

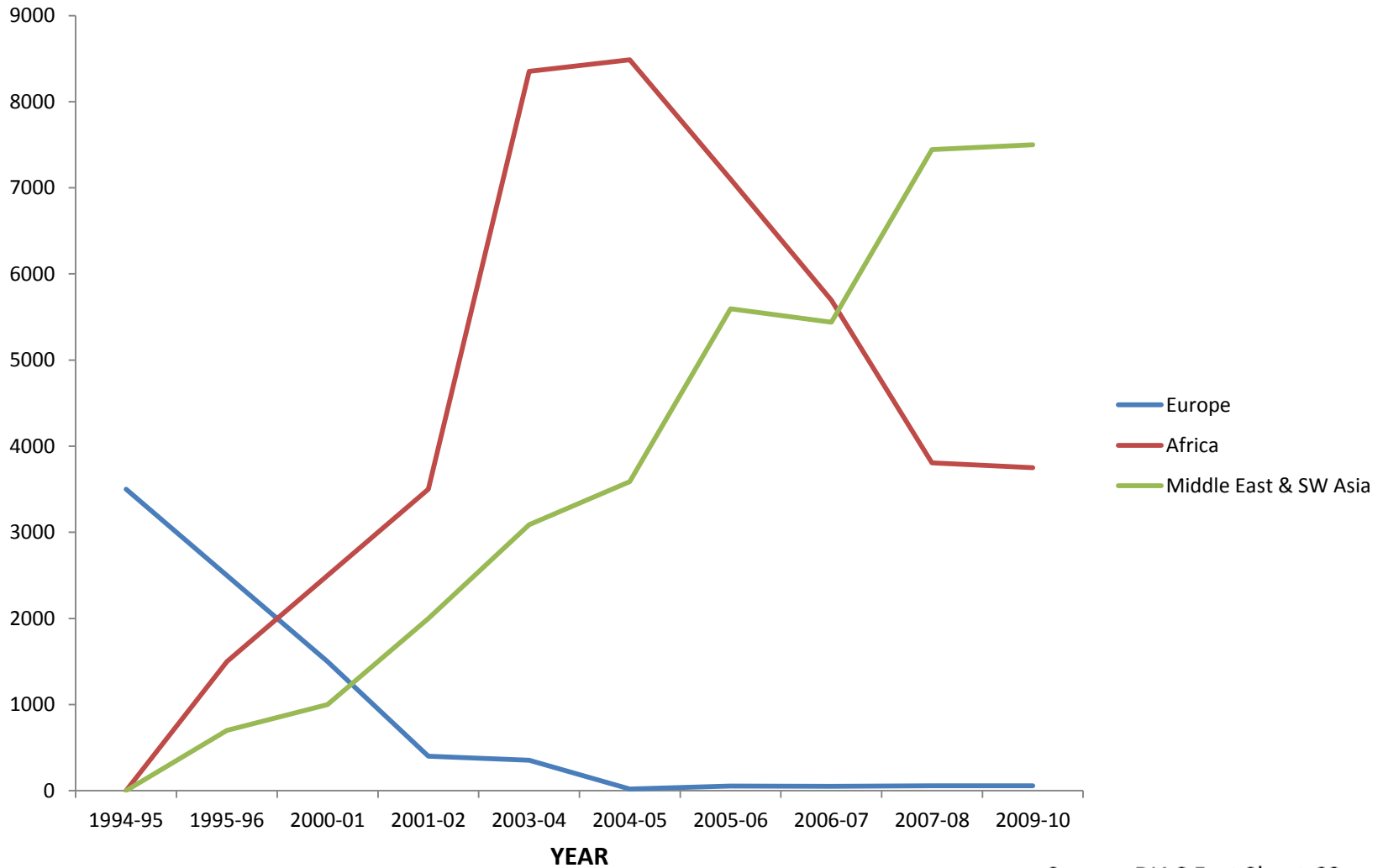
AGEING NEEDS IN THE AFRICAN COMMUNITY

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BACKGROUND

RECENT HUMANITARIAN MIGRANTS TO AUSTRALIA BY REGION



Source: DIAC Fact Sheet 60



- **Africans are new and emerging communities**
- **Communities have formed in the past 10-12 years**
- **The majority of African have been resettled under the humanitarian program**



- **Most Africans with refugee background come from rural settings**
- **The majority of people are young people**
- **A significant number is ageing**



- **Migrants with refugee backgrounds tend to age prematurely**
- **There has not been a research to investigate needs of ageing Africans in South Australia.**
- **Estimates >400 Africans \geq 65 years**
- **The needs of ageing Africans in South Australia were investigated**

