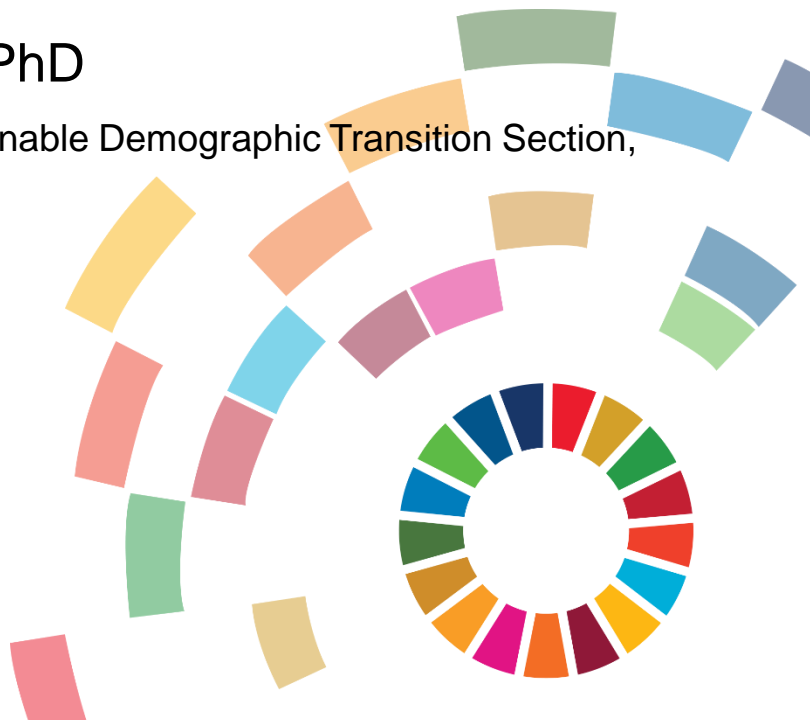


Population ageing and its implications on social protection

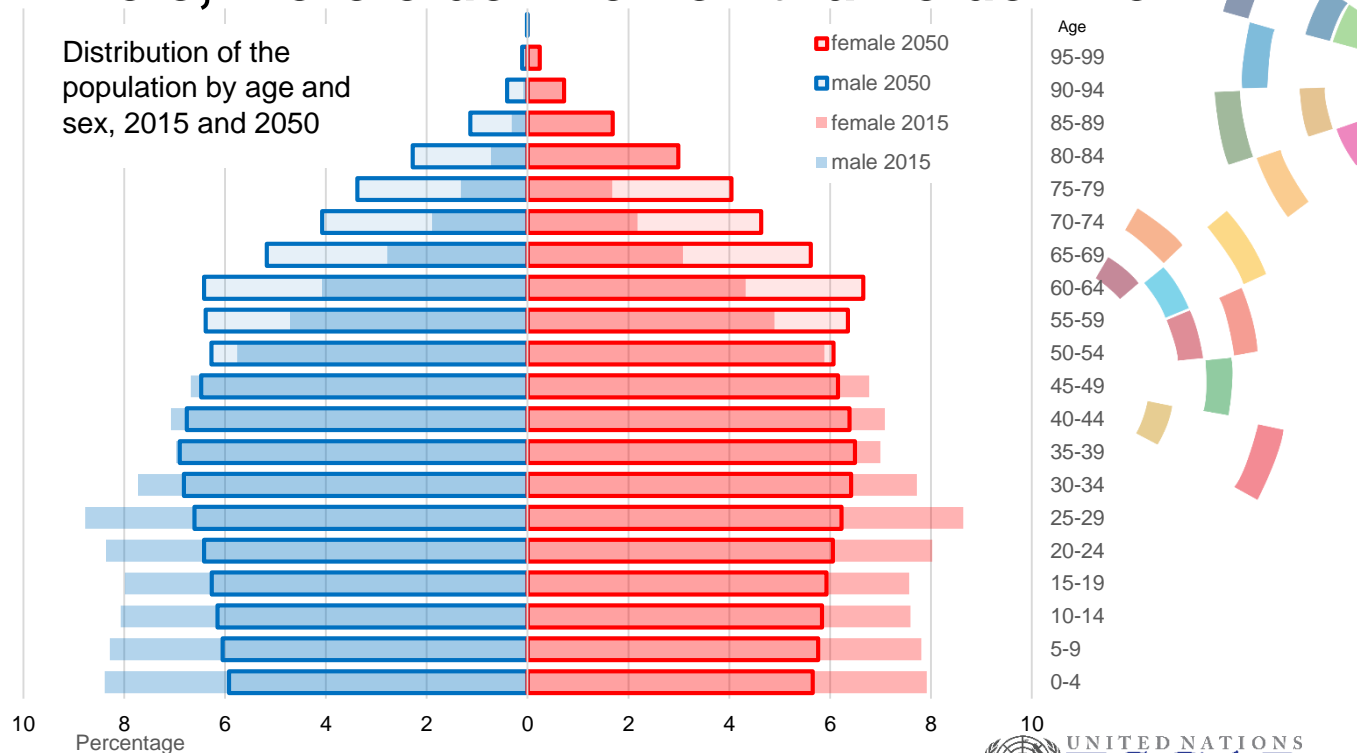
Vanessa Steinmayer, PhD

Population Affairs Officer, Sustainable Demographic Transition Section,
Social Development Division

Workshop on Measuring
Ageing and its Social and
