

# HelpAge International's sex- and age-disaggregated data methodology

## How to estimate the percentage of older people in the total population

Age	Male	Female	Total male and female population
50-59 years	Total sum (% of total population)	Total sum (% of total population)	Total sum
60-69 years	Total sum (% of total population)	Total sum (% of total population)	Total sum
70-79 years	Total sum (% of total population)	Total sum (% of total population)	Total sum
80+ years	Total sum (% of total population)	Total sum (% of total population)	Total sum
Total	Total sum (% of total population)	Total sum (% of total population)	Total sum

The use of sex- and age-disaggregated data (SADD) is essential for humanitarian programmes, advocacy and learning. The application of the following SADD methodology will enable response teams to understand the demographic composition, profile and number of the older population that may be affected by conflict or natural disaster.

## How and where to collect SADD

It is unlikely that you will find accurate nationally produced SADD in many countries or regions, so you must make demographic projections through estimates that will be close to real figures.

You can use data produced by the National Institute or Bureau of Statistics if the census provides detailed information by sex, age and administrative boundaries, and is no more than five years old. Unfortunately a lot of national statistical information is neither updated nor accurate, and in some contexts can even be influenced by political considerations. In an emergency, when time may be very limited, two alternative sources of information may be used to produce quality demographic projections.

## Data provided by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), Population Division

### How to use UNDESA data to produce national SADD estimates

Follow this link:

<http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Excel-Data/population.htm>

It will lead you to the UNDESA World Population Prospects where you will find updated population estimates disaggregated by country, sex, age, population density and dependency ratios. Open the Excel files, search for the relevant country and find the estimates on older age groups.

### How to estimate SADD

Having found the relevant country and the most recent year's data, you can calculate the percentage of older people from the total population and fill in the table above.

You will see that some countries in the UNDESA database have estimates for the 80+ and 90+ age ranges. In these cases, we recommend using 80+ as the cut-off.

## How to estimate SADD for specific geographical or administrative areas

Once you have a nationwide estimate, you can estimate the percentage of older people in the population in specific areas of the country. All you need is an estimate of the total population for the area of interest, and to apply the national percentages of older people to that area.

## Data provided by *The World Gazetteer*

If you cannot obtain reliable population estimates from country-based information sources, you can use *The World Gazetteer*, by following this link: [www.world-gazetteer.com](http://www.world-gazetteer.com)

*The World Gazetteer* provides a breakdown of population data for countries and offers related statistics for different administrative divisions, areas, cities, towns and maps in English, French, Spanish and German. It will provide you with quality estimates that you can disaggregate later.

### Always remember

You should make both a lower and higher estimate of the numbers of older people (60+) potentially affected by the crisis.

You can establish estimates based on the initial reports issued by the media, UN, INGOs etc of the numbers of people affected by the crisis. Estimates will vary depending on the crisis; for example your lower estimate may show 30-50 per cent of the older population has been affected by a crisis and 60-80 per cent affected as the higher estimate. In some cases these estimates may equal 100 per cent, for example when assessing refugee or IDP camps with defined populations.

Estimating the size of the older population affected by a crisis is not an exact science. However, it can form very important messages to share with humanitarian actors and decision makers in the initial stages of an emergency response.