Population ageing in Asia-Pacific: challenges and opportunities

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Population ageing: one of the main achievements of economic and social development
2020: More than 630 million older persons in the Asia-Pacific region

Number of people aged 60+ in the Asia-Pacific region (thousands), 2020

China; 249,778
India; 139,612
Indonesia; 27,521
Pakistan; 14,886
Russia Federation; 32,706
Japan; 43,412
Viet Nam; 11,989
Turkey; 11,022
Bangladesh; 13,110
Republic of Korea; 11,870
Other countries; 60,813

In Asia-Pacific, age structures are shifting

All subregions in the Asia-Pacific region are ageing

Percentage of total population aged 60+ in ESCAP subregions

In Asia-Pacific, many countries experiencing rapid population ageing

Number of years for the share of the population 65+ to increase from 7 to 14 per cent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>Years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>France (1865-1980)</td>
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<td>115</td>
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<td>Sweden (1890-1975)</td>
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<td>85</td>
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<td>Australia (1938-2011)</td>
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<td>United States (1944-2013)</td>
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<td>69</td>
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<td>Canada (1944-2009)</td>
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<td>Hungary (1944-1994)</td>
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<td>United Kingdom (1930-1975)</td>
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<td>Spain (1947-1992)</td>
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<td>Poland (1966-2011)</td>
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<td>Turkey (2010-2035)</td>
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<td>27</td>
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<td>Brazil (2010-2035)</td>
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<td>China (2005-2025)</td>
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<td>Thailand (2002-2024)</td>
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<td>Sri Lanka (2010-2030)</td>
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<td>Republic of Korea (2000-2020)</td>
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<td>Viet Nam (2020-2035)</td>
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<td>Singapore (2000-2015)</td>
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<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Population ageing: a result of falling fertility and rising life expectancy

Total fertility rate and life expectancy at birth, 1950-2050

In Asia-Pacific, most older persons 60+ are women, 2020

In Asia-Pacific, older persons often spend up to 10 years with impairments.

**Life expectancy at birth** (dark color) vs. **Healthy life expectancy at birth** (light color), 2019

In Asia-Pacific, health-care costs are mostly borne by private households.

Out-of-pocket expenditure as percentage of current health expenditure, 2018

Older persons participate in the labour force in many countries

Labour force participation of population aged 65+, total, men and women, 2019 (ILO modelled estimates)

Daeng Starch (76) lost her legs and fingers due to leprosy. Despite her disability and deprivation she was treated with stitches so she could keep working with clothes, pillow cases and flags at her home in the leprosy complex at Makassar, South Sulawesi, Indonesia. Photo by: Masyudi Firmansyah

Many people in Asia and the Pacific are working in the informal sector

Informal employment, males and females, latest available year (percentage of total non-agricultural employment)

Coverage of pensions is low in most Asia-Pacific countries

Legal coverage of old age mandatory contributory pensions, as percentage of working age population (Latest available year)

In Asia and the Pacific, most older persons (65+) live with their children.

Percentage of population aged 65 or over living in a one-person household, latest available year.

... but more women live alone than men.

Mobile phone use is high in the Asia-Pacific region – but less so for older persons

Individuals owning a mobile cellular telephone, by gender, percentage of population of the respective broader age group

Trends on the radar

Issues that continue to need attention
- Social protection – esp. for older women
- Older women and gender dimension of population ageing
- Living and care arrangements – smaller families
- Older persons in rural areas
- Older persons and ICTs
- Future of work

Emerging issues
- Climate change and older persons
- COVID19 – health, economic and social impacts
THANK YOU!

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