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Southern Africa Expert Meeting on the Rights of Older Women

Population ageing and the status of older women in Africa

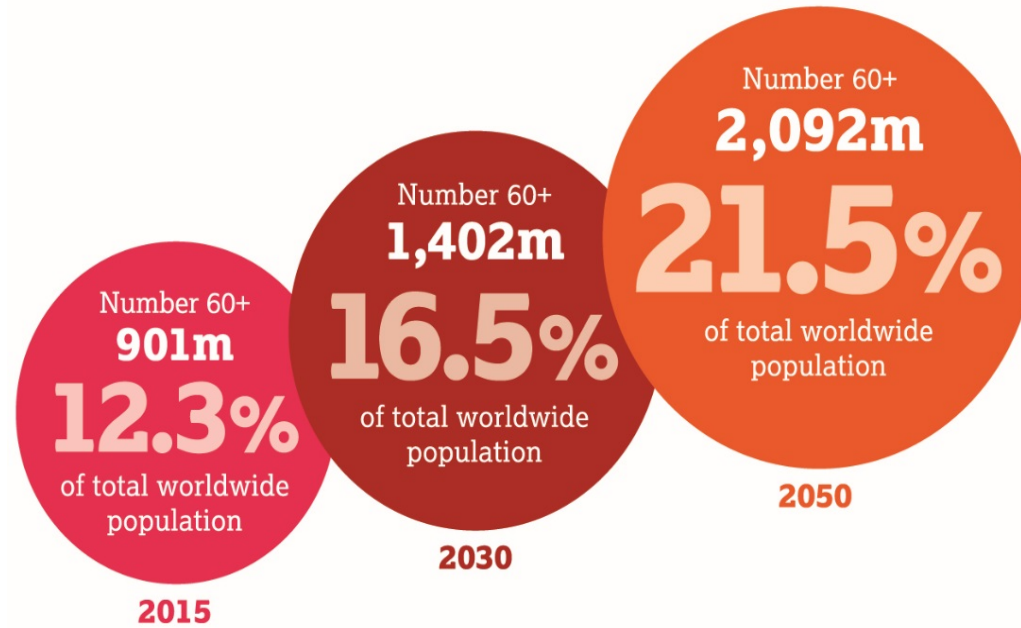
30th May 2018

Pretoria, South Africa

