



The Survey on Aging in sub-Saharan Africa: Towards Harmonization of Methods and Instruments

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The Global “Golden Standard” for Research on Aging

- The Health and Retirement Study (HRS): “Golden Standard” for research on aging:
 - 1st longitudinal study on older individuals age 50+ to integrate comprehensive demographic, social, economic and health information into one study design;
 - Integration of comprehensive household and individual level information
 - Longitudinal design; development and validation of study instruments; core data and experimental modules for sub-populations;
- Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE)
 - Covers 20 European countries including Israel
- The Longitudinal Aging Study in India (LASI)
- The Health and Aging in Africa: Longitudinal Studies of INDEPTH Communities (HAALSI) (Agincourt, South Africa)



The Global “Golden Standard” for Research on Aging cont’d

Overall characteristics of these studies:

- Harmonization of variety of indicators to achieve cross-national comparisons of aging populations and outcomes among older individuals
- Longitudinal design
- Samples: age-eligible respondents and their spouses independent of age
- Collection of both household and individual level data
- Administration of additional (experimental) designs; biomarker data
- “Academic Ownership” --- studies are “run” by the academic communities and researchers (exception is SHARE that is partially implemented by local governments)



Evidence-Based Research on Aging in SSA

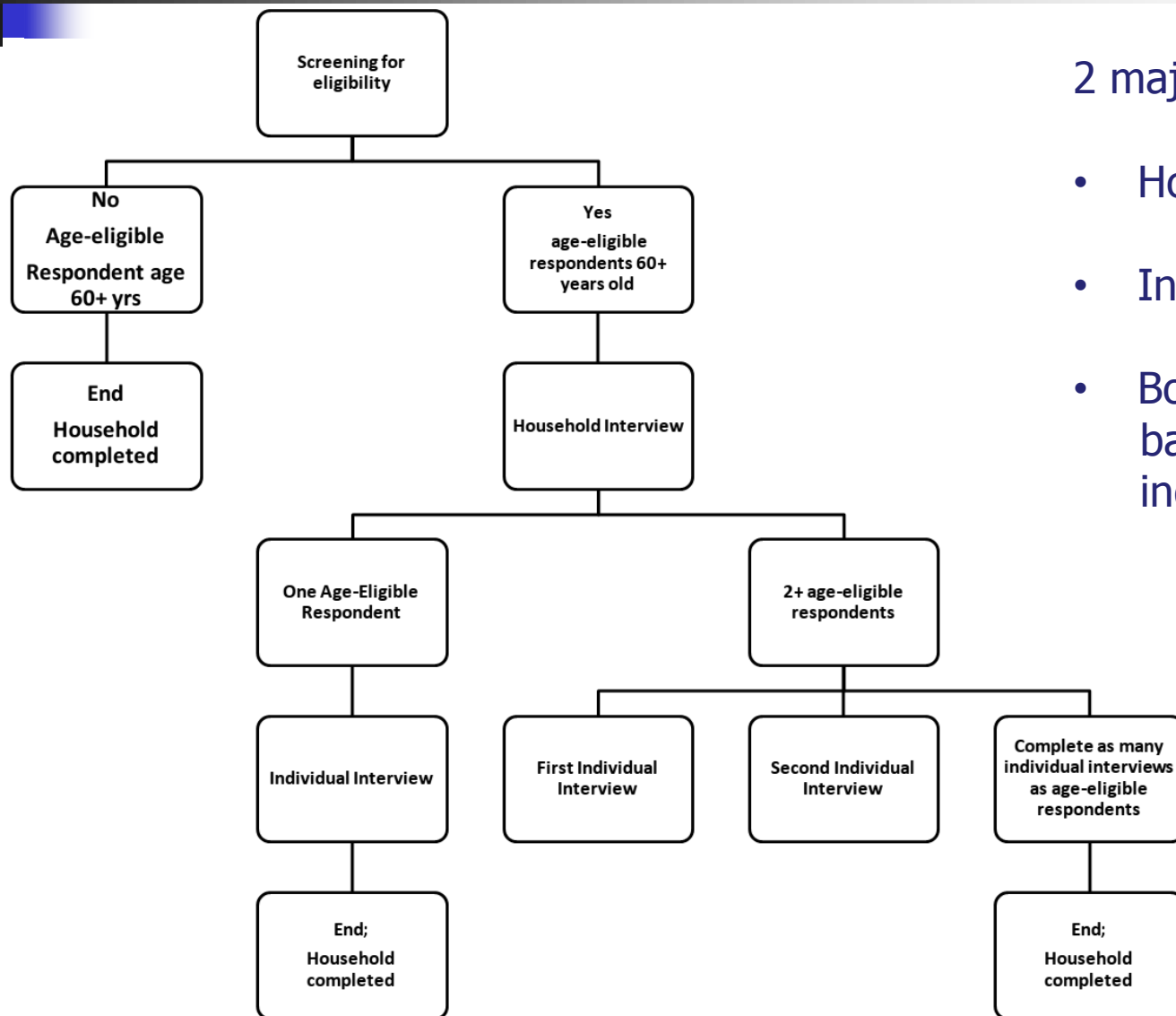
- Need for comprehensive nationally representative data sources on older individuals that integrate demographic, social, economic and health information
- Need for data that can inform policy makers on the situation of older people in SSA
- Need for population-based data that go beyond collecting health information, but address the overall situation of older people in SSA
- Data collected **from** the older people (i.e., primary respondents are older people)



