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Expert Group Meeting on Data Disaggregation
27-29 June 2016
New York

Data disaggregated by age
Concrete examples of current work and specific strategies
By Professor Asghar Zaidi

United Nations and UNICEF
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Co-convened by UNSD and UNICEF

Data disaggregated by age
Concrete examples of current work and specific strategies

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Overview

1. **Relevance of age disaggregation of data**

2. **Concrete examples and learnings**

   2.1 The Active Ageing Index 2012-16 (UNECE/EC, Southampton)

   2.2 The Global AgeWatch Index, 2012-2015 (HelpAge, Southampton)

   2.3 Other examples (time permitting):

   - Indicators for Age-Friendly cities, of WHO's Kobe Centre;

   - ESRC work on India, China, Pakistan, and Bangladesh;

   - British Council work on rights-based analysis of older people (Pakistan)

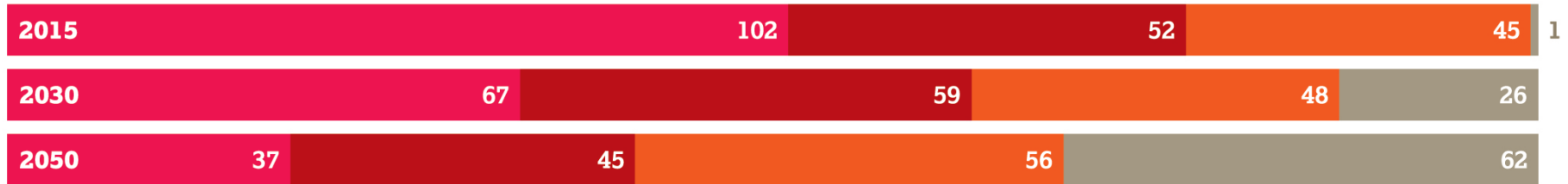   - UNDESA's special surveys on older persons in Africa

3. **Identifying priority issues**

Part 1

Relevance of age disaggregation of data

The Context

Speed and scale of population ageing is profound

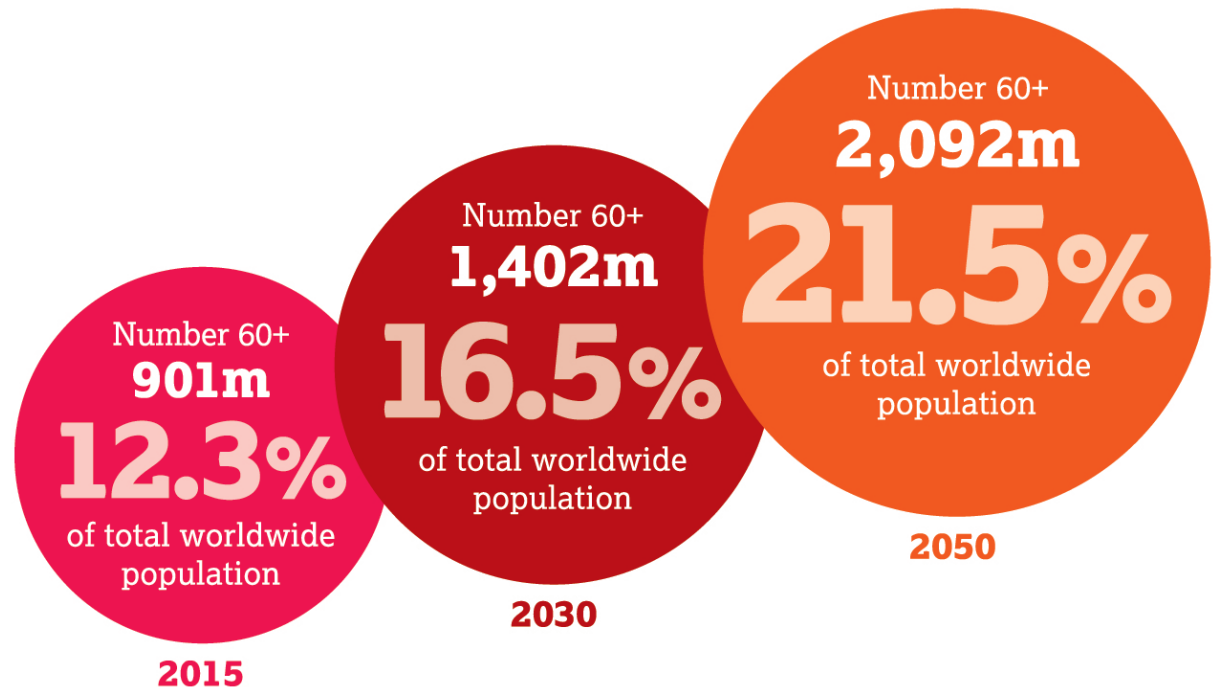|				
2015	102	52	45	1
2030	67	59	48	26
2050	37	45	56	62

