West Africa Young Leaders Forum on Population and Development

State of the population and Contribution of the West African Health Organisation to the SRHAY

Dr. MONGBO M. Yves Armand – WAHO
Banjul, The Gambia, 23 October 2019
Outline

• Population Status in the ECOWAS region
• Population indicators
• Population growth
• Structure of the ECOWAS population
• Fertility rates across ECOWAS region and Key determinants of high fertility
• WAHO contribution
• Key messages
Population State in ECOWAS region - 1

- **ECOWAS**: about 300 million of people
  - 44% under 15 years of age
  - 6 out of 10 individuals are under 25 years of age and
  - annual growth rates exceed 2.4% on average

- **Slow demographic transition**
- **The highest fertility levels in the world, resulting in rapid population growth**
- With an average of more than 5 children per woman, most countries in the region are among the countries with the highest fertility rates in the world
  - This situation increases unsustainable demand for basic infrastructure and social services such as education, health and employment
The persistent high levels of fertility and the slow demographic transition of our countries would hinder the achievement of four priority objectives set by the countries of the ECOWAS region, namely:

- The poverty reduction
- The change of the age structure of the population to achieve a demographic dividend
- The economic emergence
- The achievement of the SDGs and the objectives of the African Union's Vision 2063 “The Africa We Want!”

In this context, it is difficult to achieve the demographic dividend
Population indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Total Population (thousands)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World</td>
<td>6 956 824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>836 364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Africa</td>
<td>307 040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Western Africa / World</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The population of West Africa is growing. It represented 4.4% of the world's population in 2010 and by 2030, this population will represent 6%.

*Source: Statistics from United Nations Population Division*
Population growth - 1

Average annual rate of population change (percentage)

Doubling time: less than 25 years

Doubling time: 35 years

Source: World Population Prospects 2019, UN Population Division
The analysis of annual population growth rates shows that during the periods 2015-2020 and 2025-2030, with the exception of Niger (having the highest rate) and Cape Verde (having the lowest rate):

- all other ECOWAS countries having annual growth rates between 2% and 3% will double their population in 35 years
- Niger, with an annual growth rate of more than 3%, will double its population in 25 years
Structure of ECOWAS population - 1

Ecowas’ population pyramid by age (thousands) 2019

Source: Statistics from United Nations Population Division, 2019

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The age structure of the ECOWAS population, like that of countries in the first phase of demographic transition, has the characteristics of a very young population. The youth of the population can:

- create a need for social, education, health services and employment;
- be an opportunity for development with the arrival of a labour force for the labour market through the diligent implementation of active human capital development policies;
- be an economic disaster if appropriate development policies are not implemented.
Total fertility (children per woman) for the period 2015 – 2020 per Region – 1

Source: Statistics from United Nations Population Division, 2019
Projected Trends in Fertility Rates across the region, 2000 – 2030 - 5

Total fertility rates from 2000 to 2030 (children per woman)

Statistics from United Nations Population Division
Fertility rates across ECOWAS region, 2019 - 2

2019 Total fertility (children per woman)

Source: Statistics from United Nations Population Division, 2019
Among the top ten countries in the world with the highest number of children per woman, there are 5 ECOWAS countries:

- Niger (7.2),
- Mali (5.9),
- Nigeria (5.4),
- Gambia (5.3)
- Burkina Faso (5.2).
Fertility rates across the region, 2019 - 4

• Projections show that by 2030, several countries will still have more than 4 children per woman which is very far from the target of 3 children per woman in 2030 (ECOWAS Parliamentarians' Recommendation / Ouagadougou Declaration on P&D).

• Niger will have a fertility rate of 6 children per woman in 2030
Average ideal number of children for men aged 15-54 years

- Niger: 11.5
- Mali: 8.4
- Nigeria: 8
- Côte d'Ivoire: 5.9
- Ghana: 4.8
- Guinea: 7.4
- Senegal: 7.1
Average ideal number of children for Women aged 15-54 years

- Niger: 9,2
- Mali: 6
- Sénégal: 5,3
- Guinée: 5,8
- Sierra Leone: 4,9
- Côte d'Ivoire: 5,2
- Burkina Faso: 5,5
- Bénin: 5,1
- Nigeria: 6,5
- Ghana: 4,3

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Number of children per woman by residence in Burkina Faso

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Rural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1993 DHS</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998-99 DHS</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003 DHS</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 DHS</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 MIS</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-18 MIS</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Challenges: between 1993 (DHS) and 2014 (MICS) the % of girls with one child or pregnant at 15.16.17 years of age did not decrease. At 18 years of age, there is still almost one girl in two who has begun her fertile life.

Burkina Faso

% of teenage girls who have already had a child or are pregnant by age

15 years old  16 years old  17 years old  18 years old  19 years old

who began their fertile lives at the exact age


Source: EDS

Source: EDS 2014
Average ideal number of children by age group and level of education EDS 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>None</th>
<th>Primary School</th>
<th>Secondary or Higher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15-19</td>
<td>3.24</td>
<td>4.64</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-29</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.93</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39</td>
<td></td>
<td>5.34</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-49</td>
<td></td>
<td>6.22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Number of births per year by age groups: contribution of teenagers to the total fertility in Burkina Faso

In Bangladesh, women have a child before the age of 25 and another before the age of 35. In Burkina Faso, it is 2 children before 25 years old, 2-3 between 25-34 years old, +1 after 35 years old.

