
Voluntary National Survey on the Implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) in Asia and the Pacific - 2021

Survey response 1

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Confidentiality

Please indicate whether the completed survey may be posted on the public website of the Asia-Pacific Regional Review and Appraisal of MIPAA
Yes

A. Contact Information

Country	Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (MSAR)
Ministry/Office/Agency	Social Welfare Bureau of MSAR Government
Name contact persons (First and Last)	
Title/Position	
Name of ageing focal point (First and Last)	
Email	

Telephone

Mailing address

B. Methodology

What methodology was used to complete this survey? Was a bottom-up approach used involving a variety of stakeholders? Was a whole-of-government approach used? (see also companion document)

The survey was coordinated and managed by the Inter-departmental Steering Group on Mechanism for the Protection of Older Persons of the Macao SAR, which is made up of 13 public departments. Each of these departments provided information and data to the questions in the questionnaire in relation to its functions, which was then collated and summarised for each question.

Please upload any relevant files related to methodology.

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I. National policy and MIPAA implementation

Coordinating Body 1. Does your country have a national coordinating body/committee/agency or national multi-stakeholder forum on population ageing and/or older persons? (If you answer 'no' to this question, please proceed to question 2)

Yes

1.1 Name of the coordinating body/committee/agency/national multi-stakeholder forum:

Inter-departmental Steering Group on Mechanism for the Protection of Older Persons of the Macao SAR

1.2 Year of establishment:

2016

1.3 Level (ministerial or other):

The Steering Group is headed by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, while its members are officials of the rank of bureau director and bureau deputy director.

1.4 Functions: (Please elaborate)

1. Coordinates and pushes forward the various short-term, medium-term and long-term policies and measures under the Ten Year Action Plan for Elderly Services;
2. Ensures the effective implementation of the policies and measures under the Action Plan through inter-departmental collaboration;
3. Performs assessment of the Action Plan during the various stages of its implementation based on its implementation timetable;
4. Works out proposals to adjust and optimise the policy framework for the mechanism of protection for older persons of Macao SAR in light of its population ageing and social trends, and formulate the next phase of the Ten Year Action Plan for Elderly Services on the basis thereof;
5. Encourages local associations and institutions of mutual aid and social solidarity to support and participate in the implementation of the mechanism of protection for older persons of Macao SAR;
6. Follows up and assesses the progress of the Ten Year Action Plan for Elderly Services, and present follow-up reports to the Chief Executive.

1.5 Contact information, including mailing address, telephone/fax, email and website link: (Please elaborate)

Definition of older persons 2. Please define “older persons” as used in official Government documents (e.g., legislation, census forms, etc.) (Please elaborate)

In accordance with Article 2 of Law No. 12/2018 - Legal Regime for Protection of the Rights and Interests of the Elderly, an older person is defined as one who is aged 65 or older.

National legislation, policies and action plans on older persons 3. Does your country have a dedicated legislation, policy and/or action plan to promote and improve the well-being of older persons and protect their rights, such as a “decree or law on older persons”? (If you answer 'no' to this question, please proceed to question 3.2)

Yes

3.1 If “yes”, for each of the following questions, please provide information on: (a) name of legislation, policy and/or action plan and year of enactment; (b) description of legislation, policy and/or action plan; (c) main achievements; and (d) financial and human resources allocated to implement. [but if “no”, please elaborate also] 3.1.1 Have gender and disability concerns of older persons been explicitly addressed in the legislation, policy and/or action plan? (Please elaborate)

Yes

3.1 If “yes”, for each of the following questions, please provide information on: (a) name of legislation, policy and/or action plan and year of enactment; (b) description of legislation, policy and/or action plan; (c) main achievements; and (d) financial and human resources allocated to implement. [but if “no”, please elaborate also] 3.1.1 Have gender and disability concerns of older persons been explicitly addressed in the legislation, policy and/or action plan? (Please elaborate) [Comment]

(a) Name of law: Legal Regime for Protection of the Rights and Interests of the Elderly / Enacted in 2018

(b) Description: The law stresses on safeguarding the rights and interests of older persons is a responsibility shared by the entire society, and that the Macao SAR Government has to refer to the policies, declarations and action plans relevant to older persons defined by the United Nations for the purpose of promoting the principles of “independence”, “active participation”, “entitlement to care and protection from the family and the community”, “self-fulfillment” and “dignity” of older persons. The provisions of the law cover support and care, health, basic livelihood security, social participation and employment of older persons.

(c) Main achievements: The law defines an “older person” as one who has reached the age of 65 and has explicitly stated that safeguarding the rights and interests of older persons is a responsibility shared by the entire society, and the need to raise the awareness of the society on respect for older persons and on protecting their rights and interests.

(d) Data not available.

(a) Name of action plan: Ten Year Action Plan for Elderly Services (2016-2025) / Implemented in 2016

(b) Description: The Action Plan covers four major areas, namely “healthcare and social services”, “protection of rights”, “social engagement”, and “living environment”, under which more than 400 initiatives and measures closely related to the livelihood of older persons are developed, and shall be implemented sequentially in three stages, short-term (2016-2017), medium-term (2018-2020) and long-term (2021-2025), to address the opportunities and challenges posed by population ageing.

(c) As of 31 December, 2020, a total of 345 short-term and medium-term measures have been implemented. After a comprehensive assessment on the effectiveness of the implemented measures, adjustments were made to the planning for 100 long-term measures to optimise their implementation over the period of 2021 to 2025.

(d) Financial and human resources allocated: The SAR Government has set up the Inter-departmental Steering Group on Mechanism for the Protection of Older Persons, which is made up of 13 public departments and is headed by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture. The Steering Group is responsible for the overall coordination of the Action Plan and the implementation of the measures set out in the Action Plan. An executive team is created under the Steering Group to coordinate the various work plans and carry out inter-departmental collaborative projects.

3.1.1

The Legal Regime for Protection of the Rights and Interests of the Elderly and the Ten Year Action Plan for Elderly Services (2016-2025) explicitly addressed concerns over disability among older persons. A handful of measures with respect to housing, living environment, mobility and transportation shall be implemented to cater to the special needs of disabled older persons.

On the other hand, the SAR Government has introduced the “Developmental Goals of Women of Macao” Scheme in 2018, which clearly defined gender mainstreaming, participation in decision-making, education and training, healthcare, social welfare, security and law, economy, and media and culture as the eight major focal areas in the development of women. The Scheme set out related policy goals and action plans that also tackled issues faced by older women and came up with relevant remedial measures.

3.1.2 Is there a monitoring framework for the implementation of the legislation, policy and/or action plan? (Please elaborate)

Yes

3.1.2 Is there a monitoring framework for the implementation of the legislation, policy and/or action plan? (Please elaborate) [Comment]

Legal Regime for Protection of the Rights and Interests of the Elderly

In accordance with Article 30 of the Legal Regime for Protection of the Rights and Interests of the Elderly, the SAR Government has to prepare a report on the review of the implementation of the Legal Regime after three years (that is, in 2022) from the date of its entry into force to summarise its implementation effectiveness, and make amendment to the Legal Regime, depending on actual circumstances.

Ten Year Action Plan for Elderly Services (2016-2025)

The Inter-departmental Steering Group on Mechanism for the Protection of Older Persons has to perform assessment of the Action Plan during the various stages of its implementation, which includes:

Annual review: Before the end of each year covered by the Action Plan, the Steering Group sums up the progress and outcomes of work carried out in that year and of the provided review opinions, and comes up with a proposed work schedule of the Action Plan for the following two years;

Interim assessment: After completion of the medium-term plans, the Steering Group performs a comprehensive review on the implementation of the short-term and medium-term measures through collation of the internal appraisals provided by each of the 13 public departments, and analysis of the opinions of stakeholders and social issues. Moreover, it will adjust the planning of long-term measures in light of social trends and to meet the needs of older persons, so that the long-term measures can cater to the realities in the community.

Ten-year summary: After the implementation period of the Ten Year Action Plan for Elderly Services comes to an end, the Steering Group will perform a comprehensive review on the implantation effectiveness of the Action Plan.

3.1.3 Are older persons and their organizations included in any monitoring activities of legislation, policy and/or action plan on older persons? (Please elaborate)

Yes

3.1.3 Are older persons and their organizations included in any monitoring activities of legislation, policy and/or action plan on older persons? (Please elaborate) [Comment]

In accordance with Paragraph 3 of Article 5 of Law No. 12/2018 - Legal Regime for Protection of the Rights and Interests of the Elderly, the Macao SAR government shall listen to the opinions of older persons and of entities related to elderly affairs through appropriate means in the formulation of social policies which involve the rights and interests of older persons and in the enactment of relevant laws.

The Inter-departmental Steering Group on Mechanism for the Protection of Older Persons has to attend every meeting of the Elderly Affairs Committee (see 3.1.4), report the progress of the Ten Year Action Plan to the Committee and listen to its opinions.

Note: The Elderly Affairs Committee is the highest advisory body to the Macao SAR government on elderly affairs. It is to support the Macao SAR Government in the study, conception, implementation and monitoring of social policies targeted at older persons. Its members are composed of public departments, social groups (especially those that render services for the elderly) and members of the public, which include older persons.

3.1.4 Does the Government foster effective consultation with, and involvement of, older persons and/or their representatives at the national, regional and local levels in designing policies? (SDG 16.7.2) (Please elaborate)

Yes

3.1.4 Does the Government foster effective consultation with, and involvement of, older persons and/or their representatives at the national, regional and local levels in designing policies? (SDG 16.7.2) (Please elaborate) [Comment]

The SAR government created the Elderly Affairs Committee in 2007, which is the highest advisory body on policies for the elderly. The Committee provides support to the SAR Government in the study, conception, implementation and monitoring of social policies targeted at older persons. Its members are composed of public departments, social groups (especially those that render services for the elderly) and members of the public, which include older persons. When the SAR government conducts consultation on policies related to older persons or introduces major policies concerning the elderly population, it will brief the Elderly Affairs Committee on these matters and listen to its opinions.

SDG 16.7.2: data not available.

3.1.5 Does the Government foster work and volunteering of younger and older persons in intergenerational settings? (Please elaborate)

3.1.5 Does the Government foster work and volunteering of younger and older persons in intergenerational settings? (Please elaborate) [Comment]

3.1.6 Does the Government offer opportunities for intergenerational contact and exchange? (Please elaborate)
Yes

3.1.6 Does the Government offer opportunities for intergenerational contact and exchange? (Please elaborate) [Comment]
The SAR Government encourages schools, social service institutions and youth groups to organise different types of activities conducive to promoting intergenerational interactions and understanding through incentive and supportive measures;
It organises special training programs for young people to empower them with knowledge and abilities to take care of older persons and encourages them to partake in voluntary services for the elderly;
It publishes books on oral history and creates conditions for their authors (older persons) to interact and exchange ideas with young people. These efforts allow the elderly authors to pass on their knowledge and cultures of their times to the younger generation through talking with the youngsters about their life experiences and precious memories, and also helps to promote intergenerational interactions understanding.

3.1.7 Does the Government encourage the private sector and non-profit organizations to involve older persons in planning and design of goods and services? (Please elaborate)
Yes

3.1.7 Does the Government encourage the private sector and non-profit organizations to involve older persons in planning and design of goods and services? (Please elaborate) [Comment]
The SAR Government encourages government-subsidised non-profit organisations to collect opinions of their service users on policies and services of the Macao SAR targeted at older persons via appropriate means, such as creating service user opinion groups and customer satisfaction survey about the quality of services. The derived feedbacks and findings can serve as a reference for direction of service development and improvement.

3.2 If “no”, are there any efforts towards the development and adoption of such a legislation, policy and/or action plan? (Please elaborate)

3.2 If “no”, are there any efforts towards the development and adoption of such a legislation, policy and/or action plan? (Please elaborate) [Comment]

Challenges to legislation/policies 4. In the development and implementation of legislation with a focus on older persons, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges? [1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always] 4.1 Lack of human resources dedicated to population ageing issues If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? Please elaborate
2

Challenges to legislation/policies 4. In the development and implementation of legislation with a focus on older persons, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges? [1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always] 4.1 Lack of human resources dedicated to population ageing issues If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? Please elaborate [Comment]
The Law No. 21/2009 - Law on Employment of Non-resident Workers establishes the system for hiring of non-resident workers, which helps to remedy local labour shortage through recruiting relevant professionals from abroad.

