

# Population ageing in Asia-Pacific: challenges and opportunities

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Side event of the Department of  
Older Persons in Thailand  
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# ESCAP ....

Is the regional development arm of the United Nations for the Asia-Pacific region



... uses its **convening power** to bring countries together to address issues through regional cooperation

# ESCAP work rests on three pillars



Inter-governmental

Addressing the Challenges  
of Population Ageing in  
Asia and the Pacific



Analytical



Technical cooperation

# ESCAP work is multidisciplinary



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

01 | MACROECONOMIC  
POLICY AND FINANCING  
FOR DEVELOPMENT



02 | TRADE, INVESTMENT  
AND INNOVATION



03 | TRANSPORT



04 | STATISTICS



08 | ENERGY

05 | SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT



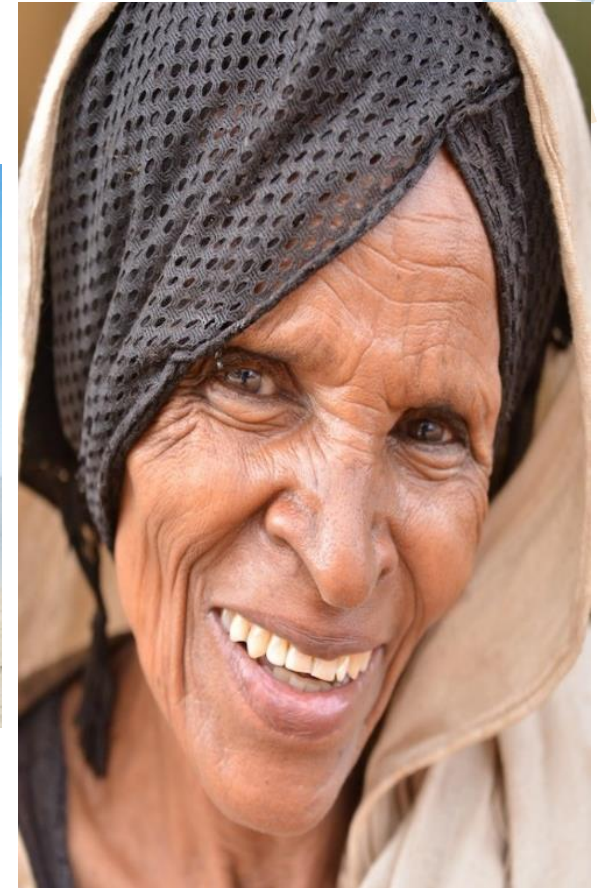
06 | ENVIRONMENT AND  
DEVELOPMENT



07 | ICT AND DISASTER  
RISK REDUCTION

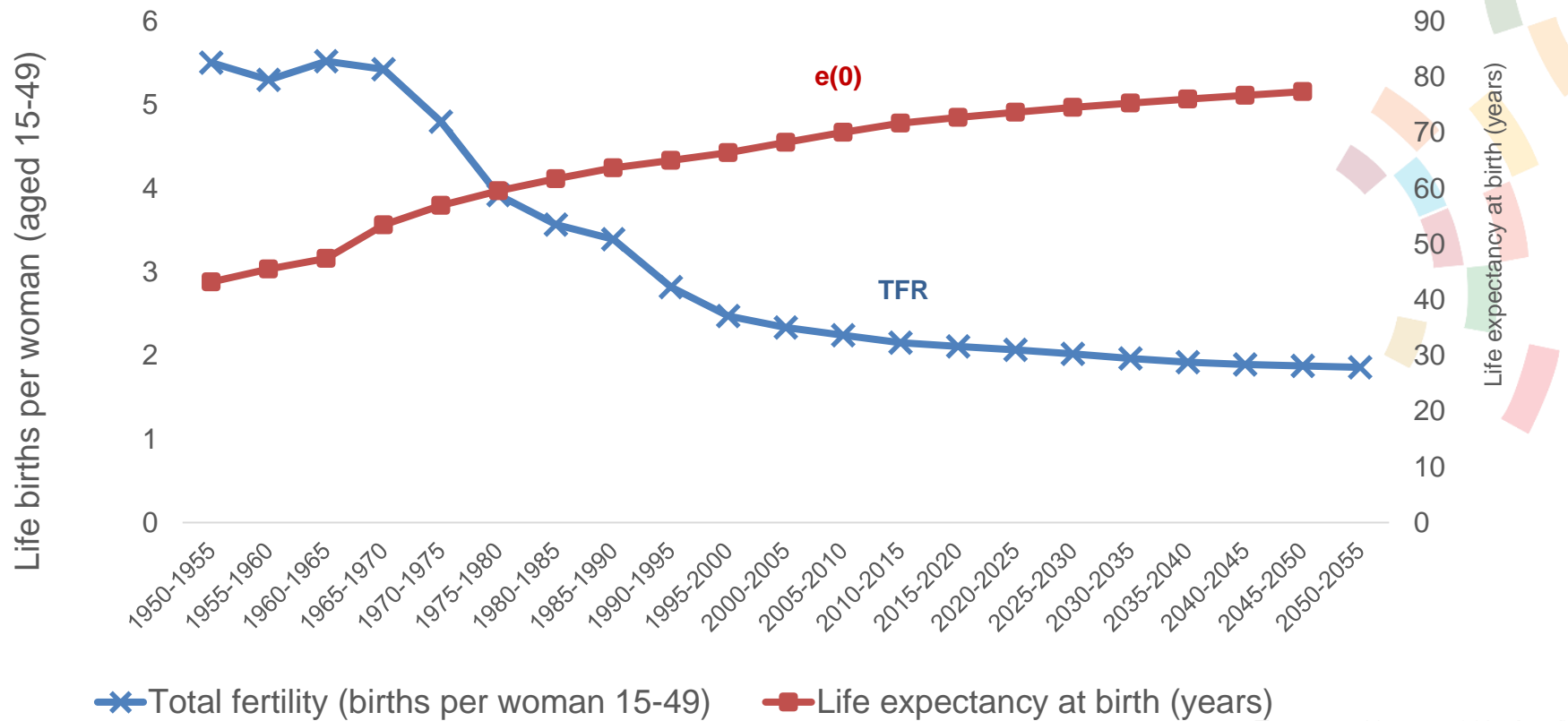


# Older persons: many faces of one of the major achievements of development



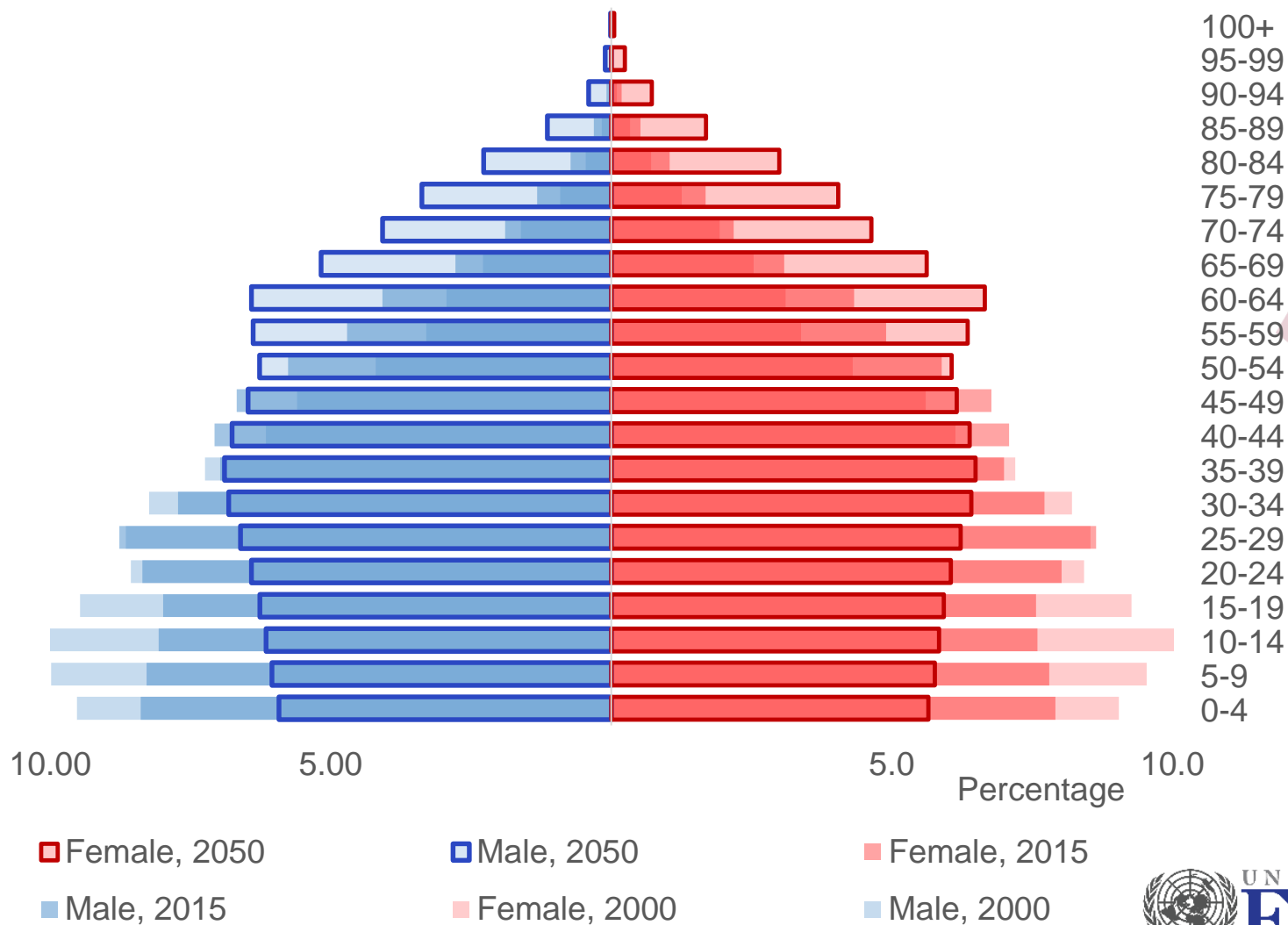
# Demographic transition, Asia-Pacific

(total fertility rate and life expectancy at birth, 1950-2050)



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017).  
 World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision - Special Aggregates, DVD Edition; United Nations,  
 Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017) (Asia-Pacific = ESCAP members).