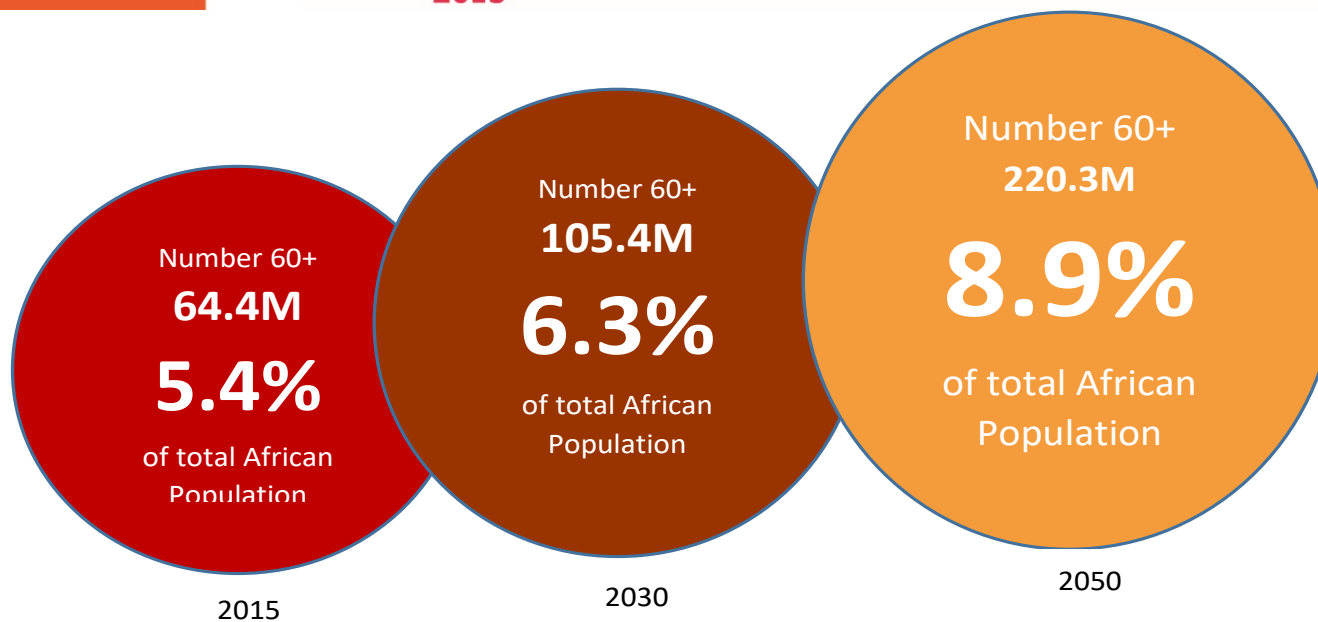
By Roseline Kihumba

International & Regional Policies Coordinator

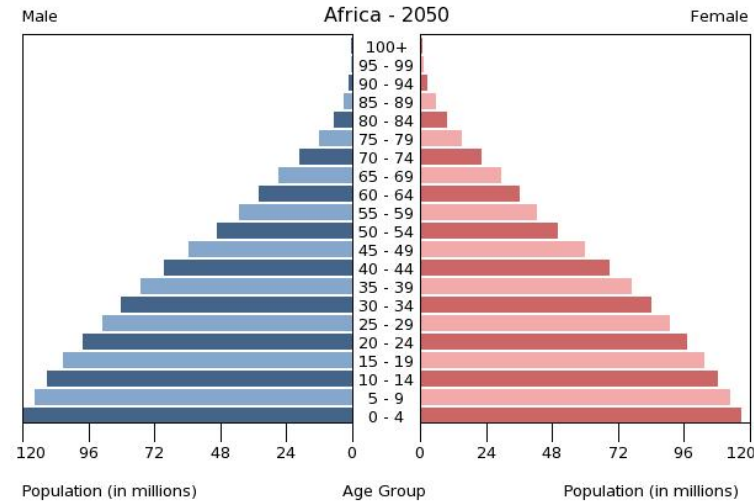
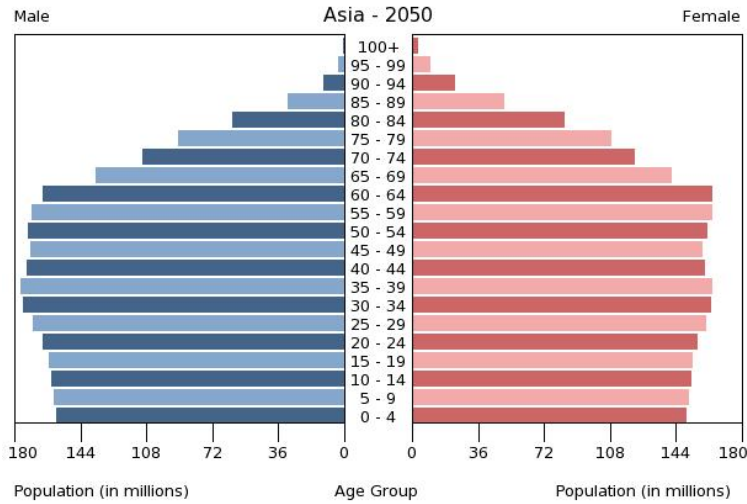
Speed and scale of population ageing



