

**Directory of  
Research on Ageing in Africa: 2004-2015**



**United Nations • New York, 2015**

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat is a vital interface between global policies in the economic, social and environmental spheres and national action. The Department works in three main interlinked areas: (i) it compiles, generates and analyses a wide range of economic, social and environmental data and information on which States Members of the United Nations draw to review common problems and take stock of policy options; (ii) it facilitates the negotiations of Member States in many intergovernmental bodies on joint courses of action to address ongoing or emerging global challenges; and (iii) it advises interested Governments on the ways and means of translating policy frameworks developed in United Nations conferences and summits into programmes at the country level and, through technical assistance, helps build national capacities.

The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs provides the international community with timely and accessible population data and analysis of population trends and development outcomes for all countries and areas of the world. To this end, the Division undertakes regular studies of population size and characteristics and of all three components of population change (fertility, mortality and migration). Founded in 1946, the Population Division provides substantive support on population and development issues to the United Nations General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Population and Development. It also leads or participates in various interagency coordination mechanisms of the United Nations system. The work of the Division also contributes to strengthening the capacity of Member States to monitor population trends and to address current and emerging population issues.

## Notes

The designations employed in this report and the material presented in it do not imply the expression of any opinions whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

This report is available in electronic format on the Division's website at [www.unpopulation.org](http://www.unpopulation.org). For further information about this report, please contact the Office of the Director, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, New York, 10017, USA, by Fax: 1 212 963 2147 or by e-mail at [population@un.org](mailto:population@un.org).

## Suggested citation:

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015). *Directory of Research on Ageing in Africa: 2004-2015* (ST/ESA/SER.A/391).

Official symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with numbers, as illustrated in the above citation.

## PREFACE

The number of older persons in Africa is growing rapidly: between 2015 and 2030 the number of people aged 60 years or over in the region is projected to increase by more than 63 per cent (United Nations, 2015). Accordingly, the situation of older persons in Africa, in particular with respect to their well being, is a matter of growing concern among researchers and policymakers alike. This report provides an extensive directory of research on ageing in Africa covering the period 2004-2015, updating the *Directory of Research on Ageing in Africa: 1995-2003* prepared previously by Dr. Paul Kowal for the World Health Organization. The Directory aims to profile, promote and encourage research into the health and needs of people aged 50 years or over in Africa, and to enable the use of evidence for policy. Such evidence is essential to enable countries undergoing rapid demographic and epidemiological transitions to develop appropriate policy responses and to monitor the implementation and impact of those policies.

The Directory includes descriptions of research activities submitted by primary investigators, with minimal editing. The submissions were summarized according to how the research results addressed the policy directions of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA), and the research methods that have been applied. Taken as a whole, the Directory demonstrates the growing body of rigorous and in-depth research into ageing across Africa. While not all research on ageing in Africa has been included here, a review of the updated Directory indicates that research has been less active in some countries, and that some high-priority areas of research remain under-investigated. The process of creating the Directory revealed the difficulty of identifying research on ageing in Africa through searches of high-impact peer reviewed journals or standard bibliographic search engines. Much of the published research evidence on ageing in Africa presented in this Directory was identified through detailed internet searches or through the direct contributions of research collaborators.

Filling the evidence gaps on the status and needs of older persons in Africa requires concerted efforts from individual countries and the pan-African community, together with contributions from the international research community. It is hoped that this Directory will enhance networking and political action and facilitate collaborative research efforts to focus on older persons in Africa.

This report was prepared for Population Division by a team led by Professor Julie Byles, Director of the Research Centre for Generational Health and Ageing at the University of Newcastle, Australia and Dr. Paul Kowal, Scientist at the Multi-Country Studies Unit, World Health Organization, Geneva. The preparation of this report was assisted by Masuma Khanam, Tazeen Majeed, Patrick Skippen, Xiaoyue Xu and John Hall. Thanks are due to all of the researchers who contributed information and updates about their work. Special acknowledgement is due to Monica Ferreira and Nana Araba Apt, leaders in research on ageing in Africa, who graciously mentored and encouraged subsequent generations of ageing researchers and advocates.

## DEDICATION

This report is dedicated to the late Richard Suzman, former director of the United States National Institute of Aging's Division of Behavioral and Social Research; and, to the late Barney Cohen, former chief of the United Nations' Population Studies Branch.

Dr. Suzman was passionate about the science of multidisciplinary ageing research globally, including in Africa, the continent of his birth. He supported the production of the first Directory in 2003. The evidence of his considerable influence and vision is in the pages that follow.

Dr. Cohen also had a deep affinity for sub-Saharan Africa, including his lifelong work in demography and ageing. He was very keen to see an update of the Directory of Research on Ageing in Africa.

Both Richard and Barney are remembered with admiration and affection.

