- Expert Group Meeting -

Population Ageing and the Situation of Older Persons in Asia and the Pacific: Follow-up to the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing


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Ms Pytrik Dieuwke Oosterhof

Consultant, UN ESCAP
Chapter 4: Ensuring enabling and supportive environments

- Housing, living environments and living arrangements
  - Urban planning and rural development
  - Migration and reintegration of older migrants

- Climate change and emergency situations

- Support to care givers of older persons

- Public recognition and ageing with dignity
  - Neglect, abuse and violence

- Information, innovation and technology
Housing, living environments and living arrangements

• A couple of examples consider the ‘ageing in place concept, however, overall, poverty related challenges, housing and environmental design for independent living are still not considered a priority by many governments in Asia-Pacific.

• While aging policies are present in some of countries, limited awareness about the concept of age- and disability friendly housing and infrastructure is reported

• Measures focus on financial assistance, national housing policies and plans or planning guidelines
Urban planning, rural development and migration and the reintegration of older migrants

- The majority of countries reported on measures that consider the wellbeing and participation of older persons in urban environments in one way or another.

- Some examples aimed at improving the living environment for older persons in urban settings through an ‘age-friendly city’ approach were reported.

- However, data on age-friendly cities and/or communities are limited.

- Limited measures to improve the living conditions, services and infrastructure in rural and remote areas with ageing populations.

- Gaps remain on progress in terms of social protection and labour market policies for older migrants in informal work.
Climate change and emergency situations

- Overall, relatively limited efforts were reported by ESCAP member States to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- Hence, increased awareness and attention should be directed to the intersection of population ageing and climate change and its consequences for the region.
- Dedicated comprehensive policies on DRR strategies that address the needs of older persons but also give them voice are largely missing.
Support to care givers of older persons

- Most countries undertake measures or some form of support to formal and informal caregivers of older persons.
- A key trend that is reported by countries is the expansion of home care, however, the need for better quality and training is expressed.
- Despite the role of the family in care provision, only limited financial support to family care givers is provided.
Public recognition and ageing with dignity and
Neglect, abuse and violence

• Ageism on the rise

• A range of measures were reported, including legislation, reporting mechanisms, programmes and awareness raising activities

• Limited progress in addressing neglect, abuse and violence against older persons

• Challenges related to lack of awareness and availability of data persist as well as addressing cases of elder abuse in rural and remote areas
Information, innovation and technology

- Much progress made in connecting the region through ICTs, however large digital (‘grey’) divide

- Various programmes and initiatives across the region, including telehealth, e-governance efforts or programs within the smart-city concept

- Opportunity for the region to build on its successes, learn from the consequences of the COVID19 pandemic and promote the inclusion of older persons in the digital world

- Need for developing policies and action plans to achieve digital equity for all ages. Moreover, accessible, affordable and reliable internet connectivity for persons of all ages must be a priority. Expanding digital infrastructure, geographical coverage and digital inclusion of older persons through targeted policies and programmes will improve access, enable greater participation, empower older persons