



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
2 December 2021

Original: English

Statistical Commission

Fifty-third session

1–4 March 2022

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**Items for information: ageing-related statistics and
age-disaggregated data**

Report of the Titchfield Group on Ageing-Related Statistics and Age-Disaggregated Data

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2021/224 and past practices, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the Titchfield Group on Ageing-Related Statistics and Age-Disaggregated Data, which is presented to the Commission for information. The report contains a summary of developments regarding the work of the Titchfield Group since 2018, including planned activities and publications and the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the work and timeline of the Group. The report also includes a revised road map, by which the timeline of the work of the Group is extended, so as to conclude in 2025. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

* E/CN.3/2022/1.



Report of the Titchfield Group on Ageing-Related Statistics and Age-Disaggregated Data

I. Introduction

1. The Titchfield Group on Ageing-Related Statistics and Age-Disaggregated Data was created at the forty-ninth session of the Statistical Commission, in March 2018 (see decision 49/118).
2. The purpose and overall objective of the Titchfield Group are to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by identifying gaps with regard to and developing international guidance and methods for producing data disaggregated by age and ageing-related data across the life course. That work is carried out in collaboration with United Nations bodies, national statistical offices and other organizations concerned with aspects of ageing-related and age-disaggregated statistics. The Group lead the global dissemination of good practices and facilitates collaboration.
3. During the fiftieth session of the Statistical Commission, in 2019, the Titchfield Group provided an update on the progress in the establishment of the Group, which included the ways in which it would carry out its work, an outline of the work strands and a timetable for its deliverables.
4. The present report contains a summary of developments regarding the work of the Titchfield Group since March 2018.

II. Progress since March 2018

5. For most of the period under review, the Titchfield Group followed the timetable for its deliverables established in 2018 by holding annual face-to-face technical sessions, team task meetings and electronic discussions on specific work strands, as well as through representation and information-sharing at ageing-related conferences and proceedings.
6. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic disrupted the progress of the Titchfield Group, with members and resources diverted to urgent pandemic-related matters. The impact is described herein.
7. Below is a summary of the technical meetings held since March 2018:
 - (a) **2018, Chichester, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:**
 - (i) The meeting was focused on the aims of the Titchfield Group, including details and discussions on each work strand, clarifying what was to be measured and how to achieve comparable data across member countries;
 - (ii) There were country case studies and examples of interesting work on ageing from India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom;
 - (iii) The main priorities were agreed upon, with three primary work strands identified to take forward: an assessment of current evidence and identification of gaps; a conceptual and analytical framework; and standardization and harmonization guidelines;
 - (iv) A road map for the deliverables was set out;

(b) 2019, Daejeon, Republic of Korea:

- (i) Participants drilled down into the work strands, bringing life to the objectives of each plan;
- (ii) Presentations were given on progress with regard to the three primary work strands, with key steps agreed upon. A scoping document was produced, in which the details of the work were outlined, along with steps to carry out the work, the timeline therefor and areas where help would be provided;
- (iii) Country case studies on relevant work on ageing from Australia, Ghana, Mongolia, Thailand, Turkey and the United Kingdom were presented;
- (iv) Examples were given of harmonization, including questionnaire development for use in surveys and definitions in homelessness statistics where outputs can be harmonized but inputs cannot;
- (v) Participants carried out an exercise on the three remaining work strands, reviewing the objectives, deliverables and way forward;
- (vi) The work by members of the Titchfield Group outside of the Group was discussed. It included work by civil society organizations such as Gray Panthers and HelpAge International, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Population Fund and national statistical offices;
- (vii) The steering group reviewed how the members of the Titchfield Group worked together, the effectiveness of communications and how to gain broader participation by members;
- (viii) Following the technical meeting itself, the core groups from each primary work strand met to undertake an individual mapping exercise to update priorities, interdependencies, timings and milestones;

(c) 2021, virtual meeting:

- (i) Owing to the postponement of the technical meeting for 2020, a review of the Titchfield Group objectives was conducted. Recent progress under the three primary work strands was presented, along with templates for data collection, analysis plans and next steps;
- (ii) The planned deliverable, *A Global Sustainable Development Goals Indicator Framework: Making Older People Visible*, a publication being prepared jointly with the World Health Organization (WHO), the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Kingdom Office for National Statistics, was introduced. A country case study template was launched along with an example case study presented by the United Kingdom, with guidance to assist countries in completing the template. The publication supports the launch of the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030), led by WHO, and builds on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;
- (iii) The objectives under the three remaining work strands were reviewed. Examples of work in the relevant fields were given by the United Kingdom Office for National Statistics, on Sustainable Development Goals reporting and the development of the Open Sustainable Development Goals platform, and by WHO, on the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing platform. Participants acknowledged a need to recruit work strand leads to take the work forward. Risks to progress, as a result of changing national priorities of organizations and

national statistical offices in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic, were identified;

(iv) The interlinkage of the work strands was recognized and actions were identified to take the work forward, as explained in the following section.

III. Planned activities and publications

8. The Titchfield Group is committed to promoting its work, in particular to international ageing and statistics communities, including by collaborating on items of work and publications.

9. Publications for the period 2021/22 include the aforementioned report, *Making Older People Visible*. That item of work directly links to the Titchfield Group's work strand on a conceptual and analytical framework for comprehensive information on older adults. The report will contain the conceptual and analytical framework and priority Sustainable Development Goal indicators relevant for older people. It will be published on the WHO Institutional Repository for Information Sharing.

10. Updates on the work of the Titchfield Group and global updates on ageing statistics are disseminated through a quarterly newsletter. Blog posts are published on <http://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/blog/>, and members of the Group use a United Nations Statistics wiki.

