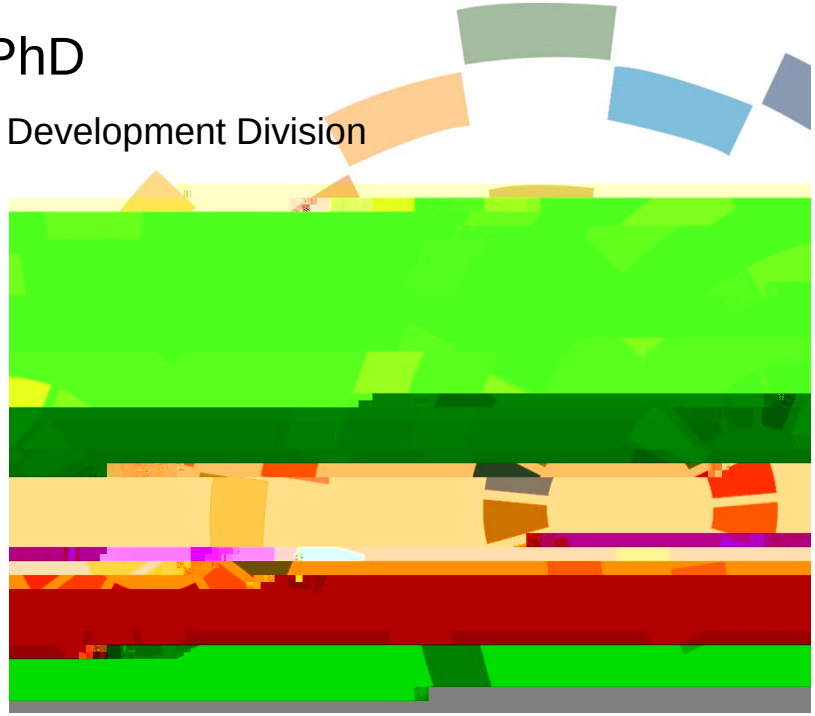
Population Ageing and the Need for Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific

Vanessa Steinmayer, PhD

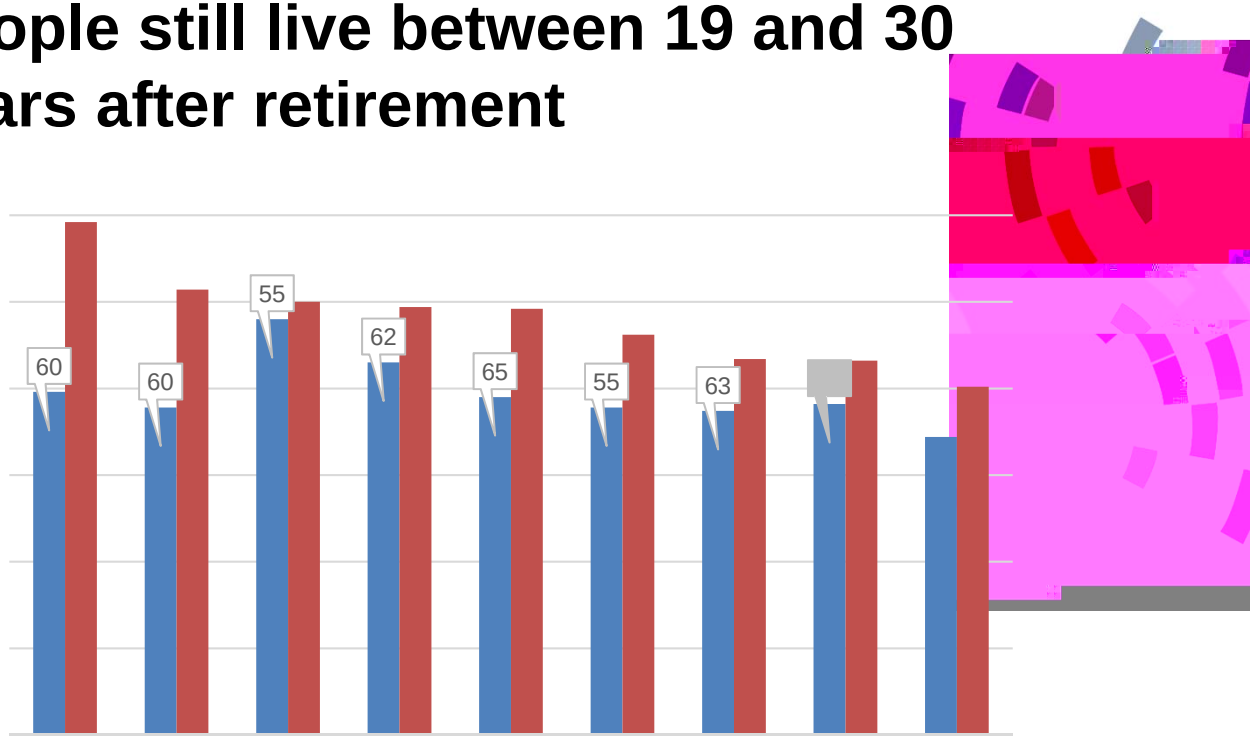
Population Affairs Officer, Social Development Division



