



SAHEL'S COUNTRIES WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

38 years to harness Demographic Dividend



SWEDD
(Sahel Women Empowerment & Demographic Dividend)

SAHEL'S COUNTRIES WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY IN SWEDD COUNTRIES

38 years to harness Demographic Dividend

The Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend Project (SWEDD) is a regional initiative that was formally launched in 2015 covering six countries (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania), Niger and Chad) by 2019. This project is the result of a joint effort by the United Nations and the World Bank Group to accelerate the achievement of the Demographic Dividend through the empowerment of women and men. young girls in the Sahel countries will offer multiple development opportunities and contribute effectively to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and especially the 2063 Agenda of the African Union.

Conscious of their economic and social situation characterized by a strong economic dependence, gender inequalities, a weak economy, food crises, a high level of poverty, very high fertility and mortality rates and an unattractive business climate. Policy makers in SWEDD countries have put in place a number of policies to improve the economic and social situation, including the development of human capital through efficient and effective investments, along with supportive governance and a labor market in order to benefit from the demographic dividend that makes the SWEDD Project unique and to put itself on the paths of emergence.

SWEDD covers five (05) countries in West Africa (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania and Niger) and one country in Central Africa (Chad) spread over an area of 5 419 800 km² of which the individual areas of the respective countries exceed 1 000 000 km², except that of Burkina Faso (274 400 km²) and Côte d'Ivoire (322 462 km²).

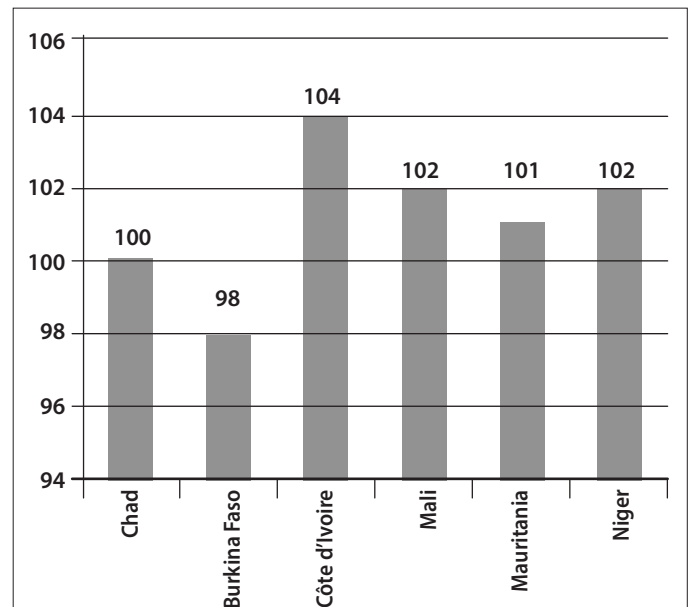
The SWEDD zone composed of Sahelian countries with the exception of Côte d'Ivoire has a semi-arid warm climate with alternating dry / winter season with relatively regular rainy seasons except for the parts almost entirely penetrated by the Sahara. Administratively, countries in SWEDD do not have the same types of territorial divisions (13 regions in Burkina Faso, 14 districts in Côte d'Ivoire, 8 regions and 1 district in Mali, 12 wilaya and 1 district in Mauritania, 8 regions in Niger and 23 regions in Chad). True to the very diversified character of the settlement in Africa, the SWEDD zone knows a strong ethnic mix with more than one hundred ethnic groups.

The socio-political context of the SWEDD countries is more or less characterized by the adoption of democracy as a mode of governance and instability related to political conflicts, ethnic confrontations and between groups of pastoralists and farmers in Chad. for example, on land disputes but especially the worrying rise of religious extremism (Boko Haram and MUJAO).

The demographic context of SWEDD countries is marked by a slightly larger male population (51%) than women (49%). The SWEDD country-to-country sex ratio at birth showing the number of males per 100 females is given in the graph below.

