

Consequential Omissions

How demography shapes development
- Lessons from the MDGs for the SDGs

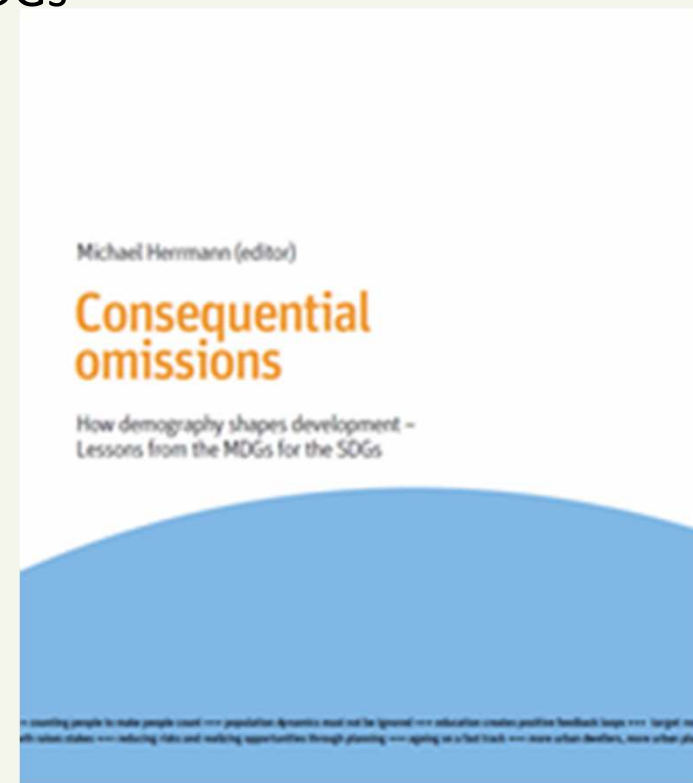
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Goals for people must be based on knowledge of people



“If you were on a mission to improve the plight of humankind, no less, would you care about how many people are living, where they are and how old they are? You probably would, for it would obviously make it easier for you to estimate the challenge you face; however, the international community did not.” – not when formulating the MDGs, not when formulating the SDGs

Herrmann (ed) 2How demography shapes development –
015. Consequential omissions.

Lessons from the MDGs for the SDGs., Berlin and New York, NY.

Demography matters



Demographic mega-trends – population growth, population ageing, urbanization and migration – affect virtually all goals on top of the global, regional and national agendas:

- Developments in poverty, income distribution, work and social protection
- Access to food, health, education, housing, transport
- Impacts on natural resources, environment, climate

Demographic shifts matter in two ways:

- Denominator effects
- Dynamic effects

Denominator effects



Ensure universal primary education, it matters how the cohort of pupils in primary school age is changing over time, same is true for poverty.

- It matters how many people will be entering labor markets looking for jobs, or how many are unable to find productive and remunerative work and will depend on social protection
- It matters how many people will leave labor markets drawing on pensions, etc.

Implications for SWAP

- Count people to make people count: (i) Collect population data, through censuses, surveys, registration systems. (ii) Produce national and sub-national population projections; (iii) Map population characteristics at national and sub-national levels.
- Use of population data and projections, to (i) produce analysis on the linkages between demographic change and development, and (ii) use analysis to inform national, sub-national, urban and rural development strategies

Dynamic effects



Change in number and location of people can create dynamic opportunities

- Urbanization: Adjusted for income, lower environmental footprint per person
- Changing age structures: Demographic dividend – not automatic gains

Implications for SWAP

- Promote demographic transition, realize demographic dividend: (i) sexual and reproductive healthy care, information and services; (ii) women's empowerment; (iii) education; and (iv) employment
- Focus on productive engagement of young people/ youth bulge
 - Strengthen human capital throughout the life course (i) life-long learning, (ii) life-long health, including pre-natal, newborn, child and maternal, sexual and reproductive, substance abuse, communicable and non-communicable disease; as well as
 - Support gender equality (i) eliminating gender-based violence and discrimination, including early, forced and child marriage, (ii) promoting participation in economy and society, (iii) closing pay gap.

Note: (i) Focus on supply-side of labor must be complemented by focus on demand-side, i.e., growth and employment-oriented policies, and (ii) Focus on human capital development must be complemented by social protection measures throughout the life course.

Some principles for SWAP



- **Demographic data, projections and analysis must inform all people-centered goals and targets, as well as policies and programme** – to set goals and targets, and pursue policies and programmes it is essential that policy makers have knowledge of the most basic characteristics of people and the changes in population dynamics over time -- including the number, location and age of people, and the change in numbers, spatial distribution and age structure over time.
- **Life-course perspective must inform development of human capital, including learning and health, as well as social protection**
- **Gender quality in the economy and society** is essential, and demands elimination of gender-based violence – including early, forced and child marriages – and gender-based discrimination – including unequal pay...