



Report of the Fourth Technical Meeting of the Titchfield City Group on Ageing and Age-disaggregated data

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva on 25th and 26th September 2023, and supported by colleagues at UNECE.

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1. Welcome and opening remarks.

Lisa Warth, Senior Social Affairs Officer and Chief of the Population Unit at United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) welcomed participants to the fourth technical meeting.

On behalf of the Titchfield City Group, Nikki Shearman, UK Statistics Authority and TCGA Co-Chair thanked UNECE colleagues for co-hosting the technical meeting and enabling the use of their offices at the Palais.

2. Day 1: UNECE Data for evidence-based policy making on ageing

Lisa Warth presented on the Population Unit's Intergovernmental collaboration of ageing – UNECE Standing Working Group on Ageing. Their mandate is:

- Secretariat of UNECE Standing Working Group on Ageing
- Regional follow-up to global and regional agreements on ageing
- Promote evidence-based policy-making

The Standing Working Group on Ageing objectives are:

- promotes international cooperation, exchange of experience and policy discussion on ageing and intergenerational relations, taking into account the situation and different needs of individual countries;
- develops guidelines and policy recommendations for governments on population ageing issues;
- supports MIPAA/RIS monitoring activities and coordinates the five-year review and appraisal exercises of MIPAA/RIS implementation;
- provides demand-driven policy advisory services and other capacity-building activities;
- raises awareness of population ageing and its implications throughout the UNECE region;
- creates synergies with related policy agendas and collaboration within and outside UNECE.

At a regional level, its remit is to implement Madrid International Plan on Action on Ageing (MIPAA) and Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) that was developed by the UNECE.

RIS Objectives include:

- Improve policymaking in accordance with the principles of MIPAA/RIS and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Monitor and review progress every 5 years

Rome Ministerial Declaration policy goals for 2022 - 2027:

- Promote active and healthy ageing throughout life course
- Ensure access to long-term care and support for carers and families
- Mainstreaming ageing for a society for all ages

UNECE are focused on promoting these goals in policy.

Work includes collecting knowledge from Member States to produce guidelines from mainstreaming ageing, developing a strategic framework, determining what government mechanisms need to be in place. Conducting a Data Gap analysis – understanding ageing trends, forecasts and predictions. Providing tailor-made roadmaps for mainstream ageing for Member States – a situation analysis on

existing policy context, taking stock of national policy from a number of sectors and providing guidelines/a framework to better implement the MIPPA / RIS. Building a framework for monitoring progress that is internationally compatible, allows policy reports but also quantitative indicators. Beneficiaries of data need to know what is available to them. Promote work at a national level through capacitive development, encourage countries to conduct analyses to use the data that is available. Consistent in policy data and policy needs going forward. Using age and sex disaggregated data to show age related inequalities and encourage people in the TCGA workshop to think about policy needs.

Points raised by the group during discussion following the presentation:

What are the opportunities to connect with European Community to widen the work with more countries? Not aware of specific programmes currently supporting this but would be interested in making a bridge beyond Europe to increase the scope. Response: There are no joint projects at the moment, each region has different priorities for their own policy agenda which may not always fully align. Ageing statistics and data are relevant everywhere so there is a possibility for widening the scope.

Can this work be shared with other regional commissions and other countries, or is the focus on Europe? Can there be an active collaboration agreement between other Commissions? There would be much interest from developing African countries, Nigeria for example has a very young population.

Should there be a survey for older persons, or should existing surveys be better enhanced to identify the older population? This could be a question that could be answered in the framework of work strand 1. Using administrative data could distort results for the older population (e.g. taboo subjects such as STIs).

3. UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs – Update on the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) and UNDESA Programme on Ageing.

Julia Ferre presented on the UNDESA Programme on Ageing. Points highlighted were:

- The programme is the UN Focal point on ageing
- It provides intergovernmental support and assistance to countries as they find common ground and take decisive steps forward
- Analyse trends and advise countries on policy options
- Provides technical assistance to support countries

MIPAA – first development plan to put ageing data on the agenda, recognised the profound impacts of ageing data. There were 3 priority areas:

- Older persons and development
- Advancing health and working into old age
- Ensuring the existence of enabling and supportive environments

This work is a celebration of longevity and dignity in old age, strengths and contributions of older people. It helps to provide continuous and dynamic implementation of MIPAA. The UN Regional Commissions play a critical role in supporting the MIPAA review and appraisal exercise.

During the global pandemic – Member States conducted a review and appraisal. Regional reviews – reports and outcomes at regional level, recognised the difference in priorities for different regions around the world.

