



Social Development and Ageing: Challenges & Possible Solutions

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Social Development

Social Development is a comprehensive term.

“It includes in particular the objectives of provision of economic opportunities for all and reduction of poverty. It refers to the wellbeing of individuals and to the harmonious functioning of societies. It is the equivalent of social progress”.

United Nations

Economic growth is key to social development, and *vice versa*, social development is key to economic growth.

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Linking Ageing & Social Development

“Older persons must be full participants in the development process and also share in its benefits. No individual should be denied the opportunity to benefit from development”.

MIPAA

Linking ageing & development means: a role in decision-making, social inclusion and embracing diversity

INIA



Why focus on ageing in Africa, when it is the world's youngest region?

After all, only 5.6% of Africa's population was age 60 or older in 2020 compared to 23.4% in North America ...

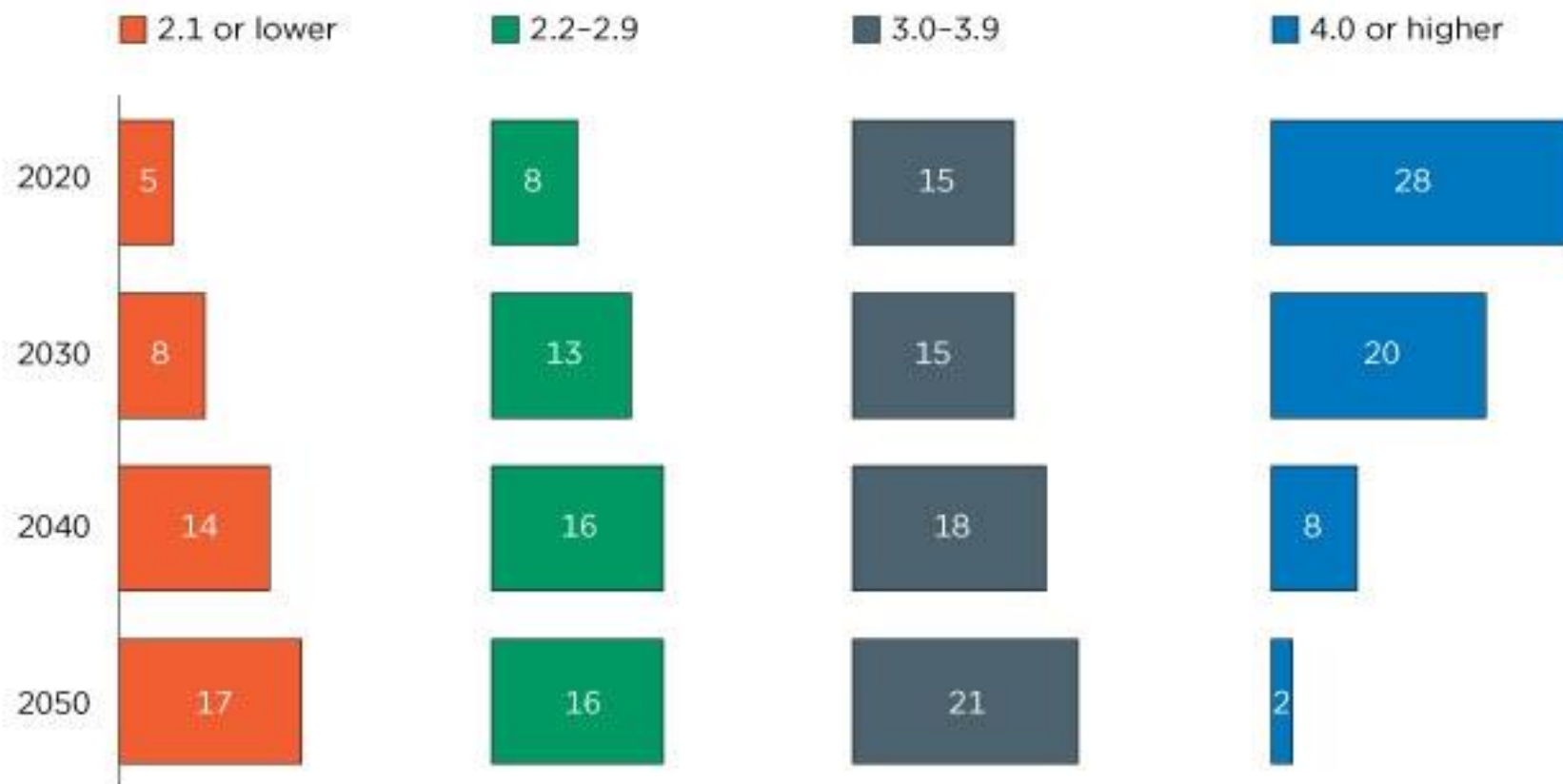
... Even by 2050, Africa's older population is projected to remain in single digits, less than 1 in 10 (9.3%). They *why*?

1. Small Share, Large Numbers: Even though the share of older adults is small, it still translates into an enormous number of people. In 2020, 18 African countries each had more than 1 million people ages 60+. In 2050, 36 African countries will have more than a million older adults aged 60+. Seven of them will each have at least 10 million older adults.

