

Digital inclusion and population ageing in Asia and the Pacific

23 April 2024, 12:45-14:15 (Bangkok time)

CR-2, UNCC

Side event:

Shaping sustainable ageing through digital innovation in Asia and the Pacific

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Megatrends shaping our world today

(according to the UN Economist Network)

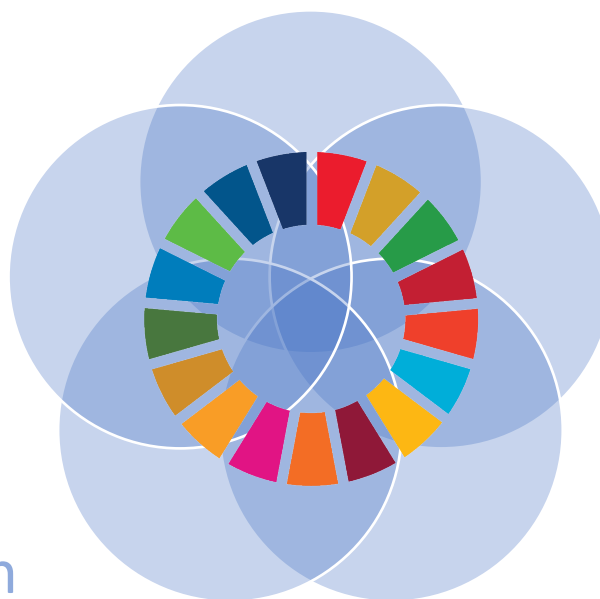
Emerging and frontier technologies

Demographic Trends

Urbanization

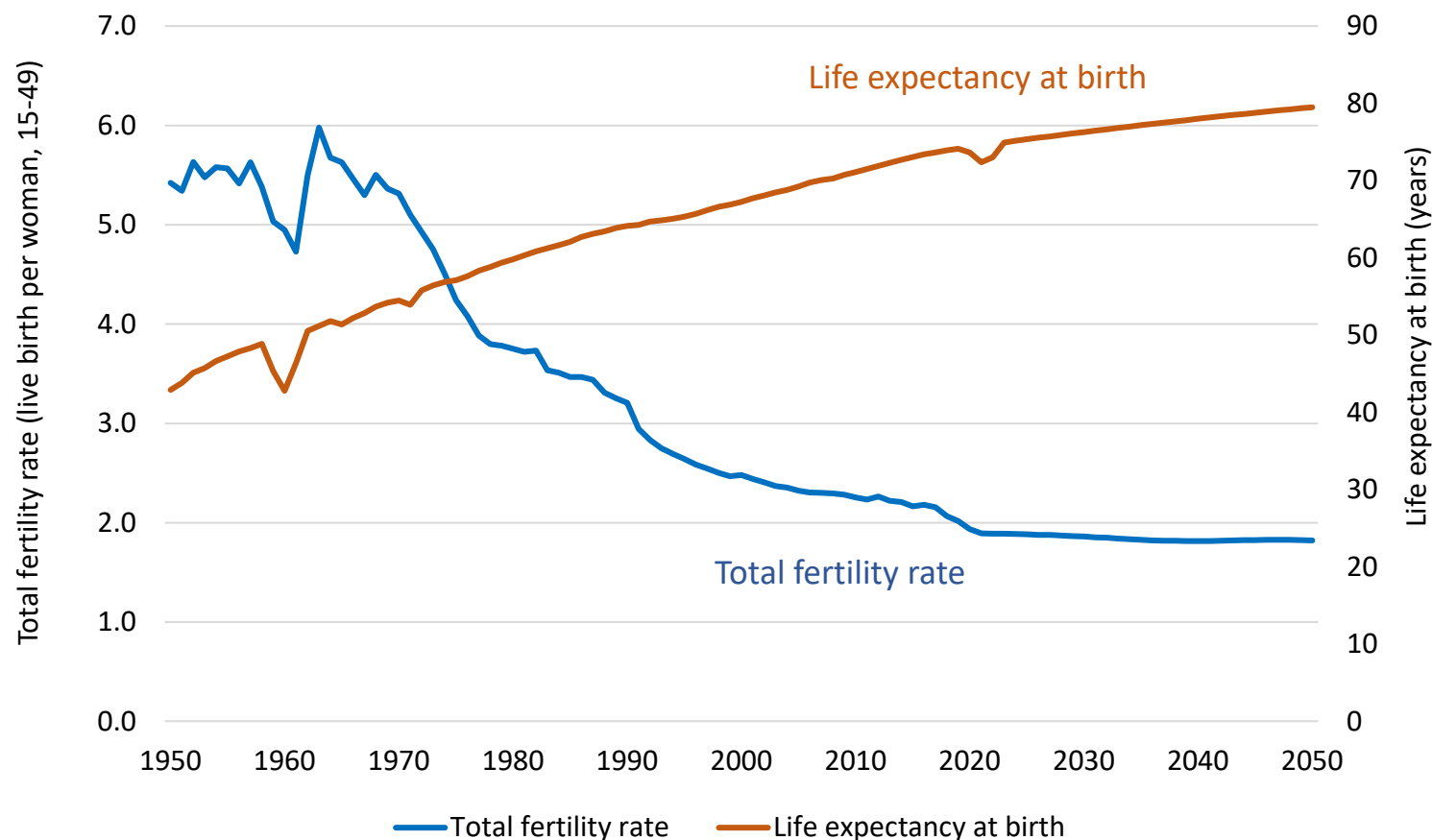
Climate change and
environmental degradation