The Titchfield City group was recognised in the report of the Secretary General in the fourth review of the MIPAA ([link](#)). Support for initiatives such as the Titchfield Group on Ageing Related Statistics and Age Disaggregated Data needs to be strengthened in order to address these challenges in an inclusive, more formal and systematic way.

UN Statistical Commission 2023 held a high-level panel discussion on the 4th review and appraisal of the MIPAA:

- Focus on impact on policy making
- Side event in collaboration with AARP and TCGA - Better Data for Better Lives for Older Persons

UNDESA have also commissioned two recent think pieces:

1. Alex Mihnovits: Defining and Measuring Older Age
2. Measuring the autonomy, participation, and contribution of older people.

4. HelpAge International – Definitions of Older Age – Alex Minhovitz

Alex presented his paper on traditional definitions of ‘older age’. Broadly, definitions can be divided into two categories: Chronological age and Social and personal aspect of ageing.

Chronological age:

- 60-65 defines someone as an older person
- Traced back to establishment of protection schemes to establish a retirement age
- Divides population into the economically active and economically inactive
- Restrictive in terms of environment and functional ability
- Recognise that other ages might differ across time
- Population age distribution, older age
- Some definitions are defined by life expectancy, e.g.”
- Remaining 15 years of life expectancy”

Social and personal aspect of ageing:

- Moves away from using definitions of chronology and life expectancy, more focus on older age as a social construct, individualist aspect and perception of ageing
- Within the spectrum of this group, biological age includes personal health characteristics, markers such as blood pressure, gait, grip strength to define ‘age’
- Also psychological and subjective age measures – how individuals feel about how young or old they are, how they see their physical and mental health, what stress factors they have

Points raised by participants during discussion:

How do we recognise the need for different approaches to defining older age and the context that we work in – how can data better support this definition? Could something be included in a survey

asking people 'how old do you feel'? There has been a study that has done this, majority of people feel younger than their chronological age, there is a difference between more positive views of one's ageing (health outcomes).

How important is the psychological aspect? There are advantages to being seen as an 'older' person in some aspects of life. One's life is drawn into very clear stages when you tick a certain age group box in a questionnaire.

From a pragmatic perspective, surveys and censuses need a measure, easiest way is chronological, but takes up a lot of resource and space on a survey to clarify age non-chronologically. Alternative is still individual input but results would still be disaggregated. Could potentially capture a different concept from an alternative perspective i.e. social development.

It is important to bear in mind that chronological age is how governments/authorities decide who is entitled to certain benefits. WHO are promoting how cognitive function provides a basis for different sectors to have an input, entitlements based on positive factors.

If trying to agree fine-tuned approach to understanding needs / demands of older people, data disaggregation is really important, collectively argue need 5 year data disaggregation for users to use as necessary. Can argue for data disaggregation for all age groups but not just looking at particular age, people trying to get away with a single age for mandatory retirement (WHO agree a different approach is needed).

There are major challenges in terms of recognising what is happening with older people in different regions – the question is how to make these comparable, addressing the gaps and challenges based on chronological age to feed better policy making through SDGs, would the nuance dilute the fundamental policy making priorities? There is a Trade off with resource. This is not either/or, it is about improving existing systems and considering growing evidence of ageing to develop sound methodological approaches to consider the nuance.

Life expectancy depends on region so definition of an 'older person' is not consistent, for example UK does not have mandatory retirement age, so is it easier to have political discussions around it. In the UK we use age 65 and then become an Old Aged Pensioner (OAP), now people retire early, in their 50s – does that make them old? Not if they are thriving in their retirement. People can work into their 80s but does not mean they are not 'old'.

We could propose to publish a paper on data disaggregation at 5 year intervals, people agree with the importance of data disaggregation. TCGA could make a policy statement justifying disaggregation. This could lead to further discussion amongst NSOs. Presentation this afternoon (work strand 3) will look at vitality, looking at distribution in age groups is important. Dispels certain stereotypes but also provides info on who is worse off, make visible older persons contributions. Focus on decline and 'problems' in policy making.

Imagine if redefining people on basis of capacities (cognitive) or basis of economic activity, still a way of classifying older persons as 'inactive', 'incapacitating' or 'sub-par' – this has an element of ageism. Alternative definitions rely on the concept of old being associated with something negative. We need to retain notion of heterogeneity and arguably the only way of doing this is maintaining the chronological age classification.

Don't want to define age by disability, the ageing spectrum is from very healthy /agile to less so, to very poor. Older age is very much a social construct, we need to incorporate more diversity.

We need to consider how sex and gender affect health measures and how these relate to ageing. Both chronological and social age considerations are needed as a balance but difficult for data to capture this as they are long and complex questions. There is interest in sex and gender concepts analysis, could rely on chronological age, both are needed but can be combined to analyse at which age people have what capacity.

