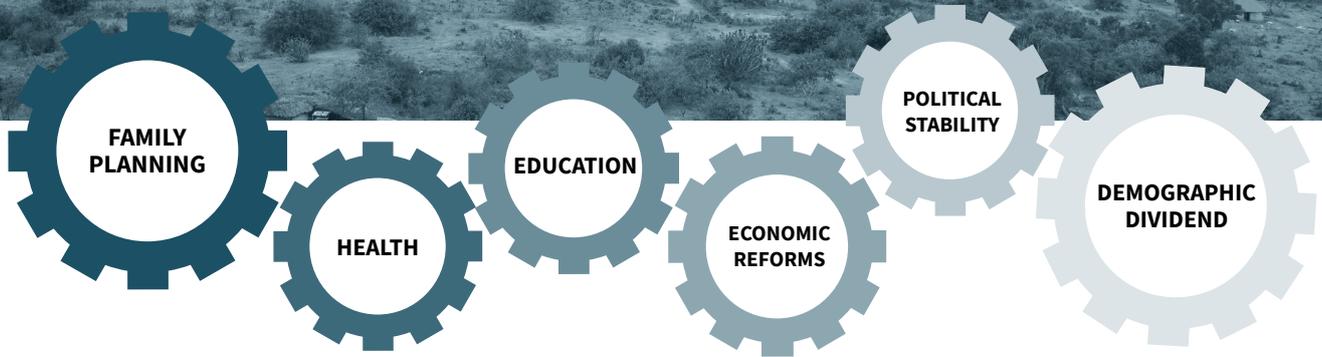


INVESTING IN HUMAN CAPITAL IS THE KEY TO ELIMINATING POVERTY IN LWENGO DISTRICT



Uganda aspires to become a competitive upper middle-income country by 2040. Aligned with this goal, Lwengo District, in South Central region, seeks to be transformed from a peasant to a modern society by 2040. By investing in human capital, Lwengo can accelerate progress toward Uganda’s goals and help the country achieve a demographic dividend.

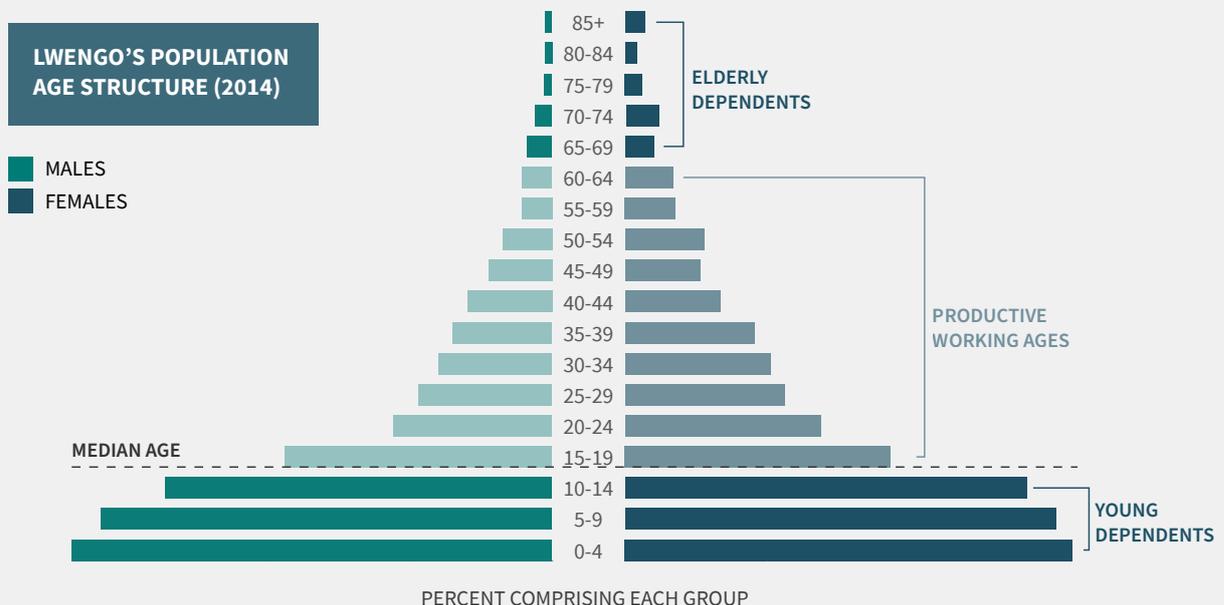
The demographic dividend is the accelerated economic growth that can result from a decline in a country’s birth and death rates and the subsequent change in the age structure of the population. With fewer births each year, the share of the population in the young dependent age groups grows smaller relative to the share in the working ages, thereby reducing the dependency burden. This shift creates a window of opportunity to attain the dividend if the right investments in health, education, the economy, and good governance are made.

