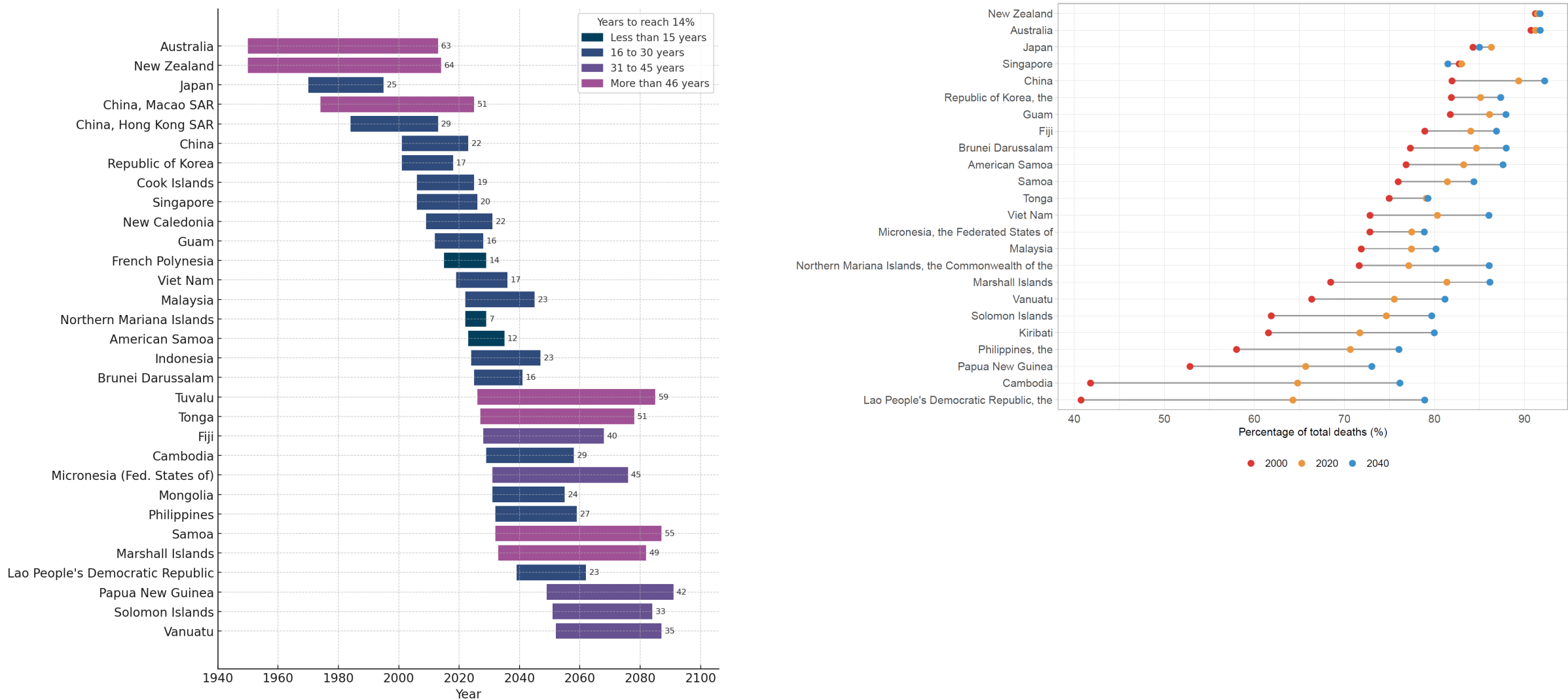

Regional initiatives on social welfare, health and labour – WHO WPRO perspective

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Division of Healthy Environments and Populations,
WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific

Growing noncommunicable disease (NCD) burden and rapidly ageing populations in the Western Pacific



Source: Based on IHME, Global Burden of Disease Study, Dr. Hiromasa Okayasu, WHO/WPRO Lecture at Osaka Univ. 20 Nov.2021, with modification

