Report of the 2nd Technical Meeting of the Titchfield City Group on Ageing and Age-disaggregated data

Daejeon, Republic of Korea, 11-12 June 2019

Contents

1. Welcome and opening remarks

- Richard Pereira, Deputy Director of the Centre for Ageing and Demography based within the UK's Office for National Statistics, opened the meeting and thanked Statistics Korea (KOSTAT) for organising the event.
- Richard noted that the changing global population structure had highlighted need to build tangible strategies around the Global pledge to 'Leave no-one behind'.
- He reflected upon the first technical meeting in Chichester when John Pullinger, UK National Statistician, talked about the importance of making 'invisible populations visible', so they are recognised and considered. He was keen to promote the importance of age disaggregated data to aid this. The first meeting identified the main priorities and this second meeting is an important opportunity to drill down into the work and to bring to life the TCGA work plan objectives.
- Richard then introduced Dr. Shin-Wook Kang, Commissioner of KOSTAT who has led the statistical policy on Data Disaggregation on ageing in Korea. Dr Kang welcomed all to the 2nd Technical Meeting of the TCGA.
- The Republic of Korea has the fastest growing ageing population in the world and it is important to better understand their ageing society by building the right strategies to create an inclusive society.
- The challenge for us all as statisticians is to find the patterns and to examine them. The TCGA is an excellent vehicle for statistical cooperation in addressing the challenges of ageing.

2. Update on progress

- Sarah Crofts, ONS UK, provided an update on the progress made by the TCGA to date. She referred to the UN quote describing the aim of the group: "*The overall objective of the proposed Titchfield Group is to develop standardized tools and methods for producing both data disaggregated by age and ageing-related data, and to encourage countries to do so, by playing a leading role in the development and communication of new standards and methodologies*".
- International collaboration through attending and contributing to this technical meeting should lead to better data, leading to better decisions that then allow people to lead better lives.
- The TCGA started life in 2015, driven by HelpAge International and the UK's Department for International Development. The UN endorsement followed in March 2018, and the Chichester technical meeting was later that year. The formal TCGA Steering Group began meeting in January 2019 involving mostly NSOs but also advisory members from academia and civil society. Progress was reported to UNSC at its meeting in 2019. The TCGA will finish its work in 2023.
- Sharing of best practice is important for the TCGA and this was done last year through the sharing of country examples.
- Each of the 3 priority work strands: Assessment of current evidence, Conceptual framework, Standardisation and Harmonisation and the 3 non-priority ones: Horizon scanning, Alignment to SDG goals and other work, and Platform for sharing data and information will be discussed at this meeting.
- Promotion of the TCGA is also important for getting buy-in, so slides and materials are available for any participant to promote at events.

3. Update on work strands

Work Strand 1: Stocktaking of age-disaggregated data and ageing related statistics

Asghar Zaidi, Seoul National University, Korea, London School of Economics, UK, Oxford Institute of Population and Ageing, University of Oxford, UK gave the update.

The first objective of work strand 1 is to provide a thorough assessment of age disaggregated data in existing sources from selected countries. Ageing data covers multiple areas, not just demographic. This will inform a report from which recommendations can be made. The final goal for the work strand is to create a platform to share information, learning and good practice in relation to age-disaggregated statistics.

The specific goals of Work strand 1 are:

- Undertake a stocktaking review of the data availability within a limited number of representative themes
- Establish what data are available at a national level and identify any gaps and levels of comparability.
- The stocktaking will cover metadata only.
- Review the regularity of data collection and the balance between regularity and timeliness
- Non-official data sources can be included but we must keep in mind that the purpose of the TCGA is to support NSOs therefore official sources are the priority.

The key steps for Work strand 1 for this technical meeting are:

- To outline the approach for the stocktaking work
- To review the type of data available
- Make recommendations on how to develop a platform for sharing information
- Bring together any already completed work

The key questions are:

- Should the stocktaking focus on key themes only? If so, what should those themes be?
- Should the stocktaking focus on survey and census data only or also include administrative data? Or Big Data?
- Should the stocktaking be restricted to official data sources? If it should include non-official data sources, which ones?
- How should we undertake the stocktaking? Should there be a focal person in each country?
- What are the potential funding options?
- What is a realistic timeline for this work?

By the end of this meeting this information will be used to produce a scoping document outlining what work we want to do, how to do it, the timeline and who will help.