5. WHO – Work strand 3 - Conceptual and analytical framework for comprehensive information on older adults - Making Older Persons Visible in the SDGs Monitoring Framework and Indicators

Vanessa De Rubeis and Hsin-yi Lee presented the draft report on - Making Older Persons Visible in the SDGs Monitoring Framework and Indicators which was prepared by WHO in collaboration with Ghana Statistical Service.

The draft report focuses on which indicators are important while considering older persons' views. To meet the needs of older persons – there is a demand to clarify the expectations of needs and current gaps in global and national policies.

Disaggregation is not sufficient to one age category of 60 years and over, providing data on 5-year age groups should be considered up to 90+ to allow for heterogeneity to be explored. An example from [WHO Decade of Healthy Ageing](#) on hand grip strength score distribution highlights the importance of disaggregation of this data rather than drawing on the average scores.

The report aims to; Increase capacity to monitor the context of data on older persons, highlight the extent to which older persons are made visible, determine if greater efforts are needed to collate and analyse disaggregated data, and highlighting SDG indicators for older persons can enhance comparability which can improve analyses.

NSOs were invited to select 1 out of 46 indicators and provide any data they could based on the template provided – 20 NSOs have responded to date, selecting 20 different indicators. Note: NSOs can still submit data if they wish.

The learning identified across NSOs highlighted each of the 20 respondents were included in the presentation. Overall the exercise was an interesting learning opportunity from the Covid pandemic given many older persons were affected.

NSOs were most proud of:

- Broad use of data
- Easy access and public availability of data (users)
- Coordination across data sources allowing for disaggregation by various vulnerable subgroups
- Utilising pre-existing data sources to monitor health and wellbeing of older persons
- The availability of nationally represented data sources allowing for monitoring and disaggregation by age, sex, and other subgroups.

Common challenges identified:

- Databases or surveys are not easily accessible as has been reported previously.
- Surveys are not frequently administered that focus specifically on indicators or data publication is delayed
- Lack of funding to support data collection initiatives – common across all NSOs

- Lack of cooperation and synergy across agencies or organisations as reported
- Decrease in response rates in administered surveys and small sample sizes limiting the ability to disaggregate data sizes
- Difficulties in collecting data due to sensitivities
- Extended periods between data collection

Points raised during the group discussions after the presentation:

This is a framework for older people, the indicators are limited to those focussed on older adults. Should the group be checking that no topics have been missed? For example – like those in the active ageing index which might compliment the SDG indicators? However, the Active Ageing Index's concepts are limited, including non-individual level rates (e.g., employment rate), and combines multiple components within each pillar (e.g., capacity and enabling environments combines death rates as well as life expectancy and mental well-being). The SDG framework does not have anything specifically for older people, however SDG indicators relevant for older persons were included in the report. Still, the limitation of the indicators to the SDG indicators runs risk of overlooking indicators not included in the SDG framework, but specifically relevant for older people.

The domains and topics of other ageing frameworks including MIPAA, SDGs and UN Decade of Healthy Ageing were considered when developing the conceptual framework for the report but are already mandated. Every country is responsible for providing reporting on SDGs.

The draft report offers some rich findings on data that already exists. For example, on gender-based violence reporting is specifically about the data not being collected beyond age 59, encouraging to see that this data can be disaggregated and that it is public in some cases.

It was recognised that some NSOs have more decision-making authority than others, it is important for the group to focus on the collective effort, oversampling elderly populations to be able to disaggregate the data. Advice could be sought from TCGA here.

There is mainstreamed ageing across the current report, and this limits availability to analyse the changing situation for older groups, intersecting disaggregation. An independent UN expert reported to Human Rights Council that her annual report which is on violence and neglect against older people includes a recommendation to NSOs on collecting more data on violence against older people. (Report is here-> [G2315256.pdf \(un.org\)](#))

The group recognised that sometimes age disaggregation is not possible. For the purpose of this report, NSOs could pick the SDG indicator that is most important to represent older people in data, thus, for example - where Brazil have chosen an indicator where age disaggregation is not possible, potential is that Brazil purposely chose it to draw attention to this.

Breakout room exercise – the group split into two groups (NSO representatives in one group, other agency representatives in the other (HelpAge, UNECE, WHO, UNFPA) to discuss shared challenges.

Feedback from NSO group:

- Challenges: decrease in rates, sample sizes, oversampling older people benefits and weaknesses (costly, not always possible)
- Legal requirements for the survey, data collection mode, making sure it covers the whole population, switch to online (older persons less inclined to participate in this way) so making sure this is inclusive
- Covid – financial incentives (must be relevant to targeted age group), higher response rate for smaller surveys – value for money.