Inequalities



Most countries in Asia and the Pacific have gone through the demographic transition

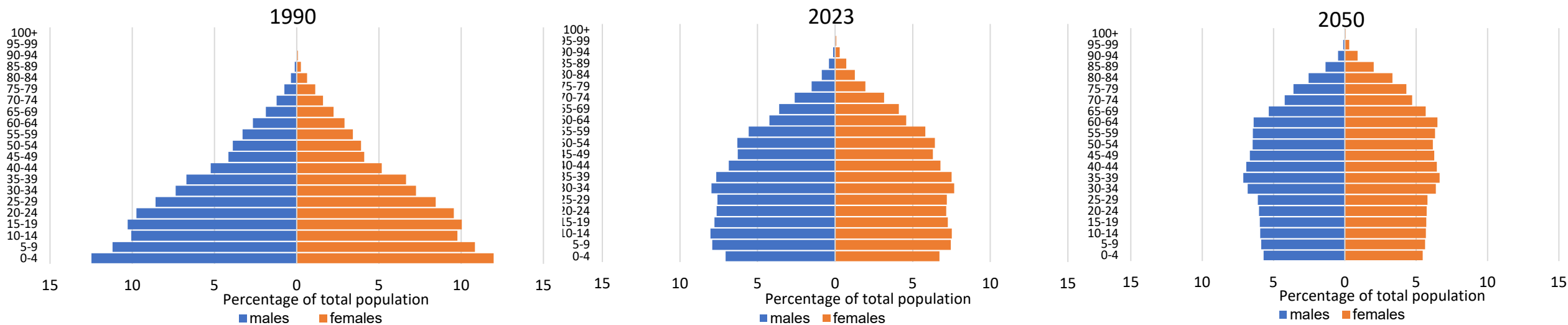
Total fertility and life expectancy at birth in Asia and the Pacific, 1950-2050



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2022). World Population Prospects 2022, Online Edition.

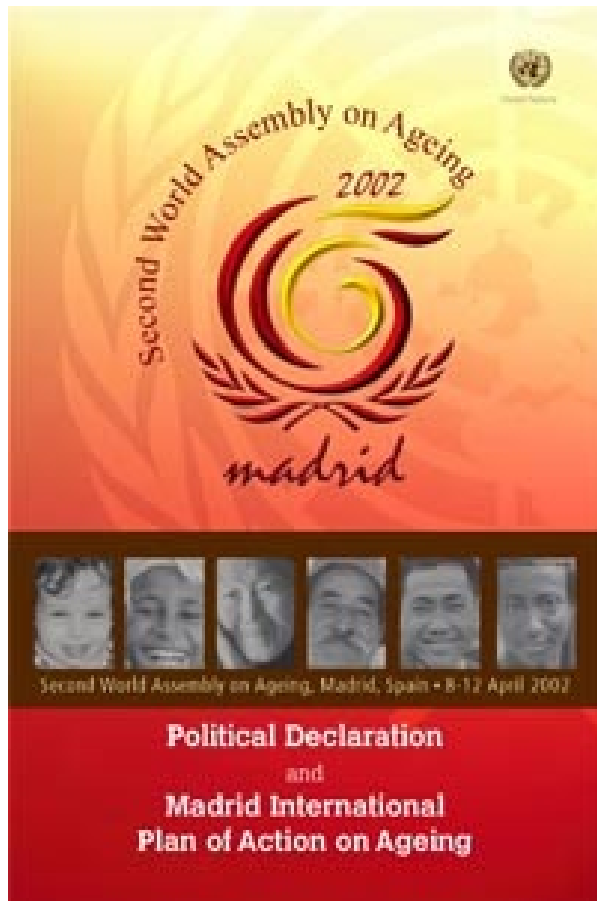
Population age structures have changed from pyramid to rectangular in Asia and the Pacific

Age and sex distribution of the population in Asia and the Pacific, 1990, 2023 and 2050



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2022). World Population Prospects 2022, Online Edition

Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA)



Building a society for all ages

§10 ... The aim of the International Plan of Action is to ensure that persons everywhere are able to age with **security** and **dignity** and to continue to participate in their societies as citizens with **full rights**.

