E345: Improve capacities of UNECE member States in developing evidence-based policy measures to meet their commitments under MIPAA/RIS and 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration: Ageing (Phase III)

EVALUATION REPORT

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ABBREVIATIONS

CSOs: Civil Society organizations

EC: European Commission

ECE: Economic Commission for Europe

EU: European Union

EXCOM: Executive Committee

GA: General Assembly

ICPD: International Conference on Population and Development

LFM: Logical Framework Matrix

MIPAA: Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing NFPA: National Focal Points on Ageing

NFPA: National Focal Points on Ageing

RIS: Regional Implementation Strategy (for the 2002 Madrid International Plan of Action On Ageing)

SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals

SWGA: Standing Working Group on Ageing

ToR: Terms of Reference

UN: United Nations

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose, scope, and evaluation methodology:

From April to July 2023, an evaluation of the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of the project "Improve capacities of UNECE member States in developing evidence-based policy measures to meet their commitments under MIPAA/RIS and 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration: Ageing (Phase III)," funded by the Ageing Fund was conducted. It assessed the implementation of activities related to the SWGA work Programme 2018-2023undertaken during the period of January 2020 to April 2023.

A summative, mixed evaluation method was used to assess if and to what extent the project outputs have been achieved, and the effects of those on the project outcome in terms of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability. Cross-cutting issues, such as gender, human rights, disability, and climate change were integrated in the evaluation design and analysis, as applicable.

The evaluation drew on data and information contained in relevant project documents and publications, interviews with members of the SWGA's Bureau and staff members of the UNECE Population Unit, and an online survey of SWGA's members and partners. The analysis of the data gathered from these sources, was conducted using summative method, thus ensuring triangulation of the key findings. Evidence gathered was analyzed and coded in accordance with the questions contained in the Evaluation Matrix.

Main evaluation findings:

Overall, the project and its main outputs are relevant, effective, and efficient, ensuring sustainability of the efforts to address ageing issues in the region. Significant evidence was collected to confirm that national partners as well of those of international organizations and civil society, consider the work undertaken in the framework of this project valuable.

> 1. The evaluation confirmed that the project design is appropriate and relevant to the accomplishment of the implementation of the SWGA's work programme 2018-2022. Its outputs are appropriate for the achievement of the desired change and in line with the results-based methodology. It employed adequate inputs and implemented activities leading to the accomplishment of the desired change.

> 2. The evaluation shows that the project is highly relevant and is aligned with the international and regional priorities on ageing. The work programme of the SWGA is developed by and agreed by the members of the SWGA and it is hence aligned to the needs of member states of the ECE region.

> 3. The relevance of the project activities and its main outputs to the national policy-making needs was confirmed by this evaluation. Its main knowledge-generation outputs, i.e. Policy Briefs on Ageing, Guidelines for Mainstreaming Ageing and policy seminars, are all considered highly relevant by the interested stakeholders. Their continuation in the future was supported by the majority of stakeholders, although valid observations for improvement were made and are integrated in the proposed recommendations. The

evaluation likewise confirmed the relevance of the activities undertaken and the resulting outputs related to the fourth periodic MIPAA/RIS review and appraisal. Majority of interviewed and surveyed respondents consider the specific project outputs, i.e., Reporting Guidelines, the Synthesis Report and MIPAA+20 Reports, and the Rome Conference with its proceedings, highly relevant to strengthen their monitoring capacities. Number of valuable observations to improve the monitoring and reporting on MIPAA/RIS were voiced by the involved stakeholders, and those are integrated in the evaluation recommendations.

4. The evaluation also finds that the implementation of the project activities has been very good, contributing towards meeting the needs of beneficiaries to improve their policy making and the capacities to monitor and review MIPAA/RIS. Although all of the activities undertaken and the corresponding outputs achieved were assessed as very relevant, in terms of enhancing national capacities for policy making, the Guidelines for Mainstreaming Ageing are flagged as most relevant ones, coupled with policy seminars and Policy Briefs on Ageing. Despite, relevant shortcomings of these outputs, as noted in this evaluation, they continue to be a relevant knowledge product that should be pursued in the future. As far as the capacities for MIPAA/RIS monitoring and appraisal are concerned, the evaluation confirmed that the specific project outputs related to the fourth MIPAA/RIS review are all considered highly relevant, with no significant difference in the perception of relevant stakeholders. Yet, there is a room for improvement, as valid concerns were also expressed, and these are addressed in the recommendations emanating from this evaluation.

5. Cross-cutting issues like gender, human rights, disability, and environmental change have been integrated in the project activities to some extent, and they are relevant to the policymaking needs of stakeholders. However, the evaluation could not ascertain the effectiveness of the project in mainstreaming those issues in national policymaking. Unlike this, there is evidence that these issues have been sufficiently mainstreamed in the MIPA/RIS periodic review activities and outputs. However, there is a window of opportunity to improve on this in the next MIPAA/RIS cycle, as suggested below. Moreover, a more targeted integration of these issues in project design in the future, including development of specific project indicators would improve the relevance of the future projects.

6. The relevance of the project in aligning its activities with the Agenda 2030 and the national SDG's reporting frameworks has been adequate, yet, despite the fact that there is an intrinsic link between the SDG's and ageing, policy making at national levels on the two has remained parallel as silo approach is predominant in national policy-making processes. The issue on how to better align the two should be considered in the future.

7. The evaluation confirms that all project outputs are considered effective, with no significant difference in terms of rating by the relevant stakeholders. Although specific project outputs have been used regularly by the stakeholders, it is difficult to assess to what extent they are actually making a difference at outcome level, as direct correlation between project outputs and resulting policies could not be confirmed. For example, the Guidelines

for Mainstreaming Ageing have been developed in the second half of the project implementation, and due to contextual factors, such as COVID-19 pandemic, evidence does not confirm that they are impacting positively the development of ageing policies. With the development of the planned database of national ageing policies which should establish a baseline data, a mechanism to follow up on if and how the Guidelines have been used for policy making could be created, facilitating better appraisal of the effectiveness of the project outputs. Other project deliverables are found to be effective to national policy making, with few suggestions for improvement being contained in the recommendations of this evaluation.

8. The project has been effective in ensuring a successful MIPAA/RIS review, despite some perceived shortcomings related to the format and length of the national reporting, which should be addressed by a revision of the Reporting Guidelines as suggested below. These may provide a leverage to enhance governments' accountability for implementing the commitments emanating from MIPAA/RIS.

9. The evaluation confirms that the project has been highly effective in delivering the expected outputs, and all but one project deliverables have been achieved, i.e. the Road Map for Kazakhstan, which was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and political developments in the country.

10. The evaluation confirmed that the project has been efficient in implementing the planned activities. The challenges that were present during the implementation period, such as those related to COVID-19 pandemic, were successfully overcome due to the high professionalism and commitment by project staff/Secretariat.

11. The evaluation assessed project efficiency in terms of financial inputs and the resulting outputs and benefits. The project implemented all planned activities within the initially allocated budget, with two unplanned outputs produced as a result of additional funds received by donors. With this, the effectiveness of the Guidelines for Mainstreaming Ageing has been further strengthened, as attested by the data collected through the survey and the interviews. The costs benefit analysis confirm that the project has resulted in significant benefit for member states and civil society organizations due to funds being managed efficiently.

12. Although the issues addressed by the project are part of the mandate of the ECE which contributes to the sustainability of the project, there are some areas where sustainability and ownership of the project results could be improved, as suggested in the recommendations below.

Recommendations for action:

To enhance the relevance, effectiveness and sustainability of the work undertaken by the Standing Working Group on Ageing and to mitigate shortcomings of project outputs identified by the evaluation, the following recommendations are made:

1. Strengthen the role and engagement of national focal points on ageing in activities of the SWGA, including through the development of *Terms of Reference for national focal points on ageing* to strengthen clarity on their roles and responsibilities, including in their respective national institutions.

2. Further enhance the usefulness of project outputs (policy briefs, policy seminars and guidelines for mainstreaming ageing) to national policymakers by: *(a) providing more guidance on practical issues and challenges related to policy implementation and more details on the good practice examples shared; (b) providing a summary version of policy briefs with key messages to facilitate dissemination; (c) encouraging translation of policy briefs/summaries into national languages; (d) developing a checklist for mainstreaming ageing into policies.*

3. Strengthen the MIPAA/RIS review process to become a stronger accountability mechanism for governments, by: *(a) simplifying/standardizing the reporting process further, for example by considering to focus the reporting guidelines and data collection on fewer priority issues if possible and appropriate; (b) leveraging the UNECE Ageing Policies Database for continuous monitoring and reporting on MIPAA/RIS implementation to support the next MIPAA/RIS review and appraisal process and highlight synergies between MIPAA/RIS and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; (c) enhancing the engagement of permanent missions in Geneva in the review process and ministerial conference preparations to ensure high-level participation at the Ministerial Conference and accountability.*

4. Include cross-cutting issues such as gender, disability, human rights and climate change in the programming cycle more systematically by: *(a) mainstreaming these issues in situation analyses and, e.g., integration of specific gender-sensitive results and performance measures; (b) encouraging disaggregated data collection and monitoring by governments and civil society; (c) ensuring that policy briefs and policy discussions take systematically account of regional diversity and cross-cutting issues such as gender, disability, human rights, climate change by developing check lists for authors and project staff encouraging an approach that mainstreams cross-cutting issues.*

5. Address the instability of the staffing and budget situation in the Secretariat to ensure continuity and efficient use of the know-how of current staff and engage in *fundraising for additional resources earmarked for "the work of the Standing Working Group on Ageing and its Secretariat".*

6. Increase the sustainability of project results by encouraging members of the SWGA Bureau, national focal points on ageing and partner organizations to undertake follow-up activities and continue working on processes already initiated to enhance ownership and ensure more sustainability of its work.

I. PURPOSE OF THE EVALUATION AND PROPOSED EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

1.   INTRODUCTION

The 2002 Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA)[1], the Regional Implementation Strategy for The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002 (RIS),[2] Lisbon Ministerial Declaration 2017[3], and number of other relevant Ministerial Declarations, mandate the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) to advance population and ageing issues in the ECE region. For this, the Working Group on Ageing (WGA)[4] was established in 2008 as an intergovernmental body for international cooperation, exchange of experience and policy discussion, to advance the implementation of the relevant policy commitments. It was upgraded in 2020 to a Standing Working Group on Ageing (SWGA) in recognition of the long-term relevance of population ageing to UNECE member States. The upgrade in status provides the group with a long-term mandate and stability, enhancing sustainability of its activities.

To facilitate the work of the SWGA, the ECE, through its Population subprogramme, acts as its Secretariat and supports monitoring and implementing of the relevant intergovernmental efforts. In doing so, ECE's work is closely aligned with relevant international commitments stemming from the 2030 Agenda[5] and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)[6].

The Population subprogramme supports intergovernmental and national efforts to mainstream ageing issues in the overall policy frameworks by undertaking activities contained in the medium-term and annual priorities established by the SWGA.[7] To support the implementation of the SWGA work programme 2018-2022,[8] the Population subprogramme established the project E345 (the project) "Improve capacities of UNECE member States in developing evidence-based policy measures to meet their commitments under MIPAA/RIS and 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration: Ageing (Phase III)," funded by the Ageing Fund.

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[1] United Nations, Political Declaration and Madrid International Action Plan on Ageing, 2002 available at: https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/ageing/MIPAA/political-declaration-en.pdf

[2] United Nations, Economic Comission for Europe, Regional Implementation Strategy For The Madrid International Plan Of Action On Ageing 2002, 2002, available at: https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/ageing/unece-ris.pdf

[33] 2017 LISBON MINISTERIAL DECLARATION "A Sustainable Society for All Ages: Realizing the potential of living longer" 22 September 2017 , available at: https://unece.org/DAM/pau/age/Ministerial_Conference_Lisbon/Declaration/2017_Lisbon_Ministerial_Declaration.pdf

[4] The WGA was established by the Executive Committee of the UNECE in 2008 and its mandate is contained in ECE/EX2018/L.1 and later amended in ECE/EX/2019/L.1.

[5] United Nations, General Assembly, A/RES/70/1 , Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 2015, available at: https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E

[6] UNFPA, Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994, available at: https://unfpa.org/sites/default/files/event-pdf/PoA_en.pdf

[7] The work programmes and planes of the Population subprogramme are adopted by the WGA and approved by the General Assembly (GA) through the biennial and annual programme budgets.

[8] ECE/WG.1/2018/1 "The Working Group on Ageing work programme for the fourth implementation cycle of the Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing" adopted at the 11th meeting of the WGA held in Geneva in 2018.

According to the project document, the project aims to support "the implementation of the programme of work of the Working Group on Ageing (SWGA) and improve capacities of UNECE member States in developing evidence-based policy measures to meet their commitments under the MIPAA/RIS and the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration by facilitating exchange of good practices among member States and other stakeholders, supporting the SWGA in developing guidelines to streamline the process of mainstreaming ageing in the region, assisting countries in preparing comprehensive policies on ageing, providing support and advice to countries on monitoring MIPAA/RIS implementation specifically within its fourth cycle of review and appraisal 2018–2022 (ECE/WG.1/2018/2).[9]

2. PURPOSE OF THE EVALUATION AND EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

2.1. PURPOSE OF THE EVALUATION

As per the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for this assignment (see **Annex 1**), the objective of this evaluation was "to determine, as systematically and objectively as possible, the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of UNECE project E345 and the extent to which its objectives were achieved". The evaluation assessed how cross-cutting issues, i.e., gender, human rights, disability and environmental change were addressed by the project. It identified good practices and lessons learned from the project and formulates action-oriented, forward-looking recommendations addressed to the subprogramme for improving future interventions.

The evaluation covers the period from January 2020 to April 2023. It was conducted in line with the ECE Evaluation Policy,[10] the Administrative Instruction guiding Evaluation in the UN Secretariat,[11] and the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Norms and Standards for Evaluation.[12]

2.2. Evaluation Strategy

The evaluation was conducted using mixed project evaluation methodology, based on both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods. A summative analysis of the data collected was conducted to determine the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of the project results.