# Asia-Pacific, 2050



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision - Special Aggregates, DVD Edition*; United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017).

# A growing number and share of persons 65+ in Asia-Pacific

(in thousand - % of total)



2019

415,779 – 9.00%

2030

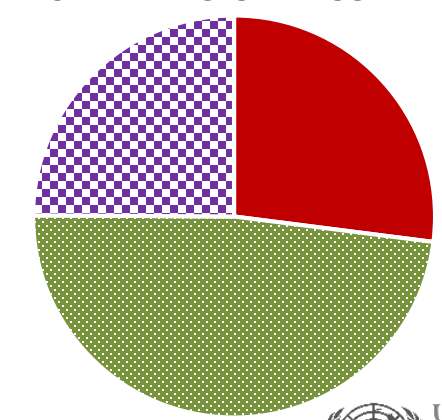
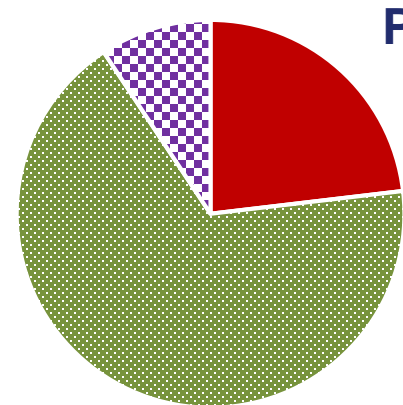
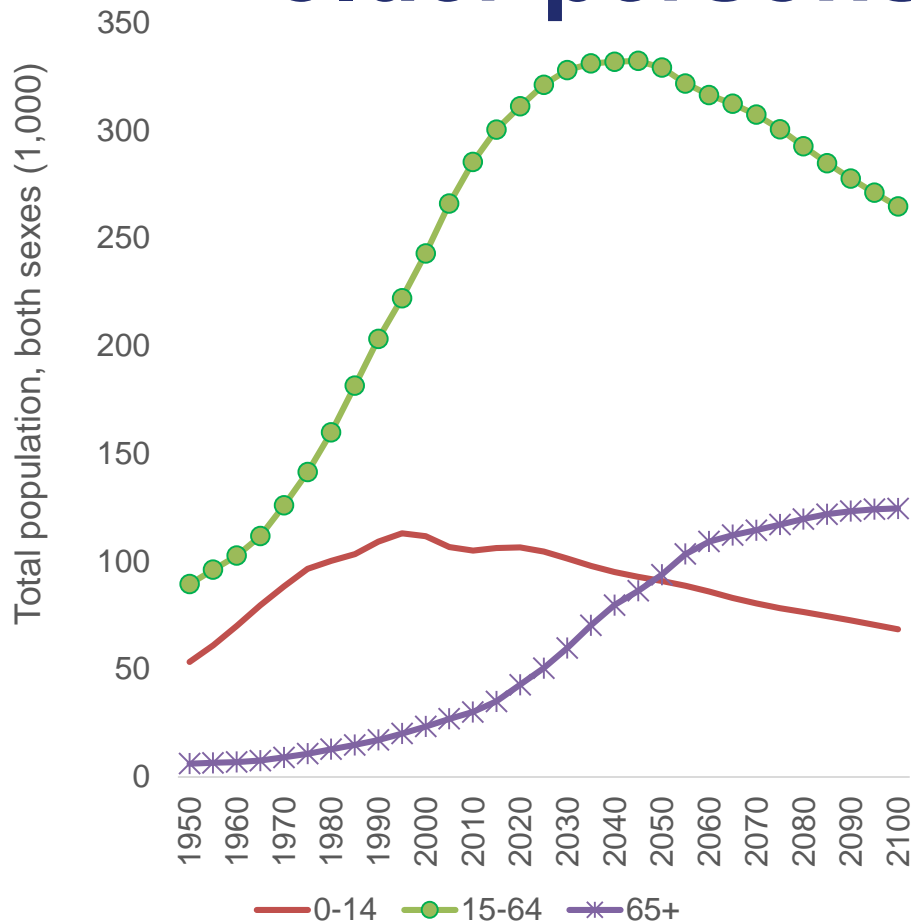
611,019 – 12.3%

2050

965,438 – 18.15%



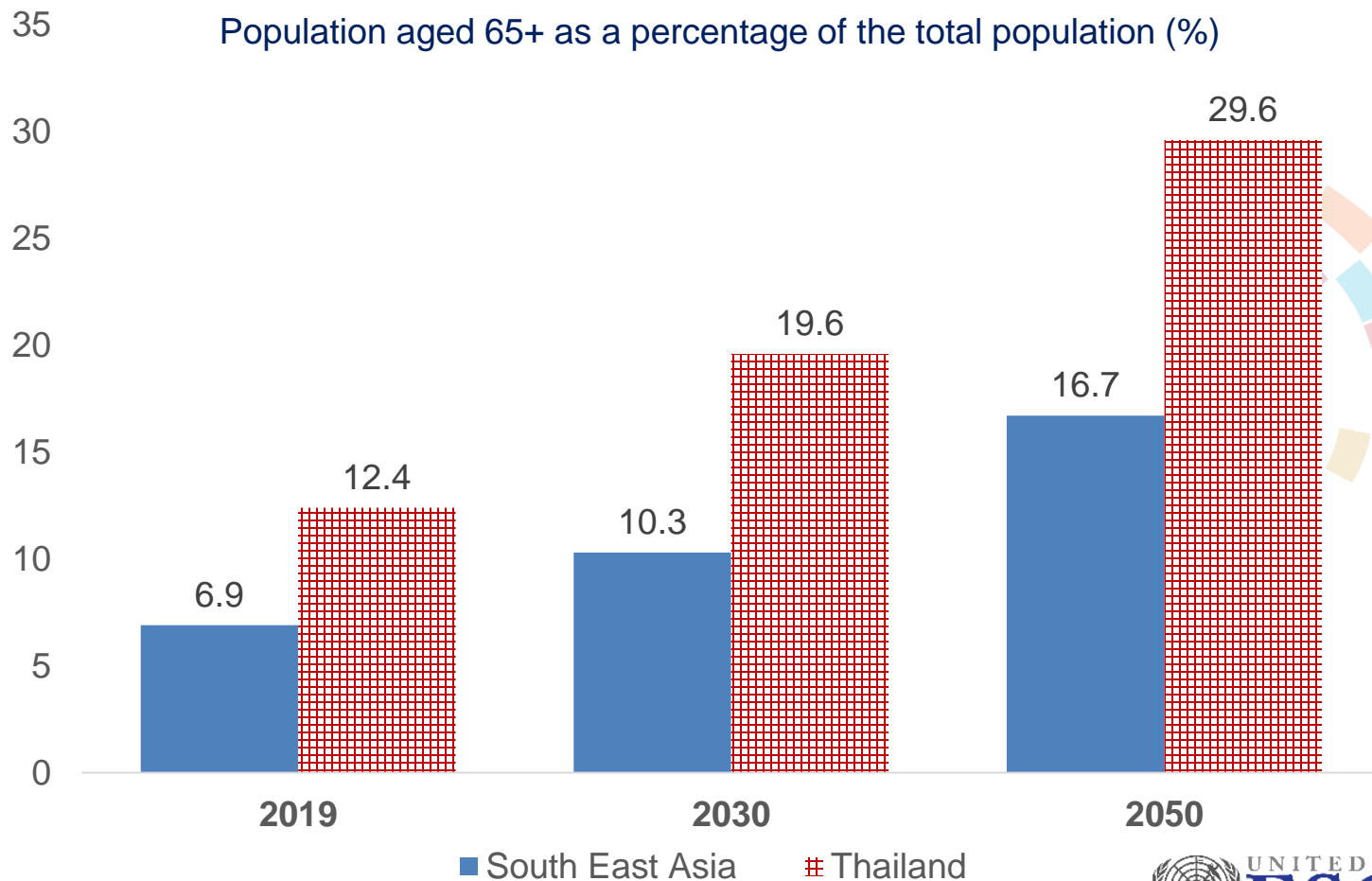
# In Asia-Pacific, by 2050, number of older persons > younger



