The average number of children per woman (Total Fertility Rate), has been on the decline although it remains higher than the 2030 target.

In comparison with Malaysia, sustained high fertility in Kenya has resulted in rapid population growth and a young age structure dominated by child dependants.

If Kenya’s fertility declines rapidly, its age structure will change and there will be more young people in the working ages relative to dependents. This can open up the window of opportunity to harness the demographic dividend.

How can we facilitate this rapid fertility decline?

1. Enhancing use and access to effective contraceptive services and information to facilitate family planning.

2. Improving child survival since parents are more likely to choose to have smaller families if their children have a good chance of survival to adulthood.

3. Supporting and reinforcing girls’ education to delay child marriages and childbearing.

The demographic dividend is the economic benefit that arises from a significant increase in the ratio of working-age adults relative to young dependents if accompanied by simultaneous investments in education and skills development, health, economic reforms and job creation, and good governance.

**FERTILITY DECLINE TO HARNESS THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND IN KENYA**

**In comparison with Malaysia, sustained high fertility in Kenya has resulted in rapid population growth and a young age structure dominated by child dependants.**

If Kenya’s fertility declines rapidly, its age structure will change and there will be more young people in the working ages relative to dependents. This can open up the window of opportunity to harness the demographic dividend.

**How can we facilitate this rapid fertility decline?**

1. Enhancing use and access to effective contraceptive services and information to facilitate family planning.

2. Improving child survival since parents are more likely to choose to have smaller families if their children have a good chance of survival to adulthood.

3. Supporting and reinforcing girls’ education to delay child marriages and childbearing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Fertility Rate (Kenya)</th>
<th>Total Fertility Rate (Malaysia)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Kenya Demographic and Health Survey 2014/15.**


