



# Introduction to the UNDESA project on Ageing in Africa

Workshop on building capacity of stakeholders to use the results of the Multi Indicator Survey on Ageing (MISA) in Malawi

26 June, 2018  
Lilongwe, MALAWI

# Background

- Increasing concerns of African countries for population ageing.
- Requests to UNDESA for technical assistance to develop specific policy on the base of evidence.
- No internationally agreed guidelines for implementing statistical surveys on population ageing.

# Background (continue)

- Three UNDESA Divisions cooperated to take into consideration African countries concerns about Ageing: Division for Inclusive Social Development, Population Division, Statistical Division.
- In 2014, organization of side events at three major DESA Commissions (Commission for Social Development, Statistical Commission, and Population Commission) to present to the member states a common initiative to survey population ageing and its more relevant aspects to establish/review and monitor related policies.
- Development of a joint inter-Divisional capacity building project to develop a survey instrument to collect data on older persons in Africa.
- In 2015 launch of the UNDESA project “**Data collection methodology and tools for supporting the formulation of evidence-based policies in response to the challenge of population ageing in sub-Saharan Africa.**”

# Description of the project – main objectives

- to develop a standard methodology to produce, analyze and deliver a database of harmonized indicators on the situation of older persons in sub-Saharan Africa;
- aims to promote the participation of all relevant stakeholders at the national and regional level towards the formulation, monitoring and implementation of more inclusive policies responsive to the needs and priorities of older persons.
- aims to develop survey guidelines appropriate for sub-Saharan African countries based on a capacity building and learning approach.

# Substantive areas to be addressed

- ✓ Characteristics of older persons
- ✓ Socioeconomic and gender differentials
- ✓ Work and retirement
- ✓ Savings and wealth
- ✓ Health, limitations and care for older persons
- ✓ Civic participation
- ✓ The contribution of older persons to society
- ✓ Elder abuse

# Activities & timelines

- Project lifetime November 2015 – June 2018;
- Assessment of empirical evidence on older persons in three countries: Kenya, Malawi & Uganda and national workshops (Feb – May 2016);
- Development of a regional survey methodology: manuals & questionnaire and standardized tabulations & report similar to UNICEF's MICS: "MISOP" or "MISA" (March 2016 – February 2017);
- Regional workshop on ageing in July (2016) presented the survey methodology to national, regional and international experts on ageing surveys and policies;
- Set of training & planning workshops on survey methodology & evidence-based policy making (Feb-April 2017);
- Survey administered July/August 2017
- First draft of national and regional report in progress
- National and Regional workshops to share findings & methodology in Malawi (26 June 2018) and with the wider SSA region on 27 & 28 June 2018 in Lilongwe.

# Survey methodology

- Manuals
  - Interviewer & field-supervisor manuals;
  - Sampling manual;
  - Survey costing
- Questionnaires
  - Household & Individual questionnaires;
- CAPI
  - Listing & interview applications;
  - Manual
  - Data transfer

# Partners

- National level: Governments (different line Ministries); NSO, academia, civil society.
- Regional level: African Union, Economic Commission for Africa, African Development Bank, HelpAge regional offices (Pretoria and Kenya); SADAC.
- Global level: University of Pennsylvania, WHO, UN agencies at the national, regional & global level.



# Conclusions

- Over the next decades, African countries' populations will experience a significantly larger number of older people than is the case today.
- These demographic changes are taking place alongside other rapid social and economic changes.
- Policymakers can benefit from a clearer understanding of the current situation of older persons and an improved understanding of how the changes described above are likely to affect the lives of older persons in the future.
- It is now time to engage in strengthening the evidence base for policy development.



**Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
Division for Inclusive Social Development  
(UNDESA/DISD)**

# Thank you



**Salvatore Favazza**  
[favazza@un.org](mailto:favazza@un.org)