



**UNFPA/PRIVATE SECTOR  
CELEBRATION OF ICPD@25 AND  
UNFPA@50  
HIGH LEVEL IMPACT SUMMIT**



**THEME:**  
SUSTAINABLE POPULATION  
GROWTH AND THE FUTURE  
OF NIGERIA: THE ROLE OF  
PRIVATE SECTOR

**18th June, 2019  
Lagos Nigeria**

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# INTRODUCTION



Nigeria, as the most populous country in Sub-Saharan Africa, has a crucial role to play in the continent's ability to harness the demographic dividend for sustainable development. Nigeria is a pre-dividend country due to its high fertility, declining mortality and skewed young age structure as approximately half of its population is under the age of thirty-five years. There is high unemployment rate, low youth engagement and low proportion of females in the labour market. With strategic positioning of the young people, healthier families and a youth cohort which is adequately trained and employed in the labour market, with an emphasis on female labour participation, there will be a boost in the economy.

Nigeria contributes 14% to the total maternal deaths burden in the world. Usually pregnant women die because they are unable to access the optimal care required during pregnancy. The reasons are multifaceted; ranging from inadequate ante-natal care, lack of skilled health providers and inability to access the health facility. According to the NDHS, only 61% of women of reproductive age who have had a live birth in the last five years received ante-natal care from a skilled provider (doctor, nurse, and midwife). Also, only 36% of deliveries in Nigeria took place in a health facility and 38% were attended by a skilled birth assistant



respectively.

Ironically, Nigeria houses some of the most successful multinational, and small and medium scale businesses in Africa. These are brands that are grown, and/or are growing with international recognition of their feats. These have strong potentials for collaboration for development; especially tapping from what already works and what needs major intervention and improvement in our country, Nigeria.

To harness this strength in addressing the issues both around delivering the demographic dividend in Nigeria, Access Bank Plc in partnership with HACEY Health Initiatives and UNFPA hosted a knowledge sharing high-level summit. The high impact summit had in attendance other private sector organisations. The objective was to discuss areas where private sectors can partner with UNFPA to have sustainable population growth in the country. Some of the key messages from the discussion includes: i) Every individual has a right to how many children s/he choose to have; ii) Countries should focus on ensuring sustain-

## 36% & 38%

*of deliveries in Nigeria took place in a health facility and were attended by a skilled birth assistant respectively*

able population growth and harnessing demographic dividend through investments in young people as opposed to putting restrictions on the number of children their citizens should have at any particular time as was the case in China some years ago; iii) The prize of our high population growth is paid for by the planet, we cannot have a sustainable planet without stabilising the population, and iv) working on the issue of population means working against several harmful socio-cultural practices.

To achieve sustainable development, individuals should enjoy the dignity of human rights. Rather than dictating to the people, the number of children they must have, we should instead focus on improving healthcare to reduce maternal mortality and create awareness on family planning and ensuring that there are adequate provisions for education and wealth creation which will consequently lead to higher standards of living, hence, a demographic dividend that engender sustainable population. An essential shift in the outlook for young people was proposed. Young people may not be burden as exuberant as they seem. The increasing population of young people yields a large consumer market, which in turns yields potential for economic growth; but their energies can be harness into a large producing economy. Finally, it was agreed that these issues are human problems and isolate no one. It is encouraged that everyone including the private sector should buy-in and contribute its quarter to accelerate the progress of harnessing the demographic dividend



*Countries should focus on creating sustainable population growth and ensuring demographic dividends for the growing population as opposed to putting restrictions on the number of children their citizens should have at any particular time*



## HIGHLIGHTS OF EVENT



### WELCOME ADDRESS

#### MRS OMOBOLANLE VICTOR-LANIYAN

The event started with a welcome address by Omobolanle Victor-Laniyan, Head of Sustainability, Access Bank. She began her speech by welcoming all guests present at the summit and stated that the event was designed to serve as a platform for all key players in the various private sector and for-profits organisations to discuss the best approach in achieving a sustainable population growth. She further stated that the solutions proffered during the meeting would help to meet the need of the growing population in this part of the world as population growth rate is high. She continued by saying that