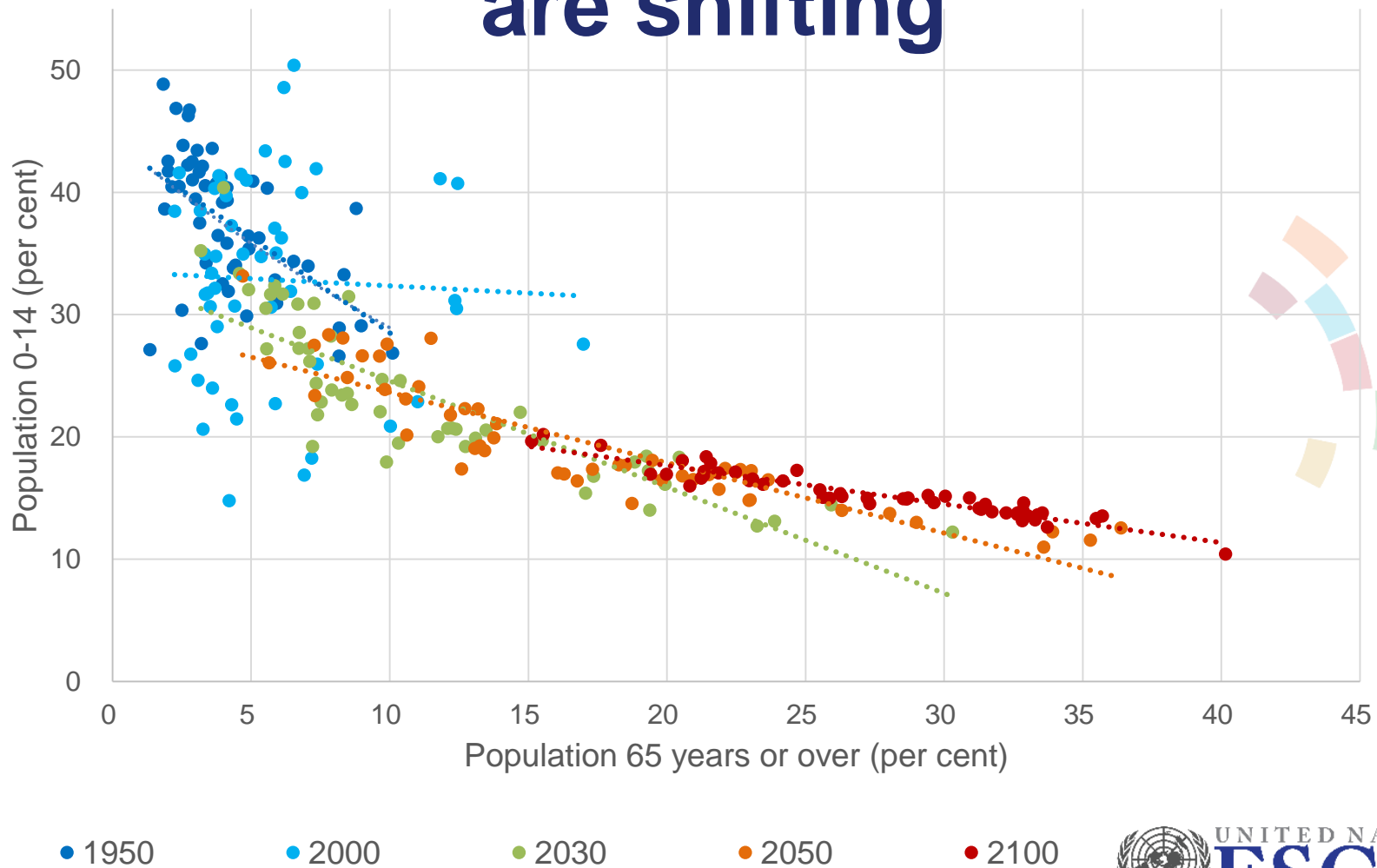
Per cent of total population  
**2020**

**2100**

# Share of older persons (65+) in Thailand > share of older persons in South-East Asia, 2019, 2030, 2050



# In Asia-Pacific, age structures are shifting

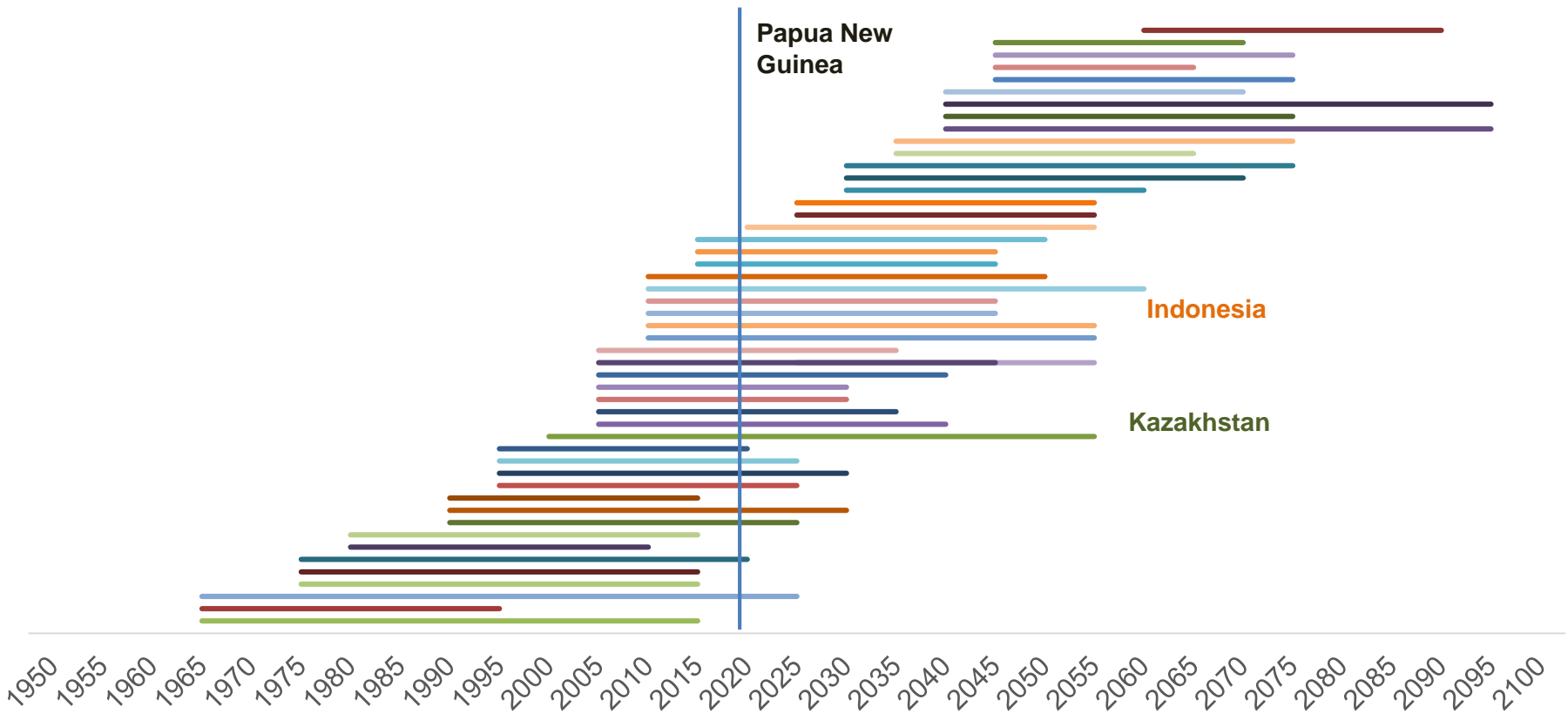


# Demographic window explained



- Share of children falls (permanently) below 30%
- Share of older persons is (still) less than 15% (*UN 2004*)
- Demographic window = window of opportunity for economic development
- Requirement:  
Larger investments in people (education), infrastructure and jobs become possible

