

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are under 15 years of age has increased from 1.1 billion to 1.6 billion, and the number of people aged 65 and over has increased from 0.2 billion to 0.5 billion (United Nations, 2002). The United Nations predicts that the number of people aged 65 and over will increase to 1.1 billion by 2050, and the number of people under 15 years of age will increase to 2.4 billion (United Nations, 2002).

There is a growing awareness of the need to address the needs of the elderly and young people in the world. The World Health Organization (WHO) has developed a 'Global Strategy on Ageing and Health' (WHO, 2002) which aims to improve the health and well-being of the elderly. The WHO also has a 'Global Strategy on Child Survival and Development' (WHO, 2002) which aims to improve the health and well-being of children. The WHO is working to ensure that the needs of the elderly and young people are met in a sustainable and equitable way.

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