Work Strand 3: Conceptual and Analytical Framework

Update given by Ritu Sadana, World Health Organisation (WHO), who co-leads the work with Jeremiah Dery, Statistics Ghana. The aim of work strand 3 is to develop a detailed outline for a conceptual and analytical framework by October 2019 and draft by December 2019, ensuring

the voice of older adults drives direction and statistical content, and that their rights and needs are addressed. The framework should be a tool to capture theories, additional relevant ideas, conceptual basis and to exchange ideas. An analytical framework should support and guide collection and analysis of data.

At the last meeting, it was agreed to address 3 questions:

- What are the key concepts?
- How should those concepts be unpacked?
- How to demonstrate usefulness?

This work strand will aim to deliver a conceptual framework for ageing statistics (phase 1) building on the work already done. This should have a common language, better insight, rethinking ageing and think pieces on SDG indicators. Data from NSOs is needed to make the transformation - using the entire life course (80 years) - not inhibited by previous life spans, as life span has been increasing in all countries over this century. Current global investments do not match specific age groups - burden of disease in older age groups (refer to Ritu and Jeremiah's presentation for table details). Exciting work is already going on in some countries for example, Columbia is thinking about overlap between 'life stages', and how this may be more appropriate than age specific approaches.

For the conceptual framework, work should target; ideas on key policy issues so far, including all topics, not just health. Prior to the meeting, each NSO was asked to identify these in their country.

For analytical frameworks NSOs were asked to consider national and subnational reporting, SDG indicators and other metrics, impact and accountability. 15 delegates had already responded which enabled a good discussion basis for the workshop.

Work strand 5: Standardisation and Harmonisation Guidelines

Catherine Davies, ONS, (who is co-leading the strand alongside Italy) spoke about some of the UK's internal harmonisation work and the challenges they faced.

Two case studies helped to demonstrate examples of Harmonisation:

- Well Being - a straightforward example of Harmonisation. Questionnaire development and promoted for use in surveys and monitored.
- Homelessness statistics - different definitions were being used. Stakeholder analysis is important. There was different legislation across the UK but comparability can be improved by looking at harmonisation of outputs as inputs cannot be harmonised.

The workshop will revisit the aims and objectives, outputs and milestones and agree on smaller deliverables. Challenges identified include cultural differences e.g. legal issues and reluctance

to move away from existing standards, collaboration to share the work and communication to keep each other up-to-date and to not work in silos. The final goal of the work strand is to produce a guidebook of standardised methods and a library of tools.

Exercise on the non-priority work strands

Work strand 2: Horizon scanning

The main objectives of this work strand are to:

- Anticipate future data needs related to ageing populations
- Identify how well countries are set up to meet these needs
- Identify opportunities for improvements to data

Suggestions and questions raised in discussions were:

- The group could look at other agencies' work and bring in other stakeholders
- Objectives 1 and 3 are related and we can think about the use of data linkage here
- Investigating what tools are available and how other countries will (or won't) be able to use these
- The ECE Working Group on institutionalised populations should be examined
- Standardisation is needed for international terminology among institutions.
- Lesson can be learned from Australia who take their surveys directly into care accommodation and institutions.
- The data needs in the future will always be prone to change but reviewing and changing over time isn't practical so we will need to choose types and stick with them
- Likely issues affecting the elderly should be identified through looking at existing trends
- Different countries will experience different trends at different times
- We should seek best practice examples from countries that are more advanced
- New technologies should be addressed as they are discovered
- Need to monitor the other generations getting older to anticipate issues – their data requirements will likely be different
- OECD WDF are doing this exact same thing (horizon scanning) so we should learn from them
- It was suggested that the TCGA could prepare something to include in the October 2020 WDF
- TCGA to think about where big data can help to fill the data gaps
- Individual NSOs horizon scanning should be fed back into this work strand

Work strand 4: Alignment to SDGs

The purpose of the session was to take this work strand forward, reflecting on the objectives and deliverables.

