

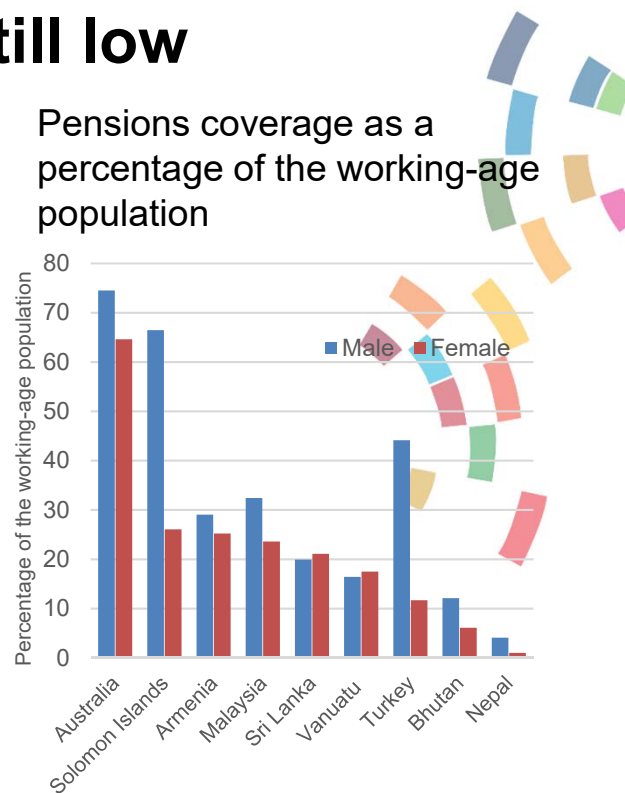
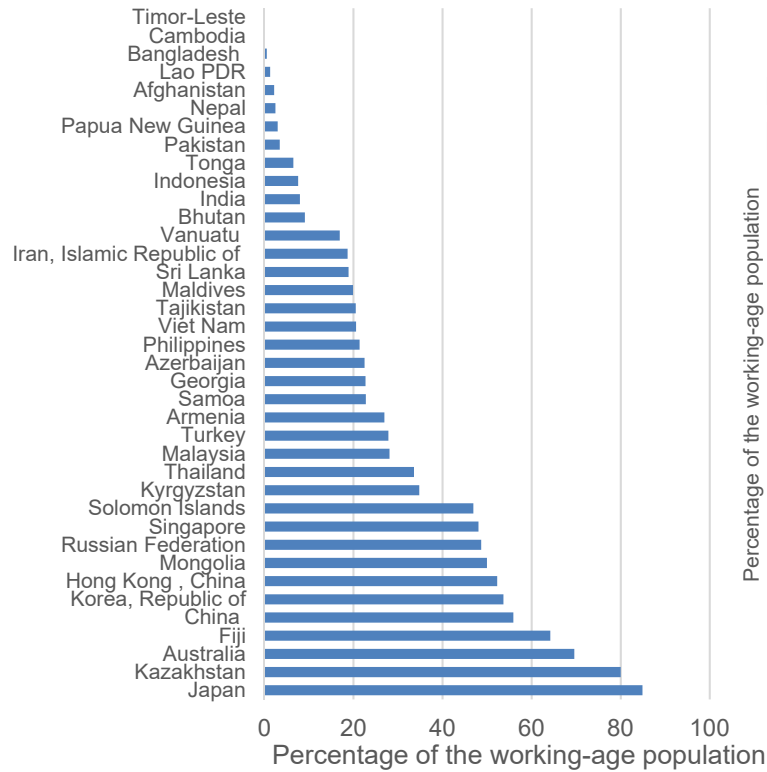
Population Ageing and the Need for Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific

