Context

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) plays a dual role as a regional organization of the United Nations (UN) and as a key component of the African institutional landscape. Made up of 54 member States, ECA takes into account their plurality and diversity in the search for solutions for the development challenges they face.

Since February 2019, the ECA has been undertaking new directions and an organizational restructuring. This reform is guided mainly by the 2030 Programme of the United Nations and Agenda 2063 of the African Union.

Why the centre?

An obvious connection between demographic dynamics and sustainable development cannot be sustainable if economic growth policies and social policies are not conducted in proper balance. Also, policies in pursuit of objectives for development must take into account population issues in order to take advantage of demographic developments, to generate productivity gains for the improvement of the living conditions of the population.

This is the justification to achieving the demographic dividend:

- economic growth potential that can result from shifts in a population’s age structure, mainly when the share of the working-age population (15 to 64) is larger than the non-working-age share of the population (14 and younger, and 65 and older)
- also, given the demo-economic dimensions of the sustainable development goals, taking demographic dynamics into account in development policies helps to achieve these objectives.
The Centre

A West African reference for research on the demographic dynamics for development.

The sub-regional context

- The population of Africa has been estimated at 1.3 billion people in 2019.
- It has thus tripled in the last 35 years.
- In the ECOWAS, the population is estimated to be 5% of the world population in 2019 and will represent 8% in 2050.
- At the African sub-regional level, it represents 29.6% in 2019 and will be 31.6% in 2050.
- In other words, about one in 12 people will live in this zone in thirty years.

### Population dynamics in West Africa (thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>WORLD</th>
<th>AFRICA</th>
<th>WEST AFRICA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>253</td>
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<td>2020</td>
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<td>401861</td>
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<tr>
<td>2050</td>
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<td>2489275</td>
<td>796494</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Average annual rate of change**

- WORLD: 1.1
- AFRICA: 2.5
- WEST AFRICA: 2.7

*Source:* UN World Population Prospects 2019
A generally favorable growth profile with contrasting country performances (2017-2019)

Maternal mortality rate (2018) (Number of cases per 100,000 live births)

Under-five Mortality rate (2018) (Number of cases for 1,000 live births)

Slow progress in lowering fertility (1975-2015)

A globally low human development

High rates of early marriage (2015)

The ECOWAS zone represents 17% of the area and 30% of the population of Africa. It is home to the most populous country on the continent, Nigeria with 200 million inhabitants in 2019, with 44% of the population under age 15 and an average total fertility rate of 5.5 children per woman.
**Mission of the Centre**

In line with ECA’s mission to produce ideas for an autonomous and prosperous Africa, the Centre is working to make demographic dynamics an opportunity for structural transformation and sustainable development in Africa.

**Goal of the Centre**

The overall goal of the Centre is to promote inclusive and sustainable development in support of accelerating Africa’s economic diversification and structural transformation through the successful integration of population dynamics into development policies.

**Strategic directions of the Centre**

- Strengthen the data ecosystem in the field of demographic dynamics for development
- Define and strengthen the demo-economic policies based on the production of knowledge by the Centre
- Strengthen the capacities of countries and organisations, encourage partnerships and policy dialogue.
**Actions of the Centre**

- Strengthen the availability of data and indicators in the demographic field
- Develop policies and actions on demographic dynamics to measure and capture the demographic dividend
- Promote partnership and dialogue on demographic dynamics for development and strengthen the capacities of the actors involved.

**DDD Centre Offers Services in:**

- Production of knowledge
- Technical cooperation
- Sharing experiences and good practices
- Advocacy and policy dialogue at the strategic level
- Promotion of partnership around the theme (institutions, centers, universities, etc.).

**Organisation of the Centre**

The Centre is a section of the West Africa Sub-Regional Office with a pool of experts (statisticians, demographers, economists, socio-economists and equivalents) to support the Office’s organisational and technical potential.
Partners

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UEMOA

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INSTITUT SUPERIEUR DES SCIENCES DE LA POPULATION

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