The four objectives for this work strand are:

- Assess the data available to monitor the "Leave No-one Behind" pledge
- To interface with the IAEG on SDG indicators and to identify data needs to monitor the SDG framework for older people
- Contribute to harmonisation and standards for producing ageing related data for disaggregation of SDG indicators
- To pilot innovative approaches to overcome challenges faced by NSOs in relation to availability and presentation of SDG data in relation to older people

Suggestions and questions raised in discussions were:

- Identify the countries who are not disaggregating by age as there should be more available data
- What work has already been undertaken in relation to SDG indicators around older people? Should this work continue and if so, how are they adding value?
- Ensure no duplication with other work strands albeit there may be cross-over aspects
- Think about specific IAEG needs and how our work will feed into this
- Make sure that this work is joined-up with work strand 1, so that we are in a more informed position when looking at the IAEG processes
- SDG indicators will be reviewed in 2020 and space will be limited for extra indicators
- Identify an NSO SDG lead to engage with TCGA on this strand who ideally is involved in both the IAEG and the TCGA.
- Not all aspects of ageing are covered by the SDGs so it is difficult to use them to fully cover all aspects of ageing

A lot of the work for this strand is about talking to other work strands to ensure alignment to the SDGs and feeding that back. This led to the discussion of these possible ideas to be decided by the Steering group:

- A working group inside work strand 3
- A liaison person/group to align work of the TCGA with SDGs
- Steering committee taking on the responsibility
- This separate work strand should continue

Work strand 6: Platform for sharing data and information

Main objectives for this work strand are:

- To produce an accessible digital platform for sharing information internationally.
- To identify legal and ethical boundaries with such a platform
- To assess the suitability of potential platforms (e.g. Data Shield and SDMX)

From the group discussion:

- Should this work be split tactically and strategically? How does the platform contribute to the legacy of the TCGA, could it act as an archive or resource that countries could use in the future?
- Is the aim of the strand to have a standalone product, or should the platform exist only as only a tool for delivering the other work strands?
- The specification of the platform in unclear, i.e. what is the data and information that will be shared on the platform?
- Could it be a platform for sharing metadata/best practice only, or for signposting users to data sources and resources held elsewhere?

These strands will be covered over the coming years as the priority strands progress.

4. Workshops

A more comprehensive record of discussion from the workshop sessions was captured but ha been reduced in length in this report.

Work Strand 1: Stocktaking of age-disaggregated data and ageing related statistics

Should we also collect information on administrative data?

It was agreed we should not attempt to include this through a full stock take of all the available ageing related administrative data, however the value of including best practice around collection and use of administrative data was recognised.

Should we be restricted to official data?

While official data should be the starting point for assessing evidence, non-official data may be valuable for filling gaps in official data. The credibility of non-official sources and whether these should be included in the stock take should be decided by each country.

How should the assessment be undertaken?

A representative sample of around 10 to 15 countries will be selected and approached to take part in the stocktaking. NSOs should be approached in the first instance, but they may choose to work with other organisations in producing their response. A Terms of Reference document will be drafted setting out what will be asked of NSOs and what resources will be required. It

was noted that several countries had already produced high level snapshots of ageing and population data sources and that these should be made available.

What are the potential sources of funding?

Additional resource is required for the elements of this work not covered by the focal point of contact for the data collection for each country. Where this resource will come from is still to be determined. Voluntary contributions from other NSOs would be welcome. Alternative options include research council funding. Funding models from other city groups should be examined to help inform discussions.

What criteria should we measure assessment against?

The following options were discussed:

- Using a 'gold standard country' to assess other countries against. Such a country would be difficult to identify and could act as a disincentive and lead to reduced participation
- Measurement of alignment to an international policy framework, for example the SDGs, (it was noted that countries should be measuring their data against these already)
- Measurement against a bespoke ideal framework and a self-designed scoring mechanism
- The quality of data sources should also form part of the assessment
- It was agreed that assessment needs to be carried out by both the TCGA and the NSO. The TCGA to compare data availability across countries but NSOs will need to assess suitability of the data for their own policy needs
- It was emphasised that any template to be completed by countries needs to be as short as possible and easy to complete to maximise responses

Proposed high level timeline and deliverables

July 2019-
- Update scoping document to include decisions from this technical meeting
- Decide which countries will participate (look at existing volunteers and representation)
- Key themes signed off by the Steering Group

August 2019-
- Decide who will undertake analysis and interpretation of the stocktaking data

September/October 2019-
- Draft terms of reference for involvement from countries
- Check existing assessments, including information collected already for Work Strand 3
- Decide on the method of assessment
- Template design
- Secure buy-in and engagement from NSOs

January - March 2020
- ● Send out template and period for countries to respond

April 2020
- ● Analysis of data collected and assessment
- ● First draft of the report

May 2020
- ● Time for participating countries to comment on draft

June 2020
- ● Draft report ready for 3rd technical meeting

During the workshop, some of the participants were invited to discuss some of the work they had undertaken outside of the group that is of relevance and interest to this work strand and these are summarised below.

