

"Promoting Decent Work for Older Persons for an Inclusive Society:
Strengthening A More Resilient and Inclusive Society During and After the
COVID-19 Pandemic"

28-29 June 2021

PHILIPPINE COUNTRY REPORT



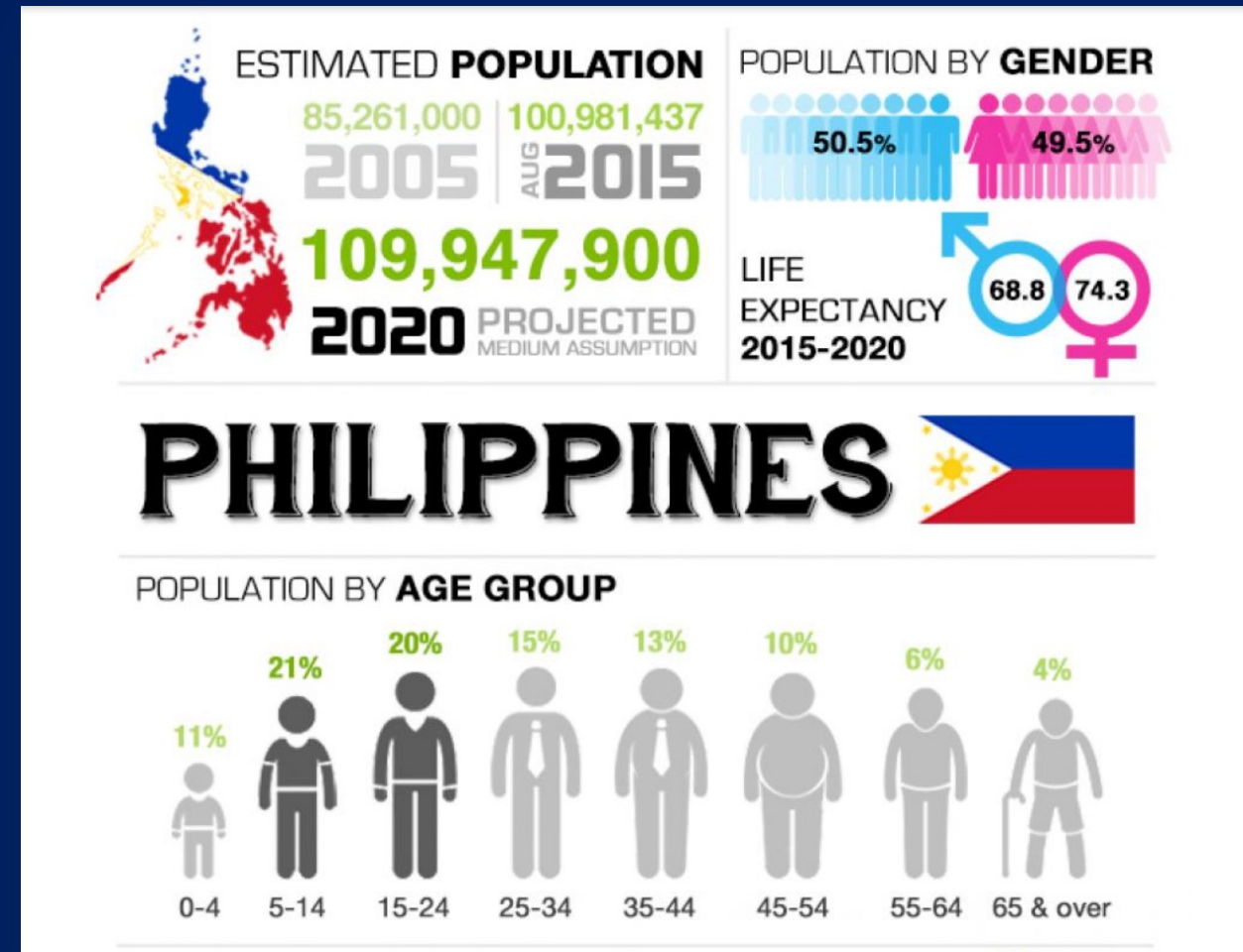
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OUTLINE

- **Overview of the Ageing Population in the Philippines**
- **Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on older persons**
- **Challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic affecting promoting decent work for older persons**
- **Public Measures and Government Response**
- **Recommendations**

- Philippines is the 2nd most populous country in the ASEAN Region with a population of **109,9 million**.
- In 2020, there is a total of 9.4 million older persons in the country or **8.6% of the total population**.
- Population projected to increase to **16.5% of the total population by 2050**
- **60%** of older persons co-reside with at least one child

Overview of Ageing Population in the Philippines



- Among the basic sectors, senior citizens consistently ranked as the 2nd lowest in terms of poor population.
- **22%** receives income from pension.
- **39%** of senior citizens are working.
- **47%** are males working mostly in the agriculture sector.
- **33%** are females engage in blue collar jobs.