Young societies
Less than 10 per cent of population aged 60 and over

Ageing societies
10-19 per cent of population aged 60 and over

High-ageing societies
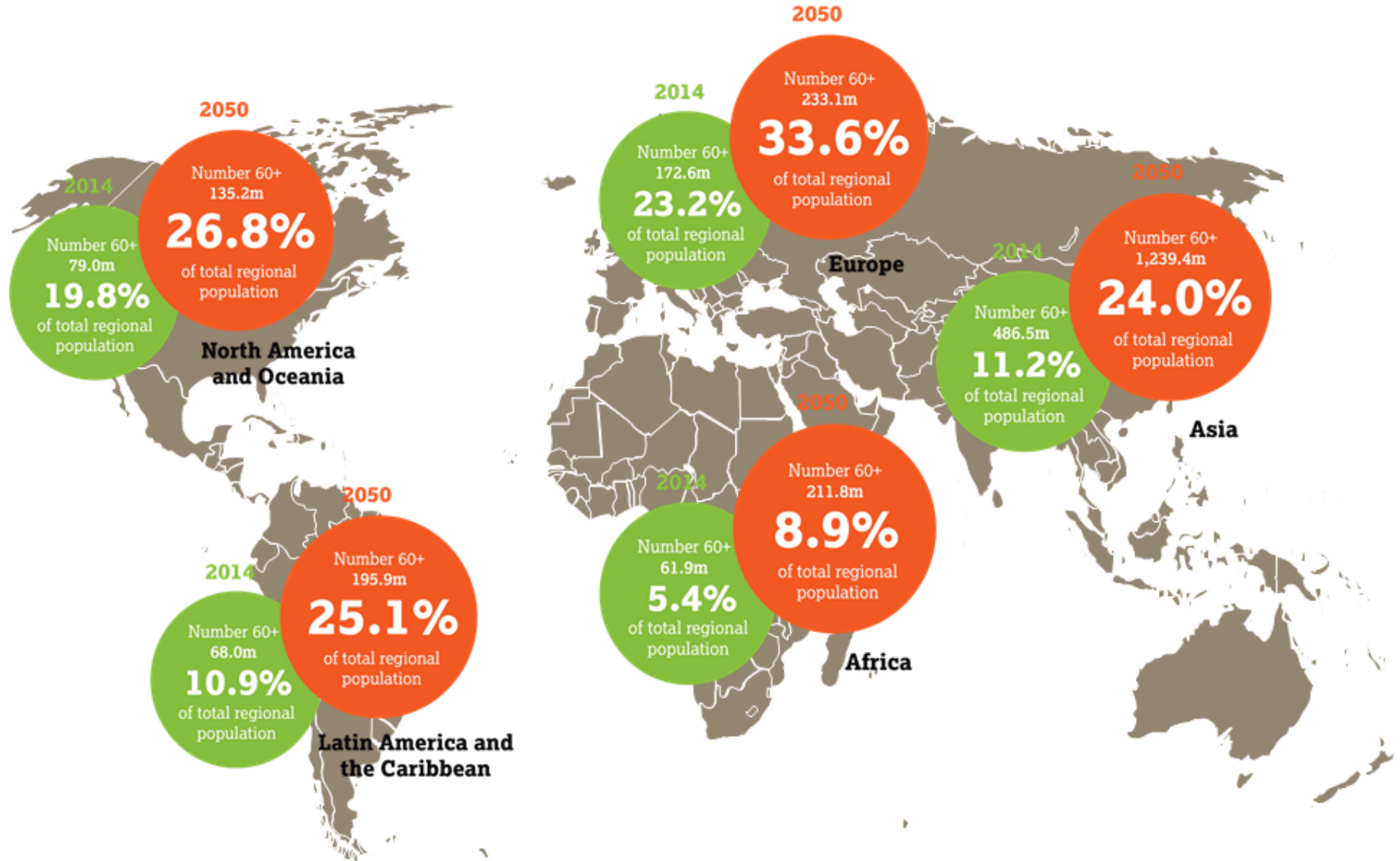20-29 per cent of population aged 60 and over