Overall Goals of the Survey on Aging in SSA

- Cover the MIPAA priorities goals and the SDGs goals
- Collect comprehensive information about older individuals in SSA on a nationally representative population-level base
- Harmonize the methods and instruments across SSA countries used to study older people in the region and hence enable a better comparison between SSA countries
- Whenever possible, harmonize study instruments with other aging studies to allow comparisons with other aging populations
- Adopt/modify study instruments so that they are culturally appropriate and can be implemented in the SSA context
- Develop a study design that is easy to implement in different countries

Overall Structure of the Survey on Aging in SSA



2 major components:

- Household Interview
- Individual Interview
- Both will be linked based on HH ID and individual ID



The Household Questionnaire

- Screens for age-eligible individuals in the household (age 60+ years old)
- Administered to the household head/other knowledgeable person (not necessarily the age-eligible respondent)
- Provides information about the household structure and overall household conditions

Household questionnaire sections	MIPAA goals covered
1. HH listing starting with the older people in the HH	Intergenerational solidarity, support
2. Housing environment	Eradication of poverty, social protection, social security, poverty prevention; housing and living environment
3. Household income	Income, eradication of poverty, social protection, poverty prevention
4. Household agricultural income and assets	Eradication of poverty, income, social protection and poverty prevention; housing and living environment
Household financial and non-financial assets	income, social protection and poverty prevention; housing and living environment
5. Access to social programs and benefits	income, social protection and poverty prevention; Active participation in society and development; work and aging labor force
6. Overall household economic conditions	Eradication of poverty; income, social protection and poverty prevention; Housing and living environment



The Individual Questionnaire

- To be administered to all age-eligible respondents in the household (age 60 + years)
- Link between age-eligible spouses
- Provides information on individual level
- Assisted interviews for respondents who cannot participated fully by themselves

Individual questionnaire sections	MIPAA goals covered
1. Demographics	Aspects of access to knowledge, education, training
2. Children	Intergenerational solidarity
3. Physical health, ADL, NCD, infectious diseases, HIV/AIDS	Health promotion and well being throughout life, HIV/AIDS and older persons, Older persons and disability; advancing health and well-being into old age
4. Mental Health	Mental health and needs of older people
5. Health care utilization	Universal and equal access to health care services, but also aspects of neglect and abuse
6. Health insurance coverage	Universal and equal access to health care services, but also aspects of social protection, social security and poverty prevention
7. Intergenerational transfers and support within the HH and outside of the HH	Intergenerational solidarity, eradication of poverty, care and support for caregivers, income, social protection

Individual questionnaire sections	MIPAA goals covered
8. Caregiving to children in the household	Intergenerational solidarity, eradication of poverty, care and support for caregivers, income, social protection
9. Employment status; employment in agriculture	Eradication of poverty, income, social protection and security, active participation in society and development; work and aging labor force
10. Retirement benefits and Pensions	Eradication of poverty, income, social protection and security, active participation in society and development; work and aging labor force
11. Access to social programs and benefits	Eradication of poverty, income, social protection and security, active participation in society and development; work and aging labor force
12. Abuse of older people	Neglect, abuse, and violence
13. Social life and loneliness	Active participation in society and development, neglect, abuse and violence; images of aging



The Optional Modules

- Migration
- Risk factors and preventive health behaviors (smoking and alcohol consumption)
- Physical activity
- The country's Implementing Agency decides if these modules are to be administered or not



Country Specific Aspects

- Parts of the questionnaire (i.e., response options to specific questions) need to be adjusted to the country's context
 - All financial information
 - Education
 - Occupation/current employment
 - Social programs and benefits
 - Possibly also retirement benefits, and questions on social activities
- Questionnaires have to be translated into the local languages (how many and which depends on the sampling frame and procedures decided by the country's IA)



Specific Issues/Questions to Discuss

- Polygamy: how to deal with polygamous households/spouses
- Literacy questions
- Transfer rosters (do we want financial transfers within the household)