4.2 Lack of financial resources dedicated to population ageing issues If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? Please elaborate
1

4.2 Lack of financial resources dedicated to population ageing issues If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? Please elaborate [Comment]

4.3 Lack of data on older persons and/or population ageing at the national and/or subnational levels If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? Please elaborate
1

4.3 Lack of data on older persons and/or population ageing at the national and/or subnational levels If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? Please elaborate [Comment]

4.4 Lack of overall political support If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? Please elaborate
1

4.4 Lack of overall political support If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? Please elaborate [Comment]

4.5 Lack of cross-ministerial coordination on population ageing issues If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? Please elaborate
1
4.5 Lack of cross-ministerial coordination on population ageing issues If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? Please elaborate [Comment]
4.6 Lack of international support and cooperation on population ageing issues If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? Please elaborate
1
4.6 Lack of international support and cooperation on population ageing issues If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? Please elaborate [Comment]
4.7 Lack of public awareness and understanding of population ageing issues If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? Please elaborate
1
4.7 Lack of public awareness and understanding of population ageing issues If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? Please elaborate [Comment]
4.8 A bottom-up approach to population ageing not followed (e.g., involvement of older persons) If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? Please elaborate
2
4.8 A bottom-up approach to population ageing not followed (e.g., involvement of older persons) If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? Please elaborate [Comment]
In the formulation of major policies related to older persons, the SAR Government will refer to the opinions of stakeholders collected through public consultation and opinion collection, of which older persons are included.
4.9 Misconceptions and stereotypes about population ageing and older persons If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? Please elaborate
1
4.9 Misconceptions and stereotypes about population ageing and older persons If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? Please elaborate [Comment]
4.10 Any other challenges (please name them) Please elaborate
No answer.
Priorities of MIPAA "issues" 5. Which of the "issues" listed under the three priority directions of MIPAA has your Government prioritized (for a list of "issues", see the Annex)? (Please elaborate)
Given that the ageing population of the Macao SAR is transiting into an aged population, there is a keen demand for long-term care services in the community. To this end, the SAR government has prioritised the development of services aimed at offering "care and support for caregivers". Moreover, it has laid down a long-term planning of long-term care services built on scientific studies and research on community needs of long-term care services, so as to meet future needs for these services.
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II. Older persons and development

Active Participation 6. Has the Government undertaken any measures to promote the active participation of older persons in society and in decision-making processes at all levels? (SDG 5.b.1; SDG 11.3.2; SDG 17.8.1) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)
Yes

Active Participation 6. Has the Government undertaken any measures to promote the active participation of older persons in society and in decision-making processes at all levels? (SDG 5.b.1; SDG 11.3.2; SDG 17.8.1) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

As some members of the Elderly Affairs Committee are senior citizens, the SAR government is able to listen to the opinions of older persons on policies related to the elderly population (see 3.1.4 - functions of the Elderly Affairs Committee);

The SAR government introduced the Normative Guidelines for Public Policy Consultation in 2011, which stipulates that when formulating important public policies, direct, indirect or potential parties must be consulted so as to support older persons to partake in the decision-making of policies related to the elderly population;

It subsidises elder-oriented social service institutions to develop services and promotes community participation of older persons in various manners;

SDG 5.b.1: According to the findings of the "Survey on Information Technology Usage in the Household Sector of 2020" conducted by the Statistics and Census Bureau of the SAR Government, the proportion of the population with a mobile phone between 2018 and 2020, by gender, are as follows:

2018, Male/% of the total population: 263,400, 41.8%

2019, Male/% of the total population: 265,500, 41.4%

2020, Male/% of the total population: 268,000, 41.4%

2018, Female/% of the total population: 300,100, 47.7%

2019, Female/% of the total population: 311,300, 48.6%

2020, Female/% of the total population: 316,400, 48.9%

SDG 11.3.2 : not applicable.

SDG 17.8.1 : According to the findings of the "Survey on Information Technology Usage in the Household Sector of 2020" conducted by the Statistics and Census Bureau of the SAR Government, the proportion of the population using the Internet between 2018 and 2020, by gender, are as follows:

2018, Male/% of the total population: 248,800, 39.5%

2019, Male/% of the total population: 260,200, 40.6%

2020, Male/% of the total population: 262,500, 40.6%

2018, Female/% of the total population: 278,600, 44.3%

2019, Female/% of the total population: 293,800, 45.9%

2020, Female/% of the total population: 303,800, 47%

7. Has the Government taken measures to facilitate older persons' participation in physical activity? (see also companion document) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

7. Has the Government taken measures to facilitate older persons' participation in physical activity? (see also companion document) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

The SAR Government provides Macao residents with a variety of 2-months long fitness and interest classes under the "Sport for All" scheme. For participants of older age who met the required class attendance rate, they are exempted from class re-enrollment (every six months) and can be directly admitted to the same class they attended previously when the next phase of fitness and interest classes are to be held. Such arrangement makes it convenient for older persons to practice sports to maintain physical fitness. In addition, the SAR Government constantly works in collaboration with community service centres in organising classes on "Baduanjin" (a traditional Qigong practice of China) and physical exercise for health maintenance tailored to older persons, which are a part of the "Sport for All" scheme. It also, co-organises the "Elderly Sports Day" with NGOs to offer older persons with more opportunities to practice sports to achieve a better physique.

Baduanjin Class(2018-2020):4350,4040,1395* .

Class on physical exercise for health maintenance of older persons(2018-2020):3250,3355,1415* .

Elderly Sports Day(2018-2020):2000,2000,1500* .

* Participation rate of activities was affected by the epidemic.

8. Do older persons' organizations exist in your country? How many are active and what types of organizations are these? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

8. Do older persons' organizations exist in your country? How many are active and what types of organizations are these? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

In accordance with Article 27 of the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region, Macao residents shall have the freedom of association, and can freely form legal association in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 2/99/M. There are many elderly-oriented organisations in the Macao SAR, providing the elderly population with cultural, recreation and sports activities, as well as voluntary and social services. However, currently there are no official figures or statistical classification of these activities.

9. Does the Government provide any financial, technical or policy support to these organizations? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

9. Does the Government provide any financial, technical or policy support to these organizations? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

In accordance with existing laws, the aforementioned organisations may seek financial or technical support from relevant public departments as needed. The SAR Government also provides regular subsidies to some elderly-oriented service facilities. The details are as follows:

Number of elderly-oriented service facilities subsidised by the SAR Government and Subsidised amount (MOP)

2018 53 341,178,570.00

2019 58 385,604,140.00

2020 58 412,235,970.00

Work 10. Has the Government engaged in actions to support older persons' participation in income-generating work, as long as older persons want and are able to do so? (SDG 8.5.1; SDG 8.5.2) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

Work 10. Has the Government engaged in actions to support older persons' participation in income-generating work, as long as older persons want and are able to do so? (SDG 8.5.1; SDG 8.5.2) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

As to encourage employable older persons who are willing to work to continue working, the SAR Government has devised measures to support their employment, which include:

Created a priority window for older persons to inquire about the Labour Relations Law, for filing complaints and for employment services to facilitate them in job-seeking, making enquiries and filing complaints;

Provided older persons with job referral and employment counseling services, and job-matching service to employable older persons. The counseling service helps older persons to know what their work ability are, familiarises them about the current situation of the labour market and helps them to adjust their job direction appropriately (in 2020, the number of registered job seekers amounted to 20,842, including 950 individuals aged 65 or older, accounting for 4.6% of total job-seekers. 16,298 job seekers were referred to a job, including 509 individuals aged 65 or older, which accounted for 3% of total job-seekers);

Introduced vocational training programme tailored to older persons to improve their vocational skills and enhance their employability.

The figures of employed older persons aged 65 or older are as follows:

2018 9,400

2019 11,500

2020 12,400

In 2018, the SAR government introduced the "Financial Support Scheme for Promoting Employment of Older Persons through Social Enterprises", which provides non-profit social service groups/organisations with venture capital and subsidy for 3-years operation costs to encourage them to create jobs appropriate for older persons. The proposals of two social enterprises were approved and created a total of 16 full-time and 6 part-time jobs for older persons.

SDG 8.5.1 : As stipulated by Law No. 5/2020 - Minimum Wages for Employees, the minimum hourly wage for employees is MOP 32.00, but not applicable to domestic helpers and disabled employees.

SDG 8.5.2: Of the unemployed population in 2020, there were around 100 unemployed men and 100 unemployed women aged 65 or older.

10.1 Has the Government instituted a statutory retirement age? If "yes", what is it (women/men)? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

No

10.1 Has the Government instituted a statutory retirement age? If “yes”, what is it (women/men)? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

10.2 Does the Government provide incentives for longer working life opportunities and more flexible retirement choices? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

No

10.2 Does the Government provide incentives for longer working life opportunities and more flexible retirement choices? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

The SAR government has not devised any special incentive schemes to extend the working life of middle-aged and older Macao residents, and no mandatory retirement age is established so far. Hence, there is no condition to formulate policies and measures for providing older persons with “more flexible retirement choices”, so no data is available.

10.3 Does the Government provide work-related training and learning opportunities for older workers? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

10.3 Does the Government provide work-related training and learning opportunities for older workers? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

The SAR government organises vocational training courses tailored to employable older people aged 55 or older who are willing to continue working. It intends to help them to improve their vocational skills and extend their career longevity. The variety of training courses includes training to become a postpartum doula, kitchen staff in Western restaurants, worker in bakery and dessert shops, and elementary training for working as a building attendant.

10.4 Does the Government recognize the benefits of increased work experience with age in the labour market? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

10.4 Does the Government recognize the benefits of increased work experience with age in the labour market? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

The SAR government has introduced the “Commendation Scheme for Outstanding Older Employees and Employers for Hiring Talented Older Persons” aimed at improving employers’ knowledge and appreciation about work ability of older persons. These older employees can draw on their rich life and work experiences and play an important role in offering guidance to their junior colleagues. As of 31 December, 2020, a total of 115 employers hiring older persons and 20 outstanding older employees received commendation.

10.5 Has the Government implemented any measures to better utilize older persons’ work experience? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

10.5 Has the Government implemented any measures to better utilize older persons’ work experience? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

☑☑ The SAR government has introduced the “Commendation Scheme for Outstanding Older Employees and Employers for Hiring Talented Older Persons” to facilitate different social sectors to appreciate and recognise the work experience and abilities of older persons, which helps to increase their employment opportunities. As of 31 December, 2020, a total of 115 employers hiring older persons and 20 outstanding older employees received commendation.

☑☑ The SAR government has introduced the “Financial Support Scheme for Promoting Employment of Older Persons through Social Enterprises” to support non-profit social service groups/organisations, so that older persons who are willing to work can be part of the labour market.

10.5.1 Has the Government implemented any measures to support employers to retain or rehire older persons? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

10.5.1 Has the Government implemented any measures to support employers to retain or rehire older persons? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

In accordance with the principle of equality elaborated in Article 6 of Law No. 7/2008 - Labour Relations Law, no employee or applicant for employment shall be privileged, prejudiced, or deprived of any rights or exempt from any duty without reasonable grounds, especially because of age. Moreover, there is no provision in this law stipulating that the labour relations of an employee with an employer shall be terminated because the employee has reached the maximum age limit. In an objective sense, it required employers not to dismiss older employees due to age limit.

10.5.2 Has the Government promoted age-friendly workplaces through policies and training on age inclusion or unconscious bias? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

10.5.2 Has the Government promoted age-friendly workplaces through policies and training on age inclusion or unconscious bias? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

Over the years, the SAR government has been promoting age-friendly workplaces on various social media platforms of Macao. It has produced scenario-based videos and booklets to promote the importance of integrating the ageing workforce into mainstream workplaces across the society. The promotional video about the “Dynamics of the Silver-haired” is divided into three parts, taking viewers through the working environment of a waitress, a security guard and an accounting staff to reveal the active role played older persons in the workplace.

10.6 Has the Government undertaken measures to close gender pay or pension gaps? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

10.6 Has the Government undertaken measures to close gender pay or pension gaps? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

In accordance with the principle of equality elaborated in Article 6 of Law No. 7/2008 - Labour Relations Law, no employee or applicant for employment shall be privileged, prejudiced, or deprived of any rights or exempt from any duty without reasonable grounds, especially because of age. When recruiters fill in the type of job and remuneration they offer during job referral services, the SAR government always reminds them not to disregard a job applicant or treat him/her differently due to his/her gender. And in accordance with Law No. 5/2020 - Minimum Wages for Employees, it explicitly established the minimum wages for employees and an employer shall provide a wage to an employee not lower than the established standards regardless of his/her gender.

10.7 In addition to closing the gender pay or pension gap, has the Government accounted for the special situation of older women in work-related policies? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

10.7 In addition to closing the gender pay or pension gap, has the Government accounted for the special situation of older women in work-related policies? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

In accordance with the principle of equality elaborated in Article 6 of Law No. 7/2008 - Labour Relations Law, no employee or applicant for employment shall be privileged, prejudiced, or deprived of any rights or exempt from any duty without reasonable grounds, especially because of age. In this connection, the right to employment of older women is legally safeguarded

Rural and urban areas 11. Has the Government implemented any measures to address challenges, such as isolation and marginalization, of older persons in (a) rural or remote areas, and (b) urban areas, including slums? (SDG 9.1.1; SDG 11.1.1) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Rural and urban areas 11. Has the Government implemented any measures to address challenges, such as isolation and marginalization, of older persons in (a) rural or remote areas, and (b) urban areas, including slums? (SDG 9.1.1; SDG 11.1.1) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

Not applicable. The Macao SAR is relatively small in land area, so the city is not differentiated into urban and rural areas, and there are no slums.

