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SYMPOSIUM

TOWARDS ACHIEVING UNIVERSAL
HEALTH COVERAGE IN AFRICA- CREATING
SYNERGIES AND CAPACITY THROUGH
EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND QUALITY
HEALTH SERVICES.

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INSPIRING GREATNESS

National policies and older people's healthcare in sub-Saharan Africa: A scoping review

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Background

Demographics

- 46 million people ≥ 60 years lived in the sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) region in 2015 (United Nations, 2017)
 - The number is projected to increase more than 2 fold by 2050
 - -Ageing is associated with chronic diseases and increased healthcare utilization
 - demographic change will have far-reaching consequences for the health systems in the SSA (World Health Organization, 2015)
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Frameworks for healthy ageing

- 2002 United Nations Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA)
 - 2003 African Union Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing (AU-Plan)
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Aim of the study

To map the ageing policies in the SSA
post 2002 MIPAA and the 2003 AU-Plan

With a view to identify

The level of integrations of NCDs and mental health into
primary healthcare in SSA

The level of training and research in geriatrics and gerontology in SSA.

Methods

- Arskey and O'Malley's (2005) **5**-steps methodology for scoping review
- Levac et al (2010) guide for operationalizing each step
- Search in PubMed, EBSCOhost, Google scholar and Sabinet
- Duration: January 2003-December 2017
- Study identification : 118 potential articles in 16 countries

Results/Discussion

- 46 articles were included
 - 13 policy papers
 - 22 Intergovernmental reports
 - 4 Original research
 - 7 Reviews

Policies on healthy ageing in SSA

Ageing policy act:

Ghana, Mozambique, South Africa, Uganda and Tanzania

Ageing policy draft:

Nigeria, Malawi, Cameroun, Ethiopia and Rwanda

Incorporation of NCDs and mental health into PHC

- Policy for the integration of NCDs into PHC
 - South Africa, Cameroun, Kenya, Senegal, Malawi and Nigeria
- Policy for the integration of mental health into PHC
 - Kenya and South Africa

Research and training in gerontology

- Almost all the countries have policies for training in gerontology
- Kenya and South Africa have introduced geriatrics and gerontology into medical curriculum
- Cameroun emphasizes technical training of healthcare workforce in gerontology
- Published articles in gerontology and geriatrics increased after MIPAA (Dotchin et al., 2013)
- Senegal and South Africa researchers are supported by the national governments (UNPF,2012)

Research and training contd.

- Focus of research- social security and determinants of access to healthcare (United Nations Population Fund, 2012)
- Research that influence policy direction in SSA are scarce
- Government-funded research institutions are few

Limitations

- Exclude literature in French language
- Contribution from books may have been missed

Conclusion

- Significant progress in policy formulation
- Little implementation
- National policies appear to have integrated NCDs into PHC
- Low priority for mental health
- Level of training and research in geriatrics and gerontology is low

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