



13 OCTOBER 2014  
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION  
RESILIENCE IS FOR LIFE



**UNISDR**

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

---

# International Day for Disaster Reduction 2014

---

*‘Resilience is for life’*

---

*UNISDR Regional Office for Africa*

---



# Impact of Disasters

- Direct economic losses from disasters so far this century are 50 percent higher than previous estimates: USD 2.5 trillion
- Total direct losses in 40 low and middle income countries amount to USD 305 billion over the last 30 years
- Impact in Africa:
  - 1970 to 2012, 0.7 million lost lives and economic damages of USD 26.6 billion
  - In 2012, over 37 million people in Africa were directly affected by a total of 147 recorded disasters
  - 13 million people in Horn of Africa and 16 million in the Sahel suffered from droughts during 2011-12





# Does disaster affect all equally?

---

- **Hurricane Katrina (2005)**: 75 percent of those who died were aged over 60 (even though this age group comprised only 16 percent of the local population)
- **Japanese tsunami (2011)**: 56 percent of those who died were 65 and over, despite this age group comprising just 23 percent of the population

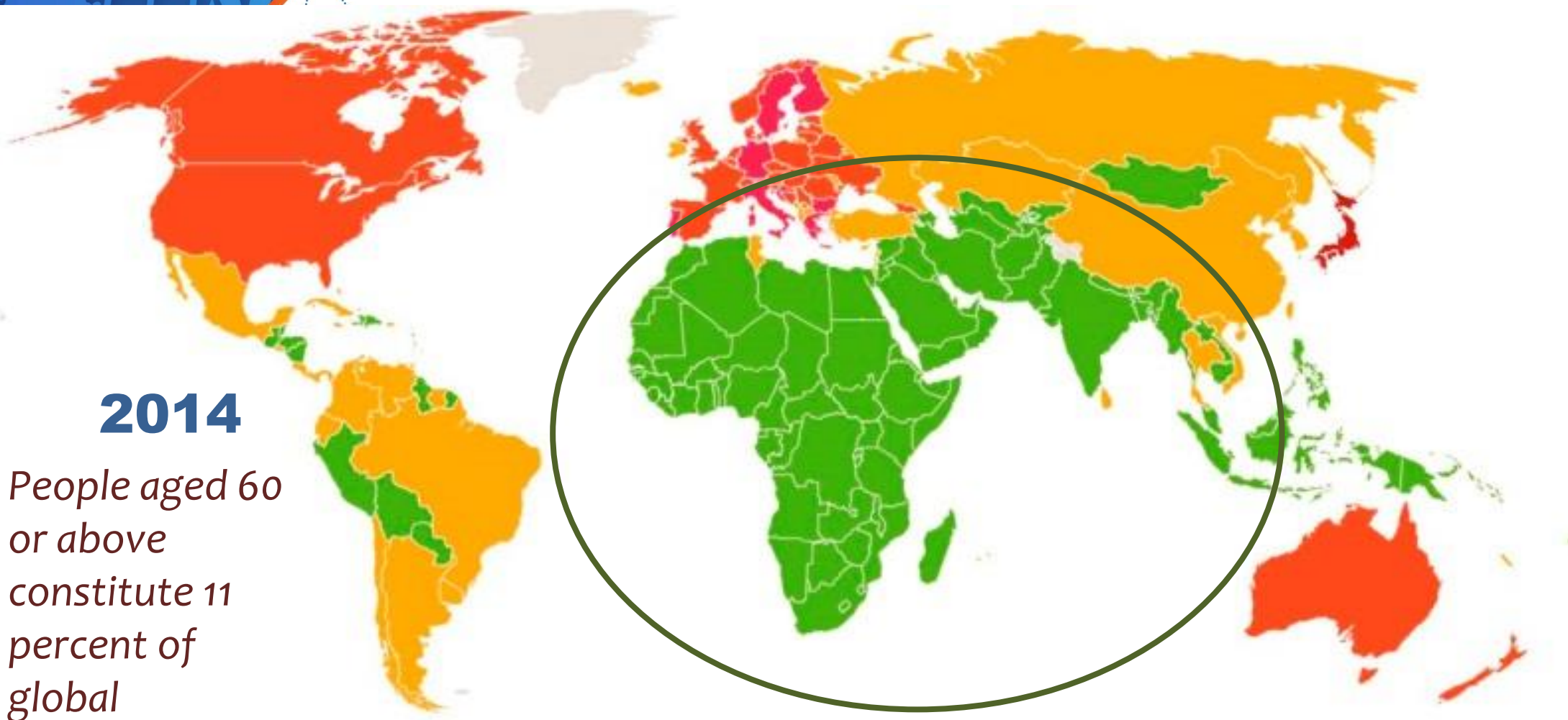
## *Populations are ageing most rapidly in developing countries:*

- *Currently home to 60 percent of the world's older people*
  - *projected to rise to 80 percent by 2050*
-