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

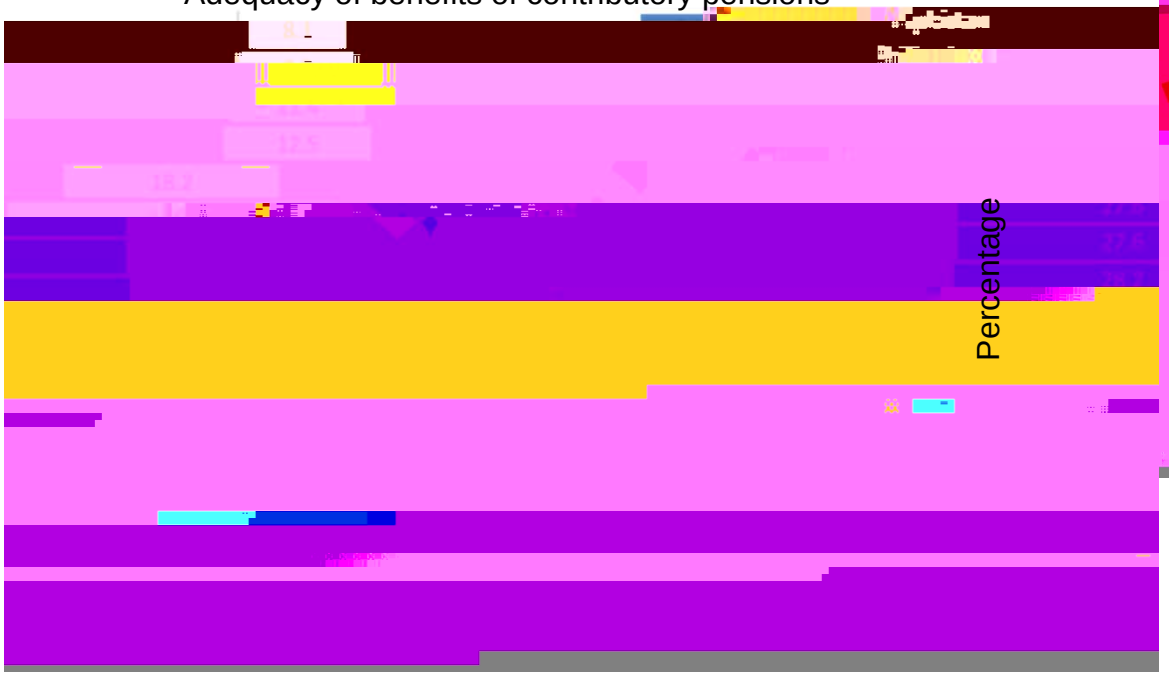
UNITED NATIONS

People still live between 19 and 30 years after retirement



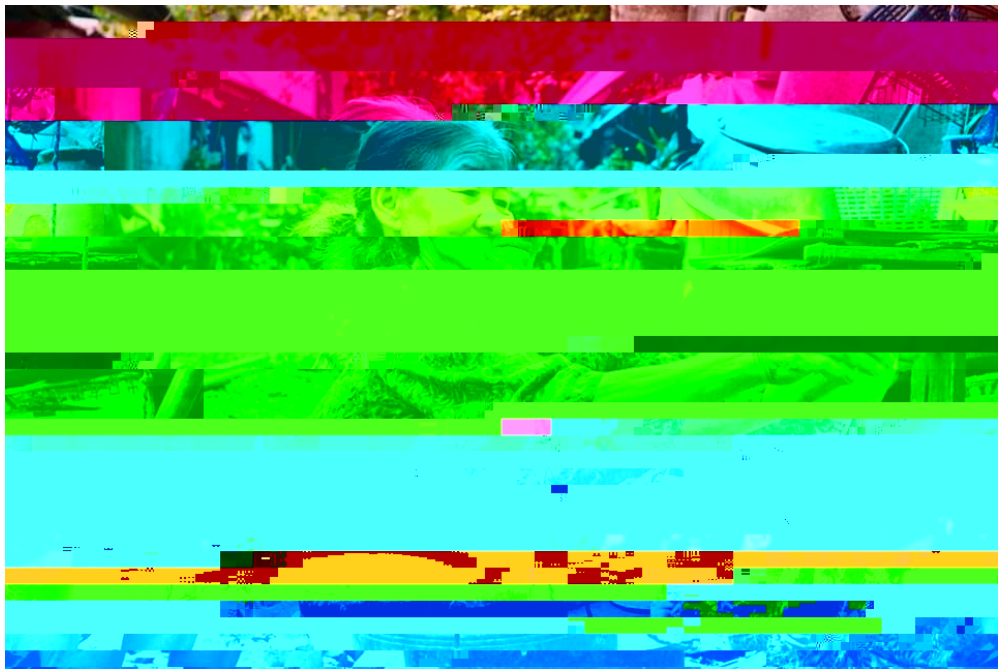