Hyper-ageing societies
30 per cent or more of population aged 60 and over

Number 60+
901m
12.3%
of total worldwide population
2015

Number 60+
1,402m
16.5%
of total worldwide population
2030

Number 60+
2,092m
21.5%
of total worldwide population
2050

Global AgeWatch
Data and analysis on population ageing

The Context
Population ageing is a global phenomenon

North America and Oceania

2014 — Number 60+ 79.0m — **19.8%** of total regional population

2050 — Number 60+ 135.2m — **26.8%** of total regional population

Latin America and the Caribbean

2014 — Number 60+ 68.0m — **10.9%** of total regional population

2050 — Number 60+ 195.9m — **25.1%** of total regional population

Europe

2014 — Number 60+ 172.6m — **23.2%** of total regional population

2050 — Number 60+ 233.1m — **33.6%** of total regional population

Asia

2014 — Number 60+ 486.5m — **11.2%** of total regional population

2050 — Number 60+ 1,239.4m — **24.0%** of total regional population

Africa

2014 — Number 60+ 61.9m — **5.4%** of total regional population

2050 — Number 60+ 211.8m — **8.9%** of total regional population

Ageing and its links to development

I. Development strategies to empower older people by improving their well-being and quality of life

Two bold pledges made in the Post-2015 SDGs

'*no one will be left behind*' and

'*we endeavour to reach the furthest behind first*'

II. The healthy, secure and empowered older people in turn contribute not just to their own wellbeing but also to the overall development of the society in which they live.
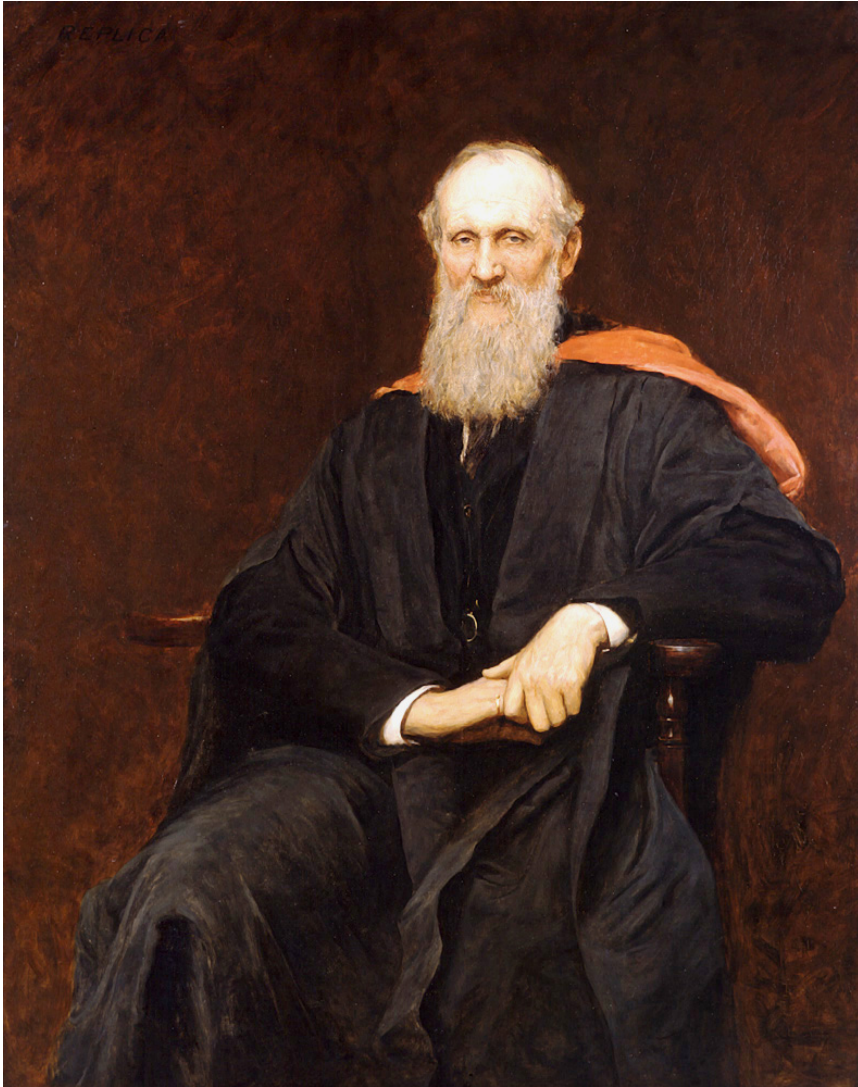
Relevance of age disaggregation of data/ indicators?

