

# Responses to an ageing society, long term care policies, and Covid-19: The ASEAN and Thailand experience.

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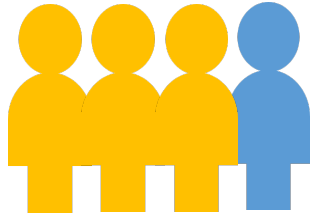
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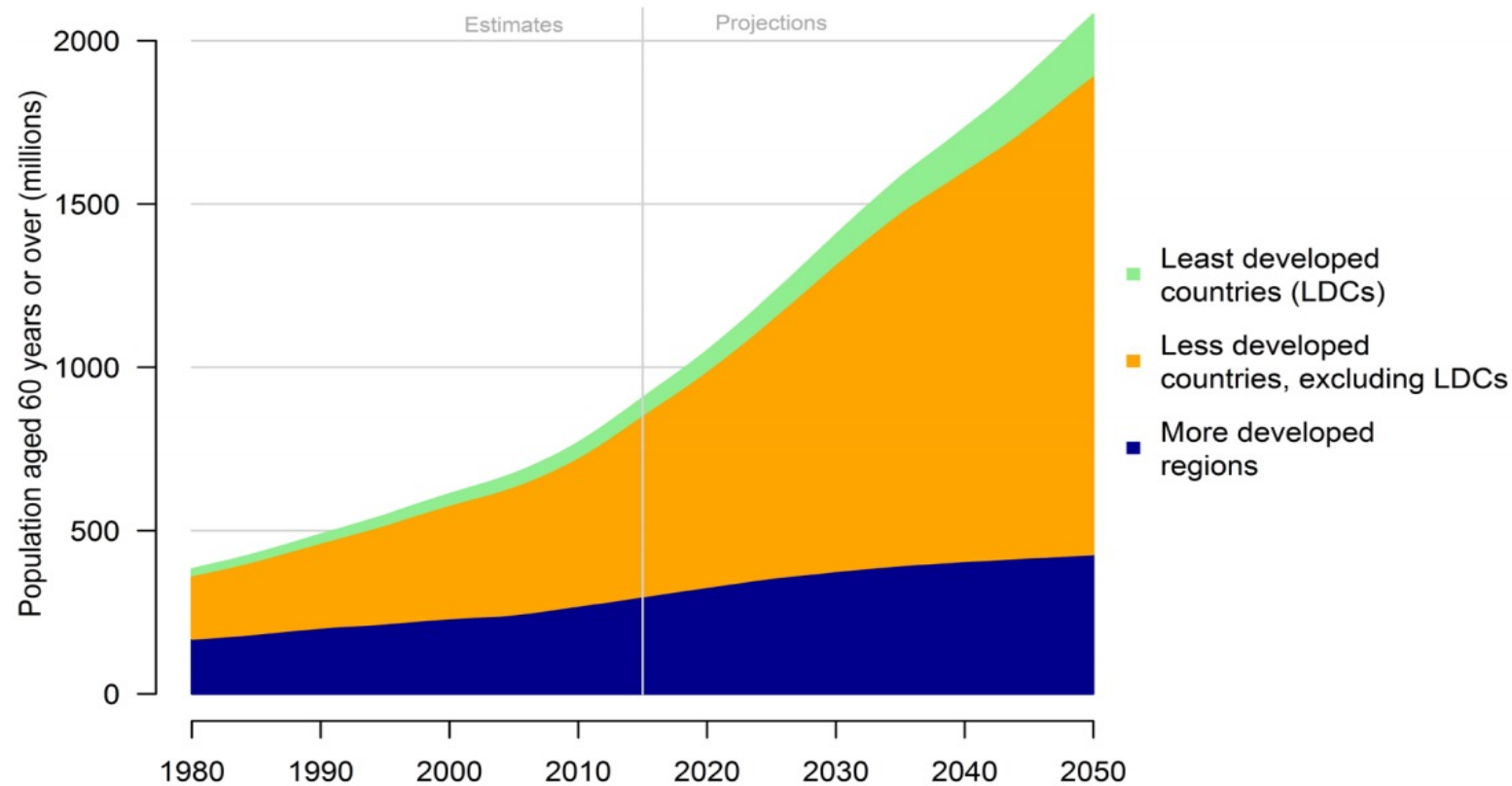
# Aging situation in ASEAN and Thailand