“ *There is a need for model change to empower young people to improve employability rates and support entrepreneurial power* ”

**Omobolanle Victor-Laniyan,**  
Head of Sustainability, Access Bank Plc.



“ *Increase in the population of young people can be a good thing, it yields a large consumer market, which is key to population-driven economic growth* ”

**Hon. Jide Idris**  
former Lagos State Commissioner of Health.



## COMMEMORATIVE SPEECH

### DR EUGENE KONGNYUY

#### UNFPA COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE A.I.

In a commemorative speech, Dr Eugene Kongnyuy UNFPA Country Representative a.i; gave a brief history of UNFPA and how it was founded. He reiterated the mission of UNFPA, which is to ensure access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for young people, and also to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted and safe because statistics shows that 800 women die daily due to birth complications; and sadly 111 out of them are Nigerians. He recounted that one out of every 4 death ends up severe complications such as obstetric fistula. And UNFPA works to end maternal mortality in Nigeria and also to ensure access to family planning methods and drugs.

He congratulated International Conference for Population and Development (ICPD) on its 25th anniversary, as the anniversary marked the beginning of the rights of individuals to decide the number of children they wanted.

He wrapped up his speech by saying that women are key players in ensuring growth in many communities and as such women should be given equal opportunities in all areas, including governance as it would ensure maximum productivity. He pledged that UNFPA would continually provide access to quality SRH services for young people, family planning services, maternal health services for women, and build youth friendly centres for women and girls. The private sector has key roles to play by partnering with the government and development partners to address the challenges that affect women and young people in terms of the gap in infrastructures, facilities, and human resources.

“ *Sexual and reproductive health is a human problem that requires every individual to pitch in* ”

**Dr Eugene**  
Rep. UNFPA Nigeria

attaining sustainable population growth remains Africa’s fundamental method for economic transformation. A large population if well harnessed would spur the continent to greater economic achievement.

Finally, she encouraged all participants to listen and explore new ways to achieve a sustainable population in Africa.

### MR JIDE IDRIS (FORMER COMMISSIONER FOR HEALTH, LAGOS STATE)

In his welcome remarks, Mr Jide Idris (former Commissioner for Health, Lagos State) started his speech by recognising the efforts of UNFPA and commitments to the country. He stated that this was the best time to discuss the role of the private sector in ensuring sustainable population growth as there is barely less than 10 years to achieving the SDGs and if economic growth must occur, then there must be drastic measure put in place to ensure that the young generation have access to quality SRH information, adequate nutrition and health.

He ended his speech by calling on all private sector organisations to get involved in ensuring sustainable population growth by resource mobilisation through employability

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

### OSARETIN ADONRI (ASST. COUNTRY REP)

Mr Osaretin Adonri (UNFPA Assistant Representative) elaborated on the the issues raised by previous speaker. He discussed majorly on how the high population growth in the country would cause a decrease in savings, which would lead to low investments. He further emphasised that every country needs investments by its people to drive economic development. He encourages private stakeholders to partner with the govern-

ment to support programmes and interventions that promotes sustainable growth.

Projects to reduce maternal deaths should be implemented as more death of women reduces the growth of an economy. More projects that support economic empowerment and sustainable growth for young people should be considered.

All private sector must think of how they can use all of their services to encourage quality sexual reproductive health services.



