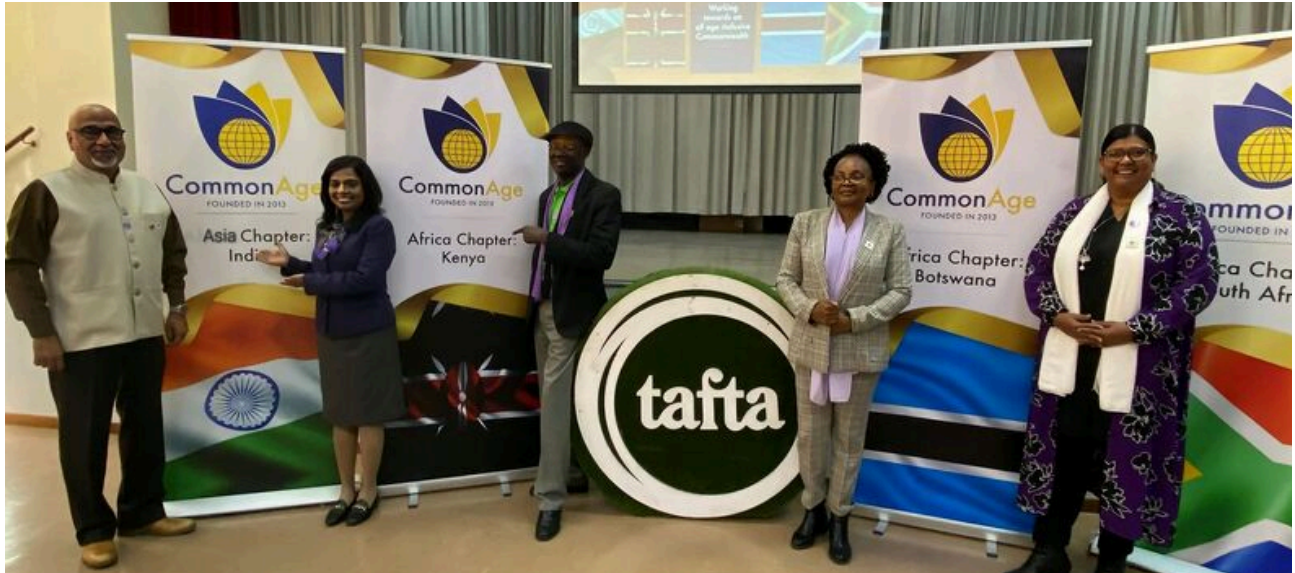


CommonAge Country Chapter Launch



15 June 2024



CommonAge Hosts the Launch of 4 Chapters in Durban, South Africa

Mansur Dalal, CommonAge Chairman

Femada Shamam, South Africa Chapter Head and CommonAge Vice Chair

Dr Renu Varughese, India Chapter Head and CommonAge Board Director

Richard Waindi, Kenya Chapter Head

Magen Mhaka-Mutepfa, Botswana Chapter Head



Establishing Country Chapters in Commonwealth Nations

Recognising the importance of localised structures to address ageing challenges, CommonAge decided to strategically establish national chapters in Commonwealth countries. These chapters will be pivotal to advancing CommonAge's mission and impact.

This would help in

1. Building close links between members of the Aged Care sectors in Commonwealth countries and facilitating professional contacts between service providers, governments, suppliers to the sector, academic institutions, and students.
 2. Continue to challenge ageism throughout the Commonwealth and to support the campaign for a UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons.
 3. Promote the WHO Healthy Ageing campaign and support the development and implementation of National Healthy Ageing plans in all Commonwealth countries.
 4. Promote the WHO Global Action Plan on Dementia and support the development and implementation of National Dementia Plans in all Commonwealth countries.
 5. Encourage the creation of national professional aged care and support service associations in Commonwealth countries where none exist.
 6. Foster high standards of professional education in aged care and support services
 7. Promote high standards of professional conduct amongst service providers.
 8. Foster high standards of practice and service delivery, in all areas of aged care and support including retirement housing, residential care, nursing care, assisted living, community care, dementia, care, allied health services, palliative and end of life care.
 9. Offer professional business and consultancy support to government agencies and businesses and to encourage suitable regulatory legislation and its implementation in member nations.
 10. Facilitate the dissemination of knowledge and information about housing and services for the ageing.
 11. Promote and support staff exchanges between providers and facilitating the migration of professional aged care and support staff between member countries.
 12. Support the development of common professional aged care and housing qualification standards throughout Commonwealth member states.
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13. Liaise and build partnerships with similar associations or allied health professional groups within and outside the Commonwealth, on relevant issues as it impacts the CW .
14. Identify potential National Chapter leaders, volunteers, and Associations within Commonwealth member countries.
15. Foster University Collaboration for research scholarships and establish tri-party agreements.
16. Develop and implement Training and Capacity Building Program like Train the Trainer programme, Durban 2024..
17. Provide a platform for professional Networking and Collaboration, to build professional networks and collaborate across borders.
18. Facilitate business interfaces across Commonwealth countries.
19. Provide continuous assistance, access to resources, and help organize events, and support local initiatives and collaborations.
20. Evaluate and monitor performance and identify enhancement opportunities for the local National Chapters.