§116 Governments have the **primary responsibility** for implementing the broad recommendations of the MIPAA.

§117 The role of **non-governmental organizations** is important in supporting Governments in their implementation, assessment and follow-up ...

§131 Systematic **review of implementation** of MIPAA by Member States is essential for its success in improving the quality of life of older persons.

Priority direction:

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

2022 Asia-Pacific Regional Review of MIPAA

Accelerating Implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, to Build a Sustainable Society for All Ages in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/MIPAA/IGM.3/2022/3/Add.1)



POLICY ACTION:

Accelerate implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in Asia and the Pacific - ESCAP/MIPAA/IGM.3/2022/3/Add.1



PP12 Acknowledging that population ageing is an **irreversible global trend** that will lead to **profound economic and social changes**, and recognizing the **unprecedented pace** of the demographic transition towards ageing and aged societies in the Asia-Pacific region, while also recognizing the **essential contribution** that older persons continue to make to the functioning of societies and towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

ESCAP/MIPAA/IGM.3/2022/3/Add.1

POLICY ACTION:

Overcome “grey” digital divide and promote literacy, numeracy and technological skills -
ESCAP/MIPAA/IGM.3/2022/3/Add.1

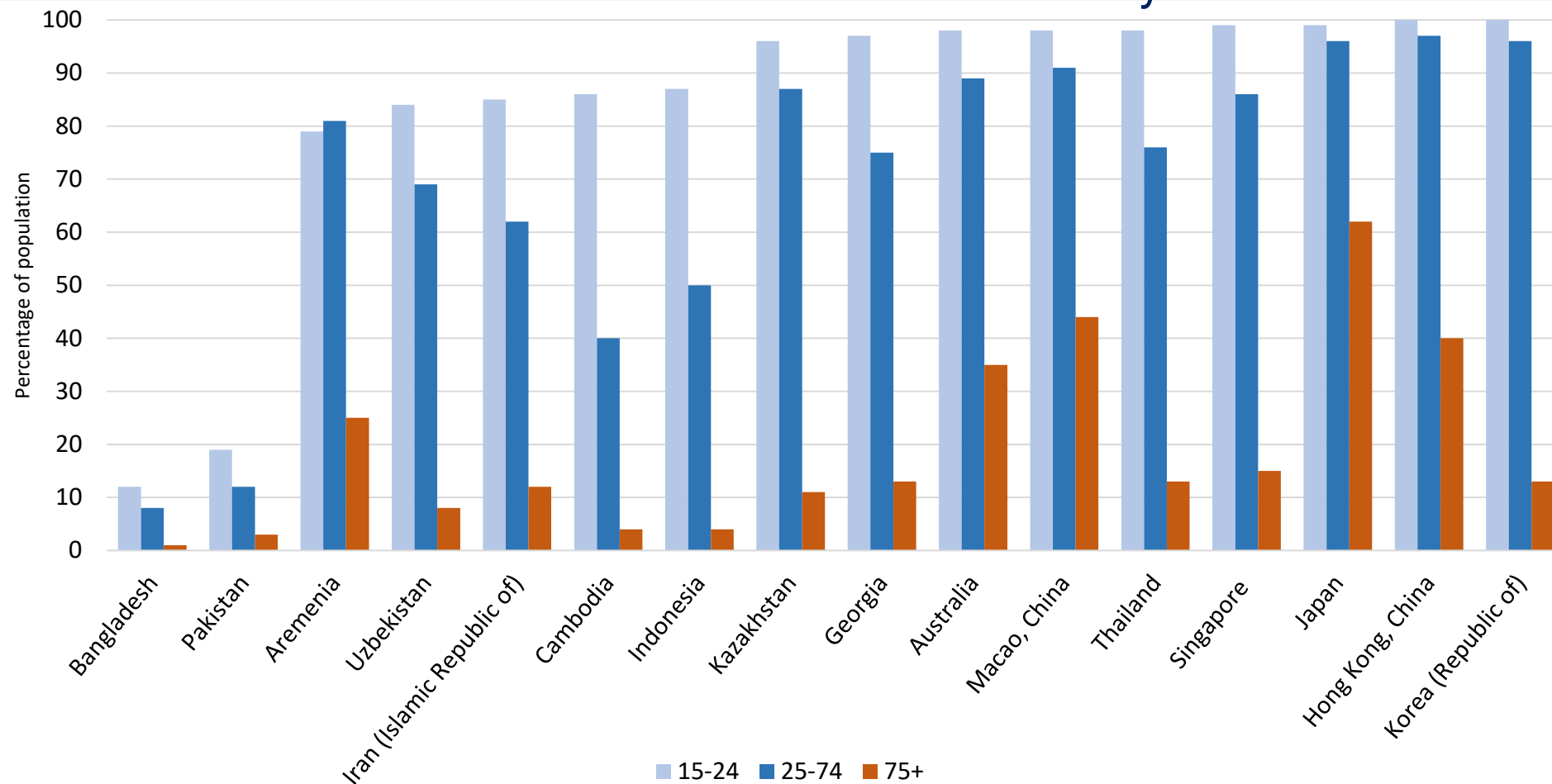


OP 21r “To promote literacy, numeracy and **technological skills**, as well as training and retraining, for older persons and the ageing work force, in particular as many societies transition from ageing to aged societies, and to ensure that the **benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technologies, are available to all**, including older women and older persons with disabilities, and that the **right to privacy** is respected;”

ESCAP/MIPAA/IGM.3/2022/3/Add.1

In Asia and the Pacific, older persons have less Internet access

Access to the Internet by age group, selected countries in Asia and the Pacific, 2020 or latest available year



Source: International Telecommunication Union (ITU) (2022). Digital development dashboard.

People in Asia and the Pacific, including older persons, are at higher risk of falling victim to online fraud and scams

- **More than 50 per cent** of 20,000 respondents report encountering scammers at least once a week
- **Phone calls and SMS** are the most frequent channels for scams, with over 75 per cent of respondents in Thailand, Malaysia, Hong Kong, China, and Viet Nam, experiencing scam calls