Pension benefits often inadequate

Adequacy of benefits of contributory pensions



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

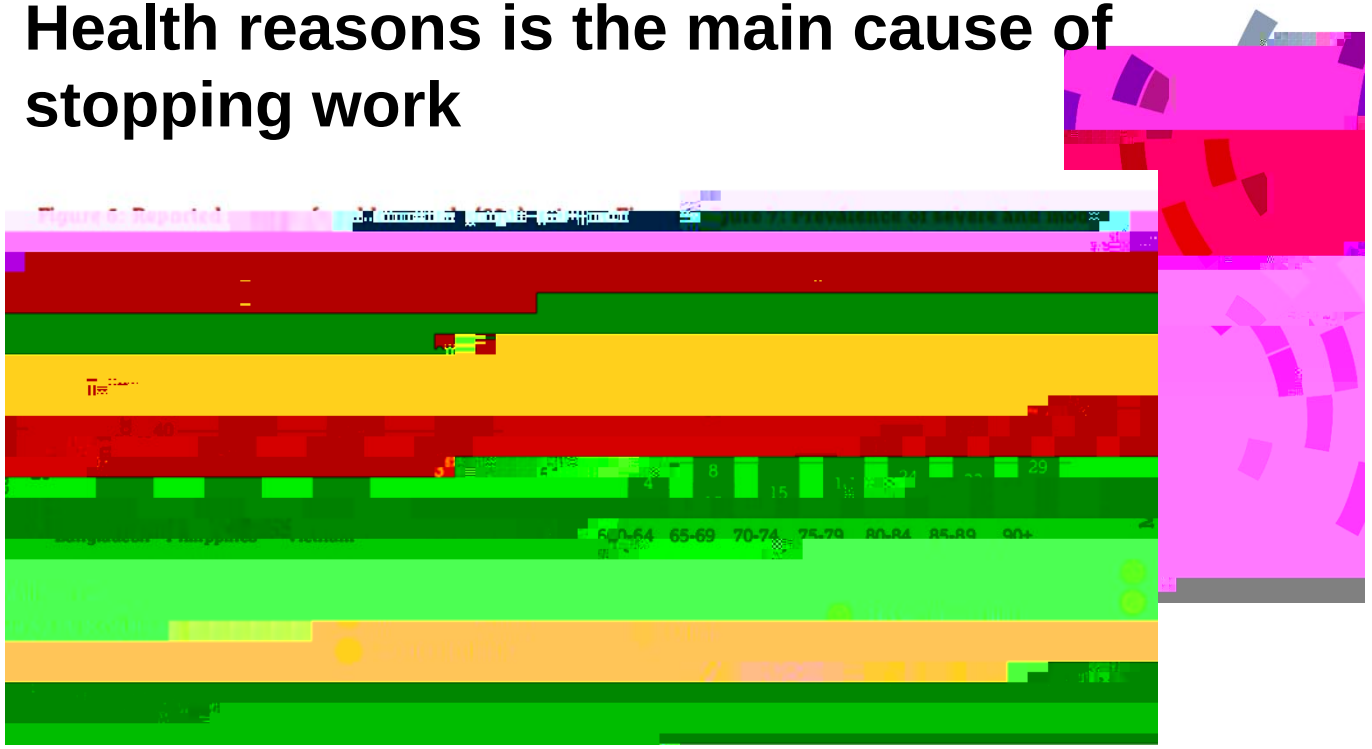
Social protection coverage for the informal sector is limited