# Demographic window open or opening for countries in Asia-Pacific

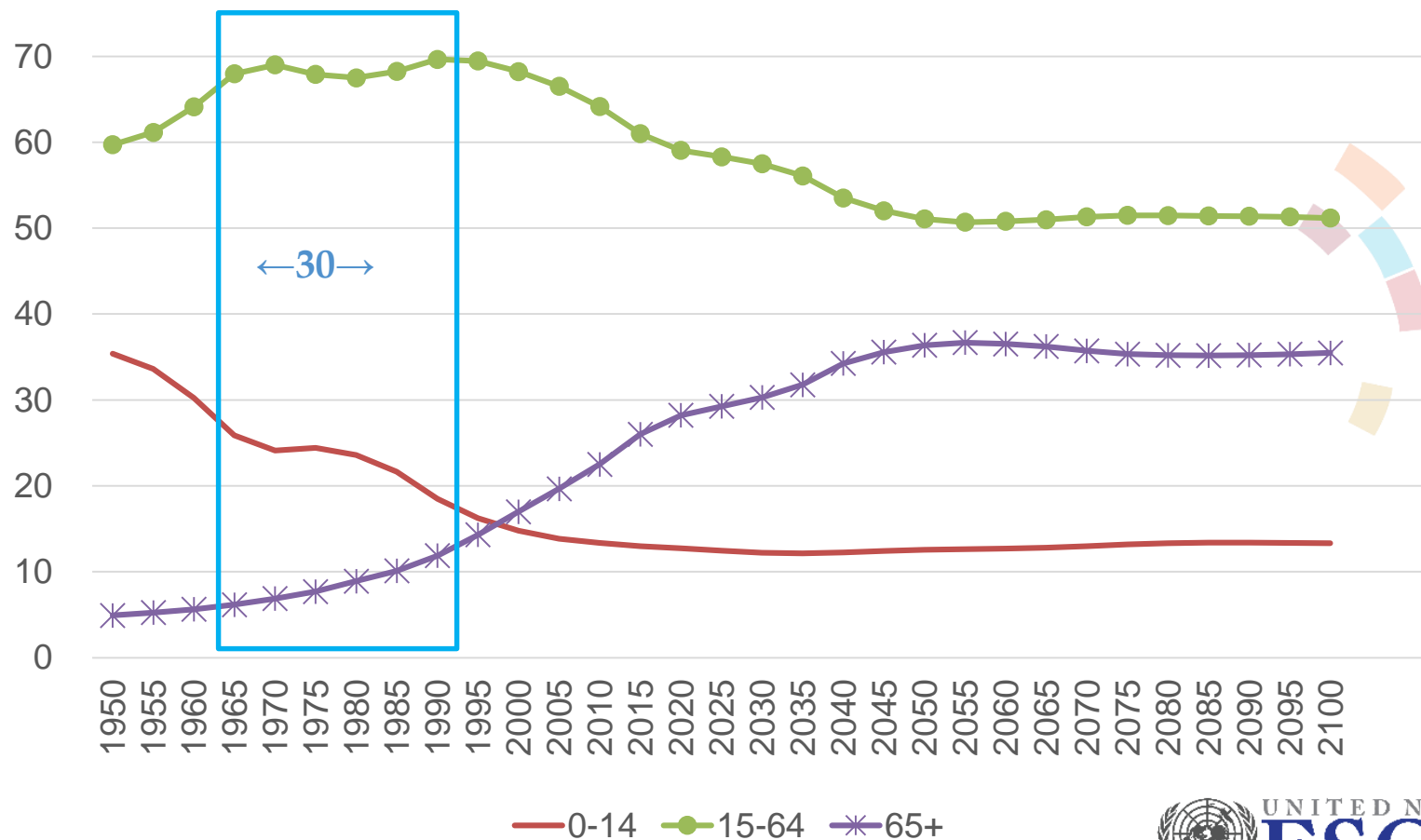


Children (0-14) < 30% and older persons (65+) < 15%

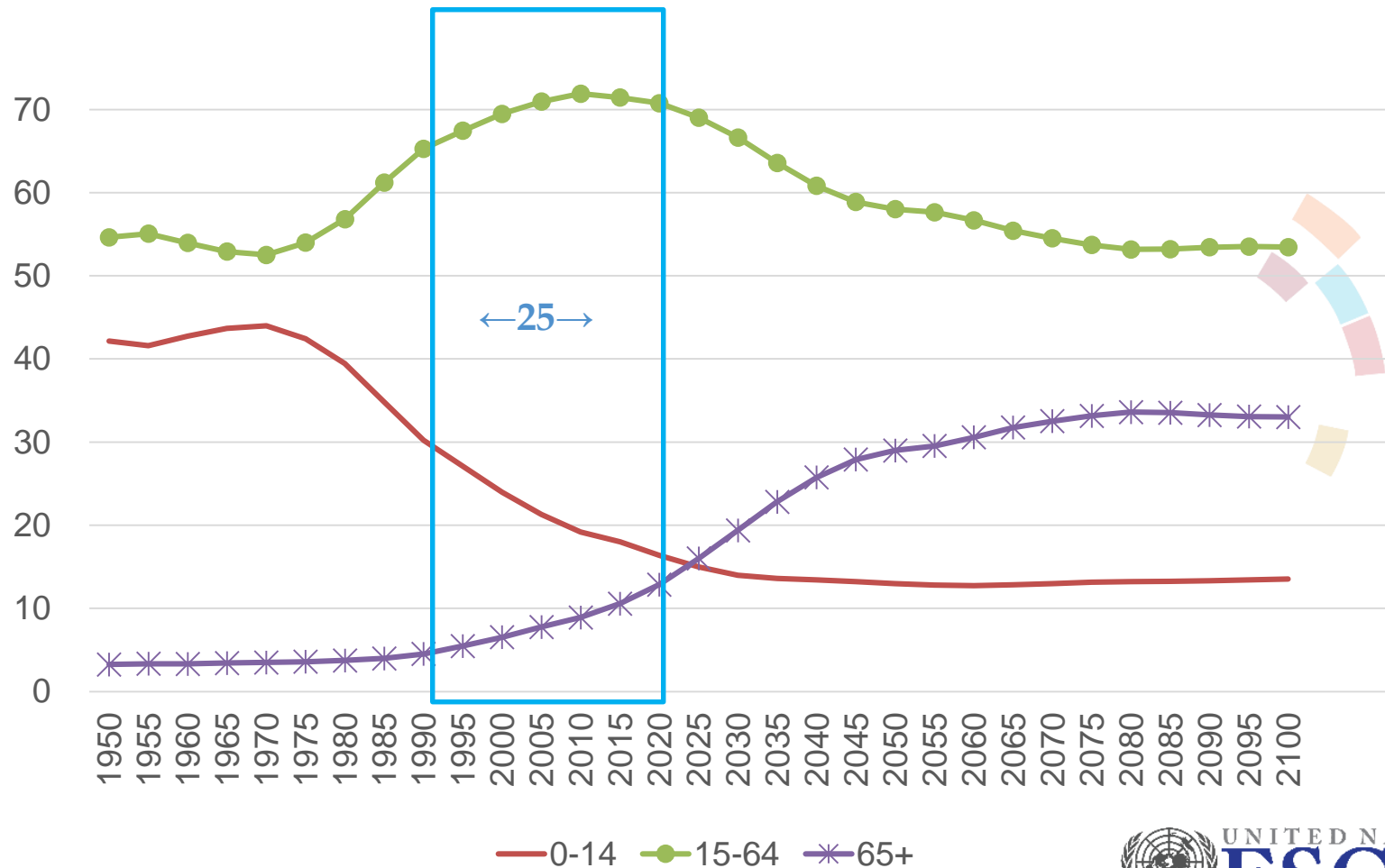


Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision - Special Aggregates, DVD Edition*; United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017).

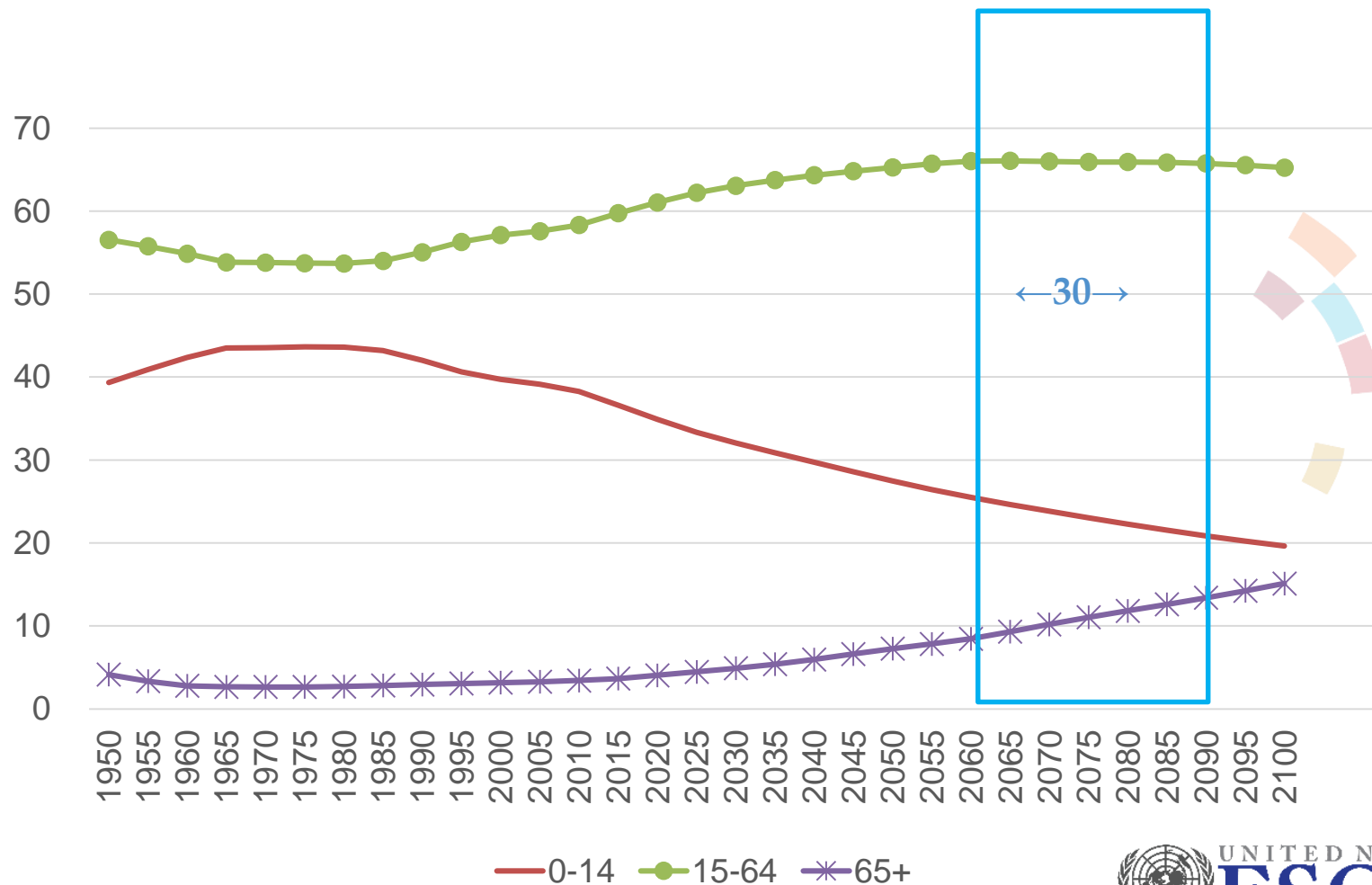
# Demographic window – Japan



# Demographic window – Thailand



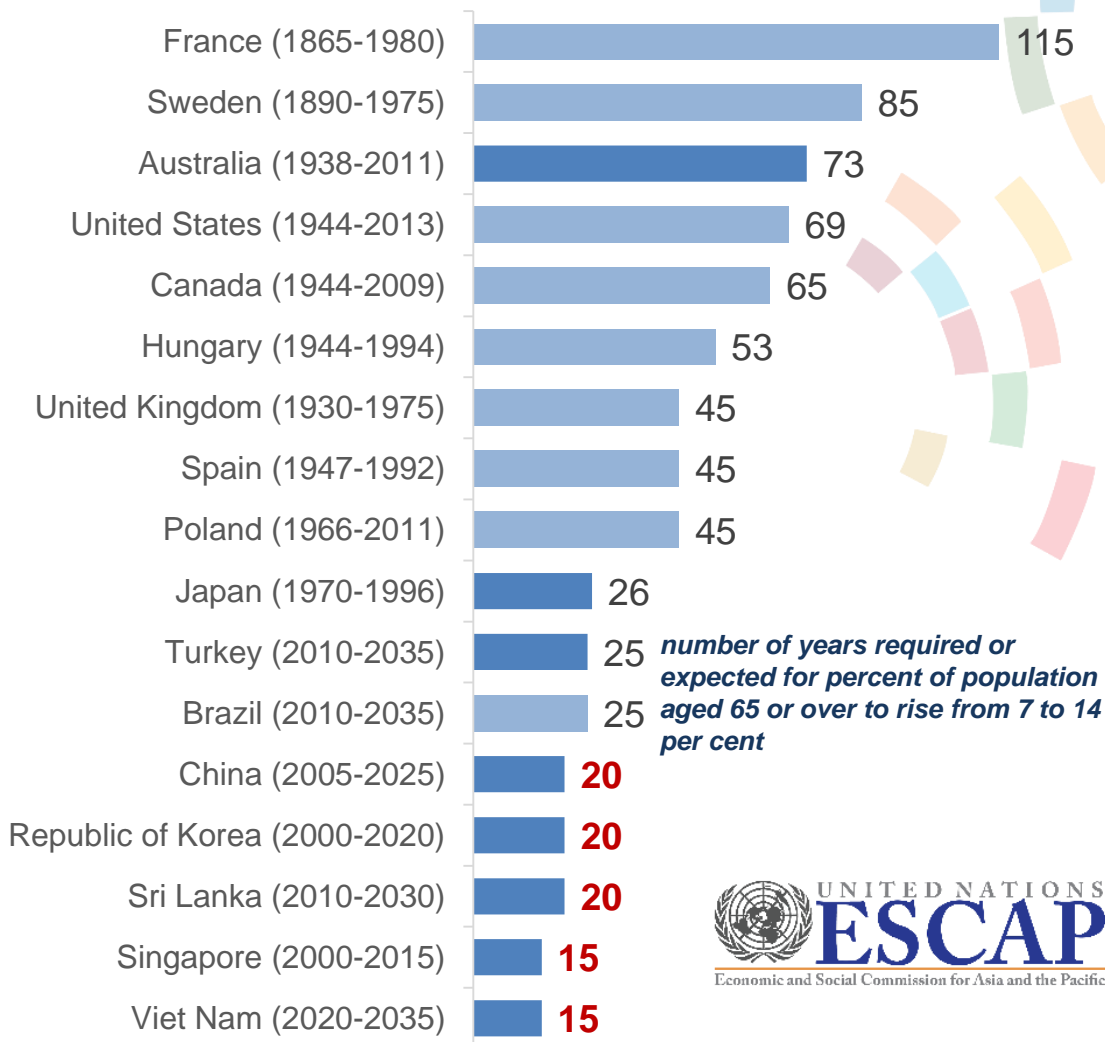
# Demographic window – Timor Leste



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision - Special Aggregates, DVD Edition*; United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017).