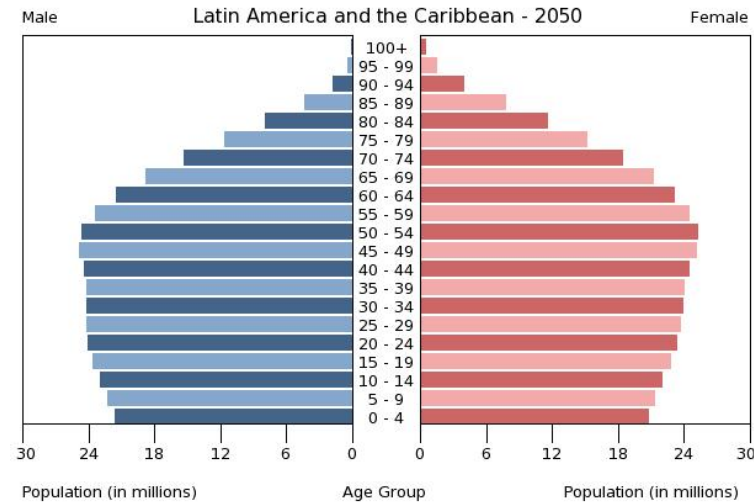
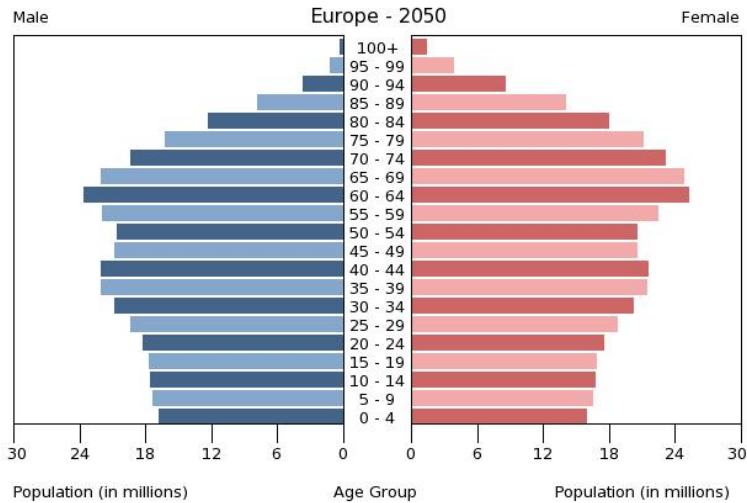
Global



Regional



2018



Absolute number of older persons 2010-2100, Africa and other world regions

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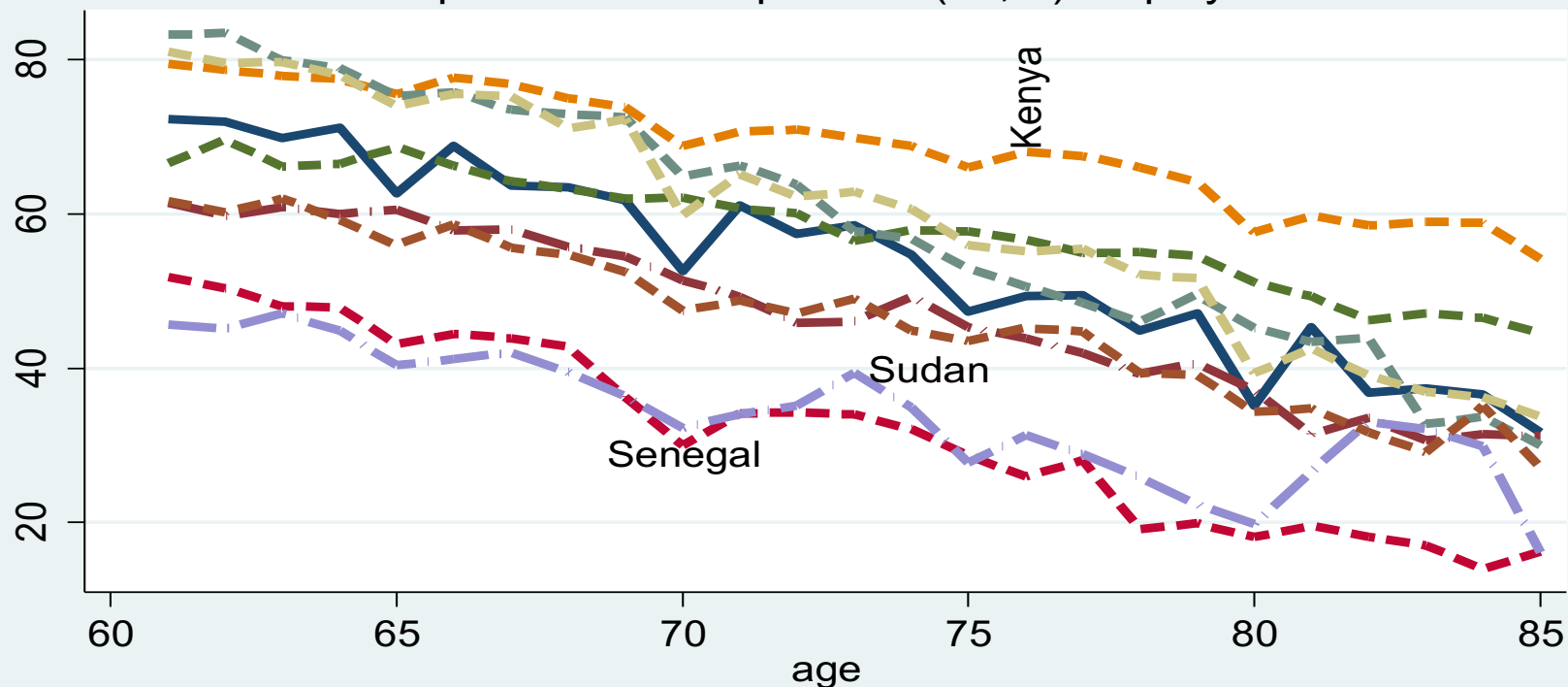
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	2010	2050	2100	Increase (x)
Africa	55	212	795	14.5
Asia	419	1,239	1,511	3.6
Latin America & Caribbean	59	196	268	4.5
North America	65	122	167	2.6
Europe	162	238	222	1.4