- We need good evidence on how older people's lives are changing alongside monitoring of overall societal progress

- How financial secure older persons are?

- What challenges for health and disability with ageing?

- What cumulative disadvantage for education and employment?

- Independence? Diginity? Age-friendly environment?

Part 2

Concrete examples and learnings

The grand logic is to build knowledge using data

"When you cannot express it in numbers, your knowledge is of a meagre and unsatisfactory kind"
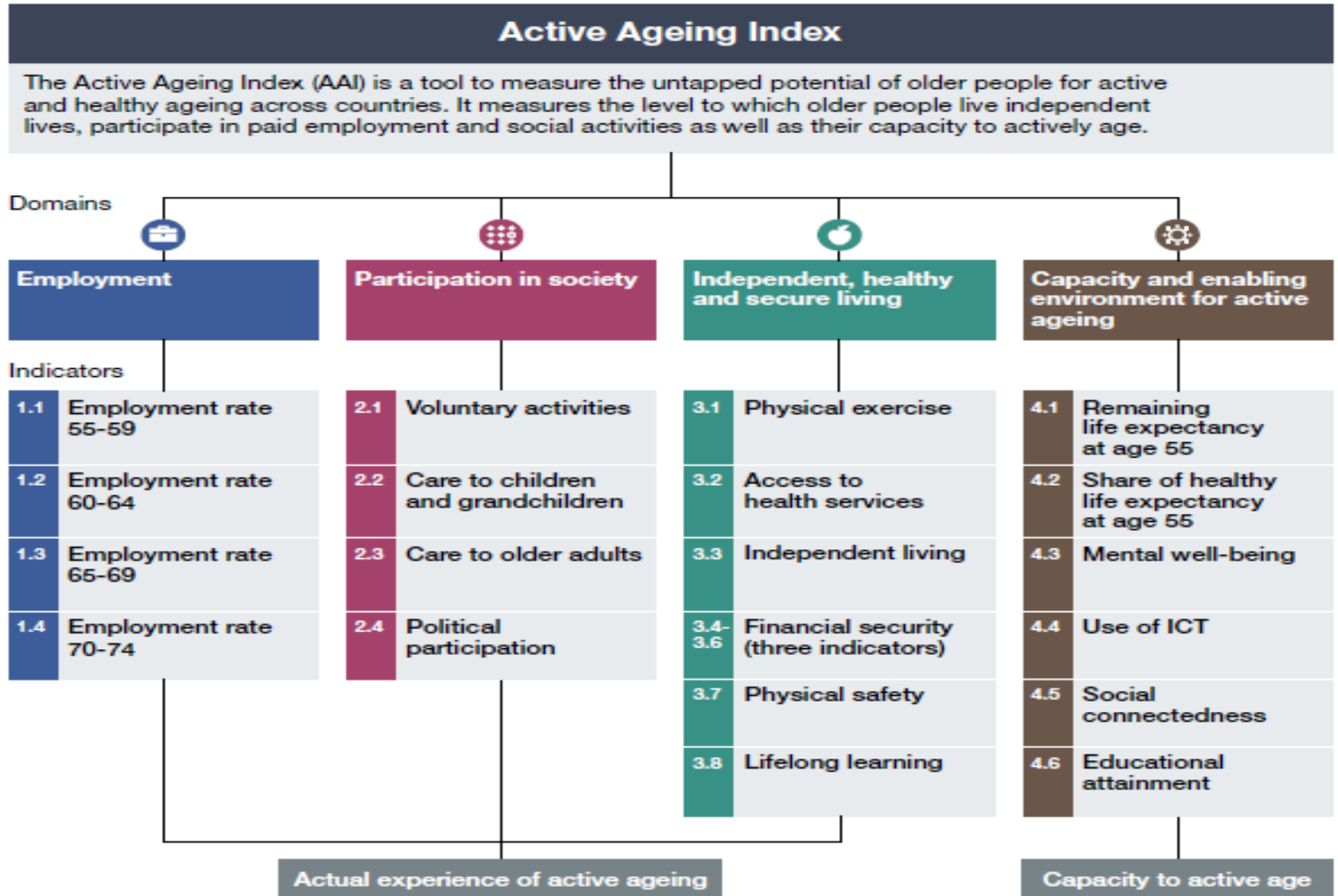
Lord Kelvin in 1883
Mathematician, physicist and engineer, 1824-1907

