



**Voluntary National Survey on the Implementation of the  
Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) in Asia and the Pacific**  
(to inform the Asia-Pacific Fourth Review and Appraisal of the  
Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing)

**Background**

This voluntary national survey will inform the Asia-Pacific Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing ([MIPAA](#))<sup>1</sup> to be organized by ESCAP in 2022.

MIPAA is the global guiding document on population ageing adopted at the Second World Assembly on Ageing, in 2002. It calls for regular and systematic reviews of MIPAA implementation by Member States. After three successful reviews at national, regional and global levels, the General Assembly, through resolution 75/152, took note of ECOSOC resolution 2020/8 and decided to hold the fourth review and appraisal of MIPAA at the global level at the sixty-first session of the Commission for Social Development, in 2023.

Pursuant to ECOSOC resolution 2020/8, regional commissions were asked to facilitate the fourth review and appraisal at the regional levels by: (a) providing assistance to Member States in organizing national review and appraisal exercises; (b) organizing regional review meetings using an inclusive and coordinated approach in relation to the participation of civil society in the process; (c) assisting Member States in following up on analysis resulting from the regional reviews; (d) promoting networking and the sharing of information; (e) providing an analysis of the main findings and identifying priority areas and policy responses by 2022; and (f) assisting and providing advice to Governments in the gathering, synthesis and analysis of information, as well as in the presentation of the findings of national reviews.

The 2022 regional reviews and appraisals will feed into the 2023 global review and appraisal, including the 2023 reporting for the [United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing \(2021-2030\)](#). The Asia-Pacific voluntary national survey on the implementation of MIPAA is an integral part of the preparations for the Asia-Pacific Regional Review and Appraisal in 2022. The process consists of: (a) voluntary national surveys; (b) stakeholder consultations; (c) documentation; and (d) the intergovernmental meeting. For more information on the Asia-Pacific Regional Review and Appraisal, see: <https://www.population-trends-asiapacific.org/mipaa> (to be updated regularly).

**Suggestions for completing the Asia-Pacific voluntary national survey on MIPAA implementation**

The survey should be completed by ESCAP member States, through their national ageing focal points.<sup>2</sup> It is structured according to the MIPAA priority directions, issues and objectives.<sup>3</sup> Some objectives have been merged to facilitate reporting. As MIPAA is a multi-dimensional framework, it is recommended that the national focal points complete the survey in consultation with ministries and departments involved with implementing the various MIPAA priority directions and objectives. The following guidelines are intended to assist member States in reporting on the national follow-up to MIPAA:

<sup>1</sup> Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8–12 April 2002 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>2</sup> In December 2020, ESCAP requested member States to nominate ageing focal points.

<sup>3</sup> For a list of priority directions, issues and objectives of MIPAA, see the Annex.

1. A bottom-up participatory approach should be followed by inviting, inter alia, civil society, including organizations of older persons, to contribute to survey responses (ECOSOC 2020/8, OP5).
2. Gender perspectives should be mainstreamed when answering the questions.
3. Member States are encouraged to reflect on any national data collection initiatives for implementing the 2030 Agenda and related SDGs and report on the respective SDG indicator (relevant SDG indicators are listed along with the questions, when applicable).
4. Answers should focus and report on progress made during the period 2018–2022, (ECOSOC resolution 2020/8, OP3).
5. Answers may combine quantitative and participatory qualitative data and analysis, disaggregated by age, and by other relevant factors, including sex and disability, and, where appropriate, include sharing of good practices in such data collection (ECOSOC 2020/8, OP6).
6. Answers should include information on lessons learned and good practices to ensure this review and appraisal exercise contributes to South-South, North-South and triangular regional and international cooperation (GA resolution 75/152, OP39).
7. Ideally, countries should respond to all questions, but it is fully understood that, given the national context, they might not be able to do so.
8. Supporting documentation should be included, if possible.

The companion document attached to this survey provides explanations of some key terms.

The survey should be completed (and submitted/returned), together with relevant attachments by 31 October 2021, by email, to: [escap-sdd@un.org](mailto:escap-sdd@un.org) or online at: <https://icts-surveys.unog.ch/index.php/974559?newtest=Y&lang=en>

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

Yes:  No:

Please do not hesitate to contact [escap-sdd@un.org](mailto:escap-sdd@un.org) should you have any questions.

#### A. Contact information

**Please identify the office responsible for coordinating the responses to this survey and completing it and include its contact information.**

Country Singapore	
Ministry/Office/Agency Ageing Planning Office, Ministry of Health College of Medicine Building	
Name contact persons (First and Last) -	Title/Position -
Name of ageing focal point (First and Last) [REDACTED]	
Email [REDACTED]	Telephone N.A.

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) *please elaborate:*

As ageing is approached as a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach in Singapore, many government agencies and affiliated institutions are involved. As ministries are the main coordinating agencies and are involved in all aspects of policy and implementation, inputs were sought from all relevant government entities to ensure comprehensiveness.

### 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? <i>If “yes”, please provide information on the following:</i>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
1.1	Name of the coordinating body/committee/agency/national multi-stakeholder forum: <i>please elaborate:</i> Ministerial Committee on Ageing		
1.2	Year of establishment: <i>please elaborate:</i> 2007		
1.3	Level (ministerial or other): <i>please elaborate:</i>  The Ministerial Committee on Ageing includes Ministers from key government ministries and agencies, such as the Ministries of Health, Manpower, Finance, National Development, Education, Community, Culture and Youth, Communications and Information, Transport, as well as the labour union.		
1.4	Functions: <i>please elaborate:</i>  The Ministerial Committee on Ageing provides Whole-of-Government leadership towards tackling ageing. It focuses on reframing ageing as a positive force, anticipating future shifts and coordinating a whole-of-nation response.  The Ministerial Committee on Ageing is supported by a dedicated Secretariat team in the Ageing Planning Office (APO), Ministry of Health. The role of APO is to assist the Ministerial Committee on Ageing in planning, driving and implementing strategies across government, private and people sectors to respond to the needs of Singapore’s ageing population.		
1.5	Contact information, including mailing address, telephone/fax, email and website link: <i>please elaborate:</i>  Ageing Planning Office, Ministry of Health		

College of Medicine Building 16 College Road Singapore 169854
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**Definition of older persons**

2	<p>Please define “older persons” as used in official Government documents (e.g., legislation, census forms, etc.).  <i>please elaborate:</i></p> <p>Singapore does not have a standard definition of older persons. Depending on the context, the age at which an individual is considered as a “senior” or “older person” may vary between 55 to 65 years. For example, in terms of retirement age, our Retirement and Re-employment Act states the minimum retirement age as 62 years. As for eligibility for eldercare and active ageing programmes, the guideline is 60 years and above, though individuals below this age may be considered for admission to the programme/ service on a case-by-case basis. In terms of housing, the age eligibility for senior priority schemes ranges from 55 years for the purchase of 2-room flexi flats to 65 years for housing monetisation schemes.</p>
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**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”?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
3.1	<p>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. <i>but if “no”, please elaborate also:</i></p> <p>The Action Plan for Successful Ageing was launched in 2015 as Singapore’s national blueprint that charts the way forward for Singaporeans to age more confidently and gracefully. It was jointly developed by government agencies, voluntary welfare and non-profit organisations, academia, businesses and union members, with feedback received from public consultation. \$3 billion was set aside for more than 70 initiatives in 12 areas generated as part of the Action Plan – health and wellness, learning, volunteerism, employment, housing, transport, public spaces, respect and social inclusion, retirement adequacy, healthcare and aged care, protection for vulnerable seniors and research.</p> <p>Please refer to section 3.1.1. on details regarding the legislation/policy/action plan.</p> <p>The MCA is currently refreshing the Action Plan to keep it relevant to current and future senior citizens. Our future seniors will live longer, be better educated, and have different aspirations. As we plan for both seniors of today and tomorrow, we must continue to respond to a greater diversity of needs. We also need to take into account the new operating environment and learnings arising from COVID-19. The Refresh of the Action Plan for Successful Ageing will focus on three key thrusts: Care, Contribution and Connectedness and empower seniors to stay active, healthy and engaged.</p>		
3.1.1	Have gender and disability concerns of older persons been explicitly addressed in the legislation, policy and/or action plan? <i>please elaborate:</i>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Singapore takes a holistic approach towards gender and disability concerns, putting in place legislation and policy levers to support these issues for persons of all ages.

### **Direct feedback from older women and persons with disabilities**

As part of the consultation process during the development of the Action Plan (2014-2015), government agencies involved stakeholder groups such as the Society for WINGS, a non-profit organisation aimed at empowering older women to age actively and well, and organisations or experts in the area of care for seniors, such as geriatricians and operators/clients of senior care centres or day activity centres.

In addition, agencies also invited seniors of varying mobility to participate in a series of town audits and ‘footprint exercises’ on public transportation, to provide feedback on areas for improvement to make public housing and transportation more senior friendly.

In addition to empowering women to stay socially connected by forming support networks within the learning groups, WINGS is also developing a curriculum to help lower income women better manage their health, wealth and happiness.

Today, about 80% of seniors live in public housing. To address the concerns of seniors with disabilities, especially those with functional impairment, all public housing estates provide barrier-free access. These public housing estates and public transportation networks are also being progressively enhanced to further enable seniors to move about safely and confidently. To meet their care needs, agencies are also transforming healthcare to bring care closer to seniors through increased accessibility and capacity of primary care and aged care services, and increasing affordability through various financial assistance schemes. In addition, subsidies for seniors who require assistive devices, home healthcare items, or transport are available through the Seniors’ Mobility and Enabling Fund. Finally, Agencies are also working with communities to build Dementia Friendly Communities, an initiative to raise awareness amongst Singaporeans, businesses and the community-at-large to be able to look out for seniors with dementia and help them home.

### **Enabling Masterplan**

Singapore has charted Enabling Masterplans (EMPs) which are roadmaps to support persons with disabilities. In Dec 2016, the third Enabling Masterplan was unveiled charting out the strategies to build an eco-system of support and an inclusive environment for persons with disability and their caregivers. The plan was put together by a diverse panel including the public and private sectors, employers, representatives from disability service providers, persons with

disabilities and their caregivers. The panel also sought feedback from some 400 people via focus group discussions, consultation sessions and email feedback channel. Please refer to <https://www.msf.gov.sg/policies/Disabilities-and-Special-Needs/Pages/default.aspx> for the masterplan.

Singapore is currently implementing the Third EMP (EMP3) from 2017 to 2021. As EMP3 approaches its final year, the Ministry of Social and Family Development has convened a Steering Committee to develop the next Enabling Masterplan for 2022 to 2030 to support persons with disabilities. The 27-member Steering Committee comprises members from the people, private and public sectors, including persons with disabilities and caregivers, and will be engaging persons with disabilities, caregivers, disability organisations, social service agencies, members of the public as well as interested stakeholders, to gather their views, ideas and feedback.

#### **Mental Capacity Act (Chapter 177A)**

The Mental Capacity Act (MCA) was enacted in 2008 to protect the dignity and interest of individuals, including older persons, to live meaningful and dignified lives, even if they lose their mental capacity (e.g. persons suffering from dementia). It allows individuals to appoint a trusted person to make decisions on his behalf if he should lose mental capacity, and allows the Court to appoint someone to act if the individual has not appointed anyone. Recognising that persons who lack capacity are especially vulnerable, the Act also provides safeguards against abuse by proxy decision-makers.

The MCA empowers persons to plan in advance and secure peace of mind by legally appointing persons they trust to make decisions on their behalf when they lose mental capacity via a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA). The LPA caters to the needs of older persons who are at higher risk of losing mental capacity owing to dementia.

<http://statutes.agc.gov.sg/aol/download/0/0/pdf/binaryFile/pdfFile.pdf?CompId:4bd60e28-f7aa-4cf3-a1ea-7766e5771b28>

#### **Maintenance of Parents Act (Chapter 167B)**

Enacted in 1995, the Maintenance of Parents Act (MPA) allows Singapore residents aged 60 years and above, who are unable to provide for themselves, to claim maintenance from their children who are capable of supporting them, but are not doing so. Parents can claim maintenance, in the form of monthly allowances or a lump-sum payment. The Act provides for a conciliation-first approach, i.e. parents are required to first undergo conciliation to resolve the maintenance issue, before taking legal action.

	<p><a href="http://statutes.agc.gov.sg/aol/download/0/0/pdf/binaryFile/pdfFile.pdf?CompId:e17b1ccc-556d-4c83-876c-e973310dcec8">http://statutes.agc.gov.sg/aol/download/0/0/pdf/binaryFile/pdfFile.pdf?CompId:e17b1ccc-556d-4c83-876c-e973310dcec8</a></p> <p><b>Women’s Charter (Chapter 353)</b></p> <p>Enacted in 1961, the Women’s Charter enshrined the protection of women in Singapore and defined the institution of family by legislating monogamy for civil marriages. It also spells out the provisions relating to solemnization of marriages, registration and dissolution of civil marriages, rights and duties of married persons, maintenance of wives and children, protection of family; and penalties for offences against women and girls.</p> <p><a href="http://statutes.agc.gov.sg/aol/download/0/0/pdf/binaryFile/pdfFile.pdf?CompId:711efe69-bf91-451c-8fa8-44d4b878c449">http://statutes.agc.gov.sg/aol/download/0/0/pdf/binaryFile/pdfFile.pdf?CompId:711efe69-bf91-451c-8fa8-44d4b878c449</a></p> <p><b>Vulnerable Adults Act</b></p> <p>The Singapore government enacted the Vulnerable Adults Act (VAA) in 2018, which provides powers to the Adult Protective Service (APS) under the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) to intervene when a vulnerable adult (defined as a person 18 years and older who is unable to protect himself or herself from abuse, neglect, or self-neglect due to mental or physical disability or incapacity) is assessed to face high safety risk.</p> <p>Since its establishment in May 2015 to September 2020, MSF-APS has investigated 484 cases involving seniors aged 65 and above. About 98% of the cases were resolved with support for the seniors’ families and Government-funded social service agencies, and the remaining seniors were assisted through Court orders, such as being cared for in a Place of Safety that is operated by a social service agency.</p>		
3.1.2	<p>Is there a monitoring framework for the implementation of the legislation, policy and/or action plan? <i>please elaborate:</i></p> <p>The Ministerial Committee on Ageing monitors the implementation of the Action Plan on Successful Ageing.</p> <p>The Ministry of Social and Family Development monitors the implementation of the Enabling Masterplan.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
3.1.3	<p>Are older persons and their organizations included in any monitoring activities of legislation, policy and/or action plan on older persons? <i>please elaborate:</i></p> <p>The Enabling Masterplans Work Groups / Steering Committee consist of older persons. Surveys, in-depth interviews and other engagements are also conducted with the general public, including older persons, to ensure that the initiatives and policies remain relevant to their needs.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