2. Projected increases in the older population: The growth in the number of older Africans is set to exceed 200% in the next 30 years, far outstripping growth of older populations in other regions, being the only region to experience a consistent increase every successive decade.

3. Fertility decline. Following improvement in women's education, family planning programmes, and contraception, the number of African countries with a total fertility rate of 4.0 or above will decrease from 28 in 2020 to only 2 by 2050 In other words, in a generation's time, almost one-third of African countries will be at the current fertility levels of Asia and Latin America, which will trigger major changes in their age structures.

Number of African Countries by Total Fertility Rates: 2020 Projected to 2050



Note: The total fertility rate is defined as the average number of children that would be born per woman if all women lived to the end of their childbearing years and bore children according to a given set of age-specific fertility rates.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, International Database, 2019.

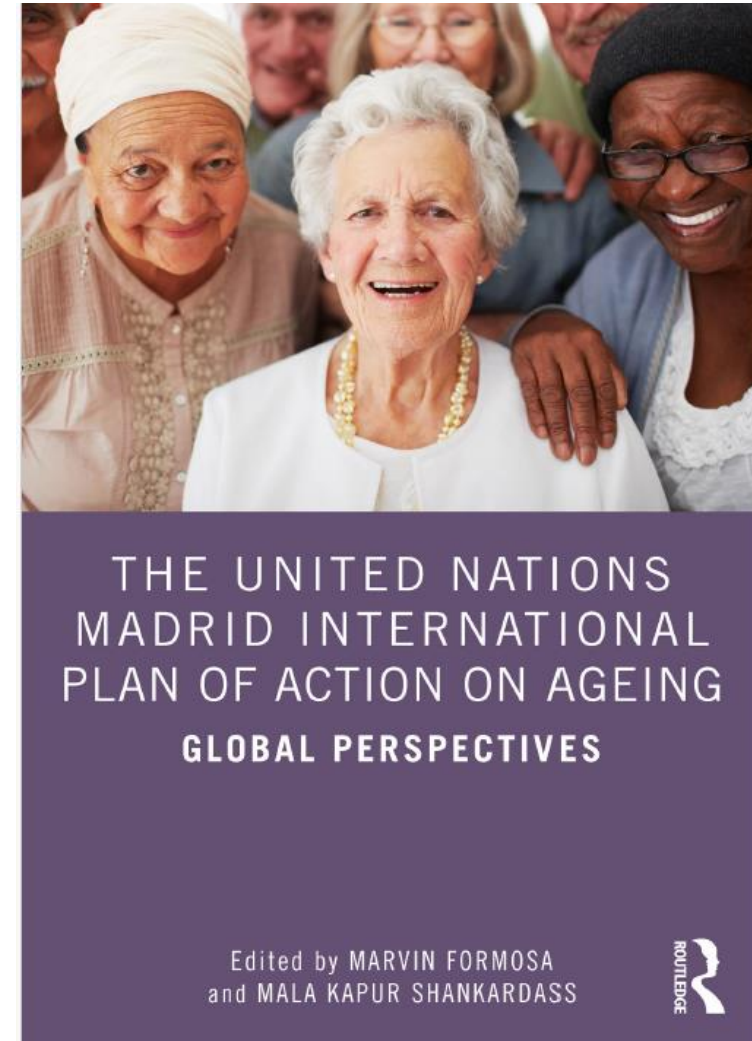
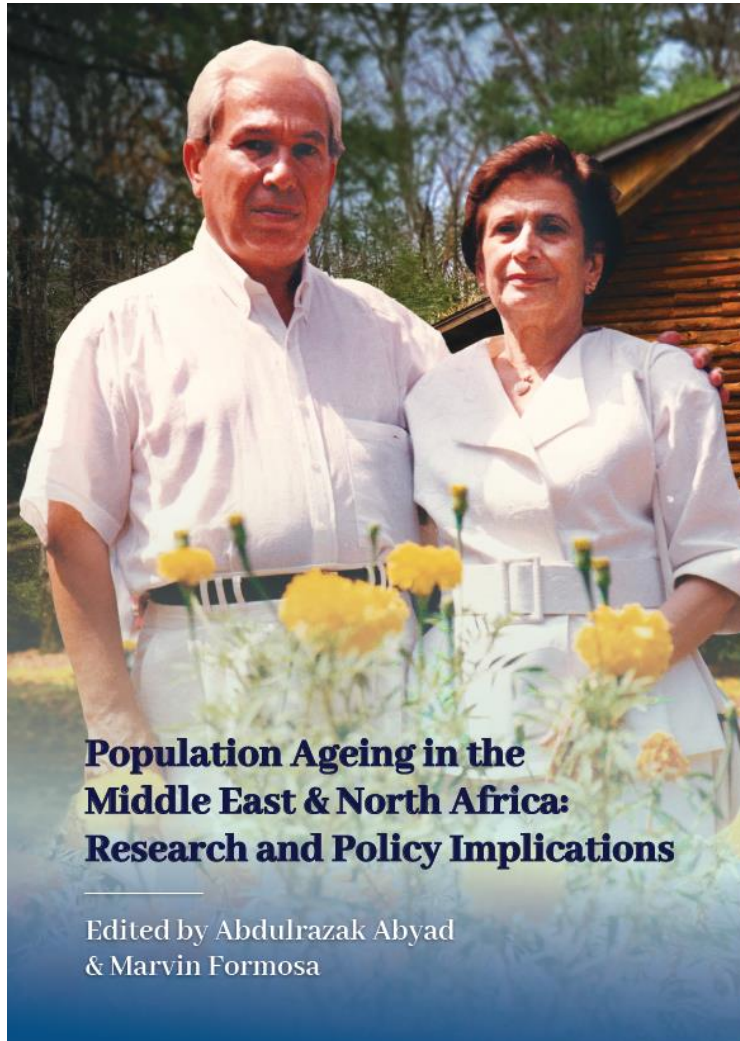


