

2018
**Social
Protection
Conference**
KENYA

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Converting the Youth Bulge into a Demographic Dividend for Social Protection

Subject: Converting the Youth Bulge into a Demographic
Dividend for Social Protection

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Introduction



Definitions



Youth

The collectivity of all individuals in the Republic who- (a) have attained the age of eighteen years; but (b) have not attained the age of thirty-five years. (CoK2010 Cap 17)

Youth Bulge

A common phenomenon that occurs often due to a stage of development where a country achieves success in reducing infant mortality but mothers still have a high fertility rate. The result is that a large population of children & youth

Social Protection for Youth

- *In a country with a youth bulge, as the young adults attain working age, the country's dependency ratio (ratio of the non-working age population to the working age population) will decline.*
- *If the increase in number of working age individuals can be absorbed into productive activities, other things being equal, the level of average income per capita should increase. The youth bulge will become a demographic dividend.*
- *However, if a large cohort of youth cannot find sustainable employment, the youth bulge will become a demographic bomb, because a large mass of frustrated youth is likely to become a potential source of social and political instability. (WB, World Development Report 2011)*
- *Therefore, one basic measure of a country's success in turning the youth bulge into a demographic dividend is the youth (un)employment rate.*



Youth Bulge Facts

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Youth Bulge Facts

Where are we in 2018

- 0-14 years 40.02% (2017est.)
- 15-64years 56.98% (2017est.)
- Fertility 2.98 children b/woman (2017est)
- Dependency ratio 73.7 (2015est.)
- Population Growth Rate- 1.69% (2017est.)
- Population 47,615,739 (July 2017est.)
- Infant Mortality 37.1 deaths/1000(2017est.)
- Median Age 19.7years (2017est.)
- Life Expectancy 64.3years (2017est)
- 65+ years 3% (2017est.)