**One in four** people in the Asia-Pacific region will be 60 years old or older by 2050

Figure 1: Number of persons aged 60 years or over by development group, 1980 - 2050



**79%** of people aged 60 and above in the world will be living in the developing regions by 2050

**Figure 2: Countries or areas with the largest percentage point increase in the share of older people aged 65+ between 2019 and 2050**

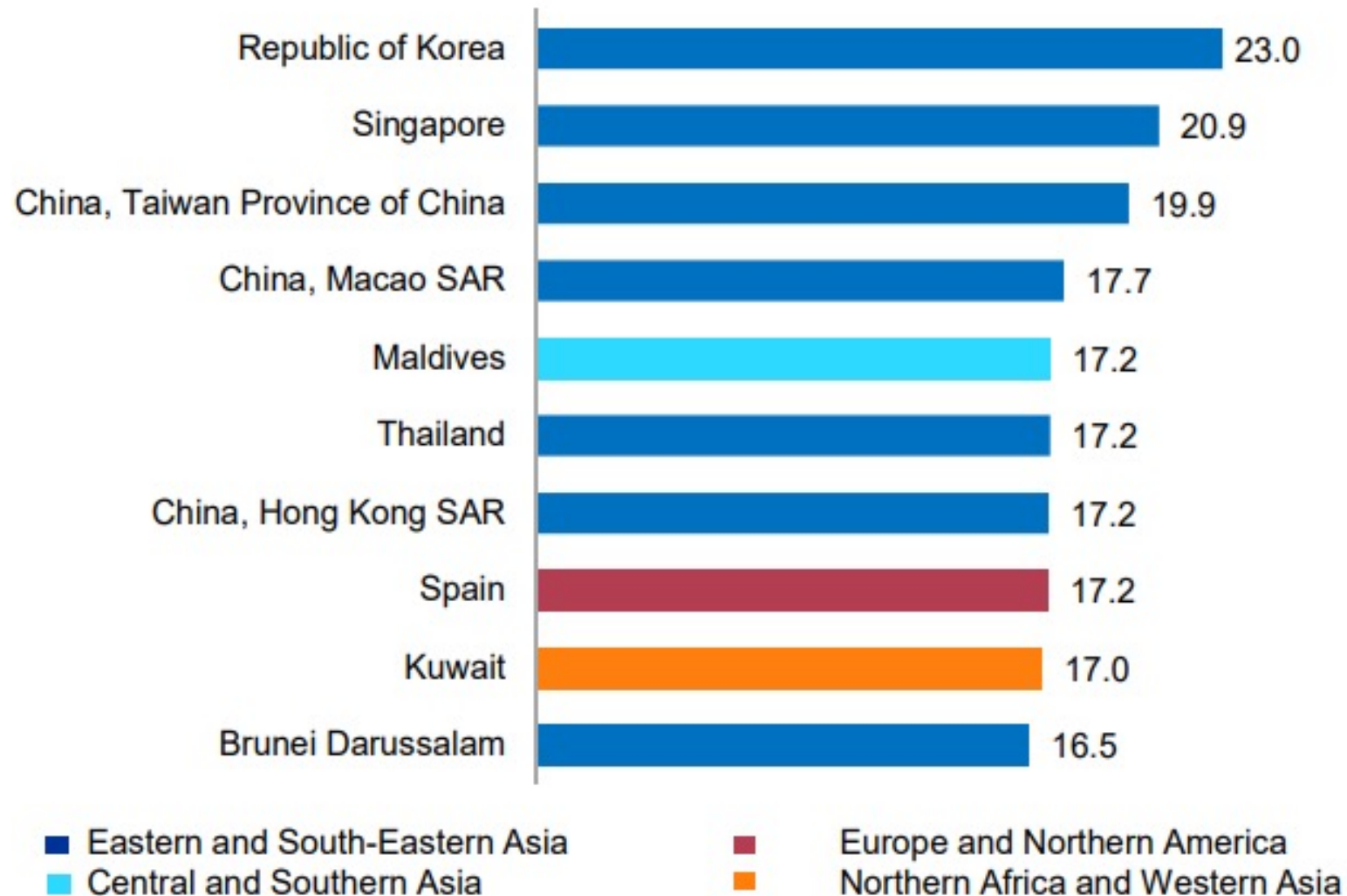




Figure 3: Number of people aged 60 or over in ASEAN (thousands), 2020



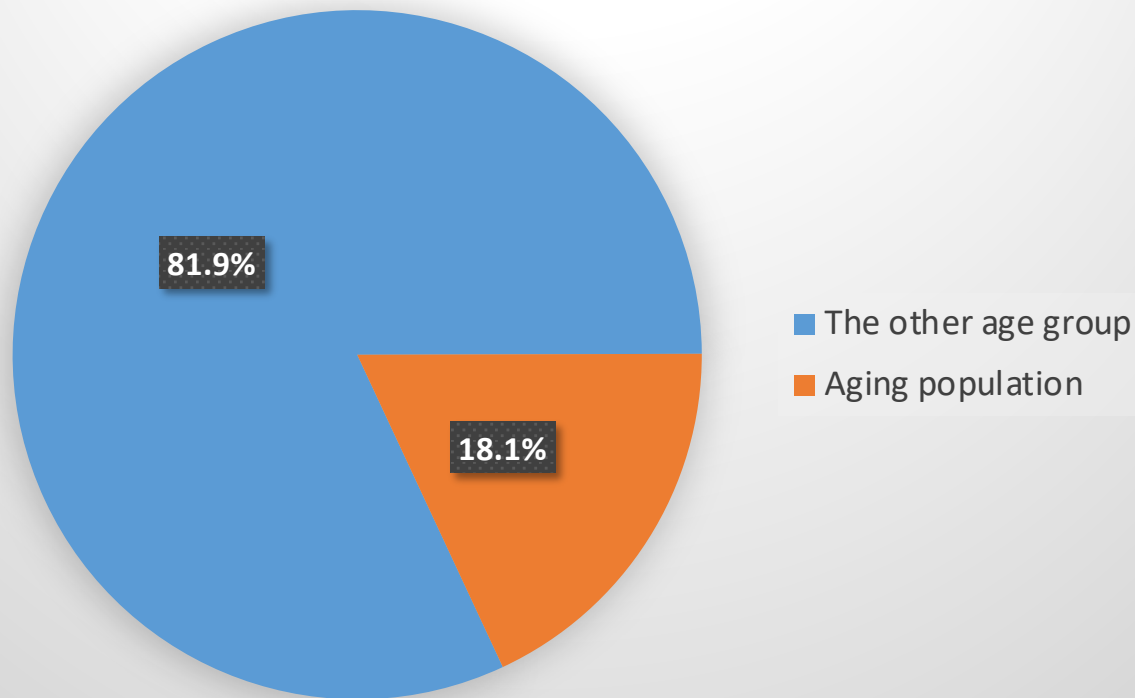
In ASEAN,  
**74 million** people  
are 60 years old or  
over

