Global AgeWatch Index 2015

Insight report

HelpAge International
global network

HelpAge is a global network that promotes the rights and meets the needs of older women and men.

The Global AgeWatch Index ranks countries according to the social and economic wellbeing of older people. For data sources, the full methodology report and more detailed country analysis, please visit www.globalagewatch.org

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Foreword

The anticipated Post-2015 Development Agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals and targets framework, promises to be universal, people-centred, planet sensitive and to 'leave no one behind'. Our vision is ambitious and transformational, one of a single ambitious and universal agenda – one applicable to all countries and that leaves no one behind – ensuring shared prosperity for all without harming the planet, grounded in human rights principles, including universality, non-discrimination and equality. This is not business as usual.

The Post-2015 Development Agenda must complete the unfinished Millennium Development Goals and respond to the challenges and opportunities of our world. Demographic trends are having a powerful impact on our future and present. Ageing populations the world over are the result of falling fertility and longer lives. In 2015, there are 901 million women and men aged 60 and over worldwide. This figure will reach 1.4 billion by 2030, or 16.5 per cent of the global population – up to three-quarters of whom will live in developing countries. Over 23 per cent of the world's women are already aged 50 and over.

All of us, of all ages, have much to contribute to the aspiration of UN Member States to 'transform our world by 2030'. Shared political commitment to end all poverty and hunger, combat inequalities, secure the environment for current and future generations and to deliver a safe and secure future for all people – of all ages – gives us a road down which to travel, and older women and men must be made visible and included.

The Global AgeWatch Index shows not only what works for older people but also highlights how much we need to do to fulfil the promise of our world. Improving data on age will help us in this task. Gaps on age data must be filled to know how we are doing to ensure all targets are met, and for the specifics of age and age-related targets in the proposed goals and their targets to be responded to. The energy of the data revolution, to make sure we 'leave no one behind', will help us.

We must redouble our efforts to make ageing visible, to listen to, include and hear older people, for our global agenda to deliver its true and visionary promise.

Amina J. Mohammed

Special Advisor of the Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning, United Nations, New York

UN Photo

Earlier this year, Archbishop Desmond Tutu joined our campaign for young and old to be included in the new global goals. To the right is his inspirational message to world leaders and governments to ensure all ages are counted.

Message from Archbishop Desmond Tutu

"As we get older, our rights do not change. As we get older, we are no less human and should not become invisible.

UN Photo

This year provides us with an opportunity to let the world know who we are, and what we want to see! I want to tell the world that I count, that older people everywhere count, and that people of all ages should be included in the Sustainable Development Goals.

2015 is the year of two United Nations summits which have the opportunity to bend the course of history, and we need to tell governments what kind of world we want to live in. We need to make sure that older people are included in this important framework. I want to see a world where people of all ages are taken care of and no one is left behind.

People are living for longer all around the world. By 2050, 21.5 per cent of the world's population will be over 60. Today's young people will be part of the largest group of older people in history. No future development goals can be legitimate or sustainable unless they include people of all ages and leave no one behind.

The Global AgeWatch Index can help to measure the impact the Sustainable Development Goals will have on the lives of older men and women."

Global AgeWatch Index 2015

Table 1: **Global AgeWatch Index overall rankings**

1. Switzerland	21. Chile	41. Vietnam	61. Croatia	81. Ghana
2. Norway	22. Czech Republic	42. Mauritius	62. Dominican Republic	82. Honduras
3. Sweden	23. Estonia	43. Armenia	63. Lithuania	83. Lao PDR
4. Germany	24. Belgium	44. Ecuador	64. Belarus	84. Morocco
5. Canada	25. Spain	45. Romania	65. Russia	85. Jordan
6. Netherlands	26. Slovenia	46. Sri Lanka	66. Serbia	86. Nigeria
7. Iceland	27. Uruguay	47. Malta	67. Bangladesh	87. Iraq
8. Japan	28. Costa Rica	48. Peru	68. Montenegro	88. Uganda
9. USA	29. Georgia	49. Bulgaria	69. Paraguay	89. Rwanda
10. United Kingdom	30. Cyprus	50. Philippines	70. Nepal	90. Zambia
11. Denmark	31. Argentina	51. Kyrgyzstan	71. India	91. Tanzania
12. New Zealand	32. Poland	52. China	72. Mongolia	92. Pakistan
13. Austria	33. Mexico	53. Albania	73. Ukraine	93. West Bank & Gaza
14. Finland	34. Thailand	54. El Salvador	74. Indonesia	94. Mozambique
15. Ireland	35. Latvia	55. Bolivia	75. Turkey	95. Malawi
16. France	36. Colombia	56. Brazil	76. Venezuela	96. Afghanistan
17. Australia	37. Italy	57. Nicaragua	77. Moldova	
18. Israel	38. Portugal	58. Tajikistan	78. South Africa	
19. Luxembourg	39. Hungary	59. Guatemala	79. Greece	
20. Panama	40. Slovakia	60. South Korea	80. Cambodia	

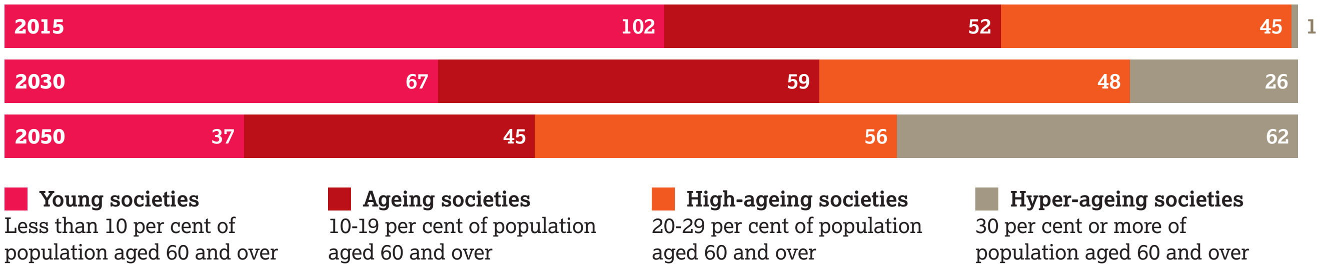
Global overview

The world's population is ageing. As fertility declines and life expectancy increases, the proportion of people aged 60 and over is projected to grow in all regions of the world. Yet people's experiences of later life vary enormously depending on where they live. The Global AgeWatch Index assesses the factors determining the social and economic wellbeing of older people around the world. As well as global analysis, this year we are focusing on the regions, hearing from older people themselves and looking at the widely varying geographic trends.

As we publish, heads of state are convening at the United Nations to agree a universal set of Sustainable Development Goals. These aim to end poverty, delivering prosperity and peace to people of all ages across the world.

The Index responds to core issues of concern to older people and is a framework for governments and the international community to develop and implement policy and programmes to ensure no older person is left behind. Using the latest available internationally comparable data, it ranks 96 countries, covering 91 per cent of the world's population aged 60 and over.

Figure 2: **Number of young, ageing, high-ageing and hyper-ageing countries in 2015, 2030 and 2050**



Source: UNDESA Population Division, *World population prospects: the 2015 revision,* DVD Edition, 2015

The Index compares countries, highlighting good practice and areas for improvement as well as the gaps in data.

Global results

This year, Switzerland (1) is at the top, while Afghanistan (96) remains at the bottom. As in 2013 and 2014, the top 19 places are taken by industrialised nations. Africa is overrepresented at the bottom, with countries from the region occupying seven of the 10 lowest places. The other lowest scorers all share a background of conflict (West Bank and Gaza, Pakistan and Afghanistan), which negatively impacts on nearly every indicator in the Index.[1]

With nearly 24 per cent of its population over 60, Switzerland has a range of policies and programmes on active ageing, promoting capability, health and the enabling environment for older people.[2] At the other end of the scale, Afghanistan, with 4 per cent of its population aged 60 and over, has few local or national policies to promote the wellbeing of older people.[3]

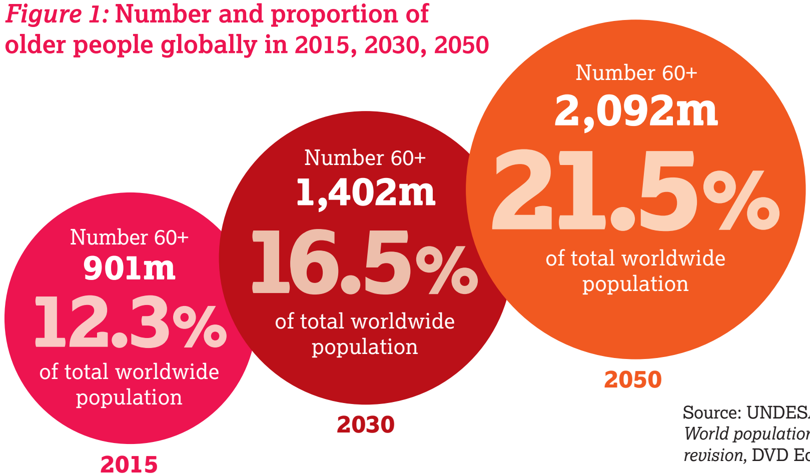
Between these extremes, countries perform best when they take a comprehensive approach by investing in pensions, access to healthcare and supporting the social inclusion of older people.

Why measure wellbeing in old age?

Growing older is an experience we all share. Today's over 60s are the world's fastest growing population group, profoundly affecting our economies, living arrangements, and personal and professional aspirations.

