Ageing and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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Intergenerational relations in an ageing world

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familyperspective.org/ages
Population Ageing

• Significant shifts in population age distributions
• Demographic transition: achievements of human development
• Preparing for an ageing population is essential to 2030 Agenda, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable—including older persons.
Ageing Trends

Global population by broad age group, 2000-2050

Source: UNDESA (2015)
Ageing Trends

- **Asia Pacific**: world’s largest number of people aged 60 or over (508 million)
- **Europe**: largest percentage of its population of this age (24%, or 177 million).
- In coming years, older persons expected to account for over 25% of the population in Europe and Northern America, 17% in Asia and Latin America, 6% in Africa.
Gender Dimension

• On average, women tend to live longer than men.
• In 2015, women – 54% of global population of 60+.
• But older women – more marginalised and disadvantaged than older men.
Why Ageing and Older People Matter

• **Economic development**: older people often work beyond retirement age

• **Unpaid care work**: older people, particularly older women, provide unpaid care family members. Grandparents – central to well-being of families.

• **Political participation**: older people in advanced democracies carry significant weight and have the potential to be more influential in society (e.g. through voting)

• **Social capital**: older people are often actively involved in community and civic life.
Challenges

• Older people have not benefitted systematically from development gains.
• Challenges include financing of pension systems, provision of health services and household-based social support, among others.
Policy Implications for 2030 Agenda

• **Ageing**: far-reaching implications for labour markets, financial and health systems; demand for goods and services; family structures and intergenerational relations.

• Essential to prepare for **economic and social transformations** associated with ageing and enable older people to lead healthy and productive lives.

• Important to go beyond treating older persons as a vulnerable group and promote their **agency** as part of solution to many development challenges.
Policy Implications for 2030 Agenda

• Integrated and multifaceted approach:
  o sensitisation of power structures,
  o undertaking detailed participatory research,
  o investing in public education and strengthening anti-discrimination legislation
  o articulating gains for society if older people are included in the development process.

• New agenda of active and healthy ageing to reduce vulnerabilities and enhance capabilities, rights and resilience of older persons.
References


• **UNDP.** Forthcoming. *Ageing and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. New York: UNDP.