3.1.4	<p>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) <i>please elaborate:</i></p> <p>In the development of the <b>2015 Action Plan for Successful Ageing</b>, government agencies and stakeholders from the people, private and public sectors were invited to participate in a series of consultations. About 50 focus group discussions were conducted with more than 4,000 Singaporeans from various walks of life – students, taxi drivers, academics, senior residents, senior volunteers, grassroots leaders, and senior learners. The discussions covered 10 topics of lifelong learning, lifelong employability, volunteerism, health and wellness, social engagement and inclusion, aged care services, housing, transport, public spaces and research on ageing. The feedback from these discussions went into the building of the Action Plan.</p> <p>Since the launch of the Action Plan, other sentiment surveys, in-depth interviews and other engagements are conducted with the general public, including older persons, to ensure that the initiatives and policies remain relevant to their needs. Over the past 3 years, the Ministerial Committee on Ageing (MCA) has seen the enthusiasm from over 5,000 Singaporeans who attended more than 35 engagement sessions to discuss and shape transformation in how we can age well in the community. The MCA has started working on plans to address the needs of our seniors raised by Singaporeans, and incorporate the ideas to support our seniors to age well. The MCA will continue to rally Singaporeans from all walks of life, to create an inclusive society that celebrates and honours our seniors’ immense contributions. Please refer to Section 6 below for further details.</p> <p>The draft <b>Mental Capacity Bill</b> consulted key stakeholders and members of the public who welcomed the Bill in view of Singapore's ageing population and lauded it as a right move towards empowering individuals to plan for their future. Stakeholders consulted included those from eldercare and disability voluntary welfare organisations, such as Alzheimer's Disease Association.</p> <p>The <b>Mental Capacity Act</b> was introduced by then Nominated Member of Parliament, Walter Woon, as a Private Member’s Bill in 1994 and involved extensive consultation. An Amendment Bill was tabled in 2010 as a Private Member’s Bill by Member of Parliament, Seah Kian Peng who had a workgroup made up of Members of Parliament and conducted multiple rounds of consultations. Both rounds involved discussions with members of public and stakeholders working with the elderly.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
3.1.5	Does the Government foster work and volunteering of younger and older persons in intergenerational settings?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>



	<p><i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>The Ministry of Health promotes intergenerational interactions and volunteering opportunities through initiatives such as the Intergenerational Learning Programme (ILP) offered under the National Silver Academy. ILPs aim to encourage intergenerational bonding by matching youths and seniors in a group learning environment. Through practical lessons on topics such as the use of social media platforms, health and wellness, seniors may acquire new knowledge while youths can benefit from opportunities for character building and development of moral values.</p>		
3.1.6	<p>Does the Government offer opportunities for intergenerational contact and exchange?</p> <p><i>please elaborate:</i></p> <p>The Government co-locates senior care and childcare centres in neighborhoods to promote intergenerational harmony between older persons and young children. Furthermore, the Proximity Housing Grant was also introduced to encourage Singaporean families to live closer together – allowing for more opportunities for caregiving and support between seniors and their children and grandchildren. The Government also supports the Intergenerational Learning Programme (ILP) and Silver Volunteer Fund (SVF), administered by the Council for Third Age (C3A), to encourage intergenerational bonding by matching youths and seniors in a group learning environment and to provide seniors with opportunities to be engaged meaningfully through volunteerism, respectively. An example of an SVF-funded initiative is where senior volunteers under RSVP are given the opportunity to contribute their time and experiences to engage at-risk students with limited social support, through activities such as story-telling, and role playing to impart moral values such as perseverance, responsibility and empathy.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
3.1.7	<p>Does the Government encourage the private sector and non-profit organizations to involve older persons in planning and design of goods and services?</p> <p><i>please elaborate:</i></p> <p>Private and non-profit organisations strongly feature in the eldercare sector in Singapore, including the provision of community-based support and care services for older persons. In assessing funding proposals submitted by non-profit organisations, the Government assesses the extent to which service models are designed to meet the needs of older persons (typically done through conducting needs assessment, engagement sessions with seniors/ caregivers). The Government also engages the private and non-profit sector to understand ground sentiments on how we can plan and design our services for seniors better.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

3.2	If “no”, are there any efforts towards the development and adoption of such a legislation, policy and/or action plan? <i>please elaborate:</i>  N.A.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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**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]
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Challenge	1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? <i>please elaborate:</i>
4.1 Lack of human resources dedicated to population ageing issues	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4.2 Lack of financial resources dedicated to population ageing issues	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4.3 Lack of data on older persons and/or population ageing at the national and/or subnational levels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Singapore invests in ageing-related research across multiple disciplines. Two main institutions supporting this are: (i) the national Geriatric Education and Research Institute (GERI), which guides, conducts and coordinates Singapore’s research initiatives related to geriatric services and age-related healthcare issues; and (ii) the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School’s Centre for Ageing, Research and Education (CARE). It was established to further research social aspects of ageing which complement the largely clinical work done at GERI. CARE also seeks to foster multi-disciplinary research on ageing that will be translated into solutions for local seniors. The Ministry of Health is closely involved in these research efforts.  Besides funding institutions to undertake ageing-related research, MOH also commissions population-

				level studies such as CARE's Transitions in Health, Employment, Social Engagement and Intergenerational Transfers in Singapore Study (THE SIGNS study) to collect longitudinal data on population ageing and trends in Singapore.
4.4 Lack of overall political support	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4.5 Lack of cross-ministerial coordination on population ageing issues	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4.6 Lack of international support and cooperation on population ageing issues	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4.7 Lack of public awareness and understanding of population ageing issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Issues on population ageing are regularly featured in local press.
4.8 A bottom-up approach to population ageing not followed (e.g., involvement of older persons)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4.9 Misconceptions and stereotypes about population ageing and older persons	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The local press regularly featured seniors as examples of successful ageing. More examples can also be found on a government website, I Feel Young SG ( <a href="https://www.moh.gov.sg/ifeelyoungsg/home">https://www.moh.gov.sg/ifeelyoungsg/home</a> ), which aims to educate Singaporeans on successful ageing. The website also has Facebook and Instagram presence.
4.10 Any other challenges (please name them) <i>please elaborate:</i> -				

**Priorities of MIPAA “issues”**

5	<p>Which of the “issues” listed under the three priority directions of MIPAA has your Government prioritized (for a list of “issues”, see the Annex)? <i>please elaborate:</i></p> <p>The Ministry of Health is in the midst of refreshing the Action Plan on Successful Ageing, which will focus on the three thrusts of Care, Contribution and Connectedness. A brief description of the thrusts and the corresponding “issues” under the priority directions of MIPAA are as follows:</p>
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	<p>The “Care” thrust aims to delay the onset of chronic illness and improve seniors’ quality of life. Corresponding issues include health promotion and well-being throughout life, mental health needs of older persons, and care and support for caregivers.</p> <p>The “Contribution” thrust aims to expand employment opportunities for seniors, reduce barriers to senior employment, and ensure that seniors are prepared for retirement, with opportunities to learn and volunteer. Issues related to this include access to knowledge, education and training, work and the ageing labour force, and active participation in society and development.</p> <p>The “Connectedness” thrust focuses on ensuring that our seniors can stay connected to their communities, through an enabling built environment, leveraging digital platforms, and building a strong social compact. This includes concerns such as intergenerational solidarity, and housing and the living environment.</p>
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## II. Older persons and development

**Instruction:** For the following questions, please provide: (a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan; (b) date of implementation and time frame; (c) its main elements; and (d) its main achievements. Please elaborate and please attach copies of relevant documents or provide their link.

### *Active participation*

6	<p>Has the Government undertaken any measures to promote the active participation of older persons in society and in decision-making processes at all levels? (<i>SDG 5.b.1; SDG 11.3.2; SDG 17.8.1</i>) <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>The Action Plan adopts a collaborative approach where members of the public, including older persons, as well as government agencies and stakeholders from the non-profit, private and public sectors were invited to participate in a series of consultations to share their concerns and challenges, as well as their hopes and aspirations, to guide the Government’s priorities and plans for the Action Plan. To draw up the 2015 Action Plan with the input of seniors, the Government held Focus Group Discussions on key areas such as health and wellness, employment and aged care, “Listening Points” at public spaces and online consultations.</p> <p>The Refresh of the Action Plan is also currently adopting this collaborative approach and members of the public, by forging new partnerships with citizens, corporates and community partners to co-create initiatives and transform our seniors’ lived experiences. These include extensive engagements that invite older persons to share their views over Focus Group Discussions, and surveys to better understand ground sentiments on ageing. It also goes beyond seeking feedback to working with citizens to co-create solutions alongside the Government. The Ministerial Committee of Ageing organized the Citizens’ Panel on Contribution, as a call-to-action for Singaporeans to partner the Government in co-creating the Action Plan Refresh, and to encourage</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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	<p>a Whole-of-society engagement in ageing issues. 46 Singaporeans, aged 25 to over 65, from all walks of life gathered virtually to ideate and develop solutions to support seniors to contribute their knowledge and expertise in their golden years. The participants were supported by resource persons from Government agencies, academia, non-profit organisations, employers, as well as senior employees and volunteers, and presented 9 recommendations to a Government Panel led by Minister Masagos Zulkifli.</p>		
7	<p>Has the Government taken measures to facilitate older persons' participation in physical activity? (<i>see also companion document</i>)  <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>Please see response to Section 16.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
8	<p>Do older persons' organizations exist in your country? How many are active and what types of organizations are these?  <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>Examples of organisations in Singapore that promote the active participation of seniors in society include the Council for Third Age (C3A) and RSVP Singapore The Organisation of Senior Volunteers (RSVP Singapore).</p> <p>C3A is a government-funded entity that promotes active ageing through public education, outreach and partnership. With its focus on lifelong learning, senior volunteerism and positive ageing, C3A works with and through partners to help older persons age well. In particular, C3A is the administrator of the National Silver Academy (NSA), which offers a variety of courses in areas that might be of interest to seniors (such as horticulture, finance and arts) and the Silver Volunteer Fund, which creates diversified and sustainable volunteering opportunities for seniors.</p> <p>RSVP Singapore, is a registered charity with Institution of Public Character (IPC) status established in 1988 whose vision is to make every senior a volunteer through its mission of developing senior volunteers and providing meaningful opportunities to serve the needs of the community. Since its inception, RSVP Singapore has been actively engaging seniors in purpose-driven volunteerism. With 2,500 volunteers, RSVP Singapore serves more than 200,000 beneficiaries each year including the mentally disadvantaged, at-risk children from low-income families, and socially isolated seniors through its community service programmes.</p> <p>In addition, various non-profit and private providers as well as social enterprises complement the efforts of government to provide a wide array of eldercare services spanning residential care, centre-based care (e.g. day care and rehabilitation services) and home care. Home and community services help support older persons to age-in-place at</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

	home, and prevent pre-mature institutionalisation. Residential care services help to meet the needs of seniors who require assistance with most of their activities of daily living and/or daily nursing care who are often frail and with little or no family support.		
9	<p>Does the Government provide any financial, technical or policy support to these organizations? <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate</i></p> <p>The Ministry of Health provides policy direction and funding support to C3A for the implementation of the respective programmes, and to providers of eldercare services for subsidised residents/ clients.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

**Work**

10	<p>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) <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>Yes, we have accepted all recommendations made by the Tripartite Workgroup on Older Workers on strengthening support for older workers by raising the retirement and re-employment age amongst other measures.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
10.1	<p>Has the Government instituted a statutory retirement age? If "yes", what is it (women/men)? <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>The current statutory Retirement age and Re-employment age is 62 and 67 years respectively.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
10.2	<p>Does the Government provide incentives for longer working life opportunities and more flexible retirement choices? <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>Yes, employers are required to offer re-employment to senior workers from statutory Retirement Age (currently 62) to Re-employment Age (currently 67), and we encourage them to also provide more part-time re-employment opportunities via grants.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
10.3	<p>Does the Government provide work-related training and learning opportunities for older workers? <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>Singapore has established government agencies such as Workforce Singapore (WSG) and SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG) to help workers, including older workers, acquire new skills and find jobs. Under SkillsFuture, the SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy was introduced to provide higher subsidies to Singapore Citizens aged 40 and above to participate in MOE- and SSG-supported courses offered by the Institutes of Higher Learning and CET Centres appointed by SSG. We encourage companies to have regular structured career</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

	<p>planning sessions with mature and senior workers to assess the skills they would require for their desired career path in the future.</p> <p>The SkillsFuture Mid-Career Support Package was introduced in 2020 as part of the Next Bound of SkillsFuture, which aims to create more career transition opportunities for mid-career workers in their 40s to 50s. As part of this, the Government will ramp up the capacity of reskilling programmes such as WSG’s Career Conversion Programmes and career transition programmes at the CET Centres.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Career Conversion Programmes provides enhanced support of up to 90% of the cost for employers who hire and reskill mature jobseekers, as compared to generally up to 70% for non-mature jobseekers.</li> <li>• The Government provided an additional \$500 SkillsFuture Credit for those aged 40 to 60 in 2020 to empower them to refresh their skills and enhance their employability by enabling them to access career transition programmes at the CET Centres.</li> <li>• We have also built up a pool of volunteer Career Advisors to provide sector and occupation-specific career advice and outline career options and boost the confidence of their mid-career peers. The volunteer Career Advisors initiative kicked off in December 2020 for Accountancy, Electronics, InfoComm and Technology and Retail – sectors which have continued to see growth and interest from local jobseekers amid disruptions. As of Aug 2021, about 60 volunteer Career Advisors, comprising industry and union leaders, HR professionals and alumni from WSG’s Career Conversion Programmes, have joined the initiative which will be rolled out to more sectors progressively.</li> </ul> <p>In response to COVID-19’s impact on the economy and labour market, the National Jobs Council (NJC) has spearheaded the national effort to bring together jobs and skills opportunities under the SGUnited Jobs and Skills Package (SGUJS) to support local jobseekers. Within the package, the Government has provided additional support to help mature workers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher training allowances of up to \$3,800 are provided for mature mid-career trainees on the SGUnited Mid-Career Pathways Programme under the SGUJS package. Host organisations that take on mature mid-career trainees will receive higher government co-funding of 90% instead of 80% previously.</li> <li>• The JGI also provides enhanced support for mature hires. For new mature, persons with disabilities and ex-offender hires in</li> </ul>		
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	eligible companies, the Government will provide up to 18 months of salary support.		
10.4	<p>Does the Government recognize the benefits of increased work experience with age in the labour market? <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>We recognise that senior workers bring along with them a wealth of experience and have made steps to ensure that businesses can continue to tap on them.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
10.5	<p>Has the Government implemented any measures to better utilize older persons' work experience? <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>Yes, measures have been put in place to encourage senior workers to be able to work longer if they wish to - the statutory Retirement and Re-employment Ages will be increased to 65 and 70, respectively by 2030, with the first increase to 63 and 68 from 1 Jul 2022. We also offer incentives such as the Senior Employment Credit which provides wage offsets to employers who employ senior workers, and the Senior Worker Earlier Adopter Grant to employers who raise their internal retirement and re-employment ages above statutory requirements.</p> <p>Additionally, the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth has undertaken initiatives to leverage the work experience of retiring workers through skills-based volunteering. In September 2019, RSVP Singapore and the Singapore Cares Office of the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth committed to a five-year partnership to conduct active outreach to baby boomers at the workplace, train interested seniors to be competent volunteers, and deploy senior volunteers to suitable volunteering opportunities curated by RSVP Singapore and its partners. This includes skills-based volunteering opportunities that taps on seniors' IT skills, administrative skills, and professional qualifications such as human resource, finance, audit and legal skills. As of end December 2021, RSVP Singapore has engaged close to 60,000 senior volunteers despite the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The Ministerial Committee of Ageing recognises that enabling seniors to continue contributing in the form of work and volunteerism is not only beneficial to them, but also allows all of us to learn from their experience and knowledge. It thus organized the Citizens Panel on Contribution, to partner Singaporeans in developing and implementing innovative ideas to support our seniors in meaningful pursuits of contribution. A diverse group of Singaporeans came together to brainstorm and co-create new ideas and opportunities to enable our seniors to stay active in the workplace and other informal settings (e.g. volunteering), so we can harness their work experience.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
10.5.1	Has the Government implemented any measures to support employers to retain or rehire older persons?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>