SDG 9.11: data not available.

SDG 11.1.1: data not available.

Education, training 12. Has the Government supported older persons' access to knowledge, education and training? (SDG 4.3.1; SDG 4.4.1; SDG 4.6.1) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

Education, training 12. Has the Government supported older persons' access to knowledge, education and training? (SDG 4.3.1; SDG 4.4.1; SDG 4.6.1) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

☑☑The SAR government provides individuals who have not completed formal education at the appropriate age with recurrent education that corresponds to formal education. There is no upper age limit for enrolment in recurrent education. In the school year 2020/2021, 22 older persons aged 55 or older joined the programmes of recurrent education.

☑☑The SAR government set up the Seniors Academy in a tertiary institution to put the concept of lifelong learning into practice, thus providing older persons with opportunities to go back to school to enrich and update their knowledge. The Seniors Academy had organised 90 classes during the school year 2020/2021, covering 50 subjects of different fields, including information technology, languages, arts and culture, healthcare and sports, and were attended by 800 older persons.

☑☑The SAR government introduced the first, second and third phases of the "Continuing Education Development Plan" in 2011, 2014 and 2017 in succession to provide Macao residents aged 15 and older with learning allowance and as an incentive to encourage older persons to keep learning. About 6,700 and 14,000 older persons made use of the Development Plan during its second and third phases of implementation. Over 21 million and 60 million patacas were allocated to the second and third phases respectively. The phase four of the Development Plan spans from 2020 to 2023;

☑☑The SAR government has introduced the "Financial Support Plan to Incentivise Older Persons and People with Disabilities Persons to Learn" and lowered the age limit for applying for the financial support to 55 years old, hence allowing older persons to have early career planning. In 2020, over 2 million patacas were allocated for opening more than 300 approved courses under the Financial Support Plan, providing more than 6,000 places;

☑☑The SAR Government subsidises NGOs and different types of activity centres for older persons to hold training courses, interest classes and learning activities tailored to older persons to promote the development of continuing education for the older population.

SDG 4.3.1: data not available;
SDG 4.4.1: data not available;☑
SDG 4.6.1: data not available.

12.1 Does the Government pursue a life-course approach to knowledge, education, training and work, such as lifelong learning opportunities? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

12.1 Does the Government pursue a life-course approach to knowledge, education, training and work, such as lifelong learning opportunities? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

In accordance with Decree-Law No. 32/95/M - Establishing the General Framework for Organisation and Development of Adult Education in Recurrent Education, and Continuing and Social Education, the SAR Government provides individuals who are beyond the age for formal education but wish to better their knowledge with a second chance to receive education through recurrent education and continuing education. Recurrent education offers various levels of education as stipulated by the laws governing the education system of Macao. For people aged 15 and older, they can enroll in the primary-level education of recurrent education and those aged 18 and older can enroll in the secondary-level education. Continuing education is a series of systematic educational activities organized outside the school system, which can take place in a sequential stage or in an alternating manner, and could be articulated with recurrent education and formal education. As for the entry requirements for continuing education, it is determined by the educational institution running the continuing education programmes.

12.2 Has the Government undertaken measures to promote digital literacy among older persons? Are there any programmes which encourage and support intergenerational exchange on digital literacy? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

12.2 Has the Government undertaken measures to promote digital literacy among older persons? Are there any programmes which encourage and support intergenerational exchange on digital literacy? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

☑☑The SAR Government supports older persons to join computer science courses through the "Continuing Education Development Plan" and the "Financial Support Plan to Incentivise Older Persons and People with Disabilities Persons to Learn" so that they can acquire the knowledge needed for using information appliances. It empowers them with the ability to acquire knowledge independently and get connected with the world through using the Internet.

☑☑In 2018, the SAR government worked in partnership with telecommunications companies and NGOs to hold workshops for older persons on using IT equipment to enhance the interaction between young and older people, as well as creating an inclusive environment conducive to intergenerational understanding. It also helps the older persons to acquire the needed knowledge for using IT equipment and intelligent devices. 400 older persons benefited from the workshops organised by the 20 participating elderly-oriented service institutions.

Income security, social protection (intergenerational) 13. Has the Government implemented any of the following measures concerning income security, social protection and social security? (SDG 1.3.1; SDG 1.a.2; SDG 2.3.2; SDG 8.3.1; SDG 8.10.2; SDG 10.2.1) If yes, please answer 13.1-13.8 If no, please proceed to 14 (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

Income security, social protection (intergenerational) 13. Has the Government implemented any of the following measures concerning income security, social protection and social security? (SDG 1.3.1; SDG 1.a.2; SDG 2.3.2; SDG 8.3.1; SDG 8.10.2; SDG 10.2.1) If yes, please answer 13.1-13.8 If no, please proceed to 14 (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

13.1 Social protection floor for the total population, including older persons (see also companion document) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

13.1 Social protection floor for the total population, including older persons (see also companion document) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

The SAR government provides Macao residents with basic social security benefits, particularly old-age security, through the implementation of Law No. 4/2010 - Social Security System (also known as the "first-tier social security system"). The system covers all residents of Macao SAR and rests on the principle of social insurance. Residents who have fulfilled their contribution obligations are eligible to the following basic social security benefits, including:

Payable Benefits Amount Payable

Old-age pension The exact amount payable is calculated using the pension benefit formula, and has to do with the age of the applicant and the number of months the applicant has made contribution to the Social Security System. The current upper limit of payable old-age pension is MOP 3,740.00 per month (payable for 13 months per year)

Disability pension MOP 3,740.00 per month

Unemployment allowance MOP 150.00 per day

Sickness allowance Non-inpatient, MOP 114.00 per day

In-patient, MOP 150.00 per day

Birth allowance MOP 5,418.00 per child

(If both parents are eligible, each of them can apply for the birth allowance)

Marriage allowance MOP 2,122.00

(If both spouses are eligible, each of them can apply the marriage allowance)

Funeral allowance MOP 2,750.00

13.2 Old age contributory pensions schemes (universal coverage, or for specific professional groups) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

13.2 Old age contributory pensions schemes (universal coverage, or for specific professional groups) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

The SAR government implemented a two-tier social security system to provide residents with basic old-age security through the first-tier and using the second-tier, which is the Non-mandatory Central Provident Fund System, to reinforce the framework of community services to secure their life quality at old age. Although the first and second of the Social Security System work in different manners, but both of them are by nature contributory pension plans. The following is a brief introduction to their modes of operation and overall implementation.

First-tier of the Social Security System: It rests on the principle of social insurance and stresses on the relationship between rights and obligations. Local employees and employers in labor relations are required to make contributions to the Social Security Fund through the obligatory system of the Social Security System. For unemployed Macao residents who have reached the age of 18, they may opt for making contributions through the arbitrary system of the Social Security System. After fulfilling the contribution obligations, and when conditions are met, Macao residents are entitled to the social security benefits provided by the Social Security System, including old-age pension. Applicants for old-age pension must meet the stipulated requirements while the exact amount of old-age pension payable is determined by the number of months of contribution the applicant made to the Social Security System, which is then calculated using the pension benefit formula. The current upper limit of payable old-age pension is MOP 3,740.00 per month (an extra month of old-age pension is payable in January of each calendar year).

Statistics on old-age pension payable in the last three years under the Social Security System:

Year No. of beneficiaries of old-age pension Amount Payable*

(billion patacas)

2018 110,319 34.9

2019 117,594 39.1

2020 122,961 42.1

* The extra month of old-age pension payable in January of each calendar year is not included.

Non-mandatory Central Provident Fund System (second-tier of the Social Security System): it is further divided into the allocation system and the contributory system, of which the latter is the core of the Non-mandatory Central Provident Fund System, encompassing the Joint Provident Fund Scheme and Individual Provident Fund Scheme:

(1) The Joint Provident Fund Scheme is created voluntarily by the employer and his/her employees can join the scheme on a voluntarily basis. The monthly contributions of both parties to the Scheme are managed by a fund management entity. The contribution amount is equivalent to 5% of the employee's basic salary and there are upper and lower limits for the contribution, which are pegged to the "minimum wage of the employee".

(2) The Individual Provident Fund Scheme is created by an individual on a voluntarily basis, who shall make a fixed monthly contribution to the Scheme, ranging from 500 to 3,300 patacas, which is the upper limit of contribution.

Implementation wise, as of December 2020, around 250 employers have joined the Non-mandatory Central Provident Fund System, in which 23,000 employees participated in Joint Provident Fund Scheme and about 61,000 residents have created an Individual Provident Fund Scheme on a voluntarily basis.

13.3 Old-age non-contributory (or social) pension (universal coverage or targeted at some segment of older persons) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

13.3 Old-age non-contributory (or social) pension (universal coverage or targeted at some segment of older persons) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

The Non-mandatory Central Provident Fund System, which is the second-tier of the Social Security System, is further divided into the allocation system and the contributory system. The allocation system is implemented through the transference of government funds to permanent residents of the Macao SAR, in the form of a basic incentive fund or a special amount allocated from the budget surplus. In general, when individuals who have an individual account in the Non-mandatory Central Provident Fund System have reached the age of 65, they may apply for withdrawal of all or part of the fund allocated to their individual account through the Non-mandatory Central Provident Fund System to support their retirement needs. The course of implementation of the Non-mandatory Central Provident Fund System is as follows:

Since 2010, the SAR government has begun to deposit a special amount of allocation, in the form of a basic incentive fund or a special amount allocated from the budget surplus, in the individual account of eligible Macao residents in the Non-mandatory Central Provident Fund System, as appropriate to the budget implementation in the budget fiscal year. As of 2020, the total appropriation amounted to 28.74 billion patacas, and the cumulative appropriations to eligible residents, together with the interests generated, amounted to 86,910 patacas.

As stipulated by the law, when individuals who have an individual account in the Non-mandatory Central Provident Fund System have reached the age of 65, they may withdraw the fund allocated to their individual account. The relevant data for recent years are as follows:

Year Application for fund withdrawal (by individuals who have reached 65 years old)

No. of applications Amount (billion patacas)

2018 62,378 8.3

2019 68,655 9.9

2020 75,620 10.8

13.4 Specific pension schemes for the informal sector (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

13.4 Specific pension schemes for the informal sector (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

In-service public administration staff already enrolled in the Retirement, Widow and Orphans' Pensions Scheme;

The Arbitrary Contribution System, which is an integral part of the Social Security System of Macao SAR, is applicable to:

- (1) Employee who is the spouse of the employer, or who has de facto marital relationship with the employer, or who is a second degree relative of the employer that cohabits and shares meals with the employer;
- (2) Employee with relations established under a contract of apprenticeship training or through a vocational training system that aims to integrate the trainee into the employment market;
- (3) Serving civil servants who have registered in the Retirement and Subsistence Scheme ;
- (4) Adult residents of the Macao SAR.

The above-mentioned individuals are entitled to old-age pension by way of making contributions to the Social Security System and when certain conditions are met.

Statistics on contributors of the Arbitrary Contribution System:

Year	Gender	Total	
	M	F	
2018	29,847	35,406	65,247
2019	29,128	35,044	64,172
2020	29,156	35,718	64,874

13.5 Other income-support schemes that specifically benefit older persons (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

13.5 Other income-support schemes that specifically benefit older persons (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

Every year, the SAR government distributes subsidy for senior citizens to permanent Macao residents who have reached 65 years old. In 2020, the subsidy for senior citizens amounted to 9,000.00 patacas, and the population of beneficiaries arrived at 100,000.

The SAR government began to implement the "Wealth Partaking Scheme" in 2008 to share the economic gains with Macao residents through distributing an amount of money to permanent and non-permanent Macao residents, covering residents who have reached the age of 65. In 2020, all permanent residents were entitled to 10,000.00 patacas and non-permanent residents entitled to 6,000.00 patacas through the Scheme, with an estimated expenditure exceeding 7 billion patacas.

13.6 Income-support schemes focused on older women (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

13.6 Income-support schemes focused on older women (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

Although the two-tier Social Security System of Macao SAR does not come with any income-support schemes focused on older women, but older women are already covered by the System. When their conditions meet the statutory requirements, they can become beneficiaries of the two-tier Social Security System and are entitled to the various social security benefits.

13.7 Financial inclusion or financial literacy of older persons (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

13.7 Financial inclusion or financial literacy of older persons (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

Since 2014, the SAR government has been co-organising financial management talks with elderly-oriented service institutions targeted at the older population to empower them with basic knowledge on financial management and improve their financial skills. Of the variety of topics touched upon in the talks, special focus was placed on avoiding scams and fraud for older persons.

Statistics on the financial management talks are as follows:

260 older persons attended the talks in 2018.

120 older persons attended the talks in 2019.

140 older persons attended the talks in 2020.

