Overview of demographic ageing in Africa

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United Nations Regional Workshop
Lilongwe, July 2016
By 2050, there will be more older persons than children under 15.

- 0.9 billion children under 15 in 2015
- 1.4 billion persons aged 60 or over in 2030

All Regions of the world are ageing

World older persons = \[
\frac{1.4 \text{ billion in 2030}}{0.9 \text{ billion in 2015}} = 1.54
\]
Population aged 60-79 years and 80 years or over in sub-Saharan Africa, 1990-2050

Percentage of Total Population Aged 60 years or over (2015)

Per cent:
- 30 or over
- 20 to 29
- 10 to 19
- 0 to 9
- No data

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Population Division
United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Percentage of Total Population Aged 60 years or over (2050)

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Population ageing implies rising old-age dependency ratio

OADR = Age 65+ / Age 15-64 (per hundred persons)

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Key trends

1. Population ageing is one of the most important demographic trends

2. The number of older people is growing faster than any other group.

3. Africa will experience the fastest growth rate of the number of older person than any other region in the world.

4. The older population is itself ageing.

5. Population ageing raises concerns about the economic security of older people, health and social care spending, and inter-generational support.
Key points

• Older people tend to be less poor than total population in most Latin American and developed countries, but poorer than total population in most of Africa countries.

• Old-age pension coverage is adequate in Europe, Northern America and Latin America, but still low in many developing regions, particularly in the Middle East (30%) and Africa (22%).

• Older men and women in sub-Saharan Africa are making other vital contributions to their families and communities.

• Many older persons whose adult children have migrated in search of work, or who have died as a result of HIV/AIDS, are the main care-providers for their children.