Vanessa Steinmayer, PhD

Population Affairs Officer, Social Development Division

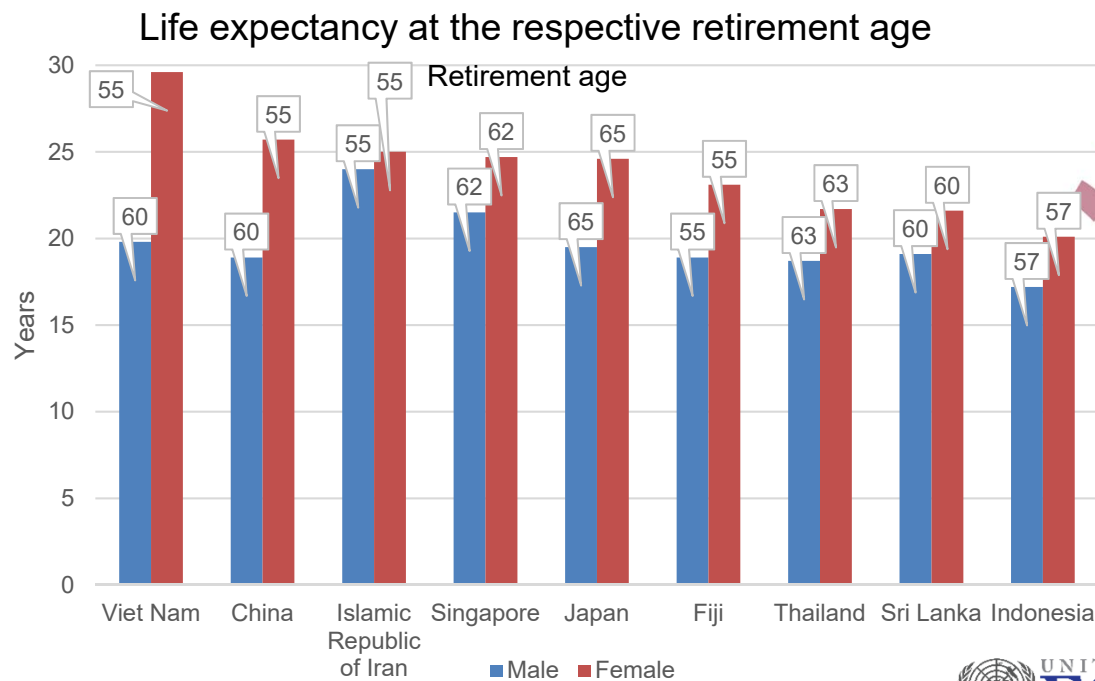


The region is ageing rapidly, but pensions coverage is still low



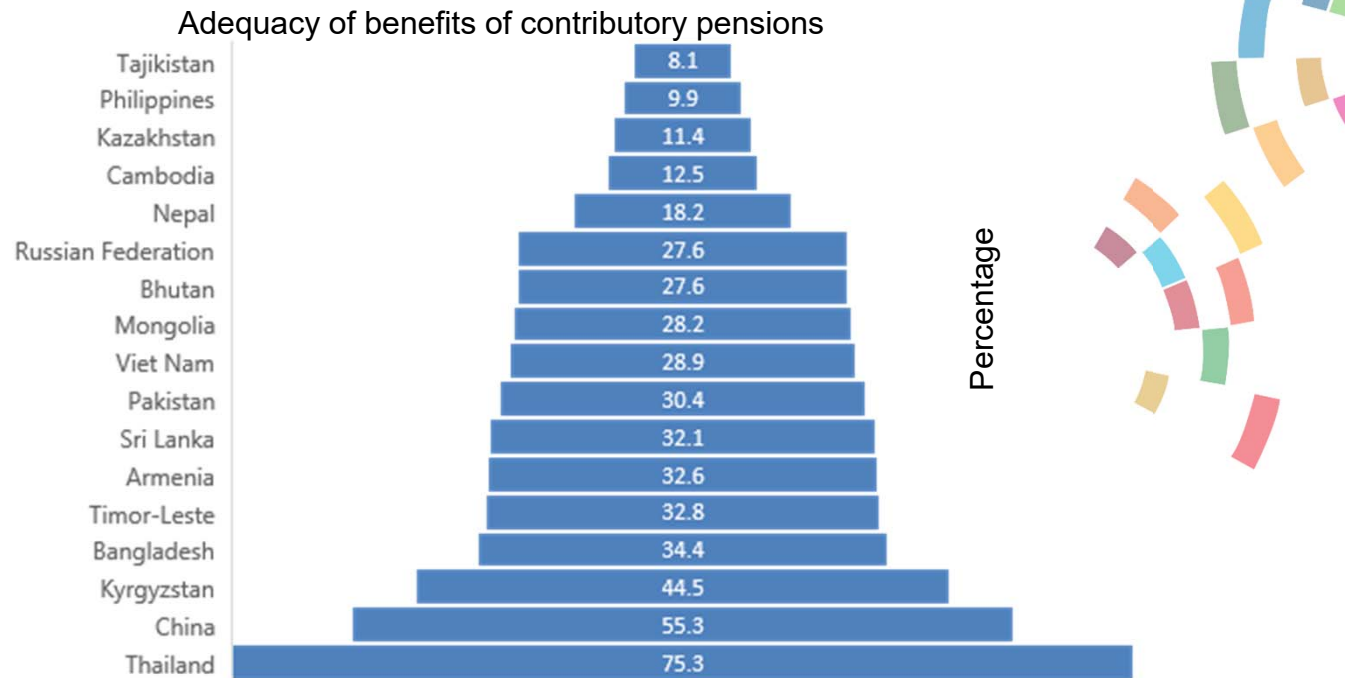
Source: ILO, Social Protection Report 2017-2019

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

Pension benefits often inadequate



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

Social protection coverage for the informal sector is limited

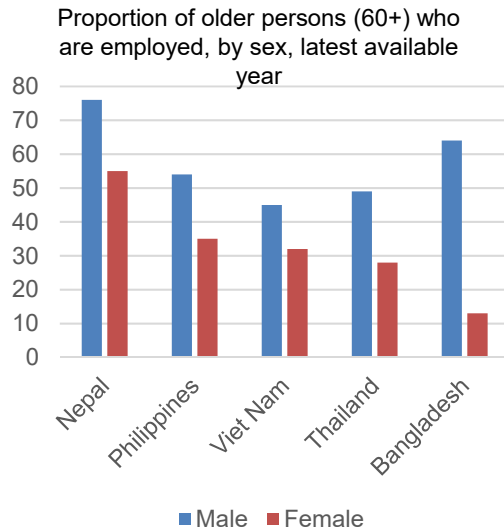