- • Jack Kupferman of Gray Panthers discussed a report by the US Federal Interagency Forum on Ageing Statistics that could provide a model for the stocktake of age related statistics
- • Verity McGiven of HelpAge International spoke about the priority areas set out in HelpAge's submission to the Interagency and Expert Group (IAEG) on SDG indicators
- • Karoline Schmidt, UNDESA, outlined the work done by Uganda, Kenya and Malawi in developing a new survey to fill data gaps and agreed to share the work.
- • Professor Arokiasamy spoke about the Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI) which was launched in 2016, highlighting its harmonisation against the HRS family of studies which are currently undertaken in 44 countries worldwide.
- • Asghar Zaidi spoke about work being done in Pakistan focusing on Human Rights issues that identified a gap in data availability and addressed it by learning from other work internationally.
- • Rintaro Mori of the UNFPA outlined their work in building a network of country offices, each with a focal point on population and ageing and offered their assistance in facilitating communications across regions for the TCGA.

Work Strand 3: Conceptual and Analytical Framework

Presentation from Jeremiah Dery

The challenge for Ghana is that most of the elderly population are found in the rural areas, with poor infrastructure to collect data, leading to a lack of care for older people. Coupled with a data gap in surveys for older ages, this leads to limited available information of some older populations. There are several policy challenges for Ghana relating to ageing, including: demographic dynamics, development challenge, fundamental human rights, poverty, health

challenges, the living environment and gender. Ghanaian Ministries are obliged to show how they reflect issues on older adults within their areas and an Ageing Bill is being created to enforce this. Jeremiah then detailed how Ghana is investigating SDG indicators related to older adults, and the information available in regards to this. An example of Ghana's response to the SDG spreadsheet circulated prior to the workshop was shown.

Presentation from Mongolia

Census is a key priority for Mongolia. The country has a low proportion of elderly population (6-7%) but it is growing, and there is a desire to start to measure the older adult population to improve the quality of information. There is a need for more systematic monitoring and to improve surveys for early monitoring. They attempt to align with SDG targets, and currently use an aggregated age group of 70+ for older adult data.

The presentations stimulated discussion about similar problems faced by NSOs around older adults. There was a discussion as to whether the SDG indicators are the best ones to use as they don't all cover ageing. It was agreed that other existing frameworks are to be investigated to understand if these can be used in addition.

Ritu provided some background on the National Case Studies, the main purpose of which is to support NSOs with a wide range of stakeholders and other institutions, and to raise awareness that there has been a WHO grant application to support national case studies. The purpose of the case studies is to improve the data in four areas:

- Main sources of data available
- Qualitative and quantitative assessment
- Bridging evidence to policy and action
- Impact wanted in country: for example, practices and learning for sharing

Outputs of these case studies will feed into a WHO meeting in Geneva on the 10/11 of October, which is an opportunity to share what countries are doing in this field and to enable different groups, technical experts and statisticians to discuss this work.

Overlap with work strand 4 was noted here and Ritu suggested that some help in analysing the completed spreadsheets would be helpful and will be discussed further by the Steering Group.

Presentation from Chirawan Matuam

Thailand's National strategy (2002 - 2021) on older adults contains five sub-strategies with 55 indicators without metadata. There was a summary of the SDG indicators relevant to Thailand indicating where information is or isn't available.

Some attendees had been confused by aspects of the SDG spreadsheet (sent in advance of the meeting). Jeremiah explained how to complete the spreadsheet and gave more information on each of the indicators and tiers included. This stimulated discussion on ways that the process could be improved and made easier.

