

## **Terms of reference for WHO-NIA IAG Advisory Group for the WHO Study on global AGEing and Adult Health (SAGE)**

### *Background*

SAGE is a multi-country longitudinal study on ageing and adult health with research links to other data collection efforts - including sharing of survey instruments, devices, methods and data. For the purposes of promoting best practices, the Advisory Group has been asked to focus on three of the aims for the proposed programme of work:

1. To obtain reliable, valid and cross-country comparable data on levels of health and well-being in a range of key domains for older adult populations;
2. To examine patterns and dynamics of age-related changes in health and well-being using longitudinal follow-up of survey respondents;
3. To supplement and cross-validate self-reported measures of health and the anchoring vignette approach to improving comparability of self-reported measures, through measured performance tests for selected health domains;
4. To ensure comparability of methods, analyses and data of SAGE to other ageing and retirement surveys - whilst maintaining its position as an innovative data collection platform; and,
5. To assist with data and results dissemination to a wide audience.

The core participating countries are China, Ghana, India, Mexico, Russian Federation and South Africa. The scope of the study may be modified and countries added or removed from the list based on discussions in the Advisory Group.

A nationally representative cohort of approximately 5000 persons aged 50 and older, plus a comparator group of 1000 persons aged 18 to 49 years, will be followed and refreshed every two years over the next 10 years.

The scope of the project also includes sharing survey modules and methodology with SHARE (Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe) and the International Network for the continuous Demographic Evaluation of Populations and Their Health in developing countries (INDEPTH). SAGE will continue to work towards comparability with the US HRS and UK's ELSA and will contribute to newer HRS-type surveys, such as, for example, the Chinese Health and Retirement Longitudinal Survey (CHARLs) and the Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI).

### *Terms of Reference*

The Advisory Group will therefore:

1. Provide advice to WHO and its partners on study goals, design and implementation;
2. Review study instruments and analytical methods and propose changes based on the current state of the art; and,
3. Monitor study progress, discuss results and make recommendations with regard to possible continuation activities.

Members of the Advisory Group will meet at least once every 2 years for updates and progress reports. The group will be informed of study progress in between through periodic email or telephone updates. Any mid-stream corrections that are required as suggested by the group will be made. The Advisory Group will review the data quality and suggest steps to deal with unacceptable data quality issues should such a problem arise.

The Advisory Group will also recommend a strategy for the dissemination of the results and for making the data available to the wider scientific community.