The evaluation methodology looked at both the intervention logic and the **specific project outcomes/accomplishments** as contained in the approved extrabudgetary project. Through a review of key project documents, the project outcomes, outputs, and activities, together with the indicators and performance measures, where available, were identified and used as the basis upon which material evidence was collected and analyzed. Content analysis of the project document and project Implementation Reports, i.e., Reports of the SWGA to ECOSOC and Executive Committee (EXCOM), was conducted. Additional information to verify the data obtained through desk review

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[9]Economic and Social Council, ECE/WG.1/2018/Room Document2, Main elements of the programme of work for 2018–2022, available at: file:///C:/Users/tatja/OneDrive/UNECE%202023/ECE-WG-1-2018-RD2%20Work%20programme%202018-2022.pdf
[10] Economic Commission for Europe, UNECE Evaluation Policy, 2021, available at: https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-12/Item%2010_ECE_EX_2021_35_Rev1_Evaluation%20Policy_as%20adopted.pdf
[11] ST/AI/2021/3
[12] United Nations Evaluation Group, Norms and Standards for Evaluation, 2017, available at: file:///C:/Users/tatja/Downloads/UNEG%20Norms%20&%20Standards%20for%20Evaluation_English-2017.pdf

was collected through in-depth interviews conducted during June 7- 21, 2023. Likewise, data was obtained through an online survey of relevant stakeholders administered during the period from June 2 – 26, 2023, allowing for triangulation of the findings from the desk review.

2.3. Evaluation Methods Used

The evaluation employed a mixed data collection method. The desk review of documents was conducted using purposive sampling. Data obtained from the desk review served as primary data set upon which the generated hypothesis of the evaluation were consequently verified by the findings of the data from the other employed methods, i.e., survey and in-depth interviews. The desk review included in-depth desk study of the approved project document and corresponding approved programmes of work of the SWGA as well as the Annual Reports, and a review of documents (material evidence) attesting to the implementation of the project activities and their expected results, i.e., Ageing Briefs, Mainstreaming Ageing Guidelines; Reporting Guidelines for the fourth MIPAA/RIS review, the Proceedings of the 4th Periodical Review process; Mission reports and other relevant documents. The List of documents reviewed is contained in **Annex 2** of this Report.

Secondary data was collected through interviews and an online survey. Interviews were conducted from June 7 to July 6, 2023. Nine, out of fifteen invited current and past members of the Bureau of the SWGA were interviewed, as well as two staff members of the Population Unit, one current and one past. The List of interviewed persons is contained in **Annex 3** of this Report.

The online survey was distributed to the National Focal Points on Ageing (NFPA) and selected partners and beneficiaries who have been involved in the project implementation. A tailored questionnaire of qualitative closed-ended questions (see **Annex 4** of this Report) was administered electronically using Microsoft Forms. It was sent to 150 relevant stakeholders, of which 41 provided feedback, amounting to a response rate of 27 per cent. The graph below shows that out of 41 respondents, 31 have been members of the SWGA since 2020 or earlier, 6 since 2021 and 4 since 2022. Thirteen respondents are from civil society and international organizations and project partners, while 28 are NFPA.

Graph 1. Survey Respondents' Connection with the SWGA
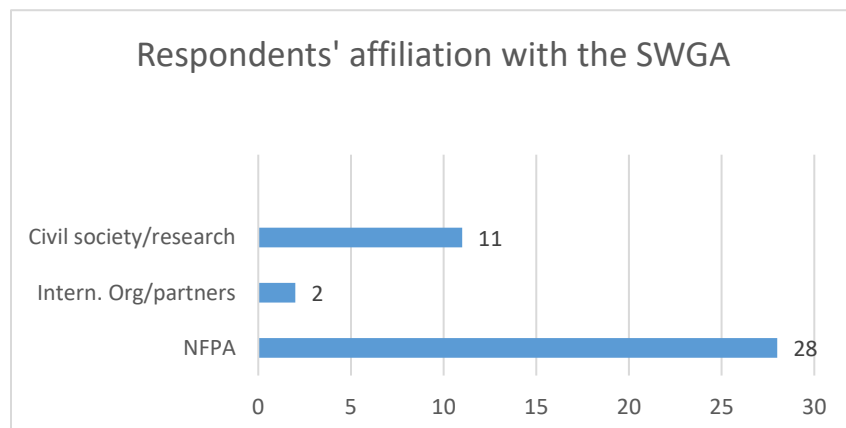
Source: Online Survey, 2023

Once relevant data was collected, data analysis was conducted using triangulation method. Both parallel and sequential analytical methods were employed, i.e., the findings from the independent analysis of each data set obtained through different data collection method was analyzed in parallel to determine if there is a convergence or divergence of findings.

2.4. Timeframe for the evaluation

Following the contract signature, a kick-off meeting was organized on April 11, 2023. The kickoff meeting was held with Lisa Warth from the Population Unit and Chiara Giamberadini from the Evaluation Unit of the ECE. The work plan for the achievement of the results and the strategy to do so was discussed and agreement on the timeframe was reached, as follows:

April 2023: Desk review of documents

May 2023: Submission of Inception Report including survey design

May 2023: Launch of data gathering survey distribution

June 2023: Stakeholders interviews and analysis of collected information

June 2023: Submission of draft Evaluation Report and draft evaluation brief.

July 2023: Submission of Final Evaluation Report and final evaluation brief.

2.5. Evaluation Matrix and structure of presentation of the Findings

The evaluation was conducted using the Evaluation Matrix contained in the **Table 2** (**Annex 5**). The analysis of data and the main findings of the evaluation with corresponding recommendations are hence presented for each evaluation criterion: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability. An evaluation brief containing the main findings and recommendations is also included in the Report.

II. MAIN EVALUATION FINDINGS

3. Main Findings (F) and Conclusions

3.1. Project Design and Intervention Logic

The intervention logic of the project is summarized in the Logical Framework below.

Table 3. Logical Framework Project E345

	Theory of Change		Theory of Action
Objective	**Expected Results/Outcomes**	**Indicators of achievement/Means of verification**	**Outputs/Activities**
To support the implementation of the programme of work of the Working Group on Ageing (WGA) and assist UNECE member States in developing evidence-based policy measures to meet their commitments under the Regional Implementation Strategy of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) and the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration by facilitating exchange of good practices among	EAI. Enhanced national policy formulation on population ageing	EAI.1 At least four additional member states have adjusted their national policies or introduced new measures aiming at implementation of MIPAA/RIS and achievement of 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration Goals" Means of Verification: - reported by select countries at annual meetings under "country experiences". -national MIPAA reports 2021 in which all countries that reported share the new policy measures developed	A1.1. Preparation of three Policy briefs on ageing A1.2. Organisation of three Policy seminars on ageing A13. Preparation of the Guidelines for mainstreaming ageing and 13rganizing13n of a launch-event.
member States and other stakeholders, supporting the WGA in developing guidelines to streamline the process of mainstreaming ageing in the region, assisting countries in preparing comprehensive policies on ageing, providing support and advice to countries on monitoring MIPAA/RIS implementation specifically within its fourth cycle of review and appraisal (2018-2022).	EA2. Improved capacity to monitor and assess, within the national and regional context, the implementation of MIPAA/RIS and 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration	EA2.1 At least two-thirds of member States submitted their national reports of MIPAA/RIS implementation that include the assessment of existing processes and tools for mainstreaming ageing and a set of agreed monitoring indicators. Means of Verification: -National MIPAA/RIS Reports 2021	A2.1. Preparing the Road Map for Mainstreaming Ageing in Kazakhstan and 13 organizing assessment missions for the implementation of road maps in other countries A2.2. Conducting fourth review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS at the regional level A2.3. Supporting organization of WGA side events to promote international cooperation.

According to the project document, the intended theory of change of the projects for the two main accomplishments or outcomes is presented in the figure below:

Figure 1. Theory of Change of the Project
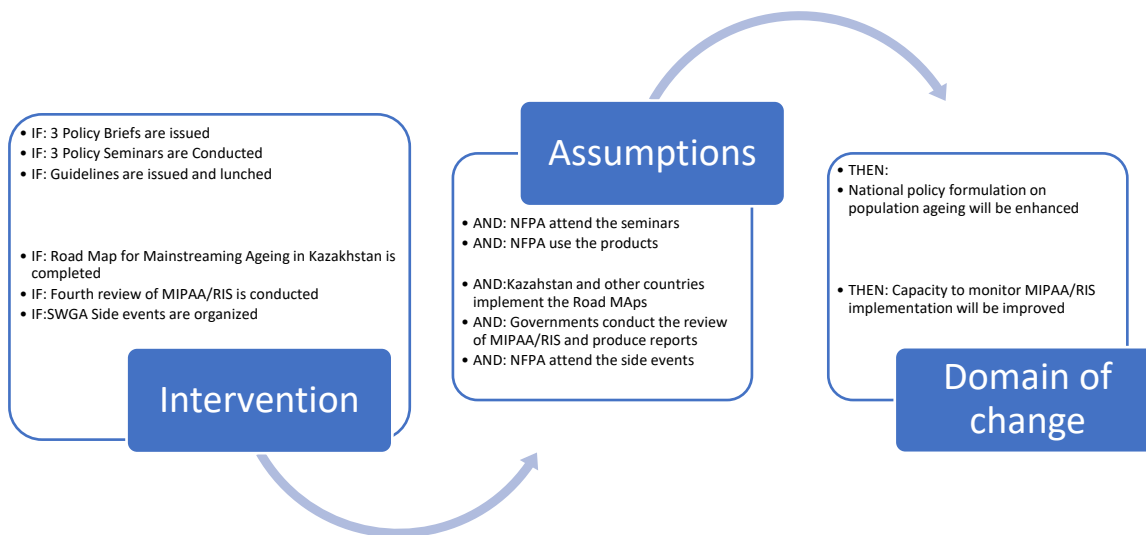
The analysis relevant to the proposed theory of change and as contained in the project design finds the following:

F1. THE PROJECT DESIGN IS APPROPRIATE FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE DESIRED CHANGE

The two main project accomplishments (outcomes) are appropriate and are logically linked to the main objective of the project – to support the implementation of the programme of work of the SWGA for the period 2018-2022. Likewise, the proposed project outputs are appropriate to achieve the project accomplishments. The project document contains indicators of achievement and sources to verify their achievement at outcome levels, allowing to assess the effectiveness of the project in achieving the desired change.

F2. THE PROPOSED THEORY OF ACTION IS APPROPRIATE FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE DESIRED CHANGE

The proposed project theory of action (its specific inputs, activities, and outputs) is adequate for the achievement of the intended change (expected accomplishments) and is closely aligned to the core activities contained in the Work Programme 2018-2022 of the SWGA. The available indicators facilitate the assessment of the project efficiency and effectiveness at output level.

3.2. Relevance of the project

Based on the key evaluation questions, two aspects of the relevance of the project were assessed:

(a) alignment of the project's objective and accomplishments with the mandate of the UNECE on ageing, i.e., the SWGA's work Programme 2018-2022.

(b) alignment of the project's objective and accomplishments with beneficiaries needs and priorities.

The evaluation finds the following:

F3. THE PROJECT EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS ARE RELEVANT TO THE AGEING PRIORITIES IN THE ECE REGION AS THEY ARE ALLLIGNED WITH KEY INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTS ON AGEING

The project is **closely aligned** with and aims to support the implementation of the work programme of the SWGA (2018-2022) and the programme budgets of the SWGA and ECE for 2020 (A/74/6 (Sect. 20)[13] and ECE/WG.1/2019/5),[14] for 2021(A/75/6 (Sect. 20),[15] for 2022 A/76/6 (Sect. 20),[16] and 2023 (A/77/6 (Sect. 20).[17] These programme documents are based on the MIPAA, RIS and the Lisbon Ministerial Declaration, which have been endorsed by the member states and represent a consensus on key priorities and needs on ageing in the region. They are developed by and approved by the members of the SWGA at the annual meeting and is therefore implicit, that the project is relevant to the achievement of the policy making needs and priorities at regional and national levels.

Data obtained from the interviews confirms this finding. All interviewed members of the Bureau of the SWGA attest to the importance of the annual meeting of the SWGA where emerging issues and priorities are discussed and the activities of the SWGA for the next year are planned.

F4. THE PROJECT IS RELEVANT TO THE NATIONAL POLICY MAKING NEEDS AND PRIORITIES ON AGEING AS ITS MAIN OUTPUTS ENSURE KNOWLEDGE GENERATION AND GOOD PRACTICES IN POLICY MAKING AND PROVISION OF STEP-BY STEP GUIDELINES TO FACILITATE POLICY MAKING

The desk review of documents finds that the knowledge and know-how generated by the project (Guidelines for Mainstreaming Ageing, Policy Briefs on Ageing and Policy Seminars) is highly relevant to the policy making needs of member states. Such finding was further assessed through the opinions of the survey respondents.

The survey results, contained in the **Graph 2** below, confirm that overall, respondents find the three specific outputs of the project highly relevant to enhance their capacities for policy making in the field of ageing.

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[13] A/74/6 (Sect. 20) , General Assembly, 2019. Proposed programme budget for 2020, Part V Regional cooperation for development, Section 20 Economic development in Europe, which highlights the need to "enhance evidence-based population and social cohesion policies," including through development of Guidelines on mainstreaming ageing; generation of knowledge products and their dissemination to beneficiaries." It also proposes to undertake the fourt review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS.

[14] ECE/WG.1/2019/5, Economic Commission for Europe Working Group on Ageing Twelfth meeting Geneva, 18 and 19 November 2019 Item 7 of the provisional agenda Programme of work of the Population component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2020 , Draft programme of work of the Population Component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2020, Note by the Secretariat
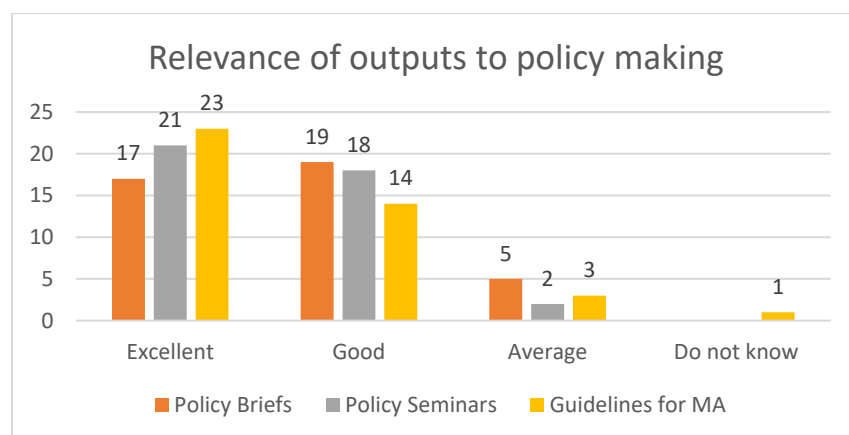
[15] A/75/6 (Sect. 20), Proposed Programme Budget 2021, states that "the subprogramme will prepare a launch programme for the guidelines, including a special launch event for leading stakeholders and will pilot a training workshop on the use of a toolkit" (https://unece.org/DAM/OPEN_UNECE/02_Programme_Planning_and_reporting/Sect._20_ECE_PPB_for_2021_Issued.pdf)

[16] A/76/6 (Sect. 20), Proposed Programme Budget for 2022, (available at: https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/ECE_A_76_6%28Sect.20%29_0.pdf)

[17] A/77/6 (Sect. 20), Proposed Programme Budget for 2023 (available at: https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/PPB%202023_Sect%2020_ECE.pdf).