Source: EDS 2010
Key determinants of high fertility -1

The slow decline in fertility in sub-Saharan Africa and particularly in the countries of our economic region could be explained by:

- the lagging socio-economic development of countries (including low level of education, women low decision-making power about their health, low empowerment and participation in the labour market);
- the weakness of family planning programs (lack of direct and easy or freely access to contraceptives);
- a very high desired fertility rate among women and men, due to social and cultural factors (Patriarchal and pronatalist views prevail, political will to promote family planning is lacking and health services are limited).
Key determinants of high fertility -2

- Weak political will (the age at first marriage is slightly reduced and still remains below 20 years in most countries)
- Early sexual debut and childbearing (many women give birth before their 18th birthday)
- Weakness of the health and education systems that do not promote the development of people towards greater autonomy (make primary and secondary education free and compulsory, especially for girls)
Key determinants of high fertility: Family Planning/Contraception indicators - 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Rate (%) Unmet need for family planning</th>
<th>Rate (%) of Contraceptive prevalence modern methods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Western Africa</td>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>18.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gambia</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>17.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauritania</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>18.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guinea</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>20.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benin</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>23.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>23.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>23.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>15.8</td>
<td>23.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>23.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Togo</td>
<td>19.7</td>
<td>23.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Côte d’Ivoire</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>23.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>20.1</td>
<td>22.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sierra Leone</td>
<td>21.3</td>
<td>24.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>25.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guinea-Bissau</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>25.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberia</td>
<td>25.2</td>
<td>27.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabo Verde</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>27.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics from DHS Data (statcompiler)

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Key determinants of high fertility: Family Planning/Contraception indicators - 4

• Modern contraceptive prevalence rates are low in the region (below 30%) to allow for a significant demographic transition (at least 60%)

• Unmet need for family planning is still high and could increase the number of unwanted pregnancies, significant clandestine abortions, a significant number of maternal deaths and infant mortality
WAHO CONTRIBUTION
Our Vision: to be recognized by the Member States and the International Community as a proactive instrument of regional health integration that enables high-impact and cost-effective interventions and programmes.

STRATEGIC PLAN
2016-2020
Summary of the 2016-2020 WAHO SP

**Strategic Axe 1**
Promotion of health priority policies and programmes

**Strategic Axe 2**
Strategic Partnership for health strengthening

**Strategic Axe 3**
WAHO Institutional Capacity Building

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1. **Priority Programme with its objective**
2. **Priority Programmes with their objectives**
3. **10 Priority Programmes with their objectives**

**Outputs**

**Outcome / Impact:**
Reduction in mortality and morbidity / Improved Health Status in ECOWAS

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Thematic Areas of Focus 2019
Approved by AHM June 2018 (Banjul)

- CAPACITY BUILDING, including Youth development
- STRENGTHENED NETWORKS
- SUSTAINABILITY
- MATERNAL, CHILD & ADOLESCENT HEALTH
- QUALITY STANDARDS & CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE
- PHARMACEUTICALS (MEDICINES & VACCINES)
- PREVENTION & CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE AND NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES
- HEALTH INFORMATION

Outputs, Research, Population Impact

Prof Stanley OKOLO - DG, WAHO-OOAS
## WAHO Projects in line with FP/RH / Demographic Dividend

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Projects / Donors</th>
<th>FP</th>
<th>Continuous Education</th>
<th>Community Mobilisation</th>
<th>Gender Promotion du</th>
<th>Research</th>
<th>Sexual Rights</th>
<th>Women Empowerment</th>
<th>Quality of Medicines</th>
<th>Promotion of basic quality training</th>
<th>Adolescents and Youth</th>
<th>Health</th>
<th>Adolescents and Youth</th>
<th>Health Information</th>
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<td>IYFP / BMGF</td>
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<td>SWEDD / WB</td>
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<td>SRHAY / The Netherlands</td>
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• **Strategic Partnership** (KFW, AFD, the Netherlands, USAID, BMGF, IDRC, WB, WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF)
  – Ouagadougou Partnership (OP) Cross-border Campaigns: Guinea & Senegal; Côte d’Ivoire & Burkina Faso
  – AOPMs (Annual OP Meetings)

• Contraceptives procurement and capacity building for 10 countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Niger, Sierra Leone, Mali, The Gambia, Guinea and Liberia)

• Promotion of SRHR of Youth and AYH (Guide and TFAs to countries (Niger, Togo) for use and implementation)

• Sponsoring for young people for Regional / international events
• Promotion of the health of Older People (Regional SP adopted by AHM in May, Cotonou, 2019 and TFAs to countries (Niger, Cape Verde) for use and implementation)

• Promotion of Best Practices and Scaling Up of BP through ECOWAS Health Best Practices Forum (Resolution on Task shifting, AHM, Abuja, 2017)

• Promotion of woman health and rights (Resolution on elimination of Obstetric Fistula, AHM 2018, Banjul)

• EONC Champions and RapidSMS Promotion

• Strengthening of Immunisation systems through the National Immunisation Technical Advisory Groups (NITAGs)
Key messages

• Rapid growth of the population with significant contribution from young people
• Need to ensure full and universal access to SRHR services as a pillar for the SDGs by creating enabling environments
• To harness the Demographic Dividend:
  – Development policies youth centred and youth-led
  – Invest in youth
• Achievement of the SGDs, UHC and Africa Union Agenda 2063
• WAHO efforts to improve the health status of the people of ECOWAS including young people
Thank you

Merci

Obrigado