- Lack of funding to support data collection initiatives, consider the admin data – how relevant they could be
- Over surveying and collaboration from organisations and development agencies that encourages the development of these surveys. Central Government body is vitally important to ensure the work continues to be supported
- Within the EU – countries able to increase sample sizes, can this happen more locally or with national understanding?
- Return on investments – can it be immediately available? – opportune studies and having the benefit of data, how can this be underutilised in countries? This issue must be on Government agendas – importance of top-down initiatives and Governments committing to this as a priority
- Surveys that are not frequently administered and where publication dates are delayed
- UK incentives to share data, how we work with colleagues on this data, secondments are important to enable relationship building and understanding of what the data shows.
- Links with Academia, NSOs are responsible to publish, data used to be collected up to age 49 and now 59 showing there has been progress in this space
- Cooperation across organisations and challenges around this, links around data sources and how it is managed

Feedback from agency representative group:

- Response rates – better communication is needed to improve response and improve analyses, examples include draft guidance that is being tested for housing surveys (piloted in Malawi). Online modules, challenge in rural areas
- Lack of funding was a dominant theme – important to improve statistical literacy among ministers of financing and surveys to collect such data
- Oversampling, estimate characteristics of smaller groups by doing larger samplings of other groups
- Data on sensitive topics, DHS survey, training on module violence, each NSO may have different methods of developing surveys, in terms of access it is good for data to be in the public domain, how agencies and organisations can support each other (organised stakeholder meetings and more focus on capacity development)
- Mixed methods – quantitative and qualitative - may not be totally representative
- More linking with civil societies

All steering group members were asked to provide input on reports, with the below agreed on timeline, to ensure a final draft of the report is prepared by November for launch in February / March 2024 so WHO colleagues urged for further NSO involvement and reporting on SDG indicators.

Timeline for TCGA Work Strand 3 report	
Circulation of document based on update	6 Oct 2023
Planning Clearance (WHO Internal)	6 Oct 2023
Final input from NSOs	19 Oct 2023
Final comments on document from steering committee and Agreement from Steering Group on Which member org will provide forward and logo	19 October 2023
Final unedited document ready and distributed	1 Nov 2023
Get approval, foreword ...etc from all agencies	15 Nov, 2023 or earlier

Executive Clearance (WHO Internal)	20 Nov 2023
Edited Document	30 Nov 2023
One page executive summary in six languages	15 Dec 2023
Design Document	10 Jan 2024
Production Clearance (WHO Internal)	22 Jan, 2024
ISBN	15 Feb, 2024
Print and web	19 Feb, 2024
Launch	27 Feb, 2024: Could organize an in person side event at the UN Statistical Commission

6. Harmonisation and Standardisation – priority work strand 5

Nikki Shearman, UK Statistics Authority Head of International Relations gave a short summary presentation of the work in this work strand to date on behalf of the work strand leads and recognised the comments on this subject from previous technical meetings.

- With an increased use of admin data, what are the issues relating to ageing related and age disaggregated data (any issues with non-standardised data, impact of need for real time data)?
- Sample sizes and impact on level of data collected
- Surveys moving online and the impact
- Guidelines from UNSD provide a good base for our work (adapt and amend)
- Bespoke requirements from Stakeholders – some guidance is needed here

Harmonisation is important for statistics as a whole and especially for age related data. There are four fundamental principles:

- Increased efficiency – saving money and time
- Off the shelf solutions – harmonisation standards ready to be adopted
- Improved understanding – more appropriate use of statistics and greater trust
- Enhanced insight – wider comparison and opportunities for data linkage

****improving comparability, consistency and coherence in statistics**** the three Cs.

Policy priorities identified for ageing and older persons:

- Health and care - Provision for mental and physical health and social care both at home and/or in an institution
- Financial security - Avoiding old-age poverty and enhancing employment and asset ownership
- Active ageing - Participation and integration as full member in various spheres of life
- Violence Abuse and Safety - Eliminating financial/material exploitation as well as physical and emotional abuse and neglect
- Enabling an age-friendly environment - Enabling age-friendly communities, workplaces, and social protection institutions empowering older persons

Some questions were posed for the group to consider:

- For ageing related and age-disaggregated data, what does harmonisation mean to you?
- Is there anything specific to your country that we can learn from?

The review of the current draft highlighted that although 13 countries had responded, but there was a lack of information on how departments collected the data, a lack of harmonisation between countries and a lack of consistency in definitions.

The participants were split into two groups and asked to consider the following:

- Are the Policy Priorities right – are there any gaps?
- Key areas this covers in relation to older populations
- What barriers are there?
- Administrative Data
- Surveys
- Are there any gaps?
- Are we meeting the objectives of the work strand?
- Examples to add into draft?