Overview of Ageing Population in the Philippines



Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on older persons

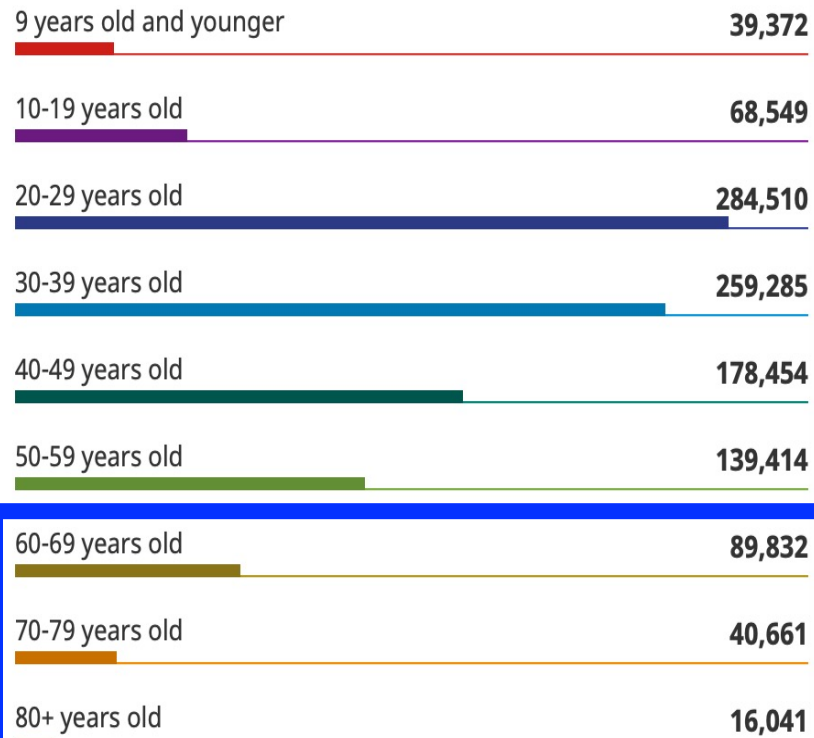
The Philippines ranks **25 out of 192 countries** based on the number of confirmed COVID-19 positive cases.

The Philippines ranks **20 out of 192 countries** when measured by the total count of fully recovered COVID-19 patients.

The Philippines ranks **28 out of 192 countries** in terms of the number of recorded deaths caused by COVID-19.

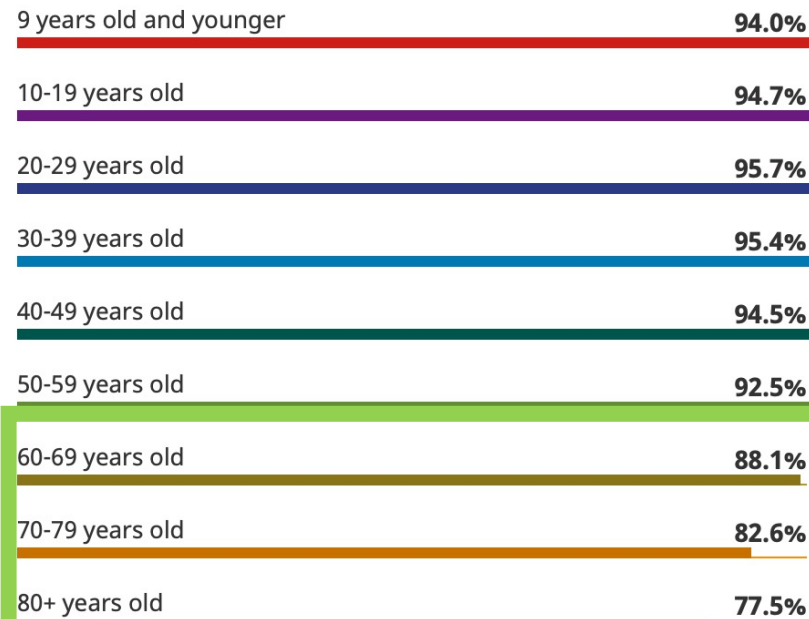
Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on older persons

