

Multi-Indicator Survey on Ageing (MISA) in sub-Saharan Africa



Supporting formulation of evidence-based policies in response to population ageing in sub-Saharan Africa – **Pilot Project Malawi**



Karoline Schmid, Chief of Fertility and Family Planning
Former Inter-Regional Advisor, Technical Cooperation Unit

Amal Abou Rafeh, Social Affairs Officer, Programme on Ageing

Titchfield Group
First Official Meeting
26-27 June 2018

Chichester, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

MISA - Setting the Scene

Ageing? In sub-Saharan Africa?

Here's what we know* ...

- ▶ The ageing process is just beginning to emerge in Africa
- ▶ Between 2017 and 2050, the number of older persons is expected to grow fastest in Africa, with a projected 229 per cent increase
- ▶ The pace of growth of the older population of Africa, projected for the 2040s, is faster than any region has experienced since 1950, when the data series begins.
- ▶ In 2017, older persons accounted for just over 5% of the population of Africa .. a total number of 69 million people.

We also know that ...

- ▶ Older persons are more likely to live in poverty than people at younger ages, in several countries in sub-Saharan Africa, because pension systems are either not in place or they fail to provide adequate income
- ▶ In Africa, around 22% of older persons received a pension in 2013/14
- ▶ In 2015, across six regions of the world, the labour force participation of older persons was highest in Africa
- ▶ There are alarmingly growing reports of incidents of gang rape and murder of older women in Africa, following accusations of witchcraft.

* (UNDESA) World Population Ageing 2017

MISA - This got us thinking...



What we wanted to do ..

- ▶ Avoid silo mentality and draw on various expertise by developing a joint inter-Divisional capacity building intervention to
 - ✓ support the collection and analysis of the most relevant data on the status of older persons, within the framework of the International Statistical System
 - ✓ assist Member States in the formulation and implementation of evidence-based policies on ageing
 - ✓ contribute to the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Why UNDESA?

- ▶ The focal point on ageing in the United Nations system, is housed in the Programme on Ageing in UNDESA
- ▶ Build on earlier work by UNDESA's Technical Cooperation Unit:
 - ✓ Surveys on ageing in Armenia, Moldova, Tajikistan,
 - ✓ Advisory missions (technical and capacity building) in countries in Central Asia and Eastern Europe
- ▶ The UNDESA Population Division produced a Directory of Research on Ageing in Africa, which provides:
 - ✓ an inventory of available research on older persons in Africa between 2004 and 2015, with an indication of topic, coverage and frequency
 - ✓ an assessment of how projects in the Directory address the three priority directions of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA)
 - ✓ an analysis of key aspects of data collection on older people, in particular, survey design and questions.

MISA - The Project

Data Collection Methodology and Tools for Supporting Formulation of Evidence-based Policies *in response to* Population Ageing in sub-Saharan Africa



Main Objectives

- ▶ Develop **standard methodology** to produce a database of reliable and harmonized indicators on the situation of older persons in sub-Saharan Africa
- ▶ Promote the **participation of all relevant stakeholders**, at national and regional levels, to plan, monitor and evaluate more inclusive policies that are responsive to the needs and priorities of older persons
- ▶ Develop **survey guidelines** that are appropriate for African countries, based on a capacity building and learning approach

Partners

- ▶ **Governments:** line ministries, national statistics offices
- ▶ **Inter-governmental:** African Union, Southern African Development Community
- ▶ **Regional bodies:** African Development Bank
- ▶ **United Nations entities** Regional Commission in Africa (ECA), national/regional/international offices of UNDP and WHO
- ▶ **Non-governmental organizations:** HelpAge International (regional offices and network members)
- ▶ **Academia:** University of Pennsylvania

MISA - The Project



Activities (2015 – 2018)

2/2016 – 5/2016 (4 months)	National assessments of empirical evidence on older persons (Kenya, Malawi, Uganda) National workshops (feedback on draft questionnaires; wording; how to ask questions)
3/2016 – 2/2017 (12 months)	Develop regional survey methodology (manual, questionnaires, standardized tabulation, report) – drawing on other surveys: <i>UNICEF's Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS)</i>
7/2016	Regional workshop to present survey methodology to national, regional and international experts on ageing surveys and policies
2/2017 – 4/2017 (3 months)	Training and planning workshops on survey methodology and evidence based policy making
7/2017 – 8/2017 (2 months)	Administer survey (pilot in Malawi)
5/2018	Expert group meeting on reviewing methodology developed for Multi-Indicator Survey on Ageing (MISA) including: survey instrument, sampling strategy, survey implementation guidelines, data collection (Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing - CAPI) and data analysis tools that were developed in the framework of the project
In progress	First drafts of the national and regional reports
6/2018	Regional workshops to share findings and methodology in the Malawi pilot

MISA - Survey Methodology



What did the survey methodology include?