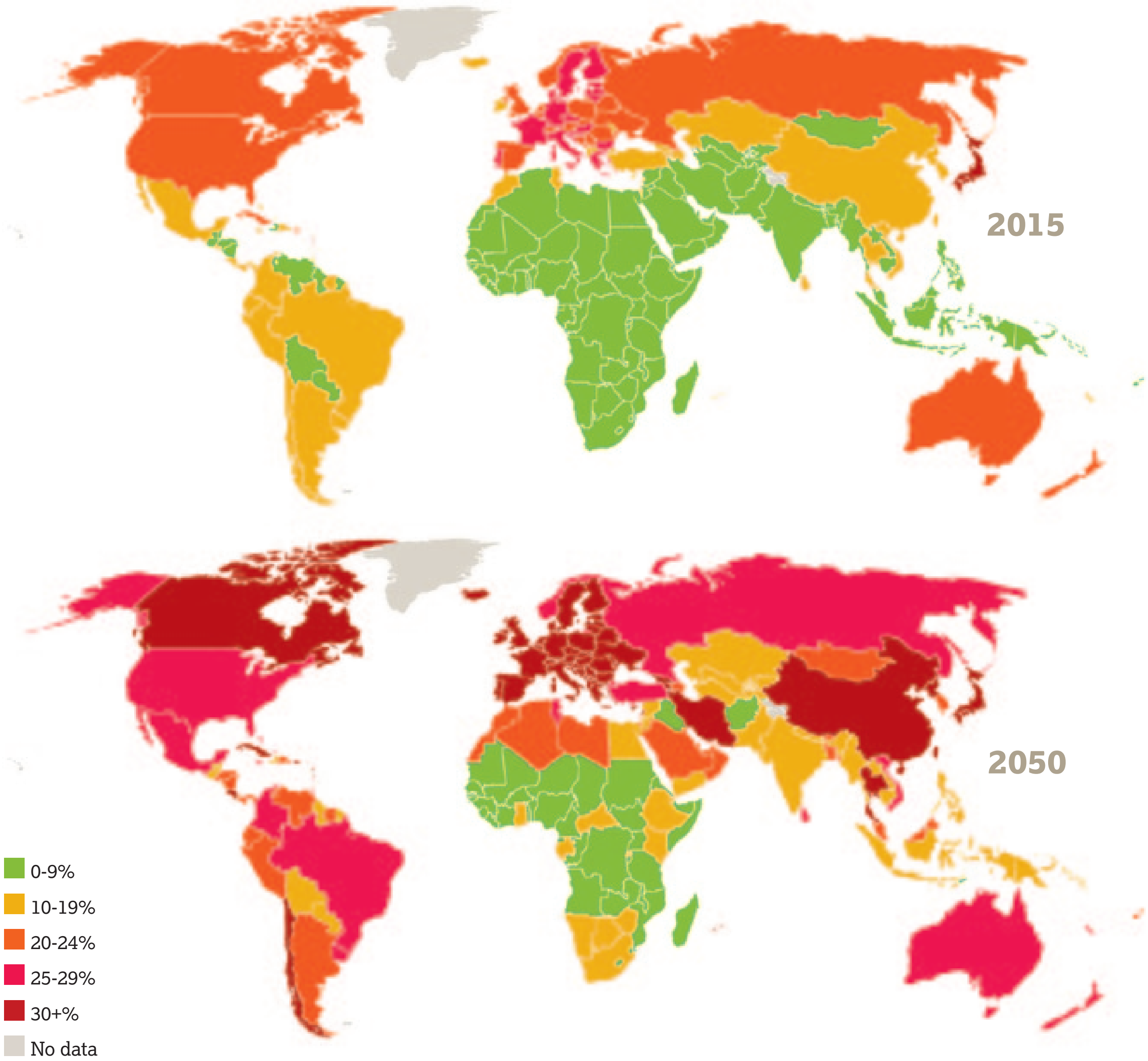
Although it is not always recognised as such, global population ageing is the great success story of human development, resulting as it does from falling birth rates and longer lives. However, not all governments have yet put the policy frameworks in place to respond to the challenges posed by the ageing of their populations.

Figure 1: **Number and proportion of older people globally in 2015, 2030, 2050**



Source: UNDESA Population Division, *World population prospects: the 2015 revision,* DVD Edition, 2015

Figure 3: **Proportion of population aged 60 or over in 2015 and 2050**



Source: UNDESA Population Division, *World population prospects: the 2015 revision*, DVD Edition, 2015

The transformative vision of the Sustainable Development Goals, to 'leave no one behind' in the universal effort to eradicate poverty and secure peaceful and equitable development for all, requires policies to deliver, and tools to measure wellbeing in older age.

There are currently around 901 million people aged 60 or over worldwide, representing 12.3 per cent of the global population. By 2030, this will have increased to 1.4 billion or 16.5 per cent, by 2050, it will have increased to 2.1 billion or 21.5 per cent of the global population.

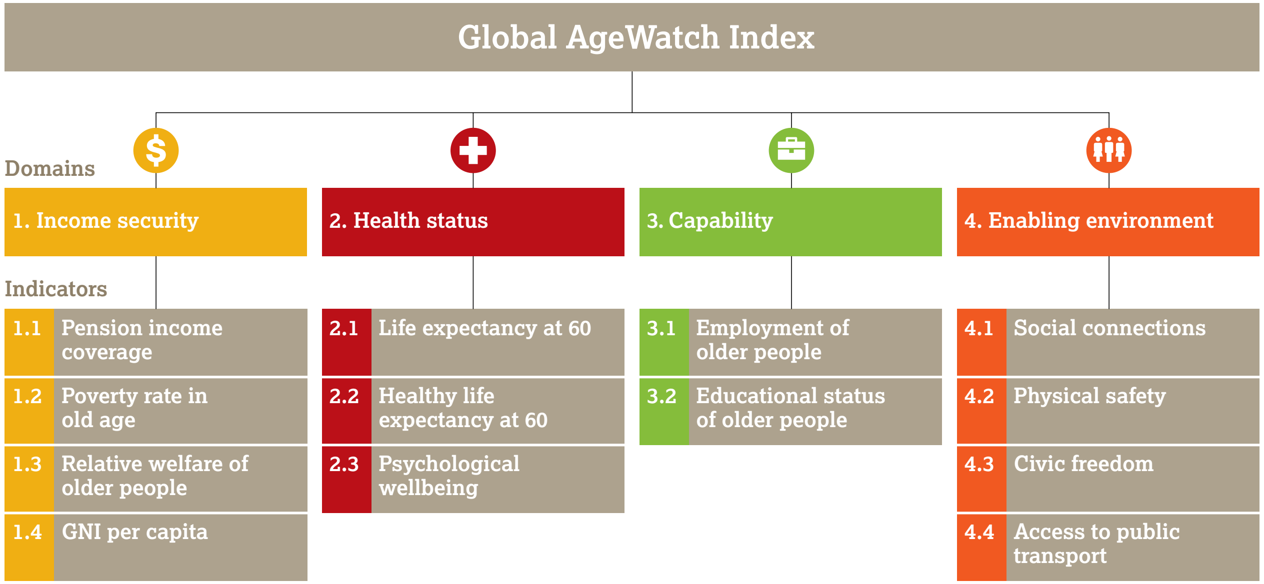
People over 60 now outnumber children under five; by 2050, they will outnumber those under 15. These demographic changes are most rapid in the developing world which, by 2050, will be home to eight out of 10 of the world's over 60s.[4]

Old age is still often considered from the economic perspective, with assumptions of what the ageing population will cost. Yet wellbeing in later life is an accumulation of experiences throughout life. Countries that support human development throughout life are more likely to have higher rates of participation of older people in volunteering, working and engaging in their communities.[5] Every person should be able to live the best life that they can at every stage, with dignity and freedom of choice. As countries age, they need to invest in supporting the contributions, experience and expertise of their growing number of older citizens.

An example is Japan (8), a hyper-ageing country, with a third of the population over 60. In the 1960s, it adopted a comprehensive welfare policy, introduced universal healthcare, a universal social pension, and a plan for income redistribution, low unemployment rates and progressive taxation. This investment has paid off with a healthier labour force and increased longevity. As a result, Japan is not just the oldest, but also one of the healthiest and wealthiest countries in the world.

Ageing is also an issue for the younger generation. The 'youth bulge' of today in many countries will be the 'age bulge' of tomorrow. Policies to support a dignified and secure old age should be of serious concern to today's young people, not least because they are the ones who stand to benefit from them in the longer term.

Figure 4: **Global AgeWatch Index domains and indicators**



What are we measuring?

The 2015 Global AgeWatch Index provides an analysis of results by region. It measures four key domains for older people, covering the most crucial aspects of their wellbeing, experience and opportunities. These are: income security, health status, capability, and the enabling environment – factors that older people say are necessary for them to be able to function independently.[6] Each domain has a value score, and the average is used to calculate the final ranking.

Income security

Measured by pension coverage, poverty rate in old age, the relative welfare of older people, and living standards using GNI per capita as a proxy.

Pension systems can play a central role in helping to reduce poverty and inequality, and can enable families and communities to adapt to the changing nature of social and economic life in old age. While virtually all countries have some form of pension system, coverage is often limited, especially in low- and middle-income countries where just one in four people over 65 receives a pension. To close the gap, an increasing number of countries, including China (52) and Mexico (33), have introduced tax-financed social pensions to ensure everyone can look forward to a minimum standard of income security in old age.

Health status

Measured by three indicators: life expectancy at 60, healthy life expectancy at 60, and psychological wellbeing. Good physical and mental health is critical to social and economic engagement of older people.

Although life expectancy at 60 is increasing, there are barriers to healthcare for older people in every region, including age discrimination, difficulty in gaining physical access to health facilities, a lack of awareness of older people's health conditions and poor availability of health and social care services.

Capability

Measured by employment levels and education status of older people, as proxies for engagement and human capital in older age. The employment rate of people aged 55 to 64 indicates their access to the labour market, conferring choice and purpose, supporting social relationships and bringing in income. The educational level indicates capacity to take up job opportunities and the ability to claim social and economic rights.

Enabling environment

Measured by access to public transport, physical safety, social connections and civic freedom. These indicators capture the enabling attributes of the communities in which older people live. Focus groups of older people in 36 countries prioritised these indicators, determining levels of engagement within the community, freedom of movement, autonomy and choice of living arrangements.[7]

Jonas Wresch/HelpAge International

Key findings

Inequality is increasing

Inequality in health, education and income levels of older people is increasing between top-ranked, high-income countries and bottom-ranked, predominantly low-income countries.

This rise in inequality is reflected in the comparison of the average life expectancy in the 10 countries ranked at the top with the 10 countries ranked at the bottom. It shows that on average in 1990, people in the bottom 10 countries lived 5.7 years less than people in the top 10 countries. By 2012 this gap had increased to 7.3 years.[8] Average life expectancy at 60 across all Index countries is 21 years. People aged 60 in Japan have the highest life expectancy and live on average an additional 26 years, while people aged 60 in Afghanistan, live on average an additional 16 years.[9]

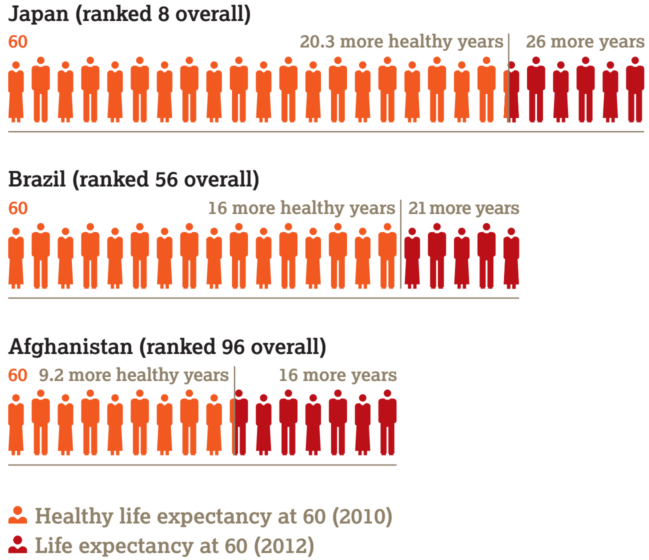
Between 1990 and 2010 inequality in educational attainment increased by 50 per cent between top 10 and bottom 10 countries.[10] Although all regions have made progress on socio-economic indicators, low and lower-income countries are falling behind. The inequality between them and the top 10 countries increased during the period of global economic growth of the late 1990s and the 2008 financial crisis.