Confirmed Cases by Age Group



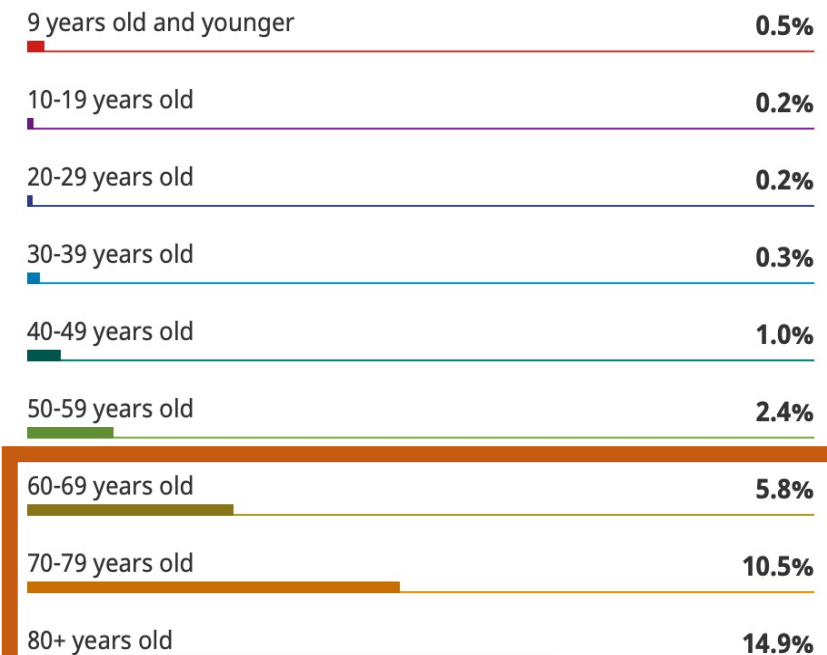
Recovery Rate by Age Group

Percentages are based on the number of recovered cases divided by the number of confirmed cases per age group.



Fatality Rate by Age Group

Percentages are based on the number of fatalities divided by the number of confirmed cases per age group.



Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on older persons

Food and income

23% of older people reduced either the quantity of food consumed or made changes to what they usually eat.



Health

61% of older people have not been able to access services since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak, with **52%** of older people reporting that they have difficulty in accessing medicines.



Protection

68% of older people have difficulty accessing health services while more than **50%** reported that they were also having a hard time securing food and medicines.



Wellbeing

79% of older people reported that they felt worried or anxious either all of the time or most of the time. This correlates with their apprehension over being denied access to resources, opportunities (especially livelihood) or services (such as health care), isolation, and neglect.



Source: study conducted in 2020 by the Coalition of Services of the Elderly (COSE) in cooperation with Help Age International.

Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on older persons

Health Related Concerns

Access to Health Services:

- 61% of older people consider that their access to health services has changed since COVID-19. This is higher for older men (65% compared with older women 57%) and older people with disabilities (76%).
- 9% of older people; 11% of older women and 14% of people aged 80+, did not previously have access to healthcare services.

Health Facility :

- Though most of the older persons interviewed know where their nearest COVID-19 testing and treating facility was located, there are still some who don't know the location

Source: study conducted in 2020 by the Coalition of Services of the Elderly (COSE) in cooperation with Help Age International.

Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on older persons

Health Related Concerns

Access to Medicine:

- Though 48% of interviewed have access to their medications, 17% of older people have been unable to access their medicine since the start of COVID-19

Access to PPE:

- 68% of older people were able to purchase their own preventive materials, with 91% of respondents saying they were available at local markets.
- 47% of older people received their necessary preventive supplies from different sources. .

Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on older persons

Economic Concerns

- Livelihoods and income are the second highest priority for older people. The top sources of income for older people are cash transfers or receiving a pension (43%), especially for those aged 60 and above. This is followed by government or humanitarian assistance (28%); remittances from relatives (24%) and by receiving a regular salary (24%) (which is higher for those in their 50s).
- Many older people also raise serious concerns about having depleted all their savings.
- Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority shows that, as of April 2020, there were 7.5 million Filipinos who lost their employment due to COVID-19.
- The informal sectors also greatly suffered due to mobility restrictions and quarantine measures.

Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on older persons

Social Concerns

- These restrictions have affected most Senior Citizens who are living alone.
- The pandemic has caused the older persons to have minimal contact and interaction with family members and friends.

Challenges

- Restricted Mobility
- Use of technology by the older persons
- Discrimination

Public Measures

- providing emergency subsidies to the indigent families as well as safety nets and social protection interventions
- Priority Access to Vaccination against COVID-19

Public Measures

- **Enacted into law Republic Act No. 10911**, an Act Prohibiting Discrimination Against Any Individual in Employment on Account of Age
- **Opportunities for decent work** for older persons still prevail during the pandemic including:
 - (1) hiring of older persons for full time or part time work in private companies and establishments such as SM Supermalls;
 - (2) hiring of older persons in government offices;
 - (3) formation of cooperatives for older persons;
 - (4) provision of funding for business enterprises.
 - (5) Providing livelihood opportunities or enterprises to Senior Citizens to gain income by government agencies
 - (6) The DSWD implements the Cash for Work Program for community projects in times of calamities or disasters that provides temporary source of income and include older persons as beneficiaries

Integrated Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program



- **DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program (DILP) or Kabuhayan Program** provides grant assistance for the working poor, marginalized and vulnerable workers for capacity building on entrepreneurial ventures
- **Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged / Displaced Workers (TUPAD) or Emergency Employment Program**

Public Measures

**Social
Pension**



**Mandatory
PhilHealth
Coverage**



**Social
Insurance**



**Assistance in
Crisis
Situations**



**Government Assistance
and Services**

Laws and Policies on Older Persons

National Social Welfare Policy

Social Protection Components

Social Welfare

Social Safety Nets

Social Insurance

Labor Market Interventions

- **Batas Pambansa Blg. 344** – “Accessibility Law of 1982”
- **Article XV, Section IV of the 1987 Philippine Constitution** - “it is the duty of the family to take care of its older person members while the State may design program.
- **“Senior Citizens Act”, 1992** - An Act to Maximize the Contribution of Senior Citizens to Nation Building, Grant Benefits, and Special Privileges and for Other Purposes.
- **“Senior Citizens Center Act”** - mandated the establishment of a senior citizens center in all cities and municipalities to serve as a venue for educational, recreational, social and health and programs and activities.
- **Republic Act No. 7432 as amended by Republic Act No. 9257** otherwise known as the Expanded Senior Citizens of 2003 or "An Act Granting Additional Benefits and Privileges to Senior Citizens, Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 7432 or the Senior Citizens Act of 1991

Laws and Policies on Older Persons

- **“Mandatory PhilHealth Coverage for all Senior Citizens”, 2014** – The National Health Insurance Program is mandated to cover all Senior Citizens.
- **RA 10868 or the “Centenarians Act of 2016”** - It gives a “Letter of Felicitation “ from the Philippine president and a “Centenarian Gift” in the amount of PhP100,000.00 (US\$2,083.33) to Filipino citizens in the country or abroad who reach the age of 100 years.
- **Republic Act 11350** – An Act Creating the National Commission of Senior Citizens
- Philippine Plan of Action for Senior Citizens (PPASC)

Recommendations

- **Provision of tax exemption** and incentives for companies that hire older persons as provided for in RA 9994;
- Full operationalization of the **National Commission on Senior Citizens**
- **Develop training programs** for older persons to upgrade their skills that they may have more access and adequate capacity to compete in job opportunities;
- **Passage of bills** pending in the Congress regarding the establishment of geriatric hospitals nationwide;
- Strong implementation of **provision of geriatric wards** in all government hospitals in the Philippines.
- Pending bill at the Congress that requires for the training of older workers for employment
- Strictly observe and comply to occupational safety and health in the workplace
- Reactivate Dialogues providing opportunity for senior citizen organizations, government and non-government to update, discuss and address emerging concerns on older persons

Recommendations

- To have an **ASEAN-recognized age** category of senior citizens;
- ASEAN to have a strong position to **support the Adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Older Persons**;
- **Promotion of inclusive employment** by enacting anti- age discrimination measures that aims to lift age limit;
- **Conduct of compendiums** on good practices of AMS about decent work;
- Conduct of ASEAN-wide **research studies on decent work** for older persons by the ASEAN Center for Active Ageing and Innovation (please validate)



THANK YOU

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