*Women and residents of the urban and rural areas should also enjoy the focus and intervention of private sector*

**Osaretin Adonri**  
(Asst. Country Representative, UNFPA)



## PANEL DISCUSSION **1**



HARNESSING  
DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND  
FOR SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA:  
THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE  
SECTOR

## PANELLISTS



- Nwamaka Onyemelukwe (Head Public Affairs and Communications, Coca-Cola Nigeria Limited)
- Temitope Samson (Executive Director, Bovas and company limited)
- Babatunde Vaughan (Education Lead, Microsoft Nigeria)
- Tope Ashiwaju (Public Relations Manager, Dufil Nigeria)
- Tonia Iduimoh (Program Manager, Oando Foundation)
- Temitope Sodeinde (Deputy Manager, External Relations, West Africa Gas Pipeline Company)
- Debola Williams (Group CEO Red Africa)

**MODERATOR:**  
DR AMAKA MOMAH-HARUNA  
(UNFPA)



The focus of the discussions was to see how to employ the expertise and resources of the private sector in the monitoring and funding of young entrepreneurs, support complementary interventions that can promote educational and employment opportunity towards driving the demographic dividend. The discussion was also focused on advancing technology to support innovation in youth empowerment for relevant skills in the 21st-century labour market. Further discussions were also centred around the place of women in the workplace, and decision making while ensuring their productivity and self-sufficiency.

## DISCUSSION

- Growth must be catalysed in terms of population growth aGrowth must be catalysed in terms of population growth and mortality decline.
- There must be increased investment in health and education. Similar to what Oando Foundation has done, increasing Nigeria's investment especially in the area of early childhood education because they believe that to secure the future, we need to invest in children today as they would become the future eventually and the quality of education affect them either positively or negatively. This intervention has helped the Nigerian government to improve access and quality to primary education for children in underserved communities and also improves the educational curriculum to meet the need for the 21st-century population.
- The economic environment must be favourable for women and young people to have jobs and compete in the labour market. Coca-cola believes that "Women are economic multipliers

“ Remote areas, underserved people should be factored into every plan and intervention.

**Osaretin Adonri**  
(Asst. Country Representative, UNFPA)

of any economy". Coca-Cola's majorly focuses on HIV and female empowerment. This is because women make up a large percentage of their retailers.

- Remote areas, underserved people should be factored into every plan and intervention. West African Gas Pipeline and Bovas and Company have tolled this part and are confident that if more is done in underserved areas, the burden of fulfilling the SDGs will be slashed in more than half. Both companies have invested in education and health of underserved communities around their communities. As indigenous companies, they set examples of how other Nigerian indigenous companies can join in delivering the demographic dividend.
- Microsoft Nigeria has assisted the government in the last few years to improve quality of life by training women and girls on coding, Artificial intelligence and also by introducing hackathon where the best idea wins and his implemented.





## TAKE HOME

- Prescriptive interventions are not productive, Private sectors should explore participatory engagement for needs assessment before intervention is carried out in any setting.
- Other private sectors to help harness demographic dividends by seeking information, engaging the governments at all levels. It is essential always to discover what the need is in every community before proffering a solution, and always seek for avenues to collaborate.
- The government and individuals must optimise every investment currently available, in intervening in any project, ask questions based on what people need and not otherwise.
- Government and private sector organisations to invest in talent as it would drive growth in the economy for young people. In his words, the ability is the currency that can help improve the economy of the nation.
- Private sectors should be more strategic in training young people so the media power can be harnessed, and young people can be part of every intervention.
- On all private sector to have more interventions in rural and underserved communities as the communities are being neglected for the big cities. Creating sessions and facilities that would enable young people to participate more in rural areas would help harness the talents of those young

people.

- Transfer of knowledge between the private sector and the government in the ways that the private sector successfully carries out its operations. For example, the transfer of experience and expertise of Coca-Cola's supply chain management to the government to help drive the supply of medicines (vacancies).

As the panel discussion ended, Ms Yemisi Ransome Kuti – Nigerian Founders of NGOs made some remarks about ensuring that all private stakeholders engage community leaders. This would help the community to understand the importance of the intervention one gives them. It is also important to introduce new practical ways where people can learn entrepreneurial skills in the community via creating CDs with the information on it. Finally, she solicited with all stakeholders to always map out what they are doing by taking one state and town at a time before finally scaling to a large number. She concluded that unless knowledge is created and local communities are involved in the intervention methods, there will be continual challenges of not utilising the intervention as experienced in the unutilized health facility West African Gas Pipeline built in the community near them.



