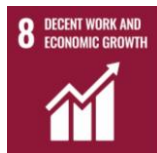


Population ageing in Asia-Pacific: challenges and opportunities

Vanessa Steinmayer

Population Affairs Officer



First Informal Consultation of ESCAP Member States on the Asia-Pacific Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing: Process, Survey, Data and Policy

6-7 May 2021, Virtual meeting

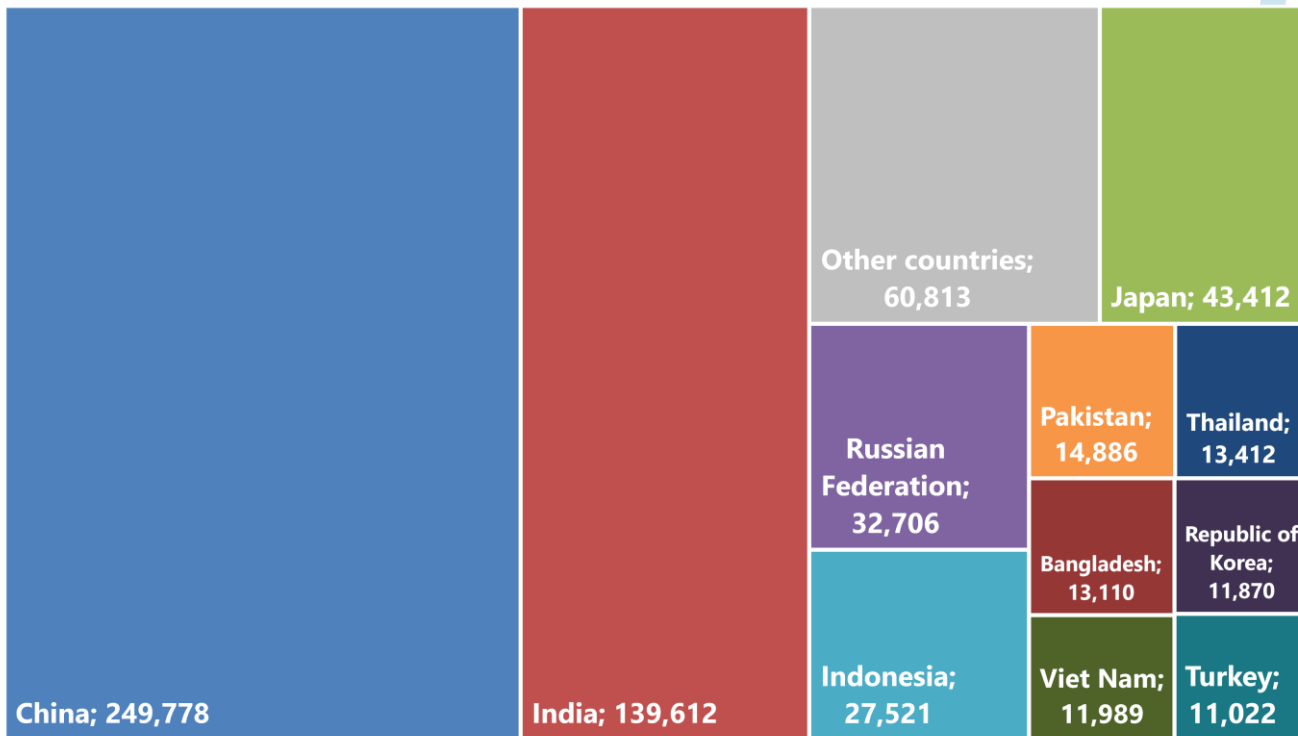


Population ageing: one of the main achievements of economic and social development

