Measuring what matters: statistical indicators relevant to ageing and age disaggregated data in Asia and the Pacific

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Statistics on ageing

- **Official statistics** – produced by government agencies
- National Statistical Offices (NSO) and the National Statistical System (NSS) – all government agencies producing data
- Traditional data sources: censuses, surveys, and administrative data
- Non-traditional data sources: digital transactions, mobile phones, geospatial, etc.
- International standards and professional community
- Ten fundamental principles starting with relevance, impartiality and equal access – **data production is driven by needs and use of data**

“...official statistics are one of the cornerstones of good government and public confidence in good government”

Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
Vietnam

Figure K2: The gap between life expectancy and healthy life expectancy

Vietnam

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>LE at birth</th>
<th>HALE at birth</th>
<th>LE at age 60</th>
<th>HALE at age 60</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>4.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>6.4</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>6.3</td>
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<td>4.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>4.5</td>
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<tr>
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<th>HALE at birth</th>
<th>LE at age 60</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>7.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>7.5</td>
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22.7 Life expectancy at 60
The number of years a 60-year-old can expect to live

17.2 Healthy life expectancy aged 60
The number of years a 60-year-old can expect to live in good health

40% Pension coverage
% of people receiving a pension at retirement age

Is there a national health plan that includes ageing?
Identifying the demand for data on ageing

• National plans and policymaking processes
• International and regional commitments
  • Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA)
  • Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
  • WHO Decade of Healthy Ageing 2020-2030
  • WHO Global strategy and action plan on ageing and health
  • Asia-Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development
  • Asia Health and Wellbeing Initiative (AHWIN)

1.3.1: Proportion of population covered by social protection “floors” or systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed people, older people, people with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, people with work injuries, the poor and the vulnerable

1.4.1: Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services, distinguishing older people
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme (MIPAA)</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Data source(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Key demographic indicators</strong></td>
<td>1. Total population by sex, age and disability status</td>
<td>Population census, Intercensal survey, Population register</td>
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<td>2. Total fertility rate</td>
<td>Civil registration, Demographic and Health Survey (DHS)</td>
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<td>3. Median age</td>
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<td>4. Number and Percentage of the population aged 60+, 65+, 80+</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5. Life expectancy at birth, by sex</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6. Life expectancy at age 60, by sex</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7. Healthy life expectancy at birth, by sex</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8. Healthy life expectancy at 60, by sex</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Active participation in society and development</strong></td>
<td>9. Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex and age (SDG 5.b.1)</td>
<td>Household survey, Population census, Mobile phone / internet providers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10. Proportion of individuals using the Internet (disaggregated by age) (SDG 17.8.1)</td>
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<td>11. Percentage of older persons living alone, by sex</td>
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<td>12. Percentage of older persons represented in parliament</td>
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<td></td>
<td>13. Proportion of cities with direct, regular, democratic participation of civil society in urban planning and management, also including older people or their representatives (SDG 11.3.2)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Challenges for statistics on ageing

1. Not given priority by policymakers
2. Regular production of statistics through household surveys often excludes older people
3. Dedicated surveys on ageing conducted infrequently (or not at all)
4. Statistical systems not resourced to produce and analyze the needed data
5. Lack of guidance and capacity development to improve statistics on ageing
Developing solutions

- United Nations Titchfield City Group on Ageing and Age-disaggregated statistics
- Learn from other initiatives
  - International Consortium on Metrics and Evidence for Healthy Ageing
  - Health and Retirement Studies
  - National Transfer Accounts (NTA) Project
  - Composite indices on ageing
- Strengthening capacity of the Asia-Pacific region
Introducing the recommended indicators

- 77 statistical indicators
- Aligned to the MIPAA themes (18 topics)
  - Active participation in society and development
  - Access to knowledge, education and training
  - Eradication of poverty
  - Mental health needs of older persons
  - Housing and the living environment
  - Care and support for caregivers
  - ...
- Intended as a starting point for discussion
- Aspirational – many are not widely available
- Aligned with existing framework and commitments to development
Conclusions and recommendations

• Work with the National Statistical Office
• Filling data gaps takes sustained effort over time
• Seize opportunities, and build on momentum created by others
  • Titchfield City Group
  • SDGs
  • Gender statistics, climate change and disaster-related statistics
• Invest in analysis, dissemination and communication of statistics
THANK YOU