



TRANSFORMING AGENCY, ACCESS, AND POWER

## **TAAP: Global Snapshots: OLDER PERSONS**

### **A Supplemental Resource to the TAAP Toolkit and Guide for Inclusive Development**

The TAAP Initiative is an evolving and collaborative learning initiative, launched in 2015, in support of promoting and integrating gender and social inclusion at organizational and programmatic levels. The TAAP initiative includes the TAAP approach (analytical framework, five TAAP principles and integrates a universal approach to inclusion throughout a project cycle), TAAP Toolkit and Guide for Inclusive Development, TAAP Tuesdays newsletter, partnerships, thought leadership and learning agenda. The TAAP approach consists of an analytical framework which applies six domains of analysis and an intersectional lens to a project setting; five guiding principles, and a process for integrating inclusion throughout a project cycle.

**TAAP's Global Snapshots** are a set of briefs about the global situation for the identity groups that are significant to the power dynamics of all societies: LGBTI persons; Older Persons; Persons with Disabilities; Racial, Ethnic and Indigenous Identities; Religious Identities; Women and Girls; and Youth. Each snapshot provides selected boosters (already-favorable factors of conditions upon which inclusion work can build) and barriers (hindrances to a person or identity group's growth and development, dignity, safety, well-being) from the global landscape. The TAAP Toolkit and Guide for Inclusive Development uses the **Create a Local Snapshot** activity, which guides practitioners through a process of identifying and presenting relevant findings of boosters and barriers from the Social Inclusion Analysis. The local snapshot can be used for project planning and as a chronicle of progress regarding the social inclusion situation in the context. The Toolkit partners welcome additional and updated feedback for each snapshot. Please submit data and feedback to [inclusion@worldlearning.org](mailto:inclusion@worldlearning.org).

## GLOBAL SNAPSHOT: OLDER PERSONS

### The Global Situation:

- By 2030, older persons are projected to account for one in six people globally. By the middle of the 21st century, one in every five people will be aged 60 years or over.<sup>i</sup>
- 62% of people over 60 live in developing countries; by 2050, this number will have risen to 80%.<sup>ii</sup>
- Some 340 million older persons are living without any secure income. If current trends continue, this number will rise to 1.2 billion by 2050.<sup>iii</sup>
- More than 46% of people who are over the age of 60 have a disability.<sup>iv</sup>
- 80% of older persons in developing countries have no regular income, and<sup>v</sup> only one in four older persons in low-and middle-income countries receive a pension.<sup>vi</sup>

### Global Boosters

The **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** (1948) outlines the rights of all people.

**ADCAP Standards for older persons:** Humanitarian inclusion standards for older persons and persons with disabilities that are designed to ensure older people and people with disabilities are included during emergency responses, both accessing assistance and participating in the decision-making processes that affect them.<sup>vii</sup>

**Global Legislation:** The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2002) outlines a comprehensive action plan for governments and civil society to build a society for all ages.<sup>viii</sup>

**Local Knowledge:** Older persons often have expert knowledge on a variety of topics such as local culture and agriculture that can make programs more successful and sustainable.<sup>ix</sup>

### Global Barriers

**Poverty:** “On average, existing studies suggest that older people, and people living in households with an older person, face higher levels of poverty.”<sup>xii</sup>

**Vulnerability in disasters:** Older persons are more vulnerable in disaster scenarios due to higher rates of poverty, physical health decline, and age discrimination.<sup>xiii</sup>

**Elder abuse:** Elder abuse is a problem that exists in both developing and developed countries yet is typically underreported globally.<sup>xiv</sup>

**Dementia:** Nearly two thirds of people with dementia live in low or middle-income countries; only 11 countries have developed national dementia plans.<sup>xv</sup>

**Current public-health approaches are ineffective:** The health of older people is not keeping up with increasing longevity, current health systems are poorly aligned to the care that older populations require even in high- income countries.<sup>xvi</sup>

**Older persons health is worth investing in:** Being in good health enables older persons to continue to make valuable contributions to their families, communities and economies.<sup>x</sup>

**UN appoints independent expert:** In May 2014, the Human Rights Council appointed Ms. Rosa Kornfeld-Matte as the first Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons. Independent Experts are appointed to examine and report back on a thematic or perspective in all parts of the world.<sup>xi</sup>

**Negative stereotypes:** Negative stereotypes may include perceptions that older people are "past their sell-by date." While older workers are often presumed to be less productive than younger workers and studies show slight declines in information processing and attention with age, most individuals maintain mental competence and learning abilities well into older age.<sup>xvii</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> World Population Ageing 2015, Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division, United Nations, New York 2015

<sup>ii</sup> Facing the facts: The truth about ageing and development. Age International

<sup>iii</sup> IBID

<sup>iv</sup> UNDESA, *Division for Social Policy and Development Disability, Ageing and disability*, <http://bit.ly/2BtLg4I> (24 November 2017)

<sup>v</sup> World Health Organization; Older persons in emergencies: considerations for action and policy development; page 11.  
[www.who.int/ageing/emergencies/en/](http://www.who.int/ageing/emergencies/en/)

<sup>vi</sup> Global AgeWatch Index 2014, Insight Report', HelpAge International, 2014.

<sup>vii</sup> [www.helpage.org/what-we-do/emergencies/adcap-age-and-disability-capacity-building-programme/](http://www.helpage.org/what-we-do/emergencies/adcap-age-and-disability-capacity-building-programme/)

<sup>viii</sup> [http://www.un.org/en/events/pastevents/pdfs/Madrid\\_plan.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/events/pastevents/pdfs/Madrid_plan.pdf)

<sup>ix</sup> <http://www.helpage.org/download/5059f6eacb779>; <http://www.grandmotherproject.org/>

<sup>x</sup> [https://www.ageinternational.org.uk/Documents/Exec%20Summary\\_Facing%20the%20Facts\\_Age%20International.pdf](https://www.ageinternational.org.uk/Documents/Exec%20Summary_Facing%20the%20Facts_Age%20International.pdf).

<sup>xi</sup> <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/OlderPersons/IE/Pages/IEOlderPersons.aspx>

<sup>xii</sup> <http://www.helpage.org/download/5059f6eacb779>

<sup>xiii</sup> <http://www.helpageusa.org/>

<sup>xiv</sup> <https://www.un.org/development/desa/ageing/world-elder-abuse-awareness-day.html>

<sup>xv</sup> <https://www.ageinternational.org.uk/Documents/Dementia%20article%20for%2018%20Nov%20event-FINAL.pdf>

<sup>xvi</sup> World Report on Ageing and Health, World Health Organisation 2015

<sup>xvii</sup> <http://www.who.int/world-health-day/2012/toolkit/background/en/index3.html>