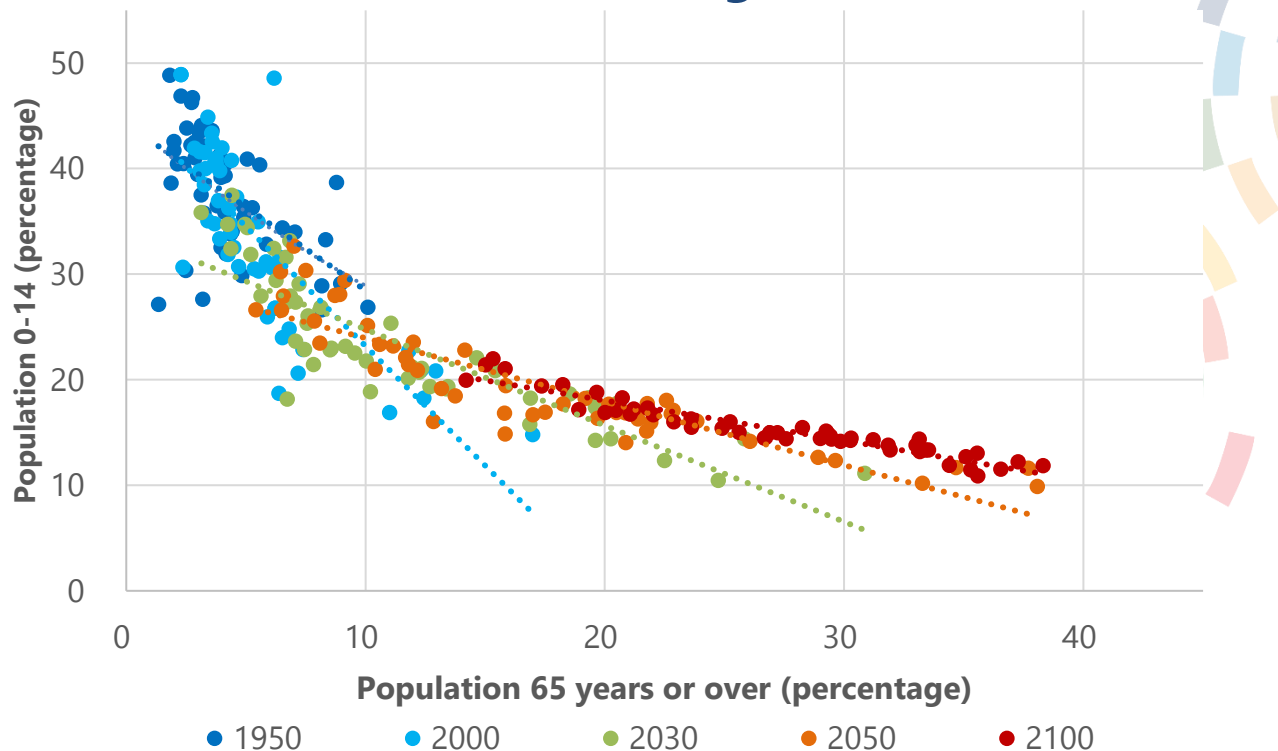


2020: More than 630 million older persons in the Asia-Pacific region

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