Feedback from discussion in the NSO group:

Report is very thin at the moment – more so an introduction, does not yet cover the core issues that we need to look at when looking at the key issues in harmonisation when looking at the older population.

The draft talks about harmonisation but there are two types – ante and ex-post harmonisation which is not reflected.

Which specific issues are especially tricky when it comes to harmonisation and standardisation – we need examples to help develop the report.

Coherence between the three priority workstrands is needed, if there are other areas where harmonisation is needed then these should be added to this paper.

There are going to be different indicators within the broader categories (health and ageing etc). What are the other broad policy areas that should be added to this list – for example – exploitation of elderly people? Should not just be confined to SDG indicators.

The broadness of the categories covers all issues, so there is a need to find challenges for specific countries.

In Hungary the Labour force survey – has a supplementary survey on pensions and labour market participation.

- Shows advancement and the provisions for different elderly people
- Using surveys already produced

There is a need for more specific surveys for more qualitative data - hard to extract the data.

The group agreed with the policy priorities.

There are different surveys and analysis in care – the way care is defined in different surveys is a struggle.

Harmonisation is great for comparability but not necessarily that each institution needs the same data, so words are defined based on specific user needs.

There should be a top-down approach involving Chief Statisticians.

More complex to find indicators to measure these broad policies. Differences in measurement, labour construct is different in different countries.

Are there international surveys that harmonise concepts? Health and retirement surveys use common definitions. Active ageing index uses common definitions and is harmonised.

Lifting age bracket, especially in businesses – older retirement age (could also include in surveys from workstrand 1)

In the Nigerian LFS – upper age was 74 in 2020, as of 2021 it is now 89. Nigeria is recognising and understanding that people are working longer. Would request a new standard survey that is separate for harmonisation.

Standardisation of different surveys that deal with ageing, time-use, labour, and supplementary data takes a lot of resource. EU is more standardised – there is potential to link up with Eurostat. The Indian equivalent health and retirement survey is designed to be standardised.

Difficult to compare different indicators from one survey to the next, data can be manipulated to compare necessary things.

Do not need the same definitions for data to be harmonised.

Administrative data – not automated, health data, want to use health data from administrative data, drawing policy from admin data is difficult because of the heavy resource load. Working with institutions to make data accessibility easier, using admin data is much more difficult for global south countries than for countries like the UK which already have the digital economy act in place.

Lithuania is starting to develop many different sources at once, then data users are separated and data is produced based on their need, very challenging, forming contracts with institutions to allow data access, companies do not want to provide their indicators and it is difficult and time consuming to sort out these contracts / agreements. UK faces similar challenges (DVLA).

Lithuania – other institutions do not want to be responsible for maintaining the quality of their data, collect information on usual residents but admin data not connected with population register. Lack of collaboration for the quality and internal harmonisation.

Administrative data is a big barrier for different purposes:

- Turkey – data collected by institutions are not valuable for statistics, institutional needs are different to the governmental user needs. More frequent collaboration is needed
- Lithuania – required to use an admin database from Government, but without explanation of indicators, institutions were reluctant to provide the data so was a big challenge. Resolution would be an act on data governance. Need legislative backing to enforce data sharing
- Nigeria – labour force survey, methodology covers 65 and above that are employed, that are no longer working, produced every quarter, about to release next quarter. Specific point to include a question on employment of over 65s. There is ongoing work in Nigeria. Can further disaggregate by age over 65
- Gambia – developing automated data systems for institutions that previously did not have these systems to support admin data in The Gambia and improve access to admin data. Mutual work needed with data sources, the way data was captured was not compatible with stats office so worked with them to modify how they captured data

Labour force surveys are expanded beyond ageing. Harmonisation is the second priority because accessing data is such a struggle in the first place.

There are barriers for admin data and barriers for survey data, survey design is not consistent as user needs are different between different institutes, slight differences in wording can ask a completely different question.

Harmonisation should start with conceptualisation. Top level harmonisation so comparisons can be drawn at a high level.

How far can we go, which level of ambition is best value to reflect different needs of different countries, needs to be both general and specific.

Large reputational improvement through covid for ONS because we responded to user need – creating statistics that are in high demand and are really needed, and quickly.

Other definitions of age might be harmonised? Nothing currently in the draft paper about prospective measures of ageing e.g. based on life expectancy.

WHO – moving away from a disease focused approach to ageing, using healthy-ageing index which compiled indicators and can be used to widen the scope of the work.

The draft paper is useful when talking about age, but if specifying about indicators being harmonised under each of the priority policy areas, that would be a huge amount of work and outside of the scope of this paper.