Example 1:
The Active Ageing Index 2012-2016

The AAI framework
22 indicators. 4 domains. for men/women

Active Ageing Index

The Active Ageing Index (AAI) is a tool to measure the untapped potential of older people for active and healthy ageing across countries. It measures the level to which older people live independent lives, participate in paid employment and social activities as well as their capacity to actively age.

Domains

Employment	Participation in society	Independent, healthy and secure living	Capacity and enabling environment for active ageing

Indicators

1.1	Employment rate 55-59	2.1	Voluntary activities	3.1	Physical exercise	4.1	Remaining life expectancy at age 55
1.2	Employment rate 60-64	2.2	Care to children and grandchildren	3.2	Access to health services	4.2	Share of healthy life expectancy at age 55
1.3	Employment rate 65-69	2.3	Care to older adults	3.3	Independent living	4.3	Mental well-being
1.4	Employment rate 70-74	2.4	Political participation	3.4-3.6	Financial security (three indicators)	4.4	Use of ICT
				3.7	Physical safety	4.5	Social connectedness
				3.8	Lifelong learning	4.6	Educational attainment

Actual experience of active ageing

Capacity to active age

Prime pan-European datasets used

Indicators drawn from the <u>micro</u> datasets of

- ✓ EU Labour Force Survey, 2008, 2010 and 2012
- ✓ European Quality of Life Survey, 2007/8 and 2012/13
- ✓ EU Survey of Income and Living Conditions, 2008,2010,2012
- ✓ European Social Survey, mainly wave, mainly R4, R5 and R6

Micro-data access essential to allow age disaggregation

- Careful interpretation necessary in comparing indicators across countries, given different contexts;
- The AAI evidence is only as good as the underlying data and its comparability

Lessons from the AAI

1. The comparative analysis of the AAI help us identify specific priorities for each country regarding where the potential of older people is not realised, and by how much?