Fiscal Implications,
Bangkok, 24-27 June 2019



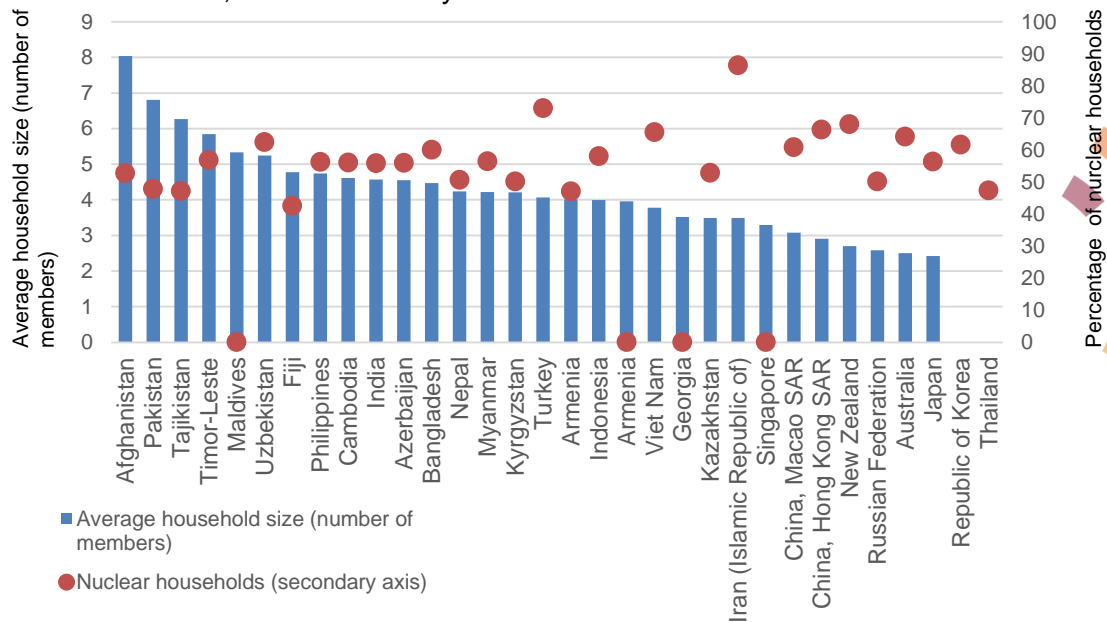
Populations are becoming “older” as a whole, more older women than older men



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: the 2017 Revision. Available at <https://population.un.org/wpp/> (accessed 10 September 2018)