Brunei Darussalam 42

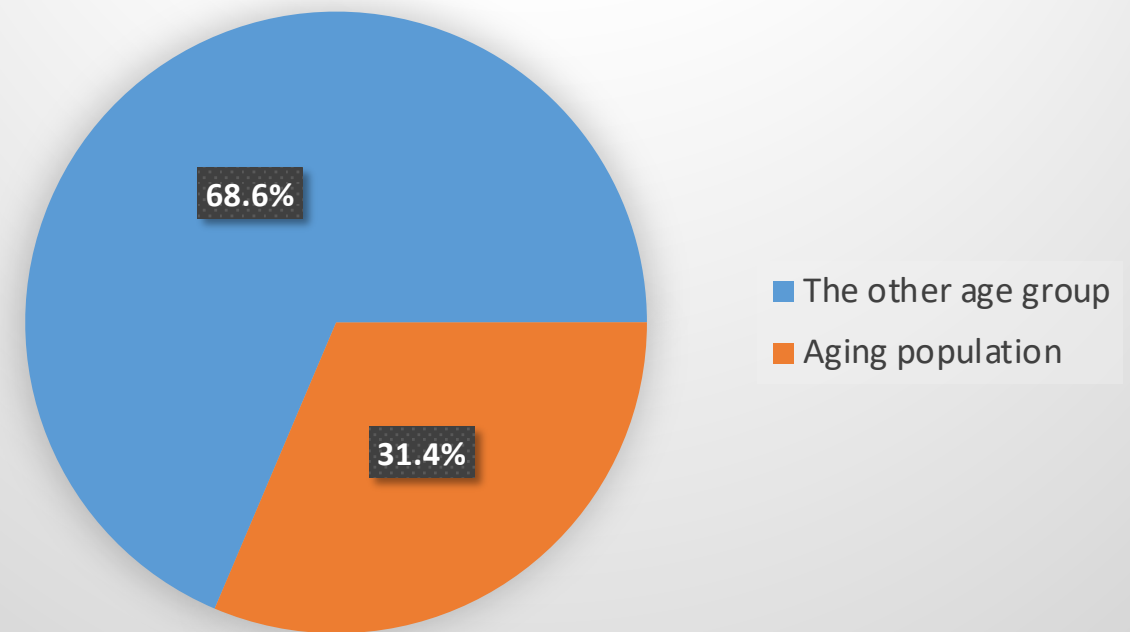
Lao People's Democratic Republic 494

# The situation of ageing society in Thailand

The total population in 2020  
was 66.5 million people



The estimation number of the  
population in 2040 will be about  
65.4 million people



Source: The Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council of Thailand, *Report of the Population Projections for Thailand 2010-2040 (Revision)*, 2019.

# The situation of ageing society in Thailand (Cont'd)

Health problems related with aging also follow by the increasing of elderly population if we do not well-prepare for Active Aging policies well

*Source: World Health Organization, Aging and health, 2018.*

Co-factors such as...

- ✓ **Urbanization** (Fu et al., 2020)
  - The extended family is reducing while the nuclear family is increasing
  - The increasing of empty-nest
- ✓ **The higher life-expectancy and lower fertilization rate**

(World Bank, 2019)





# Health policies in response to ageing society in Thailand

## What Thailand have done successfully in health policies?

- The Universal Health Coverage
- The Primary Health Care System



# 02

## Long-term care strategy in South East Asia and Thailand



# WHO's initiatives on long-term care in South-East Asia

In 2013, a regional consultation on **long-term care of older people** was organized by the WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia, with the objective of promoting long-term care of older people in the Region.