	<p><i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>Yes, employers are required to offer re-employment to senior workers from statutory Retirement Age (currently 62) to Re-employment Age (currently 67). We also offer incentives such as the Senior Employment Credit which provides wage offsets to employers who employ senior workers, and the Part-Time Re-employment Grant to employers who commit to a part-time re-employment policy to all eligible senior workers who request for it.</p> <p>To support employers in hiring senior workers, the Government introduced the Senior Employment Credit (SEC) from 1 Jan 2021. The SEC provides up to 8% wage offsets to employers that hire senior Singaporean workers aged 55 years and above, and earning below \$4,000 a month, with more support given for the older age bands.</p> <p>To support progressive companies that implement a higher internal Retirement and Re-employment Age than statutory requirements, the Government also introduced the Senior Worker Early Adopter Grant from 1 July 2020 onwards. From 16 February 2021 onwards, the grant will provide companies up to \$125,000 if their company's own retirement and re-employment ages are above minimum statutory requirements.</p> <p>For companies who commit to providing part-time re-employment opportunities to eligible senior workers who request for it, they are able to tap on the Part-time Re-employment Grant from 1 July 2020 onwards. From 16 February 2021, the grant will provide up to \$125,000 to companies that commit to a part-time re-employment policy</p> <p>Since 16 Feb 2021, the Support for Job Redesign under the Productivity Solutions Grant (PSG-JR) has been enhanced to up to 80% (from up to 70%) capped at \$30,000 per enterprise, until 31 March 2022. Enterprises can engage pre-approved JR consultants to implement JR initiatives to support business and workforce transformation needs.</p>		
10.5.2	<p>Has the Government promoted age-friendly workplaces through policies and training on age inclusion or unconscious bias?</p> <p><i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>We encourage anti-discrimination training to ensure all employees are treated equally regardless of their characteristics, including age.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
10.6	<p>Has the Government undertaken measures to close gender pay or pension gaps?</p> <p><i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>As Singapore's gender pay gap is mainly due to occupational segregation, our measures deal with supporting women to remain in the workforce via flexible work arrangements.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

10.7	<p>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? <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>We encourage the adoption of flexible work arrangements which are likely to disproportionately benefit women.</p> <p>Women, including mature individuals aged 40 and above, seeking to re-enter the workforce can tap on Workforce Singapore’s (WSG) broad-based suite of employment facilitation services and programmes to take on or transit to new jobs, depending on their specific needs. One such programme is the Career Trial, where there is a trial period for the employer and jobseeker to assess job fit, considering factors such as the occupation, industry and jobseeker profile. During the trial duration of up to three months, jobseekers receive a training allowance from the Government. There are also retention incentives for jobseekers who are hired after the trial.</p> <p>Those require career assistance can visit WSG’s Careers Connect and NTUC-Employment and Employability Institute’s (NTUC-e2i’s) career centres, including through any of the 24 SGUnited Jobs and Skills Centres in HDB estates. They can also tap on the MyCareersFuture portal, which enables more efficient and effective search based on jobs that best suit their skillsets.</p> <p>To enable all workers, including older women, to better manage their work and personal responsibilities, the Government also promotes and supports the provision of flexible work arrangements and other work-life harmony strategies.</p> <p>In addition, there are income security policies that disproportionately benefitted older women like the Matched Retirement Savings Scheme and Silver Support scheme.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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**Rural and urban areas**

11	<p>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) <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>Part (a) is not applicable to Singapore.</p> <p>On Part (b): The Government has implemented measures to reach out to older persons in Singapore. An example is the SG Cares Community Networks, which was started in 2018 to bring together the social, health and community sectors in each town. Regular network sessions</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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	<p>are organised, across all Housing Development Board (HDB) towns, gathering Grassroot leaders, Voluntary Welfare Organisations (VWOs) and community partners to develop local programmes and services to meet the local community's needs. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government activated the SG Cares Community Networks to conduct proactive outreach to rental households to check on the well-being of individuals, including older persons, and link them with further assistance if required. These efforts covered 35,000 households in total, inclusive of senior and non-senior households.</p> <p>Other measures include the Community Network for Seniors (CNS) which help to bring together government agencies and partners, and connect seniors to active ageing programmes, befriending and care and support packages. In addition, the Partners Engaging and Empowering Rough Sleepers (PEERS) Network, helped to rally community partners to support seniors who were homeless during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>		
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**Education, training**

12	<p>Has the Government supported older persons' access to knowledge, education and training? (SDG 4.3.1; SDG 4.4.1; SDG 4.6.1) <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>Please see Sections 10 and 16.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
12.1	<p>Does the Government pursue a life-course approach to knowledge, education, training and work, such as lifelong learning opportunities? <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>Please see Section 10.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
12.2	<p>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? <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>SG Digital Office under the Infocomm Media Development Authority has trained over 130,000 seniors under the "Seniors Go Digital" programme which focuses on digital literacy assistance to the older generation. As part of this initiative, Digital Ambassadors provide practical assistance to equip seniors with digital skills, through one-to-one coaching or small group learning at community hubs, and learning journeys to educate seniors on e-payments. These efforts are part of the whole-of-nation "Digital for Life" movement to promote digital technology and inclusion. Since its establishment in Feb 2021, more than 100 partners (as at 31 Dec 2021) have pledged support for various aspects of DfL, including providing vulnerable groups like the seniors with digital tools and skills.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

	<p>The National Library Board (NLB) offers “Time of Your Life” series for seniors to encourage active aging and lifelong learning. To help seniors build confidence with digital technology, NLB runs regular digital readiness programmes for seniors and hosts peer-facilitated digital learning communities. As a partner under the DfL movement, NLB will also be introducing digital making programmes and technology bazaars to deepen digital engagement among citizens, including seniors.</p>		
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***Income security, social protection (intergenerational)***

13	<p>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) <i>If yes, please answer 13.1 – 13.8</i> <i>If no, please proceed to 14</i> <i>please elaborate with data as appropriate:</i> [REDACTED]</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
13.1	<p>Social protection floor for the total population, including older persons (<i>see also companion document</i>) <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i> [REDACTED]</p> <p>ComCare, which is overseen by the Ministry of Social and Family Development, provides social assistance for low-income individuals and families.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
13.2	<p>Old age contributory pensions schemes (universal coverage, or for specific professional groups) <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i> [REDACTED]</p> <p>The Central Provident Fund (CPF) is a comprehensive social security savings plan for Singaporeans to save for their lifelong income, healthcare and home financing.</p> <p>For Singapore Citizens (SC) or Permanent Residents (PR) born in 1958 or after, and have at least \$60,000 in their Retirement Account (RA) six months before age 65, they will be on CPF LIFE that provide payouts for life. The CPF LIFE scheme was introduced in 2009 as a voluntary scheme, and started auto-enrolling cohorts turning 55 in 2013 if they met the criteria mentioned above. For SCs or PRs are born in 1957 and before, they will be on the Retirement Sum Scheme that provide monthly payouts from their RA until the RA balances are depleted. The Retirement Sum Scheme had been introduced in 1987 (then called Minimum Sum Scheme).</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
13.3	<p>Old-age non-contributory (or social) pension (universal coverage or targeted at some segment of older persons) <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i> [REDACTED]</p> <p>The Silver Support Scheme, introduced in 2016, provides cash payouts of up to SGD \$900/quarter to seniors aged 65 and above who had low incomes in</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

	<p>their working years and now have less in their retirement. The scheme covers 1 in 3 Singaporean seniors aged 65 and above. (see <a href="https://silversupport.gov.sg">https://silversupport.gov.sg</a>)</p>		
13.4	<p>Specific pension schemes for the informal sector <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>Employees in the informal sector contribute to their CPF accounts and receive contributions from their employers, similar to employees in the formal sector.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
13.5	<p>Other income-support schemes that specifically benefit older persons <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>The Workfare Income Supplement (WIS) Scheme, introduced in 2007, is a negative income tax that tops up the incomes of almost half a million lower-wage workers annually, by up to 30%. Older workers receive higher payouts, with those aged 60 and above receiving up to SGD \$4,000 annually in cash and CPF top-ups, to incentivise them to stay economically active. Close to half of all WIS recipients are aged 60 and over. (see <a href="https://workfare.gov.sg">https://workfare.gov.sg</a>)</p> <p>ComCare Short-To-Medium-Term Assistance (SMTA) supports individuals and families who are temporarily unable to work, are looking for employment, or are drawing low wages and require financial assistance. From FY2016 - 2019, around 10% of individuals assisted on SMTA are aged 65 and above. Eligible households will receive monthly cash assistance, assistance with household bills, medical and employment assistance, and referrals to relevant partner agencies.</p> <p>ComCare Long-Term Assistance (LTA) supports individuals who are permanently unable to work due to old age, illness or disability, have limited or no means of income, and have little or no family support. The support provided includes monthly cash assistance, medical treatment in public healthcare institutions and access to government-funded social services such as Senior Activity Centres and befriending services. Recipients may also receive additional assistance for recurring healthcare or hygiene needs, or one-off purchases of essential items. In FY2019, majority of LTA beneficiaries (70%) were elderly persons from single-person households.</p> <p>For further information, please visit: <a href="http://www.msf.gov.sg/ComCare/Documents/ComCare-Trends-Report-FY-15-19.pdf">www.msf.gov.sg/ComCare/Documents/ComCare-Trends-Report-FY-15-19.pdf</a>.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
13.6	<p>Income-support schemes focused on older women <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>The Silver Support Scheme (see Section 13.3) provides cash payouts of up to SGD \$900/quarter to seniors aged 65 and above who had low incomes in their working years and now have less in their retirement. Two-thirds of Silver Support recipients are female.</p> <p>ComCare SMTA and LTA as mentioned in 13.5.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

13.7	<p><b>Financial inclusion or financial literacy of older persons</b> <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>Since 2003, a national financial well-being programme (MoneySense) was launched to raise the financial literacy of Singaporeans, and help them make prudent decisions related to their savings, housing purchase, investments, retirement planning, and not to fall for scams. In 2012, the Institute for Financial Literacy was also set up to provide free financial educational programmes to the public, including topics relevant to older persons such as managing retirement income, health insurance and estate planning.</p> <p>To help older persons better understand the CPF schemes and the retirement options available to them including housing monetisation, personalised one-on-one CPF Retirement Planning Service was also made available to CPF members reaching the age of 55 and their payout eligibility age respectively.</p> <p>In 2020, the Singapore Financial Data Exchange (SGFinDex) was launched, to enable individuals to access, through applications, their financial information held across different government agencies and participating financial institutions. The government also introduced a free financial planning application, MyMoneySense, that individuals can tap on SGFinDex and obtain an overview of their financial data and receive personalised guidance for their financial planning.</p> <p>For SDG 8.10.2, a National Financial Capability Survey conducted in 2021 showed that more than 9 in 10 of Singapore residents aged 60 and older indicated they have access to at least a savings account, credit card, pre-paid/payment card, or mobile payment service.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
13.8	<p><b>Any other measures (please name them)?</b> <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>Seniors who need further support in retirement can unlock the value from their property to boost their retirement income through the Lease Buyback Scheme or Silver Housing Bonus (SHB).</p> <p>The Lease Buyback Scheme (LBS) was introduced in March 2009 and enhanced in 2015. Under the LBS, elderly households can choose to sell part of their flat lease to the Government to receive a stream of retirement income while continuing to live in it</p> <p>The SHB was introduced in 2013 to help lower-income elderly households supplement their retirement income when they right-size their flats. They will receive a cash bonus of up to \$30,000 when they sell their existing house to buy a smaller flat type and use some of the net sale proceeds to top up their CPF Retirement Account (RA) and join CPF LIFE. (see <a href="http://www.hdb.gov.sg">www.hdb.gov.sg</a>)</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

**Poverty**

14	<p>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)</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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	<i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i>		
	See Section 13.		