Households are becoming smaller

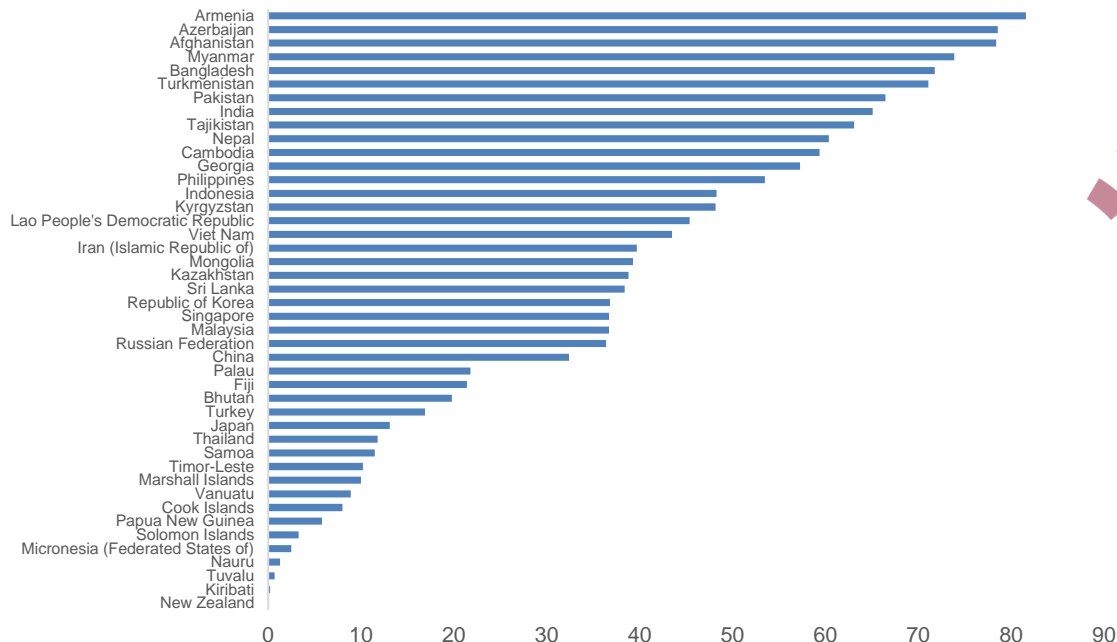
Average household size (number) and percentage of nuclear households out of all households, latest available year



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2018). Household Size and Composition 2018. (POP/DB/PD/HSCD/2018).

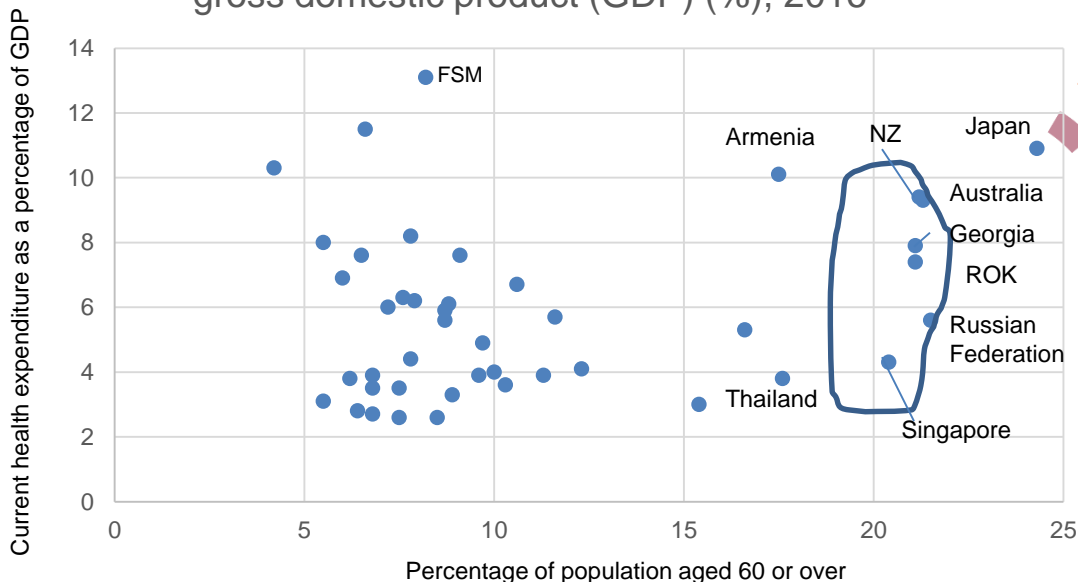
Healthcare costs are mostly borne by private households

Out-of-pocket expenditure as percentage of current health expenditure (CHE) (%), 2015



Health expenditure to GDP ratio not clearly correlated to ageing...