Graph 2. Relevance of Project Outputs for National Policy Making

Relevance of outputs to policy making

Rating	Policy Briefs	Policy Seminars	Guidelines for MA
Excellent	17	21	23
Good	19	18	14
Average	5	2	3
Do not know			1

Source: Online Survey, 2023

Survey respondents consider most relevant the Guidelines for Mainstreaming Ageing,[18] which aim to "support governments in building a strategic framework for mainstreaming ageing to facilitate the systematic consideration and integration of both individual and population ageing aspects into broader national policies," as 56 per cent rated them as excellent, and 34 percent as good, whereas only 7,3 percent of respondents think their relevance is average. Only one respondent had no opinion on it. Interviews also confirmed that stakeholder think that the Guidelines are relevant and useful tool to facilitate policy making, particularly as ageing is *" a cross cutting, cross-sectoral issue, but governments mostly work using silo approach. The use of the Guidelines can help mainstream ageing across different sectoral issues, very much like it is done with gender mainstreaming"[19]*

The issues addressed by the Policy Briefs as well as the policy seminars, are not only relevant and in line with the mandate of the ECE but correspond to the emerging issues facing the beneficiaries in the area of ageing. This is attested by the fact that 89 per cent of survey respondents consider the Policy Briefs to be relevant and useful (excellent and good) to policy makers in informing their national policies on ageing. None of the survey respondents rated them with poor.

However, few survey respondents indicated that the relevance of the Policy Briefs should be gauged by factors such as difference in the level of socio-economic developments in countries, which impact the context where ageing policies are to be developed, as well as the lack of sufficient information with regards to the applicability of good practices in other countries. As stated by a survey respondent, "*often, the information mentioned in Policy Briefs by a particular country seems interesting, but superficial, and completely insufficient for understanding the mechanisms and problems that may arise during the implementation of this measure/activity, evaluating financial costs, assessing effectiveness and so on*". Other respondent indicated that the academic nature of the Policy Briefs should be reconsidered, suggesting to "*add a kind of summary version for each brief "*, whereas another respondent suggests that "*it would make sense to focus more on*

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[18] UNECE, Guidelines for Mainstreaming Ageing, 2021, (available at: https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/Guidelines-for-Mainstreaming-Ageing-Executive-Summary.pdf).
[19]Interview with Bureau member, June 23, 2023

practical aspects of policy implementation." As viewed by one interviewed member of the Bureau, *"they are more relevant for academics than for policy makers."*[20]

In order to address these concerns, the SWGA and its Secretariat should consider modifying the content and the format of the Policy Briefs, to make them shorter, less academic, and addressing more practical issues related to policy implementation and challenges.

And finally, the project supported the implementation of specific policy seminars as a mean to enhance capacities of policy makers to improve their ageing policies, thus making these activities highly relevant to the needs of beneficiaries. The issues addressed by these seminars are relevant and correspond to the increased challenges faced by older persons in the region and the need to integrate their needs into the countries' policy making. Survey respondents considered policy seminars very relevant, as they were rated by 51 per cent as excellent, followed by 44 percent who perceive their relevance as good.

The relevance of the policy seminars was confirmed by all interviewed members of the Bureau as they represent an opportunity to learn, share knowledge and disseminate good practices. As stated by one interviewed member of the Bureau, they are *"most relevant to members of the SWGA, as they provide opportunity to go in-depth in discussions and exchange experiences and learn from them."*[21]

F5. THE PROJECT IS RELEVANT FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF NATIONAL CAPACITIES TO MONITOR PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COMMITMENTS ON AGEING

The desk review of the relevant documents shows that the project results are relevant and aligned with the ECE mandate emanating from number of international and regional normative frameworks,[22] which mandates the Secretariat to enhance national capacities to monitor and assess the implementation of MIPAA/RIS and the Lisbon Ministerial Declaration.

The evidence based on the reviewed materials shows that the project has supported the fourth review and appraisal of the MIPAA/RIS at regional level through facilitation of the work of the SWGA in the preparations of the Guidelines for national reporting on MIPAA/RIS (see: https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/pau/age/Review_and_appraisal/Guidelines_for_National_Reports-final_EN.pdf); preparations of the Ministerial Conference on Ageing held 16-17 June 2022 in Rome (see https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/ECE-AC.30-2022-2-E_0.pdf), and the preparation of the Regional Synthesis Report "Ageing Policy in Europe, North America and Central Asia in 2017-2022" (see https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-08/Synthesis-report_0.pdf). In addition to the Reporting Guidelines and the Synthesis Report, 3 online workshops to support focal points in the preparation of the national reports were conducted, focusing on meaningful participation of civil society in the review process, the linkages with 2030

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[20]Interview with Bureau member, June 7, 2023

[21] Interview member of the Bureau, 7 June 2023

[22] The Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing of 2002, in its paragraph 96, it notes that "the UNECE secretariat will provide government delegations with information on relevant implementation activities and could suggest to member States specific priority issues to be analyzed, and when appropriate, issue guidelines for reporting requirements in the follow-up process". The 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration 2017 states that "there is a need for research and improved data for monitoring and evaluating ageing-related policies" (para.34), and to provide "support for developing national capacities on ageing" (para.39).

Agenda, Decade of Healthy Ageing and human rights, and the report writing as such. Moreover, the preparation of MIPAA+20 report was added as per decision of the group to mark the 20 year anniversary of MIPAA/RIS. The Ministerial Conference held in Rome in July 2022, was the culmination of the fourth review and appraisal cycle (2017-2022) of MIPAA/RIS at the regional level. Its success attests to the relevance of the efforts of the ECE to enhance national capacities to monitor and appraise MIPAA/RIS commitments. The fourth MIPAA/RIS periodic review processes guided by the SWGA, provided a useful platform to involve experts and representatives of the research and NGO communities in the process.

The extent to which both national governmental partners and national and international civil society organizations find these activities relevant was further assessed through the interviews and the survey. Survey data (presented in **Graph 3** below) shows that majority of respondents believe that the activities undertaken, and the corresponding outputs are relevant for the successful monitoring of progress of implementation of the MIPAA/RIS. Of significant importance is the fact that 51 percent of respondents consider the Reporting Guidelines as excellent, coupled with 34 per cent who consider them good, attesting to the relevance of issuing clear and concise Guidelines to facilitate the process of preparing the National Reports. There is no significant difference in the views on relevance of the different outputs and processes supporting the fourth review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS, except for the webinars, which more respondent (44 per cent) considered them good as compared to 32 per cent who considered them excellent.

Graph 3. Relevance of fourth MIPAA/RIS review activities for national monitoring capacities
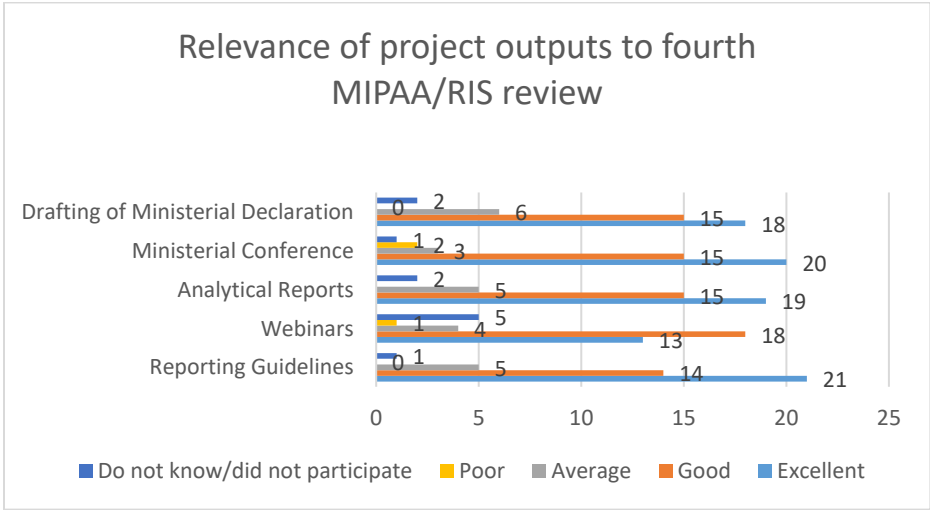
Source: Online Survey, 2023

Interviews with members of the Bureau of the SWGA confirm this finding. As stated by one interviewee, "*the Guidelines for reporting on MIPAA/RIS were very useful in framing progress*

during the fourth cycle in a more or less uniformed manner."[23] However, some interviewed members of the Bureau also expressed a concern that *"the Guidelines for reporting seems complicated and require a lot of data and information, which, if you are not into ageing issues, it is difficult to produce a good report."*[24] This was confirm by another interviewee, which expressed a concern that *"reporting on MIPAA/RIS progress is quite demanding and ...it is important to really understand what exactly is beneficial to report on."*[25]

Similarly, although the national reports and the corresponding MIPAA+20 and the Synthesis Report contain significant relevant information on where countries do stand with the implementation of the ageing commitments, it is important to consider whether all information contained therein is relevant and useful. As stated by one interviewee, *"developing national reports is a long process, but are all aspects relevant? The Synthesis report is a good source of information on what has been achieved but the important question is whether and by whom that information will be used."*[26]

To address these concerns, the Secretariat and the SWGA should consider revising the Reporting Guidelines to make them shorter and targeting data collection and reporting on fewer issues, as appropriate and possible. Likewise, they should provide a standardized template for an executive summary to outline: a) new policy developments and good practices; b) main challenges; and c) priorities for the future.

F6. THE PROJECT IS RELEVANT TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE 2030 AGENDA BUT BETTER COORDINATION BOTH WITHIN THE UN AND AT COUNTRY LEVEL IS REQUIRED

The achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs is not possible without integrating ageing issues into the national SDG's plans and monitoring and reporting frameworks. The issue of ageing cuts across the goals on poverty eradication, good health, gender equality, economic growth and decent work, reduced inequalities, and sustainable cities.

The desk review notes that the programme of work of the SWGA on the fourth implementation cycle 2018-2022 clearly articulates the need to align the roadmaps for mainstreaming ageing with the national objectives for the achievement of the SDGs and to develop Guidelines for Mainstreaming Ageing in the relevant policy areas that integrate the objectives of 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and its SDGs. The review of the developed Guidelines for mainstreaming ageing shows that they require that, in addition to MIPAA/RIS, the commitments from the SDGs are integrated in the Strategic Framework and that the follow-up and review process of the SDG's framework be used in tracking progress in achieving the national Strategic Frameworks on Ageing.

Another project deliverable also attests to the efforts to link the SWGA's and the Population Unit's its activities with the 2030 Agenda processes and priorities. The project supported the development

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[23] Interview Bureau member, 7 June, 2023
[24] Interview Bureau member, June 14, 2023
[25] Interview Bureau member, 15 June, 2023
[26] Interview Bureau member, 21 June, 2023

of the Guidelines for Reporting for the fourth MIPAA/RIS review which require countries to highlight the linkages with the progress in achieving the SDGs. The desk review findings attest to this. As contained in the Country Reports (40) and summarized in the Synthesis Report,[27] "most ECE member States that presented national MIPAA/RIS review reports have developed national strategies for sustainable development to implement the 2030 Agenda. A number of these have also made efforts to establish links between ageing issues and long-term development plans in their national context (AZE, BGR, BLR, CAN, CZE, EST, FIN, IRL, MDA, POL, SVK)" (pp.37).

Furthermore, the UNECE Synthesis Report on the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the UNECE region (2017-2022) summarizes the contribution of countries' ageing-related policies to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In its section VIII, it states that "out of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 9 were identified as involving areas for policy integration with MIPAA/RIS (Goal 1, Goal 3, Goal 4, Goal 5, Goal 8, Goal 10, Goal 11, Goal 16, and Goal 17). Therefore, the implementation of MIPAA/RIS makes important contributions to accelerating progress towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda" (pp.37).

The extent to which the project has been useful in aligning policies on ageing with the national SDGs frameworks was discussed with members of the Bureau interviewed for this evaluation. Majority of interviewed members do consider that there is an intrinsic link between the two but that, however, as stated by one interviewee, "*ageing is not clearly articulated as a cross-cutting issue across all SDG's, and those have higher political status in countries.*"[28] Some respondents also considered this to be a burden for their national reporting, as the issues are dealt with by separate Ministries/departments and there is no clear collaboration and coherence. They believe that the issue should be "*addressed by the United Nations and better coordination amongst different UN agencies should be established to develop a more relevant monitoring system for the two, the ageing issues will become more relevant at national level".[29] A good example of ensuring inter-sectoral coordination on issues addressed by the Agenda 2030 and the MIPAA/RIS was highlighted by an interviewed Bureau member, which stated that "Due to the multi-sectoral nature of the aging field, main difficulties can be encountered in the coordination and cooperation process between the institutions… and to address that issue ...a Monitoring and Evaluation Board on the Rights of Older Persons which is composed of high level representatives of relevant ministries, public institutions and CSOs has been established in 2021".[30]*

It is thus important that the Secretariat looks for ways to ensure better harmonization and coordination of different efforts requiring monitoring and reporting by member states on both ageing and Agenda 2030 commitments, as well as that governments establish high-level coordination mechanisms to ensure synchronized efforts to mainstream ageing in the 2030 Agenda.

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[27] UNECE, Synthesis Report on the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the ECE region between 2017 and 2022, (available at: https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-08/Synthesis-report.pdf).
[28] Interview member of the Bureau, June 20, 2023
[29] Interview Bureau member, June 20, 2023
[30] Interview member of the Bureau (written response) 6 July, 2023

F7. GENDER, HUMAN RIGHTS, DISABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE ALTHOUGH PARTIALLY INTEGRATED INTO THE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT, ARE RELEVANT

The desk review of documents shows that there is no explicit integration of gender, human rights, vulnerability, and climate change issues in the project design, in terms of specific outputs and or/activities and indicators of achievement. The reason for this is that the project is designed to support the implementation of the SWGA programme of work and thus follows its priorities as approved by ECOSOC. However, the project concept note makes an explicit reference to areas and activities where gender will be mainstreamed.[31]

While there is explicit understanding that gender will be integrated in the project activities if and where applicable, the issues of climate change and disability were not included in the project design. The reason for this being that at the time of its design, this was not a mandatory requirement for project development. However, these have been also considered during the evaluation in compliance with the evaluation policy of the ECE.