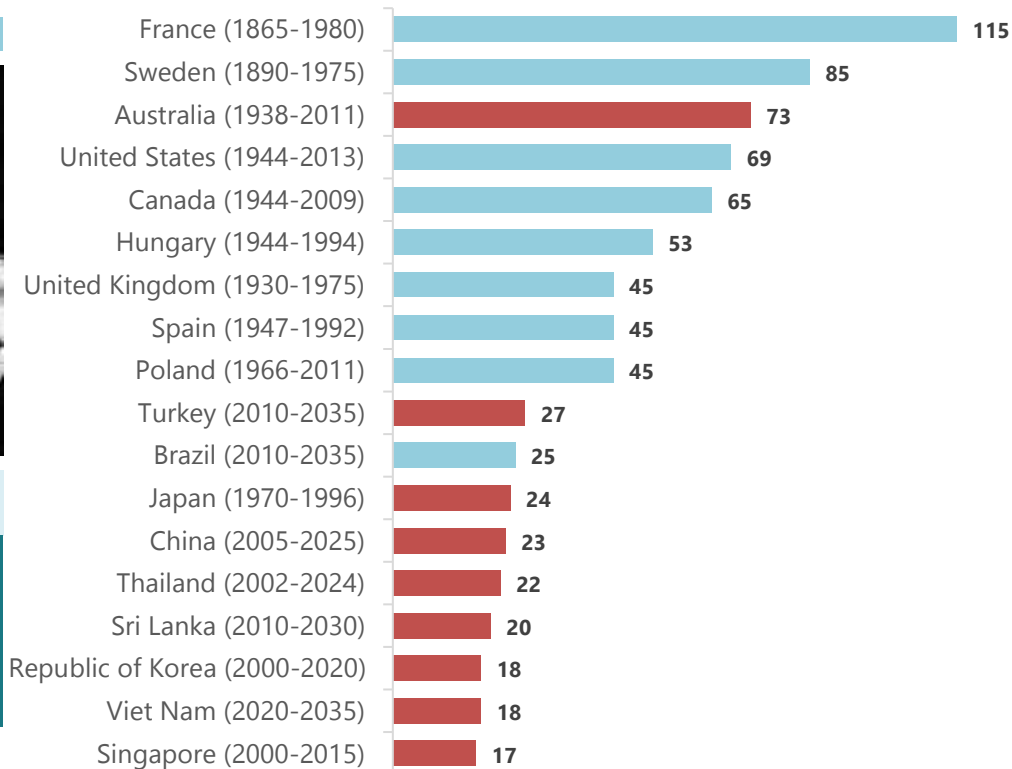


In Asia-Pacific, age structures are shifting



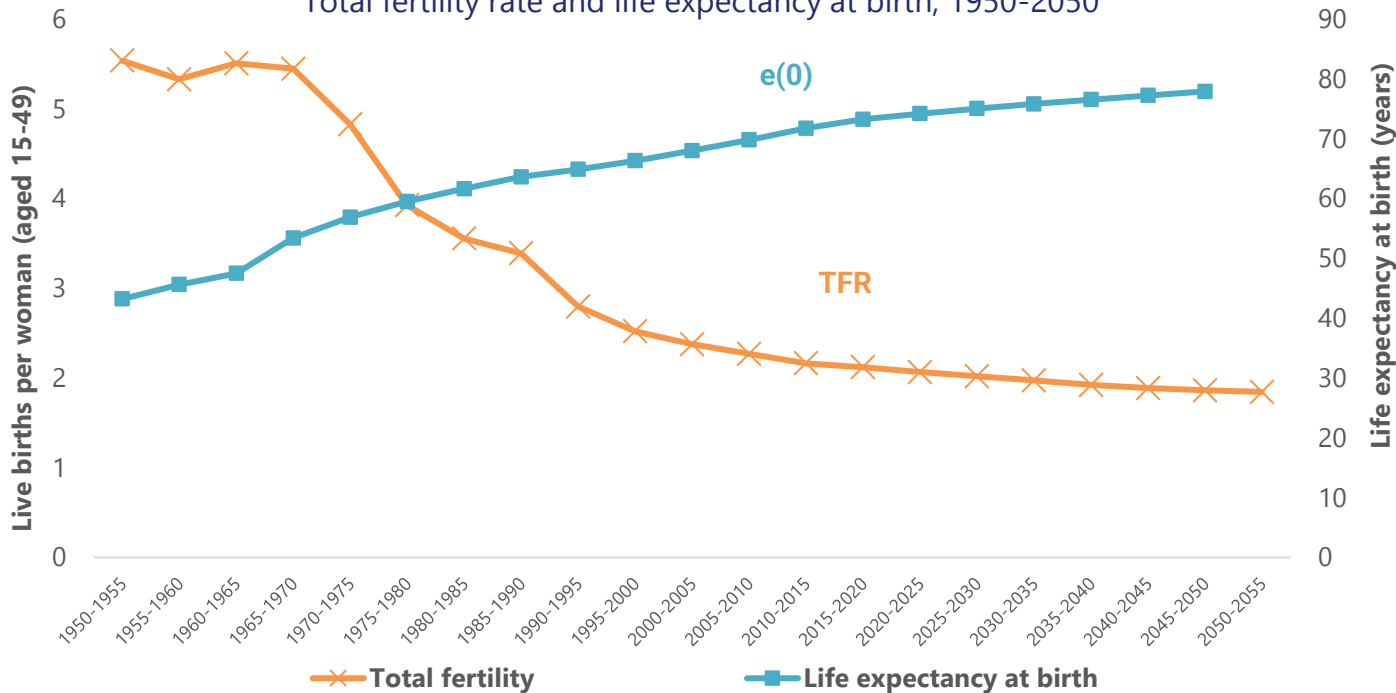
In Asia-Pacific, many countries experiencing rapid population ageing