## Contents

<b>SECTION 1: Introduction.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>SECTION 2: Research on ageing in Africa in relation to the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>APPENDIX A: Inventory of research on ageing in Africa.....</b>	<b>9</b>
BOTSWANA.....	10
CAMEROON .....	11
EGYPT .....	13
EGYPT and TUNISIA.....	14
ETHIOPIA .....	17
ETHIOPIA, UGANDA, ZAMBIA AND ZIMBABWE .....	19
ETHIOPIA, SOUTH AFRICA, TANZANIA AND UGANDA .....	21
ETHIOPIA, UGANDA, TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA.....	23
ETHIOPIA, KENYA, TANZANIA, UGANDA AND ZAMBIA .....	24
GAMBIA.....	26
GHANA.....	31
GHANA AND SOUTH AFRICA.....	42
GHANA, KENYA, SOUTH AFRICA AND TANZANIA .....	46
KENYA.....	52
LESOTHO AND NIGERIA .....	70
MADAGASCAR .....	72
MALAWI.....	73
MALAWI AND SOUTH AFRICA.....	78
MULTI-COUNTRY AFRICA .....	80
NAMIBIA.....	82
NAMIBIA and UGANDA .....	85
NIGERIA .....	86
SOUTH AFRICA .....	95
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA .....	116
SUDAN .....	122
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA .....	123
TOGO .....	142
UGANDA .....	143
ZAMBIA.....	162
ZIMBABWE.....	165
<b>APPENDIX B: Table of projects according to MIPAA classification .....</b>	<b>169</b>
<b>APPENDIX C: Table of projects according to research methods.....</b>	<b>174</b>
<b>APPENDIX D: BIBLIOGRAPHY .....</b>	<b>177</b>

## MULTI-COUNTRY AFRICA

GENERAL INFORMATION:	
Country	<b>Multi-country Africa</b>
General area of investigation	Health Information Systems
Title of the research project	Quantified Longevity Guide (QLG)
Expected beginning and ending dates	2012 – Ongoing
Main purpose	Early diagnosis of ageing-related ill health and personalization of ageing-related and health-span extending treatments
Keywords	Ageing; Aetiology; Health information systems
GENERAL ABSTRACT FOR THIS PROJECT:	
<p>There is a vital need to estimate health conditions and effectiveness of treatments for a variety of ageing-related diseases, based on the evaluation of the ageing processes underlying those diseases. Thanks to such “early diagnosis” of ageing, as a pre-clinical or concomitant condition for a variety of ageing-related diseases, it may be possible to solve the problems of early diagnosis of those ageing-derived diseases. This need is acute for the developed world, and is becoming urgent for the developing world, including Africa, whose demography is rapidly shifting toward prevalence of ageing-related non-communicable diseases. The current project is developing an expert single window (SW, <a href="http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/0%20per%20cent20Full%20per%20cent20Report_5.pdf">www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/0 per cent20- per cent20Full per cent20Report_5.pdf</a>) system for indication of physiological age, early diagnosis of ageing-related conditions, and personalization of ageing-related and health-span extending treatments. The main methodological emphasis of the present project is that it provides an integrated approach for the evaluation of the ageing process that takes into consideration the non-linear interrelation of a multitude of parameters – biomarkers and intervention factors, using information theoretical measures, such as entropy and mutual information, rather than linear statistical measures. The methodology of information theory uniquely allows the selection of the most beneficial and economical individual diagnostic and intervention factors and factors’ combinations for combating chronic age-related diseases and increasing the health span, indicating physiological age as a cost-effective method of preclinical diagnosis for a variety of chronic age-related diseases. The methodological apparatus, the modeling and predictive ability, have been validated for a variety of databases on ageing-related diseases, including: diabetes, heart disease, and cancer. Currently, extended clinical data are sought in order to proceed toward clinical application. Following broad clinical validation, the use of the developed Quantitative Longevity Guide Expert SW System, utilizing the methods of information theory, may allow the selection of the most beneficial factors for combating ageing-related diseases and increasing the health span.</p>	
Funding source	Independent
Acknowledgements	We thank our affiliates – the International Society on Aging and Disease (ISOAD, <a href="http://www.isoad.org">www.isoad.org</a> ) and Longevity for All ( <a href="http://www.longevityforall.org">www.longevityforall.org</a> ) for providing the network of expertise and social support and for increasing the education and awareness of ageing research internationally.
Other comments	<p>The current project is conducted by the Israeli Longevity Alliance (<a href="http://www.longevityisrael.org">www.longevityisrael.org</a>)</p> <p>It should also be noted that the Israeli Longevity Alliance is not only involved in scientific research of ageing, but also in social advocacy for ageing and longevity research. Hence, together with its affiliates, mainly the International Society on Aging and Disease and Longevity for All, it is strongly involved in promotion of education and advocacy for biomedical ageing and longevity research in Africa, encouraging the development of and cooperating with advocacy groups in Africa, with especially strong ties with groups in Benin, Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa and Uganda. <a href="http://www.longevityforall.org/africa-aging-research-directory/">http://www.longevityforall.org/africa-aging-research-directory/</a></p>

MANAGER'S CONTACT INFORMATION:	
Name	Ilia Stambler, PhD
Professional Title	Project coordinator
Department	Israeli Longevity Alliance and Department of Science, Technology and Society
Institution	Bar Ilan University, Israel
Street/PO Box	Harashba 12
City	Rishon Lezion
Postal Code	7548306
Country	Israel
Telephone	972-3-961-4296 / 0522-283-578
E-mail	ilia.stambler@gmail.com
AFFILIATED INVESTIGATORS:	
Name	Email address
David Blokh	<a href="mailto:david_blokh@012.net.il">david_blokh@012.net.il</a>
Ilia Kreiman	<a href="mailto:ilia.kreiman@gmail.com">ilia.kreiman@gmail.com</a>