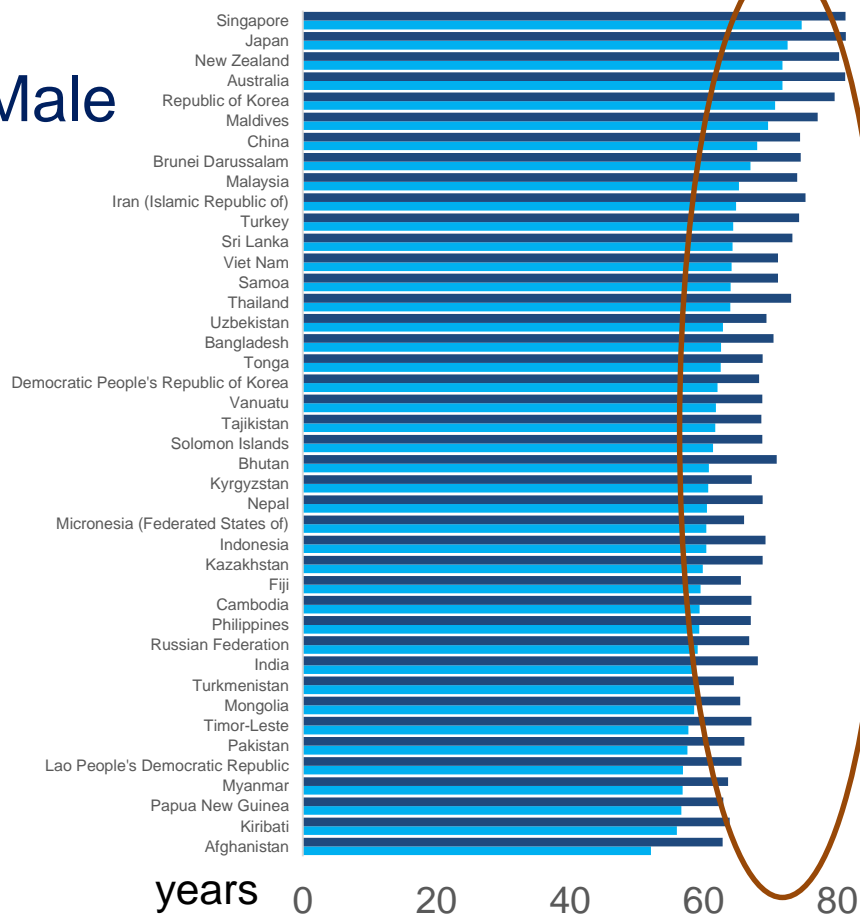
# In Asia-Pacific, many countries experiencing rapid population ageing



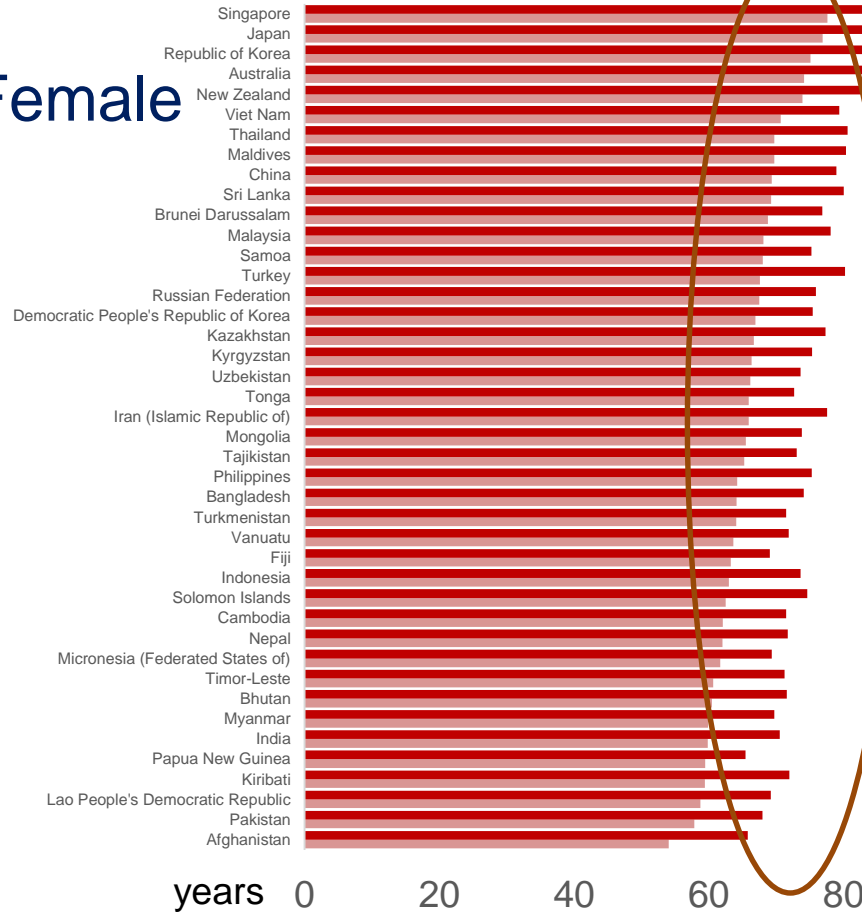
# In Asia-Pacific, older persons often spend up to 10 years with impairment

(life expectancy at birth (dark color) vs. healthy life expectancy at birth (light color), 2015-2020)

