

## ... ONLY WHEN WE BEGIN TO ADDRESS POVERTY AMONG OLDER PERSONS.

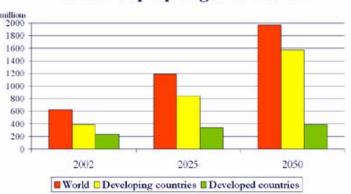


"Poverty among older persons remains high in too many societies, and the integration of aging into national development plans and targeted strategies for reaching the MDGs should result in important advances in improving the situation of poor and vulnerable older persons."

--- United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, Kiyotaka Akasaka; 1 June 2009

## **MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS & OLDER PERSONS**

- Older persons will outnumber children for the first time in history by 2040. The world is ageing at a rate that is unprecedented, without parallel in human history. As populations age, the number of older people living in poverty will increase.
- While the Millennium Development Goals have specific targets on children and youth, they are silent on issues of age, disability, and ethnicity.



## Number of people aged 60 and over

Source: UN, 2002

If the MDGs are to deliver fair and equitable development that reaches the poorest, we can no
longer ignore the unprecedented demographic change that is presently taking place. If older
people are not included in poverty reduction strategies, the world is not only failing in its
obligations to older people themselves, but is compounding the risk that hunger and
poverty will continue to be transmitted from one generation to the next, locking the poorest
people in a vicious cycle of chronic poverty and insecurity.