED sector in Rwanda, by dimension.



Key Education Effort Levers

Countries in the pre-dividend stage of the demographic transition such as Rwanda are working towards the unique opportunity to boost their economies by taking advantage of the large “youth bulge” in their populations that comes from sustained declines in fertility. Investing in education and tailoring education to the labor market can increase output per work, maximize productivity, and drive development. In this regard, 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 provided.²

In the ED sector, survey results demonstrate that the five dimensions score are quite closely to one another in the high-moderate level of effort range. They are led by the research and policies dimensions. Following those are the dimensions of services/ programs, civil society organizations and advocacy.

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

- Keep Implementing universal enrolment in early childhood education and strengthen the school feeding programme
- Provide resources to improve progression from primary to secondary school and tertiary education
- Invest in TVET institutions to provide quality and attractive market-oriented skills
- Engage the private sector in development/updating and implementation of education and training curricula and improve access to and quality of tertiary education institutions (more effort to practical skills, science and technology)
- Address the structural and cultural factors that cause repetitions and dropout from school and enhance focus on secondary education to allow girls and boys from primary education to proceed with higher levels of education.



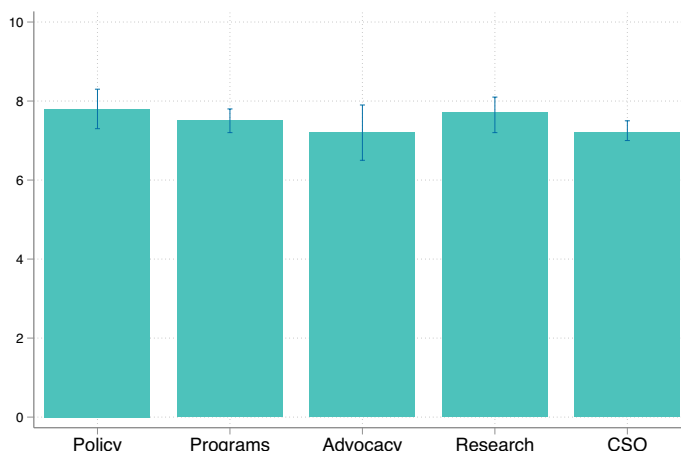
Labor Market Efforts Scores

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 10. The results are based on responses from **9** experts working in the sector of LM in Rwanda. The scores for each dimension within LM are as follows:

1. Policies: **7.8** (95% CI: 7.3-8.3)
2. Services/Programs: **7.5** (95% CI: 7.2-7.8)
3. Advocacy: **7.2** (95% CI: 6.5-7.9)
4. Research: **7.7** (95% CI: 7.2-8.1)
5. CSOs: **7.2** (95% CI: 7.0-7.5)

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 **7.6** (95% CI: 7.3-8.0).

Figure 10. Bar chart of DDEI results in the LM sector in Rwanda, by dimension.



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, Rwanda is working towards a higher proportion of young people “youth bulge”, which has created a large proportion of working youth compared to lower numbers of dependent children. This “youth bulge” can maximize the benefits of a DD through employment and increased women’s participation in the labor force. 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.²

The survey results demonstrate that the dimensions within the LM sector generally rank in the high-moderate levels of effort range. They are led by the policies and advocacy dimensions, which are followed by the services/programs dimensions, and further behind by the advocacy and civil society organization dimensions.

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

- Invest more on crop intensification programme by diversifying the economy beyond the overdependence on agriculture and enhance value-addition and manufacturing, production, value addition and agro-processing
- Fully operationalise the Labour Market Information System to link the labour demand and labour supply and promote workplace readiness programmes (internship, mentorship and on-job training)
- Promote SMEs by facilitating establishment of cooperative societies; access to capital; training and capacity building and exploration of lucrative markets
- Promote irrigation, use of fertilizers, mechanisation of agricultural practices, access to high-value markets for smallholder farmers
- Provide opportunities for greater involvement of youth in entrepreneurship and job creation by fostering economic growth and identify new jobs to absorb the incoming numbers of youth entering the workforce.



Governance and Economic Institutions Effort Scores

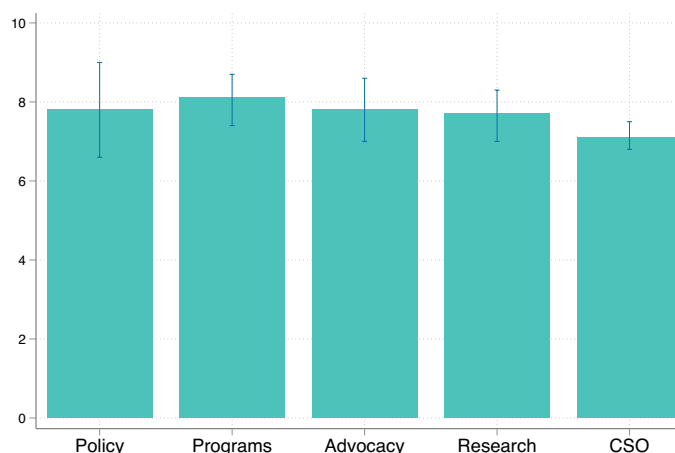
The GEI sector survey included questions ranging across the five societal dimensions: policies, services and programs, advocacy, research and civil society. Perceived levels of effort within the GEI sector by dimension are presented in Figure 11. The results are based on responses from **6** experts working in the sector of Governance and Economic Institutions in Rwanda.

The scores for each dimension within GEI are as follows:

1. Policies: **7.8** (95% CI: 6.6-9.0)
2. Services/Programs: **8.1** (95% CI: 7.4-8.7)
3. Advocacy: **7.8** (95% CI: 7.0-8.6)
4. Research: **7.7** (95% CI: 7.0--8.3)
5. CSOs: **7.1** (95% CI: 6.8-7.5)

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 **7.7** (95% CI: 7.1-8.3).

Figure 11. Bar chart of DDEI results in the GEI sector in Rwanda, by dimension.



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.²

By dimension, the survey results demonstrate that the dimension of services/programs is perceived to be devoting the highest level of effort. This is closely followed by the dimensions of policies, advocacy and then research. Further behind is the dimension of civil society organizations.

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

- Reinforce performance-based accountability mechanisms in government portfolio for effective implementation of government policies and programmes,
- Ensuring a robust integrated performance management system as a tool for enforcing performance management
- Entrench ownership of the country's development vision and shared responsibility in achieving the development aspirations
- Reinforce the national peace, national cohesion, resources mobilization and service delivery
- Invest more in infrastructure development, ease of doing business, entrepreneurial activities and creation of productive employment opportunities.

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.