The SWEDD area has a very broad age pyramid at the base, a sign of high representativeness of the younger age

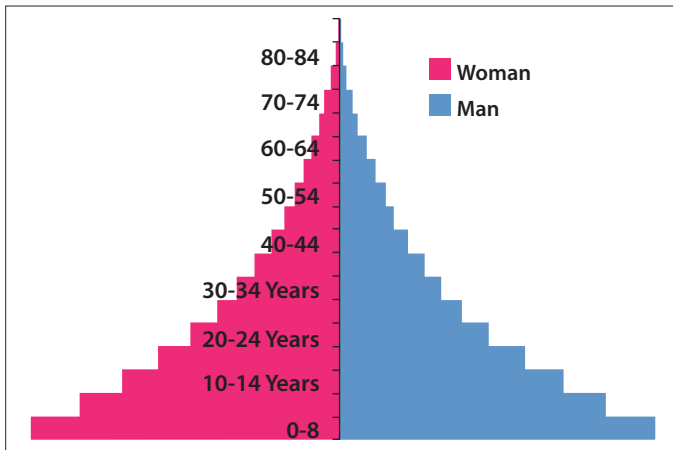
Graph 1 : Male Ratio, in SWEDD Zone



Source : CREG /CREFAT, from World Bank Data

groups. In 2014, the population under 15 represents 43% of the total population while the proportion of people aged 65 and over is only 3%. These statistics suggest that the majority of the population consists of the 15 to 64 age group. This highlights the preponderance of the working-age population which represents a strong potential for the capture of the Demographic Dividend.

Graphique 2: SWEDD Zone Age Pyramid, 2014



Source: Author Calculation from UN Population Data

Côte d'Ivoire, the most populous country in the zone, has a similar age pyramid to that of countries in demographic transition. It is characterized by a very wide base and a gradual and regular narrowing as one ages. Thus, children aged 0 to 14 account for 41.8% of the total population, and young people aged 15 to 34 make up 35.5% of the total population. Thus, 77.3% of the total population is just over 3 out of 4 people are under 35 years of age.

The dependency ratio defined by the inactive population on the labor force is provided for the SWEDD countries through the following table.

Table 1: Dependency Ratio¹ of SWEDD Countries

PAYS	Rapport de dépendance
Burkina Faso	93
Côte d'Ivoire	84
Mali	100
Mauritania	77
Niger	113
Chad	102

Source: Author Calculation, from UN. Population Data

The dependency ratio, which measures the number of people of inactive age per 100 people of working age (population aged 15 to 59), is 84 persons per 100 workers for Côte d'Ivoire while it is of 113 dependents per 100 workers in Niger.

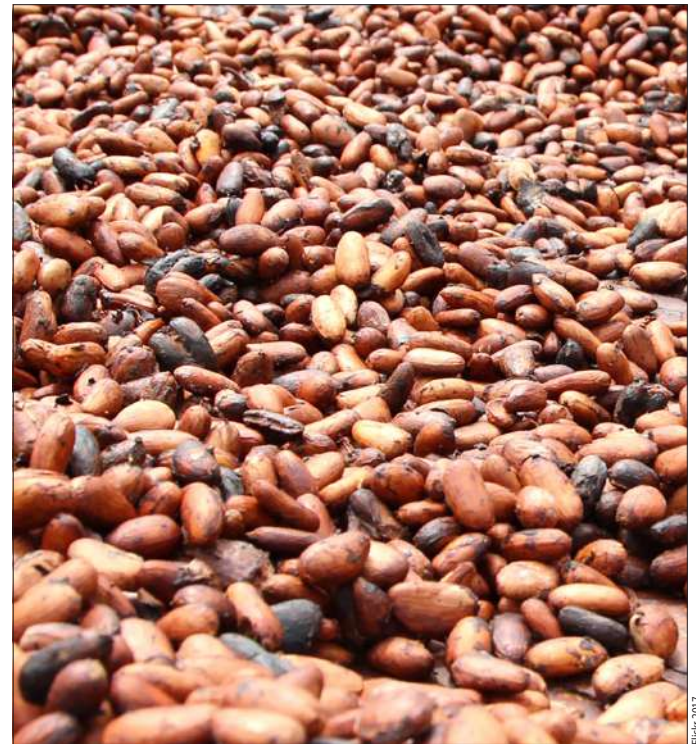
The fertility rate for women in SWEDD countries is relatively high. Indeed, in 2014, it is 5.52 children in Burkina Faso, 6 children in Mali, 7 children in Chad and 7.6 children in Niger.