OBJECTIVES

- To identify African communities' perceptions of the needs and care in ageing
- To solicit the views of community members regarding support and services
- To identify better practices and approaches to deliver services
- To raise awareness in the African communities about available services
- To provide knowledge for service providers to understand support and needs of older Africans



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METHODS

- Both Quantitative and qualitative
 - 9 focus group discussions
 - 42 semi structured interviews
 - Study tools were translated to languages spoken by participants
 - Multi-lingual interpreters were used

RESULTS

COUNTRY of origin	YEAR OF ARRIVAL				TOTAL
	1987-1992	1993-1998	1999-2004	2005-2010	
SUDAN*	0	1	19	10	30
LIBERIA*	0	2	16	9	27
SOMALIA*	0	2	14	2	18
BURUNDI*	0	0	5	8	13
ETHIOPIA*	1	5	3	4	13
CONGO –DRC*	0	0	4	3	7
TOGO*	0	0	2	3	5
TANZANIA	1	3	0	0	4
SIERRA LEONE*	0	0	2	2	4
RWANDA*	0	0	2	2	4
ERITREA*	0	0	0	2	2
UGANDA	0	0	0	1	1
KENYA	0	1	0	0	1
CAMEROON*	0	0	0	1	1
Total	1	15	68	47	130

PARTICIPANTS NUMBER, AGE AND GENDER

Age Group	Sex				Total
	Females (%)		Males (%)		
19 –28	3	(100%)	0	(0%)	3
29-38	5	(55.5%)	4	(44.5%)	9
39-48	6	(60%)	4	(40%)	10
49-58	23	(52%)	21	(48%)	44
59-68	26	(60%)	17	(40%)	43
69-78	8	(47%)	9	(53%)	17
79-88	1	(33%)	2	(67%)	3
89+	0	(0%)	1	(100%)	2
Total	72	(55%)	58	(45%)	130

ISSUES

- **Health problems**
 - **Multiple & significant chronic health conditions**
 - **Type 2 diabetes, Mental health conditions, musculoskeletal and psychosomatic conditions**
- **Many uncertainties: loss of family in wars & family re-union, death in a new land**
- **Isolation and lack of networks**
- **Unemployment, limited income & financial stresses**
- **Experience of war & impact on health and ageing**
- **Housing and accommodation problems**

Settlement challenges

Drastic changes in lifestyle



CULTURE

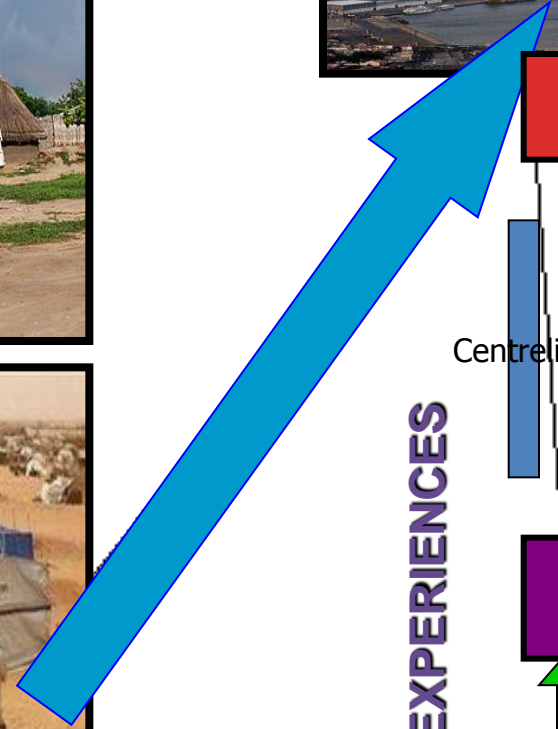
Centrelink
accommodation
money
washing machine
domestic violence
driving

PRESSURE

SUPPORT SERVICES

CENTRELINK LSC ACCOMMODATION ELS POLICE SERVICES

EXPERIENCES



SERVICE ACCESS

- **Significant barriers to service access due to:**
 - Language
 - Culture
 - Lack of information/unfamiliarity with available services
 - Age barriers to accessing HACC services
 - Transport
 - Differences in context

CONCLUSIONS

- **Older Africans experience significant health problems**
- **Many factors lead to inequalities in health and service accessibility**
- **More culturally appropriate services are needed in order to respond to unique health and socio-cultural needs of ageing Africans in South Australia**
- **More resources are needed to address ageing issues in the African community.**

THANK YOU