Male

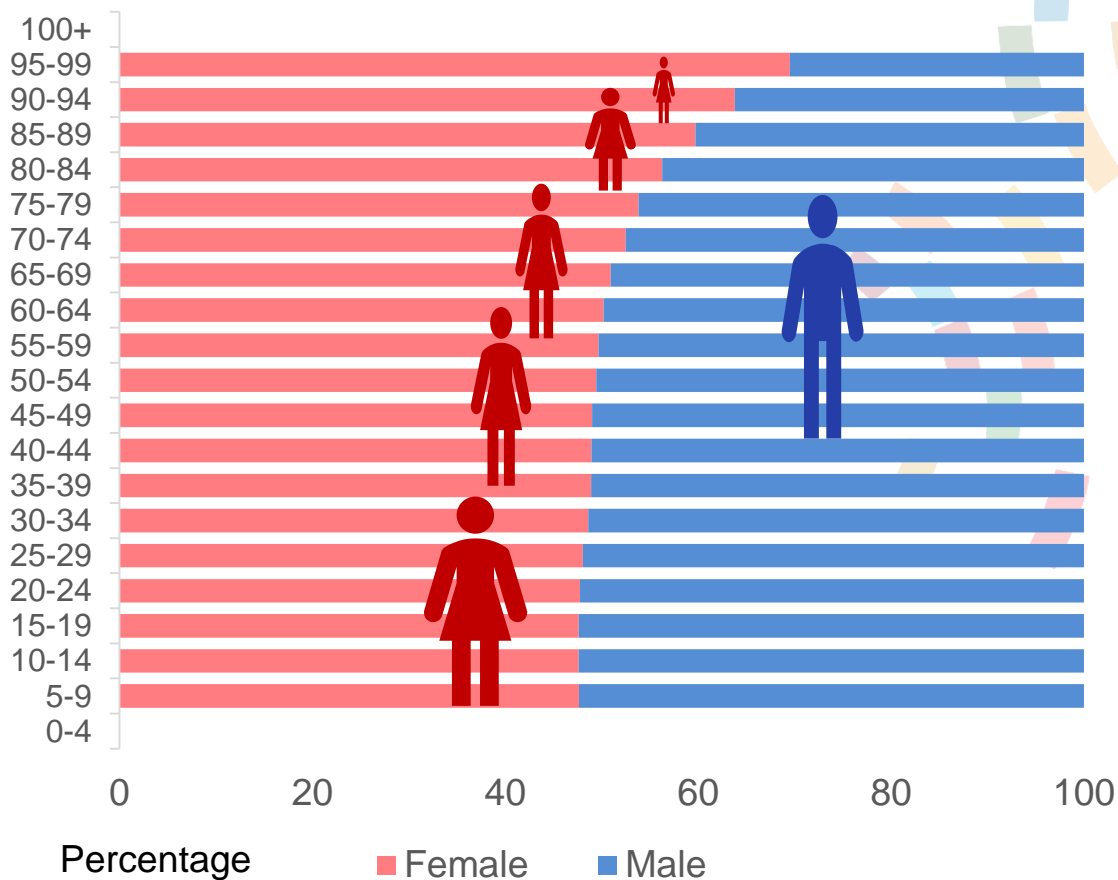


Female



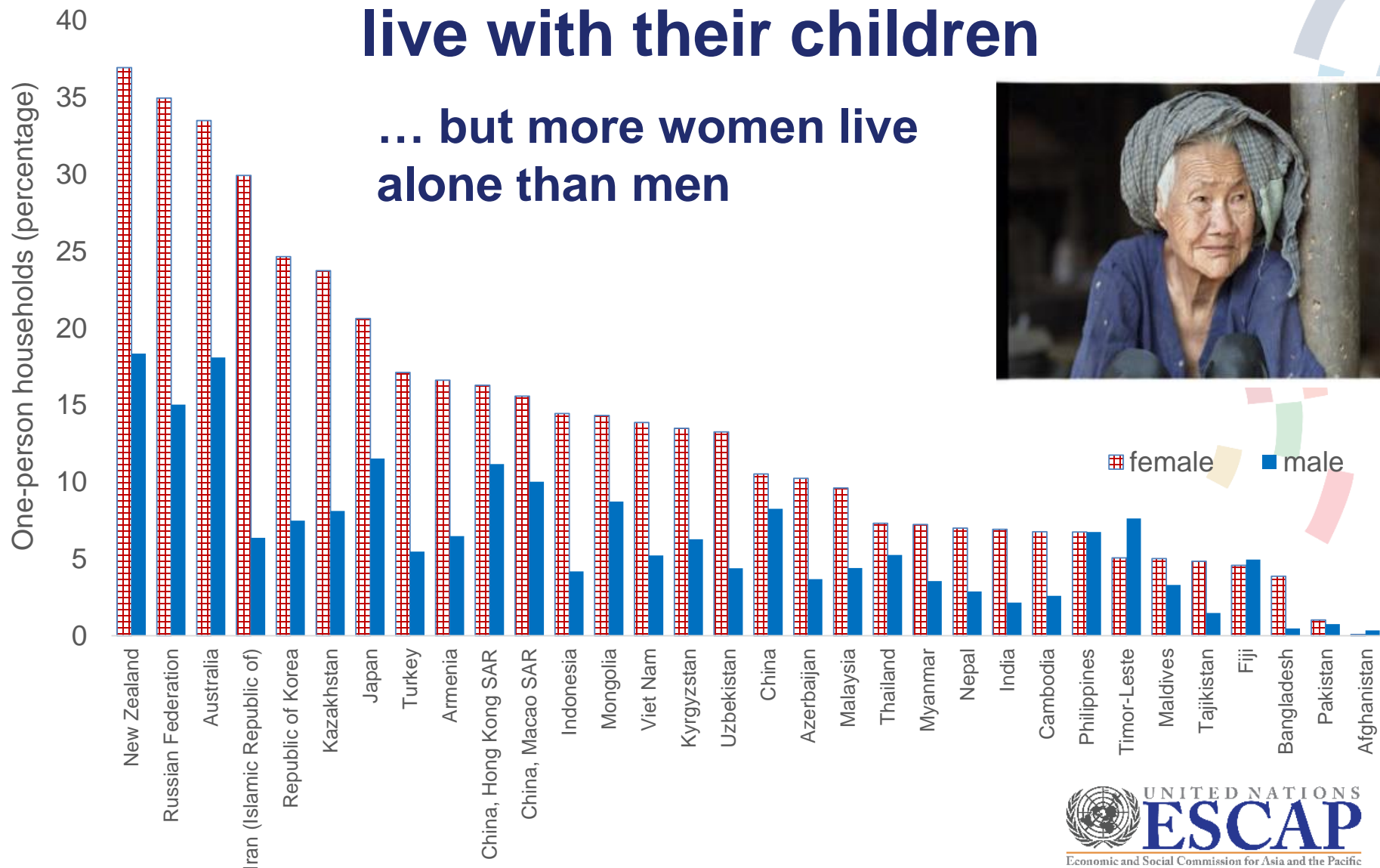
Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision - Special Aggregates, DVD Edition*; United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017); WHO, *Global Health Observatory data repository*, <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/view/main.HAL.FXV> (accessed 28 April 2019)

# In Asia-Pacific, most older persons 60+ are women, 2019



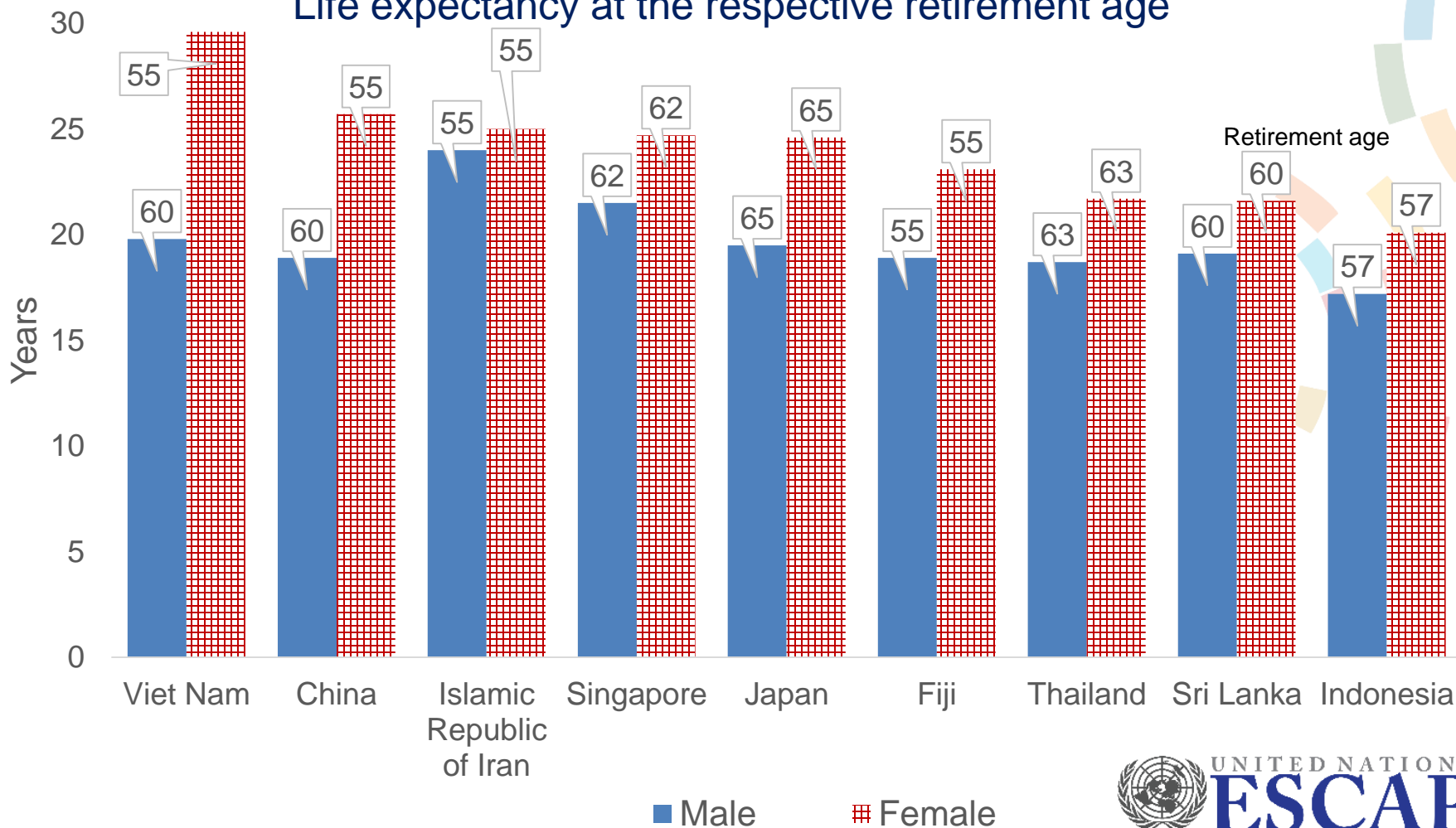
# In Asia-Pacific, most older persons (65+) live with their children

... but more women live alone than men



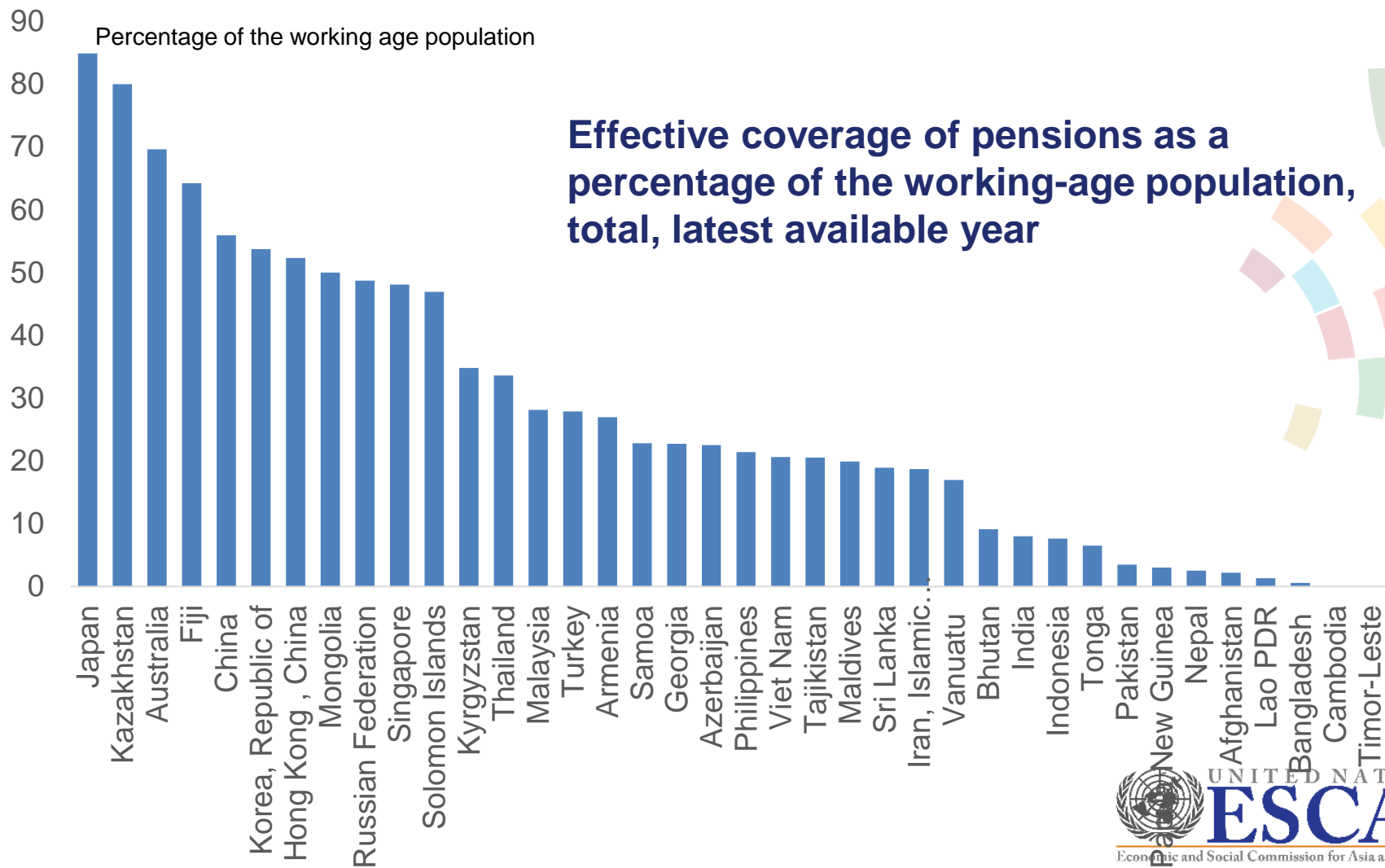
# In Asia-Pacific, people still live between 19 and 30 years after retirement