A content analysis of the main project deliverables was conducted during the inception period to attest if and how these issues were addressed and are relevant. The main findings indicate the following:

a) The **Report of the Ministerial Conference on Ageing held in 2022 in Rome** and the adopted Ministerial Declaration refer to specific human rights and gender ageing related challenges and the need for necessary policy measures to address them. The Ministerial Declaration calls explicitly for gender mainstreaming in its Goal 1- Promoting active and healthy ageing throughout life and Goal 3-Mainstreaming ageing to advance a society for all ages. *This is an important development which should be systematically followed through and furthered in the future both by member states and the UNECE*

b) **The Guidelines for national reporting on the fourth review of the MIPAA/RIS do contain a specific instruction to member states in Part II: 20 Years of MIPAA/RIS**, Main actions and progress in implementation of MIPAA/RIS and the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration goals to pay attention to the gender and human rights aspects of the RIS commitments, particularly commitment 8-mainstreaming gender perspective (pps. 7, 8, 9,). Unfortunately, the Guidelines do not explicitly request national governments to provide sex-disaggregated statistical data nor to identify specific human rights and gender disparities in current trends. Neither do the Guidelines instruct member States to identify key gender issues as future regional priorities. Such explicit instructions should be integrated in the future reporting guidelines as a tool to mainstream gender and human rights more effectively.

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[31] The Concept note states that as per the Commitment 8 of RIS, MIPAA+20 report will address this explicitly. All data provided in the statistical annex of the Synthesis report will be sex disaggregated to highlight the situation of men and women and differences between them. Furthermore, each UNECE policy brief highlights the gender dimensions of the substantive theme discussed, each policy seminar will address gender dimension of the policy challenge focused upon, whereas the Road Maps on Mainstreaming Ageing will mainstream a gender perspective in recommended policy actions. Moreover, the Guidelines on mainstreaming ageing will be built on insights gained from gender mainstreaming efforts over the past 3 decades and promote an integrated approach of gender and age mainstreaming across all policy fields as appropriate.

c) Furthermore, the Guidance Note on the participation of older persons and civil society in policymaking of 2021[32] prepared to facilitate the MIPAA/RIS review process, clearly points how gender impacts the unequal participation of older women in policy making and calls for use of different approached and tools to ensure their active engagement in the process. **The MIPAA/RIS +20 Report,[33]** based on the submitted national reports contains a section on gender equality in ageing societies (pps.21-22) pointing to key gender gaps in the area of work, pay, pensions, decision-making, care, etc. The section on achieving harmony with demographic changes (pps. 23-25) notes progress of some of the ECE countries in addressing gender gaps in the reform of the social security and pension systems and access to labor market at older age, but does not highlight policy developments regarding skills, technology and digitalization and health Care.

d) Similarly, the **Synthesis Report** reflect the above noted shortcomings. Although the statistical annexes of the Report contain sex-disaggregated data, data on ageing trends presented in the Introduction is not systematically disaggregated by sex, but sporadic. Different gender gaps related to ageing are not sufficiently highlighted. The reported progress in achieving specific goals of the Lisbon Declaration is reported in gender neutral manner, assuming that different areas and ageing issues affect women and men in the same way. No systematic effort to identify specific gender issue or targeted gender-sensitive ageing policy/tool has been made, except when related to the issues of gender pay gap, failing to highlight the importance of gender disparities related to employment, pensions, long-term care, voluntary work, amongst others. As human rights and discrimination of older persons are essential component of the Goals 3 of the Lisbon Declaration, there is an important reference to progress achieved in the area, however, the data contained in the Report is not gender sensitive, despite the significant prevalence of gender related discrimination of older persons.

A more systematic inclusion of gender and human rights of older persons is thus important to cover all areas of the MIPAA/RIS and the specific commitments contained in these international normative frameworks. The specific gender aspects of discrimination and violation of the rights of older persons, such as violence, poverty and abuse should be identified by national governments and should feature as an integral part of the review of progress in the region.

e) The **Ageing Policy Briefs** produced during the implementation of the project show similar pattern as related to mainstreaming gender and human rights issues in their content. One Policy Brief – **Gender Equality in Ageing Society** addresses the issue of inequality between women and men at old age, resulting from accumulated gender disadvantages over the life course and negatively affecting poverty of older women more than that of men. This is in line with the SWGA work programme 2018-2022 which stipulates the development of at least one Policy Brief that addresses gender and human rights issues.

Unfortunately, none of the other produced Policy Briefs address specific gender issue nor integrate gender as a cross-cutting issue systematically. Data disaggregation and analysis of age structures

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[32] UNECE, Meaningful participation of older persons and civil society in policymaking "DESIGNING A STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION PROCESS" Guidance note, August 2021 (available at: https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/UNECE%20meaningful%20participation%20guidance%20note.pdf)
[33] ECE/WG.1/40, MIPAA/RIS +20 "20 years of action towards creating societies for all ages in the UNECE region", 2022, (Available at: https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/MIPAA-20-Report-10June_Web.pdf)

in the region is gender neutral, whereas reference to specific gender-sensitive policies and policy instruments is sporadic. The **Ageing Policy brief on digital transformation** notes the gender disparities in use of digital tools among older population but fails to identify the gender-related barriers to digital literacy and adoption of technology as well as ensuring access to and use of such technology. In identifying the risks for older persons during **emergency situations**, the Policy Brief rightly notes that "older women are at greater risk than men, because they are more often widowed and living alone, and because of gendered disadvantages that tend to accumulate over the life-course' but falls short of providing specific examples in emergency preparedness and response measures or in recommending gender specific policy measures and practices. The **Policy Brief on Urban Planning** refers to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and addresses the issue of disability of older persons in urban planning, and it also outlines clearly gender disparities in terms of safety of women and men in urban environments. Yet, the general recommendation to take human rights and gender into account in urban planning remains short of providing meaningful guidelines to policymakers on how to achieve that. On the other hand, it is noted that this Policy Brief includes the issue of climate-change induced disasters.

Obviously, there is a room for mainstreaming gender, human rights, and disability in the policy briefs on ageing and one way to improve that is to make specific guidelines to authors to do so in the data gathering and analysis process, in identifying good practices and in providing specific recommendations.

f) The **Policy Seminars** on ageing are organized back-to back with the annual meeting of the SWGA. During the time of the project, three policy seminars have taken place: **Ageing in the Digital Era** (2021), **Older Persons in Emergency Situations: Lessons Learned from the COVID-19 Pandemic** (2020) and **Quality of Long-Term Care** (2022). The Policy Briefs on ageing on the same issues were used as background materials. The analysis of the Reports of these policy seminars confirm that gender is not systematically discussed as an issue of concern related to ageing, whereas the seminar on digitalization had one dedicates session of human rights of older persons in the digital era. And finally, it should be noted that in 2020, although not planned in the project document, the project has organized an online event in collaboration with NGOs and other partners on the issue of older persons as active agents in a changing climate.[34]The Guidelines for Mainstreaming Ageing were also analyzed, and the evaluation confirms that they do systematically integrate and call for gender sensitive and responsive and human rights-based approach to mainstreaming ageing. Such practice should be ensured across all future project outputs as applicable.

Data obtained through the online survey shows that survey respondents generally agree with the statement that the SWGA and its Secretariat have generally been successful in mainstreaming gender, human rights, environmental change, and disability in its activities since 2020. As shown in the Graph 4 below, 83 per cent of respondents either strongly agree or agree with such statement.

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[34] Concept Mote, United Nations International Day of Older Persons (UNIDOP) 2022,
"Older Persons as Active Agents in a Changing Climate" (available at: https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-09/Older%20Persons%20as%20Active%20Agents%20in%20a%20Changing%20Climate%20FINAL_0.pdf)

Graph 4. Relevance of project for mainstreaming cross-cutting issues

Relevance of project for mainstreaming cross-cutting issues

Category	Value
Strongly agree	17
Agree	17
Disagree	3
Strongly disagree	0
I do not know	4
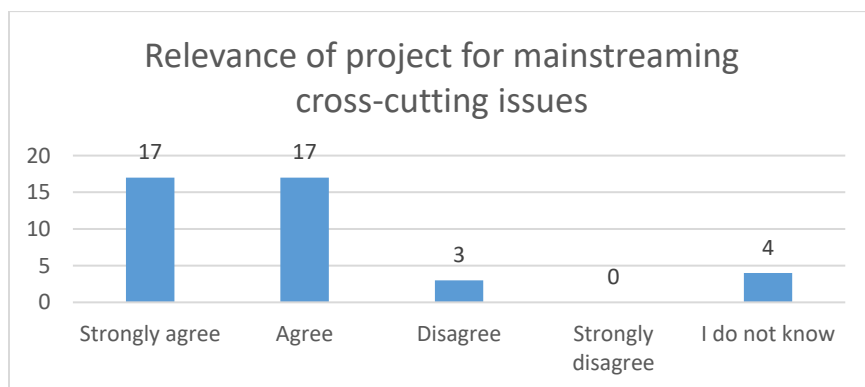
Source: Online Survey,2023

Yet, few survey respondents expressed reservation regarding the relevance of the project activities for mainstreaming the cross-cutting dimensions in the area of ageing. As stated by one survey respondent *"I partly agree, many documents refer to these notions, but it is not obvious what all the different aspects means in terms of mainstreaming. So, we should move towards a more concrete way of what mainstreaming means, and how these different objectives (inter)connect".*[35]

In conclusion, the concern about the lack of systematic introduction of gender and human rights of older persons including the rights of people with disability as cross-cutting issues remains valid for the policy seminars as well and should be addressed accordingly. Once way to do so is by introducing a short Checklist of requirements to be used in the preparation of the agendas and the background materials for the seminars.

3.3. Effectiveness of the project

The desk review assessed the extent to which the planned project activities and outputs have been achieved and if and how they have contributed to the achievement of the project outcomes as per the project indicators.

3.3.1. Effectiveness at Output Level

The review of the expected outputs and performance indicators confirms that the project contributed to the expected results at output level, and in general, was effective in terms of completing the activities and contributing to the goals outlined in the project document.

F8. PROJECT ACTIVITIES CONTRIBUTED TO EFFECTIVELY ACHIEVE PLANNED OUTPUTS

The level of achievement of the project outputs is detailed in **Table 4** below. It confirms that the outputs were effectively achieved through project activities as planned, except for the completion of the Roadmap for Kazakhstan. As stated earlier, this was not completed due to COVID-19 pandemic and frequent changes in the relevant Ministries of Kazakhstan.

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[35] Anonymous survey respondent, June 2023

Table 4. Results indicators, targets, and achievement

Output	Indicator	Status of achievement
1.1 Policy Briefs on Ageing Issued	3 Policy Briefs	Five (5) Policy Briefs issued during the evaluation period
1.2. Policy Seminars Organized	3 Policy Seminars	3 Policy Seminars conducted
1.3. Guidelines for Mainstreaming Ageing Prepared and launched	Guidelines Issued Lunch even organized	Guidelines Issued and Launch event organized
2.1. Road Map for Kazakhstan prepared and assessment mission for implementation of roadmaps conducted	One (1) Roadmap for Kazakhstan developed. X Number of assessment Missions conducted	Not fully achieved (field mission conducted in January 2020) One Mission to Moldova conducted
2.2. Fourth Review of MIPAA/RIS conducted	MIPAA/RIS reporting Guidelines issued; Synthesis Report Issued; Review Conference Organized; Proceedings of Conference prepared.	Successfully conducted
2.3. Side events to promote international cooperation organized	3 side events supported	3 side events supported

F9. PROJECT EFFECTIVENESS AT OUTCOME LEVEL IS SIGNIFICANT

The effectiveness of the project is evaluated for the two main outcomes/accomplishments: **enhanced national policy formulation and improved capacities to monitor MIPAA/RIS implementation.**

EAI. Enhanced national policy formulation on population ageing

The intervention logic of the project for this accomplishment was that national policy formulation will be enhanced if Guidelines for mainstreaming ageing were developed and used, the Ageing Policy Briefs are developed and used, and number of policy seminars are organized. The indicator for this outcome is that at least four additional member states have adjusted their policies or introduced new measures aimed at implementation of MIPAA/RIS and the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration.

Assessing progress against this indicator is a challenging task for two reasons: (a) It is not clear what the concept of "policy" means here, i.e., a specific Strategy on ageing, or on any of the policy areas covered by the MIPAA/RIS. Moreover, it is unclear if "policy" refers only to a national strategy or any other policy document that addresses the issue of ageing, i.e., regulation, by-law, protocol, law? This lack of clarity negatively impacts the collection of relevant data to support the evidence for indicator achievement; and (b) Similarly, the concept of "measure" is unclear, and

could be applied to any incentive, instrument or action undertaken to regulate, implement or facilitate action or information, thus making data collection to assess indicator achievement challenging.

With these caveats in mind and in in order to assess if and how many countries have adjusted their policies or have introduced new measures, a review of the 40 MIPAA+20 Reports submitted to ECE was conducted, focusing on both ageing specific strategies, laws, plans and the sectoral strategies, laws, plans that have mainstreamed ageing issues.

Although the national reports were prepared during 2021 and thus do not cover completely the time of the project implementation, data confirms that many countries did indeed develop new legal and policy documents/policy measures to address relevant ageing issues or mainstream ageing in different sectoral policies. The **Table 5** (See **Annex 6**) is not exhaustive but shows some relevant examples, attesting to the fact that more than 4 countries have developed relevant policy documents.

Although from the data available, i.e., the national Reports a direct causality link between the project activities and the development of a policy cannot be established, it is obvious that there has been a notable longer-term impact of the work of the ECE on ageing on the placement of the issue of ageing in the national agendas and consequent development of national ageing policies. As stated in the ECE Report 20 years of action towards creating societies for all ages in the UNECE region,[36] "in the period of 2002 to 2022, 35 countries have developed national ageing strategies since 2002". Based on the MIPAA/RIS country reports, 18 countries did not report having ageing strategies, whereas 3 report use of regional ones (pp. 7).