In total the different SWEDD countries have demographic structures quite close. It is an area characterized by high population growth, favored until then by fertility indices averaging 5 children per woman.

The economic context of the SWEDD zone is characterized, during the 2004-2014 decade, by a growth rate ranging between 6.96% in 2004 and 5.24% in 2014,

¹ Non Working Population / Working Population

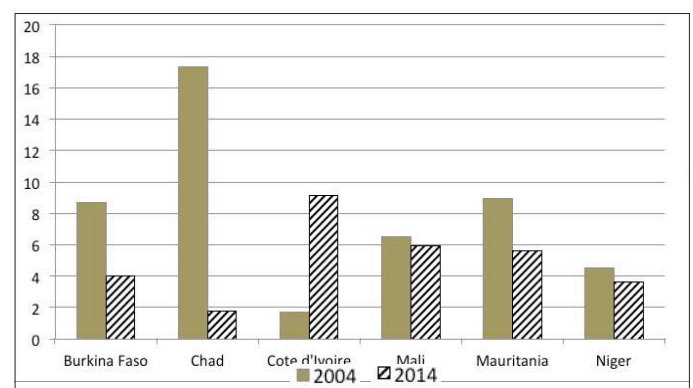
reflecting a slowdown in economic activity during the period. The economic situation of the SWEDD Zone is the result of varied economic profiles of the different countries that make it up. In 2004, the growth of the area was largely supported by Chad, which achieved a double-digit growth rate at that time. Indeed, this strong growth is largely due to the oil production in Chad started in 2003



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In 2014, the growth of the SWEDD zone is driven by Côte d'Ivoire, which has seen a remarkable recovery linked to the rise in cocoa prices.

Graph 3 : Evolution of growth rates of SWEDD countries



Source: Author from WDI Data

With regard to human capital, the SWEDD countries, aware of the importance of human capital in the growth and economic development of a nation, have developed social policy strategies, particularly in the field of education and health.

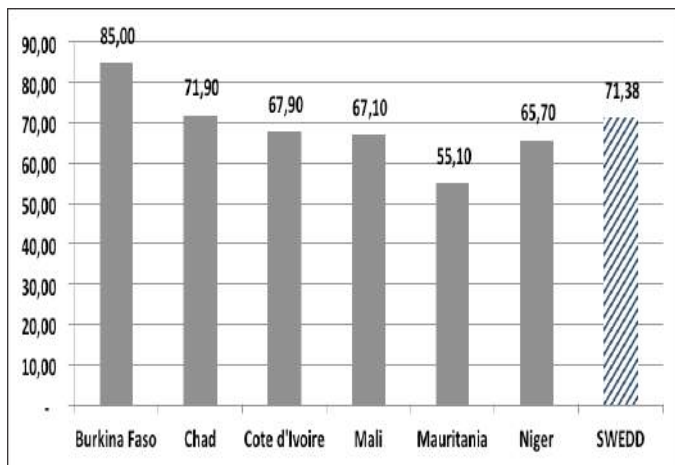
Education is a priority sector for the future of a nation through a quality education system and an ability to put well-trained and skilled citizens on the labor market. This is why the

SWEDD countries have made significant efforts to improve certain indicators, notably the Gross Enrollment Rate (GER), which went from 80.4% in 2001 to 91% in 2011 in Chad, to 76.1% in 2000 to 82% in 2013 in Niger, from 76.2% in 2009 to 91.2% in 2013 in Côte d'Ivoire; the parity index which gives in Chad in 2011, 10 boys for 7 girls enrolled, in Mauritania, it went from 0.74 to 1.02 from 2000 to 2011 and in Niger 10 boys for 8 girls enrolled. This situation raises the problem of girls' schooling and their retention at school for the SWEDD zone, but also that of a productive education system which naturally depends on the match between training and the labor market that can materialize through the promotion of vocational and technical education, as well as the promotion of science subjects in secondary education