- **The most common reasons** for falling victim to scams are falling to recognize scam activities, responding quickly to scammers' demands and lacking sufficient knowledge

ESCAP mandate



[ESCAP.MIPAA/IGM.3/2022/3/Add.1,](https://www.unescap.org/asia-pacific/intergovernmental-meeting-on-the-fourth-review-and-appraisal-of-the-madrid-international-plan-of-action-on-ageing)

Asia-Pacific Fourth Review and Appraisal

[ECOSOC res. 2023/15](#) on Fourth Review and appraisal

[GA res. 78/177](#) on Follow-up to the 2nd World Assembly on Ageing

- **Support implementation of MIPAA** in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through the periodic midterm assessments of progress made in that regard
- **Raise public awareness** on ageing in partnership with stakeholder organizations, and to continue to facilitate the sharing of experiences and good practices on ageing
- **Build capacities on data + advocacy on ageing issues**
- **Support** formulation of **forward-looking policies** and **mainstream** ageing into policies, plans and programmes, as appropriate
- **Utilize the resources** of the UN system and all other relevant stakeholders at the regional level, including the Asia-Pacific regional informal network of focal points on ageing, to support member States in the review and appraisal of MIPAA and any national follow-up, as appropriate

ESCAP project on developing tools to increase digital literacy of older persons in Asia and the Pacific (2023-2025)

- **Objective:** Increasing digital literacy of older women and men for enhanced participation in society and access to benefits
- **Key activities:** Conduct surveys; Compile good practices; Conduct regional workshop
- **Target countries:** China, Japan, Republic of Korea (as good practice examples), Cambodia, India, Lao PDR, Kyrgyzstan and Viet Nam)



Preliminary key findings from survey results in target countries

Surveys were conducted among older persons through the support of OPAs in target countries

- **Device and internet access:**

- 71% of older persons have access to a smartphone; men are 10% more likely to use the device than women
- 56% of older persons access the internet daily

- **Online security concerns:**

- 63% are concerned about financial online scams and fraud
- 57% have refrained from online activities due to security fears
- 77% have never had formal online safety training

- **Digital skills and learning methods:**

- 57% want to enhance their digital skills to maintain connections with family and friends.
- Most prefer to learn digital skills from family, friends or through self-teaching, respectively.