# Long-term care in Thailand

**Thailand has focused on the community-based long-term care system, which comprised of...**

- Long-term health care
- Long-term social care



# The community-based long-term care policy in Thailand

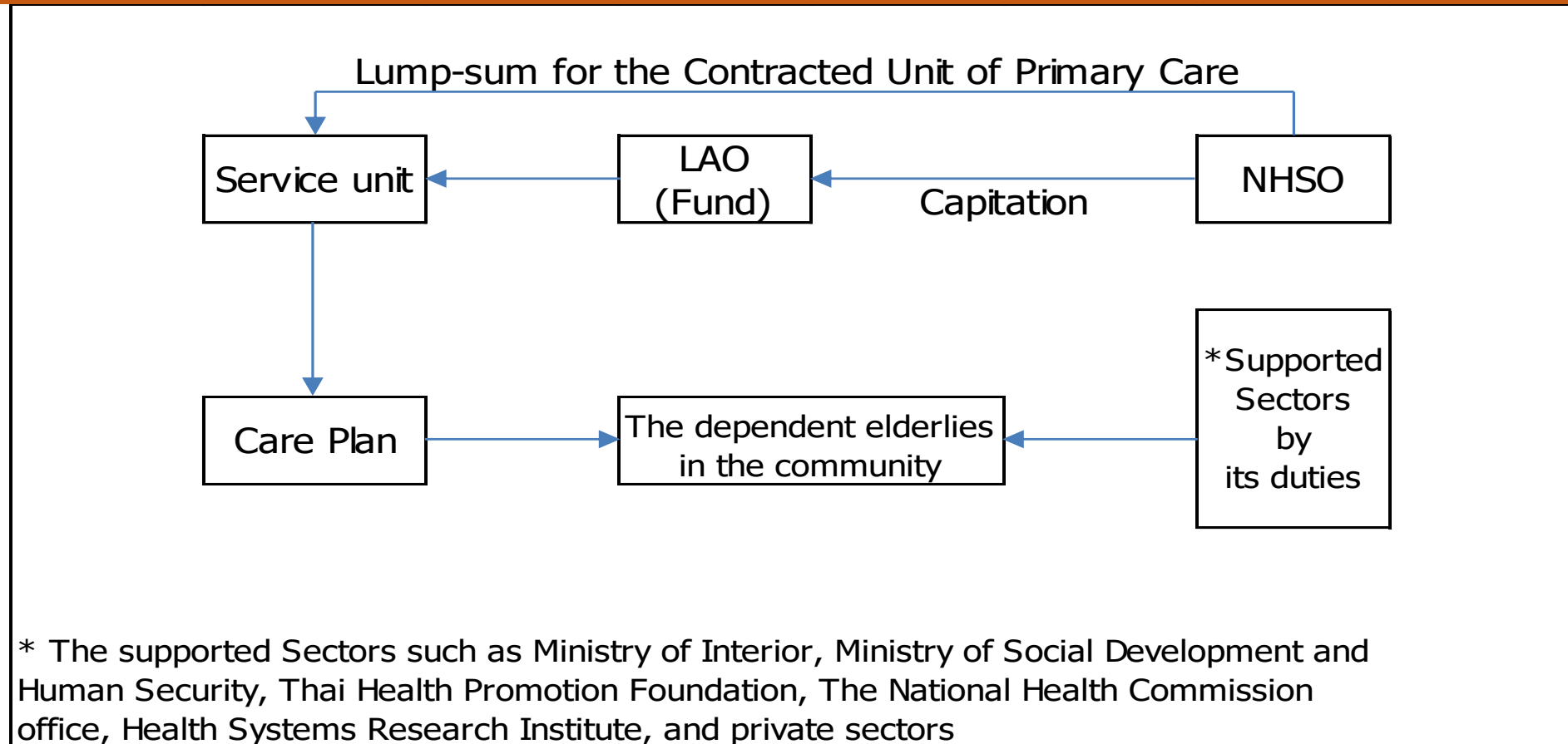
- Public domain-driven policy and implementation
- Relying on the Universal Health Coverage and Primary Health Care System
- Developed in 2002



<https://www.dop.go.th/th/know/6/101>



# Funding systems and its public long-term care



LAO = Local Administrative Organization (Local Government)

# 6 strategies for implementing the community-based long-term care system in Thailand



# Roles of the public long-term health care providers in Thailand: The Primary Health Care Oriented

- **Formal providers**
  - Healthcare Professionals
  - Case Manager
- **Informal providers**
  - Village Health Volunteer (VHV)
  - Caregiver



# Challenges for community-based long-term care in Thailand

- Post pandemics situation
- Future demand
- Workforce preparation
- Financing mechanism
- Quality control