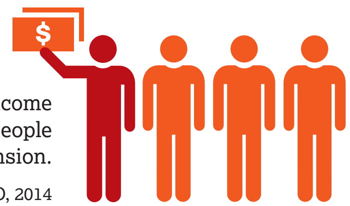
There is persistent inequality within age groups. The poverty rate in 32 OECD countries in the Index, among people aged 66 to 75, is 10 per cent. However, among the older old (76 and over) it is 13 per cent. The poverty gap between these two age cohorts (66 to 75; and 76 and over) is especially wide in Switzerland and the USA (12 and 8 percentage points respectively).[11]

A lifetime of gender discrimination combined with the inequality of old age can have a devastating effect on older women. Many women are denied access to the formal labour market and instead work as carers of children and other family members. Globally, 46.8 per cent of women aged 55 to 64 are economically active, compared with 73.5 per cent of men.[12] Women working outside the home usually earn less than men, so opportunities to save for later life are limited, significantly increasing the risk of poverty.

In Western Europe, 86.5 per cent of women of retirement age receive a pension, compared with 99.2 per cent of men. In Central and Eastern Europe, the figures are 93.8 per cent and 97.2 per cent respectively, while in Latin America, 52.4 per cent of women and 62.3 per cent of men receive a pension.[13]

Figure 5: Life and healthy life expectancy at 60





In low- and middle-income countries, only **1 in 4** people over 65 receive a pension.

Source: ILO, 2014

Millions missing from the data

In the third year of the Index, it is still only possible to rank 96 out of 194 countries. Regional and national gaps are significant. Only 11 African countries out of 54 are included because internationally comparative data on older people is missing. Equally in the Caribbean, Pacific and Middle Eastern regions, the evidence on the wellbeing of older people is incomplete. These gaps suggest the data sets used for global policy making are not yet fit for purpose, and may perpetuate age-related discrimination and exclusion.

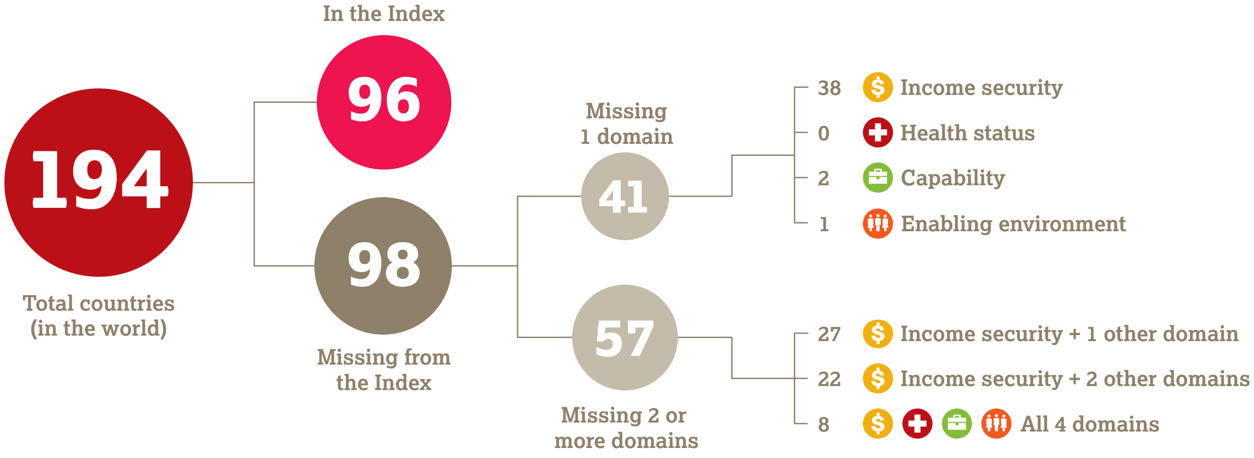
One of the Post-2015 Sustainable Development health targets aims to reduce by one-third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment, and promote mental health and wellbeing by 2030. However, this is currently defined to focus only on people between the ages of 30 and 70, leaving those older behind and missing from the data.

Analysing local data collected by older people's organisations across the world can enrich the picture and be used for service improvement and policy change. Statistics on older age gathered at the national level should also be available in global data sets. Tanzania (91) provides a positive example. Health data collected by older people's organisations was shared with health providers, influencing local planning and budgeting (2012-14) and resulting in better-tailored services for older people. As a result of surveys into older people's needs, budgets went up, services designed for older people were implemented, and access to anti-retroviral drugs increased.[14]

Women are particularly affected

There is an urgent need for better gender analysis when considering wellbeing and dignity in old age. Older women suffer particularly, as gender-based policy making tends to draw from widely available data sets that do not record data for age groups beyond the age of 49.

Figure 6: Data gaps in international data sets



The above figure shows that 98 countries cannot be added to the Index due to missing data. If income security data was available for all countries a further 38 could be included. Countries can only be included where three or more indicators are available within a domain, except for capability and health status, where data for two indicators is required.

Violence against older women is a case in point. The data systems recording sexual and physical violence against women stop at 49, perpetuating the long-discredited notion that only women of reproductive age experience sexual violence.[15]

Women aged 50 and over account for 23.6 per cent of the world's female population,[16] making the case for collection, analysis and publication of data on women beyond reproductive age.

Success means building independence

The countries doing best in the Index have social and economic policies supporting older people's capabilities, wellbeing and autonomy and do not rely on families to support their relatives alone. They have long-standing social welfare policies delivering universal pensions and better access to healthcare, as well as action plans on ageing. This approach is also apparent in some middle-ranking countries like Chile (21), Argentina (31) and Mauritius (42).

Western Europe illustrates the range of approaches to policies on ageing and the associated results. Nordic countries, at the top of the Index, have a history of universal social protection across the life course and full pension coverage. Meanwhile, Mediterranean countries, despite their rapidly ageing populations, offer fewer employment opportunities for those over 60, especially to women, and rank lower overall than might be expected.

Ageing in BRICS countries

Among the BRICS group (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa), China (52) is a rapidly ageing country – over 15 per cent of the population are 60 and over – that is proactively and strategically responding to demographic change. The Rural Social Pension Scheme introduced in 2009 resulted in 89 million people receiving pension payments for the first time. Combined with those receiving payments under other pension schemes, this means that 125 million people now receive a monthly pension.[17] In 2013, a national law was amended to protect the rights of older people, mandating local governments to provide social security, medical and long-term care to their older citizens.[18] China increased pension and health insurance coverage, encouraged volunteers to care for their elders and invested in community centres for older people.

Russia (65) and India (71) rank lower in the Index, in spite of having economic and political weight, relatively high GNI per capita, and with aged, or rapidly ageing, populations. In India only 28.9 per cent of the population receives a pension and around 30 per cent of men and 72 per cent of women over 60 are fully dependent on others.[19]

Russia has wide pension coverage but no national plan on ageing, although one is currently being developed.[20] South Africa's (78) social grant system – which includes social pensions – is about 23 per cent of the average salary.[21]

Brazil (56) ranks highest among BRICS countries in terms of income security. This is in large part due to the near-universal pension system which has relatively high levels of adequacy by international standards. The system includes two forms of non-contributory pension for rural and urban areas, as well as minimum pensions within the contributory system, all of which are tied to the minimum wage. These minimum pensions have made a major contribution to reductions in inequality in Brazil over the last two decades.[22]

India and China: new comparative data

A joint ESRC-funded research project between HelpAge International and the University of Southampton is extending the work of the Global AgeWatch Index. Additional analysis of available data on China and India sheds light on differences within different age groups and between women and men.[23]

- The breakdown by gender shows that women are worse off compared to men in both countries, particularly with respect to pension income coverage, self-reported health and employment. This finding highlights the importance of availability of gender-specific data on ageing in international data sets.
- Both countries do reasonably well with respect to access to healthcare: approximately three out of four older people in both countries report that they had access to care when they needed it. However, older Chinese people fare better than older people in India with respect to various aspects of physical and mental health, and this could be linked to lifestyle differences as well as the quality of healthcare.
- Not surprisingly, older age cohorts (75 or over) are worse off than younger cohorts (60 to 69) in physical health in both countries, although the differences are much higher in India than in China.

***Figure 7:* Comparing the BRICS**

BRICS country	Overall rank	Percentage of population aged 60 and over in 2015[b] and 2030[d]		Population aged 60 and over in 2015[a] and 2030[c] (millions)		Annual ageing rate 2015-2030[e]	Percentage of GDP growth 2013[f]	Percentage of population aged 65 and over receiving a pension[g]	Life expectancy at 60 (years)[h]	Percentage of population aged 60 and over with secondary or higher education[i]
		2015	2030	2015	2030					
China	52	15.2	25.3	209.2	358.1	3.6	7.7	74.4	19	30.1
Brazil	56	11.7	18.8	24.4	42.9	3.8	2.5	86.3	21	26.6
Russia	65	20.0	24.0	28.7	33.2	1.0	1.3	100.0	17	79.1
India	71	8.9	12.5	116.6	190.7	3.3	6.9	28.9	17	22.4
South Africa	78	7.7	10.5	4.2	6.3	2.7	2.2	92.6	16	47.2

2015 2030

Source a-d: UNDESA, UNDESA Population Division, *World population prospects: the 2015 revision,* DVD Edition, 2015; e calculation based on UNDESA Population Division, *World population prospects: the 2015 revision,* DVD Edition, 2015; f World Bank GDP growth, http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.KD.ZG (accessed 10 June 2015); g-i Global AgeWatch Index

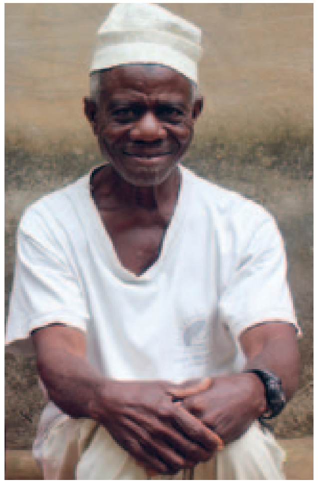
Austerity measures hitting older people in Europe and North America

The 2008 financial crisis affected pensions across Europe. In 2009, Poland (32) reduced the number of people eligible for early retirement from 1.53 million to 860,000, and pension levels are set to decline from 51 per cent of average wages to 26 per cent.[24] Older people in southern Europe were hit hard, particularly Greece (79) and Portugal (38). Spain (25) froze its pension, while Italy (37) legislated to encourage private pensions to mitigate the impact of the financial crisis.