Pension systems tend to perpetuate existing inequalities

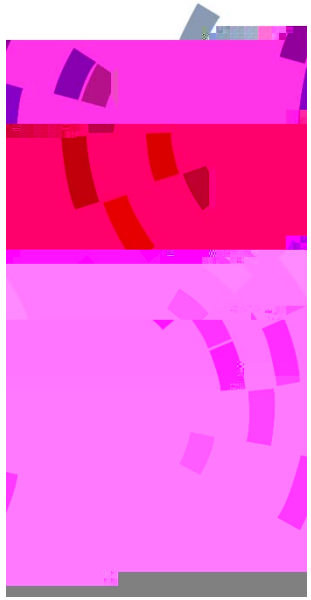
- **Work-based**: only those who participated in the formal labour force are included
- **No redistribution**: Most pension systems in the region are ñdefined contributionò ï you get what you pay
- **Not gender responsive**: Only few countries have ñchild creditsò for women ï women are structurally disadvantaged in contributory pension systems
- **Social pensions important but do not address inequalities:** Benefit levels of social pensions are often very low

Health reasons is the main cause of stopping work



Source: HelpAge

Thailand: support from children



UNITED NATIONS

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**

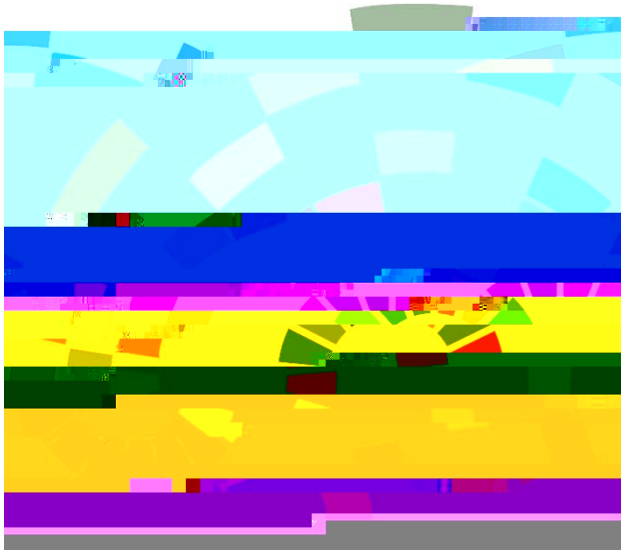
SDG 5: Gender equality

SDG 10: Reduce inequality

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

THANK YOU

WWW.UNESCAP.ORG

steinmayerv@un.org

UNESCAP
UNESCAP
UNESCAP
UNITEDNATIONSESCAP
UNITEDNATIONSESCAP