Life expectancy at the respective retirement age



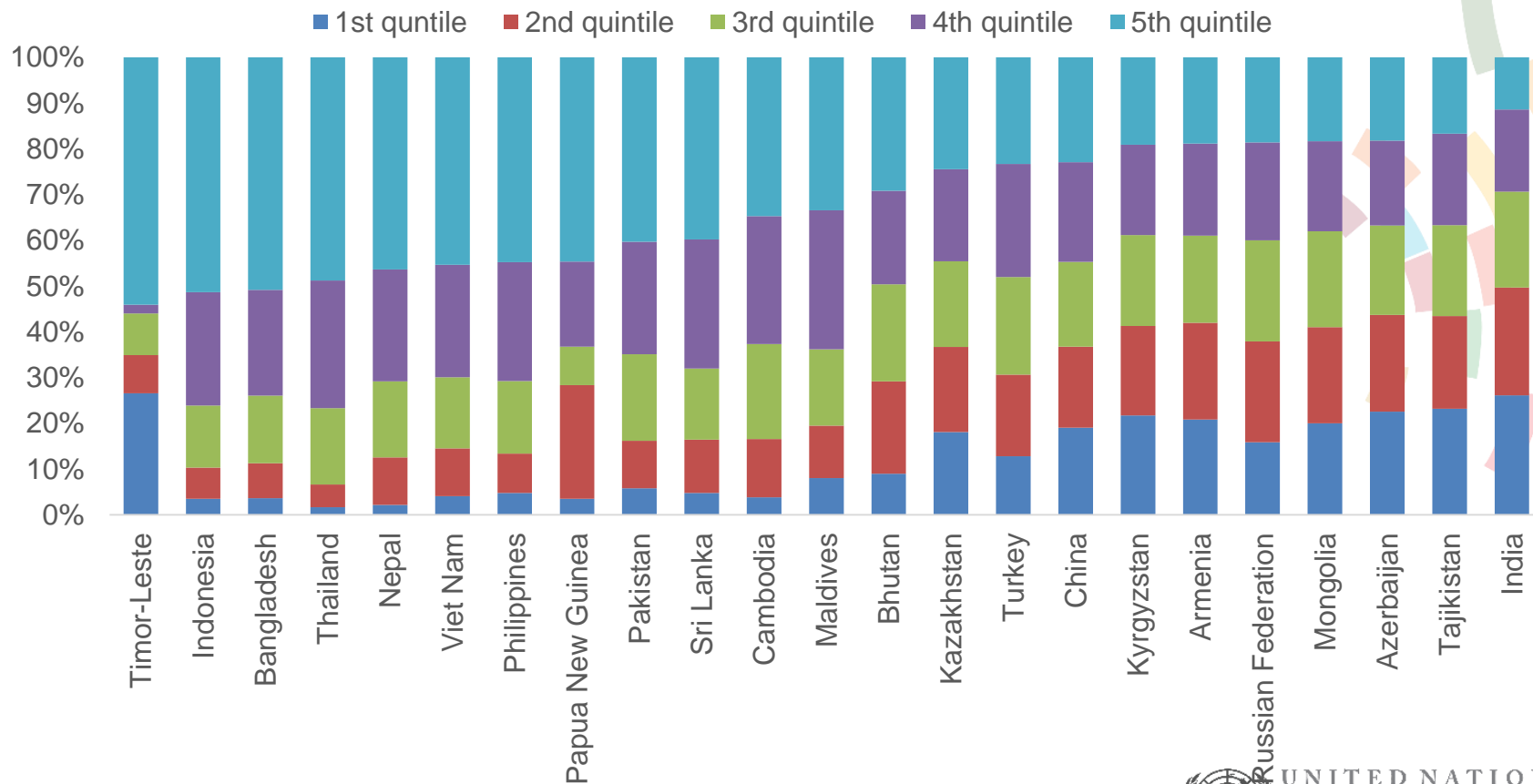
Source: ESCAP calculations with data from United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs: *World Population Prospects, the 2017 Revision*

# Coverage of pensions is low in most countries of Asia-Pacific



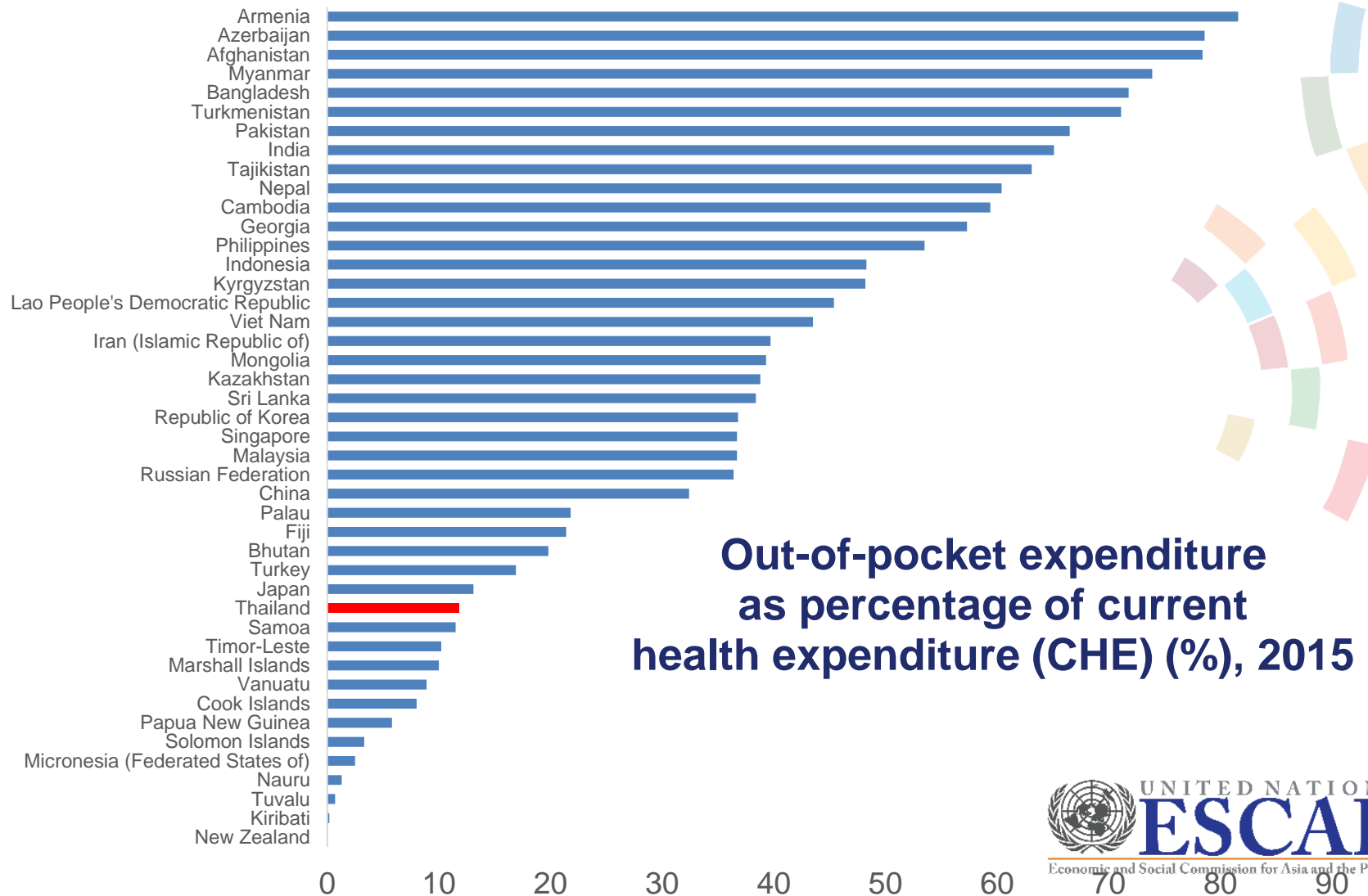
# Most pension beneficiaries are in highest income groups

Contributory pensions: beneficiary incidence by income quintile



Source: World Bank, ASPIRE database, Atlas of Social Protection Indicators of Resilience and Equity, online, accessed 6 June 2019

# Healthcare costs are mostly borne by private households

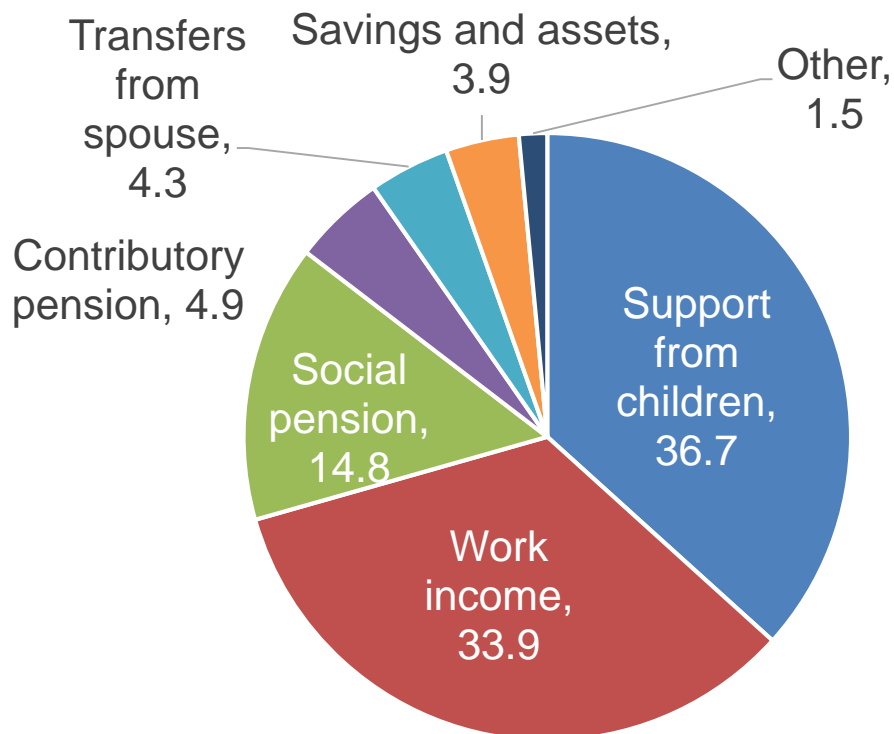


Source: WHO, Global Health Observatory Data Repository, online, accessed 10 June 2019

