



United Nations Workshop on Preparing for the Challenges of Population Ageing in Sub-Saharan Africa: review of the draft survey tool to the sub-Saharan African context

19-21 July 2016

Lilongwe, Malawi

Report of the Workshop¹

(DRAFT)

Prepared by

United Nations Division for Inclusive Social Development

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Objectives of the workshop

1. The Population Division, and the Division of Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare of the Republic of Malawi organized a regional workshop on the production and use of data on ageing to improve evidence-based policy and programme formulation.

2. The workshop brought together experts from governments and international organizations, researchers and academics, and civil organizations to review and evaluate the survey methodology and tools to assist national and regional policy makers to implement and monitor evidence-based policies on ageing in the framework of the United Nations Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) and the African Union Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing (AUPFAA), as well as the 2030 Development Agenda.

3. The purpose of the Workshop was to engage national, regional and global stakeholders 1) to discuss ways in which a standardized methodology can improve measurements to assist national and regional policy makers to generate baseline data for evidence-based policies and programmes, and to monitor progress of internationally agreed upon goals such as MIPAA, AUPFAA and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; 2) to review the survey methodology and tools (this includes the questionnaire as well as the manuals) and agree upon a survey methodology that is appropriate for the sub-Saharan African context; 3) to strengthen existing partnerships and identify new collaborators in support of evidence-based policy making on ageing in sub-Saharan Africa; 4) to enhance capacities of participant to engage in evidence-based policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation and 5) to identify ways to expand the scope of the project to other interested countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The outcome of this workshop constitutes a critical input into the development of the survey instrument on ageing for Africa that will be piloted in Malawi during the 1st quarter of 2017.

B. Background

4. Sub-Saharan Africa will experience rapid growth in the number of older persons in the population until at least 2050. The percentage of population aged 60 and above is projected to rise from 5.4 per cent in 2015 to 8.9 per cent in 2050 (United Nations, 2015), with a larger share of women (5.9 per cent in 2015 and 9.5 per cent in 2050) than men (5.0 per cent in 2015 and 8.3 per cent in 2050) to be found aged 60 and above. In absolute terms, this equates to a more than tripling of the number of older persons in Africa from 64 million in 2015 to 220 million in 2050, with a total of 29 million men and 35 million women in 2015 and 102 million men and 118 million women over 60 in 2030. As a result, African countries need to plan for a time in the not-too-distant future when their populations will be considerably older than they are today. These demographic changes are occurring at the same time as other equally significant economic and social transformations are underway. Some of these challenges are multi-dimensional and cross-cutting and impact on older persons, males and females, in more than one way. Increasing levels of education and urbanization among the younger generations,

together with rapid economic development, tend to go hand-in-hand with higher rates of rural-urban migration, changing patterns of labour force participation and other major social and behavioural changes. At the same time, there is also a need to document the economic, social and cultural contributions older men and women make to their families and communities. Older persons can contribute to rural development and, in countries where rates of rural to urban migration are high, the proportion of smallholders aged 50 and over can increase. It is critical to also seek to improve the understanding of the gender dimensions of the lives of older persons, since social, economic, health and cultural factors affect older women and men in different ways. More than ten years ago, African governments formally adopted the United Nations Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the African Union Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing. Following the adoption of MIPAA, successive sessions of the General Assembly have called for the international community and the United Nations system to “support national efforts to provide funding for research and data collection initiative on ageing” (A/RES/69/146). Given these mandates, UNDESA has launched a project with the objective to develop a standard methodology to produce, analyze and deliver a database of harmonized indicators on the situation of older persons in Africa. This objective is to be achieved through the development of a tool, based on the situation analysis of the three African countries (Kenya, Malawi and Uganda) and to be piloted in a single country to provide policymakers with a comprehensive picture of the situation of older persons, men and women, in their country. This survey instrument aims to assist countries in collecting and analyzing data on older persons in order to be able to more accurately monitor the changing situation of older persons during the implementation phase of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

C. Organization of the workshop.

5. The workshop was organized in three days 1) to discuss and inform the findings of the three national assessments on available data, data gaps and suggested data needs and related national consultations in three countries (Kenya, Uganda and Malawi); 2) to review the draft survey methodology and tools (questionnaire & manuals) for sub-Saharan Africa.

D. Activities undertaken.

6. Thirty six relevant experts and officials from UN agencies, representatives of Government Ministries and the National Statistics offices from Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Uganda, academics from Makerere University (Uganda), and University of Malawi, civil societies (HelpAge International Offices including HelpAge Southern African Region, the Mozambique Office and East, West Central Africa, and Malawi Network for Older Person's Organisation (MANEPO), and African Development Bank.

II. SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION

7. The workshop was opened by Dr. Mary Shawa, Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare. Opening statements were also made by Mr. Dan Odallo, UNFPA country representative on behalf of Ms. Mia Seppo, UNDP resident coordinator.