*Sustainability is creating shared value and exploring new avenues for strategic stakeholder's engagement. We must ensure to use local approach to solve local problems*

**Adebola Williams,**  
CEO, Red Africa



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND POPULATION DYNAMICS: THE PLACE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR

## PANELLISTS



- Dr Olamide Okulaja (Director, Advocacy and Communications, Pharm Access Foundation)
- Chidinma Onuoha (DKT Nigeria)
- Isayah Owolabi (Project Director, HACEY Health Initiative)
- Koffi Kanem

## MODERATOR: MIKE OKWOCHÉ



The focus of the discussion was to understand the sustainable development goals, the link between managing people and sustainable development and using this to clarify pathways and roles of private sectors and ways they can help to achieve the goals.

## DISCUSSION

There is a gap between what the private sectors want and what the government would do, as well as what the government wants and what the private sector would do. There is a need for synergy between the government and private sector. Everyone should debunk the rumour that private sectors could work alone without the government and vice-versa as they all need each other for maximum results. Individuals do not understand family planning or sexual reproductive health; they only followed their need. There is a need to train health care providers as they are the major perpetrators that hinder access to family planning information.

Mr Koffi Kanem advised stakeholders not to overlook the need for private sectors to make a profit and an enabling environment to operate. It is important to find a way where there is collaboration among all partners and stakeholders. Rural and poor communities should be priorities, and in reaching them, it is important that all messages are translated to suit cultural diversity. Training community leaders and members on changing their cultural mentality is key to sustainable growth and development.

HACEY Health Initiative is committed to improving the quality of health and also economic empowerment and growth. Investment in health and productivity programmes will help economic growth. It is the responsibility to collectively create a unique platform for the private and public firm to give women and children access to great productivity.

## TAKE HOME

- Creating some form of a sustainable financial mechanism to finance healthcare is strategic to improve the quality of healthcare investments in the country
- Harmful cultural practices need to change or be modified to achieve sustainable development
- Private sectors and governments to partner - nothing can be achieved in isolation
- The urgency in attending to family planning services as statistic shows that 91% of people who visited medical facilities did not hear about family planning.
- There is also the need to train the gatekeepers in communities and also carry out online campaigns to encourage the use of family planning services.
- All private sector to adopt a community, think of adding values to that community and most importantly share the data and progress of their interventions.
- Individuals are "private sectors" in themselves and should use the media to pass information and harness more impact and opportunity.

“*School fees is now a "sure form" of family planning*”  
Chidinma Onuoha,  
DKT Nigeria





LEVERAGING ON A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO ACCELERATE THE IMPACT OF MATERNAL HEALTH INTERVENTIONS IN NIGERIA

## PANELLISTS



- Omobolanle Victor-Laniyan (Head of Sustainability, Access Bank Plc)
- Dr Akinde Akinsola (Chairman, Society of Gynecology & Obstetrics of Nigeria (SOGON))
- Dr Omolaso Omosehin (Head of UNFPA, Lagos Liaison Office)

## MODERATOR – DR DAMILOLA OMONIYI



The focus of this session's discussion was to understand the way UNFPA operates, the role of the private sector in ensuring that UNFPA's support is reaching all and the importance of training all health care providers especially those in rural communities.

## DISCUSSION

UNFPA has established that there is a high increase in maternal death records across rural and urban areas, and there is a need to have maternal health facilities that will ensure that women have access to maternal health care across the country. This requires the involvement of the private sector. Access Bank has shown the way as a private sector organisation by providing access to health care services, antenatal services during pregnancy via the packages offered by the bank. Some of the schemes include as the Maternal Health Support Scheme (MSHS), the Hospital Facility Upgrade Scheme and Better Mama, Better Pikin Scheme, which have helped people to access quality fertility treatments, help to support hospitals to get equipped facilities and encourages mothers to save a little sum of money for their children's health respectively. Dr Akinde Akinsola spoke about the need to train doctors and most importantly, traditional birth attendants in underserved communities in other to achieve good maternal health services. He encourages people to advocate the need for people to access proper health care service in a government hospitals or good private hospitals.