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

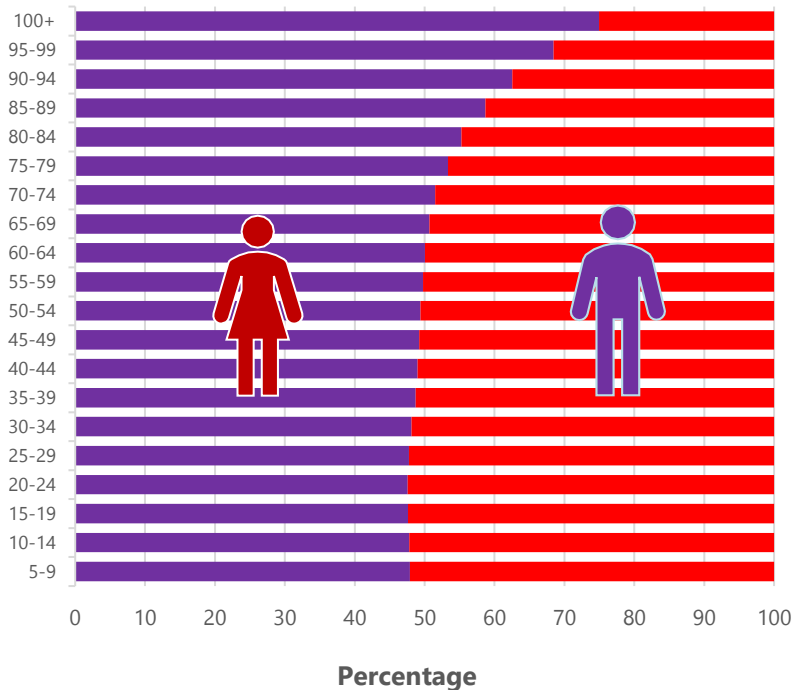


Population ageing: a result of falling fertility and rising life expectancy

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



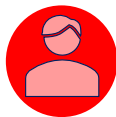
In Asia-Pacific, most older persons 60+ are women, 2020



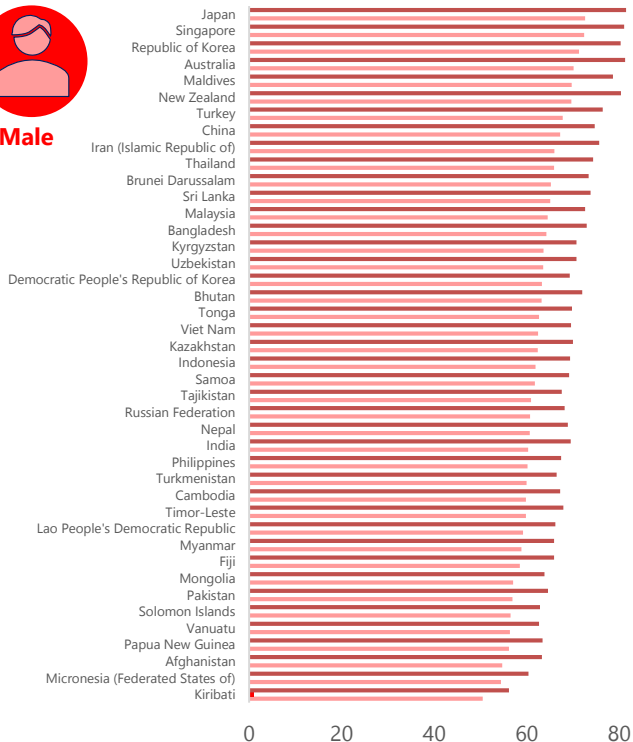
Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). *World Population Prospects 2019 - Special Aggregates, Online Edition. Rev 1*; United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019).

