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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Young Societies</th>
<th>Ageing Societies</th>
<th>High-ageing Societies</th>
<th>Hyper-ageing Societies</th>
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<td>2050</td>
<td>62</td>
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<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **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

Global AgeWatch

*Data and analysis on population ageing*
The Context

Population ageing is a global phenomenon.
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 well-being 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 financially secure older persons are?
- What challenges for health and disability with ageing?
- What cumulative disadvantage for education and employment?
- Independence? Dignity? 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 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**
- 1.1 Employment rate 55-59
- 1.2 Employment rate 60-64
- 1.3 Employment rate 65-69
- 1.4 Employment rate 70-74

**Participation in society**
- 2.1 Voluntary activities
- 2.2 Care to children and grandchildren
- 2.3 Care to older adults
- 2.4 Political participation

**Independent, healthy and secure living**
- 3.1 Physical exercise
- 3.2 Access to health services
- 3.3 Independent living
- 3.4-3.6 Financial security (three indicators)
- 3.7 Physical safety
- 3.8 Lifelong learning

**Capacity and enabling environment for active ageing**
- 4.1 Remaining life expectancy at age 55
- 4.2 Share of healthy life expectancy at age 55
- 4.3 Mental well-being
- 4.4 Use of ICT
- 4.5 Social connectedness
- 4.6 Educational attainment

**Actual experience of active ageing**

**Capacity to active age**
Prime pan-European datasets used

**Indicators drawn from the micro datasets of**

- European Quality of Life Survey, 2007/8 and 2012/13
- 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
1.2 Poverty rate in old age
1.3 Relative welfare of older people
1.4 GDP per capita
2.1 Life expectancy at 60
2.2 Healthy life expectancy at 60
2.3 Psychological wellbeing
3.1 Employment of older people
3.2 Educational status of older people
4.1 Social connections
4.2 Physical safety
4.3 Civic freedom
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

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).
Thank you

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