11. Future work outlined at the technical meeting for 2021 includes building on work to assess data gaps for Sustainable Development Goal indicators on ageing and older persons. Under work strand 1, on an assessment of evidence and identification of gaps, there will be a review of additional measures relevant to older people. A second phase of the assessment of current evidence in this sphere will be conducted.

12. The Titchfield Group is reaching out to secure work strand leads for the following areas:

- (a) Horizon scanning/future needs of data users;
- (b) Age-disaggregated and ageing-related statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals indicator framework;
- (c) Sharing of information on good practices and development of a platform for sharing information.

13. More information can be obtained and expressions of interest in the work of the Titchfield Group made by emailing TCGA@ons.gov.uk.

IV. Impact of the pandemic

14. The Titchfield Group continued to hold monthly virtual meetings of its steering group throughout 2020 and 2021. The focus was on maintaining impetus and enthusiasm for the work programme with core members and on evaluating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the work, the team and the dissemination of age-disaggregated data in general.

15. The face-to-face technical meeting for 2020 was postponed to allow members to focus on key national priorities resulting from the pandemic. The technical meeting for 2021 was held virtually, and good progress was made, as detailed above.

16. With older populations often having suffered the worst impacts of COVID-19, awareness of the need for better evidence with regard to those impacts has increased. The Titchfield Group recognizes such work as a priority and has made progress in

mitigating the risks resulting from the pandemic, including by securing additional funding to support the work and take it forward.

17. The technical meeting for 2021 demonstrated that much had been gained from interlinking work strands. Progress under strand 1, on an assessment of evidence and identification of gaps, and strand 3, on a conceptual and analytical framework for comprehensive information on older adults, was anchored to the Sustainable Development Goals. Much of that work also fulfils the objectives of strand 4.

V. Composition of and action by the steering group

18. The steering group comprises national statistical institutions, international organizations and advisory organizations. The current members are:

(a) The following national statistical institutions: Australia, Ghana, Mexico, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Uganda and United Kingdom (Chair and secretariat);

(b) The following international organizations: Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations Population Fund and WHO;

(c) Advisory organizations: Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (United Kingdom), HelpAge International and individuals and organizations from academia.

19. The steering group reviewed the road map, taking into consideration the impact of COVID-19 on the work of Titchfield Group, the progress made at the technical meeting for 2021 and the benefits of interlinking work strands. The schedule agreed upon, by which the work of the group was extended, so as to conclude in 2025, is set out in the annex to the present report.

VI. Action to be taken by the Statistical Commission

20. The Commission is invited to take note of the present report.

Annex

Road map**Work strand 1: assessment of evidence and identification of gaps**

	<i>March 2021/22</i>	<i>March 2022/23</i>	<i>March 2023/24</i>	<i>March 2024/25</i>
Stocktake of data sources (phase 1)	X			
Stocktake of data sources (phase 2)		X		
Write country position paper			X	
Assessment checking by identified country representatives			X	
Produce a document identifying gaps in evidence				X
Report on data relevant to current government policies				X

Work strand 2: horizon scanning/future needs

	<i>March 2021/22</i>	<i>March 2022/23</i>	<i>March 2023/24</i>	<i>March 2024/25</i>
Work strand lead identified	X			
Scoping document: reviewing and setting the parameters		X		
Report on suitability of sources for the future and recommendations to address shortfalls			X	
Action to take in response to changes in countries' outlook or humanitarian crisis situations				X

Work strand 3: conceptual and analytical framework for comprehensive information on older adults

	<i>March 2021/22</i>	<i>March 2022/23</i>	<i>March 2023/24</i>	<i>March 2024/25</i>
Define what is meant by “ageing” (is the focus on the ageing population or older adults?) and “age disaggregation”. What key constructs need to be measured?	X			
Case studies: examples of where evidence on ageing has been improved and/or age disaggregation from national statistical offices or countries	X			

	<i>March 2021/22</i>	<i>March 2022/23</i>	<i>March 2023/24</i>	<i>March 2024/25</i>
Examples of conceptual frameworks	X			
Key concepts via a think piece	X			
Analytical framework	X	X		
Knowledge translation: mechanisms for countries to translate knowledge into policies and decisions		X		

Work strand 4: review and analysis of Sustainable Development Goals and collaboration with other groups

	<i>March 2021/22</i>	<i>March 2022/23</i>	<i>March 2023/24</i>	<i>March 2024/25</i>
Work strand lead identified	X			
Scoping document: reviewing and setting the parameters		X		
Review work carried out to date on Goal indicators; gaps assessment		X		
Guidelines for Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators on standardized age cohorts			X	
Compile stakeholder list for all work strands and consider how to collaborate and level of involvement			X	

Work strand 5: standardization and harmonization guidelines

	<i>March 2021/22</i>	<i>March 2022/23</i>	<i>March 2023/24</i>	<i>March 2024/25</i>
Work with group for work strand 1 to assess data and sources with regard to current levels of standardization and harmonization	X	X		
Draw on lessons from organizations that have already harmonized measures and developed guidelines		X		
Provide guidance to countries on standard approaches to enable global comparisons, inequality analysis and projection approaches			X	

	<i>March 2021/22</i>	<i>March 2022/23</i>	<i>March 2023/24</i>	<i>March 2024/25</i>
Develop a library of tools for countries to use in data collection and analysis to facilitate standardization and harmonization			X	
Work strand 6: sharing information on good practice and development of a platform for sharing information				
	<i>March 2021/22</i>	<i>March 2022/23</i>	<i>March 2023/24</i>	<i>March 2024/25</i>
Work strand lead identified	X			
Scoping document: reviewing and setting the parameters		X		
Assessment of suitable platforms (e.g. Datashield and Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange)		X		
Assessment of legal and ethical barriers to sharing data		X		
Adoption of a platform for sharing information			X	
Repository of information				X