Other negative impacts included widespread cuts to health and home care, subsidised transport and high unemployment rates among the 50 to 65 age group. For example, in 2012, Portugal reduced the subsidy to senior citizens for public transport; within six months 41,000 older people in the greater Lisbon area had stopped buying the monthly travel pass.[25]

In 2015, Ireland (15) protected the state pension. However, rising costs coupled with reductions in secondary income supports, such as telephone and fuel allowances and the introduction of a number of 'stealth' charges for property, tax and water, have hit older people hard. Cuts to health budgets have disproportionately affected older people.[26]

Source: Calculated from UNDESA Population Division, *World population prospects: the 2015 revision*, DVD Edition, 2015



Judith Escribano/Age International; Juan Pablo Zorro/HelpAge International

In the USA (9), the old age poverty rate, which varies significantly between racial and ethnic groups,[27] has risen substantially, probably reflecting the persistently high unemployment rates following the recession. While annual unemployment rates among workers aged 55 to 64 decreased to 4.3 per cent in 2014, long-term unemployment remains a concern among older job seekers.

A better world for all ages

Our third report shows that creating a better world for all ages is within reach. Policies and programmes can protect and promote human rights as we age, leading to the end of all forms of discrimination, violence and abuse in older age. To secure incomes, it is vital to advance the right to social security in old age, by ensuring universal pension coverage. To keep people in the best possible health, and increase healthy life expectancy, everyone needs access to good quality healthcare that is appropriate and affordable across their lifetime.

Older age can and should be a time of personal growth and leadership. It is important to support older women and men through access to decent work and lifelong learning opportunities as well as political participation.

Older people need to feel part of society, be able to get about on public transport, feel safe and live an independent and autonomous life.

The implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals will require evidence as well as an examination of social policies and their impact on older people. Evidence will come from improved national, regional and global data, broken down by age and gender, to help us understand the very different ways women and men experience ageing around the world.

The Global AgeWatch Index shows there is progress in policy and practice in all regions of the world. It aims to contribute to discussions on wellbeing in later life and is a step on the road to supporting people to achieve their potential at every stage of life.

Africa

Despite Africa's rapid economic growth, poor social and economic wellbeing for older people means most countries continue to rank in the bottom quarter of the Index. Because of a lack of data, only 11 of the 54 countries in the region are included, leading to the possible exclusion of older people from social and economic policies in the missing countries.

Mauritius (42) is ranked highest overall in the region and leads the way with a universal pension and social insurance scheme established in the 1950s, making it among the top 10 globally in income security. South Africa (78) comes next followed by Ghana (81). Tanzania (91), Mozambique (94) and Malawi (95) are all in the bottom five.

Older people currently account for 5.3 per cent of the population, or 24.8 million people, in 11 Index countries across the region. By 2030, there will be 39.5 million people aged 60 and over in these countries, representing 6 per cent of the population.[28]

Older people in these countries experience many hardships, with few able to access basic services. Family ties remain strong, but traditional support systems are changing and older people are increasingly left with the responsibility of childcare without any formal support. Very few have pensions and older women are often particularly poor because of discriminatory laws against them.[29]

Older people's rights

A protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights has been developed on the rights of older people and is currently going through the process of adoption by the African Union. It outlines governments' specific human rights obligations to older people and, once ratified, will require them to introduce legislation and policies to protect rights in older age.

In 2012, only seven countries had adopted national policies on ageing while three, Kenya, Tanzania and South Africa, had assigned budgets.[30] Eight had established special organisations or included ageing in a ministry.[31] Increasingly, countries are working on social protection policies mainly in the form of social pensions or cash transfers, for example, Tanzania and Kenya.[32] Some, such as South Africa and Mozambique, have specifically recognised older people's issues in health and HIV and AIDS policies.

"I wasn't allowed to go to school but now I can read and write"

Mama u Mtalane, 93, from Umgababa, Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa

"My life before democracy was harsh. It was a life with no rights. I wasn't allowed to go to school, but now I can read and write, thanks to the government's literacy campaign.

Living in a democracy, I can go to the doctor, I have a roof over my head, clean water, electricity, an income and I have a voice. The constitution is there to protect my rights. One of my most joyous moments is when I receive my pension, adding to the money I make from my traditional medicine. I can pay my grandson's university law fees. I also have an identity document. To the young women of today, I say, 'You must be independent and work hard for your families and lead a healthy lifestyle so that you live longer like me.'"

Source: HelpAge International interview 2015

Muthande Society for the Aged

Pension coverage in **South Africa** is

92.6%

which is higher than in Australia or Belgium

Weak systems for collecting and assessing statistics make it difficult to gauge the scale of poverty or development success.[33] The needs of older people should be given equal weight to address the gaps in understanding. In April 2015, the Africa Data Consensus was adopted at the AUC-ECA (African Union Commission and Economic Commission for Africa) in Addis Ababa. It aims to drive social, economic and structural transformation across the continent, making it easier to track progress on the Sustainable Development Goals and ensuring that 'no one is left behind'.

South Africa

South Africa has a human rights protocol for older people, a national ageing policy and a social grant planned to turn into a universal pension by 2016.[34] The challenges of chronic poverty and a high prevalence of HIV increase the pressure on older people to care for orphans.[35]

While South Africa has improved its integration of older people into a development framework, it still faces many problems: no defined strategy; unclear roles and responsibilities; weak coordination among government agencies and NGOs; and a lack of skilled staff as well as insufficient budgets.

The South African municipalities that performed better in improving the lives of older people include those with dedicated units facilitating a coordinated approach with civil society. This involved intergenerational dialogue, translating policies into programmes, and making deliberate efforts to assess the needs of older people to develop tailor-made activities.[36]

Malawi and Mozambique

Malawi (95) and Mozambique (94) rank low in the Index. Malawi has few dedicated programmes for older people, with social protection not yet implemented despite the government's commitment in 2011.[37] It ranks last in income security and, through lack of choice, over 95 per cent of older people work.

Despite Mozambique delivering a national policy on ageing in 2007, mainstreaming the care of older people in health and HIV, and including them in many social protection laws, quality of life continues to lag behind, with the country ranking low in most domains. Mozambique does not have a consolidated universal social pension system, so most older people do not receive a pension. The prevalence of chronic diseases and HIV and AIDS is significant among older people. This, coupled with the limited availability of medication and care, is worsening the situation for the country's older population. Older people, especially women, often do not feel safe due to witchcraft accusations, financial abuse including land conflict, and physical and sexual abuse.[38]

The way forward

Progress has been made, but due to a fairly small proportion of older people, governments are viewing young people as the engine for growth and not recognising fully the contributions made by older people.[39] More progress can be achieved through regional and national frameworks and programmes. But this depends on plans being appropriately rolled out, well-resourced and adequately managed, informed by what works and with political will behind them.

***Figure 8:* Rankings, values and regional averages for Africa**

	Overall index Rank	Income security Rank	Health status Rank	Capability Rank	Enabling environment Rank
Mauritius	**42**	9	63	75	38
South Africa	**78**	19	89	69	83
Ghana	**81**	88	77	23	56
Morocco	**84**	65	72	88	89
Nigeria	**86**	90	88	49	75
Uganda	**88**	92	92	45	70
Rwanda	**89**	93	81	90	13
Zambia	**90**	89	91	67	84
Tanzania	**91**	94	69	89	88
Mozambique	**94**	84	94	94	96
Malawi	**95**	96	95	84	94

Asia-Pacific

These 23 countries represent over 52 per cent of the world's older population, with China (52) and India (71) accounting for 36 per cent.[40] People aged 60 and over currently make up nearly 12 per cent of the regional population, rising to 17 per cent by 2030 and 25 per cent by 2050.[41] Older people comprise more than a third of Japan's (8) population, now classified as hyper-ageing, with China, at 15.2 per cent, due to join it by 2037.

Only Japan makes it into the top 10 globally while Cyprus (30), Thailand (34), Vietnam (41) and Sri Lanka (46) are in the top half of the Index. Three countries are in the bottom 10: Pakistan (92), West Bank and Gaza (93) and Afghanistan (96). Data gaps prevent the inclusion of Melanesia, Polynesia and Micronesia and the countries of the Middle East.

Japan has a higher GNI per capita than its neighbours and its overall ranking (first in health with the highest life expectancy in the world) reflects progressive social policies. It prioritised health and education early and established universal health insurance and social pensions in 1961.[42] The percentage of older people working is among the highest in the OECD countries.[43]

China has the largest population of older people in the world at 209 million people. Establishing the China National Committee on Ageing facilitated a growing policy focus on the rights of older people. Pension coverage has gone up to 75 per cent and health insurance coverage to nearly 90 per cent.[44]

Figure 9: **Rankings, values and regional averages for Asia-Pacific***

	Overall index	Income security		Health status		Capability		Enabling environment	
	Rank	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value
Japan	**8**	33		1		7		21	
Cyprus	**30**	41		24		43		55	
Thailand	**34**	59		41		71		12	
Vietnam	**41**	70		36		65		31	
Sri Lanka	**46**	78		54		36		25	
Philippines	**50**	73		76		31		15	
Kyrgyzstan	**51**	51		83		32		36	
China	**52**	75		58		39		28	
Tajikistan	**58**	57		80		33		61	
South Korea	**60**	82		42		26		54	
Bangladesh	**67**	71		71		76		41	
Nepal	**70**	64		79		74		59	
India	**71**	72		87		55		52	
Mongolia	**72**	31		93		64		62	
Indonesia	**74**	86		70		61		8	
Turkey	**75**	35		52		93		40	
Cambodia	**80**	91		51		77		27	
Lao PDR	**83**	87		82		85		20	
Jordan	**85**	58		67		95		32	
Iraq	**87**	60		75		92		92	
Pakistan	**92**	95		78		70		81	
West Bank & Gaza	**93**	81		73		96		63	
Afghanistan	**96**	83		96		91		95	

Regional averages

*Asia-Pacific includes the UN Asia-Pacific group and West Bank and Gaza

The government is developing and improving integrated social security and medical care services. High rates of depression among older Chinese people, and the need for long-term care have led China to aim for a comprehensive and integrated long-term care strategy.[45]

India (71) has 116.6 million people aged 60 and over.[46] Good services are scarce in rural areas where most people live[47] and just 28.9 per cent of older people have a pension.[48] About two-thirds of pensioners receive the general social pension for those who are over 60 and living under the poverty line; with higher benefits for those over 80.[49] Maintenance up to a maximum of Rs10,000 (US$160) a month is available to older people for food, clothing, housing, medical attendance and treatment, under the State of Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007. However, awareness is low – a survey by HelpAge India showed that only 59 per cent of respondents were aware of pension eligibility while no one surveyed was aware of the 2007 Act, a potentially effective tool against vulnerability and destitution.[50]

The three countries in the bottom 10, Afghanistan (96), West Bank and Gaza (93) and Pakistan (92) share a background of conflict, affecting nearly every indicator measured by the Index.[51]

Nepal and Lao PDR

Comparing Nepal (70) and Lao PDR (83), both with low GNI per capita and rapidly ageing, largely rural populations, shows the importance of budget prioritisation. While Nepal has a lower GNI per capita than Lao PDR, it ranks higher due to government's social investment. Lao PDR only outperforms Nepal in the enabling environment.

