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Reaching for the
Demographic
Dividend

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Demographic dividend refers to the accelerated economic growth that can arise from a decline in the region's mortality and fertility and the subsequent change in the age structure of the population. It occurs when the proportion of working people in the total population is high because this indicates that more people have the potential to be productive and contribute to the growth of the regional economy.

With fewer births each year, a region's young dependent population grows smaller in relation to the working-age population. With fewer people to support, a region has the prospect for rapid economic growth if the right social and economic policies are developed and investments are made.

The region recognizes that demographic transition needs to be observed and planned for to enable the economy to reap the demographic dividend. It spells out the key challenges and corresponding strategies to ensure that as the demographic window opens, more of the region's population will steadily have good health and the right sets of skills to be highly productive. This is a condition that boosts economic growth and poverty reduction. Optimizing the demographic dividend is one of the key strategies to be implemented at the national and sub-national levels, under the national development pillar of Patuloy na Pag-unlad or raising the economy's potential growth.

Assessment

The region's average annual population growth has decelerated from 2.46 percent in 2000-2010 to 1.94 percent in 2010-2015. Its growth rate of 1.94 percent is higher than the country's rate in 2010-2015 at 1.72 percent.

From 2000 to 2010, an improvement was

noted in the age-dependency ratio in the region. The percentage of the productive workforce (15-64 years) increased from 57.45 percent in 2000 to 61.30 percent in 2010. In 2010, higher dependency was noted for the age group 0-14 at 35.4 percent compared to those over 65 years old at 3.31 percent

Table 38: Age Dependency of the Population (In %), 2000 and 2010

AGE GROUP	2010 POPULATION			2000 POPULATION		
	BOTH SEXES	MALE	FEMALE	BOTH SEXES	MALE	FEMALE
0 - 14	35.40	18.19	17.20	39.70	20.14	19.55
15 - 64	61.30	31.42	29.88	57.45	29.34	28.10
65 and over	3.31	1.54	1.77	2.86	1.41	1.45

Source of data: PSA XII

While the number is high in the productive age group, the 2015 labor force survey results showed that majority of the employed persons by major occupation group are predominantly laborers and unskilled workers making up 37.4 percent of the total, followed by farmers, forestry workers and fishermen at 18.5 percent (Chapter 2, Table 5). The low productivity level of the workers contributed to a high poverty incidence of

30.5 percent in 2015.

The table below shows that the region's population is predominantly rural comprising 53.5 percent based on the total population census in 2010. Majority of those in the labor force are engaged in agriculture and related activities. The rest of the population about 46.5 percent consist of urban population.

Table 39: Total Population and Urban Population by Province, 2010

AREA	TOTAL POPULATION	URBAN POPULATION	% URBAN
Region XII	4,109,571	1,911,253	46.5
Cotabato	1,226,508	292,864	23.9
South Cotabato	827,200	408,651	49.4
Sarangani	498,904	194,607	39.00
Sultan Kudarat	747,087	254,255	34.03

