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Ageing and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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Intergenerational relations in an ageing world

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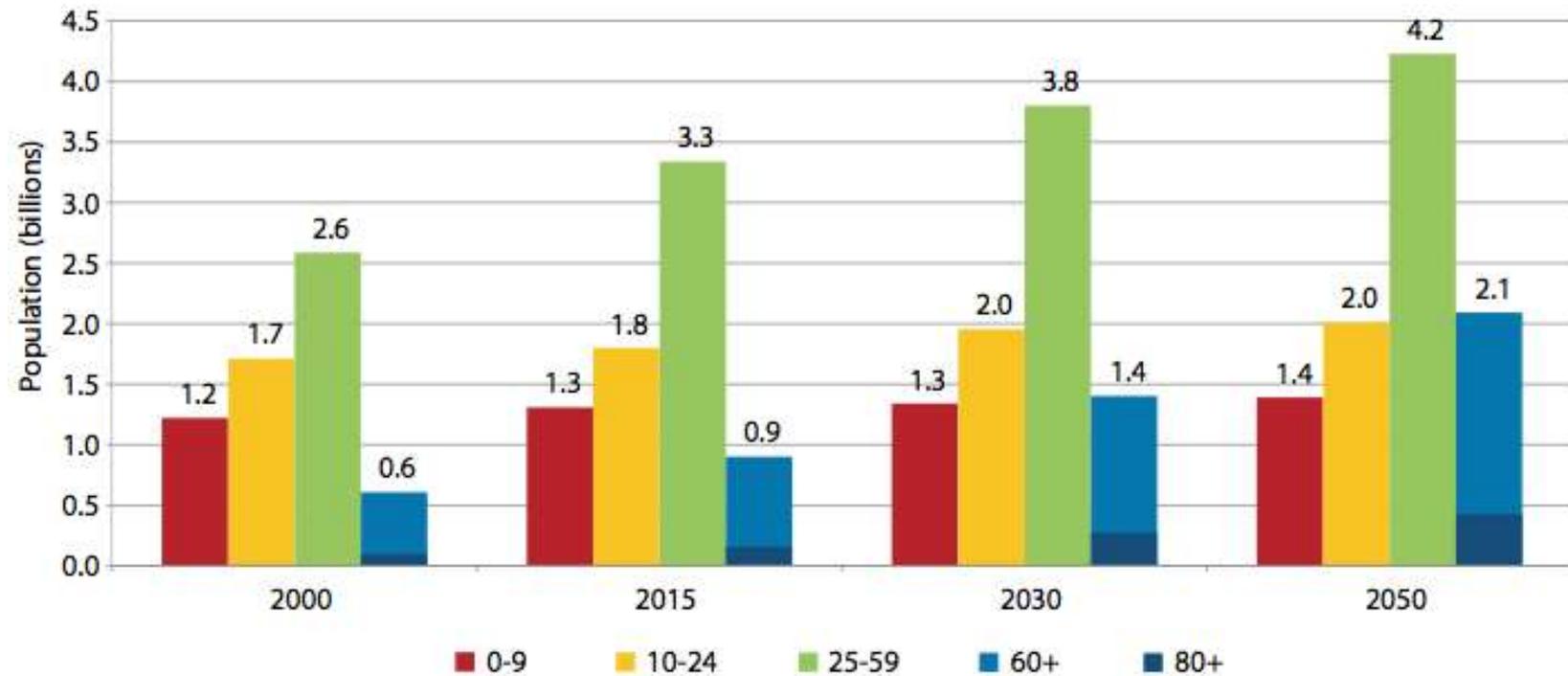


Population Ageing

- 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:
 - sensitisation of power structures,
 - undertaking detailed participatory research,
 - investing in public education and strengthening anti-discrimination legislation
 - 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

- **UNDESA**. 2015. *World population ageing 2015*. New York: United Nations.
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- **UNDP and UNRISD**. 2017. *Global Trends: Challenges and Opportunities in the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*. New York: UNDP and Geneva: UNRISD.