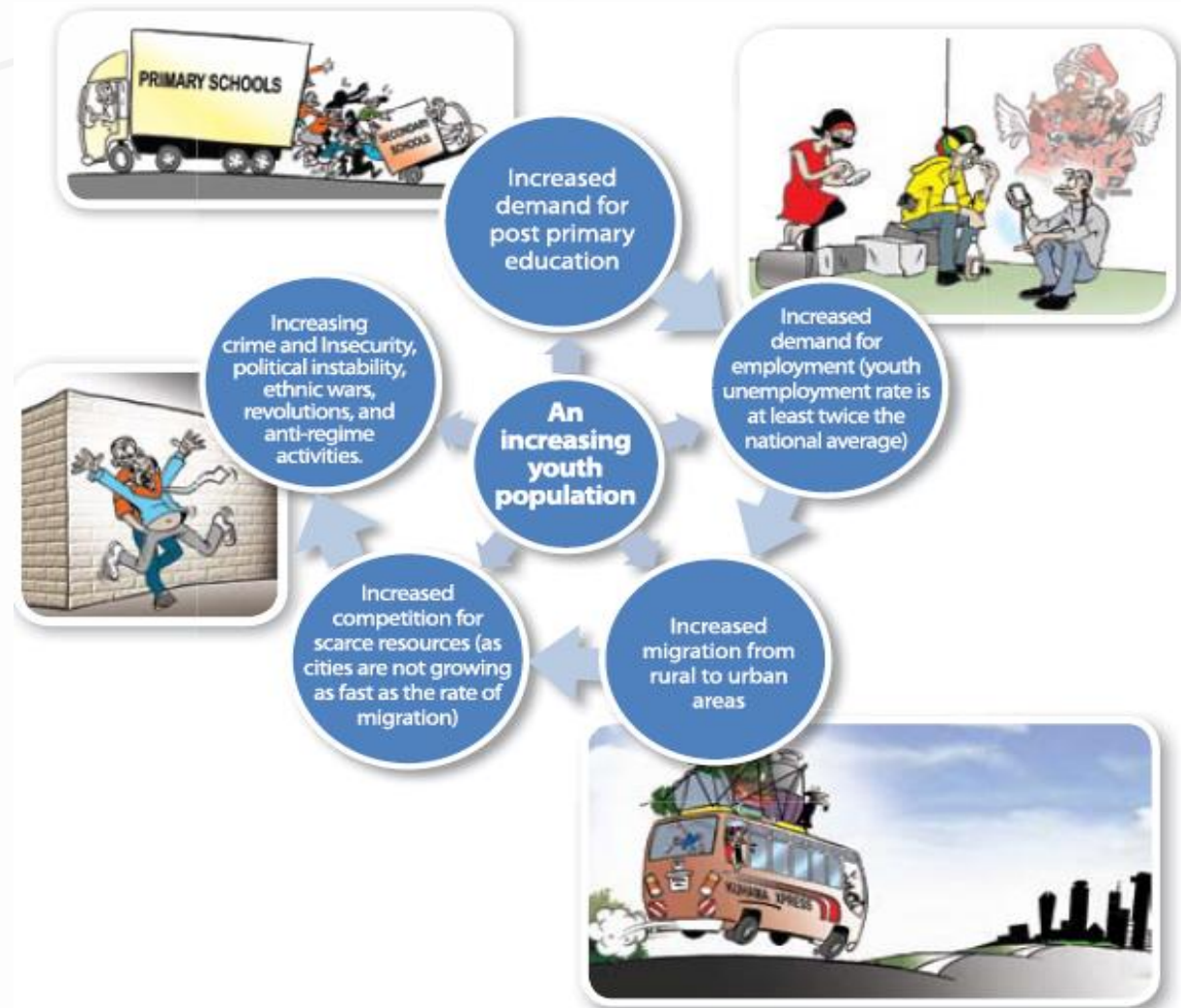
The 'inescapables²' by 2030³

1. A shrinking population of 0-14 year olds from 43% in 2010 to 38%.
2. An increasing population of 15-34 year olds hence an increasing working age population of 15-64 year-olds from 55% to 59%.
3. Fertility rates are expected to decrease from 4.6 in 2009 to about 3.7 children per woman thus decreasing the dependency ratio of children from 82 in 2010 to 70.
4. Population annual growth rate is expected to reduce from 2.7% to 2.2%. However, because a big proportion of the population is in their reproductive age, a population increase from 40 million people in 2010 to 65.9 million people is expected.
5. Fewer children will be dying at birth (Infant Mortality Rate is expected to decrease from 52 to 44 children per 1000).
6. Fewer children will be dying before their 5th birthday (under-five mortality rates are expected to decrease from 74 in 2009 to 63 children per 1000).
7. The median age⁴ of Kenyans will rise from the current 18 years to 21 years.
8. People will live longer (life expectancy at birth will increase from 54 in 2009 to 63 years old).
9. An aging population where 65+ will increase from 2.7% to 3.5%.



What Do the Facts Portend?

- a) The average economic performance of countries with youthful population is 3.6%
- b) Countries with youthful populations that are relatively well educated and unemployed have a 26% probability of getting into civil conflict. This probability increases by 150% if the youth population peaks.





What Do the Facts Portend?

Population Action International in one of their series of Fact Sheets on Why Population, age structure matters to a safer, more equitable world contends that:-

- Countries with a favorable age structure are those with a large proportion of working-age adults and few dependents; that they are generally more peaceful and democratic, allowing governments to better meet the needs of their people.
- Population age structures yield insights into the many political, economic and security challenges that countries face now and in the future.



- PAI classified current and past populations into 4 major age structures categories: Very young, Youthful, Transitional and Mature. In this classification Kenya qualifies as “Very Young.”
- In countries with very young age structures, two-thirds or more of the population is typically comprised of young people under age 30, and only 3-6% of the population is above age 60
- They further highlight the impact of migration and diseases such as HIV and how the fertility rate in Africa has helped manage the would be crisis.
- They further highlight that very young populations are likely to be undemocratic, poorly governed and experience civil war

Harnessing the Youth Bulge for SP

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What

- We are already experiencing the youth bulge (Very Young unemployed/dependent population). Our efforts should be geared towards managing the frustration.

How

- Redefine our perception of youth.
Burden → Resource
- Active Citizenship- create mechanism for organized youth participation in designing, planning and Monitoring Evaluation & learning for social protection
- Strengthen the National Youth Council

Strategies cnt'd



How

What

- Policies and Programs can shift age structures. Age structures are dynamic and can be influenced through policies that affect the demographic forces that shape them.

- Addressing Birth, Deaths and Migration. Initiatives that have worked well in other countries include: Improving access to reproductive health services and ASRH
- Targeted education and economic empowerment for young women
- Implementing policies that promote youth ownership of factors of trade and innovation
- Increased investment in youth businesses as a social assistance mechanism targeting youth



CONCLUSION

Youth bulge, we will either reap demographic dividends from innovatively engaging the youth in social protection or accept the reality that we are courting a time bomb!!!!

Those who blame this generation should remember who raised it!!!!



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME