



Ageing and health: WHO's perspective

Anjana Bhushan

Technical Officer, WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific

1. Population ageing is good news.





GOOD HEALTH
ADDS LIFE TO YEARS

▶ PLAY

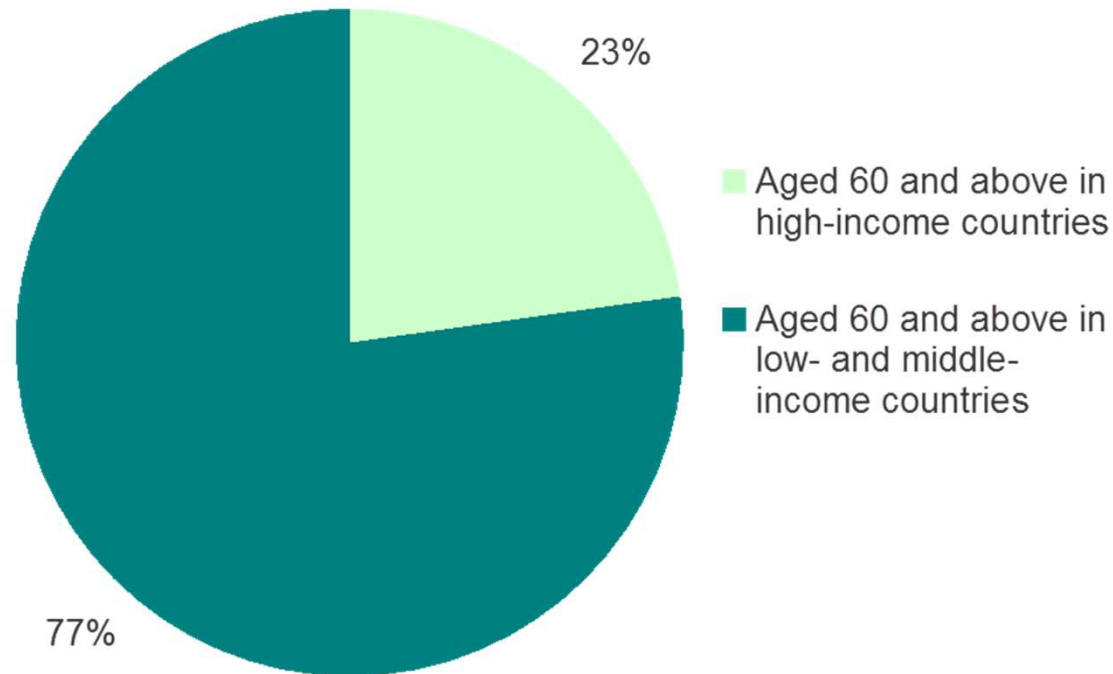


www.who.int/world-health-day/2012

2. The window of time for action is short.