To assess the effectiveness of project outputs, the survey sought the opinion of respondents on whether they have or do plan to use the mainstreaming guidelines and information shared through policy briefs, seminars, and policy discussions to inform the development of policies on ageing in their country. The responses are presented in Graph 5 below.

Graph 5. Effectiveness of the project in strengthening capacities for policy making
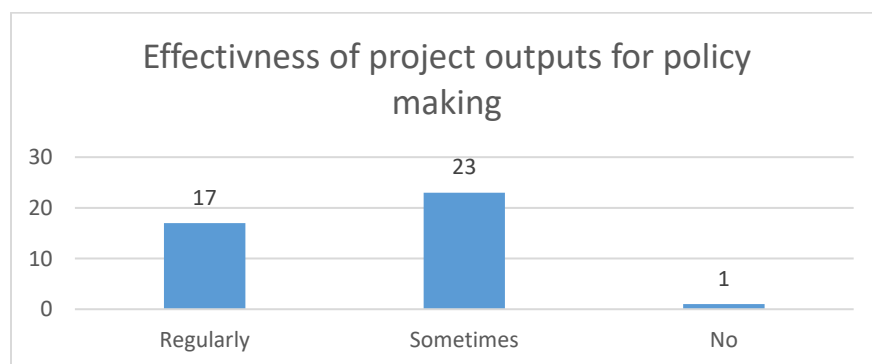
Source: Online Survey, 2023

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[36] ECE/WG.1/40, MIPAA/RIS +20, 20 years of action towards creating societies for all ages in the UNECE region (Available at: https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-07/ECE_WG.1_40_WEB.pdf)

Out of the total of 41 respondents, 41,5 percent stated that they do use them regularly to support policy making in their countries while 56 percent stated that they do so sometimes.

The interviews with Bureau members revealed that few reason why these project outputs are regularly used by less than half of the respondents. One reason is that "*Policy Briefs are in English only, so it is difficult to share with larger group of relevant stakeholders at national level*"[37]. Although some countries do translate them (Germany and Spain, for example), there has to be an effort to resolve this challenge in a systematic way. Other reasons mentioned are the length of the Policy Briefs, which by many are considered "*too long, and that they are rather academic in character. This makes it difficult to assess how far they are read by relevant stakeholders.*"[38] A more practical approach to Policy Briefs was suggested by few interview respondents, and as put by one survey respondent "*Generative content summarizing case studies, models from member-states in the region*"[39] *may be more effective for national policy making.*

The Guidelines for Mainstreaming Ageing, on the other hand, seems to have been issued at a time of the COVID-19 pandemic, which halted efforts in many countries to either initiate or proceed with development of comprehensive national ageing policy. Few respondents, however, do think that *"they are too long and not always practical,"* and that they will benefit if a Checklist like guidance is issued. On the positive side and as a good practice, interviewed Bureau member noted that "the Guidelines for Mainstreaming Ageing were translated by the Ministry in Turkish language, and published it on the web site of the Ministry of Family and Social Services. We find the Guideline really effective and useful for mainstreaming the ageing among all sectors in Türkiye".[40]

Additionally, a survey respondent indicated that it would be "*beneficial to have more opportunities for communication and exchange of practical experience between countries to see more clearly the evidence of effectiveness from the implemented activities.*" This view was shared by some interviewed Bureau members as well.[41]

To address the above challenges, the SWGA and the Secretariat should consider making short one-page summaries of the Policy Briefs oriented towards practical lessons learned on how to implement ageing policies and translate them in at least the two other official languages. NFPA should be encouraged to translate the Summaries of the Ageing Briefs into their national language/s to facilitate dissemination.

EAII. Improved capacity to monitor and assess, within the national and regional context, the implementation of MIPAA/RIS and 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration

The intervention logic of the project for this accomplishment was that the capacity of beneficiaries to monitor and assess the implementation of the main national and regional commitments on ageing will be improved through the different actions undertaken in the framework of the process of fourth review and appraisal of MIPA/RIS, the SWGA side events were organized, and the Road Map for Kazakhstan was developed. The main indicator of achievement for this outcome is "At least two-thirds of member States submitted their national reports of MIPAA/RIS implementation

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[37]Interviews with Bureau members, June 7, 2023, and June 23, 2023
[38]Interview Bureau member, June 7, 2023
[39] Anonymous Survey respondent, June, 2023
[40] Interview Bureau member, 6, July 2023
[41] Survey, June 2023, and interviewed Bureau members, June 9, 2023

that include the assessment of existing processes and tools for mainstreaming ageing and a set of agreed monitoring indicators."

The intervention logic of the project is adequate. However, to measure capacity effectively, we need to understand its attributes. Capacity, at its core, involves the ability to do and achieve things and make changes as needed, and capacity development entails identifying and addressing areas of performance that need improvement.

The project has rightly assumed that there is a need to develop Guidelines for the preparation of National Reports for the fourth MIPAA/RIS review and implement webinars to increase national capacities for appraisal of progress.

According to the Synthesis Report for the fourth review, **40 countries** have submitted their reports, which confirms that the indicator for this outcome has been fully achieved. Yet, it should be noted that according to the Synthesis Report for the third review and appraisal of MIPPA/RIS implementation (ECE/AC.30/2017/Room document1),[42] "a total of **45 national reports were submitted** for the third cycle review between October 2016 and August 2017. This represents an increase compared to **40 reports in 2012 and 35 reports in 2007**" (pp.7). Although the target for this indicator has been fully achieved, it may be important to understand why the number of countries submitting a national report has decreased as compared to the previous reporting cycle.

The extent to which specific activities and outputs relevant to the fourth MIPAA/RIS review and appraisal were considered effective and helpful for countries to enhance their monitoring capacities are presented in **Graph 5** below.

Graph 5. Effectiveness of the project for strengthening national capacities to monitor MIPAA/RIS
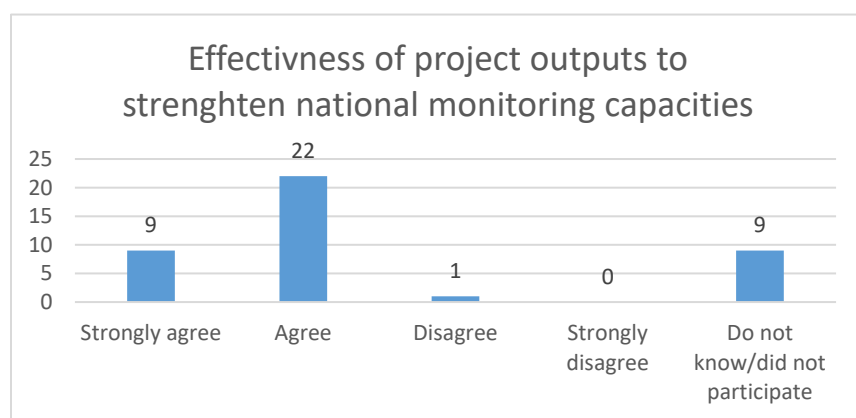
Source: Online Survey, 2023

Data shows that only 9 respondents, or 22 per cent strongly agree with a statement that "*the activities and corresponding project outputs have helped them enhance their monitoring*

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[42] ECE/AC.30/2017/Room document1, Synthesis Report on the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the ECE region between 2012 and 2017 (available at: https://unece.org/DAM/pau/age/Ministerial_Conference_Lisbon/Practical_infos/Synthesis_report_MIPAA15_Room_Document_with_Annex.pdf)

capacities", while the same percentage of respondents do not have an opinion on this or did not participate in the process. Interviewed Bureau members also did make few observations regarding the helpfulness of the Reporting Guidelines. "*They are too long and comprehensive and require a lot of effort to collect data and prepare the national Reports.*"[43] A survey respondent suggested to "*Make it a shorter document, with less questions. To cover the great variations in ageing-related policies and the different policy traditions are not easy, though. Focus on what is the most relevant information on the ageing situation and policies*".[44] Another respondent suggested that "*It would make sense for the guidelines to focus more on the practical aspects of organizing reviews, as well as the methodological aspects of reporting*"[45]. This view is shared by other respondents, observing, for example, to not "*address too many different issues (general ageing policies/UN WHO Decade/Agenda 2030). Instead, make reporting on a few topics more comprehensive and systematic.*"[46]

To improve the MIPAA/RIS reporting process, a revision of the future Reporting Guidelines to be less burdensome and oriented towards seeking information that will facilitate policy-making and follow-up, thus ensuring greater ownership and sustainability of results should be considered, as well as standardization of the executive summary of the reports based on predetermined categories of the information requested.

Webinars, on the other hand, were generally considered by all interviewed Bureau members as very effective. As suggested by a survey respondent, "*The webinars that were delivered during the last review and appraisal process were really informative. However, we would suggest delivering these webinars in advance of the review and appraisal process to be able to fully implement suggestions on process/outputs.*"[47]

With regards to the helpfulness of the National Reports and the Synthesis Report produced for the fourth MIPAA/RIS review, few interviewed members of the Bureau noted that they have no knowledge of, if and by how many people are being read, as they are too long. It was thus suggested to consider making them shorter. As stated by a survey respondent, "*Briefs or 1-pagers from the summarized UNECE MIPAA reports would be helpful.*"[48]

Others observed that the Rome Ministerial Conference was partially effective "*as it was not attended by many high-level representatives of countries, i.e., Ministers, (…), whereas the civil society forum held during the Conference was very effective.*"[49].

In order to address the challenges raised regarding MIPAA/RIS review and reporting, i.e. this being a demanding process, it was suggested to look for ways to simplify it. As put by a survey respondent, as well as few interviewed members of the Bureau, "*The envisaged data base of good practices, including regular updates of legislation etc., will help reduce/spread out the burden on country focal points in reporting.*"

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[43] Interviewed Bureau member, June 15, 2023
[44] Anonymous Survey respondent, June, 2023
[45] Anonymous Survey respondent, June, 2023
[46] Anonymous Survey respondent, June, 2023
[47] Anonymous Survey respondent, June, 2023
[48] Anonymous Survey respondent, June, 2023
[49] Interviewed Bureau member, June 20, 2023

It is thus important that the database planned for the next MIPAA/RIS cycle is given a priority in the implementation of the work programme of the SWGA.

F9. PROJECT EFFECTIVENESS AT OUTPUT LEVEL IS SIGNIFICANT

A review of data on the implementation of the project activities and the resulting outputs shows that all but one project outputs have been successfully achieved. Policy Briefs on Ageing have been published and the planned policy seminars conducted. The Guidelines for Mainstreaming Ageing have been developed and adequately socialized. The most significant output achieved is the successful conduct of the fourth review process which is at the core of the mandate of the SWGA and the ECE. The fact that the Ministerial Conference took place in Rome in 2022 resulted in "The Rome Ministerial Declaration "A Sustainable World for All Ages: Joining Forces for Solidarity and Equal Opportunities Throughout Life", represents a significant mark of growing commitment of countries to address ageing issues, and attests to the effectiveness of the project, confirming a strong causality link between the project activities and this specific output.

Only one project output- development of a Roadmap for Kazakhstan has not been fully achieved. Available information suggests that the Roadmap it is still under implementation. According to the SWGA Report ECE/WG.1/2021/3, "Work for the Road Map project for Kazakhstan was halted in early 2020 due to Covid-19 related restrictions and lack of financial and human resources.[50]" The Report of the SWGA for 2022[51] does not make mention if the Roadmap has been finalized or no. Interviewed staff from the Secretariat (current and past) attested that *" COVID-19 pandemic and the frequent change of management in relevant Ministry in Kazakhstan during the last few years, challenged the implementation of this output."[52]*

On the other hand, the assessment mission for Moldova has taken place as planned. As noted in ECE/WG.1/2022/3, [53] "a 10-year evaluation of the implementation of the Roadmap for Mainstreaming Ageing in the Republic of Moldova, for which a request and funding had been received in January 2022. A desk study and stakeholder survey were prepared in March-April 2022, followed by a field visit for stakeholder consultations in May 2022. Meetings were held with different groups of stakeholders and with older people in the Republic of Moldova. The mission was assessed as very productive and informative. The interview member of the Bureau from Moldova confirmed that the support by the project to the development of their Active Ageing Strategy was very effective, *"but that unfortunately, it was still not approved by the government due to financial concerns."[54]*

This attests to the positive effect of the output on the countries capacities and policy-making skills. As confirmed in the Synthesis Report for the fourth review, "Countries such as Belarus and the Republic of Moldova have benefited from ECE assistance in developing and evaluating road maps for mainstreaming ageing that provided concrete policy guidance on ageing grounded in a profound analysis of the situation in the country." (pp. 7).

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[50] ECE/WG.1/2021/3, (available at: file:///C:/Users/tatja/OneDrive/UNECE%202023/ECE-WG.1-2021-3-E.pdf)
[51] ECE/WG.1/2022/4, Implementation of the Standing Working Group on Ageing work programme in 2022
Note by the Secretariat, 2022. (Available at: file:///C:/Users/tatja/OneDrive/UNECE%202023/ECE-WG.1-2022-4-E%20Report%202022.pdf)
[52] Interview two staff members (current and past), June 13, 2023
[53] ECE/WG.1/2022/4, Implementation of the Standing Working Group on Ageing work programme in 2022
[54] Interviewed Bureau member, June 9, 2023

3.4. Efficiency of the Project

The evaluation assessed how well did the project used human and financial resources to undertake activities, and how well these resources were converted into results. The following aspects of the project are assessed:

- Management of inputs and means.

- Extent to which the project activities were delivered on time.

F11. CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROJECT ACTIVITIES EFFICIENTLY WERE PRESENT, BUT WERE SUCCESSFULLY MITIGATED BY THE PROJECT, AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN SUCESFULLY IMPLEMENTED

Reports by the SWGA[55] to EXCOM indicate that the resources invested had been used in an efficient manner to produce the planned results. All project outputs achieved during the implementation period are contained in **Table 4, in Annex 7** of this Report.

The desk review revealed number of challenges as related to the implementation of the project activities and outputs. They mostly relate to the fact that the project activities involve management and implementation modalities that fall outside the project's sphere of control. Although the theory of action of the project is appropriate, it lacked explicit consideration of ways to mitigate barriers or contextual elements that could hinder their achievement. One such thing is for example, the role of political commitment to the issue of ageing as is the leverage of the NFPA to coordinate, initiate and support policymaking on ageing and to monitor, review and produce reports to appraise progress on MIPAA/RIS commitments. Another important contextual factor, as noted above, is the impact of COVID-19 on the implementation of the Roadmap for Kazakhstan. Furthermore, some activities were initially planned to take place during 2020 have been temporarily halted (meetings and policy seminars) but the situation was soon remedied by increased use of online meeting technologies.

