Older people’s inclusion in the SDGs is essential to leave no one behind

At the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a promise to ‘leave no one behind’ and to reach the furthest behind first. This entails ensuring that every individual, including every older person, is included in development efforts.

By 2030, one in six of us will be over 60. Population ageing is one of the most significant dimensions of global demographic change, yet older people continue to face discrimination and exclusion as a result of their age, gender, disability or other characteristics. Societies must adapt their policies and services to respond to the changing age structure of their populations if they are to deliver the promises of the SDGs.

Governments must adopt age-friendly policies that realise older people’s rights and tackle ageism, so everyone benefits equally from the SDGs.

Age-disaggregated data are essential for inclusion and accountability

Older men and women – often overlooked – must be counted and included in statistical systems, and at all stages of data collection, analysis and use.

Governments must remove age caps in data collection; ensure data is disaggregated and reported at a minimum by age, gender, disability and location; and support the Titchfield City Group on Ageing.

Find out more at: www.helpage.org