**Resilience**

15	<p>Has the Government implemented policies to help older persons cope with emergency situations? (SDG 11.5.1; 13.2.1)</p> <p><i>If yes, please answer 15.1 – 15.4</i></p> <p><i>If no, please proceed to 16</i></p> <p><i>please elaborate with data as appropriate:</i></p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
15.1	<p>Have concrete measures been taken to protect and assist older persons affected by natural disasters, political conflict or other humanitarian emergencies?</p> <p><i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>Singapore has a very low risk of natural disasters. Our main risks stemmed from man-made, industrial, technological, and health disasters or emergencies.</p> <p>The government has established the Homeland Crisis Executive Group (HCEG), which is chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, and comprises senior representatives from all ministries. Under the HCEG’s oversight are Crisis Management Groups that muster relevant agencies to deal with different types of incidents.</p> <p>For the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Singapore recognises that seniors are at higher risk of developing serious health complications if infected. As such, a comprehensive suite of measures was implemented and regularly updated to safeguard the health and wellbeing of our seniors. Efforts include active testing and safe management measures at senior residential care homes, outreach to vulnerable seniors at home, including the deployment of mobile vaccination teams to locations near where many seniors live, to enhance convenience for vaccination.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
15.2	<p>Are challenges faced by older persons in disaster situations addressed in national disaster response policies and strategies?</p> <p><i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>Refer to section above.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
15.3	<p>Does the Government recognize the agency of older persons in supporting response, recovery and reconstruction following natural disasters, political conflict or other humanitarian emergencies?</p> <p><i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

	The national SGSecure movement to sensitise, train and mobilise the community (including the elderly) to play a part to prevent and deal with a terrorist attack. It is a call to action for everyone to unite and safeguard our way of life and to do our part to keep Singapore safe and secure by strengthening community vigilance, cohesion and resilience.		
15.4	<p>Are older persons recognized as having a role in mitigating climate change?</p> <p><i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>Singapore’s sustainability policies are made and introduced with a vision to safeguard our long-term environmental sustainability. We have rolled out the Singapore Green Plan 2030, which charts out a whole-of-nation approach, with actions for individuals, including the elderly, (<a href="https://www.greenplan.gov.sg/take-action/as-individual">https://www.greenplan.gov.sg/take-action/as-individual</a>) and organisations.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

### III. Advancing health and well-being into old age

**Instruction:** For the following questions, please provide: (a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan; (b) its time frame; (c) its main elements; and (d) its main achievements. Please supply details of and links to relevant documents or attach copies of them.

#### Overall health and well-being

16	<p>Has the Government developed policies or programmes to promote health and well-being throughout life, including active and healthy ageing?</p> <p><i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>Under the Action Plan for Successful Ageing, we aim to create more opportunities for Singaporean seniors to stay physically, cognitively, economically and socially active. This is done through a few ways.</p> <p><b>1. Health and Wellness Active-Ageing Programmes</b></p> <p>The Health Promotion Board (HPB) and People’s Association (PA) implement the Health and Wellness Active-Ageing Programmes, to encourage regular participation of seniors across different active ageing programme (AAP) domains in order to achieve a holistic impact on physical, social and mental wellness outcomes. The AAPs will be rolled out nationwide at community nodes to enhance the accessibility of programme offerings to seniors. 600 community partners had hosted AAPs as of 31 March 2020, and over 92,000 seniors in the community have been reached to-date through health talks and exercise programmes.</p> <p><b>2. Functional Screening</b></p> <p>Project Silver Screen is a nationwide functional screening programme that promotes early detection of functional decline among seniors so that early interventions can be rendered to improve individual’s well-</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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	<p>being and quality of life. Targeting seniors aged 60 years and above, the programme comprises basic functional screening for eyesight, hearing and oral health, post-screening follow-up in the community, as well as subsidised fitting of assistive devices. In FY2020, about 80,000 seniors have attended the functional screening sessions.</p> <p><b>3. Senior Learning</b></p> <p>The National Silver Academy was established in May 2016 to grow and expand opportunities for senior learning in Singapore by: (i) increasing access to more non-work-skills oriented courses at post-secondary education institutions (PSEI) and community-based organisations (CBO) at subsidised rates; (ii) opening up options for seniors to audit existing modules at PSEIs; and (iii) providing funding support for Intergenerational Learning Programmes (ILP). Over 60,000 participants have benefitted from more than 1,000 courses offered, under the National Silver Academy, as of Dec 2020.</p> <p><b>4. Senior Volunteerism</b></p> <p>The Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth's Singapore Cares (SG Cares) Office works alongside various partners to equip and deploy senior volunteers to meaningful volunteer opportunities in the community. Partners include SG Cares Volunteer Centres located in every residential town, other government agencies such as those overseeing the youth and sports sectors, as well as non-profit organisations such as RSVP Singapore The Organisation of Senior Volunteers. In partnership with the SG Cares Office, RSVP Singapore has engaged close to 60,000 senior volunteers between September 2019 and December 2021, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Championed by the President's Challenge, MOH also launched the Silver Volunteer Fund that aims to provide funding support to Volunteer Host Organizations (VHOs) to create diverse volunteering opportunities for seniors, and to build the capabilities of VHOs in volunteer management and training.</p> <p>Over 9,700 new senior volunteers have participated as of Dec 2020, including some 2,900 senior befrienders serving over 9,500 vulnerable seniors in 87 neighbourhoods under the Community Befriending Programme (CBP).</p> <p><b>5. Workplace Health</b></p> <p>Under the Workplace Health programme, we are also partnering employers and the unions to bring preventive health programmes to workplaces, focusing on sectors with more mature workers (aged 40 and above). To date, we have touched over 170,000 mature workers across 7 sectors (e.g. transport and logistics, cleaning, security, etc).</p>		
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16.1	<p>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)</p> <p><i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>Our programmes target abusers of all ages, including older persons.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
16.2	<p>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)</p> <p><i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>The Health Promotion Board has implemented public education campaigns and programmes to encourage seniors to adopt a healthier, nutrient-rich meals and equip them with simple tips to do so.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

17	<p>Are issues related to older persons integrated into health policies and programmes, and, if so, how?</p> <p><i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>Singapore's ageing population will lead to extremely high healthcare costs, exacerbated by a shrinking tax base. Cost efficiency is therefore a key tenet of Singapore's health policies and programmes. Singapore health policies and programmes (e.g. public health, primary care, acute care, financing) are designed to promote individual responsibility, maximise prevention, and reduce inefficiencies (e.g. overconsumption of healthcare) in order to keep healthcare costs sustainable without compromising healthcare services and quality. As an example, Singapore has greatly focused on primary and community care, which not only contribute towards preventive health by facilitating earlier detection of illnesses, but would also allow seniors to age-in-place so that they can be well supported where they stay. See Section 19.1</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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**Health-care and long-term care services**

18	<p>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)</p> <p><i>If yes, please answer 18.1 – 18.4</i></p> <p><i>If no, please proceed to 19</i></p> <p><i>please elaborate with data as appropriate:</i></p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
18.1	<p>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</p> <p><i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>Singaporeans, including the elderly, can access subsidised healthcare in the primary care setting.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They can enjoy up to 75% subsidies for services and drugs in government polyclinics (children and elderly, i.e. those 65 and above, enjoy 75% compared to 50% for others).</li> <li>• Community Health Assist Scheme (CHAS) subsidies for all Singaporeans, with lower- to middle-income Singaporeans receiving higher amount of subsidies, at participating CHAS GP and dental clinics close to their homes.</li> </ul> <p>Those who are found to need specialist care after seeing a polyclinic doctor or CHAS GP and are referred by polyclinics or are CHAS members and referred by CHAS GP can receive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 75% in Specialist Outpatient Clinics (SOCs) in public hospitals (lower- and middle- income enjoy 70% and 60% subsidy respectively for services, and 75% on drugs, compared to 50% for others).</li> </ul> <p>There are also targeted schemes such as the Pioneer and Merdeka Generation Packages which provide eligible elderly Singaporeans with additional healthcare subsidies when seeking care in the public Specialist Outpatient Clinics, polyclinics and CHAS clinics. About 450,000 and 500,000 elderly Singaporeans benefit from the Pioneer and Merdeka Generation Packages respectively.</p> <p>The Seniors' Mobility and Enabling Fund (SMF) provides support for Singaporeans aged 60 years and above to age in place within the community by extending subsidies of up to 90% for assistive devices, home healthcare items, or transport.</p>		
18.2	<p>Health coverage (universal coverage or targeted at some segment of older persons): (a) population coverage; (b) benefit coverage; and (c) financial coverage)</p> <p><i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>Singapore offers universal healthcare coverage to its citizens, with a financing system anchored on the twin philosophies of individual responsibility and affordable healthcare for all. Our mixed financing system with multiple layers of protection ensures that no Singaporean is denied access to basic healthcare because of affordability issues. The first layer of protection is provided by the Government via heavy subsidies of up to 80% of the total bill across all public healthcare settings. The subsidies are means-tested such that patients who require more assistance receive more financial support.</p> <p>The second layer of protection is provided by insurance. MediShield Life is a basic health insurance scheme that provides all Singaporeans with universal and lifelong protection against large healthcare bills. The Singapore Government provides premium subsidies and support to keep premiums affordable for Singaporeans, with the lower-income Singaporeans, including the elderly, receiving higher amount of premium subsidies and support. MediShield Life benefits and</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

	<p>premiums are reviewed regularly so that it remains sustainable and relevant to the needs of Singaporeans.</p> <p>The third layer of protection is provided by MediSave, a national healthcare saving scheme whereby Singaporeans sets aside part of their income to pay for their or their dependants' medical expenses, as well as their healthcare needs in old age.</p> <p>Finally, MediFund is a medical endowment fund set up by the Government that functions as a safety net for needy Singaporean patients who face difficulties in paying their medical bills after government subsidies, insurance and MediSave. No Singaporean will be denied appropriate healthcare due to inability to pay.</p> <p>Overall in the acute setting, about 8 in 10 Singaporeans pay less than \$100 in cash for their subsidised hospitalisation bills today, after subsidies, insurance and MediSave.</p>		
18.3	<p>Involvement of older persons in the development and strengthening of health-care services? <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>The Ministry of Health has rolled out the eldercare centre service model since May 2021. This comes after a review of various social-health services in the community conducted from 2018 – 2020 which incorporated the feedback from older persons in Singapore. Under this model, all eldercare centres will provide a common suite of services, comprising active ageing programme, befriending, information and referral to care services.</p> <p>The Ministry of Health, Ministry of National Development and the Housing Development Board launched a new assisted living typology, the Community Care Apartments where care services are twinned with senior-friendly housing options to support our seniors to age-in-place. In the development of this new typology, we conducted extensive engagements with seniors, healthcare providers and caregivers to better understand the needs and preferences for their housing environment. These insights were directly incorporated into our development of the care model provided at the Community Care Apartments that was very well-received when launched.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
18.4	<p>Digital technology to promote inclusive health-care services <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>One existing platform is HealthHub, a one-stop portal to allow citizens to access their personal health records and lab tests, and share relevant records with their caregivers and loved ones if they wish. HealthHub also provides useful and relevant health information to users to improve their health literacy.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

	<p>The MOH Office for Healthcare Transformation has also established the Future Primary Care programme, which aims to enable patients to effectively self-manage their chronic diseases in partnership with their primary care providers. This involves the development of a national telehealth platform and the incorporation of technologies that enable effective and sustainable home management, with various pilots ongoing. One such initiative is the Primary Technology Enhanced Care, which allows hypertension patients to submit their blood pressure readings regularly through a Bluetooth machine. Healthcare providers can then analyse these readings and intervene when necessary. To facilitate digital adoption, a care coordinator would help patients download the app and pair the Bluetooth device at a government polyclinic. An IT helpline was also set up if users face issues at home.</p>		
<p>19</p>	<p>Has the Government put in place any of the following long-term care measures for older persons? <i>If yes, please answer 19.1 – 19.7</i> <i>If no, please proceed to 20</i> <i>please elaborate with data as appropriate and proceed:</i> [REDACTED]</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>19.1</p>	<p>Long-term care services for older persons <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i> [REDACTED]</p> <p><b>Increasing Capacity and Quality of Long-term Care Services</b></p> <p>Given the ageing profile of Singapore, the demand for long-term care services will increase. To ensure that those with care needs are well supported, we have increased the accessibility and quality of intermediate and long-term care (ILTC) options.</p> <p>First, we have injected a significant supply of aged care services, especially in home and community care to support seniors to age-in-place. Since end 2015, we have added 4,000 nursing home beds, 4,600 day care places, and 3,100 home care places to cater to seniors with a spectrum of needs.</p> <p>Beyond capacity, we are focusing on increasing the variety of our care services. This includes piloting respite services e.g. night respite for seniors with dementia suffering from sun-downing syndrome, home-based respite services for end-of-life cancer patients and shortening the activation times for day respite services through a pre-enrolment system.</p> <p>We are also improving the quality of aged care services, through initiatives such as capability-building programmes and sector forums for service providers to share good practices.</p> <p><b>Encouraging Ageing-in-place in the Community</b></p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	<p>In response to seniors’ aspirations to age comfortably and gracefully at home and in the community, the Government places strong emphasis on ageing-in-place. We promote home and community care options to better enable seniors to age within the community. In addition, we are exploring additional options to combine housing and care services, including the recently launched Community Care Apartments, which provides assisted living services within public housing that can be layered on as residents’ care needs increase.</p> <p>To meet ageing-in-place aspirations of seniors who have care needs, there is a comprehensive range of services that include centre-based services and home-based services. There are also specialised services for seniors with dementia such as the dementia day care and the integrated home and day care packages, which offers a flexible combination of centre-based and home-based services for seniors with varying care needs. Complementing these care services for seniors are a range of caregiver support schemes and services, in areas such as care navigation, respite, financial support, training and empowerment, and workplace support.</p>		
19.2	<p>Coordination of social and long-term care and health services, including in-home, residential and community services  <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>The Singapore government recognises that social and health needs are intertwined and have implemented initiatives to ensure that there is adequate and efficient coordination of different services.</p> <p><b>Social and Long-term Care</b></p> <p>The Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) plays an important role in coordinating and supporting efforts in integrating care, working with MOH and partners to create a vibrant care community for Singaporeans to live well and age gracefully.</p> <p>Among the many initiatives under AIC, the Community Network for Seniors (CNS) started off as an initiative that strives to build communities of care, by strengthening networks with community partners (government and non-government agencies) to improve care coordination and integration at the local level. The effort has since been expanded to all neighbourhoods island-wide, and integrated with the Silver Generation Office (SGO) to ensure assistance can be provided to vulnerable seniors promptly and seamlessly.</p> <p>It is anchored on the “TOUCH-HOLD-HELP” framework, where first, under “TOUCH”, volunteers from SGO proactively and systematically reach out to seniors to identify their needs. Thereafter, seniors with needs are referred to the various care providers, such that they may receive the support and “HELP” required, sewing up last-mile service delivery.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

	<p>As for seniors with no immediate needs, community partners continue to keep a lookout for them - which refers to the “HOLD” component of the framework. For seniors who are physically well but feel lonely, there are befriending services layered on to provide emotional and social support. These services are provided by our community partners such as the eldercare centres.</p> <p>In addition, MOH has rolled out the Eldercare Centre (EC) Service model since May 2021, where ECs will provide a suite of “ABC” services, namely Active ageing, Befriending, and information and referral to Care services to older persons within their service boundaries. In addition, ECs will assess the needs of their clients regularly, to ensure that any new social or care needs are identified, so that the appropriate services and support can be injected in a timely manner.</p>		
19.3	<p>Health insurance schemes that cover long-term care costs <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>The Singapore Government has introduced CareShield Life in 2020 to further strengthen long-term care financing. CareShield Life is a long-term care insurance scheme which provides basic financial support should Singaporeans become severely disabled, especially during old age, and need personal and medical care for a prolonged duration. For CareShield Life, monthly cash payouts start from about \$600 in 2020, for as long as the policyholder remains severely disabled. The Government provides means-tested subsidies for CareShield Life to make premiums more affordable.</p> <p>CareShield Life is mandatory for all Singaporeans born in 1980 or later, starting from when they turn 30 years old. It is optional for Singaporeans born in 1979 or earlier.</p> <p>Prior to the introduction of CareShield Life, another long-term care insurance scheme named ElderShield was in place (not mandatory to participate in). For ElderShield, monthly cash payouts of \$300 or \$400 for up to 5 or 6 years.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
19.4	<p>Long-term care costs covered by a separate insurance scheme <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>Please see Section 19.3 above.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
19.5	<p>Geriatric and gerontological planning and training for health and social care providers <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>AIC offers the Basic Eldercare Course, a comprehensive training programme for caregivers including Foreign Domestic Workers to</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