Ryan Libre/HelpAge International

Among older people in **India**

28.9%

have a pension

Nepal's income security rank (64) is boosted by 56 per cent pension coverage: 10 times higher than Lao PDR's (87). Although it is low in value, the universal nature of the social pension is a model for low-income countries, and has been used to reduce poverty.[52]

Both countries are good examples of progress, introducing their first policies on ageing in the mid-2000s. In Lao PDR, the National Committee on Disabled People and the Elderly (2013) is working towards a revision of its National Policy on Ageing and the action plans and budget needed. In Nepal, the Senior Citizen's Act of 2006 was reviewed and updated in 2013 and it has adopted treatment guidelines for delivering healthcare to older people.[53]

Both countries point to the challenges of ensuring the wellbeing of older people. Policies need to be backed up by action plans, sufficient budgets, and on-the-ground implementation.

"When I was in hospital for a heart attack, I couldn't pay the bill"

Buaphan Fongfu, 78, from Chiang Mai, Thailand

"I can't work anymore with my arthritis so the pension is my only income. It isn't enough to live on but my son, who lives with me, makes sure I have food every day. When I was in hospital for a heart attack, I couldn't pay the bill. My friend paid half the bill and eventually the hospital let it go. About 15 years ago, the government health insurance changed and now everyone benefits from that. With my thyroid and heart problems, I wouldn't be alive without it.

Sometimes I worry about how my son will manage once I'm gone. But with the new changes, such as the old age allowance, which increases when I turn 80, I can cover the basic necessities of life, and I'm happy."

Source: Danielle Michon/HelpAge International interview 2015

Latin America and the Caribbean

Latin America is one of the fastest ageing regions of the world and has progressive ageing policies. Last year we reported on the increasing numbers of older people receiving a pension in the region. This year the Organization of American States adopted its first convention on the rights of older people.[54]

The 18 Latin American and Caribbean countries in the Index represent 7.3 per cent of the world's older population. The proportion of older people across Latin America and the Caribbean varies markedly. Uruguay has 19 per cent, while Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua have 7 per cent each.[55] By 2030, forecasts predict the number of people aged 60 and over will rise to 16.6 per cent of the region or around 113.4 million. By 2050, these figures are expected to reach 25.5 per cent or 190.1 million people.[56]

In general, there is a correlation between the proportion of older people and their Index ranking. For example, countries with higher proportions of older people such as Chile (21), Uruguay (27) and Argentina (31) are higher up the Index. However, exceptions include Panama (20) and Costa Rica (28) which have high rankings but low proportions of older people.

Panama leads the region, with Chile next, followed by Uruguay. The relatively high scores are due in large part to the existence and effectiveness of government policies, with an orientation towards social policy in general and policies on ageing in particular.

Panama has an employment rate of 98.3 per cent for people aged 55 to 64, partly due to the constraints of a low retirement income. It has good health rankings, moderate pension coverage and a poverty rate of 17.7 per cent. Legislation ensuring older people's rights awaits approval in Congress.[57] It has above-regional values for almost all indicators except relative mental wellbeing.

Country comparisons

Chile also has a high employment rate of 65.4 per cent, 83 per cent pension coverage and an old age poverty rate of 15.2 per cent. Regionally, it performs best in health (14) with a life expectancy at age 60 of an extra 24 years (with a healthy life expectancy of 18 years). It also tops the region in educational attainment among older people at 48.2 per cent and has the highest GNI per capita of US$21,942.

Uruguay, performs best on income security (8) with the lowest old age poverty rate (8.3 per cent) and the second highest pension coverage (92.7 per cent).

Honduras (82) is bottom of the region, with age-related discounts and social pensions only for those receiving contributory pensions.

Some countries perform well on a global level in specific domains as a result of their action on older people's wellbeing. For example, in capability, Panama is ranked

In 2015 **Panama** joined the **top 20** countries in the Global AgeWatch Index

Jonas Wresch/HelpAge International

"My dream is to study social work. What holds me back is lack of money"

Justina Vanguera, 68, from Buenaventura, Colombia

"I left school after my fifth year at primary school but I've done all sorts of courses since – dance, sewing, first aid. I love to learn! Once my children grew up, I studied for my baccalaureate and graduated when I was 58. I don't feel that age is a problem; it's the situation in the country. There's no support for older people. I don't have a pension. I earn a living by making and mending clothes. On a good month I earn 180 pesos (US$75). I have to keep working. I don't like to bother my three children – they have their own money worries. My dream is to study social work. I have always been very curious and I do not think that age is an impediment. What holds me back is lack of money."

Source: HelpAge International interview 2015

16 and in the enabling environment, Costa Rica ranks 29. Examples of public policies to address care in later life include a national system in Uruguay and a home care programme for chronically ill and disabled people launched in Mexico City in 2008.[58]

Argentina

About 15 per cent of Argentina's population is over 60 and there are health policies and programmes in place to support them.[59] These include free medicine for some chronic diseases, coverage in nursing home provision and preventive social programmes.

The care system for older people is well developed with institutions specifically dedicated to health and care. In addition, a national programme on training home carers aims to build a progressive system of care, to prevent dependency on institutions. This is also innovative from an intergenerational perspective: by training younger adults as carers, it combines home care with labour-market integration.

Bolivia and Brazil

Bolivia (55) and Brazil (56) rank moderately in the Index although there is a huge difference in GNI per capita. Brazil does far better in income security (13) than Bolivia (55). Both have pension schemes. Bolivia has a universal non-contributory pension, *Renta Dignidad*,[60] giving it the highest pension coverage rate in the region at 95 per cent, but an old age poverty rate of 30.3 per cent suggests that income from employment and pensions fails to meet basic needs.

Brazil has two non-contributory pension schemes: the *Previdência Rural*, providing a basic universal rural pension to older people who have worked in the agricultural sector; and the *Benefício de Prestação Continuada*, a means-tested scheme operating in urban areas.[61] The minimum pension provided through the contributory system is at the level of the minimum wage, supporting a large number of older people who otherwise would only have had a small pension entitlement. This explains the low incidence of poverty, especially in rural areas.

Both countries rank moderately in health and capability, but the difference between them (16 places in health and 21 in capability) may be partly attributed to implementation gaps in Bolivia's General Law for Older Persons that secures older people's rights to decent work and education.[62]

Across the region, as people grow older, women are more likely to be carers and informal work provides essential income for those who have no access to contributory pensions. The role of the state is essential in establishing, promoting and implementing policies benefiting older women and men. These are needed to respond to the rapid ageing phenomenon the region is facing.

***Figure 10:* Rankings, values and regional averages for Latin America and the Caribbean**

	Overall index	Income security	Health status	Capability	Enabling environment
	Rank	Rank	Rank	Rank	Rank
Panama	**20**	40	31	16	48
Chile	**21**	43	14	22	49
Uruguay	**27**	8	37	38	57
Costa Rica	**28**	52	15	60	29
Argentina	**31**	20	40	34	66
Mexico	**33**	36	35	62	46
Colombia	**36**	69	18	47	42
Ecuador	**44**	56	28	72	58
Peru	**48**	68	32	30	79
El Salvador	**54**	77	34	59	53
Bolivia	**55**	55	59	37	78
Brazil	**56**	13	43	58	87
Nicaragua	**57**	76	45	68	33
Guatemala	**59**	74	44	81	34
Dominican Republic	**62**	80	39	57	43
Paraguay	**69**	79	50	54	77
Venezuela	**76**	66	29	51	93
Honduras	**82**	85	46	73	65

Value — Regional averages

Western Europe, North America and Australasia

Western Europe, North America and Australasia have over 187.7 million people aged 60 and over – 23 per cent of the regional population. Italy (37) and Germany (4) have 29 and 28 per cent respectively; while Ireland (15) and Israel (18) have 18 and 16 per cent respectively. Italy and Germany are forecast to rise to 36 per cent in 2030.[63] Out of the 24 countries, 20 rank in the top 25 globally.

Switzerland tops the Index, with Norway second and Sweden third,[64] although it is worth noting that the difference in Index values between these top-ranked countries is not large. At the bottom, Greece (79) has dropped six places most likely due to the economic crisis. Australia (17) and Spain (25) both fell four places after educational data revisions.

While most countries have old age state provision, the 2008 financial crisis – followed by an austerity drive – hit hard, freezing pensions and cutting services for older people in many countries. In response to the crisis France, Italy, Sweden and other countries undertook a pension reform to address benefits adequacy, financial and fiscal sustainability, retirement age and administrative efficiency.[65] In recent years, policies have been developed on active ageing and solidarity between generations[66] and preventing abuse of older people (Treaty of Istanbul 2014, UNECE 2013).[67]

This is a well-resourced region which should be leading the way in providing security for its ageing populations and enhancing their wellbeing.