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

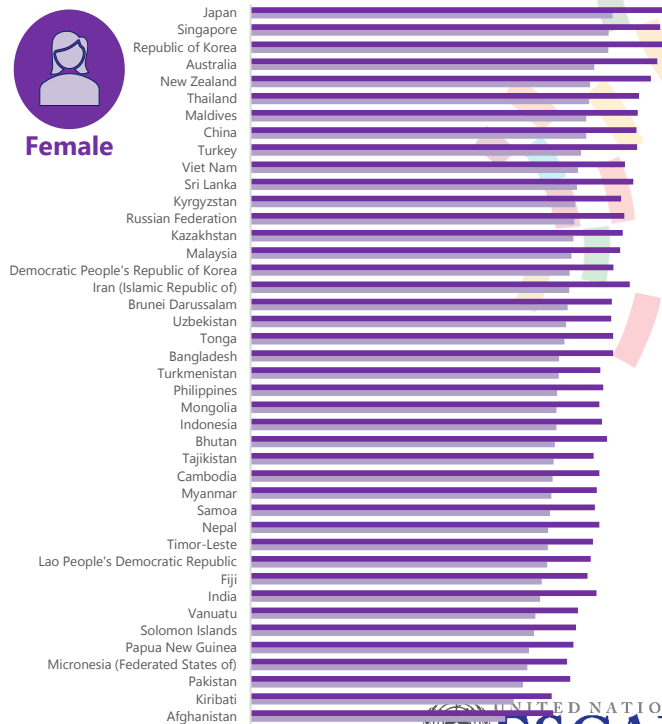
Life expectancy at birth (dark color) vs. Healthy life expectancy at birth (light color), 2019