Lithuania – how to address policy priorities, need to know which indicators are necessary. Priorities are from work strand one, based on assessment of current evidence.

Nigeria carried out two surveys in 2020, 2022, using the same indicators but different methodology – the question now is how to harmonise. Different sources but same indicator, comparison is the benefit of harmonisation.

Should consider harmonising overtime as well as across time – concepts and indicators on how things are now, not how they were.

Should the paper be confined to only measures of age or should it include the extent to which these indicators are evaluated and then consider how they can be harmonised?

Non-NSO group feedback:

The current draft does not distinguish between ex-post and ex-ante harmonisation (i.e. harmonising before or after having the data)

Age data is standardised, not a lot of difference in how age data is collected, question is whether other variables affecting older persons should be harmonised – not recommended because overlap with other orgs and these are already being significantly addressed.

The paper talks about chronological age, is it worth discussing possible harmonised approach to a different way of measuring age. Cannot advocated for non-published work under intellectual property rules. Is there any alternative to chronological age?

There are intrinsic capabilities, still in the process of developing measures, what are the valuables that can be harmonised before collection and after collection respectively. Globally, the group can make recommendations. Which variables does the UNSC already have a recommendation to endorse or to improve – this would be helpful and provide a clear answer.

Next steps proposed are:

- Edit the guidance based on feedback received

- Work with WS3 on consistent definitions
- Publish guidance

7. Day two: Priority work strand 1 - Review of Ageing-related Statistics in the Global Sustainable Development Goals Indicator Framework

Eduard Jongstra (UNFPA) kindly stepped in to present the latest draft of the work strand 1 report as work strand lead Solly Molayi (South Africa) was unable to attend the workshop.

To re-cap, the objectives of this work strand are:

- Assess availability age-disaggregated data in existing surveys of countries.
- Draw conclusions on lessons learned from countries at different stages of production of evidence on ageing-related and age-disaggregated data.
- Review and recommend improvements to some of the current international survey instruments on the collection of age-disaggregated data.
- Assess data gaps in meeting the ‘leaving no one behind’ pledge of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- May lead to recommendations for dissemination of age-disaggregated data.

The current draft report (available on the wiki) provides a substantive overview of ageing-related data availability and gaps. It also develops a monitoring framework for ageing-related issues in the implementation of the SDGs. It considers five policy priorities for ageing and older persons primarily identified by the IAEG-SDGs and 56 associated indicators and links with processes relevant to the SDGs implementation under specific goals, targets and indicators

Draft recommendations resulting from the report:

1. Reliance on other sources of age-disaggregated data is required
2. Refinements of definitions and methods are essential
3. Revisions and modifications in the sample surveys are necessary
4. Greater investment in the countries’ statistical system is crucial
5. Mutual learning across countries and with international organisations is critical

Participants offered some further considerations to be included in the report:

- Recognition of comments from previous technical meetings
- non-official data may be valuable for filling gaps in official data (Credibility decided by each country) E.g. World Values Survey, European Values Survey
- Is age disaggregation alone sufficient? Do we need additional measures that are relevant to older people
- Priorities and hierarchy of disaggregation: e.g. among age, sex, and place of residence, which comes first? Does it matter?
- Other potential possibilities to consider:

- Expansion of age range for data collection in certain survey types (Labor Force, Reproductive Health)
- Oversampling of older respondents in survey designs;
- Commissioning dedicated analyses on older persons by stakeholders

Feedback from the group discussion during the session:

Survey of 13 countries lacks significance to be accurate, first part of the report looks at dashboard that includes all countries and reviews how SDGs are reported on a global level, then 13 countries are looked at with quantitative analysis. A deeper analysis is needed in terms of what it means in improving data disaggregation and resolving the issues associated with it.

Chile and Uganda are able to aggregate SDG indicators for age by 5-year cohorts better than the UK or Brazil – should we consider their systems? We should be learning from them, perhaps a case study to draw on their methodology? We should seek out existing good practices.

Recognise the importance of diversifying sources, e.g. census and administrative data, 60% of SDG indicators in Mauritius are reported using admin data. This could be another case study.

Should it be considered as a tool for other member states to help them take stock of their data on SDGs – considering the practicality?

A monitoring framework should be presented as an output of this work, but currently not included in this report. Could there be virtual collaboration followed up with these country contributors to discuss?

Lithuania have an obligation to publish 50-60 indicators each year, can review on their platform to compare, data sources are the main challenge to more disaggregation. Need improved survey data to collect more disaggregated data.

Could potentially include a couple of case studies that review countries that look at admin data and survey data to contrast the case studies included in the report.

Need to make sure everything is clear – the current recommendations are too general, need to be more specific. Look at what surveys they already have.