# The global ageing population

**2014**

*People aged 60 or above constitute 11 percent of global population*



**Proportion of Population aged 60 or Above**

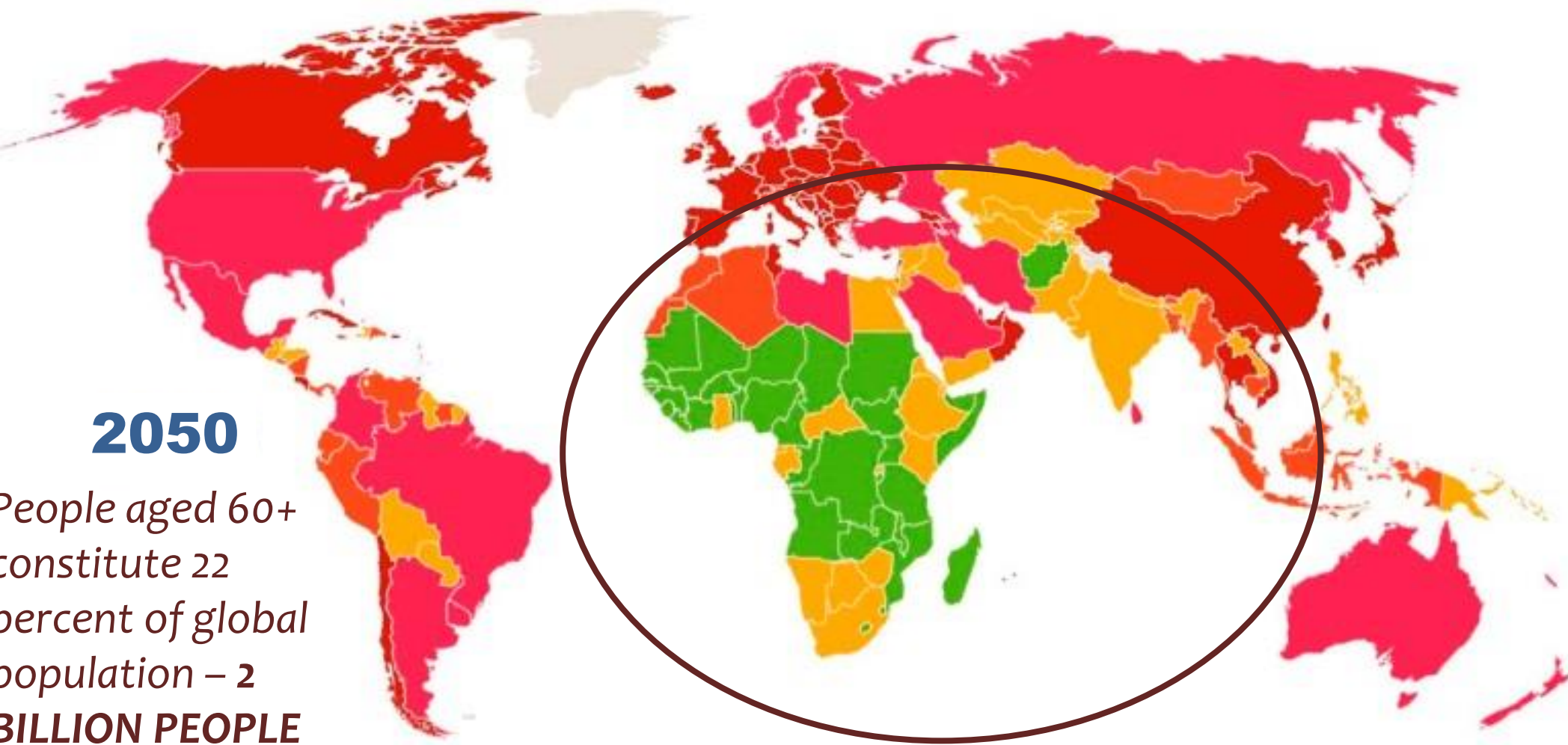


Source: HelpAge International

# The global ageing population

**2050**

People aged 60+ constitute 22 percent of global population – 2 **BILLION PEOPLE**



Proportion of Population aged 60 or Above



Source: HelpAge International



# What makes older persons more vulnerable to disasters?

- Ageing: physical decline including poor health, mobility, sight and hearing
- Lack of provision of adequate services, both on a regular basis as well as emergency situations
- Social exclusion of older persons and discrimination associated with age
- Higher poverty levels, exacerbated by lack of social protection and livelihood opportunities

HelpAge International (2014), Disaster Resilience in an Ageing World



# Older Persons an Asset for DRR

Older persons have a lifetime of experience, knowledge and skills

- Store-house of indigenous and traditional knowledge: A valuable source of information of disasters and risk management
- Acting as community champions for DRR
- Strong agents of change for the next generation

HelpAge International (2014), Disaster Resilience in an Ageing World'





# IDDR – A Momentum for Older Persons



- Survey of older persons and governments on issues related to ageing and DRR
- Charter 14 for Older People in Disaster Risk Reduction
- Social Media:
  - Twitter - <https://twitter.com/unisdr> #IDDR
  - <https://www.facebook.com/UNISDR?ref=hl>

[www.unisdr.org/2014/iddr](http://www.unisdr.org/2014/iddr)





# Preliminary Results from the Survey (15-31 August 2014)

---

## **Perceptions of older persons**

- Climate-induced disasters the greatest threat (floods 62%, cyclones 46%/typhoons 36% and heat waves 37%)
- Challenges: Mobility and Capacity; resources for preparedness; Awareness
- Capable but need social support system (70% wish to explain to disaster planners about the special needs and vulnerabilities of older persons)

## **Perception of Governments and Decision-Makers**

- Earthquakes and landslides bigger threats to older persons
- Challenges: Mobility; Eyesight and hearing; Lack of access to information; and Low income
- Need for improved and disaggregated data collection to better understand special requirements of older persons



UN World Conference on  
Disaster Risk Reduction  
2015 Sendai Japan



*Thank you for  
your attention!*



**UNISDR**

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

UNISDR Regional Office for Africa

[www.unisdr.org/africa](http://www.unisdr.org/africa)

**HelpAge  
International**

*age helps*