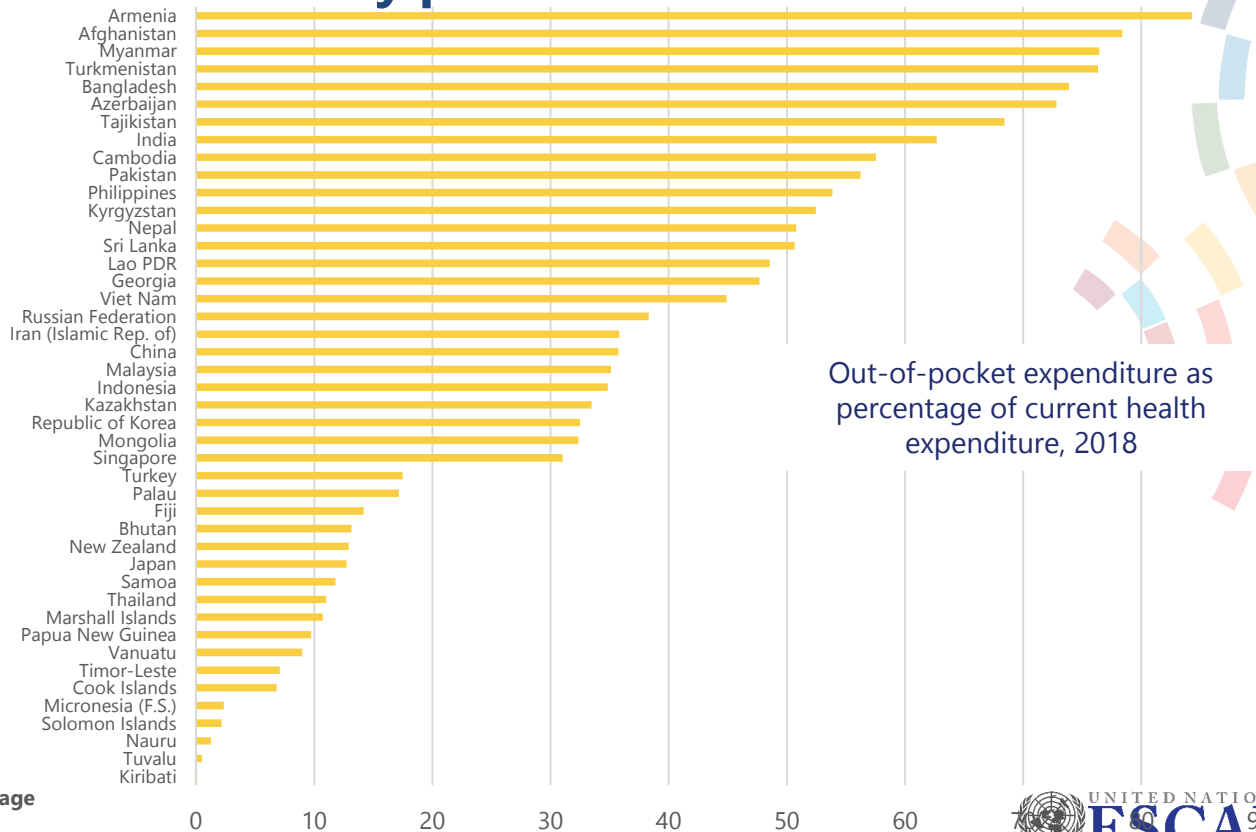
Male



Female



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



■ Percentage

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](#)

Source: ILO, ILOSTAT, Online database, Accessed 23 April 2021.

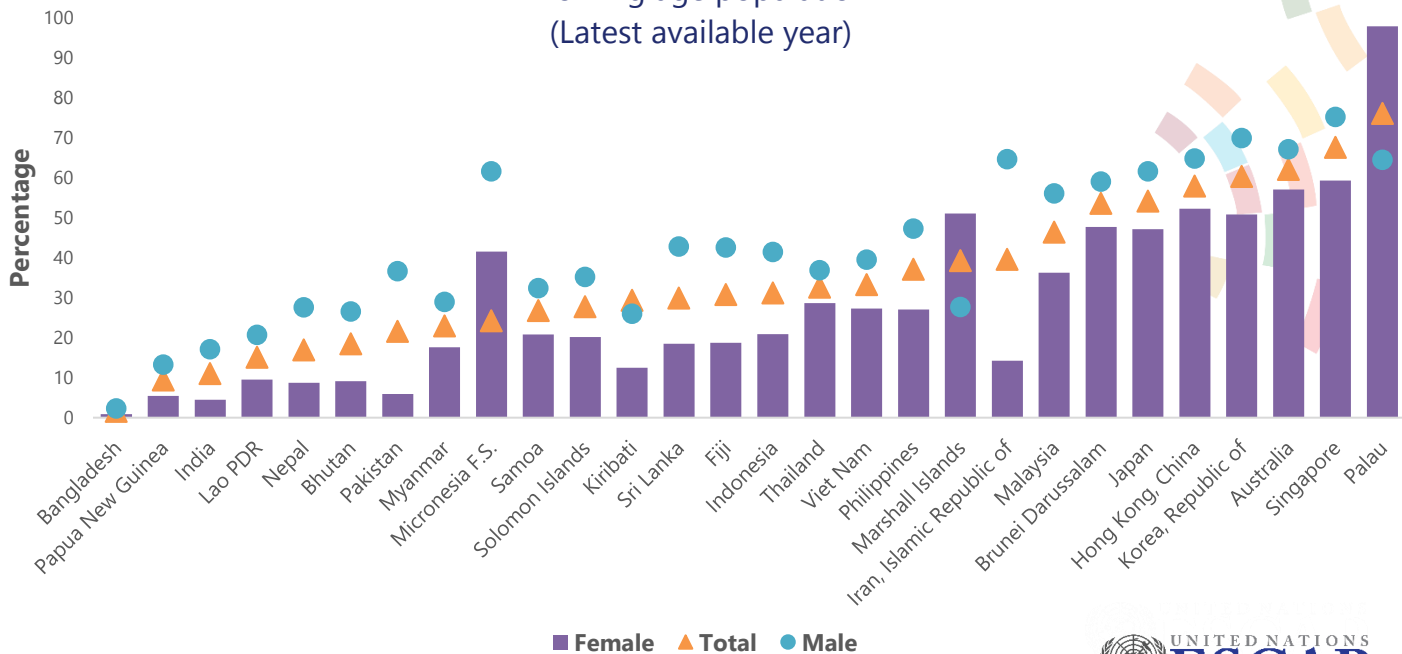
Many people in Asia and the Pacific are working in the informal sector