Oversampling allows for disaggregation because older people are smaller in number. However, it may not always be a realistic solution since it goes along with additional cost and increased response burden. Furthermore, oversampling may be in conflict with the objectives of a given survey. It might e.g. be difficult to justify oversampling older people in a labour force survey, especially at the expense of other population groups.

Recommend TCGA add nuance to the recommendation, need to specify type of surveys if not specific surveys that allow this.

Older people in labour market are part of economic population – in Hungary / Eurostat countries, upper age limit of the LFS is 89. Possibility for the workstrand to investigate?

[International Household Survey Network](#) (IHSN) gives an overview of all the household surveys that are being done globally, and goes back to around the 1960s. Unsure whether age range of respondents is reported but useful resource that can address some of the questions discussed.

Tap into ILO (International Labour Organisation), they should have an overview of labour surveys across the world. Also European SILC surveys? Could ask Eurostat for the data.

Recommendation 1: make broader use of census data, a greater proportion of SDG indicators that can be reported on via census data.

8. TCGA 5 years on and Horizon Scanning

Kerry Gadsdon, Head of Analysis and Demography at ONS presented on Horizon Scanning and a review of 5 years of the Titchfield City Group on Ageing.

The group considered; how has the world changed since the setup of TCGA, how have these changes impacted the need for ageing-related data and how do we build this into our report.

Feedback during discussion amongst the group considering how the world has changed since TCGA started centred around the impact of the pandemic and the economic and political climate. Further aspects to be included are the intersection of climate change and older people, the impact of digitisation on older people (including the switch to web-based data collection methods), the generational economy as well as the contributions of older people to society. Moreover, it was suggested to develop global indices on ageism. The impact of the pandemic should be included in the rationale of the final report in case of quality issues due to missing data.

Next steps:

Report back to UN Statistics Commission and submit report for information in 4 weeks, need to include reflections from recent SDG summit in the report which is a driver for this initiative. Also consider the midterm review of SDG progress, what policy recommendations and action plans are coming out of the summit and to understand collaboration with other organisations.

TCGA to make a recommendation on which SDG indicators should be reported by age, with a focus on where this is currently lacking and where it should potentially be included.

9. 2020 World Population and Housing Censuses

Angele Storey from ONS Population Division presented on potential recommendations for the 2030 round of population and housing Censuses.

Her presentation considered the current list of UN recommended population topics for people aged 60 and over and highlighted:

- Censuses have potential to provide extensive statistics on older people
- Main topics recommended by UN statistics on older people are sex, age, marital status, economic activity status, income, household (or family) composition, type of living quarters and institutional population
- Disaggregation by five-year age groups up to age 100, rather than a single broad age category of 60+

Presentation also considered case studies on the availability of census data on older people:

- Identified countries that had held a census since 2018 across world's main regions
- Classified these countries

The group considered if there were any topics/indicators we would add to the recommended list for 2030 round of censuses to ensure tabulations most relevant to older people a) living in households and b) living in institutions.

Comments from the group discussion:

- Now is a crucial time to be considering adding topics into the 2030 round. Need to get work included in UNECE and UNSD work on population stats in census, going through publication process in first part of 2025 so need work to be done by 2024
- UNECE questionnaire going out to member countries imminently asking for detailed experiences on their 2020 census round and is open to non NSIs, covers housing, sex, and gender. Not at indicator level but distinguishes between core topics and non-core topics
- Lithuania has administrative based census data, people living in institutions is a challenge to organise the administrative data. UNECE are impressing the need for the report to be applicable to all census methodology and will provide guidance to help countries implement
- There is currently no proper list of institutions available in Lithuania, there are a lot of places with more than 20 people, hard to measure the composition and is resource heavy and there are time constraints
- Recommendations for measuring older populations and institutions was proposed during the (2020) UNECE CES. Recommendations on measuring children (late 2021/2022) UNECE CES. Includes information on children in institutions so can be extrapolated
- TCGA could implement specific recommendations to provide guidance
- Is the census able to capture people who live in institutions?
- Titchfield venture into household structure? Increasingly difficult to establish the relation or composition of the household – need to address the difficulty of establishing this
- Households larger than 6 people difficult, also stepfamilies and multigenerational families are hard to capture
- How will ageing data get better as we move away from traditional based censuses?
- Register based censuses provide the core information, but include other methods e.g. dedicated sample survey that collect data that cannot be collected through the register – considered a census variable
- Lithuania does a survey on ethnicity, 100,000 responses, these are merged with 2011 census and estimates
- How does the Lag affect admin data? – especially during covid when people were moving quickly from hospital and care, especially where people may be in these institutions for less than a year.

Further points to be considered:

Is the dissemination method more important – e.g. user's ability to create their own defined tables?

