

WHO Decade of Healthy Ageing

<https://www.who.int/ageing/decade-of-healthy-ageing>

Introduction

In 2016, 194 Countries adopted, at the World Health Assembly, a **Global strategy and action plan on ageing and health** (2016–2030). Informed by the evidence in the **World report on ageing and health** (2015) and aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, the Strategy called for transformative change.

Member States envisioned that change to be a world where people can live long and healthy lives. Governments realised that to achieve impact in countries we need a decade of concerted action on Healthy Ageing. For WHO, Healthy Ageing is defined as the process of developing and maintaining the functional ability that enables well-being in older age.

Context

Populations around the world are ageing at a faster pace than in the past and this demographic transition will have an impact on almost all aspects of society. The world has united around the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: all countries and all stakeholders pledged that no one will be left behind and determined to ensure that every human being can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment.

A decade of concerted global action on Healthy Ageing is urgently needed. Already, there are more than 1 billion people aged 60 years or older, with most living in low- and middle-income countries. Many do not have access to even the basic resources necessary for a life of meaning and of dignity. Many others confront multiple barriers that prevent their full participation in society.

To ensure that the Decade of Healthy Ageing is a formidable force for fostering partnerships and accelerating progress, we need a unified vision and plan that provide directions for governments and non-State actors to enable people to live longer and healthier lives.

On-line Consultation

Between 9 July and 15 August 2019, WHO and partners are seeking open input, comments, revisions, additions on the zero-draft proposal for the Decade of Healthy Ageing. The document is 20 pages (excluding annexes) and is divided into 4 sections:

- Section 1: A new context needs concerted, sustained action
- Section 2: Vision, added value and principles
- Section 3: Action areas
- Section 4: Partnering for change

A note on privacy

The record of your survey responses does not contain any identifying information about you unless a specific survey question explicitly asked for it. If you wish to keep abreast of developments on the Decade there is an opportunity at the end of this questionnaire to sign up with your name and contact details. These details will only be used for sending updates and other Decade related information.

STEP 1

Name: Julia Wadoux

Position: Policy Coordinator

Stakeholder Group:

- Government National
- Government Regional
- Government Local
- International Organisation
- NGOs
- Professional
- Individual
- Representative of older persons' organisations
- Media
- Private sector

- Academic
- Other

Country: European Union

Contact e-mail: Julia.wadoux@age-platform.eu

STEP 2

The Decade of Healthy Ageing (2020-2030) is proposed as a global collaboration led by WHO that will bring together governments, international organizations, professionals, academia, the media, the private sector and civil society to improve the lives of older people, their families and the communities they live in.

1- Please indicate the level of agreement with the following statement: "This document succeeds in providing a vision and action plan for fostering Healthy Ageing with a focus on older adults."

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Slightly disagree
- Slightly agree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

2- Action areas - The zero draft Decade proposal identifies three actions areas:

- develop **age-friendly cities and communities** that foster the abilities of older people;
- deliver **person-centred integrated care for older people** at the level of the community to ensure that older people get the care they need as close as possible to where they live;
- provide older people with access to **long-term care** at the community level so that every older person gets the care and support they need when they cannot take care of themselves.

Please indicate the level of agreement with the following statement: "These action areas are the right ones to focus on to foster Healthy Ageing."

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Slightly disagree
- Slightly agree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

If you think action areas should be deleted or added please comment here (Maximum **750 characters**):

We support the three action areas as described and very much appreciate this comprehensive approach. The mainstreaming of ageism across the 3 areas is crucial and must be the starting point with the same strength in each of them, therefore the intended plan to coordinate with the OEWG on Ageing is very important. Likely, training and campaign on ageism should be included in each of the 3 areas, also towards children and younger people.

For the priority "age-friendly cities and communities": while we understand the focus on cities, it is a pity to overlook the issues faced by rural or sparsely populated areas where older persons can hardly access basic services and are therefore in vulnerable situation: those people can't be left behind.

3- Activities during the Decade on Healthy Ageing

Choices need to be made about the focus of the activities under each action area. The current focus includes the following:

- The **second half of life**, given the unique issues that arise in older age, and the limited attention this period has received compared with that given to other age cohorts;
- **Activities** at local, national, regional and global levels, that are evidence based and **strive to improve the lives of older people, their families and their communities**;
- crafting activities in ways that **overcome**, rather than reinforce, **inequities** linked to individual factors (including gender, ethnicity, level of education, civil status or

where a person lives); to avoid widening the gaps and leaving some older people behind;

- **tackling the current challenges** that older people face, **while anticipating the future** for those who will journey into older age.

Please indicate the level of agreement with the following statement: "These focuses areas are the right ones to guide future efforts to foster Healthy Ageing and leave no older adult behind."

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Slightly disagree
- Slightly agree
- Agree
- **Strongly agree**

If you think focus areas should be deleted or added please comment here (Maximum **750 characters**):

Nothing specific to add.