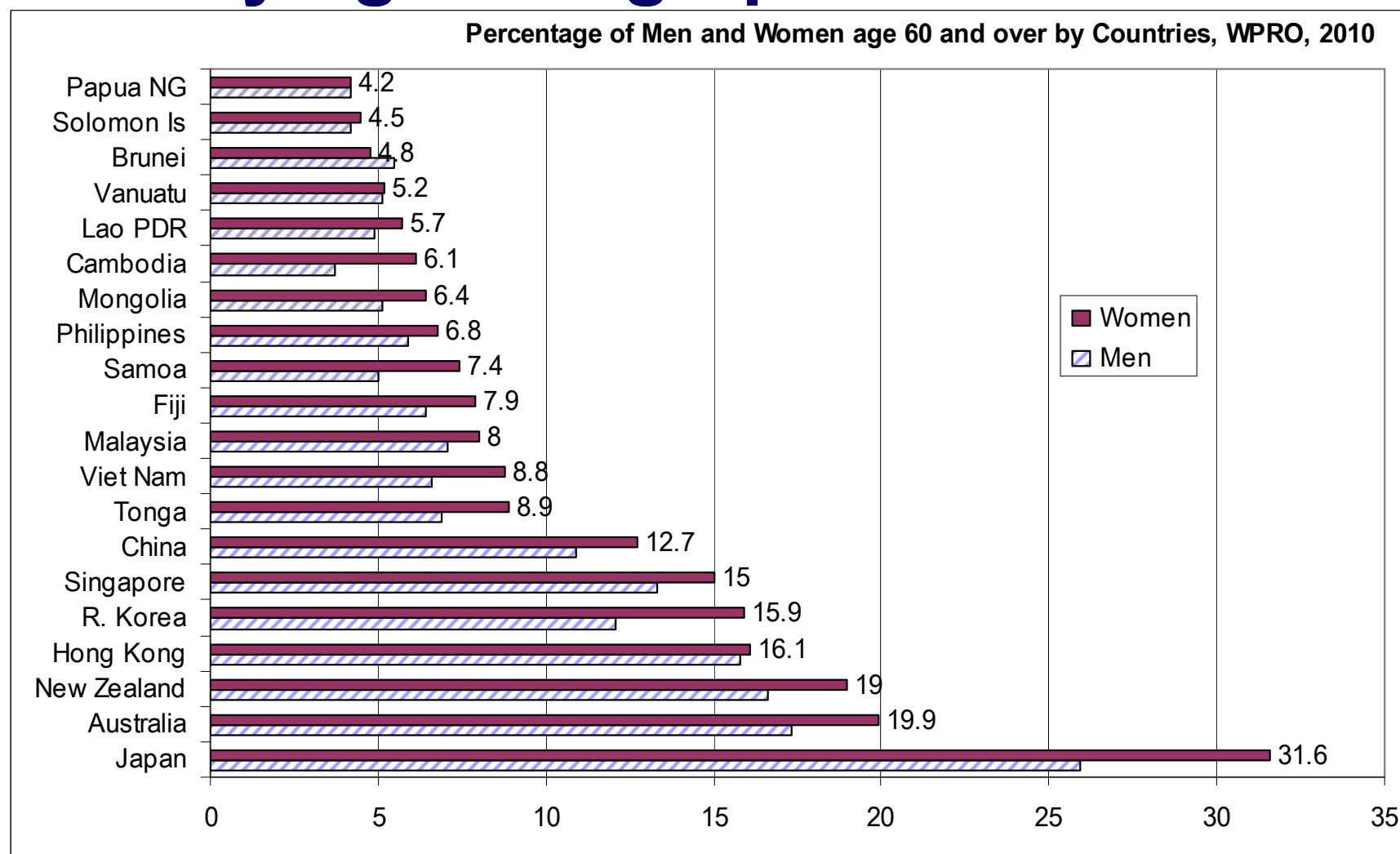


235 million people aged 60 and above account for over 13% of total population in the Western Pacific Region.



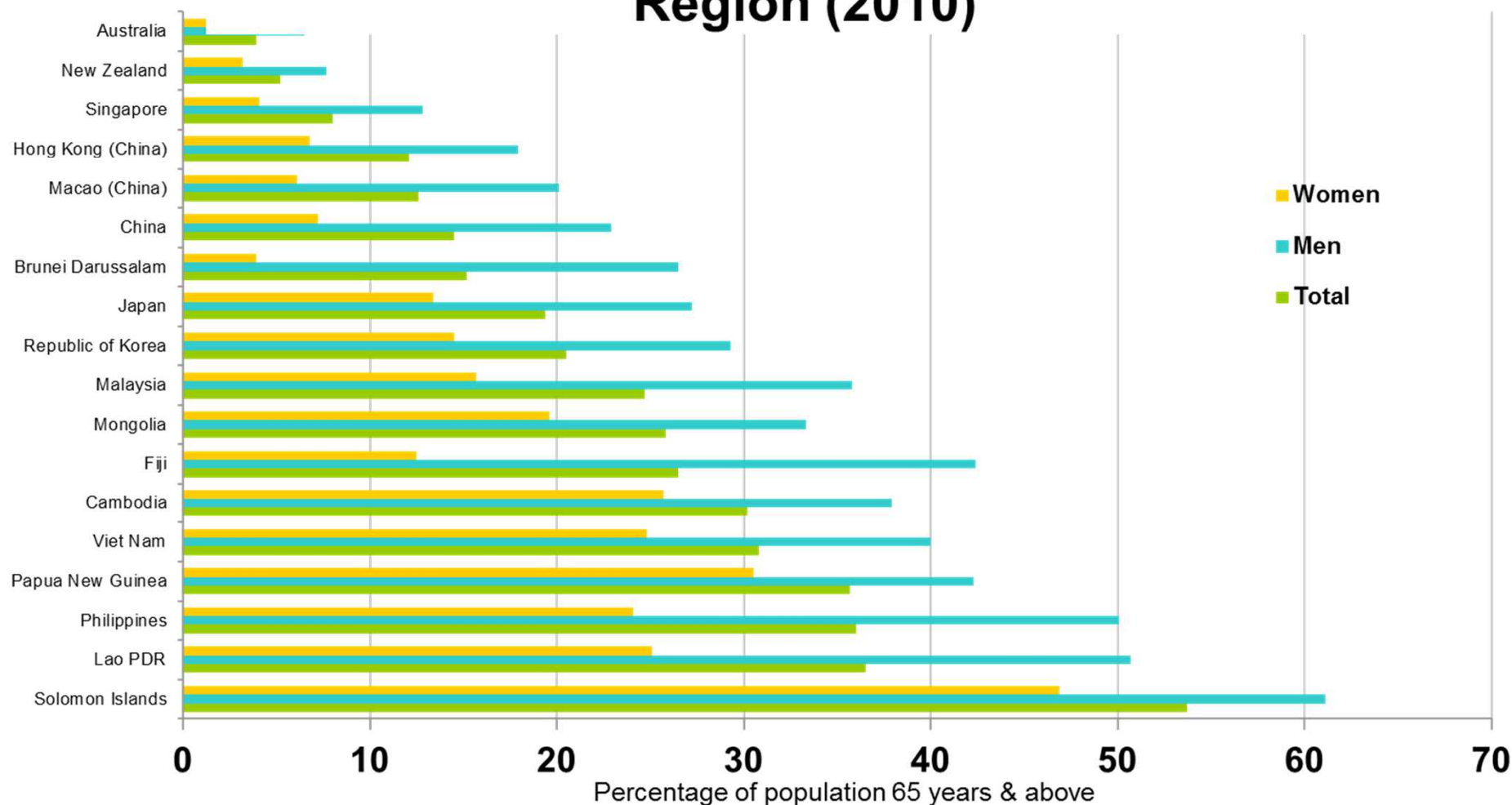
Source: World Health Organization, Regional Office for the Western Pacific, Fact sheet on Ageing in the Western Pacific, 2012.

Varying demographic transitions



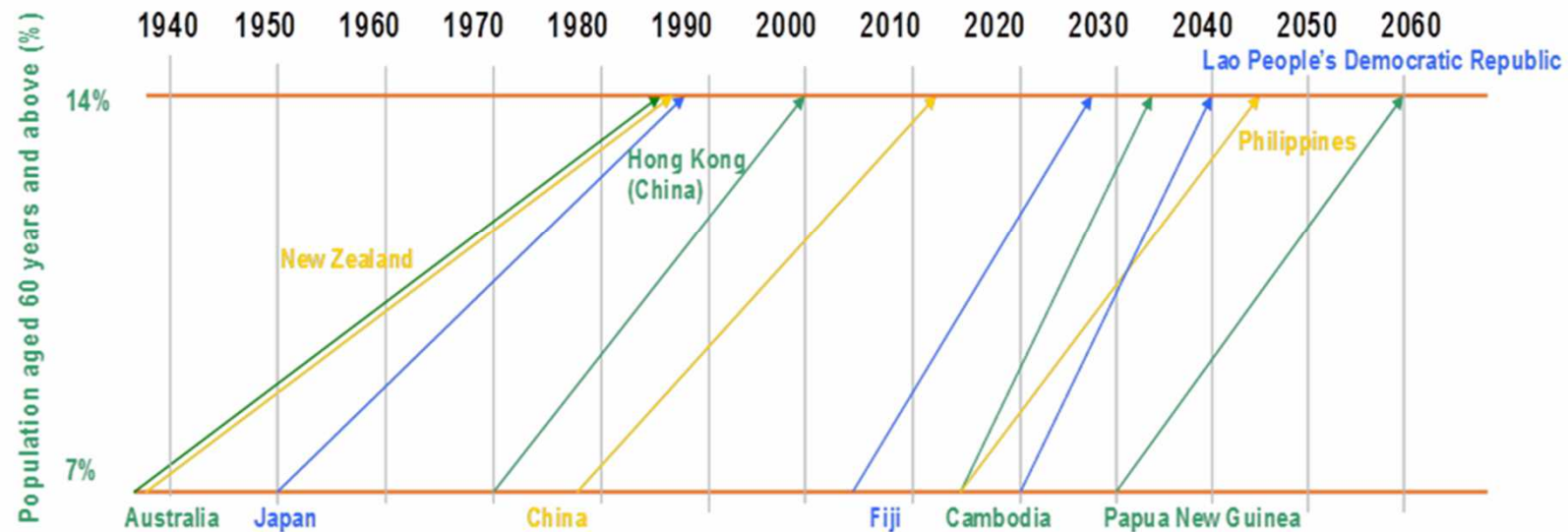
Source: United Nations Dept of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, *World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision*, 2008.

Labor force participation of population 65 years and above, selected countries, Western Pacific Region (2010)



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *World Population Ageing 1950-2050*

The speed of population ageing is increasing.