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

One-person households (percentage)

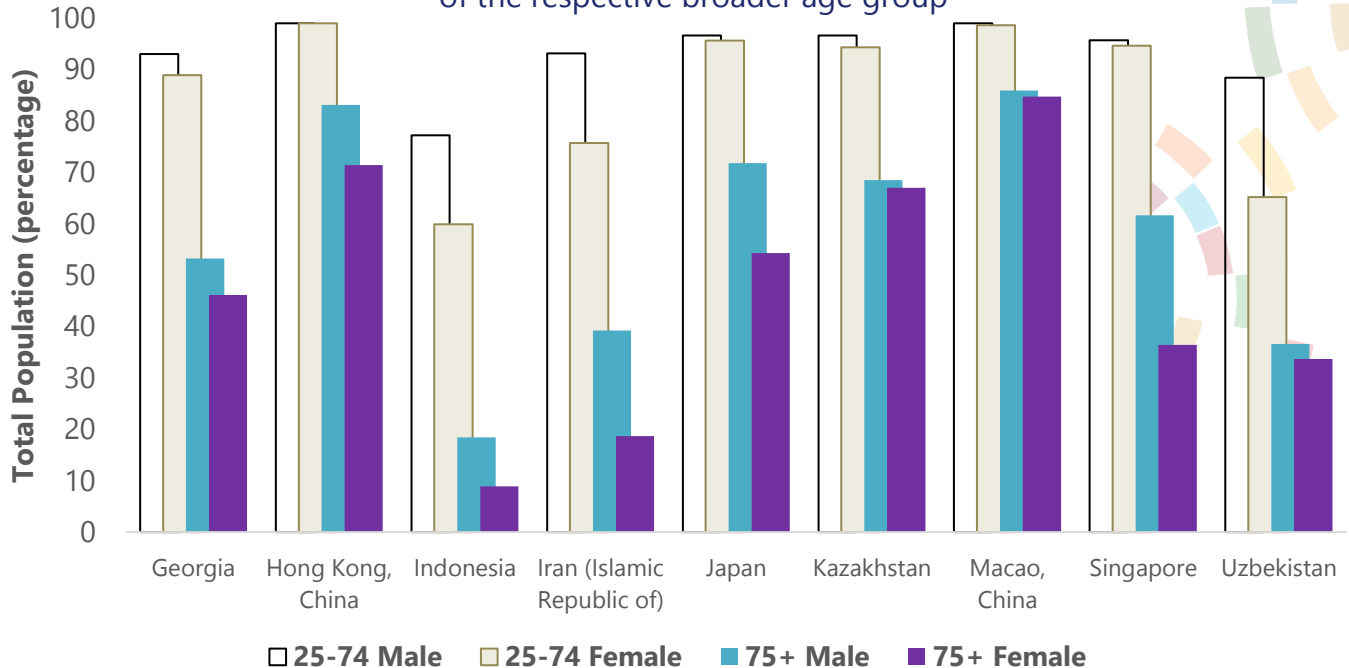


■ Females ■ Males

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2018). Database on the Households and Living Arrangements of Older Persons 2018, Accessed 8 October 2019.






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

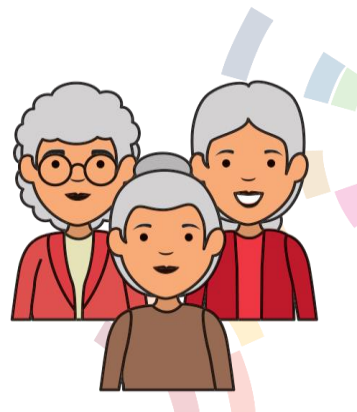
Individuals owning a mobile cellular telephone, by gender, percentage of population of the respective broader age group




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!

WWW.UNESCAP.ORG

 UNESCAP

 UNESCAP

 UNESCAP

 UNITEDNATIONSESCAP

 UNITEDNATIONSESCAP