Source of data: PSA XII

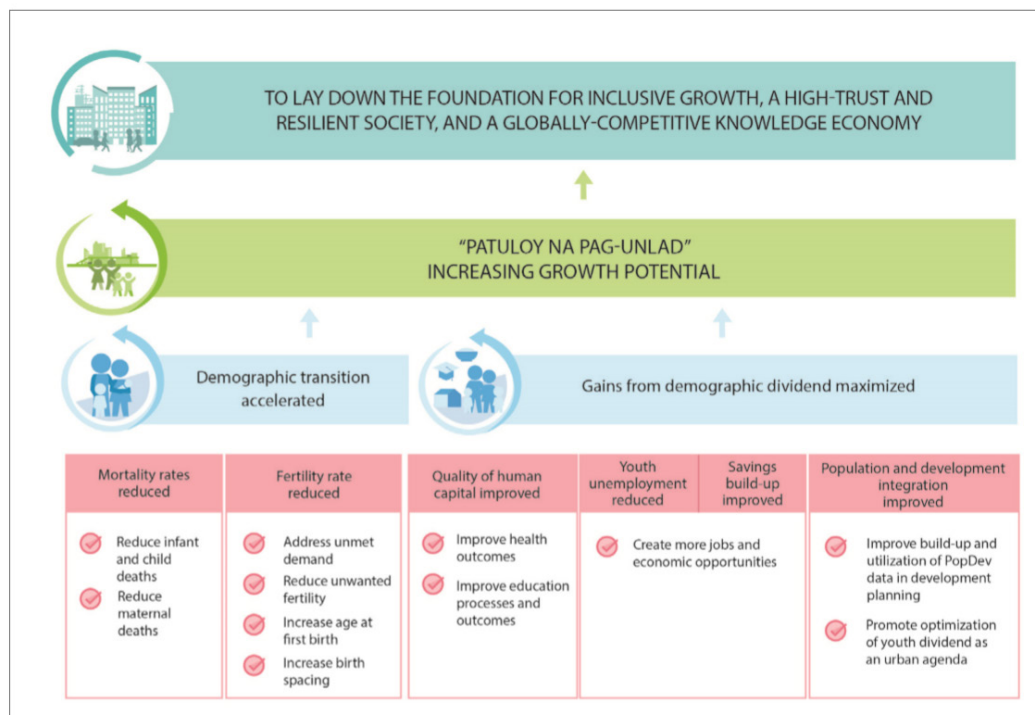
Challenges

The structure of the region's demography has shifted to a higher percentage of those in the productive age group (15-64) from 57.45 percent in 2000 to 61.30 percent in 2010. This large proportion in terms of occupation reflects unskilled laborers and agriculture workers who are underemployed and could not have productively contributed to the growth and development of the region. However, this group can still represent great economic potential, only if the families and the government can adequately invest in their health, and education and stimulate

new economic opportunities for them.

Another way to achieve a demographic transition is for the government to provide women with opportunities that will give them a choice to delay child-bearing and to access voluntary family planning information and services. Unless there is complete demographic transition that can happen and there is substantial reductions in fertility, the opportunity for a demographic dividend will be delayed.

Figure 10: Strategic Framework to Maximize the Demographic Dividend, 2017-2022



Priority Strategy

Achieving demographic dividend requires addressing key population issues and taking immediate action emphasize investments in health, education, and gender equity. Consistent with the Regional Population Management Strategic Plan (RPMSP), population issues and concerns shall be addressed by pursuing the following program:

- Integrating population and development (POPDEV) strategies at all stages of development;
- Assisting couples achieve desired number and spacing of children within the demand of responsible parenthood through effective family planning;
- Promoting adolescent health and development through responsible sexuality and effective life skills among young people;
- Integrating concerns of special groups

like the elderly, persons with disabilities and indigenous people;

- Integrating gender and development (GAD) dimensions in RPMSP strategies.
- Implementing the Regional Population Management Plan 2017-2022 is expected to attain the following demographic scenarios:
 1. Couples and individuals to have their desired number, timing and spacing of children within the demands of responsible parenthood and informed choice through increased contraceptive use at 65 percent level.
 2. Reduction of incidence of early and repeated pregnancies among adolescents (aged 10-19 years).
 3. LGUs and RLAs to effectively integrate population variables and dynamics in developing people-centered development framework.

Legislative Agenda

- Support the full implementation of EO No. 12 series of 2017 (Attaining and sustaining “zero unmet need for modern family planning” through the strict implementation of the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act, providing funds therefor, and for other purposes

Results Matrix

To achieve the overall goal of laying a strong foundation for inclusive growth, a high-trust society, and a globally-competitive knowledge economy, the country’s potential growth must be increased. This will be done by accelerating the demographic transition of the country into the low mortality and fertility levels that can facilitate the shift in

the population age structure to a point where the working age population comprises the bulk – also called the demographic window of opportunity. Once the demographic precondition of this phenomenon is reached, the country will aim to maximize its potential dividend for economic growth.

Table 40: Results Matrix for Maximizing the Demographic Dividend

INDICATORS	BASELINE		END OF PLAN RESULTS
	YEAR	VALUE	
Societal Goal: To Lay Down the Foundation for Inclusive Growth, A High-Trust and Resilient Society, and a Globally-Competitive Knowledge Economy			
Sector Outcome 1: Accelerate demographic transition			
Reduced crude death rate (%)	2015	3.41	decreasing
Reduced total fertility rate (%)	2013 (NDHS)	3.2	2.22
Reduced proportion of adolescents who have begun childbearing (%)	2014 (PSA)	3.5	decreasing
Increased contraceptive prevalence rate for modern FP (%)	2013 (NDHS)	57.5	65
Sector Outcome 2: Maximize gains from the demographic dividend			
Maternal mortality ratio per 100,000 live births	2015	72.73	decreasing
Under-five Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	2015	8.48	decreasing
Reduced population growth rate (%)	2010-2015	1.94	1.5
Increased percentage of working population (ages 15-64 years old) (%)	2010	61.3	increasing