13.8 Any other measures (please name them)? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

No

13.8 Any other measures (please name them)? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

Poverty 14. Has the Government undertaken measures to eradicate poverty of older persons? (SDG 1.1.1; SDG 1.2.1; SDG 1.2.2; SDG 1.4.1; SDG 1.4.2; SDG 2.1.2) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

Poverty 14. Has the Government undertaken measures to eradicate poverty of older persons? (SDG 1.1.1; SDG 1.2.1; SDG 1.2.2; SDG 1.4.1; SDG 1.4.2; SDG 2.1.2) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

The SAR government provides welfare benefits to all eligible older persons of Macao SAR, such as subsidy for senior citizens, old-age pension, appropriations through the Wealth Partaking Scheme and healthcare vouchers. They receive an average of over 5,000 patacas monthly through the welfare benefits, which is higher than 4,350 patacas, the amount established by the Minimum Subsistence Index of Macao. In other words, the older persons can cope with their basic living expenses through the aforesaid welfare benefits.

The SAR Government promulgated the Administrative Regulation No. 6/2007 - System of Granting Subsidy to Individuals and Families in Economic Poverty in 2007, to ensure people who are impoverished economically due to social, health and other issues and those in need of special assistance are provided with social assistance.

Number of persons aged 65 and older entitled to subsidy

Year No. of beneficiaries aged 65 and older

2018 1,730

2019 1,695

2020 1,683

For beneficiaries of subsidy for 5 consecutive years who have reached 65 years old and have lost their working capacity for a long time, they are eligible to join the "Settling in Mainland China Scheme" and live in China, while receiving financial assistance from the SAR government.

Year

Type Beneficiary family

2018 2019 2020

Settling in Mainland China Scheme 58 51 46

SDGs 1.1.1, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.4.1, 1.4.2 and 2.1.2: data not available.

Resilience 15. Has the Government implemented policies to help older persons cope with emergency situations? (SDG 11.5.1; 13.2.1) If yes, please answer 15.1-15.4 If no, please proceed to 16 (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

Resilience 15. Has the Government implemented policies to help older persons cope with emergency situations? (SDG 11.5.1; 13.2.1) If yes, please answer 15.1-15.4 If no, please proceed to 16 (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

15.1 Have concrete measures been taken to protect and assist older persons affected by natural disasters, political conflict or other humanitarian emergencies? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

15.1 Have concrete measures been taken to protect and assist older persons affected by natural disasters, political conflict or other humanitarian emergencies? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

The SAR government provides emergency aid, shelter services, resource provision and psychological counseling to individuals, including older persons, and families who are affected by public accidents and natural disasters (such as floods, fires, building collapse and typhoons). The scope of assistance provided depends on the scale of the disaster/incident and the condition of the victims, but mainly includes arrangement of accommodation for victims in centres for victims of disasters, provision of economic and material support, and offering psychological counseling by social workers to victims who are emotionally unstable.

15.2 Are challenges faced by older persons in disaster situations addressed in national disaster response policies and strategies? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

15.2 Are challenges faced by older persons in disaster situations addressed in national disaster response policies and strategies? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

In accordance with Law No. 11/2020 - Legal Regime of Civil Protection, the SAR Government prevents unforeseen public emergencies endangering life and property arising from natural or man-made causes and minimises their impacts, provides relief and aid to people in danger, ensures the safety of public properties and their normal operation, and restores public order and normal life in society as soon as possible. In the actions taken by the SAR Government concerning civil protection over the years, it has offered support catering to the special needs of older persons.

15.3 Does the Government recognize the agency of older persons in supporting response, recovery and reconstruction following natural disasters, political conflict or other humanitarian emergencies? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

15.3 Does the Government recognize the agency of older persons in supporting response, recovery and reconstruction following natural disasters, political conflict or other humanitarian emergencies? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]
In accordance with Article 14 of Law No. 11/2020 - Legal Regime of Civil Protection, volunteers are participants who assist in civil protection. They are under the organisation and coordination of the Unitary Police Service to provide relevant assistance and support services. In the actions taken by the SAR Government concerning civil protection over the years, it recruited volunteers through non-governmental or non-profit organisations. Many older persons had volunteered through the recruitment.
15.4 Are older persons recognized as having a role in mitigating climate change? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)
Yes
15.4 Are older persons recognized as having a role in mitigating climate change? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]
The SAR Government has set up collection points for recyclable waste materials in different places across Macao and introduced the “Green Points Reward Scheme” to raise local residents’ awareness of environmental protection and cultivate eco-friendly habits in them. Some of the collection points are set up in elderly-oriented service institutions to make it convenient for older persons to partake in eco- friendly recycling, and support them to become eco-friendly.
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III. Advancing health and well-being into old age

Overall health and well-being 16. Has the Government developed policies or programmes to promote health and well-being throughout life, including active and healthy ageing? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)
Yes
Overall health and well-being 16. Has the Government developed policies or programmes to promote health and well-being throughout life, including active and healthy ageing? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]
In coping with population ageing and social trends, and putting the policy concept of “sound healthcare system and prevention is a priority”, the SAR government has delved into perfecting the healthcare service chain targeted at older persons which encompasses prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation, to improve the medical services available to them. Older persons can access free community and specialty medical and healthcare services via multiple channels conveniently with ease, offering them quality services provided by healthcare staff of various levels of health care practice. If case of necessity, patients will be referred to a specialist for further treatment to ensure their physical and mental well-being.
In recent years, the SAR government has set up the Department of Geriatrics, community rehabilitation ward and introduced the hospital discharge programme, health care support hotline for older persons, and elderly health maintenance areas to optimise the medicare accessible to older persons suffering from various chronic diseases and degenerative conditions. In recent years, it has created the Dementia Treatment Centre and Dementia Support Centre, developed outreach medical services, and eye and oral healthcare for older persons and a rehabilitation hospital is in service. All these efforts are aimed at providing quality medical care furnished to the older population.
16.1.Has the Government strengthened the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol among older persons? (SDG 3.5.1; SDG 3.5.2) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)
Yes

16.1. Has the Government strengthened the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol among older persons? (SDG 3.5.1; SDG 3.5.2) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

In accordance with Law No. 17/2009 - Prohibition of Illicit Production, Sale and Consumption of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances, it is prohibited for anyone to engage in illicit consumption of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Moreover, the drafting of "Regime for Prevention and Control of Alcohol Consumption by Minors" is underway, which aims to control harmful drinking habits from affecting the society (including older persons) through restricting minors from alcohol-drinking. In the promotion of the aforesaid Regime which is under drafting process, it made known the health hazards of alcohol to the general public. In addition, the SAR Government had set up a dedicated department as early as 1999 to carry out works on drug abuse prevention. And since 2000, it has provided systematic drug abuse prevention education programmes for schoolchildren in Macao, with an annual attendance of over 20,000 students from senior kindergarten to the 9th grade in high school. In 2014, the SAR government began to strengthen parental education on drug abuse prevention through picture books, board games, class observations, talks and online publicity, which covered health hazards of tobacco and alcohol, and healthy lifestyles. As of December 2020, the parental education programme has reached over 120,000 parents, which helps to create an effective prevention network of parents.

SDG 3.5.1: Provided appropriate services to 356, 296 and 257 users of Out-patient Drug Treatment Centre aged 15 and older in 2018, 2019 and 2020, respectively, of which 9 were alcohol abusers, 6 in 2019 and 3 in 2020. Moreover, the Macao SAR Government works in collaboration with NGOs to attend to the needs of older persons for drug treatment. In 2016, it added 10 special service places to existing drug treatment and rehabilitation facilities and provided them with nurses and health caregivers to offer special care services to older persons under drug addiction treatment who have contracted AIDS or with degenerative conditions due to drug use.

SDG 3.5.1: According to the report on Central Registration System for Drug Abusers of Macao compiled in 2019 and 2020, the proportion of reported alcohol users in the last quarter of that calendar year was 3.7% and 5.1% respectively.

16.2. Has the Government implemented any measures to improve access to food and adequate nutrition for all older persons, if needed? (SDG 2.1.2; SDG 6.1.1) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

16.2. Has the Government implemented any measures to improve access to food and adequate nutrition for all older persons, if needed? (SDG 2.1.2; SDG 6.1.1) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

The SAR government provides welfare benefits to all eligible older persons of Macao SAR, such as subsidy for senior citizens, old-age pension, appropriations through the Wealth Partaking Scheme and healthcare vouchers. They receive an average of over 5,000 patacas monthly through the welfare benefits, which is higher than 4,350 patacas, the amount established by the Minimum Subsistence Index of Macao. In other words, the older persons can cope with their basic living expenses through the aforesaid welfare benefits.

The SAR government provides 10 weeks of short-term food assistance to impoverished families through the Temporary Food Assistance Service Centre operated by Macao Caritas. For living alone older persons aged over 75, they are exempted from means testing for claiming the food assistance. In addition, the short-term food assistance scheme imports social work elements to develop a handful of value-added services and community activities to improve beneficiaries' interpersonal relationships, socialisation and financial skills, raise their health consciousness and help them to increase their sense of vitality by letting them feel they are cared for.

Year

Type No. of Beneficiaries

2018 2019 2020

Short-term food assistance service operated by Macao Caritas 4,390 4,247 4,757

The SAR government provides low-cost meals for needy older persons through setting up a canteen in some elderly-oriented service institutions, and meal delivery service for older persons with limited mobility.

Year

Type No. of Beneficiaries

2018 2019 2020

Canteen of social service facilities Around 152,000 Around 163,000 Around 122,000

Meal delivery service Around 117,000 Around 118,000 Around 135,000

Note: As affected by the epidemic, the canteen of social service facilities was closed for a period of time, causing a significant decrease in the number of service users going there for meals, while some of them switched to meal delivery services, hence resulting in a significant increase in relevant figures.

SDGs 2.1.2 and 6.1.1: data not available.

17. Are issues related to older persons integrated into health policies and programmes, and, if so, how? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

17. Are issues related to older persons integrated into health policies and programmes, and, if so, how? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

The SAR government puts the policy concept of “sound healthcare system and prevention is a priority” into practice and delves into perfecting the healthcare service chain targeted at older persons, which encompasses prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation, to improve the medical services available to them.

Every year, medical services for the older population are an integral part of the policy objectives of the fiscal year plan of the SAR government. Medical and health policies targeted at special groups of the community (including older persons) are implemented to safeguard the well-being of older persons.

Health-care and long-term care services 18. Has the Government undertaken any of the following measures related to universal and equal access to health-care services for older persons? (SDG 3.8.1; SDG 3.8.2; SDG 3.b.3) If yes, please answer 18.1-18.4 If no, please proceed to 19 (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

Health-care and long-term care services 18. Has the Government undertaken any of the following measures related to universal and equal access to health-care services for older persons? (SDG 3.8.1; SDG 3.8.2; SDG 3.b.3) If yes, please answer 18.1-18.4 If no, please proceed to 19 (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

18.1 Equal and affordable access to primary and secondary health-care services, including affordable access to essential medication, therapeutic measures and medical devices for older persons (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

18.1 Equal and affordable access to primary and secondary health-care services, including affordable access to essential medication, therapeutic measures and medical devices for older persons (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

In accordance with Decree-Law No. 24/86/M - Regulating Access of Macao Residents to Health Care, Macao residents are entitled to free services provided by the Health Centres (offering primary care services in Macao SAR). Elderly residents aged 65 and older are entitled to free medical treatment in public hospitals while other residents enjoy a waiver of 30% of their medical fees. Nowadays, more than 80% of patients in public hospitals enjoy free specialist treatment and treatment and rehabilitation care services. For residents with diseases that require costly medical treatment, the SAR government provides them with medical support to ensure they will not delay their medical treatment due to financial issues.

18.2 Health coverage (universal coverage or targeted at some segment of older persons): (a) population coverage; (b) benefit coverage; and (c) financial coverage) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

18.2 Health coverage (universal coverage or targeted at some segment of older persons): (a) population coverage; (b) benefit coverage; and (c) financial coverage) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

(a) Population coverage: universal coverage

In accordance with Decree-Law No. 24/86/M - Regulating Access of Macao Residents to Health Care, Macao residents are entitled to free community medical and healthcare services provided by the Health Centres (institutions offering community medical and healthcare services in Macao SAR)

(b) Benefit coverage:

Medical benefits of Macao residents

1. Enjoy free community medical and healthcare services provided by Health Centres;
2. Enjoy a waiver of 30% of the charges for specialist medical and health care services provided by public medical institutions;
3. The following persons are entitled to free specialist medical and healthcare services in public medical institutions:

Pregnant women, parturient women and new mothers in their first month of postpartum

Children aged 10 and younger

Primary and secondary school students

Elderly persons aged 65 and older

Civil servants and their family members

Teaching staff /former teaching staff

Holders of Disability Assessment Registration Card

Persons living in a state of poverty who are financially incapable of paying their medical and healthcare fees

Persons with financial difficulty who are incapable of paying their medical and healthcare fees

Persons with infectious disease, drug dependence, tumour or psychiatric disorders

Prisoners

In addition, Macao residents can also receive free medical services, such as emergency and outpatient services, which are subsidised by the government, at government-subsidized non-profit medical institutions and private hospitals. They can use the Healthcare vouchers for services provided by private clinics. In fact, Macao residents can receive medical treatment and different levels of healthcare via multiple channels with ease. It shows the convenience and availability of medical and healthcare services provided by the SAR government, offering a fairly wide-ranging medicare safety net.