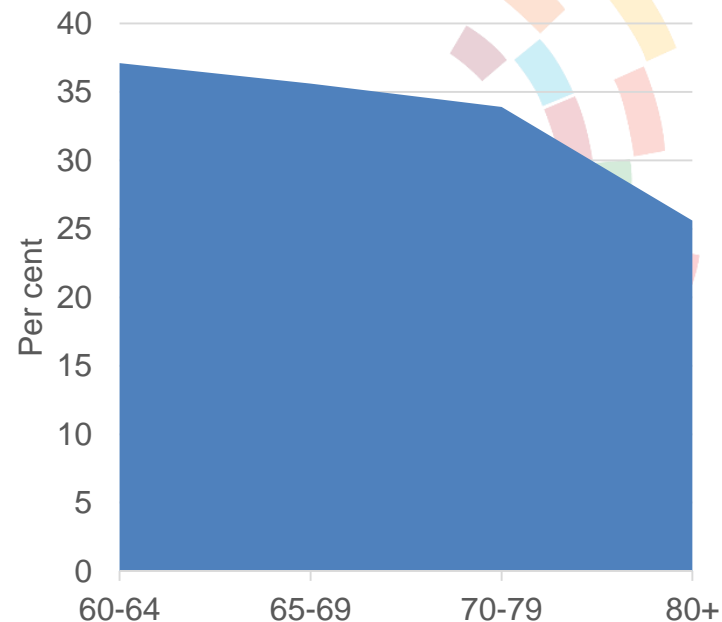


# Thailand: support from children and work income most important income sources of older persons

## Income sources of older persons in Thailand



## Percentage of older persons with savings by age group, 2011



# Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA)



Global guiding document on population ageing

Priority direction:

- A. Older persons and development;
- B. Advancing health and well-being into old age;
- C. Ensuring enabling and supportive environments.



# MIPAA - Timeline



1982 – Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing

**2002 – Adoption of MIPAA at the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Assembly on Ageing**

## 1<sup>st</sup> Review

- 2007 – 1<sup>st</sup> Asia-Pacific Review of MIPAA in China: Macao Outcome Document - ESCAP
- 2008 – 1st Global Review of MIPAA at the 45th and 46th CSD sessions

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Review

- 2012 – 2nd Asia-Pacific Review of MIPAA in Thailand: Bangkok Statement - ESCAP
- 2013 – 2nd Global Review of MIPAA at the 49th CSD session

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Review

- 2017 – 3rd Asia-Pacific Review of MIPAA in Bangkok - ESCAP
- 2018 – 3rd Global Review of MIPAA at 52nd CSD session

**2022/23 ?????**

# MIPAA and 2030 Agenda



The 2030 Agenda is a holistic agenda -emphasizing the need to leave no one behind

MIPAA and the 2030 Agenda are complimentary

MIPAA provides a more detailed action plan for older persons



# SDGs and population ageing



high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, **gender, age**, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts (A/RES/70/1 - para 17.18)

SDG 1 – no **poverty**

SDG 2 – end **hunger**

SDG 3 – **healthy lives** and **well-being** at all ages

SDG 5 – **gender equality** for all women

SDG 8 – inclusive and **sustainable economic growth**,  
full and productive **employment** and  
**decent work for all**

SDG 10 – reduce **inequalities**

SDG 11 – **sustainable cities**

# Government views on population ageing – concern or not?

	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015
<b>Brunei Darussalam</b>	NA	NA	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor
<b>Cambodia</b>	NA	NA	Minor	Major	Major	Minor	Minor	Minor
<b>Indonesia</b>	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor	Major
<b>Lao PDR</b>	NA	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor
<b>Myanmar</b>	NA	NA	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor
<b>Philippines</b>	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor	Major
<b>Singapore</b>	Minor	Major	Major	Major	Major	Major	Major	Major
<b>Thailand</b>	Major	Major	Major	Major	Major	Major	Major	Major
<b>Viet Nam</b>	NA	Minor	Major	Major	Major	Major	Major	Major

Source: Source: United Nations, World Population Policies Database.

[http://esa.un.org/poppolicy/about\\_database.aspx](http://esa.un.org/poppolicy/about_database.aspx) (accessed 27 April 2019); only countries with available data are shown.



Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

# What are the overarching principles/ values of an older persons' policy

## VISION

A healthy, empowered and active older population today and in the future supported and enabled over their life course to live a quality life with dignity and respect

## PURPOSE















To provide a comprehensive framework and guide for enhancing the quality of life of older women and men

## OBJECTIVES

- Coordinate services for older persons
- Make services affordable and accessible
- Ensure the participation of older persons in Government policies
- Protect the human rights of older persons
- Provide a positive image of older persons

# National Plans on Ageing (MIPAA) - Thailand

National policy, legislation and action plans focused solely on older people and ageing

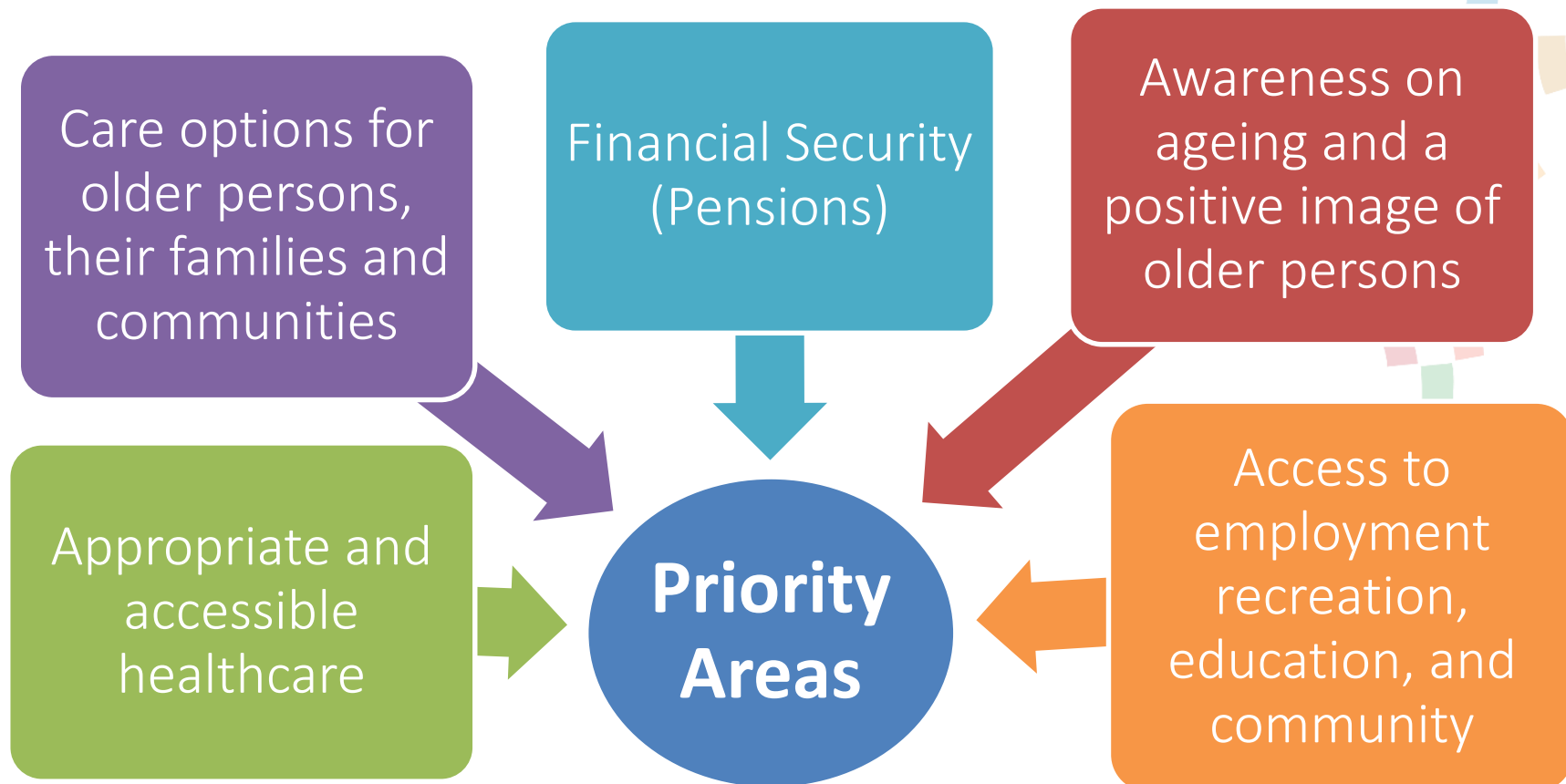
						
Mental health	Nutrition	HIV/AIDS	Social protection	Education knowledge training	Living Environm...	Care and Support
						
Healthy ageing and NCDs	Health care access	Health care training	Emergency response and disasters	Migration	Neglect, abuse, rights	Images of ageing
						
			Work and Labour		National Plan on Ageing	

- National Plan on Ageing
- Older Persons and Development
- Advancing Health and Well-being
- Environment

Source: Camilla Williamson, Policy Mapping on Ageing in Asia and the Pacific Analytical Report. HelpAge International, East Asia/Pacific Regional Office (July 2015)



# What should a national policy entail? A proposal



# ESCAP work on population ageing



- Supporting MIPAA review
- ICTs
- Capacity-building on data, pensions
- Active ageing index/dashboard
- Research and analysis on levels, trends and policies

# Population ageing agenda an agenda for all generations



# THANK YOU!

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