Health is also an important pillar for the economic and social development of a nation. In this regard, SWEDD countries have implemented social and health policies that have improved health indicators. Indeed, the implementation of the national health policy in Mali, for example, has led to significant progress in terms of reducing health indicators: i) infant mortality of 113.4 ‰ in 2001 (EDSM III), at 56 ‰ in 2012-2013 (EDSM V); (ii) juvenile mortality from 130.5 ‰ to 41 ‰; (iii) maternal mortality from 582 ‰ to 368 ‰; (iv) the prevalence of HIV-AIDS infection from 1.7% to 1.1% (v) the total fertility rate (average number of children per woman of childbearing age) from 6.8 to 6.1 children per woman, vi) Malaria prevalence at the national level is 52.0%. There were 2,111,434 cases of malaria in health facilities (1,465,046 in single cases and 646,388 in severe cases) with 1833 deaths, or a case-fatality rate of 0.87.

With regard to employment and unemployment, in the SWEDD area, the labor market is characterized by relatively high participation. The rate is 71.38% in 2014. However, there is a certain amount of disparity depending on the country. This rate is far higher in Burkina (85%) and lower in Mauritania (55%).

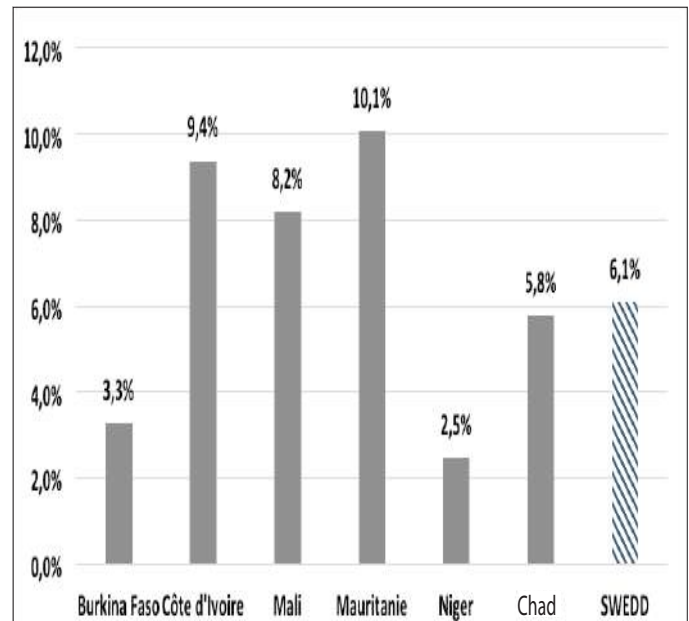
Graph 4: Participation Rate in Labor Market, 2014



Source: CREG / CREFAT, from World Bank Data

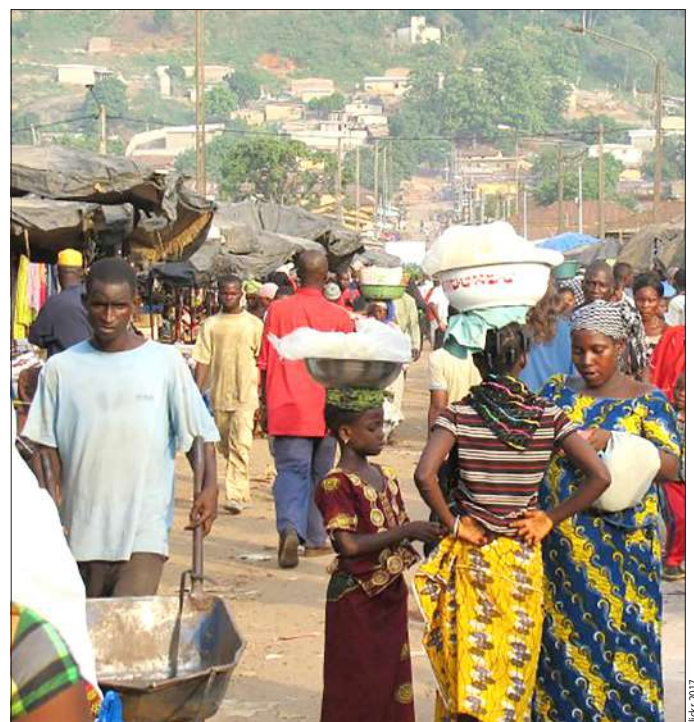
The unemployment rate is estimated at 6.1% in the SWEDD zone with higher levels in Mauritania, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali (respectively 10.1%, 9.4% and 8.2%, in 2014).