Mr Mansur Dalal

Chair of CommonAge

Chapter Heads & Vice Chair



MS. FEMADA SHAMAM
SOUTH AFRICA

Femada Shamam is the CEO of The Association for The Ageing (TAFTA) in Durban, South Africa. Committed to ensuring elderly people feel valued, she combines her background in social work and management to address their needs while promoting sound business practices for sustainable development. Fascinated by their stories of resilience and joy, Femada finds her work in elder care both rewarding and valuable, enriched by leadership development opportunities



MS. CIVIL LEGODU
V C SOUTH AFRICA

Ms. Civil Mosidi Legodu, is the Chief Director of Professional Social Services and Older Persons at the National Department of Social Development. She spearheaded the development of the White Paper for Social Development and led the finalisation and approval of the Older Persons Amendment Bill 2020. She currently serves as a Ministerial appointee of the National Department of Social Development and is a member of the Disciplinary Hearing Committee (Professional Conduct Committee), the HRREMCO and EXCO of the SACSSP.



DR RENU VARUGHESE
INDIA

Dr Varughese is a distinguished clinical gerontologist, researcher and teacher, currently an Associate Professor at Mercy University in New York. She holds a PhD in gerontology, an MPhil in gerontological guidance and counselling, an MS in clinical ageing, and is pursuing an MBA in organisational leadership. Her dedication to studying aging in poor countries led her to conduct the first cross-cultural comparison study (2000–2005) of elderly people in long-term care facilities in India and the United States



MR JIJI PHILLIP
V C INDIA

Jiji Philip is Managing Trustee and CEO, Travancore Foundation; Managing Director, Travancore Senior Living Private Ltd. and Secretary, Senior Living Association of Kerala. His later career interactions with retirees in Mysore and Bangalore, guided him into the senior living and care sector and led him to co-found Travancore Foundation, India's first accredited assisted living facility with Platinum status for seniors.

Chapter Heads & Vice Chair



**PROF. MAGEN MUTEPFA
BOTSWANA**

A dedicated psychologist, public health specialist and educator, Magen uses mental and behavioural insights to impact global health. With ten years of cross-disciplinary experience, she provides versatile psycho-therapy support services and is an experienced writer in education, health, and psychology. Magen received our 2023 travel bursary, funded by UKRI Healthy Ageing Challenge, to attend the Global Ageing Conference on September 7-8.



**DR BATISI
V C BOTSWANA**

Dr. Ogopoleng Batisi, has a PhD in Gerontology and Public Health, MSc in Nutrition Science, and Bachelor's in Nursing Sciences. As the National Coordinator for the Healthy and Active Ageing (HAA) program in Botswana, she has significantly contributed to the well-being of older adults. In 2019, she led a situational analysis on ageing and health, resulting in the HAA Strategy being introduced in 2022. Dr. Batisi also developed the Integrated Care for Older People (ICOPE) Guidelines, launched by the Ministry of Health and Wellness in February 2024.



**MR. RICHARD WAINDI
KENYA**

As CEO of the AgeWatch Africa Foundation, Richard manages daily operations and collaborates with the board to achieve the foundation's goals. With over 30 years of experience in Kenya's energy, agricultural, manufacturing, engineering, construction, banking, financial services and health sectors, he also has a background in financial management, auditing, and consulting. After leaving banking in 2018, Richard focused on financial consulting and founded the AgeWatch Africa Foundation in 2019, serving as its CEO since then.



**MARGARET NJAGI
VC KENYA**

Margaret Njagi, is the Programme Development Manager at Wells of Hope Centre. She oversees a program supporting older adults in Nairobi's Kibagare slum, addressing severe poverty, abuse, and lack of resources by enhancing skills and promoting economic empowerment. Additionally, she is also the Director of Charis Eagle Group, a company specialising in safety, security, theatre production and filmmaking. She manages a programme that focuses on reducing mental health issues among older adults through entertainment and safety training.

Picture Gallery





Connecting with Us is the First Step to collaboration

JOIN US



You could reach us at

<https://www.commage.org>

Or email Reneta Dsouza, Executive Assistant at secretariat@commage.org

Thank you for reading!