	<p>learn how to care for seniors and manage their Activities of Daily Living. Course fees range from S\$400 to S\$500. Those who qualify for Caregiver Training Grant can offset up to \$200 of the course fees.</p> <p>Temasek Polytechnic offers specialist diplomas in gerontology (optimal ageing practice; nutrition for ageing well community care support), which aims to equip existing professionals and fresh entrants in the social service, community, and health/healthcare sectors with practical knowledge in gerontology, and the essential skills required.</p> <p>The Singapore University of Social Services has a graduate programme in Gerontology that provides training from graduate certificate to PhD level. The programme aims to provide graduates with specialised knowledge and skills to work in the eldercare sector.</p> <p>Geriatrics modules are embedded in the curriculum of medical, nursing and other Allied Health (for example physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy) students.</p> <p>Medical specialists-in-training are required to undergo a mandatory Geriatric Medicine Modular course during training, which covers areas such as Falls &amp; Immobility, Cognitive Impairment, and Atypical Presentation &amp; Iatrogenesis.</p> <p>To champion and lead geriatrics care, there are specialties in Geriatric Medicine, Geriatric Dentistry, Geriatric Pharmacy, Geriatric Nursing.</p>		
19.6	<p>Involvement of older persons in the development and strengthening of long-term care services <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>Through the eldercare facilities, seniors will have volunteering opportunities to help and offer peer support to other seniors (e.g. befriending, or conducting home visits for frail neighbours). This enables seniors to continue to contribute actively within the community.</p> <p>Eldercare centres also collect feedback from seniors via Client Satisfaction Surveys. The results are reported to MOH and AIC who will review and analyse the results to inform policy and/or service improvements needed.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
19.7	<p>Any other measures (please name them)? <i>Please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

***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?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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	<i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i>		
	Please see Section 19.2		

**Monitoring of health care services**

21	<p>Has the Government undertaken measures to establish standards and monitoring mechanisms to ensure the quality of older persons' care services?</p> <p><i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>Please see Section 19.1.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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**Discrimination in access to health-care services**

22	<p>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?</p> <p><i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>The Government has put in place a comprehensive system to ensure that Singaporeans of all ages have access to quality and affordable healthcare. This is done through a multi-layered healthcare financing system. Firstly, the Government provides heavy subsidies for medical treatments across all public healthcare settings. More support is provided to the lower income, who are usually the elderly. Next, our universal medical insurance, MediShield Life, provides basic coverage for all Singaporeans against large healthcare bills for life, including those with pre-existing conditions. The Government also provides additional support to seniors through regular government contributions into their medical saving accounts (MediSave) and assistance in paying for the medical insurance premiums. Lastly, we have introduced the Pioneer Generation and Mederka Generation Packages to honour seniors who have contributed greatly during our nation building years by providing more support for their healthcare bills.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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**Mental health services**

23	<p>Has the Government implemented measures to enhance mental health services for older persons related to dementia or other psychosocial disabilities? (SDG 3.4.2)</p> <p><i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>The Community Mental Health (CMH) Masterplan was launched in 2012 to improve the care of persons with mental health conditions and dementia in the community. This Masterplan is still in effect today. Focus areas of the masterplan relevant to the mental health of older persons include:</p> <p><b>1. Improving access to early identification and diagnosis</b> - Expanded capacity of memory clinics at acute hospitals</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Piloted dementia inpatient teams at acute hospitals and community hospitals</li> <li>- Set up mental health and dementia services in polyclinics</li> <li>- Trained General Practitioners (GP) partners in mental health care management</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Supporting primary care in mental health / dementia care management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Set up Shared Care teams, to support the primary and community care providers in mental health / dementia care management through capability building and shared care collaborations</li> <li>- Set up Community Intervention Teams to support and complement GPs in managing patients with mental health conditions/ dementia and their caregivers, by providing allied-health services such as psycho-social therapeutic intervention, counselling and psycho-education</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Enhancing community support for persons with dementia/ mental health conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dementia-Friendly Communities (DFCs) to increase public awareness of dementia, facilitate early identification of dementia, and support persons with dementia to age in the community</li> <li>- Community Outreach Teams serve as a community safety network for people with or at-risk of depression and dementia, and support their caregivers to care for them to enable them to continue staying in the community</li> </ul> <p>For SDG 3.4.2 (i.e., suicide mortality rate), there were 122 reported cases of suicide in 2019 involving persons 60 years and above. This translates into a crude suicide death rate of 13.5 per 100,000 resident population in 2019, among those 60 years old and above.</p> <p>The causes of suicide are complex and multi-faceted, often involving family, social and mental health issues. Therefore, the government adopts a multi-pronged approach, comprising of promoting mental health and well-being, raising awareness on suicide prevention, and providing professional support and crisis interventions to at-risk groups, including targeted support for older adults.</p> <p><u>First</u>, in upstream intervention, Singapore has been seeking to build public awareness on the importance of good mental well-being. For example, under the Seniors' Health Curriculum programme, the Health Promotion Board (HPB) conducts a series of healthy ageing workshops, which include psychosocial education modules, to equip seniors with knowledge and skills to self-care and manage mental well-being, including where to seek help if necessary.</p> <p><u>Second</u>, Singapore has services and programmes to provide support to older adults with social and emotional needs. For example, the Silver Generation Office's (SGO) volunteers, also known as SG Ambassadors, proactively and regularly reach out to seniors living</p>		
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	<p>alone or who are at risk of social isolation, to provide companionship and encourage them to participate in social activities. Seniors can also sign up with CareLine, which is a 24/7 social support hotline that provides tele-befriending services as well as emergency response to seniors in distress.</p> <p><u>Third</u>, Singapore also has targeted support for seniors who may be at higher risk of suicide and their family. The Community Outreach Teams reach out to at-risk elderly and their caregivers to provide basic social-emotional support and education on coping with mental health needs, and link them and their caregivers to community resources for further support. Family Service Centres also provide case management and counselling support to low-income and vulnerable individuals and families, including seniors, to help them with issues such as family, financial and emotional difficulties.</p> <p><u>Last</u>, there are services in place to support crisis intervention. For instance, the Institute of Mental Health (IMH) operates a 24-hour Mental Health Helpline to assess and triage cases, and activate home visit teams if necessary.</p>		
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***Support to older persons with disabilities***

24	<p>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? <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>Under the Enabling Masterplan, the Government works with the community to develop programmes and services to support persons with disabilities through the various life stages, including old age. This includes initiatives to support their employment, improve access to healthcare, strengthen the ecosystem of support for caregiving, and providing a range of services to meet their care needs. These include rehabilitation services, day and home care services, and residential care services.</p> <p>The Government also provides a range of financial support for older persons with disabilities, through subsidies for eldercare services, disability grants, and national long-term care insurance scheme. Other schemes provide more targeted support, such as to subsidise the cost of assistive devices and consumables.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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***Decade of Healthy Ageing***

25	<p>Is the Government implementing any follow-up actions related to the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030),<sup>4</sup> such as a national action plan? (<i>see also companion document</i>) <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>Singapore is aligned to the General Assembly resolution 75/131, and have been taking action to ensure healthy ageing, including addressing the disproportionate effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on older persons, as detailed elsewhere in this document.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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#### IV. Ensuring enabling and supportive environments

**Instruction:** For the following questions, please provide: (a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan; (b) its time frame; (c) its main elements; and (d) its main achievements. Please elaborate and either link to or attach copies of relevant documents.

##### *Housing and living environment*

26	<p>Has the Government undertaken any of the following measures with regard to the housing and living environment of older persons and their families? (<i>SDG 11.2.1; SDG 11.7.1</i>) <i>If yes, please answer 26.1 – 26.4</i> <i>If no, please proceed to 27</i> <i>please elaborate with data as appropriate:</i></p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
26.1	<p>Promotion, safeguarding and ensuring the right to housing and shelter for older persons <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>Today, about 80% of seniors live in public housing. We have provided several measures to help seniors with their housing needs. These range from monetisation options to unlock the value of their home, to housing options such as 2-room Flexi flats (seniors have the flexibility of choosing the length of lease on their 2-room flat, based on their age, needs, and preferences), and a housing typology with senior-friendly fittings and integrated care services. For added safety and comfort, there is also a programme to install senior-friendly features in their homes. More details can be found at <a href="https://www.hdb.gov.sg/residential/living-in-an-hdb-flat/for-our-seniors">https://www.hdb.gov.sg/residential/living-in-an-hdb-flat/for-our-seniors</a>.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
26.2	<p>Promotion of “ageing in place”, such as the promotion of affordable public housing with age-friendly and accessible housing design or multigenerational housing options (<i>see also companion document</i>) <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>In addition to the section above, please see below:</p> <p>We are transforming Singapore into an age-friendly city where Singaporeans can age in place gracefully and confidently. To increase senior-friendly and affordable public housing options for</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

<sup>4</sup> General Assembly resolution 75/131 of 14 December 2020.

	<p>Singaporeans, the Housing &amp; Development Board (HDB) has introduced the 2-Room Flexi scheme in 2015 which allows seniors to purchase 2-room flats with flexibility in the choice of lease, length and fittings. To support families to live together for mutual care and support, we introduced multi-generation flats in 2013, and have various priority schemes in place to encourage families to live with or close to each other.</p> <p>HDB, the Ministry of National Development and the Ministry of Health have also introduced the first Community Care Apartments (CCAs) development as a pilot in early 2021, to provide seniors with a new public housing assisted living option that integrates senior-friendly design features with care services, and facilitates community building through social programmes and communal spaces. The Enhancement for Active Seniors (EASE) programme was also introduced in 2012 to provide highly subsidised retrofit features for existing flats, such as grab bars, ramps, and slip-resistant treatment to existing bathroom tiles to make their flats more senior-friendly. HDB is also gradually rolling out the HDB Smart Enabled Home Initiative, where digital infrastructure is provided within some HDB flats to support the adoption of smart home solutions such as elderly monitoring systems, and smart distribution boards to help residents monitor their energy consumption to save on utility bills.</p> <p>To address the concerns of seniors with disabilities, especially those with functional impairment, all public housing estates provide barrier-free access.</p>		
26.3	<p>Improved availability of accessible and affordable transportation to improve older persons' mobility  <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>The Land Transport Authority (LTA) has been introducing measures to make it more convenient for seniors to move around via public transport. LTA conducted consultation sessions with seniors to hear about the challenges that they face in using the public transport system, and also to gather feedback on prototypes of senior-friendly features. These suggestions and feedback were important in helping the LTA formulate a suite of measures to ensure that seniors can get around Singapore in a convenient, safe and comfortable way (for more details, see <a href="https://www.moh.gov.sg/ifeelyoungsg/how-can-i-age-in-place/go-about-easily">https://www.moh.gov.sg/ifeelyoungsg/how-can-i-age-in-place/go-about-easily</a>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walking – introduction of Silver Zones to improve road safety in areas with more seniors; more traffic lights with extended crossing times for seniors and persons with disabilities; railings at selected link-ways between train stations and health institutions/residential homes for seniors, to provide greater support and improve safety</li> </ul>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buses – As of 1 Dec 2020, all public buses are wheel-chair-stroller- and Personal Mobility Aid (PMA)-accessible. Commuters 98% of bus stops are barrier-free.</li> <li>• Train stations – All of our existing train stations have at least one barrier-free route with a lift, tactile guidance system and wheelchair-accessible toilets. LTA is in the process of implementing other initiatives to make our infrastructure more user-friendly, such as installing lifts at pedestrian overhead bridges next to train stations to improve barrier-free accessibility to major transport nodes.</li> </ul> <p>To ensure that public transport remains affordable for seniors, Passion Silver Concession Cards are issued free to every Singaporean as they turn 60. The card allows seniors to enjoy concessionary fares on public transport (25% or more off the adult fare), in addition to a suite of merchant benefits and privileges. Some of the benefits include taking part in various wellness programmes such as regular health screenings, physical and social interest group activities. More details can be found at <a href="https://www.passioncard.gov.sg/passion-card/about-passion-silver-concession-card">https://www.passioncard.gov.sg/passion-card/about-passion-silver-concession-card</a>.</p>		
26.4	<p>Universal design in public buildings, areas and transportation  <i>(see also companion document)</i>  <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>We have also made hardware upgrades (e.g. provision of highly-subsidised retrofit features such as grab bars, town retrofits, a transport plan which features improved pedestrian networks including safer traffic junctions, therapeutic gardens, signages with larger font sizes in public housing estates) to create senior-friendly built environments and to enable seniors to get around conveniently.</p> <p>The Building and Construction Authority (BCA) updated the Code on Accessibility in the Built Environment in 2019 to introduce new requirements for accessibility and Universal Design in buildings (including transport stations, interchanges and terminals). These requirements include features that address the needs of elderly persons, such as accessible changing rooms to support those who may need the help of caregivers as well as larger accessible toilets to cater to users of motorised wheelchairs which require larger manoeuvring spaces. The latest Code took effect in January 2020, and applies to all new buildings and existing buildings that undertake additional and alteration (A&amp;A) works.</p> <p>Going forward, BCA will also be implementing a new regulatory requirement (under the Building Control Act) for existing commercial and institutional buildings to provide basic accessibility features when undertaking any A&amp;A works.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