(c) Financial coverage:

In accordance with Decree-Law No. 24/86/M - Regulating Access of Macao Residents to Health Care, Macao residents (universal coverage) are entitled to free community medical and healthcare services provided by the Health Centres (institutions offering community medical and healthcare services in Macao SAR) and enjoy a waiver of 30% of the charges for specialist medical and health care services provided by public medical institutions. Elderly residents aged 65 and older are entitled to free medical treatment in public hospitals.

18.3 Involvement of older persons in the development and strengthening of health-care services? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

18.3 Involvement of older persons in the development and strengthening of health-care services? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

The SAR Government takes care of the needs of older persons with chronic diseases through organising “Chronic Disease Self-Management” workshops, to provide them with beyond treatment services. It adopts an effective scientific approach to improve older persons’ knowledge, ability and confidence in self-management of chronic diseases and to get them prepared for living with chronic diseases. It also helps to avoid worsening of the chronic diseases, minimise occurrence of complications, improve the life quality of the older persons and alleviate the caregiving burden of their family. In addition, the SAR government provides older persons with health assessment service and performs comprehensive health assessment for those who voluntarily participate in the service plan. With the assessment results, it helps them to develop a personal health action plan or refer them to appropriate services or outpatient clinics for necessary follow-ups.

18.4 Digital technology to promote inclusive health-care services (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

18.4 Digital technology to promote inclusive health-care services (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

The SAR government introduces the “Electronic Health Record Sharing System” and created a medical data exchange platform for access and sharing of certain medical history of patients between public and private medical institutions. The mobile application of Macao Health Bureau has been launched, where Macao residents can check wait time for medical appointment in real-time through their smartphones anytime and anywhere. The mobile application also enables residents to make online booking for an initial consultation, getting a booking number for outpatient service, and process their referral to specialist outpatient service.

19. Has the Government put in place any of the following long-term care measures for older persons? If yes, please answer 19.1-19.7 If no, please proceed to 20 (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

19. Has the Government put in place any of the following long-term care measures for older persons? If yes, please answer 19.1-19.7 If no, please proceed to 20 (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

19.1 Long-term care services for older persons (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

19.1 Long-term care services for older persons (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

Home care services:

(1) Home care and support services: Provide persons with ill health, disabilities or special needs home-based care services to help with the activities of daily living, and offering nursing and rehabilitative care;

(2) In-home nursing care services: Provide 24-hour care services for people with nursing care needs in the community;

Elderly day care services:

Support service for caregivers of older persons: Provides day-time personal care, cognitive training, and nursing and rehabilitation services for people requiring care and assistance from others in everyday life owing to ill health, physical impairment or cognitive impairment. It helps to alleviate caregiving stress of their caregivers. Moreover, support services are available for these caregivers to enable them to provide continuing care to older persons.

Note: For caregivers who wish to use caregiver support services, they have to go through a standardised assessment. Those who are assessed to need support services will be scheduled accordingly for the services.

Old-age home services:

Provide residential nursing care services for persons with decreased self-care abilities caused by ill health, moderate or severe physical impairment. They are unable to live on their own and their family or community support services cannot adequately cater to their need of nursing care services.

Note: Old-age home services consist of subsidised and non-subsidised services. For older persons intending to use subsidised services, they have to go through a standardised assessment and only those who are assessed to meet the requirements will be scheduled accordingly for the services.

Main achievements:

Year/Types of service Home care services (No. of home care teams, No. of places)

2018 66--

2019 77--

2020 77--

Year/Types of service Elderly day care centre (No. of centres, No. of places)

2018 629

2019 6299

2020 6299

Year/Types of service Old-age home services (No. of old-age homes, No. of places)

2018 212,087

2019 222,241

2020 232,331

19.2 Coordination of social and long-term care and health services, including in-home, residential and community services (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

19.2 Coordination of social and long-term care and health services, including in-home, residential and community services (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

②②Mechanism of service referral to long-term care services (offered by subsidised old-age homes and/or elderly day care and nursing services): The SAR Government provides referral service for older persons to receive long-term care services (offered by subsidised old-age homes and/or elderly day care and nursing services). For instance, public medical institutions can refer their needy patients to aforesaid services for filing their application for long-term care services to competent public departments, thus providing convenience to the needy patents. to facilitate patients in need.

Main achievements: applications filed through the mechanism of service referral

50 applications filed in 2018;

53 applications filed in 2019;

20 applications filed in 2020.

②②“Application for Medicines from Medical Institutions Scheme of the Social Welfare Bureau”: All subsidised old-age homes of Macao can file monthly application for allocation of medicines by the SAR government through the Scheme. The doctors of the old-age homes can prescribe the received medicines to needed residents of the old-age.

Main achievements:

In 2018, 11 subsidised old-age homes joined the Scheme, 12 in 2019 and 13 in 2020.

②②Medical Outreach Programme: In 2018, the SAR government set up medical outreach teams to visit subsidised old-age homes to provide regular diagnosis, treatment, wound care and dressing, and clinical guidance to their residents.

Main achievements:

In 2018, 2 subsidised old-age homes joined the Programme, 4 in 2019 and 13 in 2020.

19.3 Health insurance schemes that cover long-term care costs (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

No

19.3 Health insurance schemes that cover long-term care costs (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

19.4 Long-term care costs covered by a separate insurance scheme (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

No

19.4 Long-term care costs covered by a separate insurance scheme (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

19.5 Geriatric and gerontological planning and training for health and social care providers (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

19.5 Geriatric and gerontological planning and training for health and social care providers (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

②②The SAR Government began to co-organise training courses for geriatric nurses with a local tertiary institution in 2018, and made it mandatory that medical interns of specialities of internal medicine in public medical institutions are required to complete appropriate advanced training in geriatric medicine. In 2021, the Macao Academy of Medicine recognised geriatrics as a specialty to improve the advanced training programme in geriatric medicine available for medical interns.

②②In 2019, the SAR government sponsored another tertiary institution in Macao to hold “Certified Dementia Care Planner Course” in the form subsidised activities, with an attendance of 40 students.

19.6 Involvement of older persons in the development and strengthening of long-term care services (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

19.6 Involvement of older persons in the development and strengthening of long-term care services (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

Nowadays, there are older persons among the individual members of the Elderly Affairs Committee, a step taken in line with the policy framework on social participation of older persons as defined in the Ten Year Action Plan for Elderly Services. These elderly members of the Elderly Affairs Committee participate in discussions on elderly affairs and make proposals in relation to policies and services targeted at the older population.

19.7 Any other measures (please name them)? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

19.7 Any other measures (please name them)? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

Integration of health and social care services 20. Has the Government undertaken measures to develop mechanisms for coordinating health and social care services for older persons? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

Integration of health and social care services 20. Has the Government undertaken measures to develop mechanisms for coordinating health and social care services for older persons? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

In 2018, the SAR Government began to send medical and nursing staff to subsidised old-age homes on a regular basis through the Medical Outreach Programme to provide medical consultation and nursing services to eligible residents of the old-age homes who are willing to join the Programme. As of 2020, the Medical Outreach Programme covered all subsidised old-age homes (13 in total) in Macao SAR. The data relevant to the Programme:

In 2018, 2 subsidised old-age homes joined the Programme, 4 in 2019 and 13 in 2020.

Monitoring of health care services 21. Has the Government undertaken measures to establish standards and monitoring mechanisms to ensure the quality of older persons' care services? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

Monitoring of health care services 21. Has the Government undertaken measures to establish standards and monitoring mechanisms to ensure the quality of older persons' care services? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

Enhancement Plan for Long-term Care Services: The SAR Government has completed the Enhancement Plan for elderly day care services, elderly home care and support services and old-age home services to ensure the quality of long-term care services for older persons, and corresponding service standards and requirements for service quality are established. Monitoring mechanism has been put in place in elderly home care and support services and old-age home services, but not yet applicable to elderly day care services owing to the COVID-19 epidemic. Concerned government departments have been paying regular visits to the service institutions and homes of service users to look into the quality of the rendered care and nursing services for older persons and assess whether their quality meets the required standards.

In addition, as required by the partnership agreement, institutions offering long-term care services to older persons are required to submit relevant data to the supervisory unit on a monthly basis, and present case assessments and service statistics as needed, for the SAR government to learn about the quantity and content of the services they provide.

Main achievements: As of 31 December, 2020, a total of 13 subsidised institutions providing long-term care services are subject to service quality assessment.

The public medical institutions of the SAR government were awarded a four-year "full accreditation" by the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) in 2016 and 2017, respectively, which worked to upgrade the quality of their medical services, optimisation of various hospital facilities, and creating a safe and comfortable environment for their employees and patients conducive to reducing chances of medical accidents.

Discrimination in access to health-care services 22. Has the Government undertaken actions to record and prevent discrimination on the basis of age in access to health services including access to providers, medicines and preventive measures? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

Discrimination in access to health-care services 22. Has the Government undertaken actions to record and prevent discrimination on the basis of age in access to health services including access to providers, medicines and preventive measures? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

The SAR government treats all users of healthcare and medical services equally, and will not treat them differently because of their age, nationality, race, skin colour, gender, diseases, geographical location and socioeconomic status.

Mental health services 23. Has the Government implemented measures to enhance mental health services for older persons related to dementia or other psychosocial disabilities? (SDG 3.4.2) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

Mental health services 23. Has the Government implemented measures to enhance mental health services for older persons related to dementia or other psychosocial disabilities? (SDG 3.4.2) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

In the report "From Plan to Impact IV" of the Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) released in 2021, the Macao SAR is one of the 40 countries and regions in the world which have adopted dementia strategy/plan, and is already in Stage 5 of strategy/plan adoption, which is the highest level of strategy/plan adoption. The other countries in Stage 5 are United Kingdom, the United States, Japan, and Singapore. Moreover, the SAR government summarized the overall achievements on dementia strategy/plan and published it in internationally renowned academic journals and was presented in the Global Conference of Alzheimer's Disease International.

In addition, the SAR government implemented its dementia strategy/plan in 2016 by creating a seamless network of medical services and community care for people with dementia. It set up the Dementia Treatment Centre, Dementia Support Centre and a Working Group on Dementia in the Commission for Prevention and Control of Chronic Diseases. It also helped organising 163 NGOs into the Dementia Friendly Alliance to create a dementia-friendly community in Macao.

SDG 3.4.2:

Number of deaths by suicide among Macao residents (person)(2018-2020) 61 50 65

Suicide rate of Macao residents (per 100,000 population(2018-2020)) 9.3 7.4 9.5

Support to older persons with disabilities 24. Has the Government undertaken measures to support older persons with disabilities, such as the provision of rehabilitation services, appropriate care and the provision of assistive technologies and social transfers, like disability allowances? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

Support to older persons with disabilities 24. Has the Government undertaken measures to support older persons with disabilities, such as the provision of rehabilitation services, appropriate care and the provision of assistive technologies and social transfers, like disability allowances? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

In accordance with Decree-Law No. 24/86/M - Regulating Access of Macao Residents to Health Care, Macao permanent residents who are holders of Disability Assessment Registration Card, and senior citizens aged 65 and older are entitled to free community and specialty medical and healthcare services

The SAR government has introduced "home care services" and "elderly day care services" to provide persons of ill-health, disabilities, physical or cognitive impairments with community care services. Currently, there are 6 home care and support service teams, 1 in-home nursing care team, and 6 elderly day care services facilities.

The SAR Government has practiced its guiding principle of caregiving to persons with disabilities through the promulgation of Law No. 9/2011 - Regime of Disability Subsidy and Free Healthcare Services to provide disability subsidy to permanent residents who are holders of Disability Assessment Registration Card.

Decade of Healthy Ageing 25. Is the Government implementing any follow-up actions related to the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021-2030), such as a national action plan? (see also companion document) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

Decade of Healthy Ageing 25. Is the Government implementing any follow-up actions related to the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030), such as a national action plan? (see also companion document) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

☑☑ In 2016, the SAR Government implemented the Ten Year Action Plan for Elderly Services (2016-2025), and created the Interdepartmental Steering Group on Mechanism for the Protection of Older Persons to facilitate the orderly implementation of the various measures defined in the Action Plan, which is made up of 13 public departments and headed by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture. The Action Plan works to develop better support for the everyday life of older persons through four aspects of their concerns, namely medical and social services, protection of rights, social engagement, and living environment.

☑☑ In addition, the SAR Government has introduced the following services and schemes in relation to healthcare of older persons:

(1)☑☑ Specialty and community medical and healthcare services

In 2021, there were more than 195,000 outpatient visits, 55,000 emergency visits, and 9,000 inpatient visits by older persons at the Conde S. Januario Hospital. The outpatient services of Health Centres provided adult healthcare services to a total of 861,000 persons, of which 242,000 are older persons, accounting for 28.1% of total.