From a sick system to a health system

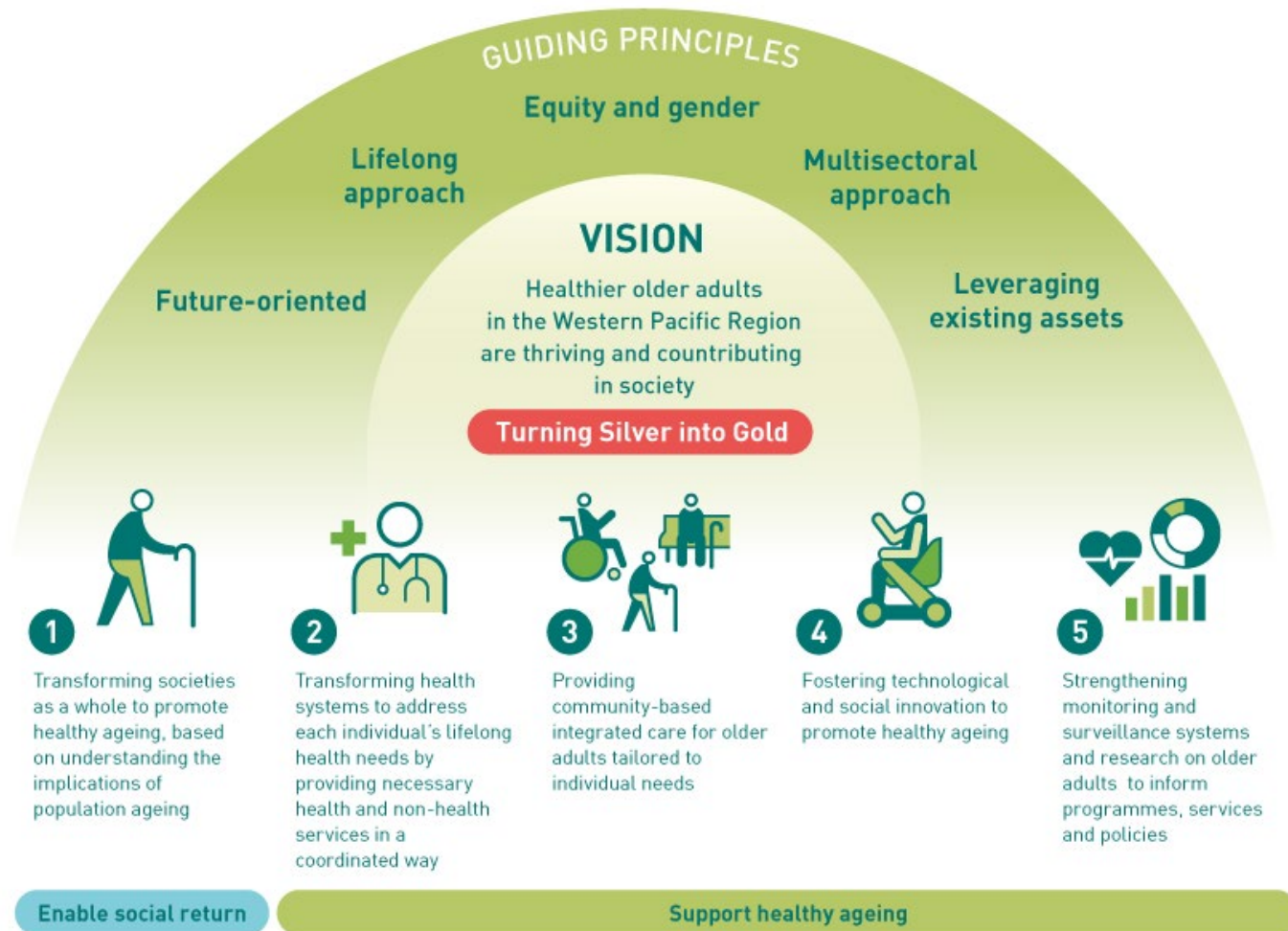


- Unhealthy environment and absence of support creates sick people
- Health system focuses on diseases

- Society creates health-enabling environment
- Health system works closely with the community and society to promote health and wellbeing throughout lives