Pension systems tend to perpetuate existing inequalities

- **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 do not address inequalities:** Benefit levels of social pensions are often very low

Work of people aged 60 or over

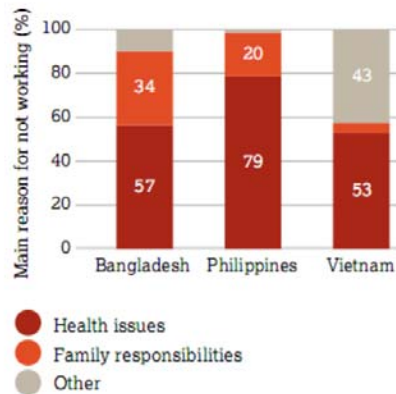
- Many older persons still work
- More men than women
- Employment decreases with age



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

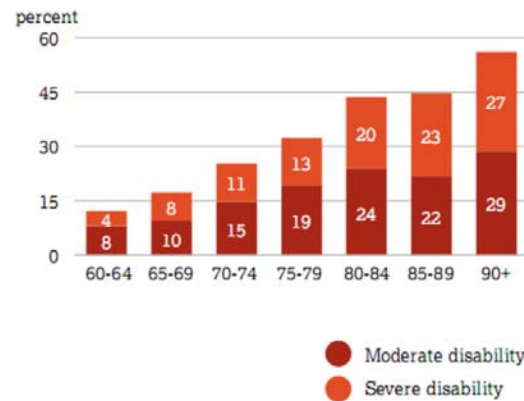
Health reasons is the main cause of stopping work