He also spoke about SOGON's efforts in ending maternal death, and he encouraged all health care facilities to question the reason behind any maternal death as it would help to prevent future reoccurrence. He ended by calling on all private and public sector

to collaborate in other to end the increased rate of maternal death.

## TAKE HOME

- Corporate organisations should create spaces that recognize youth; change their mindset about family planning, and that youth should be the centre of interventions for health and reproductive health.
- Private sectors can get involved by supporting the social health insurance scheme and NHIS scheme; these procedures would help reduce the rate of death.

**“** Government must ensure to create policies that can promote the growth of private business

**Kufre U. Ekanem,**  
Managing Director, Philosoville







1. We as a nation should focus on creating some form of a sustainable financial mechanism to finance healthcare
2. The focus of interventions should be on communities that are not in urban areas as well, to discourage rural-urban migration, which leads to overpopulation on urban areas.
3. Private organisations should also focus on empowering young people and leverage on using the media to change the mindsets of young people.
4. Organisations that do not have the funds to initiate or deliver interventions can research stakeholder's engagements and come up with strategies to solve needs and use available platforms for strategic partnerships to implement those interventions.
5. Improvement in education is key in achieving sustainable growth through an increase in wealth creation opportunities, which will translate into an improvement in the standard of living of the population.
6. We need to put in place the necessary policies that will promote health, education and wealth creation for our nation to harness demographic dividends
7. Private organisations should support the Nigerian government to improve access to basic education while targeting vulnerable populations in hard-to-reach communities
8. Private organisations need to start seeking information. Find out what the need is, through stakeholder's engagements and strive to solve problems that exist and not just what they feel the problem is. Unless we create the knowledge of the needs with stakeholder's engagements, local communities will not key into interventions
9. Private organisations who do not have their strengths in delivering interventions should collaborate with other organisations that are already doing it (synergy)
10. Collaboration and partnerships are critical in driving demographic dividends
11. We, as a nation, need to focus on capacity devel-

12. Extend skill acquisition programmes that are more accessible to everyone. Example, through videos and digital means as opposed to establishing physical locations.

To this end, we call on the private sector in collaboration with government and development partners to take the following actions:

1. In carrying out corporate social responsibilities, ensure partnership with civil society organisations and participatory needs assessment of target groups to provide sync between the company's activities and achievement of the sustainable development goals.
2. Recognise the potentials of young people and harness this strength towards sustainable development through mentoring and more internship opportunities.

3. Use goodwill with government parastatals and political contacts to ensure there are reviews, amendment and implementation of laws that pertain to women, youth, population and poverty eradication to facilitate attainment of the SDGs
4. Partner with local health authorities to support scaling-up of primary health care centres in residential vicinity to ensure more women access to care during and after pregnancy.
5. Conduct and support youth literacy and empowerment schemes through scholarship programmes and other various social investment programmes, soft skills and talent development.
6. Proactively engage NGOs and CSOs, particularly those focused on women, youth and poverty eradication, to form a partnership on reaching out to the underserved areas.
7. Unequivocally scale-up separated allocation of resources towards sustainable development in annual corporate budgets.
8. Strengthen capacities of research institutions to

provide evidence-based policies that enhance the health of women and adolescent girls, especially in humanitarian settings and underserved groups.

9. Support advocacy for FP and provide fund in making its information and services available.
10. Encourage staff volunteering programmes geared towards serving in humanitarian settings. Ensure sharing of expertise that can improve the implementation of development interventions.
11. Consider employing women in workplaces and giving them equal opportunity to rise the corporate cadres and support their maternal needs during and after pregnancy.
12. Explore graduate learning training and talent developments on the expertise that is commonly outsourced to expatriates to build 21st-century relevant skills in indigenous youths and also sup-

port the improvement of the academic curriculum to include soft-skills.

13. Organise forum for private sector partnerships to drive conversations around fundraising to push for interventions that accelerate attainment of the SDGs