Graphique 5 : Unemployment Rate indifferent SWEDD Countries, en 2014



Source: CREG / CREFAT, from World Bank Data

As for poverty, it is a concern in developing countries, particularly in the Sahel countries where it is strongly present and favored by unfavorable socio-economic and climatic conditions. These countries in the SWEDD zone have all carried out economic and social development programs, notably in the strategic framework for the fight against poverty, which led to a marked decline in poverty in the period under review. The poverty rate of the SWEDD countries, which averages around 45% to 50%, nevertheless remains high and is higher than that of sub-Saharan Africa estimated at 42.6% in 2012 and 35.2% in 2015 by the World Bank hence the need for the establishment of a more effective system of fight against poverty in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

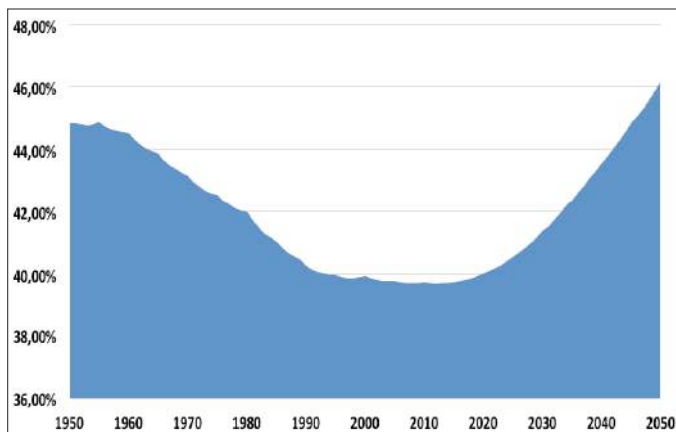


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The results and implications of the opening of the demographic dividend window are apprehended through the support ratio, the 1st demographic dividend and the demographic projection: NTA model. Indeed, based on the NTA results, the opening of the Demographic Dividend window in the SWEDD zone is studied in order to open avenues for reflection and propose effective measures to create opportunities for economic growth and favorable human development. to emergence.

The following graph illustrates the evolution of the Support Ratio (SR) characterized by a steady decline from 1950 to 2012 and a steady increase from 2012.

Graph 6: Evolution of the Support Ratio from 1950 to 2050 in the SWEDD zone



Source: CREG/CREFAT, 2017

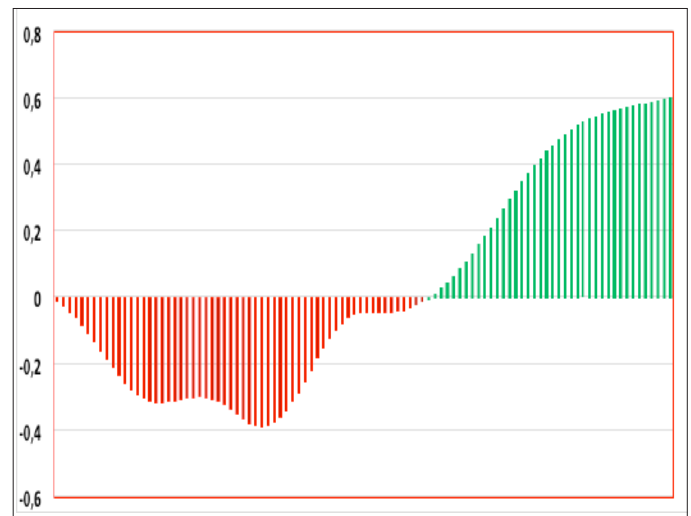
In the SWEDD countries, the opening date of the demographic dividend window coincides with the date when the growth of the support ratio started, in 2012.