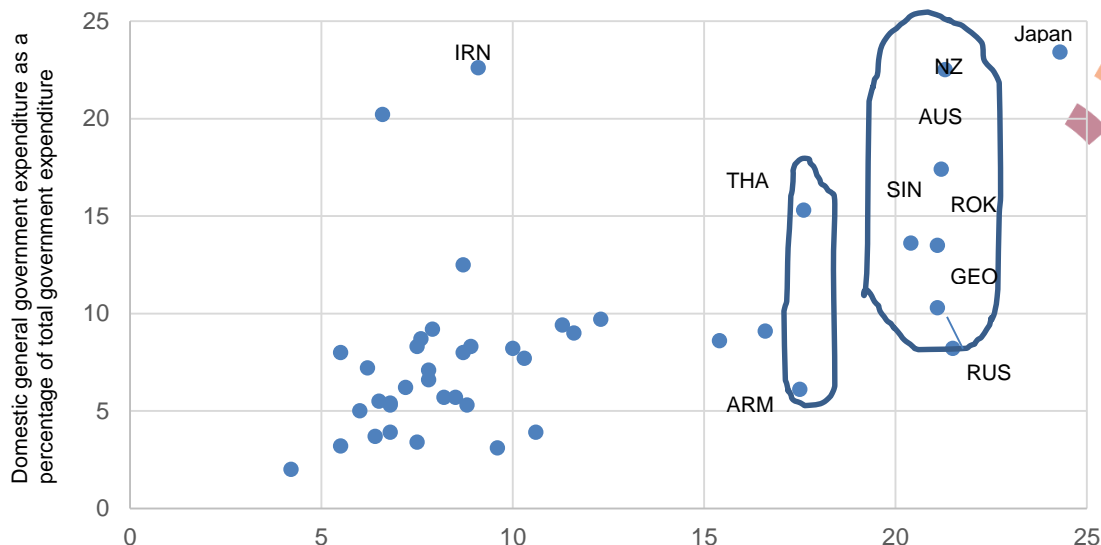
Current health expenditure (CHE) as percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) (%), 2016



Source: WHO, Global Health Observatory Data Repository, online, accessed 10 June 2019, and United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: the 2017 Revision

Governments of ageing countries seem to give higher priority to health spending

Domestic general government expenditure as a percentage of total government expenditure and percentage of population aged 60 or over, 2016



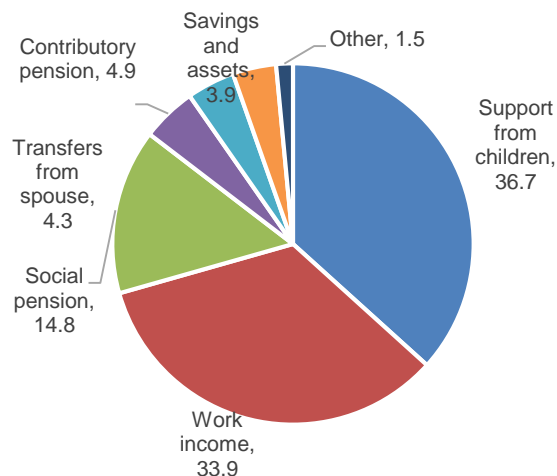
Source: WHO, Global Health Observatory Data Repository, online, accessed 10 June 2019, and United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: the 2017 Revision

Can older persons rely on the younger generation?

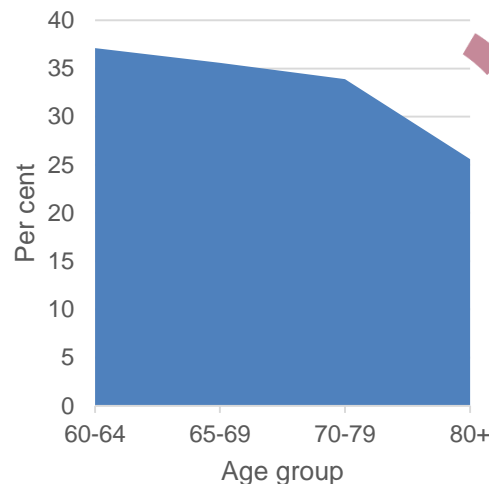


Thailand: support from children and work income most important income sources of older persons