- ▶ **Manuals**
 - ❖ Interviewer and field-supervisor manuals
 - ❖ Sampling manual
 - ❖ Survey costing
- ▶ **Questionnaires**
 - ❖ Household questionnaire
 - ❖ Individual questionnaire
- ▶ **Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI)**
 - ❖ Listing and interview applications
 - ❖ Manual
 - ❖ Data transfer

MISA - The Questionnaires (based on presentation by Iliana Kohler)



▶ Main issues covered:

- ❖ main issues outlined in MIPAA and relevant SDGs
- ❖ Whenever possible, harmonize the study issues with other ageing studies to allow comparisons, while ensuring that they are also culturally appropriate for the sub-Saharan Africa context

▶ Templates used for development of instrument:

- ❖ Related Health and Retirement Studies (HRS) – (Activities of Daily Living – ADL / mental health)
- ❖ WHO longitudinal Study on global AGEing (SAGE) (NCD-related) health information, but the survey included also instruments focused on infectious diseases (i.e. HIV/AIDS, malaria)
- ❖ Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) for housing/HH characteristics
- ❖ The Malawi Longitudinal Study of Families and Health (MLSFH) - one of few long-standing, publicly available longitudinal cohort studies in a sub-Saharan African context (family/transfer Household rosters, social relationships)

▶ Two Questionnaires:

- ❖ **Household survey:** screens for eligibility, administered to HH head, info on HH structure and conditions
- ❖ **Individual survey:** administered to older persons, info on individual level
- ❖ **Languages:** English, translation to local languages: Chichewa and Chitumbuka

MISA - CAPI Development

(based on presentation by David Beckles)



▶ CAPI Version of MISA Questionnaire:

- ❖ Adapted from paper questionnaire
- ❖ Extensive data validation
- ❖ Open-ended and closed questions
- ❖ Screening questions and skips

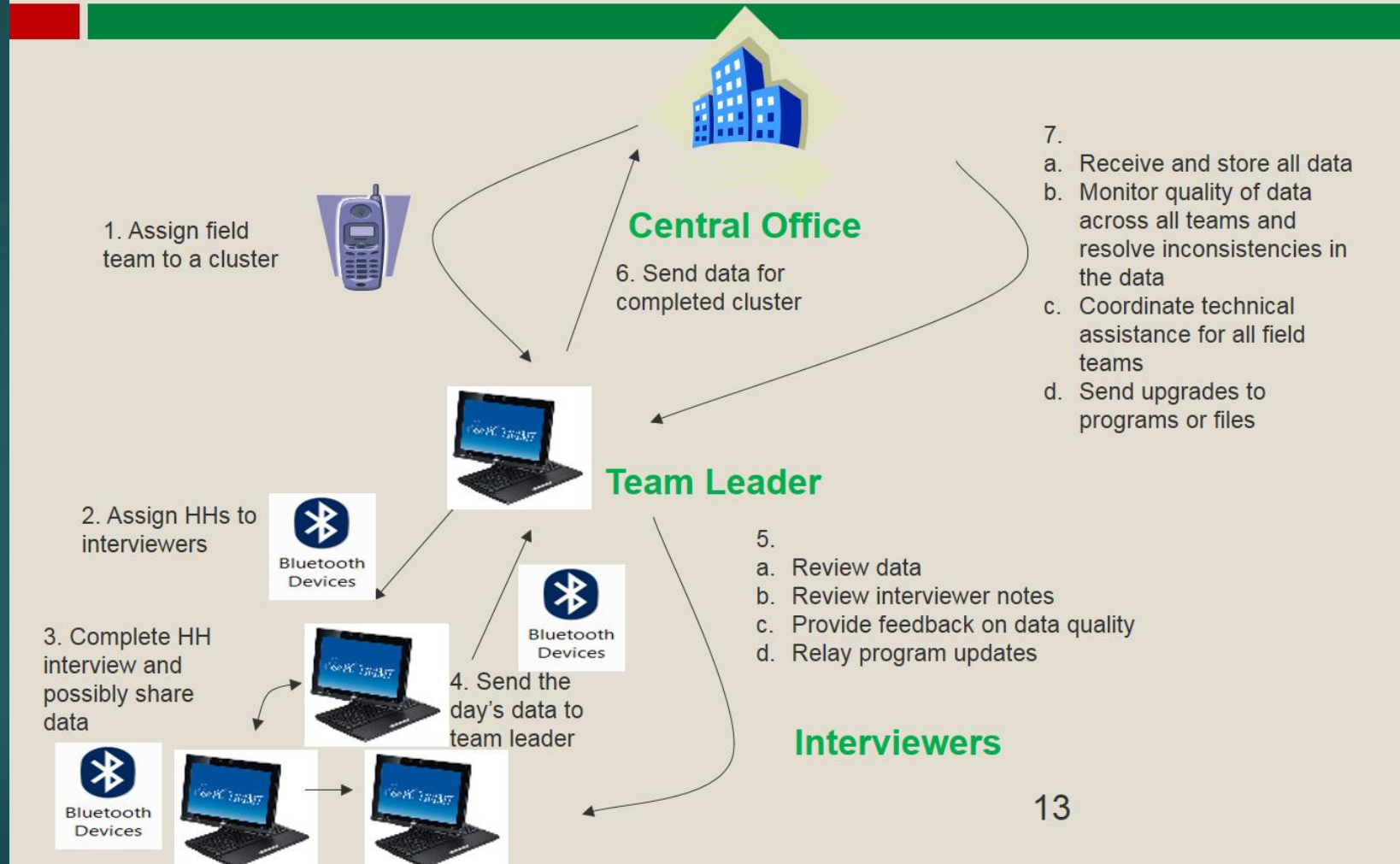
▶ Advantages of using CAPI:

