



# Evidence-Based Policies on Ageing in Africa?

Reflections based on  
MIPAA+15 and others

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Measuring Population Ageing:  
Bridging Research & Policy

- **17 out of 31 African countries have developed comprehensive and stand-alone national plans/policies/strategies on ageing**
- Budget allocation for implementation however is rarely integrated into such plans.
- **Mauritius by far the most successful country in Africa addressing the ageing issues.**
  - **Universal non-contributory pension system since 1958.**
  - **University for Elderly linking youth with elderly**
- 23 out of 31 countries report major challenges in implementation of formulated policies.
- **Operationalizing the policies prove to be very difficult in the absence of data to guide programmatic action.**

- **There is a long list of challenges faced by governments and they largely circle around operationalizing policies for successful implementation**
  - Insufficient financial resources
  - Insufficient political will
  - Insufficient cooperation between ministries
  - **Insufficient research and translation of research into policy formulation**
    - 9/31: data disaggregated by age/sex on critical indicator
    - 9/31: number of people by age/sex with access to safe water/electricity
    - 5/31: number of people by age/sex with health insurance
    - 4/31: disability adjusted life expectancy data
  - Insufficient human resources

## How to Tackle these Challenges?

4

- **Integrated Digital ID Systems**
  - SDG 16.9: Legal identify for all
  - SDGs: Leave no one behind
- **Digitizing the process...**
  - Efficiency
  - Equity
  - Human Right
- **Civil Registries and Vital Statistics**
  - Substantial improvement across the continent
  - Potential to update/sustain the integrated digital system
- **Service Delivery aspect**
  - Where do people live? Who are they? How many are they?
- **Progress in Namibia and Botswana...**

- **Women live longer than men in Africa with an ever-increasing gender gap in life expectancy, especially from early 2000s onward.**
  - 10 countries: decreasing trend in gender gap
  - 1 country: no change
  - 43 countries: increasing trend in gender gap in favour of women
- Women therefore spend more time with their children and grandchildren. They have more incentives than men to invest in their children/grandchildren.
- **There is also a major cost of spending more time with children and grand children:** time poverty and health problems
  - Involvement in patient care (and negative externality on their own health)
  - HIV/AIDS care and orphan care (60% in Zimbabwe and Namibia).
- **Risk of disability increasing along with other health problems while geriatric medicine is largely absent.**
  - Only 8/31 countries have public geriatric training programmes.
  - Screening needed for cervical cancer which is curable.



# THANK YOU!

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