Project
Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI):
Delhi, Haryana, Uttarakhand & Himachal Pradesh

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The global share of older people aged 60 years and above increased from 9.2 percent in 1990 to 11.7 percent in 2013 and will reach 21.1 percent by 2050. Although adult health and ageing is a subject that is increasingly being investigated, there are currently no comprehensive and internationally comparable survey data in India that cover and connect the full range of topics necessary to understand the economic, social, psychological, and health aspects of adults and the ageing process. Longitudinal Ageing Study in India is designed to fill this gap.

LASI is a full-scale, national survey of scientific investigation of the health, economic, social and determinants and consequences of population ageing in India. LASI is a nationally representative survey of 60,250 older adults in age 45+ in India in all the states and union territories. LASI will be conducted every 2 years for the next 25 years.The team will identify and interview age-qualifying individuals from a stratified, multistage, area probability sampling design.

LASI will be a national landmark in scientific research that will allow a better understanding of India's adult health problems and population ageing processes and will inform the design of appropriate evidence-based policies for adults and older people. LASI data will advance scientific knowledge and inform policymakers in India and elsewhere.

The project has come to fruition with the collaboration on several agencies- International Institute for Population Sciences, Harvard School of Public Health and RAND Corporation. Other Collaborating Institutions include King Edward Memorial (KEM) Medical College and Research Hospital, Mumbai, Indian Academy of Geriatrics (IAG), National AIDS Research Institute (NARI), Pune and School of Medical Sciences, University of California, Los Angeles.

Conceptually, LASI is comparable to the Health and Retirement Study (HRS) in the United States and is appropriately harmonized with other health and retirement studies, including its sister surveys in Asia – such as the Chinese Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study (CHARLS) and the Korean Longitudinal Study of Aging (KLOSA) – thereby allowing for cross-

country comparison. LASI also takes account of features unique to India, including its institutional and cultural characteristics.

Public availability and internationally comparable data will allow for cross-national comparative research studies on ageing. In LASI, internationally harmonized, pre-identified panel data will be collected enabling cross-state analyses within India and cross-national analyses of ageing, health, economic status, and social behaviors and lays the foundation for national and state-level policy implication to address the challenges presented by increasing disease burden and population ageing in India.

By contributing to the national and global research agenda,LASI will provide comprehensive evidence for, and shape, national and state level policy and programmes in several aspects of ageing. It will be instrumental in creating a policy framework for disease prevention and control, disability control, social security and ageing. The internationally comparable scientific multidisciplinary data collected during the survey will enhance the understanding of the science of healthy ageing.

Population Research Center at the Institute of Economic Growth has successfully implemented Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI) in the states of Delhi, Haryana (in Wave I), Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh (in Wave II). This involved training field staff on the survey components for the household level survey and methods of data collection. PRC successfully ensured smooth and efficient day-to-day operation of data collection activities.PRC was also responsible for putting in place a three-tier monitoring and supervision mechanism to maintain the data quality for all the stages of data collection (Mapping & household Listing, Household-Individual and Biomarker Survey).