Source: UN Population Prospects. The 2012 Revision

Economic status and contribution

Old population employment-to-population ratio
Proportion of older persons (60, +) employed

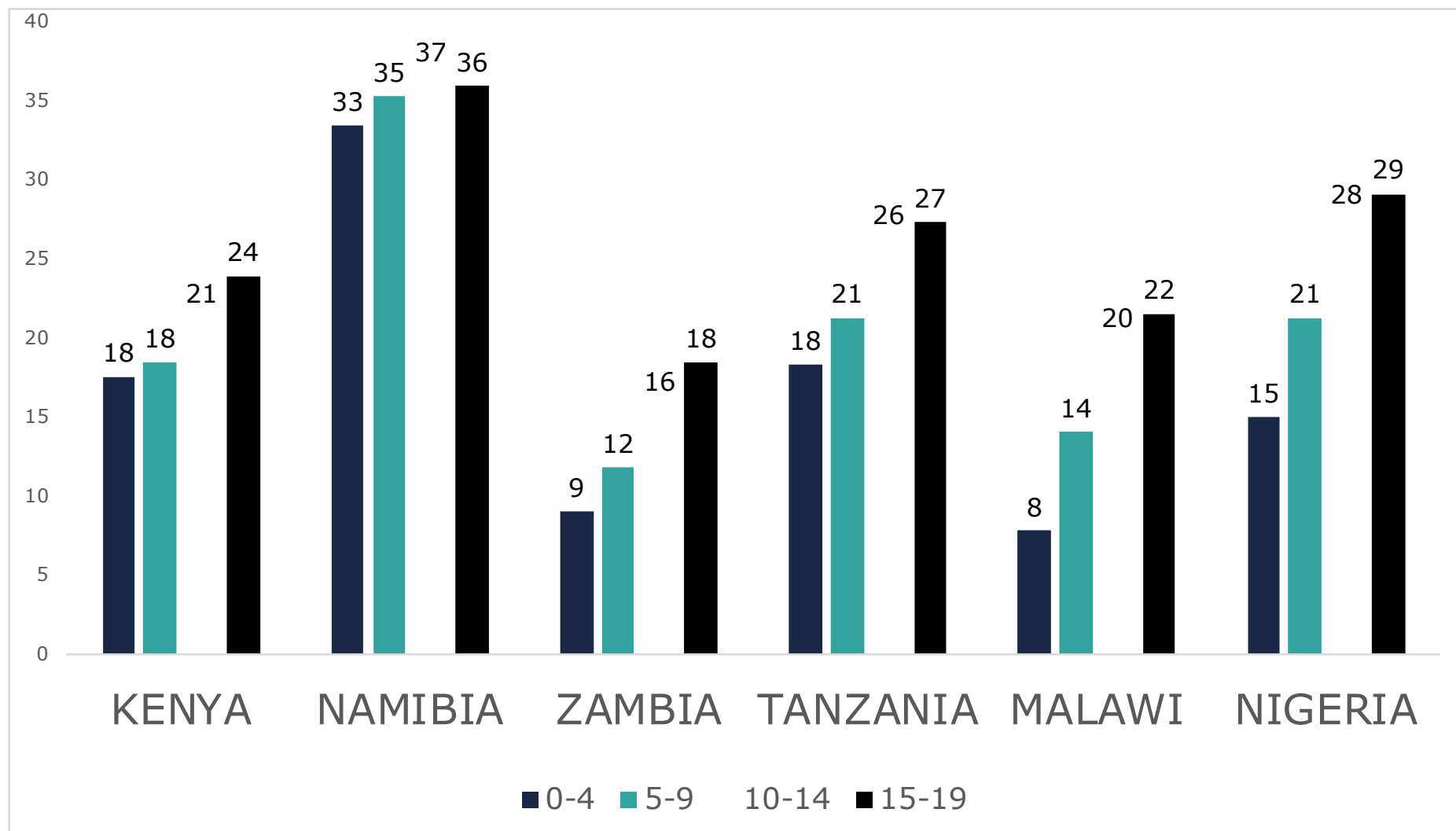


Data source: Minnesota Population