Figure 11: **Rankings, values and regional averages for Western Europe, North America and Australasia**

	Overall index	Income security	Health status	Capability	Enabling environment
	Rank	Rank	Rank	Rank	Rank
Switzerland	**1**	27	2	2	1
Norway	**2**	2	16	1	4
Sweden	**3**	7	12	5	6
Germany	**4**	15	11	3	11
Canada	**5**	10	4	10	9
Netherlands	**6**	5	13	12	5
Iceland	**7**	4	8	18	10
USA	**9**	29	25	4	17
United Kingdom	**10**	14	27	20	3
Denmark	**11**	16	33	11	14
New Zealand	**12**	23	9	14	30
Austria	**13**	6	19	40	2
Finland	**14**	17	21	29	18
Ireland	**15**	18	17	35	16
France	**16**	3	7	42	23
Australia	**17**	62	5	8	26
Israel	**18**	47	26	13	35
Luxembourg	**19**	1	10	53	19
Belgium	**24**	39	30	48	24
Spain	**25**	37	3	78	22
Italy	**37**	24	6	63	74
Portugal	**38**	11	23	83	51
Malta	**47**	54	20	86	47
Greece	**79**	28	22	87	91

Value

Regional averages

Northern and southern Europe

The most striking difference is between northern[68] and southern Europe, rooted in past choices over social protection. Nordic countries, such as Denmark (11) and Sweden, started social pensions over a century ago, so people worked full-time and built up Scandinavian welfare economies. The southern European governments of Greece, Spain, Portugal (38) and Italy introduced social pensions more recently and have been hit by austerity measures affecting pensions, health and home care and giving rise to high unemployment rates among 50 to 65 year olds.[69]

Income security

On the whole, the Index shows the higher the GNI per capita, the better for older people. All 24 countries have above average GNI per capita, yet Luxembourg with the highest, only ranks 19 in the Index. While 12 countries have 100 per cent pension coverage, the region has high old age poverty rates in some countries: 33 per cent in Australia; 20 per cent in Israel; 18.8 per cent in the USA (9) and 16 per cent in top-ranked Switzerland. In some cases, this might be partly attributed to the level at which safety net retirement benefits are set. For example, in the late-2000s in Australia, this benefit was below the poverty threshold.[70]

Capability variable

The capability of older people in terms of education and employment varies substantially across the region. Greece ranks lowest in the domain, with only 35 per cent of older people working, and third lowest in educational attainment (secondary level and higher).[71] Norway ranks highest with nearly 100 per cent educational attainment and more than 70 per cent of people aged 55 to 64 in employment.

Country comparison: UK and USA

The UK (10) has a much lower GNI per capita than the USA, but half the old age poverty rate – 9.3 per cent compared with 18.8 per cent. This varies significantly between different racial and ethnic groups.[72] The USA figure reflects the modest benefits of the state pension, with no guaranteed minimum benefit.

In both countries, retirement ages are increasing and employment rates of those aged 55 to 64 are roughly 60 per cent (although unemployment is rising for this age bracket), but education levels among people aged 60 and over are much higher in the USA.[73]

Both countries score low for the region on health (UK 27, USA 25). In the USA, nearly all Americans aged 65 and over have public health insurance including preventive care. Among adults aged 50 to 64, however, 13.4 per cent of Americans were uninsured in 2013.[74] Lack of insurance is a significant barrier to obtaining affordable medical services. In the UK, the government has set out indicators on health-related quality of life for older people.[75] It has recognised the need to join up health and social care but not acted on it.

The 2015 White House Conference on Aging focused on promoting healthy lives for older adults as well as support for older Americans to remain independent, healthy and vital in age-friendly communities.[76] President Obama this year focused particularly on the importance of protecting Americans' retirement savings.

"We cut our cloth according to our measure"

Ellen Reddin, 75, from Dublin, Ireland

"I can survive on my pension but there's nothing left for emergencies. People do without if they have to. I come from a generation that knows how to live within their means but my bus pass, allowing free travel, is a godsend.

I live in rented accommodation and have 6 children, 18 grandchildren and 2 great grand-children who live relatively close by. My husband passed away 14 years ago. I had to leave school when I was 14 to support the family when my father died. I worked in a factory and later as a community worker until I was forced to retire at 66. I would have really liked to continue. Now I go to meetings or play bowls and attend classes at the University of the Third Age. Life was probably better for my grandparents."

Source: Age Action Ireland

Age Action Ireland

In **Finland**

70%

of older people work, compared with **35%** in Greece

Eastern Europe

Eastern Europe has a population of 325.6 million, with a 21.7 per cent share of older people ranging from 16.3 per cent in Armenia (43) to 26.9 per cent in Bulgaria (49). By 2025, all 20 countries are forecast to have more than 20 per cent of their population aged 60 and over. By 2050, 19 countries will have more than 30 per cent, pushing them into the hyper-ageing category. Out of 20 countries, almost half rank in the bottom third of the Index, reflecting the lack of social and economic policies addressing the needs of older people.

The Czech Republic (22) leads this region, followed by Estonia (23) and Slovenia (26). A substantial redistribution in earnings-related pension benefits in the Czech Republic boosted its income security (12),[77] while Estonia's employment rates and educational attainment among older people helped it top capability (6) for the region. Slovenia ranks highest in both the enabling environment (7) and health (38), due to a life expectancy at 60 of 23 years.

Moldova

Moldova (77) is ranked lowest overall and particularly low in health (90). Approximately 71 per cent of older people suffer from chronic diseases, particularly cardiovascular or osteoarticular infections and digestive problems.[78] The country is second lowest in income security (63). In 2003, the government introduced an annual indexation rate for all social security benefits, including pensions. The average is below the minimum subsistence level at 1,116.75 Moldovan lei (US$62) a month.[79] About 30 per cent of older people receive nothing. For those aged 65 and over, the absolute poverty rate is 35.5 per cent, rising to 43 per cent among 70 to 75-year-olds living alone in urban areas.[80] Moldova also ranks low in the enabling environment (76) due to low satisfaction rates with public transport and safety.

Investment pays off

Encouraging greater workforce participation among older people by investing in skills, training and education has paid off in the Czech Republic, Latvia (35) and Estonia.[81] Throughout the region, family plays a substantial role in providing care to older people and children. In addition to adequate pensions, countries towards the bottom of the Index need to consider supporting flexible working arrangements for older people to help reduce poverty rates, as well as providing care for children and older people.[82]

These different rankings reflect long-standing variations in economic and social development. Central European countries have had a shorter period of economic transition enhanced by EU accession leading to higher levels of development. The cluster of former Soviet countries, aside from the Baltic States, have had a longer period of

HelpAge International

By 2050, in 19 of 20 **Eastern European** countries

30%

or more will be 60+

"I feel trapped in my own home"

Gîrlea Maria, 70, from the Rezina district, Moldova

"We live in one room. The house doesn't have a bathroom and the toilet is outside. Diabetes has made me blind and I have hypertension but medicine is very expensive. I feel trapped in my own home. Relatives visit us occasionally and a neighbour tells us village news.

I get 50 euros a month, which pays for electricity, food and medicine. We don't have a TV or radio because we can't afford the electricity. My husband, Andrei, has no income. He's not yet retired but can't work because of his arthritis, so he tries to grow our vegetables.

The social canteen delivers meals five days a week in winter, with food parcels at weekends. It's funded by the Swiss Red Cross. A social worker visits us twice a week to help."

Source: HelpAge International, evaluation interview of social canteen beneficiaries, 2015 economic instability and have lower social spending levels but pension coverage is widespread. Moldova, Russia (65) and Ukraine's (73) life expectancy at 60 is below the regional average of 19 more years.

Outside Slovenia, the Balkans are less economically developed and have low rates of employment among older people and low pension coverage.

Poland and Russia

Russia has 28.7 million people aged 60 and over – the highest in the region. Russia and Poland (32) have similar levels of economic development but Poland ranks higher due to better health and enabling environment, reflecting a greater investment in healthcare and pensions over the last two decades. Poland ranks higher than Russia in all domains apart from capability, due to higher employment rates among older people, possibly reflecting lower pension benefits. In 2009, Poland reduced the number of people eligible for early retirement from 1.53 million to 860,000, and pension levels are set to decline from 51 per cent of average wages to 26 per cent.[83]

Russia currently has no national policy on ageing but one is in development. The average value of a contributory pension (known as a 'labour' pension in Russia) is 11,568 roubles (US$205),[84] or 36 per cent of the average wage, but the cost of living is rising, particularly for food and medicine.[85] The pension system in Russia is undergoing reform, and will consist of three parts: the basic, insurance and self-funded pension. According to federal statistics, 30 per cent of people above working age are economically active. The new pension legislation encourages older people to work longer so they have a higher pension in retirement. At the same time, a contribution limit discourages working after retirement. A cap on the total income of working pensioners is being discussed by the government.[86]

***Figure 12:* Rankings, values and regional averages for Eastern Europe**

	Overall index	Income security		Health status		Capability		Enabling environment	
	Rank	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value
Czech Republic	22	12		47		17		50	
Estonia	23	44		55		6		39	
Slovenia	26	25		38		79		7	
Georgia	29	48		60		19		45	
Poland	32	26		48		52		37	
Latvia	35	34		66		15		68	
Hungary	39	38		57		41		60	
Slovakia	40	21		53		28		80	
Armenia	43	32		74		9		73	
Romania	45	22		64		46		64	
Bulgaria	49	46		68		27		69	
Albania	53	45		61		24		86	
Croatia	61	67		49		56		72	
Lithuania	63	53		65		21		90	
Belarus	64	50		84		66		44	
Russia	65	30		86		25		82	
Serbia	66	49		62		80		67	
Montenegro	68	61		56		82		70	
Ukraine	73	42		85		44		85	
Moldova	77	63		90		50		76	
			Regional averages		Regional averages		Regional averages		Regional averages