2. The AAI framework points to successful / innovative policy instruments to promote active and healthy ageing.
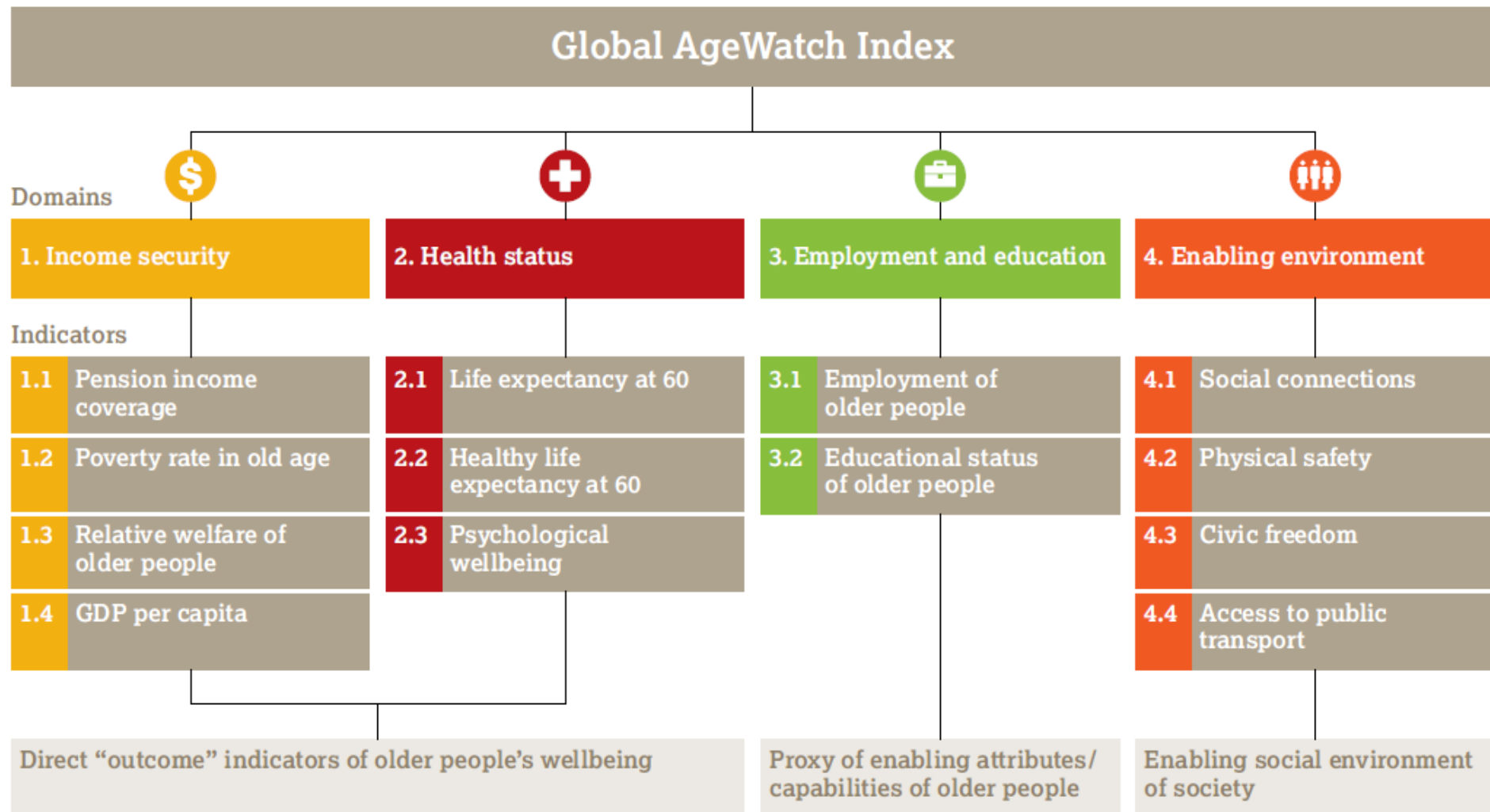
Example 2:

The Global AgeWatch Index

2012-2015

Global AgeWatch Index
13 indicators, 4 domains and overall Index

Figure 5: Global AgeWatch Index domains and indicators

Global AgeWatch Index

Domains

$ 1. Income security	✚ 2. Health status	💼 3. Employment and education	👥 4. Enabling environment

Indicators

1.1 Pension income coverage	**2.1** Life expectancy at 60	**3.1** Employment of older people	**4.1** Social connections
1.2 Poverty rate in old age	**2.2** Healthy life expectancy at 60	**3.2** Educational status of older people	**4.2** Physical safety
1.3 Relative welfare of older people	**2.3** Psychological wellbeing		**4.3** Civic freedom
1.4 GDP per capita			**4.4** Access to public transport