The ability of the project staff and members of the SWGA to overcome those challenges in the best possible way was praised by all interviewed members of the Bureau, which confirmed that despite the contextual setbacks, all but one project outputs have been efficiently achieved.

F12. PROJECT SPENDING HAS BEEN EFFICIENT AND IN LINE WITH THE PROJECT DOCUMENT RESULTING IN ACHIEVEMENT OF THE PLANNED OUTPUTS AS WELL AS ADDITIONAL RESULTS

According to the approved project document, the total budget planned for the project for the period of 2020 to 2022 is US$ 350.000. As per the data obtained from the ECE, the total expenditures amount to US$390,590.76   The additional US$ 40,590 spent were provided through donations to the ageing fund, and used to implement two additional activities not reflected in the original project document, i.e. a toolkit and online training course to be finalized in 2023 on mainstreaming ageing to support the operationalization of the Guidelines for Mainstreaming Ageing following their launch in the first quarter of 2021. Of those, 7,500 USD were spent on consultancy for the

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[55] Informal Document 2023/10, Meeting with the Chair of the Standing Working Group on Ageing Report by the Chair (https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/item%204a_SWGA%20Chair%20report_2023_10.pdf; Informal Document 2022/10, Meeting with the Chair of the Standing Working Group on Ageing Report by the Chair (https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/Item%205a_ECE_EX-2022-10_SWGA%20Chair%27s%20Report.pdf); Informal Document 2021/7, Meeting with the Chair of the Standing Working Group on Ageing Report by the Chair (https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/Item%205a_ECE_EX-2021_7-SWGA%20Chair%27s%20Report.pdf).

development of an online course on mainstreaming ageing (2022) and 2 work months by the temporary P3 staff and related administrative charges.

F13. PROJECT EFFICIENCY WAS NOT AFFECTED DESPITE THE LIQUIDITY CHALLENGES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT

According to ECE/WG.1/2021/3,[56] "the ongoing liquidity crisis faced by the United Nations secretariat and the measures undertaken by the Secretary-General to manage the financial situation of the Organization. At the core of it is a temporary suspension of hiring for all regular budget vacant positions and 90 per cent expense freeze on non-post items. This directly affects the regular budget P2 post in the Population Unit which became vacant in January after a staff member resigned. The hiring for this post planned through a Managed Reassignment Programme was suspended and the post was not filled until August 2021. This situation limited the capacity to support the implementation of the SWGA work programme. Fortunately, the additional country contributions received to the Ageing-Phase III fund in 2020-2021, allowed to engage the professional at P3 level on a temporary full-time contract as of February 2021 (previously working at 50 per cent)". This, according to interviewed staff members, has helped resolve problems of continuity and efficient use of gained knowledge and know-how.

The analysis of project expenditures shows that, in fact, most of the project funds were spent on staff/personnel with only a small proportion being spent on contractual services, travel, and other operating expenditures. The data indicates that almost 90 per cent of the initially planned project funds were used for staff expenditures to ensure project implementation. This may create instability should project funds decrease in the future, calling for the need for staff to be paid by the core UN budget. As such available funds from the Ageing Fund could be used for additional activities. There have been savings on travel, contractual and operating costs as a result of COVID-19 pandemic due to a shift of events from in-person to online.

The **Graph 7.** below shows the total actual expenditures for staff, contractual services, and travel, for the years 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Graph 7. Total project expenditures per category of cost 2020-2022 (US$)
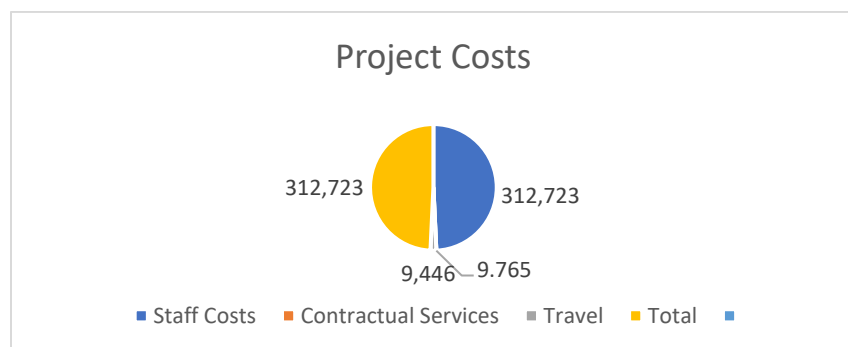
Source: UNECE Secretariat

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[56] ECE/WG.1/2021/3, Report on the Thirteenth meeting of the Bureau of the Standing Working Group on Ageing, Note by the Secretariat, 2021. (file:///C:/Users/tatja/OneDrive/UNECE%202023/ECE-WG.1-2021-3-E.pdf)

However, despite the use of project funds to pay for temporary staff, the project managed to deliver all planned outputs efficiently, including two additional ones as noted above.

3.5. Sustainability of project results

This section looks at how the relevance of the project, the inter-governmental approach and the ongoing activities contributed to sustainability and whether the project helped to solve the problems initially targeted.

The desk review of relevant documents shows the following:

F14. THE RELEVANCE OF THE PROJECT CONTRIBUTED TO ITS SUSTAINABILITY

The desk review concludes that due to the relevance of the issues addressed by the project and the fact that it supports the Programme of Work of the SWGA under the continuous mandate, the project and its accomplishments are sustainable. This is so because:

a) The issues addressed by the project are not only pertinent but are becoming more and more important; Many of the conclusions and recommendations from the project workshops and policy briefs, as well as the Rome Declaration point to the need for continuous engagement of the UNECE on the issue of ageing.

b) The Rome Ministerial Declaration calls on UNECE to strengthen its post fourth review efforts and support countries in developing and improving their policy frameworks on ageing.

c) The project contributed by generating new knowledge and providing tools on mainstreaming ageing, which are deemed as important by governments and civil society organizations alike, as attested during the Ministerial Conference in Rome at the Joint Forum of Civil Society and Scientific Research, and in particular the Rome Ministerial Declaration which endorses mainstreaming ageing as one of its three main goals.

d) The UNECE member States pledged to support the SWGA activities by providing funding and in-kind contributions, and this ensures the work on the issue of ageing as conducted by the project sustainable.

F16. THERE IS A POSSIBILITY TO ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROJECT'S MAIN RESULTS AS THEY ARE BECOMING INTEGRATED IN THE WORK OF BENEFICIARY INSTITUTIONS AFTER COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT'S ACTIVITIES

Reviewed data shows that, in general, the project, in the framework of the regular work of the Population Unit, has established good collaboration and partnerships with relevant international and national actors to ensure ownership and sustainability. As noted in the annual SWGA's reports, the secretariat has continued to be closely involved in the activities of the Joint Programme on Ageing (regional initiative developed in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, the World Health Organization, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and HelpAge International). Moreover, the ECE secretariat collaborates with other United Nations entities in the United Nations Inter-Agency Group on Ageing (IAGA) to promote the system-wide implementation of the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing.

Data on whether knowledge and information generated within the framework of the project was shared and used within national institutions and partner organizations was sought through the

Survey. Respondents were asked if they share with colleagues and relevant partners the information on project activities and its specific outputs. Survey responses presented in **Graph 8** below, show that almost half of the respondents (46,3 per cent) do share them with colleagues regularly, while slightly higher number of them do so sometimes. One reason, as noted earlier, for not sharing the project results more regularly and to wider audience is the language barrier, as noted by some interviewed members of the Bureau. Other respondents indicated that irregular sharing is a result of lack of time by the NFPA and/or partners as well as a lack of practice of sharing and follow up. It is interesting to note that project partners from civil society which have been engaged successfully in project activities, particularly around the fourth MIPAA/RIS review and during the Ministerial Conference, when asked whether they do follow up on the activities undertaken jointly, noted that due to lack of time, they have no such practice. As stated by an interviewed Bureau member representing civil society, which was part of the civil society forum during the Ministerial Conference, when asked whether there has been a follow up on the Joint Declaration, stated that "*this has not been done yet*".[57]

Graph 7. Sustainability of Project Outputs and Activities
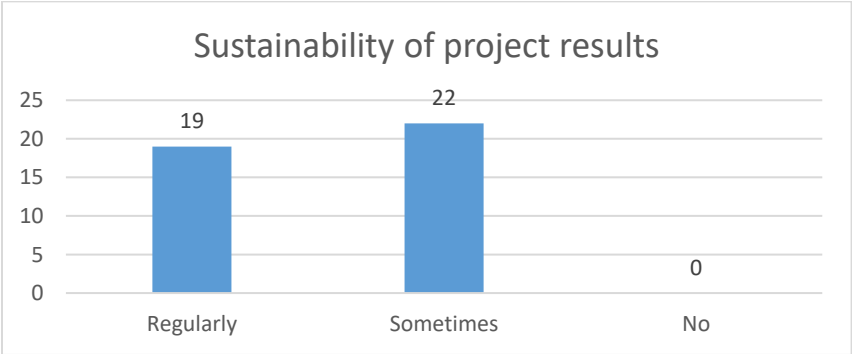
Source: Online Survey, 2023

The importance of follow-up, sharing and disseminating information and knowledge products developed by the project was underscored by all interviewed members of the Bureau. As observed by a survey respondent "*It is not so much a question of the policy briefs and guidelines themselves, but on organizing the spreading of the knowledge to an informed public and political stakeholders*".[58] Other survey respondent suggest' that "*To motivate national stakeholders in the reporting exercise (which can sometimes be heavy in view of other tasks), it is important to improve the visibility of these reports.*"[59] Such statements confirm the finding that in order to ensure sustainability, developing a sense of ownership and disseminating/using the results of the project would help make the work of the SWGA more sustainable.

To increase sustainability of project results, it is important that not only the Secretariat, but members of the Bureau and partner organization undertake follow-up activities and continue working on processes already initiated to enhance ownership and ensure more sustainability of its work.

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[57] Interviewed member of the Bureau, June 21, 2023

[58] Anonymous Survey respondent, June, 2023

[59] Anonymous Survey respondent, June, 2023

4. KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

Findings:

F.1. Overall, the project and its main outputs are relevant, effective, and efficient, ensuring sustainability of the efforts to address ageing issues in the region. National partners as well of those of international organizations and civil society, consider the work undertaken in the framework of this project valuable.

F.2. The evaluation assessed that the project design is appropriate and relevant to the accomplishment of the implementation of the SWGA's work programme 2018-2022 and is in line with the results-based methodology.

F.3. The evaluation shows that the project is highly relevant to the national ageing priorities and needs as well as it is aligned with the international and ECE commitments on ageing. The relevance of the project activities and its main outputs to the national policy-making needs was confirmed by this evaluation. Its relevance for the improvement of the national capacities to monitor MIPAA/RIS was also confirmed. Few suggestions to improve relevance of future project activities have been made, as appropriate.

F.4. Project implementation rate has been very good, with all activities being implemented and all outputs but one achieved.

F.5. Cross-cutting issues like gender, human rights, disability, and environmental change have been integrated in the project activities to some extent, and they are relevant to the policymaking needs of stakeholders. However, there is a room for improvement as suggested below.

F.6. The relevance of the project in aligning its activities with the Agenda 2030 and the national SDG's reporting frameworks has been adequate, yet, a silo approach to policy making makes work on the two agendas sometimes in parallel and it duplicates efforts requiring attention to how to better align the two.

F.7. Overall, the project has been found to be effective in achieving the specific project outputs. Likewise, project outputs aimed to enhance policy making have been found effective but there is a challenge in assessing the direct correlation between project outputs and resulting policies, due to absence of baseline data at outcome level. This should be addressed as suggested below.

F.8. The project has been effective in ensuring a successful MIPAA/RIS review, despite some perceived shortcomings which should be addressed as recommended.

F.9. The evaluation confirmed that the project has been efficient in implementing the planned activities. The challenges that were present during the implementation period were successfully overcome.

F.10. The project has been implemented efficiently despite challenges affecting the staffing situation of the Population Unit. Most of the funds available through the Ageing Fund have been used to cover for temporary staff, thus ensuring implementation of project activities. The financial management and project efficiency have been praised by the Bureau members.

F.11. Although the nature of the project and the issues it addresses make it sustainable, ownership and sustainability could be improved as recommended below.

Recommendations:

To enhance the relevance, effectiveness and sustainability of the work undertaken by the Standing Working Group on Ageing and to mitigate shortcomings of project outputs identified by the evaluation, the following recommendations are made:

1. Strengthen the role and engagement of national focal points on ageing in activities of the SWGA, including through the development of *Terms of Reference for national focal points* on ageing to strengthen clarity on their roles and responsibilities, including in their respective national institutions.

2. Further enhance the usefulness of project outputs (policy briefs, policy seminars and guidelines for mainstreaming ageing) to national policymakers by: *(a) providing more guidance on practical issues and challenges related to policy implementation and more details on the good practice examples shared; (b) providing a summary version of policy briefs with key messages to facilitate dissemination; (c) encouraging translation of policy briefs/summaries into national languages; (d) developing a checklist for mainstreaming ageing into policies.*

3. Strengthen the MIPAA/RIS review process to become a stronger accountability mechanism for governments, by: *(a) simplifying/standardizing the reporting process further, for example by considering to focus the reporting guidelines and data collection on fewer priority issues if possible and appropriate; (b) leveraging the UNECE Ageing Policies Database for continuous monitoring and reporting on MIPAA/RIS implementation to support the next MIPAA/RIS review and appraisal process and highlight synergies between MIPAA/RIS and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; (c) enhancing the engagement of permanent missions in Geneva in the review process and ministerial conference preparations to ensure high-level participation at the Ministerial Conference and accountability.*

4. Include cross-cutting issues such as gender, disability, human rights and climate change in the programming cycle more systematically by: *(a) mainstreaming these issues in situation analyses and, e.g., integration of specific gender-sensitive results and performance measures; (b) encouraging disaggregated data collection and monitoring by governments and civil society; (c) ensuring that policy briefs and policy discussions take systematically account of regional diversity and cross-cutting issues such as gender, disability, human rights, climate change by developing check lists for authors and project staff encouraging an approach that mainstreams cross-cutting issues.*

5. Address the instability of the staffing and budget situation in the Secretariat to ensure continuity and efficient use of the know-how of current staff and *engage in fundraising for additional resources earmarked for "the work of the Standing Working Group on Ageing and its Secretariat".*

6. Increase the sustainability of project results by encouraging members of the SWGA Bureau, national focal points on ageing and partner organizations to undertake follow-up activities and continue working on processes already initiated to enhance ownership and ensure more sustainability of its work.