Center. Integrated Public Use Microdata Series.
(Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 2013)

Share of children and adolescents living with an older person

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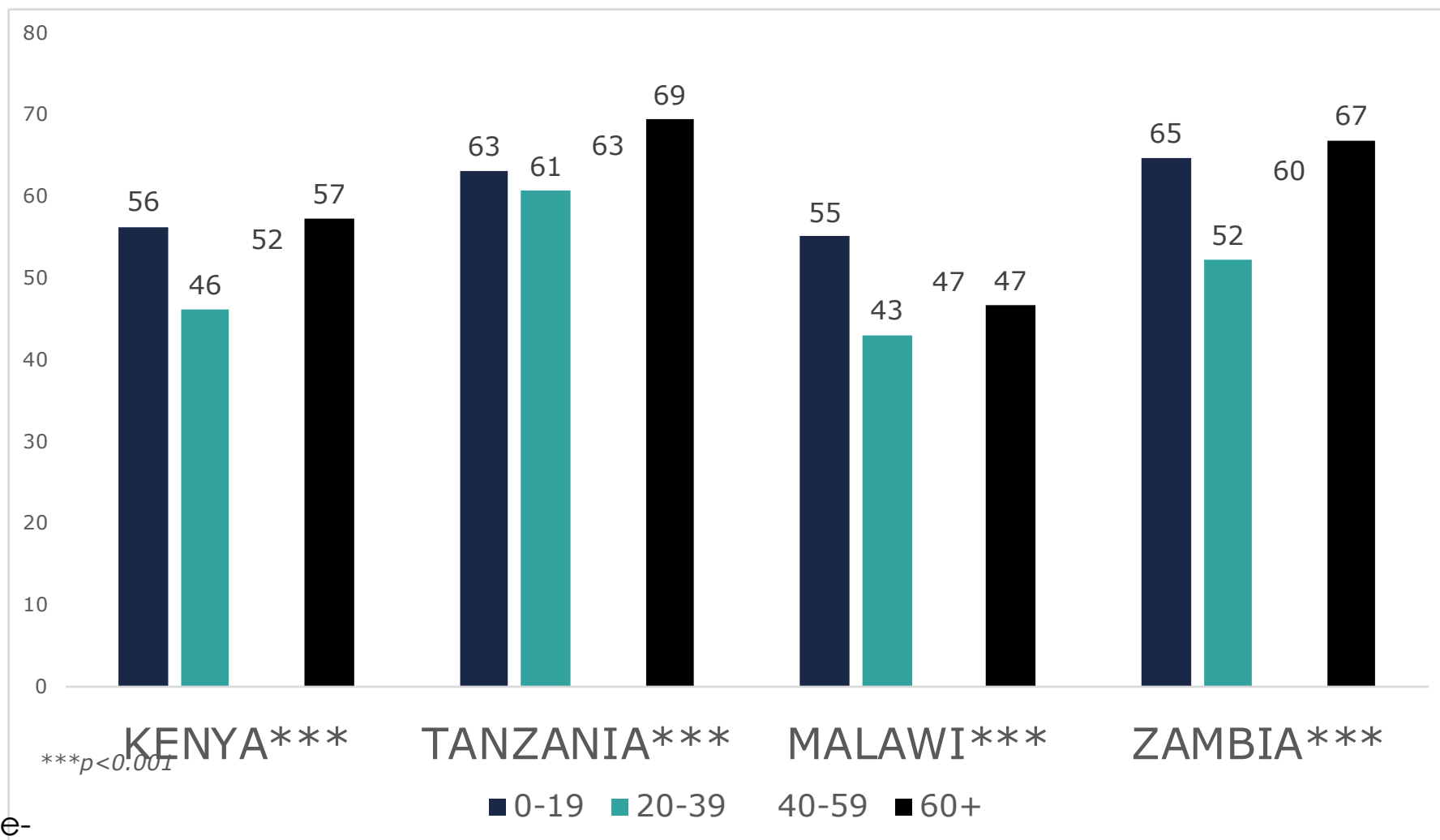


