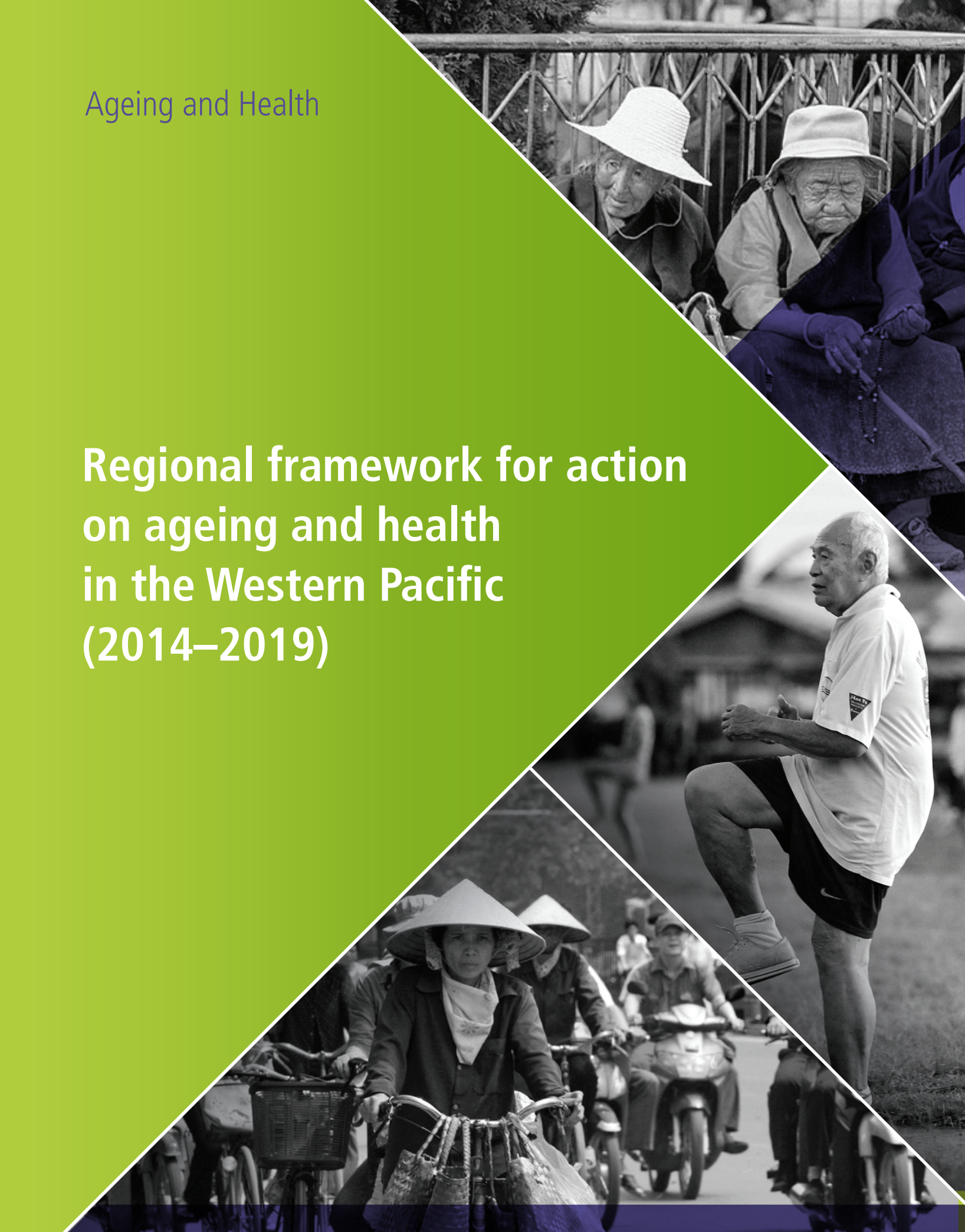


Ageing and Health

Regional framework for action on ageing and health in the Western Pacific (2014–2019)



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Foreword

This *Regional Framework for Action on Ageing and Health in the Western Pacific (2014–2019)* is the first one of its kind for the Region. Member States are taking an historic—and timely—step to address the growing needs of the Region’s ageing population.

Though countries may be at different stages, all must prepare for the inevitable trend of population ageing. The proportion of the people above age 60 is growing faster than any other age group in the world — a trend that speaks to the success of health and development programmes as it presents new challenges for societies.

The Western Pacific Region is home to one of the world’s most “silver” societies, Japan, as well as low- and middle-income countries where rapid population ageing means they will have less time to prepare for the needs of increasing numbers of older people.

To meet these challenges, Member States adopted a resolution on ageing and health at the sixty-fourth session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific in October 2013. The resolution endorsed the framework, which provides evidence-based guidance and options for Member States on actions for achieving progress on ageing and health.

Too often people focus only on the challenges of ageing. While not simple, we already know much of what needs to be done to address ageing and health in a timely and appropriate manner: fostering age-friendly environments, promoting healthy ageing across the life course, reorienting health systems to meet the needs of older people and strengthening the evidence base on ageing and health.

In this way, we will ensure that older people remain valued and vital resources in our communities.

I urge Member States to use the framework to identify options for strengthening the health sector response to ageing. WHO remains committed to collaborating with Member States, forging partnerships and strengthening political commitment and advocacy to foster accelerated action on ageing and health.

Working together, we can attain the highest possible level of health and well-being for all the people of the Western Pacific Region.



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World Health Organization

Acronyms

MIPAA	Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing
NCD	noncommunicable disease
OPA	older people's association
SAGE	WHO Study on Global AGEing and Adult Health
TCAM	traditional, complementary and alternative medicine
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
WHO	World Health Organization

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