(2)☑☑ Medical services tailored to older persons

☑☑ Dementia services: The Health Bureau created the Dementia Treatment Centre in 2016 and the Dementia Support Centre in 2018. In 2021, 1,842 persons went through cognitive assessment.

☑☑ Specialty outreach services: Since March 2018, the Health Bureau has been providing speciality outreach services for local old-age homes subsidised by the SAR government. In 2021, a total of 8,461 residents of these old-age homes used the speciality outreach services. The Health Bureau will continue to increase the coverage of the specialist outreach services to cover other types of institutions.

☑☑ Dentures Subsidy Scheme for Older Persons: The first phase of the “Pilot Dentures Subsidy Scheme for Older Persons” was introduced in August 2019, targeting elderly aged over 80 years old. The second phase began in July 2020, targeting older persons aged between 75 and 79 years old. As of December 2021, 140 older people went through assessment and agreed to be referred to the Dentures Subsidy Scheme, and 100 of them already have their dentures installed. The overall result is rather encouraging.

☑☑ Eye care services for older persons: The SAR Government has been procuring services from private medical institutions since January 2019 to provide cataract surgery for older persons. The surgery is scheduled according to severity of the cataract and surgery will be performed on those with severe cataract first. A total of 300 older persons were referred to the eye care services in 2021 and more than 260 of them received the cataract surgery.

(3)☑☑ Other services

☑☑ “My Health Depends on Me” Scheme: A total of 30 service points have been set up across the city for self-measurement of blood pressure and weight by the Macao residents. In 2021, 795,000 persons measured their blood pressure, and 317,000 measured their weight by themselves at the various service points.

☑☑ Optimisation of “Healthcare Subsidy Scheme”: In 2018, the SAR government introduced the electronic healthcare vouchers and their validity is extended to two years. It allocates an average of 400 million patacas to the Healthcare Subsidy Scheme annually.

☑☑ Pilot Project of Electronic Health Record Sharing System: The Health Bureau introduced the Pilot Project of Electronic Health Record Sharing System on 28 February, 2017 to provide convenience for older persons and make possible sharing of medical information. As of December 2021, more than 39,000 individuals have registered through the system and its webpage had over 9,700 visits.

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IV. Ensuring enabling and supportive environments

Housing and living environment 26. Has the Government undertaken any of the following measures with regard to the housing and living environment of older persons and their families? (SDG 11.2.1; SDG 11.7.1) If yes, please answer 26.1-26.4 If no, please proceed to 27 (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

26.1 Promotion, safeguarding and ensuring the right to housing and shelter for older persons (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

26.1 Promotion, safeguarding and ensuring the right to housing and shelter for older persons (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

For economically disadvantaged Macao residents, they can resort to applying for social housing units (a type of public housing make available through lease arrangements) to solve their housing problems. And in accordance with Law No. 17/2019 - Legal System of Social Housing, the application for a social housing lease is nowadays open all year round, so that residents can submit their application at any time they want. Moreover, the allocation of social housing units is based on a points system applicable to applicants of social housing units. The allocation follows a descending order of the number of points awarded to applicants. If the applicant has an older family member at the time of application, he will be awarded additional points.

As to allow many more older persons to benefit from the social housing policy, the SAR government lowered the income limit and asset limit for applicants of social housing unit who reached 65 years old via Dispatch of the Chief Executive No. 162/2020. Moreover, old-age pension shall not count towards total monthly income and for single-person household whose householder has reached 65 years old, the limit of total household net asset value is double that of the amount established by the Dispatch of the Chief Executive.

Furthermore, 1,213 older persons were placed in social housing units between 2018 and 31 December 2020.

26.2 Promotion of “ageing in place”, such as the promotion of affordable public housing with age-friendly and accessible housing design or multigenerational housing options (see also companion document) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

26.2 Promotion of “ageing in place”, such as the promotion of affordable public housing with age-friendly and accessible housing design or multigenerational housing options (see also companion document) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

☑☑ In accordance with the “Guidelines for Design and Construction of Public Housing” issued by the SAR government, barrier-free design (e.g. ramps, handrails, and tactile paving) should be considered for spaces in building intended for public activities. As of 31 December, 2020, there are 4 public housing buildings with a total of 1,006 units of barrier-free design. The bathrooms are furnished with handrails and anti-slip floor tiles, large push-button light switches are used and mounted at 1.25m above the floor, doorways with no threshold, and equipped with Peng On Tung tele-assistance emergency system to look after the needs of frail older persons and those with disabilities.

In accordance with Administrative Regulation No. 30/2020, - Regulatory Rules of the Legal System for Social Housing, the type of social housing unit allocated to a household shall correspond to the number of family members of the household to ensure they have sufficient living space. As of 31 December 2020, there were 8,609 older persons living in social housing units, of which 1,167 lived in barrier-free design units.

☑☑ Pilot Project of Apartment Building for Senior Citizens: In 2020, the SAR Government planned for construction of an apartment building equipped with elevator for senior citizens. Older persons living alone and elderly couples living in buildings without an elevator are given priority to rent the apartments of the building. It would spare them the hassle of walking up and down stairs of no-elevator building and keep them connected to the community. The building will provide 1,815 studio apartments of elderly-friendly and barrier-free design to ensure the safety and comfort of the older tenants.

26.3 Improved availability of accessible and affordable transportation to improve older persons’ mobility (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

26.3 Improved availability of accessible and affordable transportation to improve older persons’ mobility (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

☑☑ In 2017, the SAR government commissioned Macao Caritas to initiate the “Chon Fai Rehabilitation Shuttle Bus Service Programme” which is targeted at wheelchair users (including older wheelchair users with limited mobility), providing them with pickup and drop-off services. Currently, there are two bus routes running in Macao Peninsula area, one with 13 pickup and drop-off points and the other with 14, both of them passing medical facilities, livelihood-related facilities, public departments, and recreation and leisure venues. The shuttle service runs from 7:30 am through 8:00 pm all year round to support wheelchair users in Macao to move around the city with ease and integrate into community life.

☑☑ In 2008, the SAR Government introduced the “Concessionary Fare Scheme for Senior Citizens” under which persons (limited to Macao residents) aged 65 and older can apply for a Personalised Senior Citizen Macau Pass. The administrative fee for the initial application of the Personalised Macau Pass is funded by the SAR government to encourage older persons to move around. Holders of the Personalised Senior Citizen Macau Pass enjoy a flat bus fare of MOP 0.3 for a single-ride of any bus route (excluding free ride services) under the “Concessionary Fare Scheme for Senior Citizens”. And starting from 2018, senior citizens enjoy free rides for all bus routes. In 2018, 2019 and 2020, there were respectively 23 million, 28 million and 23 million rides of senior citizens under the “Concessionary Fare Scheme for Senior Citizens”.

☑☑ The SAR Government encourages bus companies to replace old-model buses with low-floor buses accessible to wheelchairs with space dedicated to wheelchair users on a progressive basis. In the bus concession contract that came into effect in 2011, it explicitly requires the buses have to be low-floor and with space available for wheelchairs. As of 31 December, 2020, there are 695 low-floor buses, accounting for 70% of buses in service, of which 621 have space dedicated to wheelchair users, accounting for 62% of buses in service.

26.4 Universal design in public buildings, areas and transportation (see also companion document) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)
Yes
26.4 Universal design in public buildings, areas and transportation (see also companion document) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]
In 2017, the SAR Government established the “Architectural Standards for Universal and Barrier-free Design of the Macao SAR” (hereinafter referred to as the “Architectural Standards”) and promoted the Architectural Standards among public departments, architectural and construction sector, and the architects and engineers for contractors and developers. Since 2018, concerned entities of new public works and government-subsidised works can refer to the accessibility requirements and universal design specified in the Architectural Standards in their architectural design and construction, while all public departments have the conditions to review their public reception areas and facilities and modify them to meet the requirements of barrier-free and universal design. Between 2018 and 2019, the SAR government carried out nearly 8,500 barrier-free accessibility works and projects.
Caregiving 27. Has the Government undertaken measures to support formal and informal caregivers of older persons, including training programmes, accreditation and pay? (SDG 5.4.1) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)
Yes
Caregiving 27. Has the Government undertaken measures to support formal and informal caregivers of older persons, including training programmes, accreditation and pay? (SDG 5.4.1) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]
<p>☑☑Caregiver Allowance Pilot Scheme: caregiver allowance is distributed, on a trial basis, to (1) persons classified as having severe or profound intellectual disabilities (including those who are unclassified), provided that their disability assessment is still valid and (2) permanently bedridden persons who cannot sit and stand without assistance. Care recipients who meet the requirements for application for caregiver allowance shall receive a monthly allowance of 2,175 patacas to alleviate the economic burden of informal elderly caregivers. The Pilot Scheme spanned from 9 November, 2020 to 30 November, 2021, and 172 applications for caregiver allowance were received as of 31 December, 2020.</p> <p>☑☑The SAR Government organises training courses for caregivers and nurses at irregular intervals to reinforce their caregiving skills. The various courses include training course for in-home elderly caregivers, supervisory skills workshop for nurses of old-age homes, cognitive stimulation therapy course for frontline staff, training course on development of internal audit mechanism for long-term care services, training course on supervisory skills of health caregivers. So far, 1,200 individuals attended the training courses.</p> <p>☑☑Since 2017, a nursing college of Macao SAR has been running a “Certificate Programme in Applied Gerontology” to provide medical practitioners in relevant fields with gerontological knowledge in practice and in theory. The college and another tertiary institution also offer courses on gerontological nursing on a regular basis.</p> <p>SDG 5.4.1: data not available.</p>
Family support 28. Has the Government undertaken measures to support women and families who often take care of older persons? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)
Yes
Family support 28. Has the Government undertaken measures to support women and families who often take care of older persons? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]
<p>☑☑Caregiver Allowance Pilot Scheme: caregiver allowance is distributed, on a trial basis, to (1) persons classified as having severe or profound intellectual disabilities (including those who are unclassified), provided that their disability assessment is still valid and (2) permanently bedridden persons who cannot sit and stand without assistance. Care recipients who meet the requirements for application for caregiver allowance shall receive a monthly allowance of 2,175 patacas to alleviate the economic burden of informal elderly caregivers. The Pilot Scheme spanned from 9 November, 2020 to 30 November, 2021, and 172 applications for caregiver allowance were received as of 31 December, 2020.</p> <p>☑☑Support services for caregivers of older persons:☑Offer support to these caregivers through services provided to them by subsidised NGOs in 10 day centres and day-care centres for the elderly. The various types of support include caregiving skills, in-home professional support, loan of materials used in caregiving to older persons, and emotional counseling.</p>
Integration of older migrants 29. Has the Government implemented measures facilitating the integration of older migrants within their new communities, including: (SDG 10.7.2; SDG 10.7.4) (see also companion document) If yes, please answer 29.1-29.3 If no, please proceed to 30 (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)
No
29.1 Older migrant workers returning to countries of origin after lifetimes of overseas employment (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

29.1 Older migrant workers returning to countries of origin after lifetimes of overseas employment (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

29.2 Older persons returning home to rural areas after having spent their working life in urban areas (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

29.2 Older persons returning home to rural areas after having spent their working life in urban areas (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

29.3 Refugees, internally displaced people or stateless persons (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

29.3 Refugees, internally displaced people or stateless persons (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

Neglect, abuse and violence 30. Has the Government: 30.1 Addressed neglect, abuse and violence against older persons? (SDG 5.2.1; SDG 5.2.2; SDG 11.7.2; SDG 16.1.3; SDG 16.1.4) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

Neglect, abuse and violence 30. Has the Government: 30.1 Addressed neglect, abuse and violence against older persons? (SDG 5.2.1; SDG 5.2.2; SDG 11.7.2; SDG 16.1.3; SDG 16.1.4) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

The Law No. 2/2016 of Macao SAR, "Law on Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence", establishes the legal framework for the intervention of public entities in situations of domestic violence, defines the types of crimes of domestic violence and the respective penalty regime, and set forth the measures to protect and assist the victims. Relevant public departments shall provide a range of protection measures for victims of domestic violence, including: shelter services to accommodate people in need in shelters, coordinating the provision of emergency legal aid, free access to healthcare, provision of legal information and counseling services, and economic assistance.