What are the advantages/disadvantages of traditional verses register/admin-based censuses for ageing related statistics and age disaggregated data?

The recommendation from TCGA should be how can we make sure that Census data are relevant (whether traditional or register based)?

10. Gaps Analysis

Kerry Gadsdon, Head of Analysis and Demography at ONS spoke about how the GAPS analysis (available on the wiki site) was compiled and looked at five key areas for each of the six work strands; Desired State, Existing Situation, Gaps, what is needed and Risks and Issues.

The group considered questions posed around:

- Stakeholder engagement and collaboration

- Assessment
- Available data
- Concepts and Definitions
- Methods
- Products

Feedback from the group during discussion:

Stakeholder engagement and collaboration:

- Other active groups in this sphere: UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science, World Bank, ILO, 2020 World Population and Housing Census
- American Association Retired Persons (AARP), working with HelpAge at the moment, may still be open to international collaboration
- Utilising UN stats divisions in each region – UNECLAC and other non-UN groups
- Consider events for launching publications, visibility
- Interconnectivity – UN bodies support awareness (UNECE)
- National profile of older-persons – who is best to take this forward?
- Existing manuals and guidelines
- WHO – ageing risk factors, consider country reports that are readily available
- UNFPA – in Arab and ME region - drawing on different data sets, data on wellbeing
- Reports related to MIPAA
- UN Women – bringing an ageing lens to what they do for gender equality. World survey on the role of women in development (every 5 years) next one is on social protection, access to pensions
- Women Count – household groups in household surveys

Assessment:

- horizon scanning, current big issues, what is the next potential issue?

Available Data:

- Missing: not included in SDG indicators, data are collected but not published
- If work continued, would look beyond SDG indicators, would recommend further work on areas that TCG has not yet done
- Consider integrating ageing and UNSD efforts in a way to improve community generated data – framework for SDG indicators
- Working on country coalitions, picking SDG indicators that are relevant and looking at who is left behind from marginalised groups where we can provide community generated data to better reflect demography

Concepts and Definitions:

- Learning from other groups – WHO, UNECE,

Methods:

- Missingness – outside of the scope of TCGA, do not need to be looking at methods and linkage, not responsible for grouping missing data, but should recommend to take care of needs of older people, online data collection e.g. – ensuring data collection is inclusive
- CES work – Task Force on insuring inclusion of hard-to-reach groups in administrative sources

- Qualitative data – certainly a role to play but can be helpful to discover relevant areas to address, but do not need to go into methodology, reliance is on quantitative data and supported by qualitative data. TCGA should make reference to this in their report
- Life course – ONS longitudinal study is underused, is this work an untapped data source?
- WHO work in RIVM in Netherlands, proposed indicators among longitudinal studies that were reviewed, not all countries have a longitudinal study set up. For domains of healthy ageing, those defined in ageing, are they comparable or can similar measures be identified and compared. This work has just started but can feed into TCGA work.

Products:

- Information sharing, other ways of sharing information, prospective measures of ageing.
- Conference in Washington on ageing

11. UNFPA Demographic Resilience Programme for Europe and Central Asia

Eduard Jongstra, UNFPA presented to the group on developing pathways for societies to thrive in a world of rapid demographic change.

The demographic resilience concept is inspired by widespread ‘demographic anxieties’:

- Undesired fertility levels
- High male adult mortality
- Limited prospects for young people
- High outmigration
- Ageing

These anxieties have real and perceived consequences:

- Reduced labour force
- Faltering economies
- Overburdened pension systems
- Increased vulnerable populations
- Internal instabilities
- Coercive policies inspired by demographic anxiety. E.g. policies promoting high child rates (e.g. Nazi child policy)

Responses from a Demographic Resilience perspective: group conceived to respond to concerns of population decline but it is equally applicable to high population growth settings.

- Demographic trends are interlinked with social and economic trends
- Focus on human capital development, move focus away from number of people and towards the capabilities of the people
- Use a life-course perspective
- Create and use opportunities that demographic trends present

There will be a Ministerial Demographic Resilience Conference in 2024 hosted by Statistics Portugal – for more details contact demographicresilience@unfpa.org

Closing of the technical workshop

Rich Pereira, Chair of the Titchfield City Group on Ageing thanked participants for their interaction during the two days of the workshop. Special thanks were also offered to colleagues at the UNECE for the opportunity to host the workshop in their Geneva offices and for their support leading up to and during the event.

Lisa Warth, UNECE thanked TCGA for the opportunity to collaborate on these important topics and invited a TCGA representative to attend the 16th Ministerial meeting on the [Standing Working Group on Ageing](#) in Geneva on 20 – 22 November.