Rankings and values

Table 2: Rankings and values overall and for each domain

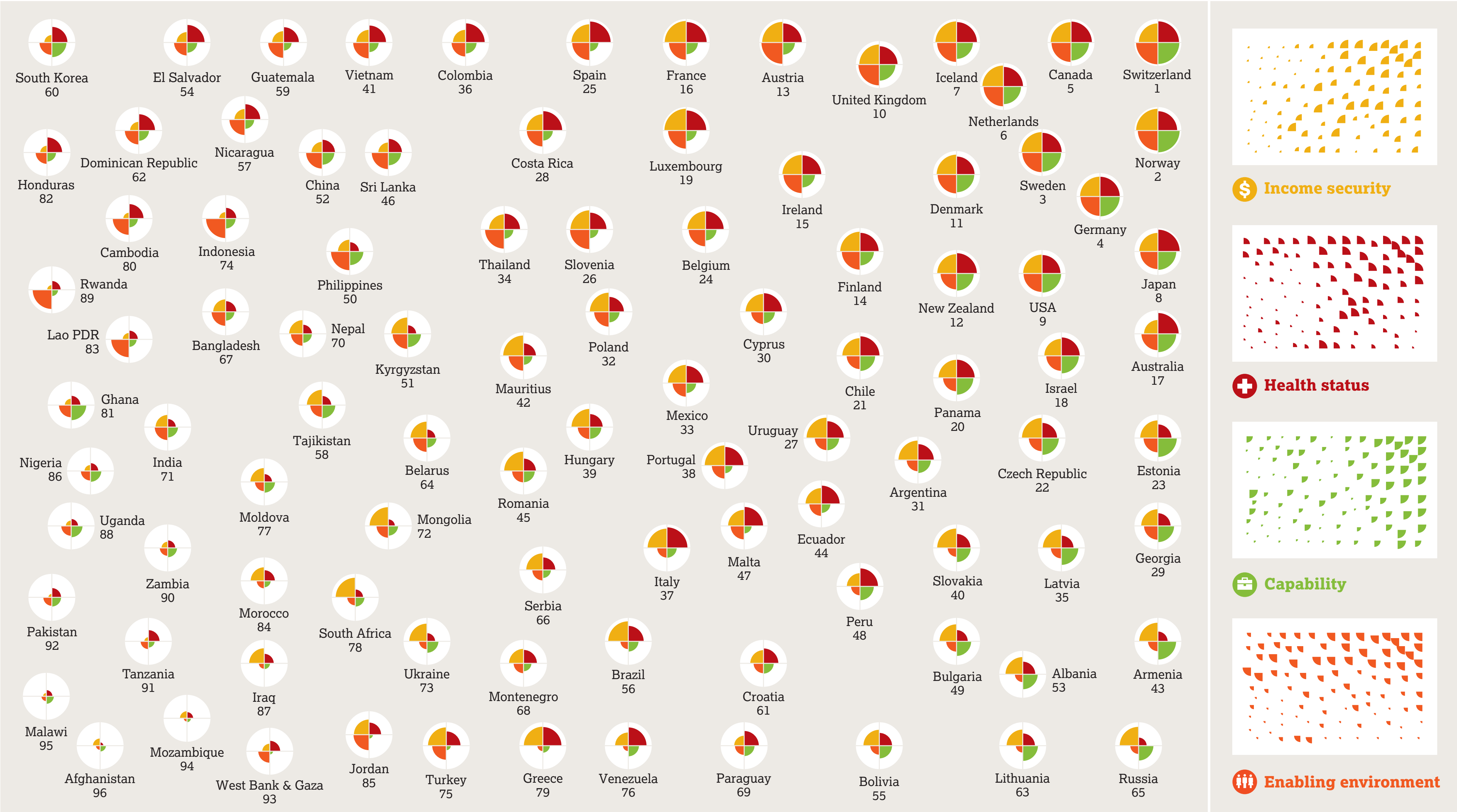
	Overall rank and value		Income security		Health status		Capability		Enabling environment	
	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value
Switzerland	**1**	90.1	**27**	77.3	**2**	81.3	**2**	75.0	**1**	83.7
Norway	**2**	89.3	**2**	89.4	**16**	73.5	**1**	76.3	**4**	80.1
Sweden	**3**	84.4	**7**	83.5	**12**	75.2	**5**	65.6	**6**	79.4
Germany	**4**	84.3	**15**	80.9	**11**	75.6	**3**	68.4	**11**	78.6
Canada	**5**	84.0	**10**	82.9	**4**	80.3	**10**	61.2	**9**	78.9
Netherlands	**6**	83.0	**5**	85.9	**13**	74.8	**12**	59.6	**5**	79.6
Iceland	**7**	81.8	**4**	86.6	**8**	78.2	**18**	54.5	**10**	78.8
Japan	**8**	80.8	**33**	75.1	**1**	83.9	**7**	62.7	**21**	75.0
USA	**9**	79.3	**29**	76.3	**25**	70.1	**4**	65.7	**17**	76.8
United Kingdom	**10**	79.2	**14**	81.5	**27**	69.3	**20**	53.6	**3**	81.8
Denmark	**11**	78.6	**16**	80.9	**33**	68.1	**11**	59.9	**14**	77.7
New Zealand	**12**	76.0	**23**	78.4	**9**	77.8	**14**	57.8	**30**	71.5
Austria	**13**	74.4	**6**	84.3	**19**	72.7	**40**	37.6	**2**	82.7
Finland	**14**	72.7	**17**	80.3	**21**	70.8	**29**	44.8	**18**	76.1
Ireland	**15**	72.0	**18**	79.9	**17**	73.1	**35**	40.6	**16**	77.0
France	**16**	71.2	**3**	88.4	**7**	78.3	**42**	35.8	**23**	74.2
Australia	**17**	71.0	**62**	53.5	**5**	79.8	**8**	62.5	**26**	72.5
Israel	**18**	70.1	**47**	67.8	**26**	69.8	**13**	59.2	**35**	69.6
Luxembourg	**19**	69.5	**1**	89.7	**10**	76.6	**53**	31.0	**19**	76.1
Panama	**20**	67.7	**40**	72.4	**31**	68.7	**16**	56.4	**48**	66.4
Chile	**21**	66.3	**43**	70.8	**14**	74.4	**22**	49.5	**49**	66.0
Czech Republic	**22**	65.6	**12**	81.8	**47**	56.1	**17**	56.4	**50**	65.8
Estonia	**23**	64.9	**44**	70.7	**55**	50.0	**6**	64.8	**39**	68.1
Belgium	**24**	63.4	**39**	73.1	**30**	68.7	**48**	32.9	**24**	73.4
Spain	**25**	61.7	**37**	73.4	**3**	80.5	**78**	24.0	**22**	74.7
Slovenia	**26**	60.6	**25**	77.7	**38**	63.2	**79**	23.9	**7**	79.2
Uruguay	**27**	59.8	**8**	83.2	**37**	63.3	**38**	37.9	**57**	63.5
Costa Rica	**28**	59.6	**52**	64.6	**15**	73.8	**60**	29.2	**29**	71.6
Georgia	**29**	58.8	**48**	66.4	**60**	46.2	**19**	53.9	**45**	67.1
Cyprus	**30**	58.2	**41**	71.7	**24**	70.7	**43**	34.8	**55**	63.8
Argentina	**31**	57.6	**20**	79.0	**40**	59.4	**34**	40.8	**66**	61.7
Poland	**32**	57.4	**26**	77.6	**48**	55.3	**52**	31.1	**37**	69.2
Mexico	**33**	56.3	**36**	73.4	**35**	64.5	**62**	28.7	**46**	66.7
Thailand	**34**	56.0	**59**	59.3	**41**	59.1	**71**	25.8	**12**	78.2
Latvia	**35**	55.2	**34**	74.5	**66**	44.1	**15**	57.0	**68**	60.1
Colombia	**36**	54.3	**69**	48.3	**18**	72.8	**47**	33.0	**42**	67.5
Italy	**37**	53.5	**24**	78.2	**6**	78.7	**63**	28.2	**74**	58.5
Portugal	**38**	52.9	**11**	82.1	**23**	70.7	**83**	19.5	**51**	65.4
Hungary	**39**	52.2	**38**	73.2	**57**	47.4	**41**	35.8	**60**	63.1
Slovakia	**40**	52.1	**21**	78.7	**53**	51.4	**28**	45.6	**80**	56.8
Vietnam	**41**	51.8	**70**	48.1	**36**	63.9	**65**	27.3	**31**	71.3
Mauritius	**42**	51.8	**9**	82.9	**63**	45.0	**75**	24.6	**38**	69.2
Armenia	**43**	51.1	**32**	75.1	**74**	34.0	**9**	62.1	**73**	58.9
Ecuador	**44**	50.9	**56**	62.5	**28**	69.2	**72**	25.1	**58**	63.4
Romania	**45**	50.8	**22**	78.4	**64**	44.9	**46**	34.1	**64**	62.0
Sri Lanka	**46**	49.8	**78**	36.2	**54**	50.0	**36**	40.1	**25**	72.9
Malta	**47**	49.8	**54**	63.5	**20**	72.1	**86**	18.9	**47**	66.4
Peru	**48**	49.7	**68**	50.5	**32**	68.1	**30**	44.3	**79**	56.9
Bulgaria	**49**	49.7	**46**	67.9	**68**	40.0	**27**	47.5	**69**	59.8
Philippines	**50**	48.8	**73**	44.2	**76**	31.9	**31**	43.5	**15**	77.3

	Overall rank and value		Income security		Health status		Capability		Enabling environment	
	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value
Kyrgyzstan	51	48.8	51	64.8	83	28.9	32	42.3	36	69.6
China	52	48.7	75	39.2	58	46.5	39	37.8	28	71.8
Albania	53	47.0	45	68.8	61	45.7	24	49.0	86	54.7
El Salvador	54	46.9	77	38.1	34	66.3	59	29.8	53	65.3
Bolivia	55	46.2	55	62.8	59	46.4	37	39.9	78	57.1
Brazil	56	46.2	13	81.5	43	57.4	58	29.9	87	54.6
Nicaragua	57	46.0	76	38.3	45	57.0	68	26.0	33	70.6
Tajikistan	58	45.1	57	60.2	80	31.1	33	41.5	61	63.1
Guatemala	59	44.7	74	42.4	44	57.0	81	21.1	34	70.2
South Korea	60	44.0	82	24.7	42	58.2	26	47.6	54	64.1
Croatia	61	44.0	67	50.5	49	55.3	56	30.0	72	58.9
Dominican Republic	62	43.7	80	30.1	39	61.0	57	29.9	43	67.3
Lithuania	63	43.2	53	63.8	65	44.2	21	50.0	90	52.6
Belarus	64	42.1	50	65.1	84	28.6	66	27.0	44	67.1
Russia	65	41.8	30	76.2	86	27.1	25	48.4	82	55.5
Serbia	66	41.7	49	65.8	62	45.3	80	21.2	67	60.2
Bangladesh	67	41.1	71	47.2	71	37.7	76	24.2	41	67.5
Montenegro	68	39.7	61	56.3	56	49.1	82	20.6	70	58.9
Paraguay	69	38.9	79	35.9	50	54.4	54	30.6	77	57.5
Nepal	70	38.2	64	53.0	79	31.2	74	24.9	59	63.2
India	71	37.9	72	45.9	87	27.0	55	30.1	52	65.3
Mongolia	72	37.4	31	75.8	93	20.5	64	27.9	62	62.9
Ukraine	73	37.0	42	70.9	85	27.3	44	34.8	85	54.8
Indonesia	74	36.6	86	19.9	70	37.8	61	28.8	8	79.0
Turkey	75	36.3	35	73.6	52	52.5	93	7.0	40	67.6

