

Draft recommendations from project activities in Asia and the Pacific

Session 2: Demographic Dividend with a Gender Dimension (cont.)

Regional Expert Forum

Harnessing intergenerational benefits of demographic change in Asia and the Pacific:

Engaging all groups from youth to older persons

09:00 – 16:00 (Bangkok) 22 June 2022

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Recommendations from target countries

Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste

Invest in universal health care for all (SDG3)

Ensure accessibility and affordability of health care, and improve public awareness on health issues, especially in rural and underserved areas.

Expand family planning (SDG3)

Use multi-sectoral approaches to ensure population goals are integrated into other health and development initiatives: finance, social welfare, education, gender equality, etc.

Invest in universal basic education for all (SDG4)

Focus especially on addressing gender disparities and reaching the furthest behind.

Invest in gender and youth empowerment programmes (SDG5)

Enhance female education and training to hone entrepreneurial skills among women.

Recommendations from target countries, Cont. ESCAP MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste

Develop opportunities for decent work (SDG8)

Invest in the skills and human capital of youth, as well as decent jobs for them.

Reduce inequalities in income and opportunity (SDG10)

Address inequity, with attention to gender, disability and other factors.



Recommendations from target countries, Cont.

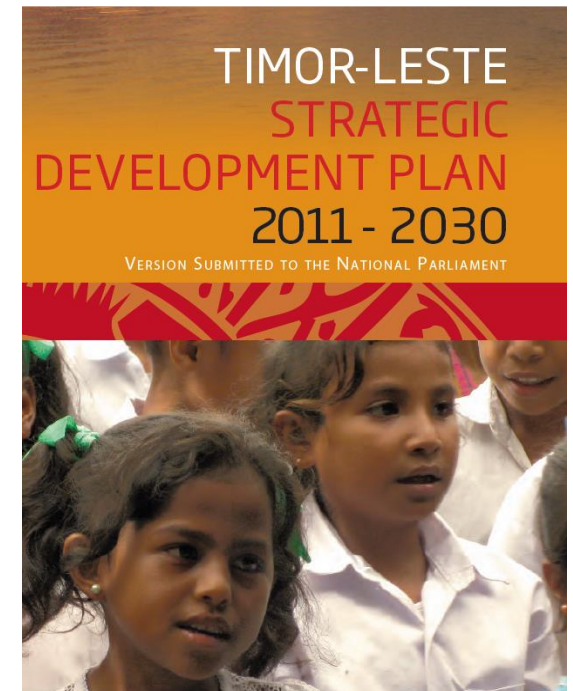
Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste

Improve governance and develop strong institutions (SDG16)

Enhance women's participation in parliament and managerial positions in both the public and private sector.

Develop inter-ministerial and multi-sectoral strategies and partnerships (SDG17)

Engage all stakeholders, including civil society for community reach and the private sector for funding.



Recommendations from good practice countries

Malaysia and Republic of Korea

Education and human capital

Reform institutional arrangements to incentivize equal opportunities and enhance human capital development.

Design education systems around effective human capital formation, with universal access at primary and secondary levels, supported by public subsidies.

Promote STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects, especially among women.

Recommendations from good practice countries, cont.

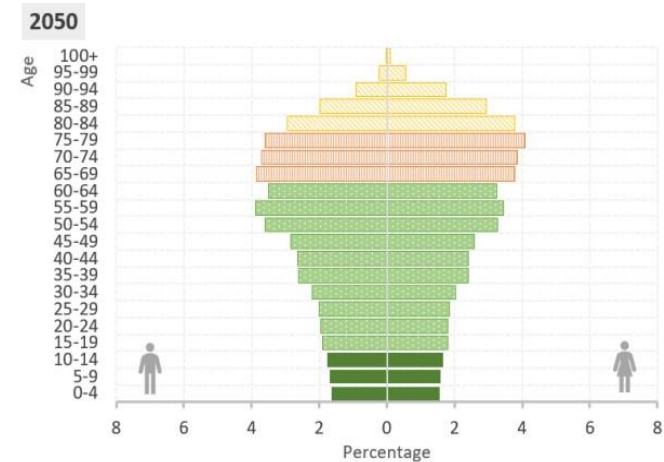
Malaysia and Republic of Korea

Health and well-being

Invest in universal health care for all, including family planning; even with low fertility, maternal and infant mortality can be further reduced with more targeted investments.

Develop more inclusive and cost-effective health-care systems, including through enhanced of health-care financing.

Prepare for population ageing and a rise in non-communicable diseases. Geriatric care needs to be improved to cope with the rapidly increasing demand for specialized services and care.



Source: UN DESA, 2019. World Population Prospects 2019.

Recommendations from good practice countries, cont.

Malaysia and Republic of Korea

Economy

Match labour demand and supply through better job creation in skilled categories and strengthened collaboration between industry and academia to eliminate mismatches in demand and supply, and ensure efficiency in the labour market.

Support working women by removing barriers to work and enhancing work-life balance, e.g. extended maternity leave, flexible work arrangements and childcare facilities.

Promote entrepreneurial training and credit facilities. Successful women entrepreneurs can be recruited to assist those new to the business.

Bolster public-private partnerships to help women enter and remain in the labour market.

Recommendations from good practice countries, cont.

Malaysia and Republic of Korea

Gender equality and the empowerment of women

Realize that the development outcomes of improved health and rates of female participation in political and business domains are the results, not the causes, of the demographic transition.

Redouble efforts to address gender discrimination and sexual harassment, and eliminate gender stereotyping.

Engage with the media, given they can play an influential role in information dissemination and changing public perception of gender roles.

Recommendations from good practice countries, cont.

Malaysia and Republic of Korea



Sustainability

Ensure that demographic dividend gains continue to benefit all in the long run through continued investments in education, health and women's empowerment.

Undertake related reforms in labour market institutions and social welfare systems to prepare for an ageing society.

Involve diverse stakeholders and include representatives from all segments of society, including to participate in preparing annual budgets and development plans.

Recommendations from good practice countries, cont.

Malaysia and Republic of Korea

Data and evidence

Enhance data collection and analysis, to promote research and guide policy formulation and programme implementation.

Ensure National Statistical Offices, and focal points in collating SDG indicators, work closely with all relevant ministries and the private sector in developing a solid evidence based for policies and programmes.

Establish a national data platform for collecting and analysing microeconomic age- and sex-disaggregated data at national and subnational levels to monitor the realization of the demographic dividend and promote gender equality.

Concluding recommendation

Countries wishing to reap the benefits of the demographic dividend and attain greater gender equity, would find much use in the main ESCAP product of the project:

Indicator Framework to Assess Progress on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend with a Gender Dimension in Asia and the Pacific



Main recommended actions

- Establish and confirm political commitment
- Conduct national assessment
- Develop national roadmap
- Review and use good practices
- Ensure Government and other capacity (data, service delivery, job creation)
- Put in place mechanisms, including use of mass media, to raise awareness
- Create opportunities for effective consultations
- Ensure effective monitoring, evaluation and assessment of interventions

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