Healthier older adults in the Western Pacific thriving and contributing in society

Framework for Regional Action Plan (October 2020)



- Social participation
- Inclusive access to health and long-term care
- Gender & income security

Social welfare: Participation and connection



Loneliness affects

1 IN 6

people worldwide



From loneliness to social
connection: charting a path to
healthier societies

Report of the WHO Commission
on Social Connection



**SOCIAL ISOLATION
AND LONELINESS
HAVE SERIOUS
IMPACTS:**



Harm physical and mental **health**



Reduces **life expectancy**
Loneliness causes

**870 000
DEATHS A YEAR**

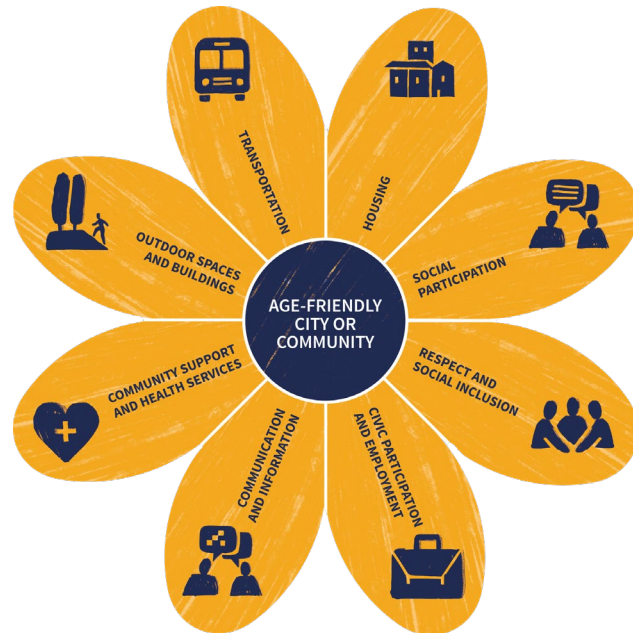


Costs society **billions** in terms
of health care, education and employment



Age-friendly Environments

Improve access to key services and enable people to reduce isolation & enable participation through action across **eight domains**:



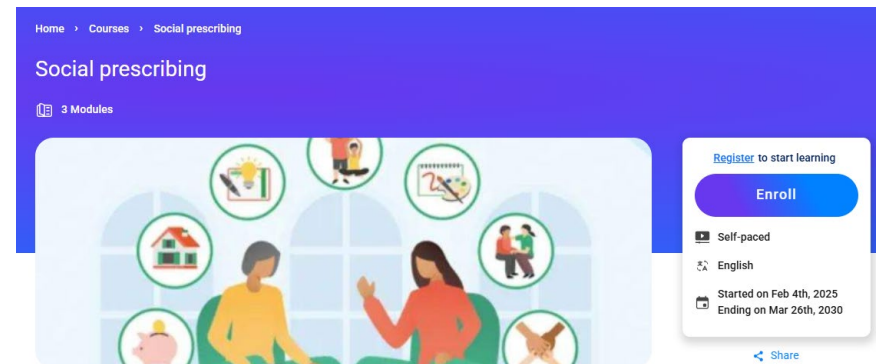
WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities: platform to provide resources, exchange experiences.

Social Prescribing

A healthcare approach where health professionals refer patients to **non-clinical community activities and services** to address **practical, social, and emotional needs** that affect health.