8. As part of a broader UNDESA initiative to advance the building of an evidence base for robust policy formulation and implementation on ageing in SSA, the workshop started with assessment of empirical data for evidence-based policy formulation on ageing, identifying the knowledge-gap in Kenya, Malawi and Uganda. These countries' situational analysis sought to ascertain, assess and report on (i) all extant national data and statistics on older populations and attendant meta-data (ii) existing policy, programming, and evidence use and (iii) evidence needs and data gaps that must be addressed as a priority to promote for evidence-based policy and action. These assessments were presented by three consultants hired by UNDESA.

9. The workshop was followed by the presentations of representatives of Governments of Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Uganda on an overview of national policies, programs and initiatives on ageing. HelpAge International presented the implementation of the AFFORD Programme (Accountability and Fulfilment for Older People to Raise their Dignity) in Mozambique, Uganda, Tanzania, and South Africa. The African Development Bank welcomed DESA initiative on data collection on older people as it is in line with the Bank's Ten Year Strategy which is aimed at Africa's transformation. The Bank is scaling up the implementation of the TYS in five priority areas, referred to as the High 5s. These are Light up and Power Africa, Feed Africa, Industrialize Africa, Integrate Africa, and Improve the Quality of Life of the People of Africa. All five priority areas are relevant to population aging in that program design will inevitably take into account issues critical to older persons

10. Ms. Kamiya provided an overview of the demographic trends in sub-Saharan Africa and Ms. Karoline Schmidt (DSPD) provided an overview of the project, objectives and expected outcomes. The consultant hired by UNDESA, Ms. Iliana Kohler presented the survey instruments including an overview of the questionnaire, interviewer manual, sampling manual and sampling costs. The open-discussion highlighted the importance of scientific guidance to survey design, and the trade-off between comparability with other ageing surveys such as SAGE, INDEPTH while tailoring the instruments to the African context.

11. The workshop engaged in group work and reviewed and revised the survey instruments (household and individual questionnaire, interviewer manual, sampling manual and sampling cost) to adjust it for the sub-Saharan African context especially the Malawian context. An in-depth consultation was held to consolidate the feedback and to ensure that all voices were heard and the instruments were owned by the countries. For this purpose, four group works were formed: two groups on individual questionnaire and interviewer manual, one group on household questionnaire and interviewer manual, and one group on sampling methodology.

12. Participants welcomed the survey tools with minor changes. In addition to Malawi, Kenya and Mozambique showed interest to administer part of the survey as module in the household surveys.

13. After the conclusion of workshop, Ms. Kamiya and Ms. Schmid met with Mr. Dan Odallo, UNFPA country representative, on July 22nd. Mr. Odallo showed his support to the UNDESA project and compromised to work together in the project by being the backbone in Malawi by engaging with the NSO during the data collection. The meeting was opened by Mr. Rana Hasan, Development Economics and Indicators Division, ADB and Ms. Francesca Grum, Chief, Social and Housing Statistics Section, UNSD.

III. Lesson Learned

14. This is one of the few meetings where policy makers, data producers (NSOs), and data users (researchers, civil societies) had the opportunity to work together to review the survey instruments and to exchange of many country experiences. Participants expressed appreciation for this opportunity to learn and exchange experiences on issues on older people.

15. Given the short time frame of the workshop, all the workshop materials were shared with the participants previously from the workshop. Several participants stated that having access to the workshop materials enhanced the productivity of discussion in group. Most of the participants suggested having an extra day of the workshop to exploit the topics.

16. To benefit from the possibility of exploiting cross-national comparability to understand the effects of various policies, data collection efforts in countries should be harmonized to be conceptually comparable as information is collected, including the procedures (e.g., sampling and quality control) which should be synchronized to the extent possible (National Research Council, 2001). In case of the UNDESA ageing study, the trade-off was to develop instruments that harmonized with other major ageing studies such as SAGE and HRS sister studies (SHARE, LASI, ELSA, etc.) while it is tailored to the African context.

17. Many policy makers did not have experience in data collection. Many of them expressed that presentations on methodological aspects of data collection and harmonization of the survey instruments were very informative and useful to understand how the process of producing data is a complex exercise.

18. The list of participants was agreed among PD, DSPD and the Government of Malawi. The PD invited two directors of HelpAge East, West and central Africa and Help Age Southern Africa Region. However, HelpAge decided to bring extra two staff from HelpAge Mozambique without any previous communication from their side. In the same line, the director of MANEPO was invited and paid by PD. Nevertheless, MANEPO decide to bring extra 5 people from their staff in the last minute. This extra 7 people caused some challenges in the logistics as the conference room, lunch and coffee and refreshments were paid based on the participation of 30 persons as agreed by the organizers. Ms. Kamiya explained to MANEPO that lunch could only be provided for those who were previously registered. She also spoke with the manager of the conference center and some additional meals were not charged.

19. The first day of program was challenge to keep on track, especially as some presenters of session III spoke longer than it was planned. The session III lasted 4 hours instead of planned 1:45 minutes. Additional last minute speaker not included in the program also delay the remaining scheduled sessions. It is important for the session chair to keep the speakers within their time.