Thinking about how the SDG spreadsheet could be used practically the group discussed possible next steps:

- Improve the existing spreadsheet by updating columns, removing non-population based rows and adding a comments/remarks column to provide context
- Need to increase the number of NSO responses to at least 40
- Compile information from those countries which supply data
- Analysis of gaps in the data for themes pertinent to ageing issues
- What information that is important at country level could be used to identify any gaps?
- Analysis of consultations of older people with a compilation

A final list of actions resulting from both days discussion was agreed as:

Conceptual framework tasks:

1. Remind NSOs who have not submitted national priorities on ageing to do so within 2 months - Ritu and Jeremiah
2. Provide an example of the required level of detail to all TGCA WS3 members, concept note on case study - Ritu by end of June. This should be at least 2 levels - i.e. Theme and the Subtheme. Addition of a third level is useful if NSOs choose to do this, but not mandatory
3. Identify regional frameworks, including the 2016 Recommendation on ageing statistics - Pascal Wolff (Eurostat) volunteered to work with Rintaro Mori (who was suggested by Ritu as a potential interested party)- to be completed by mid-August
4. Review the Active Ageing Framework – Sooyoung Kim KOSTAT by mid-August
5. Review the SDG framework - Jeremiah and Ritu by mid-August
6. Review regional frameworks from MIPAA - Julia Ferre by mid-August
7. Review of what consultations of older people are available - Verity by mid-August
8. Review of what NSOs have provided as national priorities- Sharon by mid-August
9. Analysis of the different perspectives identified above to be completed by September - Jeremiah, Ritu, Verity, Pascal, Julia, Maria, Kazakhstan to collaborate

   - What are the commonalities?
   - What are the differences?
   - Initial proposal for the outline for the conceptual framework

10. Telephone conference call in the 1st week of October
11. Peer review of National Case Studies - Thailand and Ghana to participate (Geneva, October 10/11)

12. Discuss with Steering Group for on signing off outline so initial draft can be produced by December 2019
13. Convert the outline into a draft

Analytical framework tasks, this will be drafted for next year's meeting

1. Improve and redistribute the existing SDG spreadsheet – September
2. Update spreadsheet based on comments. Remove non-population-based rows, add in comments column to provide context, add further description for each of the column headings - Ritu and Jeremiah
3. Redistribute the update spreadsheet and request feedback from TCGA members who have not yet responded to the SDG sheet – Jeremiah
4. Compile responses with supplied data - Izabel, Reiko and Jeremiah
5. Analysis of gaps in the data for themes pertinent to ageing issues (i.e. indicators that aren't included in the SDGs) - Izabel, Pascal and Reiko- to be started in January after completion of the draft conceptual framework
6. Review national priorities in relation to national reporting as potential indicators for the analytical framework - these may not be covered by SDG indicators - Maria and Denmark
7. What information is important at the country level that could be used to identify gaps?

General admin/strategic work

1. Provide latest work stream updates produced for Steering Group to all TGCA members
2. When sending requests to NSOs include the DG in a copy
3. Ghana to consider ways to increase channels of influence
4. Recommendation to Steering Group to review specific pieces of each work strand to prevent duplication of work
5. Find a way to contact people working on work strand 3. ONS UK to do this. Preference for a single email containing all the information from the 5 strands in the conceptual framework which will require someone to produce a harmonised document

Other workstream members' additional comments

● Could members of other work strands be involved at some time in the future?
● Do we still need an analytical framework if we have a conceptual framework?
● There are links to the harmonisation work and it fits well that the proposed deadlines are earlier than the other work strands as other groups will need to consider this conceptual framework to aid their own work
● What is the recognised age of 'older person"? What do we mean by 'ageing'? This should be in the conceptual part of the framework
● Karoline offered to review any material including a technical review of the framework. There is a report available which she can share

Work strand 5: Standardisation and Harmonisation Guidelines

Catherine Davies recapped the objectives and the overview of the work strand and went on to discuss definitions of both standardisation and harmonisation. She outlined the ethnic group UK Census question as an example; the questions are different but can be aggregated up to get a standardised answer.

Catherine highlighted the existing milestones for this work strand:

- Draw on lessons from organisations who have already harmonised measures and developed guidelines (March 2020)
- Work with work strand 1 on assessment of current data and sources on levels of current harmonisation and standardisation (March 2021)
- Guidance to countries on standard approaches to enable global comparisons, inequality analysis, projection approaches (March 2022)
- Develop library of tools for countries to use in data collection and analysis to facilitate standardisation and harmonisation (March 2022)

The proposed outputs are:

- A guidebook setting out principles for countries to adopt, relating to definitions of age and ageing related statistics and methodological approaches, e.g. single years of age, a life course approach, use of administrative as well as survey data sources
- Develop a standardised method of measuring SDGs globally for older people
- Develop and collate library of tools that provide protocols, frameworks, constructs and indicators

Aims of workshop session:

- Make progress towards first milestone (due March 20)
- Identify smaller deliverables to contribute towards key milestones

Clarification of the meaning of standardisation and harmonisation was suggested.