	Overall rank and value		Income security		Health status		Capability		Enabling environment	
	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value
Venezuela	76	35.9	66	50.6	29	69.1	51	31.6	93	49.5
Moldova	77	35.1	63	53.4	90	25.8	50	32.0	76	57.7
South Africa	78	35.0	19	79.5	89	25.9	69	25.9	83	55.0
Greece	79	34.5	28	76.8	22	70.7	87	16.9	91	49.6
Cambodia	80	34.4	91	16.9	51	53.3	77	24.0	27	72.2
Ghana	81	34.2	88	19.6	77	31.9	23	49.3	56	63.7
Honduras	82	34.1	85	21.4	46	56.2	73	25.0	65	62.0
Lao PDR	83	29.4	87	19.7	82	29.7	85	19.0	20	75.5
Morocco	84	29.3	65	52.2	72	37.5	88	14.6	89	53.9
Jordan	85	28.6	58	59.4	67	43.6	95	4.4	32	70.6
Nigeria	86	25.3	90	17.7	88	25.9	49	32.3	75	58.3
Iraq	87	23.2	60	59.1	75	32.8	92	11.9	92	49.6
Uganda	88	23.1	92	15.0	92	22.1	45	34.4	70	58.9
Rwanda	89	22.7	93	12.0	81	30.0	90	13.8	13	78.2
Zambia	90	22.3	89	18.8	91	24.7	67	26.2	84	54.8
Tanzania	91	15.9	94	9.3	69	39.8	89	13.8	88	54.5
Pakistan	92	12.7	95	6.4	78	31.8	70	25.8	81	56.0
West Bank & Gaza	93	12.3	81	24.7	73	36.6	96	1.8	63	62.3
Mozambique	94	4.5	84	22.8	94	18.9	94	4.5	96	45.1
Malawi	95	4.1	96	5.6	95	18.8	84	19.0	94	48.4
Afghanistan	96	3.6	83	23.3	96	7.1	91	12.1	95	47.0

Figure 13: Rankings and values overall and for each domain

This figure identifies countries with similar profiles at just one glance. Each country is represented by four segments, each corresponding to a Global AgeWatch Index domain. The overall Global AgeWatch Index rank is shown under each country's name. The closer two countries are on this map, the more similar they are in terms of values for the Global AgeWatch Index and its domains.



Marc-Ismael Akodjenou/ Datakind UK

Table 3: Percentage of population aged 60-plus by region in 2015, 2030 and 2050

Africa

	2015	2030	2050
Ghana	5.3	6.5	9.7
Malawi	4.9	4.6	7.6
Mauritius	14.7	23.3	30.6
Morocco	9.6	15.1	23.4
Mozambique	5.1	5.2	6.2
Nigeria	4.5	4.8	6.3
Rwanda	4.5	6.3	12.0
South Africa	7.7	10.5	15.4
Tanzania	4.8	5.2	7.2
Uganda	3.8	3.7	6.0
Zambia	4.3	4.1	6.6

Latin America and the Caribbean

	2015	2030	2050
Argentina	15.1	17.5	23.6
Bolivia	9.2	11.4	17.0
Brazil	11.7	18.8	29.3
Chile	15.7	23.7	32.9
Colombia	10.8	18.3	27.6
Costa Rica	12.8	20.5	30.4
Dominican Republic	9.7	14.2	21.1
Ecuador	9.9	14.5	21.8
El Salvador	11.5	15.8	24.1
Guatemala	7.0	8.6	14.2
Honduras	7.2	10.7	19.5
Mexico	9.6	14.9	24.7
Nicaragua	7.8	12.5	23.4
Panama	10.9	16.2	23.5
Paraguay	9.0	12.0	18.3
Peru	10.0	14.7	23.2
Uruguay	19.1	22.1	27.5
Venezuela	9.4	14.8	21.9

Asia-Pacific

	2015	2030	2050
Afghanistan	4.0	5.1	9.0
Bangladesh	7.0	11.5	21.5
Cambodia	6.8	10.4	17.6
China	15.2	25.3	36.5
Cyprus	18.0	23.7	33.2
India	8.9	12.5	19.4
Indonesia	8.2	13.2	19.2
Iraq	5.0	5.8	8.8
Japan	33.1	37.3	42.5
Jordan	5.4	8.6	15.8
Kyrgyzstan	7.1	11.3	16.1
Lao PDR	6.0	8.1	14.7
Mongolia	6.4	11.9	21.1
Nepal	8.6	10.8	17.9
Pakistan	6.6	8.4	12.9
Philippines	7.3	10.3	14.0
South Korea	18.5	31.4	41.5
Sri Lanka	13.9	21.0	28.6
Tajikistan	5.0	8.6	13.2
Thailand	15.8	26.9	37.1
Turkey	11.2	17.0	26.6
Vietnam	10.3	17.5	27.9
West Bank & Gaza	4.5	6.2	10.4

Source: UNDESA Population Division, *World population prospects: the 2015 revision*, DVD Edition, 2015

Western Europe, North America and Australasia

	2015	2030	2050
Australia	20.4	24.6	28.3
Austria	24.2	32.4	37.1
Belgium	24.1	29.5	32.6
Canada	22.3	29.4	32.4
Denmark	24.7	29.4	29.9
Finland	27.2	31.5	32.4
France	25.2	29.9	31.8
Germany	27.6	36.1	39.3
Greece	27.0	33.2	40.8
Iceland	19.2	25.8	30.9
Ireland	18.4	24.4	31.0
Israel	15.8	18.1	21.9
Italy	28.6	36.6	40.7
Luxembourg	19.1	24.7	29.0
Malta	25.6	30.4	36.2
Netherlands	24.5	32.0	33.2
New Zealand	20.3	27.0	29.4
Norway	21.8	26.2	29.5
Portugal	27.1	34.7	41.2
Spain	24.4	33.5	41.4
Sweden	25.5	28.6	29.6
Switzerland	23.6	30.6	34.5
United Kingdom	23.0	27.8	30.7
USA	20.7	26.1	27.9

Eastern Europe

	2015	2030	2050
Albania	17.8	25.5	30.9
Armenia	16.3	23.8	33.1
Belarus	20.3	25.2	29.7
Bulgaria	26.9	30.1	36.4
Croatia	25.9	31.0	36.8
Czech Republic	24.9	28.9	37.0
Estonia	25.2	29.1	35.1
Georgia	19.3	25.1	33.0
Hungary	24.9	27.6	34.6
Latvia	25.7	29.0	33.1
Lithuania	25.0	28.7	29.9
Moldova	16.6	22.4	33.6
Montenegro	20.3	25.2	30.5
Poland	22.7	28.6	39.3
Romania	24.4	29.8	36.4
Russia	20.0	24.0	28.8
Serbia	24.4	27.2	32.3
Slovakia	20.5	26.4	36.2
Slovenia	25.2	32.7	39.0
Ukraine	22.6	25.7	31.5

Methodology

In this third year of the Index, it is still only possible to rank 96 out of 194 UN Member and Observer States as internationally comparable data is missing. Older people consistently identify sufficient income, good health and the ability to participate in society as central to their wellbeing. For this reason, the Global AgeWatch Index is based on four domains: income security, health status, capability and enabling environment.

These domains consist of 13 indicators derived from international data sources, including the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), Barro and Lee, and Gallup (see Figure 4, p.7).

Interpreting the data

The Index rankings show how countries compare in terms of older people's wellbeing. The Index values, on which the rankings are based, show how countries are performing. In particular, they show how different countries compare with the best-performing countries and their potential for improvement. The difference in Index values between countries is sometimes minimal. A difference of 10 or more points can be considered statistically significant.

Changes in 2015

Some indicators in the 2015 Index have been updated using new data. These are: poverty in old age for the EU and OECD countries using 2013 or latest available data from EUROSTAT and OECD; relative welfare of older people was updated for the EU countries using 2013 or latest available data from EUROSTAT; and the employment rate of older people updated for all countries, using 2013 or latest available data from ILO. For the majority of countries, the employment data has not changed significantly from last year. The exceptions are Australia, Colombia, Kyrgyzstan, Panama and Tanzania. For Bangladesh, Peru, Zambia and Uganda, last year's labour force participation rate was replaced with employment rate.

The indicator measuring the educational attainment of older people has been updated for all countries using revised data from Barro and Lee. The major changes include use of more recent data from the UNESCO census, UN demographic yearbook and national statistics. This had a significant impact on the ranking of Bolivia, Ecuador, Pakistan, the Philippines, Spain, Uruguay, Bulgaria, Colombia, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Hungary, Serbia, Slovakia, Switzerland, Tajikistan and Uganda.

Indicator GDP per capita was replaced with GNI per capita. GDP is the monetary value of goods and services produced in a country irrespective of how much is retained in the country. This last distinction is critical in today's globalised world. GNI expresses the income accrued to residents of a country, including international flows such as remittances and aid, and excluding income generated in the country but repatriated abroad. Thus, GNI is a more accurate measure of a country's economic wealth.

Just like GDP, GNI per capita is a proxy for standard of living of people within a country. It aims to provide comparisons across countries. Therefore, it is not a conceptual change but a technical improvement (the Human Development Index made a change from GDP to GNI in 2010 for the same reasons).

Gallup published 2014 data for the indicators of the enabling environment domain. When compared with 2013 data, it became apparent that there were large changes in some countries. We do not expect or are able to explain large changes in subjective data in one year. Therefore, it was decided not to update the enabling environment to avoid introduction of short-term volatility in the domain.

In future we will review Gallup data again and if it is clear that large changes are part of the trend, the data will be updated. Leaving longer time periods before updating this domain will capture genuine change and reduce subjective volatility. It was decided not to make a methodological change at this time but await a review of the Index methodology.

Indicators of the health domain could not be updated as no new data was available at the time of the Index production. The life expectancy data used in the 2015 Index is from 2012.

Time lag

The 2015 Index has been calculated using the most relevant, reliable and recent data from international sources that is comparable across countries. Data from national sources is often more up to date than international data sets because of the time it takes to process, standardise and introduce data into international data sets. The Global AgeWatch Index necessarily relies on large, global data sets to allow comparison across countries. This means that the 2015 Index does not necessarily reflect the current situation, such as the outcomes of policies that have recently been introduced.

Open approach

Details of how the Index was constructed and links to all the data sets used are given in our methodology report, *Global AgeWatch Index 2013: Purpose, methodology and results,* and the 2015 update. We encourage people to examine the methodology at **www.globalagewatch.org**

Extending the Index

The 2015 Index shows there are still serious gaps in international data sets on older people, particularly in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Middle East.

It is not possible to present the results broken down by sex because not all the data has been disaggregated in this way. However, sex-disaggregated data for nearly all countries is available for four indicators – life expectancy at 60, healthy life expectancy at 60, employment rate and educational attainment – and, for some countries, for the pension income coverage indicator. You can download sex-disaggregated results for these indicators from our website at **www.globalagewatch.org**

We will continue to advocate for more and better data on older people and extend the Index to cover all countries, with results broken down by sex.

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