Source: Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, *World Population Prospects: 2010 Revision*

3. We already know much about what we need to do.



Four critical areas of action

3.1 Build age-friendly environments through intersectoral action.



**Global
Network of
Age-Friendly
Cities and
Communities**

3.2 Promote healthy ageing across the life-course and prevent diseases among older people.



3.3 Reorient the health system to respond to the needs of older people



Develop a comprehensive national policy that responds to population ageing:

- Ageing in national health plans
- Health in national ageing plans

3.3 Reorient the health system to respond to the needs of older people

- Integrated service delivery to ensure continuity of care
- Health workers with appropriate skills
- Essential medicines and health technology
- Equitable health financing



3.4. Strengthen the evidence base on ageing and health.



Moving forward will require:



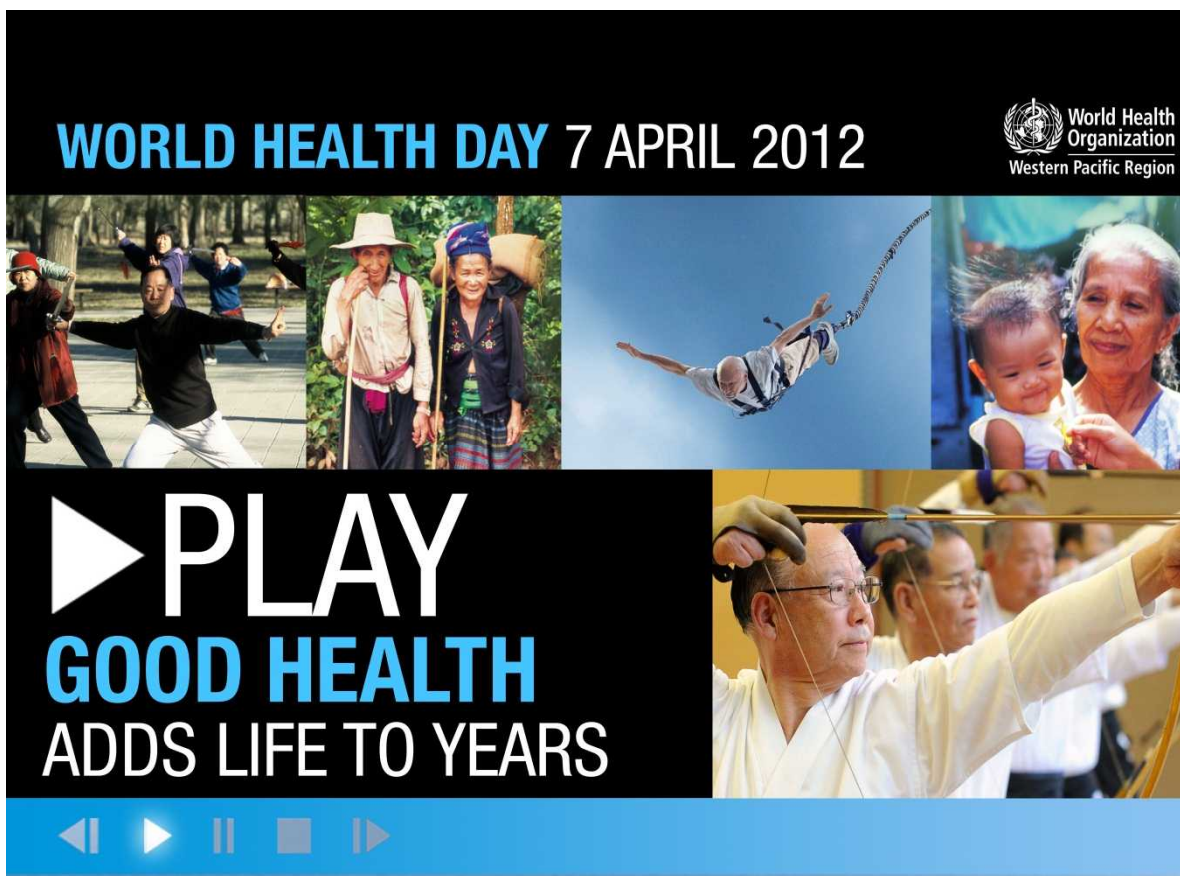
- **Political commitment**
- **Advocacy**
- **Strengthened partnerships**

WHO is committed to support Member States in addressing ageing and health.



- 64th Regional Committee Resolution
- Framework for Action on Ageing and Health in the Western Pacific

We need to change the way we think about older people.



Ageing
and
health:
good
health
adds life
to years

