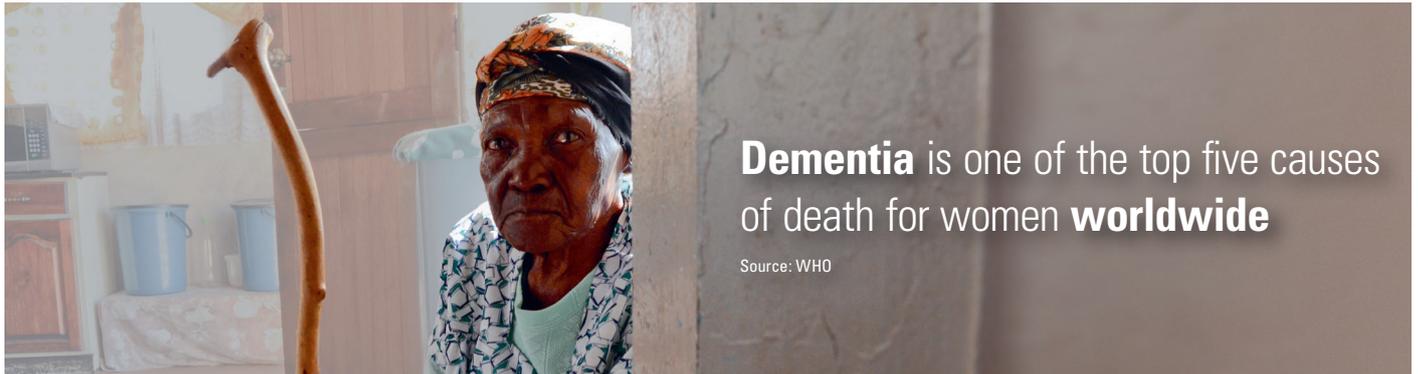


Women & Dementia: A Global Challenge

It's not widely known that the prevalence, care and stigma of dementia disproportionately affects women.



Dementia is one of the top five causes of death for women **worldwide**

Source: WHO

A marginalised majority

In the time it takes you to read this sentence, a new person will have developed dementia.

Around 50 million people live with dementia worldwide and this number is growing by nearly 10 million every year – the equivalent of a new case every 3 seconds.

As GADAA's **Women & Dementia: A Global Challenge report** finds, worldwide, more women than men live with dementia and they face gender-specific barriers to living well with the condition.

“Too often women affected by dementia are overlooked and unsupported. It hasn't been easy for me, nor is it for the millions of other women that live with dementia, who support someone living with dementia or that make up most of the undervalued and underpaid care workforce worldwide.”

Kate Swaffer, Dementia Alliance International.

Under-supported care partners

Women provide the vast majority of both unpaid and formal care to people living with dementia, with around two thirds of primary caregivers around the globe being women.

Many countries, especially in developing economies, rely on the unpaid family care support of millions of women to compensate for under-developed and under-resourced social care systems.

Women are more likely than men to reduce their hours to part-time, or stop work completely, to support to people living with dementia.

The dementia care workforce is predominately female. Social care workers are systematically underpaid and undervalued the world over.

Stigma, discrimination & abuse

The stigma surrounding dementia exists universally and extreme forms of discrimination can lead to the abuse of women.

Older women affected by conditions such as dementia are exposed to 'triple jeopardy', discriminated against as a result of their age, sex and condition.

In some cultures dementia is associated with witchcraft or madness, and women are most likely to suffer the consequences of this stigma.

Global solutions

Currently only twelve countries offer gender-sensitive policy responses to dementia.

But there is hope – under the WHO Global Action Plan on Dementia governments now need to collect and disaggregate data on dementia by sex. The plan also sets out recommended actions which include a gender-sensitive approach to improve the care, quality of life and prospects of women affected by dementia.

Through GADAA we are calling for the disproportionate impact of dementia on women to be recognised and responded to. Forging partnerships and working together is at the heart of GADAA, a network of iNGOs seeking to champion global action on dementia.

Dementia is a global women's health, social care and rights issue that can no longer be ignored.

For more information on GADAA contact info@gadaalliance.org