SPOTLIGHT ON LWENGO

Population Age Structure and Human Capital Development

Lwengo’s population age structure is young, as seen in the broad base of the population pyramid. Fertility in the South Central region (including Lwengo District) is high, with an average of 4.7 births per woman.

The median age of the population in Lwengo, or the age at which half the population is older and half is younger, is 14. When the median age of the population is between 25 and 40, Lwengo is more likely to achieve its goals to improve child survival, increase educational attainment, accelerate economic growth, and reduce poverty.

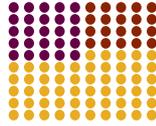


Source: Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), *National Population and Housing Census 2014–Main Report* (Kampala, Uganda: UBOS, 2016).

Family Planning Is Critical to Achieve a Demographic Dividend

Investments in family planning, education, and skills development are the surest way to help Uganda achieve a demographic dividend. Access to voluntary family planning can drive rapid improvements in maternal health and child survival by enabling healthy timing and spacing of pregnancy. With fewer children to support, couples are more likely to keep their children in school and are able to grow household wealth.

SCHOOL COMPLETION



just 45% of children completed primary school

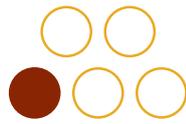
POVERTY RATE

20%

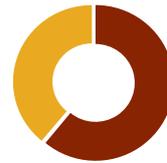
20% of the population is living in poverty

Access to Family Planning Among Women and Couples in Lwengo Remains Limited

Lwengo can accelerate progress towards its five-year development goals by prioritizing family planning as a key human capital investment in the district development plan. Health facility staff play an important role in delivery of critical information and family planning services. By filling more health facility positions, these service delivery locations can better serve clients quickly and effectively.



1 in 5 women who want to prevent pregnancy are not using family planning*



health facilities are staffed at 67%

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LWENGO

- Increase the health budget allocation and establish a dedicated budget line for family planning.
- Adopt protective school policies related to water, sanitation, and hygiene that enable privacy for menstrual hygiene management, enabling girls to stay in school.
- Scale up adolescent reproductive health information and services.
- Adopt a universal schooling mandate enabling all children to attend free of charge through completion of secondary school.
- Expand hiring and recruitment for health facility positions to improve quality and consistency of family planning service delivery.

NOTE

Asterisk (*) indicates cases where data were not available at the district level so data from the region in which the district is located are applied.

SOURCES

Government of Uganda, *Uganda Vision 2040*, accessed at: <http://library.health.go.ug/publications/leadership-and-governance/uganda-vision-2040>.

National Population Council of Uganda, *Transforming Uganda's Economy: Opportunities to Harness the Demographic Dividend for Sustainable Development* (Kampala, Uganda: National Population Council of Uganda, 2018).

Lwengo District Local Government, *Statistical Abstract 2018/19* (Masaka, Uganda: District Local Government, 2019).

Lwengo District Local Government, *Five Year District Development Plan 2020/21-2024/25*.

© 2021 Population Reference Bureau. All rights reserved.

CONTACT

National Population Council, Uganda
Email: npsec@npcsec.go.ug