Source-
APHRC

Proportion living in absolute poverty by age group

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Source-
APHRC

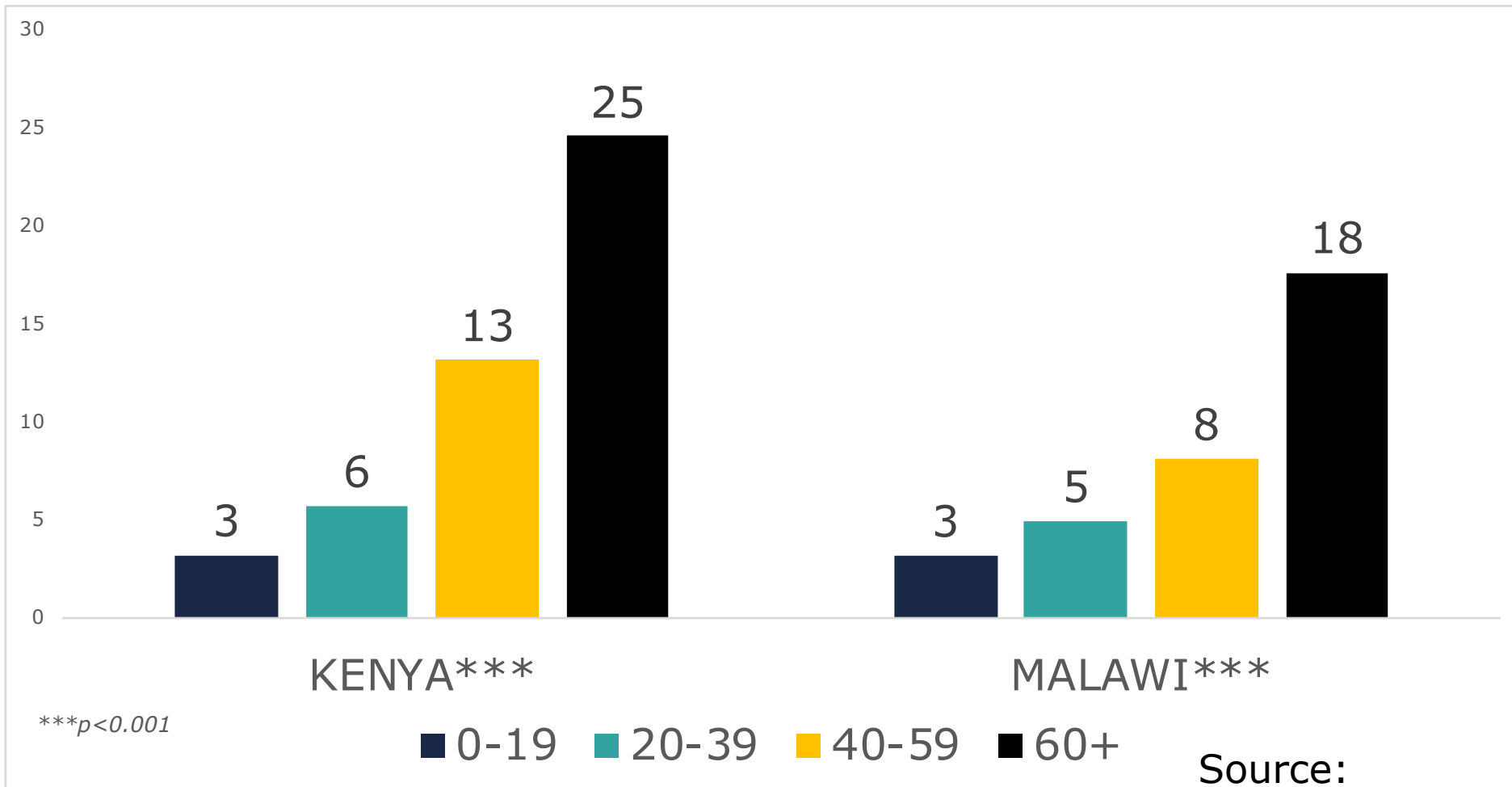
Health and wellbeing implication

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- Life Expectancy has greatly increased
- Decline in mortality among the elderly.
- Diverse on health issues –
 - Chronic diseases increase (neurological, heart disorder, musculoskeletal, deafness, blindness, dental, etc.)