**Caregiving**

27	<p>Has the Government undertaken measures to support formal and informal caregivers of older persons, including training programmes, accreditation and pay? (SDG 5.4.1) <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>To ensure sufficient and qualified manpower for care services, the Ministry of Health and the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) help providers through schemes to support local recruitment, branding of the sector and salary enhancements. Providers can also tap on training grants and sponsorships to build capabilities.</p> <p>There is a range of subsidised training programmes that cater to healthcare professionals like nurses, allied health professionals and healthcare assistants. For example, community care staff can attend short courses under AIC-appointed Learning Institutes or skills training courses under the Singapore Workforce Skills Qualifications for Healthcare Support. For formal qualifications leading to an advanced or specialised diploma for example in gerontology, they can apply for the Community Care Manpower Development Award administered by AIC, which covers up to 90% of the programme fees.</p> <p>The Government recognises the important role informal caregivers play in enabling our seniors to age well in the community and has rolled out various measures to support them in their caregiving journey. Some of the support measures include those mentioned in the following sections:</p> <p><b>1. Care navigation</b></p> <p>Information and referral points called AIC Links that are set up in the community to help the elderly and their caregivers navigate the range of available support schemes and services.</p> <p><b>2. Caregiver Empowerment and Training</b></p> <p>Caregiver Community Outreach Teams and Caregiver Support Networks have been launched to support the socio-emotional wellbeing of our caregivers. There are also a wide range of training options for caregivers to learn to better care for their loved ones. Training fees can be defrayed by the Caregivers Training Grant, which provides an annual subsidy for approved training courses.</p> <p><b>3. Respite Services</b></p> <p>There are respite services in nursing homes and senior care centres to allow caregivers to take time off caregiving to recharge and self-care. To meet emerging needs, we are also conducting pilots such as night-time respite care (for seniors with dementia exhibiting sundowning</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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	<p>behaviour) and home-based respite care (for seniors in the end-of-life stage).</p> <p><b>4. Financial Support</b></p> <p>The Government has multiple layers of financial support to defray the costs of long-term care. This is done through direct subsidies on medical care and eldercare services, as well as disability grant payouts like the Home Caregiving Grant and the Pioneer Generation Disability Assistance Scheme.</p>		
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**Family support**

28	<p>Has the Government undertaken measures to support women and families who often take care of older persons? <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>Our caregivers, both women and men, play an important role in enabling our seniors to age well in the community. Our support measures for caregiving of seniors (as detailed under Section 27) are not differentiated by gender, and eligible individuals can apply for these measures regardless of their gender.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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**Integration of older migrants**

29	<p>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) <i>If yes, please answer 29.1 – 29.3</i> <i>If no, please proceed to 30</i> <i>please elaborate with data as appropriate:</i> [REDACTED]</p> <p>The National Integration Council (NIC) was established to promote public, people and private sector partnerships for integration of immigrants and migrants, including elderly migrants. To educate newcomers on our way of life, the NIC produces and distributes handbooks via major touchpoints such as the Ministry of Manpower’s Employment Pass and S Pass centres, in the neighbourhoods through the People’s Association, and others such as schools. To shape mindsets, augment understanding and foster social integration amongst locals, immigrants and migrants, the NIC also works with partner agencies to reach out to target audiences through various touchpoints, including the community, schools, workplaces and media. This is accompanied by the Community Integration Fund, which is designed to support ground-up integration initiatives and collaborations.</p> <p>Partners from grassroots organisations, immigrant associations, schools and businesses associations have also stepped forward to help newcomers settle into our larger community. For example, the Singapore Federation of Chinese Clan Associations (SFCCA) has</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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	<p>helped to orientate newcomers to the importance of Singapore's multi-cultural context, through visits to heritage places of major races.</p> <p>New citizens granted in-principle approval for Singapore citizenship are required to participate in the Singapore Citizenship Journey (SCJ), a programme to enrich their understanding of the key milestones in Singapore's history and development and deepens their appreciation of Singaporean norms and values, as well as provides opportunities for meaningful interaction with their local community. The SCJ is a collaborative effort among the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY), the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) and the People's Association.</p>		
29.1	<p>Older migrant workers returning to countries of origin after lifetimes of overseas employment</p> <p><i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>See section above.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
29.2	<p>Older persons returning home to rural areas after having spent their working life in urban areas</p> <p><i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>Not applicable to Singapore as we are a city-state.</p>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
29.3	<p>Refugees, internally displaced people or stateless persons</p> <p><i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>The NIC does not distinguish between peoples holding citizenship versus those who are stateless. For information, there were 1,109 stateless living in Singapore as at 30 Nov 2020, and 76% of them are Singapore Permanent Residents.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

***Neglect, abuse and violence***

30	Has the Government:		
30.1	<p>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)</p> <p><i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>There are legal levers to tackle neglect, abuse and violence against older persons in legislation such as the Penal Code and the Vulnerable Adults Act (see Section 3.1.1). In 2019, the Penal Code was amended to enhance protection for vulnerable victims such as persons who are unable to protect themselves from harm due to physical or mental infirmity (e.g. a person who has severe dementia). If an offender commits select offences against such victims, he/she is liable to up to double the maximum punishment for the underlying offence.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
30.2	<p>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?</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

	<p><i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>The Adult Protective Service (APS) under the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) was established in May 2015 to protect vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect, or self-neglect. The MSF-funded Family Violence Specialist Centres also provide support to victims of elder abuse, neglect, and violence, including through casework, counselling, and referrals to other specialist agencies where necessary.</p> <p>The Home Team Community Assistance and Referral Scheme (HT CARES) has been expanded with effect from 1 Sep 2021 to include referrals of Family Violence Next of Kin who may be victims or witnesses. This would also include elderly persons who have been abused by their own family members.</p>		
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***Public recognition and ageing with dignity***

31	<p>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)</p> <p><i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>The Government partners the people-led movement, Families for Life (FFL), to organize an annual “Celebrating Our Grands” (COG) campaign, which promotes family values and inter-generational bonding via a celebration for the grands and their contributions in the family. COG not only celebrates grandparents, but also includes grand aunts and uncles. Since 2018, there has been an increase of 15,000 to 309,000 children who participated in COG to show appreciation for their grands through hand-made crafts/messages.</p> <p>The I Feel Young campaign, launched in conjunction with the 2015 Action Plan for Successful Ageing, features inspiring stories of how seniors age actively and contribute to society. The publicity and engagement efforts of this campaign helps to promote the key message that ageing is a not a “tsunami” but a positive force, and seeks support from all stakeholders in society to come together and empower our seniors to reach their potential.</p> <p>The Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth supports the annual Senior Volunteer Appreciation Day organised by RSVP Singapore to recognise seniors’ contributions as volunteers through various programmes.</p> <p>The Government introduced the Senior Worker Support Package to encourage employers to increase senior employment and value the contribution of seniors. Employers who hire Singaporean workers aged 55 and above benefit from wage offsets, while grants are offered for employers who increase their internal retirement and re-employment</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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	ages above statutory requirements or commit to a part-time re-employment policy.		
32	<p>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? (<i>see also companion document</i>)</p> <p><i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>See Section 3.1.1. on the relevant legislation, in particular the Maintenance of Parents Act and the Mental Capacity Act, and Section 10.5.2 on preventing age-based employment practices.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
33	<p>Has the Government undertaken measures to recognize and support exercise of legal capacity of older persons, such as supported decision-making?</p> <p><i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>The Mental Capacity Act (MCA) passed in 2008 enables individuals, such as older persons, to make a Lasting Power of Attorney act to appoint a trusted person to make decisions on their behalf when they lose mental capacity.</p> <p>The MCA strives to preserve the legal capacity of persons with severe intellectual or cognitive disabilities through its key principles. This includes that a person must be presumed to have mental capacity until proven otherwise and that this lack of capacity cannot be established merely by reference to a person's condition or an aspect of his behaviour. A person with intellectual or cognitive disability retains the legal capacity to act on his rights to the extent that he is able to make a decision for himself in relation to the specified matter at the material time.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

**Information, innovation and technology**

34	<p>Has the Government put in place mechanisms to improve the availability and accessibility of information specifically for older persons? (<i>SDG 9.c.1</i>)</p> <p><i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p><u>Making digital access more affordable for older persons</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Mobile Access for Seniors (MAS) scheme helps lower-income seniors who want to go digital and enjoy mobile services, including gaining access to information online, but lack the means to do so. This scheme offers eligible lower-income seniors a 2-year subsidised mobile plan, with the option of bundling with a subsidised smartphone. [As of December 2021] Since the launch of MAS scheme in late June 2020, more than 8,800 lower-income seniors have benefited from the scheme.</li> </ul>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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Improving the accessibility of digital services through Digital Service Standards for Government Digital Services

- Government digital services are required to comply with a set of Digital Service Standards, which include:
  - a) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) – an internationally adopted standard which ensures digital accessibility; and
  - b) Guidelines on User Interface Design for Older Adults – a local standard which provides guidance to digital service designers in designing user interfaces to enhance usability for older persons.

The government has put in place initiatives to ensure compliance with these standards, such as the Singapore Government Design System which provides website designers with standardised components and layouts that incorporate accessibility design considerations. Availability of inclusive language options for non-English literate seniors to access Government communications and services.

- A higher proportion of older people are non-English speaking and face language-related barriers to using digital services or accessing information online. To address these barriers, the government has provided services (e.g. TraceTogether Mobile Application, supportgowhere.gov.sg, spaceout.gov.sg) which are relevant to older persons in the four official languages (i.e. English, Malay, Chinese, and Tamil). To expand this initiative to more Government digital services, the Government has launched the SG Translate machine translation engine as a means of augmenting translation capabilities across various Government agencies. Trained with localised data, the engine is able to generate first-cut translations in the vernacular languages that are suited to the local context. These translations are then post-edited by public officers, hence achieving higher efficiency and productivity. As such, the SG Translate augments public officers’ capability in providing timely Government communications messages in vernacular languages to reach out to diverse groups in Singapore, including the older population. To further scale up these efforts, the Government is also trialing a machine translation portal that will later be made accessible to the public to be used for their own translation needs. It also involves a whole-of-community effort where passionate individuals have been invited as Citizen Translators to perform the vetting and proofreading of selected Government communication materials.
- To facilitate key Government communications, language inclusiveness is taken into account in communications efforts for seniors. For example, information is available through

	<p>platforms such as gov.sg, Whatsapp, in the vernacular languages. As at January 2022, music videos in vernacular languages and Chinese dialects targeted to encourage seniors to vaccinate against Covid-19, have garnered over 1.7 million views on YouTube and 2.5 million views on Facebook.</p> <p><u>LifeSG Mobile Application for Older Persons</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The government has developed the LifeSG mobile application (previously called Moments of Life) which was launched in 2018 to support consolidated access to Government digital services and information across Government agencies. Citizens, including seniors, can use the LifeSG mobile application to explore more than 70 frequently-used Government services, find information on Government benefits (e.g. healthcare subsidies), receive reminders for healthcare appointments and book active ageing activities like exercise programmes.</li> <li>• The mobile application also personalises service recommendations according to the user’s profile and preferences. It has <u>dedicated Active Ageing services for seniors</u> which incorporates senior-friendly features such as customising application content to be displayed in a larger font size and availing content in all vernacular languages (i.e. Chinese, Malay and Tamil).</li> </ul>		
35	<p>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?  <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>The government has established an ecosystem of assistive eldercare services to support senior citizens who live alone. This includes (i) the development of a <u>Personal Alert Button (PAB)</u> which is a mobile wireless alert device installed within some senior citizens’ homes, connected to nearby Senior Activity Centres, (ii) a 24/7 telecare call centre, and (iii) a volunteer responder mobile application to enable faster response time in emergencies. The PAB has been installed across 36 HDB blocks for 6,000 households supporting more than 10,000 senior citizens as of 30th Jun 2021.</p> <p>In the area of health, the Ministry of Health is transforming Singapore’s healthcare system and delivery, with a greater focus on community and primary care. The MOH Office for Healthcare Transformation (MOHT) has developed, and continues to develop, the capabilities and partnerships that allow it to build and bring together the enablers needed for scaling. The following programmes illustrate ongoing areas particularly pertinent to the elderly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MOHT’s Future Primary Care team (FPC) and the three clusters are working with MOH to scale Primary</li> </ul>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

	<p>Technology-Enhanced Care for Hypertension (PTEC HT) with a goal of supporting up to 25,000 patients in home-based hypertension control;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MOHT’s Integrated General Hospital (IGH) team is working with MOH to digitally enable the National One-Rehab Framework for more than 50,000 patient episodes of transitional care across more than 100 sites across hospitals, polyclinics and community care providers for rehabilitation-related right-siting; and</li> <li>• MOHT Data, Science &amp; Technology (DST) team is building and deploying across the three clusters a full-function post-discharge solution to reduce post-AMI mortality, based on vital signs and activity monitoring, online coaching, and greater use of Allied Health Professionals with eventual transfer to primary care.</li> </ul>		
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### V. Data

**Instruction:** For the following questions, please provide: (a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan; (b) its time frame; (c) its main elements; and (d) its main achievements. Please elaborate and either link or attach copies of relevant documents.

#### *Lack of ageing-related data and research*

36	<p>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? (<i>SDG 17.18.1; SDG 17.18.2; SDG 17.18.3; SDG 17.19.1; SDG 17.19.2</i>) <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>The government supports multidisciplinary ageing-related research in Singapore through a few ways. For example, in 2015, MOH launched the National Innovation Challenge (NIC) to catalyse translational research to transform the experience of ageing in the country. MOH also funds the operations of research centres such as the Duke-NUS Centre for Ageing Research and Education (CARE) to develop, coordinate, and implement multi-disciplinary research and related education initiatives in ageing and health.</p> <p>With regard to part (b), data on SDG is available from the Department of Statistics’ website (<a href="https://www.singstat.gov.sg/find-data/sdg/goal-17">https://www.singstat.gov.sg/find-data/sdg/goal-17</a>), with inputs for 17.18.2, 17.18.3, 17.19.2 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SDG 17.18.2 – The Singapore's Statistics Act is the national statistical legislation that complies with the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.</li> <li>• SDG 17.18.3 – Singapore has a national statistical plan that is fully funded via the Budget and under implementation.</li> <li>• SDG 17.19.2 – (a) Singapore conducts the Census of Population once every 10 years, during the years ending with</li> </ul>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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	<p>'0'. The latest was conducted in 2020. (b) Singapore is estimated to have achieved nearly 100% local birth registration and at least 80% local death registration.</p>		
<p>37</p>	<p>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)? <i>(see also companion document)</i>  <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>The Department of Statistics (<a href="http://www.singstat.gov.sg">www.singstat.gov.sg</a>) disseminates (mainly via annual Population Trends publication) data on the resident population by age groups till age 90 years &amp; over and sex. The resident population comprises Singapore citizens and permanent residents.</p> <p>Ageing related statistics such as Old age support/dependency ratio, Life Expectancy at age 65 Years are available on our Singstat website (<a href="http://www.singstat.gov.sg/tablebuilder">http://www.singstat.gov.sg/tablebuilder</a>) via the following selections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Old-age Support/Dependency ratios</li> <li>• Subject: Population -&gt; Population and Population Structure</li> <li>• Topic: Population, Annual</li> <li>• Title: Indicators On Population, Annual</li>   <li>• Life Expectancy at Age 65 Years</li> <li>• Subject: Population -&gt; Death and Life Expectancy</li> <li>• Topic: Death and Life Expectancy</li> <li>• Title: Life Expectancy By Sex, Annual</li> </ul> <p>In addition, in the Singapore Census of Population 2020, Statistical Release 2: Households, Geographic Distribution, Transport and Difficulty in Basic Activities (<a href="https://www.singstat.gov.sg/-/media/files/publications/cop2020/sr2/excel/t136-153.xlsx">https://www.singstat.gov.sg/-/media/files/publications/cop2020/sr2/excel/t136-153.xlsx</a>), Table 136 indicates the Resident Population Aged 5 Years and Over by Age Group, Level of Difficulty in Performing Basic Activities and Sex.</p> <p>More specific to health, the ‘Transitions in Health, Employment, Social Engagement, and Intergenerational Transfers in Singapore’ study, also known as THE SIGNS study (<a href="https://www.duke-nus.edu.sg/care/publications/policy-briefs">https://www.duke-nus.edu.sg/care/publications/policy-briefs</a>). This study is a partnership between MOH and Duke-NUS CARE. It is a longitudinal study conducted on a nationally-representative cohort of close to 4,500 community-dwelling seniors aged 60 and above (for Wave 1), looking at factors influencing health, well-being, activity and productivity levels in older Singaporeans.</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