Income sources of older persons in Thailand



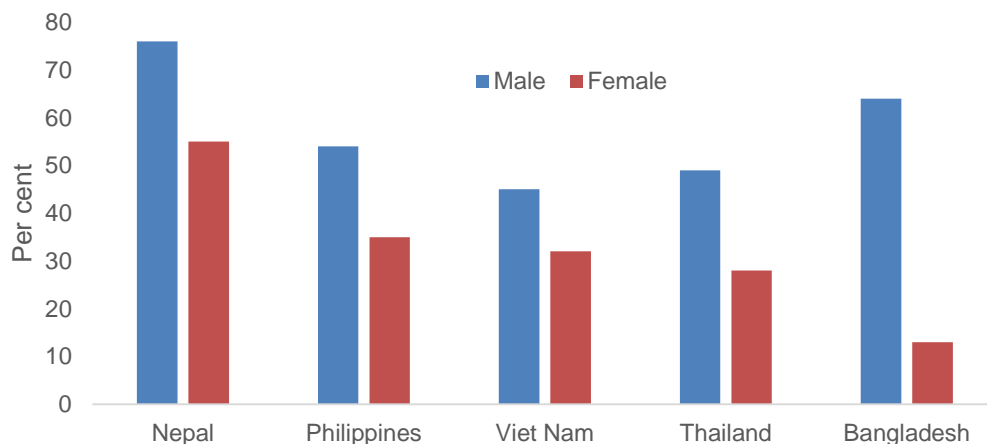
Percentage of older persons with savings by age group, 2011



Source: Jinanggoon Rojananan, Presentation made at the Annual Help Age Conference 2019; Department of Older Persons, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security

Many older persons still work – more men than women – what does it tell us?

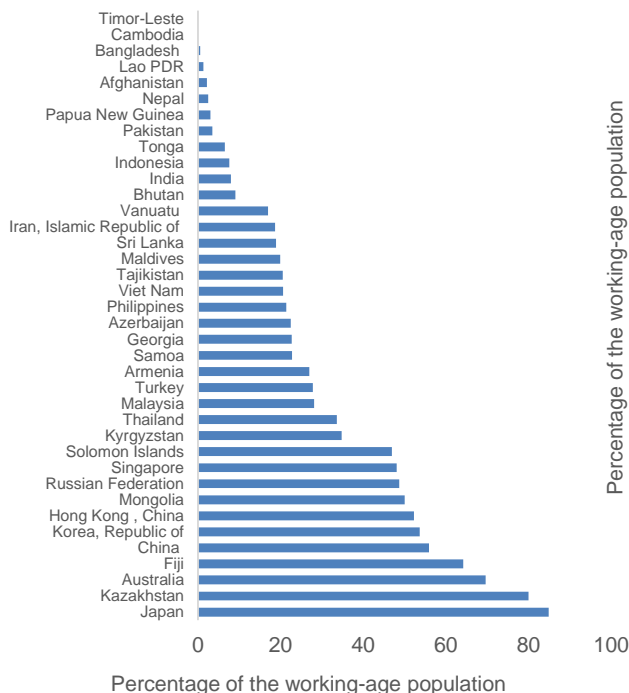
Proportion of older persons (60+) who are employed, by sex, latest available year



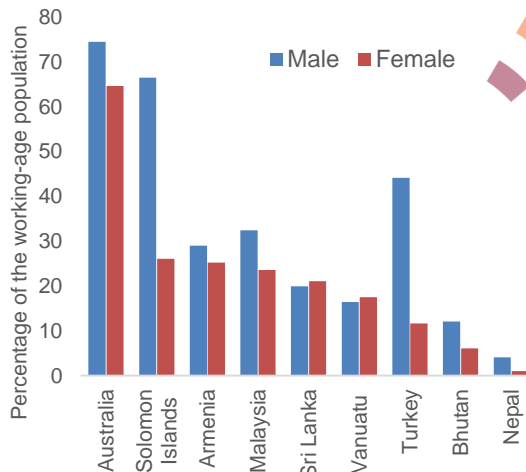
Source: HelpAge from LFS 2013 (Bangladesh), LFS 2008 (Nepal), LFS 2012 (Philippines), LFS 2013 (Thailand), LFS 2014 (Viet Nam)

Coverage of pensions is low in most countries of the Asia-Pacific region

Effective coverage of pensions as a percentage of the working-age population, total, latest available year