Questions addressed in a group discussion exercise:

- What concepts and definitions should be considered?
- What types of data should we prioritise?
- What degree of harmonisation are we aiming for?
- What are our key priorities for this work strand?
- What are our key challenges for this work strand?

Feedback from the group discussion was as follows:

Concepts and definition:
- Health concepts/definitions i.e. depression isn't standardised; prospective ageing measures could better define older people
- Labour - definition of activity
- Environment living in - transport etc.

Types of data to prioritise:
- Administrative data because it has continuity compared to surveys where there are greater gaps in time
- The data needs to be consistent with the question we are trying to answer

What degree of harmonisation should we be aiming for:

- Trying to standardise the concept/definition but it is then up to NSOs to measure these in different ways
- We should guard against impacting quality when harmonising
- Guidance for those choosing to measure certain variables should set some parameters for people to work within but cannot impose methods on countries
- Guidance should include something for those starting the process how they should begin and how they should keep going once they get started
- Guidance for a couple of approaches or to include a set of case studies/examples to show how it might work in practice
- Create a live document which countries can update with their own approach, so the onus isn't all on the work strand leads

Key challenges:
- Cultural differences and differences between countries such as funding but also demographics
- To assess guidelines that already exist/guidelines that different NSOs may have
- Need to agree on minimum data quality standards as harmonisation may result in data quality issues
- Harmonising data of different levels of quality/data availability
- Who are the users that we are aiming for? Is there enough awareness of this work and will it be picked up by our intended users?

Milestone**:**
- Draw on lessons from organisations who have already harmonised measures and developed guidelines (March 20)

To tackle this milestone participants described the level of harmonisation in each organisation:

- UK - guidelines and principles for harmonisation for a number of variables e.g. hierarchical age bands used across the government
- KOREA - different definitions of age are used - thinking about bringing in some standardisation. 65 and over definition sometimes used but no standard questions.
- PAKISTAN - no standardisation as it is not seen as a priority issue.
- ITALY - no guidelines
- SOUTH AFRICA - survey harmonisation division means most questions are harmonised but there is nothing specific for ageing. Single of year of age normally used.
- JAPAN - no common standards. Different bands used for different surveys
- WHO - there is a guidance document with harmonisation is one section.
- KENYA - no set standards, Census usually done by single year of age and then 80+. Other agencies who provide data give some guidance but mostly around migration.
- CHINA - Gender / education / employment are harmonised but guidelines not shared
- ANTIGUA - No age related standardised methods though census/surveys have some standards procedures are set. Idea to use the SDGs as a launch pad to try to set some standards.
- UNDESA - 60 and over the unofficial UN definition of an older person mainly driven by retirement age. Some guidance is out there.

Feedback on discussion on:

Milestones
- Better define standardisation and harmonisation
- Agreement of constructs to be measured
- Aim to do an audit of countries current methods - use international stats organisations (EUROSTAT) to help with this
- Work with work strand 3 to identify concepts
- Identify what is already out there and what can be learned from it
- Ensure communication is good with other work strands so that there is no duplication
- Possibly introduce a milestone on sustainability/legacy of the work
- Important to have an output around SDGs as they are the basis of the work

Challenges
- Minimum standards for data quality standards - report on reliability and validity of harmonised statistical measures
- There should be global standardised categories that can be harmonised by individual responses using their individual response questions to reflect country differences

Outputs:
- Need clarity over exactly the output we want to produce
- Should it be a standard method or good practice guidance with many examples of good practice? Or a mix of the two?

- Language important - good to give a range of tools as to not impose one practice

Having a working group:
- Important to have representation from around the world
- The group should not be too big, so control can be maintained but members need to remain committed
- The delegates from Pakistan and Italy agreed to volunteer

Agreed Next steps:

- Clarifying milestones and outputs (September 2019)
- Create a working group - devise a Terms of Reference document to be submitted to the Steering Group (2019)
- Produce detailed working plan of how the working group will break down the milestones into smaller deliverables and achieve them (onwards)

Other workstream members additional comments

- Aim should be to set minimum core constructs to be harmonised as a priority
- Select relevant SDGs as the basis for harmonisation as there is already buy-in for these
- Reduce burden on the country by focusing in on top 3 asks to try to deliver on