SDG 5.2.1:

Suspected cases of domestic violence (against female spouse)
 Year Physical ill-treatment Sexual ill-treatment Mental ill-treatment Total
 2018 31 0 6 37
 2019 15 0 3 18
 2020 17 1 3 21

SDG 5.2.2:

Suspected cases of domestic violence: sexual ill-treatment against females other than an intimate partner
 Year Female children aged under 18 years old Female family members Female older persons aged over 65 years old
 Incapacitated females
 2018 2 0 0 0
 2019 4 0 0 0
 2020 5 0 0 0

SDG 11.7.2:

Suspected cases of domestic violence by types and gender of the victim
 Year Domestic violence against children Domestic violence against spouse Domestic violence against older persons
 Domestic violence against incapacitated persons Domestic violence against family members
 Total
 M F M F M F M F M F M F
 2018 9 12 2 43 0 0 0 0 3 7 14 62
 2019 6 9 2 24 2 2 0 0 1 1 1 36
 2020 2 9 1 22 0 1 0 0 3 1 6 33

SDG 16.1.3:

Suspected cases of domestic violence/harmful acts by types (no. of cases)
 Year Physical ill-treatment Sexual ill-treatment Mental ill-treatment
 2018 53 6 9
 2019 27 3 4
 2020 27 5 4

SDG 16.1.4: no data available.

30.2 Put in place any services for victims of elder abuse, neglect and violence, including training of care and social service professionals, family members and older persons? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

30.2 Put in place any services for victims of elder abuse, neglect and violence, including training of care and social service professionals, family members and older persons? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

In complementary to the implementation of Law No. 2/2016 - Law on Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence, the SAR government organises professional training based on the needs of frontline personnel to familiarise them with current procedures and interventions applied in handling suspected cases of domestic violence in Macao, and improve their knowledge in identifying, assessing and intervening in domestic violence situations and respective handling skills. Foreign experts and local professionals were invited as training instructors and clinical psychologists, paediatricians, legal professionals, police officers, social workers and psychological counselors were amongst the speakers/lecturers.

Year

Type Statistics on domestic violence cases (no. of persons)
 2018 2019 2020
 Domestic violence against older persons 0 4 1
 Total number of suspected cases of domestic violence 74 46 38

Public recognition and ageing with dignity 31. Has the Government undertaken measures to enhance public recognition of older persons with regard to their authority, autonomy, self-determination, wisdom, productivity and contributions to society? (SDG 10.3.1; SDG 16.7.1; SDG 17.18.1) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)
Yes
Public recognition and ageing with dignity 31. Has the Government undertaken measures to enhance public recognition of older persons with regard to their authority, autonomy, self-determination, wisdom, productivity and contributions to society? (SDG 10.3.1; SDG 16.7.1; SDG 17.18.1) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]
As to better protect the well-being of older persons, the SAR government enacted the Legal Regime for Protection of the Rights and Interests of the Elderly to safeguard their rights and interests. The Legal Regime consists of seven chapters, namely General Provisions, Rights and Interests of Older Persons, Social Participation, Elderly Care System, Cooperation and Coordination, Measures of Administrative Intervention, and Final Provisions. It emphasises that protecting the rights and interests of older is a responsibility shared by the whole society. To this, the SAR government promoted the content and concept of the Legal Regime across the public via various approaches between 2018 and 2020 to better their understanding of it.
SDGs 10.3.1, 16.7.1 and 17.18.1: no data available.
32. Has the Government undertaken measures to protect older persons' dignity and enjoyment of all human rights, including to address and eliminate 'ageism' and age-based discrimination? (see also companion document) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)
Yes
32. Has the Government undertaken measures to protect older persons' dignity and enjoyment of all human rights, including to address and eliminate 'ageism' and age-based discrimination? (see also companion document) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]
<p>☒☒The provisions of the Legal Regime for Protection of the Rights and Interests of the Elderly define the functions of various public entities. As to carry forward works vital to the implementation of the Legal Regime which strengthens the protection of the rights and interests of older persons, the Social Welfare Bureau of Macao SAR Government was charged with the responsibility of coordinating the various areas of works initiated to strengthen the protection and safeguard of rights and interests of the elderly. The Interdepartmental Steering Group on Mechanism for the Protection of Older Persons was recommended to take charge and oversee the implementation of a handful of measures to protect rights and interests of the elderly, with the assistance of its subordinate executive team. The various measures covers aspects of support and care, health, basic livelihood security, housing needs, profession and work, accessibility, and, preferential treatment and benefits.</p> <p>☒☒One of the purposes of the Law on Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence is to promote the respect for fundamental rights and personality rights, and in particular respect for the dignity of individuals and for the principles of equality and non-discrimination, which covers older persons. To achieve this purpose, interdisciplinary measures of different natures, including preventive, protective, punitive and restorative measures, shall be adopted to prevent and combat domestic violence.</p>
33. Has the Government undertaken measures to recognize and support exercise of legal capacity of older persons, such as supported decision-making? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)
Yes
33. Has the Government undertaken measures to recognize and support exercise of legal capacity of older persons, such as supported decision-making? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]
With regard to support of older persons stipulated by the provisions of the Legal Regime for Protection of the Rights and Interests of the Elderly adopted in 2018, if the persons who have the obligation to provide support to the older person do not voluntarily fulfill their duties, the older person with the right to support may, in accordance with the law, file a lawsuit in the competent court, and may also, request for urgent judicial assistance for such purpose. Since the law came into effect on 19 November, 2018, the SAR government has not received any cases of older persons seeking assistance in regard to the aforementioned situation.
Information, innovation and technology 34. Has the Government put in place mechanisms to improve the availability and accessibility of information specifically for older persons? (SDG 9.c.1) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)
Yes
Information, innovation and technology 34. Has the Government put in place mechanisms to improve the availability and accessibility of information specifically for older persons? (SDG 9.c.1) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]
<p>☒☒Provide older persons with learning and training courses on various subjects, including information technology application, through subsidising social service facilities to run continuing education courses tailored to the older population;</p> <p>☒☒Organise information technology courses for older persons through the Seniors Academy;</p> <p>☒☒Since 2017, the SAR government cooperates with telecommunications companies to install Wi-Fi access points in 38 service facilities for older persons to allow them to have access to free mobile data while staying the service facility.</p> <p>SDG 9.c.1: no data available.</p>

35. Has the Government fostered development of any innovative methods and services in support of older persons, such as user- and age-friendly technology and products? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

35. Has the Government fostered development of any innovative methods and services in support of older persons, such as user- and age-friendly technology and products? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

??In 2018, the SAR government organised the staff of service facilities for older persons to attend the 2018 Gerontech and Innovation Expo cum Summit (GIES) to familiarise them with gerontechnology products and improve their knowledge about gerontechnology.

??Since 2019, the SAR government has been introducing smart technology equipment to old-age homes and elderly day care centres on a progressive basis to improve their service efficiency and quality. It encourages these facilities to procure over 100 gerontechnology products through the "Financial Support Scheme for Application of Gerontechnology".

??In 2019, the SAR government introduced a one-year "Subsidy Scheme for Purchase Mobile Phones by Older Persons and Disabled Members of Subsidised Families" to support economically disadvantaged older and disabled persons to buy a mobile phone. It helps them to keep up with current social affairs and allows them to receive information from elderly service facilities with ease. So far, the Scheme has provided 415 senior citizens with subsidy for buying a mobile phone.

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V. Data

Lack of ageing-related data and research 36. Is the lack of ageing-related data and research a matter of concern for your Government? If so: (a) what data and research are needed; and (b) how are you addressing these concerns? (SDG 17.18.1; SDG 17.18.2; SDG 17.18.3; SDG 17.19.1; SDG 17.19.2) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

No

Lack of ageing-related data and research 36. Is the lack of ageing-related data and research a matter of concern for your Government? If so: (a) what data and research are needed; and (b) how are you addressing these concerns? (SDG 17.18.1; SDG 17.18.2; SDG 17.18.3; SDG 17.19.1; SDG 17.19.2) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

37. Has the Government undertaken any efforts in data collection activities, including at the national and subnational levels, to disaggregate data by age and sex, with age groups disaggregated beyond 50+ or 60+(e.g., Household Social and Economic Survey, National Transfer Accounts)? (see also companion document) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

37. Has the Government undertaken any efforts in data collection activities, including at the national and subnational levels, to disaggregate data by age and sex, with age groups disaggregated beyond 50+ or 60+(e.g., Household Social and Economic Survey, National Transfer Accounts)? (see also companion document) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

The SAR Government collects demographic data and information of Macao's population on a quarterly and annual basis, and at 5 and 10 years intervals. The detailed household data collected during the Population Census conducted every 10 years will be broken down into different categories, like age groups and gender, for statistical compilation and producing a census report, and the findings will be released for information of the public. For the Population Census of 2011, the SAR Government published the special report "Trends and Challenges of Population Ageing".

National surveys 38. Has there been: (a) a stand-alone national survey focusing on population ageing or older persons; or (b) inclusion of specific modules on older persons or population ageing into national surveys, such as a National Survey on Older Persons, or DHS, since 2017? If so, please provide: (a) the name of the survey; (b) its focus; (c) the name(s) of the responsible ministries, agencies and institutions; and (d) relevant links. (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

National surveys 38. Has there been: (a) a stand-alone national survey focusing on population ageing or older persons; or (b) inclusion of specific modules on older persons or population ageing into national surveys, such as a National Survey on Older Persons, or DHS, since 2017? If so, please provide: (a) the name of the survey; (b) its focus; (c) the name(s) of the responsible ministries, agencies and institutions; and (d) relevant links. (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

Optimisation of recreation centres and day centres for older persons

(a) Name of survey: Optimisation of recreation centres and day centres for older persons

(b) Focus: Setting the positioning of service provided by recreation centres and day centres for older persons, and establish their service standards and service manuals.

(c) Name(s) of the responsible ministries, agencies and institutions: Social Welfare Bureau

(d) Related links: unavailable

Feasibility study on introducing reverse mortgage scheme

(a) Name of survey: study on introducing reverse mortgage scheme

(b) Focus: Investigated into the reverse mortgage schemes of various countries, and analyzed data on the average income and expenses of Macao residents, especially of older persons, and on mortgage loans for various types of properties and of available insurance products. Paid visits to representative members of banks, real estate sector and associations, and meeting with the Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited, Monetary Authority of Macao and experts to discuss about reverse mortgage scheme and related issues in details. Subsequently, studied the feasibility and acceptability of introducing reverse mortgage scheme to Macao, needs of Macao residents for the scheme and the conditions prerequisite to introducing the scheme.

(c) Name(s) of the responsible ministries, agencies and institutions: Social Welfare Bureau

(d) Related links: unavailable

Special study on the preparation of Macao residents for old age life and their lifelong development

(a) Name of survey: Special study on the preparation of Macao residents for old age life and their lifelong development

(b) Focus: Assessed the level of knowledge of Macao residents towards active ageing; looked into their sense of responsibility for leading an active ageing life and actions taken by them to get prepared for living an active ageing life; analysis on the performance of and attitudes adopted by Macao residents in regard to the three aforementioned aspects, assessed the relevant influencing factors and came up with specific recommendations for future policies

(c) Name(s) of the responsible ministries, agencies and institutions: Social Welfare Bureau

(d) Related links: unavailable

Research on Living Condition and Long Term Care Service Needs of Older Persons

(a) Name of survey: Research on Living Condition and Long-Term Care Service Demands of Older Persons of Macao SAR

(b) Focus: Assessed the needs of older persons of the Macao SAR for different types of long-term care services to derive data used in the formulation of long-term development direction of the services, and in providing recommendations in regard to the planning ratios of the various long-term care services, including old-age homes, elderly day care centres and home care services. All these served to provide the Macao SAR Government with reference and data used for progressive development of services targeted at older persons of Macao.

(c) Name(s) of the responsible ministries, agencies and institutions: Social Welfare Bureau

(d) Related links: unavailable

39. Is there any longitudinal data on older persons collected with a focus on their health, and social and economic situation?

(Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

39. Is there any longitudinal data on older persons collected with a focus on their health, and social and economic situation? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

??The SAR government collects detailed household data and information, including that of older persons aged 65 and older, through the population census conducted every 10 years, and produced special report(s) on older persons to present data on different aspects of older persons in details.

??The SAR Government created the “Database of older persons living alone and households composed of two elderly persons who are service users” in 2018 to collect their data and produce statistics for analyzing their conditions. The range of data collected includes general personal information, health status, the types of support these older persons received and their living conditions. The SAR government regularly updates the database and produces statistics, analysis and reports based on the data, which serve as reference for the development of services tailored to the population of living-alone older persons in Macao.

??The SAR government assesses the needs of older persons for services via a “standardised assessment and central referral mechanism” and subsequently refers them to appropriate long-term care services based on their different caregiving needs and on their date of application for the services. It has set up a system for the mechanism to collect data of service applicants on a regular basis to produce needed statistics conducive to understanding the demands for long-term care services in Macao SAR.

??The SAR government conducted Research on Living Condition and Long-Term Care Service Demands of Older Persons of Macao SAR in 2010 and 2020 respectively, to assess the needs of older persons of the Macao SAR for home care services, community services and old-age home services, as well as their planning ratios. These serve as the prerequisites for development of a long-term elderly care service system. Moreover, the standardised assessment and central referral mechanism has been optimised to determine the need of service users for services and carry out service-matching.

