



## **AFRICA AGEING** **Beyond Madrid +10**

1<sup>st</sup> Africa Region Conference of Gerontology and Geriatrics

17-20 October 2012  
Protea Hotel President

# **The Community of Sant'Egidio program for the Elderly in sub-Saharan Africa: caring the weakest to add value to the society**

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Community of Sant'Egidio

Community of  
SANT'EGIDIO





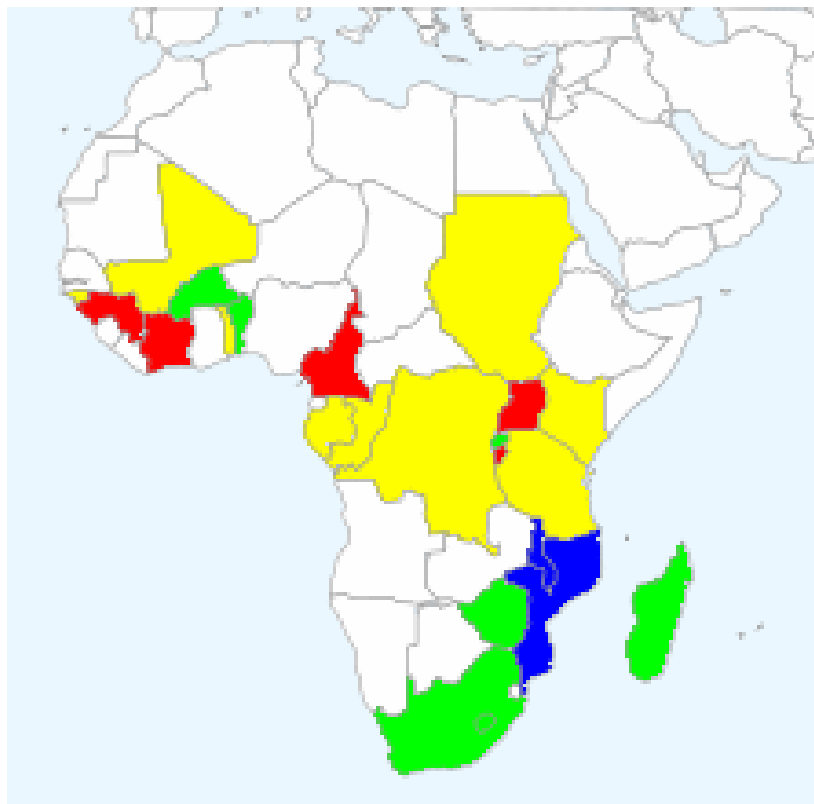
# The Community of sant'Egidio

- The Community of Sant'Egidio began in Rome in 1968. Today it is a movement of lay people and has more than 50,000 members, dedicated to evangelization and charity, in 70 countries throughout the world.
- The Community of Sant'Egidio is a "Church public lay association". The different communities, spread throughout the world, share the same spirituality and principles which characterize the way of Sant'Egidio  
**Key point for each member is the solidarity with the poor, lived as a voluntary and free service**





# The Community of Sant'Egidio and the elderly in sub-Saharan Africa



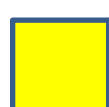
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Number of elderly attended by country



## The visit at home

- Friendship
- Repairing Houses
- Carrying water
- Helping to clean the house
- Bringing medicines, food, clothes
- Helping to take a bath
- Accompanying to the doctor
- Performing simple tasks (take the BP, the heart rate, the breath rate)



## The volunteers' training course

- The process of physical and mental ageing
- Generalities on main chronic diseases
- The disabilities
- The family and the elderly
- the relationship with the elderly
- The elderly home



# *Life Begins at 60!*

**International Conference  
“Ageing in Africa: Sensitizing the Nations”  
2-3 June 2010 - Lilongwe, Malawi**



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# Lesson learnt – 1

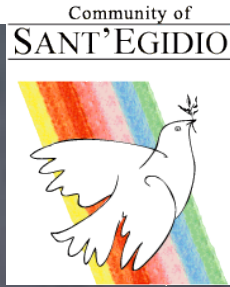
## Caring the Orphans





# Lesson learnt – 2

## The right to be cared





# Lesson learnt – 3

## To stop the abuse





**Lesson learnt – 4**  
**To be cared at home**

# Conclusion

- **Cultural challenges:** prejudice, violence and loneliness must be seriously faced because they are affecting the elderly life in sub-Saharan Africa: it is time for the chart of the right for the elderly in Africa as well as worldwide
- **Socio-economic challenges:** the welfare models in place in many sub-Saharan African countries are insufficient. The scarcity of economic resources should lead to find out new solution like the reduction of taxes for who is taking care of and old parents/relatives or the organization of simple care service like what the community of Sant'Egidio is use to do to support the oldest in the community
- **Health challenges:** there is a big delay in facing the non-communicable diseases who hit the aged: the institution of a working space (two hours per week) in the health centers to measure blood pressure, heart rate and glycaemia for example could be the first step to introduce a new approach to the geriatric care that is quite not existent especially in semirural and rural areas.



# Thank you!