The analysis of the graph shows that in 2042, the support ratio would be 44 effective workers per 100 actual consumers. This growth dynamic of the support ratio could continue until 2050, when it would reach its optimum (46 actual workers per 100 actual consumers). This dynamic would require the implementation of policies on governance, investments in human capital (education, health), jobs (investment and labor market flexibility), fertility reduction and mortality..

Window Opening : First Demographic Dividend

The different definitions proposed generally present the demographic dividend as the economic growth resulting from the evolution of the age structure of the population of a country. A demographic dividend occurs when declining birth rates lead to changes in the age distribution of a population. This means that fewer investments are needed to meet the needs of the youngest groups and that there are relatively more adults in the active population. The chart below shows the evolution of the first demographic dividend for SWEDD.

Graph 7: Evolution of the Demographic Dividend from 1950 to 2050 in SWEDD Countries



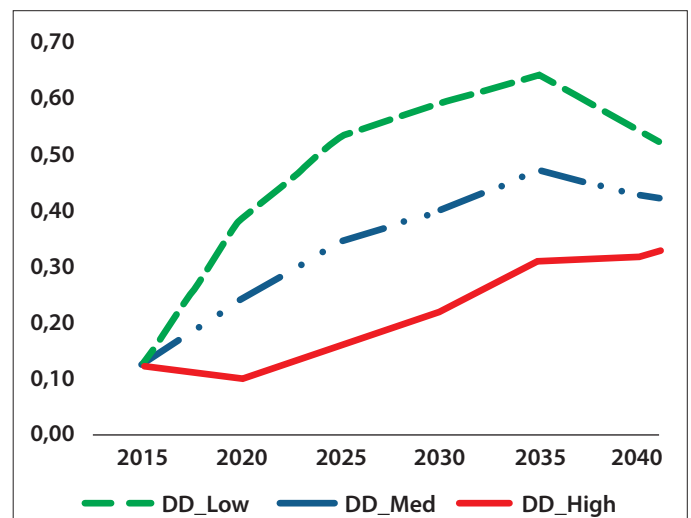
Source: CREG/CREFAT, 2017

The analysis of the graph shows that the SWEDD zone could not benefit from a demographic dividend over the period 1950-2012 (negative growth rates displayed) but benefits from a window of opportunity (positive growth rates) of 2012 to 2050 is 38 years old.

Demographic Projection : NTA Model

The projection of the demographic dividend according to the three scenarios of the future evolution of fertility (low fertility, average fertility and high fertility) with the NTA model makes it possible to have Demographic Dividend trends by 2050. Of value by 12% in 2015, the growth rate of the support ratio could reach in 2035 a demographic dividend of 63% for low fertility; 46% for average fertility and 31% for high fertility. Therefore, actions to reduce fertility are needed to benefit from the Demographic Dividend.

Graphique 8 : Demographic Dividend Projection in SWEDD Countries



Source: CREG/CREFAT, 2017

Recommendations

The SWEDD zone saw its window of opportunity opened in 2012 following the evolution of the Support Ratio since that date, when it was noted that there were 44 actual producers per 100 actual consumers. This window of opportunity will remain open until 2050, ie for 38 years. To benefit from this openness, the region will have to make efforts to keep its fertility as low as possible to allow the achievement of an optimum in 2035 of 63% of the support ratio.

Changes in the age structure of the population boosted mainly by the decline in fertility makes it possible to achieve the Demographic Dividend if adequate actions are taken, notably the implementation of good governance policies, investment in human capital and massive creation of stable and productive jobs.

The results obtained as part of the SWEDD 2014 profile identify a number of recommendations:

- 1) Strengthen the employment policy of young people aged between 15 and 31 in order to increase the support ratio and decrease dependent population;
- 2) Keep girls in school as long as possible to reduce fertility in the region;
- 3) Maintain the jobs that exist in the age groups of young people aged 15 to 34);
- 4) Anticipate on the second demographic dividend;
- 5) Put bold policies in place to capture the 1st demographic dividend over the opening window window.



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