The African Research on Ageing Network is a UN-endorsed collaborative network that brings together African and international institutions and individuals from academia, policy and practice. It was established in April 2005.

Network Mission

AFRAN provides a platform for exchange and capacity building between network members and forges collaborative research and training initiatives undertaken by AFRAN members in partnership with the Oxford Institute of Population Ageing.

AFRAN draws on directions and approaches identified by the strategic plan and framework for research on ageing in sub-Saharan Africa that was developed as an outcome of the April 2005 Oxford Conference on Research on Ageing in Africa.

AFRAN Database of Literature on Ageing in Africa

A major factor impeding research and knowledge utilisation in the field of ageing in Africa is the difficulty faced by African scholars and professionals in identifying and accessing relevant published material.

To this end the AFRAN has, with generous support from the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG), established a centralised database providing free access to electronic full-text copies of the relevant literature for AFRAN members.

The following themes are broadly covered by the database, which is continuously updated: Population dynamics; Poverty and Social Protection; Health issues, including HIV/AIDS; Family and Intergenerational Relationships; Human Rights.

AFRAN Events

- 2013 – Potchefstroom, South Africa; Global Social Initiative Expert Workshop on Families and Ageing in Africa
- 2012 – Cape Town, South Africa; IAGG Conference: Africa Region Conference of Gerontology and Geriatrics
- 2009 – St. Gallen, Switzerland; World Demographic Association, ILC-SA special session on Ageing-related health challenges in the poor developing world
- 2008 – Johannesburg, South Africa; South African Human Rights Commission UN (INIA) in situ training course on Social Gerontology in South Africa
- 2008 – Abuja, Nigeria; 1st AFRAN Health Research Policy Dialogue
- 2006 – Copenhagen, Denmark; International Federation on Ageing Global Conference: Dedicated sessions on Old Age and Ageing in Africa: Understanding Implications; Shaping Opportunities

Figure: Old-Age Dependency Ratios (Age 65+ / Age 15-64), estimated and projected (UN 2013)

Figure: Projected relative increase in the numbers of the over 60 population – compared to a 2010 baseline – in African regions and rest of world (UN 2013)


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