 - Disabilities are common (physical, mental, social, nutritional)
 - High dependence on others
 - HIV/AIDs impact
 - HR Development weak
- Decline in functional capacity increasing demand for support and long-term care with majority of it provided by family members
- Emerging labour market shortages

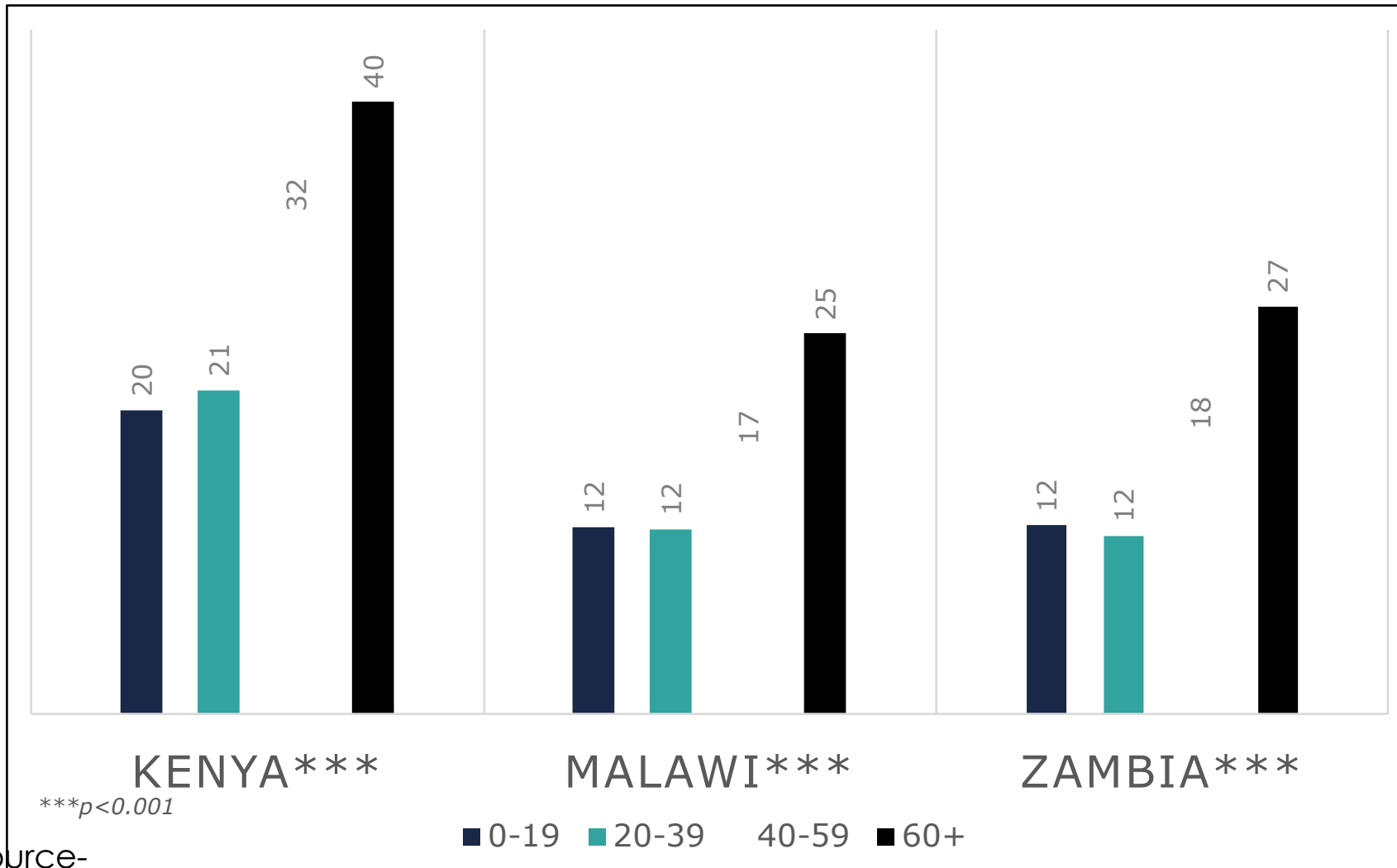
Proportion of population reporting chronic illness by age group



