

Older persons in crisis all around the world

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According to data from the World Health Organization (WHO), both the proportion and the absolute number of older people are increasing remarkably worldwide. By the year 2050, the population over 60 years of age will have doubled and will reach approximately two billion people; Most of them will be over 80 years of age. In this context of demographic aging, disasters impact the entire population, but the most vulnerable, such as children and the elderly, usually suffer greater consequences.

No one person is capable of fully understanding the pain and confusion an individual can feel as a result of surviving a disaster, whether man-made or natural. Disaster situations can leave people with feelings of eternal loss, worthlessness and depression, thus generating attitudes of permanent defeat, which are repeated from generation to generation and produce an inherited psychosocial vulnerability.

Although older people are a diverse group, many of them are especially vulnerable in emergencies or threats. Those in particular who have experienced a progressive loss of their bodily functions may have more difficulty adapting to challenges and handling certain disturbances.