Direct "outcome" indicators of older people's wellbeing

Proxy of enabling attributes/ capabilities of older people

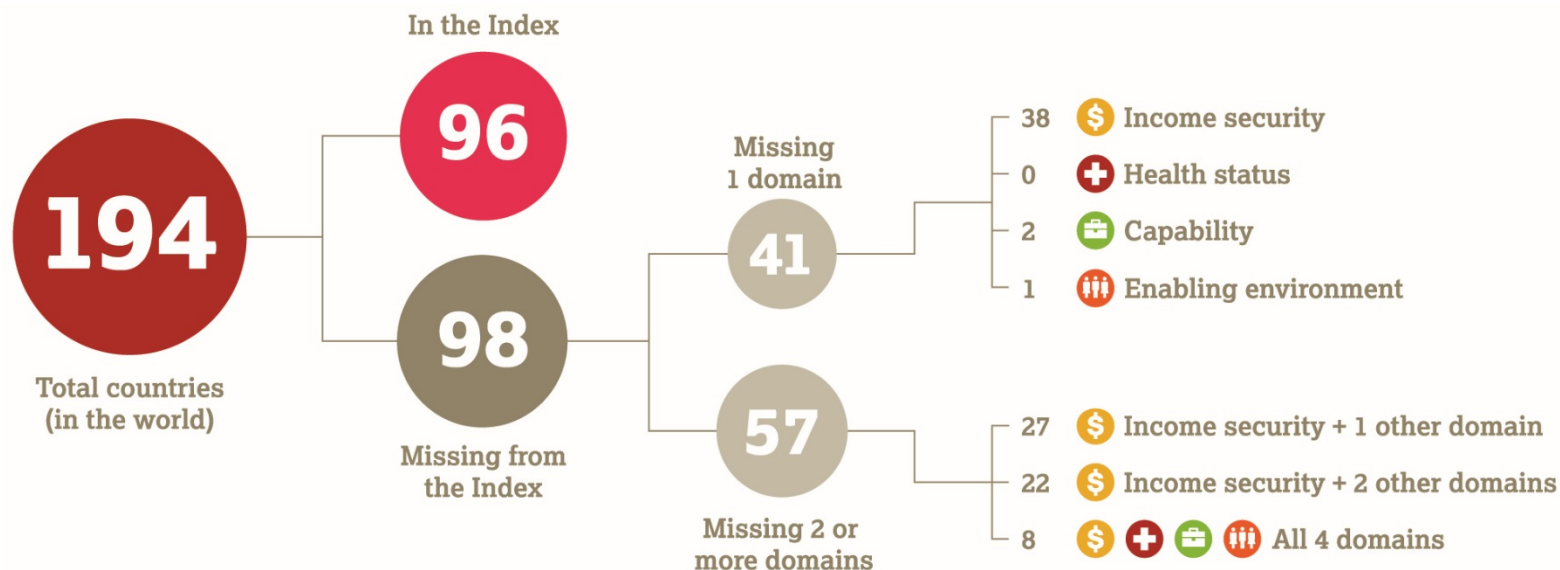Enabling social environment of society

How is the Global AgeWatch Index constructed?

- The Index uses the latest comparative data available (from international database, of World Bank, WHO, ILO, UNESCO and Gallup).

- Outcome indicators only (neither the input or effort indicators nor the process indicators), but they help identify the policy efforts.

Lessons from the Global AgeWatch Index
Missing data challenges

In the Index

96

194
Total countries (in the world)

98
Missing from the Index

Missing 1 domain
41

- 38 $ Income security
- 0 + Health status
- 2 Capability
- 1 Enabling environment

Missing 2 or more domains
57

- 27 $ Income security + 1 other domain
- 22 $ Income security + 2 other domains
- 8 All 4 domains

Only 11 out of 54 African countries covered

Basic information on income poverty missing for 93 countries

Choice of indicators restricted due to unavailability of data

Further disaggregation on the basis of gender and age groups not possible

Part 3

Identifying priority issues

Age disaggregation in the monitoring of SDGs

- The age coverage is essential in the national surveys (*stating the obvious!*), but more critical is to be able to record good quality information about various aspects of lives of older people.

- Extension of the existing surveys may be the only pragmatic way forward, given resources constraints in many countries, but a longer term priority of specialised surveys for older people is fundamentally important (as by UNDESA in Africa).

Global AgeWatch
Data and analysis on population ageing

HelpAge International
global network

Thank you

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