Demographics of Ageing and the Implications for Humanitarian Crises

Dr. Ann Pawliczko
Dr. Rene Desiderio
World is Ageing

1 in 8 people are aged 60 or over in 2017

1 in 5 will be aged 60 or over in 2050
Almost all countries are ageing

2017

2050

Percentage 60+
- 30 or over
- 25 to 30
- 20 to 25
- 15 to 20
- 10 to 15
- Less than 5
- No data
Population Ageing

- Globally, 962 million persons aged 60 or over in 2017
- 12.7% of world's population aged 60 or over
- In 2050, 21.5% of world's population will be aged 60+
- In 2050, nearly 2.1 billion persons will be aged 60+
- In 2000, already more people 60+ than children under 5
- In 2030, older persons will outnumber children under 10
- By 2050, almost equal number of 60+ and children under 15
- In 2050, older persons will outnumber adolescents & youth ages 10-24
The number of older persons worldwide is expected to **double** by 2050.
Marked Differences between Regions in Per Cent of Elderly

In 2017:
- Africa - 6%
- Asia - 12%
- LAC - 12%
- Europe - 25%
- N America - 22%
- Oceania - 17%

By 2050:
- Africa - 9%
- Asia - 24%
- LAC - 25%
- Europe - 35%
- N America - 28%
- Oceania - 23%
“Hot Spot” Countries
Per Cent of Population 60+
2017 & 2050
Africa
Per Cent of Population 60+
2017 & 2050
Asia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2050</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>4.1</td>
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<tr>
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<td>India</td>
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<td>Japan</td>
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<td>Myanmar</td>
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<td>Syria</td>
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Per Cent of Population 60+
2017 & 2050
Latin America and the Caribbean

![Bar chart showing the percentage of the population aged 60 years and over in various countries in 2017 and 2050.](image-url)
Per Cent of Population 60+
2017 & 2050
Europe
Implications of Population Ageing

- Large numbers of older persons already live in conflict and disaster-prone areas
- As conflicts and humanitarian situations increase, more older persons will be affected
- As the numbers of elderly increase, even more will be in harm’s way
- Older persons are often unseen, forgotten, left behind
- Older persons can be more vulnerable
- Many older persons can contribute
- Policies must specifically address the situation of elderly
Urbanization of Disasters

- Disasters increasingly impact cities

- Increasing numbers of elderly in urban areas

- Asia – most disaster prone region and largest increase in proportion of urban among elderly

- Asia – home to country with largest percentage of older persons: Japan 33% elderly

- Humanitarian aid must adequately address issues of urban elderly
Accurate Data

- Collect age and sex-disaggregated data
- Do not lump all older persons in one group
- Collect data in 10-year increments
- Keep collecting data after age 75
- Analyze and utilize the age-disaggregated data for planning purposes
Capacity Development: Training in Working with Older Persons in Emergencies

Train all front-line staff on the special issues, needs and potential contributions of the elderly:

First responders
Protection officers
National guards
Disaster relief workers
Humanitarian aid workers
Health professionals
Companies manufacturing humanitarian aid equipment and supplies
Volunteers
Training

- Train in human rights law and humanitarian protection standards, enhance awareness of rights of older persons and fight age discrimination

- Train how to detect and report abuse of elderly

- Provide manuals, guidelines, checklists

- Design a practical course on older persons in humanitarian situations for inclusion in the curricula of gerontology departments
The Way Forward

- Include older persons in disaster preparedness, rescue efforts and recovery programmes

- Collect age and gender-specific data for policy planning, monitoring and evaluation

- Undertake research, training and capacity building to meet needs of older persons

- Ensure adequate financial and human resources

- Involve all stakeholders - governments, civil society, private sector, UN, NGOs