Evidence-based Ageing-related Policies in Sub-Saharan Africa

Surveys, Data and UN Titchfield City Group on Ageing and Age-disaggregated statistics

16-18 November 2021, Lake Naivasha, Kenya

By: Jeremiah Sixtus Dery
Outline

• Surveys, Data on older persons in African
• Work of the TCGA
Population ageing is happening globally

Percentage of the population aged 65 and over, 2020

Percentage of the population aged 65 and over, 2050

Source: UN World Population Prospects, 2019
Sources of data on Older Adults in Africa

- Censuses
- Sample surveys
- Longitudinal surveys
- Case studies
- Administrative
- Others
What Data is available

- Dedicated data on old persons
  - Multiple Indicator Survey on Ageing (MISA) in Malawi
  - Africa Aging:2020
- Derived data on older persons
  - Population censuses
  - DHS
  - Living standards surveys
  - MICS
  - SAGE
Pathways along which data can foster development

Data Production and Collection
- Greater Transparency
- More data on Individuals
- Production Process in Firms

Data analytics and processing
- Individuals
- Civil Society
- Academia
- Government
- International Organizations
- Private Sector
- Greater Accountability
- Policies, programs and activities on ageing
- Better Policy making
- Political Surveillance
- Older persons
- Increased business opportunity
- Market Concentration
- Widening inequality
- Discrimination

Development

Source: WDR 2021 Team
Desirable features of data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ensuring the data have adequate coverage</th>
<th>Ensuring the data are of high quality</th>
<th>Ensuring the data are easy to use</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Completeness</td>
<td>• Granularity</td>
<td>• Accessibility</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Timeliness</td>
<td>• Accuracy</td>
<td>• Understandability</td>
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<td>• Frequency</td>
<td>• Comparability</td>
<td>• interoperability</td>
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Source: WDR 2021 Team
UN Titchfield City Group on Ageing and Age Disaggregated Statistics

International collaboration to improve measurement of older people
Data issues in measurement of older people’s lives
Pre 2015
Demand for evidence-based data and statistics on older persons has been called for since the adoption of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in 2002. Various initiatives, including the UNECE Task Force on Ageing-Related Statistics, continued to document and call attention to these gaps into the subsequent years.

2015
The adoption of the SDGs in 2015 and the pledge to Leave No One Behind stimulated a global conversation about how progress could be measured. Space opened up to talk about the significant gaps in ageing statistics and age-disaggregated data and the need for concrete solutions.

15 – 18 January 2017
At the first World Data Forum in Cape Town, the core group – then ONS, DFID, HelpAge, UN Women and UNDP – convened a meeting with various country statistical offices and representatives of other agencies and held bilateral discussions to bring statistical offices on board. Following the World Data Forum, the United Kingdom Office for National Statistics (ONS) offered to lead the proposed City Group and several statistical offices joined.

22 – 24 August 2017
The informal core group held a first meeting as the ‘Proposed Titchfield Group’ in the UK in August 2017 to discuss the scope of the group’s work and decide on the important elements of the report and proposal that the UK would present to the Statistical Commission in March 2018.

2016
Throughout the remainder of 2016, DFID and HelpAge explored the City Group option and worked to build support for the idea of a UN city group with a wider group of agencies. Several partners came on board, including UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women and WHO.

February – August 2016
Recognising the significant issues, DFID launched an Open Policy Making Initiative on age disaggregation across the life course. This culminated in a conference with CSO partners, representatives of UN agencies and USAID where the idea of a city group was first proposed. DFID & CSO participants continued to work together to drive forward this important agenda – which led to DFID’s development of its Data Disaggregation Action Plan with a commitment to work towards a city group on age and ageing data.

6 – 9 March 2018
ONS presented the report on ageing related statistics and age-disaggregated data to the Commission, including a proposal to establish the Titchfield Group. The proposal was accepted by the Commission with strong support and no opposition.

Summer 2017
Throughout 2017 the core group grew and began meeting regularly to prepare for the 49th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission and planning a seminar in Winchester.

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Sustainable Development Goals (with underlying pledge to ‘leave no one behind’)

Timely and reliable data across all ages is required for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
“The overall objective of the proposed Titchfield Group is to develop standardized tools and methods for producing both data disaggregated by age and ageing-related data, and to encourage countries to do so, by playing a leading role in the development and communication of new standards and methodologies.”

(Report to UNSC 49th session)
Introducing the work plan

- Conceptual and analytical framework (WS3)
- Analysis of available evidence (WS1)
- Standardisation and harmonisation (WS5)
- Alignment to SDG goals and other work (WS4)
- Horizon scanning (WS2)
- Platform for sharing data and information (WS6)
Conceptual framework

- Examples of conceptual frameworks on other topics
- What is used already and may be required in the future?
- ‘Think pieces’ on key concepts
- Analytical framework
- Life course approach important
- Case studies from NSOs/countries, including relevant to government policies
Analysis of available evidence

- Stocktake of data sources
- Identification of starting point for countries – country position papers?
- Identification of policy priorities
- List of country representatives to check our assessment is right
- Scoping document – what indicators should we look for?
Standardisation and harmonisation

- Assessment of level of harmonisation in current data/sources
- Report/guidance on standard approaches (to enable global comparisons)
- Library of tools for harmonisation in data collection and analysis
Timelines for priority workstrands: Short-term

By March 2022
- Think pieces on key constructs (WS3)
- TCGA/WHO report ‘SDG Indicators: Making older persons visible (WS3)
- Report on availability of evidence on SDG indicators relevant to older people (WKS1)
- Assessment of current levels of current harmonisation/standardisation (WS5).

By March 2023
- Conceptual and analytical framework finalised (WK3)
- Stocktake of data sources and indicators related to conceptual and analytical framework (WK1)
- Identify and draw on lessons from organisations who have already harmonised measures and developed guidelines (WS5)
Timelines for priority workstrands: Longer-term

- Phase 2 assessment of evidence on indicators identified in analytical framework (WS1)

- Report on gaps in evidence and relation to government policies (WS1)

- Develop library of tools for countries for use in data collection and analysis and guidance to facilitate standardisation and harmonisation and enable global comparisons (WS5)

- Report on suitability of data sources and outputs for the future and recommendations to address shortfalls (WS4)
The 3 remaining TCGA workstrands...

**Horizon scanning**
- Report on suitability of sources for the future
- What could the future look like and how might data needs change?

**Alignment to SDGs**
- Assess data needed to monitor the SDG framework for older people
- Harmonisation and standards for age disaggregation of SDG indicators by age
- Pilot approaches to overcoming challenges faced by NSOs in relation to availability and presentation of SDG data related to older people.

**Platform for info sharing**
- Assess the suitability of potential platforms
- Identify legal and ethical boundaries with such a platform
- Deliver an accessible digital platform for sharing information and best practice internationally

Office for National Statistics, UK
Getting involved

Come and join us! We want to hear about

• Your data sources on older people
• New ideas for generating data on older people
• Methodological or digital opportunities for filling gaps
• Opportunities to lead remaining workstrands

• Email: TCGA@ons.gov.uk