

SWEDD SERIES: OPERATIONAL BRIEF

EXPERIENCES WITH BUDGETING SENSITIVE TO THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND (BSDD)

The research informing this brief was led by the Regional Consortium for Research in Generational Economy (CREG) and focused on the SWEDD project. The information will guide the implementation of SWEDD+.

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This operational brief is part of a series that retrospectively documents the process of implementing the interventions of the Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend (SWEDD) project. It describes the good practices, challenges and lessons learned in the process of developing a national budget analysis that informs policy-makers, as well as technical partners, on the attention to be focused on the budget and its elements that are necessary to reap a demographic dividend. It summarizes a literature review and conversations held with key respondents in Burkina Faso, Mali, Chad and Niger between December 2022 and January 2023, as detailed in a guide of the same name. The implementation experiences described in this brief and the guide serve to inform future phases of SWEDD+, as well as other countries in the region and elsewhere and other stakeholders wishing to undertake such an analysis.

The DDB analysis involved three stages, as described below

Phase 1: Implementation of BSDD

- Calibration of the DD monitoring index: develop the country's demographic dividend (DD) profile and calculate the DDMI (or Demographic Dividend Monitoring Index).
- Transformation of the budget from the classic form to a functional form corresponding to the components of DDMI (education, health, institutions, security, energy, construction and public works, economic affairs, social networks and professional networks).
- Historical retropolation to estimate the DD monitoring index for the years prior to the reference period in question.
- Budget consolidation and analysis: to estimate the sensitivity of DDMI functions to budget lines, and simulate the achievement of targets for the capture of a demographic dividend.

Phase 2: Communication and advocacy

- Lack of a communication and advocacy plan for BSDD, which creates challenges for the dissemination and implementation of the BSDD process:
 - » Failure to undertake the requisite analysis due to a lack of awareness of the advantages of BSDD.
 - » Barriers to effective communication on DD and related topics linked to sociocultural norms.

Phase 3: BSDD in parliamentary sessions

- Presentation of BSDD analyses and moderation of panels on the subject in annual budget conferences by BSDD researchers.

Budgeting Sensitive to the Demographic Dividend (BSDD) is a process for assessing the extent to which the demographic dividend (DD) is taken into account in budget allocations. It is an approach that seeks to integrate DD and gender concerns in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes. The term "sensitive" denotes the fact that budget implementation must be able to produce positive changes in the sectors involved in capturing the demographic dividend.

The demographic dividend (DD) represents the economic gain that a country can realize as a result of the rise in economic productivity linked to the increase in the size of the working population relative to the dependent population.

Challenges to country ownership of the BSDD process:

- This document was researched and developed at a time when only Mali had completed the BSDD analysis process. The other three countries in the sample were in the early stages. In Mali, however, a political-institutional crisis has created additional challenges for the country.
- No communication and advocacy plan for BSDD has been drawn up.
- BSDD requires expertise in statistical tools and advanced modelling, which country teams seem to find rather difficult.
- The turnover of the teams of the national Demographic Dividend Organizations (DDO) that manage the BSDD process: almost every three years there is a high rate of turnover that hampers the establishment of a community of practice. This situation requires training a significant number of people.



SUMMARY OF KEY LESSONS

Stage 1: Implementation of BSDD	1	Involving sectoral department managers more closely at all stages with a view to greater ownership of the BSDD tool and advocacy.
	2	Investing in communication and advocacy around BSDD.
	3	Capitalizing on and pooling the knowledge of all stakeholders to promote implementation.
	4	Establishing a closer partnership between the DDOs, the Directorate-General for the Budget and sectoral decision-makers to raise awareness of the BSDD approach.
	5	Building the capacity of national, sectoral and local policymakers to use BSDD as a tool for making strategic choices.
Stage 2: Communication and advocacy	6	<p>Development of a communication and advocacy plan to promote understanding and appreciation of the BSDD concept, as well as its usefulness in national planning to maximize the benefits of the demographic dividend, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » High-level advocacy to promote BSDD » Present the BSDD report to management-level staff at ministries » Create institutional synergies to demonstrate the multisectoral nature of BSDD » Communicate the results of DDB » Leverage partnerships with religious and traditional leaders, associations, young people and teenagers » Ensure that decision-makers are available during the advocacy process through lobbying activities, so that they take ownership of the process
Stage 3: Monitoring, assessment and learning	7	<p>Ensure greater ownership of BSDD by members of parliament; specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Organize training workshops within the commissions and strengthening of advocacy before the Finance Commission, the Gender Commission, etc. » Encourage interparliamentary exchanges for experience sharing with the other SWEDD Project member countries

This brief is based on a guide insert that sets out the BSDD process in detail. It was developed by the Regional Consortium for Research in Generational Economy (CREG) with the technical support of UNFPA and the World Bank.

For more information on the documentation of the processes involved in this intervention and on the SWEDD project, visit the SWEDD project's virtual resource platform: <https://sweddknowledge.org/>.