5. Country Examples

Data integration in Australia - using data linkage to answer policy questions for older Australians

- Data currently comes from the Census, household surveys, administrative sources and integrated datasets
- Data Integration Project Australia (DIPA) is an Australian Government initiative to maximise the value and use of Government data through integration.
- The multi-agency data integration project (MADIP) is a partnership between government agencies designed to securely link important datasets, maximise the value of existing data and reveal new insights. Such data can be used to inform policy, produce official statistics and be accessed by academia.
- Use of administrative data has given rise to a number of challenges such as data in varying formats and metadata that needs to be understood.

Register based Statistics Relevant to Older Persons (Turkey)

- The Turkish Address Based Population Registering System (ABPRS) was created in 2006, prior to which data came from a civil registration system based on family ledgers.
- The ABPRS matched the data previously held to a full enumeration of addresses, thus allowing population size and characteristics to be produced annually from 2007.
- The National Education Database was also established in 2006 by TurkStat by linking the ABPRS with data from the Ministry of Education and the Higher Education Council. This allowed the production of annual statistics on literacy and education.
- The death notification system was created in 2012, to which TurkStat have access and were able to use to produce statistics on cause of death.
- There are a number of difficulties in registers of older persons including cross comparison between different registers, unreported deaths and unstandardised alumni records.
- When improving registers there are advantages such as producing continuous information annually at lower cost and disadvantages such as the data not being controlled by the NSO.

Using administrative data to improve the evidence on older people (UK)

- ONS receives death registration data from the General Registry Office and uses it to produce life tables, estimates of the very old (EVOs) and to validate the age at death of supercentenarians (people aged 110 or over).

- Regular mid-year population estimates (MYE) in the UK are capped at 90+ due to increasing unreliability of the accuracy of age data at very old ages. Applying the Kannisto-Thatcher method to death registration data allows ONS to distribute the 90+ totals in the MYE to produce reliable single year population estimates to age 104 years (capped at 105+). There is great public interest in this information in addition to it being of value to different government departments, for example, the EVOs are used as a denominator in the official dementia prevalence rates..

- Because death registration certificates also provide information on age, gender, occupation, cause of death and place of death, ONS can not only validate ages of death for supercentenarians it also breaks down the statistics of those dying from age 105 and over by over by these characteristics to look for patterns over time in longevity..

6. Working together

What has worked well

- Breaking the work into strands has helped move things along.

- The newsletter has been valuable for keeping those who are not members of the steering group involved and informed.

What has not worked well

- Getting broader participation in the work beyond the steering group.
- The wiki has experienced technical issues which have meant some people have not been able to access it.
- Some participants would have liked more information on the content of the workshops prior to attending the 2nd technical meeting. They would have benefitted from being told what questions to think about in advance of attending to enable greater participation in discussion.
- It was commented that the focus of TCGA work appears to have moved away from age-disaggregated data to data in general. Because the SDG target is specifically on the disaggregation of data by age it was suggested perhaps this should be in its own strand. Others felt that disaggregation of data was covered across all strands.
- In some cases, there was quite significant overlap and duplication of discussions between work strands.
- For somebody who didn't attend the 1st technical meeting they didn't get a sense of the link between the first and second meetings.

How could we improve how we work together?

- Sending out more reminders to TCGA group members in case emails have been missed
- Have regional champions who could cascade communications or take responsibility for engaging countries in their area.
- Overlap in workshop content could be avoided by work strands meeting to discuss content before the technical meetings.

The above notes are from a small group discussion. A further survey to capture feedback from all attendees is to be sent out after the meeting.

7. Closing remarks

- Rich Pereira thanked attendees for their enthusiasm and contributing fully to the discussions. The Steering Group meeting tomorrow will attempt to address the issue of overlapping work strands. As the previous few meetings were very focused on the planning for this event, the next couple will be more focused on the delivery of the work.

- The final report will aim to be delivered to the Steering Group in 2 weeks and the newsletter is to continue to keep people informed of progress. All slides from the meeting will be circulated and there will also be an outgoing feedback survey.
- Rich rounded off by saying that it was a productive couple of days, albeit slightly tiring and reiterated his appreciation to the attendees. Final thanks were given to KOSTAT for the great venue and fantastic organisation, the work strand leads and the rapporteurs.