

## **Inclusive Data Charter HelpAge International action plan**

*The objective of this document is to:*

- i. *Outline current efforts undertaken by HelpAge International to improve availability of sex, age, and disability disaggregated data within the organisation and externally*
- ii. *Express organisational support for the Inclusive Data Charter and pledge to work in partnership with the Charter signatories*
- iii. *Commit to development and implementation of an action plan to further improve and strengthen data disaggregation*

*This is a draft document. It will be revised following an internal consultation process that will aim to identify and agree specific actions in relation to the organisational commitments.*

### **Structure of the Action Plan**

#### **Introduction/background**

HelpAge International is a global network of organisations promoting rights of older people to lead dignified, healthy and secure lives.

Globally, more than half of older men and women do not have access to long-term care as all countries struggle to provide quality affordable health coverage.<sup>1 2</sup> In low-income countries where less than 20 percent of older people receive a pension high out-of-pocket expenses can lead to greater rates of unmet health care needs.<sup>3</sup>

Ongoing humanitarian crises are estimated to affect up to 14 million older people with disabilities. However, they are largely excluded from humanitarian response.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> ILO, World Social Protection Report 2017–19: Universal social protection to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals,

[http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS\\_604882/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_604882/lang--en/index.htm)

<sup>2</sup> WHO, World Health Statistics 2017: Monitoring health for the SDGs,

[http://www.who.int/gho/publications/world\\_health\\_statistics/2017/en/](http://www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/2017/en/)

<sup>3</sup> ILO, World Social Protection Report 2017–19: Universal social protection to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

<sup>4</sup> HelpAge International, 2018, Missing millions: how older people with disabilities are excluded from humanitarian response, <http://www.helpage.org/newsroom/latest-news/millions-of-older-people-with-disabilities-risk-being-excluded-from-humanitarian-assistance-new-helpage-report-reveals/>

Across societies and all social groups older men and women are being denied their rights to independence and autonomy due to prevalence of ageist attitudes.<sup>5 6</sup> Family and community members, as well as service providers assume that an older person can no longer make their own decisions.<sup>7</sup>

To ensure a long-term change in inclusion and wellbeing of older men and women everywhere, to reduce poverty and discrimination in later life, and to fulfil the pledge to 'reach the furthest behind first' policies and programmes need to be informed by granular quality data and evidence.

### **Current work and commitments**

HelpAge International's commitment to inclusive data and efforts to improve data disaggregation focuses on:

#### *Organisational programmatic work*

HelpAge International has adopted organisational standards on collection, analysis and reporting of sex, age, and disability disaggregated data (SADDD). The standards aim to guide programme staff during assessment of needs across different demographic groups, design of tailored programmatic activities and services being delivered to these groups; and monitoring and evaluation of impact. Examples of programmes that collect data include Older Citizen Monitoring, Health Outcomes Tool, Rapid Assessment Method for Older People, and others.

#### *Advocacy and influence work*

HelpAge International and its network members aim to change policies, positions and programmes of governments, institutions or organizations in relation to production of statistics on ageing and older people at local, regional and global levels. Part of this work is advocacy and influencing in relation to production of quality, timely and disaggregated data, and greater uptake of this evidence to inform policy and programme design.

The ongoing work includes engagement with the Titchfield City Group on Ageing and Age-disaggregated Data, Statistical Commission for Africa, national governments, older people associations, research institutions, civil society, international and donor agencies.

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<sup>5</sup> WHO Ageing and Life-course, <http://www.who.int/ageing/features/faq-ageism/en/> (Accessed 12/07/18)

<sup>6</sup> HelpAge International, 2018, Freedom to decide for ourselves: What older people say about their rights to autonomy and independence, long-term care and palliative care, <http://www.helpage.org/newsroom/latest-news/freedom-to-decide-for-ourselves-older-peoples-rights-are-denied-says-new-report/>

<sup>7</sup> *ibid.*



### *Research and guidance*

HelpAge International undertakes assessment of surveys and datasets to identify gaps, and understand technical and conceptual challenges in relation to measurement of ageing issues. Part of the work stream is exploration of how innovative methodologies such as GIS and National Transfer Accounts can close existing data gaps and improve availability of statistics on ageing.

As part of the Age and Disability Consortium HelpAge International contributed to development of humanitarian inclusion standards for older people and people with disabilities. The Sphere Executive Board approved the humanitarian inclusion standards initiative as the newest member of the Humanitarian Standard Partnership.

### **What is new or different?**

Global efforts to galvanize data revolution for sustainable development such as the Inclusive Data Charter bring together stakeholders across sectors, geographical locations, with a wide range of expertise and experiences of operating at local, national and international levels.

It offers space for organisations that are committed to increasing availability of quality data to partner and share lessons.

Production and utilisation of age and sex disaggregated data is well established within HelpAge International. However, collection and analysis of disability-related statistics is less systematic. This is an opportunity for HelpAge International to focus on this challenge and to learn from others.

### **Plan**

Recognising existing internal resource and capacity constraints HelpAge International will strive to:

- Put in place systematic collection, analysis, reporting and utilization of disability disaggregated data across the organisation
- Work with the Titchfield City Group to develop guidelines for the production of age-related and age-disaggregated statistics, and advocate for adoption of these guidelines by data producers.

To achieve these outcomes HelpAge International will work across regions to develop the action plan: identify and agree concrete activities, and commit to joint implementation.

In the short term HelpAge International will conduct an internal consultation to better understand barriers to collection, analysis, reporting and utilisation of



disability statistics in the organisation. The findings will inform discussion and identification of priority areas of work and activities.

In the medium term the agreed plan will be implemented jointly with regional offices.

In the longer term, external advocacy and influencing efforts will be aligned with activities of the Titchfield City Group on ageing and age-disaggregated data. HelpAge International objectives are to: (i) support participation and contribution of broad range of stakeholders within the Group; (ii) ensure the Group recommendations inform the work of the IAEG-SDG; and (iii) advocate for relevant data producers to adopt guidelines developed by the Group.