4- A Platform for partnering

Achieving change across the world will require a willingness to work together in novel and adaptive ways. The draft proposal presents an outline for a Platform that will be established to strengthen and expand existing partnerships and alliances with a focus on **four enablers** across the three action areas of the Decade on Healthy Ageing.

These are:

- ensuring that the **voices of older people** are at the heart of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of actions;
- **nurturing leadership and building capacity** at all levels to take appropriate action that is integrated across sectors;
- **connecting diverse stakeholders** around the world to share and learn from the experience of others;
- catalysing **research and innovation** to identify successful interventions.

Please indicate the level of agreement with the following statement: "The "enablers" in the proposal are the most likely to enable Governments and non-State actors to deliver results over the next Decade:

- Strongly Disagree

- Disagree
- Slightly disagree
- Slightly agree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

If you think enablers should be deleted or added please comment here (Maximum **750 characters**):

- Make sure the “Platform on Population Ageing” will link up with existing similar initiatives at local, national and regional level to avoid duplication and reinforce synergies.
- Similarly, for the engagement with older persons in vulnerable situation, it would be important to make the best of the existing initiatives and expertise in this area.
- Link up with civil society organisations, academics and individuals working on different ground of discrimination to strengthen intersectionality approaches and address the diversity of older persons and acknowledge the specific needs of subgroups in the older population (e.g. get on board stakeholders engaged in LGBTBI or disability issues).

5- Measuring success

Underpinning this work will be an **accountability framework** to measure progress towards the commitments made to the action areas and activities of the Decade of Healthy Ageing. Ten progress indicators, related to the Global Strategy, have already been approved: <https://www.who.int/ageing/commit-action/measuring-progress/en/>

The following are five additional progress indicators. Please select which of these indicators the Decade should report on, answering ‘Yes’ if you think the indicator should be included:

- Number of countries with capacity to deliver integrated care for older people (ICOPE) - **YES**
- Number of countries where long-term care is available for older people - **YES**
- Number of cities or communities that are members of the WHO Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities - **YES**
- Number of countries that report data on intrinsic capacity and functional ability of older adults within existing health information systems - **YES**
- Number of countries that have a published research agenda addressing healthy ageing - **YES**

If there are other progress indicators that should be considered, please include below (**Maximum 750 characters**):

The ten indicators + the five new ones cover a lot of issues. Still we wanted to propose to have an indicator related to policy/initiative targeting elder abuse with an age and sex disaggregation to better monitor violence against older women which is completely out of the radar.

Another one could also consider whether there is a focus on older persons in national policy/initiative on poverty and social exclusion.

STEP 3

What critical barriers and obstacles to Healthy Ageing, if any, are not sufficiently addressed in the proposal **(Maximum 1000 characters)**?

Ageism: have a critical review of indicators like “premature death” which supports the idea that above a certain age value of life is not the same and exclusively assimilate “productive” years to “working” years.

Action area: integrated care

- Foster collaboration between health and social care, with technologies as a supportive tool. This is key for a strong preventive approach and a good transition from hospital to rehabilitation
- Strengthen the continuous aspect of training of health care professionals and include social care workers and informal carers
- Ensure that change is supported by the hospital level/decision level with proper training

Action area: long-term care

- Palliative care and end of life care should be an integral part of long-term care
- Social protection systems are essential for a better and fair access to LTC
- Address the situation of care workforce in that area: mostly women and migrant
- Quality definitions aligned with preferences of older persons and human rights

What would be your main recommendations for improving this document (Maximum 1000 characters)?

To foster the alignment with SDGs, it would be important to include a reference to #13 (Climate change): sensitive issue notably for people living in vulnerable situation, with a strong impact of air pollution, heat waves, fires and floods on older persons. Protection the right to a healthy environment is critical to improve health status. This can also be linked to the food and agriculture which is mentioned as an important area to liaise with.

Strengthening intersectionality in relation to ageism would be of added value to better address the diversity of older persons and make sure we don't overlook a number of

situations where people are at risk of higher vulnerabilities (e.g. sexual orientation, gender, ethnic minorities, migrant background, disability).

Developing methodologies to assess the cost of inaction would be an important area to explore, for example it would help a lot to show how much investment in LTC is needed to support employment rates and gender equality.

How can we make this document more relevant for older people, families and communities **(Maximum 1000 characters)**?

Developing specific material targeting older persons, their families and communities could be useful to convey a straight and simple message on how much such a Decade can benefit them and how they can engage to support this effort and share their experience.

STEP 4

Please rank the 4 tag lines provided for the Decade of Healthy Ageing in order of preference

- Adding life to years 1
- Good health adds life to years 2
- Healthy Ageing 2030 3
- Years Ahead 4

If there is a tagline that you think would be better for the Decade of Healthy Ageing please add it below (Maximum 100 characters):

Thank you very much for taking the time to provide your comments and suggestions on this zero draft proposal for a Decade of Healthy Ageing.