WHO Academy on Social
prescribing



Health: Integrate early detection and prevention into Primary Health Care

Fig. 1.1
ICOPE care pathway

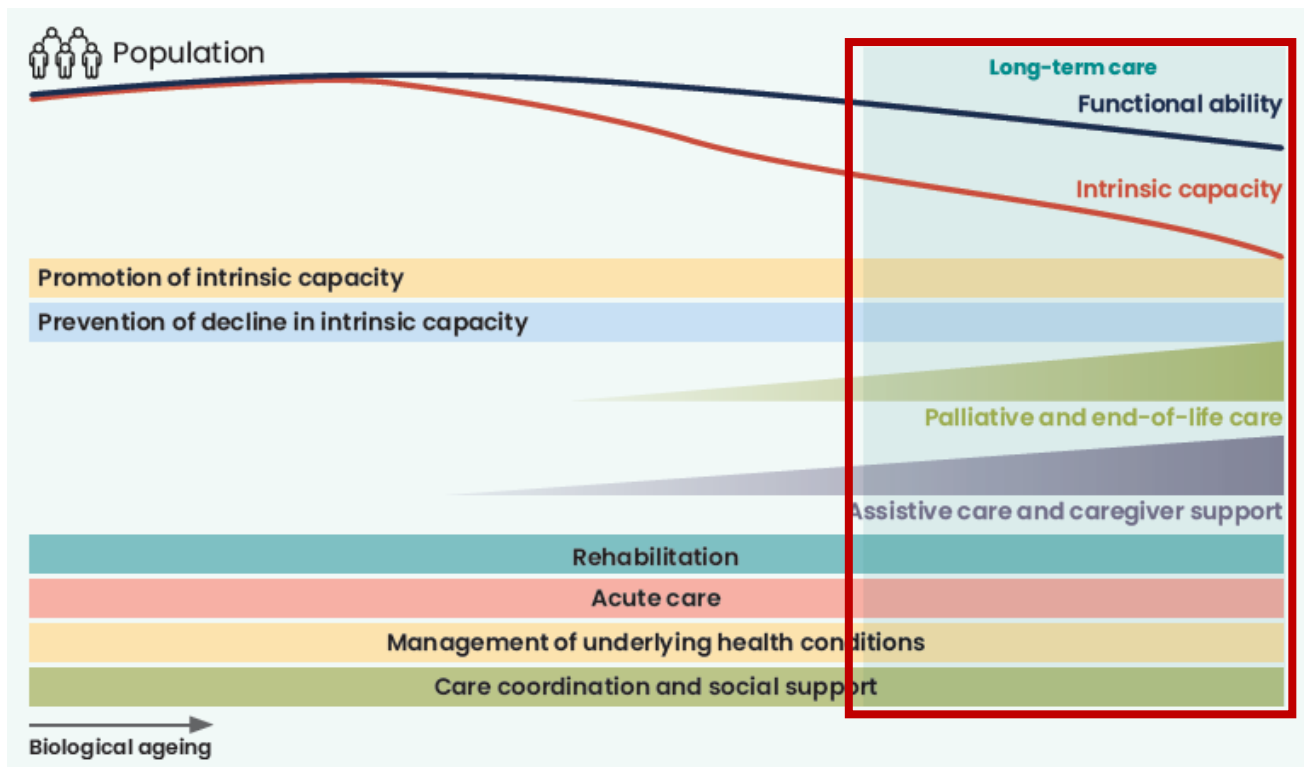
Integrated Care for Older People (ICOPE) approach

Evidence-based person-centered assessment and pathways in primary care to optimize intrinsic capacity and functional ability



Health and labour: Long-term care (LTC) and Community Support

LTC systems linked to PHC, step-up/down home and community services



Informal Caregiver support

Online training course launched on WHO Academy



“Self-care and care competences for informal caregivers” covers

- support caregivers in protecting their own health and well-being,
- provide practical guidance on caring for older people, and
- connect caregivers to further resources and support.

WHAT we do



PROVIDING LEADERSHIP

On global health matters



POLICY

Articulating evidence-based policy options



HEALTH RESEARCH

Shaping the health research agenda



SUPPORT

Provide support to countries to improve health and health systems



SETTING STANDARDS

Setting norms and standards for health



TRENDS

Monitoring and assessing health trends

The way forward

1. Invest in social connection & AFCC as core health and social infrastructure (with gender-responsive design).
2. Adopt ICOPE-enabled PHC and community-based integrated care in national PHC/UHC reforms.
3. Strengthen Long-term Care & decent work: design LTC systems, support older people/informal caregivers through joint workforce upskilling, faire jobs and income security.

Thank you

Any questions or further information
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