Proportion reporting recent sickness by age group – poor population

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Reality

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- Rate of increase is too high \ increase demand for resources to be allocated but
- Past **preoccupation with rapid population growth** overshadowed age composition
- More older people with better education and accumulated experience
- Countries ill-prepared to cope with health needs of the increased number of older persons (under funded, understaffed, under-supplied)
- Intersecting vulnerability
- Ageism
- Low awareness of the rights and entitlements of older people among older people and policy makers

Reality.....

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- Inadequate coordination and sharing learning platforms, financial allocation and technical capacity
- Marginal consideration of issues of older persons in mainstream development agendas and thinking:
 - *Assumed economic irrelevance*
 - *Assumed effectiveness of family systems*
 - *Focus on Africa's youthful population*
- Persistent, profound gaps in robust, national evidence on and understanding of situation and impacts of older population:
 - Narrowness (sample, instruments, analysis) of routine national surveys / administrative data collection
 - Lack of adequate specialized surveys and longitudinal studies

Policy trends and advances

Regional Level

- 2002 AU Plan of Action
- 2012 African Common Position on Older Persons Rights
- 2014 Ageing recognized as key trend in CAP post-2015
- 2015 Agenda 2063 and SDGs commitments
- 2016 AU Protocol on the Rights of Older Persons
- 2017 AU Common Position on Long Term Care
- 2019 AU SP Protocol development

Key policy advances trends

National Level

- Policy frameworks
- Legal provisions
- Reference to older persons in
 - Sectoral strategies
 - Development plans
- Emerging capacity building
- Specific programmes - rise of “social” pensions

Older women rights issues

- Care responsibilities
- Poor nutrition, insufficient attention to older women's sexual and reproductive health, a lack of affordable health care, and unequal access to the resources
- Intersecting discrimination - when different forms of discrimination overlap
- Gender related inequalities accumulate :
 - Level of education high illitrate level (58% compared to 34% for men over 65 years),
 - Access to information and services
 - Low participation in social, economic and political activities
- Older women live longer and experience challenges on property rights
- Failure of the human rights and women rights standards to articulate how they apply to older women and to the context of old age
- Lack of data availability and analysis for people beyond 49

Overall recommendations to promote rights of women

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- Recognize and support the multilayered nature of vulnerability (based on age, gender, disability, etc)
- Increase the visibility and participation of older women and their supporting organizations in women and human rights debates
- **Address gender inequalities through promotion of gender-sensitive and life-course approaches to** ensures older women and men receive an equitable share of services, opportunities, resources and influencing opportunities
- Reinforcing the importance of language – girls and women of all ages of the Beijing declaration and plan of action, recognition of need for gender equality across the life course.
- **Adopt, implement and strengthen enabling environment**
- **Amendments of laws**
- Administrative surveys and research studies to analyse and address the multiple forms of discrimination

Learning from leaders.....

- Economic growth alone does not contribute to wellbeing of older people
- Global index work reveals that long standing pensions, health care and education programmes are good foundation to wellbeing of older people
- Use of coordinated approach within and across sectors and civil society; Intergenerational; and Dialogue forums brings positive change
- Older people empowerment and structures – Creating the demand

What can be done better

- Increasing understanding and capacity in ageing and rights of older people – Policy makers and older people
- Eliminating ageism and promotion of intergenerational/life course approaches
- Improving the availability of data and evidence
- Donors, governments, UN and other institutions to increase financial allocation on ageing development
- The national indicators to be fit for purpose and age inclusive
- Coordination and regular review of ageing and older people frameworks at all levels
- Sector and planning processes at all levels to make deliberate efforts to include older people and report on their progress and challenges.
- Increase the visibility and participation of organisations of older people
- Implementation of regional and international commitments around older men and women's rights

Thank You

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