INIA's Contribution to Social Development for Ageing Populations in Africa





INIA's Contribution to Social Development for Ageing Populations in Africa





The background context

Poorest and least developed region.

Score low in the human development index.

Rural stagnation on one hand, and urban slums on the other.

The HIV/AIDS crisis and armed conflict.

Two key international instruments are available to guide African governments in designing and implementing comprehensive strategies on older persons:

- The UN Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA)**
- The African Union (AU) Protocol on the Rights of Older Persons**



Three challenges

First, complex demographic scenarios and projections.

On one hand, whilst the proportion of persons age 60 years and over in national populations will remain lower than in other world regions, the absolute number of older persons in SSA is projected to rise dramatically over the same period: from 37 million to 155 million.

On the other hand, contrary to widespread misconceptions older people in SSA will on average live many years beyond age 60. Indeed, life expectancy at age 60 in Africa, currently 16 years for men and almost 18 years for women, differs little from that in other world regions.



... challenges

Second, the specific vulnerability of older persons due to detrimental health, economic and social outcomes from three interacting influences:

- ➡ A diminishing capacity to engage in sufficiently paid productive work and/or self-care, due to physical and mental disabilities.**
- ➡ Effects of rapid socio-cultural change, economic stress, rural to urban migration, and crises e.g. HIV/AIDS, wars, emergencies etc**
- ➡ A lack of social services for older people in most countries. and only a few countries operate a formal old age social security system**



... challenges

Finally, the overall dearth of policy action.

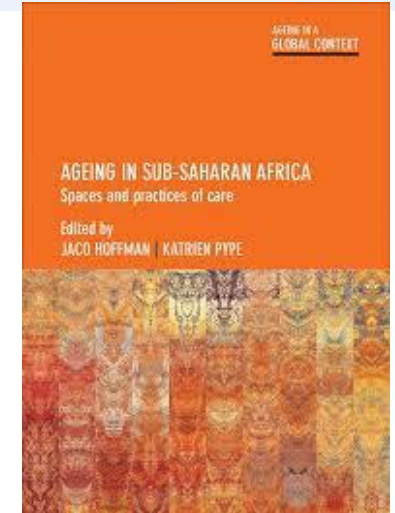
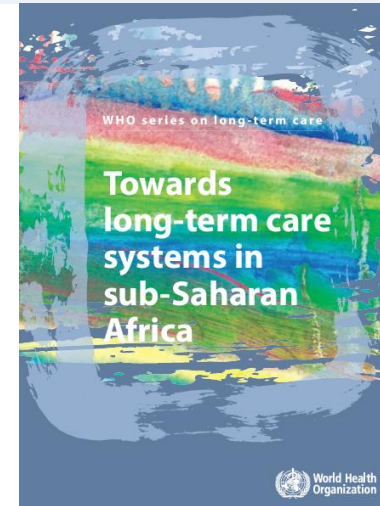
Regrettably, recent policy reviews shed sparse light on the precise nature and extent of ageing policy across African countries. It is evident that the policy steps that have been taken have been limited and narrow. Why?

- ➡ enduring assumption that families care for elders effectively**
- ➡ an insufficient awareness of, or interest in policy needs of older people**
- ➡ a focus on other priorities for ‘development’ spending, with older persons largely excluded from development agendas**



Promises ... Looking forward ...

- ➔ **Social security schemes**
- ➔ **Health promotion and prevention**
- ➔ **Healthcare services**
- ➔ **Healthcare professional training**
- ➔ **Health financing**





Promises ... Looking forward

- ➔ **Intergenerational solidarity**
- ➔ **Enabling and supportive environment**
- ➔ **Age-friendly emergency planning**
- ➔ **Research funding**

Protection interventions
for older people
in emergencies



Towards communities for all ages

“Each and every one of us, young and old, has a role to play in promoting solidarity between generations, in combating discrimination against older people, and in building a future of security, opportunity and dignity for people of all ages”.

Kofi Annan, 2002



Thank you for your attention!

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