

- 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

Review of the Asia-Pacific Report on Population Ageing 2022: Older Persons, Health and well-being

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Chapter 3: Older persons, health and well-being

- Measures promoting health and well-being throughout life
- Ageing and health-care systems
 - Long-term care for older persons
- Mental health services
- Support to older persons with disabilities

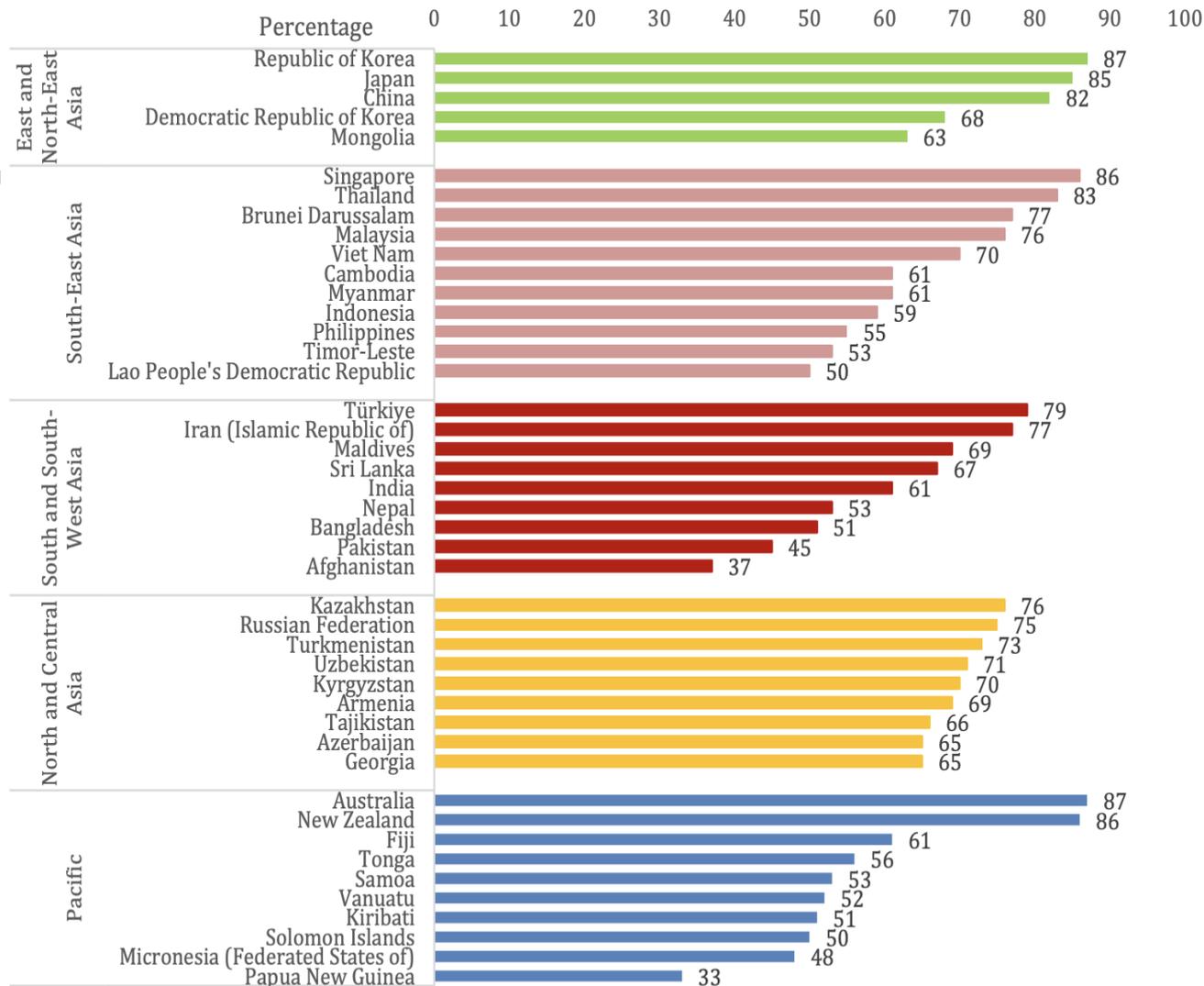
Measures promoting health and well-being throughout life

- Expanded access to health care and initiatives towards the empowerment of older persons to enjoy their rights and live with dignity.
- Awareness around healthy ageing had increased since the third review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action in 2017.
- Gaps between policies and implementation remain and have further been deepened by the COVID-19 pandemic and coverage, accessibility and affordability of certain policies directed at older persons continue to pose a challenge to promoting the health and well-being of older persons
- Several good practices reported
- Overall national health strategies in place. In some countries, dedicated strategies and health policies support the well-being of older persons specifically

Ageing and health-care systems

- Improvements in universal access to health care
- In addition, various measures to improve access (overview in report)
- Challenges: barriers to access to health, health insurance for older women, lack of data and access to health-care in rural and remote areas
- Good practices supporting older persons in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic were reported

Universal health-care coverage index for selected countries in Asia and the Pacific, 2019



Source: United Nations Statistics Division (2022). Global SDG Indicators Data Platform
<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal> (accessed 30 July 2022).

Long-term care

- Nr. of long-term care (ltc) systems have increased and expanded in the region, however, the implementation of comprehensive ltc services remains low
- Measures include efforts to increase the quality of ltc services to older persons through enhancing integrated approaches that support health promotion and health prevention as a part of social protection or providing community-based care
- Challenges: COVID-19 pandemic and provision of access to care for poor and homeless older persons
- A few countries reported that their insurance scheme covered ltc

Mental health services

- Increased efforts in the field of mental health service provision, however, specific ageing-related mental health services remain insufficient
- Recent initiatives aimed at addressing dementia reported by some countries
- However, more attention to mental health care in policies is needed as well as data collection, lessons learned from COVID-19 and investments in capacities

Support to older persons with disabilities

- Many countries have taken measures to support older persons with disabilities
- A couple of examples of comprehensive measures that explicitly address the concerns of older persons with disabilities have been put in place