Figure 6: Reported reasons for older people (60+) not working in Bangladesh, the Philippines and Vietnam



Sources: LFS 2013 (Bangladesh), LFS 2012 (Philippines), VNAS 2011 (Vietnam)

Figure 7: Prevalence of severe and moderate disability in Bangladesh, by five-year age group

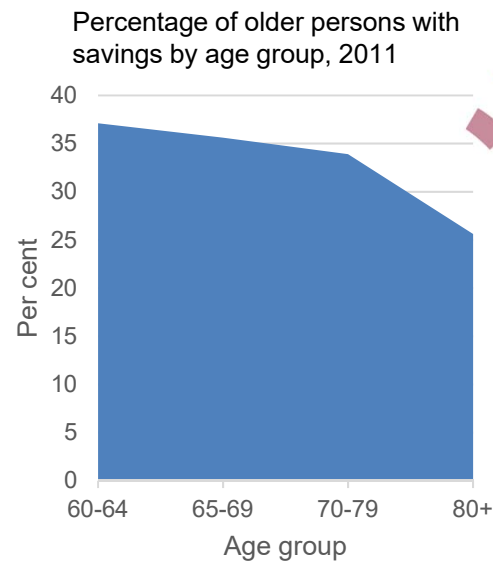
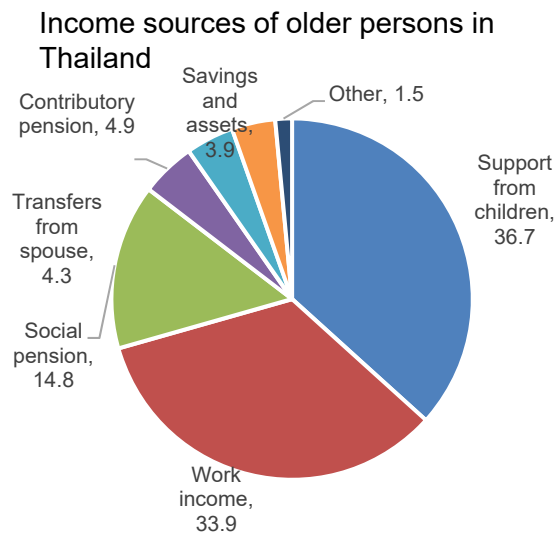


Source: HIES 2010



Source: HelpAge

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



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

Social protection for older men and women is crucial to achieve the SDGs

SDG 1: No poverty

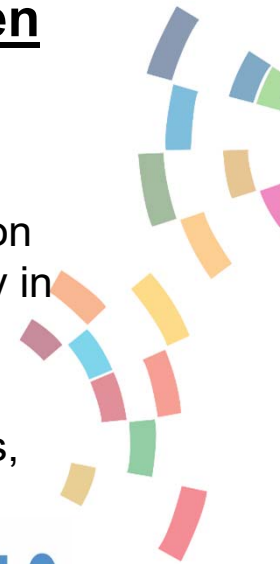
Target 1.2: By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children **of all ages** living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

Target 1.3: Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage **of the poor and the vulnerable**

SDG 5: Gender equality

SDG 10: Reduce inequality

Target 10.4. Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality



Conclusion






- Social protection for older persons will be crucial to achieve the SDGs
- The way “ageing” is measured and defined can decide over income or no income
- Mandatory retirement age is too low in some countries: retirement time = working time
- Social pensions eligibility by age – easy to identify but does it reflect the “need”?
- Existing social protection tools for older women fail to address disadvantages accumulated throughout the life-cycle



THANK YOU

WWW.UNESCAP.ORG

steinmayerv@un.org

-  UNESCAP
-  UNESCAP
-  UNESCAP
-  UNITEDNATIONSESCAP
-  UNITEDNATIONSESCAP