Materials prepared for the workshop:

All workshop materials are available online on UNPD's website

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/events/other/15/index.shtml>



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PROVISIONAL AGENDA

DAY ONE	
8:30-9:00	Registration
9:00-9:20	SESSION I. Welcoming and opening -Welcome remarks: Mary Shawa (Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare of the Republic of Malawi) -Opening statement: Dan Odallo (UNFPA/Malawi) -Introduction of the meeting (Objectives, Expected outcomes and process): Karoline Schmid (DSPD/DESA) Introduction of participants
9:20-10:30	SESSION II. Assess the quality of existing knowledge and identify data gaps for improving understanding of the situation of older people Moderator: Karoline Schmid (UNDESA) Presentations: Review the data and information of older persons available and the knowledge gaps in priority areas in the context of MIPAA, AUFPA and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Country Presentation: Isabella Aboderin (APHRC/ Kenya)2. Country Presentation: Jesman Chintsanya (Chancellor College/Malawi)3. Country Presentation: Abel Nzabona (University of Makerere/Uganda)4. Ageing in Africa: Gideon Rutaremwa (UNECA) Discussion
10:30-10:45	COFFEE BREAK
10:45-12:30	SESSION III. Evidence based policy making on ageing: Countries presentations

	<p>Moderator: Karoline Schmid (UNDESA)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Country Presentation: Lydia Muriuki (Kenya) 2. Country Presentation: Steve Vinkhumbo (Malawi) 3. Country Presentation: Salum Rashid Mohamed & Edwin Patrick Mung'ong'o (Tanzania) 4. Country Presentation: Emily Ajiambo (Uganda) 5. HelpAge: Necodimus Chipfupa 6. The African Development Bank: Alice Nabalamba (tbc)
12:30-13:30	LUNCH BREAK
13:30-14:00	<p>SESSION IV. Presentation of the DESA initiative on “Data collection methodology and tools for supporting the formulation of evidence-based policies in response to the challenges of population ageing in sub-Saharan Africa.</p> <p>Moderator: Necodimus Chipfupa (HelpAge)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overview of demographic ageing in Africa: Yumiko Kamiya, (UNDESA) 2. Presentation of the DESA Ageing Project: Karoline Schmid (UNDESA) <p>Q&A and discussion</p>
14:00-15:00	<p>SESSION V. Methodological issues I: Towards harmonization of methods and instruments</p> <p>Present the overall structure of the questionnaire and modules. To understand the flow of the module, indicators and associated goals, targets and uses, customization of the questionnaire by countries the module. How to customize the Questionnaire to countries</p> <p>Moderator: Karoline Schmid (UNDESA)</p> <p>Presentation: Iliana Kohler (UPenn)</p> <p>Group Discussion</p> <p>Facilitators: Iliana Kohler, Karoline Schmid and Yumiko Kamiya</p>
15:00-15:20	COFFEE BREAK
15:20-17:30	<p>SESSION VI. Methodological issues: Group discussions on the questionnaire</p> <p>Group Discussion</p> <p>Facilitators: Iliana Kohler, Karoline Schmid and Yumiko Kamiya</p>

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DAY TWO	
9:00-11:00	SESSION VII. Methodological issues II: Group discussions on the questionnaire Review of day one and plans for day 2: Facilitators: Iliana Kohler, Karoline Schmid and Yumiko Kamiya Discussion & QA
10:30-10:45	COFFEE BREAK
11:00-12:30	SESSION VIII. Finalizing group discussions on the questionnaire Group Discussion Facilitators: Iliana Kohler, Karoline Schmid and Yumiko Kamiya
12:30-13:30	LUNCH BREAK
13:30-15:00	SESSION IX: Planning and implementing survey: Sampling design and sampling issues in the Africa context: Polygamous household and sampling selection of the respondents, proxy respondents Moderator: Gideon Rutaremwa (UNECA) Presentation: Iliana Kohler
15:00-15:20	COFFEE BREAK
15:20-17:30	SESSION X: Planning and implementing survey: Manual for survey implementation (interviewer manuals, supervisor and editor's manual) Moderator: Yumiko Kamiya Presentations: Iliana Kohler Discussion:

DAY THREE	
9:00-10:15	<p>SESSION XI: Planning and implementing survey: Manual for survey implementation (interviewer manuals, supervisor and editor's manual), cont'd</p> <p>Recap day 2 and plans for day 3</p> <p>Facilitators: Iliana Kohler, Karoline Schmid and Yumiko Kamiya</p> <p>QA& Discussion:</p>
10:15-10:30	COFFEE BREAK
10:30-12:30	<p>SESSION XII: Planning and implementing survey :Guidelines for survey cost and survey analysis forward</p> <p>Facilitators: Iliana Kohler, Karoline Schmid and Yumiko Kamiya</p>
12:30-13:30	LUNCH BREAK
13:30-15:00	<p>SESSION XIII: Planning and implementing survey</p> <p>Facilitators: Iliana Kohler, Karoline Schmid and Yumiko Kamiya</p>
15:00-15:20	COFFEE BREAK
15:20-17:30	<p>SESSION XIV: The way forward: finalizing the survey instrument and implementation of the survey</p> <p>Moderator: Karoline Schmid (UNDESA)</p> <p>Participant's evaluation of the meeting; Yumiko Kamiya</p> <p>Closer of the meeting</p>