# 03 > COVID-19 impact on older people



<https://www.un.org/development/desa/ageing/news/2020/05/covid19/>



# Healthcare, social challenges, income security



- Risk of severe health complications and death from COVID-19
- Secondary health impacts: household composition, migration, public services, food security, etc.
- Many older people may be left out with telehealth
- Roll out safe and effective vaccine
- Social isolation
- Little protection against income shocks
- Family support and remittances: inadequate

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/09/01/asia-pacific/thailand-older-people-vaccine/>

# 04 > COVID-19 impact on older people in Thailand



<https://ageingasia.org/author/helpageasia/>

# The labor market and aging society in Thailand: The post-pandemic concerns

- The COVID-19 outbreak has created the additional challenges and uncertainty in Thai's labor market which affects to the social protection for aging in Thailand.
  - There were 700,000 jobs losses in the second quarter of the year 2020.
  - There was a significant decline in wages.
  - Unemployment increased significantly.
  - The labor-age people who take care of the elderly lacked of the financial support for aged care.

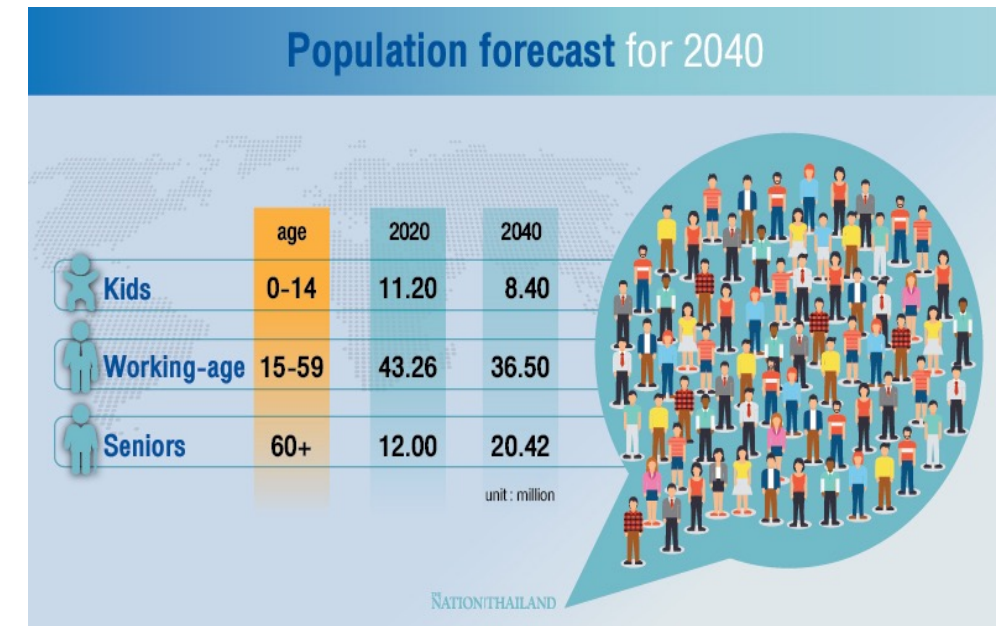


<https://www.thaipost.net/main/detail/79026>



# COVID-19 impact on older people in Thailand: The social protection issue

- Population aging is shrinking the working age population, which will need to be more productive to maintain economic growth.
- The COVID-19 outbreak has exposed the venerable aging group bringing social protection to the forefront of the political debate and policy response.



<http://aec.utcc.ac.th/TH/thailand-working-age-population-decreasing-nesdb/>

# Policy implications and recommendations

- Focus on data systems at local, regional, and international levels.
- Conduct research and data analysis
- Use the momentum generated by COVID-19 to invest in and achieve universal social protection
- National policies and frameworks should be developed, with appropriate representation
- Long-term care and support systems must be developed and strengthened
- Local risk communications and community engagement strategies



## Bearing the brunt

*The impact of COVID-19 on older people in low- and middle-income countries – insights from 2020*

**HelpAge**  
International

**HelpAge**





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**Questions &  
Answers**  
*Thank you for your  
kind attention*

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