***National surveys***

38	<p>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. <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>The Department of Statistics does not conduct any stand-alone national survey on population ageing. The Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) previously conducted the National Survey on Senior Citizens, latest being in 2011 and published in 2013 by the then-Elderly and Disability Group in MSF.</p> <p>The National Volunteer &amp; Philanthropy Centre conducts the biennial Individual Giving Study (IGS) to understand the state of volunteerism in Singapore, including senior volunteerism rates and hours. IGS 2018 included the Silver V Study, a module on senior volunteerism which examined seniors' perception of and motivations for volunteering. Past IGS results can be found here: <a href="https://cityofgood.sg/national-studies/">https://cityofgood.sg/national-studies/</a>.</p> <p>The Ministry of Health and Health Promotion Board conducts the National Population Health Survey annually. This survey is targeted at Singapore residents, including older persons up to 79 years old, and provides information on the prevalence of major non-communicable diseases and its associated risk factors. It also includes information on the practice of chronic disease screening, use of primary healthcare services, mental health &amp; self-rated overall health. Past results of the National Population Health Survey are available at <a href="https://www.moh.gov.sg/resources-statistics/reports/national-survey-2019-20">https://www.moh.gov.sg/resources-statistics/reports/national-survey-2019-20</a>.</p> <p>To better understand ground sentiments towards ageing, the Ministry of Health commissioned the Ministry of Communications and Information (MCI) to survey over 2,000 Singaporeans of various ages and backgrounds on their attitudes and perceptions about ageing in 2019. This was followed by a series of focus group discussions in 2021 to seek ideas and feedback from Singaporeans on potential ways in which the refreshed Action Plan could address seniors' needs and support their aspirations. In the same year, MOH also conducted a survey on the impact of COVID-19 on senior wellbeing, and how senior care needs and desires might have changed since the onset of the pandemic.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
39	Is there any longitudinal data on older persons collected with a focus on their health, and social and economic situation?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>



	<p><i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>Yes, examples include the SIGNS study (as described at Section 37) and the Singapore Life Panel (SLP) study that is conducted by Singapore Management University’s Center for Research on Successful Ageing (ROSA<sup>5</sup>). SLP is a longitudinal study looking into the economic, social, physical, and mental well-being of older Singaporeans. A third example is the Retirement and Health Survey (RHS) conducted by Central Provident Fund Board<sup>6</sup>, which is a longitudinal survey of Singapore residents’ retirement and healthcare needs and how they change over time.</p>		
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***Titchfield Group***<sup>7</sup>

40	<p>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? (<i>see also companion document</i>)</p> <p><i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>The Department of Statistics has provided inputs to the group when requested, but is not active in the group's work.</p>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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**VI. COVID-19 and older persons**

**Instruction:** For the following questions, please provide: (a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan; (b) its time frame; (c) its main elements; and (d) its main achievements. Please elaborate and either link to or attach copies of relevant documents.

***Effects of COVID-19 on older persons***

41	<p>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? (<i>please provide age and sex disaggregated statistics and their sources</i>)</p> <p><i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p><i>For the purpose of this question, the definition of “older persons” is defined as people aged 65 and above.</i></p> <p><b>Hospital admission rates</b> among older persons in 2020 and 2021 are higher than for the general population. The trend is similar pre-COVID, as the elderly faces more health issues than other subpopulations.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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<sup>5</sup> <https://rosa.smu.edu.sg/resources/publications>

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.cpf.gov.sg/Members/Others/member-pages/retirement-and-health-study-\(rhs\)](https://www.cpf.gov.sg/Members/Others/member-pages/retirement-and-health-study-(rhs))

<sup>7</sup> The creation of the Titchfield City Group on Ageing and Age-disaggregated statistics was mandated by United Nations Statistical Commission resolution 49/118 in 2018 to contribute to identifying gaps and establishing international standards and methods for the compilation of statistics and data on the major of dimensions related to ageing and age-disaggregated data across the life course. For further information, see <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/49th-session/documents/Report-on-the-49th-session-E.pdf>

Total Hospital Admission Rates <sup>1</sup> (per 1,000 resident pop)						
	All residents			Residents aged 65+		
	Year 2019	Year 2020	Year 2021	Year 2019	Year 2020	Year 2021
Male	144.0	128.5	119.6	404.5	363.8	325.6
Female	142.2	123.3	117.2	348.2	298.9	269.1
Total	143.1	125.8	118.4	374.0	328.7	295.0

<sup>1</sup> Refers to inpatient discharges, excluding normal deliveries and legalised abortions.  
<sup>2</sup> Source from Singapore's MediClaim System

**Death rates** among older persons in 2020 are higher than for the general population (data for 2021 is not yet available). The trend is similar pre-COVID as well.

Crude Death Rates (per 100,000 pop)

	All residents		Residents aged 65+	
	Year 2019	Year 2020	Year 2019	Year 2020
Male	557.18	588.15	3045.04	3081.71
Female	452.88	452.57	2409.16	2314.35
Total	503.90	518.89	2700.45	2666.48

<For more information, please refer to the 'Population Trends' publication ([www.singstat.gov.sg/publications/population/population-trends](http://www.singstat.gov.sg/publications/population/population-trends))  
><https://www.singstat.gov.sg/publications/population/population-trends>>

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

No

Based on the findings of a Singapore Life Panel study by the Singapore Management University's Center for Research on Successful Ageing (ROSA)<sup>8</sup> which assessed the attitudes, behaviours and well-being of older Singaporeans during COVID-19, respondents reported a stark increase in feelings of isolation as Singapore's Circuit Breaker (similar to a "lockdown") begun in April 2020, with larger increases for those living alone.

However, they appeared to be less affected economically, based on employment rates. The employment rate for males aged 55 and above have remained largely stable in light of COVID - for males aged 55 - 64 years, the employment rate went from 79.4% (2019) to 78.8% (2020), for males aged 65 and above, the employment rate went from 37.2% (2019) to 37.8% (2020). The employment rate for females aged 55 and above have increased even with COVID - for females aged 55 - 64 years, the employment rate increased from 55.9% (2019) to 56.4%

<sup>8</sup> Attitudes, behaviours, and the well-being of older Singaporeans in the time of COVID-19: Perspectives from the Singapore Life Panel. Singapore Life Panel, Research Brief July 2020

	(2020), for females aged 65 and above, the employment ate went from 19.6% (2019) to 20.6% (2020).		
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**Government response to COVID-19**

43	<p>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)</p> <p><i>If yes, please answer 43.1 – 43.5</i></p> <p><i>If no, please proceed to 44</i></p> <p><i>Please elaborate with data as appropriate:</i> [REDACTED]</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
43.1	<p>Access to health-care services (both usual services and COVID-19 tests) <i>please indicate when the measure was put in place and elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i> [REDACTED]</p> <p>During the multiple COVID-19 infection waves, nursing homes continued to accept new admissions. Additional precautionary measures were implemented to protect residents and staff of nursing homes given that residents are generally frail and tend to be more susceptible to severe outcomes if infected with COVID-19. These includes vaccinations for residents and staff, enhanced infection control and prevention practices, safe management measures and COVID-19 testing protocols for nursing home staff and residents.</p> <p>Senior care centres (SCCs) (day-care) had closed briefly during the Circuit Breaker period (7 Apr 2020 – 1 Jun 2020), but designated centres remained open to ensure seniors with higher needs were still able to get access to the appropriate care services. Following the Circuit Breaker, SCCs have continued to remain open, with precautionary and safe distancing measures in place so that seniors are able to access care while remaining safe. Staff testing is also done on a regular basis to facilitate early detection, with mobile vaccination teams were also deployed to SCCs such that clients and staff were able to easily access the COVID-19 vaccine.</p> <p>Essential home care services such as home medical and home nursing continued operation to ensure seniors with high care needs receive light medical support. To protect the welfare for both home care staff and seniors, home care providers were advised to don on full PPE (i.e. gloves, mask and gown) when serving seniors. Home vaccination teams were also deployed to provide easy access to COVID-19 vaccines for home-bound seniors. We also provided contactless meals delivery service during the Circuit Breaker period (7 Apr to 1 Jun 2020) to ensure seniors were eating well and to minimize unnecessary outdoor movements.</p> <p>See Section 43.2 for access general population access of older persons to vaccination services.</p> <p><b>Specific to COVID-19 testing</b></p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

	<p>For seniors staying in residential care homes, COVID-19 testing protocols are in place for nursing home staff and residents with the aim to ensure that any COVID-19 infections are detected as early as possible for treatment and to limit transmission.</p> <p>For those not staying in nursing homes, there were two rounds of distributions of antigen rapid tests to all households to facilitate self-testing in late 2021.</p>		
43.2	<p>Protection of older persons' higher vulnerabilities to COVID-19 (e.g., isolating nursing homes, home delivery of medicine or food, etc.)  <i>please indicate when the measure was put in place and elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>On January 22, 2020, the Singapore Government set up a Multi-Ministry Taskforce to coordinate a whole-of-government, nationwide effort to combat the virus quickly and effectively. The Taskforce enacted safe distancing measures at an early stage of the pandemic response. Seniors in particular are at higher risk of developing serious health complications if infected with COVID-19. As such, the Taskforce had proactively put in place additional precautionary measures to safeguard the health and wellbeing of our seniors from the early stages of the pandemic.</p> <p>For example, the Government worked with the eldercare (e.g. senior care centres [day care], home care providers) and disability care sectors including residential care homes to put in place a range of precautionary measures to minimize the risk of transmission among the vulnerable population. These measures included infection prevention and control, access to a steady supply of Personal Protective Equipment for staff, safe distancing measures, split-zone/team arrangements for staff, clients and residents, as well as calibrated visitation guidelines. The government also introduced regular testing for all staff working in essential services, including eldercare facilities to facilitate early detection and keep the community safe. During the Circuit Breaker period from Apr to Jun 2020, where most of the senior care centres were closed and seniors were encouraged to stay home, the government had also provided meals delivery services to all eligible seniors to minimise their contact with the masses and protect them from the virus. During the periods of heightened alert, providers were encouraged to continue checking in with their clients via telephone or virtual platforms.</p> <p>Seniors also received first priority in COVID-19 vaccinations, given their vulnerability (for example, seniors aged 70 and above were the first group to be offered vaccination). As part of Singapore's efforts to boost take-up rates amongst the elderly, communication campaigns aimed at the elderly were rolled out. Volunteers, general practitioners and family members were enlisted to educate seniors on the importance</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

	<p>of COVID-19 vaccination, including booster shots. Mobile vaccination teams were deployed to locations near the residences of the elderly for further convenience. For the home-bound, home vaccination teams were deployed. More than 95% of older persons (aged 60 and above) have been fully vaccinated.</p> <p>As a result of these efforts, we have managed to achieve good outcomes for our seniors, where the number of COVID-19 fatalities has remained very low, including for the vulnerable population in residential care home where outbreaks have been quickly contained with our testing and isolation protocols during the early days of the pandemic. As Singapore shifts towards COVID endemicity, we aim to live with COVID-19 including the more infectious Omicron virus. Hence, our focus and interventions have been directed towards minimizing the risk of death and severe disease especially for our seniors. We are also working towards the resumption of activities for seniors in a safe manner. From Nov 2021, fully vaccinated seniors are able to participate in active-ageing activities with safeguards in place. Guidelines are also being revised to facilitate senior participation as we move into the endemic new norm.</p>		
43.3	<p>Economic conditions (e.g., employment, income maintenance, immediate assistance) <i>please indicate when the measure was put in place and elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>See Section 10. For the Senior Employment Credit which started from 1 Jan 2021, close to S\$150mn had been disbursed to 86,000 employers, benefitting 482,000 senior workers as of 5 Oct 2021. The Senior Worker Adopter Grant benefitted 21,000 senior workers working in 2,800 companies from 1 Jul 2020 to 31 Aug 2021. The Part-time Re-employment Grant benefitted more than 19,000 senior workers working in close to 2,000 companies from 1 Jul 2020 to 31 Aug 2020. Additionally, the Senior Worker Adopter Grant and the Part-time Re-employment Grant were topped up by over S\$200mn in 2021, on top of the S\$100mn committed to these grants in 2020.</p> <p>The Jobs Growth Incentive (JGI) provides wage support to eligible firms that hire new local jobseekers, with higher support for new local hires aged 40 and above. The scheme has been extension by six months to Mar 2022 with tapered support levels, to support employers to continue expanding local hirings. JGI-eligible firms that hire mature local hires from Oct 2021 to Mar 2022 will receive up to S\$36,000 per hire.</p> <p>The Silver Support Scheme was enhanced in 2021 to strengthen support for seniors with lesser means. The quarterly payouts were raised and the enhancements benefitted close to 250,000 Singaporeans aged 65 and above.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

