



General Statistics Office



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United Nations Population Fund

OLDER PERSONS IN VIET NAM: An Analysis of The Population Change and Family Planning Survey 2021



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ABBREVIATIONS

ADLs	Activities of Daily Living
GSO	General Statistics Office (Viet Nam)
PCS	Population Change and Family Planning Survey
PHC	Population and Housing Census
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund



FOREWORD

The Viet Nam Population Change and Family Planning Survey 2021 was conducted on 1 April 2021 as specified by Decision No. 1903/QĐ-TCTK dated 30 December 2020 of the Director General of the General Statistics Office. This annual survey collects information about the population of Viet Nam, including basic characteristics of the population, population changes and the extent to which family planning methods are used. The survey data provides the basis for synthesizing and compiling indicators on population and family planning in six indicator frameworks: national level; planning, investment and statistics; Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); the sustainable development of Viet Nam; and youth and gender. The data also assists those working in the field of population and family planning with assessments and planning, and is used for building a national database on population and family planning, meeting the needs of domestic and foreign private users and ensures international comparability.

For the first time, the 2021 survey included a new module on older persons and their care needs and situation. Following the General Statistics Office (GSO)'s study on population ageing and older persons in Viet Nam based on the 2019 Population and Housing Census, the health issues and care needs of older persons have continued to be analysed. The evidence gathered on the socioeconomic and health status and care needs of older persons will be used to make appropriate policy recommendations for an ageing population and to build a sustainable society.

This thematic book, **“Older persons in Viet Nam: An analysis of the Population Change and Family Planning Survey 2021”**, builds on previous analyses of population ageing and older persons in Viet Nam. The results show that the population ageing trend continues its fast pace and reveals major differences in the health and care needs of older persons based on age, gender, place of residence and ethnicity. All these issues require plans, policies and programmes to adapt to an ageing population and meet the individual care needs of older persons.

This book was developed with technical and financial support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and financial support from the Government of Japan. We would like to thank Associate Professor Giang Thanh Long of National Economics University for analysing the data and writing this book. We would like to express our sincere thanks to the experts and staff of the UNFPA Country Office in Viet Nam and the UNFPA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific for their valuable comments.

We are pleased to introduce this book on population ageing and care for older persons in Viet Nam – a topic that has attracted a great deal of attention from researchers, administrators, policymakers and the wider society. We look forward to your comments to continue improving the quality of publications by the General Statistics Office and UNFPA.

GENERAL STATISTICS OFFICE OF VIET NAM

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rapid population ageing is having socioeconomic impacts across a range of sectors in Viet Nam, and this trend is expected to continue in the coming decades. Surveys on older persons are crucial to providing updated data and evidence to formulate strategies, policies and programmes and adapt to this reality. This report used data from the 2021 Population Change and Family Planning Survey (hereafter known as PCS) to analyse the demographic, socioeconomic and health characteristics of older persons, their activities of daily living (ADLs), care needs and responses and the willingness of families to pay for care services. Policy issues are addressed and recommendations are presented. The key findings and policy discussions are outlined below.

KEY FINDINGS:

1. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OLDER POPULATION

- Between 2019 and 2021, the population of Viet Nam increased by 2.07 million (from 96.21 million to 98.28 million) while the population of older persons (those aged 60 and over) increased by 1.17 million (from 11.41 million to 12.58 million), an increase from 11.86 per cent to 12.80 per cent of the total population. This ageing trend continues to gain pace in Viet Nam.
- Of the 12.58 million older persons in Viet Nam, 4.62 million lived in urban areas (36.72 per cent) and 7.96 million in rural areas (63.28 per cent). There were 5.30 million older men (42.18 per cent) and 7.28 million older women (57.82 per cent). By ethnicity, there were 11.29 million Kinh persons (89.75 per cent) and 1.29 million persons of other ethnicities (10.25 per cent).
- Older women outnumbered older men in all age groups (60–64, 65–69, 70–74, 75–79 and 80 and over) and more older persons lived in rural areas than urban centres. About 50 per cent of the older population lived in the country's Red River Delta and Northern and Southern Central Coast regions.
- Compared with data from the 2019 Population and Housing Census (PHC), the proportion

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