Annex 1.   TORs FOR THE EVALUATION

TERMS OF REFERENCE

E345: Improve capacities of UNECE member States in developing evidence-based policy measures to meet their commitments under MIPAA/RIS and 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration: Ageing (Phase III)

I. Evaluation objective and purpose

The objective of this evaluation is to determine, as systematically and objectively as possible, the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of UNECE project E345 "Improve capacities of UNECE member States in developing evidence-based policy measures to meet their commitments under MIPAA/RIS and 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration: Ageing (Phase III)" and the extent to which its objectives were achieved.

As per ECE Evaluation policy, the evaluation aims to (i) Promote organizational learning, by identifying lessons learned and best practices; (ii) Contribute to improvement of programme or project performance, as progress towards and achievement of results, including by contributing to senior leadership decision-making; (iii) Ensure accountability of the Secretariat to member States, senior leadership, donors, and beneficiaries.

The results of the evaluation will allow improving capacity building services provided to member States through regular technical cooperation as well as the development and implementation of similar future projects and activities by the Population Unit of UNECE, including of Phase IV of the project being evaluated.

II. Background

The project supported the following expected accomplishments of the Population Component of Subprogramme 8: Housing, land management and population as defined in the UNECE Proposed Programme Budget for 2020 'to advance (…) evidence-based population and social cohesion policies". The proposed project directly contributes to the Programme of work of the Working Group on Ageing for 2018-2022 (ECE/WG.1/2018/2, Annex 2). The objective of the project was to support the implementation of the programme of work of the Working Group on Ageing (WGA) and improve capacities of UNECE member States in developing evidence-based policy measures to meet their commitments under the Regional Implementation Strategy of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA/RIS) and the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration by facilitating exchange of good practices among member States and other stakeholders, supporting the WGA in developing guidelines to streamline the process of mainstreaming ageing in the region, assisting countries in prepaying comprehensive policies on ageing, providing support and advice to countries on monitoring MIPAA/RIS implementation specifically within its fourth cycle of review and appraisal (2018–2022). Expected accomplishments were enhanced national policy formulation on population ageing and improved capacity to monitor and assess, within national and regional context, the implementation of MIPAA/RIS and the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration. Core activities included the preparation of policy briefs and policy seminars on ageing, the preparation and launch of guidelines for mainstreaming ageing, the preparation of road maps for mainstreaming ageing at country request and conducting the fourth review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS at the regional level.

III. Evaluation scope

The evaluation will be guided by the objectives, indicators of achievement and means of verification established in the logical framework of the project document. The evaluation will be conducted in Q1-Q2 of 2023. It will cover the full project implementation, from January 2020 to December 2022in UNECE member States.

The final evaluation of the project has the following specific objectives:
- Determine as systematically and objectively as possible the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the project results in light of its goals and objectives;
 - Assess how the project activities contributed to gender equality and women' s empowerment, as well as the realization of human rights, with an emphasis on 'leaving no one behind' and, if needed, it will make recommendations on how these considerations can be better addressed in future activities of the subprogramme.
- Identify good practices and lessons learned from the project and formulate action-oriented, forward-looking recommendations addressed to the subprogramme for improving future interventions.

III. Key evaluation questions

The evaluation will seek to answer questions related to the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the project.

Relevance
1. To what extent was the project design appropriate for meeting the needs of beneficiary countries?
2. To what extent did the project respond to the priorities and needs of the participating countries? How relevant were they to the countries' needs and priorities?
3. To what extent was the project aligned with the SDGs?
4. What takeaways are there for ensuring relevance of future UNECE projects?
5. To what extent were gender, human rights and disability perspectives integrated into the design and implementation of the project? What results can be identified from these actions? How can gender and human rights perspectives be better included in future the projects design and implementation?

Effectiveness
6. To what extent were the project objectives and expected accomplishments achieved?
7. To what extent did the project improve the competencies of policy makers in the participating countries to design, develop, implement, reform, and evaluate population ageing policies?
8. To what extent are the project activities coherent and harmonized with those of other partners operating within the same context, particularly those of other UN system entities?
9. What were the challenges/obstacles (including COVID-19 and sub-regional instability) to achieving the expected results? How successfully did the project overcome these?
10. What (if anything) has prevented the project from achieving the desired results?

Efficiency
11. Were the resources adequate for achieving the results?
12. Were the results achieved on time and were all activities organized efficiently?
13. To what extent were the resources used economically and how could the use of resources be improved?

Sustainability
14. What measures were adopted to ensure that project outcomes would continue after the project ended and to what extent have these measures addressed the existing risks for sustainability?
15. To what extent do the partners and beneficiaries 'own' the outcomes of the work? How is the

stakeholders' engagement likely to continue, be scaled up, replicated, or institutionalized?

16. To what extent are the objectives of the project still valid and what could be revised in the project subsequent Phases?

IV. Evaluation approach and methodology

The evaluation will be conducted in accordance with: the ECE Evaluation Policy[60]; the Administrative instruction guiding Evaluation in the UN Secretariat[61]; and the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Norms and Standards for Evaluation[62]. Human rights and gender equality considerations will be integrated at all stages of the evaluation[63]: (i) in the evaluation scope and questions; (ii) in the methods, tools and data analysis techniques; (iii) in the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the final report. The evaluator will explicitly explain how human rights, gender, disability, SDGs, and climate change considerations will be taken into account during the evaluation.

The evaluator is required to use a mixed-method approach, including qualitative as well as quantitative data gathering and analysis as the basis for a triangulation exercise of all available data to draw conclusions and findings. The evaluator shall conduct online surveys and interview a wide range of diverse stakeholders, including members of the Standing Working Group on Ageing (national focal points on ageing), academia, civil society, regional and international organisations active in the field of ageing.

The evaluation should be conducted based on the following mixed methods to triangulate information:

1. A desk review of all relevant documents, including the project document and information on project activities (monitoring data); materials developed in support of the activities (agendas, plans, participant lists, background documents, donor reports and publications); Proposed programme budgets covering the evaluation period; project reports to the donor.
2. Online survey of key stakeholders and beneficiaries: the survey will be developed by the consultant on her/his preferred platform.
3. Interviews (in-person and by telephone/video): the evaluator shall interview a wide range of diverse stakeholders and beneficiaries as outlined above. To ensure representativeness, the evaluator shall speak to a large sample of stakeholders including high-level government interlocutors whom UNECE has worked with.

The evaluator will further elaborate on the evaluation methodology in the Inception Report that will among others include the survey questions and interview guide. The evaluation report will be written in English, will consist of approximately 30 pages and will include an executive summary (max. 2 pages) describing the evaluation methodology, key findings, conclusions and recommendations. The evaluator will also produce an evaluation brief summarizing key evaluation findings, highlighting the results of the project and lessons learned.

V. Evaluation schedule[64]

February 2023	ToR finalized
February/March 2023	Evaluator selected
March 2023	Contract signed. Evaluator starts the desk review
April 2023	Evaluator submits inception report including survey design
June 2023	Evaluator submits final evaluation report and brief

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[60] UNECE Evaluation policy
[61] ST/AI/2021/3
[62] UNEG 2016 Norms and Standards for Evaluation
[63] IN line with UNEG Guidance contained in Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluations
[64] Final timetable to be agreed following engagement of the evaluator

VI. Resources and Management of the evaluation

An independent consultant will be engaged to conduct the evaluation, with a budget of USD 12,000, inclusive of all costs. Payment will be made upon satisfactory delivery of work.

The Programme Management Unit (PMU) will manage the evaluation and will be involved in the following steps: Selection of the evaluator; Preparation and clearance of the Terms of Reference; Provision of guidance to the Project Manager and evaluator as needed on the evaluation design and methodology; Clearance of the final report after quality assurance of the draft report.

The Project Manager, in consultation with the Division Director, will be involved in the following steps: Provide all documentation needed for desk review, contact details, support and guidance to the evaluation consultant as needed throughout the timeline of the evaluation; Advise the evaluator on the recipients for the questionnaire and for follow-up interviews; Process and manage the consultancy contract of the evaluator, along the key milestones agreed with PMU.

VII. Intended use / Next steps

The results of the evaluation will be used in the planning and implementation of future activities of the Population Component of the Housing, land management and population subprogramme, in particular the Programme of Work 2023-2027 of the UNECE Standing Working Group on Ageing.

Findings of this evaluation will be used when possible to:

- improve direct project's follow up actions, implementation of products by project beneficiaries and dissemination of the knowledge created through the project;
- assess the gaps and further needs of countries in the area of this project;
- formulate tailored capacity building projects to strengthen the national capacity in evidence-based population and social cohesion policies;

The results of the evaluation will be reported to the inter-governmental Standing Working Group on Ageing at its annual meeting in November 2023.

Following the issuance of the final report, the Project Manager will develop a Management Response and action plan for addressing the recommendations made by the evaluator. The final evaluation report, the management response and the progress on implementation of recommendations will be publicly available on the UNECE website.

VIII. Criteria for evaluators

The evaluator should have:

1. An advanced university degree or equivalent background in relevant disciplines in the social domain.
2. Specialized training in areas such as evaluation, project management, social statistics, advanced statistical research and analysis.
3. Knowledge of and experience in working with intergovernmental processes, preferably in the social domain / on ageing.
4. Relevant professional experience in design and management of evaluation processes with multiple stakeholders, survey design and implementation, project planning, monitoring and management, gender mainstreaming and human-rights due diligence.
5. Demonstrated methodological knowledge of evaluations, including quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis for end-of-cycle project evaluations. Demonstrated experience in conducting questionnaires and interviews is an asset.
6. Fluency in written and spoken English. Knowledge of Russian will be an advantage.

Evaluators should declare any conflict of interest to UNECE before embarking on an evaluation project, and at any point where such conflict occurs.

Annex 2. List of documents reviewed

Official UN/ECE documents

1.United Nations, Political Declaration and Madrid International Action Plan on Ageing, 2002 available at: https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/ageing/MIPAA/political-declaration-en.pdf

2. United Nations, Economic Commission for Europe, Regional Implementation Strategy For The Madrid International Plan Of Action On Ageing 2002, 2002, available at: https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/ageing/unece-ris.pdf

3. 2017 LISBON MINISTERIAL DECLARATION "A Sustainable Society for All Ages: Realizing the potential of living longer" 22 September 2017 , available at: https://unece.org/DAM/pau/age/Ministerial_Conference_Lisbon/Declaration/2017_Lisbon_Ministerial_Declaration.pdf

4. United Nations, General Assembly, A/RES/70/1 , Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 2015, available at: https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E

5.UNFPA, Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994, available at: https://unfpa.org/sites/default/files/event-pdf/PoA_en.pdf

6. ECE/WG.1/2018/1 "The Working Group on Ageing work programme for the fourth implementation cycle of the Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing" adopted at the 11th meeting of the WGA held in Geneva in 2018.

file:///C:/Users/tatja/OneDrive/UNECE%202023/ECE-WG-1-2018-%20Work%20programme%202018-2022.pdf

7.Economic and Social Council, ECE/WG.1/2018/Room Document2, Main elements of the programme of work for 2018–2022, available at: file:///C:/Users/tatja/OneDrive/UNECE%202023/ECE-WG-1-2018-RD2%20Work%20programme%202018-2022.pdf

8.Economic Commission for Europe, UNECE Evaluation Policy, 2021, available at: https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-12/Item%2010_ECE_EX_2021_35_Rev1_Evaluation%20Policy_as%20adopted.pdf

9. ST/AI/2021/3, United Nations Evaluation Group, Norms and Standards for Evaluation, 2017, available at: file:///C:/Users/tatja/Downloads/UNEG%20Norms%20&%20Standards%20for%20Evaluation_English-2017.pdf

10. UNECE, Guidelines for Mainstreaming Ageing, 2021, (available at: https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/Guidelines-for-Mainstreaming-Ageing-Executive-Summary.pdf).

11. A/74/6 (Sect. 20) , General Assembly, 2019. Proposed programme budget for 2020, ECE/WG.1/2019/5, Economic Commission for Europe Working Group on Ageing Twelfth meeting Geneva, 18 and 19 November 2019 Item 7 of the provisional agenda Programme of work of the Population component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2020 , Draft programme of work of the Population Component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2020, Note by the Secretariat

12. A/75/6 (Sect. 20), Proposed Programme Budget 2021, (https://unece.org/DAM/OPEN_UNECE/02_Programme_Planning_and_reporting/Sect._20_ECE_PPB_for_2021_Issued.pdf)

13. A/76/6 (Sect. 20), Proposed Programme Budget for 2022, (available at: https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/ECE_A_76_6%28Sect.20%29_0.pdf)

14. A/77/6 (Sect. 20), Proposed Programme Budget for 2023 (available at: https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/PPB%202023_Sect%2020_ECE.pdf).

15. UNECE, Synthesis Report on the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the ECE region between 2017 and 2022, (available at: https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-08/Synthesis-report.pdf).