Core digital skills for older persons

Based on interest and perceived existing knowledge



Least difficult









- Basic device operations, mobile & internet skills
- Communication tools and social media
- Cybersecurity (trust & confidence)
- Government services and lifestyle apps
- Financial transactions

Most difficult

Conclusions and recommendations

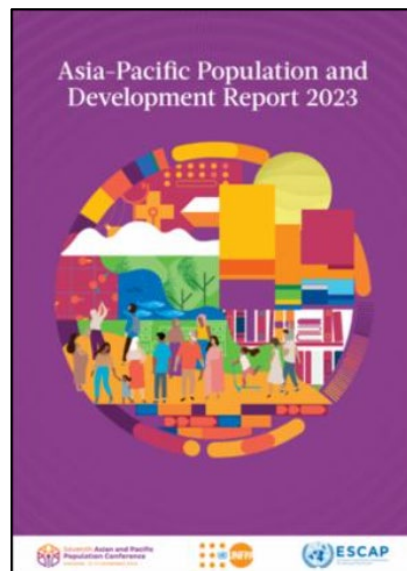
Actions to enhance digital literacy of older persons

-  **Tailor digital skills programmes to the need of older persons, in particular women, based on their current digital skill levels and preferences**
-  **Mainstream cybersecurity essentials to ensure safe online experiences for older persons**
-  **Expand the reach and formats of digital education through short videos, deploy mobile labs and offer remote learning options**
-  **Strengthen partnerships between governments, private sector and CSOs, to expand digital literacy initiatives**
-  **Provide incentives for businesses and government to develop age-friendly technologies**
-  **Establish mentorship programmes that pair youth with OPAs to promote intergenerational learning while reinforcing family and community support**



Publications on ageing

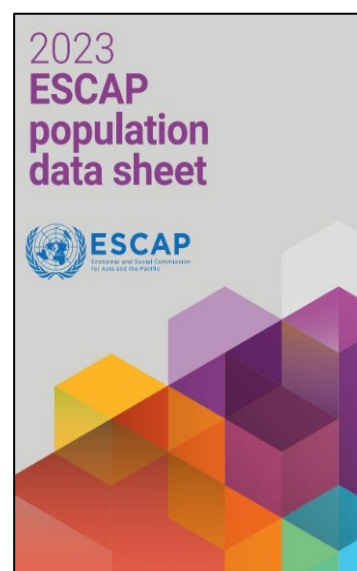
Areas of work on ageing and digitalization



31 December 2023
Asia-Pacific Population and Development Report 2023



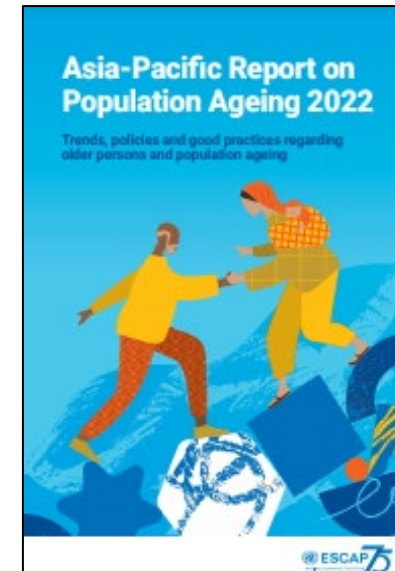
21 December 2023
Leveraging Digital Innovation for Inclusive and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific



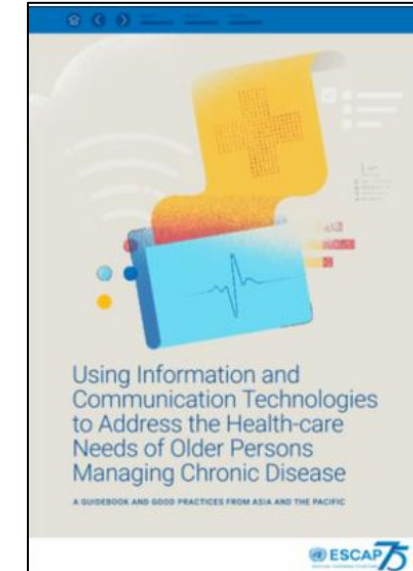
15 November 2023
2023 ESCAP population data sheet



25 April 2023
A practical guide : developing and revising policy documents on older persons in Asia and the Pacific



30 September 2022
Asia-Pacific report on population ageing 2022 : trends, policies and good practices regarding older persons and population ageing



30 September 2021
Using Information and Communication Technologies to Address the Health-care Needs of Older Persons Managing Chronic Disease

Electronic resources on ageing

Areas of work



- **E-learning courses:** <https://e-learning.unescap.org/thematicarea>
- **Policy dashboard on population ageing:** <https://www.population-trends-asiapacific.org/policies>
- **ESCAP Population Data Sheets:** <https://www.unescap.org/kp/2023/escap-population-data-sheet-2023>
- **ASEAN Data sheet:** <https://www.unescap.org/kp/2021/2020-older-persons-asean-numbers>



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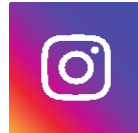
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