

The case for reform

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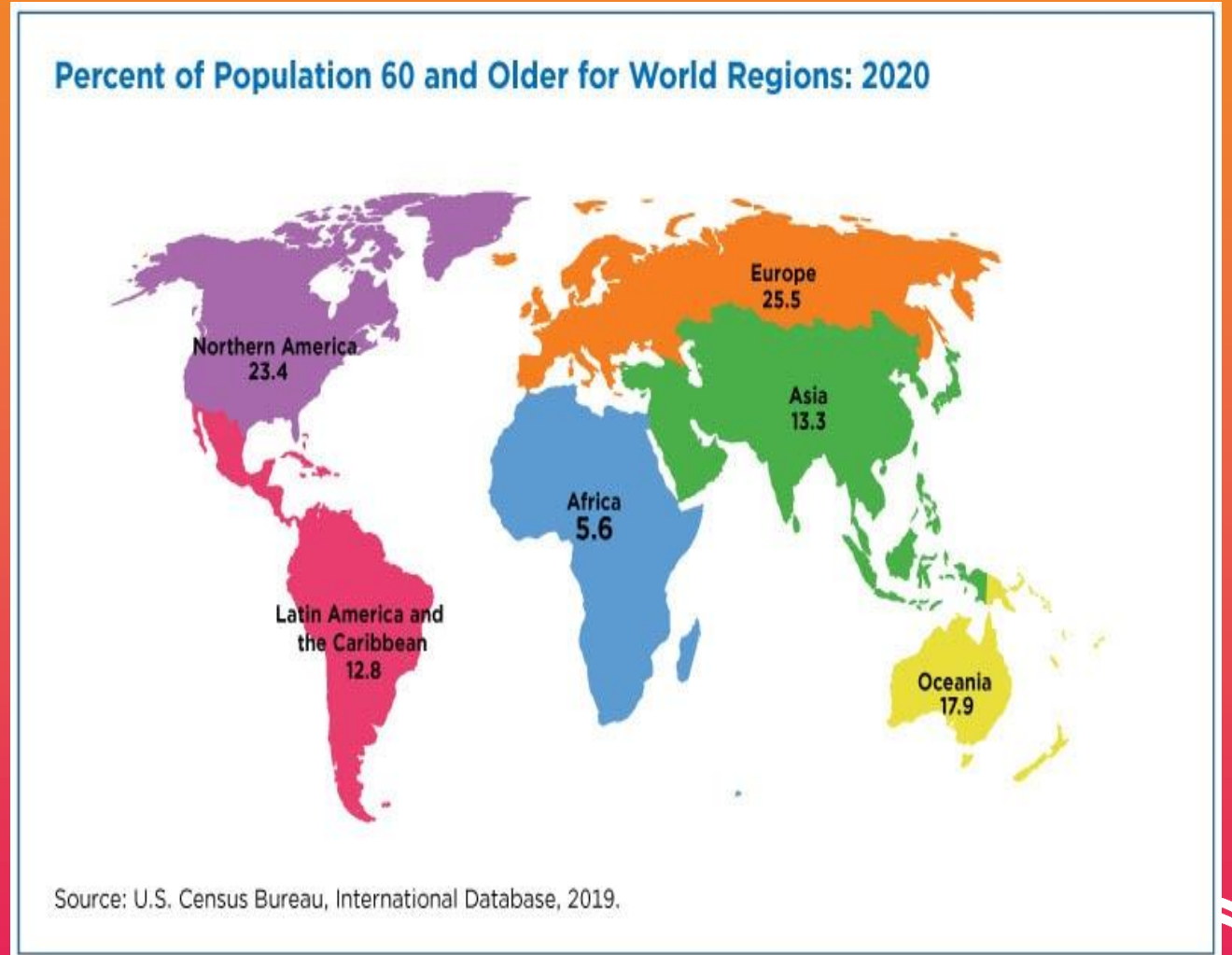
Inspiring active ageing

Begin with the end in mind...



Key considerations

1. Africa is a young.
2. Socio-economic realities (poverty, Health, violence, NCDs)
3. People living with dementia
4. Changing support structures



Relevant policy frames



- United Nations, Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2002)
- World Health Organization global strategy and action plan on ageing and health (2016–2020)



- African Union (AU) Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing (2002)
- AU Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa (2016)
- Draft Common African Position on Long-Term Care Systems for Africa



- Older Persons Act (No. 13 of 2006)
- National Health Act (No. 61 of 2003)
- National Health Council, National Policy Framework and Strategy for Palliative Care for South Africa
- National Development Plan

The African Union


- Responsible for policy development
- 55 member states
- Ageing is addressed through policy which was adopted in July 2022 – The Strategic Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing
- Protocol (legal instrument) – The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa
- Endorsed in 2016. Need 15 members to ratify the document. Currently have 8 (November 2022)



The Protocol – 7 guiding principles

- **Human rights approach** – all actions and approaches should promote, protect and respect the human rights and freedom of Older persons
- **Recognize and redress inequities** – its important to understand existing inequities related to gender, age disability etcetera and to ensure that the responses redress the disparities
- **Include and centre older people in the development of responses in ageing** (design, planning, implementation and monitoring of and reporting on responses)
- **Supporting families and communities**
- **Harnessing the potential of new technologies**
- **Expanding social protection**
- **Harnessing the intersection of ageing with other major demographic, social and environmental trends** (migration and displacement, urbanization and urban slums, climate change)

The Protocol – 11 Action areas

- Adapting and ensuring access to health systems
 - **Developing long term care systems (understand present arrangements, establish stakeholder engagements mechanisms, map/draw/build on innovative African models, allocate resources, manage and train the workforce, Monitoring and oversight system)**
 - Investing in older peoples intergenerational roles
 - Eliminating and addressing elder abuse
 - Ensuring adequate income security
 - Eliminating age based discrimination
 - Ensuring access to adequate housing and infrastructure
 - Support older peoples active participation in political and governance processes
 - Ensure access to learning and education in later life
 - Fostering Africa centered research and training on ageing and later life
 - Enabling younger people to prepare for later life
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Three points

- Africa is young but growing
- We have made amazing regional inroads with the regional frameworks support long term care – the road map is there
- **We are the ones we have been waiting for...**its an immediate call to action.

A society that does not value its older people denies its roots and endangers its future.

Let us strive to enhance their capacity to support themselves for as long as possible and, when they cannot do so anymore, to care for them.



Nelson Mandela



Thank You

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