16. UNECE, A Sustainable World for All Ages Joining forces for solidarity and equal opportunities throughout life; Proceedings of the 2022 UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing Rome, Italy, 16-17 June 2022, available at:

file:///C:/Users/tatja/OneDrive/UNECE%202023/Rome%20Review%20Conference%20Report.pdf

17. ECE/WG.1/2021/3, Report on the Thirteenth meeting of the Bureau of the Standing Working Group on Ageing, Note by the Secretariat, 2021. (file:///C:/Users/tatja/OneDrive/UNECE%202023/ECE-WG.1-2021-3-E.pdf)

18. ECE/WG.1/40, UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE MIPAA/RIS +20, 20 years of action towards creating societies for all ages in the UNECE region, 2022, (available at: https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-07/ECE_WG.1_40_WEB.pdf

19. ECE/WG.1/2022/3, Report on the fourteenth meeting of the Bureau of the Standing Working Group on Ageing Note by the Secretariat, 2022, Informal Document 2023/10, Meeting with the Chair of the Standing Working Group on Ageing Report by the Chair (https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/item%204a_SWGA%20Chair%20report_2023_10.pdf;);

20. ECE/WG.1/3, Informal Document 2021/7, Meeting with the Chair of the Standing Working Group on Ageing, Report by the Chair (available at: https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/Item%205a_ECE_EX-2021_7-SWGA%20Chair%27s%20Report.pdf)

21. MIPAA +20 National Reports , available at: https://unece.org/mipaa20-country-reports

Project Outputs

22. UNECE Policy Brief on Ageing No. 27, February 2022, Mainstreaming Ageing – Revisited

23. UNECE Policy Brief on Ageing No. 26, July 2021, Ageing in the Digital Era

24. UNECE Policy Brief on Ageing No. 25, November 2020, Older Persons in Emergency Situations

25. UNECE Policy Brief on Ageing No. 24, May 2020, Ageing in sustainable and smart cities

26. UNECE Policy Brief on Ageing No. 23 March 2020, Gender equality in ageing societies.

They are available at: https://unece.org/policy-briefs

27. Guidelines for mainstreaming ageing (available at: https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/ECE-WG.1-37_Guidelines_for-Mainstreaming_Ageing_1.pdf

28. Ageing in the Digital Era (2021)" (Report available at: https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/Ageing-Digital-Era-PS2021_Report.pdf)

29. Older persons in emergency situations: lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic (2020)" (Report available at: https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/PS2020_Report_20201218.pdf

30. Guidelines for national reporting on MIPAA/RIS (see: https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/pau/age/Review_and_appraisal/Guidelines_for_National_Reports-final_EN.pdf)

31. Meaningful participation of older persons and civil society in policymaking "DESIGNING A STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION PROCESS" Guidance note, August 2021, (Available at:https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/UNECE%20meaningful%20participation%20guidance%20note.pdf)

32.Quality in Long-term Care Policy Seminar 2022 – meeting page and background document
Policy Seminar on Quality in Long-term Care | UNECE

ANNEX 3. LIST OF INTERVIEWED KEY INFORMANTS

Members of the Bureau of the SWGA

1. Abigail Chantler, Ireland, 15 June, 2023
2. Aleš Kenda, Slovenia, 14 June, 2023
3. Aina Strand, Norway, 20 June, 2023
4. Aliona Cretu, Moldova, 9 June, 2023
5. Heidrun Mollenkopf, NGO, 21 June, 2023
6. Kai Leichsenring, Research, 7 June, 2023
7. Manuel Montero, Spain, 23 June, 2023
8. Pietro Checcucci, Italy, 7 June, 2023
9. Esra Ceceli, Turkey, (written response) 6 July, 2023

Staff UNECE Population Unit

10. Lisa Warth, 13 June, 2023
11. Vitalia Gaucaite, 13 June, 2023

ANNEX 4. SURVEY INSTRUMENT

Survey questionnaire

This online survey is conducted in the context of the evaluation of activities financed by the Ageing Fund – Phase III project between 2020-2023.

The purpose of the survey is to gather views of members of the Standing Working Group on Ageing, civil society organizations and partners about the relevance, usefulness, effectiveness and sustainability of activities, such as Policy Briefs, Policy Seminars, Guidelines for Mainstreaming Ageing and activities related to the 4th review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS implementation in the UNECE Region.

This survey takes approximately 15 minutes to complete and is anonymous.

Your feedback on the activities of the Standing Working Group on Ageing will be much appreciated.

1. **What is your connection with the Standing Working Group on Ageing?**
- National Focal Point on Ageing / government member
- Civil society or research organization
- International organization / project partner

2. **Since when have you been involved in / familiar with the activities of the SWGA?**
    - Since 2020 or longer
    - Since 2021
    - Since 2022

Section I:

The questions in this section seek your views on the relevance, usefulness, effectiveness, and sustainability of activities of the SWGA funded by the Ageing Fund Phase III to inform the development of ageing-related policies.

In your answers, consider the following activities by the SWGA during the period evaluated:

- **Guidelines for Mainstreaming Ageing** (accompanied by a toolkit, in-person and online training workshops/courses)
- **Policy Briefs on Ageing** on the following topics: 'Gender equity in ageing societies' (2020), 'Ageing in sustainable and smart cities' (2020), 'Older persons in Emergency Situations' (2020), 'Ageing in the Digital Era' (2021), 'Mainstreaming Ageing – revisited' (2020), and 'Older persons in vulnerable situations' (June 2023).
- **Policy seminars on ageing** were organized on the following topics: 'Older persons in emergency situations: lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic' (2020); 'Ageing in the Digital Era' (2021); Quality in Long-term care (2022).

3. **In general, how would you rate the relevance and usefulness of the following activities/outputs of the SWGA for informing the development of ageing-related policies? (Excellent, Good, Average, Poor, do not know).**

- Policy Briefs
- Policy Seminars/webinars
- Guidelines for Mainstreaming Ageing (including tools and trainings)

4. **If you are not fully satisfied, what would you recommend to making them more useful and relevant to your needs?**
   (Text box).

5. **Have you, or do you plan to, use the mainstreaming guidelines and information shared through policy briefs, seminars, and policy discussions to inform the development of policies on ageing in your country?** (regularly, sometimes, no)

6. **Have you shared the guidelines or policy briefs or event invitations more broadly with colleagues to disseminate the activities of the SWGA?** (regularly, sometimes, no)

Section II:

The questions in this section seek your views on the relevance, usefulness, and effectiveness of activities of the SWGA funded by the Ageing Fund Phase III to monitor, review, and appraise progress in implementing MIPAA/RIS at national and regional level. The activities to keep in mind here are the MIPAA reporting guidelines for the country reports, 3 online webinars organized in 2021 to support the national reviews and reports, the MIPAA+20 Report prepared to mark the 20-year milestone of MIPAA implementation in the UNECE region and regional synthesis report on the 4th review and appraisal, as well as the Rome Ministerial Conference and its outcome, the Rome Ministerial Declaration (for details see https://unece.org/population/ageing/MIPAA20)

7. **In general, how would you rate the relevance and usefulness of the activities listed below for reviewing and appraising progress towards MIPAA/RIS commitments?**
   (Excellent, Good, Average, Poor, do not know as did not review progress)

   - Reporting guidelines
   - Webinars
   - Analytical reports (regional synthesis and MIPAA+20 reports
   - Ministerial Conference on Ageing
   - Process of drafting the Ministerial Declaration on Ageing

8. **To what extent would you agree with the following statement: "Overall the guidance on MIPAA/RIS reporting provided, the information contained in the review reports and the Rome Ministerial Conference and preparation of the Ministerial Declaration have helped improve the capacity of my country to monitor and appraise progress in implementing MIPAA/RIS"**
   (strongly agree, agree, do not know, disagree, strongly disagree)

9. **What could be done to improve guidance, the review and appraisal process or outputs for the 5th review and appraisal in 2026-2027. Please share your recommendations, if any.**

Text box

10. Kindly indicate if you agree with the following statement:
"The SWGA and its secretariat have been successful in mainstreaming gender equality, human rights, climate change and disability concerns into its different activities and outputs".

 (Strongly disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree, Don't know).

11. If you disagree, kindly include a brief comment on how mainstreaming these cross-cutting objectives could be improved in the future.
Text box

12. Please share any final recommendations regarding the work of the SWGA to help inform the development of ageing-related policies and the monitoring and appraisal of progress towards the implementation of MIPAA/RIS commitments going forward.
Text box

Thank you for your feedback!

ANNEX 5. EVALUATION MATRIX

Table 2. The Evaluation Criteria, Questions and employed data collection methods

Criteria	Main questions	Data collection methods
Relevance	1.　　To what extent was the project design appropriate for meeting the needs of beneficiary countries? 2.　　To what extent did the project respond to the priorities and needs of the participating countries? How relevant were they to the countries' needs and priorities? 3.　　To what extent was the project aligned with the SDGs? 4.　　What takeaways are there for ensuring relevance of future UNECE projects? 5.　　To what extent were gender, human rights and disability perspectives integrated into the design and implementation of the project? What results can be identified from these actions? How can gender and human rights perspectives be better included in future the projects design and implementation?	1. Desk review of relevant project documents, Reports if the SWGA and ECE, project Deliverables. 2. Desk review of programme documents of the SWGA (programme documents 2020-2022, Annual Work plans for 2020-2022; Annual Reports. 3. In-depth interviews with members of the Bureau of the SWGA; partner organizations; direct project beneficiaries; 4. Online survey.
Effectiveness	6.　　To what extent were the project objectives and expected accomplishments achieved? 7.　　To what extent did the project improve the competencies of policy makers in the participating countries to design, develop, implement, reform, and evaluate population ageing policies? 8.　　To what extent are the project activities coherent and harmonized with those of other partners operating within the same context, particularly those of other UN system entities? 9.　　What were the challenges/obstacles (including COVID-19 and sub-regional instability) to achieving the expected results? How successfully did the project overcome these? 10.　　What (if anything) has prevented the project from achieving the desired results?	1. Desk review Reports of the SWGA and ECE; 2. Review of available material evidence (Ageing Briefs, meetings and conference proceedings and reports; mission and meetings reports; reports of the SWGA. 3. In-depth interviews with members of the Bureau of the SWGA; partner organizations; direct project beneficiaries. 4. Online survey.
Efficiency	11.　　Were the resources adequate for achieving the results? 12.　　Were the results achieved on time and were all activities organized efficiently? 13.　　To what extent were the resources used efficiently and how could the use of resources be improved?	1.Desk review Project Reports and SWGA Reports; 2.Interviews staff of the UNECE and Bureau of the SWGA; 3. Interviews with project donors.
Sustainability	14.　　What measures were adopted to ensure that project results would continue after the project ended and to what extent have these measures addressed the existing risks for sustainability? 15.　　To what extent do the partners and beneficiaries 'own' the outcomes of the work? How is the stakeholders' engagement likely to continue, be scaled up, replicated, or institutionalized? 16.　　To what extent are the objectives of the project still valid and what could be revised in the project subsequent Phases?	1. Desk review of relevant project documents, project Reports, project Deliverables. 2. Desk review of programme documents of the SWGA (programme documents 2020-2022, Annual Work plans for 2020-2022; Annual Reports. 3. In-depth interviews with members of the Bureau of the SWGA; staff of the Population subprogramme 4. Online survey.

ANNEX 6. INDICATIVE LIST OF NEW POLICIES/MEASURES DEVELOPED

Table 5. New policies/measures developed/initiated

Country	Policy
Albania	National Health Strategy 2021-2030
Armenia	Strategy for the development of the health care syste,2021-2025; Decision No.498-L on approving the programme for the improvement of care services provided to the elderly, 2021-2023
Austria	Hospice and Palliative Care Funds Act 2022 Styria's "LLL Strategy 2022"
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Strategy for Adult Education in the Republika Srpska for 2021-2031 Decision on the approval of the placement of funds for the improvement of the material position of veterans above 65 years, 2020 Decree on the one-off monetary amount of the pension in support of pensioners in the Federation of BiH, 2021
Bulgaria	National Plan 2021-2022 for implementation of the National Strategy for Active Ageing in Bulgaria (2019 – 2030) Strategic Framework for the Development of Education, Training and Learning in the Republic of Bulgaria (2021 - 2030)
Cyprus	National Lifelong Learning Strategy (CY LLLS) 2021-27
Estonia	Government Action Programme 2021-2023; Draft act on the accessibility of products and services, 2021
Greece	National Action Plan on Gender Equality 2021-2025 (addresses discrimination and rights of older women)
Latvia	Strategy on Social Protection and Labour Market Policy for 2021-2027; – Public Health Strategy for 2021-2027 (draft to 03.03.2022.); – Education Development Strategy for 2021-2027; – Digital Transformation Strategy for 2021-2027.
Lithuania	National Progress Plan for 2021-2030, 2020 Amendments of the Law on Pensions, 2021
Malta	National Strategic Policy for Active Ageing: MALTA 2021-2027 (in consultation process at time of drafting of the national MIPA/RS report)
Netherlands	National Dementia Strategy (2021-2030
Poland	„A healthy future. Strategic framework for the development of the health care system for the years 2021-2027, with the perspective until 2030."
Portugal	Resolution of the Assembly of the Republic nº 163/2021, of 9th June 2021 (on care and support to older persons)
Serbia	The Law on Planning and Construction, amendment of 2021 Strategy for Preventing and Combating Gender Based Violence against Women and Domestic Violence for the period 2021-2025.
Slovenia	Long-Term Care Act, 2021
Turkey	2020-2030 Aging Vision Document

Source: UNECE MIPAA + 20 Country Reports (https://unece.org/mipaa20-country-reports)

ANNEX 7. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Table 7. List of achieved Project Outputs

Policy Briefs on Ageing:
Mainstreaming Ageing – Revisited (UNECE Policy Brief on Ageing No. 27, February 2022) Ageing in the Digital Era (UNECE Policy Brief on Ageing No. 26, July 2021) Older Persons in Emergency Situations (UNECE Policy Brief on Ageing No. 25, November 2020) Ageing in sustainable and smart cities (UNECE Policy Brief on Ageing No. 24, May 2020) Gender equality in ageing societies (UNECE Policy Brief on Ageing No. 23 March 2020). Available at: https://unece.org/policy-briefs In addition, a Policy Brief on Older Persons in Vulnerable situations has been commenced during the evaluation period and is expected to be issued soon.
Guidelines for mainstreaming ageing: Available at: https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/ECE-WG.1-37_Guidelines_for-Mainstreaming_Ageing_1.pdf Translated by member states in German, Romanian, Georgian and Turkish.
Seminars to support mainstreaming ageing: 2022: Ageing in all policy areas - Mainstreaming Ageing. Online Expert Workshop, BAGSO, 1 December 2022, Germany. 2022: Mainstreaming Ageing into National Policies, 18 and 20 October 2022, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova. 2021: Getting started with mainstreaming ageing: introductory online workshop, 10 November 2021, and Mainstreaming ageing into public policies through age-sensitive analysis, 23-24 February, 2023, Tbilisi, Georgia
Policy Seminars: Ageing in the Digital Era (2021)" (Report available at: https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/Ageing-Digital-Era-PS2021_Report.pdf). Older persons in emergency situations: lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic (2020)" (Report available at: https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/PS2020_Report_20201218.pdf); and Quality in Long-term Care (https://unece.org/info/Population/events/362735.
Fourth MIPAA/RIS Review and Appraisal: Guidelines for national reporting on MIPAA/RIS, and a series of three webinars supporting report preparation process Available:https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/pau/age/Review_and_appraisal/Guidelines_for_National_Reports-final_EN.pdf) see also https://unece.org/population/ageing/MIPAA20 Preparations of the Ministerial Conference on Ageing held 16-17 June 2022 in Rome (see https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/ECE-AC.30-2022-2-E_0.pdf) Regional Synthesis Report "Ageing Policy in Europe, North America and Central Asia in 2017-2022" (see https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-08/Synthesis-report_0.pdf); and MIPAA+20 Report https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-07/ECE_WG.1_40_WEB.pdf