- ❖ Improves data quality (hard and soft error management)
- ❖ Improves field management
- ❖ Reduces data capture time and costs
- ❖ Decreases time to release of results (data transfer using Bluetooth)
- ❖ Reduces printing and related costs
- ❖ Incorporates Integrated maps and Global Positioning System (GPS)
- ❖ Supports multiple languages

▶ Disadvantages of using CAPI:

- ❖ High equipment costs
- ❖ More preparation time needed
- ❖ More skilled programmers
- ❖ Segmentation effect (single question view)
- ❖ Technological problems

Data transfer –communication scenario



MISA - Sampling Methodology (based on presentation by David Megill)



▶ The manual:

- ❖ Provides sampling guidelines for MISA
- ❖ Follows official UN guidelines for household surveys
- ❖ Could be used as practical example for developing and implementing sample design and weighting procedures

▶ Key Principles for Survey Design:

- ❖ Survey objectives should be clearly identified
- ❖ Survey should be based on probability sample
- ❖ Stratified two-stage sample design

▶ Sample Selection:

- ❖ Important to conduct listing of households in sample clusters (census enumeration areas EAs) to represent current population
- ❖ Database of EAs in four districts from 2008 Malawi Census: Mzimba, Lilongwe, Mangochi and Nsanje
- ❖ Average EA size in Malawi frame (219 households) larger than in most countries

▶ Selecting Eligible Households:

- ❖ All households in listing with at least one person age 60+ assigned serial numbers
- ❖ Random systematic sample of 12 households with persons age 60+
- ❖ All persons age 60+ in selected households are interviewed

MISA - Survey Implementation (based on presentation by Medson Makwemba)



▶ Fieldwork Prep:

- ❖ Recruitment of survey personnel
- ❖ Field movement plan
- ❖ Training for Data Collection
- ❖ Field deployment

▶ Role of NSO:

- ❖ Establish and maintain the project team
- ❖ Prepare sample frame and survey sample
- ❖ Translate questionnaires into local languages
- ❖ Support development of CAPI
- ❖ Conduct household listing
- ❖ Conduct fieldwork on main data collection
- ❖ Undertake data cleaning and provide final anonymized dataset and related documentation

▶ Challenges reported:

- ❖ Difficulty for tablets to acquire GPS points
- ❖ Interviewers were not given much time to practice CAPI application
- ❖ Hard to reach areas
- ❖ Finding eligible respondents for interview. Call backs were inevitable
- ❖ Older person not able to remember or recall substantive questions during the interview
- ❖ Consultation with stakeholders is paramount + meeting local authorities
- ❖ Need for an updated sample frame



MISA - Key Findings



The survey does not measure prevalence and does not provide comprehensive nationally representative data on older persons in Malawi. It is a pilot.

▶ Family and Living Arrangement

Around one-third of OM and OW provide caregiving for orphans

▶ Income

No OP interviewed lives without debt/loan

▶ Assets

(land, farming assets, livestock ownership)

▶ Employment and work

Around two-thirds of OM & OW work in the agriculture sector

▶ Social protection

The majority of OP in receipt of Social Cash Transfers

▶ Food Insecurity and Hunger

96% of OP reported running out of money to buy food in the last 12 months

▶ Health and Well-being / Access to Healthcare Services / Elder Abuse

More than half of OP suffer from Malaria. Around one-third of OP have diarrhea. About one fifth has high blood pressure

▶ Caregiving

Around one-third of OP depend on someone to carryout Activities of Daily Living (ADL)

▶ Housing and the Living Environment

Half of HH have “thatch/palm leaf” roofing. Only 37% have “metal” roofing

MISA – in pictures (based on presentation by Medson Makwemba)



Thanks for your attention!



Visit our web site
social.un.org/ageing



Email us
ageing@un.org



Follow us
[@UN4Ageing](https://twitter.com/UN4Ageing)