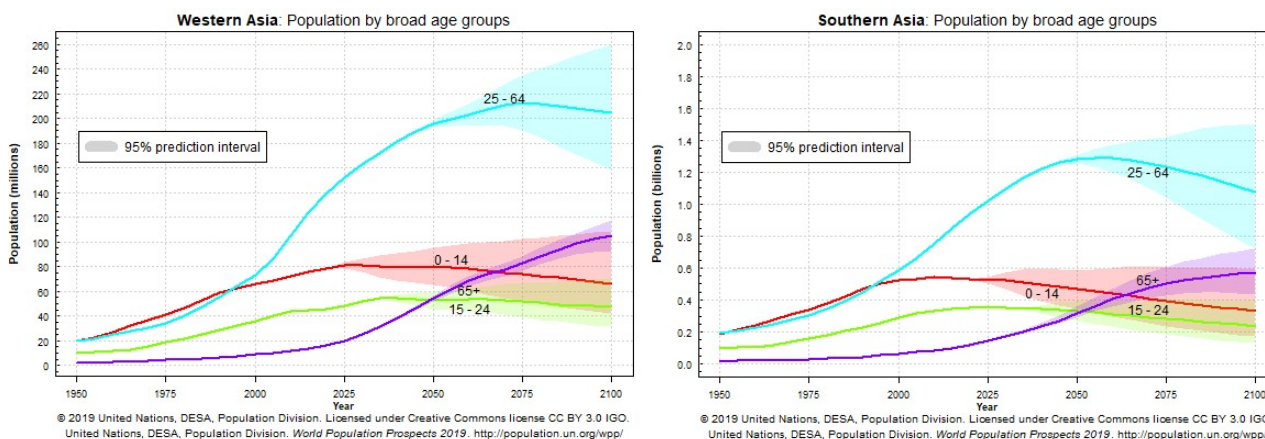


## Theme: Changing Household Structure, Aging and Well-being in Western and Southern Asia

### Rationale

A rapid rise in the size of older persons in Western and Southern Asia (Figure 1) has raised concerns both at national and international levels about the well-being of this growing segment of the population. This prompts two dimensions of understanding aging and well-being that relates to its measurement and comparative assessment of differentials in the quality of life. These differentials could be linked to households that accommodate older persons and their dynamic of dependence. In other words, an ongoing change in household structure and a rise in the number of one-person households, female-headed households and one-parent households, among other emerging household types, could be consequential for the elderly well-being in these regions.

**Figure 1. Population by broad age groups in Western and Southern Asia**



*A comparative assessment of characteristic features:* Considering recent attempts at defining aging with multidimensional attributes to make it comparable across populations, it is pertinent to offer robust and comprehensive methodological approaches toward such conceptualization beyond its comparative construct. This multidimensional construct undoubtedly embraces the varying qualitative domains but the countable dimensions under considerations may be interdependent on one hand and there are complexities of weighing them within one comprehensive measure. The suggestive methods may range from simple methods of dimensional adjustment to that of weighing ideal responsiveness in exclusive features like economic participation, freedom from disease and disability etc. Hence understanding the phenomenon of aging with adoption of a multidimensional connotation strengthens its comparative assessment.

*Toward a verification of well-being of elderly with changing household structure:* While the phenomenon of aging is not in isolation from the changing household dynamics, household features associated with this phenomenon may not be overlooked. The distinct size and structure of elderly household has a lot to describe on the evolving welfare quotient in later life. Hence there needs to be an endeavor toward understanding the phenomenon of aging in a household perspective and its

## Proposal for Scientific Group (SG) of Asian Population Association (APA)

derivatives on elderly well-being. In addition, the changing household structure has a bearing on the co-residence pattern of elderly that needs an inspection in relation to its implication toward the well-being of older persons.

### **Aim**

This scientific group involves professionals with necessary expertise to engage with the stated themes of enquiry as suggested above. The group aims to further understanding of the phenomenon of aging accounting for complexities of measurement as well as implications for differential well-being as a consequence of transformation in household structure. More importantly, this is an attempt at understanding and interpreting aging not in isolation from evolving societal transformation.

### **Team members**

<b>Name (in alphabetical order)</b>	<b>Title and Affiliation</b>	<b>Country</b>
Ayşe Banu Ergöçmen	Professor and Director of Institute of Population Studies, Hacettepe University	Turkey
Stuart Gietel-Basten	Professor and Associate Dean of School of Humanities and Social Science, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	United Kingdom and Hong Kong
Reiko Hayashi	Deputy Director-General, National Institute of Population and Social Security Research (IPSS)	Japan
Mohammad Mainul Islam	Professor, Department of Population Sciences, University of Dhaka	Bangladesh
Udaya Shankar Mishra	Professor, International Institute for Population Sciences	India
Fatemeh Torabi (Chair)	Associate Professor and Head of Department of Demography and Deputy Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tehran	Iran

### **Activities**

- Periodical online meetings to foster collaborative efforts at generating cross-country outputs
- A two-day face-to-face or online workshop on operationalizing methods and methodologies toward translating inter-country data sets into feasible outputs and sharing empirical findings about implications of household change on elderly well-being
- A special session during the upcoming APA conference bringing together contribution by scholars with similar engagements
- Publication of scientific output surrounding this theme in the form of a special issue of a journal or an edited volume

### **Outcomes**

- To form a platform for APA members to conduct academic collaborations, to network and to share their research concerns and findings
- To develop the literature on household and family demography and aging in Western and Southern Asia
- To linking research findings with other Asian regions and with household projections

### **Potential sources for funding and support**

UNFPA and others