



Ensuring rights and choices for all

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FAMILY PLANNING

NEWSLETTER

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**THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND:
Investing for a lifetime of Returns—
And Generation to come #ICFP2018**

HARNESSING BENEFITS OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND FOR DEVELOPMENT

There is a strong link between health and development this is why investing in health is an evident step towards growth. This aspect reflects in the fact that a boost in economic productivity occurs when there are growing numbers of people in the workforce relative to the number of dependents.

With this comes the issue of demographic dividend which has been the center of discussion during the sessions held on day-two of the ICFP.

Demographic dividend refers to the economic growth potential that can result from shifts in a population's age structure, mainly when the share of the working-age population is larger than the non-working-age share of the population.

Today's dialogue was not only limited to the health sector but stretched to the economic financial conversation.



Dr Usta Kayitesi Deputy CEO Rwanda Governance Board said that thinking big is what demographic dividend is all about.

“Rwanda like many parts of Africa and beyond do not have enough resources but there is need to understand how to deploy these resources for the right priorities and use these scarce resources in the interest of the people.”

Director General National Population Council, Uganda, Jotham Musinguzi said that fertility in Africa is an issue that needs to be addressed alongside the conservative views that people still have if the demographic dividend is to be attained.

“We need to understand that women need to prove themselves and get involved in planning, but they need to be educated and have assurance that their children can survive. until Africa does that, then these issues we are talking about can be addressed.”





Dr Uzziel Ndagijimana, the Minister of finance and economic planning said there is need to lay the necessary ground work for this demographic shift to yield the dividend by investing in education to improve human capital and the economic environment. "The demographic dividend is a benefit not only for our life time but also for generations to come but for this to happen, the population age structure must shift with young adults entering the labour force. We must also enable women and couples to have the number of children they desire through access to voluntary family planning services. We must also empower girls through secondary school and beyond and end the practice of early marriage," he said.