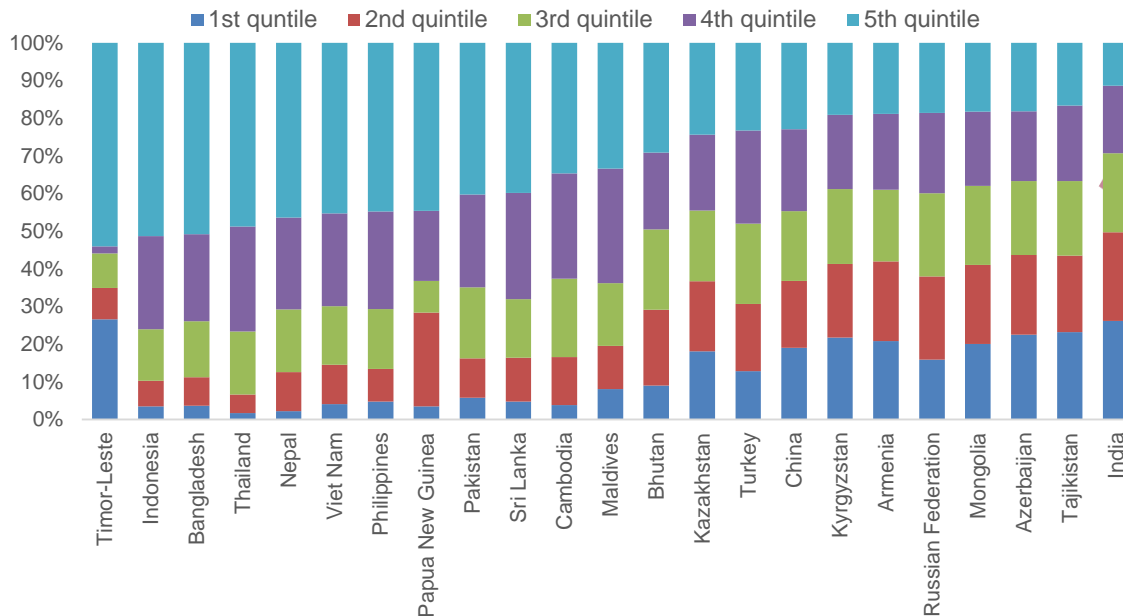


Effective coverage of pensions as a percentage of the working-age population, males and females, latest available year



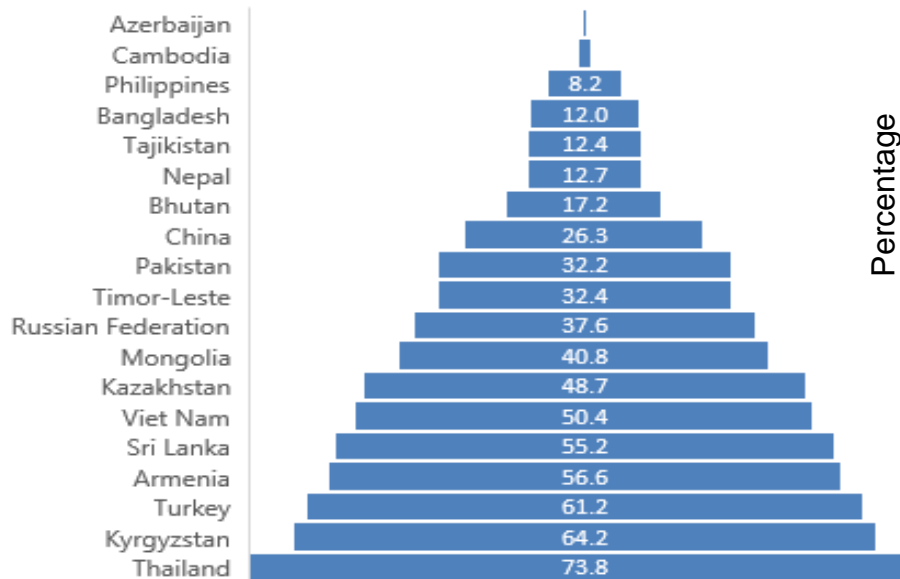
Most pension beneficiaries are in the highest income groups