	<p>Also see Section 13.5. The Ministry of Social and Family Development also provides comprehensive support via ComCare. For Singapore's FY2020, around S\$240mn was committed for ComCare as the global economic situation rapidly deteriorated. Social Service Offices (SSOs) provide immediate assistance to affected individuals through ComCare Interim Assistance, and also a longer duration of support for ComCare households, which provided greater peace of mind to families and individuals whose livelihoods were affected by COVID-19 as they sought new jobs or retraining opportunities. In Apr 2020, SSOs approved 1,441 applications with six months of assistance or longer, which was higher than the monthly average of 946 approved applications in the preceding six months from Oct 2019 to Mar 2020.</p>		
43.4	<p>Social situation (e.g., loneliness, social isolation, stress)? <i>please indicate when the measure was put in place and elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>Throughout the pandemic, the Government recognised that collaboration across different segments of society is integral to the nation's response to COVID-19. Tri-sector partnerships between public, people and private entities also underpin Singapore's efforts to manage the situation. For instance, the Government partnered with charitable organisations to provide food to frail seniors so that they did not have to leave their homes during the Circuit Breaker.</p> <p>Additionally, the Silver Generation Office (SGO) as AIC's outreach arm for seniors, modified their outreach strategy and solutions to ensure that our seniors continue to remain engaged and supported in the community during the COVID-19 pandemic, despite the various movement restrictions. SGO adopted a targeted outreach approach to engage vulnerable seniors through face-to-face visits or tele-engagements, providing them support (e.g. running errands, delivering meals) and connecting those with urgent needs to relevant care services. SGO also expanded their clientele to include more groups of vulnerable seniors including elderly caregivers, seniors who have poor frailty and/or mobility, as well as those who need caregiving support. In 2021, SGO partnered the People's Association to support the nation's COVID-19 vaccination drive, by encouraging seniors to get vaccinated by conveying key vaccination messages and facilitating their vaccination journey (e.g. helping seniors book vaccination appointments and escorting seniors to vaccination sites).</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
43.5	<p>Prioritized access to COVID-19 vaccines <i>please indicate when the measure was put in place and elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>Seniors were prioritised for COVID-19 vaccination, which commenced in Jan 2021. Seniors were also prioritised for the booster</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

	shots. Also see Section 43.2 for further details. More than 95% of older persons (aged 60 and above) have been fully vaccinated.		
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**Good practices/lessons learned in Government response to COVID-19**

44	<p>Are there any good practices and lessons learned from the above-mentioned policies and/or measures, including expanding participation of older persons? <i>Please give examples:</i></p> <p>During the circuit breaker period, many face-to-face courses and activities were moved online, so that seniors could continue to participate safely within their homes. For example, the Council for Third Age (C3A), Health Promotion Board (HPB), People’s Association (PA) and SportSG make use of online platforms such as Facebook, ZOOM and YouTube to host their activities and talks. As virtual classes were new to many seniors, course providers provided technical assistance before and during class to ensure that seniors could make the transition successfully, and adjust the course content based on real-time feedback so that seniors can keep pace with the class. Nursing homes, eldercare centres and home care providers were also encouraged to engage seniors via digital platforms for example through tele-befriending and tele-consultations to deliver caregiving and medical assistance to clients. The tele-consultation effort is still ongoing as we continue to observe how we may extend it for broader use.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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**Coordination of services for COVID-19 response**

45	<p>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? <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>The Government has implemented measures to provide support for older persons during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) is designated the single agency to coordinate the delivery of aged care services, and to enhance service development and capability-building across both the health and social domains. During the COVID-19 pandemic, AIC coordinated the delivery of home care services to COVID-positive seniors and/or close contacts who had to remain isolated at home, to ensure that their needs were met (e.g., provision of meals, nursing care, etc.).</p> <p>The Silver Generation Office (SGO), an outreach arm of AIC, continued to engage seniors through tele-engagement and supported vulnerable seniors who require assistance, e.g. those on quarantine or</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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	<p>home recovery programme (HRP), linking them to the appropriate services. For seniors who are homeless, the PEERS Network helped to befriend and encouraged them to seek shelter and social assistance. The support included Transitional Shelters providing shelter and case management for the homeless, as well as residential homes for seniors without family support.</p> <p>Another example is the SG Cares Community Networks, which was started in 2018 to bring together the social, health and community sectors in each town. Regular network sessions are organised, across all HDB towns, gathering Grassroot leaders, Social Service Agencies and community partners to develop local programmes and services to meet the local community's needs. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government activated the SG Cares Community Networks to conduct proactive outreach to rental households to check on their well-being and link them with further assistance if required. These efforts covered 35,000 households in total, inclusive of senior and non-senior households.</p> <p>For seniors in need of financial assistance, referral protocols are in place among agencies to refer seniors to the nearest Social Service Office (SSO) to apply for ComCare financial assistance or COVID-19 financial schemes. For seniors who are placed on ComCare LTA, they will also receive support for the cost of medical treatment at public healthcare institutions. Seniors will also be referred to the appropriate community partners if they require assistive equipment support or case management (i.e. socio-emotional and family related issues) and befriending service.</p> <p>See Sections 43.2 and 43.4 on healthcare.</p>		
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**Long-term measures**

46	<p>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? <i>please elaborate with data, as appropriate:</i></p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic has strengthened processes and links between different stakeholders that deliver care to seniors, which will enable stronger collaboration and enhance last-mile delivery of services moving forward.</p> <p>Addressing the COVID-19 situation requires a whole-of-society effort, and the Government continues to work closely with the different sectors and partner organisations to maintain various precautionary measures for seniors, as well as to enable seniors to remain connected with the community. This will continue to be Singapore's unique strategy for the months ahead.</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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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*).

On **work**, please see Section 10. On **income security**, please see Section 13. On **health**, please see Section 17. The government is making a concerted effort to shift towards preventive care. Such efforts include public education campaigns, healthy lifestyle activities in schools, workplaces and community settings, engaging industry to spur reformulation of staple food products, subsidies for health screening and recommended vaccinations, and regulations to protect our health. On **participation**, REACH (Reaching Everyone for Active Citizenry at Home) is the government's policy feedback arm under the Ministry of Communications and Information. In recent years, REACH holds regular ground engagement sessions called Listening Points at various, high human traffic locations across the island. REACH also has multiple online feedback channels. The SG Cares national movement rallies Singaporeans to build a more caring and compassionate society together, and serves as a common platform for all Singaporeans to work together in meeting community needs. For example, the SG Cares Local Community Network Sessions allow stakeholders within local towns to come together and exchange knowledge and ideas, coordinate and develop volunteers and refine service delivery processes together. The Singapore Together movement was launched in 2019 to deepen partnerships between Singaporeans with one another and the Government, and to provide support for more citizen-led initiatives. As part of the movement, the Singapore Together Emerging Stronger Conversations (ESCs) were launched in June 2020 for Singaporeans to reflect on their pandemic experience, share their aspirations and ideas for Singapore emerging from the pandemic, and translate their concerns into action. The views gathered through these sessions and surveys was organized into 15 themes including social support, jobs and the economy, technology, and health. The ESCs was the first step toward creating strong and sustained partnerships that translate citizen engagement into action. To date, 31 Singapore Together Alliances for Action (AfAs) – cross-sector collaborations involving citizens, public, people and private sectors – have been formed to address specific challenges.

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*).

Singapore has one of the highest life expectancies in the world and we celebrate longevity as an opportunity for our elderly to pursue their interests. However, this is possible only if we stay healthy. First, we encourage our seniors to stay active and healthy by engaging in exercise and activities like health workshops to improve and maintain their physical, mental and functional health. We also encourage our seniors to go for regular screening and vaccinations as part of good preventive care. Second, we must support our elderly to contribute their knowledge and experience to society as they wish. This includes facilitating employers to adopt age-friendly work practices and expanding opportunities available for senior volunteerism. Third, we must provide more community support to caregivers, as they face increasing burdens due to smaller family sizes. This includes respite services and caregiver empowerment and training programmes. The Eldercare Centre Service Model, which was launched in May 2021, aims to further augment our efforts to support all well and frail elderly by providing them with access to a baseline suite of 'ABC' services, which includes active ageing programmes, befriending and referral to care and support services.

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*).

Yes. ASEAN has established the ASEAN Centre for Active Ageing and Innovation (ACAI), building on the collective commitments of ASEAN Member States (AMS), including the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN adopted in 2015. It is envisioned that ACAI will (i) become a regional think tank for promoting transfer of knowledge, technology and innovation, and research concerning active ageing; (ii) facilitate collaboration among AMS with related agencies, Dialogue Partners, regional and international organisations. ACAI will be a physical centre housed within the Thai Ministry of Public Health, governed by a Governing Board comprising representatives from all ten AMS, and led by an appointed Director. Singapore is the co-lead [*Note: potentially with Vietnam*] to create a 5-year Strategic Plan for ACAI.

THANK YOU!

## SAMPLE RESPONSE

### I. Older persons and development

For the following questions, please provide: (a) the name of the legislation, policy or action plan; (b) date of implementation and time frame; (c) its main elements; and (d) its main achievements. Please elaborate and attach copies of relevant documents or provide links to them.

#### Education, training

12	<p>Has the Government supported older persons' access to knowledge, education and training? (SDG 4.3.1; SDG 4.4.1; SDG 4.6.1)</p> <p><i>In 2012, the Government of XX adopted the Older Persons' Decree which established that older persons have a right to lifelong learning (see: <a href="http://www.xxx.gov">www.xxx.gov</a>). The 3<sup>rd</sup> National Plan on Older Persons (2012–2020) requested that the Ministry of Education, through public universities and schools, offers free continuing education programmes for persons, 60 years or older. Older women and persons with disabilities will be given priority if demand for such programmes is greater than supply ...</i></p> <p><i>For SDG 4.3.1, the latest data from the National Statistical Office show that as of 2020 (June), 85 per cent of youth (15-24 years) at the national level were in formal education in the previous 12 months (see: <a href="http://www.xxx.gov">www.xxx.gov</a>)</i></p> <p><i>For SDG 4.4.1, country XX has not collected any data; however, it has included a question on this in its 2022 population and housing census.</i></p> <p><i>As of May 2021, according to the Ministry of Education (2019–2020 Annual Report of the Ministry of Education, see: <a href="http://www.mineducation.gov">www.mineducation.gov</a>), 5 out of 20 public universities offer tuition-free continuing education programmes (3-months during the summer and fall semesters) to older persons. About 250 persons 60 years or older are enrolled in such programmes and are taking courses in architecture, literature and business administration. About 75 per cent of the "older students" are women.</i></p> <p><i>Since 2015, the City of XX and the City of YY in Country AA, have partnered with the City of ZZ in Country BB and are offering an exchange programme for older persons studying at their local universities. Since its inception in October 2015, 66 older persons have participated in the exchange programme and older persons of both countries have praised the exchange programme highly. The City of XX is exploring to expand the exchange programme to other countries and intends to make the programme intergenerational, something participates favoured.</i></p> <p>...</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Reference is made to legislative mandates, with links to websites.</p> <p>Policies, programmes focusing on women or persons with disabilities are highlighted.</p> <p>Make specific reference to data on SDG indicators; where data are lacking, highlight this as well and indicate what has been done to address the lack of data</p> <p>Concrete evidence is listed, including with reference to the source of the data.</p> <p>Examples of good practice and lessons learned are listed.</p> <p>Qualitative and quantitative evidence is combined.</p>
a	<p>Does the Government pursue a life-course approach to knowledge, education, training and work, such as lifelong learning opportunities?</p> <p>...</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
b	<p>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?</p> <p>...</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

### Annex: Priority directions, issues and objectives of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing<sup>9</sup>

Priority Direction	Issue	Objective
Older persons and development	1. Active participation in society and development	1. Recognition of the social, cultural, economic and political contribution of older persons
		2. Participation of older persons in decision-making processes at all levels
	2. Work and the ageing labour force	1. Employment opportunities for all older persons who want to work
	3. Rural development, migration and urbanization	1. Improvement of living conditions and infrastructure in rural areas
		2. Alleviation of the marginalization of older persons in rural areas
		3. Integration of older migrants within their new communities
	4. Access to knowledge, education and training	1. Equality of opportunity throughout life with respect to continuing education, training and retraining as well as vocational guidance and placement services
		2. Full utilization of the potential and expertise of persons of all ages, recognizing the benefits of increased experience with age
	5. Intergenerational solidarity	1. Strengthening of solidarity through equity and reciprocity between generations
	6. Eradication of poverty	1. Reduction of poverty among older persons
7. Income security, social protection/social security and poverty prevention	1. Promotion of programmes to enable all workers to acquire basic social protection/social security, including, where applicable, pensions, disability insurance and health benefits	
	2. Sufficient minimum income for all persons, paying particular attention to socially and economically disadvantaged groups	
8. Emergency situations	1. Equal access by older persons to food, shelter and medical care and other services during and after natural disasters and other humanitarian emergencies	
	2. Enhanced contributions of older persons to the re-establishment and reconstruction of communities and the rebuilding of the social fabric following emergencies	
Advancing health and well-being into old age	1. Health promotion and well-being throughout life	1. Reduction of the cumulative effects of factors that increase the risk of disease and consequently potential dependence in older age
		2. Development of policies to prevent ill health among older persons
		3. Access to food and adequate nutrition for all older persons
	2. Universal and equal access to health-care services	1. Elimination of social and economic inequalities based on old age or any other ground, including linguistic barriers, to ensure that older persons have universal and equal access to health care
2. Development and strengthening of primary health-care services to meet the needs of older persons and promote their inclusion in the process		

<sup>9</sup> Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8–12 April 2002 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

		3. Development of a continuum of health care to meet the needs of older persons
		4. Involvement of older persons in the development and strengthening of primary and long-term care services
	3. Older persons and HIV/AIDS <sup>10</sup>	1. Improvement in the assessment of the impact of HIV/AIDS on the health of older persons, both for those who are infected and for those who are caregivers for infected or surviving family members
		2. Provision of adequate information, training in caregiving skills, treatment, medical care and social support to older persons living with HIV/AIDS and their caregivers
		3. Enhancement and recognition of the contribution of older persons to development in their role as caregivers for children with chronic diseases, including HIV/AIDS, and as surrogate parents
	4. Training of care providers and health professionals	1. Provision of improved information and training for health professionals and paraprofessionals on the needs of older persons
	5. Mental health needs of older persons	1. Development of comprehensive mental health-care services ranging from prevention to early intervention, the provision of treatment services and the management of mental health problems in older persons
	6. Older persons with disabilities	1. Maintenance of maximum functional capacity through the life course and promotion of the full participation of older persons with disabilities
Ensuring enabling and supportive environments	1. Housing and the living environment	1. Promotion of “ageing in place” in the community with due regard to individual preferences and affordable housing options for older persons
		2. Improvement in housing and environmental design to promote independent living by taking into account the needs of older persons, in particular those with disabilities
		3. Improved availability of accessible and affordable transportation for older persons
	2. Care and support for caregivers	1. Provision of a continuum of care and services for older persons from various sources and support for caregivers
		2. Support the caregiving of older persons, particularly older women
	3. Neglect, abuse and violence	1. Elimination of all forms of neglect, abuse and violence of older
		2. Creation of support services to address elder abuse
	4. Images of ageing	1. Enhancement of public recognition of the authority, wisdom, productivity and other important contributions of older persons

<sup>10</sup> This issue has not been addressed in the survey.