Titchfield Group 40. Is the Government active in the Titchfield Group on Ageing-related Statistics and Age-disaggregated Data? If so, how does the Government contribute to the group? (see also companion document) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

No

Titchfield Group 40. Is the Government active in the Titchfield Group on Ageing-related Statistics and Age-disaggregated Data? If so, how does the Government contribute to the group? (see also companion document) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

Though the SAR government is not a member of the Titchfield Group, but it conducts the Macao Citizens' Physical Fitness Monitoring Study every five years since 2005 to produce aging-related statistics and collect age-disaggregated data. The targets of the community-based Monitoring Study are Macao residents aged between 3 and 69 years old, during which the SAR government collects data of a sample of the targeted subjects with respect to their physical characteristics, biological functions and physical fitness to understand the physique of the general population at large. The Monitoring Study reveals the patterns of change in the physical conditions of the population, which serve as reference data to support the decision-making of competent public departments in the area of sports and public health, in developing policies and actions promoting mass sports to improve the physical fitness of the general population.

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VI. COVID-19 and older persons

Effects of COVID-19 on older persons 41. Were hospitalizations and death rates among older persons in 2020 and 2021 higher than for the general population, or as compared with previous long-term observations? (please provide age and sex disaggregated statistics and their sources) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

Effects of COVID-19 on older persons 41. Were hospitalizations and death rates among older persons in 2020 and 2021 higher than for the general population, or as compared with previous long-term observations? (please provide age and sex disaggregated statistics and their sources) (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

According to relevant data, the hospitalisation rate and mortality rate of older residents have not revealed a significant upward trend in the last three years.

Data as follows:

Data on hospitalisation rate and mortality rate of Macao residents

2018 2019 2020

Mortality rate (%) \geq 65 years old 20.0 21.8 19.1

Of total 3.1 3.4 3.3

Hospitalisation rate (%) \geq 65 years old 21.7 21.7 17.9

Of total 9.0 9.2 8.0

42. Have older persons been affected socially and economically? How? (please provide any statistical evidence disaggregated by age and sex) (please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

42. Have older persons been affected socially and economically? How? (please provide any statistical evidence disaggregated by age and sex) (please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

After the outbreak of COVID-19 epidemic, the SAR government has implemented 3 rounds of economic support measures to alleviate the economic impacts on Macao residents (including older persons) posed by the epidemic, which include distribution of the amounts of money prescribed by the Wealth Partaking Scheme earlier, implemented one more round of Healthcare vouchers and the Consumption Subsidy Scheme, and waived off the water and electricity bills for all domestic households for three months. The older persons of Macao received over 10,000 patacas of economic support through the aforesaid measures.

In response to the epidemic impacts, the SAR government distributed two additional amount of full-regular subsidy to beneficiary families of regular subsidy in 2020 to alleviate their economic difficulties. About 1,600 older persons aged 65 and older benefited from the contingency measure.

Government response to COVID-19 43. Did the Government put policies or measures in place that addressed the impact of COVID-19 on older persons with regard to the following issues: (SDG 3.b.1) If yes, please answer 43.1-43.5 If no, please proceed to 44 (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

Government response to COVID-19 43. Did the Government put policies or measures in place that addressed the impact of COVID-19 on older persons with regard to the following issues: (SDG 3.b.1) If yes, please answer 43.1-43.5 If no, please proceed to 44 (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

43.1 Access to health-care services (both usual services and COVID-19 tests) (Please indicate when the measure was put in place and elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

43.1 Access to health-care services (both usual services and COVID-19 tests) (Please indicate when the measure was put in place and elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

Over the years, the SAR government has been working in conformity to the policy concept of "sound healthcare system and prevention is a priority". Persons aged 65 and older are entitled to for free medicare and elderly-friendly policies and services are in place to ensure older persons are given priority to medical and healthcare services with ease. Healthcare-wise, the SAR government has introduced "My Health Depends on Me" Scheme, Colorectal Cancer Screening Program, health assessment service for older persons, Dentures Subsidy Scheme for Older Persons, Diabetes Control Programme, training of community caregivers, healthcare services provided by Health Centres, mental health outpatient service, services provided by medical social workers, chronic disease self-management courses, and patient discharge programme.

In regard to COVID-19 nucleic testing, the SAR government has conducted three rounds of mass nucleic acid testing, in which convenience measures have been provided for older persons, and no older persons were tested positive of COVID-19 infection.

SDGs3.b.1 In accordance with Law no. 2/2004 – Law on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Infectious Diseases, Macao residents who are diagnosed with COVID-19 are entitled to free treatment (medical services and medicines). Moreover, all Macao residents are entitled to free vaccination against COVID-19.

43.2 Protection of older persons' higher vulnerabilities to COVID-19 (e.g., isolating nursing homes, home delivery of medicine or food, etc.) (Please indicate when the measure was put in place and elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

43.2 Protection of older persons' higher vulnerabilities to COVID-19 (e.g., isolating nursing homes, home delivery of medicine or food, etc.) (Please indicate when the measure was put in place and elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic, the SAR government has paid close attention to the operation of subsidised social service institutions. In the early days of the outbreak in 2020, the SAR government inspected 13 subsidised old-age homes for the elderly of Macao within 3 days and required them to strictly implement the relevant guidelines issued by the SAR government, which include management and disease monitoring of visitors, staff and service users. It also reviewed the Emergency Response Plan of all subsidised old-age homes. During this period, the SAR government received materials used in epidemic prevention donated by many social welfare groups associations and distributed them to various subsidised social service institutions. It as well organised the staff of long-term care services to take the nucleic acid testing. The following measures are implemented in light of the epidemic trends to protect the elderly population who are highly susceptible to COVID-19 infection:

☒☒ Policies or measures: Suspension of family visits to residents of old-age homes in their rooms
Date and time spans of implementation: 8 July to 10 November, 2020
5 August to 18 August, 2021
25 September to 24 October, 2021

Content:
In response to the development of the epidemic, the SAR government requested all old-age homes of Macao to set aside a visiting area in their premises for family visits of their residents and temporarily disallowed family members of residents from meeting them in their rooms to strengthen epidemic prevention through visitor management. If the resident of the old-age home is in frail health, the old-age home is recommended to arrange video meeting for the resident and his/her family members;;

Main achievements: No residents of old-age home has been infected with COVID-19 (as of 27 September, 2021)

☒☒ Policies or measures: New residents of old-age homes of Macao are required to take the nucleic acid testing
Date and time spans of implementation: Ongoing since end of April 2020
Content: 1. Newcomers: They have to produce a certificate of negative result for COVID-19 nucleic acid test within 7 days of validity at the time of check-in, and subject to isolation in accordance with the relevant procedures of the old-age home.

Main achievements: Adopted by 23 old-age homes

☒☒ Policies or measures: Staff of social service facilities are required to present proof of vaccination against COVID-19 or a certificate of negative result for COVID-19 nucleic acid test within 7 days of validity
Date and time spans of implementation: Ongoing since end of October, 2020
Content: All staff of social service facilities must present proof of vaccination against COVID-19 or a certificate of negative result for COVID-19 nucleic acid test within 7 days of validity before granted entry to the facilities.
Main achievements: As of October 2021, 70% of the staff of social service facilities staff are vaccinated against COVID-19.

☒☒ Policies or measures: Implement management measures for epidemic prevention in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Health Bureau
Date and time spans of implementation: Ongoing
Content: For visitors of social service institutions of Macao, the concerned social service institution has to check their body temperature, and require them to present their Macao Health Code. Only those with a green-colored Health Code shall be allowed to enter. If the Health Code of the staff of the institution is yellow-colored, the concerned staff has to adjust his work according to the guidelines provided by the Health Bureau. In case their Health Code is red-colored, they are disallowed from entering the social service institution.

Main achievements: no data available.

43.3 Economic conditions (e.g., employment, income maintenance, immediate assistance) (Please indicate when the measure was put in place and elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

43.3 Economic conditions (e.g., employment, income maintenance, immediate assistance) (Please indicate when the measure was put in place and elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

☒☒ The Subsidized Training Scheme has been to help residents in need of employment hunting to join the job market and relieve the economic pressure of those affected by the epidemic. Student participants of the Scheme can receive a subsidy up to 6,656 patacas upon course completion and subject to employment referrals.

☒☒ The SAR government introduced the "Macao Ready Go! Local Tours" to mediate the impacts of COVID-19 on Macao and re-invigorate Macao's tourism activities in line with its economic recovery plan.

43.4 Social situation (e.g., loneliness, social isolation, stress) (Please indicate when the measure was put in place and elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

43.4 Social situation (e.g., loneliness, social isolation, stress) (Please indicate when the measure was put in place and elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

☒☒ In response to the epidemic situation of Macao, the SAR government has set up a 24-hour psychological counseling hotline since 26 January, 2020 to provide residents with emotional support and counseling services. For those with needs, including older persons, they can call the psychological counseling hotline for relevant support.

☒☒ For older persons with poor social network and rarely join in social activities, they are prone to feel social isolation and loneliness due to lack of social support and psychological care for extended periods of time. In this respect, the SAR government organizes elderly-oriented volunteers to socialize with these older persons through various special services, such as giving them regular telephone calls, paying home visits, holding various types of activities for them, and maintain contact with and visit living-alone older persons and elderly couples. It aims to expand the social networking of older people and provide them with more community support.

43.5 Prioritized access to COVID-19 vaccines (Please indicate when the measure was put in place and elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

43.5 Prioritized access to COVID-19 vaccines (Please indicate when the measure was put in place and elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

Since end of February 2021, the SAR government has been increasing the coverage of free vaccination against COVID-19 across Macao residents (including those aged 60 and older), holders of Non-resident Employee Identification Card, students legally allowed to stay in Macao SAR for their studies and prisoners. So far, there are a total of 19 vaccination points across the city to provide vaccination services.

Special measures have been in place to give priority to vaccination of older persons against COVID-19.

Good practices/lessons learned in Government response to COVID-19 44. Are there any good practices and lessons learned from the above-mentioned policies and/or measures, including expanding participation of older persons? (Please give examples)

Good practices/lessons learned in Government response to COVID-19 44. Are there any good practices and lessons learned from the above-mentioned policies and/or measures, including expanding participation of older persons? (Please give examples) [Comment]

Coordination of services for COVID-19 response 45. Has the Government implemented measures to improve the coordination of primary health care, long-term care, social services and community-based services for older persons in order to ensure a continuum of care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

Coordination of services for COVID-19 response 45. Has the Government implemented measures to improve the coordination of primary health care, long-term care, social services and community-based services for older persons in order to ensure a continuum of care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

In June 2020, the SAR government compiled the Recommendations for Caregivers/Friendly Groups of Patients with Dementia at Home during Epidemic Prevention in Chinese, Portuguese and English versions.

Long-term measures 46. Once the pandemic has subsided, do you intend to maintain any measures that were implemented to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on older persons? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate)

Yes

Long-term measures 46. Once the pandemic has subsided, do you intend to maintain any measures that were implemented to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on older persons? (Please elaborate with data, as appropriate) [Comment]

Vaccination is one of the most effective measures to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19. The SAR government has adopted a three-pronged approach to increase the vaccination rate, through publicity and education, enhancing convenience, and free vaccination service.

Though Macao is a low-risk area of COVID-19 infection, but the global pandemic is still raging. In view of this, the SAR government spares no effort in encouraging residents to adopt various epidemic prevention measures, including getting vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as practicable, to reduce the risk of infection, severe illness and death, and to achieve herd immunity in Macao.

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VII. Other Issues

47. How has the Government designed and/or implemented measures for the pre-ageing population (future older persons) in the following aspects: (a) work; (b) income security; (c) health; and (d) participation. (Open-ended question; please limit response to 750 words).

According to the Ten Year Action Plan for Elderly Services, the Inter-departmental Steering Group on Mechanism for the Protection of Older Persons has to start preparing the next Action Plan in the eighth year after the current Action Plan is implemented, which is year 2023. The current members of the Steering Group are made of different public department of the SAR Government that oversee works in areas of social security, employment of resident, healthcare, education, culture, housing and transport. As these members of the Steering Group shall participate in the formulation of the next Action Plan, they shall provide opinions and propose potential measures for their specific area of work in regard to coping with Macao's ageing population and needs of older people. The draft Action Plan for the next ten years will be open for public consultation to derive public views and opinions, which serve as reference for making adjustments to the draft Action Plan so that it will tailor to the actual needs of the community.

48. Would you like to highlight any other issues related to the main challenges and opportunities of population ageing/older persons in your country since the adoption of MIPAA in 2002? Are there any lessons learned or good practices you would like to share? (open-ended question; please limit response to 750 words).

No comments.

49. Is the Government engaged in any regional cooperation on matters related to "population ageing", including the sharing of experiences in the implementation of MIPAA among ESCAP member States and/or engagement with ASEAN (where applicable) on the implementation of the 2015 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing (open-ended question; please limit response to 750 words).

Not applicable.

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Please be aware that once you click SUBMIT, you will no longer be able to edit your responses.