Contributory pensions: beneficiary incidence by income quintile



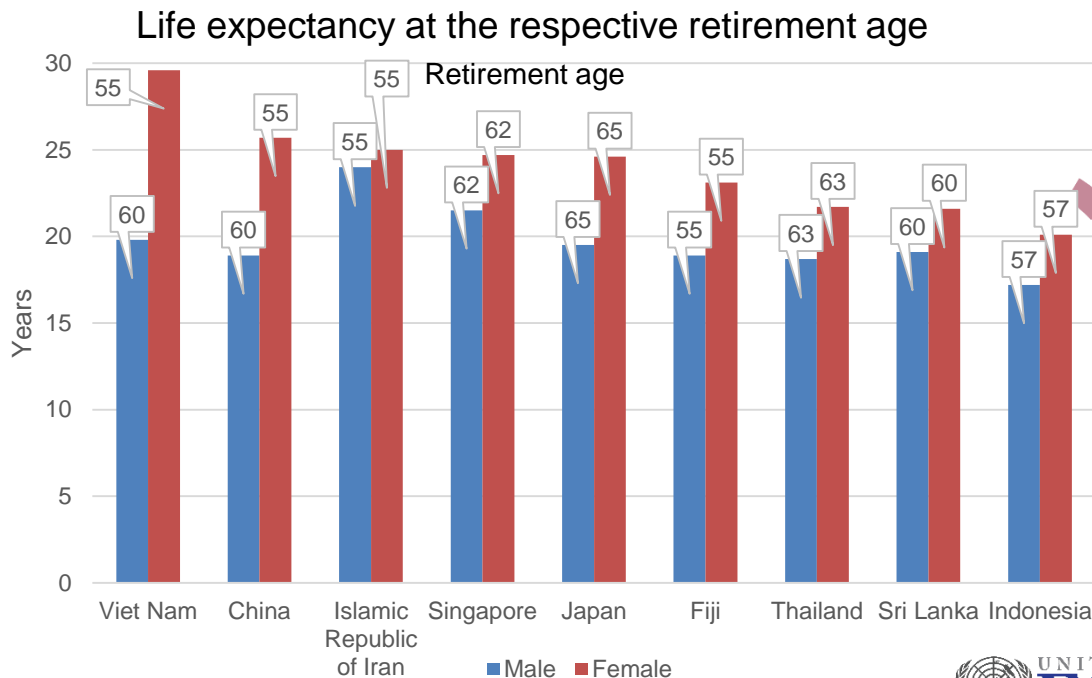
Pension benefits are often low – even for the poorest income group

Adequacy of contributory pensions for the poorest income quintile:
Percentage of total welfare of all beneficiaries in that population group



Source: World Bank, ASPIRE: The Atlas of Social Protection Indicators of Resilience and Equity, online database, accessed 20 February 2019

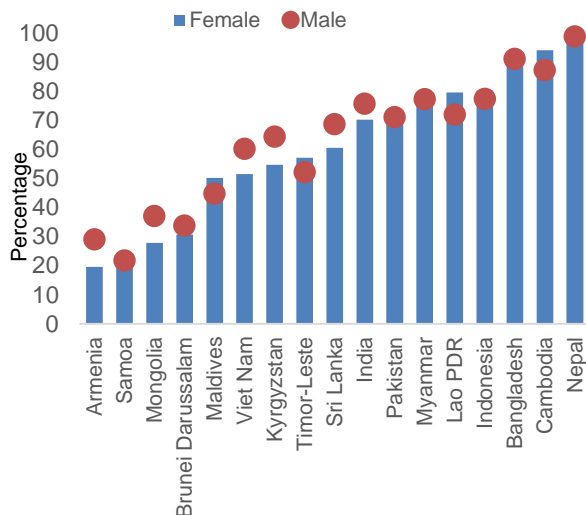
Low retirement ages: people still live between 19 and 30 years after retirement



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

Social protection coverage for the informal sector is limited

Informal employment, male and female
(% of total non-agricultural employment)



Source: International Labour Organization, ILOSTAT database. Data retrieved in April 2019.

Pension systems tend to perpetuate existing inequalities



Work-based: only those who participated in the formal labour force are included



No redistribution: Most pension systems in the region are “defined contribution” – you get what you pay



Not gender responsive: Only few countries have “child credits” for women – women are structurally disadvantaged in contributory pension systems



Social pensions important but benefit levels often too low



Conclusions



Ageing before social protection systems are in place



Women are often inadequately protected



Need more data – disaggregated by chronological age, sex, and ideally income quintile



More detailed data on health expenditure



More detailed data